



The Swift

FRISTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



Friston Village Support

A very Happy Christmas from the Friston Swift Admin! Christmas may be very different this year, please let us know if you need someone to help you with shopping or a lift for a medical appointment, or if you are having to spend Christmas alone and would like someone to talk to. Contact: fristonvillage@gmail.com (if you do not have email Briony Sones 07885 560380)

Parish Council

Unfortunately, there has been several break-ins in the village recently. If you have any CCTV footage from the weekend of the 14th and 15th November, please contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council hope to be able to open the Village Hall for hire again following the end of the current restrictions on the 2nd December. We are awaiting guidance on this.

There is still one allotment free if anyone is interested in getting outdoor exercise and growing your own food too! Please contact the Clerk or Cllr Simpson for details.

Whilst enjoying Friston's footpaths this winter, please ensure you pick up after your dog. Many a good walk can be ruined by bringing home more than you went out with. There are plenty of dog bins on the footpaths around the village and one on the Village Green.

If any members of the public wish to attend the virtual Parish Council meetings currently taking place in line with Covid restrictions, then please contact the Clerk to receive an invite.

Best wishes for 2021 from your Parish Council.

Friston Wild Life.

It would seem unlikely that wild life would like a garden in Hillcrest but there are three stories to tell. The first concerns an escapee chicken from Church Road called Fifi. We would have preferred to call her Blodwin but my Grandchildren wanted Fifi - so be it. Fifi made her home with us and stayed for 2/3 years until we found a home for her with a flock of other misfit chickens in Benhall. During that time, she became part of the family and often heard phrases were "has Fifi had her breakfast?" "has Fifi gone to bed yet?" (bed was halfway up a laurel - 8 feet up), "why doesn't Fifi take cover when it rains?" She laid her eggs almost anywhere, the compost heap being the favourite place, but we managed to find 2/3 a week. Unfortunately, this story doesn't end well as one sunny day in broad daylight a fox came and took her for supper. Nature took its course. *Carole Morley*

Colour in the Spring - wild flower and grass meadow plantings

Footpath walkers will be able to look forward to wildflowers and grassland either side of the footpath that leads from Grove Road to the Church. These plantings should attract a variety of wildlife so if there are any keen photographers in the village, it would be wonderful to receive photos of this, hopefully there might room for one or two to feature in a future edition of the Swift!

News from St Marys the Virgin

The latest lockdown meant that church services had to cease during November. However, Revd Sheila Hart led a moving and poignant Remembrance service in the churchyard on a gloriously sunny autumnal day. It reminded us how much we have to enjoy and just how much might be taken away. But not without a battle!

The Advent Sunday service on 29th November will be held at 9:45am via Zoom. For more information, contact Carole on 687743 or Emma on 687782.

At 6pm on 22nd December, Christmas will be celebrated in style in church (hopefully!) albeit we cannot sing carols. To comply with Covid restrictions, numbers are limited so please book your pew in advance by contacting Carole on 687743 or caroleedwards123369@btinternet.com

For further details and all the latest church information, keep your eye on www.fristonchristian.com

Do you like flower arranging? At St. Mary's we are wanting to expand our team of volunteers, we are looking for anyone who could spare the time about twice a year to do the flowers in Church. If this is of interest and you would like more details, please contact Margaret Fife either by email p.fife@btinternet.com, or 'phone 01728 687759. *Revd Nicky Winter*

Friston Wildlife Watch

So the year is drawing to a close, 2020 really has been difficult and I know many people, myself included, have found solace, strength and joy in the natural world around us. The coming winter months may be even more challenging than usual, but there are some special treats that occur with the colder weather and shorter days. I love the crunchy, silvery sparkle of a frosty morning and the wonderfully intense tea rose orange pinkiness of the winter sunsets. Look out for Starling murmerations: during winter local Starlings are joined by migratory birds, all swooping and diving in unison. Starlings like to roost in marshland and reed beds, so to see these spectacular displays at their best visit Minsmere or the River Alde at sunset. A bird I particularly associate with the winter season is the Tawny Owl who is more vocal at this time of year: listen out for the eerie duetting 'Twit' (female) and "Whoo" (male) calls in the morning or afternoon. Finally, I can't leave without mentioning the Robin, it is one of the few birds that sings all year round and its song seems particularly wistful and melancholic in the winter months, sometimes it can be heard late into the night, an ethereal treat for those insomniacs who sleep with their window open! *Briony Sones*

Ready, steady, census

The decennial census is almost upon us. Households across Friston will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes. Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is the 21st March 2021. For more information, visit census.gov.

Your Swift, Your news! Anyone can contribute to the Swift, please contact the Clerk with any articles you may have - local history, wildlife, archaeology, gardening, local events, places to visit – the choice is yours! Please keep them light, factually correct and village orientated. Space is limited but we do try to fit everything in.

Looking

*I've got something important to find
For days it goes round in my mind
With Covid and all its pesky
restrictions*

*To find a solution's become an
addiction*

*To help with this task I'm turning to
you*

*Please get me out of this fix
Together bring cheer in a couple of
ticks*

*My Christmas spirit's a wee bit lost
and I do need to find it soon*

*I've searched in the garden, the shed
and the car, and even "that little
room"*

*But sadly not even one glimmer of joy,
I beg you, do help in this ploy*

*Go rummage in boxes, trunks and lofts
Find thoughts of Christmas to see.*

*Let's hang on your wall, the fence or a
tree*

*Share laughter and joy with all - even
me!*

*As we walk with the dog, the kids or
our gran*

*Make us smile, let us join in a yarn
While we work to lose that Lockdown
Lard*

*Cheer us up 'cause this last year was
hard.*

