



# Grapevine

St Mary's Freeland



September 2025

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## **ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<b>10.00am Communion Whole Benefice at St Peter &amp; St Paul</b>
Leader:		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leaders:		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader:		Preacher
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader:		Preacher: TBC
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader:		Preacher:
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise, Joint with Christ Church at Christ Church</b>

The above information is correct on the date published **(26/8/2025)**. 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](http://www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk) or the Benefice website  
[www.hfchurch.org.uk](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)**

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## **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](http://stmaryfreeland.org.uk)** or use the QR code.



**Freeland Parochial Church Council**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank you to the local photographer for the photo on the Front cover.**

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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](mailto:rector@hfchurch.org.uk)

**Licensed Lay Ministers:**

**Clive Berry 01993 882080**

**Associate Rector: Revd Mike Madden**  
Email: [associate.rector@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto:associate.rector@hfchurch.org.uk)

**Curate:**

**Hugh Dalton Emeritus: 01993 881742**

**Flowers in the Church:**

**Janet Dalton**  
**01993 881742**

**Churchwarden:** Position Vacant

**Weddings: Revd Dr Steve Stewart 01993 881270** [rector@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@hfchurch.org.uk) and  
[administrator@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/5863)

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

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

**Bible Fun Club**

**Details of further events will be on our website [www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk](http://www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk)**

To join our email list for news about these upcoming events please send your details to [administrator@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto:administrator@hfchurch.org.uk)

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



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## **LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD DR STEVE STEWART**

### **The night Tolkien helped convert C.S. Lewis in Addison's Walk at Magdalen College, Oxford...**

Looking this week at a set of C S Lewis's works in my bookcase I realised that it was just over forty years ago that I read all these books - not the Narnia stories, but Lewis's reflections on theology. These included Mere Christianity, The Problem of Pain, Surprised by Joy, and Fern-Seed and Elephants. All excellent works, with the foundational in shaping my conviction that the Bible was a faithful account of God's activity on earth in the person of Jesus Christ. It reminded me of some of the key steps in Lewis himself becoming a Christian.



Being one of the 20th century's most beloved Christian writers, many are surprised to learn that Lewis was once an atheist. His journey to faith came gradually, but a key turning point was a conversation he had with his close friend, J.R.R. Tolkien, the author of The Lord of the Rings. What convinced Lewis was not a theological argument, but a discussion about myths and fairy tales.

Tolkien believed that myths weren't lies, but reflections of deep, eternal truths. For him, stories of sacrifice, resurrection, and good triumphing over evil appeared in every culture because they echoed the one true story—the Gospel. He called Christianity the “true myth”: the myth that entered history and became fact in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



On the evening of 19 September 1931, Lewis, Tolkien, and another friend, Hugo Dyson, strode together through Addison's Walk in Magdalen College, Oxford. By 1931, Lewis had come to believe in some vague idea about "God". He had also long loved mythology and fairy stories, and thought Christianity was just one more made-up tale. Tolkien gently challenged him: what if the story of Christ wasn't just another myth, but the myth that really happened?

Continued...

### **HANBOROUGH FORGET-ME-NOTS**



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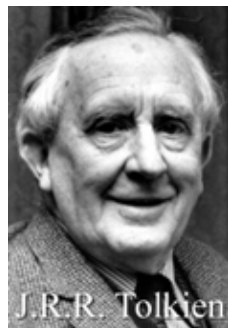


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Continued...

This conversation left a deep impression. A few days later, Lewis wrote that he had moved from believing in God to believing in Christ. Shortly after that, while riding to Whipsnade Zoo in a motorbike sidecar, he realised he now fully believed in Jesus as the Son of God.

Tolkiens's insights into fairy tales did not just help Lewis become a Christian - they helped shape the way ~Lewis would later write The Chronicles of Narnia, bringing deep Christian truths to life through story. As Tolkien once said, "We tell stories because God is a storyteller." And in Jesus, we find the greatest story of all - true myth becomes flesh.



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](http://hfchurch.org.uk)) or contact me for a chat at [rector@hfchurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@hfchurch.org.uk)

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## **SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

**10.00am Communion Whole Benefice at  
St Peter & St Paul**

Leader:

Preacher:

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.00am Communion**

Leader:

Preacher:

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.00am Communion**

Leader:

Preacher:

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**10.00am Communion**

Leader:

Preacher:

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.00am Morning Praise**

Leader:

Preacher:

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

**10.00am Communion**

Leader:

Preacher:

## **THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE**

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September & 24<sup>th</sup> October

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October

Details of other Farmers' Markets at [www.tvfm.org.uk](http://www.tvfm.org.uk) 01235 227266





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## **SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<b>10.00am Communion, Whole Benefice at St Peter and St Paul</b>
Leader:		Preacher:
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader:	TBC	Preacher: TBC
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader:		Preacher:
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sept</b>	<b>10.00am Communion</b>
Leader:		Preacher:
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise</b>
Leader:		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Praise Joint with St Mary's at Christ Church</b>
Leader:		Preacher:

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## **ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT**

The bells will be rung at the following times:

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 5.15pm - 5.45pm** Visiting band from Cheshire

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 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.

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## **HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH**

Contact Gill Brakespear **Tel: 01993 883914 Email: [gillbrakespear@btinternet.com](mailto:gillbrakespear@btinternet.com)**.

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Mr Richard Bowler
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Noo Noo Moyo
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Revd Sue Jacobs - HC - Harvest Festival
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Local Arrangement
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Mrs Penny Fowler

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](http://www.hfchurch.org.uk)**



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**Website: [www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk](http://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.

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## **FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL**

**Website Details** <https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk>

The next meeting will be on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025** at **7.30pm in the Newell Room**. The October meeting will take place on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October**.

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](mailto:Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

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## **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](mailto:suerous47@gmail.com)**

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

West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT) are pleased to announce that from September 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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

### **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**

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

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## **FREELAND GARDENING CLUB**

At the meeting on 28th July Bill Darbon, who lives in Freeland, came to talk about Cacti and Succulents. He has been interested in them for at least 50 years and is Chairman of the local Society. He brought many plants to show us, some of which were for sale. He informed us of the conditions needed to grow these plants successfully. All need natural light but not direct sunlight. Soil used should be free draining, adding grit or perlite and peat free. He waters his plants sparingly twice a week with rain water, from April to September. He repots most of them every 2 years into the next size pot. He answered many questions and if anyone is interested in knowing more he would be willing to help. His address can be given by any Gardening Club Committee member though he is well known by many people already. Another excellent speaker and very good evening's information. We were glad to welcome some new members who have recently moved into the village.

The next meeting on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.30pm in Freeland Hall** will be a talk by Neil Clennell on different approaches to habit creation and repair in Wychwood Forest

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm in Freeland Hall we had our annual Social. Once again, because it is always popular, the Committee organised a Cheese and Wine Party and we completed one of June Counsell's popular quizzes.

On **Saturday 22nd November** the Club is organising a Village Fair in Freeland Hall. Other organisations can book a table and present information about their activities. It is an opportunity for people to get to know the many activities to enjoy in Freeland.

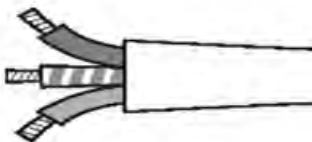
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Our u3a branch is centred in Woodstock and attracts and welcomes members from the surrounding area including Freeland. Are you recently retired or longer retired and looking for local social activity around an interest that you already have – or maybe would like to try something new. The u3a can offer much and our website gives full information. [www.woodstocku3a.uk](http://www.woodstocku3a.uk). Monthly members' speaker meetings are held at St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock 1.45 for 2pm speaker.

Last month we enjoyed the Summer Open Event – a time to see what interest groups are up to and we were entertained by an original staging from the play-reading group (who meet monthly in Kidlington on a Friday) and also a rendition by the recorder group (meeting weekly on Tuesdays in Long Hanborough).

Our next speaker meeting is on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September** at St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock – when we have local historian Liz Woolley talking on Beer, Sausages and Marmalade. Our meeting, on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** is Indians at Oxford with Stephen Barker – what may that mean – do come along to find out. Visitors £3 to include tea and biscuits.



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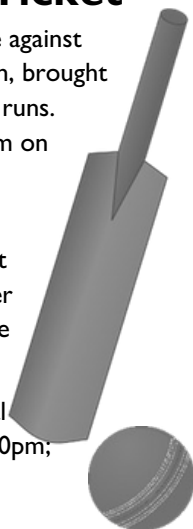
# Freeland Women's Softball Cricket

We've had a busy few weeks! First up was a mid week friendly game against Combe, who, although they have only just started playing this season, brought along eighteen players! We played an 18 over game, starting on 200 runs. Batting first, Combe made 311, but we took 10 wickets, leaving them on a net score of 261. In our betting innings we only lost 2 wickets and finished up winners with 356.

Also we have been to two fantastically organised softball festivals. At Chinnor CC, we played four games, winning one and losing the other three. At the second one, at Broughton & North Newington CC, we played well against strong opposition but lost all five games.

Coming up, we have a friendly game away at Witney Mills, and a final intra-team end of season game on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August. It starts at 6.30pm; please feel free to come, watch and support.

Contact [clairesoanes@hotmail.com](mailto:clairesoanes@hotmail.com) or 07854 702560



\*\*\*\*\*



## **UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS**

The ramblers are taking a well earned rest in August, but will be back in September, no doubt with renewed vigour! More information next month.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **RICHARD HOLBOROW**

Richard Holborow, formerly of Freeland sadly died on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025, two days after his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday in Casino, NSW, Australia.

Richard lived in Freeland between 1950-1989 before moving to live with his family in Australia. An active member of St Mary's Church, he served on the PCC for many years as well as being a Church Warden. May he rest in peace.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ENJOY NORTH LEIGH ROMAN VILLA: 2025 OPEN WEEKENDS**

The Mosaic House will be open 11am to 5pm on the weekend **Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st September.**

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

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# **FREELAND COMMUNITY BUS TIMETABLE**

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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 ----- **12.30 pm**  
 Waitrose car park, Witney----- **12.40 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](mailto:alaa.alyousuf@gmail.com)**

**MORE DRIVERS AND HELPERS WANTED!**



The Ride and Stride for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust will take place on **Saturday 13th September 2025**. All the churches in the benefice have received grants in the past from the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. If you enjoy walking, cycling or meeting people and want to raise money for the church and for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, please note this year's event in your diary and begin thinking about taking part, visiting churches, welcoming visitors or sponsoring StRiders.

You may ride or stride on a different day but not all churches may be open. For further information ask me or go to [www.ohct.org.uk](http://www.ohct.org.uk) and click on Ride & Stride.

**John Fox 01993 881384**

**FREELAND ENERGY GROUP (FEG)**

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

**[www.lowcarbonhub.org/p/programmes/a-house-like-mine/](http://www.lowcarbonhub.org/p/programmes/a-house-like-mine/)**

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

Please provide your name and contact details:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Your reply will help us audit village progress against the CAPZero targets and help inspire others to be involved. All replies will be entered into the PRIZE DRAW at the Yeoman on **4<sup>th</sup> October 2025**. Prizes include £50 voucher towards meal at the Oxfordshire Yeoman.

Send your reply by **30<sup>th</sup> September 2025** by email to **freelandenergygroup@outlook.com**, or return this form to **15 Blenheim Lane, Freeland**, to be entered to the Prize Draw on **4<sup>th</sup> October**. FEG will only use your details for this project and to reply to you. We will keep your details safe and secure. We will not share personal details.

Thank you.

### **Oxford Open Doors - Energy saving homes open their doors**

**13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Wondering where to start to make your home warmer in winter, cooler in summer, and to save on energy bills? Visit an Energy Saving Home during Oxford Open Doors on **13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2025**, to find out how Oxford residents have approached this challenge.

**<https://oxford.greenopenhomes.net/energy-saving-homes-during-oxford-open-doors-2025-312>**

Find out more about CAPZero  
**[www.lowcarbonhub.org/cap-zero](http://www.lowcarbonhub.org/cap-zero)**  
and sign up for the newsletter.





# 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.



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tel: 01993 881258 | email: [manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk](mailto:manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk)

## **NET ZERO CARBON STANDARD FOR SALT CROSS GARDEN VILLAGE**

A major milestone has been reached by the West Oxfordshire District Council team on the path to delivering one of the most forward-thinking, sustainable new communities in the country. The Council's Net Zero policy for Salt Cross Garden Village received the green light from the Planning Inspector. The policy, which aims to ensure that all buildings at Salt Cross are Net Zero carbon in operation, has been found to comply with national policy and to be 'sound' in other respects, subject to several modifications. It marks a significant achievement for the Council and places Salt Cross among the UK's leading developments in sustainable placemaking.

The Council resubmitted the Net Zero policy for re-examination earlier this year; the proposals were supported by strong evidence demonstrating that Net Zero carbon homes and buildings are both financially viable for developers, but also essential in the face of the climate and ecological emergencies.

This is a landmark decision that puts West Oxfordshire at the forefront of climate-conscious development and should provide real confidence to other local authorities across the country that, with a strong evidence base, it is possible to adopt Net Zero policies that are both deliverable and legally robust.

The modifications will enhance clarity, remove duplication, and reflect evolving technical standards, making the policy more practical to implement across a large, phased development. Once modifications are agreed, the amended policy will be published for a six-week public consultation, paving the way for the Council to formally adopt the full Salt Cross Area Action Plan.

Dr Lidia Arciszewska

District Councillor for Hanborough and Freeland; Executive Member for Environment

## **FREELAND WINE CLUB**

Our recent meeting was enjoyed by forty two people with one sparkling and six still wines from Romania being presented by Andrew Walker of Solaris Wines. These were accompanied by matching food and a wine raffle to complete the experience.

The next meeting at **Freeland Village Hall on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15 for 7.30pm** will be hosted by Toby Chiles dip WSET.

This will be a welcome return for this popular presenter and will cover wines from New Zealand other than Sauvignon Blanc, accompanied by matching nibbles.

As always the evening will include our popular wine raffle, so book your place as a member or guest on the link **[freelandwineclub@gmail.com](mailto:freelandwineclub@gmail.com)**  
Members £10, Guest £14 (Membership £10)

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## **FREELAND GARDENING CLUB**

Freeland Gardening Club Invite you to a

**Village Fayre**

**22nd November 2025**

10 am till 12.30pm Freeland Village Hall.

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

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

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



**Please come  
and join us!**

**Free entry**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY**

Our History Society has a new programme ready for the coming season, and we look forward to welcoming you to our meetings. We have our usual wide range of topics, **starting on Tuesday 2nd September when Marie-Louise Kerr will be talking about The Romans of Oxfordshire. 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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**Freeland Methodist Chapel Update:** There is no further news on the outcome of the bid submitted on the 11<sup>th</sup> July at the time of going to print. However, we are hopeful that a decision will be made soon.

**FCBS**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS**

Both of the Little Free Libraries continue to thrive in our village, with lots of books donated and taken regularly. This means that new books are hitting the shelves all the time, so you will never know what you will find!

Thank you for embracing the new Little Free Library: we've received lots of positive feedback about it, which is great. There's so much more space and a larger capacity, so it's a big improvement. As you will have seen, the lowest shelf is for children's books, including some picture books, the middle shelf is mostly adult fiction, and the top shelf is for everything else. For a wider selection of bigger children's picture books, please visit the other Little Free Library in front of the village hall.

If you have any books to donate, please either add them to the shelves if there is space, or leave them in the boxes behind the bus shelter in front of the village hall. We regularly sort the books out and keep the shelves well stocked and tidy.

Thank you as ever to our hardworking team of volunteers who do an outstanding job of looking after the Little Free Library.

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

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



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## **North Leigh Memorial Hall Film Night**

### **“The Penguin Lessons”**

Starring Steve Coogan & Jonathan Pryce

From the director of The Full Monty

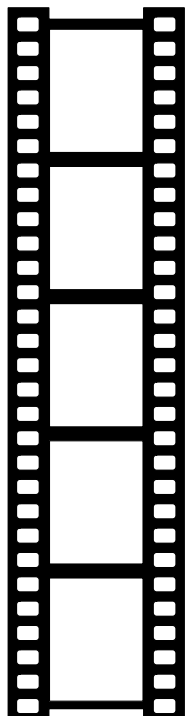
Date: **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Time: Doors open 7pm, Film showing 7:30pm

Refreshments available. Entry: £5 (cash or card)

Join us for a warm, witty tale based on a true story about a school, a teacher, and one extraordinary penguin!

Future film nights will be on **18<sup>th</sup> October** and **22<sup>nd</sup> November**



## LAND OF THE FREE

by Otilie Burrough-Bain Aged 8 years

In Freeland's long road, enormous trees stand,  
Like brave Hercules who guards the land.  
And Bluebell woods like a violet sea,  
Jackdaws chatter wild and free.

The Green lies dewed in morning mist,  
The wind in the willows gently hissed.  
Newts and frogs migrate to the pond  
While busy squirrels hop beyond.

Muntjac deer run through terrific trees,  
Through leafy dens where young ones sleep.  
Adders slither through the grass,  
But you have to be quick, they're very fast.

There's old John Fox and Burt on his walk  
And every morning we smile and talk.  
The Little Library, a welcome stop  
To take books back and swap.

The playing field, a soggy sight,  
But full of laughter and delight.  
I'm upside down on the climbing frame  
Full of joy, playing a game.

Freeland is full of wonderful woods  
It overweighs the neighbourhood  
And there's the market, a superb sight  
Pies, pastries and pickles delight

At school drop off, a winding queue,  
of feet and cars and pupils too  
This is our community  
full of fun and possibility.

Owls call out in their haunting tune,  
Bats dance beneath the silver moon.  
And when the sky turns darkest blue,  
Five billion stars will shine bright for you.

So here's to Freeland, land of the free  
Known as 'home' to you and me  
Under every tree and down every lane,  
Our childhood memories, will remain.



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## **FREELAND WI**



For our July meeting, the village hall resembled a traditional tea room with tables laid with cloths, china and trays of homemade scones with cream and jam in appreciation of our guest speaker Shaun Todd with his talk 'The History and Etiquette of Afternoon Tea'. The talk began with the origins of tea drinking in England, from the simple cup of sweetened green tea during the reign of Charles II to the more lavish tea we enjoy today, made popular by the Victorians, and the differences between how the middle classes and Royalty take afternoon tea. Shaun explained the finer details of hosting afternoon tea from the correct napkin size and how to use it, the hostess should always pour the tea for her guests, the question of 'milk first' and the age old argument of jam or cream first on a scone. Shaun's talk was captivating, informative, with much humour and, like the scones that followed, a real treat.

On a lovely, warm August evening, 22 of our ladies joined some of the experienced members of Eynsham Croquet Club at their ground for guidance in how to play this traditional game. Once we had grasped the basics of how to hit the ball with the mallet, we played a short game of 2 v 2. The idea being to get your ball through the small hoops in a set order. Tactics aside, it was a sociable game as we embraced each other's hitting attempts, some on course whilst others went a little off piste! Our thanks to the members of Eynsham Croquet Club for a warm welcome and patient coaching, we thoroughly enjoyed the experience and maybe a few of our ladies will consider joining the club.

Our next meeting on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September**, we will be meeting at 6pm at Freeland Garden Centre to plant up winter bulbs followed by a warming soup supper in the village hall. If you would like to attend this event, please can you kindly let our secretary know in advance, contact details below. Thank you.

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

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 **freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk**.

Anne Marvin  
Freeland WI

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**Breast Cancer Now**  
**[www.breastcancernow.org](http://www.breastcancernow.org)**

## **FREELAND CRAFT CLUB**

These were some of the decoupage and Formaline cards we made, as promised, but we didn't get round to producing the flexihexagons - postponed to another time.

We always give a warm welcome to new members, and encourage them to share their experiences, learn new skills or just enjoy a chat, so come along and join us. We meet in the **Newell Room** at the back of the Freeland Village Hall every **Wednesday from 2:00pm – 4:00pm** . There is usually a subscription of **£1** per meeting to cover hire costs.

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

Margaret



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



The Brownies and Rainbows are working on their Reflect stage 2 badge and also the compendium of games challenge badge and we are planning a district day at Jubilee House. More information to follow next month. If you need to get in touch, either to offer help or for your daughter to join, please contact **elanddistrictguiding@btinternet.com**.

# befsa

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
SEPTEMBER**

**Please come and join us to celebrate  
an incredible 20 years of BEFSA!**

**We're bringing together our friends, partners,  
schools, supporters, and volunteers to  
commemorate all we've achieved together.**

**Sunday 21 September  
From 11:30 til 3.00**

**The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock**

**Enjoy a glass of sparkling wine, a traditional South  
African braai lunch, plus live music from the Oxford  
Gospel Choir and OCC Music Service Children's  
Choir and a silent auction.**

**Tickets available, £20 each  
[cafdonate.cafonline.org/28864](http://cafdonate.cafonline.org/28864)**



## 1<sup>st</sup> HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

As it's summer, the Scouts have been on a break, enjoying time with family and friends. Now that September is here, everyone is eager to get going again and start a term packed with great activities!



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 at **[mikejoyner48@gmail.com](mailto:mikejoyner48@gmail.com)** to get involved.

We are also still seeking a volunteer to help look after our Scouts minibus. This role would suit a retired mechanic, someone with vehicle maintenance skills, or anyone who enjoys keeping things running smoothly. The minibus is a vital resource for our young people, enabling them to take part in trips, camps, and activities they might otherwise miss. It also helps many members of the wider community to join in activities and stay connected. Responsibilities for the role include carrying out regular checks, organising MOTs, and helping with bookings. Mike will provide a full handover and guidance. If you could help, please email **[mikejoyner48@gmail.com](mailto:mikejoyner48@gmail.com)**.

As I take over writing these monthly updates, I wanted to share a little about my own experiences with the Scouts. Volunteering with the group has been incredibly rewarding, it's given me the chance to help young people in the community and meet fantastic people. Growing up, I was in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, and being part of Scouting was a hugely positive experience for me. It gave me the opportunity to take part in amazing activities and trips, make great friends, and learn valuable life skills. I have recently been helping at the Beavers troop, and we've been doing some fantastic things! We recently went on a summer camp which, for many of the Beavers, it was their first night away from home, a huge milestone for them. I would encourage anyone who has the time to consider a volunteering role within the troop.

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

Hugo Pottinger (Publicity Rep)

**WORRIED ABOUT COSTS?**

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*



# CRAFTS & SKILLS

at Combe Mill

Sunday 21 September

10.30 - 4.30 hrs

**Recommended last entry time is 3.30pm**

Oxford Guild of Spinners Weavers & Dyers

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Treadle sewing machine

**Charlbury Morris dancers in afternoon**

**Swindon Classic Car Club in attendance**

## **OXFORD BUS AND MORRIS MOTORS MUSEUM**

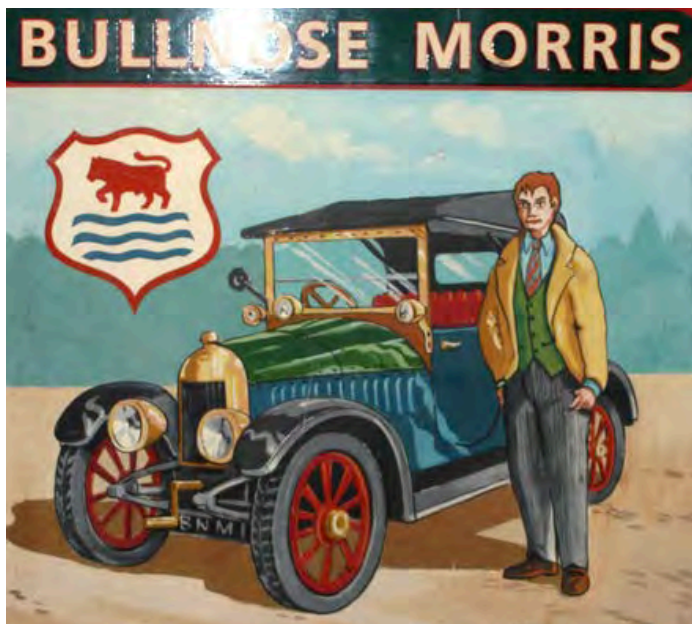
As part of the Oxford Open Doors festival organised by the Oxford Preservation Trust, we shall be giving free bus rides round the City of Oxford on **Saturday 13th**

**September**. We shall be based in Bonn Square and running regular buses from **10.30am until 3.30pm**. Most people board our buses at either Bonn Square or next to Nuffield College, but the buses will pick up at other points around the city. Details are on our website.

Our Bullnose Morris was one of 54,151 cars built by William Morris in 1925. It was Morris's golden year as this was 41% of the total British private motor car production. Only seven years earlier his production had been only 387 cars— 99% less. Morris had been reducing his prices each year in the early 1920s. For 1925 the price of the Morris Cowley fell by £30 to £195, and the two-seater fell by £23 to £175 despite introducing balloon tyres as standard and other upgrades.

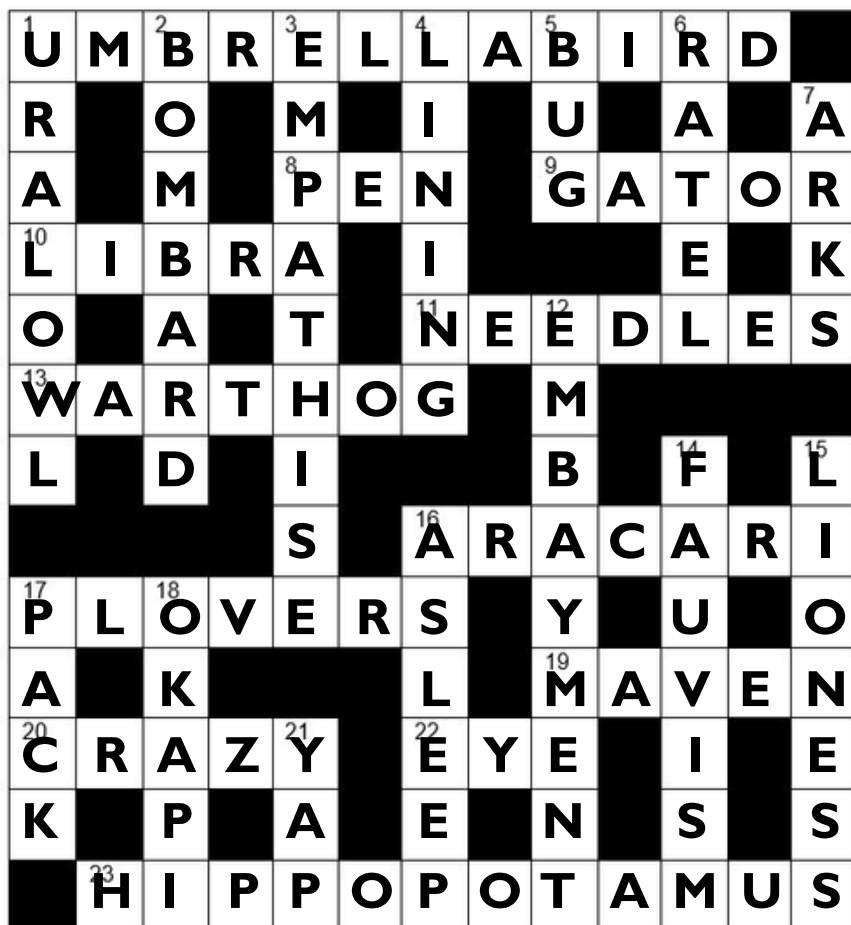
The British economy stuttered in 1926 and sales were well down on 1925 with only 32,183 being despatched. By now the car design could be traced back to 1913 and looked old-fashioned. The company needed to modernise its cars, so the Bullnose radiator was discarded.

Our museums house lots of oddities. One is the pictured pub sign from 'The Bullnose Morris' when it was operated by the Oxford brewers, Morrells. The pub was opened in 1969 by Morrells in Watlington Road, Blackbird Leys, and had a good trade when Oxford United was playing at home. It was affectionately known as 'The Bully'. The pub passed indirectly to Greene King when the Morrell family sold the Lion Brewery in St Thomas Street in central Oxford but was closed permanently in October 2020 as a direct result of Covid.



## **SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO. 2 FROM AUGUST'S ISSUE**

Mr Nati, the crossword creator, is taking a break this month but he will return.



## **ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE GRAPEVINE**

These are available in the St Mary the Virgin Church Porch, which is open 9am to 5pm/dusk seven days a week. You can also pick up copies at the Oxfordshire Yeoman during their regular hours of Mondays & Tuesdays 5pm - 10.30pm; Weds & Thurs Noon - 3pm & 5pm - 11.00pm; Fridays 9.30am - 11.30pm; Saturdays Noon - 11.30pm; and Sundays Noon - 10.30pm. In the Long Hanborough Co-op the copies are now underneath the newspaper stand. They are also in the Hanborough Coffee Shop on the window ledge, in the Long Hanborough Surgery waiting room, the Suzuki Garage, Freeland House and The Lodge.

## **SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS**

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### **THE CAKE CAFÉ, FREELAND**

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

### **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.**

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- |             |                |   |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| Tues        | 2 Sept         | The Cake Café, Village Hall, <b>9am - 11.30am</b>   |
| Tues        | 2 Sept         | North Leigh History Society, Memorial Hall, OX29 6SA, <b>7 for 7.30pm</b>                                       |
| <b>Weds</b> | <b>3 Sept</b>  | <b>Green Week:</b> recycling + food waste + garden waste collection   |
| Thurs       | 4 Sept         | U3a Meeting <b>2pm</b> St Hugh's Hensington Rd, Woodstock, Beer, Sausage & Marmalade, part of history of Oxford |
| Fri         | 5 Sept         | Afternoon Tea in aid of <b>Breast Cancer Now 3-6pm</b> 12 Blenheim Lane   |
| Mon         | 8 Sept         | Freeland Parish Council Meeting <b>7.30pm</b> Newell Room   |
| Mon         | 8 Sept         | Freeland WI meeting <b>at Freeland Nurseries 6pm</b> to plant bulbs   |
| <b>Wed</b>  | <b>10 Sept</b> | <b>Grey Week:</b> household rubbish + food waste collection   |
| <b>Fri</b>  | <b>12 Sept</b> | <b>Copy Deadline for Freeland Grapevine</b>   |
| Sat         | 13 Sept        | Morris Museum free bus rides around Oxford City Centre  |
| Sat         | 13 Sept        | Oxfordshire Ride & Stride   |
| <b>Wed</b>  | <b>17 Sept</b> | <b>Green Week:</b> recycling + food waste + garden waste collection   |
| Sat         | 20 Sept        | North Leigh Film Night, The Penguin Lessons <b>7pm for 7.30pm</b>   |
| Sun         | 21 Sept        | Combe Mill Crafts and Skills Day <b>10.30-4.30pm</b>  |
| Sun         | 21 Sept        | BEFSA Celebration <b>11.30-3.00pm</b> Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock   |
| Sat & Sun   | 20 Sept)       | North Leigh Roman Villa Open weekend <b>11.00 - 5.00pm</b>  |
| <b>Wed</b>  | <b>24 Sept</b> | <b>Grey Week:</b> household rubbish + food waste collection   |
| Fri         | 26 Sept        | Freeland Wine Club <b>7.15 for 7.30pm Freeland Hall</b>   |
| Tue         | 30 Sept        | Deadline for Freeland Energy Group survey/prize draw  |
| <b>Wed</b>  | <b>1 Oct</b>   | <b>Green Week:</b> recycling + food waste + garden waste collection   |
| <b>Wed</b>  | <b>8 Oct</b>   | <b>Grey Week:</b> household rubbish + food waste collection   |

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The deadline for articles or adverts for the October Grapevine is **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**. The October edition should be online at **<https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk>** and **[www.stmarysfreeland.org.uk](http://www.stmarysfreeland.org.uk)** from about **Tuesday 23rd September** with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from **Friday 26th September**.

We welcome handwritten or typed articles and adverts. However, if at all possible, please send by email, formatted to fit an A5 magazine-it will certainly help to reduce the number of our mistakes! The font we use is **Gill Sans MT** at 10 point. If submitting electronically please use Word, **not PDFs**. Photographs should be JPGs or PNGs, again **not PDFs**. The cost of a Small Advertisement **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](mailto:grapevineadverts@gmail.com)

**Articles:** [freelandgrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:freelandgrapevine@gmail.com)

Or phone: **01993 880623 (Jane Duff)**

**Note:** Please put your name and telephone number on any submission in case we need to contact you. These will only be printed if requested by you.

*The editor reserves the right to edit all copy.*

*Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, liability cannot be accepted for any errors or omissions in compiling this magazine.*

*Neither the Church, the Editor nor the Printer assume responsibility for any effects arising therefrom.*

*The presence of an advertisement in the Grapevine does not constitute a recommendation by the editors regarding the goods or services advertised.*

*We are not able to publish any correspondence between tradespersons or other organisations placing adverts in the Grapevine and their customers in the event of dispute*

*We do not endorse any articles, reports or suggestions in the Grapevine.*

**BOYD'S PIZZA NIGHT**  
Every Tuesday night 5.30-8.30pm  
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**Kitchen hours**  
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