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SERVICES AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Sunday	26th April	10.00am Joint service with St Mary's at Christ Church
Sunday	3rd May	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	10th May	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	17th May	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	24th May	10.00am Communion
Sunday	31st May	10.00am Communion for the Whole Benefice at St Peter and St Paul
Sunday	7th June	10.00am Morning Praise

The above information is correct on the date published (**23/04/2026**). 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

Thank you to Peter Newell for the photograph of Bluebell Woods, Freeland

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Useful contact details

**Rector: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
01993 881270**

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

Curate: Position Vacant

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

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Clive Berry 01993 882080 and

Hugh Dalton *Emeritus*: 01993 881742

Churchwarden: Position Vacant

Flowers in the Church:

Janet Dalton 01993 881742

**Weddings: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
01993 881270**

rector@hfchurch.org.uk and
administrator@hfchurch.org.uk

You will find all sorts of interesting information about St Mary's on the "A Church Near You" website: www.achurchnearyou.com/5863. **You can see a virtual tour of St Mary's on Google Street View at: <http://goo.gl/g53NJH>.**

Thank you to Nikhilesh Haval for allowing the use of the images.

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

Bible Fun Club

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Good Friday Bible Fun Club. We had so much fun learning about the Easter story, with an egg trail, chocolate Easter nests, Lego building, a giant jigsaw and plant pot decorating. We finished with delicious hot cross buns. 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.

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.

From the Register: Funeral Avril Averiss 23rd March 2026



BLACK DOG TREES & GARDENS

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SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Sunday	26th April	10.00am Communion
Sunday	3rd May	10.00am Communion
Sunday	10th May	Communion
Sunday	17th May	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	24th May	10.00am Communion
Sunday	31st May	10.00am Communion for Whole Benefice
Sunday	7th June	10.00am Communion

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

Sunday	26th April	10.00am Joint Service with St Mary's at Christ Church
Sunday	3rd May	10.00 am Morning Praise Joint service with St Mary's at St Mary's
Sunday	10th May	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	17th May	10.00 am Communion
Sunday	24th May	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday	31st May	10.00am Communion for the Whole Benefice at St Peter and St Paul
Sunday	7th June	10.00am Morning Praise



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 10-16 MAY 2026

Where hardship means hunger...urban farmers can grow hope.

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

In the crowded and bustling settlements of Nairobi, many parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. It's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face. But with tools and training from Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, parents are farming vegetables in a small city plot to feed their families and earn an income.

Any donation you can give will help Christian Aid provide resources for these families and contribute to its wider work to support our most marginalised global neighbours.

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. It works with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice.

How to donate

Online: through our Freeland village e-envelope at

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

Or use this QR code:



Cash or cheque: envelopes will be available in St Mary's Church during Christian Aid Week, and filled envelopes should be returned to Fiona McGrady (phone 880007 for details).

Thank you for considering making a donation.

Fiona McGrady

Freeland Christian Aid Group Organiser

LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD DR STEVE STEWART

One of the most beautiful things about the Bible is the way it speaks about God: not as distant or remote, but as someone close, personal, and deeply loving. Again and again, it uses the language of family and friendship. God is called our Father. Jesus calls his followers his friends. We are spoken of as *children, brothers and sisters, part of a household*.

That's something quite wonderful. The Lord's prayer itself begins with the two words, "Our Father...". To call God "Father" is not meant to be formal or stiff, but to feel safe. It speaks of being known, cared for, and welcomed. It means we don't have to pretend or perform. We can come as we are—whether joyful, tired, hopeful, or struggling—and know that we are received with love.

The Bible even says that God "sets the lonely in families" (Psalm 68:6) What a lovely picture that is. It reminds us that no one is meant to be on their own, and that God's heart is to draw people into belonging—to give a place, a home, and a community where they are known.

And then there is that extraordinary moment where Jesus says to his disciples that he no longer calls them servants, but friends (John 15:15). Friends! A friend is someone you spend time with, someone you trust, someone who knows you properly, someone with whom you share your deepest thoughts and feelings. Being a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, is about a real, living relationship with God.

This shapes what church is meant to be. At its heart, the church is not just a building or an institution. It is a family. It is a place where people can belong, where names matter, where stories are shared, and where no one needs to feel alone. Of course, like any family, it is not perfect—but it is a place where love, patience, and grace are meant to grow.

If you are wondering about coming along, perhaps even for the first time, this is the invitation: come and see. You don't need to have everything figured out. You don't need to be "good enough." You are simply welcome. Because at the centre of it all is this gentle but life-changing truth: the God who made you wants to know you, to walk with you, and to welcome you into his family as a child, brother or sister, and friend who is dearly loved.

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 or contact me for a chat at rector@hfchurch.org.uk



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ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

Sunday 10th May 9.30am - 10.00am

Sunday 24th May 9.30am - 10.00am

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

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

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

Sunday 3rd May 10.00am Revd Charles Harris

Sunday 17th May 6.00pm at Davenport Road Methodist Church
Revd Sue Jacobs, Testimony Service

Sunday 24th May 10.00am Martin Hannant

Sunday 31st May 10.00am Local Arrangement

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNSHAM

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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



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

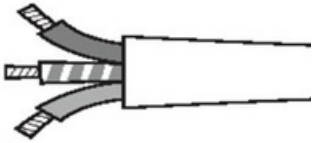
Friday 15th May, 7.30pm–9pm

Freeland Village Hall

Refreshments served

7.30–8pm short presentations

8–9pm a chance to circulate, view village group displays,
and meet Councillors



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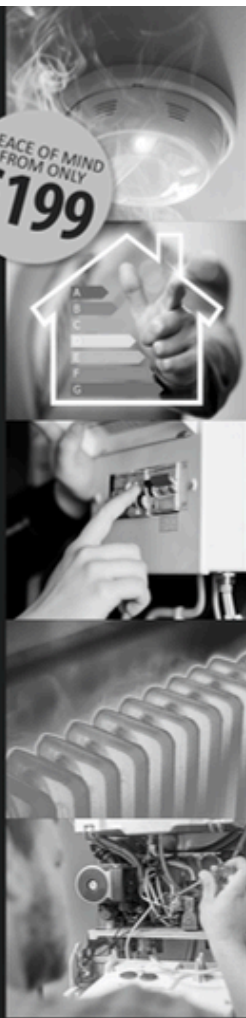
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FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Local Elections

Don't forget to vote on **7th May**. You must have **ID with you in order to vote!**

Parish Councillors

We still need new Parish Councillors! If you care about our community and would like to get involved, now is a good time to join our team. The next election for Parish Councillors will be in **2028**. If you are interested in being a co-opted member meanwhile, contact our clerk, Fay: **Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk**

News from Oxfordshire County Council

The A4095 is due to be surface dressed in May, which should improve the pothole situation. OCC are likely to agree to abandon the proposed closure of Woodstock and Eynsham Fire Stations at their meeting on **21 April**, following public feedback to the Fire Service Consultation. There are concerns that a new booking system is leading to an increase in fly tipping. Cuckoo Lane is vulnerable – signs have been put up there.

News from West Oxfordshire District Council

At their meeting on 25 March, the Council voted to write to the government urging them to put Thames Water into a special administration regime (SAR) and then back into some form of non-profit, public ownership. More rigorous conditions regarding commencement of construction above ground, in relation to completion of sewage treatment plant improvements, will also be imposed.

A **'walking bus' initiative** is being launched, with teachers and volunteers escorting primary age children to school to encourage fitness.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish meeting will be held **Friday 15th May 7.30 -9pm in the Village Hall**.

Village Maintenance

Various tasks have been itemised for work this season, including tidying the edges of the playing field, particularly the 'spring walk' along the southern edge, pollarding the willows by the pond, re-staking trees and cleaning the signs in the Garden of Remembrance as well as making good the lawns at the front of the village hall, which have sunk this winter.

Planning applications

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

www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning or Woodgreen Council Offices; 01993 861420.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Monday 11th May at 7.30pm in the Newell Room**. If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter and have access to the internet, please have a look at the Council website where lots of useful information is held. The website can be accessed via **<https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk>**. You can also follow us on Facebook (**@freelandpc**). Alternatively, please contact me 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday –

Fay Friend, Parish Clerk on 07818 572997 or email: clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk.





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FREELAND ENERGY GROUP (FEG)

The national newspapers tell us more people are turning to solar panels as a way of securing energy and the expectation of cutting future bills. From FEG's point of view, very commendable to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, however 'buyer beware'. Already the number of pushy marketing calls seem to be increasing. Check with the County Council about current schemes and eligibility, or **www.gov.uk**. If an advert or caller suggests free solar for everyone, it isn't genuine.



Quick Points

- Look up the scheme yourself - does it have a name?
- Don't share personal details - if you feel pressured, back away
- Avoid cold calls - your local council **will not cold call**.
- Chat to a neighbour or someone with a house like yours with solar panels - or contact FEG - to find out about local experience.
- Check installer's certification, clarity of information, compare quotes, guarantees, warranties. Don't be rushed.

Find out more about retrofitting your home at:-

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/climateaction/retrofitting-your-home/how-do-i-retrofit-my-home> and also <https://www.lowcarbonhub.org/p/how-to-choose-a-good-solar-installer>

Keep your diary up to date with local events - Eynsham's Great Big Green Weekend - **Friday 12th to Sunday 14th June**, and in the autumn, their Open Homes event is **12th & 13th September**. The Open Homes event will highlight changes people have made to their homes to increase energy efficiency and or generation.

New members to FEG will be very welcome, please get in touch, or drop into our next meeting on **5th May**. **Contact freelandenergygroup@outlook.com** for details.

FREELAND WINE CLUB

The event on 27th March was well attended and featured an informative and lively presentation of wines from South Africa presented by the welcome return of Preet Sohato of Edgmond Wines. We had a great food offering and of course the Wine Raffle, proceeds of which are being donated to the Village Hub for this and future meetings.

The **29th May** meeting will be featuring French wines from the Loire and beyond, presented by Wine Club member Bruce Hammersley. We look forward to a classic Wine Club experience with great wines, food, social enjoyment and of course the Wine Raffle for the Village Hub. To book your place **£10** members, **£14** Guests. Hope to see you there!

Email FreelandWineClub@gmail.com





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So much to look forward to...



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FREELAND COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

As a result of the support of Freeland residents and their friends, we can report that a total of **£184,495** from the £189,000 pledged last year has now been secured. We also hope to recoup another £15,000 in Gift Aid from HMRC.

Importantly, we have the funds we need – and hope to complete the purchase of the Chapel on **Friday 1st May**; we will keep you posted.

All shareholder members will be invited to **FCH's Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th June in Freeland Village Hall**. At the AGM, all existing board (committee) members will either retire or stand again for re-election, and members will vote in a new board – for which they themselves can stand. Members will receive a communication about this process and the AGM shortly.

We might be nearly there with the purchase of the building, but a new round of grant applications and fundraising will start soon to support the renovation. Part of this effort are some wonderful village events which are planned this year - please support them if you can!

- Talk on the History of the Methodist Chapel - **May 2026** date TBC
- Concert by Voicebox Choir Saturday **11th July 6pm Village Hall**
- Informal concert by Foxgloves Recorder Consort **July 2026** date TBC
- Pre-loved Children's Sale **1st November 2026 Village Hall**
- Auction of Promises **14th November Village Hall**
- Santa Fun Run **December 2026** date TBC

Freeland Community Hub

It's not too late to donate to the Hub!



**Freeland
Community Hub**
Charitable Community Benefit Society, FCA Reg. No. 9627

We might have raised enough to buy the building, but renovations will continue for another year. Please go to **www.freelandhub.co.uk** and click 'Buy Shares or Donate' to be part of this exciting project.



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FREELAND FOOTBALL NEWS

The season is now starting to draw to a close and the Under 12's are looking forward to their Cup Final on the 2nd May (3pm KO at Clanfield) and the Under 9's have been reflecting on a successful first season with the Club.

There are still a few home games remaining at which the tea bar will be open, selling hot drinks and home made cakes.

We will also be having our first taster session for the new Under 7 side for next season in the coming weeks.

Home Fixtures

25/4/26 Under 9 and Under 12

02/05/26 Cup Final Under 12 - 3pm KO at Clanfield FC



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www.freeland.play-cricket.com



FREELAND CRICKET CLUB

The new season is less than two months away, and we have already started our **U11** and **U13** indoor coaching. **Adult and U15** nets start on **Sunday 22nd March** and will take place in **Gosford Hill Sports Centre, Kidlington**. Outdoor coaching will start after the Easter holidays.

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

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

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

Women's Softball will start on **Wednesday 15th April at 6pm**. If you are interested in playing or would like your children to take part, please contact me on the details below.

Simon Brown, Chair freelandu11@gmail.com

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



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 Nash Lane ----- **10.05 am**
 Freeland Primary School ----- **10.05 am**

With drop off at:

Waitrose car park, Witney
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Return pickup:


Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney ----- BY REQUEST
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INFORMATION


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 Alaa Al-Yousuf **Tel: 07768 898914 Email: alaa.alyousuf@gmail.com**

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

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, that the Oxfordshire County Council

**TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS THE USE OF AND WAITING ON THE HIGHWAY
BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES**

- LOCATION:** Freeland, Long Hanborough, Witney Road, A4095
- REASON:** to facilitate surface sealing works
- DURATION:** Starting on 27 May 2026
The anticipated completion date is 31 May 2026 (date included), 04:00 to 18:00 hours
(Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days.)
- ACCESS:** limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works

The “No Waiting” restriction means that wherever there are in place yellow “No Waiting” cones, you will not be able to park vehicles on the highway.

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FREELAND WI

Our members had a thoroughly enjoyable and creative evening at our April meeting when Marea Brown from The Art of Jaipur came along to run a workshop on the craft of Indian block printing. Marea explained how she had turned a much loved hobby, inspired by the textiles room on a visit to a country house, to taking the bold step to develop a small business and quit her 9 to 5 job. Her ventures have gone from strength to strength with her running regular workshops in the Oxfordshire area, at Highgrove House and has now been given the amazing opportunity to hold classes on a cruise liner to the Caribbean.



After a demonstration explaining the technique of printing, tips and design ideas our members created items ranging from tote bags, cushion covers, zip bag, a child's apron, tea towels and baby bibs. The results were wonderful and wide ranging in both colour and design and many members were inspired enough to purchase starter kits to continue enjoying the craft at home.

Our next meeting on **Monday 11 May starting at 7.45pm**, the Eynsham Morris Dancers will be entertaining us with an evening of dancing and a Q&A session.

Freeland WI is a fun and friendly group of ladies who enjoy a wide and varied range of activities. It meets 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

Anne Marvin Freeland WI

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE

Witney	08.30 - 13.30	Friday 2nd May
Woodstock	08.30 - 13.00	Sat 3 rd & 17 th May

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





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NORTH LEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

The next meeting on **Tuesday 5th May** in the Memorial Hall in Park Road, North Leigh, OX29 6SA at **7.30 p.m.** Talk by Karen and Bret Wiles - "The WI, Not just Jam and Jerusalem". All are welcome. **£5** for visitors. For further details please phone Diana Power 01993 882301 or **email kyterobert@gmail.com. Diana Power (01993 882301)**

BRIDEWELL GARDENS NEWS

May Open Day: 17th May 11am-4pm. Visitors are encouraged to explore all parts of the vineyard and walled gardens with all the spring flowers flourishing.

Could you be a Bridewell Trustee? We're looking for people to strengthen our Board of Trustees. Roles available for: Risk & Audit; Mental Health Professional; Ordinary Trustee. We welcome interest from first time trustees.

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LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Spring has finally sprung, which means more people seem to be walking around the village, enjoying the better weather. Last year someone mentioned that the Little Free Libraries are like human bird feeders; instead of pecking for food, we stop by to grab a book or two to feed our minds.

Both Little Free Libraries continue to be well used, and the storage boxes behind the bus shelter tend to fill up quickly. If the boxes are full, please wait a few days before trying again to donate books rather than over-filling them. Our team of volunteers regularly check the shelves and the storage boxes to tidy them up and to re-stock.

As ever, it is impossible to count how many books come and go in a typical week, but the stock on the shelves is always changing, so do stop by often. You'll never know what you might find! Thank you once again for your continued support.

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

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

FREELAND CRAFT GROUP



Unfortunately one of our members had to be housebound for a few weeks, but she made full use of that time by continuing her “crafting”, with this lovely crocheted shoulder bag.

We are a friendly inclusive group for adults of all ages who enjoy all kinds of creating ... with yarn, (knitting, crotchet) or sewing (embroidery, tapestry) or paper (cards, origami) or beadwork. We try new crafts or continue with familiar ones, sometimes for ourselves and sometimes for various charities.

We meet each Wednesday afternoon from **2-4pm** in the Newell Room at the back of Freeland Village Hall. There is usually a subscription of **£1** per meeting to cover hire costs. For further information, or someone to go with, please contact: Helen **01993 882305** or Margaret **01993 881316 (marglwright52@gmail.com)**

Margaret



NORTH LEIGH ROMAN VILLA OPEN DAYS 2026

North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteers have announced the Open Days in 2026 when the villa's 4th Century mosaic will be open to the public. The mosaic building will be open from 11am to 5pm on the following dates:-

- **Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st May**
- **Saturday 27th June and Sunday 28th June**
- **Saturday 25th July and Sunday 26th July**
- **Saturday 8th August and Sunday 9th August**
- **Saturday 22nd August and Sunday 23rd August**
- **Saturday 19th September and Sunday 20th September**

For more details about access to the site and its history visit:-

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

Follow us on X: @villa_north.

To arrange a special opening, email: nlrwols@gmail.com

Today visitors can imagine the villa's former richness as they walk through the footprint of its walls - but the mosaic house hides the real gem of a near complete mosaic floor. The mosaic forms the floor of the villa's winter dining room and, as the only example in Oxfordshire still found in its original location, it provides a powerful sense of the villa's original opulence.



AUCTION OF PROMISES

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

It would be appreciated if all Freeland organisations take note of this date to avoid clashes.

Broadly, the auction will proceed in a similar manner to the very successful and enjoyable auction held in 2010 to raise money for the church bells appeal, but this time will hopefully incorporate an on-line auction for those that cannot attend the physical auction. The on-line auction will occur immediately prior to the physical auction with the high bid being the starting bid for the physical auction. Sealed bids may also be made.

The evening itself will be ticket only and the ticket price will include buffet style food and in addition a Pay bar will be available.

We will need assistance to obtain promises and on the night there will be extra help needed to enable the event to run smoothly.

The event is being co-ordinated by Graham and Ria Lay and if you are interested in being involved either as a member of the auction committee, a helper or as someone wishing to contribute a promise then please contact them by phone **07460 223048**, by email **grahamlay4@gmail.com** or call in at **139 Wroslyn Road** for a chat about it.

More detailed information will be included in future editions of The Grapevine particularly regarding event sponsorship and contribution of promises...

OXFORD BUS AND MORRIS MOTORS MUSEUM



On the **first May Bank Holiday** weekend there will be a display of model railways at the museum on **Sunday 3rd May and Monday 4th May** provided by the Oxford & District Model Railway Club and other enthusiasts. There will be regular bus rides from the museum each day. A great day out for all the family —and quite inexpensive!

Morris Day is on **Bank Holiday Monday 25th May**, when we also expect lots of visiting Morris' cars in the museum car park and yard. As a result, there will be **no free car parking in the museum grounds**.

On the outbreak of the First World War, the War Office took over direction of the manufacture of all motor vehicles.

From March 1915 until 1917 Daimler Y type chassis were built to be used as army lorries. The lorries usually had an open, canvas covered cab and a fixed side timber body, typical of military cargo vehicles of the period. The contemporary photo shows one. The chassis was actually built for Daimler by the Associated Equipment Company (AEC) at its Walthamstow factory using Daimler's famous sleeve-valve engine. AEC had built 8,821 by the Armistice in 1918. But suddenly, the War Office no longer needed so many lorries!

Many returned from France to a huge dump at Slough. Demobbed soldiers came back without jobs to go to. A number used their severance pay to buy one of the lorries and convert it, by removing the military body and replacing it with a bus body. Some became single-deckers, some double-deckers and some charabancs. They were also bought to form the basis of many UK bus fleets. Oxford bought 43. Several of these vehicles remained in service until 1935; however, the majority were sold again during the early 1930s to be converted back into lorries.

We have a number of Y type chassis in the museum. The Y type had a high ground clearance so bus passengers had to 'climb' aboard. The pictured one is in the area where we show how manufacturers reduced the height of double-deckers over the decades so that the buses could get under the low Oxford railway bridges. Other examples in the collection are under our open top 1916 double-decker and our unrestored country bus from the 1920's. Each chassis has six solid tyres and each one cost £1,000 in the year 2000. Bus Restoration is an expensive business.

Frank Collingwood

UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS

05/04/2026

This month's ramble was full of all the things you would associate with a ramble, rambling (in more ways than one), stopping, wildlife, flowers and plants (Bluebells, Primrose, Wood Anemone), many many trees, people, the plaintiff, wild animals, secret pathways (we can't talk about these, of course ... they are secret). Five miles, lots of smiles and a pint to finish, what's not to like!



I will finish today's mumble with some wise words from the great philosophers Led Zeppelin:

Got no time for spreadin' roots

The time has come to be gone

Though our health, we drank a thousand times

It's time to ramble on (1969)

Our next ramble will be on **Sunday 3rd May at 10.00am** from the bus shelter opposite the Yeoman pub. All are welcome, yes even You!

TABLE TENNIS

If you are retired and would like to join a group playing Table Tennis each week, please contact Nick and Sue Rous **01993 883944** or email

suerous47@gmail.com

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Our speaker for April was Dave Thornhill who spoke to us about flooding and climate change. Dave runs Yarnton Flood Defence. Dave explained the different types of flooding and how infrastructure and nature- based solutions can help improve this. He detailed what flooding and climate change mean for our communities and how we can prepare and adapt. Flooding is one of the most visible and immediate impacts of climate change in the UK. Dave also offered some practical advice on who to contact should a flood need to be reported.

There will be no speaker meeting in May due to our **AGM taking place on 7th May.**

The next speaker meeting will be on **Thursday 4th June**, when John Wilford, whose talk is entitled “Soundman a journey through Rock and Roll”, will speak about his 30 years as a sound engineer and tour manager. He has worked with well known artists and musicians. Visitors **£3** to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

The **Scrabble Group**, a recently formed group, with a full complement of eight players, got off to a great start in February. The sessions are held in a member's home which can accommodate eight players comfortably. We meet on the **first Tuesday of the month at 10am**. Please contact the group coordinator if you would like to be on the waiting list and if one of the regulars can't make it for any reason then you will be contacted and be most welcome to come along to join us for a one off session. We currently have a space for one new member. For further information please refer to our website: **www.woostock u3a.uk**.

The **Welsh Conversation Group** held its first meeting on 26th March. We were able to chat in Welsh over coffee and homemade Welsh cakes, help each other with grammar and pronunciation and share language books. If you are a Welsh speaker or want to improve your Welsh, please get in touch with us. The next conversation group will meet at 10.30am on Thursday 23rd April in a member's house. All levels of ability in Welsh welcome.

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at **St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock, OX20 1JL. 2pm for a 2.15 speaker**. Our U3a branch is centred in Woodstock but welcomes people from the surrounding areas. Are you recently retired and looking for local social activities around interests you have? Our interest groups develop when someone is willing to run them – maybe you have something that you can offer? If so please make contact with us through the website: **www.woostock u3a.uk**. We would be delighted to hear from you.

For more information on forth coming speakers, please visit our website: **www.woostock u3a.uk**.

FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

We hope that you all had an enjoyable Easter break and were able to get out and do some gardening when the weather allowed. Maybe like us you were able to plant your potatoes as Good Friday is a suggested time to do so.

The Club had a very successful Raffle and Quiz evening on the 23rd March, raising some funds for the Club. Thank you June for another challenging quiz. We are very grateful to everyone who provided goods for the hampers and many of our members went home with some unexpected items!

For the meeting on **Monday 27th April at 7.30pm in Freeland Hall** we will welcome a local lady called Annie Thompson-Lynch with an interesting talk entitled 'Earthworms - the Unsung Heroes'. We rather take Earthworms for granted but they do a marvellous job changing our garden waste etc into lovely useful compost. Maybe we will be more aware of their amazing contribution to our compost bins after Annie's talk!

Bring along your spare plants to our Plants and Gardening Items sale and maybe you will find something there to add to your summer display.

We welcome visitors at **£5** a meeting and new members very welcome and we always look out for anyone we haven't met before. For any further information about the Club please contact me at **daltonjanet9@gmail.com**.

Janet Dalton

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CLUES FOR CROSSWORD #10 MAY 2026 BY MR NATI

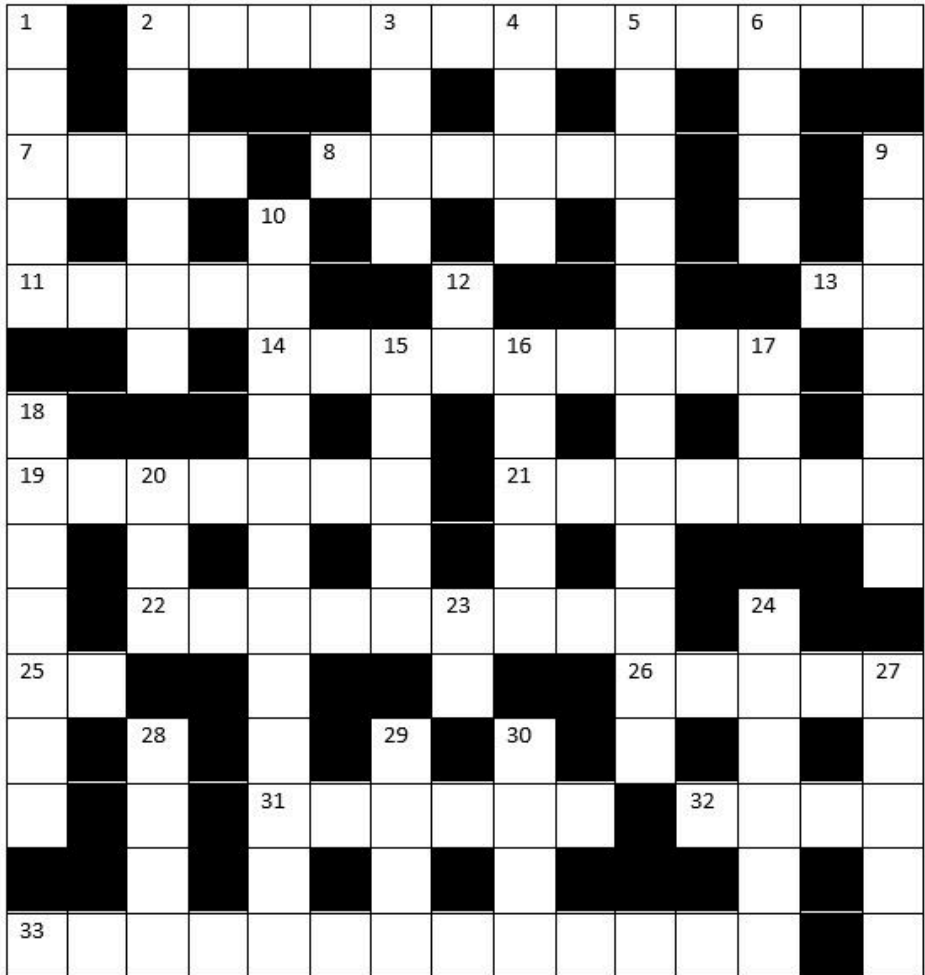
ACROSS

2. "I say! Pull it, sir, and then prise, to get THE award." (8,5)
7. Active syntax verbage lost a lot of time. (4)
8. Respect where east and south meet the other way. (6)
11. Lie, audibly, before transgression to acquire enzyme. (5)
13. To be in the morning. (2)
14. Pass on was strangely courteous. (9)
19. "State of America! Scout involved in murder of bird!" (7)
21. Threesome in suspect trial orgy after alfa Romeo departed. (7)
- 22 and 24 down. Mechanical fruit tells about dystopian band. (9,6)
25. Male appears in heart-pounding romance. (2)
26. Composition authored by lonely rickshaw. (5)
31. Rubber band (remember them?). (6)
32. Small room; found it's nugatory. (4)
33. Alisander hums discordantly to writer (6,7)

DOWN

1. Unusual book (5)
2. First, two Philips, then Romeo are, firstly assured, secondly, emotional, primarily by sentence. (6)
3. At first treat every student tenderly for exam. (4)
4. Yard where originally Eve demanded equality, "Now!" (4)
5. Culmen kipper cooked for bread. (1,2)
6. Article in IT email. (4)
9. Generic man in the beginning never yielded many the same. (7)
10. Sounds like distorted "mooo" in po'a tea. (1,2)
12. It exists in fish. (2)
15. Express gratitude that tank contains hydrogen. (5)
16. Better run from pitch to party. (3,2)
17. Oddly eggnog causes pride. (3)
18. Between a rock and a hard place according to Heller. (5,2)
20. Regular matrices form curve. (3)
23. Well, no Welsh L's for us. (2)
24. See 22 across.
27. Enigmatic Nazi encoding Enigma computer ultimately was a smoker. (5)
28. Metal sheet is contrasting character. (4)
29. Lovely carnival. (4)
30. They write of enclosures (4)

CROSSWORD #10 MAY 2026 BY MR NATI



ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD #8

ACROSS

1. HIGGS PARTICLE, 8. SUN, 9. BMI, 10. EWER, 12. UP, 13. MOPE, 15. STAIR, 17. ELEMENT, 19. LILLE, 16. SEA, 20. RAN, 21. VINYL, 24. JAM, 26 and 30. BLACK HOLE, 27. ICEBERG, 28. EWE, 29. CLOCK, 30 see 26 down. 31. IN, 32. LVIV, 34. NBA, 35. PEA, 36. BIG BANG THEORY

DOWN

1. HUBBLE TELESCOPE, 2. GLIMMER, 3 and 23. STEPHEN HAWKING, 4. AWE, 5. CAPSULE, 6. ESCAPE, 7. ANDROMEDA GALAXY, 11. WE, 14. VALKYRIE, 16. STRICKEN, 18. MAN, 22. JAB, 23. see 3 down. 24. JEHOVAH, 25. MEMENTO, 26. BOABAB, 30. HI, 33. VEG



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Frid	1 May	Community Hub Completion date
Sat	2 May	Bus Route 611 North Leigh to Eynsham begins
Sun	3 May	UFR Ramble 10am from Bus shelter opp Yeoman Pub
Mon	4 May	Model Railway Club at Bus Museum, Long Hanborough
Tues	5 May	Cake Cafe 9am-11.30 Village Hall
Tues	5 May	N Leigh History Society talk Memorial Hall, North Leigh 7.30pm
Weds	6 May	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Thurs	7 May	Voting Day Local Elections
Thurs	7 May	U3A AGM Hensington Road, Woodstock 2.15pm
Sat	9 May	Combe Mill Open Weekend
Sun	10 May	Christian Aid Week 10-16 May
Mon	11 May	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm Newell Room
Mon	11 May	WI meeting 7.45pm Village Hall, Eynsham Morris Dancers
Tues	12 May	Copy Deadline for June Freeland Grapevine
Weds	13 May	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste
Frid	15 May	Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Sun	17 May	Bridewell Gardens Open Day
Weds	20 May	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Mon	25 May	Freeland Gardening Club 7.30pm Village Hall
Weds	27 May	Green Week: recycling + food waste + garden waste
Frid	29 May	Freeland Wine Club 7.30pm Village Hall, French Wines

ABOUT THE GRAPEVINE

The deadline for articles or adverts for the **JUNE 2026** Grapevine is **TUESDAY 12th MAY**. The edition should be online at <https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk> and www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk from about **Tuesday 19th May with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from Friday 22nd May**.

We welcome handwritten or typed articles and adverts. However, if at all possible, please send by email, formatted to fit an A5 magazine-it will certainly help to reduce the number of our mistakes! The font we use is Gill Sans MT at 10 point. If submitting electronically please use Word, **not PDFs**. Photographs should be **JPGs or PNGs**, again **not PDFs**. The cost of a Small Advertisement **25p per word**. Payment for all advertising by BACS, details can be obtained from Jane Duff and any other costs for adverts. 1/3rd page size is 60mm high x 127mm wide, ½ page size is 90mm high x 127mm wide, and a full page is 190mm high x 128mm wide.

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

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.

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NEED EXTRA HELP TO SOLVE THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD?

If you would like to find out how the questions to this month's cryptic crossword (see p42/43) are solved, this QR code takes you to a website that explains how to solve the clues. But beware - it also gives the answers!



Bringing comfort,
style and quality
to your home



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Alternatively visit our huge showroom in Witney, open 6 days a week

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FLOORING SPECIALISTS

Combe Mill Open National Mills Weekend



Saturday 9 May

10.30am - 4.30pm

Mill open for viewing

Adults £6 concessions £5

Children under 16 FREE

Sunday 10 May

10.30am - 4.30pm

**Demonstrations and
machinery in steam**

Adults £9.50 concessions £8.50

Children under 16 FREE

Riverside Tea Room open both days

Last admission 3.30pm




**Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills,
Combe, Oxon OX29 8ET**


YEOFEST 2026

in aid of
Marie Curie
Cancer Care

OXFORDSHIRE
YEOMAN







SATURDAY
18TH JULY
2026

 **172 Wrocsyn Road,**
Freetand, Witney,
Oxfordshire, OX29 8JH

12PM-11PM

 **THE YEOMEN** 
THE VILLAGE BEATS
THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

 **THE DUST DOGS** 
ROUGH CUT RUBY
 **BUSY BUT MOVING** 
THE FAITH HEALERS