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Benefice of Hanborough and Freeland

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the churchwardens and clergy have made the difficult decision to suspend collective worship in our buildings until further notice.

**We continue to hold services on
Zoom at 10.00am every Sunday.
You are very welcome to join us.
The Zoom joining details are on the
homepage of the church website at
www.hanboroughparish.co.uk**

St Mary the Virgin, Freeland is open for
private prayer from 9.00am – 5pm on
Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Thank you to Bruce Hammersley for the front cover photograph.



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Useful contact details:

Rector: Rev. Steve Stewart
01993 881270

The Rectory, Swan Lane
Long Hanborough OX29 8BT
Email: rector@hanboroughparish.co.uk

Curate: Rev. Mike Madden
E: curate_mike@hanboroughparish.co.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Clive Berry 01993 882080

Hugh Dalton Emeritus 01993 881742

Churchwardens:

Claire Soanes Steve Mellin
01993 883205 01993 882044

Flowers in the Church:

Janet Dalton
01993 881742

Churchwardens' email: churchwarden.smv@gmail.com

Weddings: Rev. Steve Stewart 01993 881270 rector@hanboroughparish.co.uk
administrator@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/5863

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

You can see a virtual tour of St Mary's on Google Street View at:
<http://goo.gl/g53NJH>

While the church building is closed, **St Mary's Junior Church** is temporarily suspended. However children - with their parent(s) - are very welcome to join the online benefice services. There is a craft activity every week.

The parents and carers of the **'Babies & Toddlers at St. Mary's'** are keeping in touch virtually. Please contact Alice Harden (**01993 886833**) for more details.

11+ Hitchhikers - future meetings to be advised

The above information is correct at the date published (21/03/2021). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found at
www.hanboroughparish.co.uk

HANBOROUGH AND FREELAND BENEFICE **'ZOOM' SERVICES**

Public worship is still suspended in our church buildings across the Benefice until further notice. Life as a Christian church continues, and we would like to share some of our activities with you.

Please contact a member of our clergy team if you are interested.

We continue to hold services on Zoom at 10.00am every Sunday.

You are very welcome to join us.

The Zoom joining details are on the homepage of the church website at
www.hanboroughparish.co.uk

Should you wish to join our email circulation list, please email Louise at
administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk

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Letter from our Rector

The world feels a different place from when I last wrote an article for the parish magazine back in January at the very peak of the latest wave of the pandemic. Cases were skyrocketing and the vaccine rollout had only just begun. But now it feels like there is some kind of light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccination rollout progressing rapidly and schools reopening. Yet by and large we remain pretty firmly in some sort of lockdown and are likely to do so for weeks, perhaps months to come – especially with regards to household mixing.

For now, pretty much everything is shut, including our church *buildings*, but the church *community* here at Hanborough and Freeland remains very much open.

As you may be aware, our **10am** Sunday morning church services moved online to Zoom many months ago, and are very well attended. As when the buildings are open, our Zoom services are open to all visitors. If you would like to join us at **10am** on a Sunday morning, you can simply visit the home page of our website at **hanboroughparish.co.uk** and you will see the Zoom link right there, plus a link to download the order of service. If you haven't been to church for a long time, or are even worried about coming to church in a building and not knowing what to do, then joining us for the first time on Zoom from the comfort of your home might be ideal for you! We would absolutely love to have you join us, and for me this would also be a great way to meet members of our community.

At the end of the Zoom service, anyone who wishes to stay is welcome to join a “breakout room” room for “coffee” and a chat.

As things permit, our church buildings will of course begin to open up, but our arms remain well and truly open to our community as we look to, we pray, a new and freer future ahead.

With much love in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Steve Stewart,
Rector, Hanborough and Freeland

FROM THE REGISTERS AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Funeral: Graham John Prowse 22nd February 2021

ST MARY'S TOWER CLOCK

The clock engineers are hopefully visiting at the end of March/early April.

ST MARY'S CHURCH BELLS

Please contact the Tower Secretary, 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**

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Thurs 1st April 7pm Maundy Thursday Service led by Rev. Charles Harris
(in Church)

Sun 4th April 10am Easter Sunday Love Feast led by Rev. Richard Donoghue
(Zoom service)

Sun 11th April 10am Rev. Charles Harris (in Church)

Sun 18th April 10am Mrs Jenny Bywater (in Church)

Sun 25th April 10am Rev. Fred Ireland Holy Communion (in Church)

Sun 2nd May 10am Rev. Charles Harris (in Church)

Please consult www.witneyfaringdoncircuit.org.uk for all the latest information.

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Website: www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk

THE CHURCH IS OPEN for Public Masses on **Saturday at 5pm** and **Sunday at 10am**. Face masks must be worn. For any Weekday Masses, please see webpage.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND EASTER MASSES

NB Limited numbers apply for Covid-safe worship: 2 metre social distancing and face-coverings required.

Palm/Passion Sunday: Saturday (for Sunday) 27th March - 5pm, and Sunday 28th March - 10am

Maundy Thursday: 1st April - Mass of the Lord's Supper - 8pm

Good Friday: 2nd April - Solemn Passion - 3pm

Easter Saturday 3rd April - Vigil Mass - 8pm

Easter Sunday – Mass of Easter - 10am

You can also watch Mass from many other Churches live or recorded online:

Churchservices.tv is a platform that connects communities and provides churches with a space to broadcast – particularly Mass, Adoration and prayer.

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/> is another platform that does the same and includes Corpus Christi, Headington in Oxford.

Blackfriars, Oxford is the Catholic House of Dominican Friars in Oxford and the advantage of going to this site <https://www.youtube.com/user/Godzdogz> is that instead of seeing a single priest you see the whole religious community taking part & you can either view this live or view it when it suits you as they are all recorded.



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FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL – LISA’S NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th MARCH 2021

Parish Council Elections – 6th May 2021

Another plug for the forthcoming elections! It's local council elections on **Thursday 6th May** this year, which means it's election time for your Parish Council. If you would like to become more involved in your village and have a say about matters that affect Freeland, please do consider joining the Parish Council. We meet once a month in the evening on the 3rd Monday of the month and we are a friendly bunch who do our best to make Freeland even better than it is already! 😊

I now have nomination packs available so please do get in touch with me if you would like one or if you would like an informal chat about the role.

I can be contacted at lisa.fpc@gmail.com or my phone number is **01993 880067**.

Deadline for return of nomination packs to WODC offices is **4pm on Thursday 8th April**.

Inspired Villages

You have probably all received a leaflet produced and delivered by some residents about the Inspired Villages proposal to build 160 houses as part of a retirement village in Freeland on land near the nursing home. Unfortunately, at the time of submitting my notes for the Grapevine, the details on the informal public consultation were not available, and since being made available, the deadline for submitting comments is extremely tight (deadline was 12th March, although this was extended for another week). The proposals include a shop, gym and pool which would be available for community use. However, this site is not in the Local Plan as it was deemed unsuitable for development so it would need community support. Inspired Villages have not made an outline planning application to WODC as yet, so this is just in the informal consultation stage.

The details can be viewed at <https://www.inspiredvillages.co.uk/village/freeland> and you can contact them at freelandconsultation@inspiredvillages.co.uk.

New shed on field

The new shed on the playing field is now nearly complete. Some additional work around the shed has been carried out to help with the drainage in this area. The landscaping work has also now been completed around the shed, and some landscaping work has also been carried out in the Broadmarsh Lane amenity area to tidy this up and make it more attractive. Various trees and shrubs have been planted including birch trees, hazel, hawthorn, apple trees, hornbeam and flowering pear.

Our thanks to Robert Crocker, Mary Ann Canning and Tim Webster who have all helped with this work, plus I would also like to pass on our thanks to Russell Fisher and the volunteers who assisted with the tree planting. Your help is much appreciated.

White lines around Oakland Close junction

The Parish Council approved the costs to have white lines painted around the junction of Oakland Close to mirror those on Parklands. This is in response to residents' concerns about ongoing parking issues at school drop off and pick-up times, especially as there is no pavement in Oakland Close and the road is very narrow at the entrance. This work will now be added to Highways schedule to be carried out sometime between April and October.

Continued.....

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Dealing with your own affairs and getting them in order can appear daunting. We're here to make life easier. Do pick up the phone or email us and we would be happy to have a free, no-obligation initial chat with you. We can meet on video call or in person when safe to do so.



Anna Burnside PARTNER
anna.burnside@theburnsidepartnership.com



Jacqui Birks TAX DIRECTOR
jacqui.birks@theburnsidepartnership.com



For further information, please contact: info@theburnsidepartnership.com

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Gigaclear works in Freeland

These works will be continuing in the village for a while and the latest information I have is below:

Start	End	Address	Traffic Management
18/02/21	23/03/21	PARKLANDS	SOME CARRIAGEWAY INCURSION
23/02/21	14/06/21	WROSLYN ROAD	MULTI-WAY SIGNALS
01/03/21	19/03/21	CHURCH VIEW	SOME CARRIAGEWAY INCURSION
10/03/21	23/03/21	WALKERS CLOSE	SOME CARRIAGEWAY INCURSION
17/05/21	28/06/21	WITNEY ROAD	MULTI-WAY SIGNALS
02/06/21	28/06/21	PIGEON HOUSE LANE	ROAD CLOSURE
09/06/21	31/08/21	PARKLANDS	SOME CARRIAGEWAY INCURSION

As soon as I receive more information then, I will of course keep you all updated. As I have said before, this will entail some disruption with the roads/pavements being dug up, so please exercise some patience and tolerance whilst this work is completed.

Thank you.

Minutes of Parish Council meetings

In view of the fact that the minutes of Parish Council meetings have to be approved a month in arrears, meaning that people cannot view them for a while (by which time some of the information is possibly out of date or has been superseded), the Parish Council has decided to publish draft minutes so that residents can keep up to date with what is being discussed. These will be available on the Freeland Village Website at: **www.freelandoxon.co.uk** under "Parish Council" approximately 2 weeks after the meeting.

A40 Park & Ride consultation

As you will see under the list of planning applications, the amended application for the A40 Park & Ride has been put out to consultation. There is a lot of information and documents available, and I would strongly encourage you to take a look at the application and submit your comments as this will impact the Cuckoo Lane junction with the A40 – it is also worth looking at entry and exit proposals to the site. Details of the application can be found at:

<https://myeplanning2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/R3.0057/19>

Coronavirus – an update

As lockdown restrictions start to ease once again, we have decided to run the prescription service until the end of March, and then it will come to an end. We will keep the service under review until that time in case of any spikes in the virus, but it is likely the service will finish at the end of this month.

For anyone who is particularly worried about managing after this time, please speak to the pharmacy on **01993 880351** to see if you can be put on their list for direct deliveries from them. Alternatively get in touch with me directly & I will see if I can help.

My thanks once again to all of our volunteers who have helped during this time, your help has been invaluable and made the service offered possible and I know it has been very much appreciated by those who have made use of it.

Continued.....



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City & Guilds



Continued.....

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** (under Parish Council/Planning Tracker) or via the WODC website at **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:

21/00323/HHD 5 Hurst Lane, Freeland

Erection of a detached bike shed for Ms Veronique McCoy.

21/00351/HHD 2A Blenheim Lane, Freeland

Erection of single storey side extension for Mr & Mrs Foster.

R3.0057/19 Land West of Cuckoo Lane and adjacent to the A40, Eynsham, West Oxfordshire, OX29 4PU

Construction of a park & ride car park providing 850 car parking spaces, cycle spaces, motorcycle spaces, electric vehicle charging points, bus shelters, landscaping, external lighting, public open space, toilets, seating, fencing, habitat creation, drainage features, new access from Cuckoo Lane, new roundabout with access onto A40, an eastbound bus lane approximately 6.5km in length from the park & ride site to the A40 bridge over the Dukes Cut canal, two sections of westbound bus lane (each approximately 500m in length), new shared use footway/cycleway, widening of Cassington New Bridge, junction improvements, new crossings, new footbridge alongside Cassington Halt Bridge, and associated works for Oxfordshire County Council.

Applications Approved:

20/03584/HHD 53 Wroslyn Road, Freeland

Insertion of new dormer window in rear elevation of detached garage for Mr G Findley.

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on

Monday 19th April 2021 at 7.30pm. Details of how to join the meeting will be available from **Wednesday 14th April** on the village website (under Parish Council/Agendas) and the notice board or by contacting me at **lisa.fpc@gmail.com**

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**. 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**

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A CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR WEST OXFORDSHIRE

At a meeting on 24th February, West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) approved a Climate Change Strategy for West Oxfordshire and a Sustainability Standards Checklist for Planning. They are the result of 18 months of work by multi-disciplinary officers and directed by a Climate Action Working Group comprising councillors from all parties.

The Strategy sets out five areas of focus: (i) Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems, (ii) Energy, (iii) Active travel and low-carbon transport, (iv) New development standards and (v) Education and engagement, and provides a framework for how the Council will achieve them over the next four years. The Council will report annually on progress made against the Strategy's objectives. A copy of the Climate Change Strategy can be found on the website (www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/climate-change-strategy) and residents wishing to find out more about what the Council is doing to address the climate emergency can subscribe to the Council's quarterly Climate Action Bulletin.

In November, Glasgow will welcome the UN's Climate Change Conference, COP-26, that was postponed from last November due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In preparation, we can expect a raft of climate-related policy announcements from around the world and it is good that the US President has appointed a Special Envoy for Climate to lead their efforts.

Turning now to the Sustainability Standards Checklist for Planning, this is a tool with which the Council, as the local planning authority, will seek to promote sustainability within the confines of the National Planning Policy Framework. Recognising that local action is required in response to a global issue, the Council now expects developers and applicants to adopt the highest possible standards of energy and sustainable design to ensure new developments in West Oxfordshire are designed as fit for the future. The Checklist shows separately standards expected of major and minor planning applications and a copy can be found on the website.

A national and local response to the Covid-19 global pandemic has further emphasised the cross benefits and inter-relationships between public health and the natural environment. The Council aims to capture the positive lessons learned; recognise the value our communities put on the natural environment and embed climate action as a foundation to our green recovery. To this end, achieving the highest environmental standards in all future development considerations has also been identified as a priority in the Council's Recovery Plan.

Alaa Al-Yousuf – District Councillor

T: 880689 or M: 07768 898914 or E: alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk

FREELAND PHOTO GROUP

Freeland Photo Group will continue to meet virtually on the first and third Tuesday of every month, starting at **7.30pm**, for the foreseeable future. Meetings in **April** will be on **Tuesday 6th and 20th**.

Please contact Paul Sayer on paul.pshmi@googlemail.com for details of the virtual meetings and the programme.



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EYNHAM MEDICAL GROUP UPDATE as at 22nd March, 2021

It is unlikely we will be holding any clinics for **1st** vaccinations during April. We will update our patients as soon as possible when we have more information.

We will be holding clinics for **2nd** vaccinations during April and the Practice will be contacting patients directly with information regarding how to make appointments. Please do not call reception to ask for information.

Some of you may have received a text recently encouraging you to sign up to the NHS app. We are working to make more services available to our patients through the app to improve accessibility. Here are some of the things you can do now on the NHS app:

- view and manage online surgery appointments
- order prescriptions
- fill in an online triage form to get advice from your doctor
- view and manage/book hospital and other appointments

The existing Patient Access EMIS app will remain available should you wish to use it

Lastly, we are looking for medical professionals that are interested in becoming volunteer vaccinators. Recently retired (2015 onwards), can re-join the professional registers with ease. If you are interested please email the practice on **occg.emgadmin@nhs.net** for more information and mark for the attention of Chloe.

GOOD NEWS from the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (JR, Churchill, NOC, Horton)

Improvements to the Emergency Departments at both the John Radcliffe in Oxford and the Horton in Banbury have now been completed. Work had continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure that these new facilities are available for their patients.

The newly refurbished Majors' area at the John Radcliffe, where patients who are seriously ill, but not in a life-threatening condition are treated, includes five up-graded assessment bays and a new assessment room. The Majors area at the Horton has been expanded with separate areas for adults and children. Four additional patient cubicles have also been added, including a dedicated infection control bay.

ALUMINIUM CAN COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the aluminium collection.

As we gradually ease from lockdown I hope to be able to take the cans for recycling and pass the funds raised over to Freeland Pre-school. The collection has so far generated 16 large bags of cans during the lockdown period, which is a fantastic amount considering peoples' restricted travels.

I note that there have been quite a few cans that must have been collected from litter pick-ups, which is a great idea and a bonus all round, so thank you for these too.

Please continue to crush ALL cans as flat as possible. This reduces the contact I have with them (with regards to Covid) & helps with storage! **Drinks cans only please.**

Address for drop offs: **10 The Blowings, OX29 8HY**

Please place cans in the large galvanised bin at the end of the road near the entrance to the wood. The galvanised bin does have a lid, so I advise bringing some hand sanitiser to further reduce any risks.

andre_woodward@yahoo.co.uk



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SUNDAY 28th MARCH 10am - 1pm

We expect to host:

Moore & Lyon Meats, Tess' Brilliant Tray Bakes, Knead Bakehouse, Chillies 2U, Freeland Lamb, Well Preserved Jams & Chutneys, The Mighty Pie Company, Team Tea, Carla's Vegetarian Foods, Smorgas Tarta (Swedish Cuisine), Bibury Trout Farm, Paulton Hill Wines, Asian Foods & Chutneys, Cake Café, Microgreens and Hot Waffles, plus others yet to confirm!

Tea, coffee, and breakfast baps available at The Yeoman from **10.00am**

The February market raised **£120** for the Heart Unit at the JR

The next Markets will be on Sunday 25th April and Sunday 30th May



**Freeland District Girlguiding covers:
The villages of Freeland, Long Hanborough
& North Leigh.**

Due to lockdown all the Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units in Freeland, Long Hanborough and North Leigh are currently running their meetings via zoom.

Freeland Brownies and Guides that wish to are joining in via zoom meetings with Long Hanborough Brownies and Guides. This last term we have covered Thinking Day, Mother's Day by decorating plant pots, sowing seeds with the challenge to look after them & Easter Fun making an Easter basket for our eggs or other goodies.

We have also looked at using braille as part of Communication Skills, as well as the usual quizzes and scavenger hunts which are such fun on zoom. A highlight of this term has been seeing Rainbows and Brownies make their promises and the giving out of awards gained even after a year of not meeting face to face. Well done girls.

Over the Easter holidays the leadership teams will be discussing when to resume some form of face-to-face meetings in accordance with the new guidance expected very soon. Whether the decision is to remain on zoom for a while longer or to have a combination of outdoor meetings with zoom we will let parents know via our Facebook pages and emails.

If you are interested in registering your daughter to join guiding for the first time when we can meet again or to join us now on zoom then please visit

<https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk/> or contact Wendy on 01993 883120.

We also cannot run our units without adult volunteers, so if you are interested in helping in any of our units, again please contact Wendy.



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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 10-16 MAY 2021

The focus of the Christian Aid Week campaign this year is the **climate crisis**: the charity is working with people in countries where extreme weather and more intense and frequent droughts mean millions are struggling to get enough food and water.

Given the continuing uncertainties around coronavirus, we have decided not to organise a house-to-house collection in Freeland again this year. We will, however, be setting up an online 'Freeland' collection with Christian Aid – further details will be in the May Grapevine.

Christian Aid works in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice.

Find out more at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Fiona McGrady - Freeland Christian Aid Organiser

FREELAND CRAFT CLUB



This is our latest "Worry Monster!" which will be going to help the school nurses who are dealing with traumatised children. Next plans are to make some knitted hand puppets as families of mum, dad, grandma, grandpa, brother & sister to help in the same work.

Things are starting to look up with the drop in Covid casualties in the area & Freeland Craft Club will hopefully be meeting together once again in the Village Hall from the first **Wednesday in August (4th)** - all being well!

For more information, please contact: Helen Molden **01993 882305** or Margaret Wright **01993 881316** geeandemm@hotmail.co.uk

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Naturehood

earthwatch
EUROPE

Freeland Naturehood Photography Competition

Fancy a go at wildlife/ nature photography?

Whilst in lockdown, please do not leave your property specifically to take photos. Submissions can be from your garden or near to your property.

Every month entries will be judged by a panel from Freeland Photo Group alongside wildlife experts from Earthwatch Naturehood. It is completely free to enter for any age.

Entries must: be no bigger than 25 mb; should have a resolution of at least 3 mega pixels (2048 x 1536 pixels); include an element of wildlife or nature; be taken in or around Freeland.

Only one entry to be sent each month. You may enter more than once under your name in the year.

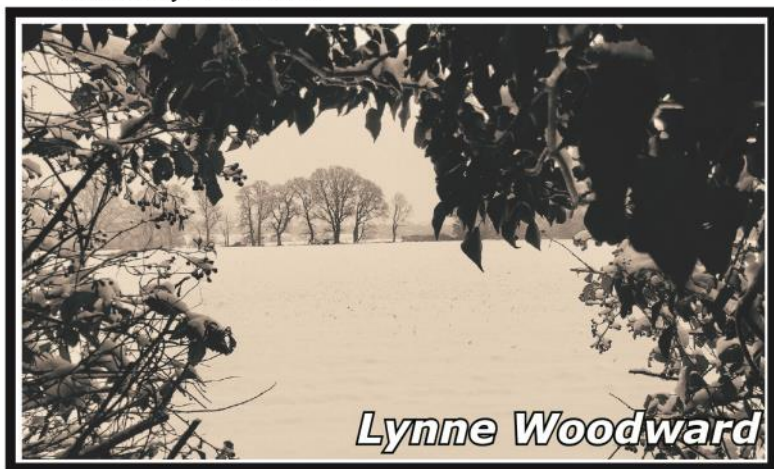
There will be a small prize each month. All winning photos will be included in the 2021 Freeland Naturehood Calendar.

Don't forget to adhere to current government restrictions and please do not trespass without permission.

Send your entry to : nature_instead@outlook.com

Russell & the Naturehood team

January's winner



FREELAND VILLAGE HUB

Several residents have asked for an update on the Freeland Village Hub project to acquire the Methodist Church when it is offered for sale and to establish a community-owned and volunteer-run shop and café.

The Hub management committee has done all it could prior to the Covid-19 lockdown to be in a position to raise funds and make an offer whenever the Methodist Circuit, the owners, put the Church on the market. We will update you all when we have any news. For more information on the background, please visit our Facebook page or our website at <https://freelandcbs.community>



Alaa Al-Yousuf – Vice-Chairman – Freeland Community Benefit Society.

FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

We are awaiting the details for the return to cricket, but are expecting to restart training in early April. We will be alerting existing members via email and Facebook. If you or your children have not played before, please contact me using the details below so I can keep you informed. This is especially important for the children's teams as we might be restricted on numbers. Last year the restrictions put a cap on a maximum of 25 children in each session and some children were unable to take part.

The fixtures for all the league matches for juniors, women and the league team have been announced, and our first matches will start at the end of April.

We will be running an **Under 9s** team, two **Under 11** teams, two **Under 13** teams, an **Under 15s** team and an **Under 19s** team. The latter two will be run jointly with Witney Mills CC, and we will be playing under the name of West Oxfordshire Warriors. The players will wear sponsored blue kit, which will be our first foray into coloured clothing, we might look to do this in other age groups next season.

The **Women's hardball** team will host 3 matches on **Sundays 9th and 30th May**. The matches will start at **12noon**.

There will be matches on every Sunday in May, with matches starting at **1pm or 2pm**. The details of all matches will be on the Club's webpage.

There are many jobs to be completed before we start playing and you will see a number of Club members working on the field, the covers, sightscreen and nets.

Can I remind parents of younger children to ensure they do not use the covers as a climbing frame. These are highly technical and costly pieces of equipment. It is also important that dog owners do not allow their pets to run across the cricket square. There have been a number of dogs who have skidded on the square causing the grass to be ripped up, and we have also had to remove dog faeces. The Club spends a great deal of unpaid time working on the field and cricket square to enable over 100 villagers to play cricket, it is a shame that some villagers do not appreciate the work involved to enable this to happen. Please look after our facilities.

Simon Brown - Chair - Freeland Cricket Club

E: freelandcc.ul1@gmail.com

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

Facebook: **Freeland Cricket Club**



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FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

With the Government setting out dates for the easing of lockdown it meant the leagues could plan on their next move.

After sending questionnaires to all clubs, it's been decided to cancel the **Men's League** as there was realistically not enough time to finish the season.

The outlook for the youth **U14 and U17s** sides is that their leagues will continue, albeit in a shortened format.

In the next few weeks we will be meeting to plan for next season and look at, hopefully, returning to a normal pre-season.



Ben Symonds - Secretary Freeland FC

www.pitchero.com/clubs/freelandfc/

Twitter: [@freeland_fc](https://twitter.com/freeland_fc)

1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUT GROUP



Our leaders, helpers and committee members have all been busy holding meetings and working hard behind the scenes to ensure that we will be ready for face-to-face meetings when the government decides to relax the

current lockdown measures.

In the meantime, though, we continue to operate online only.

Our **Cubs and Scouts** groups meet regularly on Zoom on Wednesday evenings and have been enjoying a variety of activities such as treasure hunts, cooking, quizzes and games.

Beavers continue to work on their badges independently, with help from parents and carers at home. They're currently working on their health and fitness badge as well as progressing with a reading challenge.

The **Explorers** group are patiently waiting until they can once again meet up outside, which hopefully will not be too much longer.

We've had new volunteers join us recently but we still need a few more to lend a hand. Our group is very active, providing all kinds of wonderful experiences for young people in Hanborough and Freeland, and that is all down to our volunteers that keep everything going!

To get involved take a look at our website www.hfscouting.org.uk and get in touch via the contact page or send an email to gsl@hfscouting.org.uk to express your interest.

You do not need any previous experience of Scouting, but a love of working with young people is vital, and a sense of adventure! You will receive lots of help and support from our other group leaders and the Executive Committee, and training is provided.

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Friday 26 Mar Fri 23 April Fri 28 May

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 3 & 17 Apr Sat 1 & 15 May

Details of other Farmers' Markets at www.tvfm.org.uk



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COMBE MILL

During a year of a variety of lockdown regulations, the Mill has stood solid, by the flowing (and sometimes overflowing) Evenlode, just waiting for humans to return in greater numbers.



The directors are now busy with the preparations for the “Big Spring Clean” at the Mill. Now admittedly this is going to happen a bit later than normal and is huge undertaking. Not easy cleaning a stone building that is a hundred plus years old, with several engines, a forge and a water wheel on the ground floor. Then we have to think about getting the thousands of artefacts that are stored upstairs at the Mill, looking their best. Really good news that we can finally begin to talk about getting ready for the return of visitors.

My question this month is - would you like to be part of this volunteer team?

We are looking to recruit across many areas in the Mill – not just those good with a duster or cloth. We need a whole range of people to help us open the Mill from stewards to engineers, people who like mending and maintaining things, making tea and coffee, cutting cakes and sandwiches, people who can use computers, cameras, ticket office machines and social media, alongside many other skill areas. If you would you enjoy welcoming exhibitors and visitors both young and old, with a wide range of interests and needs – we would love to hear from you.

Coming soon – “Bring your Mate to the Mill Day”.....we would love to make some more mates

Julie Stuart-Thompson tourism@combemill.org

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Can you believe it has been a year since we opened the new Little Free Library? Last March we had no idea that a national lockdown was just around the corner and that we would all be spending so much more time in the village than usual.



We have received many positive comments about the Little Free Library during this period of lockdown, making it clear just how much the Little Free Library continues to be used and appreciated by so many people.

So, thank you once again for your continued support; without this level of community engagement the Little Free Library would not be as successful as it is.

The volunteers and I are always amazed by the high quality of books that get donated, and subsequently shared with lots of people. It seems unlikely that we will ever run out of books, so always do take as many as you like, and remember that you don't have to return them.

Happy reading!

Matthew & the Little Free Library volunteers
01993 359 543 ruddlem@gmail.com

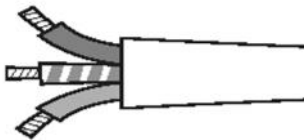
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ADAM : 07805 201618

GRAHAM OLDFIELD

Passed away peacefully on 30th January 2021.

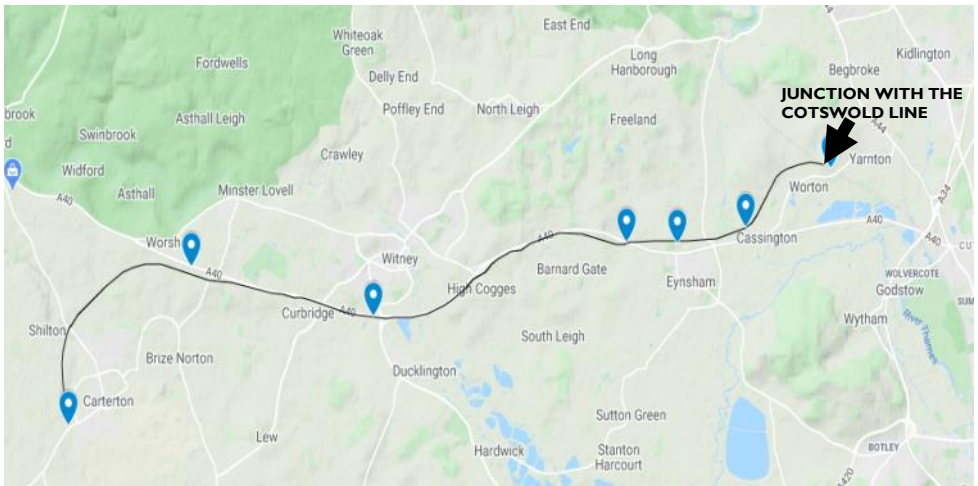
Graham enjoyed every moment riding his scooter through the village, smiling and greeting everyone he met.

Now reunited with his loving wife, our mum Margaret. Together, they can once again share their lovely stories of excitement and joy.

Interment of Ashes will take place at St Mary's Church when we can all come together and celebrate our memories.

He will be forever in our hearts and thoughts. All our love.

PROPOSED OXFORD-EYNESHAM-WITNEY-CARTERTON RAIL LINK



The Witney-Oxford Transport Group's new proposal for the Oxford-Eynsham-Witney-Carterton rail link has got cross party support. The County Council voted unanimously to consider undertaking a feasibility study for the plans. WOTG is about to submit the plans to request funds for the study from the Department for Transport's 'Restoring Your Railway Fund'.

This is potentially very good news for Hanborough/Freeland/North Leigh as the new rail link would profoundly diminish traffic along A4095 from Witney/Carterton and Eynsham/Garden Village to Hanborough Station. Fingers crossed!

You can see the WOTG presentation at:

<https://witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk> find 'Google Earth version of our map'

If you want to have your say on this proposal, please take part in the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WitneyOxfordTransportGroup>

A recent survey showed 97% in support of "exploring the potential of restoring a railway line that connects the communities of Carterton, Witney, Eynsham with Oxford" (750 respondents).

Dr Lidia Arciszewska, a resident of Church Hanborough

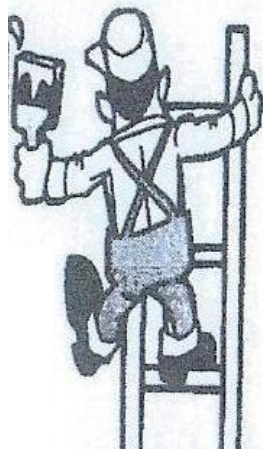
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OFFICIALS WAIT ON KEY DATE IN SALT CROSS PLANNING PROCEDURE

Planning officers at West Oxfordshire District Council are waiting to receive a date for a hearing into the draft Area Action Plan (AAP) for Salt Cross garden village.

The AAP was submitted last month along with the supporting viability assessment and will be considered by an appointed inspector from the Planning Inspectorate.

Details of the inspector's findings will be released once they are available.

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

As there is still no prospect of our Gardening Club meeting for another few months, all we as a Club can do is to offer some advice on jobs in the garden that can be done at this time of year. Some of us think only of bulbs as the ones we plant in the autumn which flower the following spring like the thousands of daffodils planted by Garden Club members along Wroslyn Road. What a lovely welcome sight they are. Spring planted bulbs such as dahlias, lilies, nerines, and many others also offer a marvellous display. These can be planted in the ground or pots at this time of year.

The many hanging basket plants are now in the Garden Centres and these can be planted up and kept indoors till after the last frosts. Seeds can also be sown and pricked out ready to go in the ground towards the end of April or early May. If you don't grow seeds there are many ready plants for sale in Garden Centres to grow on or plant out in a few month's time. Try to buy or grow flowers that bloom at different times of the summer to give a continual display. Further pruning of spindly bits of rose bushes can be undertaken. Give the bushes a sprinkling of rose feed and mulch them with compost or manure. Fruit trees and bushes can be given a dose of Sulphate of Potash and a generous mulch around their roots.

Weeds are growing in profusion so either remove them or hoe them off before they start to flower. Many people have already started their veg planting of crops such as broad beans, onion sets, peas and many others, and the Garden Centres are getting in their veg plants. They sell out quite quickly so buy them as soon as you see them there.

Monty Don is advising us to not wage war on bugs in the garden but leave nature to balance these out even though there will be casualties. If your brassicas were eaten by white flies or cabbage white butterfly grubs, cover them with a very fine mesh to keep as many of these away from the plants. There are many ways of controlling slugs and snails other than slug pellets. He also advises leaving a section of your garden wild to encourage wildlife. Open flowers such as single dahlias and the many daisies are very good for bees, etc.

For anyone new to the village we are a very friendly Club who normally meet on the last Monday of the month in Freeland Hall to listen to many excellent speakers. Please contact our Vice Chairperson, Terry Jones, on **davidjones30@talktalk.net** for any further information.

The Gardening Club would like to pass on our best wishes to Ray Evans for his swift recovery from illness.

Janet Dalton (Secretary)

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FREELAND WI

On the 8th March we were delighted to hold our Annual Meeting. This was conducted over Zoom and was very well attended. It was great to see everyone. It was also International Women's Day which seemed very appropriate, as we were joined by one of our members who is currently in New Zealand. We were pleased that Catherine, our WI advisor, was able to join our meeting. Last year's committee were all willing to continue this year with Rosie as secretary and Marilyn as treasurer. A secret ballot was held for the role of President. This was done via the chat button to our advisor and Aileen Tattam was re-elected as President.

We shall now be holding our monthly meetings over Zoom until we are able to meet again. We will keep reviewing future meetings on the basis of guidance from the Government and the Oxfordshire and National Federation. We are very hopeful that we may be able to meet again in July, regulations permitting.

We will still continue to keep in touch through our monthly newsletter, telephone calls or a keep in touch card.

Members have all been receiving our digital copy of Oxfordshire Inspires with information about talks the Federation have set up via Zoom. The talks have covered a wide range of subjects so hopefully there has been something for everyone.

WI Climate Advisor Tip from Rosie Smith:

Encourage everyone you know to read the government sponsored report 'The Economics of Biodiversity' led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta (Published February 2021)

The Review argues that nature is our most precious asset and that significant declines in biodiversity are undermining the productivity, resilience and adaptability of nature. This in turn has put our economies, livelihoods and well-being at risk. Sir David Attenborough has said *'This comprehensive and immensely important report shows us how by bringing economics and ecology face to face, we can help to save the natural world and in doing so save ourselves'*.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review>

Freeland WI normally meets on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall, starting at **8pm** and finishing around **10pm**. When we are able to meet again, we look forward to welcoming visitors and new members at our meetings. If you have been thinking about joining WI now could be the time to give us a try. We are a varied group with a wide range of interests. One trait that unites us is that we are friendly and welcoming to visitors.

Please contact our secretary Rosie if you would like to discuss joining us for a trial session or to become a member. We would love to see you.

Further information is available on our website:

<https://freelandwiuk.wixsite.com/freelandwi> or on our Facebook page: **www.facebook.com/freelandwi**

Alternatively please contact our secretary Rosie James on **01993 881997** or email **freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk** Our President Aileen Tattam can be contacted on **atattam@outlook.com** or on **01993 881526**

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ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE GRAPEVINE are available in the Church Porch, which is open from 9am to 5pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays. You can also pick up copies at the **Oxfordshire Yeoman** when you are picking up your food takeaway on Friday evenings, Saturday mornings or Sunday lunchtimes. There are also copies on the bottom of the newspaper stand rack, straight ahead, bottom shelf, inside the door of the **Long Hanborough Coop**.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES - FIRST AND LAST MILE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY (CIC) - not for profit

Currently, there are four of us who make up First and Last Mile (F&LM). We feel that improved community transport services can be achieved by working with communities and residents to dovetail with existing commercial bus routes. We believe that residents being able to connect with the wider Oxfordshire community for health, education, industry/work and pleasure is a benefit for all. Our function at F&LM is to improve those connections.

Our approach is to work with local communities, local government and commercial bus companies to create an innovative positive synergy to achieve wider public transport services within Oxfordshire.

Since late November 2020 we have had discussions with both commercial bus companies and local government. We are looking at ways to bring about an affordable, inclusive and integrated service model to Oxfordshire's rural and suburban communities. We are hopeful that this proposed model will address the areas that are currently without service or not served adequately.

The Central Government's National Bus Strategy sets out a long-term investment of £3 billion for the renaissance for public bus & coach transport. The strategy recognises Community Transport as a key component of the necessary network connectivity.

Once set up, F&LM would encourage a community, with a service operating through their village, to take on the management and operation of that service. F&LM would be available with support and assistance. We hope each community will want to have ownership at some level.

We hope Community/Commercial public transport could be one solution to improve connections, reduce isolation and car dependency. To bring long term success to this Community Transport Enterprise, First and Last Mile need volunteers.

F&LM's proposal is for its first service to be Standlake to Long Hanborough Rail Station via Stanton Harcourt, Sutton, Eynsham and Freeland, diverting occasionally to Northmoor and Babcock Hythe through the day.

There is some way to go, and we want communities to join in the journey. Our mantra is 'Not the passenger to the bus, but the bus to the passenger' how we get there will take time, but the delivery of a reliable, comfortable, affordable and appropriate service is achievable.

Please take a look at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/firstandlastmile
or email: contact@firstandlastmile.co.uk www.firstandlastmile.co.uk

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STAGECOACH 233 SERVICES OVER EASTER WEEKEND

Over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend, the majority of Stagecoach services will be running to a Sunday timetable, including the Oxford Tube. A **Saturday service** will operate as normal on **Saturday 3rd April**.

Good Friday 2nd April - Sunday Service

Saturday 3rd April - Saturday Service

Easter Sunday 4th April - Sunday Service

Easter Monday 5th April - Sunday Service

Tuesday 6th April - Normal service resumes

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

W 24 Mar Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
Su 28 Mar **BRITISH SUMMER TIME STARTS - put your clocks forward an hour**
Su 28 Mar **Farmers' Market - Freeland Village Hall car park 10am - 1pm**
W 31 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
F 2 Apr **Bank Holiday**
M 5 Apr **Bank Holiday**
Th 8 Apr Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
W 14 Apr Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
M 19 Apr **Freeland Parish Council 'Zoom' Virtual Meeting, 7.30pm**
W 21 Apr Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
Su 25 Apr **Farmers' Market - Freeland Village Hall car park 10am - 1pm**
W 28 Apr Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
M 3 May **Bank Holiday**
Th 6 May Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection

WOODSTOCK AND DISTRICT u3a

The Branch has now had a run of increasingly well-attended monthly speaker meetings on-line. Our March speaker meeting, centring on family and its environment, heard Jeff Rozelaar recalling his upbringing in post-1945 East London, while

Tuesday 6th April promises Christine Cox on the Verney family of Claydon House. Further ahead, the **Tuesday 4th May** event sounds likely to open our eyes to the minutiae of horticulture, with a retired entomologist revealing 'All you might ever need to know about slugs' (did you know that of the 40 or so varieties in the UK, only around 6 are plant pests).

As I write, it looks pretty certain that those April and May meetings will continue to be on-line. After that the picture is a tad less certain. Our Committee members and Group leaders pore over the advice from national u3a Trust, and from Downing Street.

More positively, our Play Reading Group are pondering a celebration of St. George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday (**Friday 23rd April**) with a brief outdoor reading from the Bard's works. Let's hope the weather will be more 'As You Like It' than 'The Tempest.' See details of the Branch's activities at **www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock**

Chris Sladen



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The deadline for articles or adverts for the **May Grapevine** is **Monday 12th April**.
The **May** edition should be in the church porch and online at
www.freelandoxon.co.uk from Friday 23rd 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. We do not endorse any advertisers or their services or products, nor any articles, reports or suggestions in the Grapevine.



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