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St Mary's Freeland



February 2021

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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 churches until further notice.

**St Mary the Virgin, Freeland** is open for private prayer from 9.00am – 4pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

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

You are welcome to join us.

For further details please email:

**[administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk](mailto:administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk)**

**The front cover photo of our new Rector, Rev. Steve Stewart,  
was taken by Bruce Hammersley**

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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](mailto:rector@hanboroughparish.co.uk)

**Curate:** Rev. Mike Madden

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

### Licensed Lay Ministers:

**Clive Berry 01993 882080**

**Hugh Dalton Emeritus 01993 881742**

### Churchwardens:

**Claire Soanes Steve Mellin**

**01993 883205 01993 882044**

Churchwardens' email: [churchwarden.smv@gmail.com](mailto:churchwarden.smv@gmail.com)

### Flowers in the Church:

**Janet Dalton**

**01993 881742**

### Weddings: To be advised

All sorts of interesting information about St Mary's can be seen on the "A Church Near You" website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/5863](http://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](mailto: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 (24/01/2021). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found at

**[www.hanboroughparish.co.uk](http://www.hanboroughparish.co.uk)**

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

Public worship has again been suspended in our Church buildings across the Benefice until further notice. Life as a Christian community 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.

Should you wish to join our 'Zoom' Service at **10am** on Sunday morning for worship and our email circulation list, please email:

**[administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk](mailto:administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk)**

Alternatively, you can also join services at **10.00am** every Sunday morning on the **Oxford Diocesan Livestream**. You can also catch up at any time.

**<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>**



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## **THE REVEREND STEVE STEWART -**

### **Rector of Hanborough and Freeland**

On the evening of Tuesday 19th January, The Reverend Steve Stewart was instituted into his new ministry by a special video conferencing service as we formally welcomed him to Hanborough and Freeland.

The Bishop of Oxford, The Right Reverend Dr Steven Croft, led the service as Steve made his declaration and swore the oaths to enable the Bishop to present our new Rector of this Benefice.

Maybe it was not the service that we would have all initially hoped for, but it did enable many more people than usual to participate than would have been the case in a traditional service of institution. There were over 250 people who were able to join on Zoom from all over the country, made up of not only parishioners from Hanborough and Freeland, but also Steve's previous parish of Cove and previous ministries. The service itself was beautifully presented with music, readings and prayers and included contributions from our Archdeacon, Area Dean, Lay Chair, Ministry team, Churchwardens, Representative from the Methodist Circuit, Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Oxfordshire, Headteacher of Manor School, and Parish representatives from both Hanborough and Freeland.

It is a real blessing to have Steve with us now, and may God bless him and his family as they settle into their new lives here, in this, the most unusual of times.

Steve Mellin (Churchwarden, St. Mary the Virgin, Freeland)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Letter from our new Rector:**

I am *writing* this, on 3rd January, "Epiphany Sunday" – more about that in a moment. We are in our last couple of days in Hampshire. By the time you *read* this the hope is that I will have been installed as the Rector of Hanborough and Freeland.

The removals company begin packing tomorrow. And on 6 January 2021 – Epiphany itself – we move to our new home among you. Amanda and I are full of excitement, hopes, prayers, anticipation – and a little anxiety too. Everything in our lives – and by "our", I mean yours as well as ours – seems to be in transition, from the small things of our moving home to a spiralling pandemic. The future looks more like a series of question marks than a carefully planned spreadsheet of everything that is going to happen in the churches and in our community over the coming months.

Epiphany marks the journey and visit of the Magi to Joseph and Mary to worship Jesus, anticipating the flight to Egypt of Joseph and Mary with Jesus to escape the murderous King Herod. The birth account of Jesus parallels our current experience: anticipation, journeying, transition, and yes, anxiety. Yet, just as in the rollout of the Covid vaccines we have hope in all of the despair, so the lowly born Jesus was and is the hope of the world. Epiphany is not just a time of transition for Joseph and Mary with Jesus, but a time of transition, journeying, waiting and hoping for the entire world. Indeed, a huge part of being a follower of Jesus is to be somebody who waits, hopes and anticipates.

*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](mailto:info@theburnsidepartnership.com)

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Continued.....

I long dearly to do much when I arrive, but I know that much will not yet be possible. I would so love to be able to visit you in your homes, to invite church family into our new home, to gather for worship, fellowship and Bible study, to visit schools, and much more. But many things may not be possible for a while. So I pray God will help us nonetheless to rejoice in the things we *can* do, and to find wisdom and even blessing in the things which we *cannot* do yet: to wait well!

Through these transitions, through this whole pandemic, we can be certain that God is speaking to us, and part of my role at Hanborough and Freeland will be to help us discern together what He has been saying to us all along, so that we might love Him and one another better. As we read God saying in the Bible:

*Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For those who find me find life and receive favour from the LORD (Proverbs 8:33-35)*

May God bless all in our parishes with good things in the year to come.

With much love in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Steve Stewart, Rector, Hanborough and Freeland

\*\*\*\*\*

## **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](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk)**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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**THE CHURCH IS OPEN** for Public Masses on **Saturday at 5pm** and **Sunday at 10am**. Face masks must be worn. There are no weekday masses.

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 and you can either view this live or view it when it suits you as they are all recorded.



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## **HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH**

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

At present, all services will be taking place on 'Zoom' - please contact Gill **883914** or Nigel **881711** for details of how to sign in. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Sunday 31st Jan - 10am** Mr Andrew Maisey

**Sunday 7th Feb - 10am** Rev. Fred Ireland

**Sunday 14th Feb - 10am** Rev. Hilary Ewing

**Sunday 21st Feb - 10am** Rev. Charles Harris

**Sunday 28th Feb - 10am** Mrs Rachel Prince

Please consult the website [www.witneyfaringdoncircuit.org.uk](http://www.witneyfaringdoncircuit.org.uk) for all the latest information.

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## **FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL – LISA'S NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2021**

### **Annual Parish Meeting/Big Lunch 2021**

The Council gave some consideration as to whether to start planning for these events later this year. Due to the current Covid situation with the daily infection numbers and death rates as high as they are, and although the vaccine roll out has started, Councillors felt that it was unlikely that by the end of April, people would feel comfortable enough to sit in a village hall with 100+ other people, assuming of course that restrictions had eased sufficiently to even allow this! So, it was agreed to not plan for these events for the time being, and as and when things change, then it may be decided to hold them later in the year.

### **Parish Council Elections**

Similar to the above, at the moment the Council have been informed that WODC are planning for these to go ahead, although it is felt highly likely that the elections will be postponed again to either later in the year or to 2022. No firm decisions have yet been made, but I will keep you posted as and when I know more. Some Councillors have already expressed their intention to step down from the Council at the next elections, so if you have a little time to spare, and you would be available to attend a meeting once a month on a Monday evening, please do consider becoming a Councillor! They are a friendly bunch who do their best to improve Freeland and make it a fantastic village to live in, whilst listening to residents' views on how things can be made better! It's a great way to get involved in your village and to help make a real difference. Contact me if you'd like to know more or to register your interest.

### **Thefts and Vandalism**

I'm extremely saddened to report that the Parish Council have been made aware of a number of thefts and some vandalism over the month of December. This includes the theft of some garden ornaments (including light up Christmas trees), and also there have been a number of external Christmas lights that have had their wires cut. This has happened on a few different evenings throughout December and always seems to

*Continued.....*

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*Continued.....*

happen in the evening or at night. This is obviously very disappointing to report, and most upsetting and unpleasant for the residents concerned. The Parish Council have been asked to take some action, but unfortunately, we are unable to as this is not within our remit. The best course of action for residents in the face of such incidents is always to contact the police, directly and immediately. The Council would also encourage anyone who has any photographic evidence to forward it directly to the police. We can only expect the police to take action if ALL crimes are reported. Anyone can report a crime that they witness. You do not need to be the owner of the property, as there will be times when the owner is not known, and it will help if the same crime is reported several times. This will then establish that a problem exists, and hopefully action will be taken. If you can record the time and place, and get a photograph of the damage, or even those causing the damage, then that's even better. Luckily these types of incidents are rare in our lovely village, and so it comes as a bit of a shock when these horrible things happen. Please be extra vigilant and if anyone saw anything or has any information about this, please contact your local police by ringing **101**. Thank you.

### **Daffodils**

As advised last month, the lovely daffodil bulbs are now starting to push through ready to display their beautiful bright cheery yellow flowers. These bulbs have been lovingly planted by members of the Gardening Club and every year the flowers make a stunning display throughout the village. Please be mindful that the bulbs are particularly vulnerable whilst they are coming through, so please keep off the grass verges where they have been planted. Thanks very much.

### **Coronavirus – an update**

So here we are in yet another lockdown, and I know this is a worrying time for many so I would like to reassure you that the volunteer service is here to help again with medication collection, or food shopping etc. You should all have received a flyer through your door a week or so ago giving details of what help is available. Do keep hold of the flyer, even if you don't need any assistance right now, if you suddenly become unwell or need to self-isolate, then you can at least know there is help available should you need it. A few things have changed since last year so here is an update on help that is available:

#### **1. Essential food shopping**

If you are unable to leave the house, ring the dedicated Co-op number on **0800 435902** between **8.30am-5.00pm** to place an order and pay over the phone. They will then arrange delivery of your shopping to you.

#### **2. Prescription collections**

If you cannot collect your medicine yourself or are worried about leaving the house, order your meds as normal via the pharmacy (either online or by calling the pharmacy on **01993 880351**), 7 calendar days in advance, make the payment if needed and then call me on **01993 880067** (or Mary Ann on **01993 881027**) or email **[lisa.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.fpc@gmail.com)** to let me know when it will be ready. A local volunteer from Freeland will then deliver your prescription.

*Continued.....*



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Continued.....

### **3. Check-in for a chat**

If you are feeling a bit isolated or would just like to chat with someone please call me on **01993 880067**.

The food bank is also still in place, so please help yourself or continue to donate as and when you can (non-perishable goods only please).

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**NEED SUPPORT?** Ring **01993 880067** and we will do our very best to help you. You can also join our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Freelandcovid19mutualaid> (it has been renamed to Freeland Community Group).

**West Oxfordshire Coronavirus help – [www.westoxon.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/coronavirus)**  
Urgent help available by calling **01993 861077** or email [community.support@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:community.support@westoxon.gov.uk) . (**Mon-Fri 9-5pm**). Outside of these times please call **0151 34 32 945** if you require urgent help. There is also a dedicated phone line and email address for residents in West Oxfordshire struggling to cope: **01865 897820** or email [shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk) .

**The Samaritans** (24 hours) phone **116 123** for help.

For medical advice, use the **NHS 111** online coronavirus service at [111.nhs.uk/covid-19](http://111.nhs.uk/covid-19) or if you have no internet access call **111** from your phone. In a medical emergency, call **999**.

I would like to express a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has offered their help and support once again, without whom none of this would be possible. Take care everyone and stay safe, Lisa Smith, Parish Clerk.

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### **Planning Applications:**

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

**Applications Received: None**

**Applications Approved: None**

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

The next Parish Council meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on **Monday 15th February 2021 at 7.30pm**. Details of how to join the meeting will be available from **Wednesday 10th February** on the village website (under Parish Council/Agendas) and the notice boards or by contacting me at [lisa.fpc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk) . Alternatively, please contact me between the hours of **9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday** - Lisa Smith, Parish Clerk on **01993 880067** or email [lisa.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.fpc@gmail.com)

**Please see page 23 for our thank you to Clare & Nic Warner, our posties**





## 1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUT GROUP

Last year was challenging for us as a group and it looks like 2021 will be no easier.

We still need more volunteers to help us serve the youth of Hanborough and Freeland.

Currently all activities are taking place online only until the government changes the rules. We are very fortunate to have a fantastic team of leaders and volunteers but we do need extra hands to lighten the load.

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](http://www.hfscouting.org.uk) and get in touch via the contact page or send an email to [gsl@hfscouting.org.uk](mailto: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. We will be with you every step of the way.

It is not an exaggeration to say that we will struggle to carry on without new volunteers.

On a positive note we need to say a big thank you to everyone that supported the Hanborough Christmas Post in December. We received over **£200** in donations!

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

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## **ROADWORKS ON WROSLYN ROAD from A4095 to BROADMARSH LANE (southern end)**

Oxfordshire County Council have carriageway patching works planned in the section of **Wroslyn Road**, from its junction with the A4095, to the Wroslyn Road junction with the southern end of Broadmarsh Lane.

These works are scheduled for **Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February from 09.30 to 15.30 each day.**

OCC say that limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section, subject to the progress of the works. OCC also state that where yellow “No Waiting” cones are in place you will not be able to park vehicles on the highway.

The suggested alternative route is via the A4095, Cuckoo Lane and Wroslyn Road and reverse.

You can see details of the Traffic Regulation Notice on the village website at:  
**[www.freelandoxon.co.uk/notice-board/roadclosure-wroslyn-rd.html](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk/notice-board/roadclosure-wroslyn-rd.html)**

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## **SHARING WINTER WARMTH**

Over the last two years many Eynsham and Freeland residents have generously donated their Winter Fuel payments to the Eynsham Consolidated Charity.

The Covid-19 pandemic has starkly exposed an unintended but important paradox.

Whilst many people in our community, with greatly reduced earnings and the real threat of redundancy and unemployment, find themselves and their families at or near breaking point. There are others with a regular and unreduced income that have found themselves spending less and actually feeling better off! Is it possible that you have unintentionally found yourself in this latter category?

If, in these difficult times, you feel fortunate, please consider passing on your Winter Fuel payment to the Eynsham Consolidated Charity. The Charity covers the ancient parish of Eynsham which includes Freeland and makes one-off grants to relieve hardship.

Cheques made payable to ‘**Eynsham Consolidated Charity**’ can be sent to the Clerk, Robin Mitchell, 20 High Street, Eynsham OX29 4HB. Payments may also be made directly to the Charity’s account: Eynsham Consolidated Charity, sort code **09-01-51**, account number **25159404**

The Trustees again thank all last year’s donors, most of whom remain anonymous having made their donations by bank transfer. If you would like an acknowledgement of your gift, please contact Robin Mitchell by post (as above) or by email: **[eynshamcharities@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamcharities@gmail.com)**

**IMPORTANT** If you know of anyone in the villages of Eynsham and Freeland who may benefit from additional support with their winter heating costs, do please let Robin Mitchell know.



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## **FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS**

At present, with the current government guidelines, there are no Men's or Youth football permitted. We do not expect the matches to resume until at least mid-February, when decisions will be made on whether the Leagues will continue with the season.

We hope to be able to bring you some more positive news next month, in the meantime we hope you stay safe and well.

Ben Symonds - Secretary Freeland FC

[www.pitchero.com/clubs/freelandfc/](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/freelandfc/)

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



\*\*\*\*\*

## **FREELAND GARDENING CLUB**

Christmas and New Year are now behind us, so we have spring to look forward to. In spite of cold weather the bulbs are beginning to peep through the soil. We have actually had daffodils flowering for about 6 weeks and it is only the beginning of January as I write this! It is sometimes good to gently fork around the bulbs to loosen the soil but be careful not to decapitate any.

Sweep leaves off hard surfaces to prevent them getting slippery. Now is a good time to check over your tools and give them a clean, oil and sharpen where necessary. Tidying the shed or greenhouse are also ideal jobs to do out of the cold. If you still have stems of plants left over from last year cut them back and tidy around the plants. It is also beneficial to mulch as much of the garden as possible. This helps to keep the weeds down later and breaks up the soil. Use garden compost or buy something suitable from the Garden Centre.

It is a good time to plant bare rooted plants such as trees, fruit and rose bushes during their dormant period. They are also cheaper. Soak them well before planting and follow the instructions the supplier gives.

If you are designing a new garden or reorganising a present one, don't try to do it all at once or you will have a one season garden. Buy plants that are at their best in each season in order to have interest throughout the year.

Continue to feed the birds as they will have a limited source of food particularly in bad weather. Don't forget to give them a good supply of fresh clean water to drink and wash in.

Once again enjoy your indoor plants by careful watering, turning and cleaning them from time to time.

How wonderful nature is that whatever is going on in the world plants will always be there to cheer us up.

We still do not know when Gardening Club Meetings will be able to return, but hopefully it will be sometime before the summer.

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

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)



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## **CONGRATULATIONS TO CLARE AND NIC!**

On behalf of Freeland Parish Council, I would like to offer our sincere congratulations to our amazing post ladies, Clare and Nic Warner, on winning the "Thank you Postie" campaign run by the website 'Not on the High Street'.

This is an extraordinary and incredible achievement, especially since they beat over 20,000 nominations to be crowned the winners of Britain's best loved posties!

Very well done!

The Parish Councillors were delighted to hear this news, and all agreed it was very well deserved. Many, many congratulations to Clare and Nic, keep up the good work, we are all very proud and lucky to call you our Posties!



Clare (on the left) & Nic Warner ©Bruce Hammersley

## **FREELAND CRICKET CLUB**

With the new national lockdown, all cricket has been cancelled and we are not expecting this to change for the rest of the month. We are hopeful that with the introduction of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine there will be a relaxing of the restrictions in the spring.

We are planning to play a full season for all teams this summer, this includes the Women's hardball team playing in the Home Counties League.

We are looking to expand our player pool for all teams, so if you are interested in playing, or would like their children to play, please contact me. We accept children who are in Year 1.

Simon Brown - Chairman Freeland Cricket Club

E: [freelandcc.u1@gmail.com](mailto:freelandcc.u1@gmail.com)

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

Facebook: **Freeland Cricket Club**

Inspired Villages would like to thank readers for their responses to the online Public Exhibition held in December 2020.

We are considering all feedback received ahead of the next stage of consultation, a further online Public Exhibition is planned for March 2021. At this stage we will be seeking your views on a detailed masterplan for the proposals.

Further details including the date and time of the next online Exhibition will be included within the next issue of the Freeland Grapevine and via our website:

[www.inspiredvillages.co.uk/freeland](http://www.inspiredvillages.co.uk/freeland)

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## **FARMERS' MARKET** **at the VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK**

The next Market will be on:

**SUNDAY 28th FEBRUARY 10am - 1pm**

As I write, the market will proceed with food and drink stalls only.

We would like to thank all who attend for their respect to the Covid regulations and are confident this will continue.

The December market raised over **£700** from the Unexpected Tales bookstall for the Helen and Douglas House Children's Hospice charity, with a further **£100** raised for both the Oxford Hospitals Heart Unit and for the Cancer Care Day Unit in memory of Angy Pickett.

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, plus others yet to confirm!

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

## **ALUMINIUM CAN COLLECTION**

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

At the time of writing we are back in lockdown and I imagine we will be for some time to come. I will try to keep the collection going as long as I feel it is safe to do so or until I run out of space to store the cans.

If there are any changes to the collection or I have to suspend it, I will update the Freeland Community Facebook page.

Please continue to crush ALL the cans as flat as possible, its more important now than before.

Please note: **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**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THE OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, WOODSTOCK**

Sadly, owing to the latest Covid lockdown, we're currently closed.

Keep a look out for more information via our website: **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums** or on our social media accounts on Twitter & Facebook **@oxonmuseum**  
Email us on: **oxonmuseum@oxfordshire.gov** Phone: **01993 814106**

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## **EYNHAM MEDICAL GROUP UPDATE as at 22 January, 2021**

### **Covid 19 vaccination programme**

The Covid vaccination programme began in December and so far we have successfully vaccinated over **1,000** of our patients.

We have now moved onto vaccinating **group 3** (All those **75** years of age and over) and we are contacting eligible patients directly to arrange appointments.

If anyone has not been contacted for a vaccination from **group 1** (Residents in a care home for older adults, and staff working in care homes for older adults) **and group 2** (All those **80** years of age and over, and frontline health and social care workers), please get in touch, but we continue to ask that you do not call the surgery for anything else regarding the Covid vaccination. Thank you for your patience.

### **Flu Vaccination**

We still have some availability for patients that wish to receive their flu vaccinations. Please contact the surgery to book an appointment on **01865 881206**.

### **Move to the new Long Hanborough Surgery & Pharmacy**

We very much look forward to welcoming our patients to our brand-new Surgery and Pharmacy. Unfortunately, due to unavoidable setbacks, we have had to push back the move date, and we hope to move to the new surgery in the springtime.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STAGECOACH 233 BUS SERVICE on Saturdays** will run to a **Sunday service** from **Sunday 31st January** due to the latest lockdown.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS**

Well, here we are in another lockdown. We will keep the Little Free Libraries open for as long as it is safe to do so, or for as long as the government allows, whichever comes first.

If you are shielding or unable to leave home for whatever reason we can deliver books to your door. Please contact Matthew by phone, email or via the Facebook page and we will sort something out for you. We cannot supply specific titles, but we can deliver books from a genre of your choice, as long as we have them (thrillers, for example).

If you are donating books please put them into the boxes next to the Little Free Library (behind the bus shelter or next to the small Little Free Library) to make it easier for us to sort them, and to minimise the number of people handling them.

When taking books home with you please quarantine them for a few days before reading them, to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

Books are perhaps now more important than ever, to help take our minds off the current situation. Stay safe, and happy reading.

Matthew & the Little Free Library volunteers  
**01993 359 543**      **[ruddlem@gmail.com](mailto:ruddlem@gmail.com)**



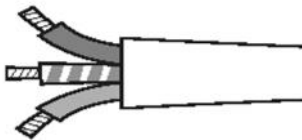
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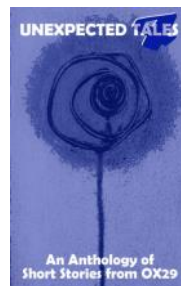


## **UNEXPECTED TALES 4**

We were able to make a fantastic donation of **£770** to Helen and Douglas House, our local children's hospice following our book launch in December.

It is not too late to buy a copy of either the paperback or e-book of Unexpected Takes 4 OX29 Anthology on Amazon.

We are hoping to have an Unexpected Tales 5 and are always keen to receive short stories from new authors. We will let you have more information about how to submit a story in a future Grapevine.



\*\*\*\*\*

## **FREELAND WI**

Happy New Year from everyone at Freeland WI. Although we have started the year in lockdown, with the vaccination programme in progress, we are hopeful that more normal times are not too far off. Like everyone we are all looking forward to a better year. During these unprecedented times, we continue to keep in touch through our monthly newsletter, telephone calls or a keep in touch card. Our members also received a Christmas goody bag, which were assembled and delivered by committee members. Feedback shows that these were greatly appreciated.

We were very aware that Christmas this year was going to be very different for most of us including some people, not WI members, in our local community. We therefore decided that we would deliver a Christmas card to them to show we were thinking of them. These cards were designed by one of our members.

With regard to future meetings we will keep reviewing on the basis of guidance from the government and the Oxfordshire and National Federation.

Members have all been receiving our digital copy of News and Views 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**

If you can afford it, "insulate" your house in as many ways as you can manage. It's a double whammy - you enjoy reduced house heating bills and you reduce your carbon footprint. This is possibly one of the most helpful ways in which you can mitigate the effect of climate change.

**<https://onehome.org.uk/your-home/19-warm-and-cosy-homes/30-how-can-i-make-my-house-warmer-in-winter-and-cooler-in-summer>**

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.

Further information is available on our website:

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

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



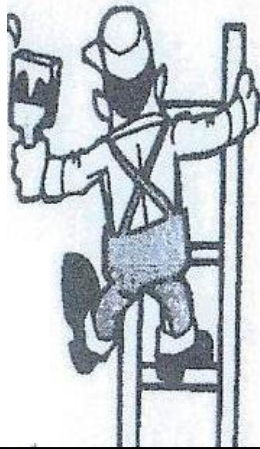
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## **KEY CONSULTANTS TO DEVELOP SALT CROSS ENERGY PLAN**

Specialist consultants have been brought in to work on energy planning for the Salt Cross garden village.

Urbanomy, a new subsidiary of energy provider EDF, has been appointed by Oxfordshire County Council to support Project LEO (Local Energy Oxfordshire).

This contract is a part of the Eynsham Smart and Fair Futures project led by the Low Carbon Hub within LEO.

Other partners include West Oxfordshire District Council with funding from Homes England, the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes University, the Scottish and Southern Electricity Network and low carbon community action group Eynsham GreenTEA.

Urbanomy will build on the published Energy Action Plan (EAP) of the area and assess the energy supply and demand, including smart electric mobility and its impact on the local grid and the wider area.

This will demonstrate the integration of the elements for a smart local energy system and the routes to reach net-zero carbon, taking into account the viability of proposed solutions and demonstrating the benefits for the local community.

Urbanomy will also provide visual displays, adding to the other mapping and strategic tools developed in LEO, to help promote the project locally.

Cllr Jeff Haine, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning at West Oxfordshire District Council, said: “As with every aspect of Salt Cross, we are looking for a highly innovative solution to energy provision.

“It is essential that it is as climate friendly as possible while delivering the comprehensive energy needs of a thriving, modern community. I am fascinated to see how these plans develop.”

Llewelyn Morgan, Head of Innovation at Oxfordshire County Council, added: “Urbanomy will join us to create a new model that will enable a net-zero carbon energy system for Salt Cross, one which benefits the new residents and those already living nearby.”

Meanwhile, the garden village delivery team are moving forwards and anticipate our expert consultants’ financial viability report imminently, with a date for the Planning Inspectorate hearing to determine the draft Area Action Plan to follow.

They continue to work closely with the business community to develop local business and job opportunities for Salt Cross.

### **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 **February** will be on **Tuesday 2nd and 16th**.

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

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## **COMBE MILL**

Sadly, the Mill remains closed due to the current restrictions and it would seem that our normal March opening is doubtful. Our website is always up to date so you can always check it out to see when and if the Mill is open - **[www.combemill.org](http://www.combemill.org)**



Normal maintenance checks do have to be carried out during lockdown by our volunteers and this includes ensuring important elements such as the boiler. No working boiler = no steaming Sundays ..... You will remember that recently had some very hard and prolonged rainfall - we were watching the rising level of the river and although the water rose high enough to flood some of the water wheel room, it was not as high as it reached in 2007.

If you are having a tidy up at home, we are always looking for small items for our famous fundraising tombola, please contact me if you think you have any suitable items.... maybe an unwanted Christmas present or two.

I really can't wait to use this space in the Grapevine to invite you back to visit the Mill - might just use it all for a very large WE'RE OPEN!!!

Registered Charity No. 1111029

Julie Stuart-Thompson

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## **BEAR & MONKEY**

Bear & Monkey would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support in 2020.

The November quiz that so many of you took part in, raised **£2,255** on the night & this was double-matched by a corporate supporter, resulting in a grand total of **£6,765**.

And then there was Bear & Monkey's 2021 calendar which was more popular than they could ever have imagined. Most of the 330 copies sold remain in Freeland but many have been shipped to family and friends all over the world. In total the calendars raised another **£3,558**. At this point Bear & Monkey would like to thank their good friend Phil Panting who was the one that came up with the idea.

Thanks Phil.

All of the money raised will help Msizi Africa in their work feeding malnourished orphans and vulnerable children in Lesotho and, together, the quiz and calendar will enable them to give 32 children a meal, every day, for the whole of 2021.

With massive thanks from Bear & Monkey who wish you all a healthier and happier 2021.

Bear & Monkey c/o **[john.clark@msiziafrica.org.uk](mailto:john.clark@msiziafrica.org.uk)** (tel: 01993 882127)



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## **FREELAND CRAFT CLUB**

We are still not able to meet as we used to, but us oldies are starting to get our anti-Covid injections, so hopefully things are progressing and in the mean time, we keep in touch with e-mails. Our members are still continuing to “craft” and the little figures (pictured right) were made in time for Christmas.

For further information, please contact:

Helen Molden **01993 882305** or

Margaret Wright **01993 881316** [geeandemm@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:geeandemm@hotmail.co.uk)



\*\*\*\*\*

## **BEE FRIENDLY GARDENING TIPS**

There are lots of ways that you can make your garden friendly for wildlife.

Roselle Chapman from Wild Oxfordshire shares some of her top tips here (listen from 5 minutes 30 seconds)

[https://pennypost.org.uk/2020/12/wildlife-friendly-gardening-tips/?fbclid=IwAR2Mr\\_n35twGCux42gX9A7TQ7DY5X2Os9ibaRbJqaOgaZI1hguwURmpITM0](https://pennypost.org.uk/2020/12/wildlife-friendly-gardening-tips/?fbclid=IwAR2Mr_n35twGCux42gX9A7TQ7DY5X2Os9ibaRbJqaOgaZI1hguwURmpITM0)

### **Gardening for bees and other pollinators**

#### **Bee facts**

250 species of bees in the UK

224 wild solitary bees

25 wild bumble bees

One domesticated honey bee



#### **Trees you can plant this winter to help pollinators**

Male grey willow (sallow) *Salix cinerea*

Goat willow *Salix caprea*

Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*

Service trees: *Sorbus torminalis*, *Sorbus domestica*

Apple *Malus* sp - any, fruit bearing, or ornamental

Cherry Plum - *Prunus cerasifera*

Wild Hawthorn - *Crataegus monogyna/laevigata*

#### **Gardening tips**

Leave the dead plant stems over winter. Hollow stems may be used by bees for overwintering.

Provide flowers throughout the year – some bees emerge as early as February.

Buy organic to ensure bulbs and plants haven't been treated with neonicotinoids.

Have a flowering lawn.

Provide a source of water for bees.

Leave a patch of bare earth – mason bees gather mud to build egg cells.

Include a variety flower shapes – different species have different tongue lengths..

More information can be found:

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources/>

Clare Mowbray - Wild Oxfordshire



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## **REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT ON LOWER ROAD!**



A recent head on collision on Lower Road near the Willow Cottage Nursery, has brought the issue of traffic safety on this road into the focus again.

A petition has been created on **change.org**

**Please reduce the speed limit, exclude aggregate lorry traffic and facilitate cycling on Lower Road.**

Lower Road is a narrow, winding, unclassified country road, which runs from the A4095 junction east of Long Hanborough to the Eynsham roundabout on the A40. In recent years, it has become a busy traffic corridor due to massive growth in population and intensified business and commerce activities nearby and further afield. It is also being routinely used by aggregate lorries and increasingly by drivers trying to avoid traffic congestion elsewhere. Because of its nature and condition, Lower Road is unsuitable to carry such large volumes of traffic. The current national speed limit of 60 mph is totally inappropriate. Lower Road is dangerous! The imminent expansion of Eynsham will make matters much worse. Urgent action is required!

To sign the petition and for more details, please follow the link:

**<http://chnng.it/hvRBq6HB>**

Dr Lidia Arciszewska, a resident of Church Hanborough.



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## **THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2020**

Well, it was certainly a different Christmas this year for us all, and unfortunately due to the Covid restrictions, I could not spend my Christmas Lunch with my team and all our lovely guests from surrounding villages. This did not, of course, stop the team from providing the Christmas Lunch I promised on Christmas Day 2019. With the help of the wonderful packaging sourced by the Oxfordshire Yeoman, a full takeaway box of vegetables, a second of potatoes and parsnips, and a third of turkey, stuffing balls and pigs in blankets were accompanied by gravy and cranberry sauce (first time I have ever bought a 2.5kg tub of sauce). This, we hoped, was enough food for two dinners and a turkey sandwich lunch.

The cooking components of the operation took place in several households: turkeys were beautifully rolled and sliced by Pat in the Ridley household and Maggie also provided a vegetarian alternative, another turkey given to us by Marks and Spencer was cooked by MS-T; 15kg of potatoes were roasted by Ita; Ria and Graham cooked all the stuffing balls and pigs-in-blankets; Jane L dealt with the 5kg of parsnips and Sue H had 5kg of carrots, 2.5kg of brussels and 2 boxes of broccoli and cauli; Claire and Mark cooked the unweighed beans and leeks. We were really fortunate this year that we were offered vegetables by Waitrose that had been peeled and prepared for a staff lunch that couldn't happen - proves it is important to have a network for friends to support this venture, as the community manager in Witney instantly thought of me when these vegetables became available. Many thanks to Denise and Helen who loaned me freezer space.

A second delivery bag contained the selection of puddings and other gifts. A number of phone calls and emails of thanks came from many recipients, one lady was so amazed at the contents she actually counted them - 32 items!! Thanks go to our usual cake makers - third year now for Jane L, Carol from Long Hanborough for Christmas cakes, how pleased am I when they make me a square cake with flat icing that is so easy to cut! Mince pies came again from Renate, Diane and Margaret, with an additional two batches from the Long Hanborough Parish Council members, Irene made a fantastic gluten free ginger cake. Jane F wrapped her cakes in cellophane which looked lovely poking out of the top of the bags. There was also: Christmas pudding, custard, biscuits, chocolate, sweets, crackers, serviettes, jam or marmalade, and a quiz. Elaine made an amazing selection of handmade gifts this year, shoppers, tissue holders, masks, decorations and bookmarks. These were all wrapped in top quality wrapping paper (ha ha) in the Bates' household. This year we had two households with children and their bags had additional wrapped gifts and a lovely hand made stuffed toy. The bags were delivered in Freeland by Graham and Ria, in North Leigh by Cllr Liam, and in Long Hanborough by Penelope and Jeff.

I sometimes feel that all the thanks I get from many people are misplaced - this operation certainly could not happen without all the people listed above and I want to again apologise to all the people on standby whose help was offered but not needed. I really hope that next year we can gather again in Freeland Hall and all the decorators of walls, windows, trees and tables can be re-employed. The peeling team, I am kind of hoping that pre-peeled vegetables might just find their way to me again but when

*Continued.....*

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*Continued.....*

Graham sharpens all our knives, this too should be so much easier. I had great fun packing the bags, now I know what it must be like to be one of Santa's team of elves - no comments about size/height required.

With the number of people who offered me help, including a local company offering me cold storage facilities if needed ..... it can only be described as the best ever event in the village ..... again. It has been a pleasure for us all to help others in these difficult times and let's hope that we can look back at 2021 as a great year.

Julie Stuart-Thompson

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

W 27 Jan	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection + <b>Christmas trees</b>
W 3 Feb	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
W 10 Feb	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
<b>M 15 Feb</b>	<b>Freeland Parish Council 'Zoom' Virtual Meeting, 7.30pm</b>
W 17 Feb	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
<b>Th 18 Feb</b>	<b>Roadworks causing closure of Wroslyn Road - see page 17</b>
<b>F 19 Feb</b>	<b>Roadworks causing closure of Wroslyn Road - see page 17</b>
W 24 Feb	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
W 3 Mar	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
W 10 Mar	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection

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## **WOODSTOCK AND DISTRICT U3A**

Nervously navigating from Tier to Tier each day, it seems that members of Woodstock & District University of the 3rd Age (U3A) continue to show considerable ingenuity and application in pursuing their varied interests. Monthly Speaker Meetings are now on-line. An illustrated talk on 5th January about stars and stargazing by astro-photographer Mary McIntyre, is followed (**Tuesday 2nd February**) by a biographical study of Hardit Singh – a Balliol graduate and WWI fighter pilot - while **Tuesday 2nd March** promises an account of growing up in post-WWII East London by Jeff Rozelaar. A more rural theme on **Tuesday 6th April** when Christine Cox will reveal the Verney family and Claydon House. Non-members are welcome to virtually attend meetings, courtesy of Zoom. Visit the Woodstock U3A website to access a free link to the talk <https://u3asites.org.uk/woodstock>



As always, the bulk of activities take place in the 20-plus Interest Groups of the Branch. Those doughty Recorder players continue to provide the rest of us with recipes and household hints in the intervals of their daily practice. Still on the musical front, I sadly missed December's 'Ukulele Day', organised by the U3aA Thames Valley Network (TVN). And, on 20th January TVN offered on-line advice on improving the composition of your photographs. Check [u3atvnetwork.org.uk](https://u3atvnetwork.org.uk).

Finally, for your calendars and diaries, if all goes well, **Wednesday 2nd June 2021** should see the first-ever National U3A Day: watch this space!

Chris Sladen



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The deadline for articles or adverts for the **March** Grapevine is **Friday 12th February**. The **March** edition should be in the church porch and online at **[www.freelandoxon.co.uk](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk)** from **Friday 26th February**.

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.  
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**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.*

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### **THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET CO-OPERATIVE**

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