

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



May 2017

FROM CANON SUE BOOYS

I wonder what you love about the month of May – it's a month full of ancient traditions especially around the beginning of the month. In pre-Christian times flowers, dancing and celebration were all important. So at this time of year we feel a real association with our Anglo Saxon ancestors as we celebrate the warming of the seasons and the richness promised in field and garden which we celebrate with flower shows and festivals, school and village fetes and plant shows – and of course, barbeques!

A May Day tradition that has gone out of fashion was to leave a May Basket – a secret gift of sweet things anonymously on someone's doorstep. A kind of reversal of 'trick or treat', I suppose, but one that has gone out of fashion! In parts of the Church St. Mary the mother of Jesus is remembered on May Day – and more recently Joseph as well! Unless we have a later Easter two other important Christian festivals often fall in May Ascension Day and Pentecost or Whitsun!

Many of our local schools continue the tradition of May Dancing and still teach the skills of dancing around a Maypole and the steps required for English country dances (more often known today as 'Barn' dances and Ceilidhs). However the beginning of May is not all good news in places of education as it brings with it the season of examination as well as celebration – though there were not nearly so many of them exams have been held in May and June for centuries in our country (and elsewhere in western Europe) in order for them to be out of the way before Harvest when the young men who took them often needed to return home to help.

So many of the things we celebrate throughout the year are given us by the seasons and the traditions associated with them. Though I guess that our ancestors would not always recognise the things we do thinking that we are re-enacting the past!! That's good!! Tradition is a living breathing thing that happens when people take the things they value and interpret them for their own time and in their own way. Sometimes that ogre 'the Church' is accused of 'taking over' ancient traditions and making them 'religious' when really they are 'just' ancient. Then, of course, there's the question of Easter Eggs and bunnies and how that has grown out of the Christian teaching about Easter which, in turn, overlays earlier and more ancient origins.

Amongst any group of people there will be those who continually reinterpret the past – in order to value tradition and make it real in their own time and culture. This happens in families, in villages and local communities – as well as across the world. Perhaps it doesn't matter "who started what?" or even "whose tradition is the most authentic" – more important I suspect is the fact that we value our past enough to want to make it part of our present. That we value one another enough to share what's important to us and that we value what we believe enough to be confident about our own beliefs without feeling they have to be imposed – because

sharing is enough. Maybe that tradition of secret generosity exemplified by the 'May Basket' could do with a revival!

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

FREE BOOKS

Marcus Braybrooke's books **Meeting Jews** and **1,000 World Prayers** are available **free** from Amazon Kindle from May 8th to 13th.

Don't miss this special offer!



Car Treasure Hunt

from 2pm

Summer Fun on the Green

from 4pm

Saturday 17th June

Come to either or both events

Bring your own picnic

Plus

**Free Welcome drink, BBQ, Live Music,
Pony Rides, Bouncy Castle**

Keep a look out for further details



PAID HELP NEEDED – 2ND Thursday each month

at

NUNEHAM COURTENAY ADULT LUNCH CLUB

(A non-political non-profit group)

The Lunch Club require two people for 2 hour's work at Lunch time on the second Thursday of each month, to help with washing and drying of dishes.

It is a friendly relaxed welcoming atmosphere and we would be pleased to show you what is involved. Our next lunch is on Thursday 11th May, 2017 at 12.00 mid-day.

Please come along to meet us.

Location: Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall

Rate of pay at £10.00 per hour

Applications to: Georgia Gillett

Telephone: 01865 343531

DORCHESTER FESTIVAL: 28TH APRIL - 7TH MAY 2017

We look forward to seeing you at our seventh Dorchester Festival in Dorchester Abbey, raising money for the Abbey and Sue Ryder, Nettlebed Hospice.

This year's programme of 55 events over 10 days is as broad as ever, welcoming back some past treasures such as **The Tallis Scholars** and **Out of the Blue**, holding some great **family events** such as a **Science Mad afternoon**, a **scarecrow trail**, a **dog show** and the **Food & Gift Fair**, and attracting new audiences with a **Big Band Bond Night** and the amazing **jazz singer** Cate Cody. We are also really excited by **Showstopper! The improvised musical** - a fantastic West End show which has sold out 7 consecutive years at the Edinburgh Fringe and won last year's Olivier award for Best Family Show.

Do take a look at our website and bring your friends to help us raise money in the best way possible - by having a brilliant time!

www.dorchesterfestival.com

THE LAVENDER STORY

At the May meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Tim Butler will talk about 'The Lavender Story'.



Tim Butler's talk 'The Lavender Story' will take you through the history of Lavender cultivation, along with the various varieties of flower. The harvesting and distilling process will be explained, together with making and selling of the end products, which will be available for purchase after the talk.

The Lavender Fields are at Hartley Park Farm, in the heart of the Hampshire countryside. Tim is the third generation to farm this land, having introduced English lavender to the farm ten years ago. He values the landscape, making the fields a local landmark - being set against the ancient trees of the Selborne Hanger the vibrant fields of English lavender perfectly compliment the dense, dark woodland.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th May.

Visitors very welcome £3.
Isabelle Darby
01491-836867

PS. Don't forget Wallingford Gardening Club's Annual Plant Sale in Wallingford Market Place on Sat 13 May, 9am to noon.

Advance notice of future events :-

June to Sept - garden visits

Thurs 12 October - Going for Gold at Chelsea (Steve Head)

Thurs 9 November - Autumn Aspirations: looking forward to Spring (Paul Patton)

LONG WITTENHAM SCHOOL FAIR 13TH MAY 12-3PM

Come along and join in the May celebrations with Maypole Dancing and the crowning of the May Queen. Lots of fun and games for the children as well as Cream Teas, Cakes, BBQ, Craft stalls, Plant Sale, Street Dance and much much more!

NUNEHAM NEWSLETTERS – THANK YOU!

We are very pleased to say that Rod Baker has volunteered to take over the Colin George's delivery round, so huge thanks are due to him for this.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

South Oxfordshire Local Plan

SODC has issued its second consultation document outlining its preferred options for where and how much housing and related infrastructure should be provided to meet the district's need up to 2033. Whilst Didcot and Science Vale are the major development areas large housing developments are proposed for Culham and Chalgrove the latter on the redundant MOD airfield site. A substantial increase in housing is also proposed for Berinsfield linked to a big regeneration scheme. There are also smaller increases in housing numbers for the larger villages in South Oxfordshire. In smaller villages such as the Baldons small increases in housing numbers of 5-10% is linked with the development of a Neighbourhood plan which we are in the process of preparing. Some of the developments e.g. at Berinsfield will require a review of the Green Belt boundaries.

SODC have however excluded land south of Grenoble Road from their plans because of its location in the Green Belt despite the pressures from Oxford City and the University for its Development. This may not deter a planning application by Magdalen College being submitted for its development later in the year.

Consultation on the plan is open until 17th May. The Parish Council will be considering any implications for the Baldons in its response.

The consultation is open to any member of the public. and comment is welcomed by SODC

Hard copies of the plan have been placed in local libraries and can be viewed and responded to on line at www.southoxon.gov.uk/localplan Notices about the consultation have been put on village notice boards and in the Seven Stars .You can also let the Parish Council have your thoughts

Annual Parishes Meeting 10th April

Few members of the village attended the annual parishes meeting but we had discussion of the Local plan and on the possibility of reorganisation of local government (Unitary Status). .Because of the uncertainty and concerns about the implications for democracy and the future role of parish councils it was proposed and agreed that should there be a period of public consultation following the publication of the final proposals that the Parish Council will organise an open meeting for villagers .

Chairman's Annual Report 2016/17

1. Meetings of the Parish Council

The Parish Council held six meetings again this year. In the spring we changed our meeting day from the second Tuesday to second Monday due to the availability of our Clerk. We continue to meet in January, March, May, July, September and November. This appears to have worked well and will be reviewed as necessary.

2. Planning Applications

The Parish Council received 24 applications this year - 15 from in Marsh Baldon and 9 from Toot. A number of applications were for minor changes to existing approved plans.

Marsh Baldon

- 3 applications were for extensions to two properties;
- 4 applications were for repairs and improvements to listed buildings;
- 4 applications were for external work including stables and parking.

Of the latter, one is a retrospective application for car park on agricultural land that resulted in a complaint to the enforcement team at SODC. A decision is awaited. The Parish Council objected to three applications but were approved by SODC following amendments.

Toot Baldon

- one application was received for rebuilding an extension to a listed property;
- five applications involved minor changes to plans for a barn conversion.

All were supported by the Parish Council. In addition, there was a further permitted development approved by SODC for conversion of a barn for housing on Hillfield Farm.

Two other planning applications this year have been strongly objected to by the Parish Council but were given approval at SODC planning committee. Both involved the demolition of farm buildings to create large houses on sites that the Neighbourhood Plan group had hoped to earmark from smaller village homes. Unfortunately the status and timescale of the Neighbourhood Plan meant that our recommendation did not carry sufficient material weight with the planning decision.

Overall, it has been a frustrating year and councillors feel that it has become increasingly difficult to argue against development which we consider isn't in the interest of the Baldons when up against current planning policy as interpreted by planning consultants and planning officers. We hope that the Neighbourhood Plan will strengthen our voice in planning decisions.

3. Neighbourhood Plan

The development of a Neighbourhood Plan has occupied much of the time of Cllr. Attewill this year supported by a group of villagers. Local consultation, questionnaires and feedback, discussion with land owners and site assessments have been undertaken. The Plan is at an advanced stage although final publication has been delayed by changes in SODC support personnel and their requirements for robustness in the assessments and recommendations. It is intended the Neighbourhood Plan will be available for village consultation in the summer of 2017 and subject to a village referendum before adoption.

4. Baldon Feast

A hugely successful feast was held in August thanks to the efforts of Ralph Slaney, his family and a committed team of volunteers. Unfortunately this may be the last such event. It proved impossible to form a team to organise the event for 2017 and the Slaney family have therefore stood down. It will be up to villagers to decide and organise what, if anything, should be organised for this or future years. It is a great loss to the community of this long standing event meaning the loss of the fair which has visited for many generations.

5. Grenoble Road Development

The possibility of development in the Green Belt off Grenoble Road remains a recurring concern. The Parish Council objected to the proposals for a Science Village put out for public consultation in January 2017 by Magdalen College and Cratus Communications. The Parish Council have been working with CPRE and other parishes to develop public awareness and joint strategies of opposition to Green Belt development but are expecting Magdalen College to submit a full planning application to SODC later this year. The land is not included in SODC plans for housing development in the Green Belt. The Parish Council have supported a small group of villagers to form a lobby group against development.

6. Unitary Status

The Parish Council has been briefed by our District and County Councillors on the recently proposed changes to local government. Councillors have concerns about the lack of detail on how the devolved proposals will work and effects on local democracy and have not yet formed a view. We await the response from Central Government later in the year.

7. Toot Baldon Mains Drainage

Discussion has been held with Thames Water executives and there is an agreement in principle on the need for mains sewage system. More detail is required by Thames Water on the extent of the necessary installation. A further survey of villagers will be undertaken during the spring leading, it is hoped, to a final agreement and an implementation timetable.

8. Village Green

Concern was expressed to Savills, land agent for Queen College, at work undertaken on the green without permission by a villager. Subsequently a guidance note was issued to all householders round the green.

In addition, following the occupancy of the green by travellers, the Parish Council reached an understanding with the land agents on handling any future occupancy problems.

Car parking on the green remains a problem with damage occurring outside the school and Seven Stars. There are no easily affordable solutions but the Parish Council maintains a dialogue with the school and pub committee.

9. Bus Services

Due to OCC cutbacks we lost our subsidised bus service in July 2016. We were unable to demonstrate sufficient take up to persuade Thames Travel to provide an economically viable alternative.

10. Priorities for 2017/18

Priorities for the forthcoming year include:-

- Completion and obtaining support for Neighbourhood Plan;
- Responding to, and opposing, any application for development off Grenoble Road;
- Responding to any changes in local government (the Unitary proposals) and identifying the implications for the Parish Council;
- Achieving agreement on repairs to the village green and associated parking problems;
- Achieving a commitment and implementation timescale for mains drainage for Toot Baldon from Thames Water.

Dorothy Tonge, Chairman, April 10th, 2017

Next meeting: Parish Council AGM Monday May 8th 2017, 7.30 pm Village Hall

ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW

**SUNDAY 14th MAY - Abingdon Airfield (Dalton Barracks)
Gates open 10.00am**

A great family day out with something for everyone, it has now become one of the largest events in the Thames Valley area.

Supporting the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

3 hour flying display, static aircraft, ground attractions, craft and trade stalls, falconry, Farms 2 Ewe, Abingdon Morris dancers, live music from Ellie Mae of 'Britain's got Talent' fame, The Mangled Wurzels, Abingdon Rock Choir, Radio Days big band, Oxford Drum Troupe, Classic and Military vehicles, helicopter flights, arena displays, Abingdon Caledonian pipes and drums and much more...

Tickets in advance: Adult £12, Seniors £8, Child £4

On the day: Adults £17.50, Seniors £12, Child £6

For more details go to <http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk/>



Magdalen
Marketing
Agency

01865 340737

www.magdalenmarketing.com
help@magdalenmarketing.com

Magdalen Marketing Agency (MMA) is a digital marketing agency which recently moved into Threadneedle House, or 9 Nuneham Courtenay to the untrained eye.

MMA was founded by Thomas Bridge, whose mum Shena lives at 6 Nuneham Courtenay (whom we have to thank for all our gardening improvements).

Whilst the majority of our clients are behemoth recruitment companies in London, we offer discounted services to local businesses, such as:

- Business Cards
- Content Creation
- Copywriting
- Database Management
- Email Campaigns
- Logos & Branding
- PDF Brochures
- SEO / PPC
- Social Media
- Websites

If any of the above or similar are of interest to you or someone you know, no matter how small the task, please do pop in to say hi, drop us an email or give us a call.

Best wishes,

All the Team at MMA



It's a vote for your community

County Council election

Thursday 4 May

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/elections

 OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

JOHN LEE

Marguerite and family would like to thank all who sent kind messages of sympathy, attended the funeral service for John and made donations in his memory. John will be sadly missed but will remain much loved and always in our thoughts.

CITIZENS ADVICE: ARE YOU ENTITLED TO SICK PAY?

People often ask us for advice on sick pay they haven't received but to which they thought they were entitled.

It seems that some unscrupulous employers avoid paying sick pay to people who are too ill to work. They do this by using tactics such as taking them off rotas and cutting their wages.

People are entitled to be paid if they are off work for four working days or more and earn more than £112 a week. However, some employers are exploiting the confusion surrounding the rules on statutory sick pay and occupational sick pay. Tactics often used by employers include:

- Cancelling staff shifts after they call in sick, so that it looks as if they aren't intended to be working;
- Reducing staff members' working hours so they don't meet the £112 threshold;
- Saying that a GP's note is needed for even a few days off. In fact, people can actually self-certify for up to seven days.

Statutory Sick Pay is the Government's minimum level of pay for employees who are absent from work due to illness. To qualify, the employee must earn at least £112 per week and provide proof of sickness for absence exceeding 7 days. Occupational Sick Pay is where an organisation chooses to provide sick pay that is more generous than the statutory minimum.

With the cold and flu season still under way, Citizens Advice is urging people who are too ill to work to check their sick pay eligibility and to seek advice if their employer won't pay.

For further help, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk, telephone 03444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. For locations and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is an independent charity. Our 150 skilled volunteer advisers and 10 staff advise over 8,000 clients each year.

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your Local Library
and see what we have on offer

Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays
10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

IT Lessons Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter Tuesday 2nd May 2.30pm
(any craft welcome)

Reading Group Thursday 11th May 2.00pm

Coffee Morning Tuesday 16th May 10.30am

All Welcome



Here to help



join in ● explore ● discover ● log on

'THE ROUND MOUNDS PROJECT: FROM MEDIEVAL MOTTES TO PREHISTORIC ROUND MOUNDS'



Dr Jim Leary will talk at the Wallingford Historical & Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about the project 'Extending Histories: From Medieval Mottes to Prehistoric Round Mounds' which is funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

His talk will discuss the results from this project, which aims to discover the history of monumental mounds in the English landscape. The project brings together evidence from detailed analytical earthwork survey, geoarchaeological techniques and a comprehensive dating programme to determine the date of construction, sequence of development and environmental context of 20 castle mottes from across England.

Late Neolithic round mounds, such as Silbury Hill near Avebury, are among the rarest and least well understood monuments in Britain. Recent archaeological work at the medieval Marlborough Castle motte, Wiltshire, however, has shown it to be a reused Neolithic round mound, comparable in date to Silbury Hill. Could prehistoric round mounds therefore be more numerous and widespread than previously thought? Have many been hidden in plain sight for the past thousand years - incorporated into the fabric of later medieval castles? Such a link has not been drawn before, and yet, if true, could have considerable implications for the way we understand both late Neolithic round mounds and medieval castles.

We should learn more about the Wallingford Castle motte which has been dated between 1050 and 1150.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 10th May, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twahas.org.uk

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **June 2017** 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.

FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

(**Note:** this was written before the general election was announced)

In opening this month I would like to pay tribute to those who helped us in the terrorist attack at Westminster and especially to add my condolences at the untimely death of PC Keith Palmer. I also send my deepest sympathies to the families of the others who died or were injured as a result of this attack; all innocent people simply living life. I join the Prime Minister in paying tribute to our emergency services who dealt so bravely and professionally with the situation. Of course we have since seen a series of attacks in different countries and each brings huge sadness. These attacks are attacks on freedom, human rights, the rule of law and democracy. In protection of our values and in honour of those who have died in these attacks we will continue to defend these values - not giving in to terror or allowing voices of hate and evil to rule. We must echo mutual respect and understanding as best we can in our own dealings at home and abroad, in matters large and small.

In the context of this I have been pleased to spend the Easter Parliamentary Recess which is now coming to an end meeting with people around the constituency. In this two week break from the usual Parliamentary activities in Westminster there is an opportunity to meet with groups within the constituency especially some that meet mid-week. I am often asked to attend events or meetings during the week. However when Parliament is sitting this is not usually possible as, together with other MPs, I am required to be in Westminster from Monday to Thursday. Those who follow my regular reports back will know that I am occasionally away in my role as a Parliamentary Representative on the Council of Europe or in my role as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Nigeria. For these I have to get special permission to be absent from Westminster.

One issue that is often raised with me is that of litter around the area, especially on the roadsides. It certainly blights our local environment and the task of clearing falls to local councils at a considerable cost. The Government has announced a new Litter Strategy which sets out plans to help to tackle this anti-social behaviour. As part of the first national Litter Strategy litter louts could be hit with £150 fines. This will build on measures to better distribute public bins, making it easier to throw away rubbish, and the recommendation that offenders on community service sentences help to clear up fly-tipped waste. I am sure that this will be welcome across the constituency and trust that our local councils will engage fully with the initiative.

For more information about my work both in Westminster and in the constituency please do visit my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

DORCHESTER ABBEY NEWS

Wed 17th May 7.30pm The Creation and Narnia, C.S. Lewis on God, humanity and the animal world. A talk by Revd Prof Alister McGrath, Andreos Idreos Professor of Science and Religion, Oxford University
Free Admission All Welcome

Ascension Day service, 25th May -

Bishop Colin will be leading a communion at the top of Wittenham clumps with a service in Little Wittenham church for those not able to walk the clumps, to launch Thy Kingdom Come and celebrate Ascension Day. **Thy Kingdom Come** is a devoted time of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost, where we as a Team pray for our mission and evangelism in our own Parishes.

Friday 26th May to Monday 29th May English Music Festival in the Abbey.

For a programme please go to www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk

Pentecost Sunday, 4th June -

Dorchester Abbey will be hosting a 'Beacon event' aimed at families to close Thy Kingdom Come, with a picnic, Messy Church, and Christchurch Abingdon leading our worship.

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2017

We've been there for refugees since 1945. We won't turn our backs now.

Christian Aid Week was set up 60 years ago to support our work with refugees in Europe following the Second World War.

Let's act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home.

SERVICES FOR MAY 2017

30 th April	10.30am	Team Family Worship <i>Celebrating Christenings</i>	Dorchester Abbey
7 th May	9.30pm	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
14 th May	6.00pm	Evening Worship	Toot Baldon
21 st May	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
Thursday 25 th May	7.30pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion Launch of 'Thy Kingdom Come' with Bishop Colin	jointly at Wittenham Clumps and Little Wittenham Church
25 th May to 4 th June	various	Archbishops call for 'great wave of prayer, Thy Kingdom Come' Ascension Day to Pentecost	various (see separate notices)
28 th May	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
4 th June	9.30am	Family Communion for Pentecost	Toot Baldon

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
7 th May		9.30am Jenny van Dijk
14 th May		6.00pm Ian Gillespie
21 st May	9.30am John Mason	
28 th May	9.30am Liam McCormick	

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
30 th April & 7 th May	A Lyall	H Maskell & J Knight
14 th & 21 st May	C Attewill & V Sandilands	J Brook
28 th May & 4 th June	F Ardern	A Druce