

# **The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**



**July - August 2021**

## FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

“We’re all going on a summer holiday” sang Cliff Richard, but for many of us going on a summer holiday is a difficult decision to make. July and August are traditionally holiday months, summer days for rest and relaxation but like last year we are subject to covid restrictions and planning a holiday means negotiating bewildering traffic light travel systems and anxieties over new variants. As a nation we are re-discovering the joys of simpler holidays or ‘staycations’ as they are now called; camping shops are sold out of tents, B&Bs are fully booked, and caravans cannot be bought for love nor money!

Rest and relaxation are vital for our health and well-being, especially within a culture of technology that offers 24/7 entertainment, news and social media on phones, tablets and computer screens. What we accept as vital to modern living has become a threat to our spiritual and mental health. So, the benefit of slowing down, taking some rest, and going on holiday is essential.

For millennia world faiths have recognised the benefits to spiritual wellbeing of meditation, prayer and keeping a day of rest. The theologian Walter Brueggemann defines the Sabbath as “the refusal to let one’s life be defined by production and consumption and the endless pursuit of private wellbeing”; or to put it another way, the persistent accumulation of ‘stuff’ does not bring satisfaction whereas the service of others can bring us quiet joy. During the last months of the pandemic many of us have found this to be true, more and more people have volunteered during the pandemic and discovered the joys of creative or active pursuits for our leisure time rather than shopping!

Whatever your holiday plans are, I hope that you are able to enjoy some rest and relaxation this summer, and find renewal in simple pleasures and the service of others.

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

e-mail: [RevTeresa@outlook.com](mailto:RevTeresa@outlook.com) and tel: 07823 809112

***The Revd Jennifer Morton*** is Associate Team Vicar and lives in Toot Baldon:  
[jennifer@morton8.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:saramcdouall@gmail.com)

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

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021



I would like to thank all the villagers who gave money to Christian Aid. We raised from the house-to-house collections £865.29 and also another £98.09 in Gift Aid. This totalled £963.38 in all and is the largest amount collected in the 8 years that I have been doing it.

I would also like to thank all the people who assisted and did the house-to-house collections - Natasha Eliot, John & Catherine Mason, Stephen Dance, Japh Slaney, John Barne and Fran Butler. Together we visited some 203 houses and collected some 90 envelopes.

Many thanks indeed

Ian Gillespie

Churchwarden



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## **FOR SHAREHOLDERS OF BALDONS AND NUNEHAM COMMUNITY SOCIETY (BNCS) – AGM TUESDAY 13TH JULY 2021**

All BNCS shareholders (Seven Stars shareholders) are invited to the eighth Annual General Meeting of the Society which will take place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 13th July 2021 at the Seven Stars. The committee hopes to see as many BNCS shareholders as possible at the meeting. Further information will be circulated to shareholders in due course. (If there are changes to the venue arrangements needed due to Covid restrictions we will inform shareholders nearer the time.)

We would welcome new committee members at this time – if any shareholders are interested in joining the BNCS Committee or who would like more information about this, please e-mail us on [info@bnclsld.com](mailto:info@bnclsld.com) no later than 6th July 2021.

## **CLIFTON HAMPDEN PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP**

Dear PPG friends

Major changes are afoot in the NHS and Patient Groups and a meeting to discuss the way forward is to be held to discuss this on Wednesday evening 7 July 2021 at 7.30pm. New committee members are especially needed.

It will be held in the village hall at Clifton Hampden (depending on Covid restrictions) and we would really like to see as many interested people from surrounding villages as possible as well as those from Burcot and Clifton Hampden.

Please let Gerry Moscrop know ([geraldmoscrop@btinternet.com](mailto:geraldmoscrop@btinternet.com)) if you are planning to attend. I look forward to seeing you then.

Mary Braybrooke – Emeritus Chairperson

### **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Items for the September 2021 newsletter  
**by 16<sup>th</sup> August 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:  
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# The Baldons Summer Ball

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August

**CANCELLED**

We've decided that this event cannot go ahead safely this summer

**SORRY**

Fingers crossed for Bonfire Night!



# BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## **Toot Baldon Sewage Project**

### **Background**

Following a section 101a application from the Parish Council/Residents Sub-Committee an assessment report was completed in 2016. This confirmed the case for first time sewage and a valid S101a application, as there is clear evidence of significant environmental and amenity issues in the village.

### **Project Objectives**

The objective of the scheme is to provide a new sewer system to allow properties to connect to a mains sewer if they so wished.

An outline solution has now been prepared in a further study report in 2019: Gravity sewers draining to a pumping station in the south of the village will be pumped into the sewers for the north of the village. A pumping station will be provided in the north of the village with the rising main discharging to a manhole and sewer draining from Garsington to Sandford Sewage Treatment Works.

At the appropriate time Thames Water will also supply an information pack for each property to enable connection to the new sewer, including a plan of the connection point.

### **Property Connection Process**

Once completed, the project will leave a connection point to each property. If a customer decides they want to be connected, they would then be required to contact Thames Water (TW), fill in an application form and pay a connection fee of circa £300. N.B this is only a connection fee – see below for full connecting charges.

At such a point, customers will have the opportunity to ask TW for a quotation to construct a connection between the customer's septic tanks into the new mains sewer, and/or get a quotation from their own contractor to obtain a comparison quote, before making any final decision.

When asked about these costs TW were understandably reluctant to commit themselves at this point, as it is very difficult to gauge as it will depend on many individual factors e.g., how far away the property is from the new mains connection point etc. however, they did say the average costs today are in the region of £1200 to £1500.

N.B Wilmots' private sewer connection is being dealt with by SODC.

### **Present Project Activity** (TW employees will be seen around the village).

- Site visits data collection
- Agreeing pumping station layouts and prepare drawings for planning purposes.

- Complete site investigations: geotechnical ground investigations, environmental surveys.
- Liaise with landowners.

### **Customer Communication** (when appropriate)

Provide updates on the application and progress of planned work. In the main this will be done via the Parish Council/ Residents Sub Committee.

Letters, customer meetings and drop-in sessions will also be arranged.

### **Timings** (subject to change as project progresses)

- Jan 21 to Oct 21                      Outline design – environmental assessments
- September 21 to Jan 22            Pumping station planning applications.
- Jan 22                                      Contractors appointment
- Jan 22 to April 22                    Final detail design
- April 22 to Jan 23                    Construction

### **Summary**

Finally, after many years and many false dawns TW appear to be fully committed to installing a main sewage system into the village. Over this time there have been many meetings and several different proposals, however, in our opinion this is the best to date, especially as it does not rely on the take up of numbers, covers all properties in the village and will in the end give residents a choice.

### **Solar Farm**

The council still has no news from SODC regarding the planning decision.

### **Dog Waste Bins**

The council has been forced to take on a new contractor for emptying the waste bins, this has resulted in a cost to the council of £16.00 pw. An increase of £7.00 pw but this remains cheaper than with SODC (Biffa).

It is important the waste bins are used and there is also a new larger general waste bin outside the Seven Stars which can be used for dog waste, so if you are a dogwalker please use them. We still get occasional complaints of dog waste being left on the green and on footpaths.

### **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

National information is starting to be published about events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee over the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. Assuming covid and nothing else untoward intervenes, plans appear to include various events in London and on the Sunday the organisation of village parties. Also, the Prince of Wales is supporting a tree planting in association with the Woodland Trust.

No doubt the Baldons will want to celebrate as we have done on other notable occasions and more discussion and planning can take place in the autumn, but we

are, as on other occasions, going to need a group of villagers willing to volunteer as the organising and fund-raising committee.

**Planning applications.**

11 The Green. P21/S2516/HH An application for demolition of a lean-to extension and its replacement extension. The Parish Council has not yet considered it response.

**Dates of next Meetings**      12<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm in the Village Hall  
                                                 13<sup>th</sup> September 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Please do come along, all meetings are open to the public and although we can no longer use Zoom, we have valued the increased interest villagers have shown when meetings have been online.

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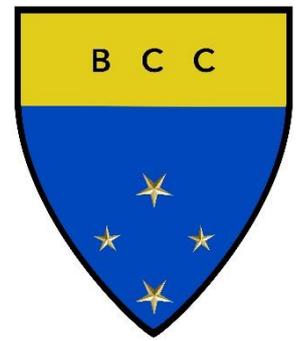
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## BALDONS CRICKET CLUB:

### Oxford Downs CC lost to Islip by ~30 runs Reported by Henry Williams



As captain Cosmo tucked into another beautifully crafted quattro formaggi drenched in Italian sun, stand-ins Johnny Collett and Henry Williams welcomed a youthful Islip team to a sunny Marsh Baldon green.

After losing the toss, Baldons began their bowling stint admirably. Collett bowled with his usual accuracy and Rob Cook found a devilish bounce off a length that produced two wickets in his opening spell, including a diving catch at short third man by Williams. Despite this confidence boost, Williams bowling first change couldn't find his length or apparently his run up with a number of no-balls. After finally asking the Islip umpire for some guidance on the mis-step, it came to light that there was a minor misunderstanding on the implementation of this particular cricketing law. Islip, you slip, he/she/it slips.

Meanwhile, on the calmer end of the wicket, Toby Cook bowled a wonderful 6 over spell picking up a number of wickets. BCC may have a real prospect on their hands here. Indeed, youth seemed to excel in all areas, as Kian Downes bowled an excellent 3 over spell from the other end with a devastatingly low Malinga-like action. The innings was rounded out with some good accuracy from Joe Singleton and Cook, Collett, Williams finishing off their quotas. A mention should go to Stephen Fearnley rolling back the years with some great fielding at point, Robin Timms for a brilliant and exhausting stint at wicketkeeper after cycling halfway across Britain, and to Archie Platt for his wonder catch running in at deep square leg.

Islip had posted 149 runs leaving a lovely round chase of 150. The feeling was that it was maybe 20-30 runs over par for the wicket with harsh umpiring leading to extras close to top scoring. Nevertheless, Charles Taylor and Graham Bruce strode to the crease with the target in their sights. Unfortunately, it then came to light that Islip had leant on the club at Kidlington to supplement their bowling stock, with one kid in particular firing down some accurate thunderbolts. Having seen the openers off, Charles proceeded to be barraged by a series of beamers at first change; indeed one of which he had the misfortune of pulling up into his unhelmeted face. A brief moment of real scare from all was greeted with relief and a generous applause, as Charles walked off the pitch of his own accord, with his usual warm smile and humorous observations lifting the tension. He is indeed all okay thankfully.

With the loss of the batting linchpin and the required run rate climbing steadily, all hope seemed to have been lost. Enter Rob Cook. Having probably been the pick of the bowlers, Rob now did his best Ben Stokes impression, slapping the Jadeja-impersonating Islip spinner to the ropes on numerous occasions. With good

support from Archie Platt and Kian Downes at the other end, Rob gave Baldons a fighting chance with some wonderful striking as we entered the final overs. Sadly, that was the cue for Islip's Zeus (those thunderbolts...) to return to the attack. The run rate crept into an unmanageable territory and with Rob back in the pavilion, the game got away from us. There was just enough time for Johnny Collett to come in and strike some late boundaries leading many to question his own decision to bat down at 9. With 30 or so runs required and the final ball about to be delivered, Johnny brought laughs to all involved quipping "How many do we need off this?"

### Upcoming Fixtures

Sun 27th June	Gary Crook XI	home
Sun 4th July	Hanney	home
Sat 10th July	Sydenham	home
Sun 18th July	Great Milton (TBC)	home
Sun 25th July	Britwell Salome	home
Sun 1st Aug	Great Haseley	home
Sun 15th Aug	Astons	home

Cricket Nets: every Thursday at 6pm (weather permitting)

Please email us at [baldonscc@gmail.com](mailto:baldonscc@gmail.com) if you have any questions, would like to make a donation, or wish to be added to the mailing list for fixture / nets updates.

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## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **Deep Cleanse**

South Oxfordshire's contractors will be coming to the parish towards the end of August to carry out what SODC calls a deep cleanse. The team will be litter picking, sweeping and removing weeds/moss on pavements. But the team will not spray weeds, cut grass or vegetation or remove weeds and moss that is on roads. The team only clears land to which the public is permitted access.

In this parish there are only really two stretches of pavement – on either side of the main road – so the Council usually asks them to deal with those. If you can think of anything else that might fit SODC's rules, please let me know.

### **County Council**

Your new County Councillor, Robin Bennett from the Green Party, has produced his first monthly report, which you can find on the Council's website. He explains there that the County Council is now led by a three-party coalition and the Conservatives are now the Opposition, a role they have never experienced before on the County Council.

The County Council's new Leader is a Liberal Democrat, Liz Leffman from Charlbury. Robin's report gives you in full the 10 shared aims of the coalition between the Liberal Democrats and the Greens (who have formed a single group together on the Council) and their Labour partners.

### **Your MP**

The Boundary Commission for England has published proposals for changes to parliamentary constituencies in 2023. It proposes Oxfordshire should have seven MPs instead of the current six, and it proposes to move Nuneham Courtenay from the Henley constituency to what would be called the Didcot and Wantage constituency (currently known as Wantage).

You have until 2<sup>nd</sup> August to comment on these proposals but there will be two further rounds of consultation before the final proposals are made. Both Henley and Wantage currently have Conservative MPs: your current MP is John Howell; the current Wantage MP is David Johnston.

### **Next Council meeting**

The Council's first physical meeting since February 2020 will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7pm in the Village Hall. The Government has insisted that all town and parish councils must hold a physical meeting before 30<sup>th</sup> June to complete their annual audit process – in spite of the continued Covid-19 restrictions.

Once the Council has approved the auditor's report, there is something called the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights, which lasts 30 working days, in which you can demand to see the Council's books for 2020-21. But you already have so many

rights under the Freedom of Information legislation there is no need to wait until then: if there is anything you want to know about where your money goes, just ask me!

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

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

Yoga is back in the village hall.

Due to covid restrictions all other activities are being decided on a case-by-case basis. For more information, please continue to contact June Harris.

The community library continues to be popular and there are new books there regularly.

## **FROM LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE**

THANK YOU

Dear Readers,

I was very disappointed to be defeated at the recent Local County Council Elections, and I'd like to thank all those who have been in touch and those people who supported me, and who helped me during the campaign, and say how sorry I am that a fourth term is not to be. I look forward to becoming involved in serving our communities in different ways in the future.

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale



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## CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sunday 4th July	10.30am	Dorchester Abbey	Air Crash Memorial Service
Sunday 11th July	5pm	Toot	BCP Evensong
Sunday 18th July	8am	Toot	BCP Holy Communion
	3pm	Marsh	Forest Church – meet in the churchyard
Sunday 25th July	5pm	Marsh	Holy Communion
Sunday 1st August	10.30am	Marsh	Holy Communion with Children's Corner
Sunday 8th August	5pm/6pm	Toot	BCP Evensong
Sunday 15th August	8am	Toot	BCP Holy Communion
	3pm	Marsh	Forest Church – meet in the churchyard
Sunday 22nd August	5pm	Marsh	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th August	Team Service details to be confirmed		

If you would like to attend, please let Revd. Teresa know so that we have details for Track and Trace: 07823 809 112 or [revteresa@outlook.com](mailto:revteresa@outlook.com).

Or if you just want to chat, please give Revd Teresa a call (07823 809 112) or drop her an email: [revteresa@outlook.com](mailto:revteresa@outlook.com)



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