

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



July – August 2017

FROM REVD MICHAEL LAKEY

Most people usually attribute the saying “a week is a long time in politics” to former Prime Minister Harold Wilson, and this week it feels as though that saying has never been truer. Only a few days ago, we were all horrified at the terror attacks in London. I write this on the morning after the election, and as I write the result appears to be “no clear result”. This is a political change that leaves uncertain at this stage who will govern us, not to mention who will negotiate exit from the European Union or what sort of exit they will negotiate. Whatever we might feel about the election result, elation or dread, anxiety or hope, I think we can agree that we rarely see weeks like this one. (Speaking personally, I have had to rethink what I was going to write three times, just to keep up with events!)

Sometimes, when it feels as though there is a tsunami of news heading our way, whether bad or just confusing, it can be tempting to close our doors to the world and switch off the television. I read an article last week in which the author and researcher argued that constant exposure to a 24hr news cycle, and particularly exposure to other people’s opinions about the news, coincided with a greater than average likelihood of experiencing depression or anxiety at some point. So when, from time to time, we look at the world, throw up our hands and try to retreat into an enclosed, controllable, safe space in which simple things like home, family, “a bit of peace” and a “quiet life” can be had, we are doing something quite natural. These *are* good things and it is good for our health and well-being that we enjoy them.

But don’t events out there in the wider world have a habit of imposing themselves at a local level anyway? For most of us, this takes the form of what decisions made at a national and international level might mean for household income, community facilities, new housing developments, the well-being of our schools, shops, pubs, pensions, healthcare, savings, benefits, jobs and so on. For others of us, as it did for the poor families of those killed or injured the other day in London, the wider world can impose itself in devastatingly tragic ways. In both cases, those affected can feel caught up with neither escape nor influence in events that just happen to them.

All this is a way of saying that sometimes it can feel as though the entire world is being shaken and that nothing in life is certain or secure any more. At times like that, I think about a line from one of the Psalms, in which the writer says to God, “you have been our dwelling place in all generations”. When I read this, I hear the voice of someone who could face the uncertainties of the world with courage not because he believed that God would swoop in at every opportunity and take the difficulties, complexity or grief out of life. Rather, I read him as being able to take heart *despite* the fact that the difficulties remain. He is able to do this because he trusts that the person and the love of God are unshakeably certain, even if nothing else is. I pray that in this time of uncertainty and change, you will know that peace.

The Revd Paul Cawthorne is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.

e-mail: bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com and tel: 01865 340460

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

DORCHESTER TEAM NEWS

Summer Special Services 16th and 30th July

The quieter months always offer an opportunity to visit some of the Dorchester Team's smaller churches:

NUNEHAM CHAPEL SERVICE: The Dorchester Abbey Choir will be going to the beautiful Chapel in the grounds of **Nuneham House on 16th July**. This Church is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust and is a real gem – Evensong at 3pm followed by tea is a special annual treat!

NEWINGTON CHURCH: July 30th is a fifth Sunday and our team service will be at Newington Church – small and beautiful with a churchyard that is 'mown by sheep' this is an opportunity to worship in the church in our team that is truly rural – there are three working farms in a village with a population of about 80 people!

Tea Room Anniversary

2017 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Dorchester Tea Room. As some of you will know one of the ways we plan to celebrate this is to purchase a replacement for 'Lettice's Seat which has fallen into disrepair and over the year tea room visitors have been invited to contribute towards this. On Monday 28th August after the Tea Room closes we would like to invite all tea room helpers past and present and anyone who has a long association with the tea room to celebrate together. Please make sure that you receive an invitation by telephoning the Abbey office (01865340007) or emailing admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Cover photo: Nuneham Chapel – Natasha Eliot 2017.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning applications

Councillors have recommended support to SODC for 2 applications .
The Dairy, Toot Baldon. A proposed a sub division to create two dwellings including a 1 bedroomed house P17/S1743/ful and
Outfield Cottage Marsh Baldon a Listed Building application for replacement windows P17/S1674/LB

The Baldons Neighbourhood Plan

Progress on the preparation of a Baldons Neighbourhood Plan continues and it is hoped that a draft copy of the Plan will be circulated to all residents in mid August.

Wallingford Festival of Cycling. Sunday July 16th

Information on this cycling event has circulated via the village email communication system But don't forget there will be road restrictions during race times in Wallingford and villages to the south e.g. Goring and on the A 4074. If you are travelling in that direction details of the closures and timings can be found on

<http://www.wallingfordfestivalofcycling.co.uk/travel-advice/traffic-management-plan/>

Thames Valley Police Home Security Warning

During periods of warm weather where families are out in the garden TVP have advised that windows and door at the front of houses should be locked to prevent access as there have been increased incidences of attempted household burglaries taking place at such times.

Parish Clerk

Paul Isaacs our parish clerk will be leaving us at the end of July for family reasons and the Parish Council hopes to be able to recruit a new clerk as soon as possible.

Date of next meetings

Monday 10th July

Monday 11th September

Meetings at 7.30 pm Village Hall

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At a lively **Public Meeting on 22nd May** more than 20 villagers discussed a wide variety of issues including protecting the Green Belt & historic heritage of the village; increased local house building without adequate parking provision; anecdotal stories about the culvert running underneath the current new developments; inadequate village car parking & dangerous traffic volumes & speeds. It was unanimously agreed an independent Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council should continue. Madhvi Saini was elected Chairman & John Peters elected as Vice Chairman.

At the **Parish Council Meeting on 2nd June 2017** Parishioners' issues again included:-

1. New developments had exposed the problem that there was inadequate parking in the village, with more vehicles now chasing the few available spaces. There are no yellow lines & limited village hall parking. Recent developments have been approved without adequate parking included.

2. Development in the Green Belt was a concern. Would a Neighbourhood Plan give more weight to restricting developments? There is a culvert running underneath the new buildings which the developer was aware of & claims to have made it safe, although the Parish Council is not happy.

3. Conservation in the village. It appears that new villagers are unaware of the conservation rules & thus inadvertently ignoring them. SODC has conservation plans but the wrong bricks were used on the new development & houses painted in the wrong colour. However, after a brief exchange, the exact colour scheme was not fully clear. It was agreed to meet with the SODC conservation officer; agree the rules & then the Parish Council will discuss & publicise to ensure consistency.

4. Planning Application P17/S1363/FUL for a single storey extension at number 37 Nuneham Courtenay & Planning Application P17/S1383/FUL for the construction of 3 Barn style, single storey retirement homes at The Old Smithy were both discussed with comments for & against.

5. Traffic speed & volume was raised. It was dangerous for the elderly or mothers with toddlers crossing the road. A highways crossing was urgently required & the 30mph speed limit extended.

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2017 were accepted as a record of the Parish Council meeting & signed. However, disappointment was expressed that no mention was made of the meeting preceding the Council Meeting where more than 20 villagers confirmed that they wished to continue with a Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council & discussed several local issues including new building developments in the village – with views expressed for & against.

Matters Arising:

- A Parish Clerk, Stewart Deakin, was appointed. Proposed Councillor Saini; seconded by Councillor Peters. Stewart is already the Clerk for Ardley with Fewcott Parish Council & the Treasurer of North Oxford & South Northants Citizens' Advice.

- A new Councillor, Jenny Ballam, was appointed. Proposed Councillor Saini; seconded by Councillor Gillespie. The number of Councillors is now 5, with 3 being required for a quorum

Planning Applications

P17/S1363/FUL; for a single storey extension at number 37 Nuneham Courtenay. The Parish Council to object to this development because of size & inconsistency with other village properties P17/S1383/FUL; 3 Barn style, single storey retirement homes at The Old Smithy, Nuneham Courtenay. The Parish Council to object to this development on the basis that, if agreed, it would be extending building into the Green Belt; continuing concern about the culvert running under the development and with 10 houses & 4 flats already built or in progress on this site, it could be considered an overdevelopment of the location. Since the Parish Council could not support this application, any further public meeting on this issue should be organised by the developer.

The **next Parish Council Meeting** will be on **18 July 2017** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

GARDEN VISITS

Wallingford Gardening Club's summer garden programme begins with a visit to The Filberts in North Moreton in mid-July, followed shortly by a visit to Chalkhouse Green Farm in early-August.



Our visit to The Filberts, High Street, North Moreton, OX11 9AT will be held at 6.30pm on Thursday 13th July.

Filberts is a one acre garden demonstrating many different styles including a formal colour-themed garden with lily and fish ponds, island beds for old roses, architectural foliage, and grasses. There is a large informal pond, colourful mixed borders, secluded Japanese area and over 100 varieties of clematis, and also a formal parterre with roses and herbs, vegetable garden, fruit cage and orchard. Cost will be £4 which will include tea and biscuits.

Our host, Janet Prescott (horticultural lecturer) will be in attendance.

Then on Thursday 3rd August at 6.30pm, we visit Chalkhouse Green Farm, RG4 9AL, near Kidmore End.

(Take the A4074 from Wallingford towards Reading; turn left at The Fox at Cane End; then first right into Wood Lane, and follow road to Chalkhouse Green.)

This is a one acre garden and open traditional farmstead, with herbaceous borders, herb garden, shrubs, old fashioned roses, trees including medlar, quince and mulberries, and a walled ornamental kitchen garden, and new cherry orchard. Rare breed farm animals including British White cattle, Suffolk Punch horses, donkeys, Berkshire pigs, chickens, ducks and turkeys.

Cost will be £8 which will include refreshments.

Visitors are very welcome at both these events: Isabelle Darby, 01491-836867

THE WATER GYPSY: HOW A THAMES FISHERGIRL BECAME A VISCOUNTESS

At the July talk, Julie Thorne will present the story of a local 'Cinderella'.



This true story of a local Cinderella is about a humble Thames fisherman's daughter who married a viscount in 1766 and came to live in the Vale of the White Horse. Naturally such a dramatic leap up the social ladder presented her with considerable challenges, but when she was widowed tragically early she found herself responsible for huge estates in Ireland at a time of great hostility towards English landowners. How she dealt with this and ultimately triumphed makes a compelling cracking story - and all true.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 12th July, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome. www.twhas.org.uk

FAMILY ARCHAEOLOGY DAY @ WALLINGFORD MUSEUM

On Saturday 22 July from 11am – 4pm Wallingford Museum has organised another exciting Family Archaeology Day at the Museum.



A small archaeological excavation will be taking place in the Museum courtyard and you'll be able learn all about how archaeology is done from the experts. You'll also be able to take part in some 'hands-on' work - pot-washing, sieving, and much more. Then you can find out how to begin to identify the sort of pottery that helps to date the finds from archaeology, and even try making your own pots for fun!

We'll also have pictures and some details of the recently found Roman villa site at Cholsey (excavated by Foundation Archaeology) and the archaeology that has been happening under the old Waitrose site in St Martin's Street (excavated by Cotswold Archaeology).

Entry is by Museum ticket at the door - £5 per adult (which gives unlimited entry until 30 November) but accompanied children are FREE.

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



**AGATHA CHRISTIE WEEKEND IN WALLINGFORD AND CHOLSEY
BREAKING NEWS FOR YOUR DIARY FRIDAY 8TH TO SUNDAY 10TH
SEPTEMBER**

This year's Agatha Christie Weekend is looking to be bigger and better than ever before!

This is a joint initiative by Wallingford Museum and Cholsey 1000 Plus.

Main events summary:

- * Celebrity talks, by Lucy Worsley and John Curran
- * Agatha Christie Trail walks
- * Exhibitions
- * Heritage train rides
- * Guided history walks

As the Weekend is all organised by volunteers, we would very much welcome any help. It should be fun and Judy Dewey looks forward to hearing from you! (tel: 01491-651127).

Please come and join us for a fabulous weekend of celebrations for the life and works of our internationally acclaimed local author!

Further details, and how to book, will be posted at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY **(but not just fuel)**

For the past 50 years, the Baldons Fuel Charity has been helping some residents living in Marsh, Toot or Little Baldon with their energy costs. Financial support has also been given towards:

**training expenses for young people such as IT or travel
costs of education such as uniforms or school transport
personal alarm systems for the elderly**

The Charity has an annual income of about £15,000.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, or know anyone in the villages who is, please let us know. Either talk to one of us or obtain an application form for a grant from the Clerk, Mrs Barbara Wright (343276) or any of the Trustees. All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence by the Trustees.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP
THAT IS WHAT THE CHARITY IS FOR!**

Trustees:

Chris Nichols (Chair) - 343388

John Wright - 343276

Ray Claridge – 343393

David Greenaway – 343496

Graham Hobbins – 343227

Alison Porter – 340405

FOOD ASSEMBLY COMING TO TOOT BALDON

I'm looking for a location in either Marsh Baldon, Toot Baldon or Nuneham Courtenay to set up in. I would need a place where cars could park, there are toilet facilities and somewhere undercover. Does anyone have anything like this that I could use either weekly or fortnightly?

Here's some info for you:

In July 2014, The Food Assembly launched in the UK enabling the general public to purchase high-quality food while supporting small-scale producers, who create jobs and foster social well-being. We have Food Assemblies all over the country, giving back power to producers and consumers across the UK. Each Food Assembly is an independent and local project while remaining part of The Food Assembly collective. It is the local farmers and food makers and a unique community spirit that keeps the Network alive.

The Food Assembly brings together people to buy fresh food directly from local farmers and food makers. With our technology and support, everyone gets a better deal: communities get to know each other, farmers get a fairer price for their work, and you get locally sourced, unique produce: the most delicious food available! Selling through The Food Assembly, farmers and food makers get over 80% for every product sold, compared to the 15%-25% that most supermarkets offer them.

Some important facts about The Food Assembly:

- All the food is produced within 150 miles from where you live
- Producers set their own price; meaning that they are paid fairly for their work
- The Food Assembly doesn't act as a middleman, but as a service provider
- 26 Miles is the average distance of a product sold through The Food Assembly.
- 33% is the amount cheaper to buy organic vegetables through direct selling than at supermarkets.
- 10,000 miles - The distance of fruit from the US to arrive at British retailers.
- 53% - Amount of food supplied domestically from within the UK.

ORDER ONLINE: Choose from a wide range of local products: fruit, vegetables, bread, cheese, meat, beer and much more... it is up to you how much you buy and how often!

COLLECT YOUR ORDER: Every week your Assembly takes place in a local venue. Collect your order from here and meet both the people behind your food and your neighbours.

EAT BETTER: Every season taste the freshest food available in your region.

SHOP FAIRLY: Support your local producers and economy! In each Assembly producers set their own prices and receive an income that is both fair for them and good for the local economy.

Emma Reynolds
emmatalitha@gmail.com

GLORIOUS CUT FLOWERS FROM TOOT



Lizie's "COUNTRY BUNCHES" are available to order now until the first frosts.

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Info: Ox 343 219

[07590 580 631](tel:07590580631)

liziegiraudeau@gmail.com

FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

With the General Election now behind us I am writing this on the day MPs gather at Westminster for the start of the new Parliament. I feel honoured to be back here. I am, of course, grateful to those who supported me on polling day, however once polling day is over successful candidate is the MP for everyone who lives in the Constituency. In my work as MP I have always worked hard for those I represent and as such I am interested to know people's views and am open to listening to differing sides of debates as issues arise. I find such debates helpful in forming my own view, and in the end coming to my own judgement on issues.

There is little doubt that this election has drawn some important national issues to the fore and I look forward to working through these in the coming months. Sometimes people have personal issues or problems and seek the advice of their MP. I am happy to try to help with issues where possible. Strictly speaking MPs are there to help with matters in their own constituency for which Parliament is responsible although sometimes I can help beyond this. Concerns relating to the NHS, HM Revenue and Customs, the Borders Agency, and the Department of Work and Pensions are examples of issues that I can directly take up. However many of the issues that are raised with me are matters for our local councils and you have elected representatives to these council who are often best placed to help. For example matters such as planning, refuse collection, housing benefit and council tax are dealt with by the district council, whilst issues relating to highways, social services, school transport and trading standards come under the remit of the county council. Full details of the responsibilities of the different councils can be found on their websites and my office is always willing to try to direct you to the best point of contact for help should you need it.

I do hold surgeries and as the constituency is geographically large I move them around to try to be nearer to different communities at different times. However with the use of technology many issues can be addressed more promptly using phone and email. In my experience over the last 9 years as your MP, I have found more and more issues have been dealt with in this way. It enables much more prompt action to get the ball rolling to resolve issues. Individual case issues are usually dealt with through my constituency office so in the first instance please call there if you would like help or advice.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and hearing from many more on the various issues that will no doubt arise.

Email: john.howell.mp@parliament.uk

Phone: Constituency Office - 01491 613072

Westminster Office – 0207 219 6676.

Postal address: Constituency Office, PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD

Westminster Office, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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 or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your Local Library
and see what we have on offer

Why not join us for our
Museum Activity Afternoon
Wednesday 23rd August 2-3pm
Pop into the Library and put your name down
All welcome children to be accompanied by an adult please

Join our Animal Agent Summer Reading Challenge
Read 6 books during the Summer Holidays
Collect the prizes and have lots of fun

Rhymetime Wednesdays 10.30am
Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

Craft Afternoon
Wednesday 26th July 3.45pm



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ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **September 2017** newsletter
by **16th August** 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 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact

Sheila Harris on:

sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk or on
340403.

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SERVICES FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2017

2 nd July	11.00am	Aircrash Memorial Service	Toot Baldon
9 th July	6.00pm	Evening Worship	Toot Baldon
16 th July	3.00pm	Sung Evensong with Dorchester Abbey Choir <i>followed by tea by kind invitation of the Brahma Kumaris</i>	The Chapel Nuneham Courtenay
23 rd July	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
30 th July	10.30am	Team Service	Newington
6 th August	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
13 th August	6.00pm	Evening Worship	Toot Baldon
20 st August	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
27 th August	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
3 rd Sept.	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
2 nd July		11.00am J & H Maskell
9 th July		6.00pm Jenny van Dijk
16 th July		Nuneham: 3.00pm Stephen Dance
23 rd July	9.30am Liam McCormick	
6 th August		9.30am Ann Druce
13 th August		6.00pm Sonia Hobbins
20 th August	9.30am John Mason	
27 th August	9.30am Natasha Eliot	

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
2 nd & 9 th July	C Attewill & V Sandilands	V Bowler
16 th & 23 rd July	A Lyall	S Hobbins & J van Dijk
30 th July & 6 th August	F Ardern	J Brook
13 th & 20 th August	I Wright & L Martin	A Druce
27 th Aug & 3 rd Sept	C Attewill & V Sandilands	V Bowler