

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



December 2013 – January 2014

CAROL SINGING



Friday, 20th December, 2013
Meet at the Seven Stars at 6:30 pm
Or at Baldon House at 7:45 pm
All welcome!

POPPY APPEAL 2013

A thousand thank yous to everyone who gave so generously to this year's Poppy Appeal. We raised a staggering amount of £1,019.12, exceeding any amount in past years.

Also a big thank you to those who walked our villages collecting and the places of business who had boxes. Without you we would not have had such a successful result.

Thank you all so much.

Iris Wright



FROM OUR NEW VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

Many thanks to all who have made our arrival here such an enjoyable time. From the help at Berinsfield with gifts of food and unpacking to the welcome services at Dorchester and Marsh Baldon to the first pint in the pub at Drayton, it has been a lovely welcoming time. I hope we will be able to return the kindnesses gradually as we settle and get to know everyone properly.

It has also been heartening to attend assemblies at Berinsfield and Marsh Baldon schools and see the children's enthusiasm, with beautiful singing and lots of creative contributions at both showing a confidence which bodes well for the future. We clearly have strong communities here with lots of talents and much to be thankful for.

As Advent approaches and thoughts turn to how best to 'prepare the way', hopefully for the Lord as well as the catering, I wonder what would help us to develop the gifts we have been given.

I'm not convinced that ever longer shop opening hours and being encouraged to get into more debt to keep the national economy growing (in size though not in wisdom?) are really what is important for human flourishing. I am convinced that getting back to some of the essentially simple joys of life is important in these complex and often troubling times. Why is it that a school nativity play warms our hearts so deeply? It's a question well worth pondering if one wishes to understand the goodness of life at its core.

The spirit of Christmas finds expression in hospitality, sharing, putting others before ourselves and finding a special joy in doing so. The story of Christmas finds fulfilment in the openness of a teenage Mary, the humility of the shepherds, the kneeling of the wise men from afar at a lonely stable door, the precious vulnerability of a refugee baby.

Your welcome to me has been much appreciated. Let us welcome the coming of the baby Jesus, who has transformed our world and continues to do so, with open hearts and grateful wonder.

The Revd Paul Cawthorne is Team vicar for The Baldons, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard: e-mail: bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com and tel: 01865 340460

HIBERNATION PLACES

By reading these wildlife gardening articles on an ongoing basis I hope you are all beginning to realise that wildlife gardening isn't about "Doing Nothing", a popular misconception. It's about managing a garden sympathetically.

It doesn't have to be untidy and often wildlife gardening isn't that far removed from traditional gardening. It's as much about breaking age old habitats of us gardeners, as it is about considering the wildlife. It's a very simple point I want to focus on in this article, and that's hibernation areas. If you follow my advice, year on year, each spring and summer you will increase the species diversity in your garden. Don't, though, tidy everything away when autumn and winter arrives. In one swoop you could destroy much of what's been achieved. If you attract life into your garden, maintain hibernation areas, otherwise much of what you have attracted will be destroyed with little hope of returning the following year in some cases.

Take a look at your borders, full of perennial plants. By all means, cut them down when flowering is finished (leaving one or two seed heads as a food source), but leave at least 6 inches of stem. These stems, as they dry out and become hollow, are great hidey-holes for many little beasties. Leaving the stems also protects the crowns of your prized plants against the cold winter and also reminds you where they are. Then in spring, when all the little beasties have emerged, cut the remaining stems down to the ground.

So you see, wildlife gardening and traditional gardening are quite close friends.

Happy gardening

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist

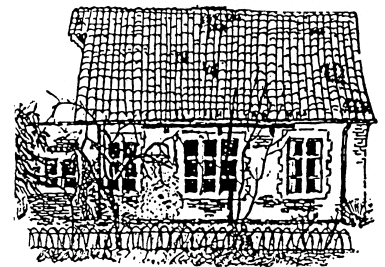
01865 747243

MARSH BALDON SCHOOL NEWS

We have had two very successful events in the last few weeks.

CHILDREN IN NEED CAFE

The School Council organised a cafe to raise money for Children in Need. The School Council members served the food to a hall full of parents and friends and it was a highly successful event. With the selling of wristbands as well, £200 was raised. A great effort!!



RADIO WORKSHOPS

In the middle of November, Russell Prue came into school and led some radio workshops for Class 2 and 3. The children worked in groups and produced their own radio programme which was broadcast on the internet. It was absolutely brilliant and the children were so enthusiastic about it and I know a lot of people have managed to listen to the programme they made already. If you would like to hear the programme they made, there is a link to it on the gallery page of our website, along with some photos of the day.



We have had an email from Russell who said: *your children's radio show has now been listened to over 100 times, that is outstanding and is one of the highest listened to workshops I've had the pleasure to host. What is particularly amazing is the size of your potential listening pool, being such a small school the achievement of such a high audience is quite an accolade!*

Christmas is fast approaching and is always an exciting time for children. We have a number of performances planned to which everyone in the village is welcome.

Sat 30 th Nov	PTA Christmas Fayre	11.00am – 2.30pm
Mon 2nd Dec	Class 2/3 'Peace Child' dress rehearsal	1.30pm
Tue 3rd Dec	Class 2/3 'Peace Child' Performance	1.45pm
Wed 4th Dec	Class 2/3 'Peace Child' Performance	6.30pm
Thur 12th Dec	Class 1 Nativity 'Busy Busy Bethlehem' Rehearsal	
Fri 13th Dec	Class 1 Nativity 'Busy Busy Bethlehem'	9.00am at the church
Thur 19th Dec	Christmas Carol Service	9.00am at the church

We are also holding one of our very successful 'Books and Breakfast mornings on December 17th.

We came across an old poster in the depths of one of the cupboards. Some of the children rewrote it and it provides a lot of food for thought!!

30 Years from Now!

30 years from now
It won't matter what trainers you wore,
How your iPhone looked,
Or the games you played.
What will matter,
Is what you learned
And how you used it.

Ben in Class 3

Finally, may I, on behalf of the children, staff and everyone at the school, wish all villagers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2014.

Nick Pitson – Headteacher

TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL POLICY CHANGES

Once again Oxfordshire County Council is proposing changes to the Home to School Transport Policy. These proposed changes have significant implications for the children at Marsh Baldon School and will impact the wider community of the Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay.

The Proposal is as follows:

- School buses, paid or free will only be provided to the Secondary school **geographically closest** to your home address, irrespective of your school catchment area.
- For those living in **Marsh Baldon, Toot Baldon, Little Baldon, Nuneham Courtenay** and **Garsington** this means that from 2015, **no free bus will run to Wheatley Park**. For these areas, children that live less than 3 miles away from Oxford Academy (geographically closest school) will be expected to walk to school, whilst those living further than 3 Miles would qualify for a free bus until the service paid or otherwise is **stopped entirely** within the next five years.
- For other pupils living in Sandford, Littlemore or Kennington (within Oxford Academy or Matthew Arnold catchment areas), only transport to Oxford Academy will be available.

Should the proposals be passed, they will have a profound effect on the school and community for example:

- Families may be discouraged from bringing their children to the school which in the longer term could mean a drop in the number of children attending and a threat of closure.
- If the school was to close or numbers drop it could affect the value of property within the villages.
- Some families with children at the school have already considered the option of moving away.
- There would be an increase in the number of vehicles on the village roads as parents may decide to drive their children to school rather than pay.
- In the longer term the diversity of the community would change as there would be less to encourage families with children to move to the villages.

This is not an exhaustive list but just a few examples of the impact the proposals could have therefore even if you are not directly affected please support the School and your Village.

Please help us oppose this policy!

- Contact our County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale directly by email to express your concerns at Lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- Go to the Oxfordshire County Council website and complete the consultation response.

<https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/transport2015/consultationHome>

- Sign the petition, which can be found on the school entrance table. We will collate and send as one in a follow up letter to the council to demonstrate, hopefully, a comprehensive objection to the proposals;
- Attend one of the public meetings (E.g. 7pm, 4th Dec, Wheatley Park) to voice your opinions directly;
- Send a letter direct to the council transport.consultation@oxfordshire.gov.uk. If you don't want to write your own we have put a suggested letter on the school website – www.marshbaldonschool.co.uk.

Thank you in advance

The Parents, Children, Teachers, Governors and Friends of Marsh Baldon School.

Everyone is invited to
Mary Tame's
(ex Headteacher of Marsh Baldon School)
100th Birthday Tea Concert

.....
to be held in Dorchester Abbey
on Saturday 15 February 2014
at 2pm for a 2.30 pm start
followed by refreshments

Thanks to all Mary's friends in the villages of both Dorchester and Marsh Baldon - schools, societies and community - who have generously offered time, talents or in kind to make this a really special occasion.

PLEASE no presents, but if you would like to contribute, there will be a retiring collection in favour of Mary's favourite charities:

the Abbey itself
the Lifeboats Association (RNLI)
Music for Autism

and the chance to sign a big birthday card!

Meanwhile, any suggestions to Sally Croft at sally.croft@hotmail.co.uk

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning applications

Land next to Seven Stars. SODC have recently granted approval for a traditional 3 bedroomed house on the land next to the Seven Stars. This was a difficult application for the parish council where there were strong arguments expressed against development in the Green Belt but also a recognition that the site of the application may comply with SODC's new planning policy on limited infilling on selected sites in villages in the green belt. The decision was referred to, and taken at, a planning committee and we were able to attend and represent all the arguments for and against.

Seven Stars Extension

At our meeting on 13th November the council considered and agreed to support the planning application for an extension at the Seven Stars involving demolition of an existing rear extension and erection of a new wrap around side and rear extension to provide new toilets and improved kitchen facilities. This is the plan which was available and consulted by the committee of the Baldons and Nuneham Community Society at the village meeting in the summer.

Protection of Village Green

Following the consultation paper that was included in the last newsletter outlining proposals for protecting the village green outside the school we received 7 responses, most of which were supportive with some suggestions for modifications, and 2 objections. So thank you to everyone who chose to respond. The council is now seeking estimates to allow us to evaluate the costs and affordability before proceeding.

Home to School Transport Consultation

The Parish Council is one of the bodies being consulted by the County Council on revised proposals for saving money by changing the policy on Home to School Transport by reducing the distances for which free transport for children going to school will be provided to a limit of 3 miles from the nearest school. This has significant implications for parents and children in the village, and the parish council was addressed by representatives of parents and governors on the impact of removal of free transport to Wheatley Park, and the potential consequences for the future for parents, the village school and the community.

The Parish Council raised objections to the OCC in the summer when the first proposals for change were consulted on and the revised proposals appear to be unchanged in so far as they affect the Baldons children. Councillors agreed that we would support the school and parents in making strong representations to OCC objecting again to the proposals.

Precept for 2013/14

In January the Parish Council has to inform SODC of the precept required for the following financial year and as villagers will be aware the council has not increased the precept (currently £6,250.00) for the last four years. In that time the council has absorbed inflationary increases and various additional costs e.g. the contribution to the cost of the newsletter and village hall hire. However after a detailed discussion and an assessment of spending priorities we feel we must recommend an increase for next year of £1000. Last year a Band D dwelling in the Baldons paid approximately £30 per annum precept

and the increase we are recommending would increase this by £4.80, with proportionate increases or decreases for higher or lower band properties. Without an increase we will have difficulty responding to the various suggestions put to the council for village improvement.

Date of next meeting 14 January 2014 7.30 pm Village Hall



JOHN HOWELL MP WRITES...

In this month's newsletter I have written on some of the most frequently raised concerns.

Royal Mail privatisation.

I wrote about this a couple of months ago but continue to receive questions from constituents on the issue especially over concerns at the future of our Post Offices. A change in Royal Mail ownership does not trigger any change in the provision of the universal postal service. Royal Mail will continue to be obliged to deliver six days a week to urban and rural areas alike at the same, affordable prices. The regulator, Ofcom has a duty to ensure prices remain affordable and there is a safeguard cap for second class stamps. I want to make it absolutely clear that the Post Office is not for sale. In fact the Government is providing £1.34 billion in funding over four years to maintain a network of at least 11,500 branches across the UK. The Post Office has won every government contract it has bid for in the last two years.

County Council Budget

Oxfordshire County Council is putting a new budget together. It does so in the knowledge that under a Government of any colour there would be no more money for local councils than already planned. Inevitably people have differing views on what should be cut and what retained according to their own needs and priorities and how this should be done. I have met with the Leader of the County Council to discuss the issues involved including Children's Centres.

Christmas Wishes

Although this update looks back at October and early November it may be December before this is published. I would therefore take this opportunity to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas. It is my wish for us all that 2014 will be a good year. May I also say thank you to all those who work hard in our communities to make them special for the rest of us. It is always a pleasure when I get the opportunity to visit community activities and I look forward to learning yet more about what is being done during the forthcoming year.

For more information my website is regularly updated and offers information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com In addition, if you would like to subscribe to my free e-newsletter please e mail me at: john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com. You can also follow me on twitter [@johnhowellmp](https://twitter.com/johnhowellmp) or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/john.howellmp



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**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE EDITOR**



As another year of newsletters comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the newsletter in so many ways:

- ✿ **Those who provide the information that goes in each month...and those who get asked for input and answers to questions at the last minute!**
- ✿ **Those who fund the newsletter to ensure it is free to every household: the PCC and the Parish Councils of the Baldons and Nuneham.**
- ✿ **Sheila, who deals with all the advertising queries and invoicing.**
- ✿ **And finally I am sure that you will all join with me to thank those who, every month, trek around our villages delivering your newsletter by hand to each household.**

I hope that you all have a very joyful Christmas and New Year.

Natasha Eliot

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for February 2014 newsletter

by 16th January please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter - this can be anything from articles, poems or pictures, to publicising your event. In addition, if you have an image you would like us to consider for the cover, do send it in!

If you would like to receive a reminder e-mail each month for newsletter contributions please let me know.

Natasha Eliot: tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively I can be contacted on 343478 (PLEASE NOTE NEW NUMBER) or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon. For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on: sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk or on 340403.

THE MOLE INN

Congratulations to the Mole on reaching their 10th Anniversary this Month.

We are very fortunate to have such a fine Restaurant/Pub in our community, which is renown throughout the County and beyond for its fabulous food, Wine and Hospitality. As villagers we have always received a very warm welcome from Jenny and her staff whenever we have visited them.

Best Wishes Chris & Janet Nichols

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on 12 November 2013. One parishioner attended.

New councillor

Sascha Collen has been co-opted as a Parish Councillor in the absence of any other nominations. She replaces Tara Love. Sascha lives on Nuneham Park. She will hopefully bring some younger energy to the Council and she is warmly welcomed onto the Council by her fellow councillors.

Signage

A considerable part of the meeting was spent discussing signage and safety issues. Suzanne Deakin outlined the proposals for signage for the Nuneham Park Estate that had been discussed with Savills, the Global Retreat Centre and one or two of the occupiers. The proposals are for four signs at key points on the estate road. These are intended to remind users that:

- this is a private road
- that there are people and animals on the road and that it has a 20 mph limit
- the locations of properties
- the ask that dogs are kept under control and to take dog mess home

The final details will now be drawn up. It is hoped that the University will pay for their installation.

The potential dangers from vehicles on the estate road was discussed at some length – it was noted that there are many blind turns and, with no footpaths, there is a considerable risk to pedestrians, runners, cyclists and others on the roadway. We also discussed the value of speed humps, signs at the entrance to the estate road saying ‘Church Lane – private road’. The idea of replicating the Marsh Baldon gate was also discussed. We reminded ourselves that this is a private estate and ultimately the approval of signage rests with the University. **However it is worth us reminding those who walk, run, walk dogs or ride horses and cycle on the estate road to be careful, especially of vehicles approaching from behind.**

We again discussed the issue of warning signs to discourage horses and cyclists from using the footpaths in the village and the dangers to riders and those living in the houses from the blind exits from houses and driveways. The possibility of finding an attractive way of restricting the entrances to the pathways by the bridleway at the north of the village and at the estate road was discussed and will be investigated with County Highways (it is hoped to arrange a meeting with our County Councillor and Highways to discuss a number of issues).

The proliferation of verge side signs, particularly those at the south end of the village, were also discussed. Whilst the need to advertise local events and amenities were noted, the number and nature of the signs hardly befits the heritage importance of the village. It was also noted that drivers are slowing down to read the signs with the potential for accidents. It was agreed to take this up with those posting signs, the Baldons’ Parish Councils and County Highways as necessary.

Grants

Jasminder Love reported on the Village Plan, shop and other local groups (see separate article). It was noted that the recreation ground would need funding to help provide a gate and signage. NCPC agreed that it was happy to receive an application to fund the gate.

Financial matters

It was agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss the current financial position of the Council (very healthy) and the setting of the Precept for 2014/15. The response to the annual return was noted and will be further discussed at that meeting. The main item from the audit is that we need a 'responsible financial officer' who is not a councillor – and Cllrs Love and George will meet separately to conclude the paperwork for the position of the Clerk, which will include this role. We also need to produce a more encompassing risk register and to properly account for the value of the Parish noticeboard!

County Internet Contract

In response to our enquiries we have been advised that a detailed investigation of the infrastructure to support higher speed broadband is now being undertaken. The survey could see Nuneham Courtenay included in the proposals if the survey shows that this is viable. We await the outcome.

Planning

11 Nuneham Courtenay. The application for conversion of the garage as an annex to the house has been withdrawn.

28 Nuneham Courtenay. An application to install an external vent in conjunction with the re-modelling of the bathroom will be recommended for approval to SODC.

Tree Survey

A copy of the tree survey undertaken on behalf of the University has been received. Suzanne Deakin and Sascha Collen have been asked to review the implications of this with the University's arboriculturalist.

SODC Town and Parish Council Governance Review

The terms of reference have now been published. The terms include seeking comments on the governance arrangements for parishes of less than 200 people (such as Nuneham). NCPC's suggestion of reviewing the Nuneham / Marsh Baldon boundary have been not included; the current split of Culham Science Park across three Parish boundaries is included for review. The Parish Council and parishioners have the opportunity to make comments by end-January 2014.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 December 2013 in the Village Hall. The meeting will discuss the Parish Precept and other financial matters. All welcome. We would particularly welcome the views of parishioners before, or at the meeting, on the level of the Precept.

Contact details and further information.

Councillors: Frank Casey, Sascha Collen, Suzanne Deakin, Colin George, Jasminder Love.

Colin George (Chair and acting clerk): 01865 343767, 39 Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9NY

Parish e-mail: nunehampc@yahoo.co.uk

Parish website: www.nunehampc.webs.com

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE PLAN UPDATE

As you know, we have been extremely busy over the last few months in our strategy towards a village shop. This culminated in the creation of the village shop questionnaire – which we hope you have all received a copy of. If you haven't, then please contact us and we will supply you with one.

The shop will be a major feature for the year ahead. We are working closely with the property developer, and the individual who will be running the deli/tearooms. Your feedback from the questionnaire is essential towards being responsive to Nuneham Courtenay, Marsh and Toot Baldon's needs. We are of course aware that we will be serving the broader community passing on the A4074.

We hope to cover most of the areas that you tell us about, if not through the deli/tearooms, then through the other sales/outlets in the area, and ensure we offer the majority of what the community requests. We will keep you updated at all major milestones, and any member of the community is welcome to attend our steering groups. We have set up a specific shop steering sub-group as this is a major project for the village plan. We will post the details of that group on our website after our next meeting.

The Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Fields Association

The Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Fields Association met to discuss the next steps regarding fencing and gates to the field. Letterheads and bank accounts are up to date, a sign is in the process of being created, and we will be inviting the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) to one of our meetings to discuss further progress. This is another major project for the village plan which is to be developed over the next year; we will keep everyone updated with progress. The aim is to create a sensitive, natural, and sustainable sports and playing fields resource which is complimentary to the environment.

The Adult Luncheon Club

The luncheon club had its AGM in November, yes a whole year has gone – well done to all those involved! At the AGM Georgia Gillett said 'we have gone from soup, to two-course meals, with 51 members'. It is a wonderful achievement and the whole team have really worked well together. From scratch a small charity was formed with a proper structure, it is funded, well organized, and everyone has been trained. They provide brilliant cooking, and excellent food; and this is all delivered in a lovely social atmosphere to a wide community.

Other projects

There are other projects that the village plan will be working on in 2014, and we will keep you updated both for your information, and your potential involvement.

Thank you to all who have helped in everything that has been achieved. Thank you to the Parish Council for supporting the projects, to the ORCC for its continual guidance, to Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale for her community support, and the Big Society Fund for seeing what we are trying to do. Thank you to those individuals – you know who you are – for your small to large practical unseen efforts that all the above projects have required. You don't always get recognized, but without your help nothing would happen – you're great!

On behalf of all involved in the village plan, all the projects that have emerged, including all the volunteers and members of all the different projects, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year. May 2014 bring not just Nuneham Courtenay, but all our villages closer so that each and every one of our residents can have happier years ahead.

Chair of the Village Plan Steering Committee

FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH GILLESPIE

As another year draws to a close we are still on the winning side of our battle in the defence of Oxford's Green Belt, despite the City's concerted efforts to the contrary. Central Government has made the Duty to co-operate between Councils obligatory but it has just been agreed between the Oxfordshire Councils and Nick Bowles that all other options for development should be thoroughly investigated before building in the Green Belt is considered. Should a review eventually take place it will be down to our Councils to consider the options and we will continue to ensure that the crucial importance of Grenoble Road to, primarily the City itself, but also our villages is recognized.

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) continues to gain momentum. In my LEADER role I am sitting on the steering group of a branch of this - Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). I remain astounded that this unelected, volunteer group of interested bodies should have been given the financial powers to make all the most crucial decisions about the future of our County. I am convinced that they have invited myself and a few others at this planning point in order to merely tick boxes however I am doing all I can to ensure that their plan is not City centric but embraces all our predominantly rural County. I have also achieved that the Green Belt is included in the document.

The Parish Council has decided to build on the work that was done to prepare the Baldon's Parish plan and prepare a design guide, a mini Neighbourhood plan. Given all the new planning legislation we felt that it is important to have a document with a clear vision and give Villagers more of a say in the statutory planning. Anyone who would like to contribute to this process should please contact either Stephen Dance or me.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very peaceful, good Christmas and a happy New Year.

FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

TALKING OXFORDSHIRE EVENTS

The Leader of the Council Ian Hudspeth has been holding a series of events across the county talking to local people about the increased budget cuts being imposed upon the council by central government. In addition to the previous round of cuts, a further £61million has to be found over the next four years. Together with the Chief Executive and other Councillors, Ian has been listening carefully to the concerns of local people because we are now at the stage where there simply are no easy options. Whatever is saved from one service will have to be compensated for by a cut in another and it is important that the people of Oxfordshire should understand this and be consulted.

CHILDRENS' CENTRES

The overall impression has been that a group protesting against the proposed cuts to our network of Children's Centres dominated the discussions at every meeting. While I can appreciate and sympathise with their concerns the Council has no intention of withdrawing support from the most vulnerable and needy young members of our society. It is a pity that other members of the public were on a couple of occasions drowned out and prevented from making their points of view heard.

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The proposed changes to the Home to School Transport policy is another issue that has caused concern among parents across the county. The policy is out for a second round of consultation during November and December. The County Council will be holding specific public meetings to discuss the plans. The times and venues locally are: Icknield Community College 2nd December, Wheatley Park School 4th December 7.00pm – 8.30pm. It's important that we update the policy and the new proposals should provide comfort to those with concerns, whilst delivering much needed savings.

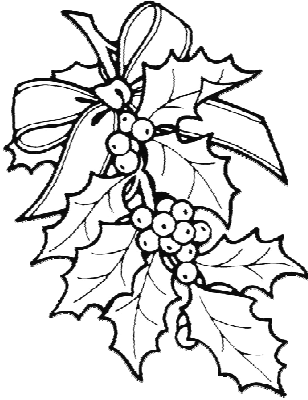
REFERENDUM

A number of people have wanted to know why OCC doesn't just raise the Council Tax in order to stop the cuts. The problem here is that the Government has imposed a cap of 2% on tax rises, which would not be nearly enough. The penalty for going over 2% is an automatic referendum that would cost £500,000 to organize, and would most likely result in a 'No' vote since people are unlikely to vote for higher taxes.

SOLUTIONS

Income generation, agile working, using reserves, amalgamating into one unitary authority, selling property, reducing road works, more use of volunteers, more private sector involvement, reducing street lighting and giving up the new government proposal for all young children to receive free school meals were all offered by residents as suggestions to offset savings. The County Council is considering these ideas and others. I would be happy to hear from anyone if they think we may have overlooked something. We have to set a budget by February. Whatever the decisions we eventually take, I would like to re-assure residents that we will protect our essential services, look after the most vulnerable elderly and young people in our county and meet our statutory obligations.

PLEASE HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCHES FOR CHRISTMAS



Offers of help and/or holly would be much appreciated. It is a busy time for everyone but decorating the churches is fun and if there are enough people, it doesn't take long.



If you can help at Marsh Baldon, please telephone Veronica Sandilands on 340562

We will be decorating St. Peter's on Saturday, 21 December at 10.30 am.

If you can help at Toot Baldon, please telephone Jane Brook on 343457.

FLOWERS

ADVENT

5th & 12th January
19th & 26th January

Marsh

L Martin & I Wright
A Lyall & E Gillespie

Toot NO FLOWERS

J van Dijk & S Hobbins
H Maskell & J Knight



SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE BALDONS

Sunday school runs on the third Sunday of the month, during the Holy Communion service at St Peter's, Marsh Baldon. We have a mixture of stories, craft and activities for children age 3-8 based around the Christian faith. We welcome all newcomers! Please do bring your child / children along; the next sessions will be on 15th December and 19th January.

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2013 AND JANUARY 2014

1 st December	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service	Dorchester Abbey
8 th December	6.00pm	Reflective Evening Prayer	Toot Baldon
15 th December	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
22 nd December	5.00pm	Carol Service	Marsh Baldon
<i>Please note time</i>			
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Toot Baldon
Christmas Day	11.00am	Family Communion	Marsh Baldon
29 th December	10.30am	Team Service	Warborough
5 th January	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
12 th January	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Toot Baldon
	<i>tbc</i>		
19 th January	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
26 th January	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	One4All	Marsh Baldon
2 nd February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

Morning Prayer in St Peters: Every Thursday at 8.15am (*except Boxing Day*)

Fellowship Group: 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7.30pm. After a break in December please note provisional dates for January are Monday 13th and 27th. For venues or other information please contact Jennifer Morton Tel. 343302. email: jennifer@morton8.co.uk

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
1 st December		9.30am Graham Hobbins
8 th December		6.00pm Ian Gillespie
15 th December	9.30am Richard Barnett	
22 nd December	5.00pm Stephen Dance	
24 th December		11.30pm Jennifer Morton
25 th December	11.00am Sonia Hobbins	
5 th January		9.30am Jenny van Dijk
12 th January		6.00pm Ian Gillespie
19 th January	9.30am John Mason	
26 th January	9.30am Tom Saw	



BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Join us at Berinsfield Library
for our
Christmas Story and Craft Time.
Wednesday December 18th 2013
At 3.45pm
All Ages Welcome
Children to be accompanied by an adult please



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NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL

Film Night

Apologies to those who showed up for the last film night and found it off. We sent out a series of emails but of course not everyone uses email. Illness, GCSE's, work, and life got in the way but hopefully all will be well for the next one on January the 24th at 7:30pm at Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall. Tickets are £4 each or 4 for £14. Please contact Jenny at 01865 343459 or jenny@datadaysolutions.com for tickets in advance or if you need a lift share arranged. The film will be About Time.



At the age of 21, Tim is told an incredible family secret by his father: all the men in his family have the ability to relive their past. He can revisit any moment in his life to try things differently until he gets them perfectly right. He decides to use his special new gift to win the heart of the beautiful Mary, but finds that the course of true love can be hilariously difficult -- even with the ability to try, try and try again. And even when everything seems to be going well, an unfortunate twist in time means that he never met Mary at all... While his unique gift might just help him find true love, Tim discovers that it can't save him from the ups and downs that life brings to everyone. In the end, he finds that making the most of love and life will mean giving up the past and living for the moment. Stars a great British cast including Rachel McAdams, Bill Nighy, Domhnall Gleeson, Vanessa Kirby, Margot Robbie.

Christmas Bingo

Oh yes it's that time of year! Doors open at 7:30 on the 6th of Dec. for refreshments. Eyes down at 8pm. We have lots of really good prizes this year including a £50 Boden voucher, a Lush gift box, two one week passes for Willow Leisure Centre, two tickets to Cotswold Wildlife Park, 2 tickets for the panto at Oxford Playhouse, a Christmas cake from Shelia Brookes and more! Miss it and miss out.

