



# Grapevine

St Mary's Freeland



December 2023  
Happy Christmas!

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# **ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND**

## **Sunday 26th November 10.00am Morning Praise**

Leader: Val and Andy Richens  
Preacher: Andy Richens

## **Sunday 3rd December 10.00am All Age Family Communion**

Leader: Matt Cripps/Rev. Steve Stewart  
Preacher: Matt Cripps/Mandy Cripps

## **Sunday 10th December 10.00am Morning Praise**

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch  
Preacher: TBA

## **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**

Leader: Rev. Steve Bellamy **St Mary's**  
Preacher: Rev. Steve Bellamy

The above information is correct on the date published (19/11/2023). 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](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)**

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## **ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCHYARD**

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

For further information or to contact the church, please see our website [www.hfchurch.org.uk](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk) or use the QR code.



Freeland Parochial Church Council

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank you to Bruce Hammersley for the front cover photo.**



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### Useful contact details:

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

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

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

**Licensed Lay Ministers:**  
**Clive Berry 01993 882080**

**Hugh Dalton Emeritus 01993 881742**

**Churchwarden:**  
**Colin Griffiths**  
**01993 357336**

**Flowers in the Church:**  
**Janet Dalton**  
**01993 881742**

Contact via website [www.hfchurch.org.uk](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## **Letter from our Curate, Rev. Heather McCulloch:**

### **Love Wins**

Every autumn as the October chills begin to make themselves felt, I picture myself on a heavy freight train gathering speed. This train is bound for Christmas, and it's not the Polar Express! Whether I like it or not – I can't seem to get off, it won't slow down, and even the emergency handle is having no effect. Now that may not sound like a positive reflection for someone who loves Christmas, but I, like most of us, find some parts of



*Photo by John Matychuk on Unsplash*

Christmas quite hard! For me choosing the 'right' gift, and catering are particular challenges. I know for others it will be the pressure of being in close proximity to extended family, the financial stretch, the long-distance travelling, or the deep loneliness of your own company as you 'try not to be a burden'. I wonder where the freight train is taking you this December. However much I love the season (and I absolutely do!), I recognise that every single one of us may want to pull the emergency handle at some point.

So, in the spirit of choosing the right gift for the right person - I want to offer you a gift, one that will continue to bring you joy long after the decorations have been shoved back in the loft! Here is your personal gift: the opportunity to know the one who already knows you inside and out. The one whose heart breaks when you are hurt. The one who died so that you could live. I want to introduce you to Jesus' love, here on earth – available to unwrap this very moment.

Jesus' love brings hope when all else has failed you, it means peace when you are weary and spent. His love is unconditional and complete, even filling the hole where a precious loved one is missing. If you feel like pulling the emergency handle at any point in the season, there are other options. Rather than numbing yourself with; Chocolate or mince pies, Netflix, gin, or social media, why not come home to the Father's heart – home where you were always meant to be, home where you are known and loved exactly as you are.

The Jesus whose birth we celebrate and try to capture in these crazy moments of family gatherings, overindulgence, and the endless search for that 'Christmassy feeling', is not a relic of nostalgic religious history, – this Jesus grew up and became a man who gave his life for you – his kingdom is Love and (spoiler alert) love always wins.

We would love to welcome you to one of our Christmas services this year, all the details are in this issue of the magazine. Meanwhile have a beautiful peaceful Christmas filled with joy and love.

**Rev. Heather McCulloch – Curate Hanborough and Freeland**

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## YOGA & PILATES - FREELAND VILLAGE HALL

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

- Friday 1st December from 6pm for 6.30pm - Freeland Christmas Tree Lighting at Freeland Village Hall
- Sunday 10th December at 6pm - "Christmas Unwrapped" Carols at Christ Church
- 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 at St Peter & St Paul

**QUIZ NIGHT** ???

**PROCEEDS GO TO FREELAND CRICKET CLUB AND SOBELL HOUSE**

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

<b>Sunday 26th November</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
<b>Sunday 3rd December</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Mike Madden	Preacher: Rev Mike Madden
<b>Sunday 10th December</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson	Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson
<b>Sunday 17th December</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
<b>Sunday 17th December</b>	<b>6.00pm Nine Lessons &amp; Nine Carols at St Peter and St Paul followed by mulled wine in church</b>
<b>Sunday 24th December</b>	<b>11.15pm Midnight Communion at St Peter and St Paul</b>
<b>Monday 25th December</b>	<b>10.00am Christmas Day Communion &amp; Carols at St Peter &amp; St Paul</b>
<b>Sunday 31st December</b>	<b>10.00am - Whole benefice Morning Praise at <u>St Mary's Freeland</u></b>
<b>Sunday 7th January</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch	Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

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

<b>Sunday 26th November</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader: Amanda Ford	Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson
<b>Sunday 3rd December</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch	Preacher: Josh Soanes
<b>Sunday 10th December</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart	Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart
<b>Sunday 10th December</b>	<b>6.00pm "Christmas Unwrapped" Carols at Christ Church</b>
<b>Sunday 17th December</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader: Alison Feast	Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson
<b>Sunday 24th December</b>	<b>5.00pm Christingle at Christ Church</b>
<b>Monday 25th December</b>	<b>10.00am Christmas Day Family Service at Christ Church</b>
<b>Sunday 31st December</b>	<b>10.00am Whole benefice Morning Praise at <u>St Mary's Freeland</u></b>
<b>Sunday 7th January</b>	<b>10.00am Joint Communion with St Mary's at <u>St Mary's Freeland</u></b>

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

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

The bells will be rung at the following times:

<b>Friday</b>	<b>1st December</b>	<b>5.45pm - 6.15pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd December</b>	<b>9.30am - 10.00am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17th December</b>	<b>9.30am - 10.00am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24th December</b>	<b>4.30pm - 5.00pm Christingle</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25th December</b>	<b>9.30am - 10.00am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31st December</b>	<b>9.30am - 10.00am</b>

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

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

You can see more about Freeland Bell Ringers under the "Clubs and Groups" section of the village website **[www.freelandoxon.co.uk](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk)**

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## **HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH**

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

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26th November 10am</b>	Rev. Fred Ireland
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd December 10am</b>	Rev. Andrew Biggs
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10th December 10am</b>	Rev. Charles Harris (Holy Communion)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17th December 10am</b>	Christingle Service - Richard Bowler and David Sarbutts
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24th December 10am</b>	No Service
	<b>6pm</b>	Carol Service - Mr David Sarbutts
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25th December 10am</b>	Christmas Day service - Mrs Margaret Broadberry
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31st December 10am</b>	No Service
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7th January 10am</b>	Mrs Jude Levermore

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

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

# COTSWOLD GARDEN DESIGNER

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- Want somewhere to entertain?
- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?



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



## CONTACT LORRAINE:

[lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk](mailto:lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk)

07516262560

[www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk)

## 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](mailto:info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk)  
website: [www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk](http://www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk)  
Please see our website for current job opportunities across the Clubs

## **FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES**

### **Well deserved thanks**

We would like to start this Grapevine article by thanking people. With it being the end of another tough year for many, especially financially, we need to recognise and praise all the hard work that has gone on around us. Apologies for anyone we have missed below:



**Councillors**, new and old, thanks needs to be given to you all for the support, drive and passion to get what is best for the village of Freeland. Long may this continue.

**Memorial poppies.** Massive thanks to the Craft Club for decorating the village Memorial Trees with the beautiful crafted poppies in honour of those who died in the World Wars.

**Kenny Wylie** - thank you for running this amazing newsletter monthly - it allows the village to connect together and we would miss it greatly if it wasn't available. Also, thanks to the team of volunteers who deliver it around the village.

Last, but not least, thank you to the **Inspired Villages Appeal team!** We now know that the Inspired Village request to the High Court to challenge the Planning Inspectorate's Appeal Decision earlier in 2023 has been refused for a second time. This was at an oral 'permission' hearing put to a judge in an effort to secure a full High Court challenge.

We understand that the decision to refuse was communicated on the 21st September. Inspired Villages had 21 days from 21st September to appeal this decision, but no appeal was lodged and they have also paid costs to the Planning Inspectorate, which suggests they have accepted the decision.

There is no chance of appeal now, so thanks in particular to **Amy Jackson** and **Mike Gilbert** for their huge effort in making our case, as well as **Roger Faulkner, the Freeland Friends, Parish Councillors** at the time, and everyone else who contributed to the preparation of village's case against the Appeal.

### **Noticeboards**

Now that we have the new noticeboards please can only village relevant information be placed on them? There is limited space, so please can all posters be A4 or smaller. Anything not related to the village will be removed.

Additionally there has been a rise in number of bikes being attached to the new boards and the bus stops. We have spent a lot of money on these and we want them to last a long time. It would be very much appreciated if they weren't used as a bike rest.

### **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**.

Do you run a local business and wish to have a stall or sponsor the Freeland Festival event, please let us know.

*Continued.....*



# Freeland House & The Lodge



Situated in the friendly village of Freeland, 11 miles from Oxford, on the edge of the Cotswolds, set within beautiful grounds overlooking the Oxfordshire countryside.

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tel: 01993 881258 | email: [manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk](mailto:manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk)

Continued.....

### **Botley West Solar Farm**

The Statutory Consultation for the Solar Farm starts on **Thursday 30th November**, running for **10 weeks until 8 February 2024**. Events will be held in the Parishes directly affected - the nearest venues to Freeland are: **Hanborough Pavilion on Wednesday 13th December 2023 from 1pm - 5pm, and Eynsham Village Hall, Friday 19th January 2024, 2pm - 6pm**. Further guidance and advice at [stopbotleywest.com](http://stopbotleywest.com) and [botleywest.co.uk](http://botleywest.co.uk)

### **Fix My Street**

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

### **Playpark**

After our yearly inspection, sadly we had to close the toddler park swings. The replacement swings have now been ordered and will take approximately 8 weeks to be delivered and installed.

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

### **Green Tip**

The weather continues to be characterised by warmth, increased rainfall, and storms, all of which bear the fingerprints of climate change. Globally 2023 is predicted to be the hottest year on record. But how can we be sure that the extreme weather events are indeed the result of human induced climate change? There is now consensus from the scientific community regarding anthropogenic climate change, primarily caused by the burning of fossil fuels and unending consumption. However, there are plenty of thinktanks, usually funded by vested interests, that seek to deny or downplay the impact of humans on the climate. For anyone not studying climate change it can be difficult to know what to believe.

World leaders experienced the same dilemma in the 1980s when climate change started to come to the fore. With so much information available it was difficult to know who to believe. To combat this issue in 1988 the UN formed the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to report on the current situation regarding the climate crisis. IPCC reports are the results of many, many years of work by hundreds of scientists from across the globe, reviewing all the relevant scientific research on climate change and its impacts— hundreds and hundreds of scientific articles in international, peer-reviewed journals. These reports represent an international, mainstream consensus that even very cautious, reticent members of the scientific community are prepared to stand behind. These reports run into many hundreds of pages. Fortunately, the IPCC produce headline reports that are available to everyone. These are the gold standard of climate change and are frequently updated. So, for anyone trying to understand the current situation there can be no better place to go than the IPCC [www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/resources/spm-headline-statements/](http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/resources/spm-headline-statements/)

Continued.....



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Continued.....

**Planning Applications**

All planning applications can be viewed on the Parish Council website at [www.freelandpc.org.uk](http://www.freelandpc.org.uk) (under Planning Tracker) or on the WODC website at [publicaccess.westoxon.gov.uk/online-applications/](http://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: None**

**Applications Approved: None**

**Applications Refused: None**

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

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 11th December 2023 at 7.30pm**, in the Newell Room.

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

If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter and have access to the internet, please have a look at the Council website where lots of useful information is held. The website is [www.freelandpc.org.uk](http://www.freelandpc.org.uk) You can follow us on Facebook (@freelandpc) 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](mailto:fayf.fpc@gmail.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*



**THE ARTS SOCIETY WEST OXFORDSHIRE**

**The Arts Society West Oxfordshire** is a long established society with about 120 members.

[www.taswox.org.uk](http://www.taswox.org.uk)

We offer:

- 9 monthly lectures a year from September to June, and visits to places of interest and exhibitions
- at least 2 study days and a tour, either to Europe or UK
- A New Year buffet lunch with a social get together in January

All lecturers are experts in their subject and accredited by The Arts Society UK.

Lectures are held at the **Corn Exchange** in Witney.

This September and October saw talks on Banksy and the Canadian “Group of Seven”.

**Upcoming:**

**Thursday 7th December, 2.30pm:** “The Magic of Pantomime”.

**Thursday 11th January, 11.30am:** Lecture (TBA) followed by lunch.

Find more details about these lectures and our programme at [www.taswox.org.uk](http://www.taswox.org.uk)

# Freeland Nurseries

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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 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)

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

From **Monday 23rd October** there are now four services each weekday morning serving Carterton, Witney and Eynsham, with three return journeys in the afternoon.

Additionally some Oxford Tubes will be serving High Wycombe.

You can see all the details of the new higher frequency service and connections at:

**<https://www.oxfordtube.com/OctoberServiceChange.aspx>**



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# CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING 2023

**FREELAND VILLAGE HALL**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
6pm for 6.30pm**

**Carols and seasonal songs  
with Freeland Primary School**

**Christmas Stalls including Teddy Girls' Tombola**

**Mulled wine and mince pies will be served!**

**Everyone welcome**



## **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**

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## **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS**

Christmas is coming, so make sure you visit the Little Free Libraries regularly to get your hands on a wide range of Christmas books, including: cookbooks, Children's picture books, romantic fiction, murder mysteries, Children's fiction, and loads of other Christmas or winter-themed books that would make ideal treats for you or your loved ones! We've been saving these donated books up all year, so there will be plenty to choose from.



We are still a bit overloaded with non-fiction books, so for the time being, please do try to limit your donations to fiction books if possible. This really helps us because fiction tends to be more popular than non-fiction, and makes the most of the limited storage space available. Thank you.

Thank you as always to our amazing team of volunteers: Sue, Caroline, Fi and Jenny, who keep the Little Free Library so tidy and well-stocked.

Enjoy the festive season, and please do take as many books as you like to keep you company during these cold and dark winter months.

Matthew & The Little Free Library volunteers.

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

\*\*\*\*\*



## **POPPY APPEAL 2023**

Thank you so much to all residents of Freeland who donated to this worthy cause, together we managed to raise a fantastic **£1598.76** for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

A special thank you to Freeland Nurseries, The Yeoman, and Freeland School for allowing static boxes.

This year the Freeland Craft Group placed beautiful handmade wreaths onto the Memorial Trees throughout the village. The wreaths have highlighted all of the 15 trees and plaques dedicated to the young villagers who gave their lives for our country.

I would also like to thank all the dedicated volunteers for their ongoing support who give up their time every year in all weathers, but this year 3 of our volunteers, Maggie Sharpe, James Bartrip and Graham Ford have completed 15 years of collecting so deserve a very special mention.

On behalf of the volunteers, we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

More information on the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal can be found on [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk) Angela Spriggs **01993 881555**

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

Witney      08.30 - 13.30    Fri 24 November    Fri 22 December  
Woodstock   08.30 - 13.00   Sat 2 & 16 Dec      Sat 6 & 20 January  
Details of other Farmers' Markets at [www.tvfm.org.uk](http://www.tvfm.org.uk) **01235 227266**



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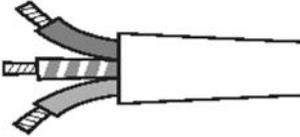
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ADAM : 07805 201618

GAS SAFE : 65024



## **FREELAND CRAFT CLUB**

Temari balls are a form of folk art that originated in China. Originally, they were made from herbs and leather, and later developed from silk and kimono scraps. The temari ball is a symbol that represents great loyalty or a valued friendship - quite appropriate to Freeland Craft Club. So we thought we would try this skill to produce some Christmas decorations, using various coloured silks round a polystyrene ball base.

We have been pleased to welcome three new members in the past few weeks and hope you are enjoying making some new friends & learning some new skills. We always look forward to welcoming visitors and new members, so see **you** soon.

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](mailto:margaret.wright160@gmail.com))

Margaret Wright

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

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### **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 – Bridleway End, The Green, Freeland OX29 8AP

**Telephone: 07768 898914**

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

**MORE DRIVERS AND HELPERS WANTED!**

Version 013 04/09/2023



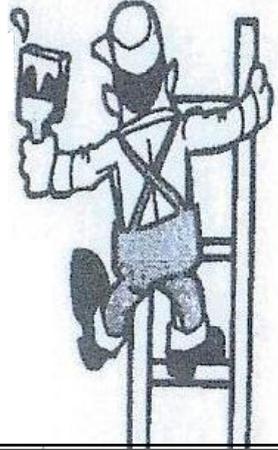
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## 1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

Thank you to everyone that has given their time and energy to support our Scouts Group during this past year. Without the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of our volunteers, the Scouts in Freeland and

Hanborough would simply not exist. We would like to express our appreciation to every parent helper, every section leader, every committee member, every Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers volunteer, as well as everyone who has volunteered with us in any capacity this year: thank you very, very much.

So, what have we been up to lately? Carry on reading to discover some of our recent highlights.

Volunteers and young people from each section participated in the Remembrance Day service and parade. Thank you to everyone involved: you all looked so smart and did a great job representing our Scouts Group.

Our **Scouts** had a busy and successful night selling s'mores at the Hanborough Fireworks event, and had an amazing evening of fire-lighting and axe-throwing at Fat Squirrel's in North Leigh.

Meanwhile, **Beavers** enjoyed an evening of learning about fire safety and campfire skills, and recently they also had fun taking part in a scrapheap challenge. They have also been learning about hearing dogs, as part of their disability awareness topic.

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.

Contact Steve, our Group Scout Leader, via email [gsl@hfscouting.org.uk](mailto:gsl@hfscouting.org.uk) to find out how you can get involved.

We wish you all the best for Christmas and the new year.

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

FREE ENTRY

**HANBOROUGH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Hanborough Methodist Pre-School

10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 11AM-4PM

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## **FREELAND CRICKET CLUB**

I hope you are surviving the wind and the rain, its been a miserable couple of months since the end of the season, but it is good for grass growth!

It has been a quiet month but we have some good news.

Firstly, Matthew Smith has qualified as a Level 2 coach, and he will expand his coaching from the Women's softball team to also include the Under 11s next season. A level 2 qualification is a significant achievement and we send our congratulations to Matt.

Secondly, the Club has successfully applied for a grant to purchase an electrical rechargeable mower and strimmer, so we can start to move away from petrol and diesel machinery. We hope to purchase the equipment from Turneys during December.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place in the pub on **Tuesday 5th December at 7pm**, all are welcome to attend and find out more about the club.

We have set up our adult indoor nets, and these will be held at Wood Green School from the end of February, more details after Christmas.

The **Women's** team are training every Friday evening at Bartholomew School, and this is attended by players from Freeland and Eynsham, there is coaching available, and it costs **£5** per session.

The final quiz will take place in the pub on **Wednesday 13th December**, starting at **8pm**. The theme will be a review of the year. There is a cash prize for the winners and runners up, and the roll over pot, which currently stands at **£56** will be definitely be given to a winning team, so there is every incentive to join in. This will be the final quiz, and will mark the end of two year's of monthly quizzes.

As ever, if people are interested in playing, coaching or their children would like to play please contact me via the email address below:

Simon Brown - Chair - Freeland Cricket Club

**E: [freelandcc.u1@gmail.com](mailto:freelandcc.u1@gmail.com)**

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

**Facebook: Freeland Cricket Club**

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

So far, half a dozen Freeland residents have put their names forward to have their homes assessed as part of this free project being organised by the Freeland Energy Group. To get the best results when assessing a property for thermal efficiency the difference between internal and external temperature needs to be at least 10°C and the exterior of the building must be dry so it's unlikely any assessments will be carried out until after the Christmas period which also gives more residents the chance to take part.

So, if you'd like to have your home assessed, become a camera wielding thermal imaging Freeland or both please drop me a line at **[markoc.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:markoc.fpc@gmail.com)** and I will be in contact. We will carry out the imaging on a first come first served basis and will endeavour to meet every request but as this exercise is very much dependant on the weather this may not be possible.

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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](mailto:info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com)  
[www.firstandlastmile.org.uk](http://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 where 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

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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

## **FREELAND COMMUNITY BUS**

Further to my brief announcement with a photo in the October issue, I am now able to share with you the following message from the Chair of the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAWS) National Assessment Committee at the Department for Culture, Media and Sports:

*"The work your group does for the community was very much admired by the National Assessment Committee. However, I am sorry to say that following close deliberation it was not among those selected to receive the award this year. The King's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest accolade given to volunteer groups across the UK and the very fact that you were nominated independently for this honour shows how highly local people think of you. This is great recognition in itself and I hope that your volunteers will be able to take great pride in this.*

*Our local and national assessors were impressed by your substantial achievements in supporting your local community. Please convey to your volunteers and staff our warm appreciation of all you do, and we wish you the very best in continuing your valuable work, now and in the future."*

Well, we are a bit disappointed, but we feel honoured to have been the smallest and youngest of 10 organisations of various types that had been short-listed from Oxfordshire alone. What's more, we take enormous satisfaction from the heartfelt praise we have received from our passengers and volunteers over the years. For example, Elizabeth has said: *"This bus is a godsend. Without it I would be totally trapped in the village. All the volunteers are excellent and there is a wonderful camaraderie among the passengers."* And Jan has said: *"It's a very much appreciated service not just because of the opportunity it gives for people to get to Witney and do their own shopping but for the social side as there's always lots of chatter and a few will go for coffee together. I go on the bus even when I'm not a helper and it sort of buoys me up, puts a smile on my face. Honestly, I think it's one of the things I'll miss the most about my time in Freeland!"* Jan and her family moved to Glasgow recently and we wish them all the very best.

Five years ago this month, we came together as a small group of local volunteers committed to providing a simple service to those who needed it. And it has turned out to be a remarkable success. For all the hard work, commitment and dedication, I want to thank all committee members, especially drivers and helpers, past and present, and all our passengers for their continued confidence and support.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Alaa Al-Yousuf**

### **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](http://www.newyattRDA.org.uk)** and email us at **[nyrda-volunteers@googlegroups.com](mailto:nyrda-volunteers@googlegroups.com)**

FREELAND SOCIAL GROUP

# RACE NIGHT

FREELAND VILLAGE HALL  
SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF VIRTUAL  
HORSE RACING AND FOOD

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM  
FIRST RACE 7PM



**CANCELLED**



**£10 PER PERSON, INC MEAL (BAR & BETS EXTRA)**

**TICKETS: OXFORDSHIRE YEOMAN  
RAISING FUNDS FOR FREELAND FESTIVAL**

**RACE SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE FROM £5  
CONTACT US: [FACEBOOK.COM/FREELANDSOCIALGROUP](https://www.facebook.com/freelandsocialgroup)**

## **FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB**

The **Men** have only played two games – beating Milton, and losing to Yarnton.

The **Under 10s** are still unbeaten as they continue their great start to the season.

Freeland **Under 17s** have also been victims of the weather, however the **Village** side currently sit top of the table.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Halloween disco, we raised some much needed funds to go towards winter training and equipment for the **Under 10's**.

We would like to thank everyone who has been to support us this season, especially the three wise men - Phil, Trevor and Jon, and to thank all of our sponsors and the Yeoman for their support. We would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and successful New Year.

### **Men's Fixtures:**

**Saturday 18th November - Away** - Ducklington (1.30pm KO)

**Saturday 25th November - Home** - Faringdon

### **Under 10s Fixtures:**

**Saturday 25th November - Home** - SWIS

**Saturday 2nd December - Away** - Ardley

**Saturday 16th December - Away** - Carterton

### **Under 17s Home fixtures:**

**Sunday 26th November** - Freeland v Freeland Village

**Sunday 10th December** - Freeland v Tower Hill

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ben Symonds

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## **WITNEY MUSIC SOCIETY**

Witney Music Society's final concert in 2023 will be given by the renowned Rossetti Ensemble. Their programme features works for piano quartet by Mozart, David Matthews and Dvořák. The concert is at **7.30pm on Friday 8th December**.

The 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**.

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

## **THE UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS 5/11/2023**

The Cotswolds covers a distance of around 800 square miles which is pretty big and you can't tell me you could last walking that far without a biscuit!

Now I don't know about you, but I like a biscuit, Hobnobs, choc digestives or rich tea are my faves, I'm sure you have yours, do let us know at the usual address. I must admit I'm pretty annoyed that the king of biscuits, Abbey Crunch, no longer exist, wish I had stockpiled them back in the 70s-80s.



This month 8 people and two dogs navigated a mostly dry route taking in a very polite Policeman (strange in these here parts) and picked up a cake box along the way, so we are all expecting it to be filled with cake early next year.

Rambling is such a great way to stay fit, socialise, learn about your village (sometimes it's even factual) and now have a pint at the end (soft drinks are also available). To finish we visited Millwood End where the Mill on the Floss was written and found a hoard of Roman coins in East End....yes I wrote these after my pint....sorry.

Next month's Ramble will take in the **Combe Mill Christmas Market** on **Sunday 3rd December**, starting at **10am** from the bus shelter opposite the Yeoman Pub. **All are welcome to join us.**

Ramble on! Jack McVitie

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## **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!"*



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?

**FREELAND WINE CLUB**

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**

## **UPDATE ON BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM**

**Make your voice heard: the Statutory Consultation**

**Diary date: Wednesday 13th December, 1pm - 5pm in Hanborough Pavilion**

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 Hanborough as above.

**Other events include:**

- **Bladon Methodist Church, Friday 8th December, 3pm - 7.30pm**
- **Woodstock Community Centre, Saturday 9th December  
and Saturday 13th January, 11am - 3pm**
- **Eynsham Village Hall, Friday 19th January, 2pm - 6pm**
- **Community Webinar, Zoom, Tuesday 23rd January, 5.30pm - 7pm**

You should also receive 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 is a busy time, but this could be the biggest change to our villages for generations.

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## **FREELAND GARDENING CLUB**

On October 23rd we had our Annual General Meeting when, as well as the usual business, we heard what very interesting subjects are in store for us in 2024. A very loyal Committee member Diane Fairfield resigned from the Committee due to other commitments and we are fortunate to welcome Sally Young from Witney in her place. Sincere thanks to Diane for her years of service particularly on the Plant Sale table.

On **Monday 27th November at 7.30 pm** in Freeland Hall Malcolm Moodie returns with stories and pictures on 'The Orchids of Borneo'. He is an intrepid orchid hunter who finds them in many hidden and remote areas.

There is no meeting in December due to Christmas. We have a treat in store on **Monday 22nd January**, same place and time, when Graham Walker from Church View, who many of you know, is coming to talk about 'The History of Notcutts'. Do come and support Graham and discover what a friendly Club we have with so many first class speakers.

Bring and Buy Plants and Gardening Items Sale at every Hall meeting. Visitors at **£4** a meeting and new members always welcome.

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

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

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## **EYNESHAM MEDICAL GROUP UPDATES**

### **Flu and COVID-19 autumn 2023 booster vaccinations**

In line with NHS recommendation, both vaccines will be given together at the same time.

All those eligible will have received an invitation either by text, email or post.

If you received a **text** you will be able to book an appointment by clicking on the link.

If you received an **email or letter** you may contact the vaccine email on:

**[bobicb-ox.emg.vaccine.enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb-ox.emg.vaccine.enquiries@nhs.net)**

There will not be an option to have the flu and Covid-19 injections on separate occasions, but you may choose to have only one vaccination if you wish.

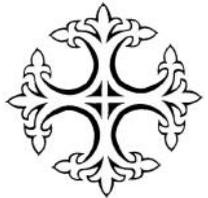
### **Clinic dates available are:**

**Tuesday 28th November in Long Hanborough Surgery at 5pm - 8pm**

When you arrive to your booked appointment please wear clothes that would allow you to receive your vaccines easily and if you know your NHS number please do bring this with you.

For all school aged children please ask your child's school when they will be vaccinating your child.

You may email [bobicb-ox.emg.vaccine.enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb-ox.emg.vaccine.enquiries@nhs.net) for any vaccine queries or bookings.



## **WARNING OF ROAD CLOSURES AND TEMPORARY TRAFFIC LIGHTS**



On the section of Cuckoo Lane/Freeland Road/Eynsham Road between the electricity sub-station and the A40 **NIGHTLY ONLY** between the hours of **8pm and 6am on Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December**, this section of the road will be **CLOSED**.

Additionally in the same section, there will be **temporary traffic lights** between **Monday 20th November and Thursday 21st December, and again from Tuesday 2nd January to Friday 2nd February 2024**.

WOODSTOCK MUSIC SOCIETY CHOIR  
WOODSTOCK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTED BY PAUL INGRAM

# Advent Sing



Celebrate Advent with music by

**Schumann: Adventlied**

**Schumann: Finale from Symphony No.2**

**Stanford: Magnificat in B flat**

**J. S. Bach: Fugue on the Magnificat**

**Hely-Hutchinson: Scherzo from A Carol Symphony  
and Carols**



**Friday 8th & Saturday 9th December 2023**  
**St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock at 7.30 p.m.**

by kind permission of the Rector and Churchwardens

[www.woodstockmusic.info](http://www.woodstockmusic.info) • Reg Charity No. 1033897

**TICKETS**



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

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

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

# Freeland 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](mailto:shelaghkardos@gmail.com)

All proceeds will go towards ongoing Village projects.

### **FREELAND WALKING GROUP**

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

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

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

Janet Dalton

**Christmas Fayre**  
**Combe Mill OX29 8ET**  
**Sunday 3 December**  
**Open 11am ~ 4pm**



Enjoy a wide range of market stalls to complete your seasonal present buying

All funds raised will go to Combe Mill Society's charitable aims of community education

see Santa's elves working in his workshop, and hear a story with Santa in the grotto. £5 per child. Be sure to book on line

Contact [events@combemill.org](mailto:events@combemill.org) or telephone 01993 358694 for more details  
Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxfordshire OX29 8ET



Bartholomew Players present

# Silver Lining

by Sandi Toksvig

Contains language and material which may offend

£12



Tickets available on the door or in advance from:  
Denise: 07721 744020  
[bart.players@gmail.com](mailto:bart.players@gmail.com)  
Evenlode DIY  
[www.trybooking.co.uk/CPES](http://www.trybooking.co.uk/CPES)

EYNHAM VILLAGE HALL  
OX29 4QW

Wed 29th Nov - Sat 2nd Dec 7.30pm

© BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS 1975 • BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

THIS IS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS LTD

EYNHAM VILLAGE HALL | BACK LANE | EYNHAM | OX29 4QW | [WWW.BARTHOLOMEWPLAYERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.BARTHOLOMEWPLAYERS.CO.UK) • BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

## **FREELAND WI**

At our November meeting we were pleased to welcome back Mariella Bliss. Mariella runs a cookery school and bespoke catering service offering traditional Italian dishes. She is based locally in Tackley.

It was a very interesting evening with Mariella making three tasty dips which could be served with breads, crackers or crudités.

The first one was a pesto dip which was a bit different from normal. She made her's with spinach, basil, almonds, parmigiana cheese, olive oil, water and a little chilli. Next a salsa verde made with parsley, anchovies, capers and white wine vinegar. The last one was from the south of Italy, made with buffalo mozzarella, crème fraiche, mint and lemon zest.

Members were able to try them with some focaccia bread. They were all delicious and no doubt some of these recipes will be tried out over the Christmas period. Mariella also told us about the production of olive oil which was very informative.

At our final meeting of the year, on **Monday 11th December**, we shall be making a Christmas candle table decoration using lots of foliage. Something to adorn our tables with over the festive season!

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. As Christmas approaches all donations are particularly welcome and gratefully received. These are then delivered by one of our committee members, Maggie, who volunteers there.

Freeland WI normally meet on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall, starting at **7.45pm** and finishing around **10pm**. Our meetings usually consist of an activity or speaker, a raffle and refreshments. We always look forward to welcoming visitors and new members at our meetings. We are pleased that our membership continues to grow with six new members joining in the last couple of months. If you have been thinking about joining WI you will receive a very warm welcome. Please contact our secretary Rosie if you would like to discuss joining us for a trial session or to become a member.

Information from earlier years is available on our website:

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

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

Aileen Tattam - Freeland WI

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## **NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY**

Our December talk will be on **Tuesday 5th December** when Tim Healey will be talking about a Victorian Christmas. The next meeting will be on the **6th February**. We meet at **7.30pm** in the Memorial Hall in North Leigh, **OX29 6SA**. All welcome. Members **£18** per year, visitors **£4** per talk. Further details are available from Diana Power **01993 882301** or Robert Kyte at **[kyterobert@gmail.com](mailto:kyterobert@gmail.com)** & **01993 880368**



# FREELAND PRE-SCHOOL

A safe, nurturing and stimulating environment - where all children are given the opportunity to learn through play, socialise and develop.



A combination of our experienced staff, large outdoor play area, forest school-style lessons (in the local woods) and partnership with Freeland Primary School makes Freeland Pre-School a popular choice for families from Freeland and further afield.



Taking children from 2 - 5 years old.  
Get in touch today for more information!

✉ [freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk) ☎ 01993 882945  
[www.freelandpreschool.org](http://www.freelandpreschool.org) 📱 @freelandpreschool



## **CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP**

**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**9.30AM - 12 NOON, FREELAND VILLAGE HALL**

**£40 PER PERSON (£35 FOR WI MEMBERS)**

*Includes wreath base, decorations and festive refreshments*

*Join us for a relaxing, creative session making a beautiful Christmas wreath for your door or table.*

*Learn a skill that you can use year after year!*

**To book your place please email: [colinandrosiejames@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:colinandrosiejames@hotmail.co.uk)**

*A fundraising event for Freeland Women's Institute*

### **FREELAND WI are holding a Christmas Wreath Workshop**

What better way to get in to the Christmas spirit than by joining a Christmas Wreath Workshop and creating your very own stunning handmade door wreath. We will guide you step-by-step with assembling the foliage and provide you with the things you need to make your own design. This is the perfect activity for groups of friends, colleagues and individuals alike.

## **SANTA IS COMING TO EYNSHAM!**

This year Santa will be seen in and around Eynsham in early December. His first event will be at the Eynsham “Lights On” ceremony in the Village square on **Friday 1st December**.



In recent years Santa has been at static sites near the Eynsham Library and in the Square. This year Santa will also be touring some street areas including Merton Close and Spareacre Lane on some early evenings during the first 3 weeks of December.

Santa is looking forward to seeing the children in and around the Eynsham area. He and his Elves hope to raise money for Charity and we know not everyone has cash available for door knocking, so we ask that you think about offering donations via the payment information posted along with the details of dates and times which we hope to publicise widely nearer the time and will all be shown on “Eynsham Online” **eynsham.org.uk**

Santa and the Rotary Club of Eynsham wish you a very Happy Christmas!



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## **WODC LOCAL PLAN**

Focused consultation on ideas and objectives - LIVE

Building on the feedback received to our initial consultation last year, we are running a focused consultation based around three particular elements:

- **Draft local plan objectives** – a series of draft objectives which are intended to guide the future evolution of the plan in terms of its overall approach and anticipated policy content;
- **The future pattern of development in West Oxfordshire** – different scenarios for how and where we might look to focus future growth in the period up to 2041;
- **Call for sites, ideas and opportunities** – an open invitation for stakeholders to put forward their thoughts on how land in the district might be used in the future such as new housing, employment, infrastructure, community use, green space, nature recovery and renewable energy.

To ensure the responses we receive are able to be easily analysed, we are strongly encouraging all stakeholders to respond using our online digital platform CitizenLab, which can be accessed via the following link:

**<https://yourvoice.westoxon.gov.uk/en-GB/>**

Alternatively, if you prefer not to use this platform, written comments can be sent via email to **[planning.consultation@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:planning.consultation@westoxon.gov.uk)** or by writing to the Planning Policy Team at West Oxfordshire District Council, Woodgreen Offices, New Yatt Road, Witney, **OX28 1NB**.

# 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

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This month, the **Rainbows** have been making edible firework designs on digestive biscuits, and carried out activities for UK Parliament week.

The **Brownies** have also been doing activities for UK parliament week and had a 'take-over' night involving disco lights, glow sticks and balloons.

Both units iced biscuits before the new members made their promise.



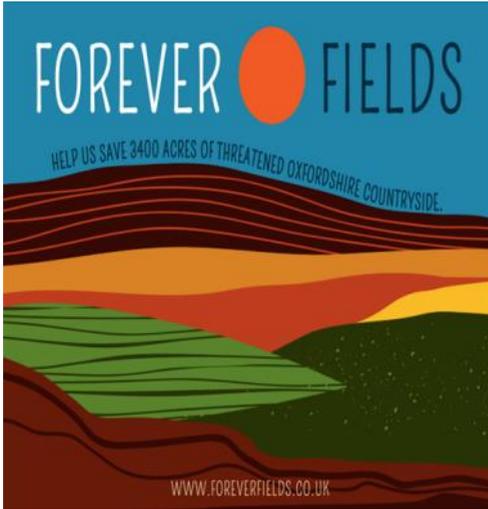
The **Guides** had a fun Halloween evening designing and decorating pumpkins, and designing their own games. Both Hanborough and North Leigh Guides helped at the Hanborough fireworks, shaking buckets, selling glow in the dark items and litter picking.

All sections took part in the Remembrance parade in Long Hanborough.

Activities planned for the rest of December are Christmas parties and Crafts, talent challenge, and torchlight walk (Guides). We have also hired a screen at Cineworld to see Disney's Wish in December for all units.

We still are desperate for helpers at North Leigh Guides. If you are looking for a New Year's resolution, 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](mailto:freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com)



## **FOREVER FIELDS OPEN ART EXHIBITION AND ARCHIVE**

**Worton Hall, Worton Park,  
near Cassington, OX29 4SU**

**Launch Event:**

**6pm – 8pm, Friday 24th November  
2023**

**All Welcome**

**Exhibition open:**

**10.30am – 7pm Saturday 25th,  
10.30am – 4pm Sunday 26th  
November 2023**

**Entrance free**

**Go to [www.foreverfields.co.uk](http://www.foreverfields.co.uk)**

**Contact us on [foreverfieldsproject@gmail.com](mailto:foreverfieldsproject@gmail.com)**

The Forever Fields Project Team is very excited to announce the Open Art Exhibition. Showcasing people's creative response to our countryside, we are celebrating the beauty, productivity and bio-diversity of the fields and settlements that will be lost for 42 years under solar panels if Botley West Solar Power Station is built. We are delighted that many people are interested in taking part and can't wait to see what they make.

We know that our communities are full of ideas, and we want to show them off! This exhibition is an opportunity for exhibitors to share your creative skills. Taking the fields of the Botley West patch as your inspiration, what work have you, created that conveys the sights, sounds, feelings, knowledge you have about this landscape?

Forever Fields plans to create an Archive of all the work exhibited, which will stand as a record for future generations of the nature of the landscape and how people responded and celebrated it today. Our countryside is valuable to us in myriad ways and we want this to be known and not forgotten.

The exhibition is free to enter, open to anyone, adult, child or young person. Exhibitor's work does not need to have been specifically created for this exhibition, but it must fulfil the theme of 'Forever Fields'. Works will be included in a stunning and eclectic exhibition at beautiful Worton Hall which is located centrally, facing on to the area affected by Botley West. Worton Park is an estate committed to true sustainability, balancing renewable energy, recycling and organic food and flower production as well as protecting wildlife. The cafe at Worton Kitchen Garden will be open throughout the exhibition. Worton Park has kindly donated the hosting of the exhibition within Worton Hall. It's the perfect location!

So whether you are taking part by exhibiting your creative work, or by visiting the exhibition, we look forward to seeing you there.

**[www.foreverfields.co.uk](http://www.foreverfields.co.uk)**

## **SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS**

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

**KNIVES,** garden tools, etc sharpened. 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. Friday Bakes at the Yeoman from **9.30am**

**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.

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

W 22 Nov Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection  
F 24 Nov Freeland Wine Club, Village Hall, **7.30pm** AGM and Members' Social  
M 27 Nov Freeland Gardening Club, Freeland Hall, **7.30pm** 'Orchids of Borneo'  
W 29 Nov Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection  
**F 1 Dec Christmas Tree Lighting event, Village Hall, 6pm for 6.30pm**  
Su 3 Dec Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers - **10am** from opposite the Yeoman  
Su 3 Dec Combe Mill Christmas Fayre 11am - 4pm **www.combemill.co.uk**  
**Tu 5 Dec The Cake Café, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am**  
Tu 5 Dec North Leigh History Society, Memorial Hall, North Leigh, **7.30pm £4**  
**W 6 Dec Freeland Grapevine - January edition deadline day**  
W 6 Dec Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection  
F 8 Dec Witney Music Society, High St Methodist Church, Witney. Doors **7pm**  
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**  
**F 12 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**

## **WOODSTOCK u3a**

Our November speaker meeting was rewarded with guest speaker David Grylls' entertaining skip through Victorian fiction and its treatment of love, sex, and scandal!



Our final speaker of the year, Nick Brazil, will be taking a general look at the arts of our home region: his talk, 'Literary and Artistic Footprints of the Thames Valley' is at **2pm on Thursday 7th December**, at St. Hugh's, Hensington Road. New members welcome.

Meanwhile, the Branch's long established Walking Group meets twice monthly, starting off at **10am**, when members can choose between longer or shorter walks. Also out and about, the Historic Churches Group appears to be spreading its net further, looking at visits to churches in Oxford itself.

There's now a regular Saturday coffee morning group at a Woodstock hostel. The Play Reading Group has been tackling Alan Ayckbourn's comedies and the two Board Games groups have become so popular that there is a short waiting list for new members. Further information at **www.woodstocku3a.uk**

Chris Sladen

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The deadline for articles or adverts for the **January Grapevine** is **Wednesday 6th December**. The **January** edition should be online at: **www.freelandoxon.co.uk** or at **www.freelandpc.org.uk** from **Monday 11th December** with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from **Friday 15th December**.

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.

## COMING UP



Sat 25th Nov - The B List covers band & Uggy's pizzas from 5pm

Sat 9th - Open mic night. Do you have a talent you want to share? Get in touch and book your place!

Fri 15th Dec - Tom Martin Live gets us in the Christmas spirit 

Christmas Eve - Uggy's Pizzas (from 5pm, kitchen closed)

New Years Eve - Glitterball Party- join us to see in 2024! Disco chic attire optional! No booking required. Uggy's Pizzas (from 5pm Kitchen closed)



## 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

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## BLENHEIM PALACE

### Christmas at Blenheim Palace - 17th November – 1st January

Our new Christmas illuminated light trail for 2023 brings together a multitude of twinkling lights, seasonal sounds and festive fun. Discover heart-shaped arches glittering in the moonlight, glowing tunnels filled with stars and the return of the ever-popular dancing reflections in the colourful Cascades, as well as a glimpse of Father Christmas along the way!

Explore Sleeping Beauty in the Palace, where each room tells a different chapter in Sleeping Beauty's story. Wander through the Evil Fairy's spooky wooded lair, into the castle frozen in time and on to Aurora's candle-lit bed chamber, and of course there's plenty of festive decorations including our gigantic Christmas Tree in The Great Hall.

Find out more at [www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events/christmas/](http://www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events/christmas/)



## BLENHEIM ESTATE

### Take a piece of Blenheim Estate home with you this Christmas

Christmas is just around the corner and our fabulous Forestry team will once again be selling Estate-grown Christmas trees, including Norway Spruces and Nordman Firs, in a range of sizes alongside stands as well. Trees are available on a first-come, first-served basis from our sales hut located in the Estate Office car park in Woodstock, OX20 1PP from 1st - 17th December every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 4pm.

No pre-booking is required and our team will be accepting contactless payments only.

Once you're finished with your tree, you can bring it back to the Estate Office where it will be used for chipping in projects across the Estate.

## BLENHEIM

If you have visited us in the past few weeks you may have noticed that the Duke of Marlborough's standard flag is once again flying from the rooftop at Flagstaff Gate. The original 200 year old flagpole was taken down back in January by Oxfordshire Fire Service due to conservation works taking place. The new flagpole is 15 metres long, weighs 350kg and incorporates a lightening conductor as an added safety level. It is also topped with a 24 carat gilded coronet. A big thank you to Savvy Construction Ltd who carefully installed the new flagpole and have been carrying out the works on Flagstaff Gate and the Orangery roof as well as Apex Composites, an industry leader in carbon fibre composite products, who built it.

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

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