

# FRIETH VILLAGE SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

October 2024

### Welcome to October's BUMPER edition!

Greetings, with the leaves turning golden, the nights drawing in and the temperatures receding, we hope that you are enjoying the seasonal burst of colour, as the crisp, clear autumn air wakes us all up a little. After an eventful month, we've had a lot to get through this issue, so we've splurged our printing budget on a double-spread edition. Why not crank the heating up, make yourself a cup of something warming, and enjoy a good read?

### 2024 Frieth Food and Produce Show

Sunday 8th September saw the 46th Frieth Flower and Produce Show in the Village Hall. As always, it was an entertaining event where villagers and newcomers chatted over tea and homemade cakes, whilst being impressed and inspired by the talent on display. Once again, we were kept on the straight and narrow with our always expert and always lovely judges who had the formidable task of appraising the entries and awarding category prizes. In the homemade categories, we had slightly fewer entries this year, but despite a wet, wet, wet summer, we still had a great display of fruit, veg and flowers.

As Lord Parmoor, Seddon Cripps, could not attend, this year's trophies were presented by his son, Henry.

In an unannounced break with tradition, Henry created somewhat of a stir by introducing kissing the (adult) ladies to the proceedings. Strangely, none of them appeared to object – same time next year Henry?

### The youngsters came up trumps

We were delighted to get Frieth school involved this year, and as well as some very creative vegetable art, all the pupils had designed a poster for the show, during school time. It will be great to work with the school again for the 2025 show and to see their faces as they come to check to see if they have won anything. Of course, we also welcome any local children to enter, whichever school they attend, it's wonderful to share their enthusiasm and enjoyment of the show.

It was also great to see new Frieth families joining in alongside entries from families that have lived in the village for a few years. Next year, we'd love to see even more entries, and for the ultra-competitive, a trickster's top tip... the easiest trophy to win is the Novice trophy. It's fun to join in and even better when you win a coveted cup or prize!



Mable and Connie Bruce, (& Waddle the penguin)

Lottie Hunt

Amelia shines

Sam sweeps up

Electronic copies of the newsletter are now available via the Frieth Village Society website: [www.fvs.org.uk](http://www.fvs.org.uk)

We welcome all your feedback, thoughts and ideas for future issues.

Please send all messages to our **NEW** email address: [newsletter@fvs.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@fvs.org.uk)

# The Village Voice

## Food & Produce Show: This year's esteemed winners (in order of glamour)

### Trophies for growing veg, fruit, flowers and herbs:

- Fred Cripps Memorial Trophy - Judy Hunt
- The Sunnydale Trophy - Val Hussey
- The Stella Cup - John Young
- The Squirrels Trophy - Judy Hunt
- The Gidman Trophy - Judy Hunt
- The Whitsun Cup - Sam Joyce
- The Bradstone Novice Trophy - Kathy Cox
- The Ashcroft Trophy - John Young
- The Copse Cup - Alison Pitcher
- The Lady Parmoor Cup - Lady Ryder Garden

### Trophies for Flower Arranging:

- The Wells Cup - Sam Joyce
- The Peggy West Trophy - Madeleine Newitt

### The trophy for homemade goods

The Frieth Women's Institute Cup - Sam Joyce

### Children's trophies:

- The Freddie Cripps Memorial (junior) - Lottie Hunt
- The Mary Butler Cup - Amelia Macleod
- The Ted Carpenter Cup - Mabel Bruce



### In huge appreciation; thanks, and farewell

This year, the committee is sorry to lose Helen and Mike Hall from our ranks, as they plan to move away from the area. They have been a major influence on the committee and have quietly kept things running smoothly for years. They will be sorely missed.



## Bringing Them Home

### Frieth Church, Remembrance Sunday, 10th November at 9am

At the Remembrance Service to be held at Frieth Church, Andrew Green, writer and broadcaster, will be delivering a talk entitled 'Bringing Them Home'.

The post-Great War government renewed its ban on the repatriation of the British dead from all overseas battle zones. So how could the bereaved bridge the gap that separated them from the places where their loved ones lay? How could they 'bring them home' in other ways?

All are welcome to attend this thoughtful talk.





# Community Matters

## Update from the Perrin Springs wildlife site, by Rick Lilley

We have some hugely positive news about our designated Local Wildlife Site (LWS) off Perrin Springs Lane! As you may know, FVS is in the process of assuming responsibility for this 1.7 acre/0.7 hectare site from Hambleton Parish Council, and we have already begun the activities needed to enhance it. We've consulted with several local landowners, renowned grassland experts and Bucks Council to come up with a plan for site management and have begun to implement their recommendations.

Following the removal of ragwort and small blackthorn bushes, the site was "topped" at the end of August to cut the existing grasses, to give other endemic plant species more space and light to grow. Particular thanks go to Sean Farrelly and a small posse of village volunteers who helped us to clear the cuttings from the field - we are now ready for the next phase.

We are unusually fortunate to have robust communities of yellow meadow ants on the site, which help to reduce undesirable grasses and in turn promote increased plant diversity and encourage a broader insect and general wildlife population.

A productive chat with Matt Sharp, our local Bucks Wildlife Surveyor, has endorsed our plans to allow limited (horse) grazing which, with a controlled seeding of the site with yellow rattle, will also help local species to thrive.

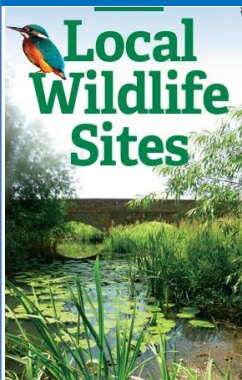
After several years of the site languishing and being rather neglected, Matt is thrilled that we are taking positive action to improve the site and maintain the LWS designation. He has provided valuable contacts to explore sources of funding and to consider other activities such as hedge-laying, which we'll be following up on soon.

Additionally, we hope to update the species survey, previously carried out by the Frieth Natural History Society (FNHS), which will provide a new baseline to assess future improvements.

Exciting times ahead for this new village project! Anyone wishing to become involved, please let us know, or email at [info@fvs.org.uk](mailto:info@fvs.org.uk) – we look forward to seeing you soon! Rick Lilley



## About the Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) Project



Around 470 Local Wildlife Sites have been identified in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, amounting to just over 7,000 hectares. The project aims to encourage this trend to grow, so that wildlife is retained and enhanced for the future. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are some of the county's most important areas for wildlife. They often support rare or threatened species and habitats that are important and distinctive in Buckinghamshire. They include; chalk and limestone grasslands, neutral hay meadows and pastures, wetland, heathland and ancient woodland.

Collectively, these sites act as wildlife havens, corridors, and 'stepping stones' for animals, birds and insects in isolated, intensively managed or urban environments.

# Community Matters

## General Meeting – Update on School Expansion

### Background

As described in last month's newsletter (which can be viewed on the FVS website), on 3rd October, FVS held a General Meeting to discuss Frieth School's expansion plans. It was open to any members of the village community. The School's Head, Martin Gosling, and Head of Governors', Jill Dean, were invited to explain the need for expansion and their plans to manage the implications of higher numbers, in particular the increased traffic associated with drop-off and pick-up. People were asked to submit questions ahead of the event but there was also a Q&A session after the presentation. David House, Chair of the FVS, chaired the meeting.

It was apparent from questions submitted ahead of the meeting, that there were some strong feelings about the impact of the school increasing its numbers. With this in mind, David started by sharing the Nolan Principles, asking people to be respectful of each other and to hear each other out, as the purpose of the meeting was to find an amicable way forwards, and ultimately, to provide a safe environment for children and residents alike.

### Summary of Points Covered by Martin

- He apologised that the school had not communicated to the community well enough about its plan to expand or how they intended to manage this. He stressed it was important to the school that it was seen as an integral part of the community, and it would try to communicate more effectively in future. As part of this, a school representative would join some of the FVS meetings each year to help with two-way communication.
- Frieth School is voluntary-aided and therefore the Governors are responsible for deciding on the annual intake and its financial viability.
- In the past, the yearly intake had been 20 children, but this has meant mixed-aged classes and, as costs have increased (by 30%), the school would be running a deficit budget if it didn't increase its intake. The school receives c£3.500 per child – the same as it did 10 years ago, and consequently, many of the school's needs are now met through parental contributions and them carrying out maintenance work voluntarily.
- Parents have expressed a preference for single-year classes. If the school increases its annual intake, it should be possible to have single-year classes and run the school efficiently and sustainably. Consequently, the Governors decided the school should gradually increase its intake to a maximum of 28 children per year to achieve single-year classes.
- To reduce the number of cars dropping off and picking up children within a short period of time, the school has introduced a number of initiatives including: 'wrap-around' care, namely, breakfast and after school clubs; pre- and after-school activities; and, since September, staggered drop-off and pick-up times.

### School's Responses to Questions Submitted – addressed under 6 themes:

- Additional traffic and congestion***
  - 'HomeRun' – a car sharing app, which so far, about 50% of parents have signed up to.
  - Park and Walk – from the Yew Tree Pub and Parmoor Park Farm.
  - Walking to school – being promoted.
  - Staggered drop-off and pick-up for Key Stages 1 and 2 respectively.
  - Pre- and after-school clubs and activities.
- Inconsiderate parking and driving*** – Martin apologised for this. Having spoken to parents, who were responsive, he felt this was a minority. The school is promoting a 'Pedestrian First' culture and has appointed Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) to help with children outside school.
- Out of catchment intake*** – Of the current total, (156 children), 38 are from within catchment with only 19 from Frieth. This being the case, the school needs to take children from outside of catchment to be viable.
- Site space and building plans*** – There are currently 6 teaching spaces; from next year, 7 will be needed. They would like to build an eco-classroom, but a building application has not yet been submitted.
- Further growth*** – The plan is for one-year classes, so a maximum of 196 children with no further expansion.
- Staggered drop-off and pick-up*** – The primary concern is safety of the children and to date, the feedback has been positive.

# Community Matters

## General Meeting continued – a summary of the Q&A session

Questions/Comments/Concerns	Responses
<p><b>i. Need for Growth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed age-group classes not necessarily a prerequisite for growth as many schools run successfully with them.</li> <li>- 8.3% drop in birthrate in Buckinghamshire over the last 5 years so fewer school places will be needed. If Frieth School increases its intake, what will be the knock-on implications for other schools in the area, especially Ibstone, Cadmore and Lane End?</li> <li>- Are the financial pressures real?</li> <li>- Can't we go back to what it was?</li> <li>- A larger school will mean more staff and more cars to park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The school can't survive without further growth.</li> <li>- The financial challenges faced by schools was backed up by Patrick Joyce, who is the Finance Manager of a school himself.</li> <li>- The Governors were not prepared to discuss the potential impact on other schools, so this remains an open question</li> </ul>
<p><b>ii. Additional traffic and congestion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The route from Parmoor becomes impassable in winter, so this initiative is unsustainable especially as many parents are looking for the quickest way to drop children and travel to work.</li> <li>- Several people from Frieth Hill said things had been better since September – albeit busy times are now extended – but congestion still makes getting in and out of driveways difficult. They felt conditions presented 'an accident waiting to happen' and were concerned whether the initiatives were adequate and/or sustainable.</li> <li>- People felt that JRSOs were not suitable for managing traffic and an adult/staff patrol was required.</li> <li>- A suggestion was made to open up the whole parking area to create a larger drop-off/pick-up space.</li> <li>- Alternatively, children delivered by car could be escorted into school (perhaps by the JRSOs) so that parents don't have to park.</li> <li>- There was strong support for a school bus to reduce the number of cars associated with drop off/pick up.</li> <li>- BCC should be asked to collect rubbish outside of drop-off/ pick-up.</li> <li>- A 20mph speed limit would reduce the risk of injury.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Martin said that 'kiss and drop' is already used in the turning circle but if the whole parking area could be used, it would be better. On this point, and collecting rubbish avoiding drop-off and pick-up times, he had approached BCC but to date had received no response.</li> <li>- The use of a school bus is being investigated; some parents from Lane End are supportive.</li> <li>- Amanda Hopkins, local councillor, is awaiting a report from the Traffic Safety Officer on reducing the speed limit as well as other ways to improve road safety in the village.</li> <li>- FVS is in the process of training volunteers for the 'Frieth Speedwatch' initiative, which will hopefully reduce the speed people travel through the village – training on 19<sup>th</sup> October.</li> </ul>
<p><b>iii. School is beneficial to the village</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Several families have recently moved to Frieth specifically because of the school and its positive reputation.</li> <li>- Parents and children contribute to the viability of other village amenities and events such as the pub, village hall and fete.</li> <li>- When Martin took over as Head 4 years ago, the school was at risk of closure; it is now thriving.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Steve and Alison Taylor (who manage bookings for the Village Hall) confirmed they receive many weekend bookings for children's parties.</li> </ul>
<p><b>iv. Need for better communication with the community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The school's website has not made the need for growth clear and until recently, engagement with the community had been lacking.</li> <li>- Concerns were raised about the Village Hall being used for school catering.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jill apologised for this and said they would be more proactive and transparent in future.</li> <li>- School has limited kitchen facilities. Previous food supplier shut down unexpectedly. Without the Village Hall kitchen, no hot lunches can be provided. Own catering facilities preferred as more cost effective and convenient.</li> <li>- Use of the kitchen and committee room for meal preparation does not preclude use of the hall for other purposes, and catering for the school provides helpful revenue for the hall.</li> </ul>

### What next?

It was noted that we need to monitor and measure the outcomes of the initiatives that have been introduced by the school to combat the impact on the village of the proposed expansion. It was suggested that we meet again in 3 months' time to review the situation. People lauded the spirit of cooperation that had been evident during the meeting and encouraged any further comments and debate to be carried out in a similar fashion.

David thanked Martin and Jill for their presentations and everyone else for coming and their participation.

**NB: A fuller version of Notes from the Meeting will be available on the FVS website in due course.**



# Community Matters

## Where are they now? - It's off to Uni for our Ukranian Students!

This autumn, six local Ukrainian students are heading off to prestigious UK universities including Imperial College, Warwick and Bath, having achieved top grades at A level.

This includes two students who were supported in Frieth, as well as four supported by the Marlow Ukraine group. An Amazon wish list was put together to support these amazing young people - it was fully committed in just a few hours!



The Frieth donations group also agreed to give £50 to each student to help them on their way. Thank you again to the whole village for your support, those who donated, and especially, of course, those who hosted the families.

## Frieth Hilly wasn't chilly this year

In perfect, mild conditions, the Frieth Hilly was again a lovely event. Congratulations to everyone who took part, especially to Matthew Quartermain who clocked a lightning-dash of 36.19 minutes for the 10K, and Nicolai Dahlerup who took just 19.02 minutes to win the 5k. Each year the event raises valuable funds for the school.



Claudia Gilbert galloped around to raise funds for the British Horse Society.



Yes, they are facing the wrong way – we managed to distract them with a photo opportunity



In order of appearance, style & poise, although to be fair, the last couple had just conquered a humongous hill!

# Community Matters

## The Frieth Village Hall Committee wants to hear from You!



As you might have noticed, The Village Hall Committee has been working hard over the last few years to carry out renovations and upgrades to the Village Hall. We now need your input to guide us how best to maximise the use of the Village Hall.

Please use the link below to answer a very short survey to tell us how you currently use the Village Hall and what you would like to see offered in the future:  
<https://forms.gle/4LFjC7NqpxcEog8A7>

**To avoid having to type the full web address for the feedback form into your browser, do the following:**

1. Visit the FVS website at [www.fvs.org.uk](http://www.fvs.org.uk)
2. Scroll down to the PDF version of this newsletter (October '24)
3. Find this article – and click on the link – simples!

Please submit your responses to the survey by **25th November 2024**.

## Newsletter Distribution Team Update



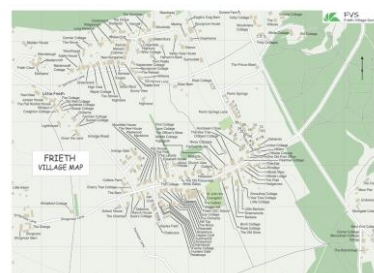
As readers will know, hard copies of the Newsletter are distributed by a wonderful team of individuals, on whom we rely for the 250+ copies that are dropped into your letterboxes after each edition is published. These largely unsung heroes brave all weathers, road conditions, enthusiastic animals and more, to ensure you receive your Newsletter.

In this respect, we have to say a huge 'thank you' to Judith Emmanuel who has helped us out in the Parmoor area for quite some time, but who now retires from her role, and hands over the reins (or more likely the copies), to Lynda Brown, who has kindly volunteered to replace her. Thank you, Judith, and a warm welcome to Lynda!

## Village Tea Towels

Serving multiple needs from drying up the dishes, helping delivery men and women find the right house, to covering your Victoria sponge on a hot summer's day (if you can now remember such meteorological events!), the Frieth Village tea towels are an excellent addition to any home.

If you're short of a tea towel or need a handy Christmas present (we won't mention how many weeks there are to go....) then hop onto the FVS website and grab yourself one or more of the 2024 Edition - just £12.50 each with proceeds going to support village projects.



## Autumn Litter Pick and Village Tidy: Saturday 9th November, 9 am

**Saturday 9th November** sees the next of our regular Litter Pick events. As usual, we meet at the Village Hall, and please note the start time is **9am**. Tea, coffee and breakfast rolls will be served before we head off to collect rubbish, tidy up footpaths, cut back the ivy that is taking over the churchyard and generally keep our village smart.

Please bring your own gloves and secateurs but bags will be provided. If you can't make it on the day but are willing to help, please let the FVS know which area of the village you will be clearing ahead of the 9th. This means we can make best use of the volunteers on the day.





# Dates for your diary

## Frieth Church

Sunday 20th October, 9 am, Holy Communion, Frieth  
Sunday 27th October, 9 am, Holy Communion, Frieth  
Sunday 3rd November, 10 am, Group Service, Fingest  
Sunday 3rd November, 3 pm, All Souls' Service, Frieth  
Sunday 10th November, **now 10 am**, Remembrance Sunday and talk by Andrew Green, Frieth  
Sunday 10th November, 2.30 pm, Wild Church at Remembrance, Fawley Court  
Sunday 8th December, 2 pm, Wild Nativity at Northend Common with real animals!



## FVS Speed Watch – Volunteer Training

Saturday 19th October, 10-11 am, in the Village Hall for an introductory briefing, online training and a short practical training session on how to use the speed gun. Please bring a laptop or tablet if you'd like to complete the online assessment at the end of the training to become a qualified volunteer.

## FVS – Autumn Litter Pick and Village Tidy

Saturday 9th November, 9 am, meet at the Village Hall.  
Many hands make light work, so helpers of all ages would be hugely appreciated!



## Frieth Natural History Society

Thursday 24th October, 7.30 pm, Village Hall, Talk 'Queen of the Woods' by John Tyler  
Monday 4th November, 10.30 am, Fungus Foray near Frieth, led by Richard Fortey.

All are welcome, but non-members pay a small fee. For full details and to book your place, contact Andy on 01494 881586 or Mary on 01494 881501 or email [FNHS2023@gmail.com](mailto:FNHS2023@gmail.com)



## New Body Control Pilates Class

Wednesdays, 9.30 am, Frieth Village Hall. For more information and to book, contact Lauren Fois [Lauren@pilat-ease.co.uk](mailto:Lauren@pilat-ease.co.uk) or check out her website [www.pilat-ease.co.uk](http://www.pilat-ease.co.uk)



## Hambleden Cinema Club, Hambleden Village Hall

Saturday 19th October, EMILY – PG, a semi-fictional account of the writer Emily Bronte and how she channels her creative potential into the writing of Wuthering Heights. Starring Emma Mackey and Fionn Whitehead. **The doors and bar open at 7 pm**, programme starts at 8 pm. Tickets £8 each, available from the Hambleden Village Store or the website: <https://hambledencinema.co.uk>



## Frieth Lunch Club: Last Friday of the month, Yew Tree Pub

Great food and wonderful company. **ALL** welcome. If you need help to get there, transport is available. Contact Judy for more information and to book on 01491 882227 or email [ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com](mailto:ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com)

## Parmoor Afternoon Tea Club: Tuesday Afternoons, 2pm at St Katharine's, Parmoor

All are welcome for a chat over a cuppa and to play board games if you wish. If you need help to get there, transport is available. Contact Judy on 01491 882227 or email [ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com](mailto:ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com)



## D. J. Macleod

Tree surgery, felling, planting, and hedge cutting. Fencing and gates supplied and erected.

**Quality firewood** for sale; producer and supplier of wood chips and locally made traditional barbecue charcoal.

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[www.donlogs.com](http://www.donlogs.com)

email: [donlogs@hotmail.com](mailto:donlogs@hotmail.com)

## Bad Joke Corner

Q: Did you hear the one about the crow on the telegraph pole?



A: He was trying to make a long-distance caw.