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St Mary's Freeland



November 2025

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SERVICES AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Sunday	26th October	10.00am Communion
Sunday	2nd November	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	9th November	10.00am Remembrance Sunday Communion
Sunday	16th November	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	23rd November	10.00am Communion
Sunday	30th November	10.00am Whole Benefice worship at St Mary's
Sunday	7th December	10.00am Joint service with Christ Church at St Mary's

The above information is correct on the date published (**21/10/2025**). 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

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCHYARD

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

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



Freeland Parochial Church Council

FROM THE REGISTERS

Interment of Ashes Stephen John Henry Willoughby 26th September 2025

Wedding George Daniel Soanes and Jessany Faith Cripps 5th October 202

Thank you to Bruce Hammersley for the Front cover photograph

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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

There will be a **Light Party - Jesus is the hope in the darkness, at St Mary'S Church on Friday 31st October from 5pm - 7pm**. See the poster on **Page 20** and as always check our website: **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

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Friday 21st November & 19th December

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 1st & 15th November, 6th & 20th December

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





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LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD DR STEVE STEWART

Rules or Relationship?

I was being given a lift somewhere this week by a group of people whom I hadn't met before, but were kind enough to drop me off. When people find themselves with a clergyman in the car, it comes as no surprise to me that they will begin to make jokes about "the vicar this" and "the vicar that" – all of which I don't mind at all. Nothing worse than vicars who take themselves too seriously!

But one thing they said (and I have had this a lot over the years) is "we'd better stop swearing lads: the vicar's in the car!". It was kind of them to think that I might mind them swearing, but it also reveals something I think about what people imagine Christianity – and Christians – to be. So often when I speak with people they imagine that Christianity is about a set of moral codes. A toolset to help one lead a particular kind of virtuous life.

At a darker level, this can result in people thinking that Christians are enormously judgemental, self-righteous, the "moral majority". Some pretend Christians can be like that, but not true believers. Christianity isn't about a moral code at all. It is about a relationship. A relationship with God, who created us and loves us.

True Christians are simply those who put their faith in Jesus Christ to forgive their sins. Above all people, Christians are aware that they cannot generate righteousness out of themselves: they know they have to rely on the God who loves them to transform them. If there is any righteousness in me, it has come as a gift from God. If there is any unrighteousness in me, it is because I am resistant to his Spirit at work in me.

Christianity is not a moral code to be learnt; it is a relationship with God which is to be enjoyed. If you would like to hear something of that potential relationship, then come to any of our churches on a Sunday morning at 10 AM – St Peter and St Paul Church Hanborough, St Mary the Virgin in Freeland, or Christ Church Long Hanborough. What you'll find is not a bunch of self-righteous people, but a community always open to newcomers who simply want to know and enjoy the God who loves us.

With much love in Christ Jesus,

Revd Dr Steve Stewart
Rector, Freeland and Hanborough

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

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SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Sunday	26th October	10.00am Harvest Service
Sunday	2nd November	10.00am Communion
Sunday	9th November	10.00am Remembrance Sunday at St Peter & St Paul with Christ Church & the Methodist Church
Sunday	16th November	10.00am Communion
Sunday	23rd November	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	30th November	10.00am Whole Benefice Worship at St Mary's
Sunday	7th December	10.00am Communion

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

Sunday	26th October	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	2nd November	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	9th November	10.00am Joint Remembrance Service at St Peter & St Paul with Christ Church & Methodist Church
Sunday Leader:	16th November	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	23rd November	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	30th November	10.00am Fifth Sunday Whole Benefice worship at St Mary's
Sunday	7th December	10.00am Joint service with Christ Church at St Mary's



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ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

Sunday 9th November 9.30am - 10.00am

Sunday 23rd November 9.30am - 10.00am

Sunday 30th November 9.30am - 10.00am

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

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

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

Sunday 26th October 10.00am Mr Andrew Maisey

Sunday 2nd November 10.00am Mr Andrew Maisey

Sunday 9th November 10.00am Remembrance Service with Anglicans
- No service here

Sunday 16th November 10.00am Revd Sue Jacobs (HC) All Age Worship

Sunday 23rd November 10.00am Revd Andrew Biggs

Sunday 30th November 10.00am Mr Keith Crawford

Sunday 7th December 10.00am TBC

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNSHAM

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01865 881613 or email **stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com**

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

Website: **www.stpeterseysham.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.



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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



Public Consultations

There are a several consultations about to go live or already open including **Salt Cross, 2041 Local Plan and Oxrail.**

Please let your voice be heard.

Due to time constraints the Parish notes were not available before the Freeland Grapevine print deadline this month. Any amendments will be made next month.

WODC update

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

Remembrance Sunday

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

Councillor Vacancy

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

Fly Tipping into Bins

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

Village Hall Parking

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

Fix my Street

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

Cont'd.../



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Playpark

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

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

Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk

VAS sign

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

Defibrillator

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

clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Planning Applications:

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

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

Applications received: **25/017778/HHD, 5/01927/FUL and 25/01712/FUL
25/01713/FUL Land At 23 Wroslyn Road, Freeland**

Construction of 5 dwellings together with associated works and provision of vehicular access. (Amended Description)

Applications Approved - **25/01952/TPO and 25/01778/HHD**

Applications refused - None

Applications appealed - None

The next meeting will be on **Monday 10th November 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**
<https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk>

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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	17:30
Eynsham, o/s Surgery	08:50	10:30	12:30	14:30	17:35
Freeland, o/s St Marys Church*	08:56	10:36	12:36	14:36	17:41
Long Hanborough, opp New Road	09:02	10:42	12:42	14:42	17:47
Long Hanborough, on Station Forecourt	09:05	10:45	12:45	14:45	17:50

Long Hanborough - Eynsham via Freeland

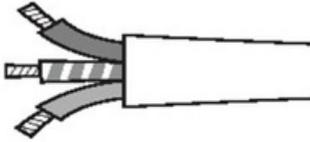
Long Hanborough, on Station Forecourt	09:10	11:05	13:05	14:50	17:55
Long Hanborough, adj New Road	09:13	11:08	13:08	14:53	17:58
Freeland, opp St Marys Church*	09:19	11:14	13:14	14:59	18:04
Eynsham, o/s Surgery	09:25	11:20	13:20	-	18:10
Eynsham Church (opp)	09:29	11:24	13:24	15:09	18:14

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

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



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CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

It is Christmas shoebox time 2025. Please join us in sending out shoeboxes full of love. **Teams4U** really value your support to bring joy to a child who has nothing, and is living in one of the poorest and remotest parts of the world. Covered boxes and leaflets are available at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Please bring completed boxes into the Church **before Friday 7th November**.



The Celebration evening will go ahead on Monday 10th November at 6pm, all are welcome. The Shoebox team would like to thank everyone for their support over the years. Many thanks - Witney Shoebox Team



Regular Weekly Bakes White Sourdough Original Sourdough Malthouse Seeded Wholemeal Cinnamon Buns		Real Bread and Cinnamon Buns Freshly baked on Fridays in Freeland info@kneadbakehouse.co.uk
 A feature loaf and alternative sweet treat baked each week.	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	

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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.alyousuf@gmail.com**

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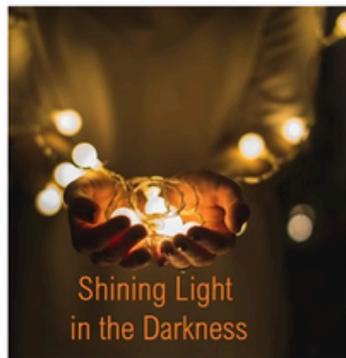
Two Light Events for Children and Their Families

Friday 31st October 2025 5-7pm

**outside Christ Church, Long
Hanborough and outside St Mary's,
Freeland.**

**Do join us for Hot Chocolate and free party
bags.**

We will also be having activities in the Churches.



For more information email:

rector@hfchurch.org.uk

FREELAND ENERGY GROUP (FEG)

Thank you' to everyone who completed and sent in the Energy Audit Form, which came through your letter boxes in the summer – or you found in the pages of the Grapevine. We automatically entered your forms for our PRIZE DRAW, on 4th October. The prizes – vouchers towards a meal at the Oxfordshire Yeoman are winging their way to the winners as I write. FEG would like to thank Donna and the staff at the Yeoman for their hospitality in hosting the draw. We happily shared the space with their Oktober Fest in the late Saturday afternoon.



If you still have your form, you are very welcome to send in the information about changes made to your home, although of course too late for any prize draw. Do get in touch if you would like more information on becoming a 'House like mine' exemplar or want to help others considering making changes to be more energy efficient. FEG would be delighted to hear from you too if you can help with the group – we will welcome a fresh energy boost.



We expect to have a table at the **Gardening Club 'Village Fayre' on Saturday 22nd November** with information and an Energy Advisor for you to: -

- find out what grant help may be available for reducing your energy use.
- help bust your draughts to keep you warm this winter.
- find out about the CAPZero project.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Freelandenergygroup@outlook.com



POPPY APPEAL 2025



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

Thank you in advance to everyone who donates so generously, and of course to the collectors who give their time and support every year regardless of the weather.

More information on the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal can be found on **www.britishlegion.org.uk**

Images courtesy
of The Royal
British Legion

Angela Spriggs 01993 881555



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.

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

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

On **Monday 27th October at 7.30pm in Freeland Village Hall** the Club holds its Annual General Meeting when we shall hear about the speakers and subjects arranged for future meetings. The usual business will be covered and the Committee will be elected so if anyone is interested in joining our friendly Committee please get in contact with me at the email below. We would welcome any new Committee members. At present nothing else other than refreshments has been organised for the rest of the meeting.

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

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

Janet Dalton (Publicity Secretary)

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**



WITNEY MUSIC SOCIETY

The next Concert in Witney Music Society's 2025 season will be given by Piatti & friends who will be performing works for string sextet by Richard Strauss, Tchaikovsky and Schoenberg.

The concert is on **Friday 14th November at 7.30pm, High Street Methodist Church, Witney**. Tickets (£18, £1 for under 19s) available at the door from 7pm or in advance online.

Tel 01993 898020 or visit www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

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LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you once again for all your support this month. We really do appreciate the high standard of books that you donate to the Little Free Libraries: we wouldn't be able to provide these books without you.

Adult fiction and children's picture books continue to be very popular, constantly flying off the shelves into new homes. You don't need to return the books that you take, and you are welcome to pass them onto other people or to bring them back when you no longer need them. The constant stream of books coming and going means that there's always something new to discover on the shelves!

Please continue to remember to close the lids of the donation boxes behind the bus shelter, and please don't overfill them if they are already full of books: it means that we have nowhere else to store them, so please wait a few days before trying again. Our volunteers do a wonderful job keeping the Little Free Library tidy and well-stocked, but it is difficult to do that when too many books are stuffed inside.

After some feedback, we have altered the layout slightly of the new Little Free Library: there are now more children's picture books in there, stacked in a pile on the lower shelf, rather than having a smaller selection standing up. Hopefully this means that younger children will always have access to books that appeal to them,

Happy reading!

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

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

TABLE TENNIS

If you are retired and would like to join a group playing Table Tennis each week please contact:
Nick and Sue Rous **01993 883944** or
email **suerous47@gmail.com**

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





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FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

Freeland Gardening Club Invite you to a

Village Fayre on Saturday

22nd November 2025

10 am till 12.30pm Freeland Village Hall.

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

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

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



**Please come
and join us!**

Free entry

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

NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

On **Tuesday 4th November** Trevor Jackson will be giving a talk entitled 'My Gulf War'. The Gulf War remains a significant chapter in modern history with long lasting effects on international relationships in the Middle East. For those who were there it will always be part of their personal life history.

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**.

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Contact events@combemill.org or telephone 01993 358694 for more details

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





FREELAND METHODIST CHAPEL UPDATE

Around 70 people turned out for the meeting on 6 October - thank you! Here's a summary from **Freeland Community Benefit Society (FCBS)** of what we discussed:

Vision: We recapped the vision for the Chapel - a tenanted café and community space which will evolve to fit the needs of the village. This will be a flexible space supporting functions like hot desking, youth activities, and community groups.

Current activities: We discussed current activity for the FCBS management committee, which includes examining the draft contract issued by the Methodist Circuit, applying for charitable status, working towards grant applications, and more in-depth building surveys. We are also engaging an architect.

Charitable status: Our application for charitable status changes nothing in terms of the proposal put to the village previously—the offer will still be to buy shares in the Community Hub, and those shares will be repayable subject to reserves. However, charitable status does provide benefits for donations, whether allowing taxpaying donors to add gift aid, or donating businesses to claim tax deductibility. We are expecting to secure charitable status in December—then can issue the share offer and collect funds.

Grant opportunities: These have narrowed significantly over recent years, and so our focus is currently on the National Lottery Heritage Fund and a local charity, as well as the so-called 'Section 106' money arising from the newly-approved planning application.

Workstreams: These are 1. Building Purchase; 2. Fundraising for renovation, 3. Renovation and 4. Village Engagement. We have a range of jobs that we'll need help with across all these, from managing architects to fund-raising, landscaping and decorating.

Next steps: We're setting up a liaison group with neighbours to the site to discuss concerns such as noise or parking. We're producing a set of briefing sheets answering the key questions, e.g., charitable status, volunteering. And we're getting ready to launch the share offer and payment details imminently. Contact **freelandvillagehub@gmail.com** or **01993 880360** if you can help or have questions, or go to our website **www.freelandcbs.community**.

FBCS Committee



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Oxfordshire County Council has launched a public consultation on the Draft Eynsham and the surrounding area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

The proposals include a new shared cycle and walking path along Lower Road, and an upgraded bridleway from Freeland to Eynsham. Several traffic improvements within Hanborough and Freeland are also included in the draft.

If you would like to learn more about the proposed improvements or respond to the consultation, please connect through the link below. Comments received through the consultation will inform the update of the final version of the LCWIP.

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/eynsham-unding-area-local-cycling-and-walkininfrastructure-plan-lcwip-consultation>

This consultation runs till Monday, 27th October at 23:59.

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



Our u3a branch is centred in Woodstock and attracts and welcomes members from the surrounding area including Freeland. Are you recently retired and looking for local social activity around an interest that you already have or seeking something new. Interest groups develop when someone is willing to run them – maybe you have something you can offer. Is there a Ukulele group leader out there, or fluent foreign language speakers? If so please do make contact through the website www.woodstocku3a.uk. Monthly members' speaker meetings are held at St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock OX20 1JL - 1.45 for 2pm speaker.

The October speaker was Stephen Barker whose subject Indians at Victorian Oxford gave us an insightful story of the history connecting Oxford to the first arrivals of Indian students to our university in 1871 and our strong links since then.

FREELAND FC

QUIZ NIGHT

xt

???

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
7PM

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BENSYMONDS@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

Our next speaker meeting is on **Thursday 6th November** at St Hugh's, when we have Jessica Bouver from Wild Oxfordshire coming to talk about Hedgerows. Hedgerows have become essential wildlife corridors in an increasingly fragmented landscape, yet they also have many benefits for us too. Jessica will talk about why hedgerows are so important and how you can manage them correctly to ensure they stay healthy and persist within the landscape.

On **4 December** we return to history with our speaker Anna Beer talking on Bess – The Life of Lady Raleigh – Wife to Sir Walter. Visitors **£3** to include tea and biscuits.

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.

NORTH LEIGH ROMAN VILLA'S BEST YEAR YET

North Leigh Roman Villa volunteers have welcomed over 2,200 visitors to see its splendid mosaic floor in **2025**. This represents more visitors than in any previous year since the group formed in 2019. Visitor donations in 2025 have also been very generous, with over one thousand pounds given to help improve the site.

Even though volunteers had already created colour leaflets, a family trail, and an audio guide to the site in previous years, the aspirations of the group to enhance visitors' enjoyment of visiting North Leigh Roman Villa led to a number of new initiatives in 2025. Blenheim Palace kindly provided two new benches in the spring. An artistically talented volunteer has painted panels to show how the decorated wall plaster in the dining room where the mosaic lies might have looked in the villa's heyday 1,700 years ago. Another volunteer with expertise in textiles has begun an ambitious project to embroider an accurate representation of the surviving mosaic. Community members are welcome to participate and add their "stitches in time" to this tapestry as it is being worked on.

Digital technology has been embraced as well. A competition ran over the summer, whose prize was kindly funded by Blenheim Palace, in the digital construction game Minecraft to show how the villa would once have looked. The winning entries will be shown on site next year in a further step to bring the original villa buildings and courtyard back to life for visitors. The results of the dedicated gamers' efforts are quite remarkable.

Originally North Leigh Roman Villa was the heart of a large working farm. And the Romans were responsible for introducing many plants to Britain that we take for granted today. To highlight this important aspect of our Roman past, ecology and gardening-minded volunteers have begun carefully planting species that first arrived with the Romans. This enhancement to the site will continue in 2026.

After the major investment made in 2024, it is very pleasing to see increased visits to North Leigh Roman Villa in 2025 and so many further improvements.

For more details about openings and access to the site, please visit:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/>

Follow us on X: @villa_north or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northleighromanvilla>

To join Friends of North Leigh Roman Villa or arrange a special opening email:

[nlrvols@gmail.com](mailto:nlrsvols@gmail.com)

Set within a peaceful landscape on the banks of the River Evenlode, North Leigh Roman Villa is considered to be one of the largest villas in Roman Britain with a history of occupation spanning 5 centuries. At its most extensive in the early 4th century AD it included 3 bath suites, 16 mosaic floors and 11 rooms with under-floor heating.

Cont'd

Today visitors can imagine the villa's former richness as they walk through the rectangular footprint of its walls – but the mosaic house hides the real gem of a near complete mosaic floor. The mosaics form the floor of villa's winter dining room and, as the only example in Oxfordshire still found in their original location, they give a powerful sense of the Villa's original opulence. The mosaics returned to public opening in September 2019 after a gap of almost 30 years: thanks to the efforts of North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteers [NLRVV], a local group working with English Heritage. Since then, 9,850 visitors have seen the mosaics, in spite of covid restrictions in 2020 and 2021.

The efforts of NLRVV's volunteers were recognised by a Heritage Alliance Commendation Award for volunteering in 2020. In 2021 the Blenheim Bursary fund awarded the group £5,000 to support renovation of the site's Custodian's Cottage. Visitor donations made at the site now exceed £4,300.

At the start of 2022 it was announced that North Leigh was one of just 4 English Heritage sites to be supported by a £1m Michael Bishop Foundation donation. The work funded by this generous donation ran in 3 phases throughout 2024, transforming the Custodian's Cottage, the condition of the NW range of the villa remains, and replacing the roof of the Mosaic House.

As well as North Leigh Roman Villa, English Heritage cares for over a million objects and hundreds of historic sites in every part of England. As Heritage is for everybody, that's why the charity opens them up, shares their stories and finds new ways for everybody to enjoy, learn, play and create.

Registered charity no. 1140351, and a limited company, no. 07447221, registered in England and Wales.

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on **Wednesday 14 January 2026, 7.30pm, at the New Theatre Oxford**

Price pp for return coach from Freeland to the theatre + theatre ticket: **£36**

Anyone interested should give full details (name, address, phone no., email) and number of tickets required no later than **Wednesday 12 November, to:**

Hilary Lamb, 12 Hurst Lane, Freeland

Payment can preferably be made by **BACS** (please email Hilary for BACS details lambh54@googlemail.com) or by **cheque payable to Oxford Operatic Society** (if paying by cheque please include cheque with request for tickets).

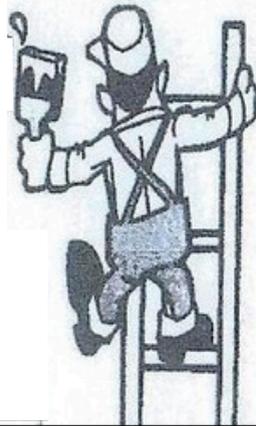
If you have any questions, please phone Hilary on **01993 881 125**

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OXFORD BUS MUSEUM

Hallowe'en and half term: Fun for the family

On Sunday 26th and Wednesday 29th October we shall be decorating the museum and buses and laying on some surprises for our visitors. For children there will be a **'Pumpkin Hunt'** in the museum with prizes for those who find all of the dozen pumpkins. (Adults are also allowed to take part.) There will also be a display of live spooky owls brought to the museum by Alan Charlett, who runs Al's Owls. For a small extra charge visitors will be allowed to hold the owls.

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

Bus seats donation

Richard King has given the museum some bus seats, which were originally on an Oxford Renown, CFC 356C, and have been stored in the loft of his garage for the last 40 years! This AEC Renown was new to City of Oxford Motor Services (COMS) in December 1965 seating 38 upstairs and 27 on the lower deck. It was originally painted in Oxford's traditional livery. In about autumn 1970, it was repainted red all over, except for the lower deck window area which was painted duck egg green. After nationalisation the bus was repainted into NBC poppy red, which was its final livery in Oxford.

Richard and his cousin bought CFC 356C direct from COMS in 1978. They converted it so it could be used as a holiday van in Europe with bunk beds and a mini kitchen. It travelled around France and Italy. In 1980 it was in England and was hired for a promotion to the Portsmouth Evening News, whose driver took it under a low bridge in Porchester with the usual result! The seats were extracted from the wreckage and stored. Initially, it was planned to restore the bus, but it never happened and CFC 356C was scrapped.



Forty years later we have been given the seats and may be given the frames in due course. We have recently had some seats for another bus reupholstered because the leather sides had deteriorated. If the moquette on the seats of very old buses fails it is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain replacement moquette with the right design. Spares seats may come in useful in the future.

Frank Collingwood
(Photograph by Grahame Wareham)

FREELAND WI

Unfortunately, due to an urgent family matter, Sarah Richards was unable to run the needle felting workshop planned for our October meeting but we were pleased to welcome, at very short notice, flower arranging tutor Chris Pierce, assisted by our much talented secretary Rosie James. Chris demonstrated a beautiful Autumn themed design for our members to create using a star shaped framework and seasonal foliage and berries. The arrangements created by our members were wonderful and everyone was very happy to take their design home to enjoy. On **Monday 10 November**, Sandy from Cornucopiacooks will be demonstrating how to make a variety of canapes for the upcoming party 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 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

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A40 BARNARD GATE

Local councillors have welcomed the recent approval of road safety projects across Oxfordshire — including the new long awaited safety scheme for the **A40 Barnard Gate** junctions. The scheme is part of a broader set of measures recently endorsed by the County Council to tackle high-risk junctions and reduce serious road traffic incidents. The approved scheme introduces an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) that will prohibit right turns out of both Barnard Gate junctions onto the A40, obliging vehicles to turn left only. It forms part of Oxfordshire's Vision Zero programme to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on the county's roads.

With £100,000 allocated in the County budget for safety improvements at this location, the scheme will include enhanced signage, particularly directing drivers toward the Cuckoo Lane junction as a safer alternative, and minor works such as kerbing or temporary barriers.

County Councillor Liam Walker, who has long championed improvements to this junction, said: "I'm pleased that Oxfordshire County Council has moved forward and approved this scheme. It's a tangible step forward in improving safety along the A40 and I fully support any measure that helps reduce risk to road users."

"I'm particularly pleased that additional signage toward Cuckoo Lane has been included, something I advocated for during a site visit. Encouraging safer travel patterns is crucial. We must however ensure this is not the end but the beginning and I will continue to work with the council to enhance any improvements if needed." Local residents and parish councils have long expressed concern about safety along this stretch of the A40, and the approval is being seen as a positive move — though with calls to go further.

Lysette Nicholls, Chair of South Leigh Parish Council, said: "We welcome the decision to include the Barnard Gate improvements as part of the wider road safety projects. It's encouraging to see movement on an issue we have been raising for years."

"That said, our community remains deeply concerned about the right-turn into South Leigh, which this approved scheme does not address. We will continue to press for its inclusion in future phases. We look forward to working alongside Cllr Walker and the County to ensure safety improvements continue across the whole stretch of road."

The scheme is expected to be implemented **later in 2025**. As with other road safety projects approved across Oxfordshire, it will be monitored over an 18-month experimental period during which public feedback will be gathered and adjustments considered.

Cllr Liam Walker - liamwalker2@oxfordshire.gov.uk



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CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

9.30 – 12 NOON, FREELAND VILLAGE HALL

£40 PER PERSON (£35 FOR WI MEMBERS)

Includes wreath base, decorations and festive refreshments

Join us for a relaxing, creative session making a beautiful Christmas wreath for your door or table. Learn a skill that you can use year after year!

To book your place please email: colinandrosiejames@hotmail.co.uk

A fundraising event for Freeland Women's Institute

UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS 5.10.2025

Ponder this - if there were ten heads and twenty two legs (two of which didn't touch the ground!) setting off on a Sunday walk, how many walkers partook in the ramble?

All the walkers, one dog and a baby, all enjoyed a sunny but blustery ramble. Traversing the hills of Hanborough and the footpaths of Freeland, sheltering from the remnants of storm Amy. Tunnocks dark chocolate wafers were the top talk of the walk, along with cows blocking our route, would Mrs Trellises washing still be on the line, and how the walk always goes in a blur due to all the convivial conversation, or is it more likely the rush to get back for a drink in the pub!



If you wish to join us for a saunter around the local area, the next ramble will be on **Sunday 2nd November at 10.00am from the bus stop opposite the Oxfordshire Yeoman.**

1st HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

With autumn well underway, our Scout group has launched into a new term full of energy and activity. Weekly meetings are back in full swing, and it's been fantastic to see all the sections, from Beavers to Explorers, coming together once again to take part in a wide range of exciting adventures.



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

Across the sections, there's lots happening this term. The Beavers are looking forward to an exciting visit to Crocodiles of the World, while the Scouts will be heading to Youlbury for a camp later this month. The Explorers have been busy planning and running their own sessions – so far, they've held a games night, an Explorers Have Got Talent evening, and a lively Just Dance session!

If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is the perfect time – whether it's joining the subcommittee, helping out at weekly meetings or anything else you think you may be able to do! Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Hugo Pottinger (Publicity Rep)



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





The **Brownies** and **Rainbows** have been working towards their compendium of games challenge badge. This involves trying lots of new games that they haven't played before. Much fun was had playing human hungry hippos involving skateboards, washing baskets and balls.

We braved storm Amy to have a district day at Jubilee House, involving camp and fire lighting activities. We had to be a bit flexible with the activities to accommodate the weather, but good fun was had by all (and ice cream). This was made possible by grants from Tesco and Co-op. You will see us in November taking part in the remembrance Sunday commemorations and also helping at the fireworks.



CLUES FOR CROSSWORD #4 FOR NOVEMBER 2025

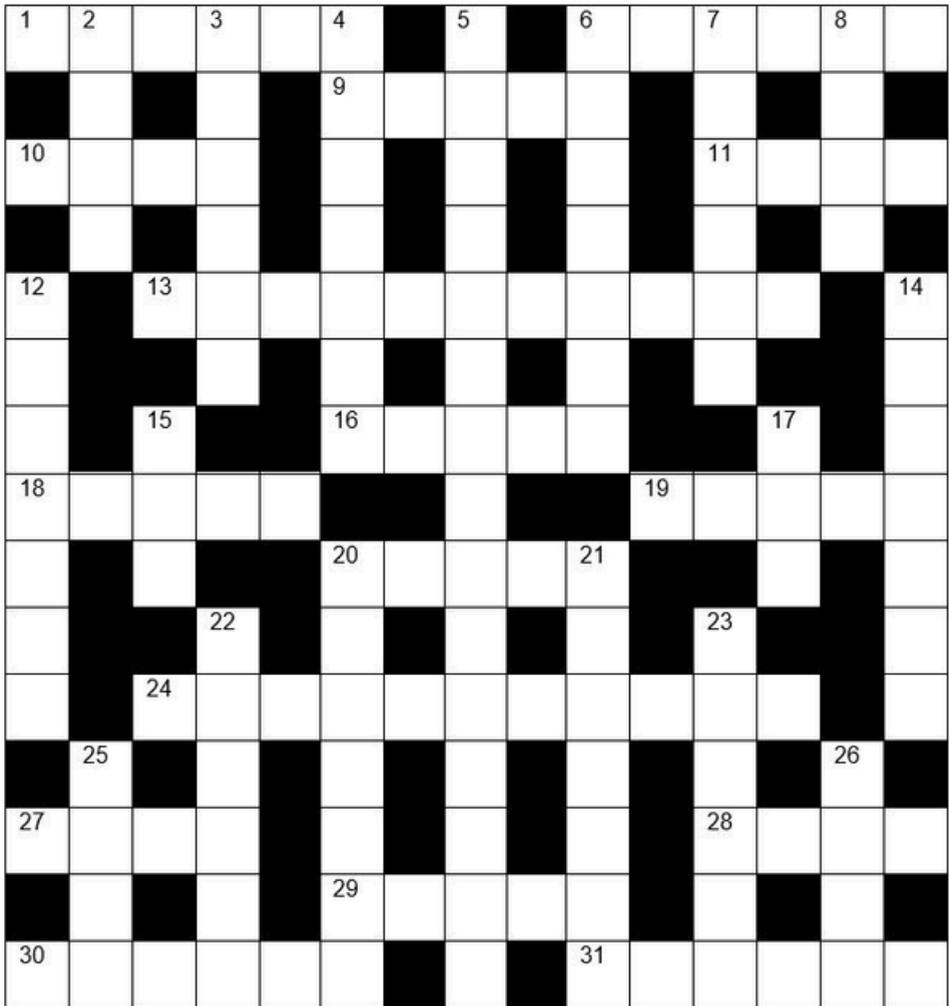
ACROSS

1. Likeness creator arrived with god. (6)
6. Women with German lives alone. (6)
9. Part of a plant, it is said, follows a path. (5)
10. Drink causes alfa bear to lose status for enlightenment. (4)
11. Less saintly smile went a distance. (4)
13. Bird is an animated genial thing. (11)
16. Petrel finch revealed as fantastical type. (5)
18. Knight lost monarch in darkness. (5)
19. A maize seed. (5)
20. Dove talk might be start of depression. (5)
24. Impervious threads put right forepaws' rot. (11)
27. Scavenger hid in chamber. (4)
28. Aristocrat nearly revealed. (4)
29. Ape with no energy hid a sucker. (5)
30. Large number can empty middle of quiche of country meal. (6)
31. Send Earnest inside entrance. (6)

DOWN

2. Drinks with, I hear, afflictions. (4)
3. Bug pinna found by rug. (6)
4. When mixed, actinium, argon, ecstasy and nihonium create goddess. (7)
5. Phobics put aloft changes to walks. (6,9)
6. Spell "A" - "honour" without end - takes shape. (7)
7. Ambler goes for a walk. (6)
8. To keep the engine running is lazy. (4)
12. Stage set of a landscape. (7)
14. Romeo entered a county of a nation (7)
15. Alternative generation emerged facing a lifetime. (3)
17. Earth in rhapsody. (3)
20. Condition calculated by hundred + zero + energy + fifty-one + acceleration + hundred. (7)
21. Heard badger had flavourless fizzy drink and lustrous weave. (7)
22. Army victory before deceased's vessel heard of in drinking hole. (6)
23. A country mag lost article at a far distance. (6)
25. Teaching assistant with eleven in Hackney. (4)
26. Volume of 2D shape found by ultra-realists. (4)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD #4 NOVEMBER 2025 by Mr Nati



ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD #3 OCTOBER 2025

ACROSS

1. LOCKDOWN, 5. TEACUP, 8. THUMP, 11 AND 31. OXFORDSHIRE YEOMAN, 13. HOE, 15. WOE, 16. IRWIN, 17. XYLEM, 19. LEA, 20. TEMPO, 22. ROOST, 24. FED, 25. CGI, 27. WASHERWOMAN, 29. ERICA, 31. See 11. 32. SYCAMORE

DOWN

1. LITTLE OX BREWERY, 2 AND 10. CHURCH VIEW, 3. DEPOSE, 4. WOLF, 6. ET, 7. PIGEONHOUSE LANE, 9. FREELAND, 10. See 2. 12 AND 28. SAINT MARY, 14. ODE, 15. WILDFOWL, 18. MOTTE, 21. EGG, 23. OUSE, 25. CINEMA, 26. INDIGO, 28. see 12. 30. MA

A message from Witney - Oxford Transport Group

Urgent Transport Solutions Needed for

“West Oxfordshire – the line that never was”

More consultations!

On Monday, 22 September, Oxfordshire County Council held a meeting with stakeholders to present its latest transport strategy for the county. For West Oxfordshire residents hoping for concrete progress, the session was a familiar disappointment.

The information released wasn't momentous – it simply brought together existing proposals under a single approach: expanding Banbury, the cross-country line to Cambridge, a couple of stations here and there (like Wantage, which has been discussed for the last thirty years), and doubling the first part of the Cotswold line. The meeting was clearly a tick-box exercise rather than a genuine consultation. Allowing for the usual speaker overruns, the actual Q&A session squeezed in just six questions over ten minutes from a 90-minute programme.

West Oxfordshire: The Black Hole

Most notable was the absence of firm proposals for WestOxfordshire. Except for a brief presentation at the end, showing a red line described as “an opportunity for intermodal transport still under discussion,” West Oxfordshire remained a black hole in the county's approach, dismissed with vague mentions of “more consultations needed.”

The time for action is Now

The choice is clear: accept another twenty five years of inaction, or lobby the council and all local politicians to demand real solutions. The 16,000 new homes planned for our area are expected to generate over 32,000 additional daily car journeys without alternative and sustainable transport, means living standards in our District will degrade. We cannot afford to be left behind.

Don't let West Oxfordshire remain the county's forgotten corner.

Join our campaign for a railway from Oxford to Witney and Carterton before it is too late. (witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk)

lidia.arciszewska@westoxon.gov.uk

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FREELAND CRAFT GROUP



This beautiful handbag was crocheted from a kit by one of our members. Crochet seems to be the favourite craft being used at the moment. Perhaps this is one skill you are interested in learning? If so, come and join us for some simple tuition. This friendly group meets each **Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 – 4:00pm.**

The group meets in the Newell Room at the back of Freeland Village Hall. 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

The deadline for articles or adverts for the December Grapevine is

Wednesday 12th November. The December edition should be online at <https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk> and www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk from about **Tuesday 25th November** with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from **Friday 28th November**.

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 is 23p per word. Payment for all advertising by BACS, details can be obtained from Jane Duff and any other costs for adverts. 1/3rd page size is 60mm high x 127mm wide, ½ 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 of suggestions in the Grapevine,

FREELAND FOOTBALL CLUB

With the season well underway both sides are performing well. The new **Under 9s** are continuing to gel and have put in some great performances, and remain unbeaten. The **Under 12s** are currently sitting second in their league, having only lost one game. Their standout result was a 16-0 win against Banbury Irish, with the stand out player Harry B not only scoring his first goal for the team, but grabbing four goals!

We are hosting a **General Knowledge quiz with quizmaster Phil “The Encyclopaedia” Panting, on Saturday 29th November at the Oxfordshire Yeoman, 7pm, all are welcome.** There will be a Raffle and some great prizes have already been received!

A reminder that at all the U9s home games the tea bar will be running, selling home made cakes, bacon rolls and sweets.

Home Fixtures: 25th Oct - U9 v Tower Hill, U12 v Brackley

15th Nov - U9 v Vikings **29th November** U12 v Yarnton

BenSymonds

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Sun 12 noon - 10.30pm

Kitchen hours

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

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

- Sat 26 Oct British Summertime ends - clocks go **back** one hour
- Wed 29 Oct **Green Week: recycling, food waste, garden waste collection**
- Weds 29 Oct Oxford Bus Museum Twilight Bus Ride
- Sun 2 Nov UFR Ramble 10.00am Bus Shelter opposite Yeoman
- Tues 4 Nov **The Cake Cafe, Village Hall, 9am - 11.30am**
- Tues 4 Nov North Leigh History Society, Memorial Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm
- Wed 5 Nov Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection**
- Thurs 6 Nov u3a Meeting **2pm** St Hugh's Hensington Rd, Woodstock, Hedgerows
- Mon 10 Nov **Freeland Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Newell Room**
- Mon 10 Nov Freeland WI Village Hall **7.45pm** Canape demonstration
- Wed 12 Nov Copy Deadline for Freeland Grapevine**
- Wed 12 Nov Green Week: recycling, food waste, garden waste collection**
- Frid 14 Nov Witney Music Society **7.30pm** High St, Methodist Church, Witney
- Wed 19 Nov Grey Week: household rubbish, food waste collection**
- Sat 22 Nov Gardening Club Village Fayre, Village Hall 10.00-12.30pm**
- Sat 22 Nov North Leigh Film Night **“Black Bag”**, Memorial Hall **7pm for 7.30pm**
- Wed 26 Nov Green Week: recycling, food waste, garden waste collection**

YEOMAS 2025

'THE HALL STAGE'

15:00 - LEONARD STOPPANI

16:30 - THE HONEY BADGERS

18:00 - THE YEOMEN

19:30 - DOUBLE PARKED

'THE PUB STAGE'

15:45 - KAIMANA

17:15 - OLLY PUDDLE

18:45 - THE FRAUD SQUAD

21:00 - ANNABEL ROSE



Freeland Village Hall & The Oxfordshire Yeoman

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172 Wroslyn Road

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**Marie
Curie**

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