

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



May 2022

FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

As I write the blossoming of Spring has given way to the soft promise of summer and the bluebells are beginning to open up in the woodlands. Such a contrast to the violence and heartbreak in Ukraine and the images of once thriving European cities obliterated into a uniform grey mess. What sense can we make of this? My colleague Jennifer Morton has been reflecting on this:

The first of May is exactly halfway between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice and as the first day of summer its celebrations welcome the season for growth and fertility with many traditions across the world. It seems the month of May was always a time for festivals and in some places there is still maypole dancing, Morris Dancers, and the crowning of a May Queen. Locally of course in Oxford the choir of Magdalen College sing from the top of the tower to welcome May morning.

In 1889 1st May was chosen as International Workers Day to commemorate the struggle by workers for an eight-hour working day. It seems ironic that this has developed into the current May Day parades that show off military might and the means of destruction rather than improved working conditions. What a contrast!

In the Church May is a season of transition and transformation; it is during May that we keep Rogation, praying for the protection of growing crops and you may remember the tradition of beating the parish bounds to make sure everyone knew where the boundaries were! It is also during this season that the Church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and to guide us into a new way of living the rule of Love which Jesus proclaimed.

This is a path that surely does not include an endless show of military might not only on parade but also used against neighbour. Let us, therefore, continue to pray, not only for protection of our crops and communities, but also for peace with justice for all.

I join my thoughts and prayers with Jennifer and wish you a blessed and peaceful month of May

Rev Teresa

The Revd Teresa Stewart-Sykes is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.

e-mail: RevTeresa@outlook.com and tel: 07823 809112

The Revd Jennifer Morton is Associate Team Vicar and lives in Toot Baldon: jennifer@morton8.co.uk.

Our current curate is The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood who lives in Berinsfield.

Our safeguarding officer is Sara McDouall: saramcdouall@gmail.com

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

**ALL SAINTS CHAPEL,
NUNEHAM PARK**

Music & Reflections
Sunday 15th May
4pm

From May to October at
All Saints Chapel in Nuneham Park
there will be a monthly service
Come along and enjoy the music,
the silence and the beautiful
chapel

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the June 2022 newsletter
by 16th May please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter. Please send copy to Natasha Eliot: tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively, I can be contacted on 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Leanna Maggs on:
leanna.maggs@gmail.com or on 01865 340 521

Cover Photo:

Flowers by Lizie Giraudeau – see Lizie's Country Bunches advert on p9 3

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Parishes Meeting Monday 5th April

This is an important meeting for villagers to be able to ask questions and be updated on issues in the village but unfortunately only 4 were able to attend this year which is disappointing. The Parish Council Annual report and finance report were presented together with a report from the Fuel Charity.

The agenda had indicated that Beccy Harris headteacher would attend but she was unfortunately unable to attend at the last minute. Tom James as chairman of the governors reported instead on the success of the school which is oversubscribed for the September term and the increasing need for additional classroom accommodation.

Charles Champion from Savills land agent for the Queen's College also attended. Although invited earlier his attendance wasn't able to be listed on the agenda issued prior to the meeting as he hadn't confirmed his attendance but was added on the later version circulated on village email. It had also been mentioned in last month's newsletter. Mr. Champion spoke of the role of the land agents in managing the college estate which is a charity and also spoke of the ideas for development which they are considering for the Manor Farm barn site in Toot Baldon, the site being in the neighborhood development plan. It is intended that there will be a site plan for discussion with the council later this year when plans are firmer but more barn conversions and some retirement housing are under consideration. Mr. Champion was also asked to reconsider the lack of a water supply to the allotments.

All papers from the meeting are on the website including reports from our District and County councillors.

20 mph Speed limit

We have now had an encouraging response from the Highways department, that they are considering our application which we were told is 'pushing at an open door'. We await their decision and will keep you informed.

Planning applications

Romelia House Toot Baldon. P22/S0976/HH. An application for two small extensions, to the front 2 storey and rear single storey. The parish council has indicated its support to SODC.

Village spring clean

A big thank you to all the villagers who turned up on Sunday 3rd April to help clear up discarded rubbish. There was quite a lot, and we appreciate the help.

Date of next meeting 5th May Village Hall. 7.30pm

This is the AGM of the council where we elect officers for the next year as well as conducting normal business. As with all our meetings it is open for villagers to attend.

BALDONS FUEL CHARITY

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021

The list of Trustees, who served during the year, were:

Mr D Greenaway

Mr C Nichols

Mrs A Porter (Chair)

Mrs A Barne

Mr A Johns (Treasurer)

Mr B Don

Mrs E Timms (Clerk)

There were two Ordinary meetings of the Trustees in 21, supplemented by telephone and email communications between the Chair, Clerk and the other Trustees.

The main business remains the settling of fuel allowances for needy parishioners and granting of special payments for hardship cases or for educational purposes. Income for the year, almost exclusively investment income, totalled £16,953 (2020 £15,373.) and expenditure £15,339 (2020 £13,575), leaving a surplus for the year of £1,614 (2020 £1,799).

Payments were made to a total of 25 parishioners re' 'Cash in Lieu of Fuel' payment and three other parishioners for Education related purposes. Cost of Personal Alarms was £1,239, covering 7 individuals. Payments under the heading 'Special Grants' totalled £10,745.

There were no changes to the investment portfolio in the year. The market value of investments had increased by £137,597 compared with the previous year, leaving net assets of the Charity, at 31st December 2021, of £745,835 (2020 - £608,238).

Alison Porter

Chair

The Baldons Fuel Charity



Platinum Jubilee Celebration on the Green

from 12.30 pm

Sunday 5th June

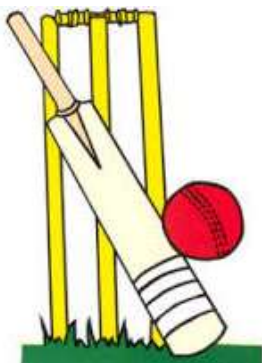
Enjoy Free: Welcome drink, cake & live band.

Available to purchase on the day: Hog roast, teas and
coffees

*Bring your own picnic, picnic blanket/chairs,
& relax*



YOUTH CRICKET



Youth Cricket Coach

There is a keen contingent of younger cricket players who meet to practice in the nets before the adults, on Thursdays, 5pm. If you have some expertise and would be keen to coach and encourage these budding players they would be delighted. Please let Sara (sara@mcdouall.co.uk) if you think you could spare some time for this. Many thanks.

Youth Cricket Nets

If you are 10 or older and would like to come along and join other younger members at the nets on Thursdays, please do come along! If you have pads and helmet, bring them along, but if you don't, please come along anyway. You would be very welcome.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Public Transport meeting

It was very good to see eight parishioners and one person from Marsh Baldon turn up at the Parish Meeting on 29th March to talk to Dave Harrison, Principal Public Transport Planner at Oxfordshire County Council, following the changes to the buses that happened in January. Considering the number of complaints you hear from other parish councils, it was surprising to hear Dave Harrison say it was only the second parish meeting he had been asked to attend.

It turned out some of the changes are only temporary, like the ones to the Thames Travel 45 service and the reduction in the number of buses between the village and Oxford City Centre. And the reason? Severe shortage of bus drivers, he told us. Came as a complete surprise to me. So the companies cannot run all the services they are supposed to do. And it seems Thames Travel pays less than other companies so it has worse problems, which is why the drivers now operating the X39 and X40 services are borrowed from Oxford Bus Company. Some parishioners felt there was a real and unwelcome difference in the way drivers now treat passengers.

So, Dave Harrison said the 45 bus might be back to normal by September but the service to Oxford raised other problems. The reason the company has diverted the buses down the Iffley Road is to make up for Stagecoach ceasing its service between the City Centre and Rose Hill: the X39 and X40 are being diverted so the service on the Iffley Road remains at eight buses per hour. And the company won't budge.

But Dave Harrison admitted that the X38, which has also been suspended due to the shortage of drivers, is an hourly bus paid for by the County Council out of contributions from developments in places like Benson so, when it comes back, the County Council can insist that it runs down the Abingdon Road, which is a much quicker way into Oxford from the village. All of this offered a little reassurance and hope to some parishioners and we all certainly found out a lot about the companies that run most of Oxfordshire's buses, what matters to them and, unfortunately, what doesn't.

Development?

The Council has been approached by a potential developer interested in buying less than one acre of land on the eastern side of the main road that is on sale for £1¼m from NJ Commercial of Stokenchurch. The estate agent does not claim anyone would be allowed to build new homes on the land but that is what most potential purchasers would hope to do.

Would South Oxfordshire allow them to do it? Surely not, but who can tell what the Planning Department might say?

Council's Annual Meeting

The Council's next planned meeting on Tuesday 3rd May is the Council's annual meeting where it elects a Chair and Vice-Chair for the following twelve months and re-adopts or amends its main policies and procedures. Let's face it: if I were ever to try to persuade you that Council meetings are fun to attend, I would not choose an annual meeting as there is a lot of routine business to get through, but it has to happen sometime.

Christmas trees

What Christmas trees, you may ask? I went to park in the Village Hall car park in broad daylight now the days are longer and what did I see: three Christmas trees lying on the grass turning brown. So, it means the District Council's contractors, Biffa, have failed to pick them up, again – you just may remember it has happened before. So, I think it's the third year in a row that the trees have stayed there until April. Thank goodness, they probably weren't in anyone's way.

Vacancy

Just to remind you, there is a vacancy on the Council. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please let me know or speak to one of the four existing councillors.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY SPORTS AND PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION (NCSPFA) UPDATE

We are trying to progress towards a safe and fit for purpose space for children to utilise. We understand the frustrations whilst the area remains closed for health and safety reasons.

Maintenance is required to remove an existing barbed wire fence and replace with a more child friendly option. In addition, plans are in place for some much-needed tree surgery. The Arboretum have voluntarily said they will do the necessary work, but are seeking planning permission from SODC before this can proceed. This is because we are in a conversation area.

We have obtained quotes to hire a roller to flatten the field and erect a new bench

The Association has no working capital to pay for this work upfront so we have applied for a grant to cover costs. Any ideas for fund raising would be welcome.

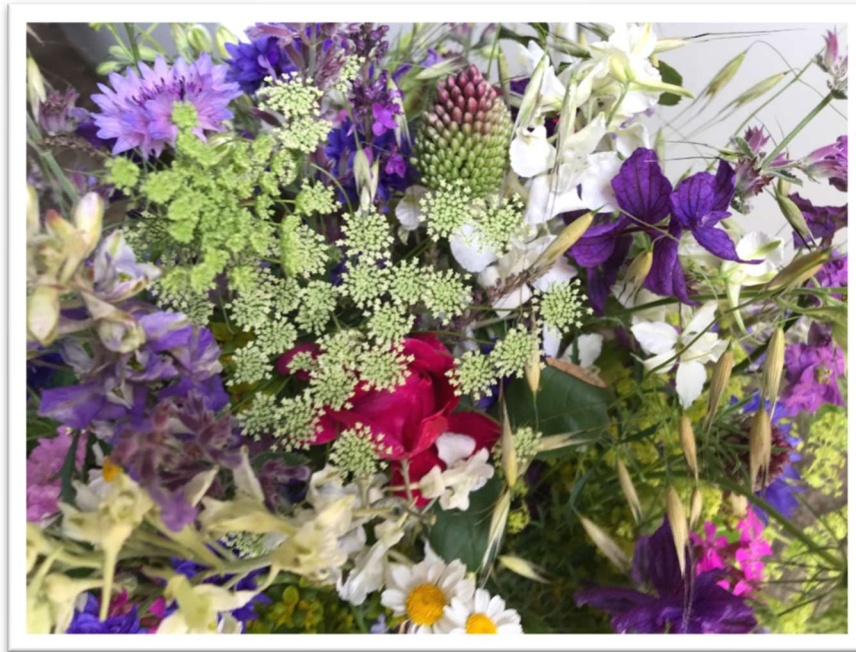
Please be patient as we aim to have the playing field open after work has been completed.

If anyone would like to join the NCSPFA committee please get in touch ncspfa@gmail.com

Ron Benson
Chair

Lizie's Country Bunches

All sown and grown in her cutting garden in Toot Baldon
From £5 (a handful) to £40 (an armful) and everything in between.
Collection from the garden gate (29 Toot Baldon) or can be delivered locally.



www.countrybunches.info

07590 580 631 / 01865 343219 / Liziegiraudeau@gmail.com

NATURE'S STORY IS OUR STORY

The hidden benefits of gardens and green spaces don't seem so hidden this year. It seems so many of you are more readily noticing nesting birds locally to you this year and being moved to tell me about your discoveries. Maybe even more so than you normally do?

What I personally take from that is not only is there a joy in sharing your garden or your local area with nature. There's a tangible joy in sharing that experience with others, especially since the Covid situation that we've all been through. I don't claim to be an expert in the emotions around joy, but what I observe, maybe anecdotally, is that the initial joy brought about by nature is very engaging. Making the ecosystem around us, part of daily life, is a significant first step to starting to care about our environment, which I've said many times.

Humanity seems to be transitioning to a more sustainable way maybe, and even those who don't care about the environment, are likely to be dragged along with that sustainability shift, whether they like it or not. Let's hope this this new-found sharing of the nature we discover continues, and we can all play a part in ensuring that it does. In the next month, I set you a challenge, let's all share our joy of nature with 5 of your friends. Let's keep passing our joy on. Nature's story is our story though, let's not forget that.

Stuart Mabbutt, 01865 747243, www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

New committee Members

With the retirement of several members of the committee, we have several new people on board. Sean Duffy will be keeping the finances straight for us. The books are currently being audited as per June's request before he takes over. Caroline Duffy will be doing the admin and general paperwork. Karen Drew is keeping the bookings. You can contact the village hall on : NunehamCourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com although Karen is also happy for you to contact her directly for bookings. Her home email address is Drew242@btinternet.com.

We still need more committee members, to help plan activities, to be a key holder, and to help with general maintenance of the hall. Do get in touch if you want to join in!

Working Party

We would like to spruce up the village hall a bit. It has not been painted since the fire! Caroline is organising working parties over two weekends in May- the 7th & 8th and the 21st & 22nd. Please get in touch, even if you can only spare an hour or so!

Future events

Our village Hall is 100 this year! We plan on having a combined Queen's jubilee party/ village hall centenary party on June the 11th along the lines of our vintage tea party. Please look out for details of our Centenary Tea next month. The village hall will also support the village party which we hope will be in July. We would like to have more events going forward!

Happy Retirement

June Harris has retired from the village hall committee after serving as a member for 50 of its 100 years! She has been an amazing member of the committee, with a wealth of knowledge so important to keeping a village asset like this alive. She has served as treasure, booking secretary, administrator, keeper of the bingo rules, and much more. We thank her for her service and hope she will continue to share her experience with us, while enjoying events. Thank you June!

June Harris

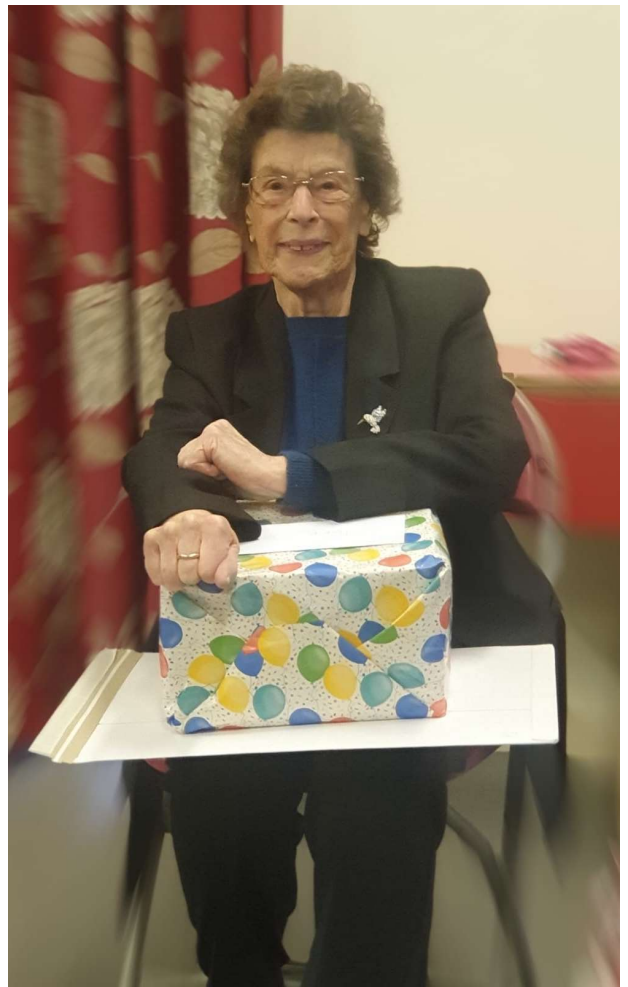
Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall Committee is sad to have to announce the retirement of Mrs. June Harris as Treasurer and Secretary of the committee as of 31st March 2022.

June joined the committee 50 years ago and has done a multitude of tasks over the years. In no particular order - bookings secretary, cashier, accounts, cleaner, maintenance supervisor, purchaser, key holder, cook, washer up, retail assistant at our famous jumble sales, Bingo adjudicator if more than one person calls on the same number (not sure if that job has an official title!) - you get the picture.

June has done anything and everything that needed doing to keep the hall going, quietly, efficiently and cheerfully. No hall could have had a better committee member and Nuneham knows that. We held a collection for her which raised enough money to buy an antique brass trivet and garden vouchers to keep her busy in the garden now she will have time on her hands (!), which we presented to her in the hall on Monday 28th March along with a giant card signed by many and a bottle of fizz.

The presentation was attended by old friends who had also served on the committee over the years and new. Reminiscences came thick and fast, as there have been many changes over the years, not least to the heating in the hall. Apparently the original source was a coal/coke burner which June and others used to clean with blacklead- a far cry from the electric ones we have today.

It was a warm and appreciative send-off for a community member who, like Prince Phillip, had "done her bit" for us for so long. I think we're all proud to have June as a Nuneham resident and wish her a long and happy retirement.



MUSIC AT ST PETER'S / WALLINGFORD CHAMBER MUSIC

Music at St Peter's has now changed its name to **Wallingford Chamber Music** as the venue for all concerts has changed from St Peters to Wallingford's parish church, St Mary's. Otherwise the aim remains unchanged: to present a wide range of chamber music of the highest quality, performed mostly by young artists at the beginning of their careers. This year's programme of concerts is as follows:

Date	Music	Artists
14 th May	Clarinet quintets by Bliss and Brahms	The Sacconi string quartet with David Campbell (clarinet)
4 th June	Piano recital of music by Schubert, Grieg and Scriabin	Anita D'Attellis
25 th June	Piano quintets by Venables and Elgar	The Coull string quartet with Mark Bebbington (piano)
9 th July	Cello recital of works by Debussy, Beethoven, Faure and Chopin	Cara Berridge
30 th July	String quartets by Schubert, Haydn and Beethoven	The Echea string quartet
20 th August	Baroque music by Bach Handel and others	The Band of Music
3 rd September	Guitar and accordion recital	Andrey Lebedev (guitar) and Iosef Purits (accordion)
17 th September	String quartets by Elgar, Phibbs and Borodin	The Piatti string quartet
1 st October	Choral music by Buxtehude, Bach and Vivaldi	The Thames Consort conducted by Jeremy Boughton

All concerts start at 8pm and tickets, costing £18, are available through the Wallingford Chamber Music website www.wcm.org.uk or at the door.

EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Fri 29th April to Sun 8th May The bi-annual Dorchester Festival takes place this Spring, 29th April – 8th May. The Festival is an amazing collection of over 50 events packed into just 10 days at Dorchester Abbey, raising money for Dorchester Abbey and for Daybreak, an inspirational local charity. Emerging from a tough couple of years, Dorchester Festival is an opportunity to get together with friends and family to enjoy an eclectic mix of great entertainment. This year's mix ranges from The King's Singers to folk band Merry Hell, from our Bash party in the huge marquee to The Comedy Night, from the Duck Race to Lego Masterbuilders, inflatable walk through brains and so much more! Further information and tickets can be found at www.dorchesterfestival.com

Sat 14th May 7pm OSJ Opera Gala Young Stars of the future - Operatic overtures, arias and duets.

This concert celebrates the OSJ's Young Artists scheme; current members and graduates of the highest quality perform timeless operatic favourites including the Seguidilla from Bizet's Carmen. With full orchestral backing. We open with Johann Strauss II's Die Fledermaus Overture. OSJ is committed to supporting young musicians and nurturing their talent. Our Young Artists scheme provides the opportunity for young musicians to flourish as soloists or conductors in the early stages of their careers, irrespective of background.

Read more at osj.org.uk/young-artists-scheme/ Tickets £5 to £25 from <https://www.osj.org.uk/osjevent/opera-gala-young-stars-of-the-future-7pm-at-dorchester-abbey/>

Fri 27th to Sun 29th May English Music Festival We are delighted to announce the programme for the 2022 May EMF. This year, the Festival is scheduled to return to Oxfordshire, with events held in the glorious surroundings of Dorchester Abbey as well as at the Silk Hall at Radley College and the historic All Saints' Church at Sutton Courtenay. The full programme, with details of venues, works and artists, is given below. Public booking is now open, with tickets available from <https://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2022-may-festival/box-office/box-office-front-page.php> and by post. In the meantime, if you are not already a member of the EMF Friends' Scheme and would like to know more about how you can support the work of the Festival in this way, please visit <https://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/friends.php> for a description of the tiers and their benefits, together with information about how to join.

Sat 4th June 7pm Queen's 70th Jubilee Concert Music from the Wedding, the Coronation and the 50th Jubilee to include Handel Zadok the priest, Parry I was glad and Music by Vaughan Williams, Wesley, Purcell and others. Tickets £5 to £30 from <https://www.osj.org.uk/osjevent/queens-70th-jubilee-concert-7pm-at-dorchester-abbey/>



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THE SEVEN STARS
at
MARSH BALDON



NEW SMALL PLATES MENU

We wholeheartedly believe that dining should be a sociable and fun way to get together with loved ones, friends, and colleagues. Our team of chefs pride themselves on bringing the best local and fresh ingredients together for all to enjoy. Our menu offers a combination of traditional pub classics with exceptional small plates, thus allowing guests to submerge themselves in an array of flavoursome, fresh, seasonal dishes. Why limit yourself to one dish when you can share plenty?



Scan to view our latest menu or head over to www.sevenstarsatmarshaldon.co.uk to view and book your table.

Contact us on
sevenstars@freespiritpubs.co.uk
01865 343337

The Seven Stars at Marsh Baldon, The Green, Marsh Baldon, Oxford, OX44 9LP



CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY

1 st May	10.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
8 th May	4.00pm	Toot Baldon	Evensong
15 th May	9.30am	Marsh Baldon	All Age Holy Communion
	3.00pm	All Saints Chapel Nuneham Park	Evening Praise
22 nd May	10.30am	Culham	Team Service
Ascension Day	7.00pm	Toot Baldon	Team Holy Communion
26 th May			
29 th May	10.30am	Berinsfield	Cluster Service

CHURCH FLOWERS

Date	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
1 st / 8 th May	Veronica Sandilands (& 15 th May)	Vanessa Bowler / Tracey Greenaway / Linda Delafield
22 nd / 29 th May	Alison Lyall	-

Christian Aid Week is 15 – 21 May 2022

Envelopes will be collected by local volunteers.

With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.

