

# **The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**



**February 2017**

## FROM THE REVD CAROLINE KING

In many ways 2016 was a divisive year; two democratic decisions were not widely predicted, yet significantly changed the political landscape. I'm thinking of the Brexit vote on June 23rd and further afield the result of the United States Presidential election in November. The Brexit vote seems to have set off a political tsunami the shock waves of which will continue for many years. President Trump has only just taken office, we must hope and pray that his term as president is not as contentious as some of the campaign rhetoric from both sides suggest it might be.

Political events such as these lead many people to ask how we as Christians living in a democratic state can both support and at the same time challenge those in government. The theologian Karl Barth said 'pray with the newspaper in one hand and the bible in the other'. Barth is not implying that they have equal footing but that one (the news) is to be interpreted in the light of the other (the Bible). When we read the bible in the light of current events, while reflecting upon Christian tradition, there is much to guide us and prayerfully reflect upon.

St Paul's first letter to Timothy Chapter 2;1-2 Paul says; 'First, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. I understand Paul as meaning that we need wise and just leaders of the highest integrity. Paul reminds us of the need to pray for our leaders, and for good ordered society so that we can live in a peaceable way.

Looking to scripture in general and to the life of Jesus as it is recorded in the gospels we see that much biblical literature does not treat people equally but sides with the poor and vulnerable. Alongside praying for those in authority I have always believed we have a duty to pray for prophetic leaders unafraid to speak not only on behalf of those in power but who also listen to the voices of those on the margins, and speak up for the dispossessed.

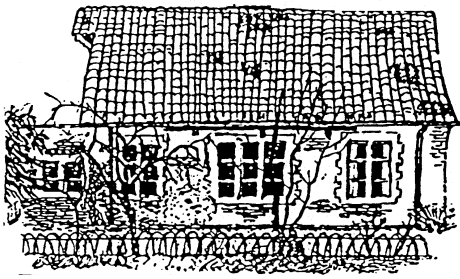
There is a long and honourable Christian tradition of peaceful protest and of civil disobedience in standing up to injustice. Think of the role Christians played in the abolition of slavery movement in the early 1800's, of Christian theologians such as Bonhoeffer whose Christian faith led him to plot to assassinate Hitler, of the role of Archbishop Tutu in standing up to apartheid and of Martin Luther King at the forefront of the racial justice movement in 1960's America.

As the world begins to react to the Trump presidency and as Brexit negotiations continue, pray for our leaders and those in positions of responsibility, but pray too that we may be represented by politicians of the highest integrity who truly want the best for all.

*The Revd Paul Cawthorne is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.*

e-mail: [bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com](mailto: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**



Website: [www.marshbaldonschool.co.uk](http://www.marshbaldonschool.co.uk)  
Email: [office.3188@marsh-baldon.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3188@marsh-baldon.oxon.sch.uk)  
Telephone: 01865 343249

## Marsh Baldon Church of England Primary School



Our school choir was thrilled to be invited to sing at the village Christmas Carol Service at Marsh Baldon Church in December. Staff and parents who were there thoroughly enjoyed the service and it was one of my personal highlights of the Autumn Term. We were all very proud of the children and the atmosphere, along with the singing and hand bells, was wonderful. I was so pleased the school could be part of it.

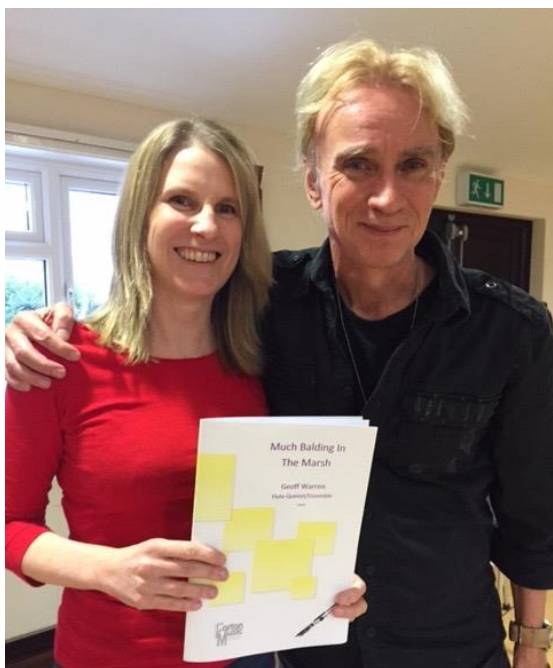
Spring Term in school has started off with some positive changes to our facilities. Firstly, we have raised the fence around Class 1's outdoor learning area which now means it is a lot safer for the youngest children in school. We would like to thank Dorothy Tonge and the Parish Council who worked with the school to achieve this.

We have also started to refurbish our school library. The school is grateful to Elizabeth Lane School's Foundation for providing a grant for this project and Natalie Harwood, our English subject lead, is working with a number of parents to create an inviting library for all our children. We look forward to its grand opening later this term!

Our school values of teamwork, trust, courage, love and respect are important to us and form the basis of all we do in school. This half term we are focusing on the Christian value of love and the children will be exploring what love means through our school assemblies, PSHE lessons and every day interactions. We thought Ella in Year 6 put it perfectly when she wrote *"little things can mean love like smiling at someone, helping them, making sure they're ok. Even if you don't know someone, you can show love."*

Sarah Herring

## MARSH BALDON IMMORTALISED IN MUSIC



The celebrated Italian-based jazz composer/flautist Geoff Warren visited the Baldons in November to work with flautist Elisabeth Hobbs, who lives in Toot Baldon. His latest composition, published by Forton Music, is called "Much Balding in the Marsh" - a pun on the name of our village - and is dedicated to Elisabeth and the renowned work that she does with adult flute players around the world.

It was inspired by his visit to Marsh Baldon last year, and the work was premiered in a workshop in Marsh Baldon village hall in November 2016. It will be performed next year in Switzerland, France, and beyond. Fame for Marsh Baldon!

## MADEIRA QUINTAS AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

At the February meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Brian Fisher will talk about the "Madeira Quintas and Botanical Garden".



Brian has a Wisley Diploma and is a recognised plantsman, working practically with plants and in gardens. Although he is retired, he continues to advise in several private gardens, and lectures widely at horticultural societies and on cruise ships. He is writing a book on Tropical Plants for Travellers.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th February. Visitors very welcome £3.

Isabelle Darby: 01491-836867

### ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **March 2017** newsletter  
by **16<sup>th</sup> February** 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](mailto: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](mailto:sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk) or on 340403.

## **BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **A belated Happy New Year from the Parish Council**

#### Planning applications

The Parish Council have received 6 new applications which it is considering and all can be viewed on the SODC website planning portal using the planning reference numbers.

Thurlfield Cottage, Pebble Hill. An application to demolish and rebuild a 2storey side extension. Planning ref P16/S4136/LB The Parish Council has indicated its support to SODC.

No 3 The Croft. An amended application for a front and side extension to provide an additional bedroom and improved internal space. Planning ref P16/S3545/HH. The Parish Council has agreed to support the amended plan.

Parsonage Farm. An application from Savills on behalf of the Queens College for a 4 bedroomed house on the north end of the site of the redundant chicken sheds. Planning ref P16/S4196/FUL. The council has expressed concerns that this application is not in line with the proposals in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

The following 3 applications are under consideration

Harcourt Arboretum. P16/S4261/FUL An application for a small plant propagation unit.

Baldon House East wing. A listed building application for modified design detail on an already approved garden room extension. P16/S4205/LB

Hillcroft Farm. A notification of an application for permitted development for residential conversion of an old sheep shed P16S4195/PAR.

#### Oxford Science Village/ Grenoble Road

As no doubt you know, consultants, on behalf of Magdalen College and Thames water, have distributed leaflets to every household in our and surrounding villages promoting a development of approximately 3000 houses which they say they would like to put forward as a potential site for a new community and science village. They invited the public to attend one of their three consultation events in January. The questions posed in the leaflet were disingenuous in essence and left no possibility for considered response. The Parish Council have responded strongly opposing this development.

However it is not as yet been submitted to SODC as a full planning application.

SODC carried out a call for sites in 2014 and received seven submissions, five of which are in the Green Belt. The Parish Council, SODC and Central Government all recognise that Green Belt status carries maximum weight and requires

'exceptional circumstances' to justify any incursion. South Oxfordshire has ample unconstrained land to take the housing that we do need.

Quite apart from Green Belt considerations the site is unappealing in planning terms. It is next to a sewerage treatment centre. It is next door to an electricity substation and has a large number of electricity pylons crossing over it. The road infrastructure would not take the increased traffic. The adjoining Oxford Science Park is currently certainly not full to capacity and has land, some of which already has planning permission, for yet more facilities.

Should a full planning application come forward for consultation the Parish Council will respond robustly and encourage villagers also to do so.

The Parish Council have encouraged a small group of villagers to form an action group and are delighted and grateful for their enthusiasm to help protect the Baldons. Information on this has circulated via the Baldons Info emails and also on the next page of this newsletter.

#### Village Spring Clean Sunday March 26th

This year we hope to hold our village spring clean on Sunday 26th March, weather permitting. Please put the date in your diary and come and help. The more people get involved the less time it takes. In Marsh meet on the village green at 10.30 am. In Toot please contact John Maskell 343302 about detailed arrangements. Wear appropriate footwear and gloves.

#### Mains drainage Toot Baldon

John Maskell reported to the council that some progress appears to be being made with Thames Water and proposals for investment are now being discussed by T.W. however residents working on this have continuing concerns about communication with T.W. and are seeking more detail of the scheme and timescale under consideration.

#### Tinny Lane

OCC countryside service has inspected the drainage problems and muddy conditions on Tinny Lane and has said they will try to do something about it in the New Year. Meanwhile signs indicating that the route is unsuitable for vehicles have now been installed at either end of the lane.

#### Precept for 2017

The Parish Council in advising SODC of our precept requirement for 2017 is recommending a small increase of 2% to reflect inflationary costs.

#### Date of next Meeting

Monday 13th March 7.30 pm Village Hall

## BALDON VILLAGE VOICE

A small group of villagers has come together to respond more effectively to the threat of housing development between Oxford and the Baldons. This is in reaction to the most recent proposal for development from Magdalen College and Thames Water.

Our plans and position are at a formative stage and we welcome any input from villagers, ranging from becoming an active member of the group to simply expressing your views, one way or the other, on the issues.

The Chair of the group is Dawn McGiveron. Other members so far include:

Paul Ardern  
Fran Butler  
John Clark  
James Eliot

Dan Germain  
Graham Hobbins  
Fiona Webster

Please let us have your thoughts and opinions, and tell us if you want to be more involved via [baldonsinfo@gmail.com](mailto:baldonsinfo@gmail.com).

Dawn McGiveron - Chair

## NEARLY NEW SALE: SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL

Is your home full of baby and children's clothes (0-7 years), toys, games and/or equipment that are "good as new"? Would you like to make some extra money?

**Long Wittenham Pre-School is holding a Nearly New Sale on Saturday 1st April 2016 from 10-12 noon at Long Wittenham Village Hall.**

Sellers will receive 70% of all sales, with the other 30% going to Pre-School. There will also be delicious homemade cakes and biscuits for sale, and we would be grateful if all sellers could donate a cake/biscuits for the cake sale. All proceeds will go to Long Wittenham Pre-School.

If you are interested in selling at our Nearly New Sale (if you haven't sold with us before you will need a seller code), would like to donate items to sell or would like more information about how to become a seller, please email [nearlynew@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk](mailto:nearlynew@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk).

If you are planning to come and shop at the sale, please use the school car park and leave buggies and prams at home – the hall can get very crowded! Thank you for supporting our Pre-School (Registered Charity #1158950).

# BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your Local Library  
and see what we have on offer

## Harry Potter Craft Afternoon

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 3.45pm

Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays  
10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

IT Lessons Thursdays 2.00pm

Junior Reading Group Saturday

4<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am

Knit and Natter Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

2.30pm (any craft welcome)

Reading Group Thursday

9<sup>th</sup> February 2.00pm

Coffee Morning 21<sup>st</sup> February 10.30am

**All Welcome**



Here to help



**join in • explore • discover • log on**

Coming Soon:  
***Safari Supper***

Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April

More details to follow

Please let us know if you would be **willing to host** about 10 people for  
either

Starters in Toot

or

Mains in Marsh

Contact: [baldonsevents@hotmail.com](mailto:baldonsevents@hotmail.com)

Or Robin Timms on 07825 355289



**Baldons Wine Club News**



**Cheese and Wine Matching**

There will be 6 cheeses presented by Jamie Hall, International Sales  
Manager for Neal's Yard Dairy.

The wines will be presented by Lee Isaacs Dip WSET, who is Head of  
Education at Wine Matters in Witney.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, The Seven Stars at 7.30pm

Members: £15, Non Members £20

Places will be limited so please book early for these events

[baldonswineclub@gmail.com](mailto:baldonswineclub@gmail.com)

Places are strictly limited to 32 and therefore it will be first come, first  
served.

**Your place will only be reserved on receipt of payment**

So book early to avoid disappointment.

## FORTHCOMING SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS AT WALLINGFORD MUSEUM



Volunteers are busy preparing new exhibitions for Wallingford Museum's seasonal opening from 1st March. The new exhibitions are:-

**'Pettits: past to present'** exhibition will give a history of Wallingford's department store, and a little about the family who ran it from its beginning in 1856 to the present day. The business was started by two brothers and changed and expanded through the years as it passed to later generations of the same family until 1987 when it was taken over by another local family. Over time it has sold a large range of merchandise and undergone several transformations while continuing to serve the people of Wallingford and the surrounding area. The newly renovated department store will be re-opening during 2017.

**'Wallingford Castle - the Inside Story'** presents a closer look at different parts of the castle based on recent research - featuring details of June Strong's new artist's impression of the castle and exploring how the town and castle were linked by many essential services.

But this is not all...!

**'Ways to Wallingford'** describes how Wallingford has been an important crossing point on the Thames since the Saxon times and the exhibition will look at transport and trade to and from Wallingford over the ages and consider roads, the river Thames, railways and aviation. In addition to looking at how the routes have developed with fords, ferries and bridges the Museum displays will cover the many uses of the river and also the importance of RAF Benson from its establishment just before WW II up to the present day.

And if you come early in the season, your £5 entry ticket will give you terrific value, as you'll be able to return as many times as you like for no extra cost. The Museum is open from 1st March. Accompanied children under 16 are free, and there's lots for the family to enjoy throughout the rest of the Museum too. Look out for special events this year including Town and Castle history walks (8 April), A Night at the Museum (19 May and 28 Oct), Family Archaeology Day (22 July), BunkFest offers, and the Agatha Christie Weekend (8 -10 Sept).

You can also join an increasingly popular Guided Historic Town Walk on any Saturday morning from Easter until the end of September, starting from the Town

Hall at 11.00am. Walks last 1 - 2 hours and cost £5 per head, money which will be donated to support Wallingford Museum.

These are general walks covering the rich history of our town, but also touching on the links with Agatha Christie and 'Midsomer Murders'. They will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

If you'd like to organise a Town Walk like this for your group / society / school at a different time, then please contact Philip Burton on 01491-836200 or [pburton6@talktalk.net](mailto:pburton6@talktalk.net)

Full details at [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)

## **'WAYS TO WALLINGFORD'**

February's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be given by Steve Capel-Davies. He will present 'Ways to Wallingford'. Steve's talk is very timely as it complements the forthcoming 'Ways to Wallingford' exhibition at Wallingford Museum.



Wallingford has been an important crossing point on the Thames since the Saxon times and the exhibition will look at transport and trade to and from Wallingford over the ages and consider roads, the river Thames, railways and aviation. In addition to looking at how the routes have developed with fords, ferries and bridges the Museum displays will cover the many uses of the river and also the importance of RAF Benson from its establishment just before WW II up to the present day. The talk will be preceded by a short (as usual!) Annual General Meeting.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 8th February, 7.45 for 8 pm at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

[www.twhas.org.uk](http://www.twhas.org.uk)

## WHAT'S GOING ON UNDER ALL THAT WINTER SNOW?

Garden wildlife often hibernates, as food is rare and it gets cold, making life difficult in winter.

Many creatures hide away log and leaf piles, nestle into tree bark, disappear into compost heaps or mud. Some species, such as birds and squirrels, don't hibernate, but struggle - using up fat reserves.

One of the more important things you may have done this year is plant some bushes that produce flames of berries, ideal to feed the winter birds. Be sure that if you have, the birds will gorge themselves on them.

Seeds for the birds don't have to come in a plastic bag from the supermarket either! Leave some shrubs unpruned as those old flower heads will provide a nutritious food source and shelter too.

Having some 'untidy' vegetation—dead though it may be— also makes gardens more appealing than seeing just snow everywhere on flat surfaces. Yes snow, it's that time of year again. What a pleasure it can give as it hangs off the flower stems of your uncut perennial and shrubby plants. If the snow gets too deep, the novelty soon wears off, but we can rest in the knowledge those unpruned plants are providing some shelter under all that snow. Once it melts you can get back out and 'tidy' up' in spring.

If it does snow this winter, give a thought for the wildlife covered in the white stuff. Think about the shelter you can provide under the layers of snow as it falls. If we are successful, much of the wildlife will then return to shower us in much joy as it all starts to reappear when the warmer days arrive.

Happy Gardening  
Stuart Mabbutt  
Wildlife Gardening Specialist  
[www.wildmaninspires.co.uk](http://www.wildmaninspires.co.uk)

*Ben Smith*

# *Carpentry & Building*

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References Available Upon Request



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## FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

Sometimes it seems that the same items dominate our new reports on a regular basis. Behind the scenes much goes on which, although less sensational in news terms, is important in our everyday lives.

For example the state of our roads is an issue regularly raised with me and a source of frustration for motorists. Government has now announced a dedicated £1,315,000 pothole fund for 2017/18. It is part of a £1.2 billion fund for local roads that the Government is allocating to councils to repair and rebuild our transport links. The total allocation for Oxfordshire comes to £19,409,000. This builds on the £1,036,000 we got last year in Oxfordshire.

The Prime Minister has also recently announced new measures to transform the way we approach and deal with mental health especially for children and young people where mental health problems are a growing concern. Each secondary school will be offered mental health first aid training to increase awareness around mental health and help to tackle the unacceptable stigma around the issue. To support this initiative, new proposals will outline how mental health services for schools, universities and families can be improved, so that everyone in the community is supported, at every stage of life. There will also be an expert review into how we can improve mental wellbeing in the workplace. I very much welcome this as there has not been sufficient focus on mental healthcare in this country. For too long there has been a stigma around mental health issues that is not replicated in physical health leaving people to suffer in silence and often get worse.

Another hot topic is the growth in new housing. I have written about the changes to the planning system on several occasions and now would just like to report a new measure introduced by the Minister just before Christmas. He has set out another provision to strengthen those communities that have developed a Neighbourhood Plan. Where there is a Neighbourhood Plan there is only a need to demonstrate a 3 year land supply to be able to ward off aggressive development rather than a 5 year supply as prescribed in the National Planning Policy Framework. I appreciate that this may be complex but I am certain that for communities where this applies the implications will be clearly understood and welcomed.

[www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com)

## THAMES CONSORT

The Thames Consort directed by Jeremy Boughton will be performing at Dorchester Abbey on Sunday 5th February at 7pm. The programme includes vocal and instrumental music by members of the Bach family, including the great Johann Sebastian and also by Handel and Schütz. The singers of the Thames consort are joined by Sharon Warnes and Claire Parkin – violins, Judith Dallosso – ‘cello and Glynne Stackhouse – organ continuo.

There will be a collection at the end of the concert given (after expenses) to the Friends of Dorchester Abbey.

## CARING FOR CREATION – LENT 2017 IN THE DORCHESTER TEAM

On Sunday evenings during Lent at Dorchester Abbey there will be a number of speakers and events focussing on the fifth mark of mission of the Worldwide Anglican Church:

**To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth**

Each event will begin at 6pm with a short act of worship. No event will end later than 8pm.

5<sup>th</sup> March Showing of The 11th Hour a documentary film created, produced, co-written and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, on the state of the natural environment.

12<sup>th</sup> March Michael Northcott, Professor of Ethics at University of Edinburgh and author of ‘The Environment and Christian Ethics’, ‘An Angel Directs the Storm’ and A Moral Climate will help us to explore a Biblical and theological approach to climate change.

19<sup>th</sup> March Dr Martin Hodson of A Rocha will speak on a practical Christian approach to climate change and the Environment

*No event on 26<sup>th</sup> March*

2<sup>nd</sup> April A Panel of local experts will gather to interact and respond to questions on the subject of Climate Change and our care of Creation

9<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday Service of Reflection

Material will be available for parish Lent discussion groups on this subject.

## SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2017

29 <sup>th</sup> January	11.00am	Team Service	Berinsfield
5 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
12 <sup>th</sup> February	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Toot Baldon
19 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
26 <sup>th</sup> February	8.30am	Said Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
1 <sup>st</sup> March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Berinsfield
Ash Wednesday		<i>with imposition of ashes</i>	
	7.30pm	Holy Communion	Clifton
		<i>with imposition of ashes</i>	Hampden
Friday	7.30pm	Women's World Day	Drayton St
3 <sup>rd</sup> March		of Prayer	Leonard
5 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

## SIDESDUTY

	<b>Marsh</b>	<b>Toot</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> February		9.30am Ann Druce
12 <sup>th</sup> February		6.00pm Ian Gillespie
19 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30am Graham Hobbins	
26 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30am Natasha Eliot	
5 <sup>th</sup> March		

## FLOWERS

	<b>Marsh</b>	<b>Toot</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	P & J Slaney	V Bowler
19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	V Sandilands	S Hobbins & J van Dijk