



Grapevine

St Mary's Freeland



May 2020

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ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have announced that public services within the Church of England will be put on hold until further notice, due to measures to control the spread of the coronavirus.

For more information visit www.hanboroughparish.co.uk

You will also find resources to support home based prayer, bible readings and worship on our website.

See page 5 for “Zoom” online & phone live benefice services

Although St Mary's church building will be closed at this time, the churchyard will still be open.

St Mary's Junior Church, Babies and Toddlers at St Mary's and 11+ Hitchhikers: all meetings have all been suspended.

The above information is correct at the date published (19/4/2020). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found at www.hanboroughparish.co.uk

Useful contact details:

Rector: *Position vacant*

Associate Vicar: Rev. Sue Spankie
01993 706469

Email: revsue@gst.org.uk

Curates:

Rev. Emma Hopegood Jones
01993 881936

Rev. Mike Madden

E: curate_mike@hanboroughparish.co.uk

Email: curate_emma@hanboroughparish.co.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Clive Berry 01993 882080

Hugh Dalton *Emeritus* 01993 881742

Churchwardens:

Claire Soanes Steve Mellin
01993 883205 01993 882044

Flowers in the Church:

Janet Dalton
01993 881742

Weddings:

Rev. Emma Hopegood Jones
01993 881936

Email: curate_emma@hanboroughparish.co.uk

All sorts of interesting information about St Mary's can be seen on the “A Church Near You” website: www.achurchnearyou.com/st-mary-the-virgin-freeland

If you have any interesting pictures that could be used on this site, please contact Roy Thomas on 01993 881 001 or email: print@associatedagencies.co.uk

You can see a virtual tour of St Mary's on Google Street View at:
<http://goo.gl/g53NJH>

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The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have announced that public services within the Church of England will be put on hold until further notice, due to measures to control the spread of the coronavirus.

For more information visit www.hanboroughparish.co.uk

You will also find resources to support home based prayer, bible readings and worship on our website.

For live online & phone benefice services, please see below

The above information is correct at the date published (19/4/2020). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found at www.hanboroughparish.co.uk

**THERE ARE LIVE ONLINE BENEFICE SERVICES HELD
EACH SUNDAY AT 10.00am VIA "ZOOM"**

To join a Zoom meeting from a PC, Mac, iPad or Android Device, click on:
[https://zoom.us/j/332842633?](https://zoom.us/j/332842633?pwd=ekdQVXM0MjA5QWpEVGhacU03aWpPQT09)
[pwd=ekdQVXM0MjA5QWpEVGhacU03aWpPQT09](https://zoom.us/j/332842633?pwd=ekdQVXM0MjA5QWpEVGhacU03aWpPQT09)

The first time you use this, you will need to download a software programme, but it is very fast.

When prompted, click on 'Join Audio Conference by Computer'

This link will be used for all Sunday services from now on - there will no longer be a different link each week.

You can also now join Zoom from your landline or mobile phone:

At **10.00am** on a Sunday morning

Dial: **0330 088 5830**

When prompted enter the meeting ID: **332 842 633** followed by the hash key(#).

When you are asked for your participant number, just press the hash key again.

Calls will be charged as for a normal landline number within the UK.

If you have a package that includes landline minutes, this number should be included with that.

For those needing a more Traditional Service, the following link may be of help:
<https://www.sbarnabas.org.uk/prayingathome>. The main live Sunday Service usually starts at **10.30am**.

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Letter from our Curate:

Dear Friends,

This is the first time I have had the privilege of writing for the Grapevine in my relatively new role as Assistant Curate in the parishes of Hanborough and Freeland. Therefore I thought I would start by briefly introducing myself. I am married with three grown up sons and one granddaughter. As a self-supporting minister, I also run my own consultancy business, which serves the energy industry mainly in the developing world. Like most of us during this COVID-19 crisis I am *'staying at home, in order to protect the NHS, and save lives'*. In the midst of these sometimes scary and sober times I have found myself spending more time in our garden enjoying its quiet peace in the absence of airplane and traffic noise. While I have used these times to pray for our family, friends, the Benefice and the nation, I have also found myself simply enjoying creation looking at the trees with all their different colours and listening to the numerous birds singing in and around our garden.

During these times of quiet, as I have enjoyed the simplicity of creation, I have found God quietly breaking into my thoughts often sparked by looking at a tree, or a flower, bringing peace, insight and sometimes wisdom. We see this pattern of God breaking into the hearts and minds of men and women by speaking through creation throughout the Bible. For example, God used everyday items such as plum lines (Amos 7:7) and bowls of ripe fruit (Amos 8:1) to catch the attention of Amos the prophet before giving him a message for his nation. While most of us are unlikely to be given messages for our nation, these times of quiet in our garden have reminded me, that God wants to speak to all of us more than we realise, often speaking through the beauty and simplicity of creation.

So next time you find yourself enjoying a quiet moment in the midst of God's creation, listen for the whispered question from God "What do you see?". You might be surprised what God says.

Blessings,

Rev. Mike

The Rev. Mike Madden

PS I shall be praying that we all stay safe, sane and solvent. Especially those running small businesses!

ST MARY'S CHURCH BELLS

Ringers at St Mary's, together with friends from neighbouring towers, are using Zoom to keep in touch on a weekly basis. Likewise, we are using a virtual ringing room web site at **www.ringingroom.com**. This is a site built for ringers to continue ringing with one another, even when socially distanced.

Please contact the Tower Captain, Neil Ephgrave (**883850**) or Michael Probert (**882687**) should you wish to discuss any bell ringing matters.

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

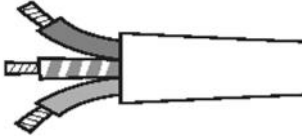
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The Retired Priest: Father Martin Flatman is available on **07719 646790** or email **frmartinflatman@gmail.com**

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Website: www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk

On the Website you can click on Newsletter to see Father Mark's message each week and his reflection on the Sunday Readings. Or you can click on Homily to see Father Martin's weekly Homily/Sermon.

St Peter's Catholic Church, like all other Churches, is not open to the public at the moment, but Father Mark, the Parish Priest, still says Mass every day inside the Church. Father Martin, the retired Priest, is in self-isolation at home in Eynsham, but he also says Mass every day. This means that you can always contact one or other of them by email or phone to ask for special prayers if you have a special need. Just remember that you are, and the whole world is, being prayed for.

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

There is a great selection of churches to choose from using these two platforms:

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/camera/oxford> is another platform that does the same and includes Corpus Christi, Headington in Oxford

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

The National Catholic Shrine to Our Lady at Walsingham has a full broadcast schedule – including Mass, Rosary, Vespers, Exposition, Mass in Latin and even some talks.

View it at **<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>**

Another suggestion is to use Magnificat. During this time, when we can't attend Mass, the producers of the booklet Magnificat have kindly provided complimentary access to its online version to help people follow the Mass and pray from home:

<https://us.magnificat.net/free>

OUR NORMAL MASS times when we are allowed to reopen are :-

SUNDAY MASS is at **10.00am** with a Children's Liturgy during Mass and **SATURDAY** for Sunday at **5.00pm**

Mass also Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays at **9.30am**, Wednesdays & Thursdays at **10.00am**

BIBLE STUDY after Mass on **Wednesdays**. **ADORATION** after Mass on **Fridays**



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HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

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

Every Sunday at **10am** we are holding a Zoom service to which you are all invited. Please contact Gill who will be able to give you easy instructions on how to join with us.

In the meantime, following Methodist Church guidelines, we have cancelled all services at our Church. This means there will be **NO** Sunday worship in the Church for the foreseeable future.



1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUT GROUP

The lockdown has interrupted our usual programme of meetings and events, but that hasn't stopped us from still being active!

Cubs have been holding virtual meetings via Zoom every Wednesday, at their usual meeting times. Zoom allows all the Cubs to meet online and do activities together, for example playing charades, going on scavenger hunts and playing word games. The Cubs have also had various challenges set, for example they had to try to make a model raft out of twigs and then show it on camera floating in a bowl of water. Many thanks to the Cubs leaders and volunteers for making these virtual meetings possible.

Our biggest event so far during lockdown took place over the Easter weekend. Oxfordshire Scouts launched Oxon Easter Camp, to encourage as many Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers as possible to make their own camps at home over Easter.

Over a thousand families took part all over Oxfordshire, setting up tents in their gardens. Lots of our members participated and shared photos of their stay-at-home camps, BBQs, fires and dens. This wasn't quite how we imagined our camps would be this year, but we were happy to see so many of our members enjoying camping experiences at home. Well done everyone who took part!

For ideas of things you can do at home please visit this link:

www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors

It includes recipes, crafts, gardening activities, astronomy, top tips on mental health as well as a guide to making a pin hole camera!

Don't forget to visit our website for regular news updates: **www.hfscouting.org.uk**

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

FREELAND PHOTO GROUP

Freeland Photo Group usually meets in the Newell Room on the first and third Tuesday of every month, starting at 7.30pm. Until further notice, however, in-person meeting of the group are cancelled and meetings are taking place virtually. When the UK government considers it safe to do so, in-person meetings will recommence. This will be advised in the Grapevine. In the meantime, please contact Paul Sayer on **paul.pshml@googlemail.com** for details of the virtual meetings and the programme.

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FREELAND VILLAGE HUB

As the prospect of the Methodist Church coming onto the market in the current climate seems as far away as ever, there will be no further articles in the Grapevine until there is further news to report.

Thank you for your support so far and we do hope to be able to revisit this in the future.

To make contact the website address is: **www.freelandcbs.community**
or email **freelandvillagehub@gmail.com**



Jane Duff May 2020

FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

200 Club Draw

| | | | |
|------------|------|--------|------------|
| 1st prize: | £ 20 | No. 89 | D. Tyrell |
| 2nd prize: | £ 10 | No. 16 | D. Taylor |
| 3rd prize: | £ 5 | No. 53 | D. Hopkins |

Wishing all of our members and the community a safe and healthy time through this difficult period!

Ironically, with the recent good weather, the pitch, having been a lake for the last 4 months, is now playable. Unfortunately all Leagues have been cancelled and voided! We have now managed to have the field verti-drained which involves a tractor spiking down 10 inches to help with the drainage. So with no games being played, hopefully the rest and a bit of TLC will stand the pitch in good stead for next season.

I have asked Club Captain, Dr Conor Almond, to look back at a few previous games for this month's report... Stay safe from everyone at Freeland FC.

As I sit here writing this in isolation, I have cast my mind over some of the highs and lows of playing for Freeland after the past few years. One low that sticks in my mind, was a sunny day down Jordan Hill against the former greats of the Oxford Senior League, Oxford University Press. After a near perfect 85 minute performance, with Freeland winning **3-0**, it was time for the entrance of veteran defender Sam Symonds. In the 5 minutes that followed, Symonds was able to lose 3 back post headers to the smallest player on the pitch (4ft 7inches – with studs) with the game ending **3-3**. With the telling off that ensued from the former great and then manager Simon Hole, Symonds playing days were all but over, as were his linesman duties – after a poorly timed text against Heyford Athletic (6 yards offside) led to a clearly offside goal, which all but ended the First Team League chances for the 2018-19 season.

As I'm sure all in the village and associated with the Club would agree, one great day in the Freeland red, would have to be the Charity Cup Final against the old foe Hanborough FC. In a packed out Court Place Farm holding 3468 on the day, Freeland romped to victory with an all but comfortable **3-1** final result. Sitting here reminiscing about past memorable moments, I look forward to many more to come, in the future.

www.freelandfc.co.uk

Twitter: @freeland_fc

Ben Symonds - Secretary Freeland FC



MJ Fyson BA BA VetMB MRCVS
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NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

North Leigh History Society started in September 2004. Since then we have had some changes and we've moved from the Memorial Hall to the Turner Hall in Church Road, but we have always maintained a high standard of talks and we have a faithful following. Over the years we've had a variety of speakers and we've ventured into musical events once or twice with the Oxford Waits and a shanty group, Short Drag Roger. We've celebrated Christmas and Easter in the style of the Tudors and of the 17th century, and Tim Healey took us through the myths and stories around the Green Man. We've explored the history of Roman Villas, Blenheim Palace, Anglo-Saxon farms, the workhouse, Ditchley Park and Oxfordshire schools. John Woolley took us through the steady police work that tracked down the men who plotted and carried out the Great Train Robbery, and Dr Peter Kirby dazzled us with the exciting development of nuclear physics at Culham laboratory. In 2014, the anniversary of the First World War we mounted an exhibition in North Leigh Memorial Hall which attracted a great deal of attention and we contributed to an earlier exhibition about all the groups in the village.

We are very grateful to all those who have given talks for us and who have been enormously knowledgeable and well prepared. A few names have been mentioned above but there are many people who have contributed and made our group a success. Thank you everyone who has come to our group as a member or a visitor. Your enthusiasm and commitment has made it all worthwhile.

We are really sorry we were unable to complete this year's programme and have had to cancel the last two talks, 600 years of Morris Dancing and The Romanovs. Hopefully we will be able to re-book them for another time.

Keep well and safe. We look forward to seeing you again when the lights go back on! Don't forget our contact details: **01993 882301** and **kyterobert@gmail.com**



NEW TELEPHONE SUPPORT SERVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE



A new telephone support service has been launched by Age UK Oxfordshire, offering advice and assistance to older people concerned during this time.

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LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Well, what a difference a month makes.

Last time I was writing to say that the new Little Free Library was up and running thanks to my small team of volunteers. It was all going so well.

We have had to temporarily stop running both Little Free Libraries to help stop the spread of the virus.

Thank you for staying away, and for not donating any books during this period of lockdown. We will reopen once the government eases restrictions.

In the meantime, enjoy the books that you have at home. Perhaps keep a journal of all the books you read during this time. You could have a sort out and make a pile of books to donate to the Little Free Library in the future.

Members of the Oxfordshire libraries can download eBooks and eAudio onto your devices. Go to: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries/library/books-and-reading/ebooks-and-eaudio>

There's a plethora of children's books resources online (too many to mention here) that you can find via a quick Google search.

The Guardian listed some great bookish resources here: www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2020/apr/09/from-harry-potter-at-home-to-the-national-shelf-service-bookish-fun-for-the-lockdown

Books offer us glimpses into other lives, other places and other times. Dive into a book to take your mind off our current situation. Now is the perfect time to tackle those books on your bookshelf that you have never read!

Happy reading and stay safe.

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





Freeland Baby and Toddler Group

Mondays 10 - 11:30 am
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£2 per family

You will always get a warm welcome at Freeland Baby and Toddler Group. During term time, we meet every Monday 10am - 11.30am at Freeland Village Hall - £2 per family. We have plenty of toys for all ages, an activity each week, and drinks and snacks for adults and toddlers.

Please check our Facebook page for upcoming sessions:
www.facebook.com/freelandtoddlers/



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CHRISTIAN AID 2020

For obvious reasons, we will not be holding a Christian Aid collection in the village this year. However, Christian Aid's work continues to be extremely important: Christian Aid Week in May is the charity's main fundraising appeal, and

this year's Week focuses on supporting those affected by severe drought as a result of climate change.

As well as the annual appeal, the charity is already working to help mitigate the impact of the coronavirus in some of the poorest parts of our world under the banner 'Coronavirus impacts all of us, but love unites us all.' This includes work in the Cox's Bazar district with Rohingya refugees whose living conditions make them very vulnerable to the virus: Christian Aid is working with local partners, informing people about the risks, offering hygiene and hand washing sessions, ensuring that health facilities in camps have triage and isolation spaces in order to receive suspected cases, and providing training to health personnel and key frontline aid workers.

We'd be very grateful for your continued support for Christian Aid this year. If you are able, please consider making a donation to Christian Aid Online at:

www.christianaid.org.uk

Fiona McGrady

YOUR CHANCE TO PUBLISH A SHORT STORY IN 2020

The 2019 edition of Unexpected Tales (3) an anthology of short stories written by seventeen local authors was published in December. It was a great achievement and contains seventeen remarkable stories and is available from Amazon.

Now you also have a chance to publish a short story by submitting your story for the 2020 edition.

We are inviting people from the **OX29** post code area to submit short stories of between 2,500 and 7,500 words in length before the **30th June 2020**.

For more details, and to see the submission rules, please visit the website at :

<https://martincmarais.wixsite.com/ox29anthology/about-submitting>



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FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL – LISA’S NOTES APRIL 2020

As I type these notes, the sun is shining, the weather is warm and it's a beautiful day. BUT, we are not able to go out as we would normally to enjoy the sunshine and visit family and friends. But when you think of the important job we are all doing just by staying at home, we are SAVING LIVES!! Is there anything more important than that? Thank you for doing your bit!!

Annual Parish Meeting & Parish Council Meetings – postponed until further notice

As advised last month, in view of the Coronavirus pandemic and the Government's advice on social gatherings, the Parish Council have decided to postpone all Parish Council meetings (including the Annual Parish Meeting) until such time that it is safe to reschedule them.

We will of course keep you updated when the next meeting will be.

Coronavirus – an update on some useful information

By the time you read this I hope that you will all have received a second flyer through your door giving information of the support that is available during the Coronavirus pandemic. In case you have mislaid it, or need a reminder, here is the information below. Please note everyone that is helping will be known to us and will be a trusted source. This is a fast-changing environment, and for those with access to the internet I would urge you to visit the Freeland Village Website (www.freelandoxon.co.uk) and/or the Facebook page "Freeland Covid-19 Mutual aid" (www.facebook.com/groups/Freelandcovid19mutualaid/) for further info.

Essential food shopping

If you are unable to leave your house, ring the Co-op on **01993 886894** to place an order and pay over the phone (max. spend **£30**; min. order of 5 items). A local volunteer will deliver your shopping after **1pm** or after **6.30pm**, depending on when you placed the order.

Prescription collection

If you cannot collect your medicine yourself, call the pharmacy on **01993 880351**, **7 calendar days in advance**, make the payment if needed and then call us on **01993 651330** or email lisa.fpc@gmail.com to let us know on which day your prescription needs picking up. A volunteer from Freeland will then deliver your prescription.

Check-in for a chat

If you just want to chat with someone locally, please call us on **01993 651330** to arrange this.

NEED SUPPORT? Ring **01993 651330** and we will do our best to assist you. This is the central helpline number that we have set up for Freeland residents to get assistance. You can also join our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/Freelandcovid19mutualaid

We would like to express a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who has offered their help and support, particularly our Street Champions and huge team of volunteers, without whom none of this could happen.

Continued.....

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FOOD - Freeland businesses & local businesses that deliver to your door

The Oxfordshire Yeoman www.facebook.com/TheOxfordshireYeoman/
(shop from 20th April 10-2pm) **01993 881003**

Freeland Nurseries <https://freelandnurseries.wordpress.com/about/news/>
(potatoes/compost) **01993 881430**

Little Ox Brewery www.littleoxbrewery.co.uk
01993 881941 order local beer – free delivery

Off The Hook (fish & chips, pizza, burgers etc) www.offthehookdelivery.co.uk/
01993 883110 / 01993 357450

Mayfield Eggs **01993 868584** www.mayfieldeggs.co.uk/

Wast0, Fresh produce, £3 delivery, order via www.facebook.com/Wast0/Witney

The Edge Eatery Eynsham (burgers, chicken, fish & chips) **07896 953194** Thurs, Fri & Sat 5-8:30pm <https://theedgeeateryltd.co.uk/>

Thai To Go **07971 345106** call before 6pm Fri (& poss Sat) Facebook: **ThaiToGo/**

Golsby Butchers Eynsham **01865 881219** <https://eynshambutchers.co.uk/>

Bonnors Oxford (fruit and veg) **01865 242183** www.bonnorsoxford.shop/

Church Hanbrewery Church Hanborough www.churchhanbrewery.com
(beer, wine and pizza) **07970 272617**

Ready Steady Spice (Indian) **01865 883333** www.readysteadyspice.com

SEE MORE DELIVERY SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 41

FREELAND FOODBANK - a little food bank is located behind the bus shelter opposite the pub. Please help yourself if needed or donate if you can.

Cottsway have kindly given us a bit of funding for food bank items. We have also received a “Care Package” from Waitrose (mainly tins and dried goods) that has been placed in the food bank.

Please email lisa.fpc@gmail.com or ring **01993 651330** if you'd like a food parcel or know of a resident in need.

USEFUL SERVICES

West Oxfordshire Coronavirus Help www.westoxon.gov.uk/coronavirus

Dedicated phone line and email address for residents in West Oxon struggling to cope:
01865 897820 Email: shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The Samaritans (24 hours) ☎ **116 123**

For medical advice, use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service at:

111.nhs.uk/covid-19, or if you have no internet access, call 111 from your phone.
In a medical emergency, dial **999**.

Help is also available from **Volunteer Link Up** **01993 776277**,

email: office@vlu.org.uk and **Age UK** on **0345 450 1276** or **01865 411 288** or

email: admin@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

Stay safe everyone and WASH THOSE HANDS!

Continued.....

Continued.....

Eynsham Consolidated Charity

Again, I would like to reiterate something included last month about the Eynsham Consolidated Charity which can make monetary grants, help to provide items or services, or back up help from other quarters, for people in Eynsham and Freeland ("in the area of the Ancient Parish of Eynsham").

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: **robinmitchell255@gmail.com**

There is no application form and all that is required are your name, address, and some information as to the circumstances in which you are applying. All enquiries are dealt with in absolute confidence.

Dog's mess

I've had a complaint this month about dog's mess, especially in Broadmarsh Woods where it's getting worse, especially on the footpaths. There are plenty of dog bins around, and there are bins at each end of the woods so can all dog owners please make use of them! With so many of us wanting to enjoy our lovely village for our daily exercise allowance, it would be a shame to spoil it with something so easily solved. Please clear up after your pet and keep our village clean and dog's mess free! Thank you!

Little Free Library

Please note that both of the Little Free Libraries are currently closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Thank you to everyone for staying away from them. The virus can survive on surfaces such as books for a couple of days, so by not using the Little Free Library you are all helping to stop the spread. Please do not donate any books during this time.

The stock of books are currently "in quarantine" in a shed in Matthew's garden, away from human contact, until this is all over!

Planning Applications:

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

Applications Received:

20/00860/HHD 185 WROSLYN ROAD, FREELAND

Erection of single storey front extension for Mr & Mrs Pinkney

Applications Approved:

20/00586/HHD 69 WROSLYN ROAD, FREELAND

Erection of single storey front extension and detached garage with home office above for Mr Simon Horner.

(revised plans from withdrawn application number **19/03528/HHD**).

Continued.....



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Continued.....

19/03419/HHD 176 WROSLYN ROAD, FREELAND

Erection of single storey side extension for Mr James Eaton.

19/03370/FUL FREELAND HOUSE, WROSLYN ROAD, FREELAND

Construction of three timber cabins for use as staff accommodation for Mr Mahesh Patel.

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting:

Please note that due to the Coronavirus epidemic, all Parish Council meetings have been suspended until it is safe to hold them. Further details will follow in due course once things have calmed down.

Please check the village website and noticeboards for updates.

If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter and have access to the internet, please have a look at the village website where lots of useful information is held. The website can be accessed via **www.freelandoxon.co.uk**. Alternatively, please contact me between the hours of 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday - Lisa Smith, Parish Clerk on **01993 880067** or email **lisa.fpc@gmail.com**.

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

What a strange year this is turning out to be! In spite of first Brexit and then Coronavirus our gardens are full of spring flowers and trees and bushes everywhere are bursting with new life. The sunshine has also lifted our spirits. We all share our very best wishes to everyone who is or has been unwell and hope that they return to full health quickly. We also thank those who tirelessly care for them.

No matter the size of your garden there are always jobs to be done like weeding, staking, and lawn maintenance. This year is a great opportunity to take stock of what we have and to pot up unwanted plants for the Plant Sale table when meetings begin again. If you have plenty of homemade compost, spread it out on the borders. It is always rather an untidy time when the daffodils and tulips are over but we just have to be patient till all the greenery dies down before clearing it away. Do cut off all the dead flowers though and maybe sprinkle some fertiliser among the bulbs.

We do not any of us know when life will return to some form of normality but wish all our members and other gardeners peace and refreshment from the wonders of nature.

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

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)

STAGECOACH 233 MINOR TIMETABLE IMPROVEMENT

Stagecoach are making a small change to the **233** timetable with effect from **Monday 20th April**. There will be an additional service departing Witney Market Place Stop C at **06.20am**, which will be at the Freeland Turn at **06.32am**, arriving Woodstock at **06.46am**.

https://tiskon-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford_Timetables/temp/233_valid_from_19th_April_2020.pdf

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Edward James SENIOR SOLICITOR
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FREELAND WI

The WI committee hope this finds our members safe and well during these strange times. We would like to say thank you to the village response group which you will have read about in the Grapevine. It is heart warming to hear how the village is working together to support everyone.

Due to Covid-19 we are not holding our usual meetings, and have cancelled the April and May meetings. We will review this in the light of new information from the Government.

Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/freelandwi) is being regularly updated with interesting and relevant stories and information so keep a eye on that if you use Facebook. Our monthly WI email newsletter will also keep you up to date. Watch out for April's edition.

Being creative and inventive, our members are all finding different ways to fill our time. We have been lucky in that the good weather has allowed us to enjoy our gardens more.

Social distancing is vital during this time. Please follow the Government guidelines and keep safe.

Here are this month's tips from Rosie Smith, the Freeland WI Climate Ambassador:

Lobby your MP and anyone else of influence

I've turned to a most unlikely source this month for my hints and tips on how to mitigate climate change. I've used 'The Forbes Magazine' better known for its reports on business matters than on climate change. In its latest on-line edition it has highlighted that 'we must learn from COVID-19 and align on climate change to implement much-needed solutions for the climate crisis'. It states that 'from COVID-19, there are three key lessons that we can take to mitigate the impact of climate change' and these are 1) Listen to the scientist, 2) Act Quickly, 3) Act Globally.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ankitmishra/2020/04/15/how-can-we-learn-from-covid-19-to-mitigate-our-next-crisis-climate-change/#5490ce61260d>

List the good things that have come out of the Covid-19 Lockdown

Grab onto the positives from Covid-19 lockdown most of which have had a good effect on the environment and if sustained would also mitigate against climate change. List them all and let's see if we can make them permanent. For me, the one great thing is less traffic means less noise pollution and more bird song and also safer cycling.

Rosie James is our WI secretary and she can be contacted on **01993 881997** or email freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Website: <https://freelandwiuk.wixsite.com/freelandwi>

WOODSTOCK and DISTRICT UNIVERSITY of the THIRD AGE

Monthly meetings at Woodstock Community Centre,
New Road, Woodstock **OX20 1PB**.

Visitors are welcome to our Speaker Meetings which start at **2pm (£2.00)**

Tuesday 5th May: AGM - Cancelled

Tuesday 2nd June: Meeting - Cancelled

More information at www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock or phone **01865 580688**



Vicky's After School Club

We are very excited to be opening an After School Club at Freeland Primary School in September 2020.

The club will be open Monday - Friday from 3.15pm - 6.15pm where the children will be able to do a wide range of activities, have a snack and tea, and lots of fun playing games.

We want to recruit staff for our Club.
Full training will be given including paediatric first aid, safeguarding, playworker courses and much more!
A full enhanced DBS check is also undertaken on all staff members.



If you are interested in using our Club or would like to find out more about working within a fun environment, please contact Vicky Hickman on 0788 7711454 or email

vickysafterschoolclubbookings@gmail.com

COVID-19 MEDICAL UPDATES

All arrangements concerning how to contact the Eynsham Medical Group (Long Hanborough or Eynsham surgeries) with a medical problem remain unaltered since the Notice previously posted. Equally, existing appointments with a nurse are currently continuing as before. Pharmacy/Dispensary services remain open as usual but please note that **7 calendar days** are now required for repeat prescriptions as requests are currently 300% higher than normal.

For more urgent prescriptions, these will be dealt with as appropriate. For those sending repeat prescriptions online through EMIS, there is a box in which special requests can be made.

Social Distancing arrangements are in place for entry into both surgeries. Do, please, be aware that any of these arrangements may change if circumstances within the Practice alter.

Eye care

Eye doctors at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are urging people to take extra care of their eyes as more people carry out DIY and household tasks while in lockdown. The Oxford Eye Hospital, based at the John Radcliffe Hospital, has seen an increase in the number of patients needing care for serious eye injuries.

People are encouraged to take extra care, particularly when gardening or carrying out DIY, by wearing eye protection when necessary, and locking up household detergents and chemicals away from children as they can cause nasty chemical burns - particularly to the delicate eye area.

Wearing glasses instead of contact lenses will also protect the eyes and reduce the chance of spreading COVID-19.

Stella Hornby, Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology and Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Trust, said: "We're seeing patients with more serious eye injuries and people have needed operations to repair injuries which could potentially result in sight loss".

"We think this is because people are locked down and they might be doing more DIY or gardening at home without using eye protection."

"Wearing glasses instead of contact lenses at the moment reduces the risk of contact lens-related complications, and reduces the need to touch your face." National guidance states that people should avoid touching their face, in particular their eyes, nose, and mouth to avoid spreading the COVID-19 virus.

If patients have urgent eye problems, they should **call the telephone triage number (see below)** instead of attending our Emergency Departments.

Tel: **01865 234567 option 1** followed by **option 1** ; **Mon to Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm**
Saturday and Sunday 8.30am - 3.30pm (including Bank Holidays)

You will be able to speak to an ophthalmic health professional who will advise you.

If you need advice **out of hours**, please phone **NHS 111** or your out of hours GP practice.

If you have an **eye trauma, chemical splash** or **severe eye pain** out of hours, please go straight to the John Radcliffe Hospital **Emergency Department (A&E)**.



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FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

We were due to start outdoor training during the first week of April and our first matches were due to start at the end of April, but these have all been suspended due to the current Covid-19 pandemic. Currently we are planning for the chance that cricket will be able to be played from July onwards. We do not know what that will mean for the Leagues we have teams in, but expect the number of games to be reduced by about 50%. However, this all depends upon the effectiveness of the social isolating reducing the levels of infection, so we will wait and see. The committee and coaches group are meeting monthly using Skype, so we are continually planning for any chance of playing.

We have estimated that the Cricket Club has lost approx. **£1,800** in income from player subscriptions and fund raising events, so we have applied for a grant from Sport England to cover some of these losses.

There is some good news though, with the generous grant from our County Councillor, Liam Walker we have been able to purchase new coaching equipment for the Children's and Ladies' teams. Hopefully these will be able to be used this summer. I have also created some short batting coaching videos. These can either be viewed on the Club's Facebook page or via YouTube,

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPX3vI2xhl8JwzgXyB-SNCg/videos?disable_polymer=1 or you can search for Freeland CC.

It would be great to see videos of the children and adults practicing these shots and enjoying playing, even if it is in the garden.

We are still doing essential pitch work, under the guidance of the English Cricket Board, and the Parish Council has recently verti-drained the whole field. You'll notice the large drilled holes in the field!

Hopefully by the June issue we will know if we are about to start playing this season, look out for information that will pop up on notice boards, in the pub, on the website and the Facebook page. Take care, keep well.

Simon Brown - Chair Freeland CC

Email: **freelandcc.u11@gmail.com**

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

Facebook: **Freeland Cricket Club**

FREELAND CRAFT CLUB

What a change since I wrote the copy for last month's Grapevine! Like many other organisations, we have suspended our regular meetings for the foreseeable future, practising home isolating and being good neighbours!

However, we have kept in contact with members & decided that we will all work on a simple project in our own homes - something which will be useful to fill the Shoe Boxes in November. Hopefully Covid-19 will have been vanquished by then.

This month we are making small knitted woollen balls, suitable for youngsters to use in the home without causing too much damage! A couple of patterns have been circulated & it will be interesting to compare the different results when we do meet again.

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

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FREELAND RESIDENTS LOCKED DOWN IN WAIHEKE ISLAND

It is 16/04/2020, day 21 of lockdown here in on Waiheke Island, New Zealand.

Although it is disconcerting not being in our home in Freeland there are worse places to be during these troubled times than here on Waiheke Island, New Zealand. It's warm, it's sunny. Up until the government issued new restrictions, we were able to swim, cycle and walk freely around this lovely island. At the time of writing, NZ has had 1386 cases of Covid-19 and 9 related deaths, 7 of those in one of 2 care homes. These low numbers, we feel, is testament to the brilliant leadership of Jacinda Ardern, the Prime Minister, and her teams including opposition MPs.

Being close neighbours of China, the PM quickly closed the borders with China and other affected countries. NZ also went into tight lockdown quicker than most other countries. Jacinda and her team have spoken in simple language and created the concept of our own bubble of people repeating on TV every night "Stay home. Don't have contact with anyone outside your household "bubble." Be kind. We're all in this together."and it's worked as so far as the population are sticking to the rules and the virus is pretty well contained.

We see on TV, how around the world, sports arenas are being turned into hospital wards to take the sick. Auckland's biggest arena has been turned into a food distribution centre where volunteers are making up cartons of food to be taken out to the homes of the poor. You have to love this lady. But then it's much easier to manage a population of 4.6 million than the 67 million that make up the UK.

So, not such a bad place to be in these troubled times, not that we had a choice as our flight out of NZ for mid-April has been cancelled and we don't qualify for a mercy flight. We are destined to stay here for the foreseeable future and to experience a New Zealand Winter which at times can be harsh given our proximity to the Antarctic. As we come out of lockdown, discussion is focused on the economy. The agricultural sector is the largest industry in the country and will survive, and probably thrive, as long as China wants to drink milk and eat meat. Tourism on the other hand will take a huge hit along with all the small businesses that depend upon visitors to New Zealand.

We felt inspired to write this correspondence from abroad in order to say a big 'Thank You' to all of you who contribute articles and reports to help make the Grapevine happen. Being on the other side of the world, a highlight of the week is listening to 'The Archers Omnibus' and each month we anticipate the email telling us that the latest Grapevine is online on the Freeland Village website **www.freelandoxon.co.uk**

It's a brilliant way to keep up to date with village happenings. Especially enjoyable is the recent new inclusion of Robert Crocker's Farm Diary. It helps us to appreciate why, even though we love coming to this beautiful country to see our NZ family, ultimately Freeland will always be our home.

Finally a promotion for 'Unexpected Tales' an anthology of short stories written by 17 local authors. We brought the 3 volumes with us to NZ and we have read them all – astonishing, they are brilliant - so please get going with the 2020 edition - see **page 19**.

There is so much talent, energy, initiative and good neighbourliness in this village – we miss our life and friends in Freeland and look forward to our return in brighter times.

Stay safe, stay sane. Rosie & Colin Smith - 16/4/2020 E: **rphillimore@hotmail.com**



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ARTWEEKS IN FREELAND - ONLINE EXHIBITION

Artist Jane Tomlinson, who moved to Freeland last year, was looking forward to exhibiting her recent paintings from her home on Pigeon House Lane for Artweeks in May. But the Artweeks Festival has been cancelled due to coronavirus.

Instead, Jane has put her exhibition online - a virtual show. She says: "I have made many new paintings this year, and I'm so disappointed that I can't show them to you. So I've put it all online so at least it can be seen 'virtually'. I hope you will enjoy it."



See Jane's online exhibition here:

<https://janetomlinson.com/artweeks-2020-online-exhibition/>



The Mill is of course currently closed to visitors but this gives the opportunity to explain what goes on during normal weeks. The Mill has a group of elected Directors who work with a fantastic team of members who all volunteer their time to both maintain the site and enhance the visitor experience.

The Mill has a wide range of individuals, all with different skills and backgrounds, who work in teams, through an agreed schedule of works. Members come to the Mill on a Wednesday to mow the grass and keep the grounds intact, mend and paint items as needed, maintain machinery in the exhibition areas, blacksmithing, photograph and catalogue items stored in the various areas, make tea, cake and lunch, encourage visitors both adults and children, welcome schools and interest groups.

Other activities happen offsite such as giving talks and fundraising. The Directors work through the health and safety elements needed for the whole site and all the members and visitors who come. Members come from a whole range of backgrounds and have expertise in a wide range of areas such as engineering, boilers, pumps, wheels, clocks, wood, metal, archiving and education. Others come to learn new skills and expertise is shared with all who are interested. The Mill always welcomes new members and would love to hear from you.

The Mill is open to the public on Wednesdays and the first Sunday of the month, between March and October. On the third Sunday of the month, the Mill is open and in steam, which means visitors can see all of our machinery in full working order as well as enjoying the hospitality on offer. There are often themed days with extra exhibitors coming with artefacts on these days. All events planned can be seen on the website - **www.combemill.co.uk**

This year will be difficult as the Mill still has to pay bills but with no income following lockdown. When the Mill reopens, both volunteers and visitors, new and old will all be welcomed.

Julie Stuart-Thompson

••SIBLINGS••

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

FREELAND READATHON

Very sorry, but we've have had to cancel the Readathon.

FARMING WITH NATURE - Farm Diary - March 2020

The first calf arrived on March 8th. By March 28th, we have 30.

Despite having witnessed countless calves born over the years...it never fails to move me. The first intake of breath and a shake of the head confirms this calf is going to be fine.

The mum wastes no time in licking her new calf clean with her rasping tongue and, in doing so, stimulates the calf's breathing and circulation. Within minutes of a normal delivery, the calf staggers to its feet, instinctively searching for milk. (The first milk, colostrum, is rich in antibodies)

These docile, domesticated animals are returned to the wild with a rush of hormones which gives the cow the aggression to see off any predator...it is for this reason that cows with calves need the utmost respect. Once the calf has suckled, the cow's mood relaxes a little but, she is constantly alert and defensive. To a cow with calf a dog, however small or friendly, is a wolf...a potential threat.

Within an hour or so, the calf is ready to follow its mother. The calves soon become playful and, as the cows tuck into their sainfoin hay, the calves' race around the straw yard.

Clouds of blackthorn flowers in the hedgerows, gleam pure white against a dark sky and everywhere there is the frantic activity of birds. The dawn chorus is a delight; the Wren is first to rise with a diminutive call signalling, to the Blackbird and countless Great Tits, that it is time to sing. In a matter of minutes, the air is ringing with a symphony of bird song lead by a sole Song Thrush perched on the highest branch of a cherry tree...its song is complex with several verses, which he repeats. The Song Thrush, a once common sight and sound in gardens and fields across the country has had its numbers decimated, mostly by the use of slug pellets, removing its food source of snails.

A week of cold March winds are drying the waterlogged fields, allowing ploughing to commence. The furrows roll over, releasing the evocative smell of fresh soil. A pair of Red Kites immediately appear to feed on the exposed worms. These magnificent birds perch on the furrow and are indifferent to the passing tractor. Wagtails join at a respectful distance and flocks of Linnet alight as the tractor approaches.

A pair of hares appear from nowhere and display their powerful back legs as they accelerate across the field. Three Roe deer push through the hedge to see who is intruding upon their territory...they turn, showing their white derrieres before bounding off in to the distance. What a magical time of year, what an enchanting place. The plough moves slowly across the fields towards Eynsham, turning the landscape from beige to brown. The last two decades of sensitive farming has seen our Skylark population multiply year by year. There are now too many to count and their song fills the air. With the planned housing development imminent I already look at these fields with a sense of nostalgia.

April beckons...will the cuckoo return?

Robert Crocker, Glebe Farm



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EYNESHAM MEDICAL GROUP: BLANDFORD FLY

The fly is a small 2-3mm insect usually found in E. Anglia, Oxfordshire and Dorset. The bites are most common during May and June. They often occur on the legs & can be very painful. Simple precautions like wearing long sleeved shirts & trousers will act as a deterrent to getting bitten. Stay away from clouds of flies on river banks as these flies can bite.

Treatment notes at www.bit.ly/EynshamBlandford



THE UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLE THAT NEVER WAS

On April the 5th we all stopped in

April 2020

A ramble report with nowhere to begin

The people and dogs nowhere to be seen

And all because of that COVID-19

We really were hoping to see the odd cow

Mrs Trellis is poised with her pen, what's wrong now?

No stiles or fields, no streams did we pass

Dento would have still been a pain in the grass

With French Fancies a plenty not in his bag

We could have seen muntjac, Red Kite or stag

So we stay at home wondering just when will this end

Dento's on WhatsApp sending us round the bend

We need to get walking to bring back the buzz

But sadly, this month, was the Ramble that never was.



Mr E. Writer

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Early Bird: 8.45am-9.15am (£2.50)

Morning: 9.15am-12.15pm (£15)

Afternoon: 12.15pm-3.15pm (£15)

Email: freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk, Website: www.freelandpreschool.org, Follow us on



Freeland Pre-school, PFSU, Freeland Primary School, Parklands, Freeland OX29 8HX



Wroslyn Road, Freeland OX29 8AQ

**Telephone enquiries: Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm,
Sundays 9.30am - 5.00pm**

01993 881430

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

Freeland Nurseries is currently operating within the Government's recommended guidelines for businesses during the covid-19 crisis. Once the restrictions are relaxed or we are able to offer more services we will announce the new facilities available on the website. Please check

<https://freelandnurseries.wordpress.com/about/news/>
for details and alterations to current operations.

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SOME MORE SUGGESTIONS OF BUSINESSES THAT WILL DELIVER TO YOUR DOOR (& some that you can collect from)

Knead Bakehouse - bakes bread Thurs, Fri & Sat www.kneadbakehouse.co.uk

Free range chicken eggs - 23 The Blowings, Freeland (collect only) - £1.25 for 6 eggs

UE Coffee Roasters - 01993 706767 www.uecoffee.roasters.com

Hunters Cake Café - www.hunterscake.cafe

Hanborough Home Bake - www.facebook.com/hanboroughhomebake

Eynsham Cellars - www.eynshamcellars.com

Witney Blanket Hall Pies - www.facebook.com/witneyblankethall

Eastern Cuisine - www.easterncuisine.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - Correct as of 19/4/2020

| | |
|-----------|---|
| W 29 Apr | Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection |
| Tu 5 May | The VIRTUAL CAKE CAFÉ! Please visit www.janescakestudio.co.uk |
| W 6 May | Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection |
| F 8 May | BANK HOLIDAY |
| W 13 May | Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection |
| W 20 May | Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection |
| M 25 May | BANK HOLIDAY |
| Th 28 May | Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection |
| W 3 Jun | Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection |



33 Norridge Way
Vanbrugh Meadows
Long Hanborough
OX29 8FL

Tel: 01865 689 015
Mobile: 07818 553 127
Email: hanboroughmeadowsoffice@gmail.com
www.hanboroughmeadowspreschool.co.uk
f @hanboroughmeadowspreschool

Please view our website to read our Prospectus and contact us to arrange a visit and meet our team.

Hanborough Meadows Pre-School (previously Long Hanborough Playgroup est. 1984) provides a high standard of pre-school education for children aged between 2 and 5 years old. We help children to develop and thrive in our small, friendly and bespoke setting which was opened in April 2019. We have a strong emphasis on outdoor learning and run our Forest Rangers sessions on a Tuesday and Friday morning.

Sessions run Monday to Friday during term time only:

Full day: 8.30am-3.15pm £30

AM: 8.30am-11.30pm £17

Lunch Club: 11.30am-12.15pm £4

PM: 12.15pm-3.15pm £17

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STAMP COLLECTIONS I wish to purchase stamp collections. Friendly free valuation service without obligation and immediate payment. Also medals, coins, postcards and other collectables. Please call David Lord **01993 881862**

The deadline for articles or adverts for the **June** Grapevine is **Tuesday 12th May**

The **June** edition should be in the church porch and online at **www.freelandoxon.co.uk** from about **Friday 29th May**.

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

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

The cost of a Small Advertisement is **20p per word**. Please make cheques payable to **'FREELAND GRAPEVINE'**. Contact Kenny Wylie about costs for other adverts. 1/3rd page size is 60mm high x 120mm wide, 1/2 page size is 90mm high x 120mm wide

Adverts: **grapevineadverts@gmail.com**

Articles: **freelandgrapevine@gmail.com**

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

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

The editor reserves the right to edit all copy.

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

Neither the Church, the Editor nor the Printer assume responsibility for any effects arising therefrom. We do not endorse any advertisers or their services or products, nor any articles, reports or suggestions in the Grapevine.



Oxfordshire Yeoman



The Yeo-op shop is again now open from
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We would also like to thank everyone for their kind
messages and support for Trevor, he is overwhelmed
with all the support and he is on the up!

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