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St Mary's Freeland



February 2024

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ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Sunday 28th January 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Val and Andy Richens

Preacher: Andy Richens

Sunday 4th February 10.00am All Age Communion

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Sunday 11th February 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Rev. Steve Bellamy

Preacher: Rev. Steve Bellamy

Sunday 18th February 10.00am Communion

Leader: Rev. Mike Madden

Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

Sunday 25th February 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart

Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

Sunday 3rd March 10.00am All Age Communion

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

The above information is correct on the date published (21/01/2024). 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 currently open for both burials and 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

**Thank you to Bruce Hammersley for the front cover photo of the
Freeland Methodist Church building.**

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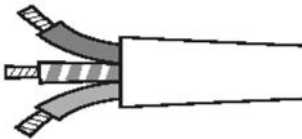
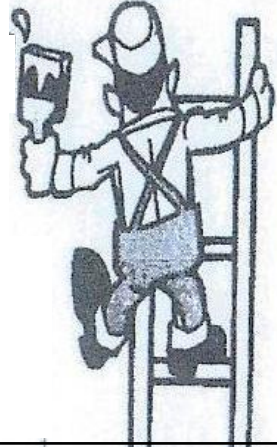
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GAS SAFE : 65024

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</p> |
| <p>We welcome all under 5s and their parent/carer.</p> <p>Join us to meet others and enjoy free play and fun activities together.</p> <p>Each session finishes with refreshments, a Bible story and song time.</p> <p>For more information: hfchurch.org.uk/firststeps</p>  | |

Chimney Sweep

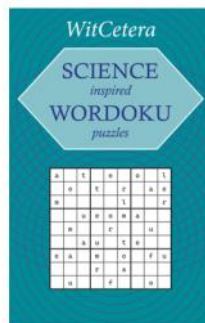
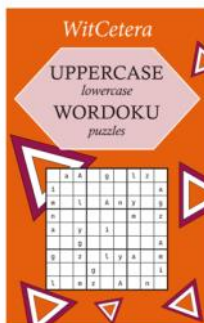
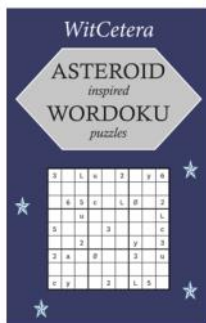
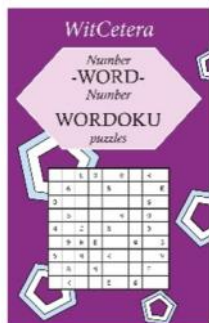
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Letter from our Associate Rector, Rev. Mike Madden:

Dear friends,

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. (Acts 2:42-44)

We live in a world that is increasingly interconnected, with emails, mobile phones, text messages, WhatsApp, MS-Teams and Zoom (to name but a few), that allow us all to communicate easily with each other on a regular basis. This ability to communicate so easily is a great blessing, I certainly appreciate the opportunity to communicate with family and friends as well as business colleagues elsewhere in the world. However, as brilliant as these 'apps' are it is important to remember that they should be used to enhance and support our day-to-day relationships and not displace the need to be part of real flesh and blood community, especially a Christian community.

Being part of a Christian community is an important aspect of what it means to be a Christian. For example, as highlighted in the above quote from Acts 2:42-44, the early church spent much of its time in community together, meeting in each other's homes, they prayed together, ate together, broke bread together (communion), and explored their newfound faith together.

In fact, the Bible has a great deal to say about the importance of believers being part of a Christian community. The following are just three reasons:

- **To be an active member of the Body of Christ** – In Romans 12:4-8 Paul encouraged his readers to see that each of them had an important role in the Body of Christ (the church), in same way that different parts of our own bodies have important roles.
- **To serve one another** - As Christians, we are called to serve one another. To love one another, to help others, to use what we have to serve other people. In 1 Peter 4:9-10 Peter encouraged the believers to 'Offer hospitality to one another'.
- **To encourage one another** – In Galatian's 6: 2 Paul encouraged the Galatians to 'Carry each other's burdens'.

While Hanborough and Freeland Church is one Christian community across the three villages led by our Rector, Rev. Steve Stewart, we actually gather each Sunday at **10am** in three locations. These are Christ Church in Long Hanborough, St Peter and St Paul in Church Hanborough, and St Mary the Virgin in Freeland. While each local church is unique, reflecting the characteristics of the local Christian community, all three provide the opportunity to worship, to share communion, to study the scriptures and to meet with other Christians and have a chat over a hot drink & share as a Christian community.

So, if you have never been to church ever or just got out of the habit of coming to church why not join us at one of our three locations one Sunday and see for yourself what it looks and feels like to be part of a Christian Community.

Blessings,

Rev. Mike Madden



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SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

- Sunday 28th January** 10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson
- Sunday 4th February** 10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
- Sunday 11th February** 10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch Preacher: Rev. Dr Nick Wood
- Sunday 18th February** 10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson
- Sunday 25th February** 10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Mike Madden Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden
- Sunday 3rd March** 10.00am All Age Communion
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

- Sunday 28th January** 10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
- Sunday 4th February** 10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Mike Madden Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden
- Sunday 11th February** 10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
- Sunday 18th February** 10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch
- Sunday 25th February** 10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson Preacher: Benjamin Chamings-Manley
- Sunday 3rd March** 10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Steven Young/Saskia Emma Merry Preacher: Jonathan Ford

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

ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

- Sunday 4th February** 9.30am - 10.00am
- Friday 16th February** 6.00pm - 7.00pm
- Sunday 18th February** 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

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EASTER SERVICES AT FREELAND AND HANBOROUGH CHURCHES

"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification"

(Romans 4:25)

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:

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday 10am - Morning Praise at St Mary's

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday 10am - Morning Praise at Christ Church

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday 10am - Communion at St Peter & St Paul

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

"Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast."

(Ephesians 2:4-9)

CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Christingle Service in St. Mary's on Christmas Eve. It was a lovely way to start Christmas; with carols, the story of Christmas, and the church lit with the light of Christingle candles. Thanks to everyone's generosity we have sent a donation of **£313.21** to The Children's Society.



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 28th January 10am Rev. Charles Harris - Covenant Service & Holy Communion

Sunday 4th February 10am Local arrangement

Sunday 11th February 10am Mrs Dawn Haley

Sunday 18th February 10am Mr Andrew Maisey

Sunday 25th February 10am Rev. James Skinner

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

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TUESDAY - 6.30pm Pilates, 7.30pm Yoga

WEDNESDAY - 9.30am Pilates

THURSDAY - 6.30pm Yoga/Pilates mix

THURSDAY - 7.30pm Yoga - Breath - Meditation

FRIDAY - 9.30am Yoga/Pilates mix

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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”

If you would like to stand, please contact Fay Friend (Parish Clerk) fayf.fpc@gmail.com for more information or speak to a serving Councillor

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

The only qualification needed is that you care about your village and want it to be the best it can be, for everyone.

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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.

ANYONE FOR CHESS?

I'm not suggesting forming some kind of club, just the occasional 1:1 game at the Yeoman on Friday mornings when it opens for coffee. I promise I have no reason to imagine I'm any good! **grahamwarby@hotmail.co.uk**



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FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

20mph Scheme

The public consultation is about to go out to all residents of Freeland to seek their views on implementing a 20mph zone in the village centre - from the school down towards Freeland Nurseries. This will come from Oxfordshire County Council so please keep an eye out.



Pigeon House Lane

Minor changes to the entrance into Pigeon House Lane from Wroslyn Road are to be implemented over the next few months. The idea is to make it less welcoming to large vehicles. The works have been funded by OCC, through our County Councillor, Liam Walker. We would like to thank Liam for his support to move this forward and help the residents, walkers and cyclists who use that lane.

Working Group

We wish to thank all those who attended the working groups recently. Anyone wishing to help support the future of Freeland and join the Freeland Energy Group should email fayf.fpc@gmail.com. You can see more information about the group on **page 21**.

Fix My Street

We urge you to continue reporting potholes, damaged kerbstones, or other matters such as grass cutting on the A4095, on "Fix My Street" (fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk), where you can report any issues to the County Council. Additionally, 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.
Fix My Street

Annual Parish Meeting

On **Friday 10th May** we will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall. All are welcome to join us, where there will be a variety of speakers for the evening. This is your opportunity to speak to the Councillors and Clerk. Please save the date.

Playpark

The new toddler swings are back up and running. We are so pleased with how it looks. As a Council we are looking to continue to develop our play facilities constantly. If you have any ideas or what you'd really like to see then please drop me an email.

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

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 they are there in case someone unfortunately does. www.defibfinder.uk/

Continued.....

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Botley West Solar Farm

Just a reminder that the public consultation period ends on **8th February** – please take time to view the proposals and give your feedback. There’s more information in an article on page 41.

Green tip

Last year was the UK’s second warmest on record, according to provisional data from the Met Office. These sorts of events should only happen once every 500 years, but climate change has made high temperatures “significantly more likely”, as can be seen by the fact that the hottest year on record was 2022. Scientists predict we will experience hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters due to climate change. As the air warms up it can hold more moisture, resulting in increased rainfall and more violent storms, an effect we are starting to be able to see with our own eyes over the past months.

So, what can we do to adapt to warmer temperatures and more extreme rainfall? Well Nature has some great solutions. We all know that trees can absorb polluting greenhouse gases, but they can also provide shade from the sun, reducing temperatures in the garden. There is clear evidence that tarmac, brick and astroturf areas all lead to higher temperatures around our house, whilst they also increase the chance of localised flooding as they are not able to soak rainwater away. An area given over to plants and flowers instead helps to lower temperatures in summer and soak away excessive rainfall in winter, whilst supporting local wildlife and human wellbeing.

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:

24/00002/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.

Applications under consideration or appeal:

22/02377/FUL Conversion of Methodist Church to form a single dwelling is currently subject to an Appeal Hearing. Representations to this closed on 17th August.

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

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

Applications Approved: None

Applications Refused: None

Continued.....

MJ Fyson BA BA VetMB MRCVS
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Continued.....

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 11th February 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**

A VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT FOR FREELAND

With input from Freeland residents - Freeland Parish Council in conjunction with West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) intend to explore the possibilities of producing our own Village Design Statement. (VDS)

When completed, this VDS would sit alongside the WODC Local Plan as a supplementary planning document bespoke to Freeland.

It would set out what we, as residents, feel about...OUR VILLAGE. What makes it special, unique or maybe what could be improved? So, when, or if development is proposed (from a modest extension to new dwellings) we have already thought long and hard about the things we value and the things we do not wish to see lost under the wheels of change.

A VDS would neither prevent nor encourage development but add a nuanced understanding of the implications development may have on our village. To that end, a VDS will need to be far reaching, to include History, Cartography, Landscape, Biodiversity, Hydrology, Climate change, Sustainability and Photography old & new, etc.

WHO WILL PROVIDE THE CONTENT?

Every resident will be consulted, every group from School to Church, Sports team to Allotment society.

A potential 12-month project will produce a booklet complete with maps/ text and photos; (for an example, visit 'Combe Village Design Statement', recently adopted by WODC)

An initial steering group has been set up through the auspices of the Parish Council. If you wish early involvement, contact Peter Foster/ Robert Crocker/ Lindsey Harrison or Fay Friend, Parish Clerk, on **fayf.fpc@gmail.com**

ANYONE FOR CHESS?

I'm not suggesting forming some kind of club, just the occasional 1:1 game at the Yeoman on Friday mornings when it opens for coffee. I promise I have no reason to imagine I'm any good! **grahamwarby@hotmail.co.uk**



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

LAY, IVOR JOHN aged 91 years

Following a short illness, Ivor passed away peacefully, at Mill House Witney, on **December 9th, 2023**. A funeral service to commemorate Ivor’s life, was held at North Oxford Crematorium on **Friday, January 12th, 2024**.

FREELAND ENERGY GROUP

At the time of writing this note the temperature outside is dropping and this means there should be opportunities to carry out surveys of the exterior of your homes with the thermal imaging camera. The conditions do have to be quite specific so fingers are crossed there will be some interesting images to discuss with homeowners. If you want to put forward your home for this free imaging survey, please get in touch with Mark or Colin.

With the cold weather currently biting a little deeper, ways to stay warm and use heating efficiently are important for us all. This month, with the kind agreement of the Grapevine, we share with you the complete Warmer Winter Checklist leaflet, from the Oxfordshire Low Carbon Hub, to ensure everyone has this information, please see the centre pages (**pages 23 to 26**) of this Grapevine edition.

Contact Mark O’Callaghan (**markoc.fpc@gmail.com**) or Colin Smith (**csmithprivate@hotmail.com**)

**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

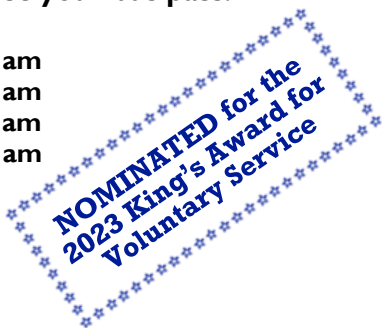
For more information or to volunteer as a driver or helper please contact:

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

Email: alaa.alyousuf@gmail.com

MORE DRIVERS AND HELPERS WANTED!

Version 013 04/09/2023





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www.greensfunerals.co.uk



FUNERAL PLANS FROM

Golden Charter

Smart Planning for Later Life





WARMER WINTER CHECKLIST

Worried about fuel bills and keeping warm? This checklist could help.

For no-cost tips, practical ideas and where to find further help and advice – read on and see what might work for you.

Scan me for an online version of this leaflet.



There are also Urdu and Ukrainian PDF versions for downloading.



Don't pay more than you need to for your energy

Check how you pay your bill, it can make a big difference

- Paying by direct debit is usually cheaper than paying by cheque or cash.
- Paying by monthly direct debit can be cheaper than quarterly payments.
- Pre-payment meters can be the most expensive way to pay for your power. If you think a standard meter would be better for you, talk to your supplier. Most will swap them free of charge.
- Some suppliers charge for paper billing – getting bills by email may be cheaper, and more environmentally friendly.

Check your tariff

Comparison websites can help you check if you are on the best tariff. The website moneysavingexpert.com has advice on whether to stick, switch or fix your energy tariff.

Struggling with your bills?

Get help with your energy bills – grants, benefits, and affordable payment plans are available.

If you're on a pre-payment meter and can't top up, ask your supplier for emergency credit.

Reach out to your energy supplier, [Better Housing Better Health](#), and [Citizens Advice](#) for more details.



Get the support you are entitled to

Sign up to the *Priority Services Register*

If you are over 60, have young children or use electrically powered medical equipment, register with your energy company and get extra help and support if there is a power cut.

Visit the *Help for Households* website

The *Help for Households* website explains all the different support that's available for energy – and also sets out national schemes that can help with the cost of living.

Contact *Better Housing Better Health*

A free service helping all Oxfordshire residents to keep warm, stay healthy, and live well.

Call free on **0800 107 0044** or visit bhbh.org.uk.



Find out more at lowcarbonhub.org/energy-saving-advice



Get the most out of your heating

Take care to protect rooms from damp

Learn how your heating controls work

- Sit down with a cup of tea and read your boiler manual. Alternatively, there are lots of 'how-to videos and guides' on the internet for every heating system type, from combination boilers to storage heaters, which can help you get to grips with the basics.

Set your controls so your heating is only on when you need it

Set your heating so it is only on when you will benefit from it. Remembering to put on a cosy jumper ahead of the heating can help you save money. It's basic, but it should allow you to maintain the same comfort level. You can try:

- Setting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable temperature, usually in the 18 – 21°C range. Turning down by just 1°C could save £75 from your energy bill.
- Setting the programme so the heating comes on just before you get up in the morning and get home for the day.
- Switch off the heating before you go out for the day, or go to bed, as your home will stay warm for some time.

Turn down heating in rooms you aren't using

- Turn down radiators and heaters in rooms when you aren't using them and set storage heaters to only heat rooms when needed.
- Radiators can be made controllable by adding Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVs). They can cost between £10-60 each. Digital TRVs are more expensive but can be programmed to adjust the heating in each room. Take care to protect rooms from damp and avoid frozen pipes by using frost-free settings.

Get your heating system running at its most efficient

- Move furniture away from radiators so hot air can circulate.
- Bleed your radiators to remove trapped air.
- If your radiators are hot at the top but cold at the bottom, the system might have sludge in it, and benefit from being professionally cleaned.
- Check to see if your heating system is suitable for running at a lower flow temperature. You may be able to save 5–10% on your heating costs.



Create energy-wise routines

Every day

- Open your curtains in the morning, to make the most of winter sunshine.
- At dusk close your curtains. If they cover a radiator, tuck them behind so the heat stays in the room.
- Close internal doors to trap the heat in the room.
- Try a different energy saving hack from our 'no-cost/low-cost' energy saving ideas each day and see which work for you.

Every month

- Check the programme on your heating controls and tweak to match changes in your household needs and length of days.

Every year

- Once summer comes, turn your heating off entirely – otherwise it may use fuel throughout the summer.
- Create a home emergency kit in case of power outages. Include a torch, water, battery or wind-up radio, batteries, key medicines, and key contact numbers.
- Twice a year, adjust timers for daylight saving.



Keep your heat!

10%
of heat lost
in a typical
home is from
the windows

Once you have your heating working efficiently, consider which of the following DIY projects you could try to cut down draughts and retain your heat. If you rent, talk to your landlord first.

[How-to guides](#) are available on our website.

Doors

- Add insulating tape around the door frames.
- Add a door brush to the bottom of the door.
- Add a keyhole cover.
- Draughtproof your letterbox or consider replacing it with a tightly closing model.
- Make or buy a draught excluder.

Floorboards

- Use floor board draught excluder that expands to fill gaps.
- Fill gaps between your skirting board and the floor.
- Rugs can help prevent heat loss through cold spots in floors.

15%
of heat loss
is due to
draughts

Chimneys

- An open fireplace can lose lots of heat. If you aren't using a fireplace, you can buy a 'chimney balloon' or chimney sheep' to prevent heat going up the chimney, or you can make your own.

Windows

- Install thermal blinds or add thermal material to existing curtains to help trap in heat.
- Temporary 'secondary glazing film' can be put over single glazed windows, trapping an insulating layer of air. Cost £5–15 per window.

Lofts

- Add more insulation to your loft. It's recommended for homes to have 270–300mm of insulation laid on the floor of the loft.
- Add draughtproofing tape around your loft hatch and put insulation on the hatch itself too.

Up to a
quarter of a
home's heat can
be lost through
an uninsulated
loft

Hot water

- Get an insulating jacket for your hot water tank and add lagging to pipes.
- Gaps around pipe outlets etc. can also be a source of draughts that can be filled.

Radiators

- Add radiator panels behind radiators that are on external walls. There are lots of different types you can buy, or make your own with card and foil. Cost: around £8–12 per radiator.



Long-term improvements

From cavity wall insulation to installing solar panels, there are lots of bigger changes we can make to our homes to make them more energy efficient, save money, and reduce our carbon emissions.

Explore what improvements are possible in your home with Plan Builder

Try this [free Plan Builder](#) tool. Just put in your Oxfordshire postcode, and discover the current energy efficiency and performance of your home, based on existing data, then draw up new plans.

Check to see what grants are available

You may be eligible for energy efficiency upgrades to be fitted to your home, free of charge. These upgrades are known as 'retrofitting' and could

help to reduce your energy bills and make your home easier to keep warm.

See if the *Cosy Homes Oxfordshire* service is right for you

If you have the funds to pay for work, and are considering multiple home improvements, this service provides a full, Whole House Retrofit service to help reduce your energy bills, cut carbon emissions, and make your home healthier and more comfortable.

Contact details can be found in the 'Where to go for further support' section on back page.



Where to go for further support

● Low Carbon Hub

For more energy saving advice and how to sign up to the Priority Services Register. lowcarbonhub.org/energy-saving-advice

● Oxfordshire County Council

The latest energy efficiency grant news for Oxfordshire residents. oxfordshire.gov.uk/retrofit

● Better Housing Better Health

Call 0800 107 0044 for free and impartial energy advice for all Oxfordshire residents from understanding your bills to accessing grants and support. bhbh.org.uk

● Housewarming guides

Low Carbon Oxford North's free home improvement guides are available at lcon.org.uk

● Help for Households

Government website with key financial support available to help with the cost-of-living crisis. helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk

● Cosy Homes Oxfordshire

Start your energy efficiency journey with the free Plan Builder online tool. They also offer a retrofit service for householders wanting to invest in transforming their house into a cosy home. cosyhomesoxfordshire.org.uk

For practical advice

- LEAP The Energy & Money Saving Service: applyforleap.org.uk Freephone 0800 060 7567
- Energy Saving Trust energysavingtrust.org.uk
- Centre for Sustainable Energy cse.org.uk



Join the call for change

Tackling the energy crisis, and preventing runaway climate change will take more than individual action. We need the government to also take action to fix our broken energy system. You can help by signing a petition calling for investment in energy efficiency and support for renewable energy.

Check out the *Warm this Winter* campaign: www.warmthiswinter.org.uk

Struggling with it all?

- Your local Citizens Advice can help with financial support and emergency fuel vouchers.
- Can't afford your energy bill? Contact your energy supplier. They may be able to spread out payments, or even reduce your bills.
- If it's all getting too much, the Samaritans are waiting for your call. Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call free on **116 123**.



About us

Low Carbon Hub is a social enterprise that's out to prove we can meet our energy needs in a way that's good for people and good for the planet. Because we are run for the benefit of the community, we use all of our profits to fund community-led action on climate change.



The Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited is registered in England as a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Registration number: 31903R. Registered in England and Wales at: Holywell House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES. All costs and savings are estimates based on typical homes and may vary. See website for sources.

Find out more at lowcarbonhub.org/energy-saving-advice

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

We have had so many books donated recently that it seems like everyone has had a post-Christmas clear out! In particular, there are lots of children's books at the moment, so please do take as many as you like – we have plenty more to fill the shelves with.

As great as it is to receive more books, please be mindful of where you leave them. If the shelves are too full then please put them in one of the donation boxes: there are two behind the bus shelter opposite the pub, and one outside **138 Wroslyn Road**. In the event that the boxes are full, please wait to try another day after we have had a chance to tidy and sort out the boxes to create more space.

For any older or more specialist books that you want to donate, please consider taking them to a charity shop of your choice instead, as they are more likely to have the capacity to accept them and the books have more chance of finding the right readers. Thank you.

The books we receive are usually of a high quality, so thank you for your generosity. We can never tell which books will get taken first, but it is always a pleasure to see empty spaces on the shelves!

In mid-January there was a case of fly tipping at the Little Free Library. This is obviously unacceptable. Our volunteers had to remove these items (pictured) and take them to a charity shop. Please do not leave items such as these here: we only accept books. Any items like these should be disposed of in an appropriate manner. Thank you.

May you enjoy another month of reading.

Matthew & the Little Free Library volunteers (Sue, Fi, Jenny and Caroline)
01993 359 543 ruddlem@gmail.com





Wroslyn Road, Freeland OX29 8AQ

Open: Monday-Saturday 9am - 4.30pm; Sunday 9.30am - 4.00pm

Tel:- 01993 881430

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

New season's vegetable and flower seeds

Seed potatoes

Spring bulbs, primroses and polyanthus for early colour

Main crop potatoes - 25 kg and 10 kg bags

Logs and kindling wood

Comprehensive selection of wild bird products

A good selection of greetings cards

The Breakfast & After School Club is now open 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!

February Half Term Holiday Club will be open from Monday 12th - Friday 16th February at Aston & Cote Primary School from 8.30am - 5pm.

The cost is £40 for the day which includes all the activities and a light tea.

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



TEMPORARY TRAFFIC LIGHTS CONTINUE



On the section of Cuckoo Lane/Freeland Road/Eynsham Road between the electricity sub-station and the A40 there are **temporary traffic lights** from **Tuesday 2nd January to Friday 2nd February 2024.**



OVERNIGHT CLOSURES OF WROSLYN ROAD



Wroslyn Road will be closed at its junction with the road leading to the Vet's Clinic and Freeland House & The Lodge for two nights

7pm to 6am on the nights of **Tuesday 5th March and Wednesday 6th March.**



4-7 years



7-10 years



10-14 years



14-18 years

During January we welcomed new girls to Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. It is lovely to see you all. We have lots of exciting things planned for this term. The Brownies and Rainbows are going to be working on their 'Influence' badge, learning how to identify decision makers and gain the skills to influence issues that they care about, helper badge (Rainbows) and charity badge (Brownies). They will be celebrating Lunar new year and also Thinking Day.

Big congratulations to Jeni, a Brownie volunteer who has just completed her leadership qualification.

Do you have a free couple of hours on a Monday evening? North Leigh Guides in our District is currently in need of volunteer help. No previous skills are needed so whether you are new to guiding or fancy returning to guiding after a break, please get in touch. Please get in touch **freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com**

WITNEY MUSIC SOCIETY

Witney Music Society's February concert sees the welcome return of pianist Antonina Suhanova with a programme featuring works by Mozart, Debussy, Britten and Schubert. The concert is at **7.30pm on Friday 9th February.**

The final concert of the 2023-24 season will be given by the Marmen Quartet with works for string quartet by Haydn, Debussy, Mozart and Ravel. The concert is at **7.30pm on Friday 8th March.**

Both concerts will be at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Tickets (**£15, £1 for under 19s**) will be available at the door from **7pm** or in advance online.

For more information, please telephone **01993 898020** or visit the Witney Music Society website **www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk**



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FREELAND WI

At our first meeting of the year, on Monday 8th January, members of Freeland WI enjoyed a New Year Party. Approximately 35 members joined in the fun activities. The evening got off to a great start with a fabulous bring and share supper with everyone catching up, whilst enjoying their supper.

After supper, it was time to start the games. The first game was Pass the Parcel with a difference; between each layer was a forfeit where the participant had to complete a task, ably assisted by their team. After that, it was time for the game of Scattergories - finding all manner of things beginning with the same letter. Our members are very imaginative! We then moved on to playing Dingbats, where there were 32 word puzzles which challenge you to find a familiar phrase or name in a unique arrangement of letters, symbols, numbers or pictures. Members' heads were down as they all contributed to possible solutions.

Finally, we played Kim's game, where a tray of 20 different objects were placed in front of our members for two minutes. The teams then had to try and recall all 20 items. Each of the teams scored a huge 19 points.

What a great start to 2024. Our new programme for this year, appeared in the January issue of the Grapevine magazine. We have some great speakers booked and an interesting assortment of craft activities.

At our next meeting on **Monday 12th February**, we will be voting on the resolutions which have been put forward for consideration and choosing the one we would like to submit. This will be followed by food tasting and a quiz. As in previous years, we continue to support the Witney Food Bank.

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

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

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 some 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>



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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 | ↓ | | | | 16.00 | |
| 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 |

THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2023

A wonderful occasion for all involved!

The team at Christchurch in Long Hanborough have run the lunch service for decades and were obviously a well rehearsed team. The tables looked lovely in their Christmas colours and with feature crackers. A selection of beverages were poured whilst happy chatting with old friends took place, and a wonderful turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served. The team in the kitchen showed their teamwork in a tight space as 40 plates began to be filled with steaming hot food. It was a pleasure for me personally as in the previous lunches, my dinner had often been cold by the time I got to it - not this year! The puddings offered after the meal were nothing short of miraculous!! Pavlova, fruit salad, chocolate mousse and of course Christmas pudding all looked and tasted amazing. A loud knock of the church door took me by surprise but of course it was Father Christmas who had come to hand out the goodie bags to all the attendees to take home.

I would really like to thank Carole and Jenny who masterminded all the buying and to the wider team - you are all amazing. The funding from Waitrose in Witney was used to provide everyone with a lovely pre Christmas meet up but sadly marked the end of the dinner club at the Church, after several decades of offering meals in the community.

I have funding available - please do contact me if you think you or your group could offer the Christmas meal for 2024 and I will happily assist.

Julie Stuart-Thompson julie.st@btinternet.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

COFFEE MORNING



On **Saturday 3rd February** there will be a coffee morning at Freeland Village Hall **10.00am - 12noon**. As well as refreshments there will also be a cake stall, and raffle. Everyone is welcome. **Cash only**, please. All proceeds will be going to support Katharine House Hospice. For more information, or to donate cakes or raffle prizes, please contact me on **rogfner@aol.com**



Roger Faulkner

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

Unfortunately Graham Walker who was to be our January speaker has had to cancel due to eye treatment booked for near the date of his proposed talk. We very much hope he will be able to come another time instead, and the treatment to his eye will be successful.

Instead we will now be holding our annual fun quiz on **Monday 22nd January at 7.30pm** in Freeland Hall, with a worthy prize for the winner(s)!

We hope all our gardeners will soon be thinking about and planning their spring and summer gardens. Maybe you could be persuaded to open your garden during the Freeland Open Gardens days on the **22nd and 23rd June**? Garden Centres will soon be filling with summer bedding. Don't be tempted to buy and plant these too early as they may not survive an unexpected cold spell!

Harriet Rycroft will be the speaker at the next Gardening Club meeting speaker on **Monday 26th February at 7.30pm** in Freeland Hall, and is a new speaker at our meetings. Her subject is an amusing one: '**Potty Time (a year in Pots)**'. She will no doubt have information on the right pot for the plants we buy and maybe the soil most suitable with which to fill the pot.

Visitors, at **£4** a meeting, and new members are very welcome to our friendly Club. If you are new to a meeting let someone know so we can welcome you properly. There is a Bring and Buy Plants and Garden Item Sale at all our hall meetings. If your plants or items are not sold we would much appreciate that you take them home again and maybe bring them again another month.

For any further information about the Club please contact Terry Jones at **davidjones30@talktalk.net** Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)

NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

On **Tuesday 6th February** Jonathan Jeffes will be giving a talk on The Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration, and our March talk on **Tuesday 5th March** is by Muriel Pilkington, when she will be telling us the story of the Burford Mutiny.

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**.



1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

All of our volunteer leaders, assistants, helpers and committee members enjoyed a festive get-together in the new year, at The Yeoman pub. We rarely all see each other so it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the amazing work that everyone does, across Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. It takes many pairs of hands to keep our groups running, without which, the whole Scouts movement would cease to exist. Thank you to everyone for keeping this show on the road.

January tends to be a busy time, with our young people moving up to the different groups according to their age. If you're not sure which ages join each group, here's a handy guide:

Beavers: 6 to 8 years old

Cubs: 8 to 10½ years old

Scouts: 10½ to 14 years old

Explorers: 14 to 18 years old

Currently, our **Beavers and Cubs** meet separately in **Freeland** on **Wednesday** evenings; **Scouts** meet in **Long Hanborough** on **Friday** evenings; while Explorers also meet on **Friday** evenings but in **Freeland**. There are occasional changes for special activities, such as visits to other locations or for weekend events like camping or hiking.

New volunteers are always welcome to join us. By volunteering with us you will meet new people, support our community, learn new skills, as well as make a huge difference to young people in Freeland and Hanborough. We are always in need of extra pairs of hands, so please to contact Steve, our Group Scout Leader, via email gsl@hfscouting.org.uk to find out more.

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)



FREELAND CRAFT CLUB

We started the New Year of 2024 with a “bring and share” party - most enjoyable and always surprising, the variety of hand-made food to enjoy. Then back to crafting by learning the intricacies of “turning the heel” when knitting socks.

Have you ever been a “crafty” person or would like to learn something new? Why not join us in the Newell Room at the back of the Freeland Village Hall?

We meet 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

FREELAND FESTIVAL

Freeland Social Group are sorry to announce that the Freeland Festival will no longer be going ahead.

We are sorry to disappoint those looking forward to the event, and we will be giving the money raised in support of the event to Freeland Primary School.

THE UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS 7/1/2024

A new year is upon us, Christmas and even the new year celebrations seem like distant memories.

January is the first month of the year in both the Gregorian and Julian calendars. January is named after Janus, the Roman god of gates, beginnings, transitions, time, duality, passages and endings. It is also a great time to watch winter wildlife such as barn owls, fieldfares and redwings as many species are most active during this month.



January facts include.: the heaviest snowfall in the world was recorded in Japan on January 12th 1999, when 647.7 inches of snow fell in one hour. In leap years, January always starts on the same day as April and July and if you were born in January, your birthstone is a garnet! Famous peoples birthdays include Muhammad Ali, Benjamin Franklin, Zoe from the Yeoman darts B team and of course our very own Kenny. Fifteen people and one dog took as dry a route as was possible, admittedly using much tarmac, but also taking in woods and the escarpment, which I must add was more like a swimming pool after the recent rain, it was brightened by the sound of a woodpecker and cake (many thanks to Jenny W) and a rendition of Happy Birthday for Kenny W.



Our next Ramble will be on **Sunday 4th February**, starting at **10am** from the bus shelter opposite the Yeoman Pub. **All are welcome to join us.**

Ramble on - Sir Walter Raleigh (born 22/1/1552 or 1554)



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

FREELAND VILLAGE HALL is welcoming a return of **weekly seated exercises** (or standing if you prefer) on **FRIDAY 1st MARCH** at 11am.



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

£5.00 per 45-minute exercise session 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.

COMBE MILL Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe OX29 8ET

Our first **'IN STEAM EVENT'** for 2024 is at Combe Mill on **Sunday 17th March** with the theme **'Science at the Mill'**.

While you are there, you can also browse the Gift Shop, Tombola, BBQ and the Tea Room is also open. There will also be market stalls.



In its day, Combe Mill was the workshop for the Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode, and is a late 19th Century Grade II listed Watermill with Steam Beam Engine, Restored Waterwheel, Line Shafting, Collection of Tower Clocks and Barn Engines with all machinery running as used in its day. Make a poker in our Dual Blacksmiths' Forge, Tinkering Area for the Children and much more.

Admission: Adults **£9.00**, Concessions **£7.50**, **CHILDREN now FREE.....**

Dogs most welcome... Free Parking.... Ask about Gift Aid. Open: **10.30am to 5pm**

OPEN WEDNESDAYS FROM 20th MARCH 2024 for self-guided tours, with volunteers on hand to talk about Combe Mill and its history.

Admission: Adults **£5.00**, Concessions & Children **£4.00** Open: **10.30am to 3.30pm**

Contact: Combe Mill Society **01993 358694** **www.combemill.org**

FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB

No report again this month owing to the wet weather and soggy pitches.

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/frelandfc/

Twitter: **@freland_fc**



Ben Symonds

TIME TO FIX BARNARD GATE JUNCTION

Our County Councillor Liam Walker is asking for your support for his petition which aims to make the Barnard Junction onto the A40 safer. He is calling on the County Council to carry out a road safety assessment of the junction and then to implement necessary changes to make the junction safer. Cllr Walker said, "*Ensuring the safety of our community is paramount, and the Barnard Gate junction has been a cause of concern for far too long now. We cannot afford to ignore the numerous accidents that have occurred at this location and the subsequent impact on nearby roads when closures are necessary.*" You can sign Cllr Walker's petition at: www.liam-walker.com/barnard-gate

FREELAND WINE CLUB - Friday 26th January 7.30pm

Subject: Chardonnay: The Winemaker's Grape

In this session, led by Wine Club member Sam Newman, we will explore wines made purely from chardonnay grapes - in different styles, and from different locations around the world. Chardonnay is sometimes known as "The Winemaker's Grape" because so much of the character of the end product is down to decisions made by the producer, rather than simply the grape itself.



FREELAND WINE CLUB

Advance notice: At the March meeting on **Friday 22nd March** we will be learning about Argentinian wines. More details next month.

Wine Club dates for 2024 are: **Fridays 26th January, 22nd March, 31st May, 26th July, 27th September and 29th November**. To book or to register to get invites to all meetings please email FreelandWineClub@gmail.com

NORTH LEIGH ROMAN VILLA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

An exciting volunteer opportunity has arisen at North Leigh Roman Villa.

During 2024, English Heritage will be undertaking a major conservation project at the site. Become a Conservation In Action Explainer Volunteer and you will play a vital role



in helping us preserve this iconic landmark, by explaining the conservation process, history of the site and sharing the area's unique history with our visitors. To find out full details and to make an application please follow the link below:

ENGLISH HERITAGE

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/support-us/Volunteer/north-leigh-roman-villa-conservation-in-action-explainer-volunteer/>

Please note the closing date for applications is **Friday 23rd February**.

Thursday 8th February:

The Art Market - How does it all work - Clive Stewart Lockhart
This lecture looks at the dynamics of the art world and explores why some pieces are worth so much and yet others so little.



THE ARTS SOCIETY WEST OXFORDSHIRE

Lectures start at 2.30pm in Witney Corn Exchange. Visitors **£7**.

The hall opens at **2.00pm** and tea/coffee and biscuits are available. Come and have a chat while you wait for the talk to begin.

UPDATE ON BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM

Make your voice heard: the Statutory Consultation

The next step in the 'Botley West Solar Farm' process is the Statutory Consultation on the detailed plans. PVDP (the developers working with Blenheim Estates) will run it from **30th November until 8th February**.

There are also Community Access Points in the area, the nearest being:

Eynsham Library, 30 Mill Street, Eynsham: **Monday 9.30am - 1pm & 2pm - 5pm, Wednesday & Thursday 1pm - 5pm, Friday 1pm - 7pm, Saturday 9.30am - 1pm**

West Oxfordshire District Council Town Centre Shop, 3 Welch Way, **Witney**: **Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm**

Woodstock Library, Fletchers House. Park Street Woodstock:

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 12.30pm, and 1pm - 4.30pm, Sunday 2pm - 5pm

You should also have received a yellow booklet through your door with the Botley West revised proposals. This is the main – and vital - opportunity for each of us to have a say, before **PINS**, the government's **Planning Inspectorate**, makes its recommendation to the Secretary of State.

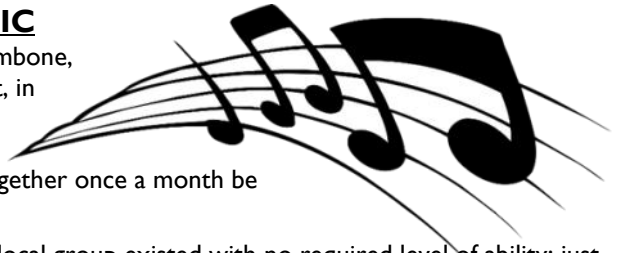
What can you do? Join the consultation and make your voice heard, both to PVDP and to Stop Botley West. Further information is in the red and green leaflets recently distributed in the village. Further guidance and advice at **botleywest.co.uk** and **stopbotleywest.com**

You can complete Stop Botley West's online Community Consultation questionnaire at: **<https://shorturl.at/nprM9>** **The consultation deadline is 8th February.**

MAKING MODEST MUSIC

Do you have a tin whistle or a trombone, or a musical instrument of any sort, in the back of a cupboard (or not)?

Do you like to play but never practice enough? Would getting together once a month be just the encouragement you need?



I was thinking it would be nice if a local group existed with no required level of ability; just a sense of fun and a bit of enthusiasm. Well here is an attempt to make that happen. The first meeting will be chaos but we should probably choose a suitably facetious name for the group and try to agree what we want to do the next time. And we could all have a wee tootle or strum or whatever so we can see what we are up against. Of course if you do have some talent and a willingness to help others that would be good too. And if you don't have the instrument any more we might be able to resolve that between us so don't let that hold you back. Interested?

Email **freelandppp@gmail.com** (preferred) or text **07982 134991**, or call that number if you don't do either of those things. We'll take it from there.

FOREVER FIELDS CELEBRATES OUR PRECIOUS LAND

Thank you to Anthony Thompson, whose vision and backing orchestrated 'The Forever Fields Project' (www.foreverfields.co.uk) that culminated in an Art Exhibition. On 24th–26th November, more than 1,100 people visited the art exhibition held at Worton Hall by the Forever Fields project team. Professional and amateur artists created 160 works of art, including paintings, photography, sculpture, audio-visual work, poetry and prose – all celebrating our local green spaces, which are under direct threat from the Botley West power station proposal. Collectively, the artists spoke of their commitment to our fields, to our wild places, to our settlements and to the biodiversity of nature.

It became very clear during the exhibition that visitors were united with the artists in their rejection of the Botley West proposal. They could not see how the sacrifice of 11 miles of countryside – 75% of it on green belt land – to a single industrial development of 2.5 million ground-mounted solar panels can be justified, especially when alternatives, such as wind power, produce more electricity without harming vital food production.



They saw financial greed, rather than a sustainable energy strategy being developed.

Anthony commissioned 'CONNECTED' a willow sculpture by Andy Goodwin of 'Willow Coppice' (www.willowcoppice.com). As the centre piece of the show, the two interlocking 3 metre willow circles expressed the interdependence of 'Humans' and 'Nature' and how we need to maintain the ecological balance forever.

A large scale video installation by Charlotte Holmes, also of 'Willow Coppice' had recorded the movements and sounds of wind in the crops and grasses, rainwater and birdsong and ran throughout the exhibition. 16 minutes long on repeat there was constant reminder of the exhibition focus, with a call of the cuckoo punctuating proceedings.

Before the exhibition opened, all the artworks were photographed and recorded for an archive. If Botley West goes ahead, it will last 40+ years before it is dismantled and the land relinquished. The archive will show how the landscape looked, felt and sounded, and what it meant to the people living, working and walking in it. It can be used to guide future custodians of the land as they help to repair the damage. The Forever Fields team is working on the best way to retain the archive, and how make it freely and publicly accessible. Details will be shared in due course.

The exhibition was a resounding success – but there is work to be done yet; our fields remain at risk. Watch this space! We will let you know what we are planning next and how you can take part. You can contact us with any feedback or queries at:

foreverfieldsproject@gmail.com



FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Friday 10th May
Freeland Village Hall
7pm-8:30pm

Topic speaker:
Saltcross Garden Village
Garden of remembrance
County and district Councillors
Parish Councillors

Freeland Open Gardens

22nd & 23rd June 2024

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Your garden may be an immaculate example of your artistic talents, a productive source of food, a tranquil space in which to gather your thoughts or a lightly managed haven for wildlife.

Maybe it is a combination of all of these.

"Open Gardens" is a wonderful opportunity to share your passion with like-minded people.

Please consider taking part.

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

All proceeds will go towards ongoing Village projects.

FREELAND WALKING GROUP

The group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month for a walk of about 5 miles 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 walks are on **Wednesdays 21st February & 20th March.** Janet Dalton

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
Next event - **6th February & 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 22 Jan Freeland Gardening Club, Freeland Hall, **7.30pm** Annual fun quiz with prize!
W 24 Jan Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
F 26 Jan Freeland Wine Club, Village Hall, **7.30pm** Wines from chardonnay grapes
W 31 Jan Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Sa 3 Feb Coffee Morning fundraiser, Freeland Hall, 10am - 12noon, cash only
Su 4 Feb Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers - **10am** from opposite the Yeoman
Tu 6 Feb The Cake Café, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am
Tu 6 Feb North Leigh History Society, Memorial Hall, North Leigh, **7.30pm, £4**
W 7 Feb Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
F 9 Feb Witney Music Society, High St Methodist Church, Witney. Doors **7pm**
M 12 Feb Freeland Parish Council Meeting, Newell Room, **7.30pm**
M 12 Feb Freeland WI, Village Hall, **7.45pm** - 'Discuss the resolutions' & food + quiz
W 14 Feb Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
W 14 Feb Freeland Grapevine - March edition deadline day
W 21 Feb Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
W 21 Feb Freeland Walking Group - meet at the Village Hall car park at **9.15am**
M 26 Feb Freeland Gardening Club, Freeland Hall, **7.30pm** 'Potty Time (A Year in Pots)'
W 28 Feb Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Su 3 Mar Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers - **10am** from opposite the Yeoman
Tu 5 Mar The Cake Café, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am
Tu 5 Mar North Leigh History Society, Memorial Hall, North Leigh, **7.30pm £4**

WORRIED ABOUT COSTS?

Are you worrying about how to manage the cost of living? Or do you know a neighbour or relative who lives in the Parishes of Eynsham or **Freeland** (Ancient Parish of Eynsham) who is struggling to make ends meet?

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**

The deadline for articles or adverts for the **March** Grapevine is **Wednesday 14th February**. The **March** edition should be online at: **www.freelandoxon.co.uk** or at **www.freelandpc.org.uk** from **Monday 19th February** with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from **Friday 23rd 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 **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.

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**

COMING UP

Thu 25th Jan - Burns night returns. Set menu

Sat 27th Jan - Uggy's from 5pm (kitchen closed)

Sat 10th Feb - It's Uggy's again!

Weds 14th Feb - Valentines Night special set menu

Mon 26-Weds 28th Feb - PUB CLOSED FOR SOME TLC!

Thurs 29th Feb - Join us as we reopen the doors.....!

Fri 1st March - Jamie Felton live! 



THE OXFORDSHIRE YEOMAN

FREELAND, OXFORDSHIRE

Pub opening times

Mon/Tues 5pm - 10.30pm
Weds/Thurs 12pm-3pm/5pm-11pm
Fri 9.30am - 11.30pm
Sat 12pm - 11.30pm
Sun 12pm - 10.30pm

Kitchen hours

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

SUNDAY ROASTS

For the next few months, we will once again be serving up Sunday roasts. Booking advisable!

01993 881003

hello@oxfordshireyeoman.com

www.oxfordshireyeoman.com



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BLLENHEIM

COMMUNITY

The past couple of months from the end of 2023 to the beginning of 2024 have been very busy community wise! We hosted 100 people for The Cherwell Collective who came to see Sleeping Beauty in the Palace and the Illuminated Light Trail. Cherwell Collective operate a foodbank in Kidlington but also provide much wider support for families and individuals, with a strong focus on food sustainability. We also welcomed 50 people from The Oxford Hub which offers support to vulnerable families and individuals from the Barton area.

We donated a Christmas Tree to the Ophelia Project based in Kidlington which is a newly established drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation centre for women. We hope to work closely with them in 2024 and are looking at providing bicycles for the residents to use, as well as help give advice and support from our Housing team.


Four of our staff went to Chipping Norton in the week before Christmas, to help Chippy Larder pack food hampers for local families. This was part of the new volunteering scheme we have launched at Blenheim which gives staff one day of paid volunteering leave per year.

The Estates Team went to Hanborough Manor Primary School to remove ten dead trees and replace them with trees grown on the Estate. They are also currently building a Buddy-Bench for Charlbury Primary School as well as two reading sheds for Yarnton Primary School.

You can find out more on our Community Website, Blenheim Community

blenheimcommunities.org

or on my Facebook page

 **Meryllyn Davies – Community Lead at Blenheim**