

# The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



**April 2020**

## FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

I've been thinking a lot about trees recently. Wherever I walk, cycle or drive, I wonder at the lovely trees around the area coming into leaf and flower, and I think how very fortunate I am to live in such a green part of the world. And following the example of the Baldons tree planting scheme, I'm even trying to persuade my husband that we need to plant some trees in the Vicarage garden to do our bit for the climate emergency!



Trees are so important, not only in our efforts to reverse climate change but also because they are among the oldest living things on earth. Scientists have bored into the trunks of some ancient trees using an increment borer, a drill that allows them to take out a core and have counted the rings of the trees without fatally damaging them. They have discovered that some trees have lived for several thousand years; there's a Patagonian cypress tree in Chile which, at 3,627 years old, is as old as Stonehenge; and a bristlecone pine from California's White Mountains which has a core suggesting it is 5,067 years old! Imagine that!

Trees can teach us a lot about life and about hope too; as winter turns to spring, we see trees, that for a while looked dead, bloom into new life and give us the promise of summer. We too often experience times of sadness and dark cold days when we think that nothing will ever get better; but they will pass like winter passes and we can have hope that there will always be new beginnings for us, just as spring always comes suddenly blooming all around us.

Of course, I cannot look at a tree without being reminded of the Cross, forever a symbol of forgiveness, of hope and of new life. So, as we all look forward to the Easter holidays and the coming of the summer, I pray that we will all enjoy the beautiful trees around us and the promise of new beginnings in our lives.

*The Revd Teresa Stewart-Sykes is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.*

e-mail: [RevTeresa@outlook.com](mailto:RevTeresa@outlook.com) and tel: 07823 809112

**A clergy person can always be reached in a pastoral emergency by ringing the Dorchester Team Office 01865 340007**



**THE  
FILLING  
STATION**

### THE APRIL MEETING OF THE FILLING STATION

**HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

For more information contact

Catherine Mason ([southoxfordshire@thefillingstation.org.uk](mailto:southoxfordshire@thefillingstation.org.uk), 07879 626828) or Tom Hunnings (07778 104806)

## EASTER LILIES



Although church services have been suspended, the churches will remain open for private prayer and reflection and lilies will still be placed there in memory of loved ones who have died.

If you would like to buy a lily in memory of someone, please let us know.

£4.00 a stem.

Veronica Sandilands 01865 340562  
vsandilands@btinternet.com



## St. George's Day Party 2020

**CANCELLED**

Due to the current pandemic and taking into consideration advice from the Government it has been deemed unwise to hold a party this year. This is particularly so as a large number of participants fall in the highly susceptible range. Hopefully, things will be better next year.

## VE DAY CELEBRATIONS ON THE GREEN (9TH MAY) CANCELLED

The Baldon Events Committee very much regret to let you know that we must cancel the VE Day celebrations on the green that were due to take place on **Saturday 9th May**. Following on from the advice from the government on protecting ourselves against the corona virus, holding the event and bringing a group of people together would be the wrong thing to do at this point in time. It is disappointing, but hopefully we can arrange something else later on in the year.

## ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the May 2020 issue newsletter  
by **16<sup>th</sup> April please**

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter. Please send copy to Natasha Eliot: [tashaandjames@btopenworld.com](mailto:tashaandjames@btopenworld.com). Alternatively, I can be contacted on 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Leanna Maggs on:  
[leanna.maggs@gmail.com](mailto:leanna.maggs@gmail.com) or on 01865 340 521.



## **BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### OCC plans for Gravel and Mineral extraction sites

Villagers have been made aware via email of the proposals being made for a large sand and gravel extraction site along the Thames between Sandford on Thames and Nuneham Courtenay. In response to the formal consultation and along with other neighboring parishes the council has made a strong objection to the plans, particularly their potential impact on the Harcourt estate.

A copy of the parish Council response is on the website and has been circulated to those on the village email.

### Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

We have heard nothing official other than that in the media but in the budget documents there is reference to the Oxford to Cambridge Arc as follows:-

*The Budget announces plans to develop, with local partners, a long-term Spatial Framework to support strategic planning in the OxCam Arc. This will support the area's future economic success and the delivery of the new homes required by this growth up to 2050.*

It would appear that the government have put a delay on considering the future of the expressway as part of a wider strategic review. Whether this gives hope that the scheme may not progress remains to be seen.

### SODC Local Plan

Sam Casey Rerhaye, our District Councillor, briefed the council on development of the SODC Local Plan. In correspondence Robert Jenrick, Housing Minister, had instructed SODC that they were legally required to take the plan forward to the planning inspectorate. Following long and heated debate at SODC and OCC SODC councillors had now voted to do so.

This means that the plans for housing and land use which were heavily objected to by the public and led to changes in the composition of SODC at the last election in 2019 will now go forward to the planning inspectorate; and will include housing on land in the Green Belt south of Grenoble Road which the Baldons Parish Council have fought against for the past 10 years.

### Planning applications

The following applications have been considered

Land north of Hunters Gap, Pebble Hill P19/S4399/FUL: amended plans for 1 x two bedded and 1 x three bedded houses were considered, and no objections made by the council.

34 The Green P20/0505/HH: the plans for a single-story rear extension were supported with no objections.

Baldon House East P20/S0314/HH: plans for a side extension garden room were supported with no objections. The plans supersede a previously approved plan.

11 The Green P20/S0026/LB: plans involving demolition of a rear single storey rear extension and construction of a two storey extension were supported.

Plans recently received and under consideration by the council...

Orchard Cottage, The Green P20/S0738: Plans for Improvement and repair to the rear single storey extension.

### Fuel Charity

As a result of questions raised at a previous Annual Parish meeting discussion between the trustees and the parish council have taken place and a formal document outlining the respective role of the trustees and the council in the appointment of trustees has been agreed. A copy of the document will be on the parish council section of the website.

*As a result of Coronavirus, it may be necessary to cancel the planned meetings below: Information will be placed on the website and sent through the village info emails*

### Annual Meeting of the parishes of Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm

This is the open meeting for all villagers to attend where questions can be raised for discussion. Villagers wishing to submit a formal question should do so to the parish clerk no later than 7 days before the meeting.

In addition to the formal annual reports on the activity of the council which we are required to give, Beccy Harris, Head Teacher at the village school has been invited to talk about the future of our very important primary school.

Parish Council AGM 11<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 pm Village Hall

## **Coronavirus COVID 19 Response**

At the time of writing (mid-March) we have a rapidly developing situation with increasing cases of Coronavirus and Oxford being identified as a hot spot.

It appears inevitable that the Baldons villages will have residents who succumb. The reason for this note is to help us minimize the risks of cross infection in the community and help those who get the disease and have to isolate themselves.

The Baldons villages together are strong communities with good neighbourliness and social networks which we need to rely on in the next few months, but we also have villagers who live alone, are elderly, or may be at a higher risk.

A Community Support Group has been set up to coordinate volunteer help around the villages. You should have received a leaflet through your door regarding this, with contact details for volunteers and those in need of help, as follows:

- Marsh
  - Alison Porter - 01865 340405 / [am.porter@btinternet.com](mailto:am.porter@btinternet.com)
  - Sara Riley - 07498 328729 / [sara@theinterioragency.co.uk](mailto:sara@theinterioragency.co.uk)
- Toot & Little Baldon
  - Phil Collins – 07768 546139 / [phil@philcollins.uk.com](mailto:phil@philcollins.uk.com)
  - Jacquie Lake - 07974 218940 / [jacquie@dedicatedwines.com](mailto:jacquie@dedicatedwines.com)
  - Jonny Langstaff-Ellis - 07740 091672 / [JLangstaff@defaqto.com](mailto:JLangstaff@defaqto.com)
- Nuneham Courtenay
  - Madhvi Saini - 07887 614752

There are also a few simple things we can do to help each other:

- a) Follow all the government advice on hand washing and self-isolation to minimize cross infection, and keep up to date with it.
- b) if you have symptoms, stay at home for 7 days. If you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms, but tell your neighbours as well as family and friends. Ring NHS 111 if your symptoms don't improve or worsen.
- c) If someone lives alone it is important to make contact daily both to avoid feelings of loneliness and isolation but also to offer help with any problems. This could be important for them.
- d) If you are alone try and keep a few days' supply of food in the house, soups or ready meals.
- e) If you need help with shopping, prescriptions or medicines etc., ask someone or use the village website or Facebook Baldons community page.

Dorothy Tonge

## **FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE**

The County Council issued the following statement about services across OCC and Cherwell District Council on 17.3.20:

*“Large numbers of staff have been told to work from home from tomorrow in line with Government advice. Our IT systems have been tested and all staff that need to work at home can do so. Critical front-facing services such as fire and rescue, waste collections, highways, adults and children’s social care, will continue to operate as normal. Simon Furlong, our ex- Fire Chief is coordinating all blue light activities across the county and the co-ordination with the military.*”

*We await guidance from Government on how formal council meetings could be managed before making further decisions.”*

It is likely that we will be allowed to conduct formal business online. I personally am within the elderly risk category and as a result will be working from home, and not attending meetings. But of course, I'm available any time to do what I can.

**THE SEVEN STARS IS NOW OFFERING HOME COOKED FOOD DELIVERED  
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In the current situation the whole Seven Stars family want to work with the community to support each other in any way possible.

**Delivery is free to the Baldons and Nuneham, £3.00 to Dorchester, Burcot & Clifton Hampden and £5.00 to Drayton St Leonard & Long Wittenham**

Please see our menu below and give us a call on 01865 343337

# Seven Stars Takeaway Menu

Free Delivery to Marsh Baldon, Nuneham Courtney & Toot Baldon  
Call 01865 343 337 for Delivery or Collection  
(Please call if you are out of delivery area to see if we can deliver to you)

## PIZZA MENU

**Pepperoni £7.50**

**Grilled Halloumi, Butternut Squash, Spinach V £7.50**

**Sweet Chilli Chicken, Onion, Sweetcorn £7.50**

**Spicy Pork, Jalapenos, Onion £7.50**

## SEVEN STAR CLASSICS

**Beef Burger NGCI (A) £12.00**

*Seven Stars Burger Sauce, Baby Gem, Gherkins, Cheddar, Chunky Chips*

**Fish and Chips NGCI £12.00**

*Haddock Fillet, Gluten Free Ale Batter, Garden Peas, Lemon*

**Traditional Scampi £10.00**

*Chunky Chips, Peas and Lemon Wedge*

**Thai Spiced Veggie Burger VEGAN, NGCI (A) £12.00**

*Baby Gem, Spring Onion, Sweet Chilli Sauce, Chunky Chips*

**Grilled Halloumi Salad NGCI (A) £12.00**

*Baby Gem, Roasted Red Peppers, Toasted Almonds, Croutons, Chicory,  
Smoked Paprika & Garlic Dressing*

## SIDES

**Chunky Chips £2.95 Baby Leaf Salad £2.95**

## DRINKS

**Bottle of House White or Red £15.00**

*Delivery Menu Available Tuesday to Saturday, 6pm-8pm*

*Please advise us if you have any allergies  
NGCI (A) = Non Gluten Containing Ingredients (Available)  
(This Specification Complies with New Food Laws – Please ask for more details)  
V = Vegetarian*

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

We have heard from Highways that our new gateways are on order. Please note that there is a bit of a lead time on them. We don't know exactly how long but are still hoping for them to be done by Easter or thereabouts.

SODC have carried out most of our Deep Cleanse and will return to finish it.

Madhvi Saini and Mandy Rigault attended a Parish Council meeting at Sandford on Thames on Monday 2nd March, at the invitation of their Chair, to meet officers from the Minerals and Waste team at Oxfordshire County Council. Kevin Broughton and his colleague Charlotte attended, as did our County Councillor Lorraine Lindsey-Gale. Kevin appeared to be unaware of several of the points we raised and agreed for the consultation to be extended to 5pm on Monday 16th March 2020, to enable those who had not yet responded time to do so. Both Parish Councils have submitted their responses. Both are objecting strongly to the proposal. The response documents can be found on the relevant website. There have also been more than 8,000 signatures from around the world sent to the County Council also objecting to this via the Global Retreat Centre website.

We have had an expression of interest in the vacant position on the council and hope to co-opt our new member at our next meeting.

We have finally chosen our defibrillator and cabinet and the cabinet has been ordered and should be delivered soon. It will be fitted to the outside of the Village Hall in the near future, ready for when the defibrillator arrives.

The Annual Parish Meeting planned for 21st April, 2020 at 7pm is now cancelled due to Coronavirus concerns; The Annual Parish Meeting is the meeting where the parish council report to its electorate on what it has accomplished in the preceding year, this information will be available on <http://nunehamcourtenay.org.uk/> and please check the parish website for meetings updates. We did not reach this decision lightly. We were ultimately guided by our responsibility to help ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL**

All activities at the village hall have been postponed at this time. Yoga will carry on, on a week by week basis. People should contact me to make sure it's on before turning up (07787 507 304 or [jenny@datadaysolutions.com](mailto:jenny@datadaysolutions.com)) I am putting a box of books on the doorstep of the village hall and anyone is welcome to help themselves to one. Please wash your hands before and after you visit this temporary library. If anyone in the village needs assistance at this time, please do get in touch and we'll try to help.

Jennifer Taylor



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**Sadly, we are not currently able to hold Public Services in our Churches, but**

## **THE CHURCHES ARE NOT CLOSED**

**St Peter's Marsh Baldon and St Lawrence's Toot Baldon are open for Reflection and Prayer and we hope that you enjoy the space and peace that our buildings offer.**

The intention of the Clergy, subject to any changes in advice, is to be in church to pray for the communities across our Team at the usual time of the main service in each Parish. There will also be online worship from the Team and Diocese available to join with and details can be found on Dorchester Abbey's website and our church's 'A Church Near You' (ACNY) website. Regular services are also broadcast on the TV and radio and there are prayers and other information on the Church of England's website.

<https://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/186/>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Advice is being updated daily and current information will be posted to the websites. We are committed to keeping operational the 01865 340007 number for everyone to call and to answering / responding to calls quickly from that number. Please be aware that because some of the office staff are working from home, we are asking that no personal calls are made to number 8 Manor Farm Road without prior arrangement.

***In these difficult and extraordinary times, we pray***

Keep us, good Lord,

under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious,

be with those who care for the sick,

and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may find comfort

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love

in Christ Jesus our Lord.