



# Grapevine

St Mary's Freeland



March 2022

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**\*Where there is a 5th Sunday in the month, there  
will be one single 10am Benefice Service at  
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there will be no 10am service at Christ Church  
or St Mary's that day.**

**See our new website at [www.hfchurch.org.uk](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**St Mary the Virgin is open seven days a week  
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**Thank you to Bruce Hammersley for the front cover picture**



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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)

**Curate:** Rev. Mike Madden

E: [curate\\_mike@hanboroughparish.co.uk](mailto:curate_mike@hanboroughparish.co.uk)

#### Licensed Lay Ministers:

**Clive Berry** 01993 882080

**Hugh Dalton** *Emeritus* 01993 881742

#### Churchwarden:

**Roger Faulkner**  
01993 622413

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

#### Flowers in the Church:

**Janet Dalton**  
01993 881742

**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, but especially at the weekly **10am** service where youth friendly activities are held at the back of church.

**Babies & Toddlers at Christ Church** Hanborough & Freeland Church welcomes all Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and their pre-schoolers to this group that meets each **Wednesday** in term time from **10.00 – 11.30am**. We provide the opportunity to play and chat, with a variety of toys and activities for children aged 0-4 years and each session finishes with refreshments, a Bible story and song time.

For more information, please contact Alice on **01993 886833** or Steve on **01993 881270** or contact us through the Church website: [www.hfchurch.org.uk](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)

The above information is correct at the date published (20/02/2022). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our new website at: [www.hfchurch.org.uk](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)

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### **CLAIRE HAS STEPPED DOWN AS ST MARY'S CHURCHWARDEN**

After great service as a Churchwarden, not least seeing us through a pandemic, vacancy and new Rector appointment, Claire Soanes will step down as Churchwarden at St Mary-the-Virgin, Freeland on **28th February 2022**.

As well as giving great thanks for Claire's selfless hard work and service as Churchwarden, we pray for Claire as she leaves this important and ancient Office.

If you are on the Freeland Church Electoral Roll and feel you might be interested in finding out more about a Churchwarden's role and responsibilities, please contact the Rector, Rev. Steve Stewart, on **01993 881270** or by email [rector@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@hfchurch.org.uk)



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**Letter from our Curate, Rev. Mike Madden:**

Dear friends,

“When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don’t, they don’t.”  
William Temple Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-1944)

I sometimes feel that praying is a bit like going to the gym, I enjoy it and I know it will do me good, but actually finding time to pray consistently can be a challenge. The above quote from William Temple a former Archbishop of Canterbury in its simplicity is both an encouragement and an inspiration for me to pray. Since at its heart prayer simply involves each of us talking to God and being heard, and in return each of us listening to God when he speaks to us. There are no special ways, special times, or special places to pray, in fact we can all speak to God about anything, from anywhere, at anytime.

However, as we begin to pray, if we can keep at it, prayer can become a habit, where our first response to blessing is to give thanks, and our first response to adversity is to ask God for his help. In addition, as we pray, as we develop the habit of prayer, not only do coincidences happen, but we can also find that we develop a habit of living our lives in the presence of God, drawing daily on his grace and his love, which guides and strengthens us.

My prayer for each one of us is that firstly, over the next few weeks and months many of us would begin to develop the habit of prayer, and secondly, we would learn to live second by second in his presence drawing on his grace and his love for each one of us.

Blessings,

Rev. Mike

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**PRAYING FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

**A monthly prayer meeting at St Mary's**

The one thing above all which persecuted Christians around the world ask for from those of us in countries where being a Christian is safer, is that we pray for them. Open Doors is a global ministry serving the needs of many of the 360 million people around the world who are persecuted for their Christian faith and each year they produce the World Watch List detailing the situation in over 70 countries and providing inspirational stories and testimonies.

On the second Tuesday of each month there is an open prayer meeting at St Mary's, when we pray for those countries where Christians are most persecuted. At the last meeting we focused on Malaysia, Kuwait, Nepal and Kazakhstan.

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 8th March** when the countries of Brunei, Tajikistan, Cameroon and Mexico will be featured. In addition to this, we will also include prayers for our church family and local community as well as any national or international issues. It will commence at **7.30pm**, with tea and coffee, and conclude by **8.30pm**. All are welcome.

For further information please contact Roger Faulkner [rogfner@aol.com](mailto:rogfner@aol.com)



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

The bells will be rung at the following services:

**Sunday 6th March 9.30am - 10.00am**

**Sunday 20th March 9.30am - 10.00am**

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 back in the chapel. A warm welcome awaits you all.

**Sunday 27th February 10am** Rev. Steve Stewart

**Sunday 6th March 10am** Rev. Stephen Bywater

**Sunday 13th March 10am** Rev. Charles Harris (Holy Communion)

**Sunday 20th March 10am** Mrs Dawn Haley

**Sunday 27th March 10am** Jeanne Taylor

**Sunday 3rd April 10am** Rev. Fred Ireland

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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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.

You can also watch Mass from many other Churches live or recorded online:

**[www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)** is a platform that connects communities and provides churches with a space to broadcast – particularly Mass, Adoration and prayer.

**<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>** is another platform that does the same and includes Corpus Christi, Headington in Oxford; and Blackfriars, Oxford

**<https://www.youtube.com/user/Godzdogz>**

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## **FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL – UPDATE FEBRUARY 2022**

As I type these notes the last meeting was held on the 17th January, and the next meeting is not until 21st February, after the Grapevine deadline, so here is a brief update.

### **Inspired Villages Planning Application**

Still no news on this at the moment, we are still awaiting a decision from the planning officer.

### **Parish Clerk required, 18 hours per week, working from home**

Yes, the time has come for me to hand over the baton to someone new! I will be leaving my Parish Clerk role at the end of March this year.

I am moving on to a complete career change and pastures new! I have had a long standing interest in becoming a nurse, something I have wanted to be right from school age, but was put off when I nearly passed out at a hospital whilst on school work experience aged 14!! But this past year, since taking on a volunteer vaccinator role for Covid-19 vaccinations, I have had my long standing interest in all things medical reignited, and I need to pursue this otherwise I will always wonder “what if”. I have accepted a Health Care Assistant role based at Kidlington and Yarnton Health Centres working part time, and once trained will run clinics for phlebotomy, ECGs, blood pressure checks, vaccinations, wound dressings etc. This is the first step in the process to one day eventually become a qualified nurse (I hope!!). I'm very excited about this new chapter!

So if there is anyone out there who would like to work from home, 18 hours per week, incredibly flexible hours with a good rate of pay, please do get in touch with me to discuss the position.

Duties include minute taking, dealing with all council correspondence, dealing with complaints (only occasionally!), and liaising with external agencies. There is also a financial element to the role, book-keeping, producing monthly financial reports and completing the external financial audit, although we do have a fantastic accounts software package that makes this much more straightforward!

This is a brilliant opportunity for flexible hours that can fit around children, or for a person with some hours to spare.

Do get in touch for an application pack or to discuss further, [lisa.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.fpc@gmail.com) **01993 880067**. Thanks!

Closing date for applications: **5.00pm on Friday 11th March.**

Interviews to be held week commencing **14th March.**

### **Traffic Calming in Freeland – possible 20mph limit**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. Our County Councillor, Liam Walker, will be reporting the results of the survey at our February meeting so I will report back with further details next month.

### **Annual Parish Meeting – Friday 22nd April 2022**

The Parish Council are going GREEN! Yes this year's meeting will certainly have an environmental theme to it, with some ideas of what we can do locally to aid the climate crisis and help ensure Freeland is still a fantastic place to live for future generations to come!

Pop the date in your diary and look out for more details coming soon. *Continued.....*



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*Continued.....*

A number of topics are being considered and these will hopefully be finalised at our next meeting. To give you a flavour, here are the current ideas, many of which relate to the environment/climate crisis:

Sustainability in Freeland – a look at ways in which we can help to make the village more sustainable especially in view of the climate crisis;

Local river water quality and sewage works pollution – a look at how much pollution is being dumped in our local rivers from nearby sewage works and what can be done about it

Freeland Naturehood Group – an update from the Group as to what is being done in Freeland to enhance nature and biodiversity, eg Verge Restoration Project, Tree Planting, etc.

Freeland 2030 - a vision – a look at what Freeland will look like by 2030 and a chance for residents to give their views on how they would like it to look and how this can be achieved.

### **Blenheim/Pye - North field A4095**

Just to let you all know that Blenheim/Pye have submitted a “scoping opinion” request to WODC for a potential development of 150 houses on the North field on the A4095 (the field opposite the new doctors’ surgery). This is not a formal planning application and is therefore not the right time to submit comments, but I am letting you know now so that this can be monitored. The Parish Council will also be keeping a close eye on this.

### **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

The Parish Council would really like to mark this event but we can’t do it alone!! We need some willing volunteers who are good at organising to help organise the day and make it a roaring success! The last one we had 10 years ago for the Diamond Jubilee was a brilliant fun filled community day, and we’d like to do the same again!

Are you able to help co-ordinate the village groups with stalls and advertise the event to gain publicity? Then we need your help!!

The Village Hall has been booked for **Sunday 5th June 2022** which is during the extended bank holiday weekend. We hope to hold a “Big Lunch” style event, but even bigger than usual with stalls, fun fair etc on the field! If you are already starting to think about holding an event for your village club or group or are keen to get involved in helping to organise a village event such as this, please get in touch with me at

**[lisa.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.fpc@gmail.com) or 01993 880067**. It would be great to have a team to lead this and make the event a real village community occasion, something I think we could all do with after the last 2 years!

### **Road closures – a reminder**

This was reported last month but here is a quick reminder. An overnight road closure will be in place on **Friday 25th – Saturday 26th February 2022 between 20:00 and 06:00** on a section of Cuckoo Lane from the A40 to the Cuckoo Lane turning whilst the installation of ducting for an electrical supply is carried out.

Pigeon House Lane will have a **24-hour** road closure in place on **Wednesday 16th - Friday 18th March** to facilitate a new water mains connection. *Continued.....*

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Continued.....

Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works.

**Bulbs - Please don't trample them!**

The lovely snowdrops are now out in flower and don't they look pretty? A sure sign that Spring is on its way! I personally cannot wait till the bright yellow daffodils burst open their cheery blooms that always manage to brighten up even the dullest of days! They are one of my most favourite things that I love about this village as they just look so stunning! I know I mentioned this last month, but please keep off the grass verges where they have been planted and don't trample on the bulbs whilst they are pushing through. Thank you!

**Planning Applications:**

All planning applications can be viewed on line from the Village Website at [www.freelandoxon.co.uk](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk) (under Parish Council/Planning Tracker) or via the WODC website at **[www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning)** . You can also contact the Planning Team at WODC on **01993 861420** and view the documents at Woodgreen Council Offices.

**Applications Received:**

**22/00110/HHD 18 Parklands, Freeland.**

Conversion of existing garage to living space together with the erection of single storey side and rear extensions, new front entrance porch and associated works including gravelled parking area for Mr R Massingham and Ms C Stephens.

**22/00137/HHD 21 Parklands, Freeland.**

Two storey and single storey side and front extensions for Mrs S Cooper.

**Applications Approved: None.**

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

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 21st March 2022 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 village website where lots of useful information is held. The website can be accessed via [www.freelandoxon.co.uk](http://www.freelandoxon.co.uk) . Alternatively, please contact me between the hours of **9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday - Lisa Smith, Parish Clerk on 01993 880067 or email [lisa.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.fpc@gmail.com) .**

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**NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY**

We are meeting on **Tuesday 1st March at 7.30 pm** in North Leigh Memorial Hall **OX29 6SA** . Please note there will be a change to our previously announced programme, and we will notify all those on our emailing list with the updated details as soon as possible.

Further details are available from Diana Power (**01993 882301**) or Robert Kyte at **[kyterobert@gmail.com](mailto:kyterobert@gmail.com)** Members free, visitors **£4**.

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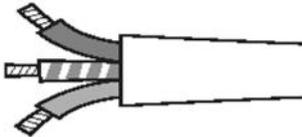
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## **PASTURES NEW FOR OUR PARISH CLERK**

The Parish Council is saddened to be losing one of its most valued members: Lisa Smith has regretfully tendered her resignation as Parish Clerk from the end of March to take up an exciting opportunity. She has served the village tirelessly for nearly 14 years, giving unstintingly of her time over and above the call of duty.

Lisa has worked alongside 3 Chairmen – Bill Pinkerton, Peter Newell, and for the past year, Roger Faulkner, ably supporting them in their role. In particular, she has been invaluable in smoothing the transition to the new Chairman and a large changeover of Councillors following the May elections last year.

‘Lisa’s Notes’ in the Grapevine have been a great innovation over the last few years in keeping villagers up to date with Parish Council activities without necessarily reading the full minutes.

In addition to providing the backbone to the Parish Council, Lisa was pivotal, along with Vero McCoy, in setting up Freeland’s response to the COVID pandemic, Freeland Covid 19 Mutual Aid. This provided an invaluable service to so many villagers through the volunteer prescription service and coordinating volunteers to help the more vulnerable members of the village. She was always there as a friendly voice at the end of the phone – a great re-assurance to so many at that time.

As Lisa says in her notes this month, it was working as a volunteer vaccinator that gave her the motivation to pursue an ambition she has had since childhood - to retrain as a nurse.

She will be leaving at the end of March to start work as a Healthcare Assistant as the first stage of her training. We sincerely wish her every success with this new phase of her life.

We will all miss her greatly and she is going to leave some very big boots to fill!

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## **FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS**

The **First** team sit top of the League winning 4 from 4 after the Christmas break. They beat Kingham 2-0, Bletchington 2-1, Wootton 7-2 and narrowly beat Bampton 3-2.

The **Reserves** are currently 3rd in the table after a tricky start to the year. They have played 4, winning 2 and losing 2.

The losses came against League leaders Hatherop and then a disappointing defeat to Sherbourne. The two wins both came in convincing fashion, beating Kingham 7-1 and in the Cup beating Chadlington 4-1.

The Cup win sets up a floodlight semi final later in the season.

The **Under 15s** have been the busiest side, playing 5 games since the break where they have lost 2 and won 3. This leaves them sitting in the top 4 at present.

The **Under 15s** 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)



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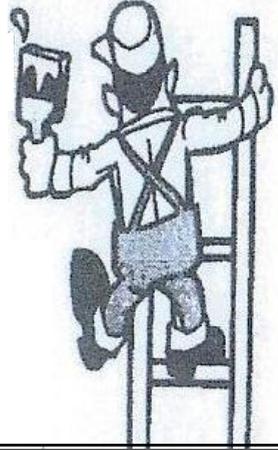
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## **YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL EXPLAINED**

Residents should receive their new Council Tax Bills around mid-March.

West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) sends these out as the collection agency but most of the funds go to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), Thames Valley Police Authority (TVPA) and Freeland Parish Council (FPC). Band D is the benchmark for comparison; e.g., the charge for Band A is two-thirds of that for Band D which is, in turn, half that for Band H. In Freeland the new tax for Band D is about £2,100 shared as follows: OCC (78.5%), TVPA (11.5%), WODC (5.4%) and FPC (4.6%). The increase in the total tax demand is about £95 (or 4.7%) and this comprises £78.50 to OCC, £10 to TVPA, £5 to WODC and £1.37 to FPC.

FPC's funding need (Precept) for 2022/23 is £68,331 compared to £66,005 the previous year. Taking into account the number of new occupied dwellings results in a rise of 1.4% per household. About 43% of the Precept goes towards repaying the loans for the Village Hall and the attached CRF (sports changing rooms and Newell Room) and the rest is for maintaining village facilities and other overheads. The last instalment of the loan for the CRF is this year while that of the bigger loan for the Village Hall is not until 2035. Find out more at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

WODC's total expenditure is budgeted to decrease slightly despite inflation in the cost of frontline services and support to local communities. The increase in the charge is to balance the budget and add a small amount to reserves. Still, the charge covers only 40% of WODC's needs with the rest coming from business rates (35%), Government grants (25%), investment income and reserves. Parking remains free and WODC's charge remains the second-lowest among English counties.

The 5% increase in OCC's charge is the maximum allowed without a local referendum and includes a special 3% charge for Adult Social Care. When asked if they would support this, of the 1324 residents who answered, 51% said Yes, 42% said No and 7% didn't know. Taken together, Adult and Children's Social Care and Education (after Government grants) account for about ¾ of spending with the rest divided up between Highways, Public Health, Waste Disposal, Fire, Libraries, etc.

Finally, a bit of good news. The Government has announced that all households in Bands A to D (about 70%) will receive a rebate of £150 from April to help with the cost of energy. Those who pay their Council Tax by direct debit will receive a transfer from WODC into their bank accounts, but even those who do not have direct debit, or are exempt, will get it. Likewise, lower-income households who live in higher Council Tax homes are eligible for discretionary support. Details to follow

Alaa Al-Yousuf – District Councillor

T: **880689** - M: **07768 898914** - E: [alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk)

### **FREELAND PHOTO GROUP**

Freeland Photo Group will continue to meet virtually on the first and third Tuesday of every month, starting at **7.30pm**, for the foreseeable future.

In March, the meetings will be on **Tuesday 1st and Tuesday 15th March**.

Please contact Paul Sayer at [paul.pshml@googlemail.com](mailto:paul.pshml@googlemail.com) for details of the virtual meetings and the programme.

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## FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

As I write this we are 10 weeks away from the first matches of 2022, and that fills me with both excitement and fear, as we have very little time to make sure everything is ready and the players have loosened up after 8 months of eating cake and drinking beer (not the juniors!). Amazingly we have mowed the cricket pitch 3 times since Christmas, and we are looking forward to getting the roller going and making the pitch nice and flat.



Coaching for juniors and adults started on 21st February at Cokethorpe School and will run until 4th April.

We are looking for new players of all ages, so if you have children aged between 5 and 15 who want to play please let me know. We need more adult players for both the League and Women's teams.

We also need adults who would like to be coach assistants. This role is to support our team of 6 coaches during the coaching sessions and on match days. You will be fully supported and we can organise a coaching assistant qualification. If you are interested in this role please contact me on the methods below.

In March we will start the renovation of the nets. These were built 18 years ago, and have been battered by our cricketers. Thanks to our sponsor Ian Woollard from The Academy Partnership, we have been able to purchase two new full length mats, which will provide a great surface to practice on. We are hoping for funding from West Oxon DC to replace the netting, and then we hope to invest in a new state of the art bowling machine. Fingers crossed that these are all installed by the start of the season.

The Club ran its first **Quiz Night** on the 9th February in the Oxfordshire Yeoman. There were 4 teams, the quiz winners get a cash prize, and this month we paid out **£25**. There is a bonus round after the quiz, where each team gets one chance to answer one question. All the teams' answers were incorrect, so we have a roll over of **£19** to add to the bonus fund next time. The next quiz will be held on **Wednesday 9th March**, starting at **8pm**, but please feel free to book in for dinner first and then join the quiz after you've eaten. Please call the pub to book a table - the Yeoman **01993 881003**.

Simon Brown - Chair - Freeland Cricket Club

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

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

**Facebook:** Freeland Cricket Club

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## **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS**

To make using both Little Free Libraries as easy as possible here's another reminder of the guidelines:

- 1 Take as many books as you like!
- 2 Leave donated books in the drop-boxes provided. There are two boxes behind the bus shelter next to the big Little Free Library by the Village Hall, and there is also a drop-box next to the small Little Free Library outside 138 Wroslyn Rd.
- 3 Before donating books please check that you haven't left any personal items inside (such as prescription receipts, letters, or other personal information).
- 4 If a book is old, damaged or worn it is unlikely that anyone else will want to read it so please recycle it instead.
- 5 Don't leave bags or boxes of books on the floor; they can easily get damaged by the weather, and if the drop-boxes are already full then we have nowhere else to store them!



There have been some brilliant books donated recently, including lots of children's books in excellent condition. Thank you for your continued support!

Matthew & the Little Free Library volunteers.

**01993 359 543**      **[ruddlem@gmail.com](mailto:ruddlem@gmail.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BRIDEWELL GARDENS**

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

We look forward to sharing our beautiful gardens with you this year.

We will be holding our plant sale on **Saturday 30th April** where you can browse a wide variety of perennial plants for sale in our stock bed avenue. Plants for sale in the vineyard – the walled garden will not be open during the plant sale.

The entire site will be open **11am - 4pm** to the public during our **Open Days on: Sunday 15th May, Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th June, Sunday 11th September**

Pop-up café in the garden for tea and cake. Plants for sale, juice, home produced jams and chutneys and our organic sparkling wine. Make a day of it, bring a picnic blanket and relax in the vineyard with friends and family. Dogs on leads are very welcome. No booking required. Suggested donation **£5** per person.

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**Anna Burnside** PARTNER  
anna.burnside@theburnsidepartnership.com

**Jacqui Birks** TAX DIRECTOR  
jacqui.birks@theburnsidepartnership.com

For further information, please contact:  
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**The next Market will be on Sunday 27th March.**

## **FREELAND COMMUNITY BUS TIMETABLE**

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Freeland Primary School ----- **10.05 am**

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

You can also pick up copies at the **Oxfordshire Yeoman** during their regular hours of Monday 5 - 11pm; Wednesdays - Fridays Noon - 3pm & 5pm - 11pm/late; Saturdays Noon - late; and Sundays Noon - 7pm.

In the **Long Hanborough Co-op** they are now on the bottom shelf of the magazine rack which is at the end of an aisle near the Post Office counter.

## **FREELAND GARDENING CLUB**

What an interesting meeting the Club had on 31st January. Stuart Mabbutt, the speaker, had brought a friend who started the meeting playing his guitar 'to still the 30 members and to forget the pressures of the day'. 'Wildlife in Everyday Gardening' was the theme of the talk. We were encouraged to go out, sit and observe nature and listen to it's sounds and what impact we are having upon it. What is our interpretation of tidiness – pleasing to our eyes or to nature.

If you have a pond, submerge a branch at one end for dragonfly adults to rest and warm themselves. Hedgehogs like long grass and connecting corridors, feed them at night to prevent birds eating the food in the day. Grow plants flowering at different seasons to extend the supply of nectar. Grow white flowers to attract moths at night. Most habitats provide a home for some wildlife. Wildflowers need poor soil which will have to be created.

Put up nest boxes, preferably 3, facing in different directions to catch the sun's warmth. These are but a few of his suggestions!

The next meeting is on **Monday 28th February at 7.30pm** in Freeland Hall when Neal Kenny will talk on 'Japanese Acers – myth busting'. These lovely trees are at their best in Autumn with their magnificent colours. The meeting on **28th March** also involves trees because Mary Fenton will tell us about 'The Wonder of Trees'. Spring is a lovely time when the fresh green leaves emerge after the long bare winter.

Tips for the month include; dividing large clumps of snowdrops after flowering, planting annual flower seeds and pricking out those grown earlier under glass, dividing perennials by splitting with a spade or 2 forks, cut down ornamental grasses, weed, feed and mulch beds, and prune late flowering clematis.

In the veg garden chit seed potatoes, sow many varieties of hardy veg, feed and force rhubarb by covering the plant with a bucket, feed fruit trees and bushes and mulch well with compost to preserve moisture, cut dead leaves from strawberry plants and plant new runners and remove older plants.

We are a very friendly Club where you can meet and make new friends so come along and listen to some excellent talks. Visitors very welcome. There is a Plant and Gardening Item sale at each meeting so bring along any spare plants etc. but if not sold please take them home afterwards!

For any further information about the Freeland Gardening Club, please contact Terry Jones on [davidjones30@talktalk.net](mailto:davidjones30@talktalk.net)

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)



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## **FREELAND CRAFT CLUB**

Rabbits seem to be the favourite this month - from easy, cuddly ones to more complicated Creme Egg covers disguised as Peter Rabbit! Our numbers are gradually getting back to "normal" so we hope to start on the basics of Crochet this month.

We meet each **Wednesday** from **2.00pm to 4.00pm** in the Newell Room of the Village Hall.

There is a subscription of **£1** per meeting to cover heating/lighting & booking fees.

We are a friendly group and would love to welcome new members.

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

Margaret Wright



\*\*\*\*\*

## **1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUT GROUP**



Calling all parents and carers of pre-schoolers and toddlers!

Now is the time to sign up your young children and add them to our waiting list to give them the opportunity to join Beavers when they reach their sixth birthday.

I signed up my two sons to the waiting list when they were four years old and eighteen months old, so that by the time they were six they were able to start Beavers. Adding their names to the waiting list does not mean they are obligated to join, but it does give you the option and they'll have more chance of securing a place than if you wait until they are older.

We welcome girls and boys from Long Hanborough, Church Hanborough and Freeland as well as other nearby areas. As the community grows the demand for places will be greater, so now is the time to place your child on the waiting list.

Joining Beavers is a fantastic way for your child to learn new skills, to socialise with children from different schools and villages, to try new things and, most importantly, to have fun!

Children stay in Beavers from age six until age eight, and many of them progress up through the ranks to become Cubs, then Scouts and eventually Explorers, but there is no obligation to do so.

To add your child to our waiting list, please send an email to:

**waitinglist@hfscouting.org.uk** with your child's name, address, date of birth and a contact telephone number. Or fill out the form on our website:

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## **FREELAND WI**

Our February meeting provided our members with the opportunity to discuss and vote for the resolution which they would like to go forward for further discussion and voting at the annual meeting later in the year. A final choice will be made there, on the resolution which will become the WI campaign for 2022/23.

The resolutions were:

- 1 Fit for purpose: fit for girls (challenging gender stereotypes that have a negative impact on girls)
- 2 Appropriate sentencing of non violent women offenders
- 3 Equality in law for the menopause
- 4 Women and girls with ASD (autistic spectrum disorder) and ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) : under identified, under diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under supported
- 5 Tackling digital exclusion

Members voted in favour of the second resolution; appropriate sentencing of non violent women offenders. The second part of our meeting was a fun game of Quingo, a mixture of quiz questions and bingo which was greatly enjoyed. Since we had not met in December and January there was a lot of catching up to do.

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. If you have been thinking about joining WI now could be the time to give us a try. If you want to check out what we have planned for 2022, a copy of our programme was included in January's Grapevine. We are a varied group with a wide range of interests. One trait that unites us is that we are friendly and welcoming to visitors.

Please contact our secretary Rosie if you would like to discuss joining us for a trial session or to become a member. We are pleased to say that in spite of lockdown and Covid we have managed to grow our membership slightly. We currently have 34 members. There's always room for more; we would love you to join us.

Further information is available on our website:

<https://freelandwiuk.wixsite.com/freelandwi> or 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)

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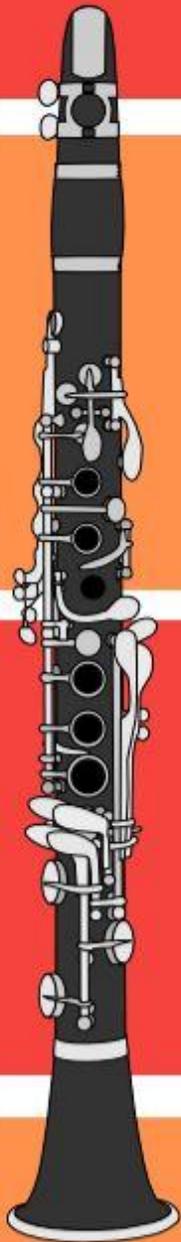
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We do need more help however in a range of roles. There are paid and unpaid driving shifts available and we are very flexible with driving hours. To maintain services we do need more drivers urgently.

If you don't fancy driving then why not be a passenger assistant. You don't need a licence, just a passion for helping people whether getting on and off or lifting their shopping or simply chatting.

If you want to join us, or simply comment about us, please phone **07584 927 050** or email **info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com**.

New website: **www.firstandlastmile.org.uk**

### **We are looking to open an After School Club at Freeland C of E Primary School**

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We are really excited to be sharing with you our plans to open an after school club at your school. Vicky's After School clubs are privately owned and we have six other clubs which are very successfully run by our talented and engaging staff. Our staff really get to know your children and ensure all opportunities are met for your child to be able to learn and grow in our friendly and relaxing environment. We work alongside parents and school staff to ensure the best outcomes for your child.

Along with parents of children wanting to attend, we are also looking for engaging, reliable, caring and enthusiastic members of the community who would love to be part of our team and bring their own ideas and vision to our new club in Freeland. You don't have to be qualified as we train our staff to a high level and give you all the support you need to do the best job you can do.

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Salary dependant on experience and qualifications.

Minimum age 18 years (Ofsted requirement)

**Please note that an enhanced DBS check will be undertaken as part of the recruitment process.**

If you are interested and would like further information, please contact:

**Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454**

**Email: info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk**

**website: www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk**

## **UPCOMING ROAD CLOSURE IN FREELAND**

**24 hour closure starting on Wednesday 16th March until Friday 18th March:  
Pigeon House Lane, to facilitate a new water mains connection.**

Actual closure on Pigeon House Lane is likely to be the point nearest to the north-east corner of the playing field (the corner with the cricket nets). Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works.

## **COMBE MILL**

At last things seem to be getting back to normal and for Combe Mill that includes our first Steaming Sunday on the **20th March**. Volunteers have worked hard all winter on various projects to ensure that that the visitor experience can be the best.



Last June we welcomed anyone who was thinking they might like to volunteer at the Mill, to see how their skill set might make them feel at home. I am pleased to say that after some successful visits, training and hard work Wednesdays – we have some really good people added to our team. We always have room for more though!! Come and have an informal chat, enjoy the Mill in steam and see what you can both gain and add as a volunteer. Freeland is particularly well represented amongst the volunteers so you should see some familiar faces, to make you feel at home straight away.

We have a fabulous programme lined up this year for our steaming events, some old favourites and some brand new ones are being planned. In April, we are aiming to increase everyone's knowledge of STEM activities – plenty for our young visitors to interact with. Dogs are always welcome.

We are also open on Wednesdays, why not come and enjoy sitting by the river, whilst tucking in to the varied offerings from the tea room.

If you are having a Spring clean – I am always looking for nice prizes for our tombola, an easy way for you to support the fundraising at the Mill.

If you have a birthday/celebration/reward present to buy – I can sell you a Family gift pass for 2 adults and 2 children for £24 or an Adult gift pass. Limited numbers available – contact me for more details.

Julie Stuart-Thompson - Director [julie.st@btinternet.com](mailto:julie.st@btinternet.com) [www.combemill.org](http://www.combemill.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THE UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS 6/2/2022**

Now I'm not one to complain, as you all know, but this almost constant precipitation is getting silly - so make it stop please. 9 of us set off, and finished, this month's Ramble, we had an early birthday celebration to observe and we did this with some lovely homemade cake from Mark, the birthday boy. Snowdrops are appearing now, so too a 1950's Ford Prefect, in black of course.



Helpfully the sun shone while we walked and the mud was avoidable in most places, which reminds me, Mud were a popular band in the mid 70s with their track 'Tiger Feet', I'm really not sure even that is suitable footwear for Rambling in these conditions.

Boots will be the footwear of choice for next month, which will still have a quiz. Nobody spotted the badger, that I know was following us, and the Owl costume didn't arrive in time.

**Sunday 6th March at 10am** from outside the Yeoman.

All Welcome.

Your rootin' tootin' router



# 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

**Continuing the war time reminisces of a former Freeland resident. Here Mrs Bunyan shines a light on the Home Guard....**

## **MY VILLAGE IN WARTIME by Mrs Barbara Bunyan - Chapter 2**

Village life started to change too. Air Raid wardens and Home Guard officers drawn from the local villagers themselves, were appointed. Wardens did rounds at night to check that no lights could be seen at windows or doors. Everywhere had to have blackout curtains made from yards and yards of quite thick, black cotton material, to prevent electric light from penetrating outside. As farmers, we also had to put up blackout material in the cowsheds and barns and all windows. Milking twice a day, every day took place in the dark in wintertime, early in the morning and later, in the afternoon or early evening. Lamps, flashlights and car headlights were all fitted with shields or shades to restrict light rays being seen from above.

Home Guards were nominated in the village and had to be on duty as sentries in specific points in and around the village, in the lanes and on the approaches to the village, watching for any unauthorised movement. My father was appointed Commander and, as such, had to report for sentry duty overnight on the hill going out of the village from the Green towards Eynsham – a very dark, lonely route. This duty was on top of a hard-working day on the farm looking after the livestock and two daily sessions of milking.

My mother was not a happy lady with the absence of my father at the other end of the village. She made a great fuss with the powers that be, pointing out that she was alone with small children on the farm, which had no immediate neighbours, completely undefended while her husband was guarding some lonely, deserted area outside the village. Another strange arrangement, in my view, was that, as Commander, my father was issued with a large quantity of first aid equipment – dressings, bandages, slings, splints, plasters, all being kept in drawers and other spaces in our farmhouse. As far as I can remember, all these items were still in situ when the war was over. In other words, never used or called upon. What a waste!

The person who coordinated the home guard locally, and shall be nameless, rather shown here as X as I believe his family still live in Freeland. X came to see my father frequently, presumably about duties, shifts and with Home Guard news. On one occasion, I remember it well, when X came to the farm after dark, dressed in his full Home Guard kit with tin helmet, rifle and knapsack. He walked through our stockyard, down towards the house in the shadow of the long stone side wall of the farm buildings. My mother, alert as always, was drawing the curtains, putting up the blackouts and saw this figure walking in the shadows towards the house. She alerted my father, at the same time opening a window, shouting at the approaching figure. My father appeared with his twelve-bore shotgun rifle (under licence I might add) raised it at the window at the same moment X revealed himself by name - just in time. Needless to say, he got a good telling off by my mother who explained to him, in no uncertain terms, that he could have been mistaken for a spy or a parachutist. X never did that again. He always communicated in daylight.

Telephones were few and far between and usually used only for business purposes, but one was always aware they could be a security risk.

*Continued.....*

*Continued.....*

People were very edgy. The radio and the newspapers spoke daily of enemy aircraft, parachutists and the possible invasion and likely bombing since we had numerous aerodromes, camps and munition sites in the local area. Hearing aircraft immediately put folk on the lookout.

My father's kneehole walnut desk with its rolled top played a significant role when the sirens sounded or we heard aircraft overhead. The kneehole was the first place to which we young folk bolted as a place of refuge. The farmhouse had very thick walls and wide windowsills so the worst that could happen if a bomb exploded nearby was that the roof would cave in. It was a very scary time for all.

One totally unexpected adventure came up one day in the form of a visit we all made to Broad Marsh, a field on the edge of the Eynsham Hall Estate, where overnight, a Blenheim aircraft had landed and was completely undamaged. Whether it had engine trouble or was lost in the fog no one seemed to know. To see an aeroplane on the ground not far from our school was very exciting and better still, one by one, we were allowed to climb inside for a look at the controls. I do not know how long it was there and can imagine aviation experts soon recovered it.

**In the next instalment, war becomes even more evident to the young, former Freeland resident...**

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## **ALUMINIUM CAN COLLECTION**

Due to a recent family Covid outbreak, we were forced to suspend the can collection. As of this week (14th February) we are back to full speed and collecting again. Sorry for any inconvenience caused and please bring along your aluminium as usual.

Please crush all cans as much as possible as it reduces the space needed to store and transport the cans. **Drinks cans only please.**

Address: **10 The Blowings, OX29 8HY**

Please place cans in the large galvanised bin at the end of the road near the entrance to the wood. **andre\_woodward@yahoo.co.uk**

## **QUIZ NIGHT in aid of MARIE CURIE**

**Wednesday 30th March, 7.30pm for 8pm start at  
The Oxfordshire Yeoman, 172 Wroslyn Road, Freeland.**

Entry is **£3 Per Person**. Food will be available from **6pm - 8.30pm**

The menu can be found at **www.oxfordshireyeoman.com/menus**

**WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU BOOK TABLES IN ADVANCE SO THEY  
CAN BE RESERVED FOR YOUR TEAM.**

**Tel: (01993) 881003 or email: hello@oxfordshireyeoman.com**

Charity Raffle (raffle prizes will be very much appreciated). For more information contact Nicky Clargo at **oxfordshire.stars@gmail.com** or **call 07754 271831**

## **IN NEED, HARDSHIP OR DISTRESS?**

The **EYNHAM CONSOLIDATED CHARITY** can make money grants, help to provide items, services, heating costs or back up help from other quarters, for people in **Eynsham or Freeland**.

You can apply, either for yourself or for someone else who may be in need of help.

Write to the Clerk, Robin Mitchell, at 20 High Street, Eynsham (OX29 4HB), or email **eynshamcharities@gmail.com**.

All enquiries are dealt with in absolute confidence.

For more information visit Eynsham Online:

**www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Eynsham-Consolidated-Charity**



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

We are a small, friendly and welcoming Pre-school, with a large outdoor space. Our Pre-school is situated within the grounds of Freeland Primary School and enjoys strong links with the school, which in turn aids a smooth transition for children into the foundation stage class, with whom we share a garden.

Freeland Pre-school is committed to safeguarding.

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

**Pricing: am or pm sessions £15, Full day £30**

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

### **PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

The children celebrated Chinese New Year: we watched lots of clips of children celebrating Chinese New Year. Our home corner was a Chinese restaurant and the children played with chopsticks and rice and noodles.

We also had a local artist visit, who did an activity with the children.

The children also got to meet and stroke the school guinea pigs.

We were also able to have parents back into pre-school to cook with the children. Next term, parents or grandparents are being invited to come into pre-school to read to the children.

**We are raising money at the moment for a smart board for our classroom.**

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

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/freelandpreschool](http://www.facebook.com/freelandpreschool)**



# Eynsham Heritage Day

**Saturday 19 March 2022**  
**10:00 – 16:00**

The **Oxfordshire Museums Service** and **Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre** are hosting a Heritage Day in Eynsham which includes:

**'Eynsham Abbey' Walking Tours** (45 mins)  
Leaving St. Peter's car park at 11:45 and 15:00.



**Exhibition at the Bartholomew Rooms** including the archaeology and social history of Eynsham and historical photographs of the village.

Have you found anything potentially archaeological? Want to find out more? Show it to the county's **Finds Liaison Officer** for answers in the **Bartholomew Rooms**.

Look out for pop-up exhibitions in the **Library** and **Evenlode DIY** in the days leading up to the **Heritage Day**.

**The Pottery and Old Forge** in Newland Street will be open to visitors 14.00 – 16.00

**'Eynsham Archaeology: Hidden in Plain Sight' Walking Tours** (60 mins)  
Leaving the Bartholomew Rooms at 10:15 and 13:45.

Drop in to **St. Leonard's Church** between 12:30 and 14:30 to ask **Victoria Thomas** about its history.



**Family activities** at the **Bartholomew Rooms**, including **Eynsham I-Spy**, **Medieval Crafting** and the **'Doors of Eynsham' quiz**.

*Attendees to the above events do so at their own risk and accepts sole responsibility for any injury to themselves or caused to others.*

**OMS** | OXFORDSHIRE  
MUSEUMS SERVICE



Gardens,  
Libraries  
& Museums



**Eynsham Museum  
and Heritage Centre**

Thank you to our sponsors, Green's Funeral Services, Eynsham and Flying Press, Witney,  
For further information email **Angie Bolton**: [Angie.Bolton@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Angie.Bolton@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

# **BURFORD ORCHESTRA SPRING CONCERT**

**Beethoven Symphony No. 6 'Pastoral'**

**Mozart - The Magic Flute Overture**

**Mendelssohn -**

**Incidental music from A Midsummer Night's Dream**

**Conductor: Neil Brownless**

**Saturday 26th March 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Venue: St Mary's Church, Witney**

**Tickets: £9, U16s £1, available in advance from TicketSource**

**Email: [info@burfordorchestra.org.uk](mailto:info@burfordorchestra.org.uk)**

**Telephone: 01993 883490 for more information**



## **WOODSTOCK u3a (University of the 3rd age)**

Despite uncertainties of Covid and Government pronouncements, Woodstock & District u3a's activities continue at a good pace and variety. Monthly meetings with outside speakers are now held at St. Luke's Centre on Woodstock's Hensington Road (free parking, or a five minute stroll from the town centre) and simultaneously available to members by Zoom.



In early February our guest speaker was author and photographer Tom Wray; his subject, 'Wild Life on Your Doorstep'. A graduate of Oxford Brookes University (but in sport, rather than natural science) Tom dazzled us with a succession of colour photographs taken on many expeditions around the world, his subjects ranging in size from elephants and polar bears down to woodpeckers and finches. 'Time and patience', Tom advised, are key attributes if you want to study wild life at close hand. Remembering that polar bear's baleful stare, a degree of recklessness also sounds handy.

A change of gear in March when performance poet Andy Smith shares his findings of work from two World Wars: 'entertaining yet poignant' reads one report on Andy's style. **2pm Thursday 3rd March**, again at St. Luke's Centre.

Many of the Branch's individual Interest Groups have by now found ingenious ways to crack on with their specialisms. The Play Reading Group, for example, is starting work on Alan Ayckbourn's series of one act comedies published together as 'Confusions' - could have been popular at Westminster, perhaps?

Full details, as always, on the Branch website [www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock)

Chris Sladen

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

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Fri 25 Feb Fri 25 March

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 5 & 19 Mar Sat 2 & 16 April

Details of other Farmers' Markets at [www.tvfm.org.uk](http://www.tvfm.org.uk) 01235 227266



## **A further article from Julie Stuart-Thompson on the service personnel listed on the War Memorial in St Mary's Church Yard**

### **Lawrence Walter Lay                      26th May 1917 – 14th October 1941**

The Lay family had a long association with Freeland and the surrounding area.

Lawrence Walter was the son of Walter James Lay (born 19th August 1896) and Agnes (born 26th August 1896, nee Drewitt). They married in September 1916 in the Witney registration district. Lawrence had one sister, Hilda, born 24th December 1919, and in the 1921 census the family are recorded in the Eynsham area and in the 1939 Register they were living in Mill Street, Eynsham. Lawrence and his father Walter are both listed as builder's labourers and Hilda a machinist in a blanket factory. Hilda married Ernest H Willoughby in 1940 and had four children, the eldest son born in 1943 was named Lawrence presumably in memory of the brother she had lost in the war.

Tracing the family further back in the records, Lawrence's grandparents were Walter born 1857 and Agnes Victoria (nee Berry) born 1861, they married in Witney in September 1882 and they had eight children. In the 1891 census they are registered as living in Freeland Lane, Hanborough. Walter is listed as a Gentlemen's gardener and Agnes a gloveress – a common profession for many women in the area at this time. Back a further generation, Walter's parents were George Thomas Lay born 1825 and Phoebe (nee Willett). They married in March 1845. George was a stone mason and Phoebe a gloveress, they had seven children. All the census records for these families are in the Eynsham area including the 1851 census when in Freeland, George, Phoebe and their first three children were living with their Willett in laws. Phoebe's father Joseph born 1786 is described as a Pauper, Agricultural Labourer. George and Phoebe are both listed in Freeland with their respective families. George's parents (making them Lawrence's great great grandparents) are Thomas, born 1786 and Elizabeth in 1806.

Walter James Lay (M12196), Lawrence's father, was a seaman. His record, written in Chatham, says he was 5ft 7in with a 36in chest, brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. He served from February 1915 until February 1920. He is listed as a farm and kitchen hand and received a war gratuity. It was therefore not a surprise that when Lawrence signed up for the second world war, he joined the Navy.

Ordinary Seaman Lawrence Lay P/JX 195566, served on board the HMS Fleur de Lys (K122) a flower class corvette. It could sail at 16 knots and was 925 tons. This class of ship built between 1940-42, were short- 205ft with a broad 33ft beam which allowed them to patrol even in fierce weather conditions. A formidable U-boat hunter, it would give no break to the U-boats during bad weather. Originally ordered by the French Navy and called La Dieppoise, it was taken on by the Royal Navy when the Germans invaded France. Based on a whale catcher design, it was built to escort shipping by Smiths Dock and Co in Middlesbrough. It was ordered on 25th July 1939, laid down on 30th January 1940, launched on 21st June 1940 and commissioned on 26th August 1940. The Fleur de Lys had a complement of 85 and in June 1941 the command was taken on by Lt Alexander Collins. It had several different sized guns and most importantly two depth charge throwers. The two depth charge rails carried 40 depth charges.

*Continued.....*

Continued.....

On 14th October 1941 the Fleur de Lys was part of convoy OG75 off the Straits of Gibraltar when it was torpedoed by U206. The U boat was captained by Herbert Opitz, born in 1915, he had risen in the ranks and had several awards for his missions, on 9th August 1941 he had hit the Ocean Victor. The U206 fired three torpedoes at the port side of the Fleur de Lys, causing a chain reaction. The magazine exploded and the ship broke in two. Seventy crew members went down with the ship and only three survived, being picked up by a Spanish vessel. The U206 went on to hit



another ship, on 19th October, the 3000-ton steam merchant Baron Kelvin. At sea for three patrols and a total of sixty-eight days, U206 was believed destroyed on 30th November 1941, off St Nazaire, with the loss of all forty-six hands.



Lawrence, along with 24,851 casualties from both World Wars, is commemorated at the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 50 Column 3. He was just 24 years old.

Julie Stuart-Thompson

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## **WITNEY MUSIC SOCIETY**

The final concert of the 2021-22 season will be given by Kosmos Ensemble (violin, viola and accordion) who reference classical composers in an inspirational combination of tango, gypsy, Balkan and music from the Far East. The concert is at **7.30pm on Friday 11th March** at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Because of current restrictions, there'll be limited ticket availability at the door; tickets should instead be purchased in advance - please see our website:

**[www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)** for payment details and for more information about the concert.

## **YES, YOU CAN!**

“You can Run” is our “Couch to 5k” programme designed especially for new and returning runners.

In a small, friendly group with the help of our qualified England Athletics Leaders in Running Fitness, we'll take you through a fun and confidence-building ten-week course to prove you can run five kilometres.

The next course starts on **Wednesday 16th March 2022 at 6pm** at The Pavilion in **Eynsham**.

For more details and to reserve your place now, please visit our website: **[eynshamroadrunners.org.uk](http://eynshamroadrunners.org.uk)** or email us at **[eynsham.err@gmail.com](mailto:eynsham.err@gmail.com)**

## **MEDICAL UPDATE**

### **The Minor Injuries Unit**

A reminder that our local Minor Injuries Unit is based at the Witney Hospital – next door to the Windrush Practice.

As the name suggests, you can go there for injuries such as broken bones, severe sprains, deep cuts, eye injuries, minor head injuries and minor burns and for much of the time there are also x-ray facilities.

You are much more likely to be seen more quickly than if you go to A&E – which is for potentially life-threatening conditions such as chest pain or symptoms of a stroke. As you will appreciate, at the A&E department they must give priority to those more serious cases – so you may well have to wait longer to be seen.

The excellent staff at the Minor Injuries Unit have all the training, skills and expertise to deal with your needs. And being seen at the unit is easier than ever now as you can actually make an appointment to go there via the **NHS 111** service. When you call **111** you will be carefully questioned about your injury – either by phone or on-line. The call handlers then ensure that the patients are referred to the right place and are given an appointment.

### **Our Emergency Departments are still under great pressure**

A plea has come out from the University Hospitals (the JR, Churchill, NOC & Horton). We are being urged to only use Emergency Departments in genuine emergencies as they continue to be under pressure. There are other appropriate avenues to help so please use the **NHS 111** online service which can offer good advice on the best way for you to get the care you need. When you call **111** you will need to answer some straightforward questions – but these will enable the call handler to help you accurately and as quickly as possible.

If you go to A&E and it is not an emergency, you need to know that you run the risk of a long wait as they will always prioritise patients in order of clinical need.

Also, there is helpful guidance from the Ambulance Service at **Urgent Care or Emergency Care?** on YouTube

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## **REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT ON LOWER ROAD - Petition update**

Created: November 2020 – gained 450 supporters  
Delivered to Oxfordshire County Council: March 2021  
<http://chnq.it/hvRBq6HB>

Consultants from Stantec, appointed by Oxfordshire County Council, have been working on the feasibility and the options for a cycle path along Lower Road for some time; the speed limit issue and traffic calming measures are being considered within the scope of this work. A desk research and initial design concept part of this study have been largely completed. Topographical site surveys have begun while design development and costing assessment are about to commence. The study is expected to conclude by the end of April.



Contributed by Dr Lidia Arciszewska, Church Hanborough resident

# HANBOROUGH & FREELAND RUNNING GROUP



The Hanborough Freeland Running Groups enjoy running and jogging on some great on- and off-road routes through the local countryside in a relaxed and sociable atmosphere. Open to all friendly adults.

There are now a number of sub-groups, each with their own WhatsApp group and mailing list, as well as a growing group on Strava:

The **Green Turtles**, for those who like to run for up to approx. 3 - 5Km at a very gentle pace (slow and steady)

The **Intermediate Group**, for those able to do runs of around 5 - 10km, at a pleasant pace. This group may also be suitable for anyone coming back to running.

There is also an **open session**, currently running every **Thursday** evening, at **6.30pm**.

For more information, please contact us: **HanFree-run@outlook.com**

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/HanFree-Run> Hope to see you running soon!

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- W 23 Feb Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection  
Th 24 Feb **Freeland Community Bus** Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25  
**Su 27 Feb Farmers' Market - Freeland CE Primary School 10am - 1pm**  
**Tu 1 Mar The Cake Café + Knead Bakehouse, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am**  
W 2 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection  
Th 3 Mar **Freeland Community Bus** Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25  
Su 6 Mar Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers - walking at 10am from the Yeoman  
Tu 8 Mar Open Doors Prayer Meeting at St Mary's, 7.30-8.30pm  
W 9 Mar Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection  
W 9 Mar Cricket Club Quiz, Oxfordshire Yeoman, 7.30pm, £3 each  
Th 10 Mar **Freeland Community Bus** Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25  
**Sa 12 Mar Freeland Grapevine - April edition deadline day**  
W 16 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection  
Th 17 Mar **Freeland Community Bus** Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25  
Sa 19 Mar The Teddy Girls' Spring Fayre, Freeland Hall, 10am - 12noon  
Sa 19 Mar WOC & WOL Concert, Freeland Hall, 7pm, £5 - see page 33  
M 21 Mar Freeland Parish Council Meeting, Newell Room, **7.30pm**  
W 23 Mar Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection  
Th 24 Mar **Freeland Community Bus** Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25  
**Su 27 Mar Farmers' Market - Freeland CE Primary School 10am - 1pm**  
W 30 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection  
W 30 Mar Quiz Night in aid of Marie Curie, Oxfordshire Yeoman, 7.30p, £3

## **SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS**

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

**BLUNT KNIVES?** All types of knives, wood chisels, axes, secateurs, hedge trimmers, shears, mower blades etc sharpened to original specifications. Contact “**Sharpedge**”, Graham Lay **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. Also, Celebration Cakes, Bespoke Afternoon Teas and small event catering. **www.janescakestudio.co.uk 01993 881273**

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The deadline for articles or adverts for the **April Grapevine** is **Saturday 12th March**. The **April** edition should be in the church porch and online at: **www.freelandoxon.co.uk** from **Friday 25th March**.

We welcome handwritten or typed articles and adverts. However, if at all possible, please send by email, formatted to fit an A5 magazine - it will certainly help to reduce the number of our mistakes! The font we use is **Gill Sans MT** at 10 point.

If submitting electronically please use Word or Publisher, **not PDFs** as they are incompatible with Microsoft Publisher which we use for the Grapevine. Photographs should be JPGs or PNGs, again **not PDFs**.

The cost of a Small Advertisement is **20p per word**. Please make cheques payable to **‘FREELAND GRAPEVINE’**. Contact Kenny Wylie about costs for other adverts. 1/3rd page size is 60mm high x 127mm wide, 1/2 page size is 90mm high x 127mm wide

**Adverts: grapevineadverts@gmail.com**

**Articles: freelandgrapevine@gmail.com**

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

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

*The editor reserves the right to edit all copy.*

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

*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 - AT THE YEOMAN

### 9 MAR - QUIZ NIGHT

Our 2nd Wednesday of the month quiz is run by Simon and Gary to raise money for Freeland Cricket Club and Sobell House. CASH PRIZE!  
7.30pm, £3 per person entry.

### 18 MAR - AMERICAN NIGHT

Experience culinary delights from 'over the pond' at our American Night. PLUS Hot Wing eating competition. How hot can you go??

### 23 FEB - QUIZ NIGHT

Join us for our 4th Wednesday of the month quiz night hosted by the Oxfordshire STARS and help us raise money for Marie Curie.  
7.30pm, £3.00 per person entry.

### FRIDAY MORNINGS

Knead Bakehouse bread collections, cinnamon buns, fresh coffee and sourdough bacon sarnies!

## HAVE YOU TRIED OUR NEW MENU YET?



THE  
**OXFORDSHIRE**  
— **YEOMAN** —

[www.oxfordshireyeoman.com](http://www.oxfordshireyeoman.com)

01993 881003

[hello@oxfordshireyeoman.com](mailto:hello@oxfordshireyeoman.com)



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