

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



June 2013

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TALKING POINT BY REVEREND ANNE ILSLEY

We live in a culture that doesn't value the elderly, yet so often, for me, it has been those long in years who have been people to admire or look up to.

My grandparents for example. On one side 'Granny' and 'Grandpa', an example of faithful love towards each other and of Christian commitment. 'Grandfather' Leonard on the other side, who had a full head of shocking white hair (attributed to always wearing a hat) and who despite this unscientific claim was a medical scientist, an example of dedicated service in his profession.

It is not just in my own family that I meet such inspiring seniors. I remember a newly widowed woman from over 20 years ago, whose joy that her husband was with God, was both striking and believable, despite her recent bereavement! Another woman from the same time who slept on a mattress on the floor next to her husband, there being no room for a proper bed in their small living room, where now his hospital bed needed to be. She alarmed me by telling me that she had been up on a ladder on her own painting the windows. She was in her 70s; I in my 30s. Perhaps now I would be less shocked! (Not that I'm recommending taking health and safety risks!) Then there is the elderly lady who decided to dedicate her last years to praying for her community and her church. How much do we unknowingly benefit from the prayers of such people.

It is part of the great joy of the job that we do as clergy that we officiate at some important family occasions. On these occasions it is your valuing of the older generation that is so much in evidence. For it is on these occasions that great attention is paid to making sure that the people who we love the most, are able to be present. So often it is a grandparent or great grandparent who must be there, or who is sorely missed. Sometimes the loving connections that we have in our own experiences are counter to the cultural atmosphere. Let us remember that many of those who are older are someone's much loved grandparent and if they are not a grandparent, perhaps they would love to be adopted as one.

CHURCH IN THE BALDONS

We would like to thank everyone who is helping during the interregnum. Advertisements for a new vicar have been placed and interviews will take place shortly, so that we should know who is to be the new team vicar for the Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay, shared with Drayton St Leonard and Berinsfield by the summer.

My contact details are 341323/07860 160900, Ian Gillespie is on 341398, and both our thanks go to Jennifer Morton, Verger, (343302) who is coordinating services, wedding funerals etc.

Debbie Dance – Churchwarden

Cover Photo: Rainbow at Baldon House, James Eliot 2008

THE VILLAGE CONCERT – SUNDAY 19TH MAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed in so many ways to the Concert in Marsh Baldon Church on 19th May. We are hugely grateful to the generosity of the performers, who gave us a programme of beautiful and varied music. We are privileged to have a fine organ in St. Peter's and it was wonderful to have this fully demonstrated by William Whitehead. I am sure too that John Mark Ainsley must have converted many people to the songs of Benjamin Britten. A special mention should also be made of our seven stars from the school - Isobel, Mya, Toby, Mathilda, Hannah Rowe, Poppy Timms and Alexander who, with some help from Caleb and Lachlan, were undaunted by a packed Church and sang songs that are normally sung by the whole school. So many other great performances too, the talent that the villages are able to muster is amazing.

Talent spreads to cooks as well and we enjoyed a wonderful array of canapés after the concert. None of this would have happened, however, without the tireless energy of the organising committee, and we are particularly indebted to Irene Anggard who kept us all up to the mark, and worked so hard herself to ensure a packed Church.

So, thank you to the audience and to everyone who helped with the organisation for proving yet again what a wonderful community we live in. Our Churches are at the heart of this and the response to the concert underlines the importance of looking after these ancient buildings.

Veronica Sandilands

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for July / August DOUBLE ISSUE 2013 newsletter
by 16th June 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 340562 or at The Barn House, Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on: s.harris886@btinternet.com or on 340403.



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BALDONS VILLAGE HALL

As regular users of the hall will have seen, we are part way through the upgrade of the village hall, with new lighting installed and redecoration having taken place. Works to the floor should hopefully have been carried out over the half term break, again without disrupting our regular users.

To book the hall, please contact Ali or Darren on: 01865 340264 or dbaber@rm.com



BALDON FEAST

2-6pm Saturday 17th August 2013
The Great Village Festival for
Nuneham Courtenay, Toot and Marsh Baldon



HAVE YOU APPLIED YET?

Time is moving on and the Feast is getting nearer.

As we have to plan way in front to ensure a great day, it is necessary that all exhibitors and traders apply for a place before the end of June. As the programme is completed during the first week of July any late applications cannot be included. So, to be sure of a place, the deadline is Sunday 30th June.

We have a great day in store with a large market, games, exhibits including a "Village Corner" besides other features.

The food is being upgraded. The fair will, as usual, put on a great show. And there is to be a full afternoon of music with the 'Gangbusters' an original 60's band followed by a superb Irish and Country band with 'Pat Jordan & Finian's Rainbow'. All this with a mid-afternoon feature of a Rock-n-Roll dance demonstration.

Be it rain or shine make it your aim to be there.

Ralph Slaney - Baldon Feast Organizer on behalf of The Baldon Parish Council
01865 343 275 ralph@stonehelm.co.uk www.baldons.org.uk

ROUNDERS

Are you interested in Rounders or did you enjoy it at school?

If so, South Oxfordshire District Council are looking for people enthusiastic about sport in their local community to become Rounders Activators. For more information please contact Hendriette Thorn on 01491 823175 or at hendriette.thorn@southandvale.gov.uk

LONG WITTENHAM PRE-SCHOOL OPEN DAY: SATURDAY 22 JUNE

Drop in and see the Pre-School in action - including a trip to our Forest School!
Long Wittenham Village Hall, between 10am-1pm.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Parish Meeting. 16th April.

Seven members of the village came to the Annual Parish Meeting and we had some useful discussion in the open session of some things that are of concern. However it's always a little disappointing when so few members of the village come as this meeting really is an opportunity for discussion of ideas and issues for the village in an open forum.

A report on where we are with the lack of progress on the installation of mains drainage to Toot Baldon was asked for as this is seen as the major issues for Toot residents. Councillors and Elizabeth Gillespie have agreed to follow this up with SODC and Thames Water. Following the council meeting on 14th May (see below) councillors also agreed to write to The Chief Executive of Thames Water to urge that the problems of Toot Baldon and flooding in Baldon Lane are addressed with some urgency.

Hedges overhanging the road in Toot causing problems for motorists will be referred to the Highways dept. and problems of access on Footpath 2 from The Croft will be reported to OCC Countryside service.

A short briefing on new planning policies from SODC was given which could lead to some infilling development in the villages in coming years.

The Parish Plan had recommended consideration be given to creating a footpath to bypass the narrow section of The Croft and Lawrence Attewill outlined the current thinking and options which councillors are looking into.

David Turner our County Councillor, who is retiring from the County Council at the next election, was thanked for his help and support in the 8 years he has represented the Baldons. In his report he mentioned the OCC introduction of faster broadband for schools from 2014 and indicated the potential benefit of this to the wider community and the opportunity to work together.

The usual annual report from the Parish council was given as was the treasurer's report. Details of the Parish finances and copies of the report can be obtained from John Maskell

In Summary

Receipts and B/F £22,907.82

Expenditure £10,237.30

Balance £12,670.52

Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council 14th May

Election of officers. The following officers were re-elected

Chairman Dorothy Tonge tel 343234 Vice chairman Charles Barclay tel 343853

Treasurer John Maskell tel 343203

Clerk to the council is Paul Isaacs tel 01844278040 or pisaacs4@yahoo.co.uk

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsey Gale was re-elected to the County Council at the recent election and was welcomed to her first meeting of the Baldons PC. Lorraine is a great defender of the Green Belt and we will be glad of her advice and support if and when Grenoble Road problems resurface. Lorraine also briefed us on the composition of the new County Council in which no party has overall control.

Planning applications

The Rectory. Planning permission for an extension to the property has recently been granted to the new owner by SODC

New Farm Toot Baldon The council has supported an application for conversion of an out building to a dwelling house and the associated relocation of the cattery to another adjacent barn. This is now for decision by SODC.

Date of next Parish Council meeting Tuesday 9th July 2013 Village Hall 7, 30 pm.

PEGGY MESSENGER

Peggy thanks everyone in the Baldons for their love, best wishes and hospital visits. She has a broken pelvis, which will take some time to mend, and has suffered a spell of pneumonia from which she has recovered.

At the present time Mother is beginning to argue with us so she must be getting better. When she begins to straighten out the NHS from the ward, we will know it is a full recovery and can expect to see her back home.

Regards to you all,

Keith, Jane, Brian and Richard Messenger



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NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting. The Parish Council held its Annual Parish Meeting on 22 April. All the councillors and five parishioners attended.

The Chairman's report was discussed. The principle theme was the change, consolidation and challenges over the last year (and to come). Thanks were made to the councillors past and present, our previous clerk Jane Dymock and the parishioners. Points of particular note were:

- the increasing number of planning applications, including the two applications related to the change of use of Brewer's Garage and the proposed housing development (for which the thanks were given for the interest and comments provided by parishioners).
- the Jubilee celebrations which were organised by various people in the Parish – special thanks were given to Ron and Pam Benson for providing the venue and supporting the event.
- the planned SODC consultation on the size, boundaries and structure of Parish Councils in the district. It was noted that some parishioners have already expressed support for ensuring that Nuneham Courtenay retains its own Parish Council.

The financial report showed the out-turn against the 2012/13 budget and a revised version of the 2013/14 budget (revised to include the confirmed precept and grant from SODC). The Council has now banked funds to allow it to support projects as well as a reserve to allow for a year's worth of operation.

The need for a Clerk was re-stated. It was also re-iterated that a replacement is needed for councillor Tara Love - there has been no interest expressed as yet (so please don't be shy!)

Jasminder Love provided a review of the Village Plan and Steering Group activities. The meeting heard about the success of the Adult Luncheon Group, the progress made with re-activating the playing field and plans for a business network to support the local area. The Village Shop has become a feature of recent discussions and road crossings remain a concern. The Parish Council agreed to meet the costs of hiring the Village Hall for the Steering Group meetings.

Papers and draft minutes are available on the Parish Council website.

Other matters. Bicycles on pavements. We have received further complaints about use of the pavement. Whilst not wanting to fill the Parish full of notices we'll re-erect the temporary signs.

Planning. Revised drawings have been received for the proposal extensions to New Cottage and Savills have submitted an application for listed building and planning consent for some reconfiguration of Old Town Cottage. The Parish Council has not raised any concerns. The application for six houses at Brewer's Garage remains undetermined and the Parish Council has not received any updates on progress from SODC.

Trees on Nuneham Park Estate. We are thankful to the parishioner who raised concerns at contractors cutting down fruit trees by the walled garden. Savills were contacted and stopped the work, which they assured us was only intended to remove brambles to allow for inspection of the wall ahead of conservation works. The issue of replacement trees has been raised (here and across the estate as a whole). This will be discussed with Savills.

Future Meetings. At the time of writing we are planning a meeting in early June to replace the cancelled May meeting. This will look at the accounts and confirm the audit response. The next confirmed meeting is 7 pm on 9 July 2013.in the Village Hall. All welcome.

Contact details:

Councillors: Frank Casey, Suzanne Deakin, Colin George, Jasminder Love, Tara Love
Chair/acting Clerk: Colin George, 01865 343767 colin.george@virgin.net
Parish e-mail: nunehampc@yahoo.co.uk
Parish website: www.nunehampc.webs.com

LOCAL BUS SERVICES

Please note that as from 12 May there have been changes to the Thames Travel Services through Nuneham Courtenay. Please see www.thames-travel.co.uk for details.



BEC

SAVE THE DATE

THE BALL IS BACK!

FIRE AND ICE

SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2014

Would you like to
**Make your community
more dementia-friendly?**

*I understand
dementia much
better now- and
what we can do
together to help
people affected*

We can help you to

- **Start and join** a friendly informal group in your locality
- **Benefit** from six free sessions to learn more about dementia
- **Discuss** practical ways to support people in the community affected by dementia
- **Take action** together

*The informal
nature of the
course made
it easier to
discuss
difficult issues*



Learn:

- More about **signs** and **symptoms**
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A partnership project supported by NHS South Dementia Challenge Fund



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Marsh Baldon School PTA



Family Treasure Hunt
Sunday 30th June

Meet at the school and follow the clues
around the village!

Prizes to be won

See posters for details

WHAT CAN 'I' DO TO HELP WILDLIFE IN 'MY GARDEN'?

I have covered many of the basics involved in wildlife gardening in gardens of most sizes, both within urban and rural settings. On having a long and very interesting phone call with an enthusiastic reader yesterday, I think it would be worth recapping on the basics of wildlife gardening once again, so we are all up to speed before I dive headlong into writing another set of these wildlife garden articles that focus on specific areas.

So to recap, the main components to have in any wildlife garden are water, many different types of flowers/shrubs/trees, deadwood and grass of differing lengths. Water, whether in the form of ponds or an upturned dustbin lid, gets quickly colonized by a wide variety of life.

Flowers/trees and shrubs need to be varied with flowers of differing shapes/sizes and fragrance, and that flower at as many different times of year as possible. Remember that some insects have different length tongues so those with short tongues need open flat flowers so they can get to the nectar. Obviously they would struggle with long trumpet shaped flowers.

Deadwood is great, but remember not just to have it in the shade under some trees. Have deadwood in the sun and semi shade too as that could attract an entire new set of creatures. Finally grass of differing lengths. Sounds simple but is so effective. If you have a good population of singing grasshoppers and crickets etc it indicates good grassland management.

Go on, have a go at attracting some wildlife to your garden, making your garden even more pleasurable.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist

01865 747243

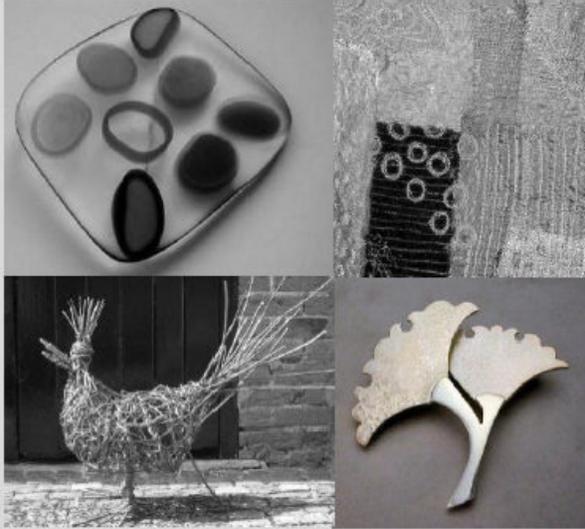


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for our
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Craft Afternoon
At 3.45pm
All Ages Welcome
Children to be accompanied by an
adult please



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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS FROM LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

The County Council held elections on 2nd May. We have reduced the number of Councillors from 74 to 63, which has resulted in the remaining Divisions becoming larger, on average representing approximately 8,400 residents. This Division (Berinsfield and Garsington) now includes the parishes of Marsh Baldon, Toot Baldon and Garsington.

I was returned with a 634 majority, taking 47% of the vote. UKIP came second with 517, Labour were third with 354, Green fourth with 266 and Liberal Democrats fifth with 143. Although UKIP made a strong standing in many areas of the county they did not win a seat. The composition of the council is now that no party has overall control: Conservatives hold 31 seats, Labour 15, Liberal Democrats 11, Green 2 and there are 4 Independents. The Conservative Group has negotiated an alliance with three Independent Councillors and will continue to run the administration.

I have been appointed to the Cabinet as the portfolio holder for Cultural, Heritage and Community Services.

Wednesday June 12th

12.30 – 2.30 p.m.

**Mary and Marcus Braybrooke invite you
to a light lunch at Burcot Farm
by kind invitation of Marcia Farrant.**

*This is to support the work of Christian Aid
and a cancer hospital in Nagercoil in South India, which we have visited,
and which is run by a Christian doctor whom we know.*

There will be a Bring and Buy stall. Lunch £5.00

*Anyone is welcome on the day, although it would be helpful to know before hand for
catering purposes if you hope to come.*

If not, a donation would be gratefully appreciated.

Mary and Marcus Braybrooke, 17 Courtiers Green, Clifton Hampden

01865 407566 mary.braybk@btinternet.com

THE 2013 DORCHESTER LECTURE: Thursday 6 June at 7.30 in Dorchester Abbey.

Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles KCMG LVO will talk on ‘**Tactics, Strategy – and Afghanistan.**’

Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles is a former diplomat and Ambassador to Israel, Arabia and Afghanistan. He is author of ‘Ever the Diplomat’ and ‘Cables from Kabul: The inside story of the West’s Afghanistan Campaign’.

Tickets £10 available at the door from 6.45pm on the day or in advance by emailing: friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk. The Dorchester Lecture is given in aid of The Friends of Dorchester Abbey.

SERVICES FOR JUNE 2013

2 rd June	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
9 th June	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Toot Baldon
16 th June	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
23 rd June	3.00pm	Sung Evensong	The Chapel Nuneham Courtenay
	7.00pm	Taize@7	Dorchester Abbey
30 th June	10.30am	Team Service	Little Wittenham
7 th July	11.00am	Aircrash Memorial Service	Toot Baldon

Morning Prayer in St Peters: Every Thursday at 8.15am

Fellowship Group: 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7.30pm

Venues and further details from

Jennifer Morton 343302; email: jennifer.morton@givemail.co.uk

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
2 nd June		9.30am Jenny van Dijk
9 th June		6.00pm Jennifer Morton
16 th June	9.30am Stephen Dance	
23 rd June	3.00pm NUNEHAM CHAPEL: Ian Gillespie	

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
2 nd & 9 th June	L Martin & I Wright	N Wells & V Bowler
16 th & 23 rd June	A Lyall & E Gillespie	J Brook
30 th June & 7 th July	V Sandilands & F Ardern	M Trinder

Queen's birthday



Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall

Tea party on the 8th of June at 4-6pm

Bring cake and have a free slice of someone else's.

Free entry, but cakes to buy



Baldons Events Committee

invites you to

Lunch on the Green

15th June 2013 from 12 noon

Complimentary drink on arrival

Lunch

Live Music

Children's Entertainment

Pay Bar

Prices: Adults £10
Children £5 (under 11 years)

Tickets: available from baldons_events@yahoo.com
or: Alison Porter 01865 340405