

**The Baldons and
Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**



Queen Elizabeth II

1926 - 2022

October 2022

FROM THE VICAR

I am writing this in the immediate aftermath of the sad news of the death of HM the Queen, knowing that by the time you read this her funeral will have taken place and King Charles III will have been proclaimed king. Thank you to our curate, Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood, for sharing the following poem:

September the 8th, 2022

You were old, already, when I was born
And I took your gentle face for granted:
On every coin and every postage stamp,
Each Christmas message, poppy wreath laid.
Most famous of faces around the world,
I saw you, once or twice, felt I knew you
And many people cherish their stories
Of garden parties and medals received.

We feel the sands of time shift beneath us
As history is marked before our eyes.
We feel the cold wind blow, the night draw in
And pull our coats tightly around our chests;
We raise our heads, as you did, say a prayer;
We cling to the true rock, the true anchor
As you did. We live with faith, hope and love.

The Archbishop of Canterbury writes:-

“As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society.

“As deep as our grief runs, even deeper is our gratitude for Her Late Majesty’s extraordinary dedication to the United Kingdom, her Realms and the Commonwealth. Through times of war and hardship, through seasons of upheaval and change, and through moments of joy and celebration, we have been sustained by Her Late Majesty’s faith in what and who we are called to be.

“In the darkest days of the Coronavirus pandemic, The Late Queen spoke powerfully of the light that no darkness can overcome. As she had done before, she reminded us of a deep truth about ourselves – we are a people of hope who care for one another. Even as The Late Queen mourned the loss of her beloved husband, Prince Philip, we saw once again evidence of her courage, resilience and instinct for putting the needs of others first – all signs of a deeply rooted Christian faith.

“In The Late Queen’s life, we saw what it means to receive the gift of life we have been given by God and – through patient, humble, selfless service – share it as a gift to others.”

We continue to pray for members of the Royal Family as the God who sustained Her Majesty throughout her life, guides them and brings them comfort. Above all, we pray also for our new King in the responsibilities that now rest upon him. And we seek to follow in the footsteps of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as we care for each other and the beautiful, fragile world we are grateful for this harvest season, and seek reconciliation in our families, communities and the wider world.

Rev Teresa

**O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.**

**Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last.**

Amen

~~~~~

Prayer of Cardinal John Henry Newman, from the Book of Common Prayer

This was the favourite prayer of Jack Greenaway,  
(22 December 1921 – 9 July 2012), who was gardener at Baldon House from the  
age of 14 until his death at the age of 90.

***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**



# **FIREWORKS**

*Bonfire, Fireworks, Funfair, Bar, Mulled Wine, Food and more*

**5th NOVEMBER**  
***Marsh Baldon***

**6.15pm Lighting the Bonfire**  
**7.15pm Fireworks**

**ALL WELCOME!**

Suggested voluntary donations:  
£10.00 per car   £3.00 pedestrians

**VILLAGERS FREE!!!**

Villagers - please support the bar and make a donation in the buckets.

**SORRY NO SPARKLERS!**

**Come and enjoy the evening!**

*We need your help, please. Do come, It's actually quite fun!*

*5/11 Saturday 10.30am erecting marquees*

*Evening: car parking and marshalling volunteers needed*

*6/11 Sunday Taking down marquees*

*Please contact [baldonsevents@hotmail.com](mailto:baldonsevents@hotmail.com)*



# **THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY**

**For the past 50 years, the Baldons Fuel Charity has been helping some residents living in Marsh, Toot or Little Baldon with their energy costs.**

**Financial support has also been given towards personal alarm systems for the elderly, a new boiler, mobility aids, costs of education and in many other situations when financial help makes life a little easier.**

**The Charity has an annual income of about £17,000.**

**If you are struggling with your fuel bills in these challenging times, or know anyone in the villages who is, please let us know.**

**Either talk to one of us or obtain an application form for a grant from the Clerk, Emma Timms (341461).**

**All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence by the Trustees.**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP  
THAT IS WHAT THE CHARITY IS FOR!**

**Trustees:**

**Ali Barne – 343624  
Bruce Don – 343330  
David Greenaway – 343496  
Alan Johns – 343268  
Jacquie Lake - 343006  
Chris Nichols - 343388  
Alison Porter – 340405**

Help with energy costs may also be available from the  
National Energy Foundation [www.nef.org.uk](http://www.nef.org.uk)

## FOUND ON THE AVENUE

The item below was found, still working, on The Avenue. Please contact John Peters on 07582 170960 if you recognise it.



## BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Retirement of John Maskell

John's attendance at his final meeting of the council was on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September. A number of members of the village were present to hear John make a short speech and receive the thanks of the council for all his commitment and hard work for the community and Toot Baldon. He will be a hard act to follow.

The council is hoping to be able to co-opt a new councillor in the next few weeks to serve for the remaining duration of this Parish Council pending elections for a new council in May 2023.

### Southern track renovations

Progress on the track renovations has been delayed by the company due to the recent rain. It is hoped to start before the end of September.

### Drainage work

The Highways department have recently dug out drains in the Croft and Baldon Row in an endeavour to deal with flooding problems on the road during the winter. We were hoping for some drain repairs in Toot Baldon but it seems unlikely this is going to happen before the winter. The situation will be monitored and referred back to highways should we have heavy rain and flooding problems.

### Oxford Traffic Filter consultation from Sept 5<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> October

As part of its wider transport strategy Oxfordshire County Council in conjunction with the City Council are consulting on additional measures to control traffic in Oxford with the aim of reducing cars, improving air quality, encouraging more cycling, walking and bus use. A traffic filter is a short section of road which can only be used by some types of vehicles at certain times.

Six traffic filters are proposed on main roads in Oxford. When they're operating, private cars will not be allowed through without a permit. All other vehicles will be allowed at all times.

The effect of the traffic filters will be to prevent car journeys through the centre of the city requiring drivers to find alternative routes via the ring road, an already busy and congested road. These measures are proposed as temporary, initially for 6 months, from the summer 2023 and will be monitored.

They are in addition to other measures being implemented e.g., Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, (LTN's) and the Zero emission zone about which much has been written for and against in the local media.

The plans can be seen at [OCC letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/traffic-filters-2022](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/traffic-filters-2022). The survey and supporting documents are available from 5 September.

A Published leaflet on the proposals will it is hoped to have been circulated on Village email. The Parish Council will be submitting a response, but we would encourage villagers to be aware of the plans and respond if you wish to.

### Classic Car Meetings

We have been asked to consider supporting the organisation of classic car rallies on the village green once a month next summer. A few villages already have a classic car meeting and a number of years ago a small number of cars did meet outside the pub occasionally. This might be a bigger event. The council have asked for more information about numbers, frequency and parking arrangements.

### Planning applications

35 The Green P22/S2599/HH An Application for a side and rear 2 storey extension. The council has agreed to support the application.

2 Queens Barn, Toot Baldon P22/S2613/HH An application for a 2-bay garage and log store. The council will be expressing its concern at the details of the plan and are aware of SODC concern at the impact on neighbouring trees.

Hillfield Farm, Toot Baldon P22/S2800/HH An application for a Loft conversion on an existing barn conversion to create an additional bedroom. The Parish Council has agreed to support the application.

Now that the village hall has an internet connection it is hope that in future it can be used to view planning application on the SODC website during council meetings which could make decision making easier. Unfortunately, we weren't able to successfully log in this month.

Date of next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

# NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Buses

Let's start with some good news. Oxfordshire County Council has kept its word about reinstating the 45 bus through Nuneham Courtenay that was suspended in January when the bus companies could not find enough drivers to run all the services they were supposed to.

The 45 bus is running again on Mondays to Fridays (excluding public holidays) between Abingdon, Berinsfield, Nuneham Courtenay, Rose Hill and the Cowley Centre. The first buses from the village towards the Cowley Centre are at 8.18am and 9.12am. They are then hourly from 10.22am to 2.22pm. The final two are at 5.11pm and 6.11pm.

Going towards Berinsfield and Abingdon the first bus is at 7.32am on school days and at 7.37 otherwise. The next one is at 9.15am. The bus is hourly from 10.13am to 2.13pm. The final two are at 3.19pm and 5.56pm.

The parish council is glad to have contributed in a small way to achieving this outcome and is now pressing the County Council to recommission the X38 to provide an hourly service into Oxford via the Abingdon Road.

If the proposed traffic filters come into existence, the Abingdon Road will no longer be a route to the railway station or even the Westgate Centre car park so it will be a really quick route into Oxford City Centre for buses.

## Electoral register

Some of you may have received a yellow reminder letter from South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) asking you to confirm or update your details. This Electoral Register will be used for the SODC and parish council elections due next May.

Being on the Electoral Register may not get you a direct say in who becomes Prime Minister but you do get a say in choosing your MP and your local councillors, so do make sure you're on the register.

## Parking bays

The parish council has contacted the County Council about the way bus bays have been repainted so parking spaces have been lost. The County Council has admitted its mistake and has undertaken to reinstate the parking spaces.

## Solar Farm

South Oxfordshire's Planning Committee is due to meet on 21<sup>st</sup> September to discuss giving the huge solar farm between this parish and Grenoble Road an extra five years.



The Planning Officer is recommending that the committee approves the application on the argument it hardly makes it any worse. The Planning Committee originally approved the solar farm to run for 35 years and the applicants now want to be allowed to run it for 40 years.

### 20mph speed limit

A spreadsheet on Oxfordshire County Council's website shows that the 20mph speed limit for the main road through the village requested by the parish council is not going to happen this financial year but is listed for next financial year, 2023-24, but there are no further details yet.

### Science Park extension

The parish council is concerned to hear that all the construction traffic for the huge extension proposed to the Science Park beside the A4074 may be sent south through Nuneham Courtenay because our Sandford neighbours have argued, quite understandably, they don't want northbound lorries going through Sandford to reach the A4074. Is there an alternative? Could not the lorries go along Grenoble Road instead to the B480?

### Playing Field

What a joy it is to be able to walk on the Playing Field again. I can't actually remember when it last looked so tidy. If you have not seen it, take a look. It's a very welcome sight.

### Records

I had to go to the Oxfordshire History Centre at Cowley to examine some old records for another council so, while I was there, I checked this Council's original minute book has been correctly catalogued and is available to read. And it is. This Council only came into being in 1973 and the first minute book covers the Council's first 69 meetings, up to July 1985. In that time, it had just three different chairmen and two different clerks. The present Council deposited the minute book with the Oxfordshire History Centre over four years ago so it would be safe and at the same time available for anyone to see.

### Meetings

The Council met on Tuesday 6th September and discussed lots of things, many of them already mentioned above. No one has yet come forward to fill the vacancy on the Council, so do contact me or any of the four existing councillors if you're interested.

The next ordinary meeting of the Council will not be until Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

### **Halloween Party**

We plan to hold a traditional Halloween party on October 29<sup>th</sup>. We know that trick or treating can be difficult with the road. We plan on holding a fancy dress event with the best of Halloween traditions and a nice giggle for all members of our community. Timings to be confirmed

### **Wreath Making workshop**

Rachel Taylor has kindly agreed to host a wreath making workshop for the community. We would like to hold this event along the lines of a sip and craft event. More details to be confirmed closer to the time.

### **Christmas Bingo**

Christmas Bingo is provisional booked for December 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Christmas Ball**

TBC. Watch this space!

### **Yoga**

Most Monday nights as 7:30 in the village hall. Come along to join this fun friendly group. Contact Jenny at [jenny@datadaysolutions.com](mailto:jenny@datadaysolutions.com) for me details.

### **Bookings**

If you wish to book the hall or its equipment, please contact Karen on [nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com](mailto:nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com).

### **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Items for the November 2022 newsletter

**by 16<sup>th</sup> October please**

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter. Please send copy to Natasha Eliot: [tashaandjames@btopenworld.com](mailto: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](mailto:leanna.maggs@gmail.com) or on 01865 340 521

## DORCHESTER TEAM EVENTS

### **Saturday 8th October 7pm OSJ perform Dvorak New World Symphony**

Get ready to voyage across the Atlantic with Dvorak's New World Symphony, where Czech and American influences come together to create this much-loved piece filled with hope and optimism. Award-winning pianist Rupert Egerton-Smith returns to perform the spectacular Rachmaninov Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, alongside music from Stanford and Beethoven.

Tickets £15 to £30, from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

### **Wednesday 2nd November 7pm All Souls – An Autumn Concert**

Autumn is the time of harvest and wine making. Nature shuts down, golden leaves are falling, nights get darker, winter is coming. It is a time of closure, hibernation and preparing for winter. There is so much music about this time. Join us for a spooky autumn concert with music by Strauss, Mahler, Faure, Turina, Guridi, Garcia Abril, Britten, Barber, Händel and Purcell with Susanne Mecklenburg – voice – and William Hancox – piano.

# WILL ON THE GREEN

Painting, Decorating, Tiling  
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Contact Will Maggs

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E: [willonthegreen@outlook.com](mailto:willonthegreen@outlook.com)

W: [willonthegreen.com](http://willonthegreen.com)

M: 07449 925444

P: 01865 340521



Oxfordshire Libraries

# October Half-Term Events at Berinsfield Library

## Autumn Scavenger Hunt

All week during library opening hours  
Collect a sheet from the library, complete in your own time and return to us for a small prize!



## Lego in the Library Wacky Races

Wednesday 26 October, 2.30pm – 4pm  
Join us for our popular in-library Lego play. Build your best vehicle on wheels to race at the end of the session! Will yours be the fastest?



## Seasonal craft table

Saturday 22 & 29 October, 10.30am – 12pm  
Drop-in craft table with autumnal and spooky-themed crafts.



## Teddy Bear Trail

All week during library opening hours  
Can you find and identify the famous teddy bears hiding in the library? Come in, collect a sheet and help us to find them all!



 @oxonlibraries  Oxfordshire Libraries

01865 340771  
berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL



STUDIO THEATRE CLUB  
Unicorn Theatre Abingdon  
Shakespeare's

# MACBETH

Stephen Player playergallery.com

**16 to 19 NOV**

19:30 (+ 14:30 Sat.)

Tickets - [studiotheatreclub.com](http://studiotheatreclub.com)  
or from the Bookstore, Bury St., Abingdon



THE SEVEN STARS  
at  
MARSH BALDON



# SEVEN STARS

We will be welcoming a new manager to the Seven Stars shores this month - Gus Evans - so please come down and join us in welcoming him to the wonderful community. He has some fantastic ideas to push our pub even further and we can't wait to see them.

We have also got a brilliant new offer starting this month too! Our amazing Chef Patrick will be cooking up a Chef's special dish each week and a drink for just £12. With something new each week this is the perfect excuse to take the night off cooking. Follow our social page @freespiritpubs to find out whats on offer.

## BARN

Don't forget the early Freespirit bird catches the worm! Across all our Freespirit pubs our Christmas menus are live online and booking system open for December. So if you have been tasked with organising the office Christmas party or need to take the stress out of the family Christmas this year, then scan the link below and get your party planned and booked.



Scan to find out more and book your table.

Contact us on  
[sevenstars@freespiritpubs.co.uk](mailto:sevenstars@freespiritpubs.co.uk)  
01865 343337

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





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Unit 19 Wheatley Business Centre, Old London Road, Wheatley, Oxford, OX33 1XW

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

|                          |         |                 |                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> October  | 10.30am | Marsh Baldon    | Holy Communion                                                                                     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> October  | 4.00pm  | Marsh Baldon    | Traditional harvest sung Evensong service. Please bring harvest gifts for the Wallingford Foodbank |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> October | 9.30am  | Toot Baldon     | All Age Holy Communion                                                                             |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> October | 10.30am | Clifton Hampden | Team Service                                                                                       |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> October | 11.00am | Berinsfield     | Cluster Service                                                                                    |

### HARVEST EVENSONG

Harvest Evensong 9th October 4pm in St Peter's Marsh Baldon

Traditional harvest hymns and a sung Evensong service.

Please bring harvest gifts for the Wallingford Foodbank

## BUILDING BACK GREENER

Christian perspectives on the future of our economy, money and work:  
**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Online & in Birmingham**

On Zoom on the evening of Friday 7th October, is environmentalist and writer, Paul Kingsnorth, founder of the Dark Mountain project. The event starts at 7pm, with Paul's talk starting at 7.30pm.

This will be followed by an in-person event at the Priory Rooms (7 minutes' walk from Birmingham New Street Station), Birmingham B4 6AF, from 10.15am to 4.30pm on Saturday 8th October.

Speakers on Saturday will be:

Grace Blakeley, economics and politics commentator and Professor Christopher Southgate, scientist and theologian. For more information and tickets please see <https://greenchristian.org.uk/conference2022/>

And if you would like to travel by train with others from the team, please contact Rev Teresa email [revteresa@outlook.com](mailto:revteresa@outlook.com) 07823 809112