

**The Baldons and
Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**

The Baldons Spring Clean



Sunday 24 March

March 2013



AIR AMBULANCE BERKS | OXON | BUCKS

Do you have a passion for gardening and want to support the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance?

Community fundraising is the backbone of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance's work. It contributes considerable funds to our financial targets and bonds the people we serve to the service we provide.



The Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance's Open Garden Scheme was first established in 2002 and has since become a huge success.

The Scheme has continued to bloom year on year and has generated thousands of pounds for the Charity. 2012 marked the 10th Anniversary for Open Gardens and also proved to be the most successful year to date, raising in excess of £48,000!

As the scheme is developing in its success, the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance fundraising team are asking for volunteers to help them coordinate this fantastic initiative across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

The current scheme co-ordinators are now looking to mentor new coordinators in Oxon and Bucks as the Charity looks to develop the scheme further and make Open Gardens even more of a success in the future.

If you have a passion for gardening and want to support the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance please feel free to contact Sarah Williamson on sarah.williamson@tvacaa.org or telephone 0300 999 0135.

About the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance

The Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance, otherwise known as Air Ambulance BOB, 'BOB' being an acronym for the counties the service represents: Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, is an independent charitable trust that is saving lives across the three counties it serves.

The Charity's aim is to bring rapid medical attention when and where it is needed and to transport patients to hospital in the quickest possible time.

Since establishment in 1999, the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance has been tasked to over 14,000 missions, operating 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. On average, BOB is called out to 3-4 missions a day with each mission costing over £2,500.

Being an independent charitable trust, the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance receives no funding from central Government or the National Lottery and relies entirely on charitable donations, sponsorship and fundraising activities to keep the service operational.

For information on how you can support the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance please visit: www.supportbob.co.uk



CHURCH IN THE BALDONS

At the end of January we bade farewell to Ros as she moved to Lincolnshire after her five years as our Vicar, living in Oxfordshire.

All change in the Baldons and Nuneham, but this is not for the first time, and with a strong church community, of which everyone in the village is a part, it will be services as usual on a Sunday and through the week. With the assistance of the Dorchester team, of which we are a part, we are looking forward to Mothering Sunday on 10 March, and through Lent in the run up to Easter, the Palm Sunday walk and Holy Week plans are in place – see the rear cover for details. Different preachers bring different things, so why not come and join us one Sunday morning? A list of people taking the services can be found on church noticeboards and on the website. We look forward to welcoming Marcus Braybrooke our former Vicar, and Sue Booy's, Abbey Rector and team leader, to mention just two.

The PCC are now putting together a Parish profile and description of the person we would like to attract, a post which is shared with Drayton St. Leonard and Berinsfield, where the new vicar will live. The advertisements will go in the Church Times in the Spring and, as churchwardens, Ian and I will be part of the interviewing process. We hope to welcome our new Vicar in the Autumn/Winter and will keep you posted. My contact details are 341323/07860 160900, Ian Gillespie is on 341398, and both our thanks go to Jennifer Morton, Verger, 343303 who is coordinating services, wedding funerals etc. Don't forget to order your Easter lilies in memory of family and friends: contact me or see inside the magazine for details.

Debbie Dance

PS if you have any photographs that would help sell the story of the church in the community to anyone applying please send to d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

HOPE IN THE HOLY LAND BY REVD SUE BOOYS, RECTOR OF DORCHESTER

For years I have prayed for the "land we call holy with all its divisions" and not long after Christmas I had the privilege of visiting parts of that land, not on a pilgrimage, but a study tour in which I met people caught up in those divisions.

On day one we met A. A is a displaced person, no longer living in the place where his family farmed, a son for whom he had great hopes disabled as a result of war. His job is to manage 'no man's land'. On day five we met J. J lives in the place where he grew up and where his family have always held a significant place in society. He works in an up-to-date modern building in which a multi-faceted organisation with international support is based and his well-educated family work alongside him.

A and J were both impressive people. Of the people we met they were not unusual but certainly outstanding in their sense of vocation; A to ensure that as many people were fed as peacefully as possible and J to bring security for the future of his community. One was Palestinian and the other Israeli. Which I wonder do you think is which?

Ami is a wiry Israeli who grew up as part of a farming family in Gaza before its creation as a Palestinian area. He is about my age, ex-military personnel who now runs the Kerem Shalom border crossing - a crossing for food and goods managed with military precision because that way everyone is safe and the goods get through. It is no man's land because the trucks drive into it from the Israeli territory; they deliver their cargo to vast concrete bunkers and drive away. When they are gone Palestinian trucks drive in and collect the goods. This is a different kind of crossing to the appalling border points for people. 40,000 tons of goods cross the border daily in both directions. It is not enough. But it is there and it is the passion of the man that runs it.

Johnny is Palestinian and he lives in Beit Jala. Close to Bethlehem, this was the place where the BBC correspondent Orla Guerin was fired on by Israeli Defence League troops in 2002. If you recall the pictures of the devastation and the Palestinian refugee camp there at that time the transformation is extraordinary.

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The vision of one Christian pastor, Johnny, to bring hope to Beit Jala has resulted in the creation of a community centre - supporting the community, worshipping, providing food and a safe space: a place of destruction transformed into a place of hope; a place where the fear of opposition is as much from the Muslim as the Israeli or Jewish communities.

When all is said and done, I came away from this trip with as many questions as I had found answers - maybe more. I also came away with one overwhelming impression - that on the ground there are men and women of goodwill and hope on both sides of this terrible and wicked divide, but when they begin to speak about a solution it becomes quite clear that their understandings are so entirely different they might just as well be talking about an entirely different situation in another place: it is this that makes one feel hopeless about the future.

Easter is about hope and transformation and if it is possible for Beit Jala to become a place of hope then all things must be possible. If it is possible for me to look back at bleak times in my life and see that I have emerged, grown rather than unscathed: if it is possible to see the apparently dead and shrivelled seed and know that it can grow into a nourishing plant: then we can begin to see that the pattern of death and resurrection in Jesus Christ's life is one that is part of the DNA of creation and human-ness.

Wherever we are in that pattern of life, death and renewal, God has been there before us and is there beside us - we have only to glance over our shoulder or call for help.

*The Dorchester Abbey Office can be contacted on 340007, or via the website:
www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk*

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Change of Addresses 'The Green'

Following the consultation that SODC undertook last autumn there is now confirmation that properties round the village green will have 'The Green' inserted, as a street name, in to their address. Householders affected will have been informed individually and the change will apply in the next few weeks subject to final confirmation from Royal Mail.

Village clear up day Sunday 24th March

As usual we want to hold a village clear up campaign before the spring gets underway and hope many of you will be willing to turn out on Sunday 24th March to help us clear roadside verges, ditches, footpaths and the green. Please meet outside the Seven Stars if you can help in Marsh Baldon at 10 30 am. In Toot please liaise with John Maskell if you can help (343203) and meet outside The Mole in 10 am-ish.

Please remember to wear strong footwear and gloves as the ground may still be very damp and muddy due to the wet winter. If we have a very wet rainy Sunday we may have to decide at the last minute to postpone the event for a couple of weeks until 7th April.

Winter Weather and Flooding

Whilst there have been no major flooding problems in the village, due to the heavy rain and snow since Christmas, problems on Baldon Lane with the overflow of sewage onto the road has been a fairly frequent occurrence. The council has reported the incidents again to Thames Water and to SODC Environmental Services and asked again for urgent action. However, Thames Water have recently confirmed their intention of undertaking a survey of the flow through the pumping station but have indicated they do not have the resources to make this a high priority at present.

The village pond outside the school has also been full to the brim for the first time in many years. As the overflow pipe has been found to be obstructed the council have had it jetted out with some partial success but a partial obstruction remains which will be investigated in the spring when the water level drops.

Villagers with a ditch outside their property or land are also reminded of their riparian responsibility to keep the ditch free from blockages to enable excess water on the roads and land to drain away freely.

Road closure 25th February

Apologies for any confusion there might have been about the date of the highways department road closure. After we had announced the date of 11th Feb in last month newsletter the Highways department changed the date to Monday 25th Feb. Too late to correct the newsletter but we did our best to communicate the revised date using the email circulation. Obviously if you are one of the villagers who don't use email it's difficult for the council to get last minute information to you but we try to do our best.

Thames Valley Police neighbourhood alert messaging service

If you are not already aware of it, Thames Valley Police run a community alert messaging service via email which any one can register to receive. It gives information on incidents and risks which may be relevant to the local community and also

information on when TVP community support officers are available in the village for meeting with villagers. When we get relevant information we try and circulate it but frequently don't get dates and times of their planned availability for meeting villagers in time for inclusion in the newsletter. If you wish to receive these alerts you can register via <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>

Future Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 12th March 7.30 pm Village Hall

Annual Parish meeting Tuesday April 16th Village Hall 7.30 pm.

This is the annual village meeting for you as villagers to come and hear more about the work of the council in the past year and to hold us, as your elected councillors, to account. We welcome your participation and questions and the opportunity for discussion on village issues. It is sometimes disappointing that we don't get very many villagers attending. If there is a particular issue you want discussed as an agenda item please let the Chairman or parish clerk, Paul Isaacs, know by Friday 5th April - pisaacs4@yahoo.co.uk

Annual General meeting of the Council Tuesday 14th May 7.30 pm Village Hall

To avoid confusion with the April meeting this meeting is the one where we have the annual election of officers in addition to our usual business.

PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP BERINSFIELD HEALTH CENTRE

The next PPG is on
Thursday 7th March at 8.0pm
At the Berinsfield Medical Centre

This meeting is open to all patients of the Berinsfield Practice.
As this is a time of great change in NHS funding and the effect it could have on service delivery it is important that all patients have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion and planning process.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Good though it is to be emerging from this rather wet winter and heading towards Easter and warmer times, we are once more entering battles in order to meet the threats to Oxford's Green Belt and our countryside.

Oxford City has submitted a bid to central government for a so called 'City Deal'. This might access substantial extra monies from Central Government for business enterprise and the infrastructure to support it. The down side of this is the effective transfer of power on many crucial planning decisions to a non-elected board - which consists of Oxford City Council, LEPS, the Colleges, the District Councils and the County Council. The whole development operation being run, it would appear, from the City's offices. As one can see, the District Council's voice would be but a small one. SODC was able, with the other District Councils, to negotiate that the whole of South Oxfordshire was included in the bid which is a victory and an important mitigating factor.

The initial draft included the proposal for developing Green Belt land in South Oxfordshire south of Grenoble Road. Ann Ducker registered her strong objections with the result that a modification was made and although an oblique reference to this development is still present in the bid, it is less blatantly so. However as developing the land 'south of Grenoble Road' is neither in the City's nor in SODC's Core strategy, we will have good grounds on which to fight it.

Another worry and potential threat to our countryside is the Government's proposed new 'Development Rights'. This represents a three year 'trial' of freeing up of planning in which farm buildings can be converted into businesses without planning permission, and business premises can be converted into housing without planning permission. The Councils are currently being consulted and I am obviously doing what I can with our officers to see how we can have some control over this. One of my concerns will be to attempt to ensure that the 'old' Lawful Permitted Development Rights are automatically withdrawn from any conversions achieved under this policy,

On a far more positive note, it is wonderful to see how united our villages are in the pub purchasing venture. I am lost in admiration for the very proactive group who is effectively organizing this, and I know that everyone is extremely grateful to David Harding for facilitating it to the extent that he has. In my small way, I am doing what I can to help with the fund-raising from European and Council funds.

Elizabeth Gillespie

LOCAL BUS TIMETABLE
89 The Baldons – Kings Copse – Cowley Centre
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays Only

Marsh Baldon, Baldon Lane	0935
Toot Baldon, Wilmots	0939
Kings Copse	0945
Watlington Road, Bobby Fryer Close	0947
Cowley Centre, The Nelson	0954
Cowley Centre, The Nelson	1325
Watlington Road, Bobby Fryer Close	1331
Kings Copse	1334
Toot Baldon, Wilmots	1340
Marsh Baldon, Baldon Lane	1344

WILDLIFE IN THE HEDGE

Look out into even the tiniest of gardens and most will have a hedge of some description. They can be the perfect shelter and even a food source for many forms of wild creatures.

Best planted between early October and early April, its best to choose plants that happily grow wild in the area within which your garden is situated. When finalising the choice of plants, go for a mixture which will attract more life than just one type of plant.

Dig a big trench and fill with ample quantities of garden compost. The hedge will be there for a long time so you need to give those hungry young plants the best start possible. Planting a double row if you can will provide a much denser hedge in the end.

For the initial 3 years after planting the new hedge line will be susceptible to wind rock and invasion of competing plants. As the plants grow, layer more compost and lawn mowings around them to counteract these ongoing threats. When the hedge is well established, try planting some climbers to grow amongst it, brambles and honeysuckles are ideal.

Planting the odd small tree along the hedge line will work wonders too, for example Crab Apples give extra height and fruit during autumn and winter. Your hedge doesn't have to be totally level, so the odd tree is great. Hedges are ideal sources of nectar if planted correctly, so have a go at growing a native mixed hedge and watch the bees move in.

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist
01865 747243

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL

Over the next few months we will be making a series of improvements to the Village Hall. This will include new lighting, redecoration, repairs to the floor and new (and hopefully more comfortable) chairs.

This has been partly funded with European Union grant funding allocated by South Oxfordshire District Council and on behalf of the committee I'd like to thank SODC for their generosity and also John Barne and Natasha Eliot for their work in organising the bid.

James Bufford
Village Hall Chair

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

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL

Easter Bingo!!!!

Friday 22nd of March: Doors open at 7:30 for eyes down at 8pm.

Look out for some fantastic prizes including a £50 Boden voucher and an Easter Cake.

Thank you to all the individuals and businesses who have supported both this and our Easter bingo including Crazy Bear Café, Webber's, Emma Walker flowers, Cotswold Wildlife Park, and many from our village.

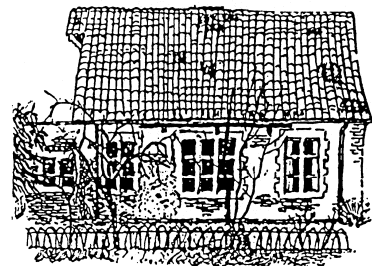
For the diary.....Nuneham's Got Talent, do you? We are organising a talent show (not a contest) as a celebration of the talent in Nuneham Courtenay and the Baldons. This event is currently planned for Friday the 12th of April (tbc). If you would like to take part, please contact Jenny on either 01865 343459 or jenny@datadaysolutions.com. More details to follow in next month's newsletter.

Cleaner needed for the Village Hall, once a month to give a general clean. Please contact Jenny if you are interested on 01865 343459.

And finally....May we please ask people not to park in the lane running from the Old Forge to the Village Hall without the permission of the householders? The lane is currently in very bad condition because of all the wet weather we have been having. It is also access for not only the Village Hall but for most of the houses along the lane. Please try to use the green area near the Forge and leave the lane clear for less able users. Thank you for your help!

MARSH BALDON SCHOOL NEWS

Everyone at school was very sad to say goodbye, firstly to Hannah at Christmas, and then to Ros in January. They have both promised to come back and visit.



The children recently entertained parents at a Celebration Assembly with some of their written work.

Class 3 wrote some Kennings poems. Can you guess what they are describing?

Harvey wrote:

Furry eater
Teeth chewer
Horrid smeller
Good sniffer
Friendly licker

A: My Dog

Harry wrote:

Heavy blaster
Football master
Fast attacker
Ace defender
Genius kicker
Happy smiler
Super passer
Favourite player

A: Steven Gerrard

Isobel wrote:

Loud chewer
Meat eater
Velvety coat
Vicious roar
Fast runner
Tail chaser

A: A Lion

Sofia wrote:

Loud shouter
Big Crier
Nail Scratcher
Body spotter
Vicious moaner
Home Keeper
Cheeks blotchier
Getting crosser
Face puffier

A: Chicken Pox

Jonathan wrote:

Water swimmer
Fish eater
Kind hearted
Blue-grey colour
Noise maker
Fast jumper
Air breather
Very clever

A: A dolphin

Karis wrote:

Hogwarts horror
Nice nature
Dementor's danger
Night howler
Hairy horror
Great teacher
Moony monster
Gryffindor growler
Brilliant sneaker.

A: Remus Lupin (from Harry Potter)

Despite the awful weather recently, our Outdoor work continues to flourish and most of the children now have timetabled outdoor lessons. It has been very entertaining and the children are really enjoying it. Class 1's walk through the mud will not be forgotten in a hurry!!



This term, we will be celebrating World Book Day on March 7th with another 'Books and Breakfast' event which has proved very popular in the past.

The children will also be recording their own CD, full of the children's favourite songs, so look out for it in the charts!!!

The school is a very vibrant place at the moment and the children seem very happy and are working hard. Why not come and see for yourself why we are so proud of the school?

If you would like to come and see us in action, please contact us on 01865 343249. Villagers are always welcome at our school events.

Our Easter Service is being held at St Peter's Church on Thursday 28th March at 9.00am. Everyone is welcome.

Please say 'hello' to us if you see us around the village!

Nick Pitson – Headteacher

PREPARATION OF MOTHERING SUNDAY FLOWERS



Come and join us at 10.00 am on Saturday 9th March at St Peter's Church, where we will be making up the bunches of flowers for distribution at the Mothering Sunday service the next day.

(Please note that the service is at St Lawrence's, Toot Baldon)

Please bring your children along - drinks and snacks provided.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL

The Council met on 21 January. The meeting was attended by our District Councillor John Cotton and County Councillor Lorraine Lyndsey-Gale. The owner of Brewer's Garage and his architect attended to discuss their planning application. The meeting focussed largely on the application.

Planning Application - Brewer's Garage

Thank you to all those that have shown an interest in this planning application and attended the drop-in sessions, sent e-mails, phoned, or contacted SODC directly. There were approximately thirty separate responses, about a third of the Parish – quite a significant response.

The views varied widely, from those who wanted to see no development because of the historic nature of the village, to others who cautiously welcomed some development, but not necessarily as proposed, to others who supported the proposals. The Parish Council has collated all the comments we received and has played these back directly to SODC. We have also made an over-riding recommendation - to ask that SODC refuses the application as it stands. Whilst there were probably more responses in favour of development than not, we noticed that there were a considerable number of people, even those supporting development, who commented on the need for affordable/elderly housing and raised concerns about traffic, drainage and design to warrant further consideration/development of the application. Recommending refusal is the formal way of achieving this - the recommendation means that the matter has to be discussed by the elected members on the planning committee and allows NCPC to further represent views of parishioners to that committee. SODC is currently indicating that the application has to be determined by 4 March. However the application is unlikely to be heard by the Planning Committee until its meeting on 13 March. Copies of the response are available on the NCPC website, the SODC website, on the PC notice-board and from Colin George

Other Planning applications

25 Nuneham Courtenay. A listed building application has been submitted for a boiler flue at the rear of 25 Nuneham Courtenay. Responses were due by 20 February. NCPC has supported the application.

Harcourt Arboretum. A planning application has been submitted to build a new 'woodland' barn and a composting toilet at the south end of the Arboretum in the recently created coppice. These would support the Arboretum's craft events. Further details are available on the SODC website (see below) or by contacting Colin George.

Precept and grants

This has now been confirmed to and acknowledged by SODC. This is the same as last year – based on £50 per band D property. This brings in about £4,700 of which approximately £2,000 is needed to run the Council (Clerk's salary, insurance, subscriptions to local groups, etc.). A reminder that the PC has a small grants policy – details available on request. However we are principally trying to build up funds to support some of the initiatives that are coming out of the Village Plan process.

Consultations

Housing Allocations. SODC is currently consulting on its housing allocations policy. This might be deemed important if affordable housing was to be built in the area. Further information is available on the SODC website. The response date is 1 March 2013. NCPC would also like to hear your thoughts.

Parish Councils. SODC is required to review the governance arrangements of Parish Councils every ten years or so. Given that both District and County wards have been reviewed SODC considers this an appropriate time to conduct the review. The review is likely to commence later in the year. The PC will engage in a survey of parishioner's views at that time. If you have any initial views then please let us know – the letter from SODC is on the website and on the notice-board.

Green Golf Estate

A number of people have expressed concern at the parking of the above car in the south-west bus lay-by since the beginning of December. The police and SODC are fully aware but the car is currently taxed, MOT'd and insured and is not illegally parked – so there is little that can be legally done to remove it. The police are in regular contact with the owner and are monitoring the situation. All we and individual parishioners can do is keep nagging (101 is the non-emergency police number).

Clerk and Councillor Vacancies

We are still looking to replace the Clerk and will start this in earnest again shortly. Tara Love has indicated that she will step down after the July meeting as she will be attending University next year and we'd like to replace her, preferably with someone who can represent the younger people of the Parish. Please don't be shy.....

Future Meetings

The schedule for PC meetings for the rest of the year is as below (all meetings in Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall):

Tuesday 5 March	7 pm	Area Highways Officer invited to attend
Tuesday 9 April	7 pm	Annual Parish Meeting – Arboretum visit beforehand?
Tuesday 7 May	2 pm	
Tuesday 9 July	7 pm	Audit response
Tuesday 3 September	2 pm	
Tuesday 12 November	7 pm	Precept review

Contact details and further information

Colin George: 01865 343767 colin.george@virgin.net
39 Nuneham Courtenay
Parish e-mail: nunehampc@yahoo.co.uk
Parish website: www.nunehampc.webs.com
SODC: www.southoxon.gov.uk

If you would like to receive regular updates on local events and issues by e-mail then please send an e-mail to Colin.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

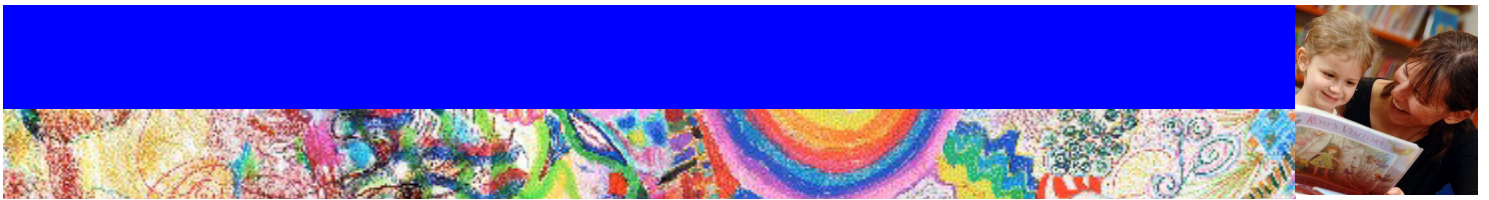
Items for April 2013 newsletter
by 16th March please

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.



EASTER CRAFT AFTERNOON

Wednesday April 3rd
3.45pm at Berinsfield Library

All Welcome



Children to be accompanied by an adult please



Here to help

join in • explore • discover • log on



BALDON HOUSE PORK AND SAUSAGES FOR SALE

**PORK AND SAUSAGES FOR SALE FROM RARE BREED
LARGE BLACK PIGS, REARED AT BALDON HOUSE**

**PLAIN OR BREAKFAST (BLACK PUDDING) SAUSAGES
£6.50 FOR 12
CHOPS, BELLY, LOINS PRICED PER KILO**

**FOR PRICES OR TO PLACE AN ORDER, PLEASE CONTACT
CHRISTINA OR LIAM MCCORMICK TEL: 341 204;
BALDONHOUSE@GMAIL.COM**

NEARLY NEW SALE – LONG WITTENHAM

Long Wittenham Pre-School is holding a Nearly New Sale of top quality baby and children's clothes, toys, games, equipment and maternity clothes on Saturday 23 March 2013 from 10-12 noon at the Long Wittenham Village Hall.

If you are after a bargain please come along and get there nice and early!
Alternatively if you want to make some extra cash and support the Pre-School and your house is full of baby and children's clothes, toys, games and/or equipment that are "good as new" contact us to get your seller code and more details about how to become a seller.

Or if you would like to donate items to be sold at the Nearly New Sale please get in touch and we may even be able to arrange collection!

If you would like to come along, sell, donate items or need more information please contact Zoe Pepper by emailing chair@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk.
Please come along and support the Pre-School: www.longwittenhampreschool.co.uk

LENT AT DORCHESTER ABBEY: 'TREE OF LIFE' EXHIBITION & PROGRAMME OF TALKS

Dorchester Abbey is hosting a special programme of events during Lent. The focal point will be an exhibition of paintings on the Tree of Life by Caroline Meynell, around which a series of Sunday evening talks has been arranged.

The exhibition runs until 20th March and transforms an area within the Abbey into a contemplative space. Caroline Meynell brings a fresh approach to the well-known theme of the Tree of Life. She says "More often than not the Tree of Life is a stylised single painting. This time I have reinterpreted the theme. Instead of one single painting, there are twelve canvases, each depicting a different aspect in the life of a tree, culminating in a large painting of the Tree of Life itself."

The paintings for this series, like the trees themselves, took time to evolve. Begun in 2004 the final work was completed in 2011. The timing of the exhibition is in itself significant, as the paintings lend themselves to the themes of Lent and Easter, reflecting upon life, death and resurrection.

Talks in March are given by Revd Canon Professor Martyn Percy, Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, on 3rd March, "Spiritual growth: fields, trees and wisdom"; and Revd Emma Pennington, Vicar of Garsington, Horspath and Cuddesdon, currently engaged in doctoral research, on 17th March, "The flowering cross: medieval devotion to the Tree of Life". The evenings begin at 6pm with worship.

On 10th March the Abbey will be open for meditation and reflection, with music and candlelight.

Exhibition runs until Wednesday 20th March, open daily.

For full details of opening times and talks:

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk 01865 340007

Open House during Lent: Mondays 8.00pm at Dorchester Rectory

Each Monday during Lent there will be an opportunity to have a follow-up discussion about one or two of the 'Tree of Life' pictures by Caroline Meynell that are being exhibited in Dorchester Abbey. Please feel free to come to any of these as each meeting stands alone. Further details from the Dorchester Abbey Office: Tel 340007.

Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, 24th March, when we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem – in the evening there will be a reflective Palm Sunday service for the Team at 6pm in the Abbey.

Pergolesi – Stabat Mater, Wednesday 27th March, Dorchester Abbey

Pergolesi's celebrated Passiontide Cantata, Stabat Mater, a strongly emotional retelling of the Passion story from the viewpoint of the grieving mother, the Virgin Mary. Performed

tonight in the unusual duet combination of soprano and countertenor voices, with Andrea Pfenninger and Adrian Boorman accompanied on the organ by The Abbey's Director of Music, Jeremy Boughton. Starts at 7.10pm, and ends in time for Compline at 8pm.

Maundy Thursday

For the past few years, members of the Dorchester Team have joined together for an 'Agape' meal in which we remember and celebrate the meal that Jesus shared with his friends the disciples. This is a good opportunity to learn the story and share good company (and excellent food). No age limits – but children must be accompanied by an adult. We begin at 6.30pm and end (weather permitting) with a procession into the Garden. Solemn Holy Communion with stripping of the High altar follows.

We need to know numbers attending this event not later than Palm Sunday – please sign the lists in churches or contact the Rectory office by email or phone. Places filled up quickly last year!! Please note that you will be asked to bring your own plate and cutlery.

Good Friday

The reflection in the Abbey between 1pm and 3pm will be based on the "Trees of the Holy Land" and will be led by Canon Sue Booy. There will be the opportunity to enter or leave at intervals during the devotion.

Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday 1st March

The service for our Team will be held in Berinsfield church at 7pm, and the theme is 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me' – the service has been prepared by the women of France. The preacher is Stephanie Potter. All are welcome!

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily in memory of someone, please contact **Debbie Dance**:
d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk or 01865 341323 or
Veronica Sandilands: vsandilands@btinternet.com or
01865 343478.

Flowers are £2.50 a stem and will decorate St. Peter's Marsh Baldon and St. Lawrence's Toot Baldon. Names will be recorded in a Remembrance Book to be on display in the church.



FLOWERS

1st - 30th March
Easter Sunday 31st
March

Marsh

Toot

LENT – NO FLOWERS

Please help decorate our churches for Easter – contact
Veronica Sandilands (343478) if you can help at Marsh or
Jane Brook (343457) if you can help at Toot

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2013

Friday 1 st March	7.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer	Berinsfield
3 rd March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
	6.00pm	Opening Worship followed by Talk (Martyn Percy)	Dorchester Abbey
10 th March	9.30am	Family Communion for Mothering Sunday	Toot Baldon
	6.00- 7.00pm	Meditation with Music and Candlelight	Dorchester Abbey
17 th March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	6.00pm	Opening worship followed by Talk (Emma Pennington)	Dorchester Abbey
24 th March	8.30am	Said Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Palm Sunday Walk	Marsh to Toot
	6.00pm	Reflective Team Service for Palm Sunday	Dorchester Abbey
Wednesday 27 th March	7.10pm	Pergolesi: Stabat Mater followed by Compline	Dorchester Abbey
Thursday 28 th March	6.30pm	Maundy Thursday Supper with Communion and stripping the Altar	Dorchester Abbey
Friday 29 th March	10.00am	Good Friday Devotion	Toot Baldon
	1.00- 3.00pm	Reflection for Good Friday	Dorchester Abbey
31 st March <i>Please note time</i>	11.00am	Easter Communion	Marsh Baldon
7 April	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

Morning Prayer in St Peter's: Every Thursday at 8.15am (excl. 28th February & 7th March)

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
3 rd March		9.30am Jenny van Dijk
10 th March		9.30am Tom Saw
17 th March	9.30am Richard Barnett	
24 th March	9.30am Ian Gillespie	
29 th March		10.00am Sonia Hobbins
31 st March	11.00am Stephen Dance	



BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1001958
www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk

EDWARD ELGAR The Dream of Gerontius

Mezzo Soprano: Elinor Carter

Tenor: Andrew Mackenzie-Wicks

Bass: Colin Campbell

Conductor: Christopher Walker

TICKETS £15.00, £12.00 & £10.00

Under 21 £10.00, £8.00 & £7.00

Under 12 Free

Available from 01865 407395

tickets@bensonchoralsociety.org.uk

or at the door

THE ELGAR ORCHESTRA

Leader: Ron Colyer

Supported by:



7:30pm, 23rd March 2013
Dorchester Abbey



Film Night is on Friday 15th
March, doors open at 7:30 for
an 8pm start

Tickets are £4 each or a group of
four for £14

Book your tickets by contacting
Jenny on 01865 343459 or
jenny@datadaysolutions.com

Set at the height of the Vietnam
War and the civil rights
movement and brimming with
Motown hits, this portrait of a
late 1960s girl group —

Australia's answer to The Supremes — is a celebration of great music and triumph in the face of adversity. Based on the hit stage play by Tony Briggs, whose mother and three aunts formed the real-life singing quartet, *The Sapphires* is an effervescent, irresistible crowd-pleaser, with plenty of spunk and sass to go along with its fully earned sentiment.

The Sapphires are four young Koori girls who are discovered one night in a dusty outback tavern by lanky, often soused Irish-born talent scout Dave (Chris O'Dowd). With a sharp ear for honey-tinged voices, Dave convinces the girls to switch their act from country and western to rhythm and blues. While the racist locals vehemently reject the notion of a group of Aboriginal entertainers, Dave vows to make The Sapphires shine — not just in town, not just in the region, not just in the country, but all over the world. And against all odds, he pulls it off: the Sapphires' first gig takes them to war-torn Southeast Asia, where they entertain the troops. This film is PG so bring the family.