# The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



#### FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

As I have watched the combines at work in the fields around our villages, and as I've been held up by the tractors and the lorries carrying the fruits of the harvest to grain stores or to barns, I've been reflecting on what it means to give thanks at Harvest-time.

In a speech for the American Thanksgiving holiday President JFK wrote: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

What a great reminder for us today as we face a climate emergency, a refugee crisis and a global pandemic that the act of giving thanks requires us to acknowledge our blessings, and in so doing, calls us to recognize our responsibility to help create a peaceful, well-governed world. Moreover, when we realise that the creation of a peaceful, life-affirming world is held captive by poverty, injustice and oppression, we who live with such great blessings in our daily lives are called to recognize that there are so many whose lives are less fortunate.

At Harvest-time when we give thanks for our homes and material comforts, we are challenged to recognize those who are left without. When we give thanks for our families and friends, we call to mind those marginalized by the isolation of physical or mental ill-health, all those who are still battling with the effects of long-covid or bereavement because of covid. When we give thanks for our freedom, we remember all those living under oppression and injustice, in Afghanistan, China, North Korea etc. In our act of giving thanks that we recognize a responsibility to bring about positive change in our world.

I think it is true that we have the power to create the world that we wish to live in. If we wish to live in a kind world, we can offer genuine kindness to others. If we desire a clean world, we must be willing to take action to reduce our carbon emissions. If we wish to live in a merciful world, we must extend our hand to help someone who has fallen on hard times. If we wish to live in a peaceful world, we can campaign for justice for all, because there can be no peace without justice. President JFK was right, giving thanks really is only the start, it's how we put that thanksgiving into practice that matters.

**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

# **BALDONS APPLE PRESSING WEEKEND**

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th September















# Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm

# Marsh Baldon Village Hall

We are planning a celebration for our return to Marsh Baldon Village Hall and our 6th birthday.

Save this date and join us as we celebrate with food and wine, and praise and worship, giving thanks to God for many blessings, and seeking His face as we remember those we have lost since we last met together in person.

Our speaker at this meeting will be James Nickols, our Filling Station regional coordinator, who was our speaker at the launch in October 2015.

If you are interested just come along or contact Catherine Mason (<u>southoxfordshire@thefillingstation.org.uk</u> or 07879 626828)





# **FIREWORKS**

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

# 6th 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! 6/11Saturday 10.30am erecting marquees
Evening: car parking and marshalling volunteers needed
7/11 Sunday Taking down marquees
Please contact baldonsevents@hotmail.com



# **BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

## Track round the green

The council considered a helpful and detailed paper from Peter Cave and Andy Speight outlining the various options for repair and/or resurfacing of the track on the south side of the Green and the associated costs and long-term maintenance following the completion of work at Durham Leys farm. This will need to be considered in more detail within the council and with the developers at Durham Leys who also have a responsibility to undertake repairs once construction is completed next summer. Once there is a clear and affordable plan and timescale in place villagers on the souths side will be kept informed.

Arrangements have been made for the installation of posts to protect the edge of the green during the next few months. They will be similar to those to outside the school.

## **Durham Leys**

The development at Durham Leys farm is now due to begin in early in October and we have been advised by Lucy's there will be a slow build up to traffic and activity to the start to the building work a few weeks ahead.

## Village Green

Discussion are being held with Savills land agents for Queen's College about management issues and trees on the village green. This is ongoing but there is agreement with them that we need to improve and open up the landscape across the ditch to both sides of the green by removing self-seeded saplings and spreading hawthorn whilst maintaining willows and other good trees where we can. Work on this will start in the coming months.

#### **Solar Farm**

The Parish Council submitted additional comment to SODC in response to the amended application by the Solar Farm developers. We have restated our objections and commented that none of the amendments address the fundamental concerns but appear to provide additional information to satisfy SODC questions on matters such as the impact on heritage assets which the applicants have assessed to be low.

#### Oxfordshire Plan 2050

The council has agreed to submit a response to the consultation on the long-term development in the county taking account of the assessment of the various growth scenarios, and projected housing numbers and the advice of CPRE. Of the options for housing growth there are concerns at the methodology for calculating numbers which are believed to be far in excess of need and damaging to the Green Belt and overall landscape. We will be arguing for the lowest numbers based on projections and for the protection of the Green Belt and the environment. Responses are required by 8<sup>th</sup> October

#### The Pear Orchard

The council has given its support to the planting plan for the pear orchard which is being progressed this autumn subject to some clarification on hedging plants.

Date of next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 pm in the village hall

## **PETER DELAFIELD 1930 - 2021**

It is with great sadness that Keith Peter Delafield lost his brave fight and died on August 14th at the age of 91. Always known as Peter, he was the youngest of six children and grew up with his family in Drayton, just outside Abingdon. He was a bright and practical boy with a flair for mechanics and business. Initially, after leaving school, he set up a self-drive car hire company before the majority of households owned a vehicle. He met Nancy at a dance in Abingdon, impressing her with the offer of a lift home afterwards in his smart motor. They married in 1955 and celebrated their 66th anniversary this April.

After a couple of years he decided to join his eldest brother Philip, with whom he had a very close relationship, working on his farm in Drayton and together they formed the Delafield Brothers partnership eventually purchasing Jericho Farm at Cassington in 1960. It was hard work, and for six years Peter lived with Nancy and their new daughter Elaine in a caravan on the Drayton farm. Once they set up home in the farmhouse at Cassington, Linda and Martin arrived. In 1972 the tenancy for Parsonage Farm in Marsh Baldon became available from Queen's College and Peter was very proud that he acquired the lease against some stiff competition. He moved into the farmhouse with his young family and, building a fine reputation as a diligent and passionate farmer with a good eye for business, the Delafield Brothers partnership thrived. Today the farms at both Cassington, where Philip still lives, and Marsh Baldon together with some land at Garsington and Drayton (about 1,000 acres in total) are successfully run by Martin. Peter, however, continued to take a keen interest in the affairs of the farm and it was only a few months ago that he could still be seen driving his van around the fields to check on how the crops were developing.

The family are very grateful for all the messages of sympathy they have received from those in the village. The funeral will be at St Lawrence Toot Baldon and Peter will be buried in the graveyard there overlooking the land he farmed for almost 50 years.

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

# **Road Safety**

A parishioner has complained to the Council about how dangerous it is for children to cross the main road on their way to and from school, and a member of the public has complained about drivers using the right turn lane for the Baldons to overtake. Dealing with either of these problems would cost money the County Council will tell us it doesn't have and it will also tell us there have not been enough accidents or deaths to justify either a traffic island or a zebra crossing.

But our new county councillor Robin Bennett is very committed to making it safe for children to walk or cycle to school so perhaps he may be able to get the County Council to look at these issues more sympathetically.

The Council also discussed improved protection for peafowl and Cllr Robin Bennett has said it is possible to arrange for the peafowl protection petition to be presented to a full County Council Meeting.

Official peacock warning signs would be a first for this country but unofficial ones were put up in Stansted Mountfichet in Essex a few years ago. The Council is going to find out whether a one-week traffic speed and volume survey could be carried out on the main road. It's difficult to persuade anyone of anything without evidence.

# **Playing Field**

The Council has now published on its website the reply it sent to the letter the Trustees of the Playing Field delivered to the Chair of the Council in July. The Council has suggested that if the Trustees want to give the Playing Field greater legal protection, a Deed of Declaration from the Fields in Trust charity – founded by the Queen's father before he became George VI – would protect it in perpetuity and would probably cost no more than £80. The Council also suggested the Trustees could apply to district councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye for the £80 if they can't afford it.

I mentioned in the last Newsletter that the Trustees have said it is the cost of public liability insurance which prevents them making the Playing Field available for use and I said the Council's insurers told me they would charge £174 per year for such a policy. I half-wondered if one or more readers would come forward and say they would offer to pay the £174 (£139 if you use Gift Aid) but I suppose I should have known it is too much for one person to pay.

If the Playing Field were insured, the Trustees could then get it cut regularly. A reader with the right equipment could volunteer to cut it regularly. If this were not possible, then it is likely that mowing the Playing Field would incur costs that the Trustees would have to meet. The Council does not know whether the Trustees have funds available for mowing as the Trustees do not have to publish their accounts.

Would there be ways of raising the money to pay for the mowing? The Council believes the local community would support any fundraising activity directed to this end by the Trustees. But that would only give the children of Nuneham Courtenay a neat patch of grass on which to run around. To get play equipment installed and maintained would be a far bigger challenge for anyone. The Council is sure the Trustees can get lots of help and advice from the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association.

However, making the Playing Field available again to the children of Nuneham Courtenay is the Trustees' solemn legal responsibility so I'm sure we all hope that in 2022 we will see some real progress as it will then be four years since the Trustees decided in 2018 to make the Playing Field unusable as they felt they could not afford to insure it.

# **September Council Meeting**

The Council met on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, not its usual date, and spent particular time on the Playing Field and road safety, which I have covered already, but also discussed four planning applications, Council finances, business continuity, changing the bank signatories, insurance renewal, the defibrillator, the website, bus issues and fixing the Clerk's monthly hours in line with the national recommended minimum hours for a small council like this one.

# **Next Council meeting**

The Council's next meeting is on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Geoffrey Ferres - Parish Clerk Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk

#### MUSICAL EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

# Saturday 2nd October 8pm Music at St. Peters at Dorchester Abbey

Handel: Alexander's Feast with The Thames Consort

Director Jeremy Boughton and soloists: Soprano: Lisa Gifford-Guy, Tenor: Chris Fitzgerald-Lombard, Bass: David Le Prevost.

Tickets: £16 (free for under 25s) Tickets must be pre-booked online at www.musicatstpeterswallingford.org.uk or phone Jules on 07968 703079

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 7pm OSJ Concert Schumann Dichterliebe, Stanford and Liszt Join Julien van Mellaerts and the Orchestra of St John's for the world premiere of Schumann's transfixing Dichterliebe, newly orchestrated by conductor John Lubbock, and enjoy gems from the choral repertoire by Bruckner, Stanford and Liszt, performed by the OSJ Oxford VoicesTickets £15 to £20 from <a href="https://www.osj.org.uk">www.osj.org.uk</a>

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 7.30pm Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* conducted by Richard Laing



# TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984** 

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, that the Oxfordshire County Council

# TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS THE USE OF THE HIGHWAY BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES

LOCATION: Marsh Balden, Baldon Lane, OX44 9LT

REASON: Sewer cleaning non excavation works

DURATION: One day closure on 27 October 2021

(full closure 24hrs)

(Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5

consecutive days.)

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service

vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of

road, subject to the progress of the works

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: The alternative routes for traffic are via a combination of Balden Lane – A4074 – B4015 – B480 – Road towards Marsh Balden – The Croft – Balden Lane and vice-versa.

Paul Fermer
Assistant Director of Communities

#### PLEA FOR PEAFOWL - UPDATE

We have now heard back from Cllr. Robin Bennett that he has written to Highways with our request for VAS signs at both ends of the village. He also told us we have the opportunity to present our petition to a full Council meeting - apparently you only need 10 signatures to qualify and we had over 200! Our human peafowl representative is included in this invitation.

We would like to do this so are exploring with Robin what is involved and how it would work. We'll let you know what is decided. There seems to be ever more traffic going through the village and speeds seem to have increased, with a resulting increase in noise, hence the plan for a proper traffic count. One Nuneham resident is even contemplating moving, on account of the traffic, which is incredibly sad to hear. I hope our combined efforts can result in some resolution of this increasing problem.

One of our Parish Councillors, Nin, is researching speed management options so if anyone has any ideas or suggestions or things they have come across in other parts of the country she would love to hear them. Please send to Geoff, who will pass them in. Nin is having issues with her parish e-mail. Thank you.

#### **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Items for the November 2021 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. 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

## **BALDONS CRICKET CLUB**

## **Baldons CC beat Great Milton by 8 wickets**

Reported by Henry Williams



Some weeks ago, in the height of the summer glow, Baldons CC made the pleasant trip down to Great Milton ('GM') and proceeded to handsomely dispatch the assembled locals to the tune of a resounding 150+ run victory. With the home leg now upon us, and background chatter focusing on the enforcement of any away goal rule, a similarly glorious September sun welcomed the vengeful GM side. Indeed, at least the sun was there to welcome them, since stand-in captain Henry Williams was still hurriedly racing through the winding Cotswold roads in a hopeless effort at timeliness. In a moment of Herculean bravado - and with essentially 5 minutes notice - Jake Ball nonchalantly stepped up to the plate.

Amidst the familiar administrative chaos, GM's spirits were visibly lifted with Captain Cosmo and his usual band of talented stand-ins conspicuously absent from the home dugout. Sensing a lack of batting firepower, they won the toss and elected to bat first. Little did they know that the depth of Baldons' bowling department had come on leaps and bounds this year. By the time Williams arrived at the pitch, Adam Winn and Joe Singleton had ripped open the Milton top order and Zac Petrou was proceeding to systematically pry out the middle order with a metronomically consistent line. Sensing blood - and perhaps an early pint in the Seven Stars - Ball brought back on the pace of Winn to partner Williams in an effort to blow through the brittle tail. An aggressive strategy straight from the Eoin Morgan handbook that would leave the concerns of a fifth bowler for "future Jake" to worry about. The move was a triumph; GM were impressively bowled out for a mere 56 runs. Bowling plaudits went to Singleton and Petrou for bagging the bulk of the wickets while fielding accolades were picked up by Murtaza Usmani - what a wonderful arm - and Charles Taylor behind the stumps, demonstrating that fine glovework really does run in the family.

The chase began in concerning fashion with a fiery spell of bouncers from the GM opening bowler. With genuine fear of life at stake, an unfortunate run-out incident saw the back of Usmani, who had shaped up well. Captain Ball was bowled shortly after having played a frankly sumptuous upper cut down past third man only moments before. Enter Francis Young. While Graham Bruce calmly ticked off singles befitting the meagre target, Francis played some glorious on drives, and a particularly memorable slap through cover, as the indomitable duo guided Baldons CC to victory in relative comfort.

A second crushing victory against a strong opponent which perfectly demonstrated the pleasing depth in the club with only 2 players present at both. A dream captaincy debut for Ball. An unforgettable first opening bowling spell for Singleton. An eye-opening display from Petrou. A delicious knock from Young. Not a bad day out that.

# **End of Season Baldons CC intra-squad game**

Reported by Henry Williams

Baldons CC brought the curtain down on another wonderful summer of cricket with the traditional intra-squad game. Highlights included: a spell-binding battle between father and son, Dan and George Trinder; the return of Jasper Taylor who appears to have put on pace despite recovering from an ACL injury; a vicious fifty from Francis Young; and another all-round display of bowling and fielding from Toby Cook.

The day ended with a tinge of sadness at the unfortunate end of the season brought on by our seasonal misfortune as a nation. However, that hint was quickly extinguished by the excitement of next season with huge improvements seen all across the squad, at all ages. Here's to an incredible 2022!







Please note, Thursday **Cricket Nets** are now off until the season starts again next year... We will notify you in the newsletter and via the mailing list when that is.

Please email us at <u>baldonscc@gmail.com</u> if you have any questions, would like to make a donation, or wish to be added to the mailing list for fixture / nets updates.

#### Cosmo Gets An Award...

The Cricketer Magazine and the Oxford Mail report that Cosmo has been awarded the Voneus Village Cup "Club Legend" Award for his fantastic work reviving cricket in the Baldons. You can see the reports here:

https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/sport/19355987.cosmo-taylor-gets-village-cup-award-baldons-work/

https://www.thecricketer.com/Topics/nationalvillagecup/voneus\_village\_cup\_club \_legend\_cosmo\_taylor\_the\_baldons.html



# Coming soon...

A brand new chiropractic health centre opening in Nuneham Courtenay.

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OX44 9NY

www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk

Online bookings available www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk



# Hello from The Maple Tree!

So far this year we have served 224 families and played with 289 children from Wheatley and beyond! We are now offering a full programme of sessions and activities to children under 5 and their parents and carers. We are erring on the side of caution with optional masks, a cleaning regime and adequate ventilation, and we are suggesting that families book using Eventbrite; <a href="bit.ly/mapletreeeb">bit.ly/mapletreeeb</a>. However, dropping in for all or part of a session is also acceptable. There is a suggested donation of £2.50 per family per session. We welcome everyone!

Monday: Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am

Tuesday: Story and Rhyme Time at 10:00-11:30am

Wednesday: Maple Babies at 10:30-11:30am and 1:30-2:30pm

Thursday: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Little Adventurers at 1:30-

2:30pm

Friday: Coffee Morning with Wheatley Primary School parents at The Maple Tree Centre 8:45-9:45am and Social Butterflies at 10:00-11:30am (both entirely drop in)

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am 3rd Saturday in month Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm

We are looking forward to our next fundraising event **Gardeners' Question Time** on 8<sup>th</sup> October at Mill View Garden Centre; details and tickets available from the Wheatley Society, Mill View and The Maple Tree.

We are looking for Volunteers! Would like to join our committed and friendly group of trustees? Or are you interested in helping with our sessions, working with young children alongside our dedicated staff team? Or fundraising? Do you have a lot of spare time or just an hour a week?

We are here to help you, if you need help, advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249.

Check out our Website and Facebook pages for our online sessions, special events and helpful information!

Email:info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley</u>

Laura Spencer - The Maple Tree Centre Manager

# FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

An overarching question asked of many MPs is what does an MP do? There is no job description, and each MP has to work out the best way to pursue the role for themselves. The last 18 months have forced some changes in working patterns and some forced changes have proved to be for the better. For example I intend to continue doing my advice surgeries virtually as this has proved to be very popular.

The main task for an MP is to consider and propose new laws as well as raise issues relating to the constituency or constituents. This is not always easy as contentious and divisive issues are often debated with several differing views. These tend to be the issues that the media is quick to pick on. For my part I think it is important to listen to different views and to weigh up arguments. I am happy to have robust but polite debate, but an MP is not a delegate and in the end, as with the rest of my colleagues, I have to make my own judgement on how I respond on any particular issue. With a Party-political system is will be no surprise that an MP on the whole supports the Party on whose manifesto they stood for election.

For the most part an MPs time is divided between working in Parliament and working in their constituency. When Parliament is sitting MPs are generally expected to be in Westminster from Monday to Thursday. Outside of sitting weeks there is more time for constituency meetings and visits.

When in Westminster every day brings competing demands on an MP's time. Days can include time spent scrutinising legislation, attending debates, ministerial question sessions, committees, briefings and other meetings, and also responding to correspondence. These competing demands mean that it is not always possible to attend a particular debate or drop-in session that a someone may ask me to attend, although I do try to fit in as much as I can each week.

MPs do not have any jurisdiction over local council decisions. Thus the primary focus of questions that MPs raise will be relating to Parliament and the work of Government departments such as the NHS, HM Revenue and Customs, and the Department of Work and Pensions. These questions may arise from an MP's own concerns or may be on behalf of constituents. Questions can be formal written or oral questions however I have found that it is often better to discuss issues privately with Ministers. With local issues MPs can write to councils on behalf of a constituent, and this is something that I often do. However there are locally elected representatives to these councils who should really be the first point to contact for council issues. I will write more about this in a later newsletter.

If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. If you cannot email you can still write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA or PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD. To find out more about my work please do visit my website which is regularly updated on key issues. www.johnhowell.org.uk.



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# BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

# PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN OPENING HOURS

Monday & Thursday am Closed Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10-1.00pm & 2-5.30pm Thursday 2-5.30pm Saturday 10-12.30

# Our community activities are back

Rhymetime Wednesday 10.30am Storytime Wednesday 3.30pm Reading Group Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2.30pm Coffee Morning Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am

All welcome

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

# **CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER**

3 <sup>rd</sup> October	10.30am	Marsh	Holy Communion with Children's Corner
10 <sup>th</sup> October	4pm	Toot	BCP Evensong
17 <sup>th</sup> October	3pm	Marsh	Forest Church
24 <sup>th</sup> October	11am	Berinsfield	Team Service to celebrate the 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Berinsfield Church

