



The Swift

FRISTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



Parish Council

The first face to face Parish Council meeting for over a year took place in the Village Hall on the 28th June. The next meeting is the 9th August. Although all restrictions have been lifted, guidance from ACRE and Community Action Suffolk states that village halls should continue keep measures in place that keep residents, especially those who are vulnerable, safe. For the time being Parish Council meetings will continue in the main hall and provide enough distance for attendees to social distance and the room will be well ventilated. The decision to wear a mask is a personal one. The Council would like to make a request for volunteers to weed round the footprint of the Hall please - any queries please contact the Clerk or the Hall Booking Clerk. Thank you to the mystery sign painter who has repainted the Friston sign as you enter the village from Sternfield. It looks much smarter. Thank you also to the resident who swept up the mud from the corner of Church Path and Grove Rd. The Parish Council are in contact with Natural England, The Environment Agency and the County Council to try to improve the situation. There has been an increase in reports in hedges encroaching on to the roads and footpaths in the village. Residents and home owners are respectfully asked by the Parish Council to monitor and maintain their hedges especially when they form the border to a road or footpath and take action when they are impeding traffic or pedestrians. Hedges should ideally not be cut until September when the nesting season for birds is over - it is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act to intentionally destroy a bird's nest. If hedges are maintained throughout the year, there should be no reason to cut them over the summer. Lastly, please contact the Clerk regarding money found on a footpath in Friston several weeks ago. There are some distinguishing features that only the owner will know!

News from St Mary the Virgin

As I write this note from St Mary the Virgin parish church Friston, we are awaiting a Big announcement! Will we be allowed to sing praise in our church from next weekend? I do so long to sing and praise God in the traditional way and it feels so long since our Church rang with music. Please contact Martin for details of how to access our services (all Sunday services are now streamed on Zoom although 1 per month is Zoom only). As our Rector, Mark, is due to retire at the end of August there are some extra special services to enjoy during the month. Mark will celebrate his last Holy Communion in Friston, on Sunday 1st August and it would be wonderful if as many as possible could join us to wish him well in the future. Then on 29th August, there will be a special 'final' Benefice service in Aldeburgh - with new music commissioned specially from our very own Alan Bullard alongside a Benefice choir. Look out for more information in the pew sheet etc. Our short service of Compline continues to be at 6pm on Wednesday evening via Zoom. We also celebrate our patronal festival in August. St Mary is the patron saint of our Church and one of the features of the remembrance of Mary is the 'Magnificat' in which Mary praises the Lord for the honour he has bestowed on her, a poor and simple maiden whose trust in him is complete even though she knows she will face heartache and loss as her son takes his place. You may have noticed that we have a small wooden figure of Mary in one of the windows on the South side of the church as well as windows at the East end commemorating her. Why not take a look at these beautiful representations when you are next in Church and contemplate her faith. Finally, we will it seems, be allowed to take off the mask from the 19th July in most places - however, from a personal point of view I am very conscious of our vulnerable members of the congregation so I am thinking and praying about whether I should continue to wear one (which as a spectacles wearer is inconvenient but it's not about me) especially in church. I know we will all consider our neighbours and friends and think carefully about our decision to wear or not wear a mask in church. With blessings and hope for a long and enjoyable summer. *Carole Edwards Church Warden*

Date/Time		Led By	Location
1/8/21 9.45am	Common Worship Holy Communion (Trinity 9)	Reverend Mark Lowther	St Mary's and Zoom live stream
8/8/21 9.45am	Common Worship Morning Prayer (Trinity 10)	Emma & Martin Steadman	Zoom Live Stream
15/8/21 9.45am	Common Worship Holy Communion (Patronal Festival for St Mary)	Reverend Sheila Hart	St Mary's and Zoom Live Stream

22/8/21 9.45am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Prayer (Trinity 12)	Reverend James Marston	St Mary's and Zoom live stream
29/8/21 10.30am	No service in Friston. Benefice service only in Aldeburgh celebrating Mark's ministry in the Benefice		

East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two Offshore Windfarms Update

First and foremost, thank you to the very many people of Friston who took the time and trouble to submit final submissions and representations to the National Planning Inspectorate prior to the Examination closing on 6th July. All were robust and articulate in their force of opposition and would have had the desired final thrust of a community under threat and desperate to protect its heritage and legacy for future generations. Collecting the wild flower meadow montage from Leiston Press (Photographer Ian Cook has taken some amazing pictures early one morning in June of the meadow planted by the Reeves. These can be seen on the Church noticeboard and in the porch) and driving back along Grove Road was a sad and sickening experience. The site investigations have been a PR disaster for SPR and rightly so. As ever, they have displayed a complete lack of understanding of and empathy with our landscape, environment and heritage and worst of all our communities. Suddenly the road signs have gone and there seems to have been a retreat to the barracks to rethink. There may be some postponement of further work until the end of the nesting season. Meanwhile, many of us are hoping for a relatively SPR-free July and August to rebuild strength and spirits in what is left of the summer. However, the threats and uncertainties will remain. No doubt ESC will seek to engage with Friston and other affected Parish Councils to discuss aspects of compensation and mitigation, not that many seem apparent. On top of that, we know that National Grid Ventures will be starting a public information exercise in the Autumn. An updating note by NGV suggests that the Secretary of State's decision on SPR might be extended from January 2022 by 3-6 months. That extends the agony but at least acknowledges the cumulative effects of all that is threatened for us and the various energy reviews in progress.

SASES has a meeting shortly with an extensive agenda - vigilance remains the name of the game! *Simon Ive*

Summer Concerts at Friston Church

As part of your summer respite, please come along to one or both of the concerts in the grounds of Friston Church on Sunday 8th and 15th August at 4pm. The Kingfisher Ensemble will be playing a programme of popular music to everyone's taste. On Sunday, 8th August they will consist of a string trio plus flute and oboe and on Sunday, 15th August, it will be the Kingfisher Strings. Both are at 4pm and admission is free. So, bring a chair (and a wine!) and enjoy an hour of music. If it rains, there will be rapid decamp into the church! There will be a voluntary retiring collection to support St Elizabeth Hospice. *Simon Ive*

Friston Allotment Association

There is still time to thin apples & pears to improve the crop & reduce the risk of broken branches. Be ready to cut off potato tops if infected with blight to stop it spreading to the tubers. Keep feeding tomatoes once a week to achieve the maximum crop. Water vegetables in dry weather as well as trees & shrubs planted this year. A late crop of turnips can still be sown to harvest this autumn. Always add some brown material i.e. straw etc. with green waste mixed together in the compost heap to produce better compost.

Friston Wildlife Watch

I have this magnificent Honeysuckle in my garden it blooms from early summer all the way into the autumn with pretty white and yellow flowers, the smell is intoxicating and a lovely welcome as you walk into the garden. The bees and hoverflies love it during the day and the moths descend in the evening. Since flowering a couple of weeks ago I have noticed more bats in my garden, obviously attracted by the evening moth visitors, and it creates shelter and a nesting place for the sparrows, blackbirds and wrens. Wanting to find out more, I used my new phone app and identified it as Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), I was a bit disappointed to find that it is not native and considered to be an invasive species as its rigorous growth can smother native species and prevent them from thriving. Oh well - it is a very welcome guest in my garden, as long as it behaves and continues to provide shelter and sustenance for my insect and bird visitors! *Briony Sones*

Your Swift, Your news! Anyone can contribute to the Swift, please contact the Clerk with any articles you may have, please keep them light, factually correct and village orientated. Space is limited but we do try to fit everything in. **The deadline for the next issue is Monday 23rd August 2021**

All information correct at time of publication. This newsletter is funded by Friston residents and lightly edited by the Parish Clerk. Thank you to all contributors and deliverers.

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