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September 2026

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SERVICES AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Sunday 30th August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion
Sunday 6th September	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at Christ Church
Sunday 13th September	10.00am Communion
Sunday 20th September	10.00am Communion
Sunday 27th September	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday 4th October	10.00am Harvest Morning Praise Joint with Christ Church at St Mary's

The above information is correct on the date published (**24th August 2026**). 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

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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

Curate: Revd Rachael Bell
email: rachael.bell@hfchurch.org.uk

Churchwarden: John Hayward

Licensed Lay Minister:
Hugh Dalton *Emeritus*: 01993 881742

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

Future events will be publicised on our website www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk and you can join our email list by sending your details to administrator@hfchurch.org.uk. Do 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.

Thank you to Ken J-Fisher for the photograph taken on Freeland Allotments.



BLACK DOG

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Contact Gill Brakespear **Tel: 01993 883914 Email: gillbreakspear@btinternet.com.**

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

Sunday 6th Sept 10.00am Local Arrangement

Sunday 13th Sept 10am Revd Sue Jacobs Harvest Festival & Holy Communion

Sunday 20th Sept 10.00am Mr Andrew Maisey

Sunday 27th Sept 10am Mrs Margaret Broadberry

Sunday 4th Oct 10am Libby Hawkness-Smith

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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

CRAFTS & SKILLS

at Combe Mill
Sunday 20 September
10.30 - 4.30 hrs

Oxford Guild of Spinners Weavers & Dyers	Leather demonstrations
Crochet and Decoupage	Vintage sewing machines
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Needle felting	Treadle sewing machine

Recommended last entry time is 3.30pm



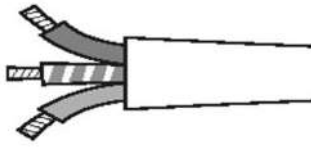
Welcome to the community of Steampunk

Charlbury Morris dancers in afternoon

Browse our market stalls

Swindon Classic Car Club in attendance

Adults £9.50, concessions £8.50, children free
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SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Sunday 30th August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday 6th Sept	10.00 am Whole Benefice Communion at Christ Church
Sunday 13th Sept	10.00am Communion
Sunday 20th Sept	10.00am Communion with Baptism of Crispin McKenna
Sunday 27th Sept	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday 4th Oct	10.00am Harvest Communion

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

Sunday 30th Aug	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday 6th Sept	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday 13th Sept	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday 20th Sept	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday 27th Sept	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday 4th Oct	10.00am Joint Service with St Mary's at St Mary's

ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

Sunday 13th September 9.30am - 10am

Sunday 20th September 9.30am - 10am

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.

EYNSHAM COUNTRY MARKET VISITS FREELAND

It has been an extremely hot but busy summer for Eynsham Country Market which takes place every **Thursday in Eynsham Square from 9am until 10.30am**. We are part of a national network of local markets under an organisation called Country Markets Ltd, dedicated to providing top quality home-baked cakes, traditional preserves, hand crafted items and locally grown garden produce.

Our producers all come from the local area, including four who live in Freeland, so it was decided that we would like to bring our autumn market to **Freeland Village Hall on Saturday 3rd October from 9.30am to 12.30pm**.

Our market will offer a wide range of cakes and bakes, savouries, jams and marmalades, hand-made crafts including cards, knitted and sewn items, jewellery, studio pottery, stained glass and resin produce and much more besides. Please pop by and support our first ever event in Freeland, which is free to enter, and enjoy a cuppa and a piece of home baked cake. We are keen to recruit new producers to our market, particularly bakers and volunteers to help set up and pack away our weekly market. So if you would like to join our friendly team of local people, why not get in touch for more information?

eynshamcountrymarket76@gmail.com.

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram where you can find updates on our latest markets. Throughout the year we hold Saturday Markets in Long Hanborough Recreation Hall and Eynsham from 9.30am to 12pm as follows:-

- Sat 31st October Halloween and Harvest at Long Hanborough
- Sat 5th Dec Christmas Market St Leonard's Church, Eynsham (venue to be confirmed)
- Sat 12th December Christmas Market Long Hanborough



LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD DR STEVE STEWART

Looking for peace...

Sitting in the still warmth of our garden recently during this extraordinary summer weather, I found myself feeling wonderfully peaceful. It set me thinking about that little word 'peace'. We all use it often: peace and quiet, peace in our homes, peace between nations. Yet the Bible speaks of peace as something deeper and stronger than simply the absence of noise, conflict, or trouble.

Many will remember the phrase 'peace in our time', associated with Neville Chamberlain in 1938. His hope, tragically, did not last. Chamberlain's words echoed an older prayer from the Book of Common Prayer: "Give peace in our time, O Lord, because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God." That prayer recognises something important: true peace is not something we can manufacture for ourselves. It is a gift from God.

In the Bible, we see that God's peace is not flimsy or temporary. It is about relationships being put right. First and foremost, it is peace with God. St Paul writes, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). The Christian claim is not that we reach up to God by our own goodness, but that God reaches down to us in Jesus Christ, forgiving, reconciling, and welcoming us as his children.

That peace then begins to shape how we live with one another. A church is not meant to be a gathering of perfect people, but a family of forgiven people learning to love, forgive, and bear with one another. As St Peter writes, "Peace to all of you who are in Christ" (1 Peter 5:14).

And God's peace reaches into our own hearts and minds. Life still brings anxiety, grief, uncertainty, and strain. Christian faith does not pretend otherwise. But it does invite us to bring those burdens to God. "Do not be anxious about anything," Paul writes, "but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God... will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

So what peace does God offer? Peace with himself, peace with others, and peace within. If that is something you long for, the invitation remains open: "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6).

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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Research suggests that **time spent alongside horses and ponies** can do something quietly remarkable: **spark recognition, awaken familiar feelings, and help cherished memories find their way back** — softly, at their own pace.

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FREELAND SUPPER EVENING



I am running a supper evening on **Saturday 3rd October in Freeland Village Hall** in aid of the Freeland Community Hub Chapel refurbishment, and am looking for volunteers to help with the following:

- Cooking
- Serving
- Setting up and clearing up

If you would be interested in attending the evening could you please let me know.

Tel: 07752 320351 or email: freelandsupperclub@gmail.com

Shelagh Kardos

OXFORDSHIRE STARS: UPCOMING DATES.

Trek Albania by exploring the dramatic landscapes and unspoilt natural valleys of the Zagoria Valley in aid of Marie Curie, **15th-21st September 2026**. Organised by The Ultimate Travel Co.

Christmas Day community dinner 25th December 2026. This year will be hosting another FREE community Christmas Day dinner in Freeland Village Hall.

For more information on any of these events, please contact Nicky Clargo on **07754 271831** or email: oxfordshire.stars@gmail.com

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Frid 25th Sept 2026

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 6th & 19th September 2026

Details of other Farmers' Markets at:

www.tvfm.org.uk 01235 227266





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Pye Homes Consultation

At the time of writing, the detailed plans for public consultation on this development have been made available online. However, the closing date is **28th August** which does not give much time to respond if people are away or don't receive the Grapevine in time.

Please make your views known to Pye, particularly on the unnecessary car park shown within our Green Gap, which was strongly objected to by the Parish Council. See link <https://www.pyehomes.co.uk/developments/freeland/>



Water Sampling – Volunteers Welcome

We now have several people from Freeland volunteering with Freshwater Watch to sample the water quality upstream and downstream of the Church Hanborough sewage treatment works. The testing will include Nitrate and Phosphate levels, as well as coliform reactors, along with more detailed measurement using 'Sonde equipment'. A report will be going to the next Parish Council meeting on the results to date.

Defibrillators

The 2 defibrillators in the village are located in the telephone box by the Primary school and at the village hall to the left hand side of the porch. If these are used for an emergency please let me know asap on Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Planning Applications

The main notable planning application this month is the Listed Building Consent submitted for the restoration of the Methodist Chapel **ref: 26/01707/LBC** and the linked application **ref: 26/01706/FUL**, with comments open until late September.

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

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 14th September 2026 at 7.30pm**, in the Newell Room. Please note this time and venue is subject to change; please check the village website and noticeboards for the final agenda up to five days before the meeting in case of alterations.

If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter, please have a look at the Council website which is being updated with lots of useful information:

<https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk/> or email

Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk

You can also follow us on Facebook (@freelandpc).

Fay, our clerk, can be contacted by phone from **9.00am – 4.00pm, Monday to Friday** on **07818 572997**. You can also text on this number.

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FREELAND ENERGY GROUP (FEG)

And still the heat continues, and climate chaos concerns will not go away. Most of us need help in making our homes bearable in the heat and comfortable in the cold without breaking the bank. There is help, and you can find it almost on your doorstep.

If you are thinking of getting solar panels, a heat pump and/or a battery, a group buying scheme is launching this autumn in the village. 'Power Up' will offer potential financial savings on renewable systems and a clear, managed buying process, where quality of kit and installer is assured.



Just starting to wonder what you might need? Try registering with 'Homewise' an on-line tool, via the County Council website, to create a personalised home energy plan – **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/retrofithelp**. Keep that website on speed dial as it will be the place to register, so when the next Warm Homes local grant is released you are already on the list, or therefore when the project to subscribe to retrofit kit is repeated. At our 'Better Living' family event on **October 10th in Freeland Village Hall, 2-5pm**, you will find out more about these projects.



We think the biggest attraction will be **Pedal Powering your Smoothie!** Then try out family games and crafts or discover the details on how a heat pump works. Come along for the short talks on the **Power Up Project**, or **Green Skilling your Business**.

- Get your face painted and chat with neighbours about their experiences of installing solar panels, batteries and heat pumps.
- Find out about local travel on community buses and what do you need to give 'Allotmenting with Nature' a go?
- Why not get cosy with craft club? And join us for a cup of tea and a biscuit while looking at the 'Homewise' on-line tool. You could experiment with heat and ice and the thermal camera.

We are adding more to the list of things you will find at this community event that even has a free raffle to win a retrofit consultancy visit to your home.

Mark the date: 10th October – 2-5pm in your calendar and see you there.

Yes, we will need extra help on the day and will be very happy to hear about your idea to add to the fun afternoon.

Do get in touch with FEG: **freelandenergygroup@outlook.com**



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.



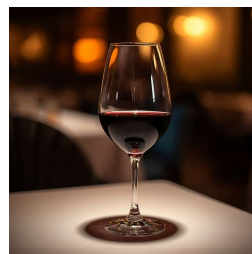
So much to look forward to...



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

FREELAND WINE CLUB

The club continued with its great wine and food matching evenings on 31st July with a presentation of wines from Northern Spain supplied by Andrew Walker of Solaris Wines. He gave a great presentation and insight into Spanish wine, accompanied by a carefully crafted food offering. The evening was enjoyed by approximately 46 members and guests and a huge thanks to Sue C (great food) and the Club team for providing a great value night.



The next meeting will be on the **Friday 25th Sept** with a presentation by The Oxford Wine Co and will introduce wines entitled 'Discovering Chile's thriving wine regions'. There will be accompanying food and of course the Wine raffle in aid of Freeland Community Hub. To book places: **£10 members £14 guests** - email **FreelandWineClub@gmail.com**. Hope to see you there for a great value evening.

FREELAND COMMUNITY HUB

A planning application to renovate the Chapel has been submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council.

The applications for Listed Building Consent (**26/01707/LBC**) and renovations (**26/01706/FUL**) are now on the WODC planning portal via **www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/**. As the Chapel is Grade II listed, many aspects of the renovation need to be managed carefully - e.g., the preference is to repair rather than replace windows.



We are being expertly guided by our architect Maya Ellis and will keep you posted on developments. Come to find out more about the planning application and have a look at the Chapel on: **Wednesday 2nd September, 5-7pm**; and **Saturday 5th September 10am-12pm**. More at Freeland Community Hub website: **www.freelandhub.org.uk**

NORTH LEIGH HISTORY GROUP

Our new season of talks begins on **Tuesday 1st September** in **North Leigh Memorial Hall OX29 6SA at 7.30pm** with a talk by Byron Russell on 'Everyday Life at North Leigh Roman Villa'. All welcome. Members £20 per year, Visitors £5 per talk. Further details are available from Robert Kyte at **kyterobert@gmail.com**

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FREELAND FC

QUIZ NIGHT

???

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

7PM

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TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT



UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS

2/8/2026

In a bold move (or perhaps a moment of selective madness), it was decided we would abandon our tried-and-tested 10am start in favour of a 1.30pm departure for this month. The reason for this was the pull of a cream tea in our neighbouring village of Combe.

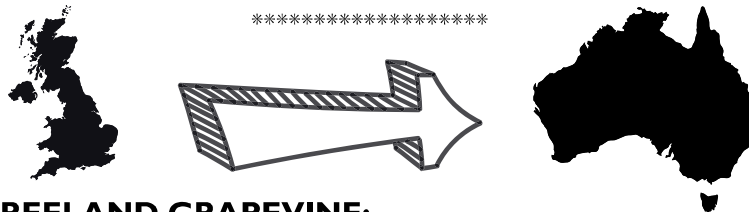


From the low (fat) lands of Freeland, we made our way towards the formidable A4095 ravine. This was no ordinary crossing - it was the symbolic and physical divide between our home turf and the lofty, calorific heights of Combe (apart from the river of course), oh and the wood and that little stream.

Once safely across, we began the steady, sun-baked climb towards Combe, where our halfway haven awaited: the Combe Tea Rooms. Here, we were greeted with the things that make a ramblers' heart sing: steaming cups of tea, huge wedges of cake, scones still warm from the oven with generous helpings of cream and jam. Some claimed this was 'essential refuelling'; others admitted it was 'pure indulgence.' Either way, the plates were swiftly emptied, and the conversation flowed as easily as the tea.

The return journey brought its own set of rural delights and minor adventures. The river crossing offered a moment of cool relief (don't look at the colour of the water). A flock of sheep watched our progress with the kind of mild suspicion only sheep can muster. Then the stretch of woodland, its dappled light and cooler air felt like nature's own air conditioning system.

But the final leg was a test of endurance: back into the full glare of the late afternoon sun, the heat radiating from both sky and ground. It was here that the thought of the Yeoman Inn began to work its magic, pulling us forward with the promise of cold drinks, comfortable chairs, and the satisfaction of a day well walked. **Our next ramble will be on Sunday 6th September at 10am from the bus shelter opposite the Oxfordshire Yeoman next to the Little Free Library. All are welcome.**



THE FREELAND GRAPEVINE:

REACHES PARTS OTHER PARISH MAGAZINES CAN'T!!

Whilst delivering the Freeland Grapevine last month, one of the distributors was amazed to find out the recipient was sending it all the way to Australia for their son to read and keep in touch with what is going on in his former home. Do you know of any that go as far or even further? Let us know! freelandgrapevine@gmail.com

WEST OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

411 BUS SERVICE: 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
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

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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

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NORTH LEIGH, MASONS ARMS	10:32	13:10
FREELAND, OPP VILLAGE HALL	10:39	13:03
LONG HANBOROUGH, WASTIES ORCHARD	10:44	12:58
HANBOROUGH STATION	10:47	12:55
EYNSHAM, BARTHOLOMEW LEISURE CENTRE	10:56	12:49
EYNSHAM, CHURCH	11:00	12:45

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MYBUS DAY TICKETS	ADULT £6.50	YOUNG PERSONS £3.50

TOM ROBINSON

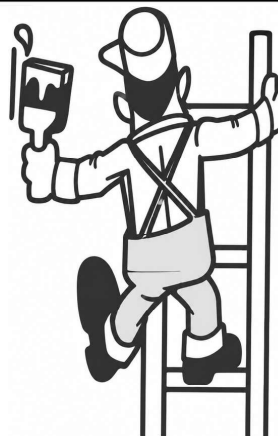
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FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

Avril Hughes, who had visited the club before, came to tell us about '*Bulbs, Mountains and Ruins, botanising in the Peloponnese*'. She and a group of enthusiasts had been hunting flowers and plants in the barren territory of southern Greece. They laid on their stomachs to find plants hidden in remote areas. Their enthusiasm when something unusual was found was extraordinary.

On **Monday 28th September at 7.30pm in Freeland Hall** a new speaker, Caroline Ormesher from Missenden Seeds is coming to encourage us with a guide to saving seeds. As we are nearing Autumn many plants such as Sweet Peas have seed pods with seeds to save for planting either in November or early next year. Her talk is entitled 'A Guide to Saving Seeds'. This is a new subject for the Club at just the right time of year.

Come and join us to learn about how you can save some money by collecting seed from your favourite plants. We are going to have to cope with these dry conditions more often now so seeing which plants cope with dry conditions is something we will have to get used to.

New members and visitors very welcome at all our meetings.

There is a Plants and Garden Items Sale at most of our meetings. For any further information about the Club please contact me at **daltonjanet9@gmail.com**

Janet Dalton (Secretary)

FREELAND CRAFT GROUP



These colourful little bags, made from knitted squares with woollen handmade buttons, are intended to hold small notepads & pencils for the shoe box appeal later in the year.

We meet in the Newell Room at the back of **Freeland Village Hall** every **Wednesday from 2-4pm**. There is a subscription of £1 per meeting to cover hire costs.

We always give a warm welcome to new members, and encourage them to share their experiences, learn new skills or just enjoy a chat, so come along and join us.

For further information, or someone to go with, please contact **Helen 01993882305** or **Margaret 01993 881316 (marglwright52@gmail.com)**

	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	
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4-7 years



7-10 years



10-14 years



14-18 years

As we write, the volunteers and girls are taking a well-earned rest for the summer holidays.

However, there has been some exciting news from Girl Guiding headquarters – the launch of a new uniform, the first redesign since 1990! Whether you remember Girl Guiding for the 50s berets, 80s tabards or 90s culottes, the Girlguiding uniform has always been iconic. The thinking behind the uniform is heritage and history, belonging and identity.

For new girls who want to join Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers, it's about possibility and promise, discovery and adventure. For us all, it's a uniform that represents the true joy of girlhood.



The girls are not required to change to the new uniform, but if they do, they only have to pick one item as a minimum to pair with their usual clothes. Here's a picture of the new designs. You will have to imagine the pink rainbow top, yellow brownie top and the blue guide and ranger top.

Can you help? One of our brownie leaders has sadly left us due to moving away and we need a helper for guides too. We meet on Tuesdays. If you are able to help in any way, please get in touch, no experience necessary. We are a friendly bunch of people and it is really rewarding **freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com**

 First Steps	Baby and Toddler Group Wednesday (term time only), 10:00 - 11:30 Christ Church, Long Hanborough £2 per family
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. For more information: hfchurch.org.uk/firststeps 	

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FREELAND WI

Author Melanie King joined us for our August meeting with her talk 'Can Onions Cure Earache', medical advice from the 1700s. In 1769, William Buchan published a medical book advising people on how to look after themselves and stay healthy as well as cures for ailments and illnesses. Unlike many so called 'professional doctors' of the time, he was a qualified doctor and his book was the 'go to' place to find medical information for the general public. Some of the advice given still has a place in modern medicine particularly his recommendation on staying healthy: a good diet, keeping fit and a restful night's sleep.



We were surprised to learn that the biggest killer in the 1700s was burns and incidents or accidents involving horses! Open fires were the only heat source in homes back in the day and women in particular often set their dresses alight moving too close to open flames. Children were also victims of fire, usually because of candles in bedrooms. Melanie also listed many of the ingredients that were used to create remedies with a considerable amount we now know to be highly poisonous. The type of medicines prescribed really depended on wealth. Those that could afford the best on offer had the widest choice of drugs sourced from around the globe, to the poorest, where the recommended cure for almost every ailment was a poultice of bread and warm milk.

An interesting and fascinating talk and one that made you very grateful for the advancement in modern medicine. Melanie's book 'Can Onions Cure Earache' is available at the Bodleian book shop and on Amazon.

On **Monday 14th September** Sara Richards will be holding a workshop to create a needle felted pumpkin for the upcoming Autumn season.

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 2026 programme was included in the February edition of The Grapevine (available on the St Mary's website www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk/grapevine) and on the Village Hall noticeboard. Visitors are welcome to join us for an evening for a suggested donation of £5.

For information and to see what we have been up to, please check out our Facebook page: Freelandwi. Alternatively, contact our secretary Rosie James on 01993 881997 or email: **freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk**. Freeland WI is a fun and friendly group of ladies. Please feel free to join us one evening - we would love to see you.

Anne Marvin

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**. Freeland Village Hall, Fridays 3.15-4.45pm



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A NEW ERA FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government in Oxfordshire is set for its biggest shake-up in decades, with the Government confirming plans to replace the existing County, District and City Councils with three new unitary authorities. For us here in West Oxfordshire, this means becoming part of the new Northern Oxfordshire Council, bringing West Oxfordshire and Cherwell together under one new authority.

I believe this is a positive step forward and an opportunity to reset how local government works for residents. While the structures may be changing, it is vital that our councils remain locally focused and connected to the communities they serve.

One of my priorities throughout this process will be ensuring that West Oxfordshire retains a strong voice. Our towns and villages have their own identity and priorities, from fixing our roads and investing in infrastructure, to protecting our countryside and supporting local services within a larger council. Those priorities must not become lost due to a larger council.

The changes will also simplify the current two-tier system, where responsibilities are divided between the County and District Councils. The new Northern Oxfordshire Council will eventually be responsible for delivering the full range of local services, creating clearer accountability for residents.

There is still plenty of work ahead before the new arrangements are fully implemented, and getting the transition right will be important. However, I see this as a real opportunity to build a council that is efficient, accountable and focused on delivering the everyday services residents expect. Change is coming and I will work to ensure West Oxfordshire benefits from it.

County Cllr Liam Walker - **Liam.Walker2@oxfordshire.gov.uk**

Conservative County Councillor for the Hanborough & Hailey Division and Leader of the Oxfordshire Alliance Group on Oxfordshire County Council.

District Councillor for the Hailey, Minster Lovell & Leafield Ward on West Oxfordshire District Council and Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

Join my WhatsApp Community - Mobile: **07850 014350**

Website: **www.liam-walker.com**

Facebook: **www.facebook.com/CllrLiamWalker**

EXTRA CARE NEEDED

At the time of writing the government was warning of the extreme risk of wildfires. Please continue to be vigilant whilst this hot, dry weather continues.

Freeland Parish Council





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1ST HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

As summer draws to a close, 1st Hanborough Freeland Scout Group is looking forward to getting back into the swing of things, with all sections preparing for another busy term of Scouting, adventure, and new experiences.



The group will also be getting involved in the **Party at the Pav on 5th September**, where we are hoping to run the BBQ. It will be a great opportunity to support the local community, showcase what our Scout Group has to offer, and hopefully attract some new members and volunteers.

Unfortunately, our Beaver section remains paused while we continue to look for a new Beaver Leader. We would love to get Beavers running again and welcome anyone who might be interested in volunteering. Full training and support are provided, and we can be flexible around meeting evenings. If you would like to find out more, please get in touch via **+447879 4609 or hugopottinger@gmail.com**

We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the summer and to another exciting year of Scouting!

Hugo Pottinger (Publicity)

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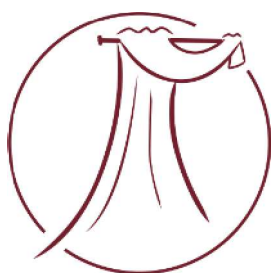
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OXFORD BUS AND MORRIS MOTORS MUSEUM

A Grand Day Out on 2nd August was our most successful 2026 event so far. 180 visitors came to see our re-creation of Gloucester Green bus and coach station in the golden era of bus and coach travel - before most people owned their own car. Restored vehicles often have interesting histories.

One of the visiting coaches was EYA 923 which was new in 1939 and owned by Blue Motors of Minehead. The coach was the first to reach the Devon village of Lynmouth on 16th August 1952 to evacuate villagers after a catastrophic flash flood caused by 9" (229 mm) of torrential rain falling on Exmoor within 24 hours on 15th-16th August. The resulting wall of water and debris claimed 34 lives and destroyed over 100 buildings. The coach took survivors to a cinema in Minehead.

It is an observation coach with large windows and ceiling lights so passengers could look up as well as sideways. The coachwork was by Harrington with a large fin at the back. The coach was used for day tours to local attractions such as the Valley of the Rocks, Exmoor and Dartmoor. On Saturdays it would have worked 'on hire to Royal Blue' as a relief express coach to/from Exeter, where passengers might have changed onto a coach going to Gloucester Green.

On 1st September the government's scheme to reduce the VAT on museum admissions comes to an end. The directors have decided not to increase the admission prices for families back to £20 because families are being hit hard by inflation so the price will remain at £17. We do not charge carers or under fives.

ADMISSION	Normal price	Price with Gift Aid
Adults	£8	£9
Over 65s	£7	£8
Children 5-15	£5	£6
Families (2 adults & 2 children)	£17	£19



CLUES FOR CROSSWORD #14 SEPTEMBER 2026 MR NATI

ACROSS

1. Confusingly fling by Alf changes all (10); 6. Move to ends of grotto (2)
10. Drink at new University Zoo (4)
11. Rising around Lima, proceeds Poles providing supports mature visitors (to the Cotswolds) (13)
13. The Law is just, without a dance (3); 14. Small inn is not outside (2)
15. Close is in arcane area (4); 16. Opening apparently of bone (2)
18. Grit crumbled at hill-top point (4); 19. Animal in scowling mood (3)
20. Dog is tailless, cord for American soldier (5); 21. Fruit that does not give a damn (3)
22. See 20 down; 23. Headless 19 across is painful (2); 24. Wise herb (4)
26. Weapon found in Magnolia xylem (2); 27. T'is returning enough to rest? (3)
28. Town is stored, not down east, upon, not up, then not northern hill (4,2,3,4)
31. Copper's penalty is okay (4); 33. Woman or country? Not southern man? (2)
34. Continental food store with pool stick second next to church that transforms into liquid (10)

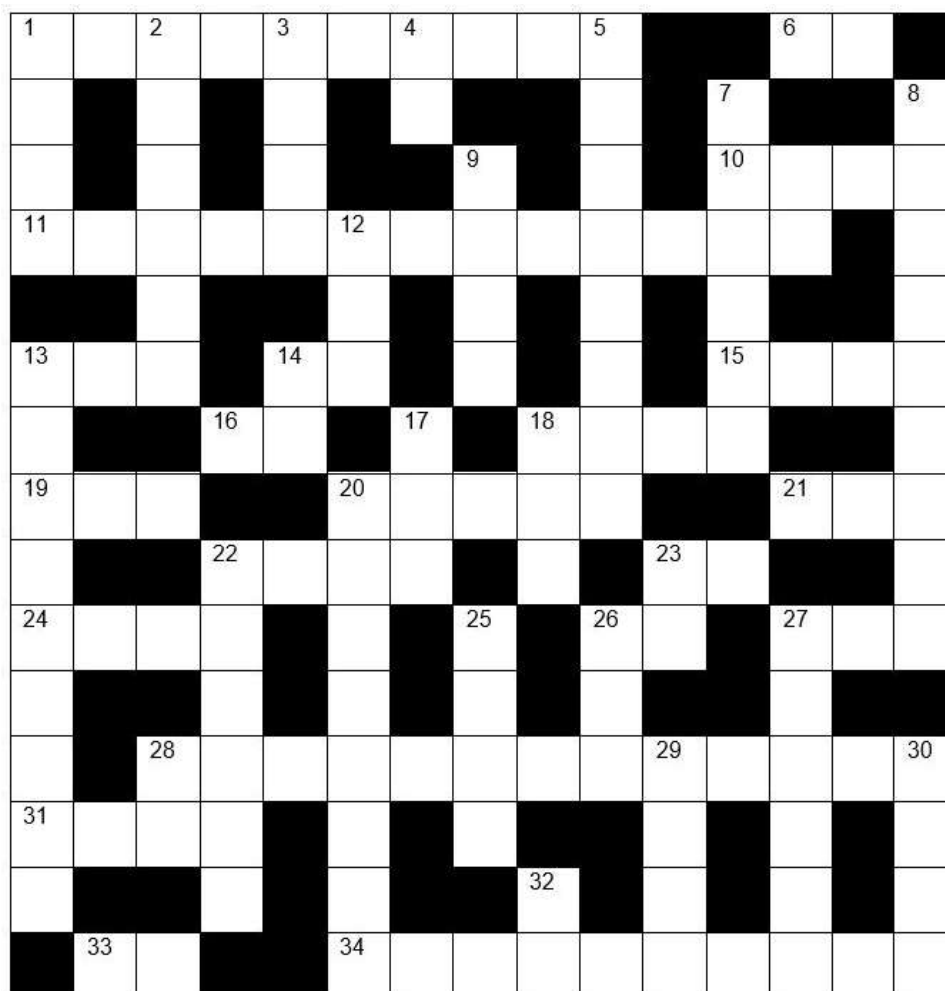
DOWN

1. Gust is produced by leafblower (4)
2. Foxtrot with Juliet on broken sled along to a northern plateau (6)
3. Positions located in less velocity (4); 4. Heart of Bonobo is negative (2)
5. I hear chatty conservative ignored foreign dish (8)
7. Joe has no energy with monarch having a laugh (6)
8 and 27 down. Run out, 50:50, is not wrong and has gems of old circle (9,6)
9. Changing issa leaves it unchanged (2,2)
12. Sister faces the sun, to the north not the south (3)
13. Pirate sparrow has crew and their flagpole (9)
14. Système international d'unités returns to be (2)
17. Donald is not bald and is a smart fellow (3)
18. Fast French transport was initially the goods vehicles (3)
20. and 22. Across. Old enclosures on a hill with a ferocious animal and a sheep (8,4)
22. Part of the alphabet found in an envelope (6)
23. Dangerous animal found in icebox (2)
25. Cotswolds is designated initially anywhere outside North Bristol (4)
26. The remains of a fire leaves a tree (3); 27. See 8 down; 28. Heartless son has metallic tag (2)
29. Aztec ruler hides insipid colour (4)
30. Valley found oddly deadlier (4); 32. A number of half pies (2)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE AUCTION OF PROMISES - SEE PAGE 43

Lots so far: Rides in a classic Morgan car | Wool spinning course | Cat sitting
Framed rugby shirts | Knife sharpening course for two people
Indoor air quality assessment | Food voucher at Eynsham Market
Piano Lessons | Introduction to digital photography
Introduction to 3D printing **and more!**

CROSSWORD #14 SEPTEMBER 2026 BY MR NATI



ANSWERS TO AUGUST CROSSWORD #13

ACROSS

1. ANTS IN YOUR PANTS, 9. OCTOPUS, 10. CASSIUS, 11. INNARDS, 13. VIETNAM, 15. HUCKLEBERRY FINN, 20. PARTHENOGENESIS, 26. PACIFIC, 29. ARCHAIC, 30. VERMONT, 31. WHEELIE, 32. GASTROENTERITIS

DOWN

1. ABOLISH, 2. TITANIC, 3. IMPERIL, 4. YES, 5. UNCOVER, 6. POSSE, 7. NAIRN, 8. SOS, 12. SOB, 14. MEN, 16. KIT, 17. EVE, 18. RYE, 19. FOE, 20. PIP, 21. NECKTIE, 22. GOA, 23. NUCLEAR, 24. SCARLET, 25. SUCCESS, 27. CARDS, 28. FLOUR, 30. VUG, 31. WET



Our Annual Social Event was held on 6th August. We started the afternoon with a refreshing glass of fruit punch. The Play Reading Group then gave an excellent performance based on 'Pyramus and Thisbe' the play within a play in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The Recorder Group then entertained us with several beautiful pieces of music. Whilst tea and homemade cakes were being served it was an opportunity for everyone to look around the displays that the groups had put together showcasing what they have been doing over the past 12 months.

The Photography group held a photo competition showing the worst and best photos of Blenheim. The hall was full, there was a lovely atmosphere, people enjoying a chat and looking at the work the groups had put together.

Our next speaker meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd September**. Angie Bolton, who is the curator of Archaeology at our local Museum, will talk about how the Museum curates its social history collections and will include references to our local archaeology. **Arrive 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start. Visitors welcome £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.**

The speaker in October will be on **Thursday 1st October**: Professor Roger Davies who is the Philip Wetton Professor of Astrophysics at Oxford University. His presentation is entitled 'The Vastness of Space'; starting with a model of the Solar System based on the Earth as a peppercorn, we'll voyage to the distant Universe using the speed of light as our yardstick, followed by a glance into what to see in the night sky this Autumn. **Arrive 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start. Visitors welcome £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.**

The Reading Group's book for July was 'The Tin Man' by Sarah Winman. The novel starts in the streets of Oxford familiar to most in the group. The majority of the group enjoyed the book; we had an opportunity to discuss this at our July meeting. The group are currently reading 'Demon Copperhead' by Barbara Kingsolver. We will review this at our next meeting.

The Welsh Group met at the end of July. We played some interactive games to help with learning new vocabulary and grammar. You do not need to be a fluent Welsh speaker to come along. We are a group of mixed abilities in Welsh and are able to help each other out. We would love to hear from you if you would like to come along.

Our monthly meetings are held on the **first Thursday of each month** at St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock OX20 1JL 2pm for a **2.15pm start**. **www.woodstock.u3a.uk** for further information.

FREELAND FOOTBALL NEWS

Looking forward to next season, the U9s will continue as U10s and the U12s as U13s. We are also looking to add more sides, so if your child wishes to be involved in the following (or existing teams) please get in touch:

U7s – Current year 1 going into year 2 in September

U11s – Current year 5 going into year 6 in September

U15s – Current year 9 going into year 10 in September

We would also be interested to hear from anyone who would like to help coach any of the sides, especially the Under 7s. Full support and training will be given.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to everyone that has donated children's books recently; they are always in high demand, so your generosity is greatly appreciated. Picture books always seem to fly off the shelves, to feed our hungry community of young bookworms!

On any given day in the Little Free Library, you're likely to find a variety of cookbooks, thrillers, non-fiction, bestselling authors, children's books for all ages, autobiographies, mysteries, romances, and unexpected gems waiting to be discovered. The books are always changing as they get donated and taken, so you never know what you'll read next.

When donating books, if the donation boxes behind the bus shelter are full, please wait a few days before trying again, or place the books directly on the shelves if there is space available. Our volunteers do check the boxes and the shelves regularly to keep everything tidy, but it's difficult to do this when the boxes or shelves are over-stuffed. Thank you for your understanding.

Many thanks as ever to our wonderful team of volunteers - this project would not be possible without them.

Happy Reading!

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

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NORTH LEIGH MEMORIAL HALL FILM NIGHT

Film nights are back! Forthcoming dates: **Saturdays: 19th Sept and 17th Oct**

Films to be confirmed, please check the Hall website **Northleighmemorialhall.com**

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ABOUT THE GRAPEVINE

The deadline for articles or adverts for the **October 2026** Grapevine is **SATURDAY 12th September**. The edition should be online at **<https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk>** and **www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk** from about **Tuesday 22nd September with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from Friday 25th September**.

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, and a full page is 190mm high x 127mm wide.

PLEASE NOTE: With effect from 1st June 2026 there will be a small charge of £5 for posters advertising charitable, fundraising or other not-for-profit events taking place that are **not** Church events. This will be for a half A5 in size, **landscape orientation** sized 90mm high and 127mm wide. Normal rates apply for commercial events.

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 of suggestions in the Grapevine.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

DIRTY CARPETS? GRUBBY UPHOLSTERY?

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

THE CAKE CAFÉ, FREELAND

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

NB: September Cafe - 8th September 9-11.30am

Email: jane.cakestudio@gmail.com

STAMP & COIN COLLECTIONS PURCHASED

Friendly free valuation service without obligation and immediate payment. Contact:

David Lord 01993 881862 or davidlord@hotmail.co.uk

FOR SALE

Raleigh E Bike - Unisex, Bosch crank drive, step through. Hardly used.

Please ring for further details **01993 882108**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tues	1 Sept	North Leigh History Group Talk, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Weds	2 Sept	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste
Weds	2 Sept	Chapel planning application drop-in meeting: The Chapel 5-7pm
Thurs	3 Sept	U3A Talk, Woodstock 2.30pm
Frid	4 Sept	Knead Bakehouse at the Oxfordshire Yeoman 9.30am
Sat	5 Sept	Chapel planning application drop-in meeting: The Chapel 10am-12pm
Sat	5 Sept	Freeland F C Quiz Night, Village Hall 7.30pm
Sun	6 Sept	UFR Ramble 10.00am from Bus Shelter opp Ox Yeoman
Tues	8 Sept	Cake Cafe 9.00-11.30 Village Hall
Wed	9 Sept	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Sat	12 Sept	COPY DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER GRAPEVINE
Mon	14 Sept	Freeland Parish Council meeting Newell Room 7.30pm
Mon	14 Sept	Freeland W I meeting, Village Hall 7.45pm
Wed	16 Sept	Green Week: recycling+food waste+garden waste
Sat	19 Sept	North Leigh Film night, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Sun	20 Sept	Combe Mill Crafts and Skills day 10.30 - 4.30pm
Weds	23 Sept	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Frid	25 Sept	Freeland Wine Club, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Mon	28 Sept	Freeland Gardening Club, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Weds	30 Sept	Green Week: recycling+food waste+garden waste

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WE NEED YOUR PROMISES!

Our fundraising **Auction of Promises** will now be held **entirely online**. While there will be no physical auction in the village hall, we will be able to reach a much wider audience online – and raise more funds to support the renovation of the Chapel for Freeland Community Hub.

We are using a proven and successful online platform for the auction:
www.auctionofpromises.com

Please visit this site to view other auctions already in progress.

Our auction will run

Saturday 1st November to Saturday 14th November

**So far we have 24 promises but need far more
to make the event a success!**

Please consider what Promise or Gift you can contribute. Contact either Graham or Ria Lay: grahamlay4@gmail.com or 07460 223048
rialay57@gmail.com or 07791 560793.

Further details about the auction and lots pledged so far can be found at
www.freelandhub.org.uk



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YEOMAN**
FREELAND, OXFORDSHIRE

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