

FRIETH VILLAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Welcome to our Spring edition!

With reports that at least a few villagers had to reach for sunscreen recently, it does seem that the lengthening days and warmer temperatures are encouraging more than just the flowers to come out. Indeed, we're making a special request to get you out to the Village Hall on the 1st May to support our candidates in the Parish Council elections (don't forget your ID!) Meanwhile, enjoy catching up on our village news inside this edition, keep your sunglasses (and wellies – you never know) handy and we'll see you around!

Frieth candidates need your votes!



Amanda Hopkins



David House



Rick Lilley



Steve Taylor



Dr. Wayne Holmes

We are excited to announce that a strong and passionate group of Frieth residents is stepping forward to run for election to the Parish Council.

Frieth is home to over a quarter of all residents in the Hambleden Parish, yet our village has been underrepresented on the Parish Council, with only one councillor, Amanda Hopkins, currently residing here. This is our chance to change the *status quo*, and hopefully ensure that Frieth has a more powerful voice to advocate for the needs and interests of our community.

Among the team, you'll find both familiar faces and some whom may be unknown to you, with each candidate committed to making a positive difference for our village. To help you get to know them better, we've included a brief background on the candidates in the insert you'll find in this newsletter.

It's been a long time since we've had an election for the Parish Council. Amanda, David, Rick, Steve and Wayne are eager to work hard for you, for the village, and the wider parish. Your vote is crucial in helping us create a more balanced, effective, and responsive Parish Council.

We urge you to come out and support our Frieth candidates on polling day, **Thursday 1st May**, at the Village Hall. Every vote counts—let's make sure Frieth's voice is heard loud and clear!

Keeping our village in tip-top condition

An important, if usually somewhat behind-the-scenes, set of activities relate to the ongoing maintenance of our verges, hedges, playing field equipment, communal flowerbeds and village pond, to name but a few. We are pleased to report that the Frieth Village Society and Parish Council have now agreed where the respective responsibilities fall for this maintenance, so if you have any concerns or questions don't hesitate to get in touch.

Electronic copies of the newsletter are now available via the Frieth Village Society website: www.fvs.org.uk

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

Please send all messages to our email address: newsletter@fvs.org.uk

The Village Voice

A Village to be Proud of

Celebration of the Village Clock Restoration and much more!

On Friday 28th March, over 70 people packed out the Village Hall to commemorate and celebrate the refurbishment of the Village Hall clock. Jolyon Marshall presented a potted history of this timepiece, its importance to the village and the restoration that had been required. The restored clock has now been reinstated and looks fantastic – take a look the next time you're passing the Village Hall!

Members of the Village Hall committee then reported on other significant improvements that have recently been made to the hall, including new windows, curtains, doors, and updated lighting and heating systems. If you have plans for a party, social gathering or event, Frieth Village Hall may be just the venue you are looking for! For more details on availability and fees, follow this link: www.friethvillagehall.org/hiringinformation



Frieth Village Society then shared an update on its recent activities and upcoming events (of which there are a number – see back page for more details). Representatives from many of the village's clubs and associations were also present, highlighting the impressive range of activities taking place in this small community. Marlow FM Radio even praised Frieth for its vibrant energy.



The event was such a success that it ran over time, with attendees encouraged to carry on socializing at the Yew Tree!

Friendly Lunch (alias Lent Lunch!)

Social Lent Gathering raises money for The British Red Cross

On Saturday 8th March, Sam Joyce and her posse of willing volunteers – some 'old' and some 'new' (so a big thank you to all of them) – served homemade soups and bread to a hall full of people from the community, and a fine time was had by all who attended.



Whilst the adults socialised over heartening bowls of soup, the youngsters worked together to create an 'Alien Invasion' – drawing the strangest creatures they could imagine; any resemblance to Frieth residents was entirely accidental (but see if you can spot who might have been there!)

As the event happened to be on International Women's Day, jars of flowers were given away to helpers and other women at the end of the event.

Thanks to everyone for their contributions, efforts and support on the day. Another great community event ☺

More About Your Prospective Councillors

Amanda Hopkins



Amanda has been a Parish Councillor for the past three years and is currently the only Frieth resident on the Council. Her motivation for this role has been to work in the community to preserve what she believes is fantastic about the area: nature, countryside and village life, whilst embracing new ideas for the future. She grew up in Frieth and enjoyed a lovely childhood. Some of her family and friends still live in the village and locality, so her history, knowledge and association with the area go back a long way.

Amanda is always accessible and responsive to residents' concerns, and many take the opportunity to voice their viewpoints to her. She also acts as a conduit of information and cooperation between the Parish Council (PC) and Frieth Village Society (FVS). To date, Amanda has worked with other community groups the following ways:

- Facilitated FVS taking over the maintenance of Ellery Rise Nature Reserve with the Frieth Natural History Society (FNHS);
- Raised village road safety and speed concerns at the PC, which resulted in Highways at Bucks Council (BC) agreeing to monitor speed on the hill for a week, followed by a visit from the Road Safety Officer (RSO). His recommendation of joining Community Speedwatch (CSW) has now been taken up by FVS.
- Chairs the PC Working Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss, which is currently exploring ways the PC can support BC in achieving its statutory duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity (Environment Act 2021).
- Participated in workshops organised by BC to develop our Local Nature Recovery Strategy. As a consequence, much of Hambleden Parish has now been recognised as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area.
- Regularly posts local planning applications on the village Facebook page.

Outside the PC, she has forged a good relationship with Frieth CEC School, which enables her to relay village concerns. After trialling walks to school, Amanda will be leading weekly walks from Lane End to school, which will result in less car use and pollution, and promote better health and an interest in the natural world. Amanda would delight in the opportunity to continue as a Parish Councillor.

David House



David has lived in the village for 20 years with his wife Claire. He has three grown up children who all previously attended Frieth CEC School. For the past two years, he's been Chair of Frieth Village Society (FVS), working alongside volunteers who, like him, want to support the village community. Since taking on this role, he has strengthened the underpinning framework of FVS, updated the constitution, introduced a website, email system, online document storage and various WhatsApp groups to help coordinate village activities.

Most recently, FVS has launched the Community Speedwatch (CSW) group, and has been working with the Parish Council (PC) to establish clear accountabilities for maintenance of our village environment and amenities. FVS is committed to working towards a credible Best Kept Village entry in the medium term and has started making improvements around the village towards this end.

Whilst discussions with the PC have been helpful and some progress has been made, David believes much more could be achieved for Frieth and the wider Parish. Having recently retired, David now has the time and energy to represent residents in Frieth and the wider North Ward, and commits to work closely alongside FVS to support the village, its environment and community. If you'd like to know more about his professional background, find out more via LinkedIn here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/housed1>

More About Your Prospective Councillors

Rick Lilley



Rick has lived in Frieth since 2006 and is married with an adult daughter. He had a long career in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries, including several years in Japan, the USA, and Belgium. In recent years, he has worked from home as a consultant, offering strategic advice on drug development, business development, and investment opportunities, mainly to private equity and small to medium-sized biotech companies. This has given him more time to enjoy what Frieth and the Hambleden Valley has to offer. For more on Rick's professional background, visit his LinkedIn page [Rick Lilley | LinkedIn](#).

Now mostly retired, Rick dedicates more time to supporting village and community activities. For the past two years, he has been a member of the Frieth Village Society (FVS) committee, which organises events to engage villagers and improve the environment. He coordinates the Frieth Community Speedwatch scheme and, last year, took the lead on the Perrin Springs Nature Reserve after the FVS took responsibility from the Hambleden Parish Council. The site holds Local Wildlife Site status with Bucks Council, and he now leads a team of volunteers who manage and enhance this important space. Rick is eager to expand his support to Frieth and local communities.

Steve Taylor



Steve has lived in Frieth for 17 years with his wife Alison and three (now grown up) children, and been a resident of the Hambleden Valley for over 30 years. He worked for over 35 years in banking technology, specialising in Credit Risk, Product Development and Mergers & Acquisitions. Recently semi-retired, having completed his final corporate role as Managing Director of a financial services company, he now works as an angel investor and Board Advisor to several UK and international Financial Technology start-up businesses, providing strategic guidance, governance support and investment capital.

Previously, he served as Chair of Governors of Frieth CEC School, successfully leading the governing body through key challenges and contributing to the school's development within the local community. He is also a co-founder of the Frieth Hilly race – an annual community event promoting fitness and local engagement.

For the last seven years, as Chair of the Frieth Village Hall Management Committee, he has overseen a substantial programme of renovation of the hall, including the installation of wi-fi, a new website, LED lighting, electric smart heaters, on-demand hot water, replacement double-glazed windows and restoration of the village hall clock. More informally, you may have seen Steve behind the bar of the Topsy Cow at the annual Frieth Village Fete or co-hosting the annual village quiz. Steve offers his energy and commitment to work on behalf of Frieth and the Hambleden Valley, to ensure local people are heard and changes made will benefit the community.

Wayne Holmes



Wayne has lived in Frieth for about 24 years with his wife, Tracey and their two grown up children. He has been involved in education his whole life; he received his PhD in Education from the University of Oxford and is currently a Professor in the Institute of Education at University College London. His research takes a critical perspective on the ethical, human rights, and social justice implications of teaching and learning with and about Artificial Intelligence (AI). He is also a lead member of the Council of Europe's AI and education expert group, which is developing legislation to protect the human rights of students and teachers engaging with AI-enabled systems; an AI and education consultant for UNESCO, the United

Nations and the OECD; and an AI and education advisor for the ministries of education of Cyprus and Portugal. He also holds a UNESCO Chair in the Ethics of AI and Education (hosted by the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence, Slovenia). Having built his career supporting learners and teachers around the world, he is now looking forward to contributing more effectively to his local community. You can find out more about his work on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-wayne-holmes> and on via his university's website <https://profiles.ucl.ac.uk/48674-wayne-holmes>

Community Matters

St. Katherine's Parmoor and the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden

King's Award – Part II

In our December edition, we reported on the amazing recognition granted to the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden (LRMG) team in the form of the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2024. We can now also share that in May, the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Lady Howe, is to visit in her role as the King's representative, to make the formal presentation to the volunteers. We once again congratulate the team on their remarkable achievement.



More than just a garden....

While many of us know of the weekly 'in season' produce stall which runs at the garden, the support provided for the Frieth Fete and the Flower & Produce Show, you may be less aware of the sterling work done by the team in support of education, especially for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). With much pressure on SEND funding, the availability of the garden's facilities, free of charge, to Chilterns Wood, Stony Dean and Alfriston Schools, as well as adults from "Talkback", has been very gratefully received and has clearly benefitted many individuals. Similarly, each class from Frieth's Primary School has visited the gardens, with sessions planned to fit in with the curricula, providing both learning opportunities and great enjoyment to those attending. Maybe these will be the volunteers of the future, continuing this great work, and knowing that should they take up their trowel and fork in the future at the LRMG, they can be sure of a tea break to surpass all others!



Young gardeners from Frieth School busy at Parmoor

"A little care makes accidents rare"



Just some of the winning entries

Driven to care : How posters are helping to slow down traffic

By now you will no doubt have seen the new 'please' and 'thank you' posters produced by Frieth school's amazing pupils which stand at each end of the village. This is going to be a "pop up" campaign - they've been up at the top and bottom of Frieth Hill for about a month, will come down over Easter, and will then pop up again from time to time. With 14 winning posters from the competition, there are plenty to choose from to display! The aim is bit by bit to encourage drivers to feel good about taking care and driving more slowly, hence the please, thank you and the 20mph signs.

This has been a real community effort involving the headteacher and teachers, carpenter-cum-parent Chris Clarke, who made the splendid display boards, and Frieth Villagers, Lynda Brown, Henry Peplow and George Wallace. Plans are now underway to make this a parish-wide campaign.

We'll leave you with the words of Tabby Boyden (Year 5, Eagles class) who coined a great slogan which titles this article: "A little care makes accidents rare". Wishing you all safety on our roads.

The Parish Council wants to hear from Frieth

Hambleden Parish Council (PC) has a website that is regularly updated with useful information, such as road closures, information from the Parish Council and about the parish in general. It is interested to hear your views on multiple subjects, with special reference to the planned expansion of the Primary School, although it welcomes any and all comments and suggestions. Please follow the QR code to go directly to the PC homepage.



Dates for your diary



Frieth Church

Sunday 13th April, 3pm – Wild Church. Meet in Turville churchyard.

Thursday 17th April, 7pm – Maundy Thursday Supper and Communion, Frieth Village Hall. £12 for supper and wine, payable on the night. If you would like to attend or help, please contact Sue Dawkes on 01491 638221.

Sunday 20th April, 9am – Easter Holy Communion, Frieth

Sunday 27th April, 9am – Holy Communion, Frieth

Frieth Village Society

Wednesday 23rd April, 8pm, Frieth Village Hall – AGM. All FVS members welcome.

Saturday 21st June, 7pm, Frieth Village Hall – Ceilidh with Fish 'n' Chip supper, £25 per head. Bar drinks available. Fun for the whole family. Tickets available soon – watch the Frieth Village website for updates.

Sunday 29th June, 12-4pm – Open Gardens. If you are willing to open your garden for this event, which is to raise funds for village projects, please contact Sean Farrelly or Suzanne Marshall ASAP on seanf@fvs.org.uk or smarshall@fvs.org.uk respectively.



Greener Frieth

Monday 19th May, 7.15pm, Yew Tree - Dressed to Kill? A relaxed friendly discussion about the impact of the fashion industry on the environment. Come and find out more and what you can do to limit your impact.

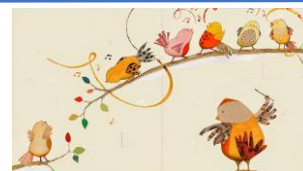
Sunday 8th June, 11am-1pm – Free stuff in Free-th! Look out for kerbside boxes with the Free-th! Logo and take your pick. Bring your family and join the fun!

Frieth Natural History Society

Sunday 27th April, 4.30am – Local walk to hear the Dawn Chorus, followed by bacon butties.

Saturday 31st May, 10.15am – An Exploration of Finings Wood.

For more information and to book a place, please contact Mary on 01494 881501 or Andy on 01494 881586. All welcome but there is a small charge for non-members.



Hambleton Cinema Club, Hambleton Village Hall

Saturday 12th April - Went the Day Well? PG. Filmed in the Hambleton Valley in 1942, written by Graham Greene. It tells the story of a British village during World War II.

Doors and bar open at 7pm, programme starts at 8pm. Tickets £8 each, available from the Hambleton Village Store or from 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

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



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Bad Joke Corner

Q: What the Easter bunny say after burping?



A: Eggs-cuse-me!