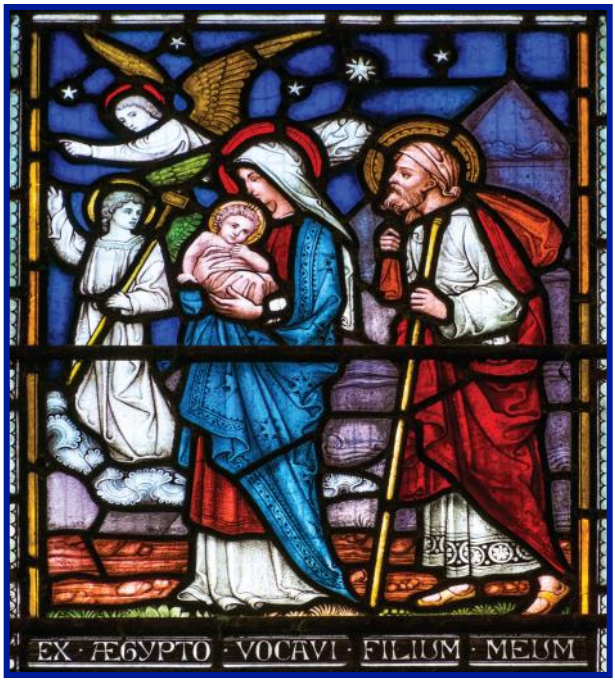
Grapevine

St Mary's Freeland



December 2020
Merry Christmas!

'INSPIRED VILLAGES' PRE-PLANNING CONSULTATION PAGES 26 & 27

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The Churches in the Benefice of Hanborough and Freeland are now closed for public worship until early December in accordance with Government Guidance

Please go to our website (www.hanboroughparish.co.uk) which will give further information in line with changes as they occur.

St. Mary the Virgin Freeland is open for Private Prayer on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9.00am – 4pm

Please join us for Morning Worship Services on 'Zoom' at 10.00am every Sunday

For further details to book to attend a service or for the login details for 'Zoom' please email:
administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk

For the LORD is good and his love endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:5

Thank you to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust for the cover photo of a stained glass window in St Mary the Virgin.
For details of how to buy Christmas cards with this picture, please see page 9

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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.

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Useful contact details:

Rector: Our new Rector is due to take up the post on 20th January 2021

Associate Vicar: **Rev. Sue Spankie**
01993 706469
Email: **revsue@gst.org.uk**

Curates:
Rev. Emma Hopegood Jones
01993 881936
Email: **curate_emma@hanboroughparish.co.uk**

Rev. Mike Madden
E: **curate_mike@hanboroughparish.co.uk**

Licensed Lay Ministers:
Clive Berry 01993 882080

Hugh Dalton *Emeritus* **01993 881742**

Churchwardens:
Claire Soanes **01993 883205**
Steve Mellin **01993 882044**
Churchwardens' email: **churchwarden.smv@gmail.com**

Flowers in the Church:
Janet Dalton
01993 881742

Weddings:
Rev. Emma Hopegood Jones
01993 881936
Email: **curate_emma@hanboroughparish.co.uk**

All sorts of interesting information about St Mary's can be seen on the "A Church Near You" website: **www.achurchnearyou.com/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

While the church building is closed, ***St Mary's Junior Church*** is temporarily suspended. However children - with their parent(s) - are very welcome to join the online benefice service - see **page 7** for details. There is a craft activity every week.

The parents and carers of the ***'Babies & Toddlers at St. Mary's'*** are keeping in touch virtually. Please contact Alice Harden (**01993 886833**) for more details.

11+ Hitchhikers are now meeting on a Sunday afternoon.
Please contact Rev. Sue Spankie (**revsue@gst.org.uk**) for more information.

The above information is correct at the date published (22/11/2020). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found at **www.hanboroughparish.co.uk**

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ST MARY'S TOWER CLOCK

Apologies that the clock is still not reading the correct time. With the current restrictions we have been unable to arrange an engineer's visit. The strike hammer remains off.

The Churchwardens

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The Churches in the Benefice of Hanborough and Freeland

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 29th November 2020
at 10.00am on 'Zoom'

Carols and Candlelight - 'Love Builds Hope'

15th December on 'Zoom' at 6.30pm

Christingle Service

16th December on 'Zoom' at 6.30pm

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 20th December 2020
[Please see **www.hanboroughparish.co.uk** for further information]

Crib Service

24th December 2020 at 3pm on 'Zoom'

Christmas Day

25th December 2020 at 10.00am on 'Zoom'

For further details to attend a service and for the login details for 'Zoom' please email:
administrator@hanboroughparish.co.uk

SHOEBOXES

We are delighted to report that during this very challenging time we have been able to send **1,264** shoeboxes to children in eastern Europe who have very little. Thank you so much for your completed boxes, fillers & donations that will bring joy and happiness to very needy children. We couldn't do it without you.

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Letter from our Curate:

Dear friends,

All of life is bittersweet. We have learnt this in so many ways this year in particular - the challenges and deep grief of this pandemic has been tinged with so many reasons for hope and thanksgiving. And this letter too is bittersweet - I write to you for the final time as your curate. I will be leaving Hanborough and Freeland in December, to take up a new post as the Priest in Charge of St Mary Magdalene, Hatfield Hyde, which is in Welwyn Garden City.

I came to serve as your curate in July 2017, and a curacy is always a transitory time, the final part of a priest's formal training - I knew when I arrived that I would be leaving within 3-4years. What I had not anticipated is what a gift these communities would be to me.

Sharing in the events of your lives has been such a privilege, and I am deeply grateful. It has been joyful, in the services of marriage I have conducted, and thankful through the very many christenings we have celebrated. It has been deeply moving to share in the times of sorrow that many of you have experienced in the last few years, as we also gave thanks for what has been and in the hope of what will be. The relationship that the church enjoys with our brilliant local schools has been a real joy, and I will miss our wonderful children and young people, and the 'Hello Revd Emma' that greets me around the villages.

I leave at a time of transition and great hope for the community and the churches in this place, with the expansion of our communities, and the imminent arrival of your new Rector, The Reverend Steve Stewart, on January 20th. I pray that the God of Hope would fill you with all joy and peace - even in these bittersweet times.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

The peace of Christ to you all,

Emma

The Revd Emma Hopegood Jones

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CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards featuring one of the stained glass windows from St Mary's are now on sale. The picture from the card is featured on this month's Grapevine cover.
These cards, produced by Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, are available in packs of 10 for **£3.50**, or 3 packs for **£10**.

If you are interested in purchasing some of these, please contact one of our churchwardens at **churchwarden.smv@gmail.com**, along with your name, address and how many packs you would like.

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Witney	08.30 - 13.30	Fri 27 November	TBA December
Woodstock	08.30 - 13.00	Sat 5 & 19 Dec	Sat 2 January

Details of other Farmers' Markets at **www.tvfm.org.uk**

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ST MARY'S CHURCH BELLS

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**

Sunday 6th Dec - 10am - Zoom service led by Rev. Fred Ireland

Sunday 13th Dec - 10am - Church Service led by Mr Eddie Fowler (may change to Zoom)

Sunday 20th Dec - 10am - To be advised - please check out the Church website (**www.witneyfaringdoncircuit.org.uk**) for up to date details of Christmas Services.

Sunday 27th Dec - No service

Friends, with the current situation we are trying very hard to plan Christmas services but to also keep everyone safe. Our 'special' Christmas gatherings will be advertised on our website as soon as we know what the Government has planned for us.
Stay safe everyone, we are here to help if needed.
Gill **883914** and Nigel **881711**
Senior Stewards, Long Hanborough Methodist Church

****

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Well here we are again in another lockdown.

During lockdown please do not donate any books. This is a precaution to keep everyone as safe as possible, and to reduce the amount of contact the volunteers have with the Little Free Library.

You can still take books home with you to read during lockdown, but please remember to quarantine books at home for a few days and to wash your hands after visiting the Little Free Library.

If you are house-bound or self-isolating at the moment but would like some books to read we can deliver some to you! Contact me by phone or email (details are below) and we can arrange to deliver a bag of books to your door. We are unable to provide specific titles, but can deliver a selection of books from your preferred genres.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this challenging time. Hopefully things will relax a little as we get closer to Christmas.

Happy reading and stay safe!

Matthew & the Little Free Library volunteers
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Address : Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4HR Phone: **01865 881613**
Website: **www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk**

On the Website you can click on Newsletter to see more details of Covid Regulations with a message from Father Mark and also see a weekly Homily/Sermon, also showing how to view it on YouTube.

The church remains closed at all times (because of the current Covid lockdown regulations) except for private prayer on Sunday 9.00 – 11.00am.

Father Mark, the Parish Priest, still says Mass privately every weekday inside the Church. This means that you can always contact him to ask for special prayers. Just remember that you are being prayed for.

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

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

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

****

SALT CROSS CONSULTATION DELIVERS POSITIVE OUTCOME

Planners at West Oxfordshire District Council say they are pleased with the results of a key consultation surrounding the Salt Cross garden village.

A total of 59 responses were received to the consultation on the draft Area Action Plan (AAP), the majority of which were supportive of the Council's approach which has climate action at its core.

The AAP will provide the next level of detail in the legislative framework against which the recently submitted outline planning application will be measured.

The next steps will involve the AAP being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and a hearing will be set up in due course.

Cllr Jeff Haine, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, said: "*It was very encouraging to see such a positive response to the consultation.*
"With the help of the AAP, our vision is to set a standard for sustainable living which will hopefully act as a blueprint for future developments both in the District and across the country."

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FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL – LISA'S NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 19th OCTOBER AND 16th NOVEMBER 2020

New storage building on field

The new storage building is progressing well, although there has been some delay in getting the concrete floor installed. This will be done shortly, and then work will be carried out to slightly relocate the current footpath by Blenheim Lane to maintain access to the field in this corner.

New salt bin

A new winter salt bin has now been installed by the entrance to the village hall car park so that it can be used as required if we get a hard winter.

Gigaclear – fibre to the premises

I know many residents have raised concerns about letters they have received from Gigaclear about digging up the road near their property to install fibre to the premises to enable faster Broadband speeds to be obtained. Some further details are as follows which I hope will be helpful.

Essentially Gigaclear will install fibre to properties, in narrow trenches dug in the verges or roads. This will give ultra-fast broadband and allow much greater downloads and uploads than currently possible.

Outside of properties they will install POTs (Points of Termination) in the ground. Then, if residents join the system, they will link these POTs to CDCs (Customer Drop Cabinets) next to their homes. If residents wish to link to the fibre network, they need to register for Government paid vouchers (£1,500 for residential properties) which Gigaclear claim and then fit the system for free to the POTs. The link from the POTs to individual home CDCs is also free - provided certain standard criteria are met such as having less than 10 metres of tarmac or concrete to dig up. If they need to dig up longer stretches of driveways than the standard amount allows, there is a charge for the extra work involved.

They hope to start digging by the end of November/beginning of December 2020 (weather permitting) with completion of the work by the end of 2021.

Gigaclear can also be a broadband service provider in place of current service providers but this is an option and residents can continue with their current service provider using the new fibre connection provided that their current service provider is willing to use the Gigaclear network (which currently not all are).

Clearly the digging phase of this operation will cause considerable disruption in the village but the future benefits will be considerable. Further information can be found at **www.gigaclear.com** or by calling **01865 591137** or emailing **networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com** .

Coronavirus – an update

Although we are in another (hopefully temporary) lockdown, we have decided for the time being not to re-start the central helpline as we felt people will probably be more prepared this time around and may not need our services!
However, if there is anyone in our community who is struggling to manage with

Continued……..

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www.kavanaghsaccountants.co.uk

Or just drop us an email to the following address:

jan@kavanaghsaccountants.co.uk or
kevin@kavanaghsaccountants.co.uk

1 Abbey Street
Eynsham
OX29 4TB

Continued……
obtaining food shopping or prescription collections, please don't be afraid to get in touch with me and we will provide some assistance (my contact details are at the bottom of these notes).

The Co-op in Long Hanborough are doing food deliveries again for essential items, and this is available Tuesday – Saturday. Simply call the Co-op's dedicated food ordering line on **0800 435902**, lines are open **08.30-17.00**. One of our volunteers will collect your shopping from the Co-op and deliver it, contactless, to your door between **18.00-20.00.**

For anyone who is particularly worried about managing with prescription collections, please speak to the pharmacy on **01993 880351** to see if you can be put on their list for direct deliveries from them, or alternatively get in touch with myself and we will do our best to help.

The food bank is still in place for the time being, so please continue to donate as and when you can (non-perishable goods only please).

Poppies

Although this wasn't discussed at the meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Angela Spriggs for ordering a wreath on behalf of the parish council that was placed on the war memorial on Remembrance Day, and to all those who placed the crosses by the trees and polished the brass plaques. All these small acts make a real difference and are very much appreciated.

Potholes!

As this is the time of year when potholes seem to appear literally everywhere, I thought this was worth mentioning!
If you spot a pothole, the quickest and easiest way to report it directly to OCC Highways is via the Fix my Street website at **https://www.fixmystreet.com/**
Just put in the postcode or road name, give details of the problem and it will get sent to OCC Highways to be fixed. Photos are often helpful to include as well to help identify where the problem is or how big a pothole it is.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

For anyone who currently drives an electric car or are considering buying one, WODC are planning to install Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) in six of the car parks that it owns. This will be done in 2 phases.

The six Council-owned car parks selected for EVCP as part of Phase One are: Carterton (Black Bourton), Chipping Norton (New Street), Eynsham (Back Lane), Witney (Woodford Way and Woodgreen Council Offices) and Woodstock (Hensington Road). Most of the car parks will have 6 charging points (with each capable of charging 2 cars simultaneously) and 12 parking bays each, with the exception of the Woodgreen Council Offices car park which will have 5 EVCP and 10 parking bays. It is estimated that installation of Phase 1 of EVCP will begin next spring and be completed in the summer. Details of Phase 2 EVCP are subject to further viability, site assessment and funding availability but must be completed by March 2022. This project is part of a County-wide scheme that is fully-funded through Innovate-UK and managed by the County Council.

Continued……..

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Continued……..

Thanks & Merry Christmas!

I would like to take this opportunity to say another little thank you! Christmas is often the time for reflection and I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for all their support, especially this past year which has been particularly challenging. I am incredibly fortunate to work with a fantastic group of people, who all voluntarily give up their time and efforts for the good of our wonderful village.

I would also like to offer a word of thanks to you, our residents, for the support you give to our Councillors and parish as a whole. I also wish to thank our incredible group of volunteers and for everyone who offered help during the first lock down. We were overwhelmed with how much support people offered. We are so fortunate to live in a fantastic village where everyone looks out for one another and offers help and support so generously. It's all of the little but important things that all count in keeping Freeland a wonderful village in which to reside.

On behalf of Freeland Parish Council, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year! Please do keep safe this festive season, remember to follow the rules and fingers crossed next year will be one where we can return to some sort of normality!

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: **None.**

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on **Monday 21st December at 7.30pm**. Details of how to join the meeting will be available from **Wednesday 16th December** on the village website (under Parish Council/Agendas) and the notice boards or by contacting me at **lisa.fpc@gmail.com**

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 PHOTO GROUP

Freeland Photo Group will continue to meet virtually on the first and third Tuesday of every month, starting at 7.30pm, for the foreseeable future. There will be only one meeting in **December**, however, on the **1st**, and the group will restart meetings in **January**, on the **19th**.

Please contact Paul Sayer on **paul.pshm1@googlemail.com** for details of the virtual meetings and the programme.

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1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUT GROUP

We will be holding our AGM on **Friday 27th November** at **7pm**, via Zoom, where we will outline our plans for the coming months and celebrate all the hard work that goes into Scouting. Zoom details will be shared with parents and carers ahead of time.

The latest lockdown halted the plans we had made for some face-to-face meetings. Prior to lockdown Cubs played football with glow-in-the-dark balls, and Explorers met for a hike. Following government guidelines all other events are currently cancelled, so we have reverted back to online meetings at the moment.

For the rest of this report I'm handing over to Mike Joyner, who is retiring from Scouting after serving an incredible 33 years with the group! He has contributed so much to the group over the years and will be greatly missed. On behalf of us all, thank you for everything Mike, you have been invaluable.

Dear Scouts, Parents and Friends,

I have mulled over my options for a long time and have decided that it is probably the right time to stand down as Scout Leader; after all its been over 33 years!
I would like to hand over the troop to a new team, so they have the opportunity to plan how they wish to take the troop forward when normal Scouting is allowed to resume, so do let us know if you would like to get involved.

I have had the best time ever at 1st Hanborough Freeland and achieved so much with the Scouts, it has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of the group and I am so proud of what we have accomplished but when the time is right, you just know, and even though it is so difficult to leave something you love, my heart knows I need to step back now. I am not sure what my Scouting future holds, but I will still be in the background with the group.

The week's camps have always been a highlight of the Scouts' year since the first one I ran in 1991 to the Brecon Beacons up until 2019, the only year we didn't have a camp was 2000 as we attended a District Millennium Camp, so 28 weeks camps which is 7 months at camp with well over 500 young people taking part over the years! We have usually had 2 or 3 other weekend camps every year too.

Another highlight would be in December 2002 when I led the County contingent of 4 leaders and 36 young people to the World Scout Jamboree in Thailand for 3 weeks, having spent the previous 18 months fundraising the £100,000 needed to attend. It was a tremendous experience to be with 30,000 young people from all over the world, for 10 days. The first part of the trip was with the 3,000 from the UK staying in one hotel having Christmas dinner together and a service on the beach!

During my time in Scouts I have been presented with a commendation for good service in 1997 followed by a medal of Merit in 2011 and last year a bar to the medal of Merit.

It's been great to get to know many of you in the village over the years many still friends now. Thank you to all the Scouts and also to the other leaders who have put up with me for so long and allowed me to do the things I have done. It's been a fantastic experience. I will still be around to help and support the group as and where I can.

Mike

Matthew Ruddle (Publicity Rep)

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FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

With the latest Covid restrictions we have again had the season suspended, we hope to restart at the beginning of December but we await the latest government guidance.

Before the curtailment there was time to re-introduce a couple of Freeland legends back into the team, the trio of Rich Trigg, Stu Hole and Matt Hardy all donned their boots to help out. Hardy particularly caught the eye of the watching crowd, with a tenacious performance. They could not help the side avoid defeat but certainly proved that class is permanent.

With no games we have taken the opportunity to have more maintenance work done on the pitch, which should help with the long term drainage and condition of the pitch.

Ben Symonds - Secretary Freeland FC

www.pitchero.com/clubs/freelandfc/ **Twitter: @freeland_fc**

****

THE OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, WOODSTOCK

As I write this, we are again closed for a second lockdown, all being well we hope to re-open on **Wednesday 2nd December** – fingers crossed! We want to take this opportunity to thank all our visitors for continuing to support us during these testing times.

You can keep up to date with our social media channels and remember to keep a look out for our Christmas children's activity videos.

Our exhibition, **Distance**, remains on display for when we re-open. Distance is now ingrained in our day to day existence. Inspired by the new normal, Oxfordshire Museums Service searched the collections for art that conveys distance. The selected works portray a variety of geographical locations across the county, are a mix of ages and styles, and are executed by Oxfordshire artists, including nationally significant painters such as William Turner of Oxford. They are unified by the concept of distance.

The **Garden Café** will re-open with the Museum for take-aways, including delicious hot mince pies to warm you from the inside, and the museum gift shop has lots of lovely gift ideas for all the family. The galleries will all be open, except for the dinosaur gallery, and don't forget we have free admission!

Given the current situation with so much uncertainty, please check our website for Christmas opening hours.

We would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy Christmas.

Stay in touch

You can keep up to date with all our events and exhibitions by visiting our website:
www.oxfordsire.gov.uk/museums Twitter & Facebook **@oxonmuseum**

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The governing body plays an important part in helping the school to succeed: it is responsible for working strategically in partnership with the head teacher and staff to identify the school's goals, develop the plans to achieve them, and monitor the school's progress towards them. Governors work collectively to ensure the school's success.

You do not need to have previous experience and there is plenty of training available for both new and experienced governors.

If you would like to know a little more about becoming a governor, please get in touch with Toby O'Neil (tobyoneil@freeland.oxon.sch.uk) who will be happy to discuss the role with you.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Sarah Nickelson — Headteacher

Toby O'Neil — Chair of Governors

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BEAR & MONKEY

Bear & Monkey would like to share two items with you which may be of interest if you have access to the internet.

The first is the chance to listen, via Zoom, to Aisling Ennis who is an award-winning, professional harpist based in Wicklow, Ireland. Each **Thursday** morning at **11.00am** Aisling is inviting 100 people to join her for an hour long concert.

Aisling's hope is to reach out to people in isolation or in situations where a harp concert might be just the thing they need. Her concerts were featured in "The Times" newspaper on November 7th and her last concert each month is in aid of Bear & Monkey's favourite charity - Msizi Africa.
For more details, and to register for a concert, **please Google "harp o'clock"**

Bear & Monkey would also like to tell everyone about "The Big Give" and how you may be able to use it to make a donation to your favourite charity and have your gift doubled at no extra cost to you. The Big Give is the UK's #1 match funding platform and they specialise in bringing together individuals, charities and philanthropists.

This year their special Christmas event runs from **December 1st to 8th** and any donations you make during that week may be doubled if your charity is one of the ones listed and they haven't already met their matching target.

To see if your charity is listed please just visit the Big Give web site at **https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/**. And if your favourite charity isn't listed then please feel free to choose Bear & Monkey's favourite charity which is Msizi Africa!

Inspired Villages

Inspired Villages is a retirement community operator, majority owned and funded by Legal & General. We are looking to develop in Freeland with the construction of **specialist housing for older people** and **a range of facilities** which will be available to residents of Freeland, such as;

Café **Restaurant** **Shop**

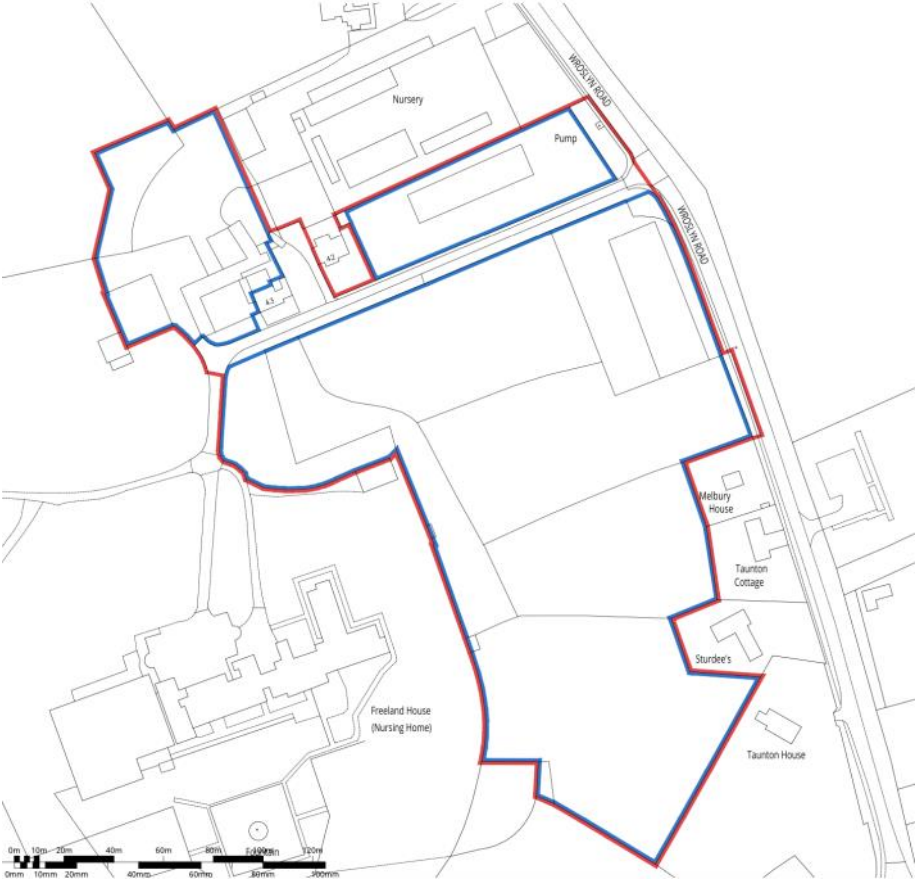
Hair Salon **Parkland** **Minibus**

Meeting Rooms **Wellness Centre (gym, pool, treatment rooms)**

An Inspired Village will typically generate **35-40 jobs** in a range of roles from management and administration to housekeeping, catering, gardeners, maintenance, and care staff.

We are long-term investors in the locations in which we operate our villages and we strive to integrate with and become part of existing communities.

We are seeking your views ahead of the possible submission of a planning application for an Inspired Village community on land between Wroslyn Road and the Freeland House Care Home.



We want to engage with you and your neighbours, to discuss these exciting plans and understand what type of facilities may be desirable to, and benefit, the residents of Freeland. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions this initial consultation will be online.

The Inspired Villages Freeland website will be live and inviting your views from 9am on 1 December to 5pm on 15 December

www.inspiredvillages.co.uk/freeland

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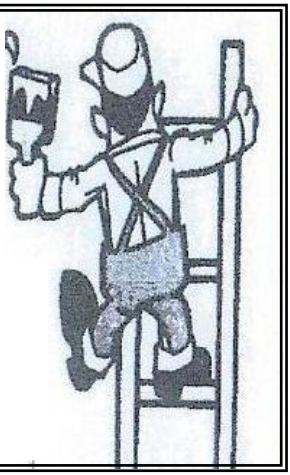

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Connect for Christmas

We are unable to hold our usual tree lighting event this year because of the uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 virus.

However...

...we will still have a Christmas tree at the front of the hall!

Freeland Village Hall Management Committee
would like to invite you to join in the Christmas celebrations by switching on your outside lights with us.

Let's make this a GRAND village event!

on

Monday 7th December

at

7.30pm

BUS SERVICES

At time of writing, the four-week national lockdown is due to end on 2nd December. I sincerely hope that there will not be a need for an extension of this second national lockdown. So as soon as circumstance allow, we will resume the Comet bus service to enable our regular passengers to go Christmas shopping in Witney! The service will continue to be free-of-charge and by advance booking only to comply with Covid-19 guidelines on social distancing which limit the number of passengers to six. Please note that we expect to be able to provide the service on Mondays and Fridays if required. By now we know all our regular passengers and they know how to make a booking.

Looking ahead to next year, the recovery of economic and social activity is highly uncertain but our fantastic team of volunteers is ready to resume the Community bus service on Thursdays whenever required. But it will probably be many months before user demand makes that necessary especially since we will have to live with some restrictions probably for the whole of next year.

To end on an optimistic note, I am happy to say that the lack of a scheduled public bus service in Freeland remains the subject of live discussions and the search for a satisfactory solution is ongoing. I will let you know if any of those efforts seem promising.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Alaa Al-Yousuf
Chairman of Freeland Community Bus Management Committee
Home: **01993 880689** Mobile: **07768 898914**

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THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2020

Last call for anyone who would like to have a Christmas dinner delivered on Christmas Eve. Please contact the team if you would like to be added, if you are still unsure of your arrangements, it would be better to be a "maybe" on the list.

Many thanks to the villagers who have offered to cook both the meal and the pudding elements. Deliveries will be made on the afternoon of the 24th.

Julie Stuart-Thompson **01993 880378** **julie.st@btinternet.com**
Jane Linnell **07437 330285**

ROTARY CLUB OF EYNSHAM - CHRISTMAS UPDATE

Rotary Club of Eynsham is still hoping to be able to help Santa with his Christmas duties, but at present we are still receiving contradictory information regarding what form this might be allowed to take.

At present we have three provisionally booked static events at the Eynsham Lights event, Stanton Harcourt PTA, and at Cassington village green. Details of these &, if we are allowed, the street tours will be published in Eynsham Online so that any last minute adjustments can be updated regularly **https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk**

Please check regularly to find out what will be happening in your area.

In the meantime, we wish you all a safe "lockdown" and hope we all emerge in December to enjoy at least some pre-Christmas cheer.

Freeland Nurseries and Freeland Pre-school Christmas Tree Charity Partnership

This year, Freeland Nurseries have again kindly offered to donate to Freeland Pre-school for *every* freshly cut Christmas tree sold.

Please shop local and help Freeland Nurseries to support our village pre-school!

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FREELAND CRAFT CLUB

As with many other village organisations, we are still not able to meet as we used to, so we keep in touch with e-mails. We were able to celebrate a member's 90th birthday with a very small get-together in October. At the time of writing, the annual Shoebox appeal is still going forward in November and we are starting to hope that the announcement of a new Covid vaccine will hasten the time before we can all meet together again safely.

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

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EYNSHAM MEDICAL GROUP - VACCINATION UPDATE FOR PATIENTS

FLU VACCINE

Due to the pandemic, the Practice has seen a vast increase in demand for the vaccination compared to previous years. They have successfully run several flu clinics which have proved extremely effective for delivering the flu vaccinations to large number of patients in a short period of time and will continue to do so.

Ages 18-65 At Risk Patients

The Practice is working through the eligible patient list as quickly as they can and have recently had confirmation that they will be receiving more stock of the vaccination for this group very soon. They are contacting those who are at the highest risk directly but may be releasing more appointments soon which can be booked via the dedicated flu booking line **01993 880786**. Please note - the line is extremely busy and will only be manned between **10am and 2pm Mon-Fri**. You must listen to the greeting message which will confirm whether there is availability or not. We want to avoid disappointment if you hold to get through and only then find there are none available. Appointments for this age group cannot be booked online.

Age 65 and over

There are some appointments left which can be booked either online via Patient Access or by calling the dedicated flu booking line **01993 880786**. As explained above, the flu line is only manned **10am-2pm Mon-Fri** and you must listen to the greeting message to confirm there is availability.

Age 50-64

The flu vaccination will also be offered **free** to the age group 50-64 from 1 December, but the Practice will need to make arrangements for how this will be done. **Please do not contact the surgeries just yet but check the news section of the website regularly for any updates to this.**

COVID VACCINE

It has been well publicised in the news recently that there is a Covid-19 Vaccine that the Government intend to roll out once all the final safety checks have been made. The Practice is awaiting further guidance from NHS England and will inform their patients as soon as possible. Appointments for this vaccine are not available at this time.

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UNEXPECTED TALES 4

Unexpected Tales 4 - an anthology of short stories from 15 local authors living in the OX29 area has now been published and you can order the e-book or paperback from Amazon: **https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B08MCG8Q84/ ref=pe_20580941_540740991_pe_re_csr_ea_image**

The book launch will not take place at the Oxfordshire Yeoman this year because of the Covid-19 restrictions. Instead we will be having a stall at the Freeland Farmers' Market on **Sunday 13th December**. We will be selling copies of the new book in aid of Helen and Douglas House. It has been quite a challenge to bring together this edition of Unexpected Tales but we think that you will find that the stories make a good read during these difficult times.

****

FREELAND WI

During these unprecedented times we are continuing to keep in touch with our members through our monthly newsletter, telephone calls or a keep in touch card. Last month we were delighted to report about the sponsored walk that two of our members, Marilyn and Maggie did in aid of WI funds. Thanks to generous donations from friends and family they have raised almost **£600** which is a fantastic result. Huge thanks to them for doing this and to their sponsors. Your support for this is much appreciated.

With regard to future meetings we will keep reviewing on the basis of guidance from the government and the Oxfordshire and National Federation. Much as we are missing getting together for social activities and hearing our interesting and varied speakers, everyone's safety is our priority.

All Members receive our digital copy of News and Views with information about talks the federation have set up via Zoom which we can sign into. If you go to the website given and click the book now button you will get the details you need to log in.

WI Climate Advisor Tip from Rosie Smith

Support Organisations trying to address Climate Change issues

You can do this by buying their products and services or by writing/emailing messages of support. For example Oxfordshire County Council has submitted a bid for the all-electric bus towns and cities fund, which would help to convert all the buses in the city run by Stagecoach and the Oxford Bus Company. This is a great initiative for which the council should be congratulated. **https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/ news/18503562.oxfordshire-submits-47m-all-electric-bus-bid-oxford-deadline -worries/**

Freeland WI normally meets on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall, starting at **8pm** and finishing around **10pm**. We always welcome visitors and new members at our meetings.

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** Our President Aileen Tattam can be contacted on **atattam@outlook.com** or on **01993 881526**

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ALBERT DIDCOCK

Thank you to everyone for the many cards and messages of condolences on the passing of my husband Albert Didcock. From Rita and family.

****

POPPY APPEAL 2020

Thank you so much residents of Freeland, against all odds together we managed to raise a wonderful **£1278.64** for the Poppy Appeal. The Royal British Legion will need every single penny raised this year, so a huge thanks to all who donated and a special thank you to the organisers of the Farmers' Market for their support, and to Freeland Nurseries for allowing a very popular static collection point.

This period of time is about Remembrance, and even if you were unable to donate and obtain a poppy this year, the most important thing is we have remembered those who have made sacrifices for us all.

I would like to thank the wonderful volunteers for their ongoing support. We have all been disappointed at not being able to collect door to door, but on behalf of the volunteers, we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Take care everyone and look after each other. Angela Spriggs

****

CHRISTMAS QUIZ IN AID OF MARIE CURIE

Wednesday 9th December 2020, 7.30 pm for 8 pm start at The Oxfordshire Yeoman Pub, 172 Wroslyn Road, Freeland, Witney **OX29 8AQ** .
Back by popular demand is our Christmas Quiz. The pub can host a maximum of 10 teams in a mix of tables for 4 or 6 people. **TABLES MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE (01993) 881003**. All participants MUST wear a face mask on entry until seated. Please remember to also sanitise your hands. Drinks will be ordered and served at your table. Food will be available between **6-8pm** so please arrive and order early if you'd like to eat. Entry is just **£3** per person with all proceeds being donated to Marie Curie.

The Yeoman are kindly donating a meal for two worth £25 for one lucky raffle prize winner.

Raffle prizes on the night will be very much appreciated. This event will be run as COVID safe as possible so please do come along and support it if you can. For more information please contact Nicky Clargo at **oxfordshire.stars@gmail.com** or ring **07754 271831**

Our 2020 fundraising efforts have been dramatically affected by the pandemic this year. This is having a devastating effect on charities like Marie Curie who rely on the public for support. If you are fortunate to be in a position to make a small donation to our fundraising page I know those who are supported by the Marie Curie Nurses would appreciate your kindness. Please log on to **www.justgiving.com/oxfordshire-stars2020** and leave a note for both the patients and the nurses.

We hope to see you again soon, but appreciate things might not get better until next Spring.

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CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Due to the uncertainty of restrictions that the Covid situation has brought about, we have reluctantly decided not to hold our usual Wreath Making Workshop in Freeland Village Hall in December this year.

However, we have decided to offer ready-made wreaths. For more information please contact us on either of the emails below and we will send you pictures & further details.

Rosie James **colinandrosiejames@hotmail.co.uk**
Lesley Jenkins **lesley8055@gmail.com**

FREELAND SPEEDWATCH

Due to the impact of Covid-19, Speedwatch was one of the many activities that had to be suspended back in March. Thames Valley Police have now confirmed that Speedwatch sessions can now be resumed.

It will be apparent to all local residents that many vehicles speed through the village. The group have previously recorded some drivers reaching speeds in excess of 50mph. The presence of members of the group along Wroslyn Road and at The Green had a positive impact and saw a reduction in both the number of drivers speeding and the speeds recorded. During lockdown it has been noticeable that speeds have crept up once again.

The collection of data is not only important for Thames Valley Police but will also be a useful tool in discussions with Oxfordshire County Council when considering the impact of the proposed Park and Ride and building of Salt Cross, the new garden village. This will be particularly relevant to us if we do not want Freeland to become a route for heavy construction vehicles or to become a rat run.

We are a small group of volunteers and would encourage more people to join us. Could you spare an hour or two a week to help record the number and speed of motorists at various times of the day and on different days of the week?

If you would like to be involved, or require any further information, please contact me. Together we can ensure that our village is both a beautiful and safe place to live.

Roger Faulkner, Freeland Speedwatch Co-ordinator
rogfner@aol.com 01993 622413

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REPORT FLY-TIPPING

Residents will be able to report fly-tips more easily thanks to an improved service from West Oxfordshire District Council.

A new online form will allow the user to pinpoint the fly-tip on an interactive map so they don't have to spend time trying to describe the location or looking up a postcode. That makes it is easier for the Council team to locate and with previously reported cases visible, it also means less duplication, allowing a quicker investigation and clean-up.

If a resident calls for more information about their report, the customer services team can give more detailed case information on the spot.
To report a fly-tip go to: **https://community.westoxon.gov.uk/s/fly-tip**

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GET HELP ORGANISING FUEL BILLS AND SUPPLIERS

Did you know that Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire has advisers who can help you sign up with a new fuel or electricity company, or switch to a better tariff?

There's no charge for our time and you won't be steered towards one particular supplier because we're impartial, having no links with any of them. We offer one-on-one sessions (by telephone at present) and we'll take a close look at your individual situation.

Now is the time to sort it out!

We can help you understand energy bills and various kinds of tariffs, supporting you if you want to switch and calculating the savings you might make. If you've fallen behind on bill payments, we can advise you on ways to reduce your debt by budgeting or trying a new payment scheme, for example.

We can also tell you about energy efficiency measures around the house, like draught-proofing windows and doors and installing LED light bulbs. Grants may be available to pay for thermal insulation.

We can check your benefit entitlements and help you to claim them if you're eligible. There are several helpful schemes like the Priority Services Register and the Warm Home Discount.

Continued on ***page 42***…….

Continued……

And if you have any complaints against your current supplier, we can help you resolve them.

Energy advice sessions are available over the phone. Contact us for an appointment on **01993 892057**, email **info@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk** or visit **www.citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk.**

citizens advice West Oxfordshire

Freeland Pre-School provide high quality Pre-school education for 2 to 5-year olds. We are a small, friendly and welcoming Pre-school, with a large outdoor space.

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

Freeland Pre-School is committed to safeguarding.

We can take children for half day sessions or full days from **8.45am - 3.15pm,** term time only. We offer funding for 2, 3 and 4 years for 15 hours or 30 hours.
Pricing: **am** or **pm** sessions **£15** / **full day £30**
Early bird session starting at **8.45am £2.50.** (Spaces available in September)

We do lots of fun activities at Freeland Pre-school including Outdoor Explores in the woods.

Pre-school activities

The children are learning all about different celebrations, especially Christmas, but we have also talked about Bonfire night, Remembrance, Children in Need, Hanukkah, Diwali and Thanksgiving. The children watched clips about the celebrations.

We had a party week where we celebrated all the children who had their birthdays during lockdown.

Sadly this year we cannot have our big Christmas party, instead we are having a week of Christmas activities, such as a party, giant collage, decorating the trees in the woods and, fingers crossed if we are out of lockdown, a magic show.

Have a Merry Christmas from all of us at Freeland Pre-school.

T:01993 882945 E:freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk W:www.freelandpreschool.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/freelandpreschool

FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

The Club is preparing for next season, with a great deal of work being done on the square and the search for a new cricket pitch mower is underway. The terms of the grant we received from the English Cricket Board requires us to spend the grant by 31st December.

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held on the 23rd November, fuller details will appear in the January Grapevine.

The Club's development plan has been reviewed, and the results have been very favourable even though Covid-19 did it's very best to undermine us. We have increased our number of players, coaches and equipment, and we are in a good position for 2021 and beyond.

In Oxfordshire there are two adult cricket leagues, the OCA, which we have played in, and the Cherwell League. In recent years the number of clubs in the OCA has been reducing and the Cherwell League approached the OCA with a proposal to offer an open invitation to all OCA clubs to join the Cherwell League. In a vote 86% of OCA clubs accepted the invitation. This will mean that we will move into the Cherwell League next season, and it is highly likely that we will be playing in a regional division with our opposition coming from West Oxon or nearby.

As we think about our future needs we have been overwhelmed with offers of sponsorship from local businesses. We would like to thank the following companies for sponsoring us in 2021. If anyone else wants to be a sponsor please contact me using the details below.

Sponsors for 2021

Eurodrive - Car and Van Rentals
OWS
The Academy Partnership
OX29 Bat Doctor
Darke & Taylor
Freeland Fencing
Board with Walking

Full details of these companies will appear on our website and Facebook Page.

The Club would also like to extend its condolences to Carole Surman following the loss of her husband Chirp. Chirp and Carole have been great supporters of the Cricket Club, often watching their grandchildren, daughters and son-in-law play cricket over the past 7 years. In memory of Chirp, Carole has made a donation to the club which will purchase 36 junior cricket balls from OX29 Bat Doctor. We are very grateful for her support at this most difficult time.

Finally we would like to send our thanks to Trevor Johnson for all the fantastic support he has offered us over the past 7 years. I have calculated the pub team has cooked **2 tonnes of chips and over 4,000 sausages** for our junior players! We also welcome Paul, Anna and Megan to the Yeoman, and we are looking forward to supporting you in the near future.

Simon Brown
Chairman Freeland Cricket Club
Email: **freelandcc.u11@gmail.com**
Website: **https://freeland.play-cricket.com**
Facebook: **Freeland Cricket Club**

SHARING WINTER WARMTH

Over the last two years many Eynsham and Freeland residents have generously donated their Winter Fuel payments to the Eynsham Consolidated Charity.

The Covid-19 pandemic has starkly exposed an unintended but important paradox.

Whilst many people in our community, with greatly reduced earnings and the real threat of redundancy and unemployment, find themselves and their families at or near breaking point. There are others with a regular and unreduced income that have found themselves spending less and actually feeling better off! Is it possible that you have unintentionally found yourself in this latter category?

If, in these difficult times, you feel fortunate, please consider passing on your Winter Fuel payment to the Eynsham Consolidated Charity. The Charity covers the ancient parish of Eynsham which includes Freeland and makes one-off grants to relieve hardship.

Cheques made payable to '**Eynsham Consolidated Charity**' can be sent to the Clerk, Robin Mitchell, 20 High Street, Eynsham OX29 4HB. Payments may also be made directly to the Charity's account: Eynsham Consolidated Charity, sort code **09-01-51**, account number **25159404**

The Trustees again thank all last year's donors, most of whom remain anonymous having made their donations by bank transfer. If you would like an acknowledgement of your gift, please contact Robin Mitchell by post (as above) or by email: **eynshamcharities@gmail.com**

IMPORTANT If you know of anyone in the villages of Eynsham and Freeland who may benefit from additional support with their winter heating costs, do please let Robin Mitchell know.

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COMBE MILL

The Mill IS now closed for the winter, which is about the only normal thing to happen in 2020.

The Mill finally opened for three Wednesdays in October and we loved welcoming visitors back for the first time since March. We finished with a flourish, when lots of visitors came on the half term Wednesday, despite the inclement weather around lunch time. Both children and adults alike, thoroughly enjoyed carving pumpkins, some being return visitors who were displaying excellent design skills.

If you would like to find out more about volunteer opportunities at the Mill, please do get in touch as we would love to hear from you. We are of course hopeful that the Mill will re-open in March as usual..... with whatever extra restrictions may be in operation at that time. Do remember that we offer some very different gift experiences, blacksmiths and beam engineers if you would like to give someone a very unique present this Christmas.

We would like to wish you all a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Julie Stuart-Thompson (Mill Director) **www.combemill.org**

THE OXFORSHIRE YEOMAN

A big warm hello from The Oxfordshire Yeoman's new landlords - Paul, Anna, and our daughter Megan.

As many of you may know, we took over Freeland's beloved pub from the equally beloved Trevor on the 27th October.

And what a strange time to be taking on a pub… Only eight days in and we went into national lockdown! But that does not mean we have been deterred. With the help of Stacey, we've been successfully running a wonderful takeaway menu (thank you to all who have ordered!), the Yeo-op shop has continued to supply the village with essentials, and we've used the time to do some renovations on the pub.

But do not worry, The Yeoman won't be dramatically changing – it will still be the cosy, proper pub it has always been, just with a fresh lick of paint, new oak wood flooring (cue to the OOooo's) and some fresh decorations. And a lot of work has happened in the background! We're also sprucing up the drink choice by sourcing local and craft beers, ales and spirits, and giving the menu a shake up by cooking as fresh and local as possible each day.

We know that we have big boots to fill. We also know how much the pub means to Freeland through the support of the cricket and many other sports and social clubs, as a place to meet friends and as a hub for the village and beyond. And so, the three of us and the brilliant Yeoman team will do our utmost to keep it that way!
Thank you for already giving us a warm welcome into the village and we look forward to getting to know you all better over the coming months!

Anna, Paul and Megan

Find out more and see our Christmas Menu by visiting **www.oxfordshireyeoman.com**

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FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

How quickly the year seems to have gone and it is time to wish all our members and fellow Freelanders a Very Happy Christmas. It has been a very unusual year which we hope is never repeated. However the garden and nature carries on in such a wonderful way, and there are still lots of jobs that can be done when the weather allows us to get out.

One of the main jobs for many people is raking leaves off the lawn and possibly some flower beds. Put them in a plastic bag, such as an old compost bag, press them down firmly and leave to rot down into a good mulch in about 2 years' time. Remove all spent crops such as courgettes and together with dead annuals etc. add them to the compost bin or heap. If you have a greenhouse and use it to keep delicate plants in during the winter, line the glass with bubble wrap to insulate it. Clean the greenhouse thoroughly first. Watch out for pests such as slugs hiding in damp place and woolly aphids which appear on apple trees. These can be scrubbed off or washed off with water with a drop of washing up liquid added.
Soft fruit can be pruned at this time. Check on line or a gardening book which and how they can be cut back. Cut back buddleia and rose bushes. New bare root roses are a cheaper way to grow new bushes. *Continued on **page 46**…….*

*Continued……..**Gardening Club Report***

Garden birds will be hungrier soon, so keep bird feeders clean and topped up. They also need a source of clean water to drink.

During winter house plants are just the tonic. Some house plants enjoy a time in the garden in the summer so bring them in now and give them a clean and tidy up. Most will benefit from a good source of light. Turn them from time to time to prevent them leaning one way to get the light. House plants can improve the air by filling it with oxygen as a by product of photosynthesis. Having a variety of leaf shapes and colour can revitalise us, also they can benefit us when we tend them and fuss over them! Misting them helps to improve humidity.
Winter need not be a dull time for gardeners as we continue tending our plants inside rather than outside.

We still do not know when Gardening Club meetings will be allowed, but as the nights are dark and cold maybe restarting in the Spring would suit many of us.

For any further information about Freeland Gardening Club please contact ray and Jill Evans on **jillandray@btinternet.com**

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)

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COULD SOMEONE YOU KNOW BE ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE GAS CONNECTION AND CENTRAL HEATING

Heating a home with electricity is three times more expensive than it would be with a gas central heating system, forcing many people this winter to make the difficult choice between heating or eating to survive.

SGN's Help to Heat scheme can support people struggling to make ends meet by providing funding to connect some households to our gas network for free.

In some cases, we can also fully or partially fund a gas central heating system.

We've already helped thousands of people to receive free connections and installations and we're determined to help hundreds more homes save money on their energy bills this winter.

You may qualify for support if you receive certain income-related benefits:

- if your household income, after your rent or mortgage costs, is considered low and the expected cost to adequately heat your home would be high;
- and if you are eligible under your local authority's unique criteria, known as its 'statement of intent'. This will include income, but may also include health conditions and/or your home's energy efficiency rating. However, not every local authority offers this.

Grant funding is also available to organisations who can show they are able to help us reach households in our network so that we can work in partnership to maximise the benefits of both our Help to Heat scheme and Central Heating Grant Fund.

To find out more about our Help to Heat scheme, visit **sgn.co.uk/HelptoHeat** or call YES Energy Solutions on **0800 015 5174** to speak to a Help to Heat advisor. You can also email our team at **HelptoHeat@sgn.co.uk** with your name and contact details.

FARMERS' MARKET
at the VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

Thank you to everybody who supported the October market which raised **£120** for The Royal British Legion.

The next Market will be on:

SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 10am - 1pm

We expect to host

Moore & Lyon Meats, Tess' Brilliant Tray Bakes, Knead Bakehouse, Chillies 2U, Freeland Lamb, Well Preserved Jams & Chutneys, Flamingo Paperie, Team Tea, The Mighty Pie Company, Carla's Vegetarian Foods, Artisan Chocolate, Smorgas Tarta (Swedish Cuisine), Two Jolly Cooks frozen meals, GB Mead Co., Bibury Trout Farm, Poulton Hill Estate Wine, Jane's Cake Studio, 'Unexpected Tales 4' book launch, plus others yet to confirm!

Tea, coffee, mulled wine & breakfast rolls available at The Yeoman from **9.30am**

No Farmers' Market in January, but it will return on Sunday 28th February

NORTH LEIGH ROMAN VILLA SITE OX29 6PZ

The remains of North Leigh Roman Villa are set within a peaceful landscape on the banks of the River Evenlode in Oxfordshire. This 'courtyard villa' is considered one of the larger villas of Roman Britain. It was at its most extensive in the early 4th century when it included four bath suites, 16 mosaic floors and 11 rooms with under-floor heating.

Today, the rectangular arrangement of the villa is visible. However, the most important feature of the site is a nearly complete mosaic tile floor dating to the 3rd century.

Read more about the history of North Leigh Roman Villa at **https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/history/**

The mosaics in the Villa are only accessible during Open Days. The next Open Days will be in the Spring of 2021.

Access: Access to the site is via an uneven farm track, which can become muddy in wet weather and may be unsuitable for wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

Opening times: The site is open all year round.

Parking: There is parking space for several cars in a lay-by on the roadside, directly opposite the farm track down to the villa. There is a walk of approximately 0.5km down a farm track to the site entrance.

Facilities: There are no facilities onsite.

Group visits: Our volunteer team may be able to facilitate group visits to view the mosaics. Booking is essential and is subject to availability, please email **FSWEnquiries@english-heritage.org.uk.**

Dogs: Dogs on leads are welcome.

HELP CHEER UP A HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS

In previous years, the Hospitals have been hugely grateful to many people who have made generous donations of toys and gifts for patients of all ages in their hospitals. However, this year the festive toy and gift drops cannot take place due to Covid-19 restrictions.

So Oxford Hospitals Charity has launched a new virtual gift giving scheme to ensure that Christmas cheer continues.

By going online to **www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/giveagift** you can donate a toy for a child, a gift for an older patient, or support one of the many projects the charity is working on to make the hospitals more comfortable and welcoming for patients. Their fundraising manager says " *All toys and gifts purchased have been carefully chosen by their amazing team of Play Specialists and staff who work with older patients.*
So you are safe in the knowledge that your donation will be making a real difference to the patients that need them the most. It is our chance to show that, whatever is going on in the world, there is still time to raise a smile on the face of someone who is in hospital."

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STREET TAG

Street Tag is a new family-friendly game that rewards primary schools, families, individuals and communities for physical activities such as walking, running, and cycling.

Street Tag is turning streets and parks in Oxfordshire into a giant virtual playground. You can play to win rewards for your child's primary school, or as an individual or team of up to six people in Oxfordshire's community league.

Watch your total distance accumulate and see how you far you climb up the local leader board. Get ready to push yourself and start your journey to a healthy lifestyle with Street Tag.
For more info on how to play, head to **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/streettag**

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EYNSHAM ROADRUNNERS - DO YOU ENJOY RUNNING

Whether you want to run-walk or win races, you'll get a very warm welcome at Eynsham Roadrunners. We're a friendly club offering you encouragement and practical support to reach your running and health goals. In August, we returned to socially distanced and pre-registered club training on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and have a busy calendar of running and social events throughout the year. Whilst many events are currently on hold we've found new ways to stay connected. Our virtual events and challenges include live Pilates for Runners, a 5k surrogate parkrun and a series of cross country running events. For those who would like to start running or make a return, early in 2021 we plan to re-start our 10 week program, "You Can Run" to support your challenge.
Find out more about Eynsham Roadrunners at: **www.eynshamroadrunners.org.uk**
or email us at **eynsham.err@gmail.com** We'd love to welcome you to our club!

A BIG THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE GRAPEVINE TO:

- The distributors who deliver to all the houses in the village, without your monthly endeavors, in all weathers, there would be no Grapevine!
- The contributors, both regular and occasional - especially this year keeping interest going when your groups couldn't meet in person.
- Not forgetting all who advertise, and whose revenue pays for the production of the 800 monthly copies.
- And to all the readers, who make this all worthwhile.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas, and the hope that 2021 turns out to be a better year for everybody. Thank you! Kenny Wylie - Editor

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

W 25 Nov	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
W 2 Dec	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
M 7 Dec	Christmas Lights Connect/Tree Lighting event 7.30pm - see **page 29**
W 9 Dec	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Su 13 Dec	**Farmers' Market - Freeland Village Hall car park 10am - 1pm**
W 16 Dec	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
M 21 Dec	**Freeland Parish Council 'Zoom' Virtual Meeting, 7.30pm**
W 23 Dec	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection

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The deadline for articles or adverts for the **January** Grapevine is **Thursday 10th December.** The **January** edition should be in the church porch and online at **www.freelandoxon.co.uk** from **Friday 18th December.**

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

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

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

Adverts: grapevineadverts@gmail.com
Articles: freelandgrapevine@gmail.com
Or mail: Kenny Wylie, 1 Blenheim Lane, Freeland, Witney OX29 8AW **01993 883245**

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

The editor reserves the right to edit all copy.
Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, liability cannot be accepted for any errors or omissions in compiling this magazine.
Neither the Church, the Editor nor the Printer assume responsibility for any effects arising therefrom. We do not endorse any advertisers or their services or products, nor any articles, reports or suggestions in the Grapevine.

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THE CAKE STUDIO, FREELAND
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Please visit us at the Farmers' Market, Village Hall car park on **Sunday 13th December**
We look forward to seeing you. **www.janescakestudio.co.uk / 01993 881273**

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

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If you'd like a catalogue, please contact Sarah on **07812 165054**.

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Contact - Graham Lay **01993 881464**

FOR SALE - GOGO ELITE MOBILITY SCOOTER
Only 15 months old, hardly used. Extras include: basket, spare battery, large cover for storage, and seat shopping bag. No reasonable offer refused.
Contact Mike Pickett **01993 882889**

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NEW OUH STRATEGY 2020-2025 LAUNCHED

The Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (John Radcliffe Hospital, Churchill Hospital, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and the Horton Hospital in Banbury) were due to launch their strategy for the next five years just before the COVID-19 pandemic started – lessons learned from their response to the pandemic have now been incorporated into the strategy, which will guide their priorities and decisions across the Trust over the next five years.

The Strategy 2020-2025, seeks to deliver their vision of 'delivering compassionate excellence for our people, our patients, and our populations'. It is focused on three strategic objectives:

• Making OUH a great place to work by delivering the best staff experience and wellbeing for all our people, supported by a sustainable workforce model and a compassionate culture

• Improving the access, quality, and experience of care for all our patients

• Working with their partners to improve the health and wellbeing of the populations they serve, working collaboratively to deliver integrated and sustainable services

The strategy sets out how the Trust will work together with the wider health and care system for patients, staff, and the people of Oxfordshire and beyond.

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