

Freston NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Henry Stogden, Russell Ross Smith, Vanessa Penn, Gemma Stronach, Hayley McKessy

Spring 2024

Freston Parish Council meetings

We welcome residents to these meetings there is always a section on the agenda where members of the public can have their view on the agenda items. Please also let us have any articles or news for the newsletter send to Vanessa@penncommercial.co.uk
– Vanessa Penn and Hayley McKessy



Welcome to the Spring edition of the newsletter and apologies for the delay.

With February being so wet and mild, Snowdrops have gone over quickly this year and Daffodils have bloomed earlier again. The blossom is out and trees are starting to burst into life. The Magnolias and Camellias will look extra special, provided we don't see any late frosts.

Gardeners Corner

March/April

April is time to finish winter pruning roses, buddleia, sambucus, hydrangea, penstemons, forsythia after flowering.

Deadhead faded daffodils

Sow Brussels sprouts, kale, peas, spinach, cabbages

Plant potatoes, onion sets, strawberries, asparagus

On the Veg Patch sow courgettes, mulch fruit bushes, harvest rhubarb

Plant dahlia tubers outside

Feed lawns, turn the compost heap and last chance to prune

Latest News

The defibrillator training has taken place at The Boot.

Two dog bins are to be installed in the village.

Signs are being erected in the lay-bys, with the Samaritans telephone number, for cars and motorhomes parked there.

Questions have been raised about weight restrictions and heavy vehicles moving through the village, particularly at harvest time.

Planning permission has been granted for the Woolverstone/Freston scheme, so a CIL payment should follow for FPC.

All the local Peninsula Councils are collaborating against further development at The Ganges site (DC/23/04109), recommending refusal because of traffic increase, and particularly, Freston crossroads.

Flooding at the junction of Freston crossroads and the road leading to Freston. Highways have responded that it is down to the landowners to clear the ditches. Suffolk County Council are looking at making savings of £65 million in the recent Budget.

The planning application for the dog walking park on Freston Hill has been refused.

Larger waste bins have been placed in the lay-bys.



Richard Harvey

Richard and I met at the Freston Phone Box in 1969, we went on to marry in 1974. We had a baby girl Lou in 1975 and Janathan followed in 1977.

Richard worked on the farm and the fields surrounding Freston village for many years. Following this Richard worked on building the Orwell Bridge. Then went on to work all over the country in construction.

Richard ran the youth club at the Freston Village Hall, was a special constable and was Chairman for the Freston Parish Council for many years. Later in life Richard purchased a tractor and mower that he used in his spare time keeping the Freston village hall playing field looking at its best. He also cut the verges outside Bond Hall regularly.

Richard painted the phone box that was purchased for £1.00. He also purchased the signs on the phone box himself.

There is nothing Richard would not have done for people in Freston Village, nothing was too much trouble for Richard. He loved the village and was passionate about the upkeep of the grounds.

Sadly, Richard passed away in hospital on the 7th of February 2023. I cannot thank Freston Village Hall community enough for their kindness and their help at Richard's wake.

Richard and our son Jonathan now have a bench placed on the field behind the village hall in memory of both. This is a place I hope lots of you will sit and think of Richard or your own loved ones that have passed.

Regards Jan Harvey
(Richard's beloved wife).



St Peter's Church

Thanks to some very generous donations, all the monies have been raised for the repair of the Lychgate and it is in the builder's diary.

The hedge has been lowered further to enhance the views of the Church. The Garden Group will start again shortly to continue their good work on the grounds.

A Summer Music Evening and Drinks is being planned for when the Lychgate is completed.

Also, the Harvest Supper is to be repeated, subject to more voluntary help being offered for the event.

With so many rural churches closing, we are determined to retain ours at Freston; hence, our drive with the grounds, events and keeping up the maintenance and repair.

Coastal Path

New steps have been erected on the footpath by Wheelwrights Piece.



A new bridge has been constructed by the Food Hall path to avoid walkers having to go onto the road.

Historic Freston

The Wheelwright's shop and Blacksmiths are at least two hundred years old. A map of 1795 shows the Wheelwrights covering some five to seven acres, and the later woodland has been added behind the shop and traverses Wheelwrights Piece. This must have been part of Freston Manor Deer Park.

There is no evidence of the early settlement of the village of Freston; 'the farm of the Fresians' may date from the 4th to 5th Century A. D. The Romans brought in mercenaries to help guard the fort at Walton against the invaders of the North East, so it is a fair presumption that some of the immigrants settled on the banks of the Orwell and established the Freston 'villi'.

Wildlife

Red Kites have been spotted on the Peninsula and over Freston Hill.



Oak Tree Churchyard

The Oak tree which is dead on the perimeter of the Churchyard is to be felled mid April. Some of the wood will be on sale at discounted rates more news to follow

Church Services

Tuesday 26th March –
Holy Week 6pm evening prayer
Sunday 31st March – 11am
Holy Communion Easter Sunday

Village Hall Committee

Quiz Nights

The next one is on Saturday 11th May, £7 entry, tables up to five, includes supper, bring your own alcohol.

The VHC continues to hold a Coffee Morning on the first Wednesday of each month, between 10am to 12 noon. Come along for a chat and homemade cakes.

Anyone wanting to book the Village Hall for a function or group, please call 07856 721382.

Any editorial contributions to the newsletter will be gratefully received. Please contact Vanessa Penn on 07721 922946.