



# Grapevine

St Mary's Freeland



March 2024

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# **ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND**

**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

**Sunday 10th March 10.00am Morning Praise**

Leader: Val Richens/Andy Richens

Preacher: Andy Richens

**Sunday 17th March 10.00am Communion**

Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart

Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

**Sunday 24th March 10.00am Morning Praise**

Leader: Rev. Mike Madden

Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

**Sunday 31st March 10.00am Communion - Easter Day**

Leader: Rev. Steve Bellamy

Preacher: Rev. Steve Bellamy

**Sunday 7th April 10.00am All Age Communion**

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

The above information is correct on the date published (18/02/2024). 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](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)**

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## **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](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk) or use the QR code.



Freeland Parochial Church Council

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

**Memorial Service** for the late Patricia Congreve 19th January 2024

**Interment of Ashes:** Ivor John Lay and Barbara Joan Lay 9th February 2024

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**Front cover photo of the appropriately named Broadmarsh Woods!**

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### Useful contact details:

**Rector:** Rev. Steve Stewart  
**01993 881270**  
The Rectory, Swan Lane  
Long Hanborough OX29 8BT  
Email: [rector@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@hfchurch.org.uk)

**Associate Rector:** Rev. Mike Madden  
Email: [associate.rector@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto:associate.rector@hfchurch.org.uk)

**Curate:** Rev. Heather McCulloch  
Email: [heather.mcculloch@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)

**Weddings:** Rev. Steve Stewart 01993 881270 [rector@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@hfchurch.org.uk)  
[administrator@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)

 <p><b>First Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Baby and Toddler Group</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday (term time only), 10:00 - 11:30</b></p> <p><b>Christ Church, Long Hanborough</b></p> <p><b>£2 per family</b></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><b>For more information: <a href="http://hfchurch.org.uk/firststeps">hfchurch.org.uk/firststeps</a></b></p> 	

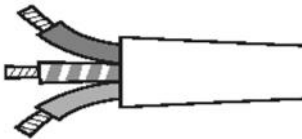
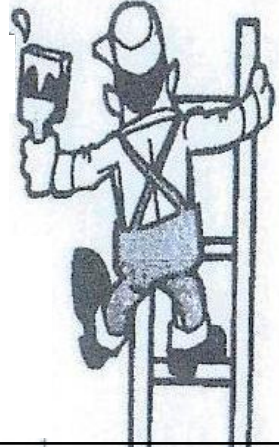
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## The Joy of the Lord is My Strength – Letter from the Curate

I was stomping around the field with my dog on a dull January day, the clouds heavy with pending precipitation which perfectly echoed my mood. I was dragging a weight in my soul, quiet anxiety about situations facing different members of my family and the constant grinding of world news oppressively haunting me with devastating images. And then I heard a glorious chattering song and was immediately struck by the incongruousness of the sound in winter. Usually, you have to squint into the brilliance of a scorched blue sky to catch a glimpse of a sky lark, but today it's tiny fluttering form stood silhouetted against the grey.

I was challenged by the lark's joyful exuberance, the delight in simply *being* all it was made to be that exuded from its chaotic dancing flight. God spoke to me, 'I want you to feel more of my joy, just like that lark'. I felt a release – the weight of the world, like a bag of rocks I'd been dragging behind me, fell to the ground. I remembered again Jesus' words: **'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'** (Matt 11:28-30)



I wonder what burdens you have been carrying, worries about your family or friends, anxiety about work or health. Maybe like me, you have been feeling the despair of the daily news. But Jesus tells us that his burden is light, we are not expected to shoulder the world's woes, or take responsibility for things we have no power over. Jesus has compassion and love for each and every person he has made and knows

the story of their whole lives. Our part is to ask Jesus to carry the burden of our concerns by giving them back to him in prayer.

I asked myself how I could be more like this lark? He does not worry about what others think of him, he is neither proud nor jealous. He is not attempting to do the work of his creator and is not anxious about the existential threat to his species, (the lark is on the RSPB 'red' list, meaning that its numbers are in decline). The lark may climb as high as 1000 feet, and sing for an hour at a time, putting his heart and soul into being all he was made to be. How could I be more like that? Jesus also said: **'Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?'** (Matt 6:26)

As we place our faith in Jesus, he is able to carry the weight of any burden for us if we hand it to him in prayer and trust him with the final outcome. Then we can invite his inexpressible peace and uncontainable joy to give us strength to face one day at a time.

Heather McCulloch, Curate Hanborough and Freeland Photo by Jacek Ulinski on Unsplash



# Chimney Sweep

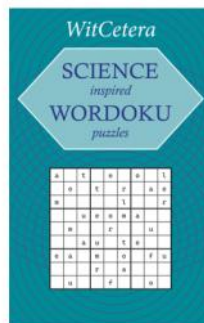
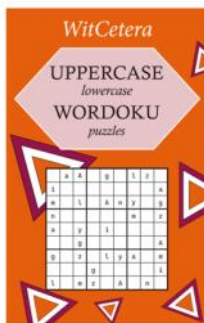
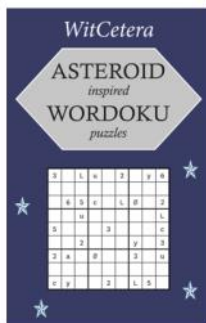
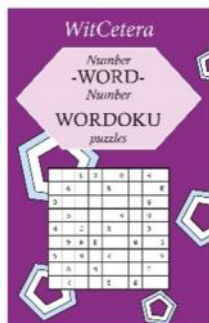
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## **SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH**

<b>Sunday 25th February</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Mike Madden	Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden
<b>Sunday 3rd March</b>	<b>10.00am All Age Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
<b>Sunday 10th March</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch	Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch
<b>Sunday 17th March</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson	Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson
<b>Sunday 24th March</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
<b>Sunday 31st March</b>	<b>10.00am Communion - Easter Day</b>
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch	Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch
<b>Sunday 7th April</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson	Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson

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## **SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH**

<b>Sunday 25th February</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson	Preacher: Benjamin Chamings-Manley
<b>Sunday 3rd March</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader: Steven Young/Saskia Emma Merry	Preacher: Jonathan Ford
<b>Sunday 10th March</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
<b>Sunday 17th March</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader: Rev. Mike Madden	Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden
<b>Sunday 24th March</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch	Preacher: Benjamin Chamings-Manley
<b>Sunday 31st March</b>	<b>10.00am Communion - Easter Day</b>
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
<b>Sunday 7th April</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader: Rev. Mike Madden	Preacher: TBC

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](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)

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## **BRIDEWELL GARDENS PLANT SALE**

**Thursday April 25th to Saturday April 27th – 10am to 1pm:**  
plants for sale in Bridewell's vineyard (the walled garden will not be open during the plant sale). Garden opening dates on page 45.

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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**

*"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)*

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## **ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT**

The bells will be rung at the following times:

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd March</b>	<b>9.30am - 10.00am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10th March</b>	<b>5.00pm - 6.00pm Choral Evensong</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>15th March</b>	<b>6.00pm - 7.00pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17th March</b>	<b>9.30am - 10.00am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24th March</b>	<b>9.30am - 10.00am Palm Sunday</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31st March</b>	<b>9.30am - 10.00am Easter Sunday</b>

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

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St. Mary's Bible Fun Club  
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**Good Friday 29th March - 2pm to 3pm**  
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## YOGA & PILATES - FREELAND VILLAGE HALL

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**WEDNESDAY - 9.30am Pilates**

**THURSDAY - 10.00am Yoga/Pilates mix**

**THURSDAY - 6.30pm Yoga/Pilates mix**

**THURSDAY - 7.30pm Yoga - Breath - Meditation**

**FRIDAY - 9.30am Yoga/Pilates mix**

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

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

<b>Sunday 3rd March</b>	<b>10am</b> Julie Biggs
<b>Sunday 10th March</b>	<b>10am</b> Rev. Charles Harris (Holy Communion)
<b>Sunday 17th March</b>	<b>10am</b> Rev. Charles Harris - All Age Worship
<b>Sunday 24th March</b>	<b>10am</b> Rev. Fred Ireland (Palm Sunday)
<b>Sunday 31st March</b>	<b>10am</b> Rev. J. Skinner (Holy Communion)
<b>Sunday 7th April</b>	<b>10am</b> Local arrangement

Please see [www.westoxfordshiremethodists.org.uk](http://www.westoxfordshiremethodists.org.uk) for all the latest information.

\*\*\*\*\*

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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**. For any Weekday Masses, please see the webpage.

**Holy Week Services** - See news sheet on parish webpage.

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## **FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES**

### **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](http://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](mailto:fayf.fpc@gmail.com) for further details.



### **Annual Parish Meeting**

On **Friday 10th May** we will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall. All are welcome to come along, 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.

### **Hedging works**

There has been a major maintenance operation by Oxfordshire County Council on the A4095 towards Hanborough, cutting back overgrown hedgerows. Following on from the works this should make it easier to walk and cycle along the footpath from Freeland to Hanborough.

*Continued.....*





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*Continued.....*

### **Playpark**

As a council we are looking to continue to develop our play facilities constantly. If you have any ideas on further improvements you'd really like to see, then please drop me a 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/**

### **Green tip**

We are all becoming more aware of the sharp decline in the natural world. We can see an example of this when we look at our local rivers. We are a village surrounded by water, and many of us take great pleasure from the Rivers Thames, Evenlode and Windrush. These great rivers are part of our sense of place, but like the rest of nature, rivers are under enormous pressure. We can see the constantly murky state of these rivers and the lack of vegetation in the water.

The reasons that our rivers are in such decline are well documented; effluent pumped untreated into the water as well as the pollution from industrial farming are both culpable. It can feel that, beyond protesting and voting for parties with green policies, we have little agency. But there are some simple lifestyles change we can make that can have a positive impact. I am sure most are aware that wet wipes must never be flushed down the toilet, but we are probably less aware that any chemicals we put down the sink or drain or even spray on the garden will end up in the rivers basically untreated. So, in the garden avoid using chemicals (see Royal Horticultural Society for guidance) and when it comes to the household use natural cleaning products. Many washing-up liquids and detergents contain ingredients that are "harmful to aquatic life, with long lasting effects". Read the label on the back of your washing up liquid. What does it say? Could you switch to a brand that is more eco-friendly? Many beauty personal care products, including perfumes, shampoos, soaps and make-up are frequently laden with chemicals. Consider using more natural products. The natural ones often smell nicer too! By doing our bit reducing the chemicals we use in our day to day life we can help arrest the decline of our beautiful rivers.

### **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**.

*Continued.....*

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Continued.....

**Applications Received:**

**24/00248/HHD 125 Broadmarsh Lane, Freeland**

Erection of single storey front and side extension

**24/00292/HHD 181 Wroslyn Road Freeland**

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

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

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

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

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

**Applications under consideration or appeal:**

**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.

**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:**

**23/02909/FUL 1 Cuckoo Wood Caravan Park, Eynsham Road, Freeland**

Erection of a building for the garaging of fairground vehicles.

**Applications Refused: None**

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

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 11th March 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](http://www.freelandpc.org.uk)** You can follow us on Facebook (**[@freelandpc](https://www.facebook.com/freelandpc)**) or Twitter (**[@freeland\\_pc](https://twitter.com/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](mailto:fayf.fpc@gmail.com)**

MJ Fyson BA BA VetMB MRCVS  
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## LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

We've had an extraordinary number of children's books donated during the past month, including board books for toddlers, picture books, non-fiction books and lots of older children's fiction. Thank you very much: the children in our village are very lucky to have access to so many free books. Please tell them to take as many as they like!



Both Little Free Libraries are usually well-stocked so there are always plenty of books available. If you can't find anything you like be sure to stop by on a different day as the books are always changing.

During wet weather we rely on you to close the lids to the donation boxes, to prevent the books from getting damaged. Thank you for being so considerate with this.

Most of the books that are donated are usually of high quality, but sometimes we do have to recycle the older or more damaged ones. When donating your books, please do check them to make sure that they are not falling apart or torn.

Thank you for your continued support and happy reading!

Many thanks from:

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

**01993 359 543**      **ruddlem@gmail.com**

\*\*\*\*\*

## FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

We are 10 weeks away from the new cricket season and things are starting to warm up!

We start indoor training for **Under 13s, Under 15s** and the **adult** teams on **Thursday 29th February** at Wood Green School.

We will then start outdoor training after the Easter holidays.

The **Junior** matches will start at the beginning of May.

We will have a very busy junior season, with the **Under 13s** alone playing over 20 matches!

This season we will be joining up with Witney Mills to have an **Under 11 girls'** team, which will be a great addition.

The **Women's Indoor** team has resumed playing and, with one match to go, lie 2nd in the League, this is a great achievement. In the last match Becky Edwards was top scorer and took most wickets, and along with Beth Soanes, smashed a couple of sixes!

All fixtures are now on our website.

We are planning a Race Night in the pub on **Friday 12th April starting at 7pm!**  
Bring ear defenders!

Simon Brown - Chair

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

**E:** [freelandccu1@gmail.com](mailto:freelandccu1@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** Freeland Cricket Club







# 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](mailto:manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk)





4-7 years



7-10 years



10-14 years



14-18 years

During February, the sections did the following:

**Rainbows** have drawn a Welcome path to welcome new Rainbows, mixed up the story of the three little pigs, made bird feeders and bug hotels. They made Chinese dragons and feasted on noodles and cakes decorated for Lunar new year.

**Brownies** completed 'mirror me' and 'character mix up' and other skills builders. They have chosen Tiggywinkles as their chosen charity for their Charity badge, celebrated Lunar new year with food and making bookmarks and dragons, along with lots of games too.

**Guides & Rangers** have celebrated lunar new year, tried semaphore and completed unit meeting activities including 'type writer', 'know your strengths' and 'guidetopia'.

### Help Needed *please*

Did you used to be in guiding and would like to return, or would you like to join us for the first time? Could you spare a couple of hours a week to show girls new things?

Our units are looking for new leaders and helpers, especially the guide units. Please get in touch if you can spare any time, it is very rewarding, just ask one of the leaders [freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com](mailto:freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com)



## **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](http://www.liam-walker.com/barnard-gate)**



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www.greensfunerals.co.uk



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## **FREELAND WI**

At our meeting on 12th February, members voted on the resolutions which have been put forward for consideration before one is adopted as the WI National Campaign.

The 4 resolutions which were shortlisted at the NFWI (National Federation WI) meeting on 3rd October 2023 are:

1. Dental Health Matters
2. Impacts of poor housing
3. Say 'no' to gambling advertising
4. Improving outcomes for women in the Criminal Justice System.

As it was a secret ballot, at our next meeting, we will find out which of these received the most votes from Freeland WI members.

After the voting we moved on to a carousel of activities which included tasting different chocolates and crisps. We ordered these in preference based on aroma, texture and flavour. Not a very scientific study but very enjoyable!

The activities also included a multiple-choice chocolate and sweets quiz and a Valentine quiz. Would you know the Christian name of Mr. Darcy in Pride and Prejudice? Lots of us knew the Christian name of Mr. Darcy in the Bridget Jones film!

As in previous years, we continue to support the Witney Food Bank, with members regularly bringing contributions.

Our next meeting on **Monday 11th March** will be our AGM when the elections for committee and President for the next year will take place. After the business part of the meeting there will be gin and bubbles followed by a game of handbag bingo,

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](http://www.facebook.com/freelandwi)**

Alternatively please contact our secretary Rosie James on **01993 881997** or at **[freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)**

Aileen Tattam - Freeland WI

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FREELAND WINE CLUB**

At the March meeting on **Friday 22nd March** we will be learning about Argentinian wines.

Wine Club dates for the rest of 2024 are:

**Fridays 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](mailto:FreelandWineClub@gmail.com)**



**FREELAND WINE CLUB**



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[www.combemill.org](http://www.combemill.org)



Come to our steaming events with all machinery running  
Market stalls to explore and refreshments galore from our  
BBQ and tea room

We also welcome bookings from local groups and schools  
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## Steaming Events 2024

Sunday		Event
March	17	Science at the Mill + Spring Market
April	21	Military Vehicles
May*	12	National Mills Weekend (not in steam)
May	19	Mercedes-Benz Day
June	16	Environment Day
July	21	Wildlife by the Evenlode
August	18	Models and Collections
September	15	Crafts and Skills
October	20	Wood Crafts + Autumn Market
December	01	Christmas Fayre (not in steam)



Winner of Engineering  
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As featured on television

Steaming events 10.30am - 5.00pm

See website for admission prices

The Mill is also open but not in steam (10.30-16.30 hrs)  
every Wednesday from 20 March until the end of October

## **FREELAND CRAFT CLUB**

Last month we had a visit from Age UK, who talked to us about phone and online scams, how to avoid them & what to do if we get caught. It was most informative and, unfortunately, very important in this day and age. She left each member with a folder of information.

Then back to knitting Easter Chicks and Bunnies, to be filled with a creme egg, to raise money, supporting Helen and Douglas House.

Our little group always welcomes new members for a chat, or to exchange ideas of new crafts or to help each other with old ones. We meet in the Newell Room at the back of the Freeland Village Hall each Wednesday afternoon from **2pm – 4pm** . There is usually a subscription of **£1** per meeting to cover hire costs.

For further information, or someone to go with, please contact:  
Helen Molden **01993 882305** or Margaret Wright **01993 881316**  
([margaret.wright160@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.wright160@gmail.com))

Margaret Wright

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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:

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**Email: [alaa.alyousuf@gmail.com](mailto:alaa.alyousuf@gmail.com)**

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### **Breakfast & After School Club held at Freeland Primary School**

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

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

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

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



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

## **FREELAND SPEEDWATCH - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Could you spare just an hour each week to keep our village roads safe? Our local Speedwatch team has been active for a number of years but is currently in need of more volunteers. Sessions are held at various locations around Freeland, on different days of the week and at different times. Details of vehicles travelling at excessive speeds are then reported to Thames Valley Police who have been supporting our local team by positioning their speed van in the village on several occasions in the last couple of months. Speeding motorists need to be aware that they are likely to be caught and that could result in being prosecuted, given points on their license or a fine.



But the risk of being caught should not be our main motivation in keeping within the speed limits. It should be the safety of all those who use our roads, especially children and cyclists. Oxfordshire County Council will shortly be conducting a consultation regarding the possible introduction of a 20mph limit in the centre of Freeland. Everyone, no matter what personal views they hold, is encouraged to respond to this but please bear in mind that, according to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, 69% of fatal accidents in built up areas involve vehicles travelling at 30mph whereas only 9% of fatalities were at 20mph.

If you would like to join our team, or would like more information as to what is involved, please email me on **rogfner@aol.com**

Roger Faulkner, Freeland Speedwatch Co-ordinator

\*\*\*\*\*

## **LOLA and SKYE**

Our beautiful cat Lola was killed by a car in Wroslyn Road early on 6th February. And I know that another beloved cat Skye met a similar end, also in Wroslyn Road, a week before. It seems slightly inappropriate to focus on the death of a pet when there is so much human misery in the world, but the impact on us (and Skye's family) has been devastating.

But this isn't about family pets. It's really a reminder to motorists to moderate their speed in the village, especially in Wroslyn Road and Pigeon House Lane, and particularly when it's dark. And perhaps to remind anyone else we know from outside Freeland who might be driving in the village to take similar care. The next time it might be a child rather than a cat. Lola and Skye would be very grateful.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY**

On **Tuesday 5th March** Muriel Pilkington will be telling us the story of the Burford Mutiny. At our April meeting on **Tuesday 2nd April** Chris Danziger is talking about Napoleon and the Rosetta stone.

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**.





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## 1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

Here we are during another action-packed month!

Scouts celebrated Chinese New Year with a variety of fun activities. Cubs had a big investiture ceremony to formally swear-in the newest members to the group. Beavers worked towards their Camp Skills badge, their Cook Activity badge, and made clay dragons to celebrate Chinese New Year. Explorers have been busy designing and running their own programme of activities as usual, to ensure that they are doing things that interest and motivate them.

All these events don't just happen by themselves, of course. There's a whole team of volunteers who plan each term of events, making sure that risk assessments are carried out, booking equipment, keeping records of earned badges, requesting the minibus if needed, and asking for extra pairs of hands to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Sometimes we have to ask for parents to help out if we are short of leaders, and occasionally we have had to cancel or postpone activities due to a lack of available helpers.

Please consider joining our team. 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](mailto:gsl@hfscouting.org.uk) to find out more.

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

\*\*\*\*\*

## FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

The gardening themed quiz held on January 22nd was a great success. Thanks to our programme secretary June Counsell who organised it.

On **Monday 26th February at 7.30pm** in Freeland Hall a new speaker Harriet Rycroft has a talk entitled 'Potty Time (A year in pots)'. This is a subject we have not had before so come along and learn about which pot we should use for which plant and why!

Our meeting on **Monday 25th March**, same time and place, is a very special one as Graham Walker, who is well known in Freeland, is coming to tell us about 'The History of Notcutts Garden Centre' as well as giving us some gardening advice. It sounds a very interesting subject and which must apply to many Gardening Centres around the country. We hope some of Graham's friends will also come and support him and maybe consider joining our friendly Club even if they are not avid gardeners!

We have some first class speakers planned for the rest of the year. There is a Plant and Gardening Item Sale at all Hall meetings as well as plenty of time to meet new friends over refreshments and chat to those we know!

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

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

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

'The Happiest of Musicals'

Tickets from the Oxford Playhouse 01865 305305 or [oxfordplayhouse.com](http://oxfordplayhouse.com)



## **COTSWOLD** **GARDEN** **DESIGNER**

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



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



### **CONTACT LORRAINE:**

[lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk](mailto:lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk)  
07516262560  
[www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk)

# 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

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Train	Oxford Station	08.44	10.46	12.45	13.44	17.23
Train	Hanborough Station	08.53	10.55	12.54	13.54	17.33
411 Bus	Hanborough Station	09.00	11.00	13.00	14.50	17.50
411 Bus	Freeland, Village Hall*	09.12	11.12	13.12	14.57	18.00



**Freeland Pre-School** provides high quality pre-school education for 2 to 5 year olds. We are a small, friendly and welcoming pre-school, with a large outdoor space.

Our pre-school is situated within the grounds of Freeland Primary School.

Freeland Pre-School is committed to safeguarding.

We can take children for half day sessions or full days from **8.45am - 3.15pm**, term time only. We offer funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds for 15 hours or 30 hours.

**Pricing: am or pm sessions £18, Full day £36**

**Early bird session starting at 8.45am £3**

This term the children have really taken advantage of the wet weather and enjoyed jumping in the puddles. We also held our end of term event, this term was a sharing lunch event which was very successful. Thank you to all who came.



**We will also be celebrating our 50th birthday on 28th February.**

#### **Pre-school's future:**

From April we will be merging with Freeland Primary School. At the moment we are a committee run charity, the committee are a group of parents who volunteer. Merging with the school will mean a streamlined curriculum, support from the whole school community and use of the school's facilities. We are looking forward to the future.

Thank you for your continuing support of Freeland Pre-school.

**We have spaces in September.**

**T: 01993 882945 E: [freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk) [www.freelandpreschool.org](http://www.freelandpreschool.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/freelandpreschool](http://www.facebook.com/freelandpreschool)**



## **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 UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS** 4/2/2024

This month it has been rumoured that there was a museum of waxwings moving between berry trees which caused an unexplained exultation of skylarks and a chime of wrens! Now you might say 'what is he talking about?', is it to cause a mischief of magpies or a quarrel of sparrows, surely it's an irruption of waxwings I hear you say (not to be confused with Eruption by Van Halen).



Anyway I won't chirp on any longer or I will earn your scold of jays (from a kettle of swallows perhaps). Should I mention a reliant of robins?

Fifteen people and a dog made their merry way around a roughly 5 mile route, taking in sheep, farms and electric fences...oh and of course mud!

Food (Jaffa cake cake and Mars treat bites) was supplied by Mark and Jo in readiness for Mark's upcoming birthday that week, so many thanks for that. A short, tuneless rendition of 'Happy Birthday' was observed by all!

Our next Ramble will be on **Sunday 3rd March**, starting at **10am** from the bus shelter opposite the Yeoman Pub. **All are welcome to join us.**

Ramble on! - Sir Stanley Matthews (1st Feb 1915)



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:hjdalton43cv@gmail.com) so that I can put you in touch with the person leading the walk that month and they can send you details of the walk, when to meet and a menu so that you can pre-order your lunch. New members very welcome.

The next walk is on **Wednesday 20th March.**

Janet Dalton



**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.

## **FREELAND THERMAL IMAGING PROJECT (FTIP)**

When I came up with the idea of offering the residents of Freeland the opportunity to have the thermal efficiency of their homes checked it was midsummer. If I'd realised how cold it could get and how numb my fingers & feet would be then I might not have gone ahead with it and truth be told, Colin and Paul would probably not have joined me on this venture! However, over the course of January & February we have carried out over 30 visits to properties in Freeland with the thermal imaging camera to assess each property's thermal efficiency. As it was the first time we had done something like this, and we are not thermal engineers, we weren't quite sure what we'd discover. As the old saying goes, the camera doesn't lie, we were pleased to see that apart from a couple of minor issues we discovered all properties we visited appeared to be well insulated and thermally efficient. Based on the conversations we had with some of the householders whilst carrying out this exercise, this was a surprise. Many felt they were paying a lot on their energy bills compared to a friend/neighbour in a similar property. Whilst our imaging exercise could identify heat loss from a home through, for example, poor insulation, it could not measure the property's heat efficiency of the property, that is how well the heating system is working, and this will have a bearing on the size of bills.

With the longer days and warmer weather now (thankfully) coming the imaging project for this winter has concluded but it is our intention to offer this service next winter if there is interest.

*Editor's note: Unfortunately to meet print deadlines this article was written before the imaging project was completed and it is therefore possible that despite their best intentions Mark, Paul & Colin were unable to visit every property as the article above is suggesting.*

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

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Fri 23 February Fri 22 March

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 2 & 16 March Sat 6 & 20 April

Details of other Farmers' Markets at **www.tvfm.org.uk 01235 227266**



The four yearly  
**Parish Council Elections**

will soon be upon us.

**Thursday 2nd May, 2024**

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

**Freeland Parish Council needs you!**

**“Your Village needs you”**

**What has the Parish Council done for us?**

**Answer...**

Village assets (Parish Council assets) consist of: -

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

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

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

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

If you would like to stand, please contact Fay Friend (Parish Clerk)  
**fayf.fpc@gmail.com** for more information or speak to a serving Councillor  
**If you know someone you think would make a good Councillor, please tell them so.**

**[www.freelandpc.org.uk](http://www.freelandpc.org.uk)**

# **THE ARTS SOCIETY OF WEST OXFORDSHIRE**

Lectures in March and April 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. Information at [www.taswox.org.uk](http://www.taswox.org.uk)



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
WEST  
OXFORDSHIRE

## **Thursday 14th March: “Dame Laura Knight” - Rosalind Whyte**

In 1936 Dame Laura Knight became the first woman to be elected as a full member of the Royal Academy in London, 168 years after its establishment. In her extraordinary career she painted landscapes, portraits, and seascapes, as well as scenes from the circus, the ballet, and the theatre. She was the only woman to be given War Commissions in both the First and Second World Wars and the only British artist to cover the Nuremberg Trials in 1946.

This lecture provides an overview of her fascinating career and some of the remarkable achievements of her long life.

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

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

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# **WITNEY MUSIC SOCIETY**

The final concert in Witney Music Society's 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** 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](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)



## **TEMPORARY TRAFFIC LIGHTS CONTINUE**

On the section of Cuckoo Lane/Freeland Road/Eynsham Road between the electricity sub-station and the A40 the **temporary traffic lights** will now continue until **Friday 8th March 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** for Thames Water connection works.





# Family Fun Day

## Sunday 17th March

### 10am - 12noon

To raise money for Freeland Under 10s football team

- Raffle with great prizes to be won
- Bouncy Castle
- Games
- Cake Stall
- Refreshments



There will also be a taster day for any players who are interested in joining our current Under 10s for next season, as we look to increase the squad size.

**Freeland Village Hall**

**Card or Cash Accepted**

**ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE GRAPEVINE** are available in the **St Mary the Virgin Church Porch**, which is open 9am to 5pm/dusk seven days a week.

You can also pick up copies at the **Oxfordshire Yeoman** during their regular hours of Mondays & Tuesdays 5pm - 10.30pm; Weds & Thurs Noon - 3pm & 5pm - 11.30pm; Fridays 9.30am - 11.30pm; Saturdays Noon - 11.30pm; and Sundays Noon - 10.30pm.

In the **Long Hanborough Co-op** the copies are now on the bottom shelf, to the left of the front door.

There are copies available in the **Long Hanborough Surgery** waiting room, and now also in **Freeland House and The Lodge**.

## **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 with others at a modest level be just the encouragement you need? Well the village now has a place for you to go and share your interest with likeminded people. The first meeting is on **Monday 26th February** and we shall try to give more notice in future! 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 [frelandppp@gmail.com](mailto:frelandppp@gmail.com) (preferred) or text **07982 134991**, or call that number if you don't do either of those things.

Ken J-F

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FRELAND FOOTBALL CLUB**

We have finally been able to get back on the pitch following the awful wet weather.

The **Men's** side sit mid-table after beating FC Mills 2-0, drawing 1-1 with Kingham and FC Mills. They bowed out of the Cup losing to premier division Charlbury.

Both **Under 17s** teams are continuing to progress, and the **Under 10s** are continuing their great season as they have beaten a number of teams from higher leagues and have now progressed to the finals day of their Cup. Our current **Under 10s** are also looking to increase the squad size, so if your son or daughter are interested our contact details are below

We are looking at the feasibility of running an **Under 8s** team for next season, so if you think your son or daughter may be interested please do get in touch.

Once again we are holding a Family Fun Day to raise money for our **Under 10s** side. This will be held on **Sunday 17th March from 10am to 12noon** in the Village Hall.

### **Fixtures:**

#### **Men**

**24th Feb** H v Chadlington Res

**9th March** H v Bourton

**16th March** A v Faringdon

**23rd March** A v Siege (12pm KO)

**30th March** A v CHQ Utd

#### **Under 17s**

**25th Feb** Freland Village v Wantage

**3rd March** Freland v Harwell

**24th March** Freland Village v Bampton

The **Under 10s** Coach is Emma Wylie - [emmawylie54@hotmail.com](mailto:emmawylie54@hotmail.com)

The **Under 17s** Manager is Stuart McNaughton - [stu.mac@aol.com](mailto:stu.mac@aol.com)

Ben Symonds - Secretary: [bensymonds@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bensymonds@hotmail.co.uk)

Simon Hole - Chairman: [Si\\_hole@hotmail.com](mailto:Si_hole@hotmail.com)

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

Twitter: [@freland\\_fc](https://twitter.com/freland_fc)

Ben Symonds





WOODSTOCK MUSIC SOCIETY CHOIR  
WOODSTOCK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTED BY PAUL INGRAM

**MOZART:**  
GREAT MASS IN C MINOR

**HAYDN:**  
TE DEUM IN C MAJOR  
SYMPHONY NO. 88

SOPRANOS  
**Eleanor Broomfield**  
**Amy Strachan**

TENOR  
**Paul**  
**Badley**

BASS  
**Patrick**  
**Irwin**



**Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd March 2024**  
**St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock, at 7.30 pm**  
by kind permission of the Rector and Churchwardens

[www.woodstockmusic.info](http://www.woodstockmusic.info)

Registered Charity No. 1035897

**TICKETS**



AT THE DOOR £15 (full-time students £5, accompanied children under 16 free)

IN ADVANCE £14 from The Woodstock Bookshop, 23 Oxford St. cash and cheques only

OR Contact [concerts@woodstockmusic.info](mailto:concerts@woodstockmusic.info) or <https://bookwhen.com/woodstock>



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

## **EYNESHAM MEDICAL GROUP - JOB VACANCY**

Eynsham Medical Centre & Long Hanborough Surgery  
Oxfordshire, **OX29 4QB & OX29 8JL**



### **Practice Business Manager**

Full time – **37.5hrs** per week

Salary in the range of **£55,000-£70,000** per annum depending upon experience.

This is an established, long standing, progressive and respected GP practice, with a growing list size of 16,000 patients, where strong values are placed upon empathetic patient care, staff well-being and ensuring the effective and efficient running of the Practice as a business.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an accomplished and highly motivated Practice Business Manager with a proven background in leadership and management; and with a demonstrable ability to manage all aspects and overall performance of General Practice.

The successful candidate will take responsibility for organisational leadership, service improvement and delivery of key targets across all clinical, financial and administrative areas within the practice, which is located within 2 bright, modern and purpose-built buildings.

Previous senior management experience, leadership, HR and people skills, finance, strategic direction, competency in office IT and effective communication skills at all levels is essential. Candidates must be conscientious, pragmatic and eloquent; with the passion, integrity and initiative to drive success.

This is a supportive and inclusive patient centred GP practice; working with colleagues in the NHS and locality to provide the best possible patient care. The work environment encourages talented individuals to thrive and make a difference; and this is demonstrated by an open-door policy, considered work/life balance for all team members and the encouragement and celebration of personal development.

Supported by an excellent administrative and clinical team, you will also have the vision, willingness and drive to adapt to NHS targets and changes within a profitable, effective and efficient working environment.

For further information, please go to: **Jobs (firstpracticemanagement.co.uk)**

Or email **heather.burgan.cook@btinternet.com**

Closing date **25th February 2024**

First Practice Management – Recruitment Advisors

### **NEW ROUTE FOR THE OXFORD TUBE serving Witney & Eynsham**

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

You can see all the details of the new higher frequency service and connections at:  
**<https://www.oxfordtube.com/OctoberServiceChange.aspx>**

## **CHANGES TO THE STAGECOACH S7 BUS TIMETABLE**

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

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

These changes are expected to be in place from **Sunday 10th March**.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BRIDEWELL GARDENS - OPEN DAYS 2024**

Bridewell Gardens provides a mental health recovery service for West Oxfordshire, supporting people who have experienced serious mental illness. Bridewell is a creative and inspiring walled garden and vineyard where people can find hope in recovery, gardening and working with nature.



We look forward to sharing our beautiful gardens with you this year as we celebrate 30 years providing a place for hope and recovery.

The walled garden and vineyard are open to the public for our **Open Days** between **11am and 4pm on: Sundays 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 15th September**

Pop-up café in the garden for tea and cake. High quality plants for sale, home produced jams and chutneys and our acclaimed organic sparkling wine. Make a day of it, bring a picnic blanket and relax in the vineyard with friends and family. Speak to Bridewell staff about the recovery service and the support provided at the gardens. Dogs on leads are very welcome. Families and children are encouraged to explore the site.

No booking required. Suggested donation **£5** per person.

Bridewell Gardens, The Walled Garden, Wilcote, Oxfordshire **OX7 3DT**





**COME CELEBRATE!**  
**FREELAND PRE-SCHOOL**  
**IS TURNING**

**50!**

**WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> FEB, 10:30AM-  
12PM**  
**FREELAND PRESCHOOL**

**JOIN US FOR CAKE**

**We are wishing Freeland Pre-school a very happy birthday!**

**RSVP: [freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk)**



## **DOGS WORRYING SHEEP**

Very soon we will be enjoying sheep with newborn lambs in the fields around Freeland. It is a particularly important time to keep your dogs under control when you are walking them near or through fields with livestock in. We have had two occasions recently where we have found poorly controlled dogs harassing our small flock of rare breed Portland Sheep. This could have had serious consequences and in the past we have had sheep badly hurt. This is a criminal offence and could lead to the dog being destroyed and the owner being fined. We would not want that to happen, please remember to use a lead when you are close to sheep with lambs. Thank you.

Mike and Rhonda, Little Blenheim

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BEGBROKE BOWLS CLUB**

Further information:

<http://begbrokebowlsclub.co.uk>

The Bowls playing year will begin again in Begbroke in May with Friday evening practice a time to welcome in new players. And so thinking over your own activity levels – is Bowls a game that could attract you this summer?



The club is needing to bring in more players and we would very much welcome fresh interest from the local area, including Freeland residents. There is no age or any other discriminatory barrier. The social club on Fridays at the Begbroke Village Hall is an integral part of Bowls Club activity and members enjoy appropriate pricing on all refreshment. Please turn up and talk through the possibilities; we have members who would be only too pleased to assist you in learning or improving participation of the game.

Continuing throughout the spring months is the annual maintenance regime which sees the green-keepers cut, feed and scarify the grass and also maintain equipment; thanks go to all those who give their time so freely. The club ethos is friendly enjoyment of time together outdoors, sharing and developing skills - we look forward to welcoming you there. Our pre-season players' meeting is **Friday 22nd March** – please check out the website above for further information.

### **HANBOROUGH & FREELAND RUNNING GROUP**

FOR 18 TO 99 YEAR OLDS,  
EVERYONE WELCOME  
ENJOYABLE, WEEKLY, FREE,  
PEER-LED RUNNING GROUPS

For info: [HanFree-run@outlook.com](mailto:HanFree-run@outlook.com)

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



The  
Electoral  
Commission

You need  
photo ID  
to vote at  
a polling  
station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

or call 0800 328 0280



## **SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS**

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

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

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

### **THE CAKE CAFÉ, FREELAND**

Regular café first Tuesday of the month, **9.00 - 11.30am**, Freeland Hall

Friday Bakes at the Yeoman from **9.30am**

**jane.cakestudio@gmail.com**

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

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

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

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- 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  
F 1 Mar Seated Exercise (or standing if you'd prefer!) class, Freeland Hall, 11am, £5  
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**  
W 6 Mar Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection  
F 8 Mar Witney Music Society, High St Methodist Church, Witney. Doors **7pm**  
M 11 Mar Freeland Parish Council Meeting, Newell Room, **7.30pm**  
M 11 Mar Freeland WI, Village Hall, **7.45pm** - AGM w/ gin & bubbles, & handbag bingo  
W 13 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection  
**Th 14 Mar Freeland Grapevine - April edition deadline day**  
Th 14 Mar The Arts Society of West Oxfordshire, Witney Corn Exchange, 2.30pm, £7  
Su 17 Mar Freeland Football Club Under 10s - Family Fun Day, Village Hall, 10am-12pm  
W 20 Mar Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection  
W 20 Mar Freeland Walking Group - meet at the Village Hall car park at **9.15am**  
F 22 Mar Begbroke Bowls Club, Pre-season meeting - see page **47**  
F 22 Mar Freeland Wine Club, Village Hall, **7.30pm** Argentinian wines  
M 25 Mar Freeland Gardening Club, Freeland Hall, **7.30pm** History of Notcutts Garden Centre  
W 27 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection  
**Su 31 Mar Start of British Summer Time - clocks forward one hour at 1am**

Having enjoyed an in-depth appreciation of Royal Art and the Treasures from the Kings Collection which was the February speaker meeting, we look forward to '**Unnatural Selection; Evolution at the hand of man**' on **Thursday 7th March**.



u3a is aimed at folk no longer in full time employment with daytime hours available to participate in community-based activity or interest groups. Membership fee is moderate and gives access to the monthly speaker meeting as well as the interest groups which develop around demand and members' willingness to share their expertise and learning; the idea is to pass on skills and spend time with others who have the same interests. We have new groups commencing – photography, Mahjong, and theatre – do check out the website for further information. **www.woodstocku3a.uk**

The financial year commences on 1st April, meanwhile visitors are welcome to the members' speaker meetings charged at **£2** to include light refreshment. Doors open at **1.45pm for 2pm** speaker at St Hugh's Church Hall, Hensington Road, Woodstock; we look forward to welcoming you here.

Sue Blackshaw – Chair Woodstock & District u3a

The deadline for articles or adverts for the **April Grapevine** is **Thursday 14th March**. The **April** edition should be online at: **www.freelandoxon.co.uk** or at **www.freelandpc.org.uk** from **Monday 25th March** with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from **Friday 29th March (Good Friday)**.

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.*

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## COMING UP

 **Sat 24th Feb**- Ian "Elvis" Smart sings for us  
**Mon 26-Weds 28th Feb** - PUB CLOSED FOR SOME TLC!

**Thurs 29th Feb** - Join us from 5pm as we reopen the doors. Complementary glass of fizz to celebrate our new look!


**Fri 1st March** - Jamie Felton live! 

**Sat 9th Mar** - Uggy's Pizzas

**Sun 10th Mar** - Mothering Sunday - Glass of fizz for all those special

Mums/Grandmothers/Carers dining with us

**Sat 23rd Mar** - Uggy's Pizzas

**Sat 30th Mar** - Richard Snow - Keys and vocalist taking your requests! 



## THE OXFORDSHIRE YEOMAN

FREELAND, OXFORDSHIRE

### Pub opening times

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

### Kitchen hours

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

### SUNDAY ROASTS

Sun 12 noon - 2.30pm.

Booking advisable!

01993 881003

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## **BLenheim PALACE**

### **Easter Eggstravaganza at Blenheim Palace - 29th March - 1st April**

Visit Blenheim Palace for a perfect family day out during the 2024 Easter weekend (Friday 29th March - 1st April). Hop along to the Walled Garden to enjoy a whole host of egg-citing activities including circus skills, balloon modelling, bubble performances and a travelling vintage variety show, not to mention appearances from none other than the Easter Bunny throughout the weekend too. Keep little ones busy with our giant wicker Easter egg hunt around the grounds, complete with a Hotel Chocolat treat at the end.

Visit the Walled Garden Pizzeria to refuel with a delicious wood-fired pizza, and if you're after even more indulgence don't forget to stop off at the Hotel Chocolat Chocmobile for some sweet treats!



## **BLenheim ESTATE**

As the evenings gradually turn lighter and the weather a little milder, you may have noticed the first signs of spring appearing in the Parkland and surrounding areas. Sprinklings of snowdrops have already begun to spring and it won't be long until blossoming of bluebells and drifts of daffodils are on the way. We kindly ask that during your visit you refrain from picking the wildflowers so that we can ensure their continued growth and reproduction, allowing future generations of visitors to enjoy them and to support the biodiversity of the Parkland. In other news, our Butterfly House will soon be re-opening for spring. The Gardening Team have been busy making improvements over the past few months such as replacing the stonework as well as adding benches and more butterfly-friendly foliage.

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

**[blenheimpalace.com](https://blenheimpalace.com)**