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## St Mary's Freeland



March 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 buildings until further notice.

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

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

**Thank you to the Freeland Bell Ringers for permission to use their  
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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

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

### Licensed Lay Ministers:

**Clive Berry 01993 882080**

**Hugh Dalton Emeritus 01993 881742**

### Churchwardens:

**Claire Soanes 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: Rev. Steve Stewart 01993 881270** [rector@hanboroughparish.co.uk](mailto:rector@hanboroughparish.co.uk)  
[administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk](mailto:administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk)

All sorts of interesting information about St Mary's can be seen on the "A Church Near You" website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/5863](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 (21/02/2021). 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 church continues, and we would like to share some of our activities with you. Please contact a member of our clergy team if you are interested.

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

**You are very welcome to join us.**

**The Zoom joining details are on the homepage of the church website at [www.hanboroughparish.co.uk](http://www.hanboroughparish.co.uk)**

Should you wish to join our email circulation list, please email Louise at [administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk](mailto:administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk)

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## **Letter from our Curate**

Dear friends;

*‘<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.’ (Psalm 23:1-3)*

The quotation above taken from the first three verses of Psalm 23, is a timely reminder that even King David with all his servants needed to take time to sit quietly and enjoy the blessing of green fields and quiet waters in God’s creation, in order to recharge his batteries.

Around three thousand years later in the 21st Century we are no different. It has been over a year since we first heard about the Covid-19 virus, and for many of us it has been a tough year involving longer working hours, caring for our relatives and friends, home education and sadly, in far too many cases, the loss of loved ones. However, with millions of people receiving the vaccine, thankfully the number of infections and associated deaths are beginning to fall, which gives us hope that at some point in the future we may be able to return to some semblance of normal. Nevertheless, if the last few months have taught us anything it is that we are in a marathon and not a sprint, and that we need to take time to look after ourselves, and those around us to ensure we do not become too weary.

Therefore, my encouragement to us all is to try and find five minutes each day, away from the busyness of our work and family lives to enjoy God’s creation to ‘lie down in green pastures’, ‘to walk by quiet waters’, to ‘allow God to refresh and restore us’. For some this might involve a walk along one of our local footpaths, or simply a wander around our own gardens, for others restoration and refreshment might come through music, poetry or literature. Whatever works for you allow yourself this small luxury.

Blessings,

Rev. Mike

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FROM THE REGISTERS AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN**

**Funeral and Burial:** Albert Aubrey Didcock 18th November 2020

**Ashes Interment:** Gerald White 29th January 2021

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## **ST MARY’S TOWER CLOCK**

The strike hammer remains lifted off. We are awaiting the easing of the current restrictions before the clock engineers can visit.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **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)**



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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 28th Feb - 10am** Mrs Rachel Prince

**Sunday 7th March - 10am** Mr Owen Carney

**Sunday 14th March - 10am** Rev. Fred Ireland (Holy Communion)

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

**Sunday 28th March - 10am** Rev. Hedley Feast

**Sunday 4th April - 10am** Rev. Richard Donoghue (Holy Communion)

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

Website: [www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk](http://www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk)

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FINANCIAL HELP**

Financial help is still available for people struggling to feed their families or heat their homes this winter as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oxfordshire County Council, in partnership with the county's district councils and Citizens Advice services, is offering support to vulnerable residents through a Winter Support Grant. Oxfordshire was awarded £400,000 by the government in December to fund the cost of food, electricity, heating and other essential items, and the financial help is available for households to claim by **Wednesday 31st March, 2021**.

**<https://healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/news/grants-available-to-help-people-hit-financially-by-pandemic/>**

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We can assist you with specialist legal advice on Wills, inheritance tax planning, powers of attorney, helping with probate and generally protecting your assets. We also help protect the vulnerable or elderly.

Our tax specialists are also here to help with your personal tax compliance, including preparing personal tax returns and offering guidance on HMRC correspondence. They can also advise you on tax planning on the sale/gift of assets, including the new reporting of capital gains on the sale of private residences.

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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## **FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL – LISA'S NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th FEBRUARY 2021**

### **Parish Council Elections – 6th May 2021**

Following on from last month, we have now received confirmation that the elections will go ahead this year. Having served a number of years on the Council, 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! I can assure you our meetings are nothing like the recent one publicised in Handforth, and contrary to popular belief, they are also nothing like the meetings shown in the Vicar of Dibley either!!!! They are a very friendly bunch who do their best to improve Freeland and make it the fantastic village it is 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. I know there are some very enthusiastic residents out there who have some great energy to make things better, what better way to channel that energy and enthusiasm than to become a Parish Councillor?! Contact me if you'd like to know more or to register your interest on **01993 880067** or **[lisa.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.fpc@gmail.com)**.

### **Gigaclear works in Freeland**

I have been advised that the Gigaclear works to bring fibre broadband to the premises will be starting in Freeland this month, and this is the information I have received so far:

- **Thursday 18/02 – Parklands** – the initial works will now be in the 2 cul-de-sacs that come off the main stretch of Parklands – the area outside the school is likely to be finished by the end of the month, so will not interfere with when the school reopens following lockdown.
- **Monday 22/02 – Wroslyn Road** – one crew will start at the top end (Witney Road end)
- **Monday 29/02 – Wroslyn Road** – one crew will be working in the Parklands area of the road.

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

### **White lines around Oakland Close junction**

The Parish Council have made a request to Highways to have white lines painted around the junction of Oakland Close to mirror those on Parklands. This is in response to residents' concerns about ongoing parking issues at school drop off and pick-up times, especially as there is no pavement in Oakland Close and the road is very narrow at the entrance. I am awaiting on a site visit from Highways to review the junction and hopefully give the go ahead for this work. Once I know more I will update you.

### **Please Scoop the Poop!!**

Yep, that's right, it's the dreaded dog poop again! Come on people, I don't really need to say much about this do I? It's smelly, disgusting and a health hazard and needs to be disposed of properly. The vast majority of dog owners are responsible people who

*Continued.....*



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City & Guilds



*Continued.....*

clear up after their four-legged friend – don't be the one in that small minority who spoil our lovely village with horrible smelly poop! Scoop the poop please! Thank you!

### **Bulbs around the village**

The snowdrops are out and don't they look pretty after the dull drab winter days? The first signs that Spring is just around the corner! The daffodils are also now starting to push through ready to display their beautiful bright cheery yellow flowers. This is one of my most favourite times of the year when the daffodils come out as our village just looks so incredibly beautiful. These bulbs have been lovingly planted by members of the Gardening Club and every year the flowers make a stunning display throughout our 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**

Following on from last month, just a reminder of the help currently 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** to let me know when it will be ready. A local volunteer from Freeland will then deliver your prescription.

#### **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).

---

**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** . (**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** .

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

*Continued.....*

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Continued.....

**For medical advice**, use the **NHS 111** online coronavirus service at **111.nhs.uk/covid-19** or if you have no internet access call **111** from your phone. In a medical emergency, 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** (under Parish Council/Planning Tracker) or via the WODC website at **www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning** . You can also contact the Planning Team at WODC on **01993 861420** and view the documents at Woodgreen Council Offices.

### **Applications Received:**

**20/03584/HHD 53 Wroslyn Road, Freeland.**

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

**21/00068/HHD 59 Wroslyn Road, Freeland.**

Erection of a two-storey side extension, single story rear extension and conversion of loft space with rear dormer for Mrs Evens.

### **Applications Approved:**

**20/03458/HHD 20 Blenheim Lane, Freeland.**

Erection of two-storey rear and side extensions to replace existing garage and utility and construction of new garage for Mr & Mrs Lay.

**20/02310/HHD Pipers, 163 Wroslyn Road, Freeland.**

Partial demolition of existing garage and rear extension and replace with a two-storey side extension for Mr G Bull.

**20/02311/LBC Pipers, 163 Wroslyn Road, Freeland.**

Internal and external alterations to include partial demolition of existing garage and rear extension and replace with a two-storey side extension together with changes to internal layout for Mr G Bull.

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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 March 2021 at 7.30pm.** Details of how to join the meeting will be available from **Wednesday 10th March** on the village website (under Parish Council/Agendas) and the notice board 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)**





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## **YOUR COUNCIL TAX EXPLAINED**

February is budget setting time in local government and residents should receive their Council Tax Bills from West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) around mid-March. WODC is the collection agency for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), Thames Valley Police Authority (TVPA) and Freeland Parish Council (FPC). Your bill will show the charges made by those authorities. Many of you might be very keen to understand your Council Tax Bills but too busy to read all the budget papers prepared by your various councils and TVPA, so here are the highlights.

First, I should explain that the figures below relate to a dwelling in Band D, which is generally used as a benchmark, and that the charge for a dwelling in Band A is two-thirds of that for Band D whereas that for a dwelling in Band H is double that of Band D. For a dwelling in Freeland in Band D the total tax is about £2,009. The lion's share goes to OCC (78.3%) with the rest going to TVPA (11.5%), WODC (5.4%) and FPC (4.7%). The increase in the total tax demand is 3.5% and this comprises £45.67 to OCC, £15 to TVPA, £5 to WODC and £1.56 to FPC. FPC's Precept for 2021/22 is about £66,000 which, taking into account the increase in the tax-base due to the expected number of new occupied dwellings, is a tax rise of 1.67%. About half of the Precept goes towards repaying the loans for the Village Hall and the rest is on essential expenses for maintaining and improving facilities.

The increase in WODC's charge is 4.8% but total expenditure is budgeted to increase by about 12% to fund frontline services and support local communities but particularly the ongoing Covid-19 response, Climate Action and preventing homelessness. WODC's charge covers 36.6% of its funding needs with the rest coming from business rates, Government grants, investment income and use of reserves. Any borrowing must be limited to affordable and viable projects. Councils have a legal duty to prepare a balanced budget with a sustainable use of general reserves. This is likely to be the outcome for the current financial year 2020/21 despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Finally, the increase in OCC's charge includes a 1% precept for Adult Social Care although they had the option to go for the maximum 3%. Adult and Children Social Care accounts for 53% of OCC's expenditure with Education a distant second at 14%. On the funding side, OCC's charge is by far the main source representing 63% with Government grants at 20%, business rates at 12% and fees at 5%.

Alaa Al-Yousuf – District Councillor

**T: 880689 or M: 07768 898914 or E: [alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk)**

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If you would like to discuss any of the above services, please call

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

## **EYNESHAM MEDICAL GROUP UPDATE as at 18th February, 2021**

### **Covid 19 vaccination programme**

We have completed vaccinations of all those patients in **Groups 1-4** (who wanted it) within the Government's target date, and now moved onto **Group 5** (all those over 65 years of age). That is also going very well so it won't be too long until we will be able to move onto **Group 6** (all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality).

We continue to ask that you do not call the surgery regarding the Covid vaccination unless it is urgent. We will contact eligible patients directly to arrange appointments. Thank you for your patience.

### **Vaccination clinic locations**

Some of you may be receiving invitations *by post* from the NHS to have your vaccination elsewhere. If an invitation has apparently come from the NHS on an e-mail, then it is almost certainly a scam. The NHS does not send invitations on e-mail, but the Practice might, so read that type of email very carefully.

If you decide to go to the Kassam Stadium for your jab, then bear in mind that you will need to go there for the second one as well.

On the grounds that there is no place like home, most of us will prefer to have ours done at the Practice. If your appointment is at the Windrush in Witney then check your appointment time and please do not arrive too early. All that does is to extend the length of the queue. Please tell your friends and neighbours the same. Although the queue might look long, there are at least six, and sometimes twelve, vaccinators at work – so you will move through quite smoothly.

### **About the different vaccines**

Some of you have asked about the vaccines and why the clinics might be at different locations. You will be allocated a location when the appointment is made and not have a choice as to which of the current two types of vaccine you will have.

**The Pfizer vaccine** is delivered in batches of over 1,100 doses each time. It has to be kept at a very low temperature and, once at the Practice, must be used within five days. As a result, the four Primary Care Group (PCG) Practices (Eynsham, Cogges, Nuffield and the Windrush) all join together to have combined vaccination sessions at the Windrush Health Centre in order to use the vaccine promptly and most efficiently. This vaccine also requires a fifteen-minute wait at the Practice after vaccination so that any patient who has a reaction (which is rare) is in a safe place.

**The Astra Zeneca (Oxford) vaccine** does not have the same temperature restrictions and can be handled in smaller batches by the individual Practices – in our case at Long Hanborough. The patient can leave the surgery straight afterwards without having to wait.

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

We hope to move to the new surgery in the near future but the date is not yet confirmed. We very much look forward to welcoming our patients to our brand-new Surgery and Pharmacy very soon.



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

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

We expect to host:

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

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

**The next Market will be on Sunday 28th March**

## **FREELAND CRAFT CLUB**

These delightful creatures are "Worry Monsters" and are the latest project of the Craft Club, while we are still isolating. A Worry Monster is a stuffed character that has a mouth in which a child can place a piece of paper, onto which they have written or drawn a worry. The monster eats or carries off the worry. They are used by therapists to help children suffering from abuse, neglect, bereavement or other serious problems and ours are donated to an NHS school nurse dealing everyday with these unfortunate children - whose problems have increased due to the current lockdown.



For further information, please contact: Helen Molden **01993 882305** or Margaret Wright **01993 881316** [geeandemm@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:geeandemm@hotmail.co.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ARE YOU FED-UP WITH WALKING THE SAME WALKS?**

Walking in Oxfordshire [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire) is the website for you! With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Oxfordshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)) - one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'. (Ed's note: always following current Covid rules, of course) With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris [www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk) email: [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)



# Inspired Villages Public Consultation

**Friday 5 March - Friday 12 March**

You are invited to share your views on the proposed plans for a new retirement village on land between Wroslyn Road and the Freeland House Care Home.

Inspired Villages is preparing an outline planning application for a retirement community of approximately 150 apartments and cottages. There will also be on-site communal and care facilities including a café, restaurant, shop, meeting space, wellbeing centre (comprising fitness studio, gym and indoor pool), treatment rooms, village transport service and open space.

Since the first online consultation event, we have taken on board your initial feedback and have undertaken a pre-application meeting with West Oxfordshire District Council.

This second consultation event will also be held online due to current COVID-19 restrictions. The plans will be available via the Inspired Villages Freeland website and we would like to hear your views via an online questionnaire from 9am on **5 March** to 5pm on **12 March**. Alternatively, if you will be unable to access the online exhibition please email [freelandconsultation@inspiredvillages.co.uk](mailto:freelandconsultation@inspiredvillages.co.uk) or telephone **07436 399 760** to receive a copy of the plans and provide feedback.

You can also post the overleaf response form to us at: **Freeland Consultation, Unit 3, Edwalton Business Park, Landmere Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham, NG12 4JL**

Please visit [www.inspiredvillages.co.uk/village/freeland](http://www.inspiredvillages.co.uk/village/freeland) to view the plans and provide comments.





## We would like to hear your views on the proposed retirement community.

Please complete the details in Section 1 and fill in your comments about the proposals in Section 2. It will only take a few minutes of your time and will greatly help us to assess community feedback on the proposals.

Please post your completed questionnaire back to us:

**Freeland Consultation, Unit 3, Edwalton Business Park, Landmere Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham, NG12 4JL**

Alternatively, visit [www.inspiredvillages.co.uk/village/freeland](http://www.inspiredvillages.co.uk/village/freeland) to leave your feedback or email us at [freelandconsultation@inspiredvillages.co.uk](mailto:freelandconsultation@inspiredvillages.co.uk) for more information.

### Section 1: Information about yourself

Name and address

Please complete this section in BLOCK CAPS. We will not use it for any other purpose unless you indicate you wish to receive further information.	
Title	Name
Address	
Postcode (please complete)	Phone

Further Information

Inspired Villages and Legal and General may wish to contact you in the future with updates on this project. If you wish to receive further information by post or email, please tick the appropriate box and supply your address.		
Post <input type="checkbox"/>	Email <input type="checkbox"/>	Phone <input type="checkbox"/>
Please complete if you wish to be contacted: Email address		

P.T.O.

## Section 2: Questions

1. Is there a need to provide housing for older people in West Oxfordshire District?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

2. Please provide your general comments on the proposals.

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3. Are there any facilities you would like to be provided within the proposed development, that could be available to the local community?

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4. Would you support the proposals?

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5. Would you be interested in future marketing/sales material?

Yes ☐

No ☐

**Thank you for taking the time to respond**

## **FREELAND CRICKET CLUB**

As we approach spring we are looking forward to returning to some sort of normality and this means a season of cricket for all of our teams.

We are planning our training sessions and competition entries, as well as understanding what options we have for growing our player pool at all levels.

If you are interested in playing or supporting the club please contact me.

We will be running the following teams this year:

Under 9s softball

Under 11s softball and hardball

Under 13s hardball

Under 15s hardball

Women's hardball and softball

Cherwell League team

Midweek T-20 team

Sunday friendly team

There will also be Girls' teams at under 11 and under 13.

Our umpire for the past three years, Linda Day, has let us know that she will be unable to be our official this summer as she will be focusing upon umpiring in county matches.

This is an excellent opportunity for Linda, as this will lead to more senior matches, possibly at international level in the future. The club are extremely grateful for everything Linda has done for us and enabling the club to re-enter League cricket, we wish her every success and cannot wait to see her on TV. Linda will still be around to help out occasionally.

Therefore, we are looking for support in umpiring this season. The rules have also changed a little, so our umpire can choose to umpire Freeland matches rather than travelling to other clubs. Umpires also get a fee for taking part in the match, as well as a free tea. There is also an offer of free training and membership of the Umpires' Association. If you are interested in this role, please contact me.

The club also uses an array of social media, Facebook, Twitter and has a webpage, but we are looking to consolidate these into an integrated social media offer. However, we have limited skill and time to do this, so we are also looking for someone who has an interest in media who can join the committee and help develop our online experience. This might be of interest to school pupils, college students or other members of the community. You do not need to know anything about cricket.

So to summarise we are looking for;

1. More players, all ages and genders, from the age of 5 upwards.
2. We need one or two people who would like to be our League umpire
3. We need a person who is interested in developing our social media presence

Please contact me if you are interested in any of the above.

Simon Brown - Chair - Freeland Cricket Club

E: [freelandcc.ul1@gmail.com](mailto:freelandcc.ul1@gmail.com)

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

Facebook: **Freeland Cricket Club**

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

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## **FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS**

In line with government guidelines, all matches and training are still suspended and, at present, it looks unlikely that this season will be concluded.

Even with the current suspension, the weather has been a bit pants for football. Chairman Si Hole has been sniffing around trying to tie up some of the last pitch improvements we have planned. Hopefully, when we are finally allowed back, the field will not be resembling the lake it has been recently!

We hope you are all well and staying safe.

Ben Symonds - Secretary Freeland FC

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

Twitter: @freeland\_fc

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



We've had a few changes since 2021 started. Steve is now acting as Group Scout Leader as well as continuing to be our Cubs Leader. We owe a massive thank you to him for taking on this additional responsibility, after

Adam asked to step back from the role after many years of serving the group.

Paul, who was an assistant Cubs leader, has now taken over from Mike as Scouts Leader. This means that **Scouts** have now become active again, and are starting to have online sessions via Zoom.

**Cubs** have been very active on Zoom every week. Lately they've been making and editing short videos as well as making batteries using lemons!

**Beavers** have been working towards their badges by taking part in activities at home. The leaders post instructional videos on Facebook for the Beavers to follow along with. Recently they have been practising how to tie different knots and have started a reading challenge.

Like everything else at the moment, all our 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, who have been amazing at adapting to the lockdown conditions.

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

To get involved take a look at our website [www.hfscouting.org.uk](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.

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

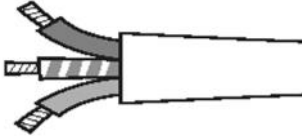
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**ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE GRAPEVINE** are available in the Church Porch, which is open from 9am to 4pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays. You can also pick up copies at the **Oxfordshire Yeoman** when you are picking up your food takeaway on Friday evenings, Saturday mornings or Sunday lunchtimes. There are also copies on the bottom of the newspaper stand rack, straight ahead, inside the door of the **Long Hanborough Coop**.

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## **CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2021**

Following on from the report from last year's delivery service in the February Grapevine, I am very pleased to report that I was contacted by Waitrose with some very good news. Although due to Covid, they were unable to run their very popular Green Disc scheme, each store still had community funding to distribute. I contacted them in January, originally to thank them for their funding in 2020 from the scheme, and of course did ask if we could be considered again, if it was in the rules. The Community Manager at Waitrose told me that we had indeed been put forward again and had therefore a third share of **£1000**, along with two other local groups.

If you do shop with Waitrose, and in your travels round the aisles, come across a manager type of person, please thank them because we just might be lucky again. If the green discs make a return - you know what to do!

If you want to be involved with Lunch 2021, just make contact. Fingers crossed it is a proper sit down event in 2021 - no viruses invited !!

Julie Stuart-Thompson [julie.st@btinternet.com](mailto:julie.st@btinternet.com) **01993 880378**

Jane Linnell **07437 330285**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS**

Thank you for continuing to use the Little Free Libraries; it's wonderful to see so many books coming and going, which can only mean that we are all busy reading!

Thank you, also, to the Little Free Library volunteers, who keep the shelves looking tidy and well stocked. Their help is greatly appreciated.



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, or wipe them down, to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

**Thursday 4th March is World Book Day**, so make sure you have a book to read. There are always plenty so feel free to take as many as you like!

Matthew & the Little Free Library volunteers

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

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## **ALUMINIUM CAN COLLECTION**

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

At the time of writing, we are still in lockdown and may well be for some time. 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**

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## **WOODSTOCK AND DISTRICT U3A**

Monthly Speaker Meetings are still on-line with the continuing Covid lockdown.



Our next meeting, on **Tuesday 2nd March**, promises an account of growing up in post-WWII East London by Jeff Rozelaar. There will be 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 talks:

**<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodstock>**

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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## **SALT CROSS AREA ACTION PLAN SUBMITTED TO THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

The draft Area Action Plan for Salt Cross garden village has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate along with the supporting viability assessment.

The consultation period for the outline planning application has also now closed and the responses collated. These can now be viewed on the West Oxfordshire District Council website here:

**<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/salt-cross-garden-village/>**

Cllr Jeff Haine, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, said: “We look forward to confirming an allocated date for the Planning Inspectorate hearing and would like to thank everyone who responded to the consultation.

“Meanwhile, the Government has produced a draft National Model Design Code and we look forward to working with the community soon to look at developing design codes for the neighbourhoods of Salt Cross.”

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## **FREELAND GARDENING CLUB**

What a variety of weather we have had during January and February, but with spring on the way we should soon have more good days than dreary ones!

Things are beginning to awaken in the garden and there are some jobs we can do to make the coming season more colourful and fruitful, so here are a few jobs that can be done in March.

If you took pictures of your garden last year, look back on them and see if there are any changes you could make. It is quite an idea to photograph your garden through each season.

Clean all bird feeders and put clean water out for birds to drink and wash in. Keep bird feeders topped up as the birds will have come to rely on them.

If you grow brassicas take off all brown and dead leaves. Sprout tops make a delicious chopped up vegetable. Keep brassicas covered as the pigeons will strip the top leaves. If your pansies or violas developed black spots, don't grow them in the same place next year. Soft fruit can be pruned now. Take out about a third of old and small blackcurrant branches. For gooseberries, red and white currants cut side shoots to 2 or 3 buds and shorten top branches by a third. Feed and mulch all bushes with garden compost or a suitable one from the Nurseries. Mulch flower beds as well.

Remove any crossing and dead growth from apple trees and shorten side shoots to 5 or 6 buds.

The weeds will have begun to grow again so remove as many as possible before they flower. If you have a large bare patch, this can be covered with old carpet or cardboard and cover with a mulch such as mushroom compost. Start planting seeds or order plug plants. If you don't have a greenhouse don't be tempted to buy them too early as they can't be planted out till about May. Plant spring bulbs if you still have any.

This is a good time to check your tools and sharpen secateurs, edging shears etc.

A neighbour has made me aware of the War Graves Commission which has a special remembrance week at the end of May. They are giving away free wildflower seeds for a small donation to be planted now. These should flower from about May to October and include poppy seeds. The Gardening Club has ordered some and the suggestion is to plant them round our memorial trees if the Parish Council is agreeable. We know some residents like to plant under a tree near them and we wouldn't want to interfere with this, but if they are happy to have wild flowers planted this year please contact Jill Evans on the email below.

Still no news as to when we can all meet again but we hope it will be sometime in the summer. For any new residents, we are a very friendly busy club who normally meet every last Monday of the month in Freeland Hall when we have excellent speakers on a great variety of subjects.

The daffodils planted by the Gardening Club throughout the village should soon be in full bloom. What a welcome sight as you come into the village!

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

Janet Dalton (Secretary)

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## **FREELAND WI**

The evenings are getting lighter and lots of our members have received their first dose of the Covid vaccination so things are definitely looking up.

We are continuing to keep in touch through our monthly newsletter, telephone calls or a keep in touch card.

Currently the Committee are busy planning for our AGM which will be held over Zoom on **Monday 8th March at 7.00pm.**

As it looks unlikely that we will be able to hold physical meetings for the foreseeable future, we are also planning to hold monthly Zoom meetings. We will keep reviewing future meetings on the basis of guidance from the Government and the Oxfordshire and National Federation.

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

### **WI Climate Advisor Tip from Rosie Smith:**

#### **Offset your carbon footprint by planting wildflowers**

Climate change, as well as council actions, are having a detrimental affect on wildflower verges and other spaces. As well as being beneficial for carbon offsetting and beautiful to see, a wildflower space/verge provides support for more than a 20,000 species of insect across the UK. Among these insects there are at least 1,500 species of pollinating insects, they range from honey bees to wild bumble bees, moths, butterflies, wasps, beetles and hoverflies, just to mention a few. These essential insects are all under threat from the destruction of their habitat. We can campaign to do less cutting of verges and also we can make efforts to create for ourselves in our gardens or in public spaces more wildflower spaces.

**[https://www.tarkacountrytrust.org.uk/uploads/1/5/4/4/15448192/wildflower\\_verges\\_-\\_getting\\_started\\_guidance\\_notes\\_.pdf](https://www.tarkacountrytrust.org.uk/uploads/1/5/4/4/15448192/wildflower_verges_-_getting_started_guidance_notes_.pdf)**

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**

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

Please contact Paul Sayer on **[paul.pshmi@googlemail.com](mailto:paul.pshmi@googlemail.com)** for details of the virtual meetings and the programme.

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

W 24 Feb Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection  
Su 28 Feb **Farmers' Market - Freeland Village Hall car park 10am - 1pm**  
W 3 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection  
M 8 Mar Freeland WI AGM via Zoom  
W 10 Mar Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection  
M 15 Mar **Freeland Parish Council 'Zoom' Virtual Meeting, 7.30pm**  
W 17 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection  
W 24 Mar Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection  
Su 28 Mar **BRITISH SUMMER TIME STARTS - put your clocks forward an hour**  
Su 28 Mar **Farmers' Market - Freeland Village Hall car park 10am - 1pm**  
W 31 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection  
F 2 Apr / M 5 Apr **Bank Holidays**

## **LOCAL ARTISTS LAUNCH COMMUNITY PROJECT TO ENCOURAGE FRESH PERSPECTIVES ON NATURE**

Do you have a favourite place, plant, or walk in the Wychwood area?  
Artists in residence at the Wychwood Project Nimmi Naidoo and Flora Gregory would love to hear from you.

The artists would like to invite anyone living in the Wychwood area to share photos, videos, poems or artworks reflecting the places they love in the Wychwood Forest, to form the basis of an innovative virtual artwork that explores how we see the environment around us. Using these contributions, the artists will create an accessible webpage celebrating our local environment, encouraging discovery and help us experience familiar places with fresh eyes. To inspire audiences, the Wychwood Project will also share contributions on their Instagram channel.

Flora and Nimmi, known as the Mappists (<https://themappists.wordpress.com/>), create participatory art events that offer people different ways of connecting with nature. Find out more of their recent events on their website. Flora and Nimmi both gained an MA in Social Sculpture at Oxford Brookes University. Social Sculpture is an art form that employs social processes, and puts forward the idea that we are all artists in that every aspect of life can be seen as creative.

So whether it's a space with wonderful birdsong, that one tree you always admire, a view filled with memory, or just a path you walk along every evening, the Mappists would love to see, hear, or read your impressions of it. Please send in anything you would like to contribute to [miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk](mailto:miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk) (who will share it with the Mappists), and keep an eye on the Wychwood Project's Instagram ([@wychwoodproject](https://www.instagram.com/wychwoodproject)) to learn what others love about the Wychwood area. We hope you enjoy the project, and that it helps us all find fresh perspectives on the natural world around us, for lockdown and beyond.

The Wychwood Project restores habitats in the area formerly covered by the Wychwood Forest, managing nature reserves in Witney, Charlbury, Woodstock, and Hailey. It also runs events and initiatives to help local communities engage with nature, from courses to a popular annual Forest Fair.

Learn more at <http://www.wychwoodproject.org/cms/>



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\*\*\*\*\*

The deadline for articles or adverts for the **April Grapevine** is **Friday 12th March**.  
The **April** edition should be in the church porch and online at  
**www.freelandoxon.co.uk** from **Friday 26th March**.

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

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

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

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

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

Or mail: Kenny Wylie, I 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.

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