

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



May 2014

NUNEHAM COURTENAY ADULT LUNCH CLUB

(A non-political non-profit group)

The Nuneham Courtenay Adult Lunch Club has now been running for over a year with fifty regulars. Superb food is served once a month organized by a very enthusiastic Committee headed by Georgia Gillett.

We are looking for members to join our Committee and full training will be given including certified training by David Bates of the Oxford Community and Voluntary Action.

DO YOU LIKE GOOD FOOD
DO YOU LIKE MEETING PEOPLE
DO YOU LIKE BEING PART OF A FRIENDLY SOCIABLE GROUP

IF SO THEN GIVE US A CALL

Sheila

01865 340403

sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk



BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Join us every Wednesday

at Berinsfield Library

for Our

Story and Rhyme Time

At 3.45pm

All Ages Welcome

Children to be accompanied by an adult please



Here to help

join in ● explore ● discover ● log on



FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

Easter is here and the flowers are blooming in the gardens, the nests in the trees are fledging chicks and new life is all around. It's a wonderful time of year with such promise and so many pleasant activities to look forward to in coming months.

It's good to see the number of social events and concerts coming up in church and village, a tribute to the vibrancy of this community which our family is looking forward to enjoying over the coming years. We are so blessed to have a wealth of talent and energy in our villages. It doesn't mean we avoid the difficulties of course, just that we have much to give thanks for.

It was interesting to see the letter written at Easter by a group of bishops from around the country about the increasing numbers of people using food banks in our towns and cities. Does it seem strange that in places like Thame, Wallingford and Didcot, Christians and other people of goodwill are finding situations of desperation increasing and feeling a call to respond to the needs?

In the light of the resurrection's affirmation of sins forgiven and divine love's work being universally needed and eternally available, we are all called to share our blessings. How can we best do that for our present generation?

Paul

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

CHORAL EVENSONG

**AT ST PETER'S MARSH BALDON
ON SUNDAY 4 MAY AT 5PM**

SUNG BY THE CHOIR OF THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE

**PREACHER: THE REV DR DANIEL INMAN,
CHAPLAIN OF THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE**

**COME AND ENJOY SOME OF THE INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC
WRITTEN FOR EVENSONG: ONE OF THE GREAT TRADITIONS OF
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH.**

Book and a Bun



**A free book club for people over 50 at
Berinsfield Library.**

**Come and join us for a friendly discussion on a
different book each month over a cup of tea and a
bun.**

Every second Thursday of the month

2 - 4pm

Next meeting 10th May

BALDONS CRICKET CLUB

As many may already know: with the sad passing of Bob Denning it looks as though the future of the Cricket Club is extremely bleak. This is not for lack of players, or funds, or even of wicket preparation. It is in desperate need of a small group of dedicated locally-based 'cricket' people who will take on long-term responsibility and see to the regular weekly tasks that are required to keep the club going. There appears to be no-one within the present membership and players who is in a position to consider taking this on. Accordingly, this club - with its well-known ground and its history dating back well over a century - is facing the very real prospect of closure.

Perhaps within the Baldons community and surrounding areas, there may be someone with a cricketing background and knowledge that might be able to bring some new life to this dying club? If anyone knows of such a person, please could they contact John Wright on 343276 or Peter Cave via peter@cafo.co.uk. Thank you.

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Baldons Village Hall is for everyone's use: To book, please contact Ali or Darren on: 01865 340264 or dbaber@rm.com

The next meeting of the Village Hall Committee is on Wednesday 4th June at 7.30pm.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for June 2014 newsletter

by 16th May 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.

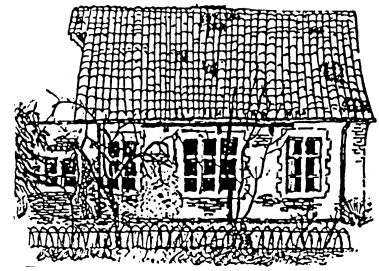


Christian Aid Week 11 - 17 May

We work with poor communities across the world to bring lasting change for the most vulnerable people on earth, regardless of faith, gender or race.

MARSH BALDON SCHOOL NEWS

Just before the end of last term, the School Council organised the activities to raise money for Sport Relief. Their cake stalls and other games raised £135. We have also been collecting old clothes for the Clothes Aid charity.



The first main event of the summer term will be our famous ‘**Maypole**’ display which everyone is welcome to attend. The PTA are planning to run a few stalls and so on to add to the occasion. This is being held on **Thursday 22nd May, starting at 1.45pm.** Everyone is welcome.

There are also a number of sports tournaments to take part in this term and we are planning a writing competition in June.

Other exciting things for the children at the beginning of the summer term include a School Council ‘Talent Show’ and a ‘Camp’ on the school grounds. The children will also be performing as usual at the Festival of Voices Concert at Dorchester Abbey.

We will publish the dates of Sports Day and the events at the end of term in July in the next issue of the Parish News.

Following the success of our radio workshops before Christmas, we have now purchased some of our own equipment. This term, the children will be able to try their hand at being budding radio presenters and you should be able to listen to their efforts on our school website from the middle of May onwards. This is an extremely exciting opportunity for everyone and something else that makes our school unique!

You can find out much more about our activities and events by looking on our school website: www.marshbaldonschool.co.uk

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

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

Nick Pitson – Headteacher

The Baldons and Nuneham Community Society

The first Annual General Meeting of The Baldons and Nuneham Community Society will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 21 May 2014 at Marsh Baldon Village Hall, following which we hope everyone will repair to the Seven Stars for a drink.

Formal advice of the AGM will follow to members.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Parish Meeting 15th April

Six villagers came as members of the public to the annual parish meeting, a small number, but there was some useful discussion. We always hope that more villagers will attend but perhaps the date in Easter week was not the most convenient for some of you. The usual reports of the work of the council and our financial position were given as were reports from Elizabeth Gillespie and Lorraine Lindsay-Gale our District and County Councillors.

Lorraine commented on the City Deal which is bringing new money to enable development in Oxford and also the new housing targets for all the District Councils which will substantially increase the target number of houses planned for and which could raise again the question of development in the Green Belt and south of Grenoble Road. Some of this has already been referred to in the local press.

A new application on behalf of Toot Baldon residents for the installation of mains drainage was discussed and a small group comprising John Maskell, Brian Trinder and Graham Hobbins will take the lead on this under the umbrella of the council. A lot of information and evidence gathering will be necessary and the Parish Council will monitor progress and try to help secure a positive outcome this time.

Councillors also took soundings in discussion about the possible benefits and uncertainties of undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan to help influence future planning policy and development in the village as was mentioned in last month's newsletter. There was a consensus that the council should democratically seek the views of villagers before making a recommendation to proceed...

Issues that were also raised in discussion by villagers included ...

A request that councillors take action to prune the trunks of trees round the green of some of the lower branches which can be an obstruction; and also to do something about the condition of the track near the post box. Comment was also made on the continuing presence on the green of the residue of the village bonfire which has not been removed by the organisers. Concern was also expressed at the SODC plans which are subject to consultation to redefine the boundary between Marsh Baldon and Nuneham Courtenay along the A4074.

Finance report

John Maskell presented the end of year financial report. And anyone wishing to see it in detail can contact John for information. In summary accounts show as follows:-

Receipts	Balance for 2012/3 CF	£ 12670.52
	Others incl. Precept	9180 06
Total		21850.58
Expenditure		9065.98
Balance		12784.60

Village Spring Clean

Thanks to everyone who turned out on a cold windy and showery Sunday at the end of March to clear up all the rubbish. It was a great turn out and the council is grateful for all the help. As you might have noticed there was a large pile of rubbish left for collection by Biffa on the green and in Toot Baldon. A large number of tyres and some builders' rubbish were among the items collected, all of which had been fly tipped.

If anyone sees a vehicle fly tipping try and take the vehicle number and report it to SODC. You don't need to wait for the Parish Council to report it.

Dog Bins

Two dog bins will shortly be installed, one on the north side and one on the south side of the green which, together with the waste bin near the Seven Stars, we hope will encourage dog walkers to use them rather than discarding bags of dog poo on the green. Many bags were picked up during the village spring clean. Not very nice.

Toot Baldon Notice Board

As you may have noticed, we haven't been able to display council information as the notice board door has been damaged. It is being repaired and will soon be back in use.

Dates of next meetings

Parish Council Annual General meeting 13th May 7.30 pm Village Hall. The AGM is a normal business meeting at which anyone can attend as usual but we also have to deal with the annual election of officers as the first item on the agenda.

Parish Council Meeting 8th July Village Hall 7.30 pm

FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH GILLESPIE

This year has been a fairly eventful one on SODC's front. The majority of the Vale of White Horse staff have moved into our Crowmarsh offices. The building was actually depressingly empty and it is certainly a more vibrant environment now; however I do have concerns over the Planning departments being physically integrated as in many respects SODC has been far more vigilant in implementing policies and, in my opinion, generally more efficient.

The SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Appraisal) statistics have now been made public and as has been abundantly reported. Although the general response is that these require a growth of about twice the rate of that required by the South East Plan, if in fact one looks at the SHMA itself it does state in its body that it is merely a trajectory of housing requirements NOT a housing needs target. It recognizes that there are factors such as AONB and Green Belt that will inhibit its housing build. Their figures are based on anticipated enterprise growth and of course enterprise would be of benefit to our County. However on a practical level the predicted growth and its consequences are unrealistic and extremely unlikely to be implemented. As ever the various interested parties, now

through the City Deal and SEP (Strategic Economic Plan) are attempting to realise their ambitions to build South East of Grenoble Road. Nick Bowles has been very useful to our cause in saying that the need for housing does not constitute the very special circumstances currently required to justify violating the Green Belt Planning policy, however there is now the 'duty to co-operate' between Councils and City have 21,000 houses to accommodate.

SEP. I have managed to secure a seat on the SEP in my role as Chair of LEADER and have done my best to ensure that the Green Belt is recognized in the document which has now been submitted to central Government and of course to ensure that our predominantly rural South Oxfordshire will benefit from the substantial funding which is due. At the beginning of the process funding allocation appeared very City-centric.

I have been vice Chair of Planning and Licensing this year and am Chair of LEADER.

LEADER. Although not yet properly defined, we anticipate the grounds for eligibility to be along the same lines as our previous LEADER allocation. We are currently putting in our bid to DEFRA for future funding, the indications are very positive and it looks as if funding could be already available early next year, we are therefore asking anyone one with projects in mind to contact me with an outline proposal which we could begin to process later in the year. If we are ahead of the game we are most likely to be able to benefit from this extra funding. I would also very much like anyone with knowledge which could be relative to join our LAG (Leader Action Group)

As you all know I do believe it is of real strategic importance to have a mini Neighbourhood plan which, unlike the Parish Plan, DOES carry material Planning weight. This plan should make clear our growth and design ambitions for our villages. The Planning department have repeatedly told me that it would be of considerable importance to us as a village, particularly in the current climate of massive build!

Mains Drainage in Toot. Once more I would like to encourage those interested to gather any new proof of evidence without which we do not stand a chance of success at this moment in time. There should be photographic evidence, reports etc which we can then submit to Thames Water and begin the process over again. There appears to be very little evidence at SODC about the previous application but Chris Nichols is a valuable source of information on this point and of course I was very much involved. However, I personally have not been aware of more problems than at that time; in fact the added problems that were created by the Mole Inn are now mitigated. Once we have a case of course I will do all I can to push it forward.

I hope that I am always readily available to help with any relative problems anyone has and can assure you that I am doing all in my power behind the scenes to protect and enhance our villages and City.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

1 Future Meetings

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 29th April 2014 in Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall. Everyone is welcome. We will provide light refreshments and snacks. We will not only review the last year, and look ahead to the year to come, but hope to discuss the need for Action Plans to deal with various issues of concern and we'd like your thoughts, ideas and engagement. Come along and meet your councillors.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 20 May at 7 pm in the Village Hall. All welcome. If there are issues you would like us to discuss then please contact us as noted below.

2 Planning

Brewer's Garage. Application ref: P14/S0453/FUL The Parish Council has recommended approval of the application which varies the original application with the provision of air source heat as a method of heating the properties

Nuneham Park - Walled Garden. Application ref: P14/S1036/LB. An application for listed building consent has been made to repair the walls. Information can be obtained from the SODC website (planning register) or by contacting Colin George (see below). Comments should be made to SODC no later than 7 May 2014

3/4 Lower Farm Lane. Application ref: P13/S3974/FUL. The application to link and convert stable and garage to create a single dwelling was approved by SODC on 17 March 2014.

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. The Parish Council has submitted an initial response to the first stage of consultation on the County Council's Core Strategy. The response suggests that the County's own data proves that there is adequate minerals capacity within existing sites and those currently in the planning system, without the need to identify further potential areas for extraction over the next twenty years. The response also reminds the County of the previous and detailed response to development in this area and asks that those concerns are taken into account if the County wishes to include 'areas of search' for future gravel extraction. We have also asked that more focus is placed on the use of recycled materials reducing the need to extract gravel from new sites. Our County Councillor has reviewed the response and feels it makes appropriate comments.

3 Cycling and horse riding on pavements

A recurring issue. The holidays and the emergence of the sun brings out more cyclists and horse riders, especially the nervous ones. Whilst riding on pavement is an offence it is, more importantly, dangerous for both the rider and those living in the houses. Whilst the A4074 is heavily trafficked and is an obvious danger a cyclist or horse rider can be seen, the risk to riders is that you are blind to villagers coming out of driveways and there

have been some near misses. To those children and animals playing in gardens someone on a horse can be terrifying. Offence or not, please consider both the safety of yourself and those in the houses – if you want to ride through the village then please use the road where you and the villagers are probably safest.

4 Beware Peacocks

The Spring is a time when the local young peacock population appears to be at their most inquisitive and mobile. Despite appearances to the contrary they are classed as wild birds. Less stupid than pheasants they will majestically cross the road rather than make an uncontrolled dash in front of cars, although they clearly expect motorists to make way at whatever moment they decide to cross the road. Please be vigilant. They are imperious to car-horns and being shooed off! As a measure to reduce speeding they are more effective than the speed camera!

And thanks.....

The Annual Parish Meeting usually provides an opportunity to thank all those who have who have taken an interest in the Parish during the year, helped out, raised concerns and so on. The Village Plan Steering Group, Adult Luncheon Club, Village Hall and Sports and Recreation Ground Association are all examples of where parishioners and those in the local area have got involved and are making a difference. So a thank you from the councillors to all those in the Parish, and the surrounding area, for taking an interest in local matters over the last year. If you have issues or concerns, or want to get involved then please contact us - we too are here to try to support our local community

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

Contact. Colin George (Chair and acting clerk)
nunehampc@yahoo.co.uk 01865 343767
www.nunehampc.webs.com



FROM OUR MP, JOHN HOWELL

As I write Parliament is in recess and there is time to take stock of several issues I have been working on in the constituency.

Flooding

Following the winter flooding key agencies are undertaking work to see what needs to be done to improve defences in the event of a repeat. Publicity has been given to flood defences for Oxford and I have been concerned that other problems in this constituency were being overlooked. I have raised this at several levels. Most recently I had a meeting with the Environment Agency to understand proposals being considered for works in this area. I also sought reassurance that any flood relief for Oxford does not move the problem downstream!

Crime Figures

It is good to see the latest crime figures for the constituency which show a reduction in crime. However whilst actual crime is low, fear of crime remains high. I am pleased that the police are prioritising dealing with burglary but have raised concerns that speeding is not high up their list as it is often raised with me.

Local Enterprise Partnership

Local enterprise partnerships (LEP) are partnerships between local authorities and businesses. They decide what the priorities should be for investment in roads, buildings and facilities in the area. Oxfordshire is one of the 39 such partnerships that have been created by the government nationwide. In many ways this is good news as it attracts investment. However I have been concerned that the focus is too much on Oxford to the detriment of this constituency where there are many important businesses. I have met with the Chief Executive of the LEP and also raised a question in the House to ensure that the more rural parts of the county are not overlooked.

For more information my website www.johnhowellmp.com is regularly updated and offers information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency. 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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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 session will be on 18th May.

"BATTLE OF THE ORGANS" CONCERT - 17TH MAY 2014

A spectacular, fun organ concert with Professor Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral) and Shean Bowers (Bath Abbey) on Saturday, 17th May 2014 at 7:30 pm in Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester on Thames, Oxon.

The concert will feature a musical duel between the organ of Dorchester Abbey and a visiting Makin organ.

Tickets £12/£6 available online from www.ticketsource.co.uk or at the door. Refreshments available.

For information tel. 01865 343458

DORCHESTER MAY MORNING MONDAY MAY 5TH

TWO A PART will again welcome May by singing from the top of the Abbey tower and then give a free concert in the Abbey. Funds raised from breakfasts and donations will go towards buying an All-terrain emergency vehicle for the Nasio Trust to continue their work for AIDS orphans and destitute children in Kenya.

Continental Breakfast from 8.30am in the Abbey

Two A Part Sing from the Tower at 9, then in the Abbey

Breakfast tickets £5 **MUST BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE** Available from Dorchester Co-op. £5 keeps a child in food for a month; £10 provides a teacher for a month

WEEKEND WATERCOLOURS:

Masterclass tuition in watercolour painting with Rebecca Hind

ARCHITECTURE IN LANDSCAPE 31st May and 1st June. Based in The Upper Room, Dorchester Abbey Guest House. Using linear perspective to create a sense of solidity this course will enable you to capture the relationship between the built and natural environment. Working outdoors if possible in and around the Abbey grounds and High Street.

PAINTING COUNTRY CHURCHES: St.Mary's Ewelme, Oxfordshire, OX10 6HS, 14th & 15th June. There is a wealth of inspiring subject matter here both inside and in the environs of this exceptional Church. Working 10.00 am - 5.00 pm Saturday and 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Sunday.

You will find a list of materials and a booking form on www.rebeccahind.com or call 01865 340633.

SERVICES FOR MAY 2014

4 th May	5.00pm	Choral Evensong <i>with the choir of Queen's College</i>	Marsh Baldon
11 th May	6.00pm	Evening Service	Toot Baldon
18 th May	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
25 th May	8.30am	Said Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	<i>One4All</i> ; Family Service	Marsh Baldon
	7.00pm	Taize@7	Dorchester Abbey
Thursday	7.30pm	Ascension Day	Toot Baldon
29 th May		Holy Communion	
1 st June	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

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

Venues and further details from

Jennifer Morton 343302; email: jennifer@morton8.co.uk

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
4 th May	5.00pm Ron Hewitt	
11 th May		6.00pm Jenny van Dijk
18 th May	9.30am Ian Gillespie	
25 th May	9.30am Tom Saw	
1 st June		9.30am Graham Hobbins

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
4 th & 11 th May	A Lyall & E Gillespie	M Trinder
18 th & 25 th May	I Wright & L Martin	J van Dijk & S Hobbins
1 st & 8 th June	F Ardern	H Maskell & J Knight

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SAVE THE DATE: COURT HOUSE GARDEN OPENING.

**THE GARDEN OF COURT HOUSE, TOOT
BALDON WILL BE OPEN IN AID OF THE
BALDONS CHURCHES AND THE RED
CROSS ON
SUNDAY 29 JUNE 2-5PM.
TEAS AND COFFEES SERVED.
ALL WELCOME.**

Hands on for Handbells

Family Fun Afternoon

Saturday 10th of May
2-4 pm

Baldons Village Hall

Fun for all the family with plants, cakes, books and jewellery stalls, cream teas, games and much more.

Admission Free,

All welcome

and

The Baldon's Showcase

Saturday 10th of May
7-11pm

Baldons Village Hall

Enjoy lots of local talent and dance the night away. Includes ploughman's supper. Licenced bar run by Baldons Village Hall

Tickets in advance only - £8



Raffle and tombola prizes, books, cakes and offers of help all gratefully received. Baldon Village Hall will be open Friday 9th of May between 4 and 6 pm for donations. All proceeds for the restoration of the village handbells. For Baldon's Showcase Tickets and further information contact Janet Cullen (01865 343229) or Denice Cullen (07955084693)