

*The Baldons and  
Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter*



*April 2023*

## FROM REV TERESA STEWART-SYKES

Have you seen David Attenborough's 'Wild Isles' programme? It has certainly created quite a lot of chatter on my car radio, with playlists devoted to music that evokes the British Isles or a requests slot on the R3 morning programme suggesting music that evokes favourite places in the UK, or the flora and fauna in music that remind listeners of home. One request was from a person living in Leek near the Peak District who asked for the folk song 'The Derby Ram' - very British!

David Attenborough's 'Wild Isles' has reminded us that the place we live and our sense of 'home' is important to us, particularly as pollution in our rivers, house and road building schemes and climate change threaten the natural environment in our county of Oxfordshire and across the whole country. Wherever I walk or cycle, I wonder at the lovely trees around the villages coming into leaf and flower, and I think how very fortunate I am to live in such a green environment.

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 and have discovered that some of these 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.

And 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 in our village and across these 'Wild Isles', and I pray that we will all discover 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 and tel: 07823 809112

***The Revd Jennifer Morton is Associate Team Vicar and lives in Toot Baldon: jennifer@morton8.co.uk.***

***Our current curate is The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood who lives in Berinsfield.***

***Our safeguarding officer is Sara McDouall: saramcdouall@gmail.com***

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

## CADDY ATTEWILL

My dear wife finally succumbed to her multiple illnesses and died at home, at peace and surrounded by her family, at the end of February. Her final battle, against lung cancer, was over in just over a week.

In our grief, I and my family have been greatly supported by the love, care and compassion given to us by so many Baldons folk, which was both humbling and uplifting, and we are deeply grateful. What a village!  
I am proud and privileged to live here.

Laurence

### DORCHESTER ABBEY EVENTS

#### **Saturday 1st April- 7.30pm Downlander Events Presents: Tenebrae**

Tenebrae, under the direction of Nigel Short, are one of the greatest a cappella choirs currently working anywhere in the world. We are delighted to welcome Tenebrae to the magnificent Dorchester Abbey with a programme of works by J.S. Bach and James MacMillan to mark the start of Holy Week. Tickets £30.00 (01235) 849063 or [downlander.co.uk](http://downlander.co.uk)

#### **Saturday 7th April- 6pm- 8pm OSJ Mozart Requiem**

Celebrate Easter with an evening of Mozart's most sacred music, including his magnificent oratorio, performed by renowned soloists and backed by the full forces of the Orchestra of St. John's and the OSJ Voices. They are joined by award-winning sisters Fiona and Jean Kelly, who will perform Mozart's divine Concerto for Flute and Harp, the only piece he wrote for the harp. Tickets £5 to £30 from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

#### **Saturday 22nd April- 6pm OSJ Concert of classical and jazz music by people with autism**

An inclusive evening of music-making with Derek Paravicini and friends featuring young musicians across the spectrum of neurodiversity. Derek Paravicini has been blind from birth and has autism and severe learning difficulties, yet he can play almost any piece by ear in any key and style and is one of the most extraordinary pianists and musicians of his generation. Explore his YouTube channel to find out more about Derek's incredible journey and musical abilities, and to hear his truly unique stylistic interpretations. Tickets £5 to £15 from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

**TOOT BALDON CHURCH**

Sung Evensong  
with the

**CHOIR OF  
QUEEN'S  
COLLEGE  
OXFORD**

**SUNDAY  
30TH APRIL  
4PM**

## BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Parish Council Election

Parish Council and District Council elections take place on May 4<sup>th</sup> and SODC will be issuing all the information to residents on the electoral roll. Don't forget to take a photo ID with you when you go to vote.

There will be vacancies for Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon councillors this year and we hope that new faces will have put their names forward as candidates. Or if you haven't yet done so and are interested you have until **4<sup>th</sup> April** to submit your application to SODC.

### Coronation grant

Baldons Event committee are busy planning for our celebration of the Coronation on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Parish Council has made a grant of £750.00 to BEC towards the cost.

### CAB Grant

The council has also agreed to make a grant of £100 to South Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau to assist in their provision of services.

### Village pond

The Council has now taken some advice from The Earth Trust regarding the management of the pond outside the school. Regular cutting back of the shrubbery round the edges and removal of weed is recommended for every 2-3 years to try maintain open water as best we can. A small group of volunteers will it is hoped take this forward.

### Wheatley Park School bus service

The OCC proposed removal of the school transport for children from the Baldons going to Wheatley Park School has been raised with the council who are now just as concerned at the implications of the loss of this service.

The council has agreed to support the protests and arguments being put to OCC by the parents and governors of Marsh Baldon school and have written to OCC and our County Councilor expressing our concerns and objections.

### Planning applications

Rojac, Marsh Baldon: P23/S0746/HH. an application for a single storey rear extension and side extension.

Land on the west side of the Green: P22/S4323/HH. Barclay Farms have submitted an amended application for 6 houses on this site. Although the new plan has made some modifications to the lay out, the concerns and objection by the Parish Council and householders are still relevant. The council will be re-submitting its response and asking that the final decision is taken at a planning committee meeting.

Court Leys Toot Baldon: P23/S729/HH. Plans for a single storey rear extension with wine cellar below part of the new extension. Replacement single storey link between the main house and the existing music room. Alterations to the side stairwell, general refurbishment and alterations throughout, including the replacement of some existing windows and doors & addition of new crittall style glazed doors and windows in the rear of the music room. Conversion of detached garage to form a gym. Existing annex to be refurbished and upgraded. The council will be considering its response.

Parsonage Farm: P23/S0738/HH. An application for a detached double garage related to the barn conversion for which the council has indicated its support to SODC.

### Annual meeting for the parishes of March Baldon and Toot Baldon

Monday 17th April, 7.30pm Village Hall

This is the open meeting for all villagers where there is the opportunity to discuss in an open forum matters of interest and concern. The Council is obliged to give both an annual and financial report, and these will be the last reports of the current council prior to the new council being elected in May. Do come along and by your discussion help to shape the work and priorities of the new council. There will be a glass of wine available.

Date of next meeting. Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May. 7.30 pm Village Hall This will be the first meeting of the newly elected council.

## **The Baldons Parish Council**

### **Local elections and vacancies for councillors.**

The local elections take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May and the Parish Council expects there to be vacancies in both Marsh and Toot Baldon.

The Baldons Parish Council invites applications from members of the public interested in being a member of the Council, which meets six times a year.

This is an exciting opportunity to shape the area in which you live. For further information, please contact Tom James, the Parish Clerk on 07484 800277 or email [clerk@baldonspc.org](mailto:clerk@baldonspc.org).

There is a Nomination Pack which must be completed and returned, by hand, by 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

# NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## May 2023 elections

The parish council and the whole of South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) are up for election on Thursday 4th May, just two days before the Coronation.

There are five places on the parish council and there is one place on SODC for an area it calls "Sandford and the Wittenhams", which covers eight different parishes. The parish council certainly needs new blood: there are just three parish councillors at present, all from houses on the main road, and they have all served for more than five years.

If you would like to stand, you have to hand in your nomination at SODC's office in Abingdon before 4pm on Tuesday 4th April.

The deadline for requesting a postal vote is 5pm the following day, Wednesday 5th April.

If you want to apply for one of the Government's new Voter Authority Certificates because you don't have any other acceptable photo ID, the deadline for that is 5pm on Tuesday 25th April.

## Meetings

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be on Thursday 18th May in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be provided and the Council hopes many of you will come along, meet your neighbours, let us know about anything bothering you.

The Council's next meeting is its annual meeting on Tuesday 9th May in the Village Hall, starting at 7pm. To be honest, this is a long meeting with a rather dull agenda, but it does decide who is going to chair the Council for the coming year.

Geoffrey Ferres, Parish Clerk, Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council  
Tel: 07419 991623 Email: [clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk)

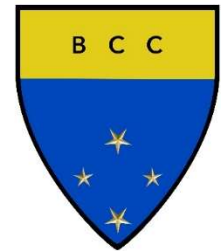
### **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Items for the May 2023 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 CRICKET CLUB



It's not long now until we'll be back playing cricket on The Green, with a tough match coming up against Horspath in the first round in the National Village Cup. After that, we'll be holding an internal village friendly game on 21<sup>st</sup> May which will be a fantastic opportunity to get involved with everyone welcome to play. So even if you've never played before, whatever your age or ability, get in touch and get involved in what will be a fun afternoon!

<b>Baldons Cricket Club Fixture List 2023</b>		
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	Horspath (Village Cup)	Home
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	Baldons Village Game	Home
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (Evening T20)</b>	Warborough	Home
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	Great Haseley	Away
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Islip	Home
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	Astons	Away
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Britwell Salome	Home
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	Hanney	Home

We're grateful to everyone who joined the club as a member last year and I hope that we will have an even larger membership this year, your support is vital to the continued success of cricket in the Baldons. Absolutely everyone is welcome to join the club, whether you are a player, supporter or just like to see matches being played on the village green.

For our members, we organise regular nets practice each week during the cricket season, occasional social events and great village cricket on Sundays throughout the summer.

2023 Annual Membership is £20 for individuals (supporters and players) and gives a discount on match fees. Family membership is £40 per household. Membership is free for Under 18s.

Here is the link to sign up ( please type it into your web browser):

[www.tickettailor.com/events/baldonscc/875384](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/baldonscc/875384)

All members are also invited to join us for pre-season drinks on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April, it will be a great opportunity to catch up before the first match and work out a strategy to defeat the mighty Horspath...



Please sign up to show your support for The Baldons Cricket Club and wish us luck for the 2023 season.

Thank you,  
Cosmo Taylor  
[baldonscc@gmail.com](mailto:baldonscc@gmail.com)



## **An 'Unconventional Warrior' - Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum online talk to explore who T. E. Lawrence really was**



**Soldiers of  
Oxfordshire  
Museum**

- **Online Talk and live Q&A available on the museum website from 7pm, Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**
- **Exploring the real story of behind the Oxford-educated 'Lawrence of Arabia'**
- **Free to view, this a fundraising event with donations encouraged in support of Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust**
- **Free to view on the museum's website, with donations welcome.**

**Video Link:** <https://www.sofa.org.uk/whats-on/telwarencetalk/>

An online talk, streaming live and on demand from the Woodstock museum's website, will be available from 7pm, 18 April 2023 which will look at the myth and reality behind 'Lawrence of Arabia'.

Brigadier (Retired) Hugh Willing CBE will discuss the story of Oxford-educated Thomas Edward Lawrence, popularly known as 'Lawrence of Arabia' for his role in campaigns during the Great War and in the Arab Revolt from 1916 - 1918.

Describing Lawrence as an 'unconventional warrior' the talk will try to get to grips with who he really was.

## NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

### Easter Bingo

Easter Bingo will be held at a slightly later date this year of Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. Do come along for an Eggcellent evening out. This is a family friendly event and all are welcome. Sean or Michael will be calling so come along and see how they do! Doors open at 7, eyes down 7:30- two little duck, quack quack!



The **Not so Youthful club** is to be rebranded as the **Community Social** to be more reflective of the nature of the event. This month we have quite a treat for you- live music! Come along from 7:30 on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of April to hear live music from John Moose Taylor, Osprey and the OX1 all stars, and well as others! As always, this event is free. Refreshments are available to purchase.



**Yoga** continues on Mondays at 7:30ish. All abilities welcome.

**Up next:** May will see the return on Movie night. Our popular vintage tea party will be held in June.



## Coronation celebration on the Green - Update

**When: Sunday 7th May from 12.30 pm**

*Come and Enjoy:*

- *A free welcome drink & fairy cake*
- *Music: 2 live bands to get your dancing feet tapping*
- *Magic: a roaming magician to tantalise and amaze*
- *Competitions:*
  - *fancy dress - come as your favourite king, queen or royal theme - prizes given for best dressed adult and best dressed child !*
  - *Bring & share cake making competition - bring your best cake bakes for submission by 2pm. There will be a prize for the winner and then all cakes will be shared out as we toast the king later in the afternoon*
  - *Guess the sweets in the jar - win and they will be all yours!*
- *Games: Splat the rat, welly wanging & sack races*
- *Also available to purchase on the day: teas, coffees, hog roast*



***Don't forget to bring your own picnic, picnic blanket/chairs....***



**Volunteers needed to help with Marquees please:  
Meet 7.5.23 9.30am on the Green to put up  
Meet 8.5.23 10.00am on the Green to take down**

the  
oxford  
gardener

Experienced **RHS** Trained Gardener. I offer a specialist garden maintenance service, to include the basic services of mowing, pruning and weeding. Specialising in the overarching care and vision to keep the garden looking lively throughout the year.

07910001288

Oxfordshire Libraries

# April at Berinsfield Library

April 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> library opening hours

Easter activity table, family board games and colouring competition in the library all holiday.



Bunny Story Time Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 11am

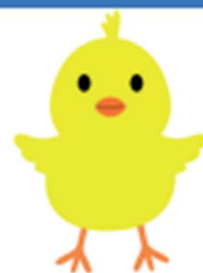
Bring your toy bunny along and enjoy a selection of stories featuring rabbits of all shapes and sizes! Suitable for ages 2-8



Spring animals craft Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm

Chick, duck, bunny, lamb!

Make a menagerie of spring animals to take home with you. Suitable for ages 4+



Book Club Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 2pm

Enjoy a chat about a book over a cup of coffee and a biscuit. Come along, say hello and join in the conversation!



 @oxonlibraries  BerinsfieldLibrary

Telephone: 01865 340771

Email: [berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL



## EASTER HOLIDAY TIMETABLE

**Monday 3rd April - Messy Monday**  
10-11.30am

**Tuesday 4th April - Story & Rhyme time**  
10-11.30am

**Wednesday 5th April - Baby Café**  
10am-12pm

**Thursday 6th April - Little Explorers**  
10-11.30am

**Stay & Play at Forest Hill**  
11am-12pm

**Friday 7th April - Bank Holiday**  
Closed

**Monday 10th April - Bank Holiday**  
Closed

**Tuesday 11th April - Story & Rhyme**  
Time- 10-11.30

**Wednesday 12th April - Baby Café**  
10am - 12pm

**Thursday - 13th April - Little Explorers**  
10-11.30

**Stay & Play Forest Hill - 11-12**

**Friday - 14th April - Social Butterflies**  
10-11.30

All drop in groups and older siblings are welcome

Check our Facebook page for up to date details

# SEVEN STARS at MARSH BALDON



## QUIZ NIGHTS

Gather your team of eggheads and challenge the quiz master!  
£2 per person - book direct with the team. 7pm start time  
Thursday 27th April  
Thursday 25th May

## EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 9th April come and enjoy one of our famous  
Sunday lunches. Pre Booking is essential.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

7th - 10th April join us for our annual Freespirit Easter Egg hunt! With colouring competitions and lots of chocolatey prizes too! This is a free event but we recommend booking a table if you are joining us for lunch or dinner.

## KINGS CORONATION

Saturday 6th May raise a glass as we toast to His Majesty King Charles III and celebrate his coronation, showing live at the pub.  
We will also be joining in with the village celebrations on Sunday 7th on the green with a delicious Hog Roast

sevenstars@freespiritpubs.co.uk // 01865 343337  
www.sevenstaratmarshaldon.co.uk



Cardinal House (between Marsh Baldon & Nuneham Courtenay) is looking for additional part-time bar-staff to support their growing schedule of events.

Pay starts at £12.50/hour and shifts can be flexible – primarily week-day evenings with occasional Saturday lunchtime/evenings.

Whilst experience is welcome, it is not required. Full training can be provided.  
Must be 18 years or older.

Please contact Mrs. Tara Buck for further information:

Tara.Buck@omhc.org.uk



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Unit 19 Wheatley Business Centre, Old London Road, Wheatley, Oxford, OX33 1XW

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2023

2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10.30am	Marsh Baldon	Palm Sunday Walk to Toot Baldon
4 <sup>th</sup> April (Tuesday)	7.00pm	Marsh Baldon	Tenebrae – a service of music and readings
6 <sup>th</sup> April (Maundy Thursday)	7.00pm	Village Hall	An Agape Meal to remember the Last Supper
7 <sup>th</sup> April (Good Friday)	12.00pm	Toot Baldon	Walk of Witness from Toot to Berinsfield. Service at 2pm in Berinsfield with prayers and music
8 <sup>th</sup> April (Easter Saturday)	8.00pm	Toot Baldon	Easter Vigil Service with the first fire of Easter
9 <sup>th</sup> April (Easter Day)	9.30am	Toot Baldon	Family Communion
16 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	10.30am	Long Wittenham	Team Service
30 <sup>th</sup> April	4.00pm	Toot Baldon	Evensong with the choir of Queen's College Oxford
7 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion

### EASTER LILIES



As in past years we would like to decorate the churches for Easter with lilies in memory of loved ones who have died.

If you would like to buy a lily in memory of someone, please let us know. £5.00 a stem

Veronica – 343367 or [vsandilands@btinternet.com](mailto:vsandilands@btinternet.com)

**If you are able to help with decorating the churches for Easter, please contact Veronica for Marsh (343367) or Jane Brook for Toot (343457).**