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SERVICES AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Sunday 28th June	10.00am Communion
Sunday 5th July	10.00am Cafe Church at Freeland Village Hall
Sunday 12th July	10.00am Communion
Sunday 19th July	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday 26th July	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion
Sunday 2nd August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at Christ Church

The above information is correct on the date published (**22nd June 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: Position Vacant

Parish Worker One day a week, usually
Friday: Matt Cripps
Email: cripps@hfchurch.org.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Clive Berry 01993 882080 and

Hugh Dalton *Emeritus*: 01993 881742

Churchwarden: John Hayward

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

We hope to run a Bible Fun Club event in the school summer holidays – we will post details as soon as we know. 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 Harry Whitbread for the photograph of View over Church Hanborough.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

CAFÉ CHURCH

JOIN US FOR
SONGS BIBLE CONVERSATION
REFRESHMENTS
ALL AGES WELCOME!

ALL
WELCOME



SUNDAY 5TH JULY

FROM 10.00AM
FREELAND VILLAGE HALL



Organised by St Mary's Church
www.hfchurch.org.uk

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Sunday	28th June	No Service - all welcome at Christ Church or St Mary's
Sunday	5th July	10.00am Communion
Sunday	12th July	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	19th July	10.00am Communion
Sunday	26th July	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at Christ Church
Sunday Leader:	2nd August TBC	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at Christ Church Preacher: TBC

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

Sunday	28th June	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	5th July	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	12th July	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	19th July	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	26th July	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday	2nd August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion



CHORAL EVENSONG

At St Peter and St Paul, Sunday 28th June at 6pm

As this is the celebration of the feast day of St Peter and St Paul, we will be serving strawberries and cream, a glass of bubbly and other refreshments, and giving a short update on the St Peter and St Paul Spire project.

All are most welcome to join us for a calm, beautiful and uplifting end to the weekend/start to your week.



**YES!! IT'S OURS!
THE CHAPEL NOW BELONGS TO
THE VILLAGE VIA
FREELAND COMMUNITY HUB.**

**THANKS TO ALL FOR
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.**

**IF YOU'RE A MEMBER, DON'T FORGET
THE AGM ON 8TH JULY.**

MORE AT WWW.FREELANDHUB.ORG.UK

LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD DR STEVE STEWART

At this time of year, many of our young people will have been facing exams and awaiting results. And so we will hear the word “hope” a lot: “I hope I do well”; “I hope it’s not too stressful”; “I hope the results are good”. In ordinary English, “hope” usually means a wish about something uncertain. But in the Bible, when hope is spoken of in relation to Jesus Christ, it does not carry the sense of doubt: it speaks of something certain because it rests on the promises and faithfulness of God.

Christians have not yet received the fullness of resurrection life, but because salvation rests on Christ and not on us, the Bible speaks of it as already secured. That is why Christian hope is different from ordinary hope. It is future in one sense, but certain because God has promised it.

The same pattern appears elsewhere in the Bible. God tells us not to put hope in wealth, “which is so uncertain”, but to put hope in God (1 Timothy 6:17). In other words, the Bible does recognise uncertain hopes — but it says Christian hope is not one of them. Hebrews 11:1 describes faith as “confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”. Peter says, “set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed” (1 Peter 1:13). The point is that the object of Christian hope is trustworthy, because God himself is trustworthy.

The Christian hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus does not depend on the strength of our feelings, the consistency of our efforts, or the quality of our performance. It depends on Jesus: “it does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy” (Romans 9:16). That is why Christians speak with confidence about forgiveness and eternal life. These things are certain not because we are faithful, but because God is faithful.

In the end, certainty or uncertainty depends on who is carrying the weight. Exams feel uncertain because they depend largely on us. But the Christian’s future does not rest on human effort. It rests on Jesus Christ. That is why the Bible says, “If we are faithless, Jesus Christ remains faithful” (2 Timothy 2:13). Christian hope, then, is not a religious version of wishful thinking. It is the settled confidence that what God has promised in Christ, he will surely do.

And if you are looking for certainty in your life, something concrete and reliable and wonderful, then we would love nothing more than for you to join us at one of our churches in Hanborough and Freeland, for good fellowship, love, and coming to know the God who loves you.

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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ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

Sunday 12th July 9.30am - 10am

Sunday 26th July 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.

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

Sunday 5th July 10am Rev Sue Jacobs - Church Anniversary

Sunday 12th July 10am Mr Andrew Maisey

Sunday 19th July 10am Mr Richard Bowler

Sunday 26th July 10am Local Arrangement

Sunday 2nd Aug 10.30am At Davenport Road Methodist Church

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNSHAM

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

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

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

Website: **www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk**

THE CHURCH IS OPEN for Public Masses on Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 10am.

For any Weekday Masses, please see the webpage



The Freeland collection raised **£470** including Gift Aid.

Thank you to those who have donated so generously.

You can still donate until 26th June at:

<https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/freeland-ca-week-collection>

Fiona McGrady, Freeland Christian Aid Group Organiser

(Phone 01993 880007 for details)

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OLIVE SLAUGHTER

It is with great sadness that we have just learned that Olive Slaughter passed away on 3rd June 2026 aged 89 years. She was a resident of Freeland from July 1976 and was a former editor of the Freeland Grapevine for many years, as well as working in the village post office when it was in Parklands. She was a parishioner of St Mary's Church, Freeland, and was also once a keen bellringer. In more recent years she was often seen around the village on her mobility scooter and used to walk her beloved Collie, Ebony. The funeral will take place on **Monday 6th July 2026 at 11.00**, followed by refreshments at the Oxfordshire Yeoman. **All are welcome.**

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all those who have sent cards, messages or flowers following the tragic death of our son, Pete, in a car accident in Cumbria on 6th June. We have been amazed at the outpouring of love and support which has been so comforting and for which we are very grateful.

Roger and Janet Faulkner

UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS



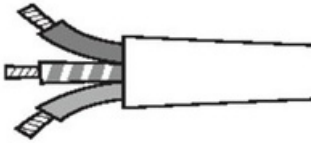
7/06/2026

This month's Ramble was attended by seven people and Willow the dog. What a delightful ramble it was, we covered almost every blade of grass in Church Hanborough, putting pretty much all the world ills right, before settling on a conversation on the whys and wherefores of shin kicking, and if it would be worth starting a podcast on the subject. It was one of the most popular events at the Cotswold Olimpick Games from 1612 until the Games ended in the 1850s.

When the Games were revived, in 1951, the sport was included as the World Shin-Kicking Championships and remains one of its most popular events. Competitors typically attempt to strike their opponent's shin with the inside of the foot as well as their toes. Success in the event requires both agility and the ability to endure pain, the loser crying out "Sufficient" when he has had enough.

Sounds marvellous, we must have a go!

Our next ramble will be on Sunday 5th July at 10am from the bus shelter opposite the Oxfordshire Yeoman. All are welcome.



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hanboroughgardenservices@gmail.com for a quotation.



FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



Oxfordshire County Council Tree Service: The Tree Service Manager for OCC attended our June meeting to explain the responsibilities of the tree service in relation to highway trees. Their role is to ensure all trees on their land are maintained for the long-term benefit of the communities they contribute to. The priority for any maintenance work is safety. All the highway trees in Freeland have now been surveyed and details of any works needed have been noted. Fix my Street can be used to report any trees of concern if necessary. They are also committed to plant 4,400 trees by 2028 across the County to replace those that have been felled, and to help improve our overall tree canopy cover, which is relatively low.

Water Sampling - Volunteers Welcome: Two councillors are now volunteering with Freshwater Watch (part of Earthwatch, an international charity) to help with sampling 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 measurements using 'Sonde equipment'. The aim is to carry this out at least once a fortnight, and we will keep you up to date on the results. Any more volunteers would be welcome to be involved in this important task, which should help to raise awareness of the need for improvement of the sewage works.

Defibrillators: The two 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 on **clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk**

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

Contacting the Council and Date of Next meeting: The next meeting will be on **Monday 20th July 2026 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, **Fay Friend, Parish Clerk can be contacted on 07818 572997 from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday, you can also text on this number or email: clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk.**

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Friday 25th July 2026

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 5th & 19th July 2026

Details of other Farmers' Markets at:

www.tvfm.org.uk 01235 227266



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FREELAND WI INVITE YOU TO AN OPEN MEETING...

On **MONDAY 13TH JULY**, there will be a talk by **Jayne Elizabeth Millinery** in **Freeland Village Hall, OX29 8AN**



Jayne is an award winning designer milliner who specialises in meticulous detail and originality. She specialises in headwear for weddings and special occasions; statement headwear for Royal Ascot, The Kentucky Derby and the Melbourne Cup, Red carpet events etc.

All the headwear is designed and created in the UK. Jayne will bring a selection of hats and talk about how her designs become reality, materials she uses, how to wear a hat, plus some images of photo shoots.

Doors open 7.30pm for 7.45pm start.

£5 visitors donation to include refreshments. There will be a raffle.

Contact: freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Secretary: Rosie James - 07968242208



The Cake Café

*****sth September*****

9.00 - 11.30 am

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FREELAND ENERGY GROUP (FEG)

We might have had 'summer' - that blast of very hot weather in May, that many of us found uncomfortable. But maybe there is more to come. Here are a few tips about keeping cool in the very hot weather.

Windows: Dos and don'ts: Ventilate as much as you can when it is cooler outside - overnight, in the early morning and in the evening - by opening windows and doors. To make the most of air flow at those times, open windows on opposite sides of your home and keep internal doors open.

Once outside temperatures rise, close windows and doors. Shade and cover windows - draw blinds and curtains or, if you don't have them, hang light coloured sheets up to provide shade and reflect the heat, open curtains and blinds again, to maximise the use of natural light and avoid switching lights on until you need to. Reflective window film is also an option. You might want to consider adding awnings to your home, particularly over south-facing windows, if you have the budget and can.

Keeping your body cool: Hydrate. Drink before you get thirsty, as hot weather means you sweat more. Wear loose clothing and put your clothes - or some bedding - in the freezer for a couple of minutes before use. Having a lukewarm shower (not too cold) before bed has been shown to help you sleep on a hot night. Showers save water and money, but if you prefer a bath, save the water for your plants. Too hot inside? It may be cooler outdoors in the shade or at a local public building like your local library, so if you are struggling to keep your home cool, see if there is a cooler place you can get to without walking too far in the heat. A cooling sports towel around your neck and shoulders can be effective as can dabbing cool water on you neck and wrists.

More information at at

www.lowcarbonhub.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Beat-the-heat-final.pdf

If you want to find out about changes people have made to their homes in Freeland, we have local contacts who are happy to explain their journey. Just get in touch with Freeland Energy Group to connect up to:- **freelandenergygroup@outlook.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



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

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

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

Eynsham - Long Hanborough via Freeland

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

Long Hanborough - Eynsham via Freeland

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

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

RAIL CONNECTION TIMINGS

FREELAND / HANBOROUGH / OXFORD & return

411 Bus	Freeland, Village Hall*	08.56	10.36	12.36	14.36	17.36
411 Bus	Hanborough Station	09.05	10.45	12.45	14.45	17.45
Train	Hanborough Station	09.18	11.19	13.19	15.17	18.14
Train	Oxford Station	09.30	11.29	13.29	15.27	18.32

Train	Oxford Station	08.44	10.46	12.45	13.44	17.23
Train	Hanborough Station	08.53	10.55	12.54	13.54	17.33
411 Bus	Hanborough Station	09.10	11.05	13.05	14.50	17.50
411 Bus	Freeland, Village Hall*	09.19	11.14	13.14	14.59	17.59

West Oxfordshire
Community Transport
 woct.org.uk 01993 630124



FREELAND COMMUNITY BUS TIMETABLE **EVERY THURSDAY – AVAILABLE TO ALL**

Outbound pickup:

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

With drop off at:

Waitrose car park, Witney
 Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney

Return pickup:

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

With drop off by request anywhere along Wroslyn Road

INFORMATION

For more information or to volunteer as a driver or helper please contact:
 Sue Hooper **Tel: 07880 207835 Email: eagle.hooper@gmail.com**

MORE DRIVERS AND HELPERS WANTED!



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Stop	Outbound	Inbound
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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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

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FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

The Club had a superb talk by Colin Roberts who had previously been Head Gardener at Adwell House near Thame. He now works there on a part time basis but is still very enthusiastic about the garden. His talk was entitled 'Salvias, my favourite varieties and how to care for them'. Unfortunately he didn't bring any with him but showed us pictures of the many varieties they grow in the garden knowing the name of each one. He encouraged plenty of watering and showed us how to take cuttings. Freeland Nurseries have quite a number of different colours. There are occasional open days at Adwell House and a vintage vehicle show on 12th July.

On **Monday 27th July at 7.30pm** in Freeland Hall Robert Longstaff will inform us about 'The Oxford Garden Project'. It will be interesting to learn how this is encouraging gardening throughout the city and maybe the mental health benefits of gardening. There will be the usual Plant and Garden Items Sale as well as seeds and magazines. Refreshments at £1.50 for tea/coffee are also popular.

For further information about our friendly Club please contact me at **daltonjanet9@gmail.com**

Janet Dalton (Secretary)

FREELAND CRAFT GROUP



Ribbon embroidery is a decorative technique that uses silk or satin ribbons to create three dimensional designs on fabric. It is also known as silk ribbon embroidery, and this plaque shows a variety of flowers in the design.

Interested? Why not give us a try?

None of us can come every week, but come when we can, to enjoy a time of friendship whilst crafting. We meet in the Newell Room at the back of Freeland Village Hall **every Wednesday from 2-4pm**. 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



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14-18 years



This month the Rainbows and Brownies, as part of their 'skills for my future badge' have been making fajitas and learning how to chop vegetables to put in them. The Brownies have had a bike maintenance night and the Rainbows have been learning how to hammer nails and put screws into wood.

The Guides and Rangers have been out and about in the woods and hiking to different places. They also joined with Kennington Guides for a pioneering day at Jubilee House.

We are in need of a guide leader/helper for the Guides aged 10-14 years. They meet on a Tuesday between 7.30-9.00pm. If you can offer any help, please get in touch, we are flexible, so anything you can offer would be gratefully appreciated. We also have spaces for girls aged 10-18 in our Guide and Ranger units in Long Hanborough.

Please email freelanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com

TABLE TENNIS

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

For our June meeting we were honoured to have Peter Hull MBE, gold medal winning Paralympian, speak about his life and achievements. This was an 'open' meeting and it was lovely to welcome Freeland residents and other local WI groups for the evening.



Born with no legs and arms to the elbow, Peter spoke of his parents' love and devotion, never giving up on him despite the challenges and encouraging him to try anything he wanted to do and more. In childhood Peter discovered a love and talent for swimming and was something he wished to pursue. On leaving school in the 1980s he started a job at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst and a bonus to that was he could use the swimming facilities on camp. It was there that he was helped by one of the instructors who came up with a training schedule and asked him if he knew about the Paralympics, he didn't. Thereby his journey began culminating with his attending the games in Seoul achieving 4th place in all four races in which he competed. Spurred on by this, Peter pushed on with a rigorous training regime, aiming for the next Paralympics in 1992.

The hard work paid off, in Barcelona he entered three events and won gold in all of them, smashing the then current world record each time. Aside from his swimming career, Peter has completed numerous wheelchair marathons, including London.

Following on from his success, Peter has worked tirelessly in publicising and making sport accessible for those with physical challenges for which he was awarded an MBE.

His philosophy is that whatever life's challenges, anything is possible, never give up and there is always a solution to a problem. He acknowledged that his success has been down to team work, from his parents, coaches and those that support him every day in life. A truly inspirational man.

On **Monday 13th July** we will be holding another open evening to welcome Jayne Elizabeth Millinery. Jayne will be speaking on her life and career in millinery, her achievements, plus she will be bringing along a selection of her creations and demonstrating how to wear them. This event is open to all. 7.30 for 7.45pm, £5 payable at the door, refreshments included. For full details, please see our advert in this edition of The Grapevine on page 17.

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 Freeland Parish Council website) 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

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7.30PM

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IST HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

The Explorers have had an exciting month filled with both adventure and community service. They recently volunteered at the Blenheim Triathlon, helping support the event while raising funds for future activities. Their hard work has enabled them



to book a trip to Wet & Wild, which they are all looking forward to. Explorers also had the opportunity to watch triathlete Jonny Brownlea set a world record by completing ten triathlons in a single weekend.

The Scouts have been making the most of the longer evenings with a varied programme of activities. They have continued developing their practical and outdoor skills while preparing for upcoming summer camps and adventures. As always, the section has enjoyed plenty of opportunities to work together, take on new challenges and build confidence through Scouting.

The Cubs have been busy developing their outdoor skills in preparation for camp. They recently completed a backwoods cooking evening, where they learnt how to safely light fires and cook outdoors. They also enjoyed a hike around Blenheim, searching for bats and learning more about wildlife. This month has been rounded off with final preparations for their camp, which promises to be a fantastic experience.

Unfortunately, our **Beaver** section remains paused as we continue to look for a new Beaver Leader. Beavers is a hugely important and enjoyable part of Scouting for our youngest members, and we would love to get the section running again as soon as possible. If anyone in the community may be interested in helping out or would like more information, please get in touch via **+44 7879 4609** or **hugopottinger@gmail.com**. If anyone in the community has ever thought about getting involved, even occasionally, we would always welcome new adult volunteers. Full support and training are provided, and helping out is a rewarding way to support young people in our area.

Hugo Pottinger (Publicity Rep)

OXFORDSHIRE STARS - UPCOMING DATES

Quiz in aid of Marie Curie - Weds 1st July 2026, 7.30 for 8pm start, The Yeoman Quiz entry £3. Teams of up to 6 people. Please ring the pub to reserve a table 01 993 881003.

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 CARGO on **07754 271831** or email: **oxfordshire.stars@gmail.com**

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LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

You may have noticed that a piece of wooden trim has fallen off one of the doors of the (small) Little Free Library: I have contacted Blenheim to ask them to repair it. In the meantime, it is safe to use the Little Free Library – it's just a cosmetic part that has fallen off and does not impact the structure, or the safety of people using it. As always, please be careful when opening the doors during strong winds. It is now a year since the new Little Free Library was generously donated and installed by Blenheim.

We are getting very low on children's picture books, so if you have any at home that you no longer want or need, please do consider donating some to the Little Free Library. There are two donation boxes behind the bus shelter, in front of the village hall, where you can leave books. Children's picture books are very popular, which reflects the voracious reading appetites of the young readers in the village!

Thank you once again to our team of volunteers for helping to keep the big Little Free Library so tidy and well-stocked. It is always amazing to see the high turnover of books – there's something new there every day.

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

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Lucy Gibbs: mezzo soprano

Friday 10th and Saturday 11th July 2026
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raising funds for Freeland Community Hub*

Saturday, July 11, 2026 at 7.30pm

at Freeland Village Hall

Tickets £10.00 in advance, £12.00 at the door (under 16 £5.00)

Available from jane.duff17@gmx.com

or from Freeland Garden Centre

Doors and Bar open from 7pm

11 July 2026 at 7.30pm

at Freeland Village Hall, Wroslyn Road,
Freeland OX29 8AL

voiceboxchoir.org



**New Choir members are always welcome,
please see web page for further details**



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On 2nd July our talk is entitled “Dogs for Good – Assistance Dogs”. Carol Shearman will tell us about assistance dogs as she works for the charity Dogs for Good, based in Banbury. This is a UK based charity training dogs to assist adults and children with physical and learning disabilities, children with autism and adults with dementia.

The Walking Group – Shorter Distances Walked from Thrupp alongside the river Cherwell to St Mary’s Church in Kidlington. It was a warm spring, sunny afternoon. There were carpets of bluebells under the trees it was so peaceful beside the river. We returned to Annie’s Tea Room for teas and ice creams.

The Welsh Conversation Group met for the second time at the end of April. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month in a member’s house. If you would like to practice your Welsh, please get in touch with us on our website:

www.woodstock.u3a.uk. All levels of ability in Welsh speaking welcome.

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 2.15 speaker. Our U3a branch is centred in Woodstock but welcomes people from the surrounding areas. Are you recently retired and looking for local social activities around interests you have? Our interest groups develop when someone is willing to run them – maybe you have something that you can offer? If so, please make contact with us through the website: **www.woodstock.u3a.uk.** We would be delighted to hear from you.

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CLUES FOR CROSSWORD #12 JULY 2026 BY MR NATI

ACROSS

1. Git returns regular photos of hosiery. (6)
5. Bright District Attorney's central puzzle is the French (6)
8. Vandalized bony orchard is source of greenhouse gas. (11)
10. Meet back, without Mike, at place for drivers. (3)
11. Worker is in the canteen. (3)
12. Cherish little Emma's smile enhancer (7)
16. Bizarre x-ray of Henry showed a rock dweller. (5)
17. Dough causes monkey to lose weight. (5)
18. Paul ate bananas in high plain. (7)
19. Timeless stable houses luxurious coat bearer. (5)
20. Attic Yankee found quite tall. (5)
21. Falls in Agra a fake. (7)
22. Phlegmatic holy man originally in confinement at first. (5)
23. Initials. Arabian Lawrence finally sees the feminine French EV (5)
25. Very excessive former is perhaps poplar around a minute. (7)
29. Simian is found behind a parapet. (3)
30. I'll hide to be sick. (3)
31. Ancient is kind of enthral Dane. (11)
34. Sombre, hungry man is after flatfish. (6)
35. Flower child likes Rose's fruit tart. (6)

DOWN

1. Mop on top of cottage. (6)
2. Fodder ultimately worth extra money. (3)
3. Pick sugar drink after holy one. (5)
4. Rector gets vehicle after 6. (5)
5. First note of Rochester Independent College is in Scottish dialect. (5)
6. Echoless ooze returned to menagerie. (3)
7. Hearing equipment and your archaic form is down-to-earth. (6)
8. Sad Breton hacker recompiled. (11)
9. Diminutive granny is not timeless "stone skeleton", but a minute one. (11)
12. Former Penny at a cost (7)
13. Bla bla, once time worker is obvious. (7)
14. Normal but mean. (7)
15. Mimic "wingless" bird is dead. (7)
22. Holy person saved middle posts. (6)
24. Seem to be everyone is nude (not in November). (6)
26. Noble gas and X-ray energy causes nun to lose uniform to Oscar. (5)
27. Renee Banks is First Lady to Chief Magistrate. (5)
28. Rug in front of church is lighter. (5)
32. Survey everyone secretly with looker. (3)
33. Serpent found with chlorine free clasp (3)

CROSSWORD #12 JULY 2026 BY MR NATI

1			2		3		4		5		6			7
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34									35					

ANSWERS TO JUNE CROSSWORD #11

ACROSS

1. EASY JET 5. ACTRESS 9. ELM 10. KNACKERED 11. MOB 12. TOE 13. OPTICAL 15. BOAT 18. MEMO 19. LODGE 21. DRESS 22. VOLE 23. YETI 26. INFUSER 28. TEA 30. SET 31. TRUCULENT 32. ACT 33. HYDRANT 34. RANCHER

DOWN

1. EVENTUALLY 2. SUMMER 3. JAMBOREE 4. TAKE TIME OFF 6. COCOA 7. REEF 8. SIESTA 14. COMPENSATOR 16. ODE 17. TASKMASTER 20. DOT 21. DEERSKIN 24. ENERGY 25. ATTACH 27. NYLON 29. SCAR

AUCTION OF PROMISES

FREELAND COMMUNITY HUB



UPDATE: Auction of Promises for Freeland Community Hub

It is the intention to hold an Auction of Promises to raise funds for the Freeland Community Hub on the evening of

**Saturday November 14th 2026
in Freeland Village Hall**

We already have a small number of Promises but will require many more to make the event a success. Promises made so far include:

**Tea for Two | Wool Spinning | A Glass Workshop
Introduction to 3D Printing | Knife Sharpening Course
Piano Lessons | A Ride in a Vintage Car**

Many of us have unique skills, talents and services that we can offer as Promises often without realizing their value to others.

Ideas for additional promises include courses in painting, guitar lessons, carving, wood turning, photography, baking, specialist cooking, archery. Also baby sitting, house cleaning, gardening, sports coaching, and accompanying a skilled tradesman for a day.

Those of you who have a holiday or letting property in the the UK or abroad may want to consider offering time in such properties as they make excellent and valuable Promises.

Do please consider making a Promise and contact us in order to make the evening an enjoyable community event and help us raise funds.

Please contact Graham or Ria Lay by phone 07460 223048,
by email grahamlay4@gmail.com or call in at
139 Wroslyn Road for a chat about it.

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 you 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.

CRICKET FOR **ALL**

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FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

U15a and adult nets - every Tuesday from **14th April at 6pm.**

U11s and U13s coaching - every Friday from **17th April at 6pm.**

The **Under 9s** will start on **Saturday 16th May at 10am**

Women's Softball will start on **Wednesday 15th April at 6pm.**

If you are interested in playing or would like your children to take part, please contact me.

Simon Brown, Chair freelandu11@gmail.com





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OXFORD BUS AND MORRIS MOTORS MUSEUMS



At the end of May the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a temporary reduction in the VAT rate on museum admission charges from 20% to 5% until 31st August. We have reduced our entrance fees accordingly, by £1 across individual entry fees and by £3 for families. This makes the new fees: Adult: £7; Seniors: £6; Children: £4; Families: £17

The Morris Bullnose Club visited the museum on 10th May. It brought a fine collection of 20 Morris vehicles, most of which were Bullnoses. The picture is of the first five vehicles to arrive. From the left they date from 1924, 1928, 1924, 1926 and 1926. All the cars in the lineup are bullnoses and were built in the Cowley factory. William Morris reluctantly dropped the distinctive radiator design in 1926 because, as car engines became more powerful, they needed more cooling, which the bullnose design could not provide.

The 1928 Morris Commercial light ton van in the picture, **PX 9155**, is a rare survivor. Only four are known to be in preservation in the UK out of just over 3,000 that were made by William Morris at his Soho Works in Birmingham between 1926 and 1930.



PX 91255 was first sold to EW White Funeral Directors of Chichester. It was originally painted yellow, which seems an odd colour for a hearse. The van's current owner thinks that it may have been used for transporting wood and completed coffins rather than at funeral services! Matt Harris acquired the vehicle in 2023 and takes it to shows and classic car runs. It is insured for any driver over 25. Matt allows young people to drive it hoping that they will get interested in old cars. He keeps restoration to a minimum to preserve original features. However, the van now has a starting motor, so the starting handle is seldom used. Some of the 60 members of the Morris Bullnose Club went round the museum and enjoyed it. We provided tea, coffee and biscuits in the back of the café for the party. The visit was a great success, and they are considering returning for their next Annual General Meeting.

Frank Collingwood

SOLDIERS OF OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is to unveil its first ever flower show, “From Battlefields to Blooms” from 9th-12th July 2026.



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Presented by Bladon & Woodstock Flower Club, Oxford Flower Club and Abingdon Flower Club, this is an opportunity for visitors to memorialise loved ones and ancestors who served in the armed forces. The event utilises the museum galleries and responds to its collections in new ways.

Members of the three local clubs have spent time planning in the museum galleries, utilising the spaces in new and creative ways while responding to the stories featured in SOFO's permanent exhibitions.

The stunning work of the featured flower clubs has previously been seen in displays at Dorchester Abbey and Abingdon's 2019 Fashion in Flowers show. The arrangements on display in the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum galleries will follow themes such as Dig for Victory, Botanical Remedies and Lives Lost in the Trenches.

The museum will also be running a campaign across its social media channels and in house during the show, allowing people to donate in memory of their military loved ones or armed forces ancestors and have their name featured in a special In Memoriam flower display. Those who wish to have an individual remembered in the flower show can submit names and details now by going to the museum website

www.sof.org.uk/battlefieldstoblooms

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park St, Woodstock OX20 1SN

FREELAND WINE CLUB

The Club continued with its great wine and food matching evenings on the 29th May with a presentation of wines from France supplied by The Wine Society. Bruce Hammersley gave a great presentation and insight into French wine, accompanied by a carefully crafted food offering. The evening was enjoyed by ~50 members and guests. Huge thanks to Bruce, Marge and the Club team for providing a great night.



The next meeting on Friday 31st July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall will be presented by Andrew Walker of Solaris Wines and will feature wines from Castilla y Leon in Northern Spain. There will be accompanying food and of course the Wine raffle in aid of the Freeland Hub. Hope to see you there! To book your place £10 Members £14 Guests email

FreelandWineClub@gmail.com

ABOUT THE GRAPEVINE

The deadline for articles or adverts for the **August 2026** Grapevine is **SUNDAY 12th July**. The edition should be online at <https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk> and www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk from about **Tuesday 21st July with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from Friday 24th July**.

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, ½ page size is 90mm high x 127mm wide, and a full page is 190mm high x 128mm wide.

PLEASE NOTE: With effect from 1st June 2026 there will be a small charge of £5 for posters advertising events taking place that are **not** Church events. This will be for a half A5 in size, **landscape orientation** page.

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.

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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

DIRTY CARPETS? GRUBBY UPHOLSTERY?

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

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. **Cream Teas with Prosecco Sunday 30th August 2.30-5pm**.

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 davidworld@hotmail.co.uk

NEED GARDENING HELP?

Do you need help with weeding, pruning or general garden upkeep? Freeland resident lady gardener with plant knowledge who would love to help! –

Contact:

Amanda Watson on 07881803864 email amanda.watson99@hotmail.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Weds	1 July	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste
Thurs	2 July	U3A Talk on Assistance Dogs 2.15pm Woodstock
Sun	5 July	UFR Ramble 10.00am from Bus Shelter opp Yeoman
Mon	6 July	Funeral of Olive Slaughter 11.00am St Mary's
Tues	7 July	Cake Cafe 9.00-11.30 Village Hall
Weds	8 July	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Sat	11 July	Voice Box Summer Concert for Community Hub 7.30pm
Sun	12 July	COPY DEADLINE FOR AUGUST GRAPEVINE
Sun	12 July	Combe Mill, Wildlife by the Evenlode 10.30-4.30
Mon	13 July	WI Open Meeting talk about Millinery 7.45pm Village Hall
Weds	15 July	Green Week: recycling+food waste+garden waste
Mon	20 July	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm Newell Room
Mon	27 July	Freeland Gardening Club, Oxford Garden Project 7.30pm
Weds	29 July	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Frid	31 July	Freeland Wine Group, Village Hall 7.30pm

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WILDLIFE BY THE EVENLODE



Oxfordshire Bee Keepers
Evenlode Catchment Partnership
Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust
Evenlode Riverfly Monitors
Kidlington Swifts
Oxfordshire Badger Group

at Combe Mill
Sunday 12 July
10.30am ~ 4.30pm
Recommended last entry
time is 3.30pm

Also a display of wildlife photographs

Browse the market stalls

Adults £9.50, Concessions £8.50, Children under 16 free.

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

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

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

[HTTPS://WWW.OXFORDSHIREYEOMAN.COM](https://www.oxfordshireyeoman.com)

YEOFEST 2026



THE
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In aid of



Marie
Curie

SATURDAY
18TH JULY
2026 ↙



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Oxfordshire, OX29 8AQ

DONATE ♥



12PM-11PM



THE YEOMEN



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