



The Swift



FRISTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Parish Council

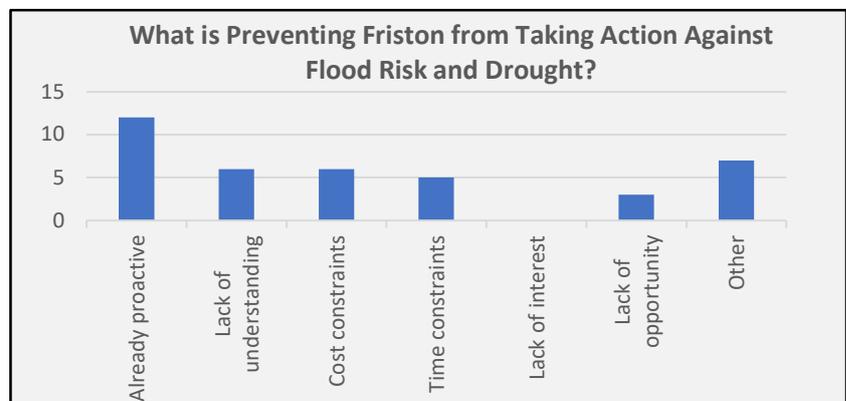
The Parish Council has taken the very difficult step to increase the precept for next year. The precept is generated from residents' Council Tax and forms funding for the Parish Council. This increase is to go some way to cover the running costs of the Village Hall. The Council acknowledges that this is an important asset to the village and to lose it would be detrimental to the community. This will not cover all the costs and it is hoped that more groups, clubs and families will use the hall for their meetings and celebrations. As part of this drive towards self funding the overall hire fees have increased slightly to cover the costs of utilities. For example having all the heaters on in the hall costs over £7 an hour.

The Council have kept this increase to a minimum and hope that all residents will understand the necessity for this.

Reclaim the Rain

Results are in! A big thankyou to all who responded to our survey. Overall, there is a strong knowledge of where flood risk exists in Friston, with over half of you considering yourself to have a "reasonable idea" of where the risk is and over 40% with "full understanding". Almost 70% of you considered drought to be important and relevant to your community. While many of you are already being proactive and taking action against flooding and drought there is an acknowledgement of the different factors preventing you from currently doing so.

A large proportion of our responses came from residents and tenants, which is great, but we'd love to hear from more of Friston's local businesses and landowners too! Your local input is very important to us, and we look forward to working with your community more closely in the future.



News from St Mary's Church

We had a great turnout to celebrate Marie's first service as an Elder (Sunday, 22nd February); and as she emphasised, the challenge is for the same numbers at her next service on Sunday, 12th February at 10am; otherwise, to quote, 'she will think she was rubbish'. Not so! A very convivial occasion with friends and also esteemed visitors from Aldeburgh to support her, topped off with coffee and a presentation to Marie of a magnolia tree as a token of our appreciation.

Meanwhile, here is our rota of services for February. We are not quite back to weekly Sunday services, but we are working on it. Do not forget we start at the much easier time of 10am!

Sunday, 5th February, Holy Communion (Common Worship) led by Revd Nicky Winter.

Sunday, 12th February, Service of the Word led by our Elder, Marie Szpak.

Sunday, 19th February, Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) led by Revd Sarah du Boulay.

Sunday, 26th February - No service at Friston but alternatives at Knodishall (9.30am), Aldeburgh (10.30am) and Aldringham (11am).

You may also like to join the Benefice Celebration of Love service at Aldeburgh Parish Church, Sunday, 12th February at 3pm followed by fizz and cake. See our church notice boards for further details. simonive@aol.com

Allotment Association

With spring hopefully soon with us it is time to get seeds ordered ready for the coming season. Fruit trees & bushes can now have a feed of fish, blood & bone or pelleted chicken manure. The soil can be covered with polythene or cloches to warm it up ready for early sowings in March. Save plastic food containers ready to use as pots later, remember to make holes in the base for drainage. Autumn fruiting raspberries can now be pruned back to ground level to produce new shoots for this year. Finish off cutting back hedges & shrubs before the birds start nesting

Thursday Ladies Club (TLC)

We started the New Year with a wonderful demonstration of watercolour painting by local artist, Carole Massey. We were all absorbed and much admired the image of our village wildflower meadow painted by Carol. At our next meeting on 9th February, we ask, 'Ever wanted to know what it is like to be a hooker?' Come along and Liz Thomas will demonstrate a craft which has all the elements of a rewarding hobby. You can even have a go at hooking your own mat. Come and give it a try.

Date: Thursday 9th February. Time: 7pm-9pm, Place: Friston Village Hall

Tea, coffee, biscuits as well as a raffle. Guests welcome. If anyone needs a lift to enable them to attend please let me know. *Wendy Ireland 07948 150022*

thursdayladiesclubtlc@gmail.com



The Friston Chequers

We now offer takeaway fish and chips on a Friday evening between 5:30pm and 8pm and for residents of Friston, we also offer a free delivery service. Please call the pub on 01728 668039 to arrange.

Friston Wildlife Watch

I grew up in an old town house, my bedroom was in the attic and my childhood mornings and evenings were often accompanied by the chattering, whistling and churring of the starlings roosting and nesting in the roof. Perhaps not the most charming of our garden birds, starlings are garrulous, gauche and gregarious and can strip a bird table bare in minutes. In our household we call them the 'The Terrorists'; appearing en masse they completely ignore the territorial posturing and faffing of the Blackbirds, and other birds can only look on as their food is quickly and efficiently devoured by the invaders. I still love them! Of course the really extraordinary thing about Starlings are their murmuration's. We are lucky to be able to see some of these spectacular sites locally; around the River Alde and Minsmere are particularly good places to visit. The murmuration's usually occur about an hour before sunset, before the birds go to roost for the night. Apparently Starlings have a 'higher temporal resolution' than humans, in other words, they can see and act much faster than us! This enables them to move together, shifting closer and separating, creating extraordinary shapes in the sky. They form murmuration's to keep safe, using their flock movement to hypnotise their predators, also to communicate about good food sources and to keep warm. I have recently seen a small murmuration over the fields to the North of Friston, and have posted a short recording (taken by my better half) of it on the Friends of Friston Facebook page, alternatively take a walk up to the church before sunset and see it for yourself. 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 next deadline for articles is Monday 20th February 2023.**

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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