



# The Swift



## FRISTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

### Parish Council

Friston Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents and visitors a Happy New Year. The next Parish Council meeting is on the 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in the Village Hall. There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council, make a New Year's resolution to volunteer to fill one of them! Contact the Clerk for more details.

### Surviving Winter Appeal - Suffolk Community Foundation

Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, the Surviving Winter fund exists to reach those most in need - hard-working low-income families, individuals who are struggling to make ends meet and the older generation.

If you are in a position to donate your Winter fuel payment or would just like to be part of making a difference in Suffolk, then please give what you can - together we can help keep the people of Suffolk warm.

As always, we encourage you to hold on to your Winter Fuel Payment and other cost of living support if you need it to stay warm and well this winter. However, in the long held '**Don't Need it, Donate it**' spirit of this appeal, we ask that you give what you can. You can donate to the Appeal online at [www.suffolkecf.org.uk/surviving-winter-appeal/](http://www.suffolkecf.org.uk/surviving-winter-appeal/) or by telephone **01473 602 602** (during office hours) or visit any branch of **Suffolk Building Society** to make a payment over the counter.

### St Mary's Annual Carol Service

On 10<sup>th</sup> December members of the village came together, led by the star, to celebrate our annual event. Thanks go to those who clambered up the church tower to mount the star, which looks resplendent shining over the village each evening and to our unofficial electrician who made sure we had the right cables and plugs and backlit the altar to great effect. The church looked beautiful thanks to the 'flower ladies' and Christmas tree decorators who beavered away in a cold church on a Saturday morning.

On the evening our pop-up choir led by Alan Bullard (who also played the organ) supported us as we sang Christmas carols interspersed by nine 'lessons' from the Bible. Thanks must also go to our readers, choir members and, of course, Revd. Nicky Winter who led the service. Afterwards we all descended on the Village Hall where we were welcomed with mulled wine and mince pies - thank you caterers!

There was a collection for EACH - East Anglian Children's Hospice during the service. We haven't counted the money yet but thank you, in advance, for the generosity of the congregation. I will make sure the total raised is printed in next month's Swift.

### January Services at St Mary's Friston

**Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** at 10am, Feast of the Epiphany/Baptism of Jesus. We celebrate these two feast days with a Service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) led by Revd. Sarah du Boulay.

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Jan** at 10am, the second Sunday after Epiphany - Service of the Word led by our Elder, Marie Szpak.

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Jan** at 10am, the third Sunday after Epiphany - Holy Communion Service (Common Worship) led by Revd. Nicky Winter.

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Jan** at 10am, the fourth Sunday after Epiphany/Candlemas - Service of the Word led by Revd. Mary Brown.

### Energy Projects Update

**Scottish Power/National Grid** - the SASES Court of Appeal hearing, challenging the decision of the Secretary of State to grant development consent, took place on 6<sup>th</sup> December before three Lord Justices of Appeal. SASES had two grounds of appeal, one related to flood risk and the other to cumulative impact. The Lord Justices indicated that judgement would be given in January 2024. The SEAS appeal relating to Scottish Power's conduct towards landowners is due to be heard in early February.

**National Grid Sealink** - the statutory consultation period closed on 18<sup>th</sup> December. A village meeting was held on 2 December by the Parish Council to inform residents of these proposals and to give some more insight as to the implications for Friston. It is hoped that as many residents as possible have responded to the consultation. The Parish Council with the assistance of SASES submitted a response and this is available on the Parish Council

website. Prior to this the Parish Council met with representatives of National Grid and made a number of the points in its response directly to those representatives. The Parish Council is concerned with the quality of the consultation process not least because of the seven representatives of National Grid who attended that meeting not one had read the non-statutory consultation response which the Parish Council submitted in 2022. The Parish Council intends to pursue this matter further with East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council as they have a role in respect of the quality of consultation.

National Grid expects to make its formal development consent application in the Autumn of 2024.

Recent news is that two new offshore windfarm projects, North Falls and Five Estuaries, will connect offshore to Sealink. Further details are awaited.

**National Grid Lionlink** - a non-statutory consultation was held in 2022 and there was a supplementary non-statutory consultation relating to a different landfall and cable route route in Walberswick and Southwold earlier this year. Reading the small print it is clear that this project has been delayed by one year with another statutory consultation and development consent application expected in 2025.

The Parish Council has complained to the Planning Inspectorate, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council about the multiplicity of development consent consultations and applications and the intolerable burden this places on the community.

**National Grid Nautilus** - National Grid has been considering whether it can connect this project at an existing substation location at the Isle of Grain in Kent or as originally planned at Friston. The position has still not been confirmed although a decision on this can be expected in 2024.

**Community Benefits** - Government, in an attempt to address the widespread opposition to multiple uncoordinated onshore energy infrastructure projects, has been consulting on a community benefits package. This has been reported in the press. The precise details are awaited but the headlines are that people close to new energy infrastructure will directly receive £1000 a year for 10 years. There will be a community payment of £200,000 for each substation. Precise details are awaited as it is unclear how this will "benefit" residents.

**Sizewell C** - TASC with the support of Stop Sizewell C and others is challenging the Secretary of State's decision grant development consent. The Court of Appeal hearing took place in November. The appeal relates to the availability of a potable water supply at the site and the need for a desalination plant. Judgement should be given shortly. As residents will have noted EDF is ploughing ahead with a variety of preparation works.

### Friston Allotment Association

Ventilate greenhouses on mild days to help prevent grey mould (botrytis) developing on plants. Protect new shoots on peaches with polythene to prevent the spread of the rain borne disease peach leaf curl. Seed potatoes & onion sets will be available in shops this month. Early potatoes can be placed in trays to chit for an earlier crop. Gooseberries & currants can be pruned, removing a third of old wood at ground level along with any weak growth. Cover rhubarb with large pots or buckets now to get an early picking of tenders shoots in the spring. Take care when putting salt on paths in frosty weather, try to keep it away from plants & soil.

### Friston Wildlife Watch

At the bottom of my garden	There's a mouse in my house	And while I'm digging in the soil
There's a toad and there's a newt,	Or is that mice in the hicc?	A Robin sits upon my spade,
In the bushes there's a hedgehog	They're nibbling in the walls and roof	He's eying up the juicy worms
And it is very cute.	And it isn't very nice.	In the great big hole I've made.
There's sparrows in the hedgerow	There's spiders in the corner	Every day is full of bugs and moths,
And a mole under my lawn:	And beetles in the hall,	The butterfly and snail
Molehills just keep popping up	They crawl into my shoes and boots	Lichen, fungi, birds and bees
I really wish that it was gawn.	I don't like that at all.	My life is one big Nature Trail!

In honour of Benjamin Zephaniah (15/04/58-7/12/23) My version of his poem 'Nature Trail'  
Happy New Year to everyone - Briony Sones

*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 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.*

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

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