



Grapevine

St Mary's Freeland



December 2025

Seasons Greetings

PELLMANS

Your Local Solicitors

- **Business and Business Contracts**
Contracts
- **Property**
Residential, Commercial
and Agricultural
- **Wills, Probate and Trusts**
Tax Planning and Lasting
Powers of Attorney

01865 884400

www.pellmans.co.uk

1 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Witney, Oxfordshire OX29 4TB
Home visits available

The Witney Motor Company Ltd



01993 702620
Avenue 3, Station Lane, Witney
enquire@witneymotors.co.uk
www.witneymotors.co.uk

SERVICES AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Sunday Leader:	30th November Revd Dr Steve Stewart	10.00am Whole Benefice worship at St Mary's Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
Sunday Leaders:	7th December Andy and Val Richens	10.00am Joint service with Christ Church at St Mary's Preachers: Andy and Val Richens
Sunday Leader:	14th December Revd Steve Bellamy/ Matt Cripps	6pm Carol Service at St Mary's Preacher: Revd Steve Bellamy/Matt Cripps
Sunday Leader:	24th December Revd Steve Bellamy	5pm Christingle Service at St Mary's
Sunday Leader:	Christmas Day 25th December	10.00am All age Whole Benefice Communion at St Peter and St Paul Children may bring favourite present to show.
Sunday Leader:	28th December XXXX	10.00am TBC Preacher:
Sunday Leader:	4th January 2026 Revd: Steve Bellamy	10.00am Communion Preacher: Revd Steve Bellamy

The above information is correct on the date published (**23/11/2025**). 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 now closed for burials unless previously reserved by faculty. A faculty indicates a space that has already been reserved under the Church of England rules.

The churchyard does still have space for the interment of ashes.

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



St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council

S D C ROOFING

All aspects of Roofing work undertaken:

- ◆ New Roofs Reroofs
 - ◆ Flat Roof Solutions
 - ◆ Repointing Rebedding
 - ◆ New Felt and Battens
 - ◆ General Roof Repairs
 - ◆ Chimney Repairs and Rebuilds
- Free Quotations and Advice Fully Insured

Contact: **sdcroofing@yahoo.com Mobile: 07300 642 651**

Nicola Ruddick MCFHP MAFHP

Mobile Foot Health Practitioner

Caring for feet of all ages in West Oxfordshire

- Cutting and filing long or thickened toenails
- Reducing hard skin and removing corns
- Treating verrucas, fungal toenail infections, and ingrown toenails
- Caring for the diabetic and high risk foot



www.nicolaruddick.co.uk
nicola@nicolaruddick.co.uk
07824 363601

MICHAEL PRICE & SON **PLASTERING**

**SPECIALISING IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET
FOR ALL YOUR INTERNAL PLASTERING**

Tel: 01608 811642 Mobile: 07710 170049

mickeyprice525@gmail.com

Useful contact details

Rector: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
01993 881270

The Rectory, Swan Lane

Long Hanborough OX29 8BT

Email: rector@hfchurch.org.uk

Associate Rector: Revd Mike Madden

Email: associate.rector@hfchurch.org.uk

Curate: Position Vacant

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Clive Berry 01993 882080 and

Hugh Dalton *Emeritus*: 01993 881742

Churchwarden: Position Vacant

Flowers in the Church:

Janet Dalton 01993 881742

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

The next Bible Fun Club will be in the February half-term in 2026, but before then do join us at the Christingle service on **Christmas Eve at 5pm**. Please see the poster on [Page 17](#) and as always check 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

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

FROM THE REGISTER

Interment of Ashes Colleen Nora Waring & John Alfred Waring 8th October 2025

Wedding Robert Tony Steven Aldridge & Keely Louise Hobley 25th October 2025

TFront cover photograph courtesy of Benefice Notes for December



abbeyproperties
independent estate agents

...delighted to be home at

**1 Abbey Street,
Eynsham
OX29 4TB**

WWW.ABBEYPROPS.COM

Contact experienced local director

Mervyn Harris FNAEA

A trusted Agent with unrivalled local market knowledge you can rely on

T 01865 880697



Christingle Service



Join us for a Family Christingle Service

St Mary's Church, Freeland.

5:00pm Christmas Eve.

Service for children and families telling the story of Christmas, along with the Christingle and favourite carols



**Gifts of oranges with sweets for
all children and ending with
candle-lit singing**



**Supporting the
Children's Society**

LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD DR STEVE STEWART

The Passing Age of Atheism – and the Hope of Christmas

For more than a century, atheism has promised to free humanity from the “superstitions” of faith. In the early and mid-20th century, confident voices declared that science had rendered belief in God obsolete. Later, in the 21st century, the so-called “New Atheism” — led by writers such as Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens — claimed that reason alone could give life meaning, morality, and purpose. Yet as the years have passed, both the old and the new atheism have lost much of their persuasive power.

Why? Because while atheism can question, it cannot and has miserably failed to deal with the personal and political issues of our age. It can criticise, but it cannot create hope. It can describe the mechanisms of the world, but it cannot tell us why love, beauty, or goodness matter. In an age marked by loneliness, anxiety, and uncertainty, many are discovering that disbelief has little to offer when life becomes hard or loss comes close. And, of course, atheism is totally incapable of dealing with the problem of death itself.

By contrast, Christianity does not rest on abstract ideas but on concrete historical events — the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem, and his death and resurrection in Jerusalem. God entered our world not as a concept or a moral theory but as a person. The Christian story tells us that we are loved, known, and never forgotten. It shows that life has purpose because it comes from the Creator’s hand, and that death is not the end because the child of the manger became the man of the cross and the risen Lord of Easter morning.

Atheism says, “You are alone in a vast, indifferent universe.” Christmas replies, “Emmanuel — God is with us.” That simple message continues to change lives. It gives dignity to the poor, courage to the suffering, and joy to all who believe.

This Christmas, our village churches will once again tell that true story — through carol services, Christingle service, crib service, Midnight Communion, and the warmth of worship on Christmas morning. These aren’t just seasonal traditions; they are living invitations to rediscover the truth that God has not abandoned the world but stepped into it to redeem and renew it.

The age of atheism may have faded, but the light that shines in the darkness still shines on — and the darkness has not overcome it. Only Jesus Christ can truly deliver on my needs, your needs and the needs of the world.

We would love you to be with us to celebrate and to hear more any of our Christmas services which are listed below.

With much love in Christ Jesus and every blessing for Christmas,

**Revd Dr Steve Stewart,
Rector, Hanborough and Freeland**

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

Chimney Sweep

Bertie the Sweep

Open Fires / Wood burners / Flue Sweeping
Prompt, Clean and Efficient Nests Removal -
Bird Guards / Cows Fitted / Chimney Pots
Supplied and Fitted - Fully Insured
ICS Member 411 - Certificates



Tel: 01993 899143

Mob: 07954180371

SIMON GAINSBURGH

Painter & Decorator

07771 761 990

Simon.gainsburgh@hotmail.com

Over 30 years experience
Good rates, no job too small

PJR Plumbing & Heating **Long Hanborough**

- * Installation
- * Maintenance
- * Repair & Service
- * Gas Appliances & safety certificates

TEL: 01993 881069

MOB: 07515 733398



500807

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Sunday Leader:	30th November TBC	10.00am Whole Benefice worship at St Mary's
Sunday Leader:	7th December Revd Dr Steve Stewart	10.00am Communion Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
Sunday Leader:	14th December ??	NO SERVICE (See services at Christ Church & St Mary's)
Sunday Leader:	21st December Nick Wood	6.00pm Whole Benefice Nine Lessons & Carols at St Peter & St Paul Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
Wednesday Leader:	Christmas Eve 24th December Revd Dr Steve Stewart	11.15pm Midnight Communion at St Peter & St Paul Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
Thursday Leader:	Christmas Day 25th December Revd Dr Steve Stewart	10.00am All age Whole Benefice Communion at St Peter & St Paul Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart Children may bring favourite present to show.
Sunday Leader:	28th December TBC	Arrangements to be confirmed

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

Sunday Leader:	30th November TBC	10.00am Whole Benefice worship at St Mary's
Sunday Leader:	7th December Revd Dr Steve Stewart	10.00am Communion Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
Sunday Leader:	14th December ??	NO SERVICE (See services at Christ Church & St Mary's)
Sunday Leader:	21st December Nick Wood	6.00pm Whole Benefice Nine Lessons & Carols at St Peter & St Paul Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
Wednesday Leader:	Christmas Eve 24th December Revd Dr Steve Stewart	11.15pm Midnight Communion at St Peter & St Paul Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
Thursday Leader:	Christmas Day 25th December Revd Dr Steve Stewart	10.00am All age Whole Benefice Communion at St Peter & St Paul Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart Children may bring favourite present to show.
Sunday Leader:	28th December TBC	10.00am Arrangements TBC



ALAN FRENCH

Property Maintenance

NO VAT

- *Over 45 years building experience*
- *Happy to talk about your requirements*

www.a-frenchbuildingservices9-com.webnode.com

H: 01993 358641

M: 07540 049013

2 Parklands, Freeland

DK GARDENS

Full garden design & construction services including:

Garden restoration & clearance

Fencing * Planting schemes

General maintenance * Male/female team

BTEC National Certificate in Horticulture * Chelsea Medal Winner

Established 2002

Dan & Kaz Kemp

(w) 07432514989 (h) 01993 775474 dkgardens123@gmail.com

Reliable Repairs

DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS & SALES

01993 891339

07989945971

Please visit our website for more details

www.reliablerepairs.co.uk

ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

Sunday 7th December 9.30am - 10.00am

Sunday 14th December 5.30pm - 6.00pm - Carol Service

Wednesday 24th December 4.30pm - 5.00pm Christingle Service

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 7th December 10.00am Revd Charles Harris (HC)

Sunday 14th December 10.00am Revd Sue Jacobs **Christingle Service**

Friday 19th December 6.00pm Meet at Chapel then Carol Singing

Saturday 20th December 2.00pm Special service
To remember loved ones who are no longer with us

Sunday 21st December 6.00pm Candlelight Carol Service
Led by Revd Sue Jacobs, all welcome

Thursday 25th December 10.00am Christmas Day Family Service
Let's celebrate the birth of Jesus together

Sunday 28th December No service today

Sunday 4th January 10.00am Revd Stephen Bywater

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNHAM

Serving the Hanboroughs, Freeland, Cassington, South Leigh, Stanton Harcourt, Sutton and Northmoor.

THE PARISH PRIEST: Father Mark Lagorio can be contacted by phone on **01865 881613** or email **stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com**

Address: Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4HR Phone: 01865 881613

Website: www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk

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



BLACK DOG

TREES & GARDENS

- Tree Removals
- Pruning & Limb Removals
- Crown Lifting & Reduction
- Tree & Hedge Planting
- Stump Grinding
- Hedge Cutting
- Pergolas
- Fencing

ADAM RUSSON : 07799422385

EMAIL: blackdogforestryandarb@outlook.com WEB: blackdogforestryandarb.com



ARTISAN OAK
TIMBER FRAMES

Oak framing specialist in
bespoke and handmade:

- Porches
- Pergolas
- Garages
- Extensions
- Outbuildings

Tom Williams

01908 952020 / 07807 090 443

info@artisan-oak.com

www.artisanoak.com





2025

Christmas Tree Lighting

Freeland Village Hall

Friday 5th December

6:15pm for 6:30pm

Carols and Christmas songs with

Freeland Primary School

**Mulled wine, Mince pies,
Crafts, The Little Free
Library & The Teddy
Girls' chocolate tombola!**

Scouts 





BRENDAN CHALK

Commercial & Domestic Electrician

Recommended, trusted electrician providing a complete service throughout the Oxfordshire area.

To contact me - please see details below.

I'm always happy to help!



✉ Brendan.chalk@hotmail.com

📍 Oxfordshire

@ ChalkElectricalServices

☎ 07769334114



Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning

Render & Brickwork Cleaning

Gutter Clearing

Patio & Driveway Cleaning

Installation of Bird Protection & Chimney Cows

info@mossinator.co.uk - 01993 670005

Parish Councillor Opportunity

We still have a vacancy on the Parish Council and would welcome another member for our team. The more councillors there are, the more can be done for the village. Please drop our clerk, Fay an email if you are interested and would like to find out what is involved.



Play Park

The new installation has all been ordered with the work due to start in the near future, subject to weather conditions. We are sorry if parts of the park will need to be closed for the works to be carried out.

Council tax

Freeland Parish Council has decided not to increase the council tax precept this year, which will remain at £72,001 for the 2026–2027 financial year. However, as the tax is based on Band D-rated properties, and some residents receive discounted rates, the actual amount collected may fluctuate slightly.

Fix My Street

Please continue to use the Fix My Street App to report any highway issues to the County Council, such as potholes, overgrown hedges, damaged footpaths, or kerb, as well as grass cutting on the A4095. Additionally, if you would like to become a super user to help speed up the process in which things can be repaired, then email

Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk

Defibrillators

We are very lucky to have 2 defibrillators in our village. One is located by the Primary school in the old telephone box. The other is located to the lefthand side of the village hall porch. If these are used for an emergency please let me know asap on

Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk so the pads can be replaced. We hope that they aren't needed but it is good to know they are there just in case.

<https://www.defibfinder.uk/>

Planning Applications:

All planning applications can be viewed online via the WODC website at www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning and at Woodgreen Council Offices. Alternatively you can contact the **Planning Team at WODC on 01993 861420.**

The next meeting will be on **Monday 8th December 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**

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





Advent and Christmas at Hanborough and Freeland

Special services and events...



St Mary the Virgin, Freeland

Sunday December 14th 6pm - Carol Service

Christmas Eve December 24th 5pm - Christingle service for all ages

Christmas Eve December 24th 11:15pm - Midnight Communion

Christmas Day December 25th 10am - All-Age Family service of Holy Communion
for all in the benefice of Hanborough and Freeland (children welcome to bring favourite
present to show)



Christ Church

Monday, 1 December 7pm-9:00pm -

Wreath Making for Workshop

Sunday December 7th 4pm-5pm -

All-Age Family Christmas Carols

Christmas Eve December 24th 4pm-4:40pm - All-Age Family Crib Service, with
sweets, carols, Nativity scene, and Roger the Dog!



St Peter and St Paul, Church Hanborough

Sunday December 21st 6pm - Nine Lessons & Carols
with mulled wine

Christmas Eve December 24th 11:15pm - Midnight Communion

Christmas Day December 25th 10am - All-Age Family service of Holy Communion
for all in the benefice of Hanborough and Freeland (children welcome to bring favourite
present to show)

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

On **27th October** the Club held its Annual General Meeting. Alison, our Chairperson thanked Terry Noton for his excellent time as Treasurer of the Club. Terry has had given up the role for personal reasons. She also offered the Clubs condolences on the untimely death of Terrys wife Maureen.

She thanked the Committee for all their hard work during the year, particularly June, our Programme Secretary, for all the hours she had put into organising speakers for us, as well as the quizzes she had written for some events. June was presented with some lovely flowers. She mentioned the enjoyable day spent at Batsford Arboretum by some of our members. Other members of the Committee are willing to serve another year. **WE NOW VERY MUCH NEED A NEW TREASURER.** If anyone feels they could come forward, help will be given to explain the role and provide any help they need.

Alison also worked her way through some of the excellent speakers and subjects we had enjoyed. She mentioned our Village Fair which is coming up on **Saturday 22nd November.** It is hoped it will be a great success as many tables had been booked. Village Organisations will give details of what they do so that any new comers to the Village are made aware of all the good opportunities for interests that our Village offers.

June then gave a list of the speakers and subjects booked for the following year including Lucy Tritton who is coming on **24th November** to talk about 'Gardens in Paintings.' We don't meet in December due to Christmas.

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

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)

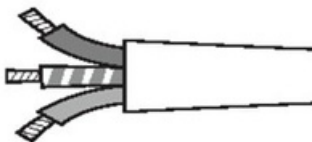
POPPY APPEAL 2025

Thank you so much to all residents of Freeland who donated to this worthy cause, together we managed to raise a fantastic **£1,466.39 for the RBL Poppy Appeal.** This total does not include any donations made using the QR code. A special thank you to Freeland Garden Centre, The Oxfordshire Yeoman, Freeland Primary School and Freeland House for allowing static boxes.



Once again the Freeland Craft Group placed beautiful handmade wreaths on to the memorial trees throughout the village. The wreaths have highlighted all of the 15 trees and plaques dedicated to the young villagers who gave their lives for our country. I would also like to thank all the dedicated volunteers for their ongoing support who give up their time every year in all weathers. On behalf of the volunteers, we look forward to seeing you all again next year. Image courtesy of The Royal British Legion.

Angela Spriggs 01993 881555



J M Fennymore
ELECTRICIAN



All aspects of electrical installation work, from small repairs to rewires & new consumer units
Electrical installation condition inspecting reports (EICR) & Portable Appliance Testing
Electrical fault finding
NOT VAT REGISTERED

J M FENNYMORE

Electrician

07816 650 011

jason@jmfennymore.co.uk




windrushgroup
print | design | web | large format



Celebrating our 50th anniversary, we have been delivering our print expertise to a wide variety of clients from the smallest personal projects through to much larger organisations. We pride ourselves in delivering the same level of service for all.

01993 772197

Chris@windrushgroup.co.uk **www.windrushgroup.co.uk**

Windrush Group, Windrush House, Avenue Two, Station Lane, Witney, Oxfordshire. OX28 4XW

FREELAND HALL

The perfect venue whatever the occasion!



FREELAND HALL

Bookings / further details:

✉ freelandhall@gmail.com

🖱 www.freelandhall.co.uk

Including the Newell Meeting Room and changing facilities

Regular Weekly Bakes

White Sourdough

Original Sourdough

Malthouse

Seeded Wholemeal

Cinnamon Buns



A feature loaf and alternative sweet treat baked each week.



Real Bread and Cinnamon Buns

Freshly baked on

Fridays in

Freeland

info@kneadbakehouse.co.uk

Buy from our website or choose from the selection at

The Oxfordshire Yeoman Café each Friday morning: 9.30 to 11 am

Website: <https://kneadbakehouse.square.site>

CHIROPODIST/PODIATRIST

MARTIN DREW

FSSCh DipPodMed MBChA

Established in 1990

Home visits available in Freeland area by appointment

Registered with Health Professions Council

Reg.No CH19287

Email: martindrew889@gmail.com

www.martindrew-chiropodist.co.uk

Tel. 01993 851130

SPEEDWATCH

Unfortunately, we have had to close down the Speedwatch activity in Freeland for the current time due to an insufficient number of volunteers coming forward. This is despite several announcements made that more people are required to enable us to continue and operate successfully.

If you would like to join us and help with this important activity – particularly with regard to the introduction of the 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village, please do contact us. If we receive a sufficient number - we need a minimum of nine more people, we will try to restart the activity.

Andy Murray. andykmurray@btinternet.com



CHRISTMAS DAY

Community Dinner

This year will be hosting a **FREE** community Christmas Day dinner in Freeland Village Hall.

Our aim is to and provide a festive experience for those who may find it difficult to cook or those who would spend Christmas Day alone.

There will be festive music as well as other entertainment.

This event is open to anyone from
Freeland, Long Hanborough or Church Hanborough.

Guests are invited to arrive from 2pm for dinner at 3pm

The day will be run by volunteers from the Oxfordshire STARS and Julie Stuart-Thompson (the organiser of previous Christmas events) will also be helping on the day.

Volunteers to help with transport will be needed.

To offer your support or to reserve a place please contact

Nicky Clargo on 07754 271831
or email oxfordshire.stars@gmail.com



Donations towards the day will be warmly welcomed.

**New Build
Construction**

**Renovation and
refurbishment**

Carpentry

Roofing

Groundworks



**With over 15 years of experience, we have
established a reputation as one of the leading
builders of exclusive Cotswold homes.**

01865 922001

enquiries@oxfordconstruction.co.uk



**"A very empathetic and compassionate
solicitor, who works hard for her clients to
achieve the best outcome possible"**

**"An excellent service, combining efficiency
and objectiveness with sensitivity and humanity"**



children

divorce

cohabitation

for a free initial appointment call

01865 884436

www.leighedwards.co.uk

14 Market Square, Witney, OX28 6BE

FREELAND COMMUNITY BUS TIMETABLE

EVERY THURSDAY – AVAILABLE TO ALL

Outbound pickup:

Freeland Village Hall -----	10.00 am
Little Free Library – 138 Wroslyn Rd ---	10.05 am
Nash Lane -----	10.05 am
Freeland Primary School -----	10.05 am

With drop off at:

Waitrose car park, Witney
Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney

Return pickup:

Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney -----	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!



Christmas General Knowledge Quiz

at The Three Horseshoes pub with Christ Church, Long Hanborough
7:30pm Wednesday 10th December

Everyone is welcome, whether individually or as a team (of up to 6). If you come on your own, we will find a team for you.

- **Pint with kebab or burger £12.**
- Special inspirational video at quiz interval.
- £50 bar tab for the winning team.
- A bottle of the prosecco for the runners-up.
- And a bottle of wine for third place.

STEVE EVINS ELECTRICAL

Local Stonesfield Based Electrician

- ⚡ Sockets & power outlets ⚡
- EV vehicle chargers
- Ring video doorbells & cameras
- Interior lighting
- Garden & outdoor lighting
- Fuse board upgrades
- ⚡ Electrical fault finding/repairs ⚡

**Call or
email today
to discuss
your next
project**

Friendly, professional service.



07555 060500 Steve@EvinsElectrical.co.uk



**Evins Electrical is a registered
NAPIT approved electrician**



TRUSTMARK
Government Endorsed Quality

FREELAND ENERGY GROUP (FEG)

We are a small group of local residents worried about the big climate change picture, yet with serious concerns on how to take our own, often small, steps to reduce energy usage, lower bills and be less reliant on fossil fuels. These are all big issues. We hope that you will find FEG useful to help cut through some of the jargon, put you in touch with neighbours who are willing to share information on their own energy changes and be part of a bigger network. Do get in touch with us if you want an introduction.



For FEG our network is being part of CAPZero – that is the Community Action Group for net zero with Green Tea in Eynsham and Go Green Hanborough in Long Hanborough, and the Low Carbon Hub (LCH). The concentration is not merely on the on the domestic as in the New Year we expect to support LCH with their meetings for local businesses. Keep your eye out for those invitations and notices.

We would like to thank everyone who completed a form for our recent Energy Audit form over the summer – yes you can still send in a form but sorry too late for prizes. With the forms we already hold, we will be in touch with many of you to follow up on some of the comments. In particular where there is a suggestion of being a local contact willing to talk about experience in making energy efficiency changes. Or, if no changes have been made but you indicated you are interested in finding out about ‘House like Mine’ project.

A further thanks to everyone who completed the follow-up enquiry after last winter’s home thermal imaging experience. It is tricky getting exactly the right weather conditions to carry out thermal imaging, and it is useful to understand what the next steps for you were, to help plan ours.

Hope to see you at our table at the **‘Village Fayre’ on Saturday 22nd November** where there will be an Energy Advisor with guidance on how to keep you warm this winter, and whether there is grant help available for reducing your energy use. Look forward to seeing you there.

freelandenergygroup@outlook.com

“MEMORIES OF LIFE IN FREELAND”

It is my desire to create and (eventually) publish a collection of “Memories of Life in Freeland” and also possibly set up a history group within the village to preserve any photographs, maps, leaflets etc that may exist.

I have already spoken to a number of villagers about this and found a positive and willing response. If you are interested in submitting material, or being involved in any way, please contact me by phone or email or just call in for a chat!

Graham Lay : **07460 223048 or grahamlay4@gmail.com** 139 Wroslyn Road



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

Witney Music Society's final 2025 concert will be given by Daniel Schultz (cello) and Sejin Yoon (piano). Their programme will include works by Schumann, Sibelius, Dvořák and Chopin.

The concert is at 7.30 pm on Friday 12 December 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

We will be at the Christmas tree lighting event in the Village Hall on the evening of **Friday 5th December** so please do come along to say hello! We will have a large collection of Christmas books available for you to take for free, for children of all ages and adults. Christmas books are donated to us throughout the year, so we save them up until December. Any books leftover after the event will go into the Little Free Libraries.

Thank you as always to our dedicated team of volunteers who work hard all year to keep the Little Free Library tidy and well-stocked. Sue, Fi, Jenny and Caroline: you are amazing, and all your help is greatly appreciated.

2025 has been another successful year for us. In the summer, Blenheim Estates kindly and generously donated, built and installed the new Little Free Library to replace the original one, which had been in need of an upgrade after ten years of service. A steady stream of books are continually donated and taken from both Little Free Libraries every day, which reflects on the generous community spirit of Freeland. So thank you for all your support this year; the Little Free Library project would not work without all of you!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming new year.

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

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

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Friday 19th December
Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 6th & 20th December

Details of other Farmers' Markets at
www.tvfm.org.uk 01235 227266



MJ Fyson BA BA VetMB MRCVS
Wroslyn Road
Freeland
Nr. Witney
Oxon OX29 8AQ
E-Mail:coachhousevet@outlook.com



We are a traditional independent small animal
Veterinary Practice

- Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:30-18:30, Sat 09:00-12:00
- Consultations by appointment only, please phone 01993 880551
- Friendly personal service for dogs, cats and small furies
- Stockists of Symply, Canagan & Yora pet foods
- Follow us on Facebook: Coach House Veterinary Clinic

01993 880551

www.coachhousevetclinic.co.uk



Woodstock Solicitors

woodstocklaw.co.uk

**YOUR LOCAL WILLS AND PROBATE
SPECIALISTS**

-
- Wills • Probate • Lasting Powers of Attorney
 - Inheritance Tax Planning • Court of Protection • Trusts

Contact us today to find out how we can help

01993 811 792

1st Floor, 32 New Rd, Woodstock, Oxford OX20 1PB

T: 01993 811 792 E: info@woodstocklaw.co.uk

NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

On **Tuesday 2nd December** Stephen Barker will be giving a talk on 'Trench Humour in the First World War'. 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.**



4-7 years



7-10 years



10-14 years



14-18 years

As the seasons are changing the **Brownies and Rainbows** are doing more indoor activities. They have made firework bonfires on biscuits, have designed firework posters, played card games and have started their girl guiding sparkle badge. We also celebrated our new girls making their promise.

The **Guides and Rangers** have been doing upcycling of clothing and doing a clothes swap as part of their thrift badge. You would have seen us at the fireworks on the gates and the light up toys stall. We also took part in the Remembrance Sunday parade.

If you need to get in touch, please email freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com





FREELAND METHODIST CHAPEL UPDATE

Charitable status is important to our plans to acquire and renovate the Chapel: it doesn't change any aspects of the share offer, but could add Gift Aid income to personal donations and make donating more attractive for businesses. Progress towards charitable status has been slow and complicated—but we are moving forward steadily.

The 'critical path' to securing ownership of the Chapel is:

- Financial Conduct Authority agreement, a new bank account, and HMRC approval for charitable status
- Dissolution of Freeland Community Benefit Society, with current members of the management committee co-opted to the new society ("Freeland Community Hub") as its management committee
- Freeland Community Hub's Share Offer issued, with share proceeds and donations paid into the new charitable bank account, thereby ensuring any donations are eligible for tax deductibility and Gift Aid
- Completion of the purchase of the Chapel once the legal aspects have been agreed
- AGM called shortly after purchase is completed, with Freeland Community Hub's hundreds of new shareholders invited to attend; at this, we hope some of them will consider putting themselves forward for the new management committee.

Meanwhile, thanks to everyone who came along to our Chapel Neighbours' consultation on 17th November, and our 'Pop-up, Pop-in' workshops on 22nd and 25th November to give us your ideas on how you think the Chapel should look and feel. We had great fun – pictures to follow.

There's also been a tremendous response to our call for volunteers - 2026 will be a year of fundraising for the Chapel renovations. The most immediate opportunity is obtaining Section 106 funding from the Pye development opposite the school; we are still in discussion with WODC about this. We are also preparing an application to the National Heritage Lottery fund and a local charity. That's not all; we have some exciting community-led events coming up next year such as concerts and an auction of promises. **Contd....**



Wroslyn Road, Freeland OX29 8AQ

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

Tel: 01993 881430

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

Nordmann Fir non-drop Christmas Trees

Containerised Christmas Trees

Holly Wreaths

Poinsettias and other house plants

Main crop potatoes 25kg and 10kg

Logs and Kindling wood

FREELAND METHODIST CHAPEL Contd...

But before all that, we have the inaugural **Santa Fun Run & Ramble on Saturday 13th December** to round off 2025! Registrations are at **12.30pm** ready for the racing to start at **1pm**. So get that Santa hat out and running shoes on for the 5km ("Full Santa") or 2km ("Little Elf") meander around our favourite village in aid of the Chapel's renovation fund. Fun prizes, and food from the Yeoman including hot chocolate and mulled wine, Yorkshire wraps and mince pies. See the website for more details **www.freelandcbs.community**.

Pssst. Did we hear there MIGHT even be a...reindeer?





Greens Funeral Services



Established 1866

A family owned and managed business
for five generations

*With kindness at the heart of
our care for over 150 years.*

21 High Street, Eynsham OX29 4HE
01865 880837

32 Corn Street, Witney OX28 6BL
01993 776486

mail@greensfunerals.co.uk
www.greensfunerals.co.uk



FUNERAL PLANS FROM

Golden Charter

Smart Planning for Later Life





03/11/2025

November is here and by jingo it's a barn stormer already, the full moon is traditionally called the "Beaver Moon" in North America....moonshine was probably involved in the naming of that I would think.

14 people and the plaintiff rambled through a completely new route in as much as we went through a small wood we have never been in before and also passed around the back of some trees in another, at no point were we lost or in any danger from sheep or cows.

November as we all know is the month of remembrance. An excerpt from the poem **"For the Fallen"** by Laurence Binyon:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Our next and final official Ramble of 2025 will be on: **Sunday the 7th December**. We will also be making our way to the **Combe Mill Christmas Market on Sunday 30th November** starting at **10am** sharp-ish from the bus shelter opposite the **Yeoman Pub**. All are welcome.

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

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





SANTA FUN RUN

& Ramble **SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER**

Registration @ 12.30pm - Racing @ 1pm Meet opposite the Yeoman
5k and 2k courses around the village. Hot food and drinks (and maybe a reindeer)
Entry fee: A donation of your choice to raise funds for the Chapel Renovation



**SCAN
ME!**



See website for
further details

www.freelandcbs.community



Back or joint pain?
Upcoming or recent knee/hip operation?
Need to improve your overall fitness?
... or feeling stiff and inflexible?

A one to one, tailored program using specialised equipment (Pilates reformer, tower etc) in my private Stonesfield studio could help address muscle imbalances, improve posture, develop your core and build strength.

Call: Lucy on 07484 901615 Website: www.resiliencepilates.co.uk

Livey's Taxi

Local & Regional
Airports ~ Stations
North Leigh based

4, 6 and 8 Seater Vehicles

Tel: 07979 507535

Credit Cards Accepted



WINDOW DESIGN INTERIORS CURTAINS AND BLINDS

- *Made to Measure Blinds and Curtains
- *Fabrics and Accessories
- *Call to book home appointments
- *Online booking available for visits to our showroom in Chipping Norton

01993 870606

WWW.WINDOWDESIGNINTERIORS.CO.UK

Complete Service from Measurement through to Fitting

FREELAND WI



Sandy from Cornucopia Cooks in Eynsham joined us for our November meeting to present 'Canapes for Christmas'. The evening began with a brief history of the canape, its meaning and different varieties. It was interesting to learn that the use of canapes goes as far back as the Greek and Roman eras. Sandy then demonstrated how to make a wide selection of canapes for the upcoming party season from dates stuffed with cream cheese and almonds, crostini topped with feta cheese, fig, honey and pistachios, smoked salmon blinis, mini potato rosti with aubergine and pomegranate, to name just a few. In-depth instructions, tips and facts were provided for each one and the results were delicious and swiftly devoured. To add a little fun element to the evening, following a demonstration, Sandy got four of our members to make mango and cucumber sushi nori. A wonderful evening thoroughly enjoyed by all our members.

Our Christmas meeting on **Monday 8 December**, will be a hands on session decorating chocolate yule logs and a Christmas card quiz, accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies.

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



Rediscovering the Magic of Christmas: An Advent Adventure

Each Christmas, we tend to hear the same readings and, let's be honest, the same sermons.

This Advent, join John Hayward on a daily journey to rediscover some of the magic of Christmas. Originally written as letters from a father to his adult children, this book warmly invites you to feast richly on some of the passages of scripture less commonly associated with our celebrations of the birth of Jesus.

TOM ROBINSON

PAINTING & DECORATING

ARTEXING & TILING

9 New Road, Long Hanborough

Tel: 01993 882104

Mob: 07766 880416



S J LAY

PLUMBING...HEATING...LEADWORK

COMPLETE BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS

WET ROOMS

BOILER REPLACEMENT

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

CONTACT : STEVE :

07969 930518 ADAM :

07805 201618

GASSAFE : 65024

FREELAND WINE CLUB

Our recent meeting was enjoyed by 50 people with one sparkling and six still wines from New Zealand being presented by Toby Chiles on his welcome return to the wine club. This was accompanied by matching food and wine raffle to complete the experience.

The next meeting at **Freeland Village Hall on Friday 28th Nov at 7.15 for 7.30** will start with a short **Club AGM** and continue with a social wine evening, including a fun quiz, challenge games and of course our raffle. As in previous years this event is **FREE** to members with the request to bring along a plate of food to share. The club will provide wines to the table and materials for your enjoyment.

As stated **members are free but places must be booked**, guest are welcome with a charge of £10 on the link below.

FreelandWineClub@gmail.com

Members Free, Guest **£10**

YEOMAS 2025

'THE HALL STAGE' 'THE PUB STAGE'

15:00 - SWIMWEAR

15:45 - KAIMANA

16:30 - THE HONEY BADGERS

17:15 - OLLY PUDDLE

18:00 - THE YEOMEN

18:45 - THE FRAUD SQUAD

19:30 - DOUBLE PARKED

21:00 - *TBC*



Freeland Village Hall & The Oxfordshire Yeoman



172 Wroslyn Road

Freeland, Witney

OX29 8AQ



**SUNDAY 21ST
DECEMBER 3PM-11PM**



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

1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

With the run-up to Christmas now firmly underway, our **Scout Group** is enjoying a busy and exciting term full of activities and the troop has been welcoming lots of new members.



We were proud to take part in Remembrance Sunday once again this year. A huge thank-you to all the young people, leaders, and families who attended and represented the group so well. A special mention goes to Elsie Talnut, our talented bugle player, who performed amazingly and will soon be moving on to university.

Across the sections, there has been plenty going on. The Scouts have recently welcomed a number of new members and have been busy with lots of investitures. They also celebrated Diwali in style, cooking their own curries and bhajis, which they proudly served to parents during their end-of-evening ceremony.

The **Beavers** have been having an action-packed term too, taking part in fun activities including Laser Kombat as well as an exciting visit to Crocodiles of the World.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is a perfect time—whether it's joining the subcommittee, helping out at weekly meetings, or contributing in any other way you feel able. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Hugo Pottinger (Publicity Rep)

FREELAND CRAFT GROUP

This is one of the 15 knitted and crocheted wreaths made by the Craft Club to decorate the memorial trees in the village, which were planted to commemorate those from the village who had fallen in both World Wars. We also made a pillar- box topper for the first time this year. We hope you enjoyed them. We always look forward to welcoming visitors and new members so see you soon.

We meet each Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 – 4:00pm in the Newell Room at the back of Freeland Village Hall every Wednesday from 2:00pm – 4:00pm . There is usually a subscription of £1 per meeting to cover hire costs. For further information, or someone to go with, please contact: Helen 01993 882305 or Margaret 01993 881316 (marglwright52@gmail.com)

Margaret



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.**



Our u3a branch is centred in Woodstock 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. Interest groups develop when someone is willing to run them – maybe you have something you can offer. Our newest groups of Table Tennis and Photography have very successfully established themselves this year. Singing for joy – how does that sound. Our group meets at the Scout and Guide Hut in Union Street on 3rd Wednesday at 2pm – relaxed singing, purely for fun. Or Historic Churches with planned visits/tours to the many and varied beautiful churches in our area – meeting once a month on 3rd Thursdays. Our website offers up to date information and contact points www.woodstocku3a.uk do take a look.

Monthly members' speaker meetings are held at St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock OX20 1JL (easy to reach on the S3 bus or parking available). The November speaker, Jessica Bouwer from Wild Oxfordshire, deepened our knowledge and appreciation of hedgerows and their 'ideal' care and benefits to the countryside, to gardens and importantly, ourselves.

Our next speaker meeting is on **Thursday 4 December at St Hugh's, 1.45pm for 2pm when we return to history with author and historian, Anna Beer, talking on Bess – The Life of Lady Raleigh – Wife to Sir Walter.** The talk is a whistle-stop tour of the remarkable and long life of Bess Throckmorton. As we focus on figures like Bess we can gain fresh insight into the past. For example, the court of Queen Elizabeth I begins to be seen as a very special political economy in which women mattered, and widowhood became a time of opportunity as much as desolation.

All welcome - visitors £3 to include tea and biscuits.

Sue Blackshaw - Chair

OXFORD BUS AND MORRIS MOTORS MUSEUM



MUSEUM NEWLY ACCREDITED AND A CHRISTMAS JUMPER COMPETITION

The assessor stated in his report that “key strengths highlighted in the assessment included the staff, cleanliness, and the attraction itself. The carefully curated displays offer a fascinating insight into Oxfordshire’s transport heritage, bringing the past vividly to life. What makes the experience even more special is the team of staff and volunteers, who are friendly, knowledgeable, and clearly passionate about what they do, creating a warm and engaging atmosphere throughout the visit.”

The assessor identified that we have some work to do on the toilets and catering facilities. The trustees have formed a sub-committee to review these and other suggestions in the report, which would improve our visitor offering.

A different mystery shopper will visit during 2026 when the museum will be reassessed. Locally other attractions with the award include Blenheim, Oxford Castle & Prison, The Ashmolean, The Sheldonian, Bodleian Libraries, Didcot Railway Centre and Waterperry Gardens.

Father Christmas will be visiting the museum and seeing children in his ‘Bus Grotto’ on **Sundays 14 and 21 December between 10am and 3pm. There is a small extra charge for every child who sees Santa but each child will receive a present.**

On both days The Oxford & District Model Railway Club will be bringing their model railway layouts for visitors to see. Older children and adults may be allowed to operate some trains.

On **New Year’s Day** we shall have **heritage bus rides from 11am until 3pm** when we shall have a free to enter competition for “The Best Christmas Jumper”. If you are feeling a bit frail after the previous night’s celebrations, come along in your best or worst jumper and enjoy the museum and wallow in nostalgia.

May I wish all readers a Very Happy Christmas.

Frank Collingwood

RECYCLING CENTRES

Non-Oxfordshire residents will face a **£15 charge** if they want to use recycling centres in the county from January onwards.

People will also have to **book in advance** and will need to provide **proof of address** on arrival. The changes aim to address the issue of people from outside the county using recycling centres in Oxfordshire at the cost of the taxpayer for people to access the centres.

WEST OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN 2043

The Preferred Spatial Options Consultation

The document sets out a range of potential locations where new homes, employment sites, nature recovery areas and supporting infrastructure could be provided. The Council is seeking views from residents before any sites are selected for inclusion in the draft Local Plan, which will be published for a further, final period of consultation in spring next year.

It is important to stress that the potential locations that are put forward are initial proposals, not final choices. This is why it is vital for the residents to respond to this consultation.

The challenges are significant. The Council's previous assessment of the housing need in West Oxfordshire was 549 houses per year. However, the government requires the Council to deliver 905 new homes per year. Allowing for some contingency, this means we need to build 18,000 homes by 2043. As there are currently 48,000 homes in West Oxfordshire, we will be increasing the District's housing stock by a third.

Such rapid housing growth will challenge already strained infrastructure, such as transport, healthcare, schools and utilities, such as sewer systems and the national grid. This is why the Council is focusing on planning most of the growth alongside the infrastructure, such as transport corridors (A40) and services, and securing the investments it depends on.

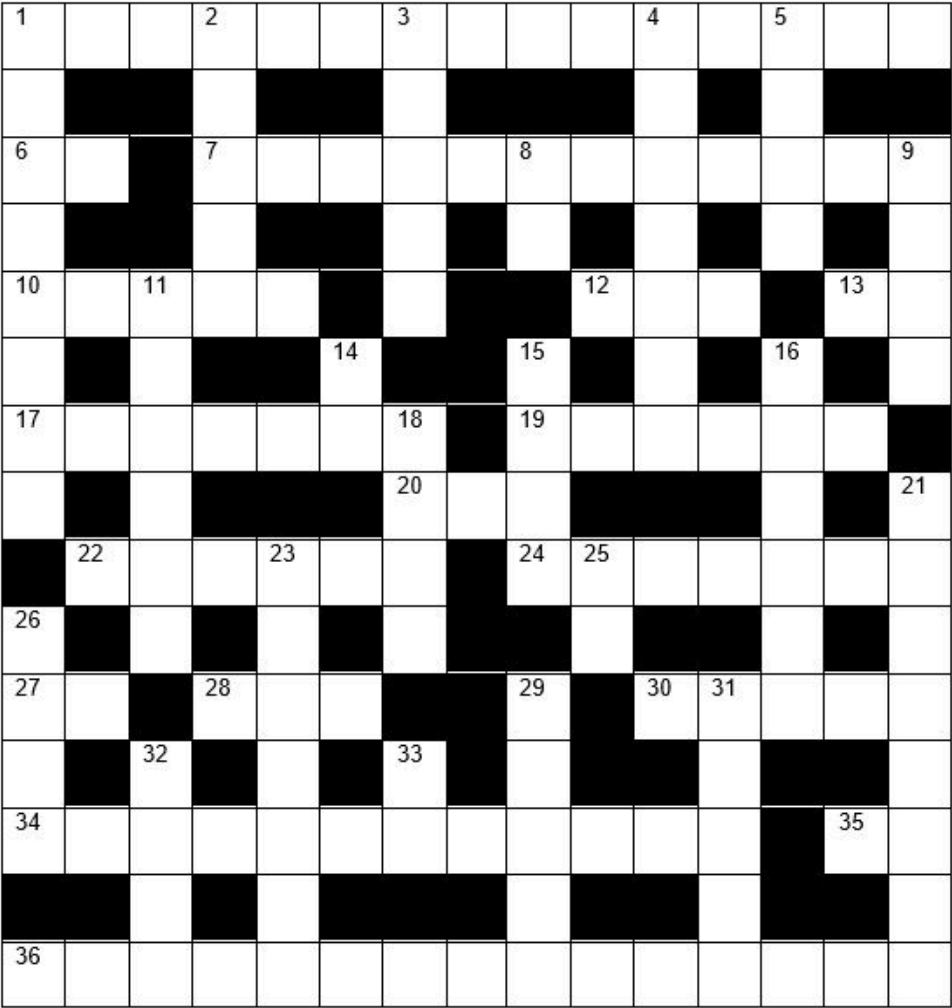
Within Freeland and Hanborough ward, one strategic site for 300 homes is proposed, 'Land South West of Hanborough Station'. It is located between the new residential development around the station, Pinsley Wood and Lower Road (see page 63). I would like to encourage the residents to consider the positive and negative impacts that this development would have on our environment and communities, and make their comments. The Preferred Spatial Options document can be found at:

<https://yourvoice.westoxon.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/preferred-spatial-options-nov2025>. The consultation closes on Monday 22nd December 2025

Contributed by Cllr Lidia Arciszewska
Lidia.arciszewska@westoxon.gov.uk



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD #5 DECEMBER 2025



ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD #4, NOVEMBER 2025

Across

1. CAMERA, 6. HERMIT, 9. ROUTE, 10. BEER, 11. MILE, 13. NIGHTINGALE, 16. ELFIN, 18. NIGHT, 19. ACORN, 20. COOMB, 24. WATERPROOFS, 27. CAVE, 28. EARL, 29. APHID, 30. PICNIC, 31. ENDEAR

DOWN

2. ALES, 3. EARWIG, 4. ARACHNE, 5. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS, 6. HEXAGON, 7. RAMBLE, 8. IDLE, 12. SCENERY, 14. COUNTRY, 15. AGE, 17. SOD, 20. COELIAC, 21. BROCADE, 22. TAVERN, 23. AFIELD, 25. TAXI, 26. AREA

CLUES FOR CROSSWORD #5 DECEMBER 2025

ACROSS

1. Skiff oft he will abandon for beast. (4,2,3,6)
6. Non-native, in short, hid in space transporter. (2)
7. Posh person recalculated Arctic ratios. (12)
10. Man takes fisher to king. (5)
12. Naughty act from Sir Donald Sinden. (3)
13. Some idiot initiated modern measure. (2)
17. Scarlet hooter possession of certain reindeer. (3,4)
19. Leaderless gang hold the Spanish Shilling for heavenly types. (6)
20. Laird loses sides of matter to breathe. (3)
22. River, perhaps, tectonic, China ... consumption from the latter. (6)
24. Yvette starts stomping without holy man while walking. (7)
27. Be there within the allocated time. (2)
28. Laid low in hideout. (3)
30. Little Jessica hugs first ultimate baby. (5)
34. Invaluable tree product so reorder fence in ranks. (12)
35. Move to empty gazebo. (2)
36. Fattish marchers confused with giver of gifts (6,9)

DOWN

1. Sheep, Edward initially lost, heard, I hear, their chaperone. (8)
2. Joanna plays regularly optimal first two notes. (5)
3. First two tapirs at pig pen find it mouth-watering. (5)
4. Environment Agency puts river banks inside dingy dangler. (7)
5. Consumes in east, misguidedly. (4)
8. Alternative found outside offer. (2)
9. Proscribe without prose a cot. (4)
11. Nureyev danced with famous Christmas hart. (6)
14. We are found in adieu, soul mate. (2)
15. Grandma Ryan secretly had virgin birth. (4)
16. Sounds like aircraft over steppes. (6)
18. Eats messily in the Orient. (4)
21. Oddly angriest took rasp to grazing entrepreneurs. (8)
23. In his eye he has a sparkle like that of a little star. (7)
25. Beast at heart of botoxing. (2)
26. To some extent practical fix creates small 25. (4)
29. Eerie, not Ireland, behind church, is full of it at Christmas (5)
31. Smooth tango at occasion. (5)
32. Drysalter is source of condiment. (4)
33. Empty oven is operating. (2)

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

DIRTY CARPETS? GRUBBY UPHOLSTERY?

Friendly, Local Service. Unbeatable Results. Call GRIMEBUSTERS - **01993 868924**

KNIVES

Wood chisels, axes, secateurs, hedge trimmers, shears, mower blades etc sharpened to original specifications. Contact: **"Sharpedge" 07460 223 048**

COUNTRY FISH & CHIPS

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

THE CAKE CAFÉ, FREELAND

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

jane.cakestudio@gmail.com 2nd December Christmas Cakes and Bakes

HOUSE FOR SALE

Looking to sell our much loved 4 bedroom detached home in Parklands. Please call **07952 459603** if interested.

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

Tues	2 Dec	The Cake Cafe, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am, Christmas Cakes & Bakes
Tues	2 Dec	North Leigh History Society, Memorial Hall 7pm for 7.30pm
Weds	3 Dec	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Thurs	4 Dec	U3a Meeting 2pm St Hugh's Hensington Rd, Woodstock
Frid	5 Dec	COPY DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 2026 GRAPEVINE
Frid	5 Dec	Christmas Tree Lighting, Village Hall 6.15pm for 6.30pm
Sun	7 Dec	UFL Ramble 10.00am from Bus Shelter opp Oxford Yeoman pub
Mon	8 Dec	Freeland Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Newell Room
Mon	8 Dec	WI Christmas Meeting, Village Hall, 7.45pm, decorating Yule logs
Weds	10 Dec	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste
Weds	10 Dec	Christmas Quiz Three Horseshoes Pub, L Hanborough 7.30pm
Frid	12 Dec	Witney Music Society Concert, High St Methodist Church 7pm for 7.30pm
Sat	13 Dec	Santa Fun Run & Ramble, Registration 12.30pm for 1pm Start in aid of Chapel Fund
Sun	14 Dec	Bus Museum Santa Grotto, 10.00am - 3.00pm
Wed	17 Dec	Grey Week: household⁴⁵ rubbish + food waste collection
Sun	21 Dec	Bus Museum Santa Grotto, 10.00am - 3.00pm
Mon	22 Dec	Closing Date for Local Plan Consultation
Weds	24 Dec	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Weds	24 Dec	Christingle Service, St Mary's Church, Freeland 5pm

HANBOROUGH & FREELAND RUNNING GROUP

FOR 18 TO 99 YEAR OLDS,
EVERYONE WELCOME

ENJOYABLE, WEEKLY, FREE,
PEER-LED RUNNING GROUPS

For info: **HanFree-run@outlook.com**
<https://www.strava.com/clubs/HanFree-Run>



The deadline for articles or adverts for the **JANUARY 2026** Grapevine is **Friday 5th December. No late submissions will be accepted.** The edition should be online at <https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk> and www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk from about Tuesday 16th December with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from Friday 19th 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, not PDFs. Photographs should be JPGs or PNGs, again not PDFs. The cost of a Small Advertisement 25p 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,

THE OXFORDSHIRE YEOMAN

WINTER MENU 2025-2026

KITCHEN OPENING TIMES (For Winter Menu)
 Wednesday & Thursday: 12:00-14:30 & 17:30-20:30
 Friday & Saturday: 12:00-20:30
 Sunday: 12:00-16:00 (separate menu)

v - Vegetarian
 gf - Gluten Free Available
 gfa - Gluten Free Available

STARTERS

Scotch Egg with mustard mayo and salad - **£7.50**
Soup of the Day with wholemeal mini loaf (v) (gfa) - **£6.95**
Traditional Prawn Cocktail - **£8.95**
Halloumi Fries with sweet chilli dip (v) (gfa) - **£6.95**
Ardennes Pate & toasted ciabatta - **£7.95**
Baked Honey Camembert with crusty bread (to be shared) - **£12.95**

MAIN COURSE

Giant Yorkshire (filled with Chicken, stuffing, seasonal veg and gravy) - **£16.95**
Traditional Sausage & Mash, peas, and onion gravy (gfa) - **£14.95**
Bad Santa Burger with house festive chips - **£17.95**
Pie of the day, mash and peas with gravy (v) (ve) - **£17.95**
Scampi, Chips and peas with tartare sauce - Large **£13.95** / Small **£10.95**
Ham, free range Egg & Chips (gfa) - **£14.95**
Rump Steak with chips, mushrooms, tomato and peppercorn sauce (gfa) - **£19.95**
Butternut Squash with cranberry, red onion tagine and rice (v) (ve) - **£12.95**

V-VEGETARIAN
 VE-VEGAN
 GFA-GLUTEN FREE AVAILABLE

WINTER LIGHT BITES

Bacon, Brie & Cranberry Baguette - **£7.95**
Christmas Loaded Chips with Bacon, Stuffing and Cheese - **£6.50**
Turkey, Stuffing & Cranberry Baguette - **£8.25**
Pulled Pork Baguette - **£8.25**
Margherita Pizza (gfa) - **£10.95**
Festive Pizza - Traditional Pizza sauce, Mozzarella, Pigs in Blankets, Cranberry and Chicken (gfa) - **£14.95**
Chicken, Bacon & Mayonnaise Baguette - **£7.95**
Fish Finger Baguette - **£7.95**
Garlic Flatbread (v) - **£4.95**
Soup of the Day (gfa) - **£6.95**
Chips (ve) (gf) - **£3.50 + cheese - £1**

Bringing comfort, style and quality to your home

Bringing the showroom to you, our team of friendly estimators will visit your home to provide a free, no obligation quotation.

We pride ourselves on providing the complete service and have teams of experienced fitters, with all work guaranteed.

To arrange a home visit today call **01993 703833**

Alternatively visit our huge showroom in Witney, open 6 days a week

Avenue 4, Station Lane, Witney, OX28 4BN, Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

CarpetOptions
 FLOORING SPECIALISTS

carpetoptions.co.uk

CARPETS | RUGS | LVT | VINYL | WOOD | COMMERCIAL

Christmas at
**BLENHEIM
PALACE**
2025



THE
ILLUMINATED
TRAIL

The
**Palace
of OZ**

PLUS **THE GREAT SKATE**

AND **THE CHRISTMAS MARKET IN THE GREAT COURT**

14 November – 3 January

blenheimpalace.com/christmas

