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St Mary's Freeland



March 2023

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## **ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND**

**Sunday 26th February 10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Matt Cripps  
Preacher: Jonathan Ford

**Sunday 5th March 10.00am All Age Family Holy Communion**

Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart  
Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

**Sunday 12th March 10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

**Sunday 12th March 6.00pm Choral Evensong with Exsultate Justi**

Evensong is a calm, beautiful, and uplifting end to the weekend/start of the week.

More information on **page 9**

**Sunday 19th March 10.00am Holy Communion**

Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart  
Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

**Sunday 26th March 10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Andy and Val Richens  
Preacher: Andy Richens

**Sunday 2nd April 10.00am All Age Family Holy Communion**

Leader: Rev. Mike Madden  
Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

The above information is correct on the date published (19/2/2023). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website below.

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

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

### **OPEN HOUSE PRAYER GROUP**

**Weekly on Tuesdays 9.30 - 11.00am at  
St Mary's Church, Taunton Room,  
Freeland.**



Praying for Freeland and the surrounding villages by listening to God for His heart for the community.



*'They all joined together constantly in prayer' Acts 1:14*

For more information or to join the group please email:  
[heather.mcculloch@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto:heather.mcculloch@hfchurch.org.uk) or [amanda.stewart07@outlook.com](mailto:amanda.stewart07@outlook.com)

**Thank you to Martin Marais for this month's cover photo**



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**Useful contact details:**

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

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

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

**Licensed Lay Ministers:**

**Clive Berry 01993 882080**

**Hugh Dalton *Emeritus* 01993 881742**

**Churchwarden:**

**Colin Griffiths**  
**01993 357336**

**Flowers in the Church:**

**Janet Dalton**  
**01993 881742**

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

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

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

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

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

**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)

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**ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCHYARD**

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

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



Freeland Parochial Church Council

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

### **‘When March Comes in like a Lion it goes out like a Lamb...’**

I love this saying about the month of March, it speaks of the unexpected wildness of weather and yet, the hopeful promise of the new season coming. It is the ‘now and the not yet’ of spring. Perhaps you have faced the unexpected wildness of challenges in your life recently. The promise of change can be unsettling and leave us uncertain of the future or fearful of what we may have lost.

As I write this, news of a terrible earthquake in Syria and Turkey is unfolding. When you read this, we will have just passed the milestone of one year since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Uncertainty and change are all around us, and since going through the pandemic, we have had to adjust to the reality of not being in control of life in the way we may have thought we were. How can we find genuine peace and hopefulness in such circumstances?

It can be tempting to turn away from the messages ‘out there’ and try to find peace within ourselves. It is certainly good to slow down, to take time to reflect on our life, and to find places of silence in the perpetual noise. However, real peace is not to be found inside our heads, nor can it be discovered through adopting a particular perspective of the world.

Jesus, described as the **Prince of Peace**, spoke to his followers saying:

**‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid’.** (John 14:27).

Jesus’ disciples were soon to face the challenge of Jesus’ cruel death and their own persecution as his followers. And yet, they were eventually able to walk through this unexpected challenge with peace and hopefulness because of Jesus’ resurrection. Jesus appeared to his disciples after his crucifixion, reassuring them that he had overcome death, our final enemy.



**“He endured death as a lamb; he devoured it as a lion.”** (St. Augustine, c.397 A.D.) When challenges or disaster or even death comes, we often turn to God to find a reason or a place to lay the blame. But God sent Jesus to overcome death and restore peace to our disordered world.

If you are facing unexpected challenges, or struggling with uncertainty and a lack of peace, you can invite the Lord, the giver of life, to

restore your peace and hopefulness. The lion and the lamb are symbols of God’s peaceable kingdom as it will be in the age to come when there will be no more striving, wars, or death. As Christians, we don’t only live for a future hope, we have the thrill of the Kingdom of God breaking into the present too. We see glimpses of it in moments of extraordinary kindness, successful peace talks, and restoration of lives that have been devastated. So, when you see the daffodils defiantly heralding the coming spring, be reminded that, just like the month of March, we can live in the hopeful ‘now and the not yet’ of God’s kingdom.

Rev. Heather McCulloch

# Body Talk

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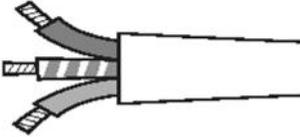
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## **CHORAL EVENSONG FOR THE WHOLE BENEFICE**

The Benefice's occasional choir, **Exsultate Justi**, will be singing at choral evensong on **Sunday 12th March at 6.00pm** in **St Mary's**. This is the first time the choir have sung evensong at St Mary's and we hope you will be able to join us. There's more about our choir on their website: <https://sites.google.com/view/exsultate-justi/home>

Evensong is a calm, beautiful, and uplifting end to the weekend/start to your week - and a great way for us to worship and fellowship as one Benefice.

The choir will also sing evensong on **Sunday 25th June** at St Peter & St Paul and **Sunday 8th October** at St Mary's. They will also sing at the Benefice Carol Service at St Peter & St Paul on **Sunday 17th December**. Please do make a note of these dates.

All are most welcome.

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

**Sunday 26th February**      **10.00am Holy Communion**

Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart      Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

**Sunday 5th March**      **10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Rev. Mike Madden      Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

**Sunday 12th March**      **10.00am Holy Communion**

Leader: TBC      Preacher: TBC

**Sunday 19th March**      **10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch      Preacher: Rev. Heather McCulloch

**Sunday 26th March**      **10.00am Holy Communion**

Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart      Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

**Sunday 2nd April**      **10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Rev. Heather McCulloch      Preacher: TBC

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

**Sunday 26th February**      **10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson      Preacher: Simon Tustin from  
Anglican International Development

**Sunday 5th March**      **10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Steven and Emma Young      Preacher: Benjamin Chamings-Manley

**Sunday 12th March**      **10.00am Holy Communion**

Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart      Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

**Sunday 19th March**      **10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Rev. Mike Madden      Preacher: Rev. Mike Madden

**Sunday 26th March**      **10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson      Preacher: Rev. Nigel Knights Johnson

**Sunday 2nd April**      **10.00am Service of the Word**

Leader: Rev. Steve Stewart      Preacher: Rev. Steve Stewart

The above information is correct on 19/2/2023. Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website: [www.hfchurch.org.uk](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)

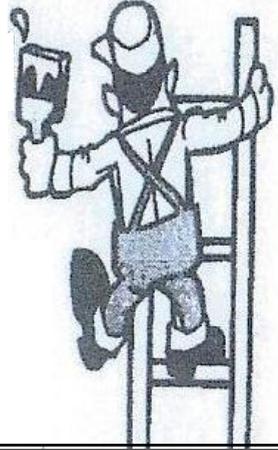
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## **LIMELIGHT DRAMA GROUP'S "THE WIZARD OF OZ"**

A big thank you to everyone who came to watch and support Limelight Drama Group's performance of Wizard of Oz that was held in St. Mary's at the end of January.

Beth Soanes & Ila Biggin with help from Denise Ball directed a fantastic show. Well done to the whole cast - Bethan Edwards, Maia McCready, Gabby Owen, Poppy Wall, Isabella Blackmore, Harri Archer, and Bethany Robinson. The proceeds of **£1111** from the ticket sales and refreshments have been donated to Helen and Douglas House Hospice, to help support local children with life-limiting and terminal conditions live their lives to the full.



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

The bells will be rung at the following times:

**Sunday 5th March 9.30am - 10.00am**

**Sunday 19th March 9.30am - 10.00am**

**Friday 24th March 6.00pm - 7.00pm**

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)

# **Church Hanborough Beer Festival**

**Saturday 4th February 2023**



Church Hanborough

Huge thanks to all who worked so hard to make the Beer Festival at St Peter and St Paul a such a great success!

We estimate that about 700 people came through the doors of St Peter and St Paul throughout the day and into the evening, and it was great to make so many (we hope and pray) fruitful connections with people from our parish and beyond. The atmosphere was lovely, & everyone I spoke to seemed to be having a really good time.

The overall profit on the day was **£2630**, which will be shared across the Benefice for the work of the churches.

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## **THE REVEREND CANON DAVID TYLER**

David Tyler (who was the Rector for the Benefice of Hanborough and Freeland from 2007 to 2020) will be collated as the next Archdeacon of Dorchester at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford on **Saturday 18th March at 6pm.**

You are most welcome to come (no tickets are necessary, just turn up) but if you are planning on coming please email Paula Bennett

**Paula.Bennett@oxford.anglican.org** to give the Cathedral an idea of number for refreshments. If you are unable to come please do



still pray for David and his family.

David has been Acting Archdeacon for Dorchester, following the retirement of Archdeacon Judy in October 2022, and served as Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester for two years prior to this. David has ministered in the diocese for over 15 years as a parish priest and area dean from which he brings a wealth of experience.

As Archdeacon of Dorchester, David will work with the Bishop of Dorchester to support and encourage clergy in their mission and ministry, and guide and advise parishes in sharing the common vision of the diocese to be a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH**

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

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

**Sunday 26th February 10am** Rev. Ian Worrall

**Sunday 5th March 10am** Rev. Charles Harris - All Age Worship

**Sunday 12th March 10am** Local Arrangement

**Sunday 19th March 10am** Jude Levermore - Mothering Sunday

**Sunday 26th March 10am** Local Arrangement

**Sunday 2nd April 10am** Rev. S. Bywater

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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**Address : Abbey Street, Eynham OX29 4HR** Phone: **01865 881613**

Website: **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.

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## **FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES**

### **Defibrillators**

We have successfully located the missing defibrillator which had been used by a member of the Ambulance service. We are fortunate in having two defibrillators located in the village which, should the need arise, will hopefully increase the chances of saving lives.



### **Botley West Solar Farm**

As representatives of the council we need to understand the views of the residents of Freeland. We encourage all residents to make their own personal views heard. In addition, if you are either opposed or supportive of the Solar Farm, please email [fayf.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:fayf.fpc@gmail.com)

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The date has now been set for the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on **Friday 21st April** when local residents are invited to attend and help to shape our community. Start time will be **7.30pm** and refreshments will be served.

### **Working Groups**

If you would like to be involved in supporting your community in any way come along to a meeting on **Friday 3rd March at 7pm** in the Village Hall where you can be involved in the four main concerns that came out of our 2022 Village Survey: Community, Sustainability, Traffic and Amenities. On this occasion we will be focusing on Community and Sustainability. All are welcome. More information on **page 27**.

### **King's Coronation**

In May there will be an additional Bank Holiday to mark the coronation of King Charles III. If you would like to be involved with helping arrange our local celebrations please email [fayf.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:fayf.fpc@gmail.com) Additionally if you could attend the meeting on Friday 3rd March it would be very much appreciated.

### **Fix My Street**

Pot holes are a continuing problem. Local residents are urged to continue reporting pot holes on "Fix My Street" (<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>). There you can report any issues to the County Council. Additionally, if you would like to become a 'Super User' that will help speed up the process of repairs then email me at [fayf.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:fayf.fpc@gmail.com) for further details.

### **New bus route**

From **Sunday 5th March**, the new Stagecoach S7 service will run the same route as 233 currently does on the Witney to Woodstock section, and then via Kidlington, Banbury Road into Oxford City Centre and Rail Station. From that date the 233/4 will only go from Witney to Buford. For more information see [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com) There is more information about the new services on **page 45**.

### **New Parish Councillor**

We were pleased to co-opt Phil Holt onto the Parish Council to serve until the next local elections in May 2024. This means that we now have a full complement of eight Councillors.

*Continued.....*

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### **Primary School Parking**

It has been drawn to our attention that parking problems along the road surrounding Freeland Primary School are becoming worse. Please be mindful when parking your cars to not block drives, park on the white lines, on bends and be aware of other road users while at drop off, and pick up times at the school.

### **Planning Applications**

All planning applications can be viewed on line on the Parish Council website at [www.freelandpc.org.uk](http://www.freelandpc.org.uk) (under Planning Tracker) or via the WODC website at <https://publicaccess.westoxon.gov.uk/online-applications/>

You can also contact the Planning Team at WODC on **01993 861420** and view the documents at Woodgreen Council Offices.

### **Applications Approved:**

#### **22/03226/HHD 3 Parklands, Freeland**

Erection of a single storey rear extension and construction of an open sided car port to front elevation.

#### **22/03287/HHD 21 Parklands, Freeland**

Erection of single, first floor and two storey extensions for Mrs S. Cooper

#### **22/03374/HHD 14 Church View, Freeland**

Single storey front and rear extension for Mr J. Major.

#### **22/02862/HHD Chalfont, 3 Wroslyn Road, Freeland**

Whole house renovation to raise roof, front and rear extensions for Mr F. Creese.

#### **22/03328/HHD 20 Church View, Freeland**

Proposed rear extension, external modernisation and internal alterations.

### **Applications Received:**

#### **23/00124/HHD Chalfont 3 Wroslyn Road**

Proposed Garage/store in rear garden for Mr F Creese

#### **23/00085/HHD 102 Wroslyn Road**

Remove conservatory & replace single storey side & rear extension for Mr & Mrs Smith

#### **23/00042/HHD 67 Wroslyn Road**

Replacement of detached garage for Mr & Mrs A Woolford.

### **Applications under consideration:**

#### **22/03356/FUL Chapel Meadow / Land East Of Wroslyn Road (opposite the Methodist Chapel)**

Development of 80 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), community shop/cafe (Use Class E), allotments and site access, plus open space, drainage, landscaping and associated engineering works. Cut off date for comments to WODC is **Tuesday 28th February.**

### **Applications refused: None**

### **Playpark**

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

Continued.....



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Continued.....

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

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 13th March 2023 at 7.30pm**, in the Newell Room.

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

If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter and have access to the internet, please have a look at the Council website where lots of useful information is held. The website can be accessed via **www.freelandpc.org.uk** You can follow us on Facebook (**@freelandpc**) or Twitter (**@freeland\_pc**). Alternatively, please contact me between the hours of **9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday - Fay Friend, Parish Clerk on 01993 357851 or email: fayf.fpc@gmail.com**

\*\*\*\*\*

**PHOTO ID REQUIRED FOR ELECTIONS FROM 4th MAY**

Residents in West Oxfordshire District will need to show photographic ID to vote in person at this year's local elections which are being held on **Thursday 4th May**.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo and the name on the ID should be the same name as appears on the Electoral Register.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at **www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate** or by completing a paper form which is available from West Oxfordshire District Council at the Woodgreen office. If you need any help with applying for the free ID, or want to request an application form, contact the electoral services team on **01993 861410**.

More information is available on the West Oxfordshire District Council website (**www.westoxon.gov.uk**), including details of how to apply for the free ID. Anyone not able to visit the Council website, or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online, is being encouraged to contact the Council as soon as possible and no later than the **5pm** deadline on **Wednesday 25 April**.

Anyone who wants to have their say in the elections this May must also be registered to vote. If you aren't already registered it only takes five minutes to register online at **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**. Voters wishing to apply to their council for free ID should first make sure they are registered to vote.

The changes do not affect postal votes but do affect proxy voters who will be required to show their own valid ID when voting on behalf of someone else.

<b>THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET CO-OPERATIVE</b>			
Witney	08.30 - 13.30	Fri 24 Feb	Fri 24 March
Woodstock	08.30 - 13.00	Sat 4 & 18 March	Sat 1 & 15 April
Details of other Farmers' Markets at <b>www.tvfm.org.uk 01235 227266</b>			





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## **SPITFIRE HOMES**

On Wednesday 15th February a public meeting was held in the Village Hall at which Spitfire Homes presented their proposals for the development of Chapel Meadow, on the corner of Wroslyn Road and Pigeon House Lane. This was followed by a lengthy Q&A session at which local residents were able to ask their questions. Many of these were answered, to a greater or lesser extent at the time, but others were taken away with the promise that they would be looked into with the answers being provided to the Parish Council. We will disseminate this information when it is received.

West Oxfordshire District Council has extended the deadline for comments on Spitfire's proposals to **Tuesday 28th February**. Anyone wishing to make a comment should go to the WODC website (using application no. **22/03356/FUL**) <https://publicaccess.westoxon.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Roger Faulkner  
Chair, Freeland Parish Council

\*\*\*\*\*



### **1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP**

You won't believe what we've been doing lately!

Our **Scouts** had an amazing opportunity to go scuba diving. They were taught by fully qualified scuba instructors from Oyster Diving, during a session at Bloxham School pool. Divided into two groups, the Scouts had a brilliant time learning how to use the scuba equipment and putting their new skills to use in the swimming pool. This isn't the only exciting activity that Scouts have been lucky enough to try; for the past two years they have also taken to the skies by trying gliding, and later this year they will have the chance to try parascending. Huge thanks to Scouts Leader Paul for arranging these awesome opportunities.

Meanwhile, our **Explorers** continue to plan and implement their own programme of activities, under the guidance of their dedicated leadership team. Recently they tried their hand at pioneering, which involved constructing an actual bridge!

**Cubs** had an exciting trip to Rutherford Appleton Laboratory where they participated in a variety of stargazing activities. The lab is located on the Harwell Campus and provides youth education programmes, so that children can start to explore the mysteries of the universe. On another evening, Cubs tried making their own bird feeders and took part in a bird population count for the RSPB.

Our youngest group, **Beavers**, got creative with junk modelling, tasted foods from around the world, and covered themselves in fake wounds for a session all about first aid, which was led by a real paramedic. The fake wounds looked pretty horrific, but no-one was harmed!

Thank you to all our volunteer leaders and helpers, without whom none of our groups would be able to do these amazing activities. To get involved in our wonderful Scouting community please contact Steve, our Group Scout Leader, via email [gsl@hfscouting.org.uk](mailto:gsl@hfscouting.org.uk) to find out more.

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

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## **FREELAND WI**

At our February meeting we voted on the four resolutions which have been put forward for the national WI Annual Meeting later in the year. The four resolutions which made it to the shortlist were:

1. Save our water - every drop matters
2. Women to women - turning over a new leaf in the lives of women tea workers
3. Online gambling harm - time for action
4. Clean rivers for people and wildlife

The resolution which received the most votes from Freeland WI was clean rivers for people and wildlife. We now wait to see which resolution receives the most votes nationally and makes the annual meeting.

The second part of our evening saw us once again deploying our artistic skills, to make new individual name badges, as the current ones have been in use for eight years, since our WI was reformed. Members were able to choose from a range of materials and produced a wonderful variety of designs. Who says WI is all jam and Jerusalem? A bit of bling was definitely evident in our finished badges, which were then made into necklaces by threading them onto a cord.

At this month's meeting on **Monday 13th March** we will enjoy a visit from Willow Crossley a renowned florist, author and designer, who happens to be fairly local to Freeland. She is passionate about living life well, in balance with nature whilst embracing the seasons. Her client list includes The Royal Family, Dior, Chanel and Jo Malone. We look forward to seeing her inspiring floral arrangements and using her ideas to have a go at home.

This year we will continue to support the Witney food bank at our meetings; our donations are delivered by one of our members who volunteers there.

Freeland WI normally meet on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall, starting at **7.45pm** and finishing around **10pm**. Our meetings usually consist of an activity or speaker, a raffle and refreshments. We always look forward to welcoming visitors and new members at our meetings. If you have been thinking about joining WI now could be the time to give us a try. We are a varied group with a wide range of interests. One trait that unites us is that we are friendly and welcoming to visitors. Please contact our secretary Rosie if you would like to discuss joining us for a trial session or to become a member. We would love you to join us.

Information from earlier years is available on our website:

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

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

Aileen Tattam - Freeland WI President



# COTSWOLD GARDEN DESIGNER



- Looking to improve your outside space but stuck for ideas on how to make the most of it?
- Want somewhere to entertain?
- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?

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



## CONTACT LORRAINE:

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

07516262560

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

## Part Time Playworker Required.

The Breakfast and After School Club is now open at Freeland Primary School.

We are looking for a caring, reliable part time member of staff to work at the Breakfast Club, 5 sessions a week. You don't have to be qualified as we train all our staff to a high level, and you will be given all the support you need.

If you are engaging, enthusiastic and have a love of working with children then please get in touch.

Vicky Hickman

Hours from 7.30am – 8.45am Monday-Friday, term time only.  
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Salary dependent 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: 07887 711454**

**Email: [info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk](mailto:info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk)**

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

# FARMERS' MARKET

## at the Village Hall Car Park

**SUNDAY 26th FEBRUARY 10am - 1pm**

Please pop down to show your support for the stallholders  
and to check out their products.



**We're on Facebook: Freeland Farmers' Market**

**The next Market will be on Sunday 26th March**

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much to everyone who sent me good wishes over the last few months - it has meant a lot.

It has been a difficult time with three back operations, but hopefully I'm well on the mend now, looking forward to the Spring and doing some walking.

Thank you once again.

Alison Faulkner

## **FREELAND COMMUNITY BUSTIMETABLE**

### **EVERY THURSDAY - AVAILABLE TO ALL**

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

#### **Outbound pickup:**

Freeland Village Hall ----- 10.00 am

Little Free Library – 138 Wroslyn Rd ----- 10.05 am

Nash Lane ----- 10.05 am

Freeland Primary School ----- 10.05 am

#### **With drop off at:**

Waitrose car park, Witney

Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney

#### **Return pickup:**

Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney ----- 12.30 pm

Waitrose car park, Witney----- 12.40 pm

**With drop off** by request anywhere along Wroslyn Road

#### **INFORMATION**

For more information or to volunteer as a driver or helper please contact:

Clr. Alaa Al-Yousuf – Bridleway End, The Green, Freeland OX29 8AP

**T: 01993 880689 M: 07768 898914 E: [alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk)**

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**Baking each Friday  
in March (3, 10, 17,  
24, 31).**

**Final bake day 31  
March 2023**

### **News from the Bakehouse**

The bakehouse will be stopping this Easter, as we are moving away from Freeland in the Spring. We have enjoyed baking for the past three years and have felt incredibly well supported by the village – thank you!

The bakehouse was conceived before the pandemic, operated throughout lockdowns and has a valued partnership with the pub resulting in the Friday morning Yeoman Café.

We may take the micro-bakery to our new home in Blagdon, North Somerset, but we are very open to handing the “baton”, or “ficelle” onto a Freelander to enable Friday bread to continue. Please do come and chat to us in March if you think that might be you. We would work with you to help pass on the operation – pass on equipment, recipes, and general know-how. The operation could be increased or decreased depending on your capacity.

We look forward to baking throughout March.

With best regards,

Tom and Alice Harden

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

Contact us at  
[info@kneadbakehouse.co.uk](mailto:info@kneadbakehouse.co.uk)



Real bread made with organic flours baked Fridays in Freeland.

# Working Towards a Resilient Freeland

Friday 3 March, 7-8.30pm, Freeland Village Hall

Our village survey showed residents shared 4 concerns:

- **COMMUNITY**: cohesion, social opportunities & loneliness
- **SUSTAINABILITY**: 'green' issues, climate & biodiversity
- **TRAFFIC**: transport, cycling, traffic volume & speed
- **AMENITIES**: shops & facilities in Freeland

Interested in what we can achieve together?



Then come to our first working group meeting on **COMMUNITY & SUSTAINABILITY**

Contact Amy for more info.

07917 773756 or

[amyj-fpc@outlook.com](mailto:amyj-fpc@outlook.com)

 Freeland Parish Council



# Freeland House & The Lodge



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

Both homes offer a variety of care services including nursing, residential, respite, dementia, convalescent and palliative care.

Freeland House offers a comfortable, homely and welcoming atmosphere in contrast to The Lodge, which is a unique, modern 45 bedded purpose-built extension located beside Freeland House. Our individually designed person-centred care packages offer the highest quality of care.



*So much to look forward to...*



Freeland House & The Lodge, Wroslyn Road, Freeland, Nr Witney OX29 8AH  
tel: 01993 881258 | email: [manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk](mailto:manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk)

## **WORRIED ABOUT HEATING BILLS?**

Are you worried about your heating bills this winter? Or do you know a neighbour or relative who lives in the Ancient Parish of Eynsham, which includes **Freeland**, who is struggling to make ends meet?

Every winter, Eynsham Consolidated Charity provides a winter fuel grant to local residents who are in need of financial help.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THE UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS** **5/2/2023**

This month's remarkable ramble with lovely sunny blue skies is hidden in this write up.

It took us on a journey of discovery, down the village, past the houses and the growers, where you can remember. Round the bend taking in the hole (so big and sort of square it is). Then up to the old military hospital's drive, through where there is bark (but not from dogs), out and past the dung heap, through the flat area that's everywhere (taking in the 'van in the woods' mystery). Continue over two grassy knolls (lovely cake at this point), down a muddy lane (could have been near a hill or the other part of a Bailey castle), over the road from the big smoke past a surgery (perhaps), round the corner (via some grandchildren), creeping stealthily past back gardens and moving upwards over two more farmers' favourites. Finishing up through a small version of the above (think bark) and out in to the back of the windy part of the village.....or did it??



Next month's local Ramble will be on **Sunday 5th March at 10am** from the bus shelter opposite the Yeoman. **All are welcome to join us.**

Lemony Snicket

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FREELAND CRAFT CLUB**

Last month's meetings explored the art of decoupage covering different boxes with small pieces of coloured paper to change their appearance, and we were very pleased with the variety of results.

Next we will be continuing with decoupage by making some 3-D greeting cards.

Would you like to meet some new friends from the village and share a chat and some "crafty" time with them?.

We meet each **Wednesday** from **2.00pm to 4.00pm** in the Newell Room of the Village Hall and there is usually a subscription of **£1** per meeting.

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



Margaret Wright



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## **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS**

A box or kiosk with a telephone inside and 'the Piper' herald on the outside. Communication in a different age. Telephone removed and shelves added. Repurposed, the kiosk continues the business of communication and how! So many ways the people of Freeland still use this box to communicate with each other:



1. In top place, yes as the written rather than the spoken word, the books themselves - generously donated. And in what variety. All genres of fiction appear here, then add in autobiographies, self-help guidance, theology to suit all age groups, sports instructions, comics, cook-book and DIY manuals, even, to my mind very (very) dry and specialised academic books have all found their way to these shelves. Publication dates? Oh some easily at least a hundred years old and others, brand new. Communications across time and cultures.

2. Books again. So many donations and at the same time so many are collected. The other side of the communication exchange, pick up something new to you. Its free, no paperwork, no timetable for return.

3. Instructions. You don't have to give a book to take one or, perhaps the grumpy but required, communications: reminders to users. Please close the storage box lids and don't leave donations on the floor. It is a shame when the weather spoils donations if everything is left to the elements.

4. Chance chats. That phone box is a busy place. Chances are while you drop off a book someone else is around and looking to take something away. Recommendations and offers of help to survey the shelves often happen there, along with friendly catch-up chat. A regular communication hub.

5. And while on news. Don't forget World Book Day Friday 3rd March. The shelves have a constant renewal of children's books and picture books to share and talk about. Sharing communication through books from the youngest age.

Jenny, a volunteer for Little Free Library, with Sue, Fi, Caroline and Matthew)

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Tuesday 7th March 2023** Grahame Kew will be giving a talk about the history of Minster Lovell. Although it is now in ruins, Minster Lovell has a long and interesting history. Come and find out more at Grahame's talk.

We meet at **7.30pm** in North Leigh Memorial Hall **OX29 6SA**, members **£18** per year, visitors **£4** per talk. Further details are available from Diana Power

**01993 882301** or Robert Kyte at **kyterobert@gmail.com** and **01993 880368**.

The programme up to May is as follows:

**Tuesday 4th April**      Oxford's Penicillin: the lost story of  
the development of Penicillin

Marie-Louise Kerr

**Tuesday 2nd May**      Easter Island's history

Paul Barnett

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City & Guilds



## **FIRST AND LAST MILE**

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The **411** will take you to and from the Freeland Turn where you can catch the new **Stagecoach S7** service to **Witney, Hanborough Station, Woodstock, Kidlington, Oxford Parkway and Oxford**; or to **Eynsham** to catch the **Stagecoach S1** to **Oxford and Witney**. **Bus passes accepted.** [www.firstandlastmile.org.uk](http://www.firstandlastmile.org.uk)



We still need paid and volunteer drivers or volunteers to help with fundraising, social media, etc. If you can help: **07584 927 050** or [info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com](mailto:info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com)

**New Timetable, effective 3rd JANUARY 2023** Services run **Mon-Fri only**  
**Service 411 Eynsham to Hanborough via Freeland** **NOT Bank Holidays**

Eynsham Church	8:45	10:30	12:30	14:30	17:05
Eynsham, Surgery	8:49	10:34	12:34	14:34	17:09
Freeland, Broadmarsh Lane *	8:55	10:40	12:40	14:40	17:15
Long Hanborough, New Road	9:00	10:45	12:45	14:45	17:20
Church Hanborough	9:05	10:50	12:50	↓	17:25
Hanborough Station (arr)	9:10	10:55	12:55	14:50	17:30

**Service 411 Hanborough to Eynsham via Freeland**

Hanborough Station (dep)	9:10	11:05	13:05	14:50	17:35
Long Hanborough, New Road	9:15	11:10	13:10	↓	17:40
Freeland, Broadmarsh Lane *	9:19	11:14	13:14	↓	17:44
Bartholomew School				15:15	
Eynsham, Surgery	9:25	11:20	13:20		17:50
Eynsham, Church	9:29	11:29	13:29		18:00

## **RAIL CONNECTION TIMINGS**

### **FREELAND / HANBOROUGH / OXFORD & return**

Freeland, Broadmarsh Lane*	<b>08.55</b>	<b>10.40</b>	<b>12.40</b>	<b>14.40</b>
Hanborough Station	<b>09.10</b>	<b>10.55</b>	<b>12.55</b>	<b>14.50</b>
Connects to:	∨	∨	∨	∨
Hanborough Station	<b>09.18</b>	<b>11.19</b>	<b>13.20</b>	<b>15.17</b>
Oxford Station	<b>09.30</b>	<b>11.29</b>	<b>13.30</b>	<b>15.27</b>

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Oxford Station	<b>10.45</b>	<b>12.46</b>	<b>17.22</b>
Hanborough Station	<b>10.54</b>	<b>12.54</b>	<b>17.32</b>
Connects to:	∨	∨	∨
Hanborough Station	<b>11.05</b>	<b>13.05</b>	<b>17.35</b>
Freeland, Broadmarsh Lane*	<b>11.14</b>	<b>13.14</b>	<b>17.44</b>

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



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[www.oxfordshirepestcontrol.uk](http://www.oxfordshirepestcontrol.uk)



## Freeland Pre-school

Freeland Partnership Foundation Stage Unit,  
Freeland CE Primary School, Parklands,  
Freeland, Witney **OX29 8HX**

Tel: **01993 882945**

Email: [freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk)

Web site: [www.freelandpreschool.org](http://www.freelandpreschool.org)

Freeland Pre-school is a Registered Charity  
(No: 1015592)

## Early Years Practitioner Required

### Part time hours

**Level 3 or level 2 Childcare qualifications essential**

**The position is available immediately and is a permanent position**

An exciting opportunity to join us and be part of our small, nurturing team has opened up. This is an excellent role for an Early Years Level 3 practitioner who would like to take the next steps towards developing their skills in wellbeing and compassionate caregiving. We offer a spacious inside area with a large garden.

We have a well-established and qualified team of supportive colleagues. The person we are looking for will be enthusiastic, caring and have the well-being and involvement of the children and their families at the heart of their practice.

They will need sound knowledge of the EYFS and child development.

**Please contact Jess on [freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk) for more details and an application form.**

**We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment. Candidates will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and will have to attend safeguarding training.**

Pay dependent on qualifications and experience, this will be discussed at interview.

## **SOLAR FARMS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

In 2022 the reality of the climate crisis was starkly demonstrated here in the UK, when temperature records were smashed as we exceeded 40° C for the first time. It is clear to all who care to look that the climate emergency requires urgent action. However, this is not the only existential emergency facing humanity, for concurrently we're at the start of what scientists are calling the sixth mass extinction. Animals are going extinct at an alarming rate, hundreds of times above the background rate. England is at the centre of this emergency, having been classified one of the most biodiversity depleted countries in the world.

It is under the auspices of these twin emergencies that we find ourselves facing the prospect of a huge solar farm being built on our doorstep. It is not surprising that even the green groups have been in a quandary about whether to support it or not.

There can be no doubt about the need to move to lower carbon energy as rapidly as possible. With nuclear being too slow to install, the most suitable technologies are either wind, solar, tidal or hydroelectric. With its relatively sheltered southerly location, and the lack of major rivers, solar is the obvious choice for Oxfordshire. "*But shouldn't we be putting the panels on roofs not fields?*", I hear you say?" The reality of the situation is we need both. Look around you at the amount of energy we consume; computers, smart phones, multiple TV's, central heating, cars, and extensive travel. Fossil fuels have allowed us to build a civilisation addicted to energy. With the burning of fossil fuels so damaging to the climate we need to find alternative sources of energy, and fast. The accessibility of a high-power grid connection only supports the argument for a large renewable project within this area.

But what of the effects of a solar farm on local wildlife? Fortunately, there are multiple studies within Europe (and in fact in Oxfordshire) looking at these impacts. Despite fears that solar farms can have a negative impact on biodiversity and the environment it had been shown that the opposite is true, and that in agricultural landscapes such as ours a properly managed solar farm has the potential to regenerate the land and provide a refuge for wildlife, whilst improving carbon storage and regulating climate. For example, a reduction in grazing animals and the lack of fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides inherent within a well-managed solar farm creates the opportunity for an increase in wildflower numbers, supporting increased invertebrates and pollinator biodiversity, leading to an increase in bird numbers and diversity.

Questions must be asked about the role of community engagement within this project. This solar farm should have been at least partially community owned, allowing the profits made to flow back into the community, supporting projects like local buses and community gardens. Unfortunately, we have not achieved that yet (although I know people are pushing hard for this). Moreover, we must balance people's feelings for loss of place should this project progress, with the mental anguish the climate crisis is causing now to us, our children and our grandchildren.

When thinking about this project I would like to take you back to the day that 40° C was broken for the first time in the UK. Ben Rich is a BBC weather presenter and meteorologist. "In my training, I was led to believe that 40° C in the UK was nigh on impossible" He found himself experiencing a mix of emotions. *Continued.....*

*Continued.....*

“The excitement of the story, how busy we were at work, but also that sense of real doom.” Switching channels, the ITV meteorologist Laura Tobin, who does the weather bulletins on Good Morning Britain. “I remember when I did my first bulletin on that Tuesday morning, I forecast that we would break 40° C. Then when I sat down and chatted to my producer, I had tears in my eyes. Something I had thought would be a reality in the future was a reality that day.”

Whether you think it solar farm is an abomination or a glittering lake of hope, the evidence is clear. A well-managed solar farm can bring multiple benefits to the natural world of which we are a part. If this project goes ahead, we as a community needs to make sure that these biodiversity opportunities are being maximised.

In the writing of this article all the information presented has been taken from peer reviewed scientific papers. Any organisation or individual is welcome to contact me for more information on the sources. I am an M.Sc. Student at the Centre for Alternative Technology studying Sustainability and Behavioural change.

Christian Silk [silk43@btinternet.com](mailto:silk43@btinternet.com) or 07387 413 323.

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## **COMBE MILL, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe OX29 8ET**

This month, Combe Mill will be opening again to welcome all the visitors to our late 19th Century Grade II Listed Building, Water & Steam Powered Water Mill, which in its day was the workshop to Blenheim Palace estate.



On the 3rd Sunday of each month right through to October our **‘IN STEAM’** events are accompanied by a themed event. Our first **‘IN STEAM’** event is **Sunday 19th March**, and is about **S.T.E.M** (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). Bring the family along, children have **FREE** entry. There will be lots to do with some very interesting items to see. In the Pattern Shop you can view the artefacts and machinery used years ago, all in working order and in use today. You might just be able to make a poker, see items displayed in the gift shop made by our very own volunteers, small & medium size horse shoes with hanging ribbons are the latest speciality. BBQ, Tea Room, Gift Shop and Tombola will all be open including the Picnic Area by the River Evenlode.

The March event will be supported by a **SPRING MARKET**, come take a look around and support the local businesses, this is a new venture for us. Stall holders please contact [combemill@talktalk.net](mailto:combemill@talktalk.net) if you would like an **OUTSIDE STALL PITCH** with your own Gazebo.

On any **Wednesday** if you are passing **COMBE MILL** call in. Our very own Tea Room will be open, selling Hot Soup with Baguettes, Rolls, Scones, Tea & Coffee including soft drinks, from **10.30am to 3.00pm**. You can also take a self-guided tour, volunteers will be on hand to welcome you & talk to you about our fantastic Combe Mill.

Ever thought of volunteering? To continue in your profession, enhance and experience what can be offered at Combe Mill, call in, have a look round, we need more volunteers. **Free Parking and DOGS most welcome.** Website [combemill.org](http://combemill.org)

## **FREELAND GARDENING CLUB**

The speaker for our meeting on **Monday 27th February at 7.30pm** in Freeland Hall had to be changed because Jan Lambourn no longer works at The Cotswold Wildlife Park (the subject of her talk). Instead a new speaker, Caroline Sheldrick will inform us about 'Medicinal Herbs'.

A rather unusual topic of 'Crayfish on the Lawn' is the subject of the meeting on **Monday 27th March** (same time and venue as above) by another new speaker Joff Elphick. We have no idea what this will be about and look forward to finding out.

Spring bulbs are popping up in many places, as are gardens with special snowdrop displays. Check on the internet for venues.

The Anniversary Hornbeam tree planted on the Playing Field for the Club's 20th Anniversary is growing well and will be a delight for many years.

There is a Bring and Buy Plant and Garden Item Sale at all our meetings. Bring any of your excess plants for sale. Please take any unsold plants and Items home.

Visitors at **£4** a meeting and new members very welcome to our friendly Club.

For further information about the Gardening Club, please contact Terry Jones at **davidjones30@talktalk.net**

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)

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**Freeland District Girlguiding covers the villages of Freeland, Long Hanborough & North Leigh.**

Our units have had a great first term – **Brownies** took over running one of the meetings choosing to wear PJ's, bring board games along to enjoy and have the leaders cook them some chips to enjoy too! **Rainbows** also had a virtual sleep over, making a den to sleep in (although not much sleeping went on!), fun with making shadow puppets and storytime.

Looking ahead to the next term we are pleased that we have Richard coming in (a local paramedic) to help us run first aid courses in the units, not only to earn badges but to hopefully include helping the girls to have the confidence to use a defibrillator. The end of term brings promise night, badge awards and of course some sort of Easter fun.

Although there are currently waiting lists for Rainbows and Brownies, if you are interested in registering your daughter to join guiding for the first time, then please visit **<https://enquiry.girlguiding.org.uk/>** and we will be in contact with you.

Finally, we cannot run our units without adult volunteers so if you are interested in helping in any of our units again please do contact us at:

**freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com**

Don't forget...

# Freeland Annual Parish Meeting

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Friday 21 April, 7.30–10pm  
Freeland Village Hall  
*Refreshments served*

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 Freeland  
Parish  
Council

## **FREELAND CRICKET CLUB**

Wow, wow, wow!

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Crowdfunder Campaign to raise money to support us to buy a bowling machine and new sight screens. To date we have raised **£1,469**, which is an amazing amount. The Club's committee will make a decision on what we will use these funds to purchase, but we have already identified a bowling machine.



The coaching team requires additional support to run the sessions we need for the Children and Women's teams. The coaching team has been reduced by 2 and neither John nor myself will be available as much because of increased working commitments. Therefore, we need more coaching assistants to support us. We can offer training, support and courses. Please let me or Rich Borrill know your availability. This is a stark message but we have nearly 80 children playing each week and we cannot offer them the coaching they need without help. The last thing we want to do is reduce the offer but cricket is a potentially dangerous game so we need to have a minimum of 4 adults available for coaching sessions.

The indoor training programme has now been finalised after multiple attempts to find venues at times which maximise the availability for all the players.

We have split the sessions into Under 11s, Under 13s and a combined one for Under 15s and all adult players.

The **Under 11s & Under 13s** will train at Bartholomew School gym from **5.30 to 6.30pm**  
**Under 11s** will train on the following Wednesday evenings **1st, 15th & 29th March**.  
**Under 13s** will train on the following Wednesday evenings **8th, 22nd March and 5th April**.

The **Under 15s** and **Adults** will train on Monday evenings at the Windrush Leisure Centre, starting on **Monday 6th March**, and running on the **13th, 20th and 27th March, from 8.30 to 9.30 pm**.

The outdoor coaching nights will be agreed once we are more aware of the availability of coaches.

The season is only 10 weeks away so expect to see lots of activity on the field, with Billy and me working on the cricket pitch and building the new nets.

You may have seen that Mitch Pinkney has developed Cups of Calm, to support young people with anxiety, stress and feeling overwhelmed. Mitch's son played for the Club for a few years, so we will be teaming up and offering the coaches some tools to use in training sessions, so children feel more supported, happy and safe in all of their environments.

You may have also heard that our friends at Eynsham CC had their cricket field tractor stolen. I was able to develop a Crowdfunder page for them and they have raised just under **£6,000** to replace their tractor. This will enable them to buy a replacement second hand tractor in time for the new season. This is a great example of local clubs, who are rivals on the pitch, being able to support each other in order to get the game on.

The next Cricket Club Quiz in the Yeoman will be held on **Weds 15th March at 8pm**

Simon Brown - Chair - Freeland Cricket Club

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

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

**Facebook: Freeland Cricket Club**

**QUIZ NIGHT** ???

2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

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

Six rounds including a photo round  
General knowledge, problem solving & bonus round. CASH PRIZE!  
**£3.00 per person // Max 6 per team**

**WEDNESDAY 15th March at 8.00pm**  
**in the Oxfordshire Yeoman**

**FREELAND WINE CLUB**

Freeland and other local residents are very welcome. For details and to register for invites, please email [FreelandWineClub@gmail.com](mailto:FreelandWineClub@gmail.com)

Wine Club dates for the rest of 2023 are:

- Friday 31st March**
- Friday 19th May**
- Friday 28th July**
- Friday 29th September**
- Friday 24th November**



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**BRIDEWELL GARDENS**

Collecting winter greenery for wreath making, visiting local Christmas markets, taking frosty walks, Bridewell's seasons are very marked, each with opportunities for trying something new, learning, creating, sharing time with others.

The walled garden is a setting for connecting with people, building a sense of community, growing self-confidence, self-compassion, cultivating hope and resilience.

We can't wait to share the gardens with friends and supporters again in 2023. See below for a list of dates for your diary!

Every donation big and small makes a very real difference to a small charity like Bridewell - helping us to work alongside people who are rebuilding their lives, managing recovery and finding hope for the future. *"I can't thank Bridewell enough for helping me to find myself and realise what a wonderful place that is."*

If you want to talk to someone at Bridewell about making a donation or leaving a gift in your will, get in touch with Rachel at: [rachel@bridewellgardens.org](mailto:rachel@bridewellgardens.org) or phone: **01993 259058** [www.bridewellgardens.co.uk](http://www.bridewellgardens.co.uk) **We're on Facebook.**

- Make sure you don't miss the Bridewell Plant Sale or Open Days in 2023.**
- Plant Sale - Saturday 29th April**                      **Open Day - Sunday 21st May**
- Open Day - Sunday 18th June**                      **Open Day - Sunday 16th July**
- Open Day - Sunday 10th September**

**FREELAND TEDDY GIRLS**

# **SPRING FAYRE**

**SATURDAY 15th APRIL**

**FREELAND VILLAGE HALL**

**LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS IN THE APRIL GRAPEVINE**

## **FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB**

We have finally seen some football! The **Firsts** have had a tough few games losing to Hailey, Enstone and Charlbury. This sees them sitting in 5th place, with only 5 games left to play.

The **Reserves** have moved up to 8th with a great month, winning 3 and losing one. The first was a 2-1 win against Faringdon. They then beat a strong Hailey 3-2, with a last minute winner.

The final game was a hard fought 3-1 victory against Brize Norton.

The **Under 16s** have had an unbeaten start to the month winning 3 games and drawing one, scoring 14 goals in the process.

### **Upcoming fixtures:**

#### **Firsts:**

**Saturday 11th March** - Home to Enstone

**Saturday 25th March** - Home to Stonesfield

**Saturday 8th April** - Home to Charlbury

**Wednesday 12th April** - Home to Enstone **18.30 KO**

#### **Reserves:**

**Saturday 4th March** - Home to Spartan

**Saturday 11th March** - Away to Leafield

**Saturday 25th March** - Home to Milton **15.30 KO**

**Saturday 1st April** - Away to Hailey



Ben Symonds

The **Under 16s** Manager is Stuart McNaughton - [stu.mac@aol.com](mailto:stu.mac@aol.com)

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

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

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

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

## **WITNEY MUSIC SOCIETY**

The final concert of Witney Music Society's 2022-23 season on **Friday 10th March** is being given by Ensemble Mirage, a sextet comprising string quartet plus clarinet and piano. The programme includes Mozart's Clarinet Quintet and also features works by Prokofiev, Copland and Fibich.

The concert starts at **7.30pm** at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Tickets (**£15, £1 for under 19s**) are available in advance online or at the door from **7pm**. For more information, please telephone **01993 898020** or visit the Witney Music Society website **[www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)**

## **ALUMINIUM CAN COLLECTION**

Just a quick update to say that we now have a small manual can crusher next to the galvanised bin, to help you get those cans extra flat (helps me transport them easier!).

Freeland Primary School have been very encouraging towards the can collection and I hope to update that there will be an extra can collection bin location soon, which may be more convenient for busy parents and children. The Primary School have eco councillors in each year group and hopefully they will be able to get the word out to the rest of the school.

I will be doing another can drop in the very near future so please do bring any bags of cans you may have hiding anywhere! Thank you for your continued support.

As always, 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](mailto:andre_woodward@yahoo.co.uk)**

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## **FREELAND SPEEDWATCH**

Our Speedwatch team have continued to be very active throughout the winter often braving very cold and windy conditions. A big "thank you" to each one of them.

The message to reduce speeds through the village is getting through in some instances but sadly not in others. In a recent communication from Thames Valley Police they confirmed that in the last year the 225 Speedwatch Groups have monitored 322,941 vehicles and sent 34,822 letters to the registered owners of offending vehicles. In addition, they have reported 833 drivers to the DVLA for driving an untaxed vehicle. On the positive side 96.04% of those reported for a first offence have not re-offended.

We will continue to operate our Speedwatch sessions on various days of the week at different times and at different locations so if residents do not wish to become part of the statistics - and face the consequences - keep to the speed limit!

Roger Faulkner, Co-ordinator - Freeland Speedwatch



## **YOUR 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX BILL EXPLAINED**

Residents should receive their new Council Tax Bills around mid-March for the year starting on 1st April. 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 one-third less while that for Band H is double. In Freeland the tax for Band D will be **£2,206** shared as follows: **OCC 78.6%, TVPA 11.6%, WODC 5.4% and FPC 4.4%**. The increase on the current year is **£102.40 or 4.9%** and this comprises **£82.40 to OCC, £15 to TVPA and £5 to WODC**.

FPC has kept its tax unchanged at **£96.56**. Its Precept for 2023/24 is **£68,870**; a rise of just **£540**. Slightly over **40%** of the Precept will be for the Village Hall loan instalment and the rest for maintaining village facilities and other overheads. The last instalment of the loan is due in 2035 while that for the sports changing rooms and Newell Room was made in December 2022. You will be able to find out more at the Annual Parish Meeting on **Friday 21st April**.

WODC's finances are on an unsustainable path. The budget for the coming year 2023/24 authorises a 10% increase in the cost of services (mostly wages and energy) to £16m because of inflation, weak cost controls and growth in non-core bureaucracy which will be an on-going drain on resources. This comes after the budget authorisation in the current year that is about to end has been exceeded by 12% due to higher-than-expected inflation in pay and energy prices. Tough choices matter here. The 2022/23 budget was set with a surplus to cover such risks so I don't think the 2023/24 budget is prudent. The Council is now on a path to a financial cliff-edge unless it changes direction and this warning appears in all financial reports. So, the administration will meet in early summer to consider various options. All Council-set fees and charges have already been raised substantially despite the pain this will cause to families and businesses but there could be more to come.

The OCC 5% increase in its tax is the maximum allowed without a referendum. It includes a special 3% charge for Adult Social Care and, together with Children's Social Care and Education (after government grants), these account for more than 70% of spending. The rest is spread very thinly on highways, public health, waste disposal, fire, libraries, etc. Clearly, this is unsustainable. During these straitened times, it is more important than ever to be prudent guardians of taxpayers' money and deliver services at value-for-money!

Dr Alaa Al-Yousuf – District Councillor

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

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## **FREELAND PHOTO GROUP**

Freeland Photo Group meetings take place virtually, on the first and third Tuesday of the month, at **7.30pm**. Meeting in March will be on **Tuesday 7th and 21st**. Please contact Paul Sayer at **[paul.pshml@gmail.com](mailto:paul.pshml@gmail.com)** for details of the virtual meetings and the programme.

# BURFORD ORCHESTRA

Presents

## A Spring Concert

**Beethoven**  
Egmont Overture

**Mozart**  
Oboe Concerto  
(Soloist Andrew Gray)

**Sibelius**  
Symphony No. 2

Conductor Rhian Frankcom

**7.30pm, Saturday 25 March 2023**

Venue: St Mary's Church, Witney  
Tickets: £9, U16s £1, available in advance  
from TicketSource via the QR code  
Email: [info@burfordorchestra.org.uk](mailto:info@burfordorchestra.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01993 883490 for more information



# **MAJOR CHANGES TO STAGECOACH BUS SERVICES**

## **From Sunday 5th March the new S7 service & updates to 233**

### **Route 233 & H2S (including newly named 234 route)**

**233:** Witney – Carterton – Burford

**234:** Witney - Burford

The existing **233** route between Woodstock and Witney will now run as route **S7** (see below for details).

The **233** will now operate between Witney, Carterton and Burford with some improvements.

Journeys which continue direct to Burford (excluding Carterton) will be renumbered **234**, making this route distinction clearer for our customers .

There have been some wider changes to the timetable to improve punctuality but buses will continue to run between Witney and Burford up to every 30 minutes.

Buses from Burford will enter Witney town centre via Welch Way and High Street to Market Square, to maintain links to shops, businesses, Witney Hospital, Library and College.

Journeys from Witney will continue to depart from Market Square and run along Corn Street.

Service **H2S** will now run via Town Centre to better coordinate school buses to Burford School.

View the **233/234/H2** timetable, valid from **5th March**, on [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com) or via this link: [https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford\\_Timetables/temp/233\\_234\\_050323.pdf](https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford_Timetables/temp/233_234_050323.pdf)

### **Route 7 / S7 & S3**

**S7:** Oxford – Woodstock - Witney

**S3:** Oxford – Woodstock – Charlbury/Chipping Norton

Working with our new partners at Estelle Manor (previously called Eynsham Hall), near North Leigh, **service 7** will now be renumbered **S7**, with a change to the route in order to introduce new links across Oxfordshire.

#### **Between Woodstock and Witney:**

From Woodstock, the **S7** will now run the current route of the **233** route to Witney via North Leigh. School trips to Woodstock School will still run.

The **S7** will finish in Witney. This creates new links between Oxford, Oxford Parkway (main road), Woodstock, Long Hanborough, The Freeland Turn on the A4095, Estelle Manor (main road), North Leigh and Witney.

#### **Between Oxford and Woodstock:**

Route **S7** will run the current **7** route between Oxford and Woodstock, via Banbury Road and Oxford Airport. The **S7** will stop on the Banbury Road but will not go into **Oxford Parkway** with routes 2 and 2A now serving Oxford Parkway Park & Ride. The **S3** will continue to run up to every 30 minutes between Oxford and Woodstock at revised times.

The Oxford City Centre route has been standardised on all trips on routes **S3** and **S7**. Buses to Woodstock will now depart from the same stops on both routes. *Continued.....*



Continued.....

Buses will serve Oxford Rail Station, Park End St, George St, and Magdalen St in both directions.

Up to four buses an hour will operate between Oxford and Woodstock, covered by the **S3** and **S7**.

View the **S7** timetable, valid from **5th March**, on [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com) or via this link: [https://tiscn-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford\\_Timetables/temp/S7\\_050323.pdf](https://tiscn-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/Oxford_Timetables/temp/S7_050323.pdf)

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## **EYNHAM MEDICAL GROUP - News and Updates**

### **Extreme Winter Pressures:**

As you will all be aware, the NHS has been experiencing significant demand over the past few months. We are no exception. A number of GP practices locally are on red alert already, meaning they make all patients call **111** for an appointment. This has been caused by a combination of rising levels of respiratory infections (including Covid, influenza, and RSV).

We also have a large number of patients on long hospital waiting lists who need extra care from us whilst they're waiting. The recent strikes haven't helped any of this.

We appreciate these pressures can result in delays and frustrations for patients, particularly on the phone lines and we are doing our best to address these.

We thank you for your patience and support at this difficult time.

<https://www.eynshammedicalgroup.org.uk/>

**Hanborough surgery: 01993 881330, Eynsham surgery: 01865 881206**

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## **BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM**

Because of its enormous size, Botley West Solar Farm is a Nationally Strategic Infrastructure project, which will be considered by the Secretary of State.

West Oxfordshire District Council will be a key consultee. The Council is undertaking an Environment Impact Assessment Study to determine potential benefits and harms of this project. Community voice is one of the key factors the Council will take into consideration. It is therefore essential for the communities to let the Council know their opinions on this project. The comments can be sent to any of the Cabinet and Council members, including those who do not represent directly affected areas.

The email addresses are available on WODC website or sent by post to: WODC Woodgreen Council Offices, Witney, **OX21 1NB**.

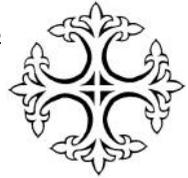
Andrew Thompson is the officer in charge of the study.

Dr Lidia Arciszewska

District Councillor for Freeland and Hanborough Ward

Cabinet Member for Environment

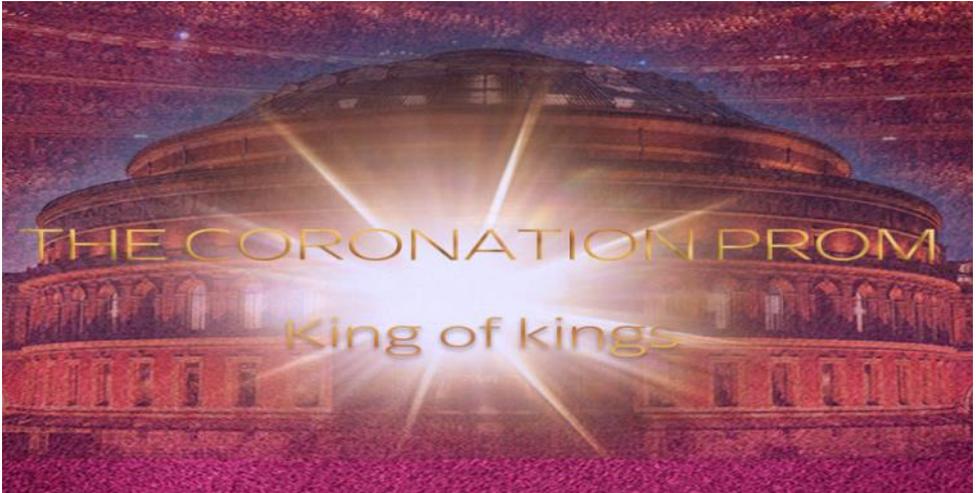
[lidia.arciszewska@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:lidia.arciszewska@westoxon.gov.uk)



## **FREELAND WALKING GROUP**

The Freeland Walking Group meets every third Wednesday of the month, led by one of our members. The next walk is on **Wednesday 15th March**. We meet at Freeland Hall car park usually at **9.30am** to share cars to a Pub from which we do a circular walk of not more than 5 miles. We have lunch together at the Pub having chosen from their menu beforehand. Hugh and I are organising the next walk and will send information to members. If you would like to join us please contact us at **[dalton43cv@talktalk.net](mailto:dalton43cv@talktalk.net)** so we can send you the details.  
New members very welcome to our friendly Club.

Janet Dalton



## **Coronation Prom – King of kings**

### **Prom Praise at the Royal Albert Hall Saturday 6th May 2023**

All Souls Orchestra are thrilled to have the privilege of taking our flagship event, Prom Praise, to the Royal Albert Hall on this auspicious day. We look forward to marking this once-in-a-lifetime national celebration with a joyful expression of music and worship.

Following on from the Coronation Service earlier in the day, this majestic prom is the perfect way to round off a day to remember in central London.

Drawing on the rich historical tradition of Coronation music, the massed choir and orchestra will perform royal anthems and overtures by Elgar, Holst, Handel and John Williams.

All Souls Orchestra of 100 and The Coronation Prom Massed Choir filling the stage with special guests from across the Commonwealth, join us as we seek to honour our new King's reign and celebrate the 'King of kings'.

The event will be broadcast online across the globe from the nation's favourite concert hall, joining audiences from around the world to celebrate this special occasion together.

General Ticket Sales from the Royal Albert Hall Box Office **020 7589 8212**  
or online at **<https://tickets.royalalberthall.com/syos/performance/80394>**



# 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

## WOODSTOCK & DISTRICT u3a (University of the 3rd age)

Woodstock u3a continues to attract audiences of 50 or more at its monthly speaker meetings in St. Hugh's Centre in Woodstock, while many more take part on-line. Recent speakers picked geographically diverse topics: Russell Cherry (2nd February) took us along home turf of the Ridgeway and other 'green roads'. Nick Brazil is then due to whisk us off on

**Thursday 2nd March** to 'Chile and Easter Island', before on **Thursday 6th April** Hugh Warwick brings us home with 'Hedgehogs'.

As membership grows, so do our all-important Interest Groups; pressure of demand means there are now two Groups each for Board Games, Needlework and Recorders (one of the last for 'Beginners & Improvers' ) while the long-established 'Discussion' Group is now partnered by one tackling 'Everyday dilemmas' and meets by Zoom.

A new printed programme listing all 2023 events should now be in public libraries etc. The same information is at <https://u3asites.org.uk/woodstock> or via Facebook @woodstocku3a.

Chris Sladen

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- W 22 Feb Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
- Su 26 Feb Farmers' Market - Freeland Village Hall car park 10am - 1pm**
- M 27 Feb Freeland Gardening Club, Freeland Hall, 7.30pm 'Medicinal Herbs'
- W 1 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
- F 3 Mar Working Towards a Resilient Freeland, Village Hall, 7 - 8.30pm**
- Su 5 Mar Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers - walking 10am from opposite the Yeoman
- Tu 7 Mar The Cake Café, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am**
- Tu 7 Mar North Leigh History Society, North Leigh Memorial Hall OX29 6SA, 7.30pm
- W 8 Mar Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
- F 10 Mar Witney Music Society Concert, Witney High St Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- Su 12 Mar Freeland Grapevine - April edition deadline day**
- M 13 Mar Freeland Parish Council Meeting, Newell Room, **7.30pm**
- W 15 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
- W 15 Mar Freeland Walking Group - leaving the Village Hall car park at 9.30am
- W 15 Mar Freeland Cricket Club Quiz at the Oxfordshire Yeoman, **8pm**
- Su 19 Mar Combe Mill in Steam: S.T.E.M. [www.combemill.co.uk](http://www.combemill.co.uk)
- W 22 Mar Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
- Su 26 Mar BRITISH SUMMER TIME STARTS! Put your clocks forward**
- Su 26 Mar Farmers' Market - Freeland Village Hall car park 10am - 1pm**
- M 27 Mar Freeland Gardening Club, Freeland Hall, 7.30pm 'Crayfish on the Lawn'
- W 29 Mar Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
- Su 2 Apr Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers - walking 10am from opposite the Yeoman
- Tu 4 Apr The Cake Café, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am**
- W 5 Apr Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
- F 7 Apr Good Friday Bank Holiday**
- M 10 Apr Easter Monday Bank Holiday**



## **SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS**

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

**KNIVES,** garden tools, etc sharpened. Contact “**Sharpedge**” **01993 881464**

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

### **THE CAKE CAFÉ, FREELAND HALL**

Regular café first Tuesday of the month, **9.00 - 11.30am.**

also celebration cakes and small event catering.

Please visit us at Freeland Farmers' Market.

**www.janescakestudio.co.uk 01993 881273**

**FREE: BED RAIL** - for help getting out of bed and pulling up.

Fits under the mattress. Please contact Alison Faulkner **01993 882108**

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The deadline for articles or adverts for the **April** Grapevine is

**Sunday 12th March.** The **April** edition should be online at:

**www.freelandoxon.co.uk** or at **www.freelandpc.org.uk** from **Monday 20th March**, with the print copies in the church porch from **Friday 24th 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 **22p per word.** Please make cheques payable to '**FREELAND GRAPEVINE**'. Contact Kenny Wylie about costs for other adverts. 1/3rd page size is 60mm high x 127mm wide, 1/2 page size is 90mm high x 127mm wide

**Adverts: grapevineadverts@gmail.com**

**Articles: freelandgrapevine@gmail.com**

Or mail: Kenny Wylie, I 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

March 10th - **Call My Bluff**  
Wine Evening

March 11-12th - More **Six Nations** Action, **Dirty Tackle Ale** only £4 a pint during games!

March 15th - **Pub Quiz Night!**  
In aid of Freeland CC and Sobell House

March 17th - **St Patrick's Day!** Don your shamrocks and meet us here for a Guinness

March 19th - Celebrate **Mother's Day** at the Yeoman

## SUNDAY ROASTS

*Serving 12 - 2:30pm,  
Every Sunday*

**Book a table to not miss out!**

...

*Then stick around for the chance to win some cash!*

## KEY 'N' THE BOX

**Every Sunday afternoon! Winner drawn from 4:30pm**



THE  
**OXFORDSHIRE  
YEOMAN**

FREELAND, OXFORDSHIRE



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A woman and an older man are looking upwards in a grand, ornate hall. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling. A pocket watch is visible in the foreground. The scene is lit with warm, golden light. The background features a large, ornate chandelier and a ceiling with intricate designs. A woman and an older man are looking upwards, and a pocket watch is visible in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and discovery.

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