



*Froxfield and Privett Parish
Magazine*



December 2024



**Steve Sargent (of Honeycritch Lane)
'Faces of India' - an excerpt**

It's hard to believe that I've been at this tropical beach for nearly three weeks. On Boxing Day I phoned to change my flight home and was told that the earliest possible date was 11th Jan, and it's been unbroken sunshine and idleness ever since. Now, things that I did and people I met on my arrival are already distant memories, and I'm finding it hard to believe that I've been able to do so little in such a long space of time.

Today began as usual with yoga on the beach at 7:30, but with a new group and a punishing Amazonian lady teacher who spared us no time to relax on our backs and recover for a few precious seconds between impossible contortions. As happens increasingly often, I looked around and realised that I was easily the oldest person there, so tried all the harder to keep up. There was no charge for the 100-minute session: "For fun", the Brazilian said, "we try to push ourselves a little harder each day" although she led us deftly through each gravity-defying manoeuvre without appearing to make the slightest effort.

I hadn't expected the hippy-factor to be so great here, but Gokarna is a 'must' on the grand tour for those in search of enlightenment, inner peace and energy, and a bit of dope. Everyone's already been to Rishikesh at the foot of the Himalayas, the seat of yoga, then Goa and they call in here before doing Kerala in the south, although compared with where I've been, this is hardly a true Indian experience packed, as it is, with westerners in bikinis. All along the beach there are palm huts offering yoga, meditation and massage. You can sleep in a palm hut on the beach for about £2 per night, and every night there will be a gathering of young (and not so young) hippies on the beach round a fire in the sand.

I've been enlisted into the Czech singers group, led by 'Sky', a tall, slim, bronzed paediatrician in his 50's who always wears a gypsy's bandana over his nearly bald head; speaks slowly and softly in 5 languages and plays the guitar very well. The group has increased from two members to five, and tonight we're going to record a song, as it's full-moon. We meet and ascend the headland at one end of the bay, where there is a small, unattended temple at the summit, overlooking the Arabian Sea,

Faces of India continued

and we watch another fantastic sunset, while the full moon rises from the hills opposite.

We try singing outside, but the sound just disappears, so we try our luck inside the temple. It's dark, steeped in incense and a row of bells hang from the ceiling, which you can knock by hand. All the walls are painted with scenes of the gods' exploits. We sit on the floor in a circle and gather energy by holding hands and chanting 'Om', at first in unison, and then I encourage them to harmonise, and everyone seems surprised at how good it is to make an 'Om' chord rather than the usual drone. The song to be recorded, on the other hand, is utter crap. 'I wanna sing and dance / Like the Indians do; / Open the gates of ecstasy / And feel it going through.'

After a few 'takes', Sky decides that our random harmony and sloppy ensemble have reached the necessary standard, and we go for supper. They're all rampant vegetarians and they lead me to a beach restaurant which serves tofu but, mercifully, meat and beer is also available.

Next, we've been invited to a singing-circle, which is already in full swing when we find our way through the palm trees, across the dried rice-paddies and into a forest clearing behind the beach. This is much more hard-core than the hippies' beach party. About 30 people with dreadlocks, beards and guitars are sitting on mats in a circle, illuminated only by the central fire and the full moon shining through gaps in the canopy. There's no food or drink, only songs and the chillum – the wide-bore cannabis pipe which you touch to your forehead in reverence before taking in some of the smoke. It contains so much pot that clouds of the sweet-smelling fumes surround us all as the smokers exhale...a new kind of passive smoking, perhaps.

Steve's book 'The Faces of India' has some stunning photography and fascinating tales of his travels around the continent. It is available to buy at One Tree Books or Amazon (although we personally think it is better to support our local bookseller, rather than a global seller -Editors)

ISBN = 9798325492730s

Price (both at Amazon and One Tree) = £15.99



Steve Sargent and some images from his book



More images from Steve Sargent's book

Froxfield and Privett Parish Information

Parish Magazine

All articles, news and for sale items: froxfield.parish@btinternet.com
 Phone: Evenings & weekends: 827476 Editors: Caroline & Steve Dillon

Contact Details for Parish Clubs & Societies

Froxfield Village Hall: Contact: Angela Hiscock 01730 827 066 or enquiries@froxfieldvillagehall.co.uk

Privett Village Hall: Secretary: Alex Raphael 01730 828461

www.PrivettVillageHall.co.uk

Froxfield & Privett Garden Club: Elizabeth Houghton-Connell 01730 828889

Darts Teams: Angela Hiscock: 01730 827066

Cricket Club: Kevin Hiscock: 01730 827066

Froxfield Choir: NICO JACKSON nicola.jackson2@btopenworld.com

Ladies Friendship Group: Ursela Legg 01730 828324

Alex Raphael Privett Village Hall tel.01730 828461

Froxfield Ringers: Teresa Brown: 828003 or 07799 831426

Country & Western: Viv Barnett 01730 268306

Parish Clerk: 07396722442. clerk@froxfieldandprivett.org.uk

Froxfield Stores & Post Office: Howard & Charlotte 01730 827778

www.froxfieldstores.com

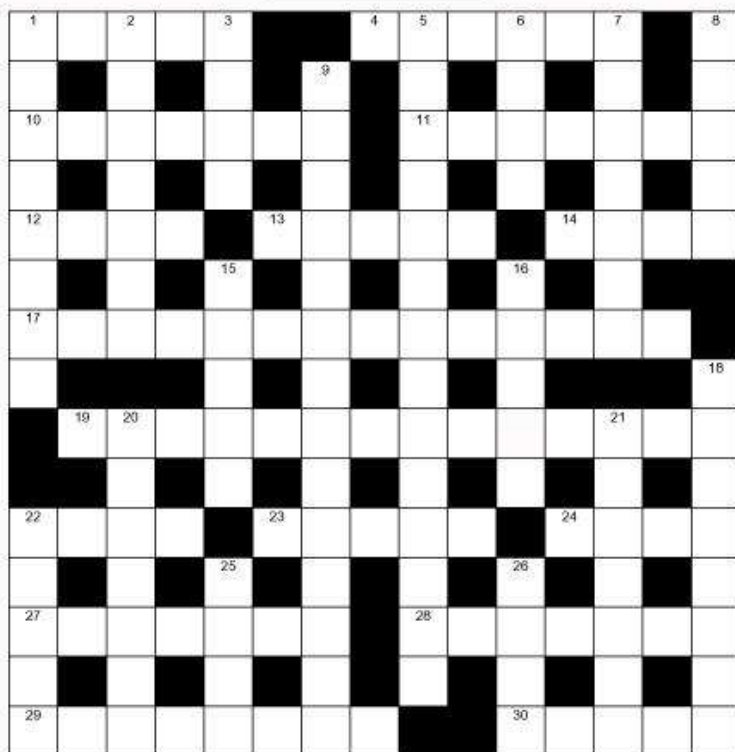
Parish website: www.froxfieldandprivett.org.uk

Defibrillator access code: C0147X

Bin Days Thursday Unless Otherwise Indicated

5 th	12 th	19 th	Friday 27 th	Friday 3 rd
Refuse Bin	Recycling & Glass	Refuse Bin	Recycling & Glass	Refuse Bin

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



THE FRIENDLY ALTONu3a WINTER SALE IS NOW ON!



Are you are finding these long, damp winter days are getting you down? Then why not find new interests and friends with Altonu3a?

There are now 65 different groups and activities, ranging from backgammon to bird-watching and crafts to current affairs, most of which can welcome new members mid-year: plus monthly coffee mornings at the Allen Gallery and monthly talks with tea at the Alton Community Centre, which are both open to all. We welcome all ages, and most groups meet in central Alton close to car-parking and bus-stops.

Reduced part-year membership rates of only £15 - £38 are available for January – August 2025, and you are welcome to have a free “taster” visit before joining (group size permitting). And, as we start to plan the 2025-6 programme, ideas for new groups are always welcome please.

Do pick up a current 2024-5 “Blue Book” annual programme from the Allen Gallery, the Curtis Museum, the Library or the Community Centre; or visit our website at altonu3a.co.uk

WITH ALTON U3A YOU WILL “LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE!”

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/stepping-stones.

Solution To November Crossword Puzzle

Across - 1 Exalts, 4 Doubtful, 9 Prepay, 10 Platform, 11 Stafford, 13 Season, 15 Decaffeinated, 18 Beatification, 22 Escape, 24 Leverets, 26 Talisman, 27 Sensor, 28 Desserts, 29 Agrees.

Down - 1 Expose, 2 Alexandra, 3 Traffic, 5 Oslo, 6 Between, 7 Flops, 8 Lemonade, 12 Raffia, 14 Beware, 16 Tennessee, 17 Objected, 19 Impasse, 20 Iceberg, 21 Usurps, 23 Calls, 25 Part.

Across

- 1 Sentry
- 4 Yarn
- 10 Elementary particle about the same mass as a proton, but without electrical charge
- 11 An enclosure where horses are kept and exercised
- 12 Mechanical or habitual repetition
- 13 Trap
- 14 Yield
- 17 Of a country or region, not advanced economically
- 19 'Matey lull' (anag).
- 22 Secular
- 23 Nimble
- 24 Egg-shaped
- 27 Short saying, stating a general truth or piece of advice
- 28 Uncontrolled outburst of anger
- 29 Make longer
- 30 A portable, enclosed chair for one person, carried between horizontal poles by two porters

Down

- 1 Selfless; kind
- 2 Adjoined; flanked
- 3 With little or no light
- 5 Breathe at an abnormally rapid rate
- 6 Finishes
- 7 District under the pastoral care of a bishop
- 8 The joint between the foot and the leg
- 9 Impossible to understand
- 15 Fury
- 16 Property or money brought by a bride to her husband on marriage
- 18 Autumn/winter flowering plant of the primrose family
- 20 Mythical one-horned horse
- 21 Moved with concerted physical effort, maybe using a bar
- 22 Part of the front of a coat, folded back
- 25 The period preceding Easter in the Christian church
- 26 Burden

The Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery, Alton

(01420 82802)



www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum
www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Sunday

Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm

DECEMBER/JANUARY EVENTS

Saturday 7 December, Curtis Museum: get creative at our **textile creatures workshop**, 11 - 12.30, age 12+ £15/£12, please book online.

Saturday 14 December, Allen Gallery: **paper ornaments** workshop, 11 - 12.30, age 8+ £15/£12, please book online.

Tuesday 17 December: **Plant and nature drawing** at the Curtis Museum, 10.30 - 12.30, (adults) £25/£20, please book online.

Saturday 21 December: **Toy workshop** at the Allen Gallery 10.30 - 12.00, age 6+, £18/£15, please book online.

If you are unable to make online bookings please contact us on 01420 82802 and we may be able to assist you (subject to availability).

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum
www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

30 November - 1 January: **Made and More**, our exhibition of artworks and craft by local artists and makers. Find unique gifts to buy - all items will be available to purchase on the spot.

Drop-in trails and other activities at the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery:

14 December- 5 January: special seasonal trails at the Allen Gallery & Curtis Museum, FREE (donations welcome)

14 December - 5 January: **crafty cards & decorations**, make and decorate your own card or decoration with a theme inspired by the Allen Gallery & Curtis Museum Collections. Templates and kits will be provided, £2 per kit, drop in.

14 December - 5 January, Curtis Museum: Alton Natural History Society presents a mini display of **Christmas Plants & Intriguing Mammal Skulls**, FREE.

On December 12th the Friends will be holding their annual **Christmas Social** - come and chat over a mince pie/mulled wine. 7.30pm, FREE

In February we will be holding the ever-popular **Museum by Torchlight**. Watch this space for date.

STOP PRESS: Jane Hurst's latest book on aspects of Alton History - *The Mills of Alton* - is now available. £3 from the Museum, or if you prefer Jane to post it, an extra £1 p & p. janehurst1@gmail.com

WHO'S WHO IN THE CHURCH...

(01730 is the telephone exchange unless otherwise stated)

Priest-in-Charge & Area Dean (Petersfield): The Revd Dr Susie Collingridge (624245); susie.collingridge@gmail.com

Assistant Curate: The Revd Sue Jones (624245); susan.jones1410@gmail.com

Retired Clergy (PtO): The Revd Joanna Farrell (828450)

Reader (PtO): Mrs Caroline Hilton (263460)

Lay Pastoral Assistant: Lindsay Clegg (827505)

Churchwardens:

Sara Greenaway (827541) and Rob Hollis (07368 515108)

Benefice Administrator:

AnneGrove www.steepfroxfield.com / steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com

Gift Aid (GA) and Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) Officers: Ian

Hughes (n.ianhughes@btinternet.com/828344) **(GA)**; and Christine Stephens (Christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk) **(PGS)**

Social media:

Website: <https://steepfroxfield.com>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/steepfroxfieldandprivettchurches>

More details about the Reverse Advent Calendar

In November's Magazine we explained the plans for the Reverse Advent Calendar which, once again this December, is a joint project by Froxfield School and the village to provide contributions to the PACT Foodbank in Petersfield. In summary, for each day in December to 21 December you can leave a gift of food, toiletries, etc in marked bags at the back of the church for the Foodbank – reversing the normal Advent Calendar by giving rather than receiving.

The church is open every day from 8.30am to 5.00pm, and you can drop off your gifts at any time. Gifts will be removed from the church on a regular basis and taken directly to the Foodbank.

Each day in December up to 21 December has a designated gift:

Dec 1	<i>Terry's chocolate orange</i>	Dec 12	<i>Toothpaste/toothbrush</i>
Dec 2	<i>Shortbread or other Biscuits</i>	Dec 13	<i>Tinned fruit</i>
Dec 3	<i>Festive chocolates</i>	Dec 14	<i>Bubble bath</i>
Dec 4	<i>Stollen</i>	Dec 15	<i>Tin custard/rice pudding</i>
Dec 5	<i>Yule Log</i>	Dec 16	<i>Jar of coffee</i>
Dec 6	<i>Christmas Fruit cake/Christmas pudding</i>	Dec 17	<i>Jar pasta sauce/tinned tomatoes</i>
Dec 7	<i>Mixed nuts (not salted)</i>	Dec 18	<i>Drinking chocolate</i>
Dec 8	<i>Biscuits for cheese</i>	Dec 19	<i>Jar of honey</i>
Dec 9	<i>Mince pies/apple pies</i>	Dec 20	<i>Shampoo/shower gel</i>
Dec 10	<i>Jam/chocolate spread</i>	Dec 21	<i>Tin of soup</i>
Dec 11	<i>Tinned beans/sweetcorn/spaghetti</i>		

Don't worry if you "miss" a particular date – the bags will remain in the church for several more days after their specified date, so come when you can.

You will see from the list that the first nine days are devoted to Christmas food and treats – it will then be available in the Foodbank in good time for the Christmas Hampers which they are preparing this year.

The remaining gifts – tinned goods and toiletries – will be available for the Foodbank later in January, when their stocks are normally low after Christmas.

If you would prefer to make a cash donation instead to the Foodbank, this can be done by online banking, and the relevant details are as follows:

PACT Foodbank (Business) Sort code: 60-16-26 Account No.: 80199240 Reference: Froxfield RAC

Thank you in advance for your generosity – those who have to rely on the services of the PACT Foodbank, whether at Christmas or during the rest of the year will be most grateful for your contributions. We wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Rob Hollis – Churchwarden Edward Sadler – School Governor



Christmas Wreaths and Table Decorations at Privett – Saturday 7 December

Judging from all the wreath-making opportunities advertised in Froxfield and Privett for this pre-Christmas period, the villages will be awash with wreaths this year. But if you haven't yet booked yourself onto a course, there is still time to spend the morning making your wreath or table decoration at Privett Village Hall on **Saturday 7 December, from 9.30 am.**

The cost is £15, and coffee, a light lunch and mulled wine are included. Let Teresa Brown know in advance if you are coming (tel. 828003; email: teresa.mbrown2011@gmail.com). So that the right wreath holders can be ordered, let Teresa know if you would like moss and wire; oasis and a wreath ring; ivy or willow; or anything else you have in mind to form the basis of your wreath. Greenery will be provided, as well as the wreath holder, but bring along anything special you would like to add to decorate your wreath.

Clergy Corner



I wonder how many of us, by the time we get to Christmas Day, are already feeling pretty jaded?

My friend fully decorates their home while finishing up the Halloween sweets but is 'done' with Christmas by 26th December. The Boxing Day means boxing up festive decorations in the loft. During Advent we might have festive parties to attend, pre-Christmas work 'do's or family gatherings to make the most of, mince pies to relish, and a Chocolate Advent Calendar (or few) to keep up with (the grandson can't be expected to take on that challenge on his own IMHO).

Down the hill in Steep, a year of anniversary celebrations is beginning, marking 900 years of All Saints' church. As the first stones were being laid in 1125, the weeks building up to the feast of Christmas were unbelievably different.

There's no chocolate in Advent for a start. Of course, travellers had not yet brought its treasure to British shores, but sweet treats are not part of our diet during those weeks in twelfth century Steep. Like Lent after all, Advent was for fasting and cutting back on jollities of any sort to give space for reflection and prayer. Marriages did not usually take place during these weeks (too much excitement), and those who could afford meat might avoid it, or replace it with simpler options, like fish. Anything to help our focus in preparation for Christmas.

How do we even begin to contemplate the breathtaking meaning of it all? God, the creative force behind the universe. God being born as a vulnerable, delicate child. God in human form. God with human fingerprints on tiny fingers. Divine love poured into human blood cells running through insubstantial infant arteries and veins. God's love born as one of us, for all of us.

The First Day of Christmas (25th December) started, not ended our celebrations in these parts. 12 full days of feasting led to 'Old Christmas Day' (now 'Epiphany' when we remember the Wise Men visiting Jesus on 6th January).

The First Day of Christmas (25th December) started, not ended our celebrations in these parts. 12 full days of feasting led to 'Old Christmas Day' (now 'Epiphany' when we remember the Wise Men visiting Jesus on 6th January). In the darker, quieter months, some were given time off working on the land to enjoy the revels. Monks and nuns were allowed one of their two annual baths in preparation, and possibly a new tunic. A relief to all, I'm sure, although it would not do to go overboard on the luxury of cleanliness.

Although earlier country traditions will have continued seamlessly, gathering to worship together for the 'mass' or communion services would be central to our Christ-mass celebrations in a strongly Christian (Catholic, of course) community. What a relief it would have been to be able to celebrate locally with our friends in Steep rather than making the long trip to the other All Saints church in East Meon.

Perhaps dramatized tellings brought the Nativity story to life, maybe special music sung by the local choir and minstrels embellished the festival, and certainly everyone enjoyed as much food and drink as we could have laid our hands on. Games and dancing, carols sung raucously in our homes and halls, with generous hospitality shared by us all. All in energetically vigorous celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. God, born as one of us.

We are grateful beyond measure for the centuries of life in our communities, and we join with all our sisters and brothers through the centuries to worship Christ, the new-born King. As we celebrate together, may our hearts be open to receive and to share the love that God poured into the world this Advent and Christmas time.

With warmest wishes for a meaningful Advent and a joyous Christmas to you and your loved ones, from Canon Susie and all at the churches of Froxfield with Privett.

Canon Susie Collingridge, Priest in Charge of Steep and Froxfield with Privett.

Note: a helpful resource to me for these notes was Nicholas Orme's *Going to Church in Medieval England, 2022*. Publ: Yale Univ Press.

Froxfield & Privett Garden Club

On Wednesday 13 November the Garden Club were treated to an evening of Ray Broughton speaking on Flowering Shrubs. The meeting at Froxfield Village Hall was very well attended. Ray is a long-standing lecturer at Sparsholt College and is now the RHS Senior Examiner too. Naturally, Ray's wealth of knowledge on all things gardening is second to none. Ray introduced a selection of his favourite flowering shrubs and plants including some new species of well-known plants such the Clematis Montana Alba (white) which is a tetraploid (meaning that it has four sets of chromosomes instead of the usual two) and as such the flowers are double the size of Clematis Montana Elizabeth (pink) and flowers from February to April.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10 December at Privett Village Hall and our speaker will be Mark Porter, Head of the National Garden Scheme (NGS), speaking on the 'History of the NGS & Hampshire Gardens'. We will be visiting Mark's garden on 11 February 2025 – the cost is £10 pp and if you would like to go please contact Pippa Chapman - email: pjmchapman@yahoo.co.uk or tel: 07803 906312

As the December meeting is our Christmas meeting we will be celebrating with mulled wine and mince pies as usual after our speaker. Guests are always welcome - £3 per meeting.

Thank you to those of you who have already renewed their membership of the Garden Club. Membership is £10 per year and if you would like to join or renew your membership please contact Vivienne Godfrey - fpgardenclub@gmail.com

Payment can also be made online. The Club's details are as follows: Froxfield & Privett Garden Club (Select Business for name matching purposes) Sort Code: 09 01 55 Account No: 49894802. Please identify payer with Surname Sub.

A reminder that the Spring show photographic classes are:

Wonderful Water and Woodland Walk

With very best wishes to all for a Peaceful and Happy Christmas and a good gardening year ahead in 2025. **Elizabeth Houghton-Connell**



Tuesday 10th December

**Privett Village Hall
7.30pm**

A talk by Mark Porter

**'History of the NGS & Hampshire
Gardens to visit'**

**And please stay for mince pies &
mulled wine or coffee/tea afterwards**

Non-members are very welcome £3
www.fpgarden.club



Working Party
Sunday 8th Dec 2024



Free Cake!

And other refreshments for all who come along to help. (including bacon sandwiches at 9.30)

Jobs to do include decorating, carpentry, minor repairs and gardening.

The working party will be open from 9 am to 1 pm, but you can turn up for as long as you can spare, anything between 1 and 4 hours would be great.

If you aren't quite sure and want to find out more, drop in at 11 am and we will show you round.

Please call or email Ted Stephens to book your slice of cake
ted.stephens@fraine.co.uk

01730 266529

Drop In



The next Drop In will be held on Saturday 14th December from 10.30 to 12 noon at Froxfield Village Hall. Please join us for tea, coffee and cake and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours. All are welcome! Children 16 and under to be accompanied by an adult please.

Any queries to Susanna on 07743 690331

Final call for printed copies of the 2025 magazine please, by the 10th December. After this date no more will be processed and you will have to view it online. Thanks.

January magazine cut-off date

The cut-off date for entries for the January magazine is the 14th December because of Christmas.

Benefice Worship

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all mankind shall see it.*

Isaiah 40.5

Sunday 1 December: Advent Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Steep
10am The Ten AM (less formal worship), Steep
10am Parish Communion, High Cross

Sunday 8 December: Second Sunday of Advent

10am Parish Communion, Steep
6pm Carol Service, Stroud

Monday 9 December

6.30pm Friends of Steep Church Carol Service, Steep

Sunday 15 December: Third Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Steep
4pm Benefice Carol Service, High Cross

Wednesday 18 December

6pm Steep School Christingle, Steep

Thursday 19 December

5pm Carols on the Green, Froxfield Green

Saturday 21 December

6.30pm Carol Service, Privett with Froxfield Choir

Sunday 22 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Stroud
10am Parish Communion, Steep
11am Morning Prayer, Froxfield Green

Tuesday 24 December, CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Crib Service, High Cross (Purple)
6pm Holy Communion (BCP, said), Stroud (Gold/White)
11.30pm Midnight Communion, Steep (Gold/White)

Wednesday 25 December, CHRISTMAS DAY (Gold/White)

10am All Age Service, Steep
10am All Age Communion, High Cross

Sunday 29 December: First Sunday of Christmas (White)

10am Benefice Communion with carols, High Cross

Welcome to a variety of services across our benefice

For further information, request our

weekly emailed news sheet at

steepfroxfeldprivett@gmail.com,

or visit our website www.steepfroxfeld.com

(Purple) December 2024

Steep: All Saints', GU32 2DD | Stroud Church: GU32 1AT
High Cross: St Peter's, GU32 1EQ
Froxfield Green: St Peter-on-the Green, GU32 1DQ
Privett: Holy Trinity, GU34 3PE



Summary of position

After 18 months of searching, we are delighted to be able to say that we have 4 new volunteers for the committee, providing capacity and adding new ideas and impetus. Ted Stephens has joined as the Trustee representing the Garden Club, Teresa Brown as Trustee representing the PCC and Jody

and Kate Ashfield as co-opted Trustees. We are allocating roles and already seeing activity on improving the website, the enquiries email address for the hall (which hasn't been working properly) and addressing maintenance issues.

As you'll see elsewhere in this magazine, we already have some fundraising events being organised, and a call for a volunteer taskforce to carry out simple maintenance tasks in return for free cake and coffee!

Upcoming Events

December

- Sunday 8th Volunteer Maintenance activity 9-1pm. Join us for free cake and help maintain the hall. Contact Ted Stephens on 01730 266529,
- Saturday 14th **Drop-In** 10.30am - 12 noon. Meet over a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake (all donations to the PCC)
- Friday 20th **Country Music Club** 8pm. Tickets are £10 on the door, Under-14's free. Licensed bar, tea & coffee available. Filled rolls & hotdogs also available for 80p each

January 2025

- Saturday 4th Walk off your Christmas excesses! 9.30am at Froxfield Village Hall for coffee and cake before setting off to Privett for soup and a roll. Adults £7 Children £3. Check out the website or email teresa.mbrown2011@gmail.com
- Saturday 11th **Drop-In** 10.30am - 12 noon. Meet over a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake (all donations to the PCC)

Robert Shepherd, Chair of Trustees
robertshepherd.parish@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON!

PETERSFIELD FESTIVAL HALL & TOWN COUNCIL

Showaddywaddy 50th Anniversary Tour
Thursday 5 December
PETERSFIELD FESTIVAL HALL
8.00 - 10.00pm
Tickets available online at [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)



Giant Christmas Charity Market
Saturday 7 December
PETERSFIELD FESTIVAL HALL
9.30am - 3pm
FREE ADMISSION



Vintage Antiques & Militaria Fair
Sunday 8 December
PETERSFIELD FESTIVAL HALL
10am-3pm
Entry £2



Elkie Brooks
Friday 13 December
PETERSFIELD FESTIVAL HALL
7.30 - 10.30pm
Tickets available online at [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)



A Musical Christmas by Petersfield Youth Theatre
20-22 December
PETERSFIELD FESTIVAL HALL
see website for times
www.petersfieldyouththeatre.org.uk



 THE FESTIVAL HALL PETERSFIELD
www.ticketsource.co.uk/thefestivalhall
Heath Rd, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4EA
//entitles sends cosmetic T. 01730 264182





Parish Poppy Appeal – 2024

Thank you so very much to everyone in the parish for your generosity in supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, leading up to the Remembrance Service at Froxfield Green. As our new system is bedding down, we have achieved just shy of last year's total. A special well done to all those involved. Our totals were:
Poppy Collection – Froxfield £629
Poppy Collection - Privett £148
Remembrance Service Collection £350
TOTAL £1127

The Petersfield Area total was £31,000.

Jeremy de Halpert and Michael Farrell

Come along for An Exciting Evening At The Races

Entry £5 for an evening of video horse races, betting chips are included just bring along your own picnic and fizz.
Dig out your glad rags (if you wish), pack a 'fancy' picnic and try your luck on the horses - prizes to be won!

Book here to guarantee your place
<https://forms.office.com/r/yKHtXfYFNn>

Friday 6th December, 7.30pm
West Meon Village Hall

Contact - Jo Brown 07788 584 920 Joannabrown1976@outlook.com

Payment - The Petersfield Growmore Club Account
Number: 85369862 Sort Code: 30-98-97

Do please spread the word to all who may like to attend.
See you there!

PARISH NEW YEAR WALK **SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY, 2025** **in aid of Froxfield Village Hall**

**Come along and walk off the Christmas & New Year's Eve
excesses**

FROXFIELD to PRIVETT

Approx: 3.75 miles via roads & footpaths

**9.30am - Meet at Froxfield Village Hall for Coffee/Tea &
Brownie/Croissant**

□.

**10am - Leave
Froxfield**

Arrive at Privett Village Hall for Homemade Soup ..

**If you don't wish to walk you are welcome to come for lunch at
Privett**

Adults - £7.00

Children - £3.00 (under 16 years)

**Please book your tickets via Froxfield Village Hall website
or contact email below
Dogs Welcome on leads**

If possible, sort out your own return journey by car sharing etc.

*If you need a lift back to Froxfield, and for any further details please
contact teresa.mbrown2011@gmail.com*



In my role as Chair of Governors I have the privilege of being invited into the school to meet with Mrs Farrow the Headteacher over a variety of matters and I also get the opportunity to visit classes while teaching is in progress in my governor role. However, I am also in school twice weekly, once with my dog Conker - the school therapy dog who listens to children read, and on another afternoon to run an after-school club helping children in years 5 and 6 develop their confidence in public speaking. So I am very lucky to be able to observe the seasons as they are celebrated in the school. Of course Christmas in school is always one of my favourite times of year, it is such a delight to be able to witness the preparations for the school Nativity service that are already underway as children start to learn the songs which I can hear as Conker and I pass by a classroom full of sweet singing.

The nativity service is always a joyous event and very popular with everyone in the school – and involves all the children, including the littlest children in the preschool, either in the choir or as characters in the age-old story of Jesus being born in the stable. There are two services and everyone in the parish is welcome to join us in High Cross church on Thursday 12 December at 11am or 2pm – parents with very small toddlers and babies are asked to come to the 11am service.

This year the school is once again planning to participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar initiative in conjunction with the parish. Last year, this was hugely successful and I know from speaking to volunteers at PACT Food Bank that the donations made a significant difference to the Christmases of

many families within our local area. Details of donations for each day in December are available on the church notice board.

Early in November the school hosted an Open Morning to show perspective parents around the school and pre-school. A group of us governors acted as support hosts to Mrs Farrow and her team - it was a great pleasure to show visitors around this truly wonderful school in its delightful setting – we all agreed that we felt very proud of 'our' school.

As I mentioned earlier in this article I run a weekly session for the older children in confident and effective public speaking, they work towards taking an English Speaking Board assessment in the summer term, so I was very pleased to hear that one of last year's group – Neret, a candidate who scored the top mark of '*Distinction*' in her English Speaking Board assessment, came into school to talk to Key Stage 2 children about the impact of smartphones on children's lives from a secondary pupil's perspective. She had worked hard to plan her talk (planning a talk is a key part of the ESB assessment) and the children were interested to hear more about this hugely important and topical subject. Well done and thank you Neret!

Finally, a date for your diary. On Sunday 15th December at 4.30pm there will be a joint school and parish Carol Service in High Cross Church. This is always a lovely end to our term celebrating and worshipping with members of our school and village community and the children share songs from the Nativity with the congregation. Please do come along if you can.

**Gilly Hollis – Chair of Governors Froxfield CE Primary and
Preschool**