



# The Swift

## FRISTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



### Parish Council update

The low branches on the trees on the Village Green have been cut and cleared. This will help visibility for traffic especially if there are children playing on the equipment. The road signs in the village have been cleaned by a volunteer. The Clerk has had several recommendations from other local Councils for possible companies and individuals who will hopefully be able to restore the village sign or if it is deemed irreparable, companies who have recently supplied new ones. There is a vacancy for a volunteer to maintain the village website. The ideal person would have experience in using Silverstripe or similar programs and be interested in keeping the website up to date, maintaining contact with local groups and making it an asset to the village. The website is fully supported by Community Action Suffolk and funded by the Parish Council. Training can be arranged. Please contact the Clerk for more details. The website is <http://friston.onesuffolk.net/> if you would like to take a look.

### News from St Mary the Virgin

Live services resumed on Sunday, 19th July with our Rector Mark and Curate James celebrating a much-longed for service of Holy Communion. A regular pattern of services has yet to be decided - but watch out for updates! Thank you to our flower arrangers who continued to mount displays in the Church porch. They lifted the sprits and were much enjoyed by many showing that we cared. *Nicky Winter & Simon Ive*



### Live Music

During lockdown those who live on the Chases Lane part of Friston have been delighting in the Sunday afternoon saxophone recitals of Gilly at Blake's Cottage. Playing her part in keeping music live she has been entertaining us with music of different genres - it has been a treat to listen to and a welcome interlude. There has been no formal request for donations but if anyone would like to make an offering for the British Legion it would be gratefully received. The impact of lockdown on musicians, performers and the community has been truly overwhelming, and if live music is to continue we need to support local concerts and gigs. Thank you, Gilly - let's carry on supporting live music. *Nicky Winter*

### Songs of Praise on the Village Green - 30<sup>th</sup> August 3pm

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin would like to invite you to a Benefice 'Songs of Praise on the green at Friston! This would be a socially distanced opportunity to come together to sing to the Praise of God and have a picnic afterwards. Do you have a favourite hymn? Please let Carole Edwards know by email or phone or letter [caroleedwards123369@btinternet.com](mailto:caroleedwards123369@btinternet.com) or call 01728 687743. Please bring your own chairs and tables for your picnic. *Carole Edwards*

### SPR and SASES update

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September (9.20am for 10am start) and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September (if required) are the dates of the Preliminary Meetings that mark the start of the delayed Examination by the National Planning Inspectorate of the EA1 North & EA2 offshore windfarms Development Consent Order Applications. Their onshore infrastructure is proposed for Friston and it has now become apparent that these are precursors for infrastructure hubs for at least six other energy projects (making eight in total) which could substantially affect Friston. At the time of writing all the meetings and hearings will be virtual and recorded. Those of you already registered as Interested Parties will have received a 53-page, Section 6 Letter giving a timetable and guidance. Being such a small community, it is hard for us to make our voices heard. But try we must - because what is proposed will devastate this whole small area of the Heritage Coast.

For all our frustrations in tackling the limitations of virtual meetings we must strive to show our unity by 'tuning in' to the Preliminary Meeting(s). These will cover just the procedural issues of the Examination, not the merits of the applications. SASES representatives will speak. If you wish to raise specific procedural issues, you must register with the Planning Inspectorate by Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October** marks the official start of the Examination with Part 2 of the Preliminary Meeting and the first of the Open Floor Hearings on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. The Examiners must complete the process by 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## **BEIS Offshore Transmission Network Review**

On 15<sup>th</sup> July, the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced the above review but it has not received much national media attention. Michael Mahony was interviewed on this topic on BBC Radio Suffolk on 16<sup>th</sup> July on the Mark Murphy show (about two hours and 15 minutes in if you want to listen) and there was a piece on the ITV Anglia News on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The review is in response to the widespread concerns of the demands of onshore infrastructure required to accommodate the growth of offshore windfarms. It is hoped to provide an 'interim' update by the end of the year 'with a view to providing clarity for an enduring approach in 2021'. However, the announcement of this "review" should not be treated as a source of comfort and we must maintain our focus on opposing the DCO applications head on.

## **Sizewell C Development Consent Order Application (DCO)**

You can register your views with the Planning Inspectorate until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. You can examine the full application by visiting [www.sizewellcdco.co.uk](http://www.sizewellcdco.co.uk). It is suggested to read Book 6 of the Environmental Statement, Chapter 1 which has a Non-Technical Summary (203 pages!). The construction period is estimated to be 9-12 years of disruption employing up to 8,500 workers and staff at its peak. How is our small area of Heritage Coast expected to cope with Sizewell C (two reactors) and up to eight other energy projects with Friston being at the heart of these proposals?

SASES/Friston Parish Council will produce a separate newsletter to try and distil the key issues and briefings (which may well be virtual) in good time for the Preliminary Hearings. Meanwhile we rely on your support, active participation and encouraging others to unite in opposing all these proposals. We are not opposing the merits of renewable energy, but the imposition of the infrastructure.

## **The Old Chequers**

Thank you for all the support you have shown us so far during these trying times. Your continued support is much appreciated, now and in to the future. We are aiming to be open Wednesday through to Sunday. If anyone would like to have takeaway fish & chips, please ring and pre order, and we will be happy to supply - **01728 688039** *Andy & Carol Wright*

## **Friston Wildlife Watch**

Do you have a favourite bird? I have a soft spot for those small brown birds, you know the ones that are difficult to identify by sight and hide in the hedgerows, but have the most delightful voices: Wrens, Dunnocks, Nightingales and all the warblers. Last week sitting (socially distanced of course) in the Chequers' garden we were entertained by the juvenile Swifts screaming overhead like little fighter jets and House Martins swooping around the roof tops. I love my garden birds too and I was particularly perturbed when a Sparrowhawk swooped past me the other day and snatched a young Blue Tit from the feeder! I've also had a few reports of Kestrels in gardens, which I think is quite unusual as they tend to keep to the fields and hedgerows. One neighbour reported two very stubborn Kestrels raiding a Pigeon's nest, who would not be shooed from the garden! Nature can be harsh sometimes but the presence of these predators is a sign of a healthy local food chain. This week I'm going to do the Big Butterfly Count (until 9<sup>th</sup> August - [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)) Please contact me if you have any interesting wildlife stories you would like to share - [fristonvillage@gmail.com](mailto:fristonvillage@gmail.com) - *Briony Sones*