



Grapevine

St Mary's Freeland



January 2024
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ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Sunday 17th December 10.00am Communion

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Sunday 24th December 5.00pm Christingle at St Mary's

**Monday 25th December 10.00am Christmas Day All Age Family
Communion & Carols at St Mary's**

Sunday 31st December 10.00am Whole benefice Morning Praise at St Mary's

Leader: Val and Andy Richens

Preacher: Andy Richens

**Sunday 7th January 10.00am Joint Communion with Christ Church at
St Mary's**

Leader: Rev. Steve Bellamy

Preacher: Rev. Steve Bellamy

Sunday 14th January 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart

Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

**Sunday 21st January 10.00am Morning Praise joint service with St Mary's
at Christ Church**

Sunday 28th January 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Val and Andy Richens

Preacher: Andy Richens

Sunday 4th February 10.00am All Age Communion

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch

Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

The above information is correct on the date published (10/12/2023). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website below.

**St Mary the Virgin is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm/dusk.
Please enjoy the space to look around, for prayer or for quiet reflection.**

See our website at www.hfchurch.org.uk

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is currently open for both burials and ashes interment. The space for burials is limited. We will provide notification on our website and in the Grapevine when the graveyard reaches its capacity.

For further information or to contact the church, please see our website www.hfchurch.org.uk or use the QR code.



Freeland Parochial Church Council

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Useful contact details:

Rector: Rev. Steve Stewart
01993 881270

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

Associate Rector: Rev. Mike Madden
Email: associate.rector@hfchurch.org.uk

Curate: Rev. Heather McCulloch
Email: heather.mcculloch@hfchurch.org.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers:
Clive Berry 01993 882080

Hugh Dalton *Emeritus* 01993 881742

Churchwarden:
Colin Griffiths
01993 357336

Flowers in the Church:
Janet Dalton
01993 881742

Contact via website www.hfchurch.org.uk

Weddings: Rev. Steve Stewart 01993 881270 rector@hfchurch.org.uk
administrator@hfchurch.org.uk

You will find all sorts of interesting information about St Mary's on the "A Church Near You" website: www.achurchnearyou.com/5863

You can see a virtual tour of St Mary's on Google Street View at:
<http://goo.gl/g53NJH> Thank you to Nikhilesh Haval for allowing the use of the images.

Children and Youth Work - families are really welcome at all our services. At St Mary's the first Sunday of the month is a Family Service where everyone stays in church together. At the other **10am** services the young people have the opportunity to take part in youth friendly activities at the back of church.

Hitchhikers If you have children at secondary school (or are one yourself!), you are welcome to join us every other week between **5.30pm and 7pm on Sundays** to have snacks and hot chocolate, catch up with friends, play some board games, and share a short thought from the Bible. It is usually held in our home, so do phone us for dates and more information if interested. Sarah and Nigel Knights Johnson (**01993 359 572**) on behalf of the Youth Team.

The above information is correct on the date published. Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website at: www.hfchurch.org.uk

 <p>First Steps</p>	<p>Baby and Toddler Group</p> <p>Wednesday (term time only), 10:00 - 11:30</p> <p>Christ Church, Long Hanborough</p> <p>£2 per family</p>
<p>We welcome all under 5s and their parent/carer.</p> <p>Join us to meet others and enjoy free play and fun activities together.</p> <p>Each session finishes with refreshments, a Bible story and song time.</p> <p>For more information: hfchurch.org.uk/firststeps</p> 	



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Letter from our Rector, Rev. Steve Stewart:



“Infamy, infamy! They’ve all got it in for me!”

The end of 2023 saw the death at 100 years of age of the political giant, Dr Henry Kissinger. A man of his time, whose political decisions and achievements will divide opinion, sometimes markedly so, now and for a long time of analysis to come. Kissinger sits in and alongside a constellation of other figures, from Kennedy to Castro and Mao to Mandela as one of the key political figures of the 20th century.

And when we look back over the span of history, whether we are considering Julius Caesar or Henry Kissinger, whatever their achievements, their time is *seasonal* and *temporary* – and even if their influence stretches forward into centuries like Julius Caesar and his adopted son Augustus, the one thing their influence can never touch is the past, *the time before they were born!*

For each of these notable or notorious political giants, the jury will always be out as to whether they deserve fame or infamy.

Yet one historical figure stands apart: the carpenter’s son Jesus of Nazareth. Firstly, no political figure past or present has ever had anything like his monumental, global influence. Jesus Christ is not only the shaper of empires – even eventually Rome itself, never mind the largest empire of all history, the British Empire – but of literature, music, art, philosophy and faith.

Jesus’ influence goes even beyond the things of his time and future: in declaring his divinity, those who recorded his life and death and resurrection, proclaimed him as the author of *all* history since the beginning of creation. Nor are we speaking merely of *influence*, but of *kingship* from and into all eternity. No human being has ever had such claims taken seriously.

For all other historical figures, even Gandhi, even Mandela, none claimed or had argued for their perfection. But not so for Jesus Christ. Even his closest friends and confidantes, the Apostle Peter and the Apostle John were able to write, “*he committed no sin and no deceit was found in his mouth*” (1 Peter 2:22) and, “*in him is no sin*” (1 John 3:5).

Pundits in the schools of political history around the world may always look to compare Mao with Julius Caesar, Gandhi with Mandela, or Kissinger with Nixon. But for Jesus Christ there is no comparison with any other. He alone stands across *all* history, past, present, future and eternal, as *Deus Homo*, the divine and human, sinless, resurrected, reigning, Lord and Saviour. Only of Jesus Christ alone could anything like these claims be made seriously.

Continued.....

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Continued.....

So, when Christians speak of Jesus as “*Immanuel, God with us*”, let us be in no doubt whatsoever about the claims we are making for the carpenter’s son. If you would like to begin to take Jesus’ claims seriously, we would love you to join us at our churches across Hanborough and Freeland.

With much love in Christ Jesus,

**Rev. Steve Stewart,
Rector, Hanborough and Freeland**

If you would like to learn more about church and what it means to be a Christian, simply join us at any of our churches on a Sunday morning (see hfchurch.org.uk) or contact me for a chat at rector@hfchurch.org.uk



To celebrate Advent and Christmas, we are delighted to warmly welcome you to our Christmas Services and Events:

- **Friday 15th December at 6pm - Carols on the Green at Hurdeswell
Green in Long Hanborough**
- **Sunday 17th December at 6pm - Nine Lessons & Nine Carols at St Peter
and St Paul followed by mulled wine in church**
- **Sunday 24th December at 5pm - Christingle at Christ Church**
- **Sunday 24th December at 5pm - Christingle at St Mary's**
- **Sunday 24th December at 11:15pm - Midnight Communion at St Peter
& St Paul**
- **Monday 25th December at 10am - Christmas Day All Age Family
Communion & Carols at St Mary's**
- **Monday 25th December at 10am - Christmas Day Family Service at
Christ Church**
- **Monday 25th December at 10am - Christmas Day Communion & Carols
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SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Sunday 17th December	10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
Sunday 17th December	6.00pm Nine Lessons & Nine Carols at St Peter and St Paul followed by mulled wine in church
Sunday 24th December	11.15pm Whole Benefice Midnight Communion at St Peter and St Paul
Monday 25th December	10.00am Christmas Day Communion & Carols at St Peter & St Paul
Sunday 31st December	10.00am - Whole benefice Morning Praise at <u>St Mary's Freeland</u>
Sunday 7th January	10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch	Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch
Sunday 14th January	10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Dr Nick Wood	Preacher: Rev. Dr Nick Wood
Sunday 21st January	10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
Sunday 28th January	10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson	Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson
Sunday 4th February	10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

Sunday 17th December	10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Alison Feast	Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson
Sunday 24th December	5.00pm Christingle at Christ Church
Monday 25th December	10.00am Christmas Day Family Service at Christ Church
Sunday 31st December	10.00am Whole benefice Morning Praise at <u>St Mary's Freeland</u>
Sunday 7th January	10.00am Joint Communion with St Mary's at <u>St Mary's Freeland</u>
Sunday 14th January	10.00am Communion
Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson	Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson
Sunday 21st January	10.00am Morning Praise (joint with St Mary's at Christ Church
Leader: Emma Young	Preacher: Benjamin Chamings-Manley
Sunday 28th January	10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
Sunday 4th February	10.00am Morning Praise
Leader: Rev. Mike Madden	Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

The above information is correct on the date published. Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website: www.hfchurch.org.uk



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ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

Sunday 17th December 9.30am - 10.00am
Sunday 24th December 4.30pm - 5.00pm Christingle
Monday 25th December 9.30am - 10.00am
Sunday 31st December 9.30am - 10.00am
Sunday 7th January 9.30am - 10.00am
Saturday 13th January 11.45am - 12.45pm Visiting band from Cheltenham

Practices are held on **Monday** nights from **7.30pm to 9.00pm**

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

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

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

Sunday 17th December 10am Christingle Service - Richard Bowler and David Sarbutts

Sunday 24th December 10am No Service
6pm Carol Service - Mr David Sarbutts

Monday 25th December 10am Christmas Day service - Mrs Margaret Broadberry

Sunday 31st December 10am No Service

Sunday 7th January 10am Ms Jude Levermore

Sunday 14th January 10am Mr Geoff Reeve

Sunday 21st January 10am Rev. Fred Ireland - All Age Family Service

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

Long Hanborough Methodist Church would like to extend a warm welcome to you all as we celebrate the Christmas Season together. Happy Christmas from us all.

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

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St Mary's Christingle Service - Christmas Eve 5.00pm

Come and join us for this family service.

The service for children and adults alike telling the story of Christmas, carols, and of course the Christingle.

Gifts of oranges with sweets for all children and ending with candle lit singing.

Everyone welcome!



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

To everyone who came along to support the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Village Hall on December 1st - a big THANK YOU! It was a lovely evening with Hanborough Freeland Explorer Scouts serving mulled wine, mince pies and cookies; The Teddy Girls' holding their wonderful chocolate tombola and raising **£100** for Witney Food Bank; St. Mary's Church providing the craft activities and the Freeland Primary School Choir singing beautifully.

Further money raised on the evening will be sent to The Besom in Witney – total to be finalised.

FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

Happy New Year

Welcome to 2024! Looking back on 2023 and all the amazing achievements that were made. This year brings new challenges and the opportunity to make Freeland a better place to live. Our next big project is the Village Design Statement – see more on page **19** of this Grapevine.



Elections

On **Thursday 2nd May** we have Parish Council elections. If anyone is interested in becoming a councillor or just want to find out more about what the role involves please get in touch.

Barnard Gate Junction

As some of you may have already seen, our County Councillor, Liam Walker, has started up a petition to improve safety at the Barnard Gate junction onto the A40, following a series of severe accidents: liam-walker.com/barnard-gate

Working Groups

We wish to thank all those who attended the working groups recently. Anyone else wishing to help support the future of Freeland and join either the Community (Social) Group or the Freeland Energy Group should email fayf.fpc@gmail.com. *Continued....*

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Fix My Street

We urge you to continue reporting potholes, damaged kerbstones, or other matters such as grass cutting on the A4095, on “Fix My Street” (fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk), where you can report any issues to the County Council. Additionally, if you would like to become a ‘Super User’, which will help speed up the process of repairs, then email fayf.fpc@gmail.com for further details.

Playpark

We have had a lot of work going on at the play park and the new toddler swings are due to be installed on the 11th and 12th December. There has also been some ongoing tree work to clear over-hanging branches. We are looking to renew the older toddler equipment and improve our play facilities in the next few years, so if you have any ideas on what you’d really like to see added, then please drop me an email.

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

Planning Applications

All planning applications can be viewed on the Parish Council website at www.freelandpc.org.uk (under Planning Tracker) or on the WODC website at publicaccess.westoxon.gov.uk/online-applications/
You can also contact the Planning Team at the WODC Wood Green Council Offices on **01993 861420**.

Applications under consideration or appeal:

22/02377/FUL Conversion of Methodist Church to form a single dwelling is currently subject to an Appeal Hearing. Representations to this closed on 17th August. Appeals Casework Portal reference no. **APP/D3125/W/23/3315925**
<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Applications Received:

23/02909/FUL 1 Cuckoo Wood Caravan Park, Eynsham Road, Freeland
Erection of a building for the garaging of fairground vehicles

Applications Approved: None

Applications Refused: None

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm**, in the Newell Room.

Please note this time and venue is subject to change; please check the village website and noticeboards for the final agenda up to five days before the meeting in case of alterations.

If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter and have access to the internet, please have a look at the Council website where lots of useful information is held. The website is www.freelandpc.org.uk You can follow us on Facebook (@freelandpc) or Twitter (@freeland_pc).

Alternatively, please contact me between the hours of **9.00am – 4.00pm, Monday to Friday - Fay Friend, Parish Clerk on 01993 357851 or email: fayf.fpc@gmail.com**



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A VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT FOR FREELAND

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

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

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

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

WHO WILL PROVIDE THE CONTENT?

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

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

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

A village meeting is planned for early New Year.

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

A very Happy and Successful New Year to all our readers. The bitter weather has meant most of us have been indoors rather than doing any gardening so we wait for it to be a little warmer before venturing out!

Malcolm Moodie who was the November speaker brought some superb pictures of his visit firstly to Singapore Botanic Gardens and then to Borneo in search of Orchids. He is passionate about Orchids and grows many in his own greenhouses. Some of the flowers were extremely beautiful in many different shapes and sizes.

We have a special meeting on **Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7.30pm** in Freeland Hall. Our speaker, Graham Walker, is well known to many who live in Freeland as he also lives in the village. He has kindly agreed to come and relate 'The History of Notcutts Garden Centre' as he has worked for them for a number of years. Do come and support Graham as we are sure the talk will be interesting.

Visitors at **£4** a meeting and new members very welcome. There is a Bring and Buy Plants and Gardening Items Sale at all Hall meetings.

The Gardening Club programme for 2024 is on page 26 of this edition.

For any further information about the Club please contact Terry Jones at

davidjones30@talktalk.net

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)



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FREELAND WI

At our final meeting of the year, Christmas was definitely in the air! The hall was filled with the scent of greenery, candles and a variety of decorative items such as fir cones, cinnamon sticks, dried orange slices and baubles for members to use to make a table decoration. To help us get in the festive mood as we worked, there were nibbles, mulled wine and Christmas music. There will be some very professional looking decorations adorning tables in Freeland this Christmas.



Freeland WI would like to take this opportunity to wish all members past, present and future, as well as the local Freeland community, a very Happy Christmas and to send our very best wishes for 2024.

This year we have decided to ring the changes so our Christmas party will be held at our first meeting in 2024 on **Monday 8th January**. Members will bring dishes to share and as always there will be a variety of fun games.

Throughout the year we have continued to support the Witney food bank at our meetings, having a collection box where members very generously leave their donations. These are then delivered by Maggie, one of our members, who volunteers there.

Information from earlier years is available on our website:

<https://freelandwiuk.wixsite.com/freelandwi> whilst current information is on our Facebook page: **www.facebook.com/freelandwi**

The Freeland WI programme for 2024 is on pages 24 and 25 of this edition.

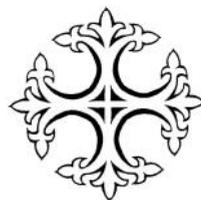
Alternatively please contact our secretary Rosie James on **01993 881997** or at **freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk**

Aileen Tattam - Freeland WI

EYNESHAM MEDICAL GROUP UPDATES

Christmas and New Year closures

Eynsham Medical Group will be closed at both the Eynsham and Long Hanborough Surgeries and at the Hanborough Pharmacy on **Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th December** and again on **Monday 1st January**.



Otherwise, both Eynsham Medical Group Surgeries and the Hanborough Pharmacy will be open as usual.

All medical care while they are closed will be by via **111**, either by phoning or online at **<https://111.nhs.uk/>**

VTE Thrombosis (deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism) app

The new FREE 'Let's Talk Clots' app is now available from the Apple and Google app stores.

Developed in collaboration with Thrombosis UK, this resource provides information on blood clots, and how to reduce the risk of developing one.

Contact **VTEprevention@ouh.nhs.uk** with any queries.

Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2019** and **31 August 2020**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2024**.

Apply online at

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/
primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres

– ask for details at your local facility.



For help and information:

Web: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Email: admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Tel: **0345 241 2487**

EILEEN EDITH FRENCH

Eileen was 92 and passed away on Saturday 25th November.
Eileen has been a resident of Freeland since the late 1950s.

Alan and Dawn French



FREELAND CRAFT CLUB

A New Year so what shall we try next?
Macrame? Fimo paste? Crochet?
Perhaps for one of your New Year's
Resolutions you have been thinking of joining a
group in the village?
Now could be the time to give us a try - a warm
welcome awaits you.

We meet each Wednesday afternoon from **2pm - 4pm** in the Newell Room at the
back of Freeland Village Hall. There is usually a subscription of **£1** per meeting to cover
hire costs.

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

Margaret Wright

FREELAND COMMUNITY BUS TIMETABLE **EVERY THURSDAY - AVAILABLE TO ALL**

£2 each way. Or you can use your bus pass.

Outbound pickup:

Freeland Village Hall ----- 10.00 am
Little Free Library – 138 Wroslyn Rd ----- 10.05 am
Nash Lane ----- 10.05 am
Freeland Primary School ----- 10.05 am

With drop off at:

Waitrose car park, Witney
Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney

Return pickup:

Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney ----- 12.30 pm
Waitrose car park, Witney----- 12.40 pm

With drop off by request anywhere along Wroslyn Road

INFORMATION

For more information or to volunteer as a driver or helper please contact:
Alaa Al-Yousuf **Tel: 07768 898914** **Email: alaa.alyousuf@gmail.com**

MORE DRIVERS AND HELPERS WANTED!

Version 013 04/09/2023





Freeland WI Programme for 2024 Part 1

(part 2 on next page)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Monday 8 January | New Year Christmas Party
Bring & Share food and games |
| Wednesday 31 January | Theatre trip - Oliver by
Oxford Operatic Society |
| Monday 12 February | Discuss the Resolutions
Food tasting and a Love themed quiz |
| Monday 11 March | A G M with Gin & Bubbles
Followed by Handbag Bingo |
| Monday 8 April | Peter Tickler - Writer and Author
An interactive talk Blood on the
Keyboard |
| Monday 13 May | Cheryl Harrison talk
Trading Standards and Scams |
| Saturday 8 June | Freeland Festival |
| Monday 10 June | Antonia Keaney - A passion for
Fashion , this is an Open Meeting |

**Monthly meetings are held in Freeland Village hall on the 2nd
Monday of the month at 7.45pm.**

Freeland WI Programme for 2024 Part 2

(part 1 on previous page)



Monday 8 July

**Dr Katy Bellamy talk - To Sleep
perchance to Dream**

Monday 12 August

Group Activity to be confirmed

Monday 9 September

Crafts for Christmas
Practical session making cards

Monday 14 October

Chris Pearce - Florist
3 designs with a bunch of
Supermarket Flowers

Monday 11 November

Jennifer Cowling
Those extraordinary things we say
and do

Monday 9 December

Bring & Share
Make a Chocolate Christmas
Decoration

**Women over 18 are welcome. Why don't you come along to one
of our meetings and maybe bring a friend, to meet our friendly
members?**

**Contact our Secretary: Rosie James 07968 242 208
freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk**

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2024

Monday 22nd January	GRAHAM WALKER - The History of Notcutts Garden Centre
Monday 26th February	HARRIET RYCROFT - Potty Time (A Year in Pots)
Monday 25th March	RAFFLE AND QUIZ
Monday 22nd April	MANDY BRADSHAW - Find the Angle at Chelsea – A Journalist’s View of the World Famous Flower Show
Monday 27th May	CAROLINE SHELDRIK – A Year in the Cutting Garden
Monday 24th June	TIM MITCHELL – Novel Ways of Growing Food and Biodiversity at Asthall Manor Kitchen Garden
Monday 22nd July	NICOLA HOPE - Tales from the Potting Shed
Monday 19th August	SOCIAL EVENING
Monday 23rd September	BULB PLANTING AT FREELAND NURSERIES
Monday 28th October	A.G.M.
Monday 25th November	DAVID BUSBY - Bees and Beekeeping
	No meeting in December

COMBE MILL Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe OX29 8ET

Our 2023 “In Steam” season has come to an end and we would like to thank everyone that came along to support Combe Mill, visitors, clubs, schools, u3a groups, and stall holders. We really appreciate you supporting Combe Mill, which is funded by fundraising events, organised by the volunteers throughout the season March to October.



The Mill is now closed for Winter Maintenance on our equipment and artefacts. Volunteers are being trained for Boiler Operation and Beam Engine Driving, ready for opening again on **Sunday 17th March 2024**, look forward to seeing you all again then.

Our Riverside Tea Room will be **OPEN** to the Public on **Wednesdays 11.00 am to 2.30 pm** throughout the Winter with volunteers serving freshly prepared food and drinks from our Winter Warmer Menu. There is no admission charge to come into the Tea Room. It will be closed on **Wednesdays 27th December and 3rd January**.
www.combemill.org

COFFEE MORNING



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



Roger Faulkner

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Well, here we are again, about to enter another new year. At this time, I like to look back and reflect on the books I've read during the last twelve months. In 2023, I read 45 books, and out of those, fifteen were books that I had borrowed from the Little Free Library.



Personal highlights were: "Invitation to a Bonfire" by Adrienne Celt; "The First Day of Spring" by Nancy Tucker; "Small Things Like These" by Claire Keegan; "Briefly, A Delicious Life" by Nell Stevens, and "When I Was Ten" by Fiona Cummins, which I enjoyed so much that I created lessons out of it for my GCSE English students! So, thank you to whoever donated those books; I really enjoyed reading them, and have put some back into the Little Free Library for other people to discover.

Throughout the village, there are many other experiences like mine, of course, where people have found new books, read them, and passed them on to family or friends, eager for them to enjoy those stories, too. This is at the heart of what the Little Free Library is all about: sharing stories with each other in our community.

Thank you once again for your continued support; I can't wait to see what stories we all discover on the shelves this coming year.

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

01993 359 543 ruddlem@gmail.com

FREELAND THERMAL IMAGING PROJECT (FTIP)

As luck would have it, I didn't have access to the camera used to take the thermal images during the recent cold snap, but I'm sure there will be more cold weather in the new year, so fingers crossed we'll get some useful information from this exercise then.

So far, eighteen Freeland residents have put their names forward to have their homes assessed as part of this project.

I'm hopeful that we will be able to take thermal pictures of more homes so I'm happy to receive further requests for inclusion via email at **markoc.fpc@gmail.com** but as this exercise is very much dependant on the weather it may not be possible to meet all requests this year, but it is our intention to offer this service next winter as well.

This project is being organised by the Freeland Energy Group and if you'd like to help then please get in touch via the above email.



Wroslyn Road, Freeland OX29 8AQ

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

Tel:- 01993 881430

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

Main crop potatoes (Agria, Melody & Maris Piper) in 25kg & 10kg bags

Kindling and logs

Jams, chutneys and eggs

Wild bird food

A large selection of house plants

A range of greetings cards for all occasions

The Breakfast & After School Club is now open at Freeland Primary School!

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

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

We have a Christmas /New Year Holiday Club at Aston & Cote Primary School which is open on Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th January from 8.30am - 5pm.

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

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



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

Girlguiding Freeland District

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have been making decorations to go on the tree for the Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival, for Christmas craft and of course, for the Christmas end of term party! Sad though to say goodbye to the girls moving on. All sections had a great time at the Cinema which we hired just for them to watch Disney's 'Wish' and of course there is a badge for that!



Looking forward to the new term. We are still desperate for helpers at North Leigh Guides, so if you are looking for a New Year's resolution, please do consider volunteering with Girl Guiding. We need help on a Monday night to help out at North Leigh Guides. Please get in touch:

freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com

FREELAND HALL - TREASURER WANTED

A reshuffle of duties within the Village Hall Management Committee, gives the opportunity for a new member to join our dynamic group of volunteers. Our current Treasurer will remain on the Management Committee, dealing with bookings, etc., and so will be on hand to help a new Treasurer settle in. Although an asset, previous experience is not essential...just a good level of numeracy. If you have a little spare time and would like to become involved in the hub of our village. Please contact Dot Sharpe dorothy.sharpe4@btinternet.com (Current treasurer) or Robert Crocker robertcrocker@btconnect.com (Chairman)



TEMPORARY TRAFFIC LIGHTS CONTINUE



On the section of Cuckoo Lane/Freeland Road/Eynsham Road between the electricity sub-station and the A40 there are **temporary traffic lights** from **Monday 20th November to Thursday 21st December, and again from Tuesday 2nd January to Friday 2nd February 2024.**



Back or joint pain?
Upcoming or recent knee/hip operation?
Need to improve your overall fitness?
.. or feeling stiff and inflexible?

A one to one, tailored program using specialised equipment (Pilates reformer, tower etc) in my private Stonesfield studio could help address muscle imbalances, improve posture, develop your core and build strength.

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FREELAND ENERGY GROUP

Freeland Energy Group plan to meet monthly on the third Monday of each month in the Newell Room. We are one of the working groups set up to support the Parish Council following the village's questionnaire response recognising a need for more advice and inspiration on becoming low-carbon.

Freeland is part of Eynsham CAP Zero a pilot project that contributes to the National NET Zero 2050 commitment. This project involves the local Parishes served in whole or in part by the electricity sub-station at the A40 junction. The Freeland Energy Group has adopted an action plan that was developed with neighbouring villages, who have been active in this area considerably longer than us, and the Oxford Low Carbon Hub. Several actions on the plan tie in with our village request for advice.

Recently in the Grapevine you may have seen tips included in the Parish notes over the last few months and from November the offer to have a thermal image taken of your house – see page 27 to add your name to the growing list.

The leaflet - header below – has many useful, practical and quick to achieve tips alongside more long-term changes you might want to consider. Scan the box here, go to <https://www.lowcarbonhub.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/LCH-WINTER-WARMER-CHECKLIST-2023-1.pdf> or keep an eye out for the full leaflet when we deliver it to you.

If you have questions for the group, or are wondering how to join, contact Colin Smith on 01993 881704 csmithprivate@hotmail.com



The graphic features an orange background with a white icon of a winter hat on the left. The text 'WARMER WINTER CHECKLIST' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, there is a white box containing a QR code and text: 'Scan me for an online version of this leaflet.' To the right of the QR code is a teal circle with white text: 'There are also Urdu and Ukrainian PDF versions for downloading.' On the left side of the graphic, there is orange text: 'Worried about fuel bills and keeping warm? This checklist could help.' Below this is black text: 'For no-cost tips, practical ideas and where to find further help and advice – read on and see what might work for you.'

TEAMS 4U CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

1,756 filled Shoeboxes have left the High Street Methodist Church, Witney, in November for children in Romania, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Bosnia. A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who made this possible.



Best wishes from The Witney Shoebox Team

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FIRST AND LAST MILE

On the 411 and 418 service, all our single fares are now £2. Bus passes are also accepted.



NEW TIMETABLE from Monday 23rd October

Extra time has been built in to allow Freelanders to make a short trip to the Coop/surgery on the 10.25 & 12.25 services **07584 927 050** or info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com

www.firstandlastmile.org.uk

Services run Monday - Friday only

Service 411 Eynsham to Hanborough via Freeland

NOT Bank Holidays

Eynsham Church	08.40	10.15	12.15	14.15	17.15
Eynsham Surgery	08.44	10.19	12.19	14.19	17.19
Freeland, Village Hall*	08.50	10.25	12.25	14.25	17.25
Long Hanborough, New Road	08.53	10.30	12.30	14.30	17.30
Church Hanborough	08.56	10.33	12.33	14.33	17.33
Hanborough Station	08.59	10.38	12.38	14.38	17.38

Service 411 Hanborough to Eynsham via Freeland

Hanborough Station	09.00	11.00	13.00	14.43	17.43
Church Hanborough	09.03	11.03	13.03	14.49	17.46
Long Hanborough, New Road	09.06	11.06	13.06	14.52	17.49
Freeland, Village Hall*	09.10	11.10	13.10	14.56	17.53
Eynsham Surgery	09.16	11.16	13.16	15.02	17.59
Eynsham Church	09.22	11.22	13.22	15.08	18.05

* Bus will stop anywhere it is safe to do so along Wroslyn Road, when hailed

RAIL CONNECTION TIMINGS

FREELAND / HANBOROUGH / OXFORD & return

Freeland, Village Hall*	08.50	10.25	12.25	14.25
Hanborough Station	08.59	10.38	12.38	14.38
Connects to:	↓	↓	↓	↓
Hanborough Station	09.18	11.19	13.19	15.17
Oxford Station	09.30	11.29	13.29	15.27

Oxford Station	10.46	12.45	13.44	17.23
Hanborough Station	10.55	12.54	13.54	17.33
Connects to:	↓	↓	↓	↓
Hanborough Station	11.00	13.00	14.43	17.35
Freeland, Village Hall*	11.10	13.10	14.56	17.44

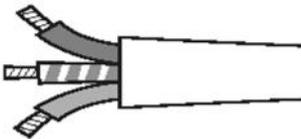
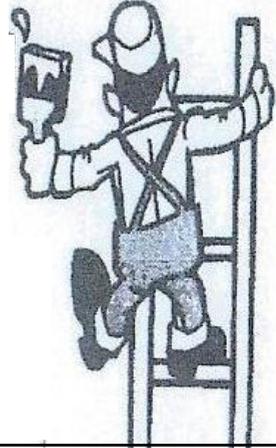
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CONTACT :

STEVE : 07969 930518

ADAM : 07805 201618

GAS SAFE : 65024



Crocodiles of the World – Reptile Surveying of North Leigh Common.

Those local to North Leigh may have noticed small mats located around the Common since spring of this year. These 'refugia' sheets were put in place as part of a project set up staff at Crocodiles of the World earlier in the year to survey the reptile life at the common. By doing this, we were able to identify which species exist in the area and the habitats/areas they prefer. In the long-term, surveying projects such as this can help identify ways to manage the environment to help conserve those native reptiles within.

Refugia surveying - how does it work?

Refugia refers to artificial refuges that can attract reptiles by absorbing heat and providing shelter from predators. They have long and successfully been used as an aid for reptile surveying. North Leigh Common is a popular dog walking area, so we wanted to make sure our chosen refugia mats were dog and child-friendly also, i.e., with no sharp edges. We chose a variety of materials including roofing felt, carpet and corrugated organic bitumen sheets.

What we did

We placed 30 refugia sheets around the common and carried out surveys twice weekly, recording all reptiles found under, on top of, or nearby the sheets. We also recorded weather conditions as this can influence survey findings. Such factors can then let us explore activity levels (e.g. times of day they are most active, preferred temperatures) and determine if there are any seasonal movement of reptiles.



Labelling and preparing the sheets to be placed across North Leigh Common.

What we found

Surveying showed us that North Leigh Common is absolutely teeming with wildlife! In the summer months, it wasn't uncommon to find animals under at least half of the sheets. Regular reptile residents included an abundance of slow worms, common lizards and fewer, but regular grass snakes. We were also lucky enough to uncover the occasional great crested newt not too far from their seasonal ponds. Being semi-aquatic, it's not uncommon for newts to be out of water, particularly before, or at the end of the breeding season.

Continued.....

Continued.....

We carried out some pond checks by torch earlier in the year and found them to be heaving with the stunning great crested newts. Common toads and frogs are also prevalent in and around the seasonal ponds towards the south of the site.



Left to right: Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), Common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) juvenile and adult.

Reptiles - Who lives where?

Slow worms showed a huge preference for a long shallow gully just away from the grassland where vegetation was a little thicker. We'd often find multiple slow worms warming up together under one sheet. The common lizards preferred sunnier spots where the main grassland bordered the surrounding scrub. Log benches situated in these sunny areas were inundated with baby lizards throughout the summer. They favoured these benches so much that we had the pleasure of watching them grow from week to week! Grass snakes on the other hand were found a little more sporadically spread around the common but we did see one set up camp for the summer under its favourite sheet, located well away from the footpaths.



Barred grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*)

Community Day

We also hosted a community day on the site in August once the project was well underway. The day was well received, and we had the pleasure of chatting with many local residents about what we were doing on the site. We were able to demonstrate how to survey for reptiles and we were even able to point out plenty of native reptiles in their natural environment. The confident young lizards were again a big hit, running around for all to enjoy!

Continued.....

Continued.....



Above left: Crocodiles of the World staff members and survey project organisers Harry Fryer, Megan Wearing and Clare Wilkie. Right: Colin Stevenson, Head of Education setting up on the community day.

What's next?

The data we've collected will allow us to produce a reptile and amphibian species list of North Leigh Common and identify preferred habitat for those more abundant reptiles. We are also interested in when the animals become active in the area, and when the season ends (when they all disappear to hibernate).

Ongoing management in the area takes place at various times of the year. This may include grass cutting and scrub management such as bracken removal. We hope to examine the effects these activities on the resident reptiles, if any. We'll then be able recommend if any adjustments need to be made to the management of the site that best suits both the wildlife, and public use of the land.

Report by: Clare Wilke

Research Officer, Crocodiles of the World www.crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk

THANK YOU to all the distributors in 2023 who have been delivering the Grapevines to all the houses and flats in Freeland plus a few other places!

These good folks get the Grapevines to you within a few days of them being printed.

Great job all of you! Thank you.

Kenny Wylie - Editor

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Freeland Open Gardens

June 2024

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

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

Maybe it is a combination of all of these.

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

Please consider taking part.

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

All proceeds will go towards ongoing Village projects.

FREELAND WALKING GROUP

The group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month for a walk of about 5 miles followed by lunch at the place, usually a Pub, where the walk begins. Sometimes the walks, led by a club member, are local but at other times we travel by car to the Pub from which the walk begins and where we have a meal together afterwards,

If you would like to join us on a walk please contact me at hjdalton43cv@gmail.com so that I can put you in touch with the person leading the walk that month and they can send you details of the walk, when to meet and a menu so that you can preorder your lunch. New members very welcome.

The next walk is on **Wednesday 17th January.**

Janet Dalton

THE UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS 3/12/2023

Six people and one dog, all dressed suitably today (there is no such thing as bad weather) for a rather damp ramble. After the blanket of white frost from Saturday which was great for photographs, what did it do.... of course it rained, and rained, and rained, in fact I would go as far as to say it was wetter than an otter's pocket. Did you know pockets were originally pouches and 5000 years ago 'Ötzi the Iceman' had a scraper, drill, flint flake, bone awl and a dried tinder fungus in his...who knew? With all this rain you would think we would have lost hope, been downbeat, disconsolate, downhearted, despondent, demoralised (why do they all start with d?). No, we weren't, and did we stop smiling... no we headed to the Christmas market at Combe Mill to sample some bacon butties (thank you Kenny), peruse the stalls and forge for a Christmas miracle. Finishing off the walk we put the world straight and popped into the Yeoman for a well deserved half and a chat about the village and Jethro Tull, no, they have no connection.



This group would not exist without you all so thank you to everyone who has joined us on a Ramble this year, also thank you to anyone who reads this drivel, if it brings a smile my work is done and it just remains for me to say have a very merry Christmas and happy 2024.

Our first Ramble of 2024 will be on **Sunday 7th January**, starting at **10am** from the bus shelter opposite the Yeoman Pub. **All are welcome to join us.**

Ramble on! Bob Cratchit

FREELAND WINE CLUB - Friday 26th January 7.30pm

Subject: Chardonnay: The Winemaker's Grape

You may have heard people say, or even said yourself when asked what kind of white wine you like:
"ABC - anything but chardonnay!"



FREELAND WINE CLUB

That's about as fair as saying "*I don't like potatoes!*", when you actually mean "*I love chips and crisps, but I really don't like mash with lumps left in it!*" Chardonnay has a bad reputation due to the cheap, mass-produced, heavily-oaked varieties produced in the 80's and 90's - whilst they are still out there, there are many other types to try. Champagne, anyone?

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

Will you find a style that's right for you? Come and find out!

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

ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE GRAPEVINE are available in the **St Mary the Virgin Church Porch**, which is open 9am to 5pm/dusk seven days a week. You can also pick up copies at the **Oxfordshire Yeoman** during their regular hours of Mondays & Tuesdays 5pm - 10.30pm; Weds & Thurs Noon - 3pm & 5pm - 11.30pm Fridays 9.30am - 11.30pm; Saturdays Noon - 11.30pm; and Sundays Noon - 10.30pm. In the **Long Hanborough Co-op** the copies are now on the bottom shelf, to the left of the front door. There are copies available in the **Long Hanborough Surgery** waiting room, and now also in **Freeland House and The Lodge**.



Freeland Pre-school provides high quality pre-school education for 2 to 5 year olds.

We are a small, friendly and welcoming pre-school, with a large outdoor space.

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

Freeland Pre-school is committed to safeguarding.

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

Pricing: am or pm sessions £18; Full day £36

Early bird session starting at 8.45am £3

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Freeland Pre-school.

As we go into 2024 there will be a few changes happening at Freeland Pre-school.

From April we will be merging with Freeland Primary School. At the moment we are a

committee run charity, the committee are a group of parents who volunteer.

Merging with the school will mean a streamlined curriculum, support from the whole school community and use of the school's facilities.

We are looking forward to the future.

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

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/freelandpreschool

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET CO-OPERATIVE

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Fri 22 December Fri 26 January

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 16 Dec Sat 6 & 20 January

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



FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

The club held its Annual General Meeting on the 5th December. Below is a shorter version of my annual report.



Reflection of the Club's Progress

The AGM offers a chance to review and renew, learning from the past and making changes for the future.

My own journey with the Club started in 2010 when I re-started junior cricket, with one under 11 team comprising 6 seven year old boys and 4 eleven year old girls.

In 2012 the men's league team folded because there was insufficient members, as all of the juniors had left because of a lack of opportunity to play at a level they could succeed in.

Between 2010 and 2017 the junior section grew and grew, which encouraged the former members to return to play in the village, and we re-started the adult league team in 2018.

In 2019, to reflect the growth of women's and girls' cricket, we started the women's section. Initially with only softball, but we entered the hardball development league in 2020, and in 2022 we entered the 11-a-side Home Counties league, combining with Eynsham CC under the West Oxfordshire Warriors banner.

In those 13 years we have grown from 10 playing members to 125, this is truly amazing for such a small village.

We have been lucky, we have had several volunteers who have assisted in coaching and running teams, Graham, Peter, John, David, Richard, Emma and Ric. Behind the scenes we have been guided by Paul Salway, in his role as secretary, making sure we do things properly, and Linda Day as our league umpire.

I would like to personally thank those named above, and the committee members, the captains, all the parents, volunteers and the players for their contributions.

Achievements in 2023

- Completed the refurbishment of the nets
- Renovated the sightscreens
- Investment in new machinery for the pitch
- Attracted 6 new adult Cherwell league players
- Grew every section of the club
- More juniors played cricket
- 2 newly qualified coaches
- More adult women playing than adult men
- Continued to be financially supported by the parish council, our sponsors and grants from the ECB

Endings

This winter sees the end of Linda Day's and Paul Salway's roles as league umpires. They are stepping back after 5 seasons of supporting us in the OCA and Cherwell leagues.

I am very grateful for their support.

Continued.....

Continued.....

The Future

The Club is at another stage in its development cycle.

We have had a core group of good under 15s who will move into adult cricket, and a strong under 11 team which will move into under 13s. These are likely to cause the under 15s and under 11s to face stiffer challenges in the next season and they will require greater support.

The Cherwell League team will be more competitive because of the junior graduates but also because we will welcome back 3 senior players who missed the whole of 2023 through injury.

The women’s softball team will be able to host a cricket festival next season.

We will continue to improve and grow our facilities. We aim to provide the best cricketing experience locally through being accessible to everyone, of all abilities.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Simon Brown - Chair - Freeland Cricket Club

E: freelandcc.u1@gmail.com

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

Facebook: Freeland Cricket Club

1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP



Firstly, a correction: I mistakenly referred to a camp recently as being held in New Yatt, when it had actually taken place in North Leigh. Sorry for the confusion.

We want to take a moment to appreciate the new volunteers that have joined our team recently, including Tom, Fleur, Ellen, Kelly, Paul and Rebecca, who have taken on roles in our Scouts, Cubs and Beavers groups. Thank you for everything that you do!

Are you looking for a new challenge in 2024? Come join us! By volunteering with us you will meet new people, support our community, and learn new skills, as well as make a huge difference to young people in Freeland and Hanborough. We are always in need of extra pairs of hands, so please to contact Steve, our Group Scout Leader, via email gsl@hfscouting.org.uk to find out more.

Thank you to everyone that supported our Christmas card delivery service in Hanborough; we are very thankful to The Cycle Shop for accepting Christmas cards and donations, and for all our volunteers who helped to deliver the Christmas cards during the weekend of the 16th and 17th December.

Our leaders are busy planning loads of fun activities for the next term; we’re excited to see what the new year brings!

Thank you as always to our amazing team of volunteers, as well as all the parents who help us out when needed: we really couldn’t do any of this without you. Our young people in Hanborough and Freeland are very lucky to have such a dedicated team working with them to create all of these fantastic experiences that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

TIME TO FIX BARNARD GATE JUNCTION

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

You can sign Cllr Walker's petition at: www.liam-walker.com/barnard-gate

NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

The first meeting of 2024 will be on the **6th February at 7.30pm** in the Memorial Hall in North Leigh, **OX29 6SA**. All welcome. Members **£18** per year, visitors **£4** per talk. Further details are available from Diana Power **01993 882301** or Robert Kyte at kyterobert@gmail.com or **01993 880368**

FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB

No report this month owing to the very wet weather.

The **Under 10s** Coach is Emma Wylie -

emmawylie54@hotmail.com

The **Under 17s** Manager is Stuart McNaughton - stu.mac@aol.com

Ben Symonds - Secretary: bensymonds@hotmail.co.uk

Simon Hole - Chairman: Si_hole@hotmail.com

www.pitchero.com/clubs/freelandfc/

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



Ben Symonds

WITNEY MUSIC SOCIETY

Witney Music Society's first concert of the New Year will be given by award-winning Frederico Paixão (flute) & Mark Rogers (piano). Their programme includes works by Lili Boulanger, Poulenc and York Bowen.

The concert is at **7.30pm on Friday 12th January**.

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

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

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

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

HANBOROUGH LUNCH CLUB

It is with great sadness that the Hanborough Lunch Club will close after the meal on **Wednesday 20th December 2023**. The two main and dessert cooks are retiring at the end of the year and no-one has yet been found to replace them. After its founding in 1980 the Club has provided delicious meals at a very reasonable cost to a large number of grateful recipients thanks to all the volunteers who helped over those 43 years.

Note: Hanborough Parochial Church Council will hold Lunch Club funds and equipment in trust should a similar initiative be started.

Carol Bower President
John Fox Treasurer

UPDATE ON BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM

Make your voice heard: the Statutory Consultation

Diary date: Eynsham Village Hall, Friday 19th January, 2pm - 6pm

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

Other events include:

- **Woodstock Community Centre, Saturday 13th January, 11am - 3pm**
- **Eynsham Village Hall, Friday 19th January, 2pm - 6pm**
- **Community Webinar, Zoom, Tuesday 23rd January, 5.30pm - 7pm**

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

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

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

Woodstock Library, Fletchers House, Park Street Woodstock:

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

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

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

Christmas and the New Year is a busy time, but this could be the biggest change to our villages for generations.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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

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

THE CAKE CAFÉ, FREELAND

Regular café first Tuesday of the month*, **9.00 - 11.30am**, Freeland Hall
*No café in January 2024. **jane.cakestudio@gmail.com 01993 881273**

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

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

M 11 Dec Freeland Parish Council Meeting, Newell Room, **7.30pm**
M 11 Dec Freeland WI, Village Hall, **7.45pm** - ‘Christmas candle table decoration’
W 13 Dec Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
W 13 Dec Freeland Cricket Club Quiz at the Oxfordshire Yeoman, **7.30pm for 8pm**
W 20 Dec Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
F 29 Dec Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
F 5 Jan Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Su 7 Jan Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers - **10am** from opposite the Yeoman
M 8 Jan Freeland Parish Council Meeting, Newell Room, **7.30pm**
Th 11 Jan Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
Su 14 Jan Freeland Grapevine - February edition deadline day
W 17 Jan Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
W 17 Jan Freeland Walking Group - meet at the Village Hall car park at **9.15am**
M 22 Jan Freeland Gardening Club, Freeland Hall, **7.30pm** ‘The History of Notcutts’
W 24 Jan Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
F 26 Jan Freeland Wine Club, Village Hall, **7.30pm** Wines from chardonnay grapes
W 31 Jan Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Sa 3 Feb Coffee Morning, Freeland Hall, 10am - 12noon
Su 4 Feb Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers - **10am** from opposite the Yeoman
Tu 6 Feb The Cake Café, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am
Tu 6 Feb North Leigh History Society, Memorial Hall, North Leigh, **7.30pm, £4**
W 7 Feb Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
F 9 Feb Witney Music Society, High St Methodist Church, Witney. Doors **7pm**
M 12 Feb Freeland Parish Council Meeting, Newell Room, **7.30pm**

WORRIED ABOUT COSTS?

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

Eynsham Consolidated Charity provides small-medium sized grants to local residents who are in need of financial help.

Please apply in total confidence via the Clerk, Catherine Barton, by emailing **eynshamcharities@gmail.com** or by writing to the Trustees via the Clerk, 60 Dovehouse Close, Eynsham, **OX29 4EX**

The deadline for articles or adverts for the **February** Grapevine is **Sunday 14th January**. The **February** edition should be online at: **www.freelandoxon.co.uk** or at **www.freelandpc.org.uk** from **Monday 22nd January** with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from **Friday 26th 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 **22p per word**. Please make cheques payable to **'FREELAND GRAPEVINE'**. Contact Kenny Wylie about costs for other adverts.

1/3rd page size is 60mm high x 127mm wide, 1/2 page size is 90mm high x 127mm wide

Adverts: grapevineadverts@gmail.com

Articles: freelandgrapevine@gmail.com

Or mail: Kenny Wylie, 1 Blenheim Lane, Freeland, Witney OX29 8AW **01993 883245**

Note Please put your name and telephone number on any submission in case we need to contact you. These will only be printed if requested by you.

The editor reserves the right to edit all copy.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, liability cannot be accepted for any errors or omissions in compiling this magazine.

Neither the Church, the Editor nor the Printer assume responsibility for any effects arising therefrom

The presence of an advertisement in the Grapevine does not constitute a recommendation by the editors regarding the goods or services advertised.

We are not able to publish any correspondence between tradespersons or other organisations placing adverts in the Grapevine and their customers in the event of dispute

We do not endorse any articles, reports or suggestions in the Grapevine.

NEW YATT RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Volunteers are urgently required on a regular weekly basis for our morning or afternoon riding sessions and for our pm rota (1/2 hour at 4.30pm on a sign up basis).

If you are able to spare a few hours once a week to help provide therapeutic riding to children and adults, please check out our website **www.newyattRDA.org.uk** and email us at **nyrda-volunteers@googlegroups.com**

TO ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS

Merry Christmas and a very
happy New Year

We would like to thank you
for your continued support -
it is very much appreciated!

Best wishes, The Yeoman Team



THE
OXFORDSHIRE
— **YEOMAN** —

FREELAND, OXFORDSHIRE

Xmas opening times

Normal opening hours except:

Xmas Eve : 12pm - 11.30pm

Xmas Day,: Drinks only 12 - 2.30pm

NYE: 12pm - Late

NY Day: 12pm - 8.30pm

Kitchen hours

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

(except for Uggy's nights)

SUNDAY ROASTS

No Sunday roasts on Xmas eve & NYE
due to Uggy's

01993 881003

hello@oxfordshireyeoman.com

www.oxfordshireyeoman.com



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BLenheim PALACE

We are excited to announce the line-up of world-class designers, fashion houses and labels that will feature in our biggest exhibition to date, "Icons of British Fashion".

Our upcoming exhibition will celebrate fashion from the past through to the present day and will feature bespoke designs and loans from some huge names in the fashion world. Confirmed names include: Barbour, Bruce Oldfield, Jean Muir, Lulu Guinness, Stella McCartney, Stephen Jones Millinery for Christian Dior, Temperly London, Terry de Havilland, Turball & Asser, Vivienne Westwood and Zandra Rhodes.

Head to:

blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events/icons-of-british-fashion

For all the latest updates.



BLenheim ESTATE

As we welcome in 2024, and take down the twinkling lights and stockings, we invite you to make a greener choice. From the 6th to the 14th of January, we will be welcoming your old Christmas trees at our recycling drop-off point at the Estate Office, whether they were purchased here or elsewhere. The chippings from your old Christmas tree will then be used in wider projects on the Estate, from tree planting to mulch for projects within our Formal Gardens. The way conifer trees decompose when turned into mulch means they're a great layer to help plants in beds and newly-planted trees withstand the cold temperatures in January and February, so that they can flourish come spring time.

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

blenheimpalace.com