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St Mary's Freeland



October 2025

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ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Sunday 28th September 10.00am Communion

Leader: Revd Dr Steve Stewart Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart

Sunday 5th October 10.00am Morning Praise – Joint with Christ Church At Christ Church

Sunday 12th October 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Matt Cripps Preacher: Matt Cripps

Sunday 19th October 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Andy Richens Preacher: Jon Abu Baker

Sunday 26th October 10.00am Communion

Leader: Revd Dr Steve Stewart Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart

Sunday 2nd November 10.00am Morning Praise

Leaders: Matt and Mandy Cripps Preachers: Matt and Mandy Cripps

The above information is correct on the date published (**21/9/2025**). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website below.

St Mary the Virgin is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm/dusk.

Please enjoy the space to look around, for prayer or for quiet reflection.

**See our website at www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk or the Benefice website
www.hfchurch.org.uk**

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCHYARD

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

For further information or to contact the church, please see our website at stmaryfreeland.org.uk or use the QR code.



Freeland Parochial Church Council

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Interment of Ashes Winston George Hazell 13th August 2025

Haigh Peter Yagmourian 18th August 2025

Thank you to Jonathon Langford for last month's photograph and this month to Alan Charlett from Al's Owls

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Useful contact details

Rector: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
01993 881270

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

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Clive Berry 01993 882080

Associate Rector: Revd Mike Madden
Email: associate.rector@hfchurch.org.uk

Curate:

Hugh Dalton Emeritus: 01993 881742

Flowers in the Church:

Janet Dalton
01993 881742

Churchwarden: Position Vacant

Weddings: Revd Dr Steve Stewart 01993 881270 rector@hfchurch.org.uk and
administrator@hfchurch.org.uk

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

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

Children's and Youth Work - families are really welcome at all our services. At St Mary's the **first Sunday of the month is a Family Service** where everyone stays in Church, and everyone joins in with the all-age service. At the other **10am** services, children and youth can take part in games, discussion, art, and other activities in small groups close by. Come and give it a try!

Bible Fun Club

Details of further events will be on our website www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk

To join our email list for news about these upcoming events please send your details to administrator@hfchurch.org.uk

	<p>Baby and Toddler Group</p> <p>Wednesday (term time only), 10:00 - 11:30</p> <p>Christ Church, Long Hanborough</p> <p>£2 per family (under 1s free)</p>	
<p>We welcome all under 5s and their parent/carer. Join us to meet others and enjoy free play and fun activities together. Each session finishes with refreshments, a Bible story and song time.</p> <p>For more information: hfchurch.org.uk/firststeps</p>		
<p>Please note, you now need to sign up in advance to secure your place due to high demand.</p> <p>You can sign up from 5pm on the Sunday before the session. Please see our website for more details.</p>		



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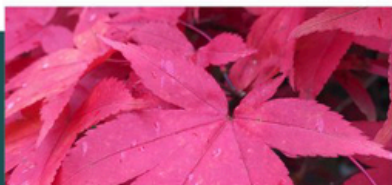
I can provide a full garden design, planting plans or a simple garden report - some ideas of how you could best use your outdoor space and the types of plants that you like and would suit the environment.

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LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD DR STEVE STEWART

The Original Atheists!

I love atheists. I have found conversations with atheists to be some of the most rewarding of all. They make me think carefully about what I believe and why. For example, as a believer in Jesus Christ I hold Jesus' resurrection from the dead to be not simply a "nice thing to believe" but a fact of history! This and much else that Christians believe is, at face value, ridiculous.

The claims of Christianity would be, without supporting evidence, absurd: God created the universe?; God came to earth as a man?; The Bible is the inspired word of God?; Jesus Christ gave sight to the blind?; Jesus rose from the dead? The list goes on and on. Atheists have every right to question these things, and nothing helps my faith more than that they do so! I have a responsibility both as a Christian and as the Rector of the parishes of Hanborough and Freeland to provide coherent evidence-based answers to these issues.

Let us remember that Christianity is an ancient faith. In the ancient world there were two types of beliefs at work: Judaism and paganism. Judaism believed in one God and ancient pagans (Gentiles) believed in many gods. Then Christianity with its one Jewish God came along, with many pagans becoming Christians. If you converted from paganism to Christianity, you went from believing in many gods to just one God. And what insult would your community level at you? That you were an "atheist" – you'd stopped believing in the many gods. Yes, Christians were the original atheists! There are thousands of gods which you and I alike do not believe in! And so I remind myself that when I am speaking as a believer in Jesus Christ with an atheist, we have more in common than might at first be thought. At some level, I see something of a kindred spirit!

Occasionally, I have conversations with atheists where I want to establish that both of us believe things which are, in philosophical and forensic terms, equally ludicrous: the atheist might assert that the universe came from nothing or that the Bible is a hoax. For my part, I want to assert the claim that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Both of us need to provide evidence to support our "ridiculous" claims.

We hope sometime next year to even offer a forum where these things can be discussed thoughtfully and intelligently; where atheists are welcome to come and quiz me and others on these types of question, so that together we might seek and find truth. Just for me to get a feel for this sort of thing, drop me a line if you think that's something you might find interesting (it will commit you to nothing!)

With much love in Christ Jesus,

Revd Dr Steve Stewart

Rector, Freeland and Hanborough

If you would like to learn more about Church and what it means to be a Christian, simply join us at any of our Churches on a Sunday morning (see hfchurch.org.uk) or contact me for a chat at rector@hfchurch.org.uk

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SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Sunday 28th September 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Nick Wood Preacher: Nick Wood

Sunday 5th October 10.00am Communion

Leader: Revd Nigel Knights Johnson Preacher: Revd Nigel Knights Johnson

Sunday 12th October 10.00am Communion

Leader: Revd Dr Steve Stewart Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart

Sunday 19th October NO SERVICE AT P & P (all welcome at Christ Church or St Mary's)

Sunday 26th October 10.00am Harvest Service

Leader: Nick Wood Preacher: Nick Wood + TBC

Sunday 2nd November 10.00am Communion

Leader: Revd Dr Steve Stewart Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

Sunday 28th September 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Emma Young Preacher: Nick Vaney

Sunday 5th October 10.00am Morning Praise

Joint with St Mary's at Christ Church

Leader: Revd Dr Steve Stewart Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart

Sunday 12th October 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Amanda Ford Preacher: Jonathon Ford

Sunday 19th October 10.00am Communion

Leader: Revd Dr Steve Stewart Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart

Sunday 26th October 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Mands Stewart Preacher: TBC

Sunday 2nd November 10.00am Morning Praise

Leader: Emma Young Preacher: Nick Vaney

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Friday 24th October & 21ST November

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 4th & 18th October & 1st & 15th November

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The above information is correct on the date published. Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website www.hfchurch.org.uk

ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

Sunday 5th October 1.45pm - 2.15pm Wedding

Sunday 12th October 9.30am - 10.00am

Sunday 26th October 9.30am - 10.00am

Weekly Monday practices will commence at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00pm.

Please contact the Tower Secretary, Michael Probert **(01993 882687)** should you wish to discuss any bell ringing matters.

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

Contact Gill Brakespear **Tel: 01993 883914 Email:**

gillbrakespear@btinternet.com.

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

Sunday	5th October	10.00am	Mrs Penny Fowler
Sunday	12th October	10.00am	Revd Sue Jacobs (HC)
Sunday	19th October	10.00am	Mr Graham Faulkner - All Age Worship
Sunday	26th October	10.00am	Revd James Skinner
Sunday	2nd November	10.00am	Mr Andrew Maisey

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THE CHURCH IS OPEN for Public Masses on **Saturday at 5pm** and **Sunday at 10am**. For any Weekday Masses, please see the webpage.



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PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

There are a several consultations about to go live or already open including **Salt Cross,**

2041 Local Plan and Oxrail. Please let your voice be heard.

WODC update

A 3.5 million investment has been approved for upgrades to the three leisure centres across West Oxfordshire. The District Council is keen to ensure this funding is delivered locally and in a timely manner, ahead of the planned merger with the County Council, to avoid the risk of resources being redirected to other areas.

Remembrance Sunday

The Parish Council is pleased to support the raising of the Union Flag on the Village Hall. During the two weeks around Remembrance, the flag will be flown to honour and remember all those who gave their lives, marking this important 80th Anniversary. We are mindful of the difficult news in the world today, and want to reassure residents that the flag is being raised purely as a symbol of respect and remembrance within our Community.

Councillor Vacancy

We have a vacancy on the Parish Council and are looking to co-opt a new member to join the team. Each member brings their own skills to the team which helps the village to thrive. Please drop us an email if you are interested or just want to find out more.

Fly Tipping into Bins

We have had issues with glass bottles and cat litter being disposed of in our bins. Please can you use your own to dispose of the waste. Bottles go out bi-weekly with the blue top and green waste bins. Cat litter should be placed in the general waste bin, not in the bin on the A4095 otherwise the bin will be refused to be emptied by the contractor.

Village Hall Parking

This is a polite reminder that the parking for the Village Hall is for users of the Hall, field and playground, and not for carparking for residents as car storage. The space is already limited.

Fix my Street

We urge you all to continue to keep using the Fix My Street App that reports any issues to the County Council. This can be used for potholes, overgrown hedges, kerb stone damage and also such matters as grass cutting on the A4095. Additionally, if you would like to become a super user that will help speed up the process in which things can be repaired. email:

¹³**clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Cont'd.../



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NEW WEST OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT **411 BUS SERVICE FROM MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER** **MONDAY - FRIDAY (NOT BANK HOLIDAYS)**

West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT) are pleased to announce that from September 1st 2025, we will be operating the services 411/s/418 formerly operated by First & Last Mile. Oxfordshire County Council have written the timetable for the route which we are happy to publish. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions regarding the new services.

MyBus ticket	Day	Week	The tickets are available now in addition to the usual £3 one way ticket. Bus passes are still valid.
Adult	£6.50	£25.00	
Young Person (5-18)	£3.50	£14.50	

Eynsham - Long Hanborough via Freeland

Eynsham Church (o/s)	08.45	10.25	12.25	14.25	17.25
Eynsham o/s Surgery	08.50	10.30	12.30	14.30	17.30
Freeland o/s St Mary's Church	08.56	10.36	12.36	14.36	17.36
Long Hanborough, opp. New Road	09.02	10.42	12.42	14.42	17.42
Long Hanborough on Station Forecourt	09.05	10.45	12.45	14.45	17.45

Long Hanborough - Eynsham via Freeland

Long Hanborough, on Station forecourt	09.10	11.05	13.05	14.50	17.50
Long Hanborough, adj New Road	09.13	11.08	13.08	14.53	17.53
Freeland opp St Mary's Church	09.19	11.14	13.14	14.59	17.59
Eynsham o/s Surgery	09.25	11.20	13.20		18.05
Eynsham Church (opp)	09.29	11.24	13.24	15.09	18.09

Buses should stop anywhere along Wroslyn Road where it is safe to do so.

RAIL CONNECTION TIMINGS

FREELAND / HANBOROUGH / OXFORD & return

411 Bus	Freeland, Village Hall*	08.56	10.36	12.36	14.36	17.36
411 Bus	Hanborough Station	09.05	10.45	12.45	14.45	17.45
Train	Hanborough Station	09.18	11.19	13.19	15.17	18.14
Train	Oxford Station	09.30	11.29	13.29	15.27	18.32
<hr/>						
Train	Oxford Station	08.44	10.46	12.45	13.44	17.23
Train	Hanborough Station	08.53	10.55	12.54	13.54	17.33
411 Bus	Hanborough Station	09.10	11.05	13.05	14.50	17.50
411 Bus	Freeland, Village Hall*	09.19	11.14	13.14	14.59	17.59

West Oxfordshire
Community Transport
woct.org.uk 01993 630124



Cont'd

Playpark

Funding has been approved for the playground upgrade, the design is being finalised and will be delivered this Autumn.

Please keep reporting any issues with the equipment so we can get it rectified asap. Please report any issues or incidents (should one be unfortunate to occur) to myself at

Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk

VAS sign

In the up and coming weeks our newly installed VAS sign will be operational, reminding drivers that the speed limit is **20mph** through the village centre.

Defibrillator

We are very lucky to have two defibrillators in our village. One is located by the Primary School in the telephone box and the other is located to the left hand side of the Village Hall. If these are used for an emergency, please let me know asap on **clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk**

We do hope that they are not needed, but they are there if someone unfortunately does.

Planning Applications:

All planning applications can be viewed online via the WODC website at:

www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning also at Woodgreen Council Offices or you can contact the Planning Team on **01993 861 420**

Applications received 25/017778/HHD and 25/01712/FUL

Applications Approved - 25/00333/OUT and 25/01778/HHD

Applications refused - None

Applications appealed - None

**The next meeting will be on Monday 13th October 2025
at 7.30pm in the Newell Room.**

If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter and have access to the internet, please have a look at the Council website where lots of useful information is held. The website can be accessed via <https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk/>. You can also follow us on Facebook (@freelandpc).

Alternatively, please contact me between 9.00am-4.00pm, Monday to Friday – Fay Friend, Parish Clerk on 01993 357851 or email: Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk

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FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

On **Monday 27th October at 7.30pm in Freeland Village Hall** the Club has it's Annual General Meeting when we go over events of the previous year and get information about speakers booked for our interest in the coming club year. The Committee will be elected so if anyone is interested in joining our friendly Committee please get in contact with me at the email below. We would welcome any new Committee members. At present nothing else has been planned for after the AGM but it is sure to involve some sort of refreshment.

As mentioned last month, on **Saturday 22nd November** the Club is organising a **Village Fair in Freeland Village Hall**. There will be tables where village organisations can present information about their activities. It is an ideal opportunity for people to get to know the many activities enjoyed in Freeland so do consider taking part. Contact June Counsell at **counsellveronica3@gmail.com**

Visitors and new members very welcome. For further information about the Club please contact me at **daltonjanet9@gmail.com**



POPPY APPEAL 2025

This year door to door collections will take place from
Saturday 25th October to Sunday 9th November.

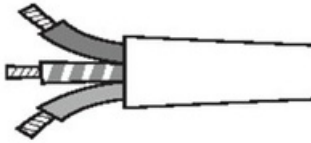
Thank you in advance to everyone who donate so generously and of course to the collectors who give their time and support every year regardless of the weather. More information on the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal can be found on **www.britishlegion.org.uk**

Angela Spriggs 01993 881555

Images courtesy of The Royal British Legion

Remembrance of War exhibition at Oxfordshire Museum by

Paul Joyce, last remaining artist with first hand memories of the Second World War, from **13th September to 18th November**. The museum is open **Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 5pm and Sunday 2pm - 5pm**



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Freeland Women's Softball Cricket

The end of the season has come and although the rain tried hard to thwart us on our final session, we altered our plans and finished with an intra-team Kwik Cricket match. Almost everyone in the team was able to play.

Afterwards we went to the Oxfordshire Yeoman for food (thank you to Donna) and drinks together with the presentation of the season's awards.

We were pleased to present:

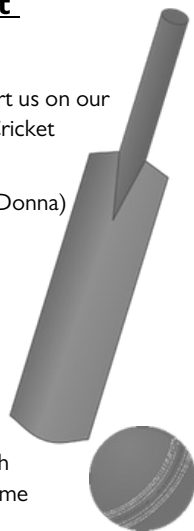
Newcomer of the Season - **Helen Davies**

Most Improved player - **Julie Stuart-Thompson**

Captain's Player of the Season - **Jessica Smith**

Coach's Player of the Season - **Bekah Richens**

We said farewell to **Helen Scragg** who has been part of the Softball team since its formation in 2018. Helen has kindly given us a trophy which will be presented as an award each session. In its first year, it has gone home with **Matthew Smith**, our fantastic coach.



Claire Soanes

FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB

The season has now started and on the first week both the Under 12's and the new Under 9s played at home, it was great to see the playing field packed with supporters and two Freeland sides playing.

Both sides started incredibly well gaining wins, the Under 12's were especially good as they came back from 3-1 down to win 5-3.

At their home games the Under 9's will be running a tea bar serving Tea, Coffee, Bacon rolls and homemade treats – so please do come down and support them!

We are also looking to increase the number of teams through all ages, so if you are interested in helping to run a team please do get in touch – we will help with all necessary courses and qualifications.

A huge thank you to our sponsors who have helped with setting up the new U9's – The Oxfordshire Yeoman, AK Halsey Electrical, and the Spar, Minister Lovell.

We would also like to pass on our congratulations to Freeland Cricket Club on their promotion!

Forthcoming fixtures

20/9 U12 v Vikings

27/9 U9 v Adderbury

27/9 U12 v Banbury Irish

25/10 U9 v Tower Hill

25/10 U12 v Brackley

15/11 U9 v Vikings

29/11 U12 v Yarnton



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Little Free Library – 138 Wroslyn Rd --- **10.05 am**
Nash Lane ----- **10.05 am**
Freeland Primary School ----- **10.05 am**

With drop off at:

Waitrose car park, Witney
Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney

Return pickup:

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

With drop off by request anywhere along Wroslyn Road

INFORMATION

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

Alaa Al-Yousuf **Tel: 07768 898914 Email: alaa.alyousof@gmail.com**

MORE DRIVERS AND HELPERS WANTED!



RIDE AND STRIDE - SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride took place on **Saturday 13th September 2025**. Thank you to everyone who welcomed the four visitors to St Mary's Church, or who walked or cycled or sponsored the two riders. The total raised this year was **£330.00** half of which will return to the Benefice.

John Fox

FREELAND ENERGY GROUP (FEG)

Freeland Energy Group (FEG) wants to understand action being taken locally towards the aims of the CAPZero Project. Take part in the ‘household energy audit’ simply by completing and returning this questionnaire.

We can see signs of change on some houses and to improve the background information of these changes, we would like your help. In turn – you could help others consider similar action.



And you have the chance to win in the prize draw!

Please tick any boxes below to show what - if anything - you have at home.

Thermal imaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	An energy assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insulation (loft, wall)	<input type="checkbox"/>
An electric car	<input type="checkbox"/>	An EV charger	<input type="checkbox"/>	A heat pump	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solar PV panels	<input type="checkbox"/>	Battery storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (such as window/door replacement etc.)				<input type="checkbox"/>	

If you have made any of the home energy improvements above would you be happy to talk to other residents about your experience?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------

If you have not made any improvements and would like to make your home warmer, cheaper to run and more energy efficient, but you are not sure where to start, would you consider being part of the “A House Like Mine” project? This collaborative project will demonstrate what is possible, using real homes and real plans as exemplars to owners of similar properties in the Village.

www.lowcarbonhub.org/p/programmes/a-house-like-mine/

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------

Please provide your name and contact details:

Name _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

**Please send replies, entries and questions
to:freelandenergygroup@outlook.com.**

Get your PRIZE DRAW entry in now!

Help with the 'household energy audit' - complete and return the questionnaire and get automatic entry to the draw.

Freeland Energy Group (FEG) wants to understand action being taken locally towards the aims of the CAPZero Project.

We can see signs of change on some houses and to improve the background information of these changes, we would like your help. In turn – you could help others consider similar action.

FEG members may get in touch with you to find out which contractors you used or write a case study about your experience. This can help others to understand what is involved when considering home energy efficiency.

All replies: emails, printed forms etc received by 30th September 2025 will be entered into the PRIZE DRAW at the Oxfordshire Yeoman on Saturday 4th October 5.30 - 6.30pm Prizes include £50 voucher towards a meal at the Oxfordshire Yeoman.

Send your reply by 30/09/2025. Email to **freelandenergygroup@outlook.com** or to **15 Blenheim Lane, Freeland**, to be entered into the Prize Draw on **4/10/2025**. FEG will only use your details for this project and to reply to you. We will keep your details safe and secure. We will not share your personal details. Thank you.





Freeland House & The Lodge



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

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

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



So much to look forward to...



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

WITNEY MUSIC SOCIETY

The 2025-26 series of Witney Music Society concerts starts in October.

The opening concert on **Friday 10th October at 7.30pm** will be given by Trio Bohemo who will perform works for piano trio by Haydn, Smetana and Schubert.

The concert will be held at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Tickets (£18, £1 for under 19s) will be available on the door from **7pm** or in advance online. For more information please telephone **01993 898020** or by the website

www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

Jean Richards, Chair, Witney Music Society

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Another month of reading has flown by already!

We have noticed an increase in turnover of children's books since the children have returned to school. Young children's picture books are always in high demand at both Little Free Libraries, so please consider donating some if you have any at home that you no longer need. It is amazing that we are raising a village of eager bookworms!

Before you donate any books into the Little Free Library, please check that you have removed any notes or bookmarks from inside the books. Last month, our volunteers found personal items inside some books, including medical prescriptions which revealed someone's personal details, including their contact information. We do not have time to check inside every book, so things like this will not always get caught. Thank you for your help with this.

Now we are getting into the colder weather, this is the perfect time to snuggle up with a good book and to get lost in a story. Help yourself to as many books as you like from the Little Free Library to keep you company.

Matthew and the Little Free Library volunteers, (Sue, Fi, Jenny and Caroline)

ruddlem@gmail.com - 138 Wroslyn Road 01993 359 543

TABLE TENNIS

If you are retired and would like to join a group playing Table Tennis each week please contact:

Nick and Sue Rous **01993 883944** or
email **suerous47@gmail.com**

Venue - **Freeland Village Hall**
Every Friday, 3.15pm - 4.45pm



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FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

Freeland Gardening Club Invite you to a

Village Fayre

22nd November 2025

10 am till 12.30pm Freeland Village Hall.

Refreshments will be available, teas, coffee and homemade cakes.

There will be a variety of tables showcasing our local talent and expertise
- and items for sale.

If you would like to have a table (or two!) and for details of prices etc -
please contact June Counsell on **counsellveronica3@gmail.com**



**Please come
and join us!**

Free entry

**Come and
browse and join
us for coffee and
cake**

NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

On **Tuesday 7th October** Professor John Blair will be giving a talk about late medieval and early modern North Leigh, including the farms and the Manor House. Do come and find out more.

**We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in North Leigh Memorial Hall,
OX29 6SA at 7.30pm** (doors open at 7pm).

All welcome. Members **£20** per year, visitors **£5** per talk. Further details are available from **Diana Power (01993 882301)** or **Robert Kyte at kyterobert@gmail.com** and **01993 880368**.



Freeland Methodist Chapel Update:

YES!

The bid which was submitted in July has been accepted by the Methodist Circuit.

This means that we can start to develop our plans for the refurbishment of the Chapel. There will much work to be done and so we will be asking for more volunteers to join the committee, specifically we would like to hear from anyone who has experience of applying for Grant funding and fund raising.

There will be a Village Meeting on Monday 6th October at 8pm in the Village Hall where the Committee will outline the next steps and possible timescale. **Do come along** to hear first hand about the next exciting phase of this project, **you will be most welcome.**

The village support for this project has been superb so far, and we are very grateful to everyone. Please do continue to support our project to develop a community hub for the benefit of all ages in Freeland.

Donations and pledges can still be made online or by personal approach to a Committee member.

FBCS Committee



Wroslyn Road, Freeland OX29 8AQ

Open: Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm; Sunday 9.30am-5pm

Tel: 01993 881430

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

Spring bulbs

Winter flowering plants suitable for baskets and containers

Ornamental trees, fruit trees and shrubs

Main crop potatoes

Large range of compost, bark, manure and mulches

Eggs, jams, pickles and local honey

Logs and Kindling wood

October News - Trees

Seasonal Spotlight – Autumn

It's that time of year when the trees will be changing colour, the air is getting colder and fresher, and we can't help thinking of warm drinks, cosy clothes and playing in the crunchy leaves.

As we enter Autumn, it can be tempting to cut back all the dead and dying vegetation in our gardens and green spaces. It's worth considering that many of these woody stems will become perfect winter homes for insects as they enter hibernation and can create areas of architectural beauty in our homes and communities.

In Oxfordshire, the hedgerow species we generally recommend planting (for their capacity to provide for both people and wildlife year-round) and you're most likely to see in your local area, include Blackthorn, Spindle, Common Buckthorn, Guelder Rose, Wild Privet, Cherry Plum, Dog Rose and Hazel. Fruiting season for many of these species starts from late summer to early autumn. As such, by this time of year, most of the species listed above will be fruiting. Hawthorn berries have traditional use in heart-strengthening natural medicines but also act as a vital source of food for caterpillars, moths, and migratory birds. Keep your eyes peeled for spindle, which has vibrant autumnal colours with vibrant pinks, and the leaves turning from a deep green to a beautiful red. Jessica Bouwer Wild Oxfordshire

OXRAIL2040 PLAN

Oxfordshire County Council has released its public consultation on the OxRail2040 Plan for Rail, setting out proposals to transform the county's rail network and deliver better connections for local communities.

At the heart of the plan are long-awaited improvements to the Cotswold Line, including a commitment to deliver two trains per hour serving Hanborough station. This would significantly enhance Hanborough's role as a key transport hub for West Oxfordshire, better linking the district with Oxford, London, and the wider region.

Cllr Liam Walker, County Councillor for Hanborough and Hailey, has welcomed the launch of the consultation: "This has been a long campaign to secure the much-needed improvements to the Cotswold Line, and I am delighted to see this ambitious plan being put forward. Hanborough station is already one of the fastest-growing stations in the county, and the commitment to deliver two trains per hour will make a huge difference for local residents, businesses, and visitors. It is vital that West Oxfordshire has a reliable and sustainable transport hub, and I fully support the need to push for further improvements to Hanborough station."

Alongside the Cotswold Line proposals, the OxRail2040 Plan for Rail includes a series of other major projects designed to improve connectivity across Oxfordshire.

These include:

Reopening the Cowley Branch Line for passenger services, linking key employment sites and thousands of homes in South Oxford to the main rail network.

Upgrading Oxford Station to improve capacity, accessibility, and passenger experience.

Electrification and capacity enhancements to reduce journey times and make the rail network more sustainable.

New stations and better interchange facilities to connect growing communities with jobs and services.

Residents, businesses, and community groups are encouraged to share their views on the plan during the consultation period. Feedback will help shape the final strategy and ensure it reflects the needs of Oxfordshire's growing population.

The OxRail2040 consultation is open now and can be accessed via the Oxfordshire County Council website at: www.letstalkoxfordshire.gov.uk/oxrail-2040

Cllr Liam Walker liamwalker2@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OXFORD BUS MUSEUM

Hallowe'en and half term: Fun for the family

On Sunday 26th and Wednesday 29th October we shall be decorating the museum and buses and laying on some surprises for our visitors.

For children there will be a **'Pumpkin Hunt'** in the museum with prizes for those who find all of the dozen pumpkins. (Adults are also allowed to take part.)

There will also be a display of live spooky owls brought to the museum by Alan Charlett, who runs Al's Owls. For a small extra charge visitors will be allowed to hold the owls.

We shall run regular bus rides from **11.30am**. The buses will be dressed appropriately for Hallowe'en. On **Wednesday 29th October** we shall run an additional evening twilight bus ride. More details will be on our website nearer the date.

Recently we had an unusual bus visiting, and no, your editor has not reversed the photo!

This 1953 AEC Regent, made in Southall with a Weymann body, was designed to have a left-hand drive as it was exported to Lisbon in October 1954, where it operated for the (then) British-owned Carris company. It remained in service for twenty nine years. It was one of one hundred and twelve built between 1950 and 1957 for Carris.



The bus visited our museum on the 25th August, where running repairs were made to its injection pipes and an oil leak identified.

Frank Collingwood

BECOME A COACH FOR NEW YATT RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

At New Yatt Riding for the Disabled we are looking to recruit and train new Group Coaches (riding instructors) to support us in introducing more weekday sessions to help us to reduce our current waiting list. We are looking for applicants who can commit to a weekly session, are ideally confident and experienced around horses and good communicators.

Please email nyrda-volunteers@googlegroups.com



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FREELAND WI



Our September meeting was held at Freeland Garden Centre where our members filled their containers with Winter plants or bulbs.

Tim Webster, demonstrated how best to fill a container, using a variety of plants that offered a range of colour, texture and height, that would last through the winter months into next year. Sue Hooper, then outlined the general rules for planting bulbs according to their flowering period, the best bulb compost to use and how to plant a 'bulb lasagne'. Once our members had completed their planting and purchases, they made their way over to the village hall for homemade soup and bread, followed by a selection of delicious puddings.

On **Monday 13 October**, our monthly meeting will have a seasonal feel. Sarah Richards will be joining us to run a workshop for our members to create a needle felted pumpkin. If you would like to attend this event and want to try out a new skill of needle felting, please contact our secretary in advance - details below. Thank you.

Freeland WI meet on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall commencing at 7.45pm. The meetings usually consist of a speaker or activity followed by a raffle and refreshments. A copy of our 2025 programme was included in the January edition of the Grapevine (available on the Freeland Parish Council website) and on the Village Hall noticeboard. Visitors are always welcome to join us for an evening for a suggested donation of £5.

Freeland WI is a fun and friendly group of ladies who enjoy a wide and varied range of activities. For more information check out our Facebook page **Freelandwi** or contact our secretary Rosie James on **01993 881997** or **freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk**

Anne Marvin Freeland WI

The next **UFR Ramble** will be on **Sunday 5th October**, starting at 10.00am sharp-ish from the bus shelter opposite the Oxfordshire Yeoman



Don't miss it: Saturday 4th October: 5.30 - 6.30pm FEG prize draw at the Oxfordshire Yeoman.

TOM ROBINSON

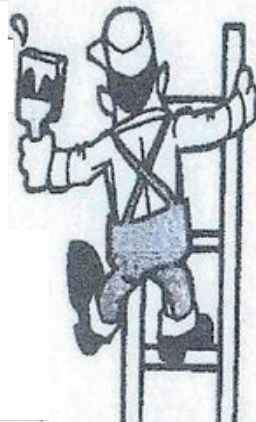
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We welcome everyone who is new and returning to us this term. Over the summer girl guiding launched 72 new badges, so we are really excited to try some of them with the girls and hopefully they will find something that they enjoy doing... Examples include:



If you need to get in touch, either to offer help or for your daughter to join, please
contact elanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com

FREELAND CRAFT GROUP



We are starting to make some items for the annual Shoebox appeal and this elephant hand puppet will be sure to make some little child happy as they open their own Christmas Shoebox.

Would you like to meet some new people from the village and share a chat and some “crafty” time with them?

This friendly group meets each Wednesday from **2.00pm - 4.00pm in the Newell Room** at the back of the Village Hall. There is usually a subscription of **£1** to cover hire costs.

For further information or someone to go with, please contact
Helen 01993 882305 or Margaret 01993 881316
marglwright52@gmail.com

Wood Crafts

at Combe Mill
Sunday 19 October
10.30 - 17.00 hrs

Working machinery driven by steam beam engine + blacksmiths' forge

Demonstrations of working with wood

With Al's
Owls

Charlbury Morris in afternoon

**Recommended last entry
time is 3.30pm**

Adults £9.00, concessions £7.50, children under 16 free.

Ask about making a donation and qualifying for a 12 month pass

See www.combemill.org or telephone 01993 358694 for full details

Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxfordshire OX29 8ET

Browse amongst our **Autumn Market stalls**

The September speaker, local historian Liz Woolley, gave us a great talk on Oxfordshire Breweries, Oxford Sausages and Oxford Marmalade. We were led down the myriad of locations and stories of the families involved - with 319 licenced premises at one time in the City, and in 1852 there were fifty butchers shops. So many of the Oxford city street names referenced to this historical past.

Our u3a branch is centred in Woodstock and attracts and welcomes members from the surrounding area, including Freeland. Are you recently retired and looking for local social activity around an interest that you already have, or seeking something new to become involved in? The u3a can offer much and our website gives full information.

www.woodstocku3a.uk Monthly members' speaker meetings are held at **St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock OX20 1JL - 1.45pm for 2pm speaker.**

Our next speaker meeting is on **Thursday 2nd October** when we have local author and presenter Stephen Barker talking on Indians at Victorian Oxford.....The first Indian students to attend the University of Oxford arrived in 1871, and the bridge between Oxford and India has grown stronger ever since. do come along to learn more.

On **Thursday 6th November** the subject for our talk will be **Hedgerows** and we welcome speaker Jessica Bouwer from Wild Oxfordshire.

Visitors **£3** to include tea and biscuits.

Sue Blackshaw - Chair

FREE ASSERTIVENESS COURSE FOR WOMEN

Enjoy a life-changing, free assertiveness course for Women on Wednesdays **8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th October** at **7.00 - 9.00pm** with a follow-up in November.

How do we value, listen and respond to others respectfully? Do we hear and understand what others are saying? Do we value ourselves and expect others to listen to us? Are we able to speak simply and honestly?

As our guide, verses in Proverbs may teach us patience and wisdom, and may bring health, hope and life.

ALL WELCOME: Contact **alichodkowski@gmail.com**

1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

Now that summer has come to an end, our Scout group is back in full swing with weekly meetings and a busy term of activities ahead. The young people have returned and it's great to see the sections meeting regularly again.



We are continuing to look for enthusiastic volunteers to join our subcommittee working on the exciting project of building a new storage facility for our Scout group. The site is on Hanborough Parish Council land behind the Cala estate, near the Meadows pre-school, and would be similar to the steel-framed tractor shed on the Pavilion field. This project will be a huge benefit to the group, but we really need some extra help. If you have experience in grant-writing, fundraising, or project development, or simply a passion for helping the community, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Mike **mikejoyner48@gmail.com** to get involved.

Across the sections, a lot is happening this term. The Explorers kicked things off in September with a trip to Wet n Wild, funded by money they earned volunteering at the Blenheim Triathlon. This month, they'll be in the woods playing wide games, taking part in "Over to You" sessions where they design and run their own evening, and even cooked up their own curry night! Meanwhile, the Scouts are planning their Senior Patrol Camp, which will give them a chance to develop leadership skills in an outdoor setting. They'll also be celebrating Diwali with themed activities as well as looking into internet safety.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is the perfect time, whether it's joining the subcommittee, helping with the minibus, or supporting in another way! Finally, I would like to thank Matthew Ruddle for his eight years serving as Publicity Rep for the troop and for his invaluable support over the years.

Hugo Pottinger (Publicity Rep)

HANBOROUGH FORGET-ME-NOTS
Memory/Friendship café
Every first Tuesday in the Month 10.00am - 12noon
Long Hanborough Methodist Church
For people with memory loss and their carers

WORRIED ABOUT COSTS?

Are you worrying about how to manage the cost of living? Or do you know a neighbour or relative who lives in the Parishes of Eynsham or **Freeland** (Ancient Parish of Eynsham) who is struggling to make ends meet? Eynsham Consolidated Charity provides small to medium sized grants to local residents who are in need of financial help.

Please apply in total confidence via the Clerk, Catherine Barton, by emailing **eynshamcharities@gmail.com** or by writing to the Trustees, via the **Clerk, c/o Bartholomew Room, The Square, Eynsham OX29 4HW.**

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL BACKS A NEW AMBITIOUS NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

WODC Executive endorsed a new countywide strategy aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural environment across the county.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is a collaborative initiative led by Oxfordshire CC, which involves the assessment of a priority network of existing habitats and identified opportunities for future habitat enhancements. The strategy provides a clear and evidence-based framework to deliver **more, bigger and more connected habitats** and offers multiple benefits for communities, including natural flood management and water quality regulation, as well as wider opportunities to enjoy nature-rich green spaces.

The LNRS has been shaped through extensive collaboration between the local authorities and expert organisations and individuals. WODC played a key role as the supporting authority. The draft of the strategy was subject to public consultation in 2024, which generated over two thousand responses.

The LNRS will play a key role in delivering Biodiversity Net Gain in the district. It will also have a central role in developing West Oxfordshire's new Local Plan 2041, informing decisions on where development should happen and which areas need protection and enhancements.

For more information, please visit the LNRS website:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/local-nature-recovery-strategy>.

Cllr Lidia Arciszewska: lidia.arciszewska@westoxon.gov.uk

Bartholomew Players present

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

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26th–29th November

7.30pm
Doors open at 7.00pm

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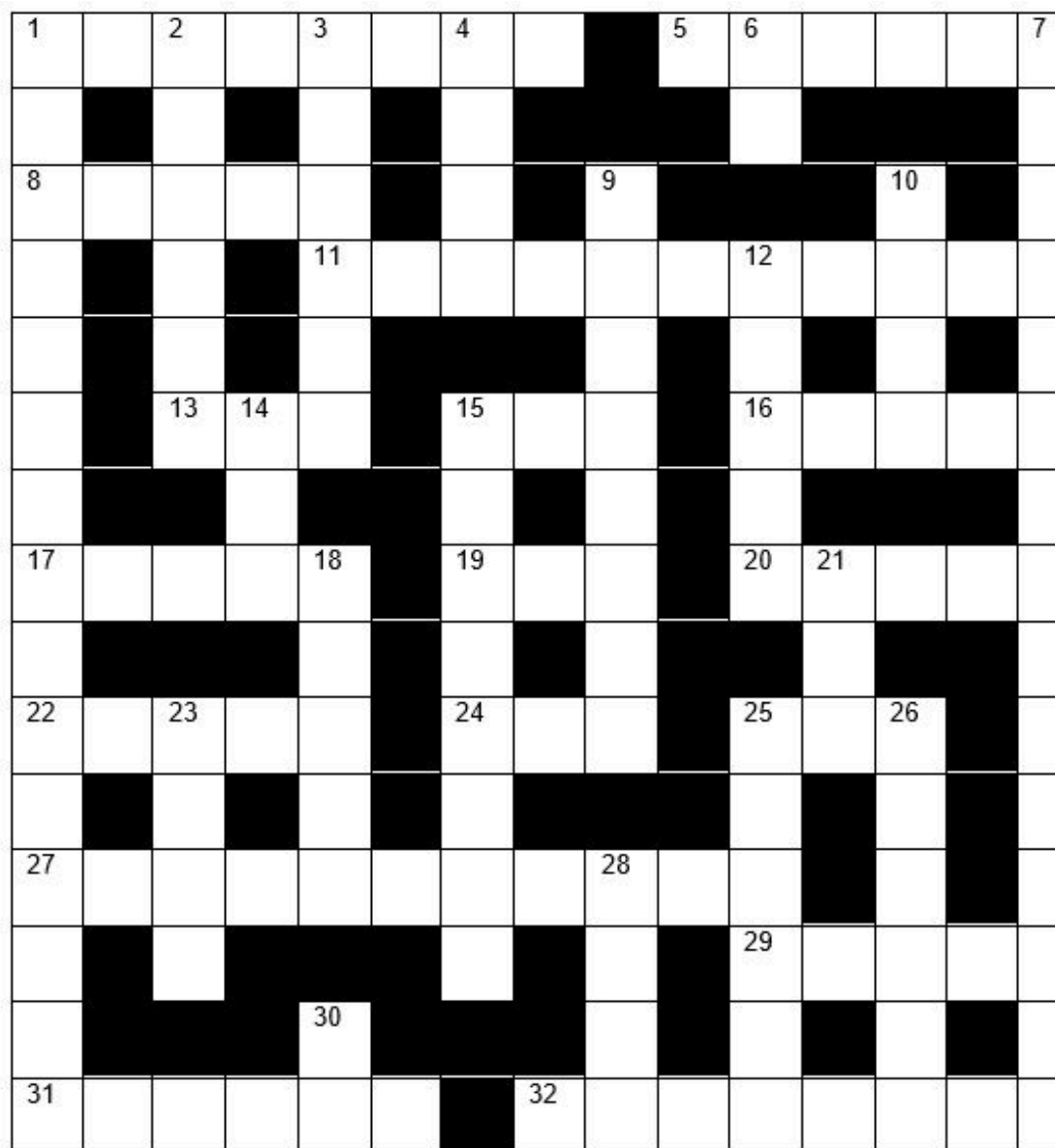


Low Carbon Hub, with communities in and around Eynsham, have developed the UK's first Community Action Plan for Zero-Carbon Energy (CAPZero) and are now entering Year 2 of its implementation.

The project aims to create a zero-carbon energy system through long-term stewardship that benefits and motivates current and future residents and provides a model to inspire wider action. The plan includes actions to reduce energy usage and create warmer homes, workplaces, and community spaces, as well as increase renewable energy generation.

New energy groups have been established in Freeland and Hanborough, giving residents the opportunity to lead the way on the achievement of legally binding net zero targets and a cleaner, greener energy system as soon as possible.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD #3 OCTOBER 2025



CROSSWORD NO. 3 FOR OCTOBER 2025

ACROSS

1. Use hairy memento and all-natural pillow stuffing to prevent all going out. (8)
5. Cut pea tossed into storm container. (6)
8. Strike and he fell with one. (5)
11 AND 31. Bull crossing old county with soldiery to drinking hole. (11,6)
13. Weed killer starts helping obliterate everything. (3)
15. Wow! Orlando desire - terminal heartbreak. (3)
16. Antipodean crocodile hunter Steve and 'er, I hear, will beat the rest. (5)
17. Regular Oxeye, Alder and finally Elm have inner tube. (5)
19. Lionel, Elaine, Maria finally put out to pasture (3)
20. Correct speed when some temperature is zero. (5)
22. Robert's initial heartless out of office to holy person identified a place of rest. (5)
24. Sustained US agent. (3)
25. Beginners create gloriously imagined animation. (3)
27. Haw's mare won after a fashion while she cleans outfits. (11)
29. Ernie's companion, a heather? (5)
31. See 11.
32. Tree, perhaps used to fill a gap. (8)

DOWN

1. Local drinks maker makes "Small Bullock" from tea and rye mix. (6,2,7)
2 AND 10. Religious establishment's perspective of this route. (6,4)
3. Remove warehouses it is rumoured. (5)
4. Virginia, it is said, was a dog, perhaps. (4)
6. Central voters returned foreigner. (2)
7. Dovecot in country road in this road. (11,4)
9. United States, as they call it, returned to THIS place (8)
10. See 2.
12 AND 28. Our religious establishment hosts godly mother. (5,4)
14. Can antipodeans find a word for a poem? (3)
15. Women's Institute led outsiders of first feminist organisation while leading crazy bird. (8)
18. Vehicle test on first two Teslas done on small central hill. (5)
21. Gestation location located in Greggs. (3)
23. House, not a hotel, beside river. (4)
25. Headless anaemic recovered and went to the pictures. (6)
26. At home, Lady Diana and has an attempt at purplish blue. (6)
28. see 12.
30. Mother is in Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (2)

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THE CAKE CAFÉ, FREELAND

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jane.cakestudio@gmail.com

CATKINS

Genuine Cat Lover available for home visits whilst you are out or on holiday. References available. **Debbie: 07805 583 419 or Janice 07896 990 801.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Weds 1 Oct	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
Thurs 2 Oct	U3a Meeting 2pm St Hugh's Hensington Rd, Woodstock
Sat 4 Oct	FEG Prize Draw 5.30pm - 6.30pm Oxfordshire Yeoman
Sun 5 Oct	UFR Ramble 10.00am Bus Shelter opposite Yeoman
Mon 6 Oct	Village Meeting Update on Methodist Chapel 8pm Village Hall
Tues 7 Oct	The Cake Cafe, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am
Tues 7 Oct	North Leigh History Society, Memorial Hall, OX29 6SA
Wed 8 Oct	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Frid 10 Oct	Witney Music Society 7.30pm High St, Methodist Church, Witney
Sun 12 Oct	Copy Deadline for Freeland Grapevine
Mon 13 Oct	Freeland Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Newell Room
Mon 13 Oct	Freeland WI meeting Village Hall 7.45pm Needle Felting
Wed 15 Oct	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
Sat 18 Oct	North Leigh Film Night, Memorial Hall 7pm for 7.30pm
Sun 19 Oct	Combe Mill Wood Crafts 10.30 - 5.00pm
Wed 22 Oct	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Sun 26 Oct	Oxford Bus Museum Hallowe'en Event from 11.30am
Mon 27 Oct	Freeland Gardening Club Village Hall 7.30pm AGM
Wed 29 Oct	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste collection
Wed 29 Oct	Oxford Bus Museum Twilight Bus Ride
Wed 5 Nov	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection

Sustainable Fashion Meets Sport: Oxford United Stars to Walk the Runway at Blenheim Palace

This October, the worlds of football and fashion come together in an extraordinary way as Oxford United players Naomi Bedeau & Lucy Trinder model in the **Sustainable Fashion Show at Blenheim Palace**. They will showcase innovative designs made with upcycled replica kits from Oxford United, designed and created by local, sustainable fashion designer **Imogen Barrow-Starkey**.

The Sustainable Fashion Show, Ripples of Change, is hosted by **Cherwell Collective**, an Oxfordshire-based non-profit organisation dedicated to creating a circular economy. The runway show will take place within the historic setting of **Blenheim Palace at 8:30pm on Wednesday 1 October 2025**

Ticket info: VIP Hospitality Tickets are available now on Eventbrite. These tickets include the best seats on the runway and access to a pre-show drinks reception with live music, networking & nibbles alongside selected professionals and local celebrities.

Standard tickets, also available on Eventbrite, include access to the Sustainable Fashion Show runway

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With
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and
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Saturday 11th October

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The deadline for articles or adverts for the November Grapevine is **Sunday 12th October**. The November edition should be online at **<https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk>** and **www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk** from about **Tuesday 21st October** with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from **Friday 24th October**.

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, **not PDFs**. Photographs should be JPGs or PNGs, again **not PDFs**. The cost of a Small Advertisement **23p per word**. Payment for all advertising by BACS, details can be obtained from Jane Duff and any other costs for 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 phone: **01993 880623 (Jane Duff)**

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,

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Sun 12 noon - 10.30pm

Kitchen hours

Wed/Thurs 12 noon - 2.30pm/5.30pm-
8.30pm

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