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Benefice of Hanborough and Freeland

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the churchwardens and clergy have made the difficult decision to suspend collective worship in our buildings until further notice.

We continue to hold services on Zoom at 10.00am every Sunday. You are very welcome to join us. The Zoom joining details are on the homepage of the church website at www.hanboroughparish.co.uk

St Mary the Virgin, Freeland is open for private prayer from 9.00am – 5.00pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The front cover features the Freeland Garden of Remembrance, and inset, a snakeshead fritillary, growing there.

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Useful contact details:

Rector: Rev. Steve Stewart
01993 881270

The Rectory, Swan Lane
Long Hanborough OX29 8BT
Email: rector@hanboroughparish.co.uk

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: Rev. Steve Stewart 01993 881270 rector@hanboroughparish.co.uk
administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk

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

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 - future meetings to be advised

The above information is correct at the date published (18/04/2021). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found at

www.hanboroughparish.co.uk

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

Public worship is still suspended in our church buildings across the Benefice until further notice. Life as a Christian church continues, and we would like to share some of our activities with you.

Please contact a member of our clergy team if you are interested.

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

You are very welcome to join us.

The Zoom joining details are on the homepage of the church website at
www.hanboroughparish.co.uk

Should you wish to join our email circulation list, please email Louise at
administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk



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Letter from our Curate

Dear Friends,

This month, rather than write my normal letter, I thought I would write a prayer, with a few gaps where you can add your own prayers if you want to.

Father God in truth over the last twelve months it has really been quite tough, as I have faced the challenges of living through my first worldwide pandemic. Despite these challenges I have learned a great many things, for which I am most thankful.

- **I am thankful for relationships** – I have a fresh appreciation of my family, friends and colleagues, and I am particularly looking forward to meeting them face-to-face soon.
- **I am thankful for the countryside** – Before Covid the countryside was something I drove past on my way to another appointment. I am so thankful for the footpaths, lanes and fields near my home, they have been an oasis of peace in a sometimes, frantic world.
- **I am thankful for video conferencing technology** – Even though like many, I am ‘Zoomed-out’, I am really grateful that I have been able to work, talk with family and even worship through the medium of video conferencing. I am so glad I saw my granddaughter riding her bike without stabilisers on video, and that I could talk with family, friends and colleagues around the world.
- **Medical science** - I am thankful for my first vaccine shot and look forward to my second one, I grateful to the doctors, nurses and scientists who have worked so hard to keep me safe.
- **I am thankful for** – Add your own words here...

Father God as we begin to see lockdown progressively lifted in our nation, I am praying for...

- **Our Government** – Please give our politicians, civil servants, scientists, medical professionals and police, wisdom, grace and strength during this time.
- **Our local area** – Please bless all people in our local towns and villages, young and old, as life begins to return to normal.
- **My self** – Add your own words here.

Finally, I am thankful that when we pray to you, you hear our prayers, and that when we seek you with all our heart, we find you. May many people in our villages see their prayers answered and those who seek you, find you.

Amen.

Blessings

Rev. Mike

ST MARY'S CHURCH BELLS

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

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

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FROM THE REGISTERS AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Funeral and Burial: Mark Anthony Godfrey 12th April 2021

ST MARY'S TOWER CLOCK

You may have already heard that the clock is chiming again! The clock engineers visited at the end of March and were able to identify the persistent problem. We are so pleased that the clock is now telling the right time.

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

Sun 25th April 10am Rev. Fred Ireland Holy Communion

Sun 2nd May 10am Rev. Charles Harris

Sun 9th May 10am Rev. Jason Cooke

Sun 16th May 10am Mr Eddie Fowler

Sun 23rd May 10am Mrs Margaret Broadberry

Sun 30th May 10am Rev. Fred Ireland

Sun 6th June 10am TBA

Please consult **www.witneyfaringdoncircuit.org.uk** for all the latest information.

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Website: **www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk**

THE CHURCH IS OPEN for Public Masses on **Saturday at 5pm** and **Sunday at 10am**. Face masks must be worn. For any **Weekday Masses**, please see the webpage.

You can also watch Mass from many other Churches live or recorded online: **www.churchservices.tv** is a platform that connects communities and provides churches with a space to broadcast – particularly Mass, Adoration and prayer. **<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>** is another platform that does the same and includes Corpus Christi, Headington in Oxford.

Blackfriars, Oxford is the Catholic House of Dominican Friars in Oxford and the advantage of going to this site **<https://www.youtube.com/user/Godzdogz>** is that instead of seeing a single priest you see the whole religious community taking part & you can either view this live or view it when it suits you as they are all recorded.

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FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL – LISA’S NOTES - APRIL 2021

As I type these notes the last meeting was held on 15th March and the next meeting was due to be held on 19th April. However due to the period of national mourning for the Duke of Edinburgh and the regulations surrounding this, the 19th April meeting has now been rescheduled to the **Monday 26th April**.

Parish Council Elections

I can now confirm that following an uncontested election, the following members have been elected to serve as Parish Councillors for Freeland from **Monday 10th May 2021: Peter Foster, Mary Ann Canning, Bill Phillips, Roger Faulkner and Amy Jackson**. Congratulations to Peter, Mary Ann and Bill on your re-election, and welcome to Roger and Amy – I hope you enjoy your new role.

This does mean that out of 8 seats, 5 are filled so we have 3 vacancies to fill. If you would like to get more involved in the village and have a little time to spare, we would love to hear from you!

I can be contacted at lisa.fpc@gmail.com or my phone number is **01993 880067** for an informal chat about being co-opted to the Council. I look forward to hearing from you!

New shed on field

As I type this, it is hoped that the new shed will be handed over to the Sports Clubs this week. The shed will be a brilliant new addition to the playing field providing much needed storage space for the various sports clubs. The completed landscaping work will provide some screening and greenery around the shed and will look great once it's had time to bed in and become established.

Gigaclear works in Freeland

These works will be continuing in the village for a while and the latest information I have is below:

Start	End	Address	Traffic Management
23/02/21	14/06/21	WROSLYN ROAD	MULTI-WAY SIGNALS
31/03/21	18/06/21	PARKLANDS	SOME CARRIAGEWAY INCURSION
13/04/21	26/04/21	BROADMARSH LANE	SOME CARRIAGEWAY INCURSION
13/04/21	26/04/21	CHURCH VIEW	SOME CARRIAGEWAY INCURSION
13/04/21	26/04/21	THE BLOWINGS	SOME CARRIAGEWAY INCURSION
13/04/21	26/04/21	WALKERS CLOSE	SOME CARRIAGEWAY INCURSION
17/05/21	28/06/21	WITNEY ROAD	MULTI-WAY SIGNALS
02/06/21	28/06/21	PIGEON HOUSE LANE	ROAD CLOSURE

As soon as I receive more information then, I will of course keep you all updated. As I have said before, this will entail some disruption with the roads/pavements being dug up, so may I ask for patience and tolerance whilst this work is completed. Thank you.

Coronavirus – update

Just to confirm that the volunteer prescription service has now come to an end as lockdown restrictions are now easing. However, if anyone is struggling to collect medication or shopping do get in contact with me and we will get some help to you.

My contact details are lisa.fpc@gmail.com or **01993 880067**. *Continued.....*



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Village Improvements - Toddler Play Area/Traffic Calming

The Parish Council are looking to provide some new play equipment for the toddler play area and possible options and associated prices are currently being explored.

The Parish Council has also set up a Traffic Calming Group to investigate ways the speed of traffic through the village can be reduced and how to deter large HGVs from coming through the village. Sadly, a lot of speeding through the village is in fact carried out by our own residents! So please, watch your speed everyone and let's all do our bit to keep Freeland a quiet and safe place to live.

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:

21/00351/HHD 2A Blenheim Lane, Freeland

Erection of single storey side extension for Mr & Mrs Foster.

21/00068/HHD 59 Wroslyn Road, Freeland.

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

Applications Withdrawn:

21/00323/HHD 5 Hurst Lane, Freeland

Erection of a detached bike shed for Ms Veronique McCoy.

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting:

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

Monday 26th April 2021 at 7.30pm. Details of how to join the meeting will be available on the village website (under Parish Council/Agendas) and the notice board, or by contacting me at **lisa.fpc@gmail.com**

The **May** Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 17th May at 7.30pm.**

It is not yet clear as to whether this meeting will be held remotely via Zoom or in the Village Hall as regulations currently do not allow virtual meetings to continue past 6th May. Further details will follow once I know more – please check the village website (under Parish Council/Agendas) and the notice board, or contact 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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anna.burnside@theburnsidepartnership.com



Jacqui Birks TAX DIRECTOR
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EYNESHAM MEDICAL GROUP UPDATES

EXCESSIVE WAITING IN THE PHONE QUEUE

The Practice is aware of the problem and are working hard to get it resolved. It is mainly a staffing issue with Patient Care Advisors (PCAs) taking unnecessary calls from patients regarding the covid vaccination and needing to contact those for whom booking on line is not an option. They are working on prioritising answering the phones by assigning roles within the PCA group and of increasing the number of staff they have, although this second task will obviously take time to become effective.

Things are not easy at the moment so please be as patient as you can.

Next stage in First Dose vaccination against Covid-19

The Government has announced that the Practice can now start vaccinating the next cohort of 45 - 49 year olds.

You will be contacted by text or phone when it is your turn so please do not call the surgery about this.

BOOKING IN FOR A SECOND COVID VACCINE DOSE – IMPORTANT

There is one thing that is important with regard to booking vaccine appointments on-line. If the Practice has a mobile phone number for you, they will send you a text message when it is time for your second dose of the vaccine. That message will contain a link code which, when clicked, will take you to the **NHSApp** where you can log-in. Once logged-in, you can move to the appointments section. It is here that you need to be very careful to book the right type and location for the vaccine. There have been many incidences of the **NHSApp** trying to get you to book an incorrect vaccine and at locations far, far away. Neither the **NHSApp** nor the **Patient Access (EMISS)** apparently has “knowledge” of what vaccine you had for the first dose and does not generally “know” where you had it.

These shortcomings are not the fault of the Practice and is not something they can control or change. It is still far better to book on-line and exercise some care when doing so otherwise the Practice phone systems would go into meltdown and make obtaining an appointment very, very difficult.

Using **Patient Access** <https://www.patientaccess.com> is most likely a better option at present as it is generally easier to use and will more often offer an appropriate appointment.

However, here is some advice that you may find useful:

- Do not try to book an appointment before being contacted by the surgery by text or by phone. If an on-line system grants you an appointment before being contacted, it is unlikely you will be given the vaccine on arrival. In any case, receiving the second dose ahead of its due time may possibly reduce its effectiveness.
- Your second dose of vaccine must be the same type and given at the same location as you received your first dose. That could have been at Long Hanborough, the Windrush in Witney, the Kassam – or another location.
- If an on-line booking system will only allow you to book an inappropriate appointment, do not accept it. **In that situation, and in that situation only**, phone the Long Hanborough surgery and explain the situation to them so it can be resolved.



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Freeland District Girlguiding covers: The villages of Freeland, Long Hanborough & North Leigh.

Over the Easter holidays the leadership teams have been discussing when to resume some form of face-to-face meetings in accordance with the new guidance and subject to approval of our risk assessment form. We plan to do the first four weeks of Summer term from **Tuesday 20th April** on zoom and then run out door meetings in Long Hanborough on the last two weeks of the term.

For this term this will only be for the girls currently attending on zoom as the number of girls on zoom can be covered in adult/child ratios by just having the leaders in attendance, without needing extra parent helper support and will give us the opportunity to gauge how this goes. We will then consider further if we can extend to girls who decided not to attend zoom or are on the waiting lists after half term.

Due to leaders' commitments and work changes it is likely that the Brownie, Guide and Ranger units will need to join in with Long Hanborough units for the time being. If there are any adults in Freeland who would like to volunteer with any of the units then do please get in touch.

This term we are going to be looking at constellations, designing shoes, scavenger hunts, walking in the countryside and map reading. Our Badge is the Anglia 50 (celebrating our region's 50 years)

If you are interested in registering your daughter to join guiding for the first time, to go on our waiting lists, then please visit <https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk/> .

We also cannot run our units without adult volunteers so if you are interested in helping in any of our units again please contact us at:

freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com or Wendy **01993 883120**

ALUMINIUM CAN COLLECTION

As we finally are slowly being eased out of lockdown, I have been able to take the cans for recycling and have managed to generate another **£55**. This total is only from mid-December 'til April so the collection really seems to be getting stronger. If my totals are correct, I think it has raised **£125** in total now since starting in September for Freeland Pre-School.

Thank you for continuing to support the can collection. It's a fantastic community effort and generates some much appreciated funds.

Please crush all cans as much as possible. It reduces the amount of contact needed with the cans (Covid Safety) and saves a massive amount of space which makes each trip more profitable too. **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.

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FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

All our members will be very sorry to hear that Jill and Ray Evans are having to give up the Club due to Ray's ill health. Together they have been an enormous part of the Gardening Club since it started and it is partly due to their continuing hard work that the Club has been so successful. We shall miss them very much and do send them our best wishes for better health soon.

The Committee will meet before long to discuss the future. We shall be needing some new Committee members, so if you are interested to join us please contact Terry Jones on **davidjones30@talktalk.net**

There is still no news of when the Club will meet again, but hopefully it won't be too far in the future.

The daffodils along Wroslyn Road and at the Green have been better than ever. The next spectacular show is the bluebells in Vincents Wood. If you have never been to see them, go down to the Green bear left and follow the track down to the wood beyond the gate. From the middle of April they are usually at their best.

Some of the jobs that can be done at this time of year are as follows:-

Dead head spring bulbs and feed the greenery with either a liquid feed or granules. Don't be tempted to cut leaves off or tie them over but only remove them when they die off as they feed the bulbs for next year. Divide large clumps of snowdrops and replant smaller clumps around the garden. If other bulbs haven't done very well this year maybe they are overcrowded and need dividing too.

Plant annual flower seeds and prick out in trays when plants are big enough. Wash seed trays in warm soapy water first. Keep under cover till risk of frost has passed then plant out where you want them to flower. Plant a patch of wildflowers for the bees and other insects. Watch out for aphids, put on a pair of gloves and squash them as soon as you see them. Refresh long term pots by scraping off a layer of compost and refilling the pot with fresh compost.

Divide clumps of perennials that have got too big. Clean greenhouse glass to let in as much light as possible. Plant out sweetpea seedlings and keep well watered. In the veg garden plant seed potatoes when risk of frost is over. Either grow seeds or buy veg plants from the garden centre. Cabbage and brussels sprouts and other brassicas need a long growing period.

Feed rhubarb and if you want early stems cover the plants with a bucket etc. Cut off all old leaves from strawberry plants and give the plants a feed.

Get the earliest runner beans by placing seeds on damp kitchen paper till they begin to sprout then plant in pots and keep under cover till ready to plant out.

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

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 10-16 MAY 2021

The focus of the Christian Aid Week campaign this year is the **climate crisis**: the charity is working with people in countries where extreme weather and more intense and frequent droughts mean millions are struggling to get enough food and water.

In recent years, Freeland has generously raised over £1,000 annually in its house-to-house collection, and we'd love to do the same this year with our online collection.

Please go to Freeland's Christian Aid e-envelope page if you wish to make a donation and help us reach our target:

https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/freeland_oxon

Christian Aid works in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice.

Fiona McGrady - Freeland Christian Aid Organiser

FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

Cricket is back, and with a vengeance! We have started coaching, and although sunny, it has been really cold, and we have had snow, but this has not stopped us.

There is a full week of coaching, if people are interested in joining in, please contact me.

Monday Evenings: Under 15s and Under 11s

Tuesday Evening: Under 13s

Wednesday Evenings: Adult hardball nets and women's softball

Friday Evenings: Women's hardball

All sessions run from **6pm**.

In May we will start Under 9s also on a Tuesday.

Our matches will start on **Sunday 25th April**, with two **Under 11** matches in the morning and an **Adult** friendly away to Charlbury in the afternoon.

Then it is full speed ahead, with matches on Monday and Thursday evenings, Saturday afternoons, Sunday mornings and afternoon.

A full fixture list will be on display on the notice board opposite the Yeoman.

The first **Women's hardball** League match will be on **Sunday 2nd May**, in the afternoon, so please come along and support them in the Thames Valley League. This is the first league match for women in many years and they would love to see you.

Simon Brown - Chair - Freeland Cricket Club

E: freelandcc.u11@gmail.com

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

Facebook: **Freeland Cricket Club**



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**FRIDAY - YOGA PILATES FUZION
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FARMERS' MARKET **at the VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK**

SUNDAY 25th APRIL 10am - 1pm

We expect to host:

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

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

The March Market raised **£100** for the Heart Unit at the JR

The next Markets will be on Sunday 30th May and Sunday 27th June and will be at Freeland CE Primary School

FREELAND FARMERS' MARKETS

As you can see above, our next Market is on **Sunday 25th April**, but it will be our last one at the Village Hall.

With the Hall opening up again for bookings, I know that we could be told anytime that we would not be able to use the car park (or the field).

Now for the good news..... I've contacted Freeland CE Primary School and they are more than happy for us to use the playground and car park. The School would like to be involved in some way. They will have the opportunity to raise funds, at the Market, for the new library that they wish to build. They want the library to double up as a quiet room for one to one teaching and I know that as this is such a good cause, we can all give the School our support.

The Market will be giving them a portion of the money raised by the stallholders (there will still be plenty left to give to the Oxford Hospitals' Charity). As the School is more central in our (very long) village, more people can walk there, and as the area that we can use is bigger, we can perhaps have even more stalls!

Ian Paxton

FREELAND CRAFT CLUB

Our latest hand-puppet families - mum, dad, grandma, grandpa, brother & sister - which will be going to help the school nurses who are dealing with traumatised children. With further relaxing of the Covid restrictions and the weather getting warmer we might be able to meet up in the garden again soon?

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





Freeland's Weeny Wildflower Meadow Project

As we start to see lighter days, why not plan a wildflower meadow for **#NoMowMay**? It does not have to be much. Simply identify a small plot of land that you would like to turn into a weeny wildflower meadow and then decide on which award you would like to work towards.



Weeny Wild Ranger - Find a small sunny patch of your lawn and leave it to grow for the whole of May.



Weeny Wild Warrior - Leave a large part of your lawn to grow from the beginning of May. Join in on the Plantlife 'Every Flower counts' survey (www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/). The survey runs from **22nd - 31st May**.



Weeny Wild Champion – In addition to doing the above, if you want to speed up the process, identify tired areas of your lawn and establish a meadow. You can plant native plug plant perennials no later than the end of May. In time your results will be rewarded with a gold medal in meadow management!



Weeny Wild Cup - Turn a section of your garden into an annual wildflower meadow and see the results of your hard work within Three months by reinvigorating a failing flower bed or spare raised bed with a burst of life and colour.

Post your efforts and achievements on social media:

www.facebook.com/groups/freelandnaturehood

Instagram: #freelandnaturehood

For more details and a pack on how to be a Weeny Wild participant, email **nature_instead@outlook.com** saying which award you want to work towards.

Good luck Freeland Naturehooders!

Russell & The Naturehood Team

Freeland Naturehood Photography Competition

Every month entries will be judged by a panel from the Freeland Photo Group alongside wildlife experts from Earthwatch Naturehood. It is completely free to enter for any age.

Entries must: be no bigger than 25mb; should have a resolution of at least 3mega pixels (2048 x 1535 pixels); include an element of wildlife or nature; be taken in or around Freeland.

Only one entry to be sent each month. You may enter more than once under your name in the year.

There will be a small prize each month. All winning photos will be included in the 2021 Freeland Naturehood Calendar.

Don't forget to adhere to current government restrictions and please do not trespass without permission.

Send you entry to: nature_instead@outlook.com by the end of the month

Congratulations to.....



Martin Marais -
February winner



Chloe Westbury -
March winner
Taken in a Freeland garden pond



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1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUT GROUP

Pending further changes to government guidelines, we have gone back to holding some face-to-face meetings in our groups. Currently we are only meeting outside, but this is a huge step in the right direction after being online only for such a long time.

Beavers, for example, are meeting up outside Freeland village hall, but are divided into two groups (one from Freeland and one from Hanborough) and each group meets on alternate weeks to limit social mixing. **Beavers** haven't seen each other in person since March 2020, so this has been a very exciting development!

The committee has been working hard to put together risk assessments to enable outside face-to-face meetings to take place, and everything has to be approved before we run any activities to make sure that we are being as covid-safe as possible.

We have also been discussing how to hold our AGM which is due to happen within the next few months; I will update you on that next time.

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

To get involved take a look at our website www.hfscouting.org.uk and get in touch via the contact page or send an email to gsl@hfscouting.org.uk to express your interest.

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

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

With the easing of restrictions we now have been able to restart fixtures and training. The Men's League has been curtailed early so they have played a couple of friendly matches and have resumed training.

The **Under 14s** have resumed their league, and have had a slow start suffering unlucky defeats in both their games so far.

We have already been planning for next season, and hopefully we can have a full pre-season followed by the first full season in two years!

As ever, we are always looking to welcome new Club members, so if you are interested in playing football, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

All being well, we will also resume the 200 Club collections in the coming months and hope you can once again support us in this vital fundraiser as the pandemic has affected the Club's finances.



Ben Symonds - Secretary Freeland FC

Twitter: @freeland_fc

www.pitchero.com/clubs/freelandfc/



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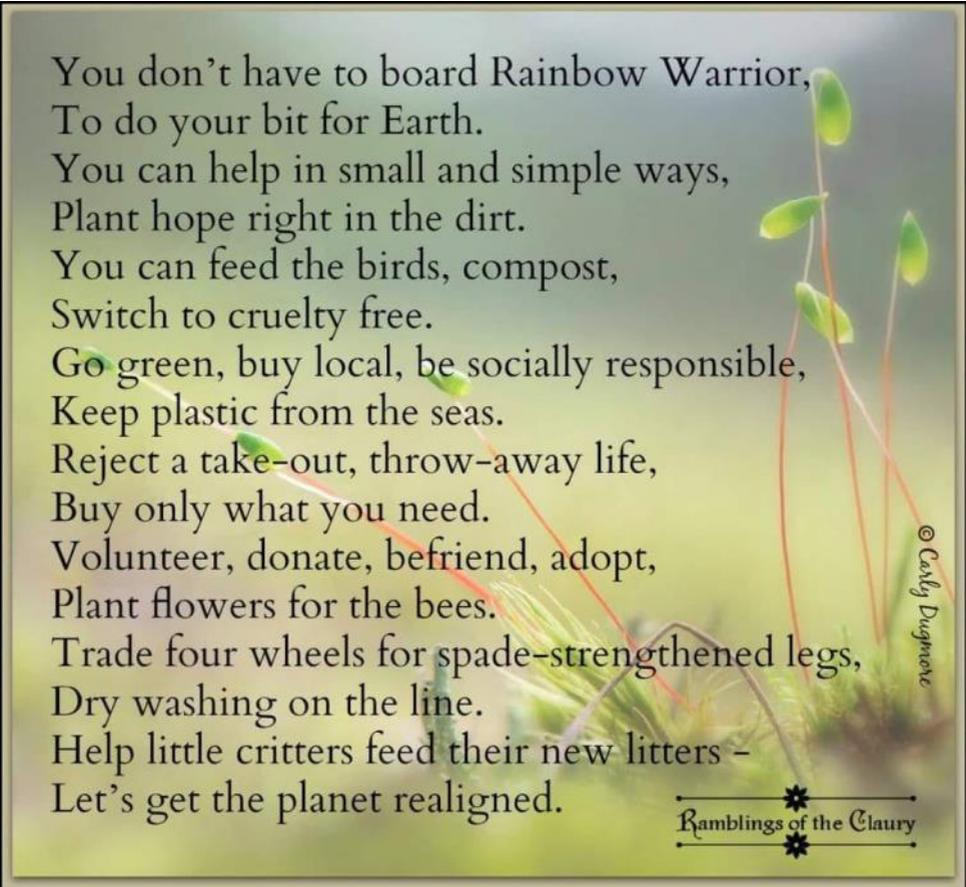
FREELAND WI

We shall now be holding our monthly meetings over Zoom until we are able to meet again. At our April meeting we were delighted to welcome Kirsty Murphy, the first and so far only, female member of the Red Arrows team. She was a truly inspirational speaker, telling us all about her career in the RAF and her talk was much enjoyed by our members.

We will keep reviewing future meetings on the basis of guidance from the Government and the Oxfordshire and National Federation. We are very hopeful that we may be able to meet again in August or September, regulations permitting. We will still continue to keep in touch through our monthly newsletter, telephone calls or a keep in touch card.

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

WI Climate Advisor Tip from Rosie Smith:



You don't have to board Rainbow Warrior,
To do your bit for Earth.
You can help in small and simple ways,
Plant hope right in the dirt.
You can feed the birds, compost,
Switch to cruelty free.
Go green, buy local, be socially responsible,
Keep plastic from the seas.
Reject a take-out, throw-away life,
Buy only what you need.
Volunteer, donate, befriend, adopt,
Plant flowers for the bees.
Trade four wheels for spade-strengthened legs,
Dry washing on the line.
Help little critters feed their new litters -
Let's get the planet realigned.

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—*—
Ramblings of the Claury
—*—

Continued.....



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www.facebook.com/freelandpreschool

Continued.....

Freeland WI normally meets on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall, starting at **8pm** and finishing around **10pm**. We look forward to welcoming visitors and new members at our meetings. If you have been thinking about joining WI now could be the time to give us a try. We are a varied group with a wide range of interests. One trait that unites us is that we are friendly and welcoming to visitors. Please contact our secretary Rosie if you would like to discuss joining us for a trial session or to become a member. We would love to see you.

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**

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Here's a handy guide on how to use the Little Free Library.

1. You can take as many books as you like and you don't have to bring them back.
2. You can take books without donating any.
3. To donate books please leave them in one of the drop boxes (either behind the bus shelter near the village hall or next to the small Little Free Library at 138 Wroslyn Rd).
4. In the big Little Free Library please don't put too many books on the top shelf because it makes it harder for us to keep it tidy.
5. When we have fine weather I will sometimes put boxes of books outside 138 Wroslyn Road; please take as many book as you like!

Thank you again for all your support. It is wonderful to see both Little Free Libraries being used so much.

Matthew & the Little Free Library volunteers
01993 359 543 ruddlem@gmail.com



FREELAND 'VARIETY' BOOK CLUB

We are a 'variety' of people of a 'variety' of ages and backgrounds who meet once a month to discuss a book we have all been reading. We do not buy our books but each month receive 12 copies of a book the Witney library has available, so read a great 'variety' of books! We have given the library a list of books we would like to read and these are sent to us if available. We would normally meet in one of the member's homes but during lockdown have met on Zoom. We have also met in the Pub and on the playing field and in a garden.

If you would like to join us you would be very welcome. We usually meet on the **3rd Thursday** of the month at **8pm**. Please contact Jane Linnell **01993 882654** or janelinnell@tiscali.co.uk Janet Dalton

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NORTH LEIGH ROMAN VILLA - East End OX29 6PZ

Set within a peaceful landscape on the banks of the River Evenlode, North Leigh Roman Villa is considered to be one of the largest villas in Roman Britain with a 500 year history of occupation. At its most extensive in the early 4th century AD it included 3 bath suites, 16 mosaic floors and 11 rooms with under-floor heating.

Today visitors can imagine the villa's former richness as they walk through the rectangular footprint of its walls – but the mosaic house hides the real gem of a near complete mosaic floor. The mosaics form the floor of villa's winter dining room and, as the only example in Oxfordshire still found in their original location, they give a powerful sense of the Villa's original opulence.

The mosaics have not been on regular display to the public since the early 1990s, but it is hoped to have some Open Days this summer, as in 2020. Please keep an eye on the website for further details:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/>

As well as North Leigh Roman Villa, English Heritage cares for over 400 historic buildings, monuments and sites - from world-famous prehistoric sites to grand medieval castles, from Roman forts on the edge of the empire to a Cold War bunker. Through these, it brings the story of England to life for over 10 million people each year.

Recently North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteers were awarded a **Commendation** by the Heritage Alliance for outstanding heritage voluntary work in 2020.

The collective efforts of the group of 25 committed local people worked to promote North Leigh's Villa site as a resource for well-being and education throughout the pandemic. This was judged to be a perfect example of where English Heritage volunteers have made a massive difference to linking heritage sites with their community during the pandemic.

During the summer of 2020, the volunteers led a series of successful Open Mosaic Days, hosting over 1,250 visitors which is nearly twice as many as the previous year. Visitors generously donated nearly **£1,000** to benefit the site, and in spite of covid restrictions, the team of volunteers gave over 1000 hours of their time, including 290 on site in 2020.

The picture shows a volunteer Centurion helping to clean the mosaic tiles last summer.



www.theheritagealliance.org.uk

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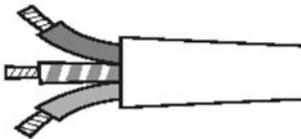
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SALT CROSS UPDATE

A Planning Inspector has been carrying out an initial assessment of the draft Area Action Plan for the Salt Cross garden village.

The Inspector is also looking at supporting evidence documents and will be confirming a date for the hearing in the near future.

The date will be made public when it has been fixed, six weeks before the hearing is due to take place so giving required notice time to all parties concerned.

Meanwhile, Oxfordshire County Council will soon be undertaking extensive consultation about the A40 improvement works and if you have any direct queries please email a40corridor@oxfordshire.gov.uk

COMBE MILL

A very exciting start to the new season, when this week the directors met at the Mill, to talk to a lovely couple arranging their wedding for August. What could possibly be better?

- An idyllic setting next to the River Evenlode.
- A grassy area to sit and enjoy the great outside.
- Tea room for drinks and food with riverside balcony.
- Marquee for just in case cover.
- Plenty of parking.
- Plenty of seating spaces to talk to guests.
- Firepit possibilities
- Unique photo opportunities.



School organisers are welcome to work with us to create a one/half day learning package to explore STEM or social history topics. We have already developed a range of learning modules that can form the basis of any visit. We also have outdoor learning options on offer. Non-school community groups can also be catered for.

Our Foreman's Office will seat up to 30 people for a meeting or presentation. It has a large screen display and its own kitchenette or you could also use the tea room. Ideal to use to rebuild your team after home-working.

The first opening day for the Mill will be a non-steaming day on **Wednesday 19th May**, government restrictions allowing.

Everyone is welcome at the Mill.

Julie Stuart-Thompson tourism@combemill.org

www.combemill.co.uk

FREELAND PHOTO GROUP

Freeland Photo Group will continue to meet virtually on the first and third Tuesday of every month, starting at **7.30pm**, for the foreseeable future. Meetings in **May** will be on **Tuesday 4th and 18th**.

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

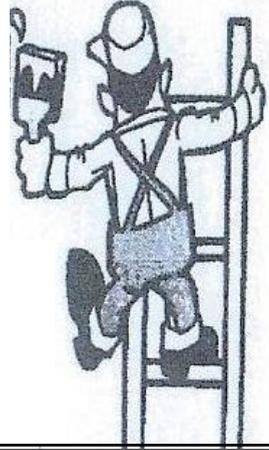
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ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE GRAPEVINE are available in the Church Porch, which is open from 9am to 5pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays. You can also pick up copies at the **Oxfordshire Yeoman** during their regular opening hours of Tues-Thurs 5 - 11pm, Fri 5pm - Late, Saturday 10.30am - late, Sunday Noon - 6pm. There are also copies on the bottom of the newspaper stand rack, straight ahead, bottom shelf on the right, inside the door of the **Long Hanborough Coop**.

EYNESHAM AND LONG HANBOROUGH MEDICAL CARE GROUP PATIENT CHARITY IS 25 YEARS OLD

The charity was set up in 1996 to administer the gifts and bequests the Eynsham and Long Hanborough medical centres receive from grateful patients and their loved ones.

Thanks to their generosity and the fund-raising efforts of local institutions like Eynsham Roadrunners and philanthropic organisations like the Rotary Club and Freemasons, for more than a quarter of a century it has enabled the trustees, drawn from present and past doctors, staff and representatives of the communities it serves, to offer extras the National Health Service does not.

Its first purchases were a resuscitation training doll and a syringe driver so doctors and district nurses could provide more effective pain relief for terminally ill patients. Among its more recent - during Covid - were clinicians' half masks for doctors and staff, who found patients had difficulty hearing them wearing the standard issue full masks or caused problems for those wearing glasses.

To give you an idea of the range of its activities, it has been responsible for air conditioning the waiting rooms at the practice's Eynsham and Long Hanborough surgeries, 24-hour blood pressure monitors, 24-hour electrocardiograms to monitor heart rhythms, defibrillators, hydraulic height adjustable couches, pulse oximeters to measure oxygen levels, a phlebotomy couch, an interactive website, and in 2019, thanks to the generosity of Eynsham Masonic Lodge, a vein viewer to help phlebotomists with patients who are difficult to draw blood from.

Advances in digital technology mean there is a constant demand for new aids to help with patient care. But since 2010 the major call on the charity's resources has been a van and part-time driver to deliver prescriptions to the house-bound, a service made possible by a substantial bequest.

The cost of running it, much accentuated during Covid, means the trustees are in constant need of your support. You can help by visiting the charity's fundraising site:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/charity

Or you can contact the charity's treasurer:

Dr Ian Binnian

Eynsham Medical Centre

Conduit Lane

Eynsham

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01865 881206

Or via our website contact form at: **www.eynshammedicalgroup.org.uk**

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- W 21 Apr Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
Su 25 Apr **Farmers' Market - Freeland Village Hall car park 10am - 1pm**
M 26 Apr **Freeland Parish Council 'Zoom' Virtual Meeting, 7.30pm**
W 28 Apr Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
M 3 May **Bank Holiday**
Th 6 May **Polling Day - Elections**
Th 6 May Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
W 12 May Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
M 17 May **Freeland Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm**
W 19 May Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
W 19 May Combe Mill open. See www.combemill.co.uk
W 26 May Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Su 30 May **Farmers' Market - Freeland CE Primary School 10am - 1pm**
M 31 May **Bank Holiday**
Th 3 June Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
W 9 June Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
W 16 June Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
W 23 June Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection

WOODSTOCK AND DISTRICT u3a

Woodstock & District u3a's monthly speaker meetings continue online, but we look forward to the time when we can meet together in our usual venue (Woodstock Community Centre).



In early April we heard local historian Christine Cox on the Verney family and the history of Claydon House. The final online meeting in the present series (**Tuesday 4th May**) will feature a retired entomologist who promises to tell us 'All you might ever need to know about slugs'. Wasn't there a notoriously facetious member of steam radio's 'Twenty Questions' panel whose first question was invariably 'Can you eat it/them'? Bags I get to ask that one (but perhaps the speaker will have told us anyway).

Meanwhile, u3a's Thames Valley Network continues to offer this and other branches on-line access to its programme of talks and events. Recent offerings have included a quiz 'with a spring time theme', talks on the histories of sugar, and gardening and a much-needed cybersecurity-awareness talk, shared with **Witney u3a**.

Activities of our 20-plus Interest Groups have necessarily been curtailed during lock-down, although a commendable number have managed to tweak their regular activities within the regulations. The popular bi-weekly Walking Group, for example, say their walks go on 'with some restrictions' (is it irreverent to guess they can't drop into the pub afterwards as usual?). And the popular Book Group has met monthly by Zoom, having obviously solved the tricky business of keeping distribution of books virus-free.

Detail of all Branch activities at www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock

Chris Sladen

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The deadline for articles or adverts for the **June Grapevine** is **Wednesday 12th May**.
The **May** edition should be in the church porch and online at:
www.freelandoxon.co.uk from **Friday 28th May**.

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 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.

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