



Grapevine

St Mary's Freeland



January 2021

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The Churches in the Benefice of Hanborough and Freeland are beginning to open....

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St Mary the Virgin, Freeland

For Private Prayer on Tuesdays and Saturdays
from 9.00am - 4.00pm

Christ Church, Long Hanborough

Sunday @ 6pm

The 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

A Service of the word. This is an informal act of
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Thank you to Stephen Mott for the front cover photo.



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Rector: Our new Rector is due to take up the post on 20th January 2021

Associate Vicar: Rev. Sue Spankie
01993 706469
Email: revsue@gst.org.uk

Curate:

Rev. Mike Madden

E: 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

Flowers in the Church:

Janet Dalton
01993 881742

Churchwardens' email: churchwarden.smv@gmail.com

Weddings: To be advised

All sorts of interesting information about St Mary's can be seen on the "A Church Near You" website: www.achurchnearyou.com/5863

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

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 are now meeting on a Sunday afternoon.

Please contact Rev. Sue Spankie (revsue@gst.org.uk) for more information.

The above information is correct at the date published (13/12/2020). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found at

www.hanboroughparish.co.uk

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO SUE

On Sunday 3rd January, Rev. Sue Spankie will be leading her last three services in our Benefice. Sue is moving with her husband Gordon to North Devon to take up the post of Vicar for three parishes.

We have been truly blessed to have had Sue with us, serving our church and community in a number of ministry roles and most recently as Associate Vicar. During these seven years Sue has worked closely with Freeland Primary School and Freeland Nursing Home and has led many projects including the school Prayer Spaces. On behalf of St Mary's and the wider community, we would like to thank both her and Gordon and wish them all the very best in their new adventure.

Claire Soanes and Steve Mellin - Churchwardens

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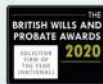
Dealing with your own affairs and getting them in order can appear daunting. We're here to make life easier. Do pick up the phone or email us and we would be happy to have a free, no-obligation initial chat with you. We can meet on video call or in person when safe to do so.



Anna Burnside PARTNER
anna.burnside@theburnsidepartnership.com



Jacqui Birks TAX DIRECTOR
jacqui.birks@theburnsidepartnership.com



For further information, please contact: info@theburnsidepartnership.com

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Christingle Service

16th December on 'Zoom' at 6.30pm

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 20th December 2020

[Please see www.hanboroughparish.co.uk for
further information]

Crib Service

24th December 2020 at 3pm on 'Zoom'

Christmas Day

25th December 2020 at 10.00am on 'Zoom'

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Letter from our Associate Vicar:

Dear Friends,

As I write Advent has begun and we are looking forward to celebrating Christmas, recognising that the baby - Jesus came into the world to bring us the gift of life. Jesus' birth was messy! Life is messy! Remember... Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, to register as a Census had been demanded by Caesar and Bethlehem was the town of Joseph's birth. Hence, Mary and Joseph were without a home, when Mary gave birth. And as we move to the season of Epiphany, they are moving to Egypt to avoid Herod's edict. Much had changed for this small family.

Much has changed for each of us, in this country and the world. Restrictions concerning the Pandemic are about to change again, we know which tiers we will be in (2nd December). For some there will be fewer restrictions, but for many nothing has changed.

Change for many of us is challenging at the best of times, last year was dominated by change. The pandemic has impacted our lives in many ways both personally and corporately. Family Christmases weren't the same, as we met in bubbles. The word 'bubble' having taken on a new meaning for us all.

However, where there is change, there is hope. We have the chance to 'Build Back Better', adopting the Government's strap line. We can ask God to show us how we can bring peace, love, and joy into a situation because of the sure and certain hope that Jesus brought into the mess and the world that first Christmas. Let us all commit to 'Building Back Better', to be compassionate, to listen to each other to share the gifts of hope, peace, love and joy with others.

My prayer is that we will all look to the New Year with hope, as we embark on new beginnings.

For me personally it is with both sadness and hope for the future that I will be leaving the Benefice of Hanborough and Freeland in January to become Vicar of the Taw and Torridge Estuary Churches in North Devon (Fremington, Instow and Westleigh). As a Benefice you too will be moving into a new season as you welcome your new Rector, The Revd. Steve Stuart.

The Benefice of Hanborough and Freeland will always be close to my heart as I have witnessed true community and love. I want to thank you all for being so welcoming. I have greatly enjoyed working with you all over the last seven years, whether in the context of the Schools, Freeland House, or the wider community and in many different and varied situations. There have been occasions of great joy and times of sadness, yet throughout there has always been hope mixed with joy which comes out of the love that comes from Christ our risen Lord. I pray that we will all know the gifts of hope, peace, love and joy that Jesus so freely gives. Paraphrasing Psalm 67:1,

'May God be gracious to you and bless you
and make his face to shine upon you'

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ST MARY'S CHURCH BELLS

The guidance issued by The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers for towers located in tier 2 is no tower bell ringing other than by members of the same household or single bells. It is unclear if there will be any relaxation to enable ringing to take place during the Christmas period.

Handbell ringing in any outdoor space including gardens for up to six people is permitted so long as the ringers are socially distanced.

Looks like virtual ringing is set to continue for a few more months at least!

Please contact the Tower Secretary, Michael Probert (**882687**) should you wish to discuss any bell ringing matters.

You can see more about Freeland Bell Ringers under the "Clubs and Groups" section of the village website **www.freelandoxon.co.uk**

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

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

Sunday 20th Dec - 10am - To be advised - please check out the Church website (**www.witneyfaringdoncircuit.org.uk**) for up to date details of Christmas Services.

Sunday 27th Dec - No service

Sunday 3rd Jan - 10am Rev. Charles Harris - Covenant Service

Sunday 10th Jan - 10am Rev. Fred Ireland

Sunday 17th Jan - 10am Martin Hannant

Sunday 24th Jan - 10am Rev. Bywater (Holy Communion)

Sunday 31st Jan - 10am Mr Andrew Maisey

As yet, with the present situation regarding the Coronavirus, we are not sure where these services will take place.

Please keep an eye on the website (**www.witneyfaringdoncircuit.org.uk**) for all the latest information.

OR, call Gill **883914** or Nigel **881711**.

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FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL – UPDATES DECEMBER 2020

As I type these notes the last meeting was held on the 16th November, and the next meeting is not until 21st December, so here is an update.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Firstly, I'd like to wish all our residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I hope that you all will have a peaceful Christmas and will be ready to start 2021 with renewed energy and enthusiasm! With a new Coronavirus vaccine being rolled out and bringing some light to this Covid tunnel, let's hope 2021 will be a better year for us all.

New to the village?

For anyone new to the village, welcome! You have joined a wonderful village with a fantastic community spirit!

We have a village website with lots of useful information, take a look at

www.freelandoxon.co.uk

We also have a number of social media pages that are worth considering joining:

Facebook pages:

Freeland Community Group (general village page for everyone, this was the Covid-19 support page but has now been renamed and will continue as a general village page)

Mums and Dads in Freeland (often aimed at mums, dads, grandparents, etc, but still open to all)

Freeland Buy/Sell/Swap (the main buying and selling page in the village)

Spotted Freeland (another general village page)

Freeland Naturehood (a page for those with a keen interest in nature).

There are also many other pages for specific groups such as Cubs and Scouts, Cricket Club etc.

If anyone knows of new residents joining the village please let me know their address so I can deliver a welcome letter with some useful information to them!

Play Park – Toddler's play equipment

The Parish Council are looking to replace the wooden climbing equipment in the enclosed toddler play area (the one on the right hand side with the hanging tyres on it). They are keen to hear from parents/grandparents as to what they would like to see replace it. Another similar climbing equipment or is there something else that people feel is missing or would like to see?

Please share your thoughts by emailing me at **lisa.fpc@gmail.com** Thanks!

Budget and Precept requirement for 2021-22

The Parish Precept was one of the main items on the agenda for the November meeting. Maintenance costs for the play areas, playing field, grass verges and Garden of Remembrance were included in the Precept request. The Parish Council always endeavours to provide the necessary services whilst keeping costs as low as possible.

Daffodils

With Spring (hopefully) just around the corner the lovely daffodil bulbs will be starting to push through ready to display their beautiful bright cheery yellow flowers. These bulbs have been lovingly planted by members of the Gardening Club and every year the flowers make a fantastic display throughout the village. Please be mindful that the bulbs are particularly vulnerable whilst they are coming through, so please keep off the grass verges where they have been planted. Thanks for your co-operation. *Continued.....*

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

Continued..... **Dog's mess**

I know, I know, it's being mentioned AGAIN!!! It saddens (and maddens) me to report that someone is walking their dog around the village, especially Church View, Wroslyn Rd and Broadmarsh Lane areas and are not clearing up after their four-legged friend. On three separate occasions so far I have cleared up mess that is right in the middle of the pavement, where it would have been trodden in for sure. It looks like the dog has been dragged along whilst doing its business as there was a trail of it. Perhaps the owner was not paying attention to their pet as they should have been?? This is NOT acceptable, we have plenty of dog bins dotted all around the village and if anyone ever finds themselves without a doggie dirt bag, please feel free to knock on my door and I will gladly pass you one. PLEASE clear up after your pets, there really is no excuse not to.

Speedwatch

The Freeland Speedwatch team will be resuming their checks so please do watch your speed and remember it is a **30mph** limit through the village. Please take extra care around the school area and by the church and village hall where there are blind bends. Thank you.

Potholes!

I know this has been mentioned last month, but it never hurts to mention it again as this is the time of year when potholes seem to appear literally everywhere!

If you spot a pothole, the quickest and easiest way to report it directly to OCC Highways is via the Fix my Street website at <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> . Just put in the postcode or road name, give details of the problem and it will get sent to OCC Highways to be fixed. Photos are often helpful to include as well to help identify where the problem is or how big a pothole it is. Thanks.

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: None.

Applications Approved:

20/02423/HHD

89 BROADMARSH LANE, FREELAND.

Erection of single storey rear extension for Ms M Birch

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on

Monday 18th January 2021 at 7.30pm. Details of how to join the meeting will be available from **Wednesday 13th January** on the village website (under Parish Council/Agendas) and the notice boards or by contacting me at 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 . 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 .



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THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2020

At time of writing, the preparations for the Christmas Lunch are going really well. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who offered to deliver or cook sections of the dinners/puddings - Maggie, Pat, Ria, Graham, Ita, Jane L, Jane F, Sue, Carole, Renate, Diana and Margaret. A special mention to Elaine who made a range of handmade goods to go in the delivery bags and thanks Irene for wrapping them.

To all my lovely helpers who helped peel veg and decorate the hall in the last two years, I thank you for your service which I will definitely need next year.

We have been supported by the local supermarkets again and thanks to Helen and Denise who offered freezer space for vegetables. It is a fantastic way for lots of people to come together to support our local community and the recipients are all really grateful for your contributions. What a great place Freeland is to live.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

It's finally time to say goodbye to 2020, and what a year it has been.

It seems like forever ago now that we opened the "new" Little Free Library in the disused telephone box outside the village hall. It was officially opened just a short while before the first national lockdown started in March.

The Teddy Girls did a wonderful job as always to raise funds for the project and I'm sure you will all agree that it has been very successful.

A big part of that success is down to the small team of Little Free Library volunteers who take turns to keep it tidy and well stocked. Thank you very much to them for all that they do; their help makes such a big difference.

The volunteers and I are always amazed by the high quality of books that get donated to the Little Free Library. We are lucky to live in such a generous community, with so many people that obviously love to read!

Please try to remember to donate books 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.

Sometimes books that belong elsewhere get mixed up (for example books from the school) so do double-check any books before you donate them, as once they are gone it is very difficult to get them back!

Many thanks again for all your support, and we hope you have fun discovering new books to read in the coming year.

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





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BARBARA COLES

Julia, Ian, Lizzy and Amelia are sad to announce the death of Barbara Coles. She passed away peacefully at home aged 99 on the 23rd November. Since moving to Long Hanborough in 2005, she had many years of enjoyment and friendship from a number of groups and activities. These included Freeland weekly exercise class, the Craft club (formerly Knit and Natter), the monthly coffee morning, and in LH the WI, Lunch Club and Evergreens. We would like to thank all those involved in these groups for the pleasure and companionship they gave her. Thank you also to friends and neighbours for their cards and messages of condolence.

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

A very Happy New Year to all Grapevine readers. We hope it will bring some fresh cheer so that we can return to doing things we love doing. It certainly was an unusual Christmas but we hope it was possible to celebrate in some way even if it was not with friends and family as at other years.

The weather has not been conducive to gardening on some cold and rainy days. We have however had some lovely sunny days when it was good to get out and continue tidying the garden. Some trees have been a while shedding their leaves but by January should have dropped them all. Pushed down in an old compost bag they will take a year or two to rot down but will then make a lovely mulch for the flower beds or veg patch. Some people may have sown green manure earlier in the year in their vegetable garden. This can be dug in later in the winter to feed the soil.

Towards the end of January some annual flower seeds can be planted in propagators. Don't be tempted to sow them too early as they will get 'leggy' before the frosts are over and can be planted out in the garden. The Club gets a discount from Dobies if you are a member of the Club, so ask a Garden Club member for a Catalogue and discount code to order plants etc. for later in the year.

Some plants come into their own in the winter. Our Mahonia Charity has been a real picture and the flowers smell lovely as one passes by. The bare brightly coloured stems of Cornus show up beautifully now the leaves have all fallen.

Indoor plants now give a lot of pleasure particularly as the Christmas selection, such as Poinsettias, which are brightly coloured, and other plant presents, take pride of place. Having greenery about lifts the spirit and also helps to purify the air. Some don't like drying out too much in our centrally heated houses, while others don't thrive if overwatered. Some plants also like as much light as possible and benefit from having their leaves cleaned occasionally. Read the label to know how to care for them. Whether inside or out, enjoy the wonderful selection of plants nature has provided for us.

It is still too soon for us to plan speaker meetings. Notice of these will be circulated when we are allowed to do so.

For any further information about the Freeland Gardening Club please contact Ray and Jill Evans at jillandray@btinternet.com

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)

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1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUT GROUP

We're starting this month's report with a heartfelt plea:
We need you!

As reported last month, our Scouts Leader, Mike, has stepped down after more than thirty years of incredible service.

This means that we need new Scouts Leaders to take his place. I can't stress enough how important this is: we will be unable to offer a Scouts group in 2021 unless new volunteers come forward to help us.

The Scouts group is for young people aged between 10 and 14, who move up from Cubs before going on to Explorers.

We are very fortunate to have active leaders for our Beavers, Cubs and Explorers groups, who continue to do activities either online or face to face whenever possible.

Our group as a whole 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** and get in touch via the contact page. Or send an email to **ruddlem@gmail.com** to express your interest.

You do not need any previous experience of Scouting, but a love of working with young people is vital, and a sense of adventure! You will receive lots of help and support from our other group leaders and the Executive Committee, and training is provided. We will be with you every step of the way.

It is not an exaggeration to say that we will be unable to run the Scouts group without new volunteer leaders.

Thank you for your support. We really do need you!

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

We have now re-started the season following the latest lockdown. The sides have all played one game each, a tough season for the men's **First** team saw them draw 1-1 with Launton, and both the **Under 17s** and **Under 14s** fell to defeats in their first games back. Weather (and Covid) permitting we hope to have our Annual Boxing Day Match, **10.30 KO** at the field.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Trevor for all his hard work, help and support of the football club during his time in the Yeoman and wish Anna and Paul all the best and thank them for the support they have already shown the Football Club.

Freeland FC would also like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and thank everyone who has supported us, sponsored us, and hope you all have a great 2021.

Ben Symonds - Secretary Freeland FC

www.pitchero.com/clubs/freelandfc/

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





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tel: 01993 881258 | email: manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk

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

The next Market will be on:

SUNDAY 28th FEBRUARY 10am - 1pm

Thank you to everybody who supported the November market which raised **£120** for The Oxford Hospitals Breast Unit.

We expect to host lots of stalls which we'll list in the February Grapevine

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

FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

The Club held their Annual General Meeting on Monday 23rd November, and reflected on the strange cricket season we had, but also on the massive amount of cricket that we were able to play. We welcomed two new members onto the committee, former captain Sam Walker and Claire Moss.

With the ending of the second national lockdown, the county junior cricket pathways have restarted and the coaching hubs for younger players are being organised. We are hoping to set up our indoor training from the beginning of March, but we will have to await guidance from the English Cricket Board.

The Under 15 Indoor League will start on **Sunday 10th January**, and we will be playing our local rivals Eynsham, it should be fun.

We have continued to work on the cricket square, with fertilising and cutting continuing into December! The new equipment garage is almost completed and we cannot wait to be able to park the roller and tractor/mower in there. Many thanks to the Parish Council for investing in this asset to our community.

We are looking forward to an exciting cricket season in 2021.

The Saturday League team has been placed in a division with a number of local clubs: Chadlington, Hook Norton, Minster Lovell and Eynsham, it should lead to some interesting battles.

The Club would like to remind the village that we are fully inclusive, and the only local Club offering cricket from the age of 5, our oldest player is in their mid 60s, and for all genders. There is the opportunity to play softball as well as hardball matches, either in a mixed gender team or in a female only team. In the spring we will be holding an Open Day with the chance to take part in taster matches and coaching.

Finally the Club would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a far better 2021.

Simon Brown

Chairman Freeland Cricket Club

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

Email: freelandcc.ul1@gmail.com

Facebook: **Freeland Cricket Club**

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EYNESHAM MEDICAL GROUP - COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Eynsham Medical Group is delighted to be working with the Witney practices to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination program to all over 50's and any under the age of 50 in flu risk categories. Due to complex logistics we will begin by vaccinating at Windrush surgery in Witney, and it may take 6-9 months to complete the program.

The vaccine will be given in stages starting with the most vulnerable, as determined by the Dept. of Health. We will contact eligible patients directly to arrange the vaccination. **Please do not contact the surgery to book, we will have to refuse unless you have been invited.**

We thank our community for your generous support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it is hugely appreciated. We hope this is the beginning of a return to normal life but we have two big asks to help us get there:

- Please bear with us as we step up to deliver the vaccination program alongside normal general practice, and consider other resources such as the NHS website and local pharmacies to help self-manage problems when appropriate.
- Consider volunteering to be trained to give vaccinations, particularly if you have any medical, nursing or first aid training; or to work as a steward

To volunteer email occg.emg.covidvolunteers@nhs.net

For more information about the vaccine visit **<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine>**

For information about how we are delivering our services during the COVID-19 pandemic visit **<https://www.eynshammedicalgroup.org.uk/coronavirus-changes-in-gp-care-update>**

Thank you for your continued support.

Eynsham Medical Group

ALUMINIUM CAN COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate their aluminium cans. Please encourage others to do the same as its making a really helpful contribution to Freeland Pre-School fundraising in a very challenging year. To date we have raised **£55** which is a great start to build on.

Please still crush the cans as flat as possible as it reduces my contact with them, thus limiting any possible Covid contamination and saves a massive amount of space. Thank you to everyone who has been crushing their cans, it is hugely appreciated.

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.

I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year

andre_woodward@yahoo.co.uk

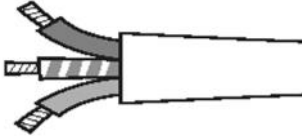
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FREELAND WI

Freeland WI would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and Freeland residents a very happy Christmas and send everyone our best wishes for 2021. Like everyone we are all looking forward to a better year. During these unprecedented times we are continuing to keep in touch with our members through our monthly newsletter, telephone calls or a keep in touch card. We shall be in touch with all our members with a Christmas treat soon! One of our members has kindly designed some cards which we will also be distributing for Christmas.

With regard to future meetings we will keep reviewing on the basis of guidance from the government and the Oxfordshire and National Federation. Much as we are missing getting together for social activities and hearing our interesting and varied speakers, everyone's safety is our priority.

Members have all been receiving our digital copy of News and Views with information about talks the federation have set up via Zoom which we can sign into. If you go to the website given and click the book now button you will be sent the details you need to log in. The talks have covered a wide range of subjects so hopefully there has been something for everyone.

WI Climate Advisor Tip from Rosie Smith

Use an App on your phone to help you become an ethical shopper

This month's tip for mitigating climate change is to use your power as a consumer to support businesses who have strong environmental credentials. I'm currently 'stranded' in NZ and have signed up to use a UK/NZ developed app "CoGo".

CoGo claims that it matches your spending with your values, for people and the planet. By joining CoGo, you'll be supporting businesses that are doing good and making sure every pound you spend goes towards a sustainable future and fair society for us all. Give it a try, as am I, or find something similar.

<https://cogo.co.uk/how-it-works>

Freeland WI normally meets on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall, starting at **8pm** and finishing around **10pm**. We welcome 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

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

COMBE MILL

The Directors and the volunteer team at the Mill are busy making plans for the potential re-opening day in March. We will of course be abiding by the Covid rules at that time. We are looking forward to welcoming visitors back, but please do visit our website for the most up to date information.

www.combemill.co.uk





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City & Guilds





Freeland Pre-School provide 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 and enjoys strong links with the school, which in turn aids a smooth transition for children into the foundation stage class, with whom we also share a garden.

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 years for 15 hours or 30 hours.

Pricing: **am** or **pm** sessions **£15** / **full day £30**

Early bird session starting at **8.45am £2.50**.



Pre-school activities

We had some lovely celebrations for Christmas at pre-school.

We even had an online Christmas singing event for parents.

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you all back to pre-school and welcoming some new families to pre-school.

The children are really enjoying our different sensory activities in the sensory tray.

The children really look forward to going to the woods for our outdoor explorer sessions.

T:01993 882945 E:freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk W:www.freelandpreschool.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/freelandpreschool/>

BEFSA

I wanted to thank people for supporting the Freeland Farmers' Market and specifically buying cards. I have, to date, sent **£300** to BEFSA from card sales.

For several months BEFSA fed 1800 children a day but I am happy to report that the SA government is now feeding the students again, as they are now back in school.

Julie Stuart-Thompson



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UNEXPECTED TALES 4

We would like to thank everyone who bought the latest edition of Unexpected Tales at our book launch at the Farmers' Market in December.

Unexpected Tales 4 is a collection of short stories by local authors living in OX29 and is a good read for these dark January evenings.

If you would like to buy either the e-book or paperback, it can be found on Amazon (**search for Unexpected Tales 4 OX29 Anthology**).

Any profits we make are donated to Helen and Douglas House, our local children's hospice.

HANBOROUGH & FREELAND RUNNING GROUP

Interest in the Hanborough Freeland Running Group has been steadily growing since the summer months. We now have around 35 runners including a number who have joined the group on Strava logging their weekly mileage, and a new group on Whatsapp which is proving to be a good way to keep in touch over upcoming runs.

In recent weeks we have also seen weekday runs emerge via Whatsapp, meaning that peer-led groups are emerging that are suitable for all sorts of ability levels, and we have also ventured away from the villages for our starting points, finding some great, safe and smooth surfaced routes for group running during the darker evenings. By the time you read this we may have also done some Christmas themed runs.



Wednesday evening social runs continue each week at 6.30pm, with options for splitting the group to ensure we remain within PHE guidelines for social distancing, and so that we can run with others of similar ability.

If you tend to run by yourself (or in a small group) but would be interested in finding some local runners to go for a run with, then get in touch.

For information: <https://www.strava.com/clubs/HanFree-Run>
HanFree-run@outlook.com

Hope to see you running soon, and Happy New Year!

YOUR KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE EXPLAINED

Have a look at this handy booklet online. It tells you what you can (and can't) recycle using the bi-weekly kerbside recycling service provided by WODC.

It also gives you the number (**01993 861025**) to book unwanted car batteries for collection free-of-charge and collections of large items for a small charge.

www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/md4dhonn/recycling-bin-guide.pdf



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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. Group meetings will restart on the **5th January**.

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

SHARING WINTER WARMTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BEAR & MONKEY

Bear & Monkey would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and best wishes throughout 2020.

We enjoyed another great quiz in November and have sold more lockdown calendars than we could ever have imagined. Thank you.

We'll let you know the full amounts next month but rest assured that every pound raised will allow Msizi Africa to feed a child for another day.

Wishing you all a wonderful, and safe, Christmas and a much brighter New Year.

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EYNESHAM ROADRUNNERS - DO YOU ENJOY RUNNING

Whether you want to run-walk or win races, you'll get a very warm welcome at Eynsham Roadrunners.

We're a friendly club offering you encouragement and practical support to reach your running and health goals.

In August, we returned to socially distanced and pre-registered club training on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and have a busy calendar of running and social events throughout the year.

Whilst many events are currently on hold we've found new ways to stay connected. Our virtual events and challenges include live Pilates for Runners, a 5k surrogate parkrun and a series of cross country running events.

For those who would like to start running or make a return, early in 2021 we plan to re-start our 10 week program, "You Can Run" to support your challenge.

Find out more about Eynsham Roadrunners at: www.eynshamroadrunners.org.uk or email us at eynsham.err@gmail.com We'd love to welcome you to our club!

FREELAND SPEEDWATCH

Due to the impact of Covid-19, Speedwatch was one of the many activities that had to be suspended back in March. Thames Valley Police have now confirmed that Speedwatch sessions can now be resumed.

It will be apparent to all local residents that many vehicles speed through the village. The group have previously recorded some drivers reaching speeds in excess of 50mph. The presence of members of the group along Wroslyn Road and at The Green had a positive impact and saw a reduction in both the number of drivers speeding and the speeds recorded.

During lockdown it has been noticeable that speeds have crept up once again.

The collection of data is not only important for Thames Valley Police but will also be a useful tool in discussions with Oxfordshire County Council when considering the impact of the proposed Park and Ride and building of Salt Cross, the new garden village. This will be particularly relevant to us if we do not want Freeland to become a route for heavy construction vehicles or to become a rat run.

We are a small group of volunteers and would encourage more people to join us. Could you spare an hour or two a week to help record the number and speed of motorists at various times of the day and on different days of the week?

If you would like to be involved, or require any further information, please contact me. Together we can ensure that our village is both a beautiful and safe place to live.

Roger Faulkner, Freeland Speedwatch Co-ordinator

rogfner@aol.com 01993 622413



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THE OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, WOODSTOCK

Last chance to see...**Distance Exhibition**

Open until **February 2021**

Distance is on everyone's minds. Distance from family, distance from friends, distance from colleagues and strangers.

Distance is now ingrained in our daily existence.

Inspired by this new normal, we explored the Oxfordshire Museums Service's collections in search of artworks that convey the concept of distance. Although drawn from many periods and of differing styles, the works displayed are unified by this concept. You can study that which is nearest or focus your attention on more distant details to better appreciate their less obvious merits.



Adult Art Online

14 January pm. Winter Wonderland Everyone needs a bit of creativity and inspiration to get through the dark days of winter, so put the date in your diary and join us for an online experiment. This will be our first live Adult Art activity using everyday materials to create your own distanced image. Keep a look out for more information via our website & social media accounts or contact us: oxonmuseum@oxfordshire.gov.uk for further information.

Adult Art Takeaways

Don't worry if you aren't online. Drop-in to the Museum between 15 and 17 January and pick up an Art Takeaway. The packs will contain a simple 'how to guide' and all the materials you need to enable you to get creative. Packs are free, but donations appreciated. Activity supported by the Friends of the Museum

Coming soon...

Cabaret Mechanical Marvels

27 February – 18 April

An exhibition for all ages, featuring modern automata with intricate mechanisms and humorous scenes. Cabaret Mechanical Marvels celebrates the fascinating world of the automata and showcases exhibits from some of the UK's finest contemporary automata makers.

The collection of automata in Cabaret mechanical Marvels illustrate the creative interplay between simple mechanisms and skilled craftsmanship. Each automata is a masterpiece of creative thought and execution as the cams, gears, cranks, and other simple machines combine in a moveable sculpture that moves a character through a short, often humorous, story.

Containing hands on interactives, push button electrically operated automata, original artefacts, video footage of the automata artists at work, and visitor workshop programmes, this exhibition is a fun filled educational entertainment for all.

Stay in touch

You can keep up to date with all our events and exhibitions by visiting our website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums Twitter & Facebook [@oxonmuseum](https://twitter.com/oxonmuseum)





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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

W 16 Dec	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
M 21 Dec	Freeland Parish Council 'Zoom' Virtual Meeting, 7.30pm
W 23 Dec	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
M 4 Jan	Green Week: recycling & food waste <u>NO garden waste collection</u>
Sa 9 Jan	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
F 15 Jan	Green Week: recycling & food waste <u>NO garden waste collection</u>
Th 21 Jan	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
W 27 Jan	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
	+ Christmas trees
W 3 Feb	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
W 10 Feb	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection

WOODSTOCK AND DISTRICT U3A

Through the varying, and occasionally puzzling, restrictions of Lockdown and whichever Tier Woodstock rests on at present, Branch members soldier on. Our monthly speaker meetings continue on-line, courtesy of Zoom, with December featuring a thought-provoking presentation on modern-day slavery by novelist Helen Matthews. Coming up in January and February (via Zoom) are Mary McIntyre on studying the stars, and a look at the life of Singh Malik who, after coming to Britain as a 14 year old at Balliol College, served with the Royal Flying Corps during World War I and afterwards. Talks through to April are listed on our website (www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock) along with news and pictures about the Branch. (Incidentally, membership fees are waived during lockdown).



Among those pictures, look out for a couple of Crafts Group members holding up their newly completed (sizeable, from the picture) patchwork blanket. And members of the Walking Group, setting off on a socially distanced stroll through the countryside. Less energetically, but I am sure with equal enthusiasm, members of the Play Reading Group have exercised brains in the comfort of their homes, grappling with a succession of (mostly) literary quizzes.

Apart from these – and many other – activities offered at Branch level, members can take advantage of events organised by the U3A Thames Valley Network (again, check their website). Scheduled for December was a concert of seasonal music and readings, Zoomed to us for a Fiver.

Happy New Year to all.

Chris Sladen

FREELAND CRAFT CLUB

Sadly, we are still not able to meet as we used to, so we keep in touch with e-mails and phonecalls. We hope that with the new Covid vaccine will we can all meet together again safely very soon.

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

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The deadline for articles or adverts for the **February** Grapevine is **Tuesday 12th January**. The **February** edition should be in the church porch and online at **www.freelandoxon.co.uk** from **Friday 29th January**.

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, 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. We do not endorse any advertisers or their services or products, nor any articles, reports or suggestions in the Grapevine.

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