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February 2022

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**Additionally, at St Mary's, on the 1st and 3rd
Sundays of the month, there is a traditional 8.30am
said Communion Service.**

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See our new website at www.hfchurch.org.uk

**St Mary the Virgin is open seven days a week
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**Please enjoy the space to look around, for prayer or
for quiet reflection.**

Thank you to Dawn French for the front cover picture



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Useful contact details:

**Rector: Rev. Steve Stewart
01993 881270**

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

Curate: Rev. Mike Madden

E: curate_mike@hanboroughparish.co.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Clive Berry 01993 882080

Hugh Dalton Emeritus 01993 881742

Churchwardens:

**Claire Soanes Roger Faulkner
01993 883205 01993 622413**

Churchwardens' email: churchwarden.smv@gmail.com

Flowers in the Church:

**Janet Dalton
01993 881742**

**Weddings: Rev. Steve Stewart 01993 881270 rector@hanboroughparish.co.uk
administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk**

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

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>**

Children and Youth Work - families are really welcome at all our services, but especially at the weekly **10am** service where youth friendly activities are held at the back of church.

Babies & Toddlers at Christ Church Hanborough & Freeland Church welcomes all Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and their pre-schoolers to this group that meets each **Wednesday** in term time from **10.00 – 11.30**. 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.

The above information is correct at the date published (23/01/2022). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our new website at: www.hfchurch.org.uk

FROM THE REGISTERS AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Funeral and Burial: June Mary Veevers 11th January 2022

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET CO-OPERATIVE

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Letter from our Rector, Rev. Steve Stewart:

Dear friends,

Here we are, now well into the New Year of 2022, a year when we hope – and with good reason – that we may now be seeing light at the end of the coronavirus tunnel. We all seem to have moved a very long way from the heady days of Lockdown 1, which began with the mantra from Boris Johnson “let’s get Covid done” and the hope that it would all be over in 12 weeks! The last two years have, for many of us, been at best the strangest and, at worst, the most awful couple we have experienced. Days when the old securities of life suddenly looked so brittle and fragile and the fear of something we cannot see, smell or touch felt at times overwhelming us. Perhaps we will not understand the full impact of what we have all been through for some time to come.

We might have thought, had we known such times were coming, that it would have led us to ask the great and deep questions of life: “What really matters?”, “Why are we here?”, “Where are we going?”. And yet, sometimes it felt like the biggest questions being asked were, “Where can I get my next toilet roll?”, “Where exactly is Barnard Castle?”.

The truth is, whatever life throws at us, we still need to get on with the everyday things of life – we do need that toilet roll! But my hope for our communities here at Hanborough and Freeland is that as we emerge from this pandemic, each of us does indeed reassess our lives. And, in this unstable world – for as soon we look back at Covid, we in turn know that we are facing devastating environmental impacts to this planet – we begin the search in earnest for that which is unchanging, eternal and good.

In our churches at Hanborough and Freeland, all that we do is focused around the one unchanging, eternal and good person who is Jesus Christ. And the wonderful thing about Jesus is that he invites every single one of us, not just the great and the good or the “right people”, but you and me to know him and to know his unchanging, eternal love for us. We would love you to come and join us on a Sunday morning at **10am**. You can find out more by having a browse at our new website hfchurch.co.uk, and if you have any questions whatsoever about coming to church or exploring the Christian faith, please contact me at rector@hfchurch.co.uk – or just come along on a Sunday.

With much love in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Steve Stewart,
Rector, Hanborough and Freeland

ST MARY’S CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who visited St Mary’s on Christmas Eve for the Walk Through Christingle and also a big thank you to everyone who helped the event to happen. It was lovely to be able to share the meaning of the Christingle orange, see the nativity scene and sing carols together.

The Children’s Society is a charity that empowers young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope. Your generous donations have meant that we have been able to send **£75** to them.

Claire Soanes, Denise Ball, Helen Molden and Rev. Steve Stewart

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ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following services:

Sunday 6nd February 9.30am - 10.00am

Sunday 20th February 9.30am - 10.00am

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

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

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

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

Sun 30th Jan 10am Rev. Charles Harris

Sun 6th Feb 10am Rev. Jason Cooke

Sun 13th Feb 10am Rev. Stephen Bywater

Sun 20th Feb 10am Rev. Fred Ireland (Holy Communion)

Sun 27th Feb 10am Rev. Steve Stewart

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

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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.

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

www.churchservices.tv is a platform that connects communities and provides churches with a space to broadcast – particularly Mass, Adoration and prayer.

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

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



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FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL – LISA’S NOTES FROM THE MEETINGS HELD ON 20th DECEMBER 2021 & 17th JANUARY 2022

These are the first set of notes for 2022, and firstly I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and managed to catch up with some family and friends and also had a Happy New Year. Fingers crossed that this year, in time, we will be able to get back to some kind of normality. We can hope!

New Parish Councillor

I am delighted to confirm that Mr Perrin Hatwell of 6A Cuckoo Wood Farm has been co-opted to serve on the Parish Council. Perrin was unable attend January’s meeting so will be joining the Council at their next meeting in February and we very much look forward to welcoming him and wish him well in his new role.

Parish Council meetings – change of venue

For the time being it has been decided that Parish Council meetings for the first half of this year will be held in the village hall wherever possible. On a few dates when this is not available (April and May meetings), it is likely it will be held in St Mary’s Church to allow social distancing etc, but the Council will keep things under review and if everyone is happy to meet in the Newell Room we may end up back in there! So, to keep up to date with where the meeting is being held, do check the agenda that is placed on the notice board on the Wednesday before the meeting, or check the village website!

Inspired Villages Planning Application

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

Fly tipping

It’s very disappointing to report that on a Sunday evening (**16th January**), a car pulled up at the old bus stop at the top end of Wroslyn Road and dumped an old washing machine, a number of bike wheels, assorted metal items and an old Karcher cleaner. In addition to this, within the previous week a large bag of food packaging and empty cider cans were left at the same spot, (These have very kindly been disposed of by a nearby resident).

Our beautiful village **IS NOT** a dumping ground. Please keep an eye out for anyone fly tipping and report to WODC on the link below:

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/fly-tipping/>

Let’s keep Freeland the lovely place that we know it is and not let a select few try and spoil it!

Toddler Play Area upgrade

The installation of the new equipment has been completed and it’s already getting plenty of use! We have so far received some very positive feedback from parents which is always great to hear!

A note of thanks!

A big thank you to the Teddy Girls for a donation of **£106** from funds raised at their chocolate tombola at the Christmas Tree lighting event in December. This is always a popular activity and our thanks go to all involved in raising these funds. This donation will be added to their previous donation of **£429** which has paid for the new bench on The Green.

Continued.....

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Continued.....

Tree cutting in Broadmarsh Lane Amenity Area - AGAIN

It's saddens me to have it reported to me once again that someone has had some of the trees cut in the Broadmarsh Lane amenity area without notifying the Parish Council AND has left all the branches dumped around the site which now looks a mess and is going to be additional work for our contractor to clear. This area is managed and maintained by the Parish Council so permission must be sought before any tree work is carried out in this area, and please note it is **NOT** to be used as a dumping ground. Thank you.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Friday 22nd April at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. A number of topics are being considered, many of which relate to the environment/climate crisis:

- Sustainability in Freeland – a look at ways in which we can help to make the village more sustainable especially in view of the climate crisis;
- Local river water quality and sewage works pollution – a look at how much pollution is being dumped in our local rivers from nearby sewage works and what can be done about it
- Freeland Naturehood Group – an update from the Group as to what is being done in Freeland to enhance nature and biodiversity, eg Verge Restoration Project, Tree planting etc
- Freeland 2030 - a vision – a look at what Freeland will look like by 2030 and a chance for residents to give their views on how they would like it to look and how this can be achieved.

Make a note of the date in your diary - more information to follow next month.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Calling all village groups and those interested in a village celebration to mark Queen Elizabeth's 70 year reign! The Village Hall has been booked for **Sunday 5th June 2022** which is during the extended Bank Holiday weekend. We hope to hold a "Big Lunch" style event, but even bigger than usual with stalls, fun fair etc on the field! If you are already starting to think about holding an event for your village club or group or are keen to get involved in helping to organise a village event such as this, please get in touch with me at lisa.fpc@gmail.com or **01993 880067**. It would be great to have a team to lead this and make the event a real village community occasion, something I think we could all do with after the last 2 years!

Additional bench in the village

The Parish Council have been donated a wooden bench, and are considering where to place it. If anyone has any suggestions of locations where a bench would prove useful, please let me know.

Daffodils

With Spring (hopefully) just around the corner the lovely daffodil bulbs will be starting to push through ready to display their beautiful bright cheery yellow flowers. These bulbs have been lovingly planted by members of the Gardening Club and every year the flowers make a fantastic display throughout the village. *Continued.....*

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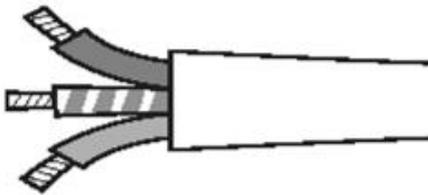
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STEVE : 07969 930518

ADAM : 07805 201618

GAS SAFE : 65024

Continued..... Please be mindful that the bulbs are particularly vulnerable whilst they are coming through, so please keep off the grass verges where they have been planted. Thanks very much for your co-operation.

New bus shelter on A4095

The long awaited bus shelter to be installed on the A4095 has finally been ordered! This has been severely delayed due to changes in the procurement process at the County Council. We now await an estimated installation date from the contractor. The shelter is being paid for by S106 developer funds from the 41-house Mear's Homes housing development on the A4095.

Traffic Calming in Freeland – possible 20mph limit

There is nothing further to report at the current time. A meeting of the group will be arranged shortly, and we are waiting for the outcome of the village survey carried out by County Councillor Liam Walker regarding whether the village would like to see a 20mph speed limit introduced in Freeland.

If you haven't already given your feedback about whether you would support this or not, please complete the survey that can be viewed here (it literally takes 1 minutes to complete): <https://www.liam-walker.com/have-your-say> or you can write to him at Liam Walker, County Councillor, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND. Please do complete the survey or give him your views so we can gain a good insight into what residents' thoughts are about this initiative.

The consultation will remain open until 31st January and he will then report back to the Parish Council to discuss the consultation results at the February meeting to ultimately decide whether to give his support to the 20mph application.

Road closures – advance notice

An overnight road closure will be in place on **Friday 25th – Saturday 26th February 2022 between 20.00 and 06.00** on a section of **Cuckoo Lane from the A40 to the Cuckoo Lane turning** whilst the installation of ducting for an electrical supply is carried out.

Pigeon House Lane will also have a **24-hour a day road closure** in place on **Wednesday 16th - Friday 18th March 2022** to facilitate a new water mains connection.

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

Drainage surveys on A40

I have been advised that drainage surveys and vegetation clearance works are taking place from **17th January 2022** between **Hill Farm Junction on the A40 (east of Witney) to the Duke's Cut bridge**.

The works are expected to take up to 4 weeks to complete, subject to weather and site conditions and will be carried out mostly at night.

While most of the operation will take place adjacent to the highway, temporary traffic management will be needed in some locations to safeguard workers, hopefully causing minimal disruption and impact to A40 users.

The surveys will help inform the drainage strategy for the Oxfordshire County Council's A40 road improvements programme, which once complete, will address traffic and transport issues in the area.

Continued.....

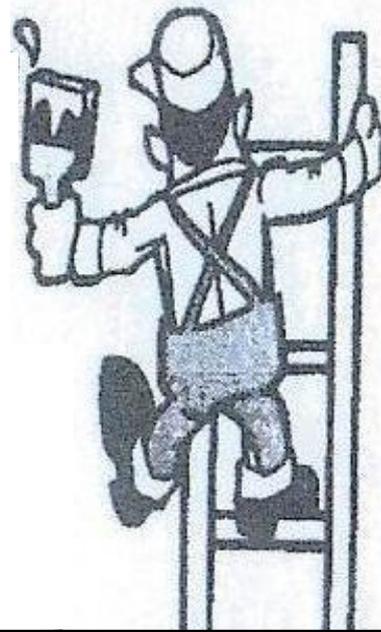
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Planning Applications:

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: None

Applications Approved:

21/03680/HHD Rowan, Witney Road, Freeland.

Erection of a single storey side and rear extensions for Mrs Penny Young.

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 21st February at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

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

If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter and have access to the internet, please have a look at the village website where lots of useful information is held. The website can be accessed via www.freelandoxon.co.uk . 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 CRICKET CLUB

The countdown has begun to the new season, with the fixture lists being published for the Saturday League and the Women's competitions.

The League team starts on **Saturday 7th May**, away to Hook Norton, with the Women's team starting on **Sunday 1st May** at home to Oxenford.

To get ready for the new season we are booking our indoor training sessions.

The **Under 11s, 13s and 15s** start on **Monday 14th February**, with details to be sent to members soon.

We are planning on upgrading the cricket nets before the season starts. This will mean replacing the matting and the netting. We will also be purchasing a new bowling machine which will improve the batting for all club members.

The club will be holding a **Quiz** in the **Yeoman** on **Wednesday 9th February**.

This is open to everyone, and there will be a cash prize for the winning team.

Look for more information on the pub's Facebook page.

If you, or any family member are interested in playing, please contact me using the methods below.

Simon Brown - Chair - Freeland Cricket Club

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

E: freelandcc.u11@gmail.com

Facebook: Freeland Cricket Club



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FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

Nothing to report this month as there's been no football due to Christmas and the flooded playing field.

Under 15s Manager is Stuart McNaughton -

his email is stu.mac@aol.com

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

Simon Hole - Chairman: Si_hole@hotmail.com



Ben Symonds - Secretary Freeland FC

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

www.pitchero.com/clubs/freelandfc/

FREELAND WI

After some deliberation, WI Committee decided to cancel our December meeting due to the increase in Omicron cases. We were planning to make a festive Christmas wreath or table decoration. As everything had been prepared for our meeting, members were offered the bases so they could make their decoration at home. Some examples can be seen on our Facebook page.

Following feedback from our members, our January meeting has also been cancelled. Hopefully we will all be able to meet in February.

Freeland WI normally meet on the **second Monday** of the month in the Village Hall, starting at **7.45pm** and finishing around **10pm**. We look forward to welcoming visitors and new members at our meetings. If you have been thinking about joining WI now could be the time to give us a try. If you want to check out what we have planned for 2022, a copy of our programme was included in last month's Grapevine. We are a varied group with a wide range of interests. One trait that unites us is that we are friendly and welcoming to visitors.

Please contact our secretary Rosie if you would like to discuss joining us for a trial session or to become a member. We would love to see you.

Further information is available on our website:

<https://freelandwiuk.wixsite.com/freelandwi> or on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/freelandwi

Alternatively please contact our secretary Rosie James on **01993 881997**

or email freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

On **Tuesday 1st February**, Liz Woolley will be giving us a talk on 'Beer, bangers and marmalade'. Oxford has always been well-known for its university and its history, but less so for its economic life, but this too has had a powerful influence of the city.

On **Tuesday 1st March**, there will be a talk about Cogges Museum. Come and find out more.

We are meeting in North Leigh Memorial Hall, **OX29 6SA** at **7.30pm**. Members free, visitors **£4**. Further details are available from Diana Power (**01993 882301**) or Robert Kyte at kyterobert@gmail.com

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SPEEDING ON PIGEON HOUSE LANE

Recently there was a dangerous encounter between a cyclist and a speeding Mini down Pigeon House Lane. Cyclists are particularly vulnerable because, unlike walkers, they cannot just scramble into the hedge to get out of the way of a Mini let alone a bigger vehicle. There are new Highway Code rules that are expected to be approved and come into force at the end of January. They will give priority and greater



legal protection to the most vulnerable road users, e.g., cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders. Most motorists who use Pigeon House Lane are careful and considerate locals but sometimes you get the odd motorist in a rush. I have raised my concerns about speeding and HGVs with both Freeland and Hanborough Parish Councils and our Country Councillor Cllr Liam Walker but there are no quick and easy solutions. Freeland Parish Council has a Traffic Calming Working Group that has been looking at various behaviour-changing measures. In addition, the Speedwatch Group of volunteers are doing a fantastic job at monitoring speeding behaviour along Wroslyn Road. So, I would like to remind drivers to watch their speed down Pigeon House Lane and be mindful of the vulnerable users I have mentioned earlier. Thank you.

Alaa Al-Yousuf – District Councillor

T: **880689** - M: **07768 898914** - E: alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk

CHRISTMAS LUNCH DELIVERY 2021

We had to decide to cancel the gathering we were all looking forward to in the Freeland Hall on Christmas Eve, which meant unfortunately all the lovely volunteers who had offered to decorate the hall and help with peeling ... were placed on furlough - until Christmas 2022 when I will love to have your help again.

Local supermarkets gave me various items - thanks to Waitrose, M&S and the Coop. Tim at Freeland Nurseries gave us a huge bag of potatoes. Thanks to Anna at the Yeoman who ordered things for me and Rachel who provided the cake boxes. Special mention goes to Dorothy and Kenny who always help me with all the booking and advertising of the event.

Decorated gift bags were packed ready to go out with the food delivery. Cakes, mince pies and pudding were all cut and wrapped. The team of trusty chefs brought turkey, stuffing balls and pigs in blankets, potatoes, parsnips and mixed vegetables to control HQ at my house on Christmas Eve morning. By mid day, all the bags were out for delivery and the recipients were delighted to have them. It was such a shame we could not have our meal together and I have everything crossed for next year!

To all the people who helped this year in any capacity and to all the people who offered to help but I was unable to use - I pass on all the thanks I have had from the intended guests in Freeland, Long Hanborough and North Leigh. The best news is that 2022 is fully funded as we were lucky enough to receive another payment from Waitrose's community funds.

Julie, on behalf of the Christmas Lunch Team

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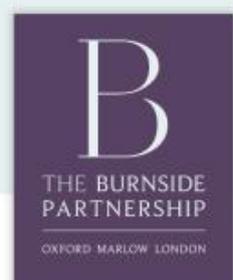
Dealing with your own affairs and getting them in order can appear daunting. We're here to make life easier. Do pick up the phone or email us and we would be happy to have a free, no-obligation initial chat with you. We can meet on video call or in person when safe to do so.



Anna Burnside PARTNER
anna.burnside@theburnsidepartnership.com

Jacqui Birks TAX DIRECTOR
jacqui.birks@theburnsidepartnership.com

For further information, please contact:
info@theburnsidepartnership.com



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you once again for all the donated books. We hope you are enjoying finding lots of new books to read each time you visit!

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

Taking books:

Please take as many as you like, whenever you like.

There is no limit for how many you can take, as long as you can carry them all! You do not have to give books in order to take any.

Donating books:

The Little Free Libraries are usually pretty full so please leave donated books in the drop-boxes provided. There are two boxes behind the bus shelter next to the big Little Free Library by the Village Hall, and there is also a drop-box next to the small Little Free Library outside **138 Wroslyn Rd.** Our volunteers regularly sort through the drop-boxes so if they are all full please try again in a few days.

Before donating your books please leaf through them to double-check that you haven't left any personal items inside (such as prescription receipts, letters, or other identifiable pieces of information).

If a book is old, damaged or worn it is unlikely that anyone else will want to read it so please consider recycling it instead. This includes children's colouring or activity books that have already been used.

Finally, please refrain from leaving bags or boxes of books on the floor; they can easily get damaged by the weather, and if the drop-boxes are already full then we have nowhere else to store them!

Thank you for your continued support.

Matthew & the Little Free Library volunteers.

01993 359 543 ruddlem@gmail.com



QUIZ NIGHT in aid of MARIE CURIE

**Wednesday 23rd February, 7.30pm for 8pm start at
The Oxfordshire Yeoman, 172 Wroslyn Road, Freeland.**

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

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

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

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

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



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at the PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY 10am - 1pm

We expect to host:

Moore & Lyon Meats, Tess' Brilliant Tray Bakes, Poulton Hill Wines,
Chillies 2U, Freeland Lamb, The Mighty Pie Company, Team Tea,
Carla's Vegetarian Foods, Asian Foods & Chutneys,
Bibury Trout Farm, Flamingo Paperie, Chocolate Stall,
Smörgås Tårta (Swedish Cuisine), plus others.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available.

In 2021, the Market raised a total of **£2205** of which **£110** went to the Royal British Legion, **£1620** to the Heart Unit at the JR, and **£475** to the School.

There is no Market in January

FREELAND COMMUNITY BUS TIMETABLE

EVERY THURSDAY. £1 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: (30 minutes later than previously)

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

With drop off by request anywhere along Wroslyn Road

PLEASE WEAR A MASK THROUGHOUT THE JOURNEY

INFORMATION

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

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

T: 01993 880689 M: 07768 898914 E: alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk

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PART TIME JOB AT FREELAND NURSERIES

Description

Freeland Nurseries are looking to recruit a sales assistant to work in the shop area alongside the shop manager. The post will be for **3** days per week including one day at the weekend working from **9.30 am to 5.00 pm**.

Apply to Tim Webster, telephone: **01993 881430** or mobile: **07879 698023**

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

What a strange time we are living through, but we hope the situation will improve as the year progresses.

The Club had a very successful 'normal' meeting in November with a good number attending Roger Umpleby's excellent lecture and photos entitled 'The Wonder of Wild Flowers'. His pictures were a superb reminder of the beauty of plants and flowers we often hardly look at. He had often photographed the very inside of the flowers and it was remarkable how lovely some were.

Our next meeting is planned for **Monday 31st January at 7.30pm** in Freeland Hall when we hope Stuart Mabbutt, a new speaker to the Club, will be able to join us. His talk is entitled 'Wildlife in the Everyday Garden'. At this time of year wildlife needs a helping hand to survive.

Jobs for the present time include looking after our indoor plants particularly any we got for Christmas. Azaleas, Cyclamen and bulbs last longer in a cool place, but Poinsettias like warm draught free rooms.

Outside jobs can include pruning blackcurrants, apples and pears, and applying a winter wash to fruit trees.

Tidy around the garden generally and cut down dead material. Remove old leaves from brassica plants and make sure they are well staked. Rake the last fallen leaves from the lawn.

Birds need high fat food at this time of year so keep them stocked up. Hedgehogs thrive on mealworms left out in the evening. Keep bird baths and bird tables clean.

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

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)

IN NEED, HARDSHIP OR DISTRESS?

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

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

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

All enquiries are dealt with in absolute confidence.

For more information visit Eynham Online:

www.eynham-pc.gov.uk/Eynham-Consolidated-Charity

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9-11.30am Freeland Hall



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FREELAND CRAFT CLUB

Very little to report, since we had to cancel our New Year's Party due to Covid concerns & although we plan to continue to meet, we appreciate that not everyone is planning to join us for a few weeks, until things look a bit more stable. However, a few of us received some Craft Kits for Christmas and I expect we will be working on these to start the New Year.

When things are "normal" we meet each **Wednesday** from **2.00pm to 4.00pm** in the Newell Room of the Village Hall.. There is a subscription of **£1** per meeting to cover heating/lighting & booking fees. We hope you will be able to join us some time - we are a friendly group and love to welcome new members, even if you can't come every week.

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

Margaret Wright



1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUT GROUP

Are you looking for a new challenge for 2022? If you can help us provide wonderful experiences for young people in Long Hanborough and Freeland please do get in touch!

Send an email to Steve: gsl@hfscouting.org.uk to find out how you can get involved as a volunteer.

We rely on people like you playing their part to give young people in our villages opportunities to dream big, give it a go and build skills for life.

You don't need to be Bear Grylls to volunteer! We're looking for people to help out in all sorts of ways, whether that's with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers.

Scouting happens when a lot of us give a little. You're not signing up for a lifelong commitment; just to help out when and where you can. Even a couple of hours of your time once a month can make a huge difference!

Oh, and volunteering is a two-way street; research shows that it improves your wellbeing and helps you build career-boosting skills. Let us know you're interested and we'll give you the support and training you need to let your skills shine.

We offer so many wonderful opportunities for young people in our communities, including activities such as fishing, cooking, camping, climbing, gliding and hiking as well as all the usual badge challenges like photography, astronomy, first aid and cycling. We can't do any of these without you!

To find out more and to express your interest, please send an email to Steve at: gsl@hfscouting.org

Thank you to all our current volunteers, leaders, helpers and committee members: you are all amazing!

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

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FIRST AND LAST MILE CIC

First and Last Mile are up and running linking Freeland with Hanborough and Eynsham every 2 hours Monday to Friday.



It has been a challenging beginning but we are all committed to this service. We do urgently require more drivers and can now offer full or part time **paid** driving jobs as well as volunteer shifts. We have received very strong support across the community and passenger numbers are very encouraging but we know that the current service is unsustainable without boosting our driver pool.

If you would like to join us or simply have any comments about First and Last Mile whether good or bad please phone **07584 927050** or email us at **info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com**.

411 TIMETABLE FROM TUESDAY 4th JANUARY 2022

411 Hanborough - Eynsham Monday - Friday

Hanborough Station	07:50	09:00	11:00	13:00	15:40	17:30
Church Hanborough, Mansell Close	07:56	09:05	11:05	13:05		
Long Hanborough, New Road	08:01	09:10	11:10	13:10	15:45	17:35
Freeland, Broadmarsh Lane *	08:06	09:15	11:15	13:15	15:50	17:40
Eynsham, Spareacre Lane		09:23	11:23	13:23	15:58	
Bartholomew School	08:14					17:48
Eynsham, Church	08:20	09:26	11:26	13:26	16:01	17:53

411 Eynsham - Hanborough Monday - Friday

Eynsham, Church	07:28	10:20	12:20	14:20	15:10	17:05
Bartholomew School					15:15	17:10
Eynsham, Spareacre Lane		10:23	12:23	14:23		
Freeland, Broadmarsh Lane*	07:36	10:31	12:31	14:31	15:23	17:18
Long Hanborough, New Road	07:41	10:36	12:36	14:36	15:28	17:23
Church Hanborough, Mansell Close		10:41	12:41	14:41	15:33	
Hanborough Station	07:46	10:46	12:46	14:46	15:38	17:28

No service on weekends or Public Holidays. Please note, buses will also stop at intermediate bus stops on the route.

* Freeland, Wroslyn Rd at Broadmarsh Lane

YES, YOU CAN!

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

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

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

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



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We are welcoming new admissions



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tel: 01993 881258 | email: manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk

LAST CHANCE!! DO YOU THINK YOUR VILLAGE SHOULD HAVE A 20mph LIMIT?

Oxfordshire County Council are now exploring ways we can reduce speeds in our communities & simplifying the process for 20mph roads for those areas that want them.

For this reason, I have now launched a consultation for residents living within one of the 8 villages in my division (Minster Lovell, Crawley, Leafield, Hailey, Ramsden, North Leigh, **Freeland** or Long Hanborough) to get your feedback. This will remain open until **Monday 31st January 2022** and I will then report back to Parish Councils to discuss the consultation results.



 or  let me know here:

<https://www.liam-walker.com/have-your-say> or write to me at: Liam Walker, County Councillor, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road Oxford, **OX1 1ND**.

EYNESHAM MEDICAL GROUP

Happy New Year from everyone at Eynsham Medical Group.

Opportunity for an experienced secretary

We are looking for an experienced secretary to join our existing team in a full-time capacity. Experience in medical secretarial work is desirable but more important is a knowledge of modern IT systems along with the ability to communicate effectively with a range of clinical professionals, staff and patients. The role is for 37.5 hours Monday to Friday and you will be working at both our sites. Benefits include eligibility to the NHS pension scheme.

For more information please contact Annette Matthews at Annette.matthews1@nhs.net or apply via [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com).

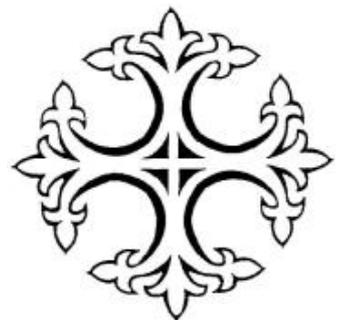
Closing date 28th February 2022

Vaccination Clinics

We would like to thank again all the wonderful volunteers who have made the recent walk in, and previously bookable, Covid Vaccination clinics at Long Hanborough Surgery possible.

So we can get back to serving our populations' wider health needs we will not be running any further walk in vaccination clinics but we will have Friday morning clinics running from now until 25th March. Appointments are bookable online or by contacting a Patient Care Advisor (**01993 881330**) by phone if you do not have online access.

Again, thank you to everyone who has contributed to making these clinics possible and run so smoothly.





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The Cake Café
Tuesday 1st February

9.00 - 11.30 am

&

Cream Teas



A Taste of Summer!

Sunday 20th Feb

2.30-5.00pm

Freeland Hall

Everyone Welcome



www.janescakestudio.co.uk / jane.cakestudio@gmail.com / 01993 881273

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

Dear parents/carers

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

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

Vicky Hickman

Hours from 2.45 - 6.15 Monday-Friday, term time only.
(Holiday work available)

Salary dependant on experience and qualifications.
Minimum age 18 years (Ofsted requirement)

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

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

Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454

Email: info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

website: www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE GRAPEVINE are available in the **Church Porch**, which is open 9am to 4pm seven days a week.

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

Also inside, just to the left of the front door of the **Long Hanborough Co-op**, on the bottom of the alternative newspaper stand rack.



FREELAND DISTRICT GIRLGUIDING **Covering Freeland, Long Hanborough & North Leigh.**

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides units are currently running in Long Hanborough & North Leigh and although there are no units in Freeland, girls from there attend units in either Long Hanborough (Tuesday nights) or North Leigh (Monday nights – Guides, and Thursday nights – Rainbows & Brownies).

We started back week commencing 10th January with the only change being Adults and Guides have to wear masks again. We have welcomed lots of new starters at all the units and all parents have now received this term’s programmes.

We are looking forward to celebrating Thinking Day with our units. This year the activities will focus on our world and equal gender equality. World Thinking Day is a celebration of ten million girls worldwide that has taken place on every **22 February** since 1926. It remains a day for all Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and celebrate their sisters all around the world. As it falls in half term week we will celebrate this in the week beforehand – and of course there is a badge to be earned!

If you are interested in registering your daughter to join guiding for the first time, to go on our waiting lists, then please visit <https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk/>

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

COMBE MILL - Christmas Market 11th December 2021

On Friday 10th December the Marquee arrived, a great team of volunteers helped to erect and set out the tables, fit coloured lights to the ridge, the Grotto was readied with presents donated by Burnside solicitors. The Christmas tree donated by Blenheim was put in situ and was decorated with fairy lights and decorations.

Saturday morning came, 17 stall holders arrived with various products to sell, all with the Christmas spirit, even before 11.00am visitors started to arrive. Gift shop and tombola, along with Christmas music in the marquee, with Hamper Raffle and Combe Mill’s annual Raffle were all ready to go – thanks to members and local businesses who donated to these.

BBQ, Mulled Wine and Minced Pies, Tea Room, Blacksmiths and Santa’s Grotto were all very busy. The Busker arrived and entertained us with extra carols and songs. We are sure that we have never seen quite so many visitors at one time at the Mill and they kept coming even late in the afternoon – must have been all the extra signs that were put out sponsored by our neighbours ADS. Thank you so much to everyone that came.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in making the Christmas market so successful, it was very rewarding for us all. It was great to see many of our new volunteers looking as though they had been at the Mill forever. Thank you all very much as the event added around **£2000** to our rather empty coffers.

Julie Stuart-Thompson & Margaret Gruber (Directors)



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.
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WITNEY MUSIC SOCIETY

The next concert in Witney Music Society's 2021-22 season will be given by Manu Brazo (saxophone) and Prajna Indrawati (piano) whose programme will include works by Iturralde, Bartok, Piazzola and Vaughan Williams. The concert is at **7.30pm on Friday 11th February.**

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

Both concerts will take place at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Because of current restrictions, there'll be limited ticket availability at the door; tickets should instead be purchased in advance - please see our website **www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk** for payment details and for more information about the concerts.

Spread over the next few issues, The Grapevine shares the childhood memories of a former Freeland resident ...

MY VILLAGE IN WARTIME by Mrs Barbara Bunyan - Chapter 1

At the tender age of eight years old, war became a new word in my vocabulary! Whilst I was an enthusiastic reader from an early age, I had never encountered war in any form before. I was more familiar with fairies, elves, animals, and castles.

In September 1939, I was in Shropshire for a holiday with my paternal grandmother and aunts, having travelled by train in the care of the guard, from Long Hanborough direct to Shrewsbury. There, one of my uncles met and collected me to travel in his old, battered car to Halfway House - midway between Shrewsbury and Welshpool. I should say here that all my parents' relatives were farmers or horse breeders on farms in and around the northern areas of Shropshire and the Welsh borders - a beautiful part of the country.

What did war mean? How should it affect me or our home farm in Oxfordshire? I was soon to find out.

It was whilst walking with an aunt on her farm, shutting up the hen and duck houses for the night, when she told me my father was travelling up from Oxfordshire the next day to collect and take me home immediately as war had been declared. My Aunt had then to describe what war meant, who was involved and why it was imperative that I should go back home before my holiday had even begun. My father, as a veteran soldier of World War One, knew that restrictions of various kinds, such as travel and fuel, would soon be put in place. The threat of immediate conflict would restrict freedom of movement and there would be issues of safety.

I had been at Freeland Village Primary School since I was five years old. I soon got used to walking down our long drive from the farm to and from school and again at lunchtime as I did not have school lunches. War soon had an impact for we all had to have gas masks. These were supplied and fitted by the local depot – Joseph Wood's large garage in the village.

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The masks were made of black rubber and smelt very strongly of the material. They were carried in a cardboard box with a strap so that they would fit on one's back. We always had to have the gas mask with us. Each day the teachers would check that we had our masks. If not, we were sent home to fetch them. Frequently we had to put the masks on in the classroom to practice in case of an emergency. They were stifling. I had been wearing glasses since I was three years old and they had to be removed. Thus, I could neither see properly nor breathe in the mask.



Mode of class changed too. Fuel was heavily rationed and the supplies much reduced. At no time was the heating in the school adequate. The building had a central stove fuelled by coke so during the winter months we were often very cold in our two classrooms. I well remember those snowy winters. Parents put in a request for the children to wear trousers and the school agreed to this. Thus, I had navy trousers (extra expense for my mother) with a green, woollen, hand-knitted jumper. Jumpers were usually made by family members who were great knitters.

School materials were also limited. Exercise books were plain – no margins and blotchy, off-white paper with nobbily bits in the surface of the paper. Every scrap had to be used. Pencils too were plain wooden items with no outside distinguishing colour as we have nowadays.

Marbles was a popular playground game for us, although these were not beautiful, colourful glass marbles but ones made of dull coloured-clay, which could easily be smashed into small pieces. Even so, marbles were swapped for sweets or some other desirable thing to play with. Other popular games were skipping, individually or as a group, hopscotch and team games such as 'farmers in his den'. The school had a maypole. In the summer it was erected, although not very frequently, for dancing and weaving colourful patterns around the pole. Often villagers would hang over the school walls to watch when this happened.

In the next instalment from Mrs Bunyan, there will be her memories of how village life changed at that time.

ALUMINIUM CAN COLLECTION

The can bin has been filling fast over the festive period and into the New Year, so hopefully everyone has been enjoying themselves. I have noticed a good few cans from litter collections too which is a great addition, thank you for your continued support. With 30 or so large bags of cans now in storage, I am hoping to cash them in shortly so will have some news on more funds raised soon.

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

UPCOMING ROAD CLOSURES IN & AROUND FREELAND

Traffic Regulation Notices have been issued for the following dates and roads:

Starting Friday 25th February at 20.00 until Saturday 26th February at 06.00:

The road, sometimes called Eynsham Road, Freeland Road or even Cuckoo Lane, will be completely closed between the A40 and Cuckoo Lane, to facilitate installation of ducting for an electrical cable.

24 hour closure starting on Wednesday 16th March until Friday 18th March:

Pigeon House Lane, to facilitate a new water mains connection.

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

THE UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS 2/1/2022

This month's Ramble was a cornucopia of ups and downs. We navigated the route without getting wet, which was a task after the rain we'd had in previous days. There were 9 of us including two new members, so the New Year is already looking up.

Now the big question on everyone's lips is: What is a Ramble? well, unlike Golf, which is a good walk spoiled (I disagree),

a ramble is a walk for pleasure in the countryside, apparently the golf clubs are just for protection from ne'er-do-wells.

Next month's Ramble will include a quiz, spot the Badger competition and a fancy dress with the theme 'Owls' for the leader....should be a hoot!

Sunday 6th February at 10am from outside the Yeoman.

All Welcome - Happy 2022.

BEFSA

2022 has started well for BEFSA with the news that our CEO Keith Borien has been named in the New Year's honours list - receiving an MBE for his 27 years of work in the Eastern Cape area of South Africa. Cath Borien had earlier received this honour in 2017 and I am immensely proud to play a small part in BEFSA's success. It has been a difficult time for the schools in the area and as a small charity we have continued to provide hot meals for children when the schools were closed due to Covid related issues. I would like to thank the villagers of Freeland who have supported the various fundraising activities organised over the last few years - we have had to change our plans in line with Covid regulations over the last 18 months. If you want to learn more about our activities - please check out the website www.BEFSA.org

Our fundraising diary has two events currently:
Friday 29th April - Curry night at Ready Steady Spice
Saturday 16th July - Quiz night in the Freeland Hall (postponed from January)

Julie Stuart-Thompson



EYNESHAM HERITAGE DAY Saturday 19th March 10am till 4pm

There's an awful lot of history in Eynsham, but much of it is underground or hidden in local houses, or in the Oxfordshire County Council's Museum Store in Standlake. That's why a group of us, led by the Curator of Archaeology for the County's Museum Service have planned a day when a lot more of that history can be made visible.

This will include an exhibition in the two floors of the refurbished Bartholomew Room in the Square. There you will be able to see many of the things that were dug up during the Eynsham Abbey Archaeological Dig that took place some 30 years ago, when they first definitively identified the site of the Abbey in what are now the Cemeteries of the Anglican and Catholic Churches. Items on display will include a fascinating Medieval lead plaque depicting Thomas Becket that was probably brought back as a Souvenir by some of the monks on their Pilgrimage to Canterbury and a little bronze flask that may have been used for storing and administering one of the Holy Oils. You will also be able to see some archaeological stonework from the Dig as well as other finds and coins that people have found in various places in the village over the years.

During the day there will be at least two guided tours in the morning and two in the afternoon. Each time, one will be of the Abbey site where one can guess how large the buildings were, even though nothing now remains above ground, and see above ground the one stone from Eynsham's prehistoric past. The other Tour will be round the village pointing out some of the archaeological stonework from the Abbey that can be found built into the older houses and walls, for the Abbey ruins were a great source of stone after the Abbey was dissolved in the 16th Century. Exact details of the times of these Tours will be on our Posters round the village by the beginning of March and on the Eynsham Community Facebook Page.

Eynsham Abbey was a very important centre of life not just for our village but also for the English nation. Indeed in 1186 King Henry II held a week-long Council here, riding over every day from his Palace in Woodstock. This included the appointment of the holy Carthusian monk Hugh, who was based in Witham in Somerset, as Bishop of Lincoln. It was he who, after his death, became St Hugh of Lincoln. Way before that, in 1005, another holy monk that you might have heard of, called Aelfric, was the first Abbot of Eynsham's Benedictine Abbey and we are pretty certain he still lies buried in the churchyard, though a grave has never been found.

On the day, we also hope to have an event for children, as well as some medieval pottery that can be touched and held, and an I-Spy Family Quiz. Perhaps you have dug up some artifacts in your garden in the village? To help with this, we will have an expert on hand to run a kind of Eynsham Heritage Archaeological Roadshow to help you identify your own archaeological discovery. The British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer will be on hand to look at anything you've found in your gardens, or when walking across fields, or metal detecting. There will also be a Historical Tour of St Leonard's Church.

We were hoping that by the time the day takes place, the permanent Eynsham Museum would be up and running in the upstairs part of the Bartholomew Room, so that some of these items plus explanatory boards on our village's history can be displayed.

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It is good to hear that this project has now officially been declared a Charity, but we have still to await the completion of the Lease with the Parish Council so things may not quite be ready, but nevertheless on **Saturday 19th March** the Temporary Exhibition will display many of the things that will eventually form part of the permanent Museum.

The Day is part of a pilot project funded by the Oxford University's Gardens, Libraries and Museums and is delivered by the Oxfordshire Museums Service. Its aim is to explore ways to encourage communities to develop their interaction with the County's archaeological collection. The Curator of Archaeology commented recently "The Museum Service has really landed on its feet working with a dedicated group of volunteers from Eynsham on this project, using the superb archaeology collection from Eynsham as a springboard of ideas and events culminating with the Day."

So put **Saturday 19th March** in your diary please.

WOODSTOCK u3a (University of the 3rd age)

Woodstock & District u3a's January speaker meeting, once more available to members through the magic of the internet, featured Alan Jones who provided what he described as 'a fantastic journey of discovery round your body.' And, indeed, in no more than 40 minutes he rattled through such fundamental matters as how our skin is a uniquely good water-proof, the strength of bones (better than concrete) and the unmatched speed of signals zipping through our nervous system.



The Branch's next Speaker meeting (**Thursday 10th February 2pm**) should, with luck, be available both on-line and in person at Woodstock's St. Hugh's Centre on Hensington Road - next to St. Hugh's church, a 5-minute stroll from the town centre and with its own car park. The speaker will be wildlife photographer Tom Way, his subject 'Wildlife on your doorstep'.

As always, check our website - www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock.

Meanwhile, most of the Branch's individual interest Groups are up and running, meeting in person, but keeping to current recommendations from Downing Street, of course. Several of the Groups have now settled in the Guide/Scout hut in Hensington Road car park while others – the Play Readers among them – look forward to Spring and the possibility of outdoor meetings. Full details, as always, on the Branch website

www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock

Chris Sladen

FREELAND PHOTO GROUP

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

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

Please contact Paul Sayer on paul.pshml@googlemail.com for details of the virtual meetings and the programme.

Following on from Julie Stuart-Thompson's articles on the service personnel listed on the War Memorial in St Mary's Church Yard, Julie shares research on those listed from the Second World War.

Thomas John Foreshew 1923 – 15th June 1944

Thomas John Foreshew was born in the third quarter of 1923. His parents were Thomas William Clinch Foreshew (1883-1967) born in Witney and Alice Mary Dorothy Foreshew nee Blood (1892-1959) born in the Aston district of Birmingham. They were married in June 1922 in Birmingham. Thomas John had one sibling, a sister called Mary Elizabeth, who was born in March 1927.



Thomas William Clinch Foreshew, from the 1911 census, was living in Rosedene, Church Green, Witney, aged 28 and listed as a brewer. He was living with 4 other siblings, extended family members and two domestic servants. His parents were Thomas William Foreshew (1849-1926), also listed as a brewer and Rachel Bradshaw nee Clinch b1848, Head of the household. It is likely that with three-generations of "Thomas", Thomas John was known by his second name which is why this is the version of his name that appears on the War Memorial at St Mary's.

Thomas John served with the 1st Battalion of the Rifle Brigade as a Lieutenant – service number 245342. This Brigade had served in North Africa and was part of the Allied invasion of Italy which began in September 1943. By October 1st, the Allies had reached Naples and the Germans were fighting rearguard actions whilst retreating northwards. Thomas John was reported wounded on 4th October 1943. The battalion returned to the UK in January 1944 and took part in the invasion of Normandy from 6th June. He died in fighting in the battle of Villers-Bocage on 15th June 1944.

The photo of Thomas John in uniform was found on "Find a Grave", a site that helps researchers by taking photos of cemeteries and headstones.



(Thomas) John attended Radley College from 1937 and was one of three close friends who all died in the summer of 1944. You can see him third from the left in the Cricket 11 of 1941. On the College archive site you can read this obituary. "November 19 1944. In June 1944, killed in action in Normandy, Thomas John Foreshew, Lieut. Rifle Brigade (E), (Hedgecock's-Southam's, F, 1937-41). John Foreshew came from his Preparatory School with a reputation as a good all-round athlete, and before leaving Radley he had lived up to this by representing

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the School in Cricket, Football and Hockey. An invaluable member of the Social both in games and as a House Prefect, his simple and sincere personality endeared him to all who knew him, and one of his contemporaries writes of him: - *"I have never had the pleasure to meet a more genuine and whole-hearted bloke than old Fishy."* He was wounded in Italy in October 1943, and we hoped that he would be spared further."

The wealthy Clinch family who were prominent bankers and landowners in the Witney area had started a brewery at the Marlborough Head Public House on Church Green in 1811. By 1883, Thomas William Clinch ForesheW was part owner of Clinch and Co, which bought out the Blanket Hall Brewery in Witney and owned the Eagle brewery site that can be seen today, which was later to become used by the Wychwood Brewery. The substantial house the family lived in can be seen in Witney, 28 Church Green, next door to the John Welch solicitors who dealt with the probate of numerous family members.

Thomas John's effects which totalled £5082 4s 11d, were left to his parents Thomas and Alice, who by then were living in Guildford, Surrey. His original grave was at La Masure but he and other battalion members were moved to the Bayeux War Cemetery in the Calvados region of France in August 1945. His headstone has a cross and the words: "Lord, all pitying, Jesu blest, grant him thine eternal rest." He was just 20 years old.

Although Thomas John ForesheW is on the War Memorial, what is his connection to Freeland ?
Julie Stuart-Thompson

LIVE MUSIC RETURNS TO FREELAND HALL

On **Saturday 19th March at 7pm**, WOC & WOL – Two local music groups featuring wind players from around the area will be giving this eagerly-awaited concert after an enforced two-year gap. West Oxfordshire Clarinets, who have been described as "beautifully synchronised", having "a colourful audio palette" with "highly expressive playing", are a group of 18 talented musicians, whilst West Oxfordshire Learners have been commented on for their "sheer enthusiasm", "fantastic performance" and for playing "varied and engaging pieces" which were "full of character". Both groups are conducted by Wendy Marks from the village and music will range from classics by Mozart & Bach through to popular film music and even Frank Sinatra!

As the audience numbers will need to be limited, tickets (£5) can be purchased in advance from Wendy on **01993 883379**.

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<https://www.strava.com/clubs/HanFree-Run>



DRAINAGE SURVEYS & VEGETATION CLEARANCE ON THE A40

Drainage surveys and vegetation clearance works started on **Monday 17th January 2022** between Hill Farm Junction on the A40 (east of Witney) to the Duke's Cut bridge.

The works are expected to take up to four weeks to complete, subject to weather and site conditions and will be carried out mostly at night.

While most of the operation will take place adjacent to the highway, temporary traffic management will be needed in some locations to safeguard workers, causing minimal disruption and impact to A40 users.

The surveys will help inform the drainage strategy for the A40 road improvements programme, which once complete, will address traffic and transport issues in the area. The programme aims to offer sustainable travel choices, which in turn reduces emissions and improves air quality for all.

For more information on the A40 improvements programme, please visit our news page at news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/a40-improvements-programme-updates.

STOP DUMPING RAW SEWAGE INTO THE RIVER EVENLODE

Thames Water Utilities Sewage Treatment Stations (STs) routinely discharge large volumes of untreated sewage into the river Evenlode and its tributaries in order to protect their inadequate sewerage systems from overflowing.

STs hold Environment Agency permits to do so under exceptional circumstances of very severe rainstorms. But in practice TWU STs spill raw sewage as often as they wish and they do this with near impunity. In 2020 they pumped untreated sewage into the Evenlode and its tributaries for 8710 hours. This has devastating ecological consequences and adverse effects on human health. Yet, the recent environmental bill failed to make polluting rivers with untreated sewage illegal.

Communities close to the Evenlode river will no longer tolerate these reckless and abhorrent practices. We need strong local support to make TWU take their responsibilities, as a public service utilities company, seriously and to hold WODC to account for allowing developing large housing estates in the absence of any parallel plans to ensure sewerage systems expansion.

Please sign the petition: <https://chng.it/TBKHWwvbxt>

Dr Lidia Arciszewska, Church Hanborough resident

Data source: <https://www.theriverstrust.org/key-issues/sewage-in-rivers>

ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE GRAPEVINE are available in the **Church Porch**, which is open 9am to 4pm seven days a week.

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

Also inside, just to the left of the front door of the **Long Hanborough Co-op**, on the bottom of the alternative newspaper stand rack.

HANBOROUGH & FREELAND RUNNING GROUP



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

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

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

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

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

For more information, please contact us: **HanFree-run@outlook.com**
<https://www.strava.com/clubs/HanFree-Run> Hope to see you running soon!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| W 26 Jan | Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection |
| Th 27 Jan | Freeland Community Bus Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25 |
| Tu 1 Feb | The Cake Café + Knead Bakehouse, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am |
| W 2 Feb | Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection |
| Th 3 Feb | Freeland Community Bus Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25 |
| Su 6 Feb | Unaccepted Freeland Ramblers - walking at 10am from the Yeoman |
| W 9 Feb | Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection |
| Th 10 Feb | Freeland Community Bus Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25 |
| Sa 12 Feb | Freeland Grapevine - March edition deadline day |
| W 16 Feb | Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection |
| Th 17 Feb | Freeland Community Bus Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25 |
| S 20 Feb | The Cake Café - Cream Teas, Village Hall, 2.30pm - 5.00pm |
| M 21 Feb | Freeland Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm |
| W 23 Feb | Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection |
| Th 24 Feb | Freeland Community Bus Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25 |
| Su 27 Feb | Farmers' Market - Freeland CE Primary School 10am - 1pm |
| W 2 Mar | Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection |
| Th 3 Mar | Freeland Community Bus Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25 |
| W 9 Mar | Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection |
| Th 10 Mar | Freeland Community Bus Freeland-Witney-Freeland - see page 25 |

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

BLUNT KNIVES? All types of knives, wood chisels, axes, secateurs, hedge trimmers, shears, mower blades etc sharpened to original specifications. Contact "**Sharpedge**", Graham Lay **01993 881464**

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

THE CAKE CAFÉ FREELAND VILLAGE HALL,

Every first Tuesday of the month 9.00 - 11.30am.

& **CREAM TEAS** Sunday 20th February 2.30 - 5.00pm

www.janescakestudio.co.uk 01993 881273

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

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

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

Photographs should be JPGs or PNGs, again **not PDFs**.

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

Adverts: grapevineadverts@gmail.com

Articles: freelandgrapevine@gmail.com

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

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

The editor reserves the right to edit all copy.

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

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

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

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

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

- COMING UP - AT THE YEOMAN

9 FEB - QUIZ NIGHT *NEW*

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

16 FEB - MEXICAN NIGHT

Join us for a Mexican Feast night and blow away the winter blues with the tastes of sunnier climes!

23 FEB- QUIZ NIGHT

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

FRIDAY MORNINGS

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

NEW MENU FOR FEBRUARY!



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