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April 2024

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ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Good Friday 29th March 2.00pm Whole Benefice Meditation

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Sunday 31st March 10.00am Communion - Easter Day

Leader: Rev. Steve Bellamy

Preacher: Rev. Steve Bellamy

Sunday 7th April 10.00am All Age Communion

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

**Sunday 14th April 10.00am Morning Praise - Joint service with
Christ Church at St Mary's**

Leader: Rev. Mike Madden

Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

Sunday 21st April 10.00am Communion

Leader: Rev. Mike Madden

Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

Sunday 28th April 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Rev. Steve Bellamy

Preacher: Rev. Steve Bellamy

Sunday 5th May 10.00am All Age Communion

Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart

Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

The above information is correct on the date published (24/03/2024). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website below.

**St Mary the Virgin is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm/dusk.
Please enjoy the space to look around, for prayer or for quiet reflection.**

See our website at www.hfchurch.org.uk

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is now only open for burials, and no longer for ashes interment. The space for burials is limited. We will provide notification on our website and in the Grapevine when the graveyard reaches its capacity.

For further information or to contact the church, please see our website www.hfchurch.org.uk or use the QR code.



Freeland Parochial Church Council

**Front cover from an original painting © JaneTomlinson.com of
'The Green Man brings Spring to Chapel Meadow'**



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Useful contact details:

Rector: Rev. Steve Stewart
01993 881270

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

Associate Rector: Rev. Mike Madden
Email: associate.rector@hfchurch.org.uk

Curate: Rev. Heather McCulloch
Email: heather.mcculloch@hfchurch.org.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers:
Clive Berry 01993 882080

Hugh Dalton *Emeritus* 01993 881742

Churchwarden:
Colin Griffiths
01993 357336

Flowers in the Church:
Janet Dalton
01993 881742

Contact via website www.hfchurch.org.uk

Weddings: Rev. Steve Stewart 01993 881270 rector@hfchurch.org.uk
administrator@hfchurch.org.uk

You will find all sorts of interesting information about St Mary's on the "A Church Near You" website: www.achurchnearyou.com/5863

You can see a virtual tour of St Mary's on Google Street View at:
<http://goo.gl/g53NJH> Thank you to Nikhilesh Haval for allowing the use of the images.

Children and Youth Work - families are really welcome at all our services. At St Mary's the first Sunday of the month is a Family Service where everyone stays in church together. At the other **10am** services the young people have the opportunity to take part in youth friendly activities at the back of church.

Hitchhikers If you have children at secondary school (or are one yourself!), you are welcome to join us every other week between **5.30pm and 7pm on Sundays** to have snacks and hot chocolate, catch up with friends, play some board games, and share a short thought from the Bible. It is usually held in our home, so do phone us for dates and more information if interested. Sarah and Nigel Knights Johnson (**01993 359 572**) on behalf of the Youth Team.

The above information is correct on the date published. Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website at: www.hfchurch.org.uk

| | | |
|--|--|--|
|  <p>First Steps</p> | <p>Baby and Toddler Group</p> <p>Wednesday (term time only), 10:00 - 11:30</p> <p>Christ Church, Long Hanborough</p> <p>£2 per family (under 1s free)</p> |  |
| <p>We welcome all under 5s and their parent/carer. Join us to meet others and enjoy free play and fun activities together. Each session finishes with refreshments, a Bible story and song time.</p> <p>For more information: hfchurch.org.uk/firststeps</p> | | |
| <p>Please note, you now need to sign up in advance to secure your place due to high demand. You can sign up from 5pm on the Sunday before the session. Please see our website for more details.</p> | | |

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Letter from our Rector, Rev Steve Stewart:



Every guest who appears on the Radio 4 show “Desert Island Discs” is given a copy of the Bible to take to their imaginary island. It’s not just because we are a “Christian country”, but actually because it is a truly incredible book.

The Bible is the written bedrock of the Christian faith. Through the Bible, God reveals not only the things which are good for us – and not good for us – but also his love for us. The Bible reveals to us the meaning of life, indeed what it means to be human and to lead a life full of purpose not just now but into all eternity.

The Bible is where we learn about Jesus – not just historical facts about his life and death, but the meaning for us of his life, death and resurrection. It is an incredible book. We think the Bible is worth looking at and getting to know and understand. It is not human beings’ words about God, but God’s word about human beings.

And so, beginning on Sunday 21st April at 4pm and for 7 weeks, Hanborough and Freeland churches will be running a series of sessions called “Just for Starters” (J4S).

There is no knowledge or expertise whatsoever required to come along to “Just for Starters”. All we will do each week, in a relaxed and friendly environment, is have a look together at a couple of Bible verses and chat together about what they mean: what they tell us about God and what they tell us about ourselves.

Maybe you are somebody who knows nothing whatsoever about Christianity: you are extremely welcome to join us! Maybe you are somebody who knows a little but would like to understand a bit more: you also are extremely welcome. Or perhaps you have been a Christian for a while and would just enjoy looking at the Bible: you too are extremely welcome. Nobody will be expected to pray. Nobody will be made to do, or think, or believe anything.

For one hour, over tea, coffee and (hopefully!) cake, me and my colleague Rev. Heather McCulloch (our curate) will simply open the Bible, take a look at what it says and chat through it with the group in a relaxed, safe and informal environment. Everyone who comes along will be given a little booklet which is just to help us ask questions – and keep us on track!

If you are interested and would like to join up, or simply have some questions, just email me at rector@hfchurch.org.uk or **01993 881270**. *Continued.....*

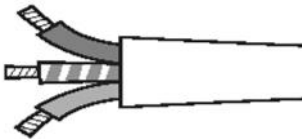
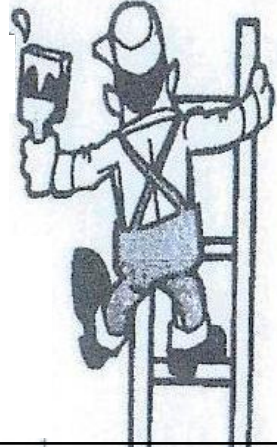
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STEVE : 07969 930518

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GAS SAFE : 65024

Continued.....

With much love in Christ Jesus,

**Rev. Steve Stewart,
Rector, Hanborough and Freeland**

If you would like to learn more about church and what it means to be a Christian, simply join us at any of our churches on a Sunday morning (see hfchurch.org.uk) or contact me for a chat at rector@hfchurch.org.uk

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Maundy Thursday 28th March 8.00pm Communion
Leader: Rev. Mike Madden Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

Sunday 31st March 10.00am Communion - Easter Day
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Sunday 7th April No Service at St Peter and St Paul
You are invited to worship at St Mary's or Christ Christ church this morning

Sunday 14th April 10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

Sunday 21st April 10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Sunday 28th April 10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Dr Nick Wood Preacher: Rev. Dr Nick Wood

Sunday 5th May 10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

Sunday 31st March 10.00am Communion - Easter Day
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

Sunday 7th April 10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Mike Madden Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

Sunday 14th April 10.00am Joint service with St Mary's at St Mary's

Sunday 21st April 10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

Sunday 28th April 10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch Preacher: Jonathan Ford

Sunday 5th May 10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Mike Madden Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

The above information is correct on the date published. Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website: www.hfchurch.org.uk

Chimney Sweep

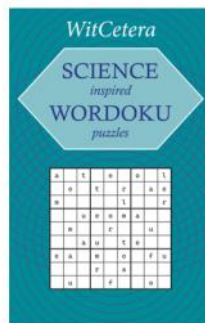
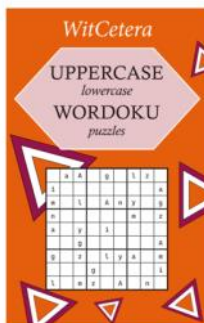
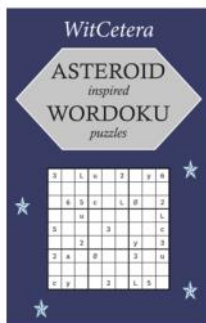
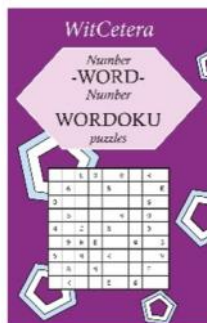
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EASTER SERVICES AT FREELAND AND HANBOROUGH CHURCHES

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ"

(Galatians 6:14)

Here are our Easter services as we remember, proclaim and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and, as always, all are welcome to join us for these services:

Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday 8pm - Communion at Ss Peter & Paul

Friday 29th March Good Friday 2pm - Whole Benefice Meditation at St Mary's

Sunday 31st March Easter Day 10am - Easter Communion at St Mary's

Sunday 31st March Easter Day 10am - Easter Communion at Christ Church

Sunday 31st March Easter Day 10am - Easter Communion at Ss Peter & Paul

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures"

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

ST MARY'S ELECTORAL ROLL



Notice is hereby given that the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Freeland will be revised by the Parochial Church Council between **21st March and 21st April 2024**.

The full text of the notice is currently displayed in the church porch and is available from me, by request. Further details regarding any amendments or additions to the roll will be given in the notices during the period of revision.

Any queries should be addressed to me at: **rogfner@aol.com**

Roger Faulkner, Electoral Roll Officer



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St. Mary's Bible Fun Club
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Children's Easter Craft & Activities



Good Friday 29th March - 2pm to 3pm
Freeland Village Hall

Come and join us for lots of fun - crafts, games, and egg hunt, along with the telling of the Easter story.

Everyone welcome!

From 3pm we will be serving hot cross buns.

Organised by



NEW YATT RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Volunteers are urgently required on a regular weekly basis for our morning or afternoon riding sessions and for our pm rota (1/2 hour at 4.30pm on a sign up basis). If you are able to spare a few hours once a week to help provide therapeutic riding to children and adults, please check out our website www.newyattRDA.org.uk and email us at nyrda-volunteers@googlegroups.com

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 Performed by local people and singers from Oxford Operatic Society.

Tickets £5. Donations welcome for refreshments after the concert.

All profits to charities supported by St Mary's Parochial Church Council.

For further information and tickets, please contact

Denise Ball **denball52@yahoo.co.uk / 07970 021 557** or

Claire Soanes **clairesoanes@hotmail.com / 07854 702 560** or

Roger Faulkner **rogfner@aol.com / 07930 306 114**

ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

- Sunday 31st March 9.30am - 10.00am Easter Sunday**
- Sunday 7th April 9.30am - 10.00am**
- Friday 12th April 6.00pm - 7.00pm**
- Sunday 21st April 9.30am - 10.00am**

Practices are held on **Monday** nights from **7.30pm to 9.00pm**

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**

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

Contact: Gill Breakspear Tel: **883914**. Email: **gillbreakspear@btinternet.com**

All services are in the chapel. A warm welcome awaits you all.

- Sunday 31st March 10am Rev. J. Skinner (Holy Communion)**
- Sunday 7th April 10am Mr David Sarbutts**
- Sunday 14th April 10am Rev. Charles Harris (Holy Communion)**
- Sunday 21st April 10am Mr Bob Forster (Family Service)**
- Sunday 28th April 10am Mr Eddie Fowler**
- Sunday 5th May 10am Rev. Fred Ireland (AGM and church family lunch)**

Please see **www.westoxfordshiremethodists.org.uk** for all the latest information.

www.firmfizzique.co.uk

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TUESDAY - 6.30pm Pilates, 7.30pm Yoga

WEDNESDAY - 9.30am Pilates

THURSDAY - 10.00am Yoga/Pilates mix

THURSDAY - 6.30pm Yoga/Pilates mix

THURSDAY - 7.30pm Yoga - Breath - Meditation

FRIDAY - 9.30am Yoga/Pilates mix

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Eynsham Consolidated Charity provides small-medium sized grants to local residents who are in need of financial help.

Please apply in total confidence via the Clerk, Catherine Barton, by emailing **eynshamcharities@gmail.com** or by writing to the Trustees via the Clerk, 60 Dovehouse Close, Eynsham, **OX29 4EX**

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Address : Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4HR Phone: **01865 881613**

Website: **www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk**

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

Holy Week Services - See news sheet on parish webpage.

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS..... A WARM INVITATION

to join us at **7pm Monday 8th April 2024**

in The Tolkien Room, St Peter's Catholic Church, Eynsham
to watch Episodes 5 and 6 of The Chosen 'The Wedding Gift'
and 'Indescribable Compassion'



If you haven't come along yet, each episode is stand alone - you can come at any point.

Meet, talk, share refreshments.

We hope you can come.

You will be most welcome.



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FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

Fix My Street

The potholes are particularly bad this year - please keep drawing attention to this by adding them to the **Fix My Street app**, which alerts Oxfordshire County Council or via fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk. You can also report damaged kerbstones, flooded pavements, gullies, etc.

If you would like to become a 'Super User', which will help speed up the process of repairs, then email fayf.fpc@gmail.com for further details.



Annual Parish Meeting

On **Friday 10th May, from 7.30pm**, we will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall. We are trying a slight change in format this year, with a shorter formal session of presentations, followed by a chance to explore displays from various organisations and speak to the Councillors and Clerk, sharing concerns and ideas. If you aren't able to make the first section, just drop in and mingle in the informal session, when refreshments will be served. More information on **page 43**.

Please save the date.

Defibrillators

We are very lucky to have 2 defibrillators in our village. One is located by Freeland Primary School in the old telephone box. The other is located on the left hand side of the Freeland Village Hall entrance porch. If these are used for an emergency please let me know as soon as possible on fayf.fpc@gmail.com, so the pads can be replaced. We do hope that they aren't needed, but it is good to know they are there just in case. www.defibfinder.uk/

Green tip

The climate crisis has resulted in a string of records being broken over the past years, and February 2024 was no different. Even before the month had finished, the Met Office predicted that February 2024 will be the UK's hottest, and wettest, February on record. In the final reckoning last month was the world's warmest February in modern times, extending the run of monthly records to nine in a row. Given these extreme climate events, it is perhaps not surprising that a recent survey of nearly 130,000 people in 125 countries found "almost universal" support (86%) for climate action.

When thinking about what part we can play in protecting the planet it is perhaps worth remembering an ancient quote: '*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children*'. Reflecting this quote, this is an invitation to start imagining what sort of planet we would like to leave for future generations. We are very good at focusing on dystopian futures, but for a change let us imagine a better place. If we cannot imagine a better future, then what chance do we have of creating it? Perhaps at home with your family, or at work with your friends, let's talk about the positive future we would like to see in the world. We must never forget the power of words and stories to change attitudes and outcomes.

Continued.....

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Planning Applications

All planning applications can be viewed on the Parish Council website at www.freelandpc.org.uk (under Planning Tracker) or on the WODC website at publicaccess.westoxon.gov.uk/online-applications/

You can also contact the Planning Team at the WODC Wood Green Council Offices on **01993 861420**.

Applications Received:

24/00576/HHD, Harlyn, 145 Wroslyn Road Freeland

Demolition of existing garage and erection of single-storey rear extension

Applications under consideration or appeal:

22/02377/FUL & 23/00015/APPEAL Conversion of Methodist Church to form a single dwelling is subject to a current Appeal Hearing. Additional Information has been made available by the Appellant in the form of a Viability Report. A representation against the contents of this report has been submitted by Freeland Community Benefit Society, supported by the Parish Council. Please see page **46** for more information

Appeals Casework Portal reference no. **APP/D3125/W/23/3315925**

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

24/00292/HHD 181 Wroslyn Road Freeland

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of rear extension to create additional living space over two floors.

24/00215/S73 Chalfont, 3 Wroslyn Road, Freeland

Variation of conditions 2 and 3 of Planning Permission **22/02862/HHD** to allow design and material changes (**retrospective**).

24/00216/S73 Chalfont, 3 Wroslyn Road, Freeland

Variation of condition 2 of Planning Permission **23/00124/HHD** to allow design changes (**retrospective**).

Botley West Solar Farm

We have submitted our comments on the Adequacy of Consultation to WODC. In summary we argued that the documentation provided was not easily interpretable and did not convey the vast scale of this project in any way. There was no public event in Freeland and it would not have been easy, due to bus timetables, for residents without a car to attend the other nearby venues (Long Hanborough, Eynsham and Cassington). The timing of the events (mainly on weekday afternoons) limited options for working people or those with young families to attend.

The next step is for West Oxfordshire to submit their report on the Adequacy of Consultation to the Planning Inspectorate and if it is not considered adequate, there is the small possibility that the developers will have to re-do the Consultation.

Further details on West Oxfordshire's consultation response is on their website at <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/botley-west-solar-farm/>

Applications Approved:

24/00248/HHD 125 Broadmarsh Lane, Freeland

Erection of single storey front and side extension

Continued.....

MJ Fyson BA BA VetMB MRCVS
Wroslyn Road
Freeland
Nr. Witney
Oxon OX29 8AQ
E-Mail:coachhousevets@yahoo.co.uk



We are a traditional independent small animal
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1st Floor, 32 New Rd, Woodstock, Oxford OX20 1PB
T: 01993 811 792 E: info@woodstocklaw.co.uk

Continued.....

Applications Refused:

24/00002/HHD 87 Wroslyn Road, Freeland

Construction of part single-storey and part two-storey extension to dwelling, involving demolition of existing single-storey garage, with associated alterations to existing dwelling.

24/00081/PN42 Harlyn, 145 Wroslyn Road, Freeland

Erection of single storey rear extension (part pitched roof, part flat roof), 6m x 2.75m height to eaves/4m max height.

Playpark

We will soon be topping up the sand in the shelter again as the weather improves and it gets more use. Please don't forget to let us have any ideas for things you'd like to see added – just drop me an email.

Please also report any issues or incidents (should one unfortunately to occur) to **fayf.fpc@gmail.com**

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.30pm**, in the Newell Room.

Please note this time and venue is subject to change; please check the village website and noticeboards for the final agenda up to five days before the meeting in case of alterations.

If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter and have access to the internet, please have a look at the Council website where lots of useful information is held. The website is **www.freelandpc.org.uk** You can follow us on Facebook (**@freelandpc**) or Twitter (**@freeland_pc**).

Alternatively, please contact me between the hours of **9.00am – 4.00pm, Monday to Friday - Fay Friend, Parish Clerk on 01993 357851 or email: fayf.fpc@gmail.com**

FREELAND WINE CLUB - Friday 3 1st May 7.30pm

Discover unique Czech wines with Freeland Wine Club!

Wines of Bohemia brings to us hidden gems from South Moravia, carefully chosen for their exceptional quality.

They've impressed international judges and local wine lovers alike, being featured in Club Oenologique magazine and as a finalist at the International Wine Challenge Industry Awards 2023. Join us to taste a selection, probably including Palava, a white grape native to the region, and André, a delicious red blend. This is your chance to explore something truly special!



FREELAND WINE CLUB

Wine Club dates for the rest of 2024 are: **Fridays 3 1st May, 26th July, 27th September and 29th November**. To book a place (Guests **£15**) or to register as a member (**£10**) to get invites and reduced rates for all meetings please email **FreelandWineClub@gmail.com**



Freeland House & The Lodge



Situated in the friendly village of Freeland, 11 miles from Oxford, on the edge of the Cotswolds, set within beautiful grounds overlooking the Oxfordshire countryside.

Both homes offer a variety of care services including nursing, residential, respite, dementia, convalescent and palliative care.

Freeland House offers a comfortable, homely and welcoming atmosphere in contrast to The Lodge, which is a unique, modern 45 bedded purpose-built extension located beside Freeland House. Our individually designed person-centred care packages offer the highest quality of care.



So much to look forward to...



Freeland House & The Lodge, Wroslyn Road, Freeland, Nr Witney OX29 8AH
tel: 01993 881258 | email: manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk

YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL EXPLAINED

Dear residents,

You should have received your new Council Tax Bills by now. West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) sends these out as the collection agency, but most of the funds go to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), Thames Valley Police Authority (TVPA) and Freeland Parish Council (FPC). Band D is the benchmark for comparison; e.g., the charge for Band A is one-third less while that for Band H is double. In Freeland the tax for Band D will be **£2,315.60** shared as follows: **OCC 78.6%, TVPA 11.6%, WODC 5.4% and FPC 4.4%**. The increase on the past year is **£109.40 or 5%** and this comprises **£86.50 to OCC, £13 to TVPA and £5 to WODC**.

FPC has increased its tax by **5% to £101.40** having set a Precept of **£72,000**; a rise of **£3,131** over the previous year. About **40%** of the Precept will go towards the Village Hall loan repayment and the rest for maintaining village facilities and other overheads. The last instalment of the loan repayment is due in 2035. You will be able to find out more at the Annual Parish Meeting on **Friday 10th May**.

WODC's budget for the coming year allows for an increase of around one million in the cost of services to **£16.8 million** because of inflation, restructuring the bureaucracy and growth in non-core projects. There was already a big increase in the previous year's budget due to pay inflation and higher energy prices. The budget is just about balanced but only because of a one-off accounting adjustment from the past year and increases in fees and charges, including another **£5** rise in the green waste license which now stands at **£50**. The Council's financial resilience is likely to weaken unless the administration gets a grip on costs or it receives more government funding going forward.

I am particularly concerned about OCC's finances. Statutory Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care and Education (after government grants) account for more than 70% of spending. Although the government has provided a last-minute funding settlement to enable OCC to balance its budget, this was contingent on a 5% increase in its share of the tax (which is the maximum allowed without a referendum or special dispensation) and followed hikes in fees and charges. Yet, funding for key services remains severely constrained and spread very thinly on highways, public health, waste disposal, fire, libraries, etc.

So, you would be forgiven for feeling over-taxed and under-served. This leads me nicely to representation. Local elections will be held on **Thursday 2nd May** for my seat on the district council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the parish council if it is contested. And please remember to take a valid ID with you to the polling station. Yes, really!

Dr Alaa Al-Yousuf – District Councillor (Independent)

| | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET CO-OPERATIVE | | | |
| Witney | 08.30 - 13.30 | Fri 26 April | Fri 24 May |
| Woodstock | 08.30 - 13.00 | Sat 6 & 20 April | Sat 4 & 18 May |
| Details of other Farmers' Markets at www.tvfm.org.uk 01235 227266 | | | |





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01865 880837

32 Corn Street, Witney OX28 6BL
01993 776486

mail@greensfunerals.co.uk
www.greensfunerals.co.uk



FUNERAL PLANS FROM
Golden Charter
Smart Planning for Later Life 

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

The subject of the talk at the end of February was an entirely new one to us. Harriet Rycroft's talk was entitled 'Potty Time - a year in pots'. She told us that she had over 700 pots in her garden, all sorts and sizes made into displays. She changed a lot of them each season which must have been a painstakingly long process but she enjoyed every minute of it. She then filled a large pot to demonstrate her technique, including many long release plant food granules, broken pots on their side filled with soil and plants, stones and numerous plants. We didn't think we would be copying her example having so many pots!

The speaker on **Monday 22nd April at 7.30pm** in Freeland Hall is a favourite one of members. Mandy Bradshaw's talk this time is 'Find the Angle at Chelsea - a Journalists View of the World Famous Flower Show'. This will be our first talk about Chelsea which may encourage some of us to go this year in May.

A reminder of the talk on **Monday 25th March**, same time and venue, of our own Freeland resident Graham Walker's talk on 'The History of Notcutts Garden Centre. We hope some of his local friends will come and join us to support Graham and maybe consider joining the Club.

There is a Gardening Items and Plant Sale at each Hall meeting.

For more information about the Club please contact Terry Jones at

davidjones30@talktalk.net

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)

FREELAND COMMUNITY BUSTIMETABLE **EVERY THURSDAY - AVAILABLE TO ALL**

£2 each way. Or you can use your bus pass.

Outbound pickup:

Freeland Village Hall ----- **10.00 am**

Little Free Library – 138 Wroslyn Rd ----- **10.05 am**

Nash Lane ----- **10.05 am**

Freeland Primary School ----- **10.05 am**

With drop off at:

Waitrose car park, Witney

Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney

Return pickup:

Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney ----- **12.30 pm**

Waitrose car park, Witney----- **12.40 pm**

With drop off by request anywhere along Wroslyn Road

INFORMATION

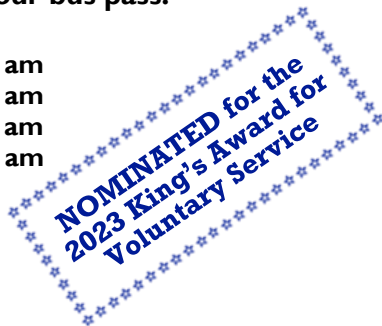
For more information or to volunteer as a driver or helper please contact:

Alaa Al-Yousuf **Tel: 07768 898914**

Email: alaa.alyousuf@gmail.com

MORE DRIVERS AND HELPERS WANTED!

Version 013 04/09/2023





Wroslyn Road, Freeland OX29 8AQ

Open: Monday-Saturday 9am - 5.00pm; Sunday 9.30am - 5.00pm

Tel:- 01993 881430

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

New season's vegetable and flower seeds

Seed potatoes, onion sets and shallots

Ornamental trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants

Vegetable plants and herbs

Growing sundries & plug plants to get your planting off to a flying start

Pots and containers in a variety of sizes and colours

A good range of composts, including peat free, mulches & manures

Breakfast & After School Club held at Freeland Primary School

We are open Monday - Friday: Breakfast Club 7.30 - 8.45am and
After School Club 3.15 - 5.15pm.

We offer a wide variety of activities including indoor and outdoor play. It is all about playing and having FUN!

The Easter Holiday Club will be open from 2nd - 5th April and 8th - 12th April, and the
May Half Term Club will be open 28th - 31st May.

We have lots of fun activities planned including arts and crafts, sport, indoor and outdoor play and much more!



If you would like more information about the
Breakfast, After School or Holiday Clubs please
contact: **Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887 711454**
Email: info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk
website: www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk
Please see our website for current job
opportunities across the Clubs

**NEW EDITOR NEEDED FOR THE FREELAND GRAPEVINE -
an important part of church and village life in Freeland**

After many years of doing a brilliant job as editor of the Freeland Grapevine magazine, Kenny Wylie is "hanging up his keyboard". This magazine is an important part of church and village life in Freeland, and it would be great to find a new editor as soon as possible. Whoever comes into the role will be given full and extensive training by Kenny.

Kenny writes:

"The Freeland Grapevine is a printed monthly production. It is also submitted online to the Freeland village website and the Freeland Parish Council website. The printed Grapevine is, apart from the colour cover pages, in black and white. The online versions are in colour.

Currently the monthly print run is 800 copies, with an additional 50 copies in November and January to cover the copies that are sent out to all the advertisers at those times of the year.

I am very happy to spend time with the new editor(s) (the job could be split up), to show them how I put an edition together and to go through the whole routine."

If this is something you might be interested in exploring, then please do contact Kenny at freelandgrapevine@gmail.com

Rev. Steve Stewart, Rector, Hanborough and Freeland

**FREELAND TEDDY GIRLS'
SPRING FAYRE**

SATURDAY 11th MAY

10am until 12noon

FREELAND VILLAGE HALL

Coffee, Cakes, Plants and Raffle

Display of pictures by the Art Group

Raising money for the Play Park in Freeland

Come and see the talented young people of MYCO (The Musical Youth Company of Oxford) in their main 2024 show

Me And My Girl **The Oxford Playhouse** **April 3rd to April 6th**

'The Happiest of Musicals'

Tickets from the Oxford Playhouse 01865 305305 or oxfordplayhouse.com



COTSWOLD **GARDEN** **DESIGNER**

- Looking to improve your outside space but stuck for ideas on how to make the most of it?
- Want somewhere to entertain?
- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?



I can provide a full garden design, planting plans or a simple garden report - some ideas of how you could best use your outdoor space and the types of plants that you like and would suit the environment.



CONTACT LORRAINE:

lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk
07516262560
www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk

FREELAND WI



Our meeting on Monday 10th March was our Annual Meeting which once again provided an opportunity to look back at this last year and forward to the year ahead. Reports were received from the President, committee and treasurer.

Last month's vote for the resolution to go forward from Freeland WI was 'Dental Health Matters'. A very topical subject at present.

It has been another very successful year for Freeland WI. The current members of the committee were all willing to stand again with Rachel Workman being voted on as a new committee member. Anne Marvin was re-elected as President and Rosie and Marilyn will continue as secretary and treasurer respectively. It is 10 years since Freeland WI was formed and so after the business part of the meeting, celebratory refreshments and an anniversary cake were served. Thank you to Dawn, a committee member, for making the delicious cake. This was followed by a game of handbag bingo. You would not believe what Freeland WI members carry in their handbags!

At our meeting on **Monday 8th April**, we look forward to welcoming Peter Tickler, an author whose talk is entitled Blood on the Keyboard! We await with bated breath! This year we continue to support the Witney food bank at our meetings.

Freeland WI normally meet on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall, starting at **7.45pm** and finishing around **10pm**. Our meetings usually consist of an activity or speaker, a raffle and refreshments. We always look forward to welcoming visitors and new members at our meetings. You will receive a very warm welcome. A copy of this year's programme was included in the January Grapevine. If you would like to discuss joining us for a trial session or to become a member, please contact our secretary, Rosie James. We would love you to join us.

Information from earlier years is available on our website:

<https://freelandwiuk.wixsite.com/freelandwi> whilst current information is on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/freelandwi

Alternatively please contact our secretary Rosie James on **01993 881997** or at freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Aileen Tattam - Freeland WI

NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

On **Tuesday 2nd April** Chris Danziger will be telling the tale of Napoleon and the Rosetta stone.

On **Tuesday 7th May** we will be learning about the Ancient English Morris Dance with Michael Heaney.

We meet at **7.30pm** in the Memorial Hall in North Leigh, **OX29 6SA**. All welcome. Members **£18** per year, visitors **£4** per talk. Further details are available from Diana Power (**01993 882301**) or Robert Kyte at kyterobert@gmail.com and **01993 880368**.

Exhibition of drawings & paintings by Jane & Paul Tomlinson for Artweeks

7 Pigeon House Lane, Freeland

Sat 4, Sun 5, Sat 11, Sun 12 May 12 noon - 5.30pm



Original art, hand-painted maps, cards & gifts

- Vibrant paintings of birds, nature & maps by Jane
- Exquisite drawings of townscapes & buildings by Paul

janetomlinson.com



FREELAND HALL

The perfect venue whatever the occasion!



FREELAND HALL

Bookings / further details:

✉ freelandhall@gmail.com

🌐 www.freelandhall.co.uk

Including the Newell Meeting Room and changing facilities

The weekly Seated Exercises, or standing if you prefer, restarted on the 1st March at **Freeland Village Hall at 11am**, every Friday (not Good Friday)



These fun and gentle exercises are designed to boost and improve flexibility, mobility, coordination and balance, making everyday tasks easier.

The 45-minute exercise sessions are **FREE** and followed by a well-earned drink. You can be sure of a warm welcome so why not come and join in?

If you have questions contact Dot Sharpe **01993 882182** or Jane at firmfizzique@btinternet.com

PS You won't need any special equipment - just your comfortable clothing.

FIRST AND LAST MILE

On the 411 and 418 service, all our single fares are now £2. Bus passes are also accepted.



NEW TIMETABLE from Monday 19th February

New service leaving Freeland Village Hall at 08.05 for Bartholomew School. Return leaves the school at 16.00. 07584 927 050 or info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com

www.firstandlastmile.org.uk

Services run Monday - Friday only

Service 411 Eynsham to Hanborough via Freeland

NOT Bank Holidays

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Eynsham Church | School | 10.20 | 12.20 | 14.25 | School | 17.25 |
| Eynsham Surgery | Service | 10.24 | 12.24 | 14.29 | Service | 17.29 |
| Bartholomew School | ↓ | 10.25 | 12.25 | 14.30 | 16.00 | 17.30 |
| Freeland, Village Hall* | 08.05 | 10.30 | 12.30 | 14.35 | 16.06 | 17.35 |
| Long Hanborough, New Road | 08.10 | 10.35 | 12.35 | 14.40 | 16.10 | 17.40 |
| Church Hanborough, Hand & Shears | 08.14 | 10.38 | 12.38 | 14.43 | 16.14 | ↓ |
| Hanborough Station | ↓ | 10.43 | 12.43 | 14.48 | Not in Service | 17.45 |
| Bartholomew School | 08.25 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | Not in Service | ↓ |

Service 411 Hanborough to Eynsham via Freeland

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|
| Hanborough Station | 09.00 | 11.00 | 13.00 | 14.50 | | 17.50 |
| Church Hanborough, Hand & Shears | 09.05 | 11.05 | 13.05 | ↓ | | ↓ |
| Long Hanborough, New Road | 09.08 | 11.08 | 13.08 | 14.53 | | 17.55 |
| Freeland, Village Hall* | 09.12 | 11.12 | 13.12 | 14.57 | | 18.00 |
| Eynsham Surgery | 09.18 | 11.18 | 13.18 | ↓ | | 18.10 |
| Eynsham Church | 09.23 | 11.23 | 13.23 | 15.07 | | 18.14 |

* Bus will stop anywhere it is safe to do so along Wroslyn Road, when hailed

RAIL CONNECTION TIMINGS

FREELAND / HANBOROUGH / OXFORD & return

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 411 Bus | Freeland, Village Hall* | 10.30 | 12.30 | 14.35 | 17.35 |
| 411 Bus | Hanborough Station | 10.43 | 12.43 | 14.48 | 17.45 |
| Train | Hanborough Station | 11.19 | 13.19 | 15.17 | 18.14 |
| Train | Oxford Station | 11.29 | 13.29 | 15.27 | 18.32 |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Train | Oxford Station | 08.44 | 10.46 | 12.45 | 13.44 |
| Train | Hanborough Station | 08.53 | 10.55 | 12.54 | 13.54 |
| 411 Bus | Hanborough Station | 09.00 | 11.00 | 13.00 | 14.50 |
| 411 Bus | Freeland, Village Hall* | 09.12 | 11.12 | 13.12 | 14.57 |



FREELAND PRE-SCHOOL

A safe, nurturing and stimulating environment - where all children are given the opportunity to learn through play, socialise and develop.



A combination of our experienced staff, large outdoor play area, forest school-style lessons (in the local woods) and partnership with Freeland Primary School makes Freeland Pre-School a popular choice for families from Freeland and further afield.



Taking children from 2 - 5 years old.
Get in touch today for more information!

✉ freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 01993 882945
www.freelandpreschool.org 📱 @freelandpreschool

THE UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS 3/3/2024

Some say Rambling, or maybe walking, strolling, ambling or even marching, with that in mind, yes it's March! If you were born in March your birth flower is the daffodil! The first month of spring is March, which starts between the 19th and the 21st.



The name for March comes from Mars, the Roman god of war. Named as such in Julian and Greg's calendars (no sausage roll jokes please!).

On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first-ever phone call. It was to his assistant and he said "Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you."

And sadly Twitter, as it used to be called back in the day, was launched on March 21, 2006, with the first tweet going out the same day. It was posted by the founder, Jack Dorsey, which read "just setting up my twttr." (What no hashtag #?).

Eleven animal-less people set off from the bus shelter opposite the Yeoman just after 10am, walking a slightly longer than usual 7-ish miles in total, heading north and then slightly left towards mosaics, down a very steep hill alongside a river with what looked like a new yellow brick road (Mrs Trellis had predicted there would be a new road back in 2015, before she became hooked on spice). It started as a misty and really quite cold March day. This soon changed as the sun came out and we were all then moaning about being overdressed, so out came the cakes. This month we had fruit cake and lemon shortbread (many thanks to Janet). Of the eleven starters, nine made it to the Yeoman and seven tried out the new tables and chairs for the newly established "end of ramble" meal! It was great!

No picture this month as it was scaring the horses.....

Our next Ramble will be on **Sunday 7th April**, starting at **10am** from the bus shelter opposite the Yeoman Pub. **All are welcome to join us.**

Ramble on! - Alexander Graham Bell (3rd March 1847)

FREELAND CRAFT CLUB

A fine collection of Easter Chicks and Bunnies, each to be filled with a creme egg, to raise money supporting Helen and Douglas House. Then to try some FIMO paste ideas.



As well as doing our own work, we try to explore different crafts at

some of our meetings and have an enjoyable time doing it We meet in the Newell Room at the back of the Freeland

Village Hall each Wednesday afternoon from **2pm – 4pm** . There is usually a subscription of **£1** per meeting to cover hire costs.

For further information, or someone to go with, please contact:

Helen Molden **01993 882305** or Margaret Wright **01993 881316**
(margaret.wright160@gmail.com)

Margaret Wright

HANBOROUGH BOWLS CLUB

Bowls is a sport for ALL and our Club is open to ALL.

You are never too young or too old to give bowls a try. It offers a way of exercise. It is a social activity, it can be competitive, but most of all it is fun.

The Club will open for the Summer Season on **Monday 15th April 2024.**

Come and join us on a **Monday afternoon at 2pm &/or a Friday evening at 6pm.**
The green will be available for two hours each session.

No experience is necessary you just need flat shoes. Qualified coaches will be there to help and advise.

Come to your local Club to give bowls a go, come and see what we have to offer.

A warm welcome awaits you.

Freeland Open Gardens

22nd & 23rd June 2024

We would really love to run this event on the 22nd and 23rd of June, but we need a few more gardens for this to happen.

If you have a garden, large or small, formal or for wildlife, we would love to hear from you.

We will be offering cream teas, raffle and a garden in a pot competition for the children.
More details to follow.

All proceeds will go towards village projects.

Please consider taking part.

For more information or to get involved contact:
Shelagh Kardos **01993 657626** or
email **shelaghkardos@gmail.com**



During March, the sections did the following:

Rainbows have celebrated Thinking Day (22nd February), by thinking about making the world the best that it can be and what can harm the planet. They have also been doing some top-secret crafts for March 10th and thinking about uniqueness through making pizzas.

The **Brownies** celebrated Thinking Day by thinking of other Brownies in the world. They continued to focus on their chosen charity 'Tiggywinkles' by bringing in donations for the animal sanctuary and also drawing thank you pictures. They have been TV presenters for a night too.

Guides made their own games and did activities about guidelines.

Help Needed Please

Did you used to be in Guiding and would like to return, or would you like to join us for the first time? Could you spare a couple of hours a week to show girls new things? Our units are looking for new leaders and helpers, especially the Guide units. Please get in touch if you can spare any time, it is very rewarding, just ask one of the leaders freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com



BRIDEWELL GARDENS PLANT SALE

Thursday April 25th to Saturday April 27th – 10am to 1pm:
plants for sale in Bridewell's vineyard (the walled garden will not be open during the plant sale). Garden opening dates on the website.

Bridewell Gardens, Wilcote OX7 3DT
01993 259058 www.bridewellgardens.org
Charity no. 1158456



The four yearly
Parish Council Elections
will soon be upon us.

Thursday 2nd May, 2024

Whilst a few of the serving Councillors will seek re-election; others, who have given years of dedicated service, will not...So

Freeland Parish Council needs you!
“Your Village needs you”

What has the Parish Council done for us?

Answer...

Village assets (Parish Council assets) consist of: -

- Village Hall complex, including...
Hall/ meeting room/ changing rooms/ carpark and gardens.
- The playing field (including the children’s play area) and home to Village football and cricket clubs.
- The Garden of Remembrance.
- Village allotments.
- The village green and pond.
- Amenity areas.

The Parish Council meets once a month for approximately 2 hours to discuss relevant topics, e.g.

- Income and expenditure/ budgets.
- Administration of precept money.
- Facilitation of traffic calming measures.
- Liaising with West Oxfordshire District Council on local planning issues.
- How to better Freeland for the future.
- Facilitating and embracing changes that allow our community to flourish.
- The Parish Council is a legitimate and essential part of local government, through which the views and wishes of the community and individual residents can be channelled through to the District Council, County Council and Westminster.
- The Parish Council is normally a consultee on major matters affecting the Parish.

And, after our monthly meeting, we go to our local pub!

If you would like to stand, please contact Fay Friend (Parish Clerk)

fayf.fpc@gmail.com for more information or for information/application packs.

Completed forms need to be handed into Reception at the back of the WODC Wood Green Council offices (near the committee rooms) and ask for Sharon Ellison or the Elections Officer. Forms must be handed in before **4pm on Friday 5th April**

If you know someone you think would make a good Councillor, please tell them so.

www.freelandpc.org.uk

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

According to the official website (littlefreelibrary.org) there are more than 175,000 Little Free Libraries across 121 countries around the world, and to date, an estimated 400 million books have been shared.



That incredibly high number makes it difficult to picture just how many books that is, but there is one author that has sold over 400 million books, all by himself! Do you know who it is? (The answer is at the end of this article).

Thank you as always for giving and taking books in equal measure. That's how the Little Free Library works: take as many books as you like and give some when you can. This means that there is a constant rotation of different books coming and going. You never know what you'll find!

We've had a few occasions recently when people have left cardboard boxes of books by the Little Free Library. Please don't do this: donated books should be either left inside the Little Free Library if there's space on the shelves, or else put inside the donation boxes. These boxes can be found behind the bus shelter (in front of the village hall) or in the box next to the small Little Free Library outside 138 Wroslyn Road. Thank you for your understanding.

So, who is the author that's sold over 400 million books?

The answer is: James Patterson. He's a very prolific writer, and there's usually at least one of his books in the Little Free Library at any given time!

Many thanks from:

Matthew & the Little Free Library volunteers (Sue, Fi, Jenny and Caroline)

01993 359 543 ruddlem@gmail.com


ARE YOU READY FOR THE ELECTIONS?

Have you registered, and have photo ID ahead of the elections on Thursday 2nd May?

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call 0800 328 0280



The
Electoral
Commission

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT 

FREELAND ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Wendy Marks

MENDELSSOHN

Symphony No 4 in A major 'Italian'



RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

The Tsar's Bride

NICOLAI

Overture to The Merry Wives of Windsor

2pm, Saturday 11 May 2024

St Leonard's Church, Eynsham

TICKETS £5 ON THE DOOR · UNDER 18s FREE



MARIE CURIE



QUIZ NIGHT

The Oxfordshire Yeoman

172 Wrolysyn Road, Freeland, Witney, Oxon OX29 8AQ

Wednesday, 22nd May 2024

Wednesday, 25th September 2024

Wednesday, 27th November 2024



7.30 For 8pm Start

QUIZ, BAR, CHARITY RAFFLE

Quiz Entry £3 Teams of up to 6 people.



Please don't worry if there's only a couple of you as we can make up teams on the night! It's a great way to socialise and make new friends!

For more information please contact

Nicky Clargo 07754 271831 Email: oxfordshire.stars@gmail.com

www.meetup.com/oxfordshire-stars-walks-socials-and-charitable-events

www.facebook.com/oxfordshirestars.gigsevents

Registered Charity No. 207994

FREELAND PRE-SCHOOL IS 50 YEARS OLD!

We had a great day celebrating on the 28th February:



**T: 01993 882945 E: freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk www.freelandpreschool.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/freelandpreschool**

1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP



We are very lucky to have such active groups here in Hanborough and Freeland. Compared to other local Scouts groups, we seem to have a wider variety of activities, which keep our young people happy, engaged and excited to come along each week.

Our **Beavers** group, for example, recently went on a night-hike in Hanborough and took along a bat detector with them to try to identify bats coming out of hibernation. The following week they planted sunflower seeds as part of their gardening badge, and the week after that they visited Crocodiles of the World in Brize Norton. It is this wide range of activities that maintains a sense of wonder and excitement that helps the children to feel committed to continuing their scouting journey.

This all just doesn't happen by magic, of course. Our adult volunteers are the ones that do the planning and organising to make these events and activities so successful.

Now, this is where you come in. Are you available on Wednesday evenings to support our Beavers group? The Beavers team urgently require more adult leaders to volunteer each week to ensure we can run effective, enjoyable and safe weekly sessions.

Beavers are our youngest Scouts members (age 6-8 years old) and they meet at Freeland Village Hall, early on **Wednesdays** evenings, usually around **5.30 - 6.45pm**.

Sadly, without more volunteers coming forward we can't run the Beavers sessions. In fact, lately, we have sometimes had to cancel sessions due to a lack of volunteer leaders, which as you can imagine, disappoints our young members.

To get involved please contact Steve, our Group Scout Leader, via email gsl@hfscouting.org.uk to start a conversation about how you can help.

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep.)

THE ARTS SOCIETY OF WEST OXFORDSHIRE

Lectures in April and May start at 7.30pm in Witney Corn Exchange. Visitors £7.

The hall opens at 6.45pm so members can meet and have a chat before the meeting, with wine and juice on sale. Information at www.taswox.org.uk



Thursday 11th April: “The Hay Wain: an in-depth look at a familiar masterpiece” - Timothy Wilcox

No English painting could be more familiar than Constable’s The Hay Wain. But what does it actually represent? What is it about? Painted in 1821 as the third of the series of great six-foot landscapes based on scenes of the Stour Valley on the Suffolk-Essex border, it undoubtedly shows Constable at the very height of his powers. There is much more to it, though, than a vivid recollection of a beautiful summer’s day. As well as studying the picture physically, through sketches, x-rays, and accounts of its painting (and repainting), the lecture reflects on how Constable used poetry and the work of historic and contemporary artists to build a richly suggestive atmosphere into this homely rural episode.

Thursday 9th May: “The classical re-invented: the brilliant legacy of Sir Christopher Wren” - Ian Swankie

In this talk, Ian winds the clock back to the seventeenth century with an armchair tour of some of Wren’s magnificent structures including City Churches, the Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich and, of course, his greatest masterpiece St Paul’s Cathedral. Wren was primarily a mathematician and astronomer and Ian will show how these disciplines are harnessed in Wren’s work. Ian will also look at the origins of the classical orders of architecture and discover how Wren’s love of this ancient system is everywhere to be seen in his legacy.

Our talk in March centred on the way in which natural selection and our intervention in the animal world gives us the animals we know today.



We look forward to our next speaker meeting on **Thursday 4th April** entitled ‘Keep Your Hair On’ as we welcome back Alan Jones. Discover the lucrative but very secret world of Hair. This is a hair-raising story embracing culture, fashion and faith that is sure to grip you by the long, short or curly! - do join us.

U3a is aimed at those no longer in full time employment with daytime hours available to participate in community based activity or interest groups. Membership year commences in April. Several new groups are growing quickly augmenting the traditional Art, Recorders, Book Club and Needlework. Our quiz which is on the 4th Thursday of the month **2 - 4pm** at the Scout/Guide Hut in Woodstock also welcomes new members – next dates **28th March and 25th April**. Do check out the website for further information. www.woodstocku3a.uk

As a taster, visitors are welcome to the members’ speaker meetings charged at **£2** to include tea and biscuits; decide then whether u3a is a positive for you. Doors open at **1.45 for 2pm** speaker at St Hugh’s Church Hall, Hensington Road, Woodstock; we look forward to welcoming you here.

Sue Blackshaw – Chair Woodstock & District u3a



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Friday 10th May
7.30pm-9pm
Freeland Village Hall

Refreshments served

New format for 2024!

7.30-8.00pm short presentations

8.00-9.00pm a chance to
circulate, view village group
displays, and meet Councillors



WIND CONCERT

7.30 pm

Sat 11th May

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
Eynsham

FEATURING

WOW WOC WOL WOCI
West Oxfordshire Wind Groups
Conductor - Wendy Marks

Tickets: £5 on the door
Under 18s FREE
www.OxfordWoodwind.co.uk

MILITARY VEHICLES



Combe Mill in
Steam

Sunday 21 April
10.30am ~ 5pm

Children FREE

Tea Room Open

Dogs Welcome



Browse our market stalls

Children's activities

Adults £9.00, concessions £7.50, children under 16 free

Ask about making a donation and qualifying for a 12 month pass
See www.combemill.org or telephone 01993 358694 for full details
Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxfordshire OX29ET

FREELAND CRICKET CLUB



It's now less than 8 weeks before the start of the new season, and if the rain stops we'll be playing cricket at the start of May!!! We have been coaching the **Under 13s and 15s** for the past three weeks and we are pleasantly surprised with the ability the players are showing.

In the past few weeks we have been busy securing sponsorships and we will be announcing these next month.

If there are companies or individuals that are interested in supporting the largest participant club in the village please contact me.

I have also just ordered the new bowling machine and we will have this available for the beginning of our outdoor training.

The outdoor training will start after the Easter holidays, the days and times are as follows:

Monday April 15th - 6pm Under 11s

Tuesday April 16th - 6pm Under 13s

Wednesday April 17th - 6pm Under 15s and Cherwell league.

The **Women's Softball** team will also train on **Wednesday** evenings, and the **Women's hardball** team will train on **Fridays** at Eynsham.

We will start the **Under 9s on Saturday 11th May at 10am.**

If you want to play, or you have a child who is interested please get in touch.

To continue our fundraising we will be holding a **Race Night** in the pub on **Friday 12th April at 7pm.** If you are interested, please book a table directly with the pub.

Simon Brown - Chair

E: freelandccul1@gmail.com

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

Facebook: Freeland Cricket Club

MAKING MODEST MUSIC

Do you like to play an instrument (of any sort) but never practice enough?

Did you play at school and fancy getting back into it?

Would getting together once a month with a few others be just the encouragement you need?

Well the village now has a place for you to go and share your interest with likeminded people.

At our first session we all had a bit of a play and set some modest targets for next time, including a first stab at an ensemble, for piano, sax, Irish flute and ukulele, of Cohen's Hallelujah.

Interested? Email kenjedfish@gmail.com (preferred) or text **07982 134991**, or call that number if you don't do either of those things.



FREELAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY - VILLAGE HUB PROJECT

Following the refusal by WODC of the Methodist Circuit's second application last year to convert the Methodist Church into a dwelling, the Circuit did appeal this. In their appeal they made reference to a confidential Report that they claim showed that a shop and cafe would not be viable. This document has now been made public and can be found by searching for application **22-02377-FUL** at:

<https://publicaccess.westoxon.gov.uk/online-applications/>

FCBS have submitted a rebuttal of this claim, supported by Freeland PC and the Plunkett Foundation and we continue to await the Inspectorate's decision. These submissions may not yet be on the above website and if you would like copies please contact us.

Shops are only one of the many ventures that communities own and run as social enterprises – these include pubs, recreational facilities, power generation and even community housing. If you would like more information about the Hub project or have ideas for community initiatives that Freeland CBS might help with, please contact one of the Management Committee members (below) or email

freelandvillagehub@gmail.com.

Colin Smith, Chairman Freeland CBS Management Committee, **881704**

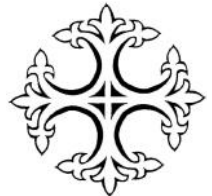
Roger Faulkner, Vice Chairman, **622413**

Andy Murray, Secretary, **880310**

EYNESHAM MEDICAL GROUP

Please note that Long Hanborough Surgery, Hanborough Pharmacy and Eynsham Medical Centre will be closed on **Good Friday 29th March and Bank Holiday Monday 1st April**.

We will be open as usual on **Tuesday 2nd April**. We wish you all a lovely Easter!



CHANGES TO THE STAGECOACH S7 BUS TIMETABLE

Stagecoach made some relatively minor timing changes, for reliability purposes, to the **S7** bus route from **Sunday 10th March**, with the major change being that the service is withdrawn from Woodstock in the very early mornings and in the evenings.

They've made this decision because turning buses in Woodstock market place was opposed by local residents and traders and there was an incident resulting in an alternative being required, which was not cost-effective and involved using the turning area at Wootton (north of Woodstock).

The **S7** will no longer serve Oxford rail station and will now terminate at Magdalen Street East, Oxford city centre on all journeys, and begin the Witney bound trip from bus stop **C4 on Magdalen Street West (outside the Randolph Hotel)**.

You can see the new timetable here: **https://tiskon-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford_Timetables/S7_current.pdf**



TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN EYNSHAM



From **Monday 1st to Friday 12th April** a section of Acre End Street in Eynsham will be closed 24 hours each day to allow for repair work to be carried out on the roof of the Jolly Sportsman. It is the section of Acre End Street between its junction with Mill Street/Lombard Street and Station Road.

You can see a map of the closure, and a suggested diversion route at:

https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/variable/organisation/37/attachments/jollySportsman_April2024.pdf



FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB

It's been a quiet month for the **Firsts** this month. They were beaten by Premier League Charlbury in the Cup and then were handed a walk over from Chq United.

Both **Under 17s** teams are doing well with the Freeland Village side sat 2nd in their League.

The **Under 10s** are still unbeaten and will be heading to finals day for their Cup and looking to continue their unbeaten run in the Spring League.

We are still looking to potentially have an **Under 9s** side for next season and the **Under 10s** are also looking to boost their numbers, so if your child would like to be involved please do get in touch.

Men's fixtures:

30th March H v Boughton

6th April H v Kingham

13th April H v Moreton

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came and supported the Fun Day that was held on the 17th March. We managed to raise over **£300** which will help to go towards training costs and equipment for the **Under 10s**.

The **Under 10s** Coach is Emma Wylie - emmawylie54@hotmail.com

The **Under 17s** Manager is Stuart McNaughton - stu.mac@aol.com

Ben Symonds - Secretary: bensymonds@hotmail.co.uk

Simon Hole - Chairman: Si_hole@hotmail.com

www.pitchero.com/clubs/freelandfc/

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

Ben Symonds



NEW ROUTE FOR THE OXFORD TUBE serving Witney & Eynsham

There are now four Oxford Tube services each weekday morning serving Carterton, Witney and Eynsham, with three return journeys in the afternoon. Additionally other Oxford Tubes will be serving High Wycombe.

You can see all the details of the new higher frequency service and connections at:

<https://www.oxfordtube.com/OctoberServiceChange.aspx>

Bartholomew Players present

15th-18th May

PACK OF LIES

by Hugh Whitmore

Tickets available on the door or in advance from:
Denise: 07721 744020 • Evenlode DIY
www.trybooking.com/uk/DDJB
bart.players@gmail.com



£12
7.30PM

EYNSHAM VILLAGE HALL OX29 4QW



@BARTPLAYERS1975 • BARTHOLOMEWPLAYERS

THIS IS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS LTD

EYNSHAM VILLAGE HALL | BACK LANE | EYNSHAM | OX29 4QW | WWW.BARTHOLOMEWPLAYERS.CO.UK @BARTHOLOMEWPLAYERS

Rotary 
Club of Eynsham

**Present a fundraising
Murder Mystery
Save the Date
for an evening of sleuthing**

Saturday 11th May

At 7.30pm

Eynsham Village Hall

SUPPER - BAR & RAFFLE

FREELAND ENERGY GROUP

The Group has formally joined the Low Carbon Hub. What does this mean? Low Carbon Hub describe themselves on their website (www.lowcarbonhub.org/) as being 'at the heart of a collective effort to catalyse a low carbon economy in Oxfordshire, both through **powering down** to decrease energy demand and through **powering up** to increase renewable energy supply'. How does Freeland Energy Group fit in, I can hear you thinking?

Maybe you will recall that our members carried out the house thermal imaging project this winter? That was a first step in bringing awareness to decreasing energy demand by alerting householders to where there may be heat leaks from their homes. The outcome from this session was that we wondered that perhaps householders who had already taken first steps in better insulation and more aware were the people who requested the thermal imaging? Our volunteers may even be a little disappointed they did not get any major glowing light shows on those cold night missions, but they do expect to take out the camera again next winter.

If you are someone who has already introduced clean energy into your home through solar panels, heat pumps or changed to an electric car, for example, how did you sift through the sales pitches, what actually was involved in fitting panels? Could you help someone else by sharing your experience, help demistify the technology? Would you be prepared to be on a list of contacts if someone needed to better understand the processes involved? If you are interested in supporting this idea with practical insight please contact Colin on the contact details below.

The Community Action Plan for Zero-Carbon Energy (CAPZero) is central to the Low Carbon Hub and has now been published (see website above). The plan sets out targets to 2030 for business, households, transport and local energy generation in Eynsham, Hanborough, Freeland and other local Parishes, served by the Cuckoo Lane sub-station. Freeland Parish Council will be represented on the Steering Group for this Project and the Freeland Energy Group will be supporting home and business owners who wish to reduce their energy costs and move to renewable energy. If you would like a copy of the report or have any question about the CAPZero Project, please contact me.

Colin Smith csmithprivate@hotmail.com **01993 881704**

FREELAND WALKING GROUP

The group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month for a walk of about 5miles followed by lunch at the place, usually a Pub, where the walk begins. Sometimes the walks, led by a club member, are local but at other times we travel by car to the Pub from which the walk begins and where we have a meal together afterwards,

If you would like to join us on a walk please contact me at hjdalton43cv@gmail.com so that I can put you in touch with the person leading the walk that month and they can send you details of the walk, when to meet and a menu so that you can pre-order your lunch. New members very welcome.

The next walk is on **Wednesday 17th April**.

Janet Dalton

CHANGES TO LANDLINE TELEPHONES

The UK's telephone network is being upgraded, which means that landline services are changing. You can still have a landline in your home, but the technology that powers it will be different. For most, switching over will be straightforward, but some people may need new equipment or support to make the changes. The following guidance is taken from information provided by Age UK.

What is changing?

Landlines have been delivered through an analogue network for decades, but this is being replaced with newer digital technology.

The new system is called 'Voice over Internet Protocol' (VoIP). You may also hear this referred to as a digital landline or 'Digital Voice', the name of BT's new home phone service. BT is one of many network providers making this change.

Once you've moved to the new digital system, your landline will mainly work as it always has, although there will be some differences. For example, it won't work if there's a power cut so you'll need an alternative solution such as a mobile phone or battery backup unit for emergency calls (but we have more information about this below).

What is digital landline? Will I need an internet connection to make phone calls?

Digital landlines use an internet connection to make and receive calls. Given this, you'll need an internet connection at home to use the new landline digital system.

If you already have a broadband connection, then the new digital landline system will use this. But don't worry - if you don't have broadband, your network provider, such as BT and Virgin Media O2, will supply you with a connection to support the new digital landline system. You shouldn't pay extra for this if you don't choose to take up a broadband service.

Throughout this page, we'll be talking about broadband and broadband companies or services. When we say 'broadband', we just mean a high-speed internet connection.

Why are these changes happening?

The current analogue landline network needs to be replaced because it's old and is becoming difficult to maintain. The new digital landlines use the internet to make phone calls – this offers better quality calls as well as some additional features such as protection from scams.

UK phone and broadband companies are leading this change and are working with Ofcom, the Government and others. The aim of Ofcom (the communications regulator) is to make sure customers don't face unnecessary disruption or harm because of the changes.

When are these changes happening?

The changeover has already started, and some people have already been moved to the digital system.

This is an industry-wide change, but timescales may differ depending on your service provider. However, for most networks, the move to digital landlines will happen by December 2025.

Providers will contact their customers ahead of the change to let them know when they'll be making the switch to a digital landline.

Continued.....

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BT, for example, is rolling out its programme on a region-by-region basis. However, in general, they aren't currently switching certain groups, as long as they're aware of people's circumstances. The groups who aren't currently being invited to switch are:

- people aged 75 and over
- people who have disclosed any additional needs
- people who only have a landline (and not broadband)
- people with telecare alarms
- people with no mobile signal at home.

Originally, BT weren't contacting people aged 70-74, but they're now inviting a limited number of people in this age group to switch as part of a new trial. These will be people living in urban areas with broadband and a good mobile signal.

In some areas, changes to the network will mean that everyone will be contacted about moving to the digital system. You may also be moved to the new system if you decide to move to a new phone and broadband package.

Other companies have also started rolling out digital systems, and this may include all customers.

Whoever your telephone provider is, make sure they're aware if you have a telecare alarm or if you may need additional support.

What happens when I change to the digital system?

Your telephone provider will contact you in advance to let you know when your system's changing and what you need to do. In some cases, an engineer will need to visit to make changes.

For the majority of people, the change will be straightforward. If you already have a broadband connection, you may just need to plug your phone into your broadband router or you'll be sent an adapter that connects to your phone and plugs into your router. If you have more than one phone socket with separate handsets, you may need additional adapters.

When you're contacted by your provider let them know if you have any questions or concerns about moving to the digital service, or if you need any additional help. Although everyone will need to move to the digital system at some point, you may be able to delay this if you're not ready to switch.

Can I keep my phone number?

Yes, in most cases you'll be able to keep your current phone number.

Will I need a new phone?

Nearly all existing handsets will work with the new system. But if you do need to change your handset, your phone provider will be able to advise you on this.

Will anything else be affected, like my telecare?

The switch to digital landlines may affect telecare devices and other equipment such as personal alarms and security alarms if they're connected to your phone line. You should contact your device supplier to check if your device will work with the new system or whether any equipment will need to be upgraded.

Continued.....

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Although your landline telephone provider will contact you before the switch takes place, you may want to let them know about any telecare devices that you have in advance.

If you're buying a new device that's linked to the phone system, you should also check with the seller or manufacturer that this will be compatible.

Will my new phone contract be more expensive?

For BT customers, there's no difference in price for its Digital Voice home phone product. Virgin Media has also said that people won't pay more than what they already pay for their current service.

This means that you shouldn't face extra costs if you need a new simple internet connection to make calls.

What happens if there's a power cut?

Unlike some traditional corded analogue phones, a digital phone will only work in a power cut if it has a battery back-up, because it normally uses your home electricity. In these instances, phone companies are advising people to use mobile phones as a backup.

If you're dependent on your landline phone - for example, if you don't have a mobile phone or you live somewhere where there's no or poor mobile signal, then your telephone provider must offer you a '**resilience solution**' to make sure you can make emergency calls during a power cut. This could be a mobile phone (if you have mobile signal) or a battery-backup unit that connects to your landline phone and provides power in case of a power outage.

This resilience solution should be provided free of charge to people who are dependent on their landline. If you're not eligible for a free resilience solution, you may be able to purchase one from your provider or another retailer - talk to your provider about the options available to you.

Is there anything else I should watch out for?

As the switchover is affecting millions of homes, this can create an opportunity for criminals to develop new scams. These scam attempts could happen over the phone, via email, or in person on your doorstep.

Remember the following scam advice when someone's contacting you about the switchover:

STOP – take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or your personal information.

CHALLENGE – could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. You should never feel rushed or pressured into making a decision.

PROTECT – contact your bank immediately if you think you've been a victim of a scam and report it to Action Fraud by calling **0300 123 2040**.

Other unscrupulous people may also try to sell you equipment or get you to sign up to expensive contracts that you don't need. In these cases, it's important that you don't rush into making any decisions. You can always seek a second opinion and speak to your phone company – they should be able to advise you about what you need.

BT: www.bt.com/help/contact-bt **EE:** <https://ee.co.uk/contact-ee>

VIRGIN: www.virginmedia.com/support/help/contact-us

SKY: <https://www.sky.com/help/home/sky-talk>

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

DIRTY CARPETS? GRUBBY UPHOLSTERY? Friendly, Local Service. Unbeatable Results. Call GRIMEBUSTERS - **01993 868924**

KNIVES, wood chisels, axes, secateurs, hedge trimmers, shears, mower blades, etc, sharpened to original specifications. Contact "**Sharpedge**" **01993 881464**

COUNTRY FISH & CHIPS Freshly cooked Fish and Chips in Freeland every **Thursday night from 6.45 - 7.15pm** on Wroslyn Road near the junction with the A4095. Tel: **07791 459 849**

THE CAKE CAFÉ, FREELAND

Regular café first Tuesday of the month, **9.00 - 11.30am**, Freeland Hall
Friday Bakes at the Yeoman from **9.30am**
jane.cakestudio@gmail.com

CATKINS Genuine Cat Lover available for home visits whilst you are out or on holiday. References available. **Debbie: 07805 583 419 or Janice: 07896 990 801.**

FREELAND PIANO TEACHER has vacancies for Piano/Flute/Recorder Tuition. Beginners welcome, both Adults and Children. Email **jane.duff17@gmx.com** for more details.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND DESIGN - planting, pruning, weeding - advice for free. Michelle Turkie **michelleturkie@gmail.com 07531 717 991**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

M 25 Mar Freeland Gardening Club, Freeland Hall, **7.30pm** History of Notcutts Garden Centre
W 27 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Su 31 Mar Start of British Summer Time - clocks forward one hour at 1am
Tu 2 Apr The Cake Café, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am
Tu 2 Apr North Leigh History Society, Memorial Hall, North Leigh, **7.30pm, £4**
W 3 Apr* Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
F 5 Apr Seated Exercise (or standing if you'd prefer!) class, Freeland Hall, 11am
Su 7 Apr Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers - **10am** from opposite the Yeoman
M 8 Apr Freeland Parish Council Meeting, Newell Room, **7.30pm**
M 8 Apr Freeland WI, Village Hall, **7.45pm** - Peter Tickler 'Blood on the keyboard'
W 10 Apr* Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Th 11 Apr The Arts Society of West Oxfordshire, Witney Corn Exchange, 7.30pm, £7
F 12 Apr Seated Exercise (or standing if you'd prefer!) class, Freeland Hall, 11am
F 12 Apr Freeland Cricket Club Race Night, Oxfordshire Yeoman, **7pm**
Su 14 Apr Freeland Grapevine - May edition deadline day
W 17 Apr* Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
W 17 Apr Freeland Walking Group - meet at the Village Hall car park at **9.15am**
F 19 Apr Seated Exercise (or standing if you'd prefer!) class, Freeland Hall, 11am
M 22 Apr Freeland Gardening Club, Freeland Hall, **7.30pm** 'Find the Angle at Chelsea...'
W 24 Apr* Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
F 26 Apr Seated Exercise (or standing if you'd prefer!) class, Freeland Hall, 11am
Th 2 May Local Council Elections, Freeland Village Hall

*This may change as the 2024/5 schedules have not been announced at time of publication.

HANBOROUGH & FREELAND RUNNING GROUP

FOR 18 TO 99 YEAR OLDS,
EVERYONE WELCOME

ENJOYABLE, WEEKLY, FREE,
PEER-LED RUNNING GROUPS

For info: HanFree-run@outlook.com

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/HanFree-Run>



The deadline for articles or adverts for the **May** Grapevine is **Sunday 14th April**. The **May** edition should be online at: www.freelandoxon.co.uk or at www.freelandpc.org.uk from **Monday 22nd April** with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from **Friday 26th 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 **22p 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 127mm wide, 1/2 page size is 90mm high x 127mm 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

The presence of an advertisement in the Grapevine does not constitute a recommendation by the editors regarding the goods or services advertised.

We are not able to publish any correspondence between tradespersons or other organisations placing adverts in the Grapevine and their customers in the event of dispute

We do not endorse any articles, reports or suggestions in the Grapevine.

COMING UP

March

Wed 27th - Quiz Night in aid of Marie Curie

Sat 30th - Kick off Easter weekend with
Richard Snow, keys and vocalist taking your
requests

April

Sat 6th - Uggy's Pizzas from 5pm

Fri 12th - Race Night in aid of Freeland
Cricket Club

Sun 14th - Sunday afternoon sessions
with live music from Nicky Petherick 1.30 -
3.30pm



THE OXFORDSHIRE YEOMAN

FREELAND, OXFORDSHIRE

Pub opening times

Mon/Tues 5pm - 10.30pm

Weds/Thurs 12 noon - 3pm/5pm-11pm

Fri 9.30am - 11.30pm

Sat 12 noon - 11.30pm

Sun 12 noon - 10.30pm

Kitchen hours

Wed-Sat 12 noon-2.30pm/5.30pm-8.30pm

SUNDAY ROASTS

Sun 12 noon - 3pm.

Booking advisable!

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BLenheim PALACE

Icons of British Fashion - 23rd March - 30th June

Our biggest exhibition to date is now open! The exhibition features an incredible line-up of world-class British designers and labels, with each fashion house taking over one of our significant rooms, and will celebrate fashion from the past through to the present day. The designers include Barbour, Bruce Oldfield, Jean Muir, Lulu Guinness, Stella McCartney, Stephen Jones Millinery for Christian Dior, Temperley London, Terry de Havilland, Turnbull & Asser, Vivienne Westwood and Zandra Rhodes.

Entry is included with an Annual or Privilege Pass or a Palace, Park and Gardens day ticket. Find out more and book at

www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events/icons-of-british-fashion



BLenheim ESTATE

With Easter and springtime comes new life in abundance, and we are looking forward to seeing lambs arriving on the Estate this month. Last year we utilized two different types of rams for breeding our sheep – we introduced the Hampshire Down rams (which are significantly larger and darker in colour) into our flock, alongside our original white Cheviot sheep. As we exclusively lamb outdoors in order to give newborns the best spring grass and nutrients they need, we ask all visitors to please be mindful of walking their dogs in the Parkland. Keeping your dog on a lead is particularly important to ensure that our sheep are not attacked or chased in a way that may cause injury, suffering or miscarriage.

Keep up-to-date with our news and latest events by signing up to our newsletter at

blenheimpalace.com