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August 2026

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SERVICES AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Sunday 26th July	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion
Sunday 2nd August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at Christ Church
Sunday 9th August	10.00am NO SERVICE. All welcome at St Peter &
Sunday 16th August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion
Sunday 23rd August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Peter & St Paul
Sunday 30th August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion
Sunday 6th September	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at Christ Church

The above information is correct on the date published (**25th August 2026**). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website below.

St Mary the Virgin is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm/dusk. Please enjoy the space to look around, for prayer or for quiet reflection. See our website at www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk or the Benefice website www.hfchurch.org.uk

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCHYARD

The Churchyard is now closed for burials unless previously reserved by faculty. A faculty indicates a space that has already been reserved under the Church of England rules.

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

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

St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council



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Useful contact details

Rector: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
01993 881270

The Rectory, Swan Lane
Long Hanborough OX29 8BT
Email: rector@hfchurch.org.uk

Curate: Position Vacant

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

Licensed Lay Minister:

Hugh Dalton *Emeritus*: **01993 881742**

Flowers in the Church:

Janet Dalton 01993 881742

Churchwarden: John Hayward

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 Jenny Wylie for the cover photograph.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Service of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage
Liana Rupwant Sandhu & Thomas Sebastiaan Nytendaal - 27th June 2026
Funeral and Burial Olive Margaret Slaughter - 6th July 2026

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

Contact Gill Brakespear **Tel: 01993 883914 Email: gillbreakspear@btinternet.com.**
All services are in the chapel. A warm welcome awaits you all.

Sunday 2nd Aug 10.30am At Davenport Road Methodist Church
Sunday 9th Aug 10am Local Arrangement
Sunday 16th Aug 10am Mr Peter Allen
Sunday 23rd Aug 10am Mr Karl Williams - Family Service
Sunday 30th Aug 10am Revd James Skinner

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNHAM

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

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

 First Steps	Baby and Toddler Group Wednesday (term time only), 10:00 - 11:30 Christ Church, Long Hanborough £2 per family
We welcome all under 5s and their parent/carer. Join us to meet others and enjoy free play and fun activities together. Each session finishes with refreshments, a Bible story and song time. For more information: hfchurch.org.uk/firststeps 	

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Sunday	26th July	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday	2nd August	10.00 am Whole Benefice Communion at Christ Church
Sunday	9th August	10.00am Communion
Sunday	16th August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday	23rd August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion
Sunday	30th August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday	6th September	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at Christ Church

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

Sunday	26th July	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday	2nd August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday	9th August	10.00am Morning Service
Sunday	16th August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday	23rd August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Peter & St Paul
Sunday	30th August	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at St Mary's
Sunday	6th September	10.00am Whole Benefice Communion at Christ Church

ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

Sunday 16th August 9.30am - 10am

Sunday 30th August 9.30am - 10am

Freeland band was very successful at the Witney and Woodstock Branch Striking Competition held at Eynsham on Saturday 13th June. Not only winning the Call Changes competition but followed by being victorious in the Method Contest. The latter results in Freeland going forward to represent our Branch in the Oxford Diocesan Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition to be held in October.

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.

COUNTRY FISH AND CHIPS

Mark Davidson of Country Fish & Chips would like to thank all his friends and customers in Freeland and the surrounding villages for their support over the past forty years. He has made the decision to retire following the fire in his van earlier this year. We wish him well in his retirement.

Jane Duff Editor

TABLE TENNIS

If you are retired and would like to join a group playing Table Tennis each week, please contact Nick and Sue Rous **01993 883944** or email: **suerous47@gmail.com**. Freeland Village Hall, Fridays 3.15-4.45pm



The Cake Café

8th September

9.00 - 11.30 am

Delicious homemade cakes, and a savoury or two!

FREELAND HALL Everyone welcome!

www.janescakestudio.co.uk / jane.cakestudio@gmail.com

LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD DR STEVE STEWART

Holiday, Holy Day, and Holy Rest

As the summer months arrive, many of us begin looking forward to a holiday. Whether we are travelling to the seaside, visiting family, exploring the countryside, or simply enjoying a quieter pace at home, a holiday offers a welcome break from the routines and pressures of everyday life. It gives us the opportunity to rest, to refresh ourselves, and to spend time with those we love.

It is worth remembering that the word holiday originally meant holy day. Before it became associated with annual leave, it referred to days set apart for God—times of worship, thanksgiving, and rejoicing. A holiday, in its deepest sense, is not simply about escaping work but about recovering what truly matters. It reminds us that life is more than endless activity and achievement.

This takes us to one of the great themes of the Bible: Sabbath rest. From the beginning of creation, God established a rhythm of work and rest. The Sabbath was His gift to humanity, inviting His people to stop, to trust Him, and to delight in His presence. Yet the New Testament points us to an even greater rest.

Jesus Christ invites all who are weary and burdened to come to Him, promising, "I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Through His death and resurrection, we no longer need to strive to earn God's favour. By faith in Christ we are forgiven, welcomed into God's family, and able to enjoy the deep peace that only He can give. I have known for over 40 years now the rest which Jesus Christ gives us, and I can testify that it is a beautiful thing.

As we enjoy the blessings of summer, perhaps our holidays can become something more than a change of scenery. They can be an opportunity to pause, to give thanks for God's goodness, to spend time in prayer and worship, and to rediscover the joy of His presence. Physical rest is a wonderful gift, but it also points us towards the greater rest that Christ alone can give.

May this summer be a season not only of relaxation but of renewal, as we remember that every true holiday finds its deepest meaning in the holy rest that God freely gives through His Son, Jesus Christ.

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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FREELAND SUPPER EVENING



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

- Cooking
- Serving
- Setting up and clearing up

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

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

Shelagh Kardos

OXFORDSHIRE STARS: UPCOMING DATES.

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

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

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

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE

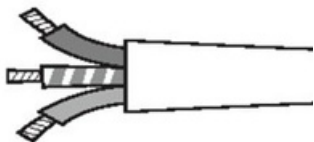
Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Friday 28th August & 25th Sept 2026

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Sat 1st & 15th August 2026

Details of other Farmers' Markets at:

www.tvfm.org.uk 01235 227266





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FREELAND COMMUNITY HUB

Fundraising

On Saturday 11th July we held a very successful Concert by the Voice Box choir (below) from Witney who performed a varied programme of popular songs, under their conductor Lesley Morris. A substantial amount of money was raised for the Hub funds. Thank you to everyone who took part or helped on the night to make such an enjoyable event. There will not be any events in August but our fundraising will resume in September. Meanwhile donations can be made via the website **www.freelandhub.org.uk**



NOTES FROM FREELAND COMMUNITY HUB'S FIRST AGM, HELD 8TH JUNE

The meeting opened with the Chair Tom Harden welcoming members to the first AGM of Freeland Community Hub community benefit society, an important milestone which provides members with the opportunity to review the Society's first year's activities, receive the statutory financial reports, and elect Directors in accordance with the Society's rules. The following were elected as Directors: Tom Harden (Chair), Amy Jackson, Mike Foster, Jane Duff, Olly Puddle, Max Galla and Philip Huxley (Secretary).

Maya Ellis of Studio 13 Architects presented the proposed renovation plans for the Chapel, explaining that the design aims to restore several of the Chapel's original architectural features, including reinstating the original main entrance and revealing the currently concealed vaulted ceiling to create a more open and attractive internal space. The proposed internal layout will provide seating for approx 36 customers, together with a servery, a food preparation area, an accessible toilet and second toilet incorporating baby-changing facilities. The aim is that some provisions will also be sold at the cafe. Externally, the plans include new landscaping, fencing, outdoor seating, cycle parking and a storage shed creating an attractive and welcoming environment for visitors. (More information about the planning application can be found on p15.)

The Chair thanked members, volunteers, donors, local businesses, grant-making organisations and public bodies whose support had enabled the Society to reach this significant milestone.

Cont. p15...

Tea with a Pony

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at RDA



Do you know someone that is living with dementia?

*Join us for
Tea with a Pony!*

Our ponies are ready to meet you in our sessions run Tuesdays and Fridays between 2 & 4pm!



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Tea with a Pony is a gentle, non-riding visit for people living with dementia — especially for those who once knew the comfort of a stable, the warmth of a pony's breath, or the simple joy of a soft nose in the palm of a hand.

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

Keen for a cuppa and a piece of cake?

Contact us at nyrda-teawithapony@googlegroups.com for more details and an application form.

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Cont. from p13: Planning application for the Chapel

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

At the time of going to press, the application has not yet appeared on the WODC planning portal with a reference number, but we will share this as soon as it does.

As the Chapel is Grade II listed, many aspects of the renovation need to be managed carefully - for example the preference is to repair windows rather than replace them. We are being expertly guided by our architect Maya Ellis and will keep you posted on developments.

More at Freeland Community Hub website - www.freelandhub.org.uk



FREELAND ENERGY GROUP (FEG)

Writing this note while sweltering in a heatwave, with the fellow here wrapped in woolly hat and scarf seems just so wrong. And yet? What is usually termed “Global Warming” is actually “Climate Chaos” and we should expect to experience more extreme weather, more frequently in the future. Being able to equip our homes to better deal with this, or at least trying to avoid adding to the issues, takes time and to be honest costs a lot of money. Then add in wading through the supplier claims, technical details and possible upheaval during installations – well where do you start?



There may be help on the way... If you are thinking of getting solar panels, a heat pump and/or a battery, a **group buying scheme is launching this autumn in the village**. This will offer potential financial savings on renewable systems and a clear, managed buying process, where quality of kit and installer is assured. Watch this space for more information coming soon or sign up for the CAPZero newsletter via www.lowcarbonhub.org/cap-zero. We expect to be able to host a Q&A on the scheme at our Sustainable Homes and Neighbourhoods family event in the Village Hall on **Saturday 10th October**.

Book the date into your calendar as this family afternoon event looks to include energy-saving information, active travel, children’s activities and short talks on topical subjects as well as displays of local creativity and - at the very least - a friendly place to pop in for an afternoon cup of tea. We will be very happy to hear from you if you want to help and/or have an idea for the afternoon. Also, 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. Get in touch with FEG: freelandenergygroup@outlook.com



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UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS

5/7/2026

Think "The Towering Inferno", "Journey to the Centre of the Earth", "Jumanji" (the Robin Williams one of course) or "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" and you won't be far wrong in envisaging this month's ramble. Eight people and Willow the dog made an astonishingly safe journey over stiles and gates where almost nobody has ever been before, similarly almost no one fell over and there certainly wasn't even a sniff of barbed wire being moved to limbo under when there seemed to be no other route of passage.



Wow, where do I start, ahh it looks like I already have, well done me, shall I continue, possibly not. A small ruckus erupted within the group when someone claimed the walk was sold as "all down hill" which in Latin translates as devexum (almost all down hill) aha, ha ha! And what did we see I hear you all ask, well there was a Gatekeeper (open), a Fungi (stop it), a Red Kite (ten a penny) and two badgers playing crib by the old sluice gates near Marble Moochurns farmhouse.

Our next ramble will be on **Sunday 2nd August at 10am** from the bus shelter opposite the Oxfordshire Yeoman, next to the Little Free Library. All are welcome. (Des Walker)

NEEDED! THURSDAY VOLUNTEER

We have one space in our team of weekday volunteers and are looking for the right person to join us working on a Thursday.

- Weekly 9-4pm (we're looking for a high level of continuity in this role)
- Role description & application form can be found at **<https://www.bridewellgardens.org/recovery-volunteer>** or you can also call us on 01993 259059
- Other requirements: we're very keen to broaden the social background of volunteers so there are varied life experiences in our team; we're particularly interested in people with horticultural skills to complement the existing Thursday team.



Please submit your application by Monday 17th August. We are very happy to answer any questions so do get in touch. We will need to informally interview as we expect to have a lot of interest for this role and unfortunately only have one space available in the team. Our volunteers play an absolutely crucial role in the team, we can't wait to find our new Thursday volunteer! Thank you so much for your interest.

With very best wishes, Ruth, Julie and the Bridewell Team

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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

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**

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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 GARDENING CLUB

We had a very interesting and informative talk by Marion Stainton entitled 'For the love of Blue Poppies. What have the Himalayas ever done for us'. She is an excellent speaker. The majority of her talk involved telling us all about the early plant hunters in the Himalayas who dug up plants remorselessly before regulations came in and plundered many areas. She also mentioned many plants like Rhododendrons which originated in Nepal. Unfortunately our planned trip to Wisley on 25th June had to be cancelled due to the extreme heat.

On **Monday 27th July at 7.30pm in Freeland Hall** the talk is by Robert Longstaff about 'The Oxford Garden Project', a not for profit social enterprise based on a 1.5 acre site in Longworth, which teaches skills needed to complete the cycle of food from plot to plate. There will be the usual Plant and Garden Items Sale as well as seeds and magazines. Refreshments at £1.50 for tea/coffee.

Our Social Evening is on **Monday 24th August** when we will enjoy Cheese and Wine and some form of entertainment. For further information about our friendly Club please contact me at **daltonjanet9@gmail.com**

Janet Dalton (Secretary)

FREELAND CRAFT GROUP



For the first time in over 20 years we had to abandon our Craft Club meeting because of the heatwave and humidity. Fortunately we are back to normal now and some members have been bringing back memories of yesterday when Barbie Dolls were the "must-have" toy. This one has been brought back to life with a new wardrobe of clothes for today's children to enjoy.

We meet in the Newell Room at the back of **Freeland Village Hall** every **Wednesday from 2-4pm**. There is a subscription of £1 per meeting to cover hire costs. It is a great chance to see what other people have made, to find some new patterns and along the way make some new acquaintances. 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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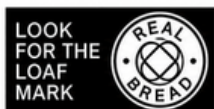
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4-7 years



7-10 years



10-14 years



14-18 years



The Brownies and Rainbows have had a busy month. They had a meeting at Blenheim adventure play and despite being one of the few rainy nights of the month, it was enjoyed by all the girls. As part of the skills for my future badge, they have been shopping around Sainsburys on a budget, looking for the best value items and learning how to pay for items, which were donated to Witney Food Bank. They have also had a horseshoe throwing and den building night at the former Fat Squirrels woodland at North Leigh. All the girls were awarded badges and several got their bronze, silver and gold awards.

The Guides and Rangers have been out and about hiking, doing a penny walk and playing games over the playing fields and in the woods.

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



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FREELAND WI

For our second open meeting of the year, we welcomed Jayne from Jayne Elizabeth Millinery. The evening was well attended with village residents and WI groups from within the local area. Jayne spoke of her love of design from a very early age, partly inspired by her grandmother, and after graduating from the London School of Fashion, specialised in millinery and worked for some of the major designers before setting up her own studio. After showing a selection of the fabrics and materials used in hat production, Jayne gave a demonstration of how a hat is made from blocking, construction and finishing. Every hat Jayne creates is meticulously hand stitched and can take from two days to a week complete and the finished items were exquisite, each one a work of art in its own right. Jayne talked us through the most popular design styles and how to wear them correctly and said that despite people saying "I don't suit hats", there really is a design for everyone. At the end of the demonstration Jayne graciously invited everyone to try on the selection of hats and fascinators she had brought along which was met with great enthusiasm. The evening was fun, informative and very glamorous.



During June we were also out and about with 15 members visiting the Mini plant at Cowley. We were welcomed at the visitor centre and whilst waiting for our guide, took time to walk around the 'mini museum' which contained the first production minis to present day including racing models, touring cars and different models used in film and TV including the Michael Caine film 'The Italian Job'. Our guide Sean led us through the first assembly line where the metal panels are welded together to create the car's framework. This area is fully automated and watching the robots working together was awe inspiring. Once each vehicle is painted it passes through a second assembly plant to receive the engine, dash board, seats, wiring, etc. This was an ever moving production line with a combination of robots and humans completing each stage and like the first plant, was a demonstration of detailed organisation and precision. A wonderful afternoon out and one to highly recommend.

On Monday 10th August Melanie King will be joining us with her talk 'Can Onions Cure Earache?', a look back to medicine in the 18th century. 7.45pm £5 payable on the door.

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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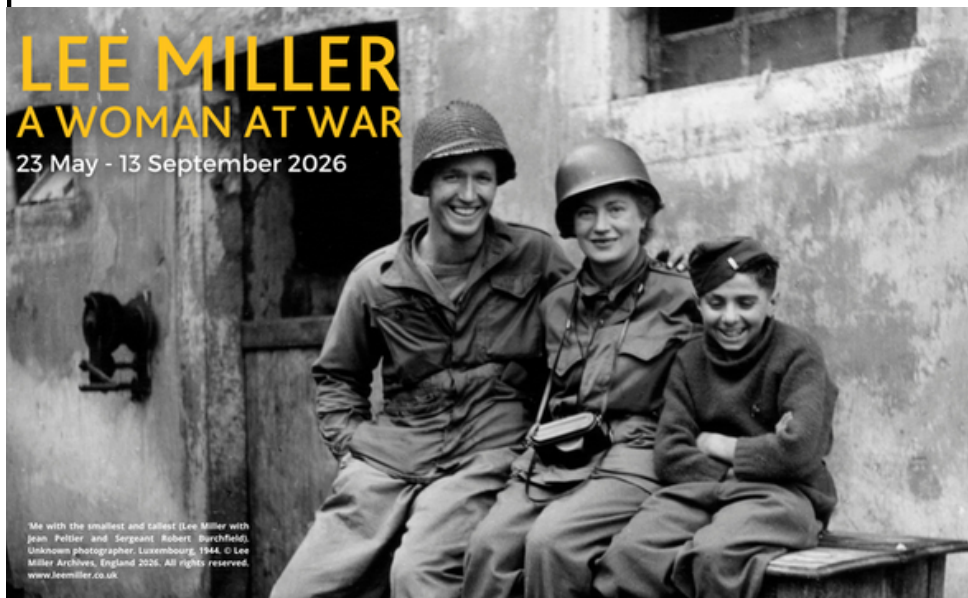
19th August: an evening with historian and author **Dr Kate Vigurs**, who will talk about the work of trailblazing women like Lee Miller, who covered the events of the Second World War as they happened.



**Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum**

3rd September: an evening with **Ami Bouhassane** granddaughter of Lee Miller and managing director Farleys House & Gallery where the Lee Miller archives are held.

Both events start at 7pm; ticket prices are £15 per person. Visit **www.sofo.org.uk** or call **01993 810210**. Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock OX20 1SN.



1ST HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

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)

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OXFORD BUS AND MORRIS MOTORS MUSEUM

On the late **August Bank Holiday weekend** we have a new event: Scalextric Displays. We shall be racing on several tracks and you are welcome to bring your own cars. The fun starts at 10am and finishes at 4pm on both **Sunday 30th and Bank Holiday Monday 31st August**. On **Saturday 12th September** we shall be giving free historic bus rides round Oxford as part of the annual Open Doors Day. We shall be based in Bonn Square from about 10.30am until 3.30pm.

Do not forget that in July and August, the museum is open on Saturdays as well as our normal Sundays and Wednesdays. The Oxford Bus Museum is always changing its displays. Earlier this summer we updated and expanded our Buses in Wartime exhibit, which covers both World Wars.

In the Second World War the demands of military personnel and evacuees, when added to the resident population, led to overcrowding on the buses. An airman at Upper Heyford was killed in a stampede to board a bus. The City Council made a new by-law to regulate queuing!

In other parts of the country there was reduced demand for bus services so local operators had surplus vehicles. The Oxford company had to hire what vehicles it could get. Pictured is a Yorkshire bus parked in Gloucester Green. It is non-standard (to Oxford) Leyland model with a central entrance - not a layout that the Oxford passengers were used to. Oxford also hired buses from London. STD 975 was on loan to City of Oxford from February 1942 right through to December 1946.

Imported fuel was in short supply in both World Wars. In the First, a balloon was fitted to the roof to hold town gas, fed to the engine by gravity. In the Second, a trailer burnt coal to generate a constant supply, but engine power was reduced by a third, so performance was poor and the buses could not be used on hilly routes.

If you have not visited the museum for a while, why not and see what has changed. There are plenty of stories to discover.

Frank Collingwood



Photo courtesy of
RHG Simpson



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Our speaker for July was about “Dogs for Good – Assistance Dogs”. This charity is based in Banbury and is a UK based charity training dogs to assist adults and children with physical and learning disabilities, children with autism and adults with dementia.

Carol Shearman demonstrated through various videos how the charity brings people and dogs together to make life possible. The assistance dogs are trained to provide both practical and emotional support, helping people to access the world around them and live fuller and more independent lives, each partnership is carefully matched and supported to ensure that both the person and dog thrive together. We were fortunate enough to have a visit from a 14 month golden retriever who is currently in training. He was extremely well behaved and not fazed by the number of people in the room.

The Walking Group met at the Old Shed near Enstone, where we had a beautiful walk along a woodland trail. There were gorgeous view of the surrounding countryside and welcome shade under the canopy of trees. After the walk we enjoyed delicious homemade cakes and tea in the café.

The Historic Churches Group visited St Andrew's Church in Oddington near Isip in June. St Andrew dates back to the 10th century when a Cistercian Monastery was founded in Oddington. There are many historical features in the church, a medieval bell frame, bells dating back to 1600's and a Preaching Cross in the churchyard.

There is a unique connection with the Māori community through Makereti Papakura, who was a Māori Princess and lived in the village. She is buried in the churchyard. In 2025 the University of Oxford awarded a posthumous degree to Makereti Papakura. This was in relation to her studies of the Māori customs, which she completed in 1930, but as she died suddenly the same year, she did not receive her degree.

The stained-glass window in the Lady Chapel was installed in 2025 and is the work of Jude Tarrant. The theme is The Creation, depicted by the wildlife of Otmoor.

On Thursday 6th August we have our Annual Social. This is an opportunity for our groups to put together exhibitions showing what they have been up to in the past 12 months. The Art Group display their excellent work, the Recorder Group will play, and we will hear a short play read by the Play Reading Group. Tea and cake will be provided.

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

CLUES FOR CROSSWORD #13 AUGUST 2026 BY MR NATI

ACROSS

1. Fidget Ann trys Spain out for a change. (4,2,4,5)
9. Oscar and Charlie tango, love first prancing, uniform steps initially reminiscent of octopod. (7)
10. Heavyweight Clay of calcium and drained soils, one of America? (7)
11. Public house's odourless boards display vitals. (7)
13. Country-man returns after very important alien. (7)
15. Hiker Bruce Flynn confused for Samuel Langhorne Clemens' chap. (11,4)
20. Awkward Earnest's hoping for virgin birth. (15)
26. Pacifist lost holy man, then found Charlie in water body. (7)
29. Ancient, broken CIA car is hard inside. (7)
30. Very tailless, heartless mount is a two and eight. (7)
31. We? He? Fabricated fib about biker's performance? (7)
32. Tummy bug caused by Posh eatery that entertains without stains? It is. (15)

DOWN

1. Scrap half of ABBA and pointless polish. (7)
2. Huge boat. (7)
3. Endanger mints I hear. (7)
4. Employes have no pommel, agree? (3)
5. United Nations firm with very English right to reveal. (7)
6. Post office on ship provides Ecstasy to group summoned by sheriff. (5)
7. Hungary nun holds breath in Scotland. (5)
8. Help us find Chrysosplenium. (3)
12. Cry over elements of isobutane. (3)
14. Blokes' mentee lost driving place. (3)
16. Equipment found in kitchens. (3)
17. First woman is centre of achievement. (3)
18. Cinque port sounds like grass, perhaps. (3)
19. Enemy oddly frozen. (3)
20. Seed inside soursop I picked. (3)
21. Kiss amorously and bind with cravat. (7)
22. Goalie does not lie in this place. (3)
23. Catastrophic explosion on core family. (7)
24. Heard Rhett's O'Hara sees red. (7)
25. Suck less mass into buried waste has a favourable outcome. (7)
27. Chair's desk regularly used for bridge. (5)
28. Ground grain for flu or alternative. (5)
30. Smallish cavity was void under ground initially. (3)
31. Oddly, wheat is very damp. (3)

CROSSWORD #13 AUGUST 2026 BY MR NATI

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9								10						
11						12		13						14
15			16		17				18		19			
20						21		22		23		24		25
26		27		28				29						
30								31						
32														

ANSWERS TO JULY CROSSWORD #12

ACROSS

1. TIGHTS, 5. DAZZLE, 8. HYDROCARBON, 10. TEE, 11. ANT, 12. EMBRACE, 16. HYRAX, 17. MONEY, 18. PLATEAU, 19. SABLE, 20. LOFTY, 21. NIAGARA, 22. STOIC, 23. (5) TESLA, 25. EXTREME, 29. APE, 30. ILL, 31. NEANDERTHAL, 34. SOLEMN, 35. HIPPIE

DOWN

1. THATCH, 2. HAY, 3. STRUM, 4. VICAR, 5. DORIC, 6. ZOO, 7. EARTHY, 8. HEARTBROCKEN, 9. NANNOFOSSIL, 12. EXPENCE, 13. BLATANT, 14. AVERAGE, 15. EMULATE, 22. STAVES, 24. ALLUDE, 26. XENON, 27. REEVE, 28. MATCH, 32. EYE, 33. ASP

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.

FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

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Simon Brown, Chair **freelandu11@gmail.com**

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LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

As ever, we would like to thank everyone that has been using the Little Free Library: it really is amazing just how many books come and go each week. We are running very low on children's picture books, so please do consider donating some to the Little Free Library if you have any at home that you no longer want or need. They are always popular and our supply often gets close to running out, especially during the school holidays. Thank you!

I have contacted Blenheim again to ask that they repair the wooden trim which has fallen off one of the doors of the (small) Little Free Library. Thank you for your patience with this. The missing trim has no impact on the structure, so it is completely safe to use.

Thank you once again to our team of volunteers for helping to keep the big Little Free Library so tidy and well-stocked, even during the intense heat! Their hard work is greatly appreciated. Happy reading! Matthew & the LFL volunteers (Sue, Fi, Jenny and Catherine)

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ABOUT THE GRAPEVINE

The deadline for articles or adverts for the September **2026** Grapevine is **WEDNESDAY 12th August** The edition should be online at **<https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk>** and **www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk** from about **Tuesday 25th August with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from Friday 28th August.**

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 127mm wide.

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

Adverts: **grapevineadverts@gmail.com**

Articles: **freelandgrapevine@gmail.com**

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

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

The editor reserves the right to edit all copy.

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

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

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

We are not able to publish any correspondence between tradespersons or other organisations placing adverts in the Grapevine and their customers in the event of dispute. We do not endorse any articles, reports of suggestions in the Grapevine.

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

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sun	2 Aug	UFR Ramble 10.00am from Bus Shelter opp Yeoman
Tues	4 Aug	Cake Cafe 9.00-11.30 Village Hall
Weds	5 Aug	Green Week: recycling+food waste+garden waste
Thurs	6 Aug	U3A Annual Social Event, Woodstock 2.15pm
Mon	10 Aug	WI meeting Freeland Village Hall 7.45pm
Weds	12 Aug	COPY DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER GRAPEVINE
Weds	12 Aug	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Sun	16 Aug	Combe Mill, Models & Collections 10.30-4.30pm
Wed	19 Aug	Green Week: recycling+food waste+garden waste
Wed	19 Aug	Women at War: Dr Kate Vigurs at SOFO Woodstock 7pm
Mon	24 Aug	Freeland Gardening Club, Cheese & Wine Social 7.30pm
Weds	26 Aug	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Sun	30 Aug	Bus Museum Scalextric Displays & Races 10-4pm
Sun	30 Aug	Cake Cafe Cream Teas, Village Hall, 2.30-5pm
Mon	31 Aug	Bus Museum Scalextric Displays & Races 10-4pm
Weds	2 Sept	Green Week: recycling+food waste+garden waste
Thurs	3 Sept	Women at War: Ami Bouhassane at SOFO Woodstock 7pm

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Models and Collections

at Combe Mill
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