



# Grapevine

## St Mary's Freeland



April 2020

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## ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have announced that public services within the Church of England will be put on hold until further notice, due to measures to control the spread of the coronavirus.

For more information visit [www.hanboroughparish.co.uk](http://www.hanboroughparish.co.uk)

You will also find resources to support home based prayer, bible readings and worship on our website.

Although St Mary's church building will be closed at this time, the churchyard will still be open.

**St Mary's Junior Church, Babies and Toddlers at St Mary's and 11+ Hitchhikers** have all been suspended.

The above information is correct at the date published (20/3/2020). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found at [www.hanboroughparish.co.uk](http://www.hanboroughparish.co.uk)

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### Useful contact details:

**Rector:** *Position vacant*

**Associate Vicar:** Rev. Sue Spankie

01993 706469

Email: [revsue@gst.org.uk](mailto:revsue@gst.org.uk)

### Curates:

Rev. Emma Hopegood Jones

01993 881936

Email: [curate\\_emma@hanboroughparish.co.uk](mailto:curate_emma@hanboroughparish.co.uk)

Rev. Mike Madden

E: [curate\\_mike@hanboroughparish.co.uk](mailto:curate_mike@hanboroughparish.co.uk)

### Licensed Lay Ministers:

Clive Berry 01993 882080

Hugh Dalton *Emeritus* 01993 881742

### Churchwardens:

Claire Soanes

01993 883205

Steve Mellin

01993 882044

### Flowers in the Church:

Janet Dalton

01993 881742

### Weddings:

Rev. Emma Hopegood Jones

01993 881936

Email: [curate\\_emma@hanboroughparish.co.uk](mailto:curate_emma@hanboroughparish.co.uk)

All sorts of interesting information about St Mary's can be seen on the "A Church Near You" website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/st-mary-the-virgin-freeland](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/st-mary-the-virgin-freeland)

If you have any interesting pictures that could be used on this site, please contact Roy Thomas on 01993 881 001 or email: [print@associatedagencies.co.uk](mailto:print@associatedagencies.co.uk)

You can see a virtual tour of St Mary's on Google Street View at:

<http://goo.gl/g53NJH>

\*\*\*\*\*

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## **Letter from our Associate Vicar:**

Dear Friends,

As I write, we have entered the season of Lent. Lent is a time of fasting and reflection as we look forward to and prepare for Easter.

During Lent we remember that Jesus has been baptised and has been sent out into the wilderness.

A wilderness is where nothing grows, it is a barren and desolate place.

Perhaps metaphorically speaking we too have had times in our lives that have felt low, empty, and dark. Times when we have experienced loneliness and fear.

Many in our world are fearful currently, fearful because of climate change and all that might involve, fearful of contracting the Coronavirus, fearful of losing jobs and much more.

Jesus' experience in the wilderness was of a time when he was alone, he was hungry and was being tempted by the devil in three different ways for forty days and forty nights. The devil asked Jesus to turn stones into bread, to jump off the pinnacle of the temple and trust God His Father to save Him. Then finally the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world telling Jesus he would give it all to Him. However, Jesus remained faithful to God his Father.

My prayer is that this Easter, we will have hope. Hope that comes from Jesus who wants to walk with us and give us new life. 'Life in all its fullness'. [John 10:10]

With best wishes,

Sue

The Rev. Sue Spankie

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## **FREELAND READ-A THON**

To celebrate the opening of the new **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY** we are inviting children and adults to take part in our reading competition for the month of April.

To take part simply pick up one of the entry forms from the Libraries, or send an email to **freelandvillagehub@gmail.com**

And start reading! Ask your family and friends to sponsor you to raise money for the Freeland Village Hub.

There will be two prizes for children aged 5 – 8 years, 9 – 14 years, and also one for adults .

Completed forms should be taken to **17 Parklands, Freeland by Friday 8th May** at the latest. Forms received after this date will not be considered.

The winners will be those who have quite simply read the most books between **1st April and 30th April 2020.**

Results will be announced in the June edition of the Grapevine.

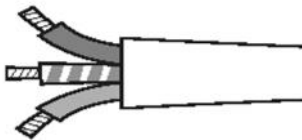
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ADAM : 07805 201618

## **SERVICES IN THE PARISH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH with CHRIST CHURCH and MANOR SCHOOL, LONG HANBOROUGH**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have announced that public services within the Church of England will be put on hold until further notice, due to measures to control the spread of the coronavirus.

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### **ST MARY'S CHURCH BELLS**

Please contact the Tower Captain, Neil Ephgrave (883850) or Michael Probert (882687) should you wish to discuss any bell ringing matters.

You can see more about Freeland Bell Ringers under the "Clubs and Groups" section of the village website [www.freelandoxon.co.uk](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk)

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### **THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNHAM**

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**THE PARISH PRIEST:** Father Mark Lagorio is happy to receive enquiries by phone on 01865 881613 or on email [stpeterschurcheynham@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterschurcheynham@gmail.com)

**The Retired Priest:** Father Martin Flatman is available on 07719 646790 or email: [frmartinflatman@gmail.com](mailto:frmartinflatman@gmail.com)

**NO PUBLIC SERVICES** are being held here until the Virus Crisis is over. Mass will be said every day for everyone but in private, so please contact one of the priests if you want particular prayers said. We hope to have the Church open every day if you want to come in and say prayers and/or light a candle.

There is one Church in Oxford which you can view on the Internet and so join in the Services from home. It is Corpus Christi, Headington.  
<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/oxford>

### **THAMES VALLEY FARMERS MARKET**

Witney	08.30 - 13.30	Fri 27 March	Fri 24 April
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### What is Reflexology?

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## **DO YOU HAVE TO CHARGE YOUR CAR?**

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\*\*\*\*\*

## **HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH**

Contact: Gill Breakspear Tel: **883914**. Email: **[gillbreakspear@btinternet.com](mailto:gillbreakspear@btinternet.com)**

Friends,

In order to follow Methodist Church guidelines, we have to **CANCEL** all services at our Church.

This means there will be **NO** Sunday worship for the foreseeable future, but we will, of course, keep you informed as and when we get updates from head office.

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## **1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUT GROUP**

What have we been doing lately?

Read on to find out!

**Explorers** have been learning Martial Arts, doing some cooking, and have been planning their own sessions under the banner of Over To You. This gives them the opportunity to take control over which activities they do as a group. Pretty cool, huh?

Meanwhile, **Scouts** have been playing the Wide Game, gone on a hike around Blenheim Palace, prepared pheasants ready to cook, and made their own pasta from scratch. Impressive stuff!

**Cubs** celebrated Chinese New Year by lighting lanterns and eating Chinese foods with chopsticks. They went Stargazing, earned disability badges, and have been experimenting with stop-motion software to make short animations using Lego.

**Beavers** have played the Wide Game, learned First Aid, practiced tying their shoelaces, worked towards their communication and disability badges, and made pancakes. Yum!

Lots of our members took part in the Winter Challenge on Saturday 7th March, and we raised money for our group funds by selling bacon sandwiches during the event. Thanks to everyone that participated or volunteered to help, and of course, thank you to everyone that bought a bacon sandwich!

We are always on the look out for new leaders and volunteers. Visit our website's contact page (**<https://www.hfscouting.org.uk/contact>**) to get in touch, or please send an email to Adam, our Group Scout Leader, for more information on how you can get involved: **[gsl@hfscouting.org.uk](mailto:gsl@hfscouting.org.uk)**

Finally, a reminder: our AGM will be held on **Wednesday 24th June**.

**All Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers meetings are currently suspended until further notice due to the coronavirus.**

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

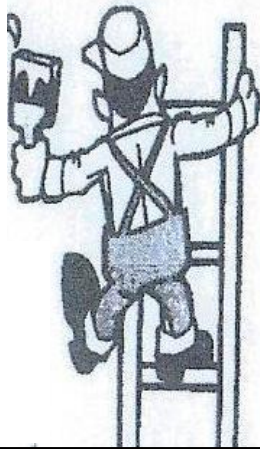
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## **FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL – LISA’S NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020**

### **Annual Parish Meeting & Parish Council Meetings – postponed until further notice.**

In view of the Coronavirus epidemic and the Government’s latest advice on social gatherings, the Parish Council have decided to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting until such time that it is safe to hold it.

Therefore, the meeting scheduled for **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall will **NOT** be going ahead.

It was also the Council’s decision to postpone all Parish Council meetings until such time that it was safe to reschedule them.

We will of course keep you updated when the next meeting will be.

### **Coronavirus – useful information**

By the time you read this I hope that you will all have received a flyer through your door giving information of a central telephone number that has been set up for Freeland residents to contact should you need any assistance throughout this coming time with the Coronavirus epidemic. The number is **01993 651330**. Myself and Vero, one of our Councillors, have been setting up a group of volunteers who can offer assistance such as collecting prescriptions, dog walking, collecting essential shopping and offering a friendly voice at the end of the phone. Everyone that is helping will be known to us and will be a trusted source. This is a fast-changing environment, and for those with access to the internet I would urge you to visit the Freeland Village Website and/ or the Facebook page **“Freeland Covid-19 Mutual aid”** for further info.

Help is available from **Volunteer Link Up 01993 776277**, email: **office@vlu.org.uk** and **Age UK** on **0345 450 1276 OR 01865 411288** or email: **admin@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk** .

Now is the time to pull together as a community. We have had lots of offers of help already, and I’d just like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has offered help and support. This is greatly appreciated.

Whatever system we set up will not be perfect and may well have to be tweaked going forward, so please bear with us. However, it will be a starting point to ensure everyone in our community knows that there is help available should it be required. Stay safe everyone and **WASH THOSE HANDS!**

### **Eynsham Consolidated Charity**

In view of the Coronavirus outbreak I would like to remind residents that the Eynsham Consolidated Charity can make monetary grants, help to provide items or services, or back up help from other quarters, for people in Eynsham and Freeland (“in the area of the Ancient Parish of Eynsham”).

You can apply, either for yourself or for someone else who may be in need of help. Write to the Clerk, Robin Mitchell, at 20 High Street, Eynsham **OX29 4HB**, or email **robinmitchell1255@gmail.com** .

There is no application form and all that is required are your name, address, and some information as to the circumstances in which you are applying. All enquiries are dealt with in absolute confidence.

*Continued.....*

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*Continued.....*

### **Parish Council Elections – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Cancelled!**

2020 is no longer an election year! Many of you will already have heard that all local elections have been cancelled for this year. This means that all Councillors will continue in post and the elections will now be held in 2021. Further information will follow in due course as and when I receive it.

### **Council Tax Charge for Freeland**

I know many of you will have received your Council Tax bill and may have been shocked to see a 10.5% increase showing on the Freeland PC section. The reason for the increase showing so high is actually in relation to how WODC calculate the Council Tax, and the fact that last year they overestimated how many homes would be built (and occupied) at the new Witney Road development. In reality, the actual percentage increase the Parish Council will receive in Council Tax is only 2.5% higher than last year, but due to the way this is calculated at WODC, it shows as a 10.5% increase. It's not an easy thing to explain, but please see an explanation that Alaa has written for the Grapevine this month (**page 15**) which I hope will clarify the situation.

### **Little Free Library**

On a brighter note, the official opening of the new Little Free Library by the Village Hall was held on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March** and was well attended. The new library is now up and running and is a fantastic addition to the village which the Council hopes will be enjoyed by many. Thanks once again to Matthew for his work on getting this project completed.

### **Daffodils**

The daffodils are once again looking beautiful as Spring starts to show itself. A huge thank you to the Gardening Club for planting these bulbs, they really do make the village look stunning and always lift the spirits when I travel around Freeland.

### **Planning Applications:**

All planning applications can be viewed on line from the Village Website at **[www.freelandoxon.co.uk](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk)** (under Parish Council/Planning Tracker) or via the WODC website at **[www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning)** . You can also contact the Planning Team at WODC on **01993 861420** and view the documents at Woodgreen Council Offices.

### **Applications Received:**

#### **20/00586/HHD 69 WROSLYN ROAD, FREELAND.**

Erection of single storey front extension and detached garage with home office above for Mr Simon Horner. (revised plans from withdrawn application no. **19/03528/HHD**).

#### **20/00634/HHD THE HAVEN, 61 WROSLYN ROAD, FREELAND.**

Alterations and erection of two-storey side and rear extension for Mr Stephen Ebbs.

#### **20/00679/HHD 5 HURST LANE, FREELAND.**

Convert store to bedroom/study with en-suite for Mr & Mrs Tom & Vero McCoy.

#### **20/00510/FUL PLAYING FIELD, WROSLYN ROAD, FREELAND**

Erection of replacement storage building for Mrs Mary Ann Canning

### **Applications Approved:**

#### **19/03094/HHD GLEBE FARM, THE GREEN, FREELAND.**

First floor extension for Mr R. Crocker.

*Continued.....*

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### **Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting:**

Please note that due to the Coronavirus epidemic, all Parish Council meetings have been suspended until it is safe to hold them. Further details will follow in due course once things have calmed down.

### **Please check the village website and noticeboards for updates.**

If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter and have access to the internet, please have a look at the village website where lots of useful information is held. The website can be accessed via **[www.freelandoxon.co.uk](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk)**. Alternatively, please contact me between the hours of 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday - Lisa Smith, Parish Clerk on **01993 880067** or email **[lisa.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.fpc@gmail.com)**.

This month's Parish Councillor Profile is on **page 17** and is about Tim Webster.

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## **YOUR PARISH COUNCIL CHARGE EXPLAINED**

By the time you read this, you will have received your Council Tax Bill from West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) for the year commencing 1 April 2020. If you look at the details of the charges made by each authority and the percentage they have increased by, you may be surprised to see that Freeland Parish Council charge has increased by 10.5% and you may be rightly wondering why this much when the increases in the other authorities' charges are at most 5%!

Paradoxically, although you might expect the explanation to be disturbingly negative, it is actually joyfully positive! Allow me first to note that the Parish Council charge is the result of dividing (1) the total Parish Council Precept (i.e. amount needed) by (2) the expected number of dwellings in Freeland in the coming year (adjusted to the equivalent to Band D dwellings). This calculation is made by WODC for all Town and Parish Councils who are guaranteed to get the Precept they set and any variations go into a fund that is then shared between the other charging authorities. WODC is the collection agency on behalf of the County Council (accounting for the biggest charge) Thames Valley Police and Town or Parish Councils.

The Freeland Parish Precept for 2020-21 is £62,494 which is only 2.5% higher than a year earlier and only 5.8% higher than five years earlier. About half of the Precept goes towards repaying the loans on the Village Hall and the rest is kept to a minimum thanks to prudent financial management by the Parish Council.

The calculations for the past two years, i.e. 2018-19 and 2019-20, assumed that a certain number of houses at Oakland Grange on the Witney Road would be completed and occupied. But the pace of construction had been slower than expected so, for those two years, the Parish Council charge fell by 6.6% and 2.7% respectively. We were all undercharged! If it were not for that undercharging, the increase in the coming year would be only 1.4% per dwelling based on the completion of around a handful of new houses.

If you have any questions about your Council Tax Bill, please see the information on its reverse or get in touch with me.

Cllr. Alaa Al-Yousuf

**T: 01993 880689**

**M: 07768 898914**

**E: [alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk)**



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## **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY**

Well, the new Little Free Library is finally up and running!

Thank you to The Teddy Girls for raising the funds for this project, and to Graham Lay for installing the shelves.

Thank you to Oxford Sign and Print for making and installing the vinyl graphics, and to the Parish Council for their support.

Thank you to my new team of volunteers: Sue Tomlinson, Peter Leigh and Jenny Wylie for helping to keep the new Little Free Library tidy & well-stocked. I couldn't do it without them.

Thank you also to everyone in the community that uses the two Little Free Libraries - it is your engagement with this project that makes it so successful.

There is a large box located behind the bus shelter next to the new Little Free Library, and another identical box next to the original Little Free Library. Please leave your books in one of the boxes if the Little Free Library is too full, and the volunteers or I will sort them out later. This really makes it much easier for us to keep each Little Free Library tidy and well-stocked. Thank you!

Finally, I removed the bench next to the original Little Free Library because it was starting to decay. There is another bench just across the road, though, where you are more than welcome to sit and read.

*Due to the current coronavirus situation, I would encourage you to wash your hands before and after using the Little Free Libraries, as a precautionary measure.*

Matthew Ruddle      **01993 359 543**      [\*\*ruddlem@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:ruddlem@gmail.com)

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## **A PROFILE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR T. A. WEBSTER**

We were due to have an election in May to elect members of Freeland Parish Council. Each month we are profiling a different councillor, to provide more information about what we do, and to inspire you to consider becoming a Parish Councillor next year!

**Who are you?** Timothy Webster

**How long have you been on the Parish Council?** Since 2012

**What is your day job?**

I run the local nurseries in the village situated in the walled garden opposite the Nunnery.

**What aspects of the Parish Council are you involved in?**

I am involved in the creation of the Memorial Gardens for the village, and the erection of a new storage building for the equipment of the Football and Cricket Club in the village.

I do minor jobs around the village if necessary as well as monitoring the play park, etc with the other councillors.

**What have you enjoyed the most about being a councillor?**

Working together with a group of people trying to improve the facilities of the village.

**Why should someone consider becoming a Parish Councillor?**

Because it is an opportunity to support the community.



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## **GWENDOLINE HILL**

We would like to announce the sad passing of our mother, Gwendoline Hill, known to most as Gwen, after a long illness, on the 18th March 2020.

A lifelong resident of Blenheim Lane with a great knowledge of Freeland history and renowned for her home baking and love of cats.

David and Stephen Hill and families

## **FREELAND FOOD BANK**

In this time of National Crisis and in response to residents' requests, we have provided a Food Bank, so that residents in Freeland do not have to go hungry.

This has been set up in a box behind the bus shelter by the village hall and will run purely on a **trust and honesty** basis, so please don't abuse it.

**PLEASE, only take things that you genuinely need.**

Remember, whilst we are fortunate enough to live in an affluent village, we also have many key workers amongst us who are more than likely struggling to get the food they need after long, exhausting shifts.

### **DONATIONS:**

We can only accept non-perishable food items such as rice, pasta, tins, jars of sauce, packet mixes, long life cartons of juice, etc. We cannot accept any fresh food including bread.

Please ensure all items left in the box are well within their use-by/best-before date as this box will only be checked on an ad hoc basis.

You can also donate additional items such as toiletries and sanitary products, toilet roll (must be wrapped for hygiene reasons and to ensure it does not get damp), cleaning supplies, disposable cutlery, paper plates and bowls – but no clothing, toys, textiles or small electrical goods.

If possible, before and after using the food bank, can you wash your hands and disinfect/wipe down any items that you put in or take out. Please ensure the lid of the box is replaced securely as rainwater runs off the shelter roof onto the boxes.

Please place your items in the box and give yourself some credit for doing something lovely for your community!

Someone, somewhere in this village will be so grateful for your generosity.

A heart felt thank you.

Lisa Smith, Parish Clerk, Freeland Parish Council, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## **FREELAND HALL**



Bookings / further details:

✉ [freelandhall@gmail.com](mailto:freelandhall@gmail.com)

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🌐 [www.freelandhall.co.uk](http://www.freelandhall.co.uk)



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## **ROAD CLOSURE - THE GREEN to the A40**

There will be carriageway resurfacing work between **Tuesday 21st April and Monday 27th April**, operating between **4am and 6pm** each day, on the road in both directions, between The Green and the A40.

You can see the Traffic Regulation Notice on the village website at: [www.freelandoxon.co.uk](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk) and click on 'Notice Board'.

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## **THE UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS 1st March 2020**

Two red kites fly playfully in circles while being pursued by jackdaw and crow, swans glide majestically across a swollen river as the water expands sideways without objection.

Seven people and our multicultural dogs covered five and a half miles and saw neither of these things, and as the church bells rang out the tune 'Here comes the flood' (Peter Gabriel) in fact what we did see was a massive hill and Dento looking in vain for a new 'stick'. As we made our way through Wild Boar Woods we thought it best to avoid flooded areas just in case, and then the vast array of food appeared from the rucksack of plenty (pork, Penguin, Jive and Viennese Whirls) - we all touched elbows in delight.



The sun shone and Dento moaned, but never let it be said that we smile in the face of adversity.

We found a gruffalo in the woods underneath a tree, or at least a picture of one, obviously left over from a School monster hunt, incidentally the Gruffalo was written by Julia Roberts and Axel Rose and was set in the Black Forrest in Germany.

The quietness of Mrs Trellis and her family is deafening at present, (must be that Cornishvirus) and also worrying as she hasn't taken any legal action for months now.

The next fantastical Unaccepted Ramble will be on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020** leaving the **Oxfordshire Yeoman at 9.30am**. Newcomers are always welcome - at the prescribed distance apart!

Mr E. Writer

## **Freeland Baby and Toddler Group**

**Mondays 10 - 11:30 am**  
**FREELAND VILLAGE HALL**  
**£2 per family**

You will always get a warm welcome at Freeland Baby and Toddler Group. During term time, we meet every Monday 10am - 11.30am at Freeland Village Hall - £2 per family. We have plenty of toys for all ages, an activity each week, and drinks and snacks for adults and toddlers.

**Please check our Facebook page for upcoming sessions:**  
**[www.facebook.com/freelandtoddlers/](https://www.facebook.com/freelandtoddlers/)**

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## **FREELAND VILLAGE HUB**

As we continue to wait for news of the sale of the Methodist Church we start this new decade with renewed hope that 2020 might be the year when our hopes for a Freeland Village Hub may finally come to fruition.



Imagine how good it would be to say to your friends, let's meet at **the Hub** for a coffee tomorrow morning, or maybe, do you feel like meeting for tea and cake on Thursday afternoon?

In time this may not have to be imagined, it could be a **REALITY. OUR VERY CAFÉ IN THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE.**

These are all feel good factors associated with a Village Hub.

This could be **YOUR VILLAGE HUB** of the future.

Meanwhile our latest fund raising project will take place in April and is a Read-a thon, which is celebrating the new extension to the Little Free Library. We wanted to do this to thank Matthew Ruddle and his team, along with The Teddy Girls for their fund raising efforts in converting the former telephone box. For further details of how to take part in the **READ-A THON** please see the separate entry on **page 5** of this Grapevine.

**Do remember that we are still accepting Pledges to buy shares in FCBS Ltd,** so if you did not send in your pledge letter in 2019 the opportunity to do so is still there. The more investment pledges we receive, the more match funding we will be able to raise and the more likely we are to succeed in opening a shop and café. Please do consider acting now and making your pledge, remember that this is a pledge only at this stage, and does not constitute a commitment to invest. If you would like a form or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee and we will provide the necessary form and information.

To make contact, the website address is **www.freelandcbs.community** or email: **freelandvillagehub@gmail.com**

Jane Duff April 2020

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## **FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS**

### **200 Club Draw**

1st prize:	£ 20	No. 87	S. Walker
2nd prize:	£ 10	No. 85	A. Halsey
3rd prize:	£ 5	No. 148	P. Rich

As seems to be a reoccurring theme, once again this month the weather has played a key part in our games.

The **First** team bowed out of the Charity Cup after losing in penalties.

All other fixtures have been victims of the weather.

We are now hoping for some drier spring weather and crossing the fingers once this comes that Covid-19 doesn't throw another spanner in the fixture backlog works!

We would like to wish Winston Hazell a speedy recovery from all at the Club.

**www.freelandfc.co.uk**

**Twitter: @freeland\_fc**

Ben Symonds - Secretary Freeland FC



## **COVID – 19 MUTUAL AID FREELAND**

### **What Volunteers can do:**

Local volunteers can assist with:

- Shopping
- Dog walking
- Collecting prescriptions
- Taking things to/collecting items from post offices
- Any other local errands that can be conducted over the doorstep
- Chatting on the phone

### **What Volunteers cannot do:**

- Enter the homes or cars of vulnerable people
- Provide personal care
- Handle personal or valuable items
- Handle bank cards or PIN numbers

### **Advice to volunteers:**

- Do not enter people's homes or cars
- Abuse of vulnerable people will not be tolerated and will be reported to the police
- Always let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to be back
- Keep a mobile phone on you at all times
- Do not share personal details of beneficiaries or other volunteers
- Be prepared to show ID to the beneficiary if requested
- Do not take or share photos of beneficiaries or other volunteers without permission
- Follow GDPR rules regarding personal data.
- Don't over commit yourself – it's better to help a little and often than a lot but only once
- If at any point you develop symptoms or think you may have been in contact with someone who has then isolate yourself and contact Lisa or Vero so your street can be re-allocated.

### **Advice to beneficiaries:**

- Volunteers do not expect payment for their time – you should only pay for shopping or other expenses you would normally cover
- Do not invite volunteers into your property – shopping and other goods can be left on doorsteps to avoid infection
- If a volunteer is walking your dog then you should provide poo bags and other essentials. If necessary, muzzle your dog before the volunteer arrives
- Abuse of volunteers, verbal, racial, sexual or otherwise, will not be tolerated and will result in you being blacklisted and reported to the police
- If you feel that a volunteer is behaving in an unacceptable manner then please report it to **01993 651330**

### **General infection control advice:**

- Follow all WHO advice regarding infection control. Wash your hands regularly. There should be no direct physical contact between volunteers and beneficiaries
- Volunteers should wash their hands before and after every contact with a beneficiary

*Continued.....*



Continued.....

- Shopping should be left at front doors – cash/cheques can be left in an envelope to avoid contact or use a click and collect service
- If at any point you or a member of your household develop symptoms, or you think you may have been in contact with someone suffering from COVID-19 then you should self-isolate
- When handling dog leads wear gloves. Disposable gloves are ideal and should be discarded after use. If not possible then wear re-usable gloves and wash immediately after use.

*Freeland covid-19 mutual aid is an informal group of local volunteers who are joining together for the benefit of all. Beneficiaries should be aware that volunteers are not DBS checked and have no medical or specialist training. All volunteers are simply kind, community minded individuals who want to help out their neighbours at this time of crisis. As such common sense should be used by both volunteers and beneficiaries to keep everyone safe. The organisers accept no liability or responsibility for damage or loss of property, infection or other issues resulting from contact between volunteers and beneficiaries.*

## **COVID – 19 MUTUAL AID FREELAND**

Dear Neighbours, are you unable to leave your home because of Coronavirus? We're here to help you. We are a group of local residents who have come together in conjunction with the Parish Council, during a time where some people are finding it hard to access the help they need.

We would like to support the residents of Freeland and ensure that nobody is left isolated or without support. We don't ask for anything in return, we just believe in helping each other in a time of difficulty.

If you need medical advice, use the **NHS 111** online coronavirus service at **111.nhs.uk/covid-19**, or if you have no internet access, call **111** from your phone. In a medical emergency, dial **999**.

### **NEED SUPPORT?**

If you would like to speak to us, or want to ask for help, please call **01993 651330** and we will do our best to assist you. This may well involve putting you in touch with a volunteer helper allocated to your street.

### **GIVE SUPPORT?**

If you would like to support the community, please join our Facebook group "**Freeland Covid-19 Mutual Aid**" or ring **01993 651330**.

### **HOW WE CAN HELP:**



**ARRANGING  
DELIVERIES**



**PICKING UP  
SHOPPING &  
MEDICATION**



**A FRIENDLY  
PHONE CALL**



**POSTING  
MAIL**



**URGENT  
SUPPLIES**



**HELP TOPPING  
UP ELECTRIC  
OR GAS KEY**



**DOG  
WALKING**

## **NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Tuesday 7th April:** 600 years of Morris Dancing - a talk by Michael Heaney

On April 7<sup>th</sup> we will be tripping the light fantastic as Michael Heaney will be telling us the tale of the history of Morris Dancing. A member of Eynsham Morris Dancers, Michael has researched the history of this folk art which dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, so there's lots to find out. He may even inspire you to get your dancing shoes on and join a group yourself!

**Tuesday 5th May:** The Romanovs - a talk by Dr Chris Danziger

We meet in the Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh **OX29 6TX** at **7.30pm**. All welcome. Visitors **£4**, Members free. Further details from Diana Power **01993 882301**  
If you wish to go on our mailing list, contact Robert Kyte: **kyterobert@gmail.com**

Please note these meetings may be cancelled at short notice due to the current and ongoing situation with the coronavirus. If you are on our email list we will notify you directly. If you are not on email, you can contact us via the details given above. You can also reach us on **01993 880368**.



### **FREELAND AND HANBOROUGH FREE PILOT BUS SERVICE TIMETABLE UNTIL (& incl) FRIDAY 1st MAY**

#### **Monday & Friday To Witney via Eynsham**

**10:00 Church Hanborough, SS Peter & Paul Church**  
**10:06 Long Hanborough, Witney Rd, opp. Rec. Hall**  
**10:13 Freeland Village Hall**  
**10:20 Eynsham, Bartholomew School Layby**  
**10:27 Freeland Village Hall (opposite)**  
**10:40 Witney, Market Square**

#### **Monday & Friday From Witney via Eynsham**

**12:50 Witney, Market Square**  
**13:03 Freeland Village Hall**  
**13:10 Eynsham, Bartholomew School Layby**  
**13:18 Freeland Village Hall (opposite)**  
**13:25 Long Hanborough, Christ Church**  
**13:30 Church Hanborough, Hand & Shears Pub**

**The service will not run on the Bank Holidays on Friday 10th  
and Monday 13th April**

**Additional bus stops on Wroslyn Road:**

**These will be on request near the school and the original Little Free Library.**

**There will be a new timetable from Monday 4th May**

## **FREELAND GARDENING CLUB**

'Gardening in the Face of Climate Change' was the subject presented by David Cropp on 24<sup>th</sup> February. He suggested not digging to conserve moisture in the soil. Don't hoe to get rid of your weeds as they keep the soil covered and moist. Maybe we don't all agree with this! Water plants at their roots rather than over the leaves. He encouraged us to grow more suitable plants for a hot climate and said that vineyards in the south of England may have to change their grape varieties to suit a climate more like the Loire!

Unfortunately at the Gardening Club Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March it was decided, following the Government's advice on coronavirus, to cancel both the forthcoming Club meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the Club outing in May. Information about refunds to those booked on the outing will follow by email, as will information about future events. We know this will cause disappointment, but as many members fall into the self-isolating category, we felt it was the correct decision to make.

For any further information about the Freeland Gardening Club please contact Ray and Jill Evans at [jillandray@btinternet.com](mailto:jillandray@btinternet.com)

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)

## **COMMUNITY BUS SERVICES**

As a necessary precaution during the current public health emergency, the Freeland Community Bus Committee took the decision to **suspend operations** from **Thursday 19th March** until further notice. We will resume as soon as circumstances allow. Our priority is the safety of our passengers, drivers and helpers. Help is available to those who need to self-isolate and by now all residents will have received information on how to ask for it or how to offer it. It is indeed heart-warming to see our community rally around to help those who need it.

Against that background, I am happy to confirm that the Comet Bus service will continue to run as scheduled on Mondays and Fridays. I appreciate that some of our regular users might not want to venture out, but the service will be available as a vital lifeline for those who need it. The Comet bus is larger than the Scouts' bus and so there is more room to spread out and keep a reasonable distance from others. In addition, the Comet bus will be disinfected regularly. If you have any concerns, please get in touch.

I am also happy to announce that the Comet Bus service will continue beyond the initial six-month pilot period. Starting from **Monday 4th May**, a new revised timetable will come into effect for six months until the end of October. It will be published in the Grapevine and posted around the village as usual. This service will continue to be free of charge to users.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all well and thank all members of the Freeland Community Bus Committee for their superb service as drivers, helpers and administrators.

**ClIr. Alaa Al-Yousuf**

**T: 01993 880689**

**M: 07768 898914**

**E: [alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk)**

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## Arts and Crafts Exhibition – Come and Celebrate the Arts!

Witney Congregational Church, 4 Welch Way, Witney, OX28 6JF

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020

10am-5pm

Local artists and musicians will be presenting their work to the public

Entry Fee: Single Exhibitor: £10      Groups: £20

**Free Entry to Public. Opportunity to buy exhibits on Saturday**

Tel: (01993) 709992; email: [witneycongooffice@gmail.com](mailto:witneycongooffice@gmail.com)

## **EYNHAM MEDICAL GROUP - CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

Updates to the Group's Coronavirus notices can be viewed on the following website:  
**[www.eynshammedicalgroup.org.uk/](http://www.eynshammedicalgroup.org.uk/)**

Before attending any GP appointment, all patients will need to speak to a GP first.

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND THE SURGERY TO SEE A GP IF YOU HAVE NOT SPOKEN TO A GP.** Nursing appointments will continue as usual for now. If you feel you need to be seen, please arrange a telephone appointment with your GP. If you already have an appointment booked **DO NOT ATTEND THE SURGERY.**

You will receive a phone call on the day of your appointment. If it is clinically appropriate, the doctor will then see you the same day. This action is essential to maintain your health and the health of your community as advised by the Department of Health. If your query is about Coronavirus go to **[111.nhs.uk/covid-19](http://111.nhs.uk/covid-19)** or call **111**

At the time of writing (20/3/20), it is still OK to go to the surgery to collect prescriptions from the Pharmacy (Hanborough) or Dispensary (Eynsham). Please allow **FOUR** working days from ordering a prescription.

Also, readers should keep up-to-date with **official** UK Government Advice/Instructions, which can change daily, **and not** various social media sites and platforms which can be very unhelpful with scams or worse.

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## **OXFORD UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS: Covid-19 - New rules on visitors to our hospitals (issued 16/3/20)**

With immediate effect, we are limiting visiting to all adult inpatient areas to **one** visitor per patient - and visiting hours will be restricted to **4.00pm - 7.00pm** only.

We are also limiting the number of people who can accompany patients to our Emergency Departments, Emergency Assessment Units (EAU), outpatient departments, antenatal scans and imaging appointments to one person per patient.

In **Maternity**, we are restricting visitors to one birth partner only for all appointments including scans, the birth itself and postnatal visiting.

In **Paediatrics**, visiting is restricted to two parents / guardians only - no siblings.

In **Maternity and Paediatrics** the restrictions on visiting hours will not apply.

Case by case exceptions to the above need to be discussed with the nurse or midwife in charge of the ward or department.

## **WOODSTOCK and DISTRICT UNIVERSITY of the THIRD AGE**



Monthly meetings at Woodstock Community Centre,  
New Road, Woodstock **OX20 1PB**.

Visitors are welcome to our Speaker Meetings which start at **2pm (£2.00)**

**Tuesday 7th April: Cancelled**

**Tuesday 5th May: AGM**

More information at **[www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock)** or phone **01865 580688**

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## **FREELAND CRICKET CLUB**

Wow, has it stopped raining yet?

Since mid-October it seems to be rain, drizzle, rain, storms and more rain, but amazingly it is 6 weeks until the start of the cricket season, or what we usually call the wet season, so brace yourselves!

However, as an eternal optimist I'm looking forward to sunnier and longer days and to hear the sound of leather on willow.

The **Adult League** team and **Ladies'** team have been practicing indoors since the middle of February, and we have also been taking part in the Oxford Indoor League. As this is written, we are lying 5th of 10 teams after 8 matches. It is unlikely that we will progress to the County finals day but it has been great fun, and a great way to practice.

We start outdoor training for the **Under 11s, Under 13s and Under 15s** on **Tuesday 7th April at 6pm**. The **Under 9s** will start on **Saturday 25th April at 10am**. **Ladies'** training will start on **Saturday 4th April at 11am**.

This season we will be running teams for **Under 9s**, two **Under 11** teams, two **Under 13** teams, a shared **Under 15s** team with Witney Mills and a **Girls Under 13** team.

We have also been coaching the girls in Bartholomew School.

Over the winter, we have managed to get four members of the Club to train to become coaches, congratulations to Emma and Dave Owen, Richard Borrill and John McGrady. Along with Paul and Kim Salway and myself, we now have 7 qualified coaches, and we are meeting monthly to plan the coaching schedule for each week. We will also be purchasing specialist coaching equipment for the children to use, which will make each session more enjoyable and beneficial.

All the fixtures will be published on the Club's webpage, and on the notice board by the Village Hall and in the Yeoman, probably the best pub in Freeland!

We will be holding a Club Open Day on **Friday 8th May**, look out for more details in the next Grapevine.

Keep dry

**Please check our website or Facebook page for updates as a result of the coronavirus.**

Simon Brown - Chair Freeland CC

Email: [freelandcc.u11@gmail.com](mailto:freelandcc.u11@gmail.com)

Website: <https://freeland.play-cricket.com>

Facebook: **Freeland Cricket Club**

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## **BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS - "TABLE MANNERS"**

### **by Alan Ayckbourn – POSTPONED UNTIL NOVEMBER 2020**

Further to Government advice and in the interest of public health and safety, The Bartholomew Players will be postponing their production of "Table Manners" by Alan Ayckbourn until **25th - 28th November 2020**. If you have bought tickets for this production which was scheduled for **May 13-16<sup>th</sup> 2020**, please return them to the site of purchase for a full refund. We do hope you will be able to support this production in November 2020 instead. Please stay healthy and safe in the interim period.

The Cast & Crew of "Table Manners"





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## **ALUMINIUM COLLECTION SUSPENDED**

I have been collecting, on behalf of the Freeland Village Hub, aluminium in the form of drinks cans, clean food-trays, foil, etc

The last delivery (end February 2020) of 13,000 crushed cans to the metal recycling business in Crawley was augmented by 90 kg of “clean” aluminium in the form of an engine and waste from an engineering establishment. This plus 77 kg of brass & copper raised **£279**. This, plus the **£449** from 2019, has been donated to the Freeland Village Hub.



**Due to the coronavirus and the handling issues of cans I am suspending collections until further notice.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARIES**

As of Saturday 21st March, all OCC Libraries have closed until further notice. All loan periods will be extended and you will not incur any fines or hire charges. Online library services are still available via the internet: eBooks, eAudio, eMagazines & eNewspapers. [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/services-affected-covid-19#paragraph-4413](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/services-affected-covid-19#paragraph-4413)



## **NEW TELEPHONE SUPPORT SERVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE**



A new telephone support service has been launched by Age UK Oxfordshire, offering advice and assistance to older people concerned during this time.

**Call 01865 411 288, leave your name and phone number and you will get a call back as soon as possible.**

Assistance includes a friendly, weekly call to see how you are and to problem-solve if you are facing practical problems.

## **FREELAND PHOTO GROUP**

Freeland Photo Group meets in the Newell Room on the first and third Tuesday of every month, starting at **7.30pm**. Until further notice, however, meetings of the group are cancelled. When the UK government no longer advises a reduction in all social contact, meetings will recommence. This will be advised in the Grapevine, or for further details please contact Paul Sayer on [paul.pshml@googlemail.com](mailto:paul.pshml@googlemail.com)

# ••SIBLINGS••

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**Tod Fairfield on (P) 01993 882217 (M) 07717 062512 - Thank you**

## **FREELAND WI - A ROUND UP OF THE YEAR**

It is our President's swan song, Lorraine has skilfully guided us over five years to the lovely, strong and friendly Freeland WI we know today. The AGM was a good time to reflect on how we have developed through the year with its success, challenges and outcomes.

It's been another busy year with some excellent events with less emphasis on fundraising.

Our year began as hosts for the Group meeting. We had a sell out event at the Witney Corn Exchange when Rebecca Mordan from the Theatre Group, Those Scary Little Girls gave us an entertaining account of the lives of the Mitford Sisters. Rebecca gave us an insight into each of the quirky personalities of the sisters and their relationships within their family.

Our **April** meeting was a visit from Richard Woods who told us about the therapeutic community at Bridewell Gardens. In **May** we were entertained by Irene Tyack, the Yellow Hat artist. Indira came to cook for us in **June**, filling the hall with beautiful aromas of curry and allowing us to taste all the dishes she made. We always have many visitors at cookery demonstrations. In **June** we hosted the Group celebration tea with WI members enjoying afternoon tea. It was a very successful event and despite the hot weather the risk assessment wasn't enacted as the event itself went off very smoothly until it came to clearing up as a wayward teaspoon from a prior engagement rendered the dishwasher useless until Dot came to save the day by fixing it.

Now for the summer months: **July** saw a jigsaw competition where teams had to put together a five hundred piece jigsaw in ninety minutes. **August** was a summer walk and afternoon tea.

Fifty of Rosie's feely bags, where you had to identify the contents only by touch, saved the day in **September** after our bowls evening was cancelled at short notice following intervention from the groundsman who had not been informed of our visit and had done work that we couldn't walk on.

We ran a Quiz night in **September** for the fourth time. Once again it was a great fundraising event. As always, it was extremely difficult and yet people manage to get very high marks. The fifth quiz will be delayed until February 2021 due to people's availability.

Our president and secretary were judging cakes pickles and marmalade at South Leigh.

In **October** Mariella Bliss joined us for a demonstration of Italian cuisine, we learnt how to make biscotti and had the opportunity of buying delicious Italian treats. In **November** we made wonderful Christmas crafts and December was lovely with a Christmas food bring and share. Our successful Wreath making workshop was held once again.

In **January** we had Chris Tancock advising us on CPR.

**February** saw us voting on the resolutions. Our WI voted for female crash test dummies, closely followed by stem cell research, whilst over all the Oxfordshire WI voted for stem cell research.

*Continued.....*



## **AIRPORT TRANSFERS** **WITNEY SHUTTLE**

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*Continued.....*

We have had a wonderful WI. Catherine Blaxhall came to visit as our adviser. She had a lovely warm welcome. She joined forty-one years ago. We have officers' workshops for new officers at Denman. The federation annual meeting is on the 26th March. Tom Heap will be discussing climate change and environmental aspects.

Stem cell and modern slavery are both going forward.

Catherine told us of the new OFWI website where we will be able to book online and we will have a members area. Out of seventy federations across the country we are one of the few that managed to increase our numbers.

The President election was with a secret ballot and Aileen is our new President. We wish her every success in her new role. Lorraine has left the leadership of our group in a strong state and we have every expectation of it being a wonderful group in the future.

We celebrated Lorraine's tenure at Brookes Restaurant in Headington. It was a delightful lunch with most of the Committee and Ruth and Liz who run the Thursday walking group on the third week of each month.

Our climate change ambassador, Rosie Phillimore is planning a reduce, reuse, recycle event in the week commencing **22nd June**. More details in the May Grapevine

Here are Rosie's latest tips to help us reduce our environmental impact:

### **Eat Thoughtfully**

Buy local and in-season foods that haven't travelled long distances to reach you. Plant your own vegetables and fruit trees. Containers are great if you are short of space. Support local suppliers at farmers' markets.

### **Buy only what you need**

Buy only the food you need, and compost your kitchen scraps and garden waste. Around half of the waste that ends up in landfills is organic material (food, garden, paper and wood waste). When organic material decomposes, it produces methane which is a potent greenhouse gas. Use the bio-fuel waste bins provided by WODC.

**<https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/article/spoiled-rotten#page-header>**

Freeland WI normally meets on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall, starting at **8pm** and finishing around **10pm**. You do not have to be a member to come along (although we would love you to join us). We always welcome visitors and new members of any age. Further information is available on our website:

**<https://freelandwiuk.wixsite.com/freelandwi>**

or our Facebook page: **[www.facebook.com/freelandwi](https://www.facebook.com/freelandwi)**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BLenheim 7K FUN RUN HAS BEEN POSTPONED**

### **EXERCISE GROUP**

This friendly exercise group run by an Age UK tutor at the Village Hall, normally on Fridays 10.00am - 11.00am is currently **suspended** due to the coronavirus situation. First taster session is free. To suit all abilities (seated or standing). These classes are to build muscle strength & help prevent falls. Have fun and sing along to the music too. Olwen Radburn on **773432** or **olwen44@tiscali.co.uk**



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## **FRUIT/VEG SWAP**

Freeland Nurseries are doing a fresh fruit and veg swap shop, so if you have an excess of any type of fresh fruit or veg and need alternative fresh fruit and veg please go along to the Nurseries during their opening hours and they will be very pleased to assist you! Opening hours are **Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm; Sundays 9.30am - 5.00pm**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **233 BUS TIMETABLE CHANGES**

With effect from **Monday 23rd March** most bus companies in the area, including Stagecoach, are running fewer services and are changing their timetables. You can see the new **233** timetable (which has gone to an hourly service) at:

**[https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford\\_Timetables/temp/233\\_valid\\_from\\_22\\_March\\_2020.pdf](https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford_Timetables/temp/233_valid_from_22_March_2020.pdf)**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **YOUR CHANCE TO PUBLISH A SHORT STORY IN 2020**

The 2019 edition of Unexpected Tales (3) an anthology of short stories written by seventeen local authors was published in December. It was a great achievement and contains seventeen remarkable stories and is available from Amazon.

Now you also have a chance to publish a short story by submitting your story for the 2020 edition.

We are inviting people from the **OX29** post code area to submit short stories of between 2,500 and 7,500 words in length before the **30th June 2020**.

For more details and to see the submission rules please visit the web site at :  
**<https://martincmarais.wixsite.com/ox29anthology/about-submitting>**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THE BIG LUNCH, DUE ON 14th JUNE, HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMBE MILL** - All upcoming events have been cancelled.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FREELAND CRAFT CLUB**

With Easter coming, March craft afternoons were spent in making some Easter bunnies and sugar eggs - naughty but nice! We continue to make things for the shoe boxes - bobbly yarn being turned into a scarf and a pram blanket, several small animals and glove puppets making an appearance, a necklace and knee blanket were produced as well as our own things such as jumpers & socks.

*We are a very friendly group and welcome new members to join us, to share their experience or to learn something new.*

**NEXT MEETINGS: In the Newell Room, Village Hall - 2pm to 4pm:  
Wednesdays: April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th; May 6th & 13th**

*Members of the Club will be informed individually of any changes in details about the April & May meetings. If you would like to join us, please call one of the numbers below.*

It costs £1 per session to cover hire of the room, heating, lighting and refreshments. For further information (or someone to go with) please contact:

Helen Molden: **01993 882305** or Margaret Wright: **01993 881316**



**Wroslyn Road, Freeland OX29 8AQ**

**01993 881430**

**Opening hours: 9.00am - 5.00pm, Sundays 9.30am - 5.00pm**

**Website: <https://freelandnurseries.wordpress.com/>**

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## The Cake Café

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

# CANCELLED

*Please visit website below  
for information  
about future events*

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## Eynsham Arts Group May Exhibition

**8th - 17th May 2020**

**In the Bartholomew Room, Eynsham OX29 4HW**

**10am to 4pm**

**Friday 8th May, Saturday 9th May, Sunday 10th May  
Thurs 14th May, Fri 15th May, Sat 16th May, Sun 17th May**

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## **FARMING WITH NATURE - Farm Diary - February 2020**

February is traditionally the month of heavy rainfall... 'February fill dyke!' Aided by storms Ciara and Dennis, the dykes have had their fill. A mild wet winter has kept soil temperatures high, the primroses are in flower and the snowdrops, now past their best. Hedges uncut, display racemes of yellow hazel catkins and, as the buds swell, the hawthorn shows purple against the horizon... the bark of the field maple, golden brown and patches of wild plum already in full blossom.

A quiet month on the farm, the cows are heavily pregnant, chilled out, serene, until that is the next storm tears across the open yards, moving the cows into perfect formation, heads down, tails windward like multiple weather-veins or, boats moored in an incoming tide. During the last 6 weeks of gestation, the unborn calf can double its weight so, care has to be taken with the cows' diet or calving problems may result.

Assorted crows (Rooks, Jackdaws and Magpies) pick amongst the straw bedding for food, hopping over the backs of oblivious cows as they go. Although sometimes a problem, Rooks are, on balance, the farmers friend, feeding on soil borne grubs such as leather jackets. Rooks are intelligent, communicative and well organised. The Rookery in Church Hanborough has remained constant since my childhood. The nests, in the top of the huge Horse Chestnut trees beside the Church yard, are repaired in early winter and again in late February, ready to receive eggs laid in March. Few people will have looked into a Rook's nest of woven twigs, precariously perched amongst the flimsy upper branches to see four beautiful eggs; light blue, heavily speckled twig brown, for perfect camouflage.

If anything optimises our farm, it is the hedgerows. Over many decades, I have attempted to shape them in to interlinking networks of wildlife corridors. Some cut tight and dense, most cut in a three to four-year cycle. Other hedges, in appropriate locations, containing fruit bearing varieties (i.e. Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Crab apple etc) are left to grow big and produce as much pollen, nectar and fruit as possible. When parts of these bigger hedges become unmanageable, they are cut and laid in the traditional way. This mixed approach to management gives great diversity of habitat and an interesting landscape. Hedges flailed annually may look tidy but produce little pollen, nectar or fruit. With more focus on biodiversity and carbon sequestration, it may be that the humble hedgerow will be elevated in importance and looked upon as a national treasure once again. 250,000 miles of hedges exist... most of them brutally overmanaged.

The flood water on our lower fields, sparkles in a brief moment of sunshine. Looking south across City Farm, from the higher ground, I can see the sheep grazing my red clover crop, beside the A40 at Eynsham... and beyond, through the naked trees, the iridescent flooded meadows stretch to Oxford... a view of rural beauty. Flood meadows are meant to flood but, in the 1970s and 80s, many were drained and ploughed for arable production. They still flood, but drain too quickly, eroding the soil and silting up the rivers.

As climate change becomes reality, this is something that can be quickly remedied, returning and reinstating to erosion resistant pastures, biodiverse flood meadows.

February ends with light snow.

It will be sometime before the fields are dry enough for spring planting to commence. In the meantime, we await the arrival of our first calves... March beckons.

Robert Crocker, Glebe Farm

# Vicky's After School Club

We are very excited to be opening an After School Club at Freeland Primary School in September 2020.

The club will be open Monday - Friday from 3.15pm - 6.15pm where the children will be able to do a wide range of activities, have a snack and tea, and lots of fun playing games.

We want to recruit staff for our Club.  
Full training will be given including paediatric first aid, safeguarding, playworker courses and much more!  
A full enhanced DBS check is also undertaken on all staff members.



If you are interested in using our Club or would like to find out more about working within a fun environment, please contact Vicky Hickman on 0788 7711454 or email

[vickysafterschoolclubbookings@gmail.com](mailto:vickysafterschoolclubbookings@gmail.com)



33 Norridge Way  
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Tel: 01865 689 015  
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Email: [hanboroughmeadowsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hanboroughmeadowsoffice@gmail.com)  
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Please view our website to read our Prospectus  
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team.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS - Correct as of 21/3/2020**

F 27 Mar	Comet Bus Service to Eynsham, Witney and return <b>see page 26</b>
Sa 28 Mar	Burford Orchestra Concert - CANCELLED
<b>Su 29 Mar</b>	<b>PUT YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR</b>
M 30 Mar	Comet Bus Service to Eynsham, Witney and return <b>see page 26</b>
W 1 Apr	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
F 3 Apr	Comet Bus Service to Eynsham, Witney and return <b>see page 26</b>
Su 5 Apr	Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers, meet at Oxfordshire Yeoman 9.30am
M 6 Apr	Comet Bus Service to Eynsham, Witney and return <b>see page 26</b>
Tu 7 Apr	The Cake Café, Village Hall, 9.00-11.30am CANCELLED
Tu 7 Apr	Woodstock U3A, CANCELLED
Tu 7 Apr	North Leigh History Society, Turner Hall, Church Road, N. Leigh, 7.30pm
W 8 Apr	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
F 10 Apr	BANK HOLIDAY
F 10 Apr	Comet Bus Service - NO SERVICE - BANK HOLIDAY
<b>Su 12 Apr</b>	<b>Last date for insertions in the May Grapevine</b>
M 13 Apr	BANK HOLIDAY
M 13 Apr	Comet Bus Service - NO SERVICE - BANK HOLIDAY
Th 16 Apr	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
F 17 Apr	Comet Bus Service to Eynsham, Witney and return <b>see page 26</b>
Su 19 Apr	Combe Mill at War Event - CANCELLED
M 20 Apr	Comet Bus Service to Eynsham, Witney and return <b>see page 26</b>
W 22 Apr	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
F 24 Apr	Comet Bus Service to Eynsham, Witney and return <b>see page 26</b>
Sa 25 Apr	BEFSA Curry Night, Ready Steady Spice, Eynsham - POSTPONED
M 27 Apr	Comet Bus Service to Eynsham, Witney and return <b>see page 26</b>
W 29 Apr	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
F 1 May	Comet Bus Service to Eynsham, Witney and return <b>see page 26</b>
Su 3 May	Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers, meet at Oxfordshire Yeoman 9.30am
Su 3 May	Witney Colour Fun Run - CANCELLED
M 4 May	Comet Bus Service to Eynsham, Witney and return <b>see page 26</b>
Tu 5 May	Woodstock U3A, Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock, 2pm
Tu 5 May	North Leigh History Society, Turner Hall, Church Road, N. Leigh, 7.30pm
W 6 May	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection

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### **THE CAKE CAFÉ, FREELAND HALL**

**The Café on Tuesday 7th April is cancelled** - please see website for details of future events.

Also Celebration Cakes & Bespoke Afternoon Teas  
**www.janescakestudio.co.uk / 01993 881273**

**STAMP COLLECTIONS** I wish to purchase stamp collections. Friendly free valuation service without obligation and immediate payment. Also medals, coins, postcards and other collectables. Please call David Lord **01993 881862**

\*\*\*\*\*

The deadline for articles or adverts for the **May Grapevine** is **Sunday 12th April**

The **May** edition should be in the church porch and online at **www.freelandoxon.co.uk** from about **Friday 24th April**.

We welcome handwritten or typed articles and adverts. However, if at all possible, please send by email, formatted to fit an A5 magazine - it will certainly help to reduce the number of our mistakes! The font we use is **Gill Sans MT** at 10 point.

If submitting electronically please use Word or Publisher, **not PDFs** as they are incompatible with Microsoft Publisher which we use for the Grapevine. Photographs should be JPGs or PNGs, again **not PDFs**.

The cost of a Small Advertisement is **20p per word**. Please make cheques payable to **'FREELAND GRAPEVINE'**. Contact Kenny Wylie about costs for other adverts. 1/3rd page size is 60mm high x 120mm wide, 1/2 page size is 90mm high x 120mm wide

**Adverts:** **grapevineadverts@gmail.com**

**Articles:** **freelandgrapevine@gmail.com**

Or mail: Kenny Wylie, 1 Blenheim Lane, Freeland, Witney OX29 8AW **01993 883245**

**Note** Please put your name and telephone number on any submission in case we need to contact you. These will only be printed if requested by you.

*The editor reserves the right to edit all copy.*

*Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, liability cannot be accepted for any errors or omissions in compiling this magazine.*

*Neither the Church, the Editor nor the Printer assume responsibility for any effects arising therefrom, nor endorse any advertisers or their services or products.*



# Oxfordshire Yeoman



Here at the Oxfordshire Yeoman we are now offering takeaway food, wine, beer and a soft drinks selection. Additionally, we have a limited shop facility.

Please phone for a takeaway.

May I wish that everyone keeps in good health, and for anyone in self-isolation, do remember there is a help group in the village called Freeland Covid-19 Mutual Aid, so you are not alone.

The Yeoman still welcomes you for your takeaway food, drinks and shop. Please remember the social distance guides, so that we can all keep well.

01993 881003 or email: [yeomantrevor@gmail.com](mailto:yeomantrevor@gmail.com)

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