

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



February 2015

FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

What can one write a week after a terrorist attack which has resulted in personal tragedies and questioned the self-understanding of a neighbouring nation? To write of fundamental truths of human sinfulness and shattered ideals would be trite.

When working abroad, I saw the impacts of many kinds of extremism, such as the atheistic extremism in Pol Pot's genocidal regime in Cambodia. In France we now have the bitterness of the theistic fundamentalist variety, which it would be all too easy to see as being about 'them' attacking 'our' established liberties.

The truth is more complex, of course. Why, oh why can we not learn the lesson Jesus taught? 'Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.'

Why do people retreat into the damaging rigidity of ideology? Is it because society is changing too fast for some to bear and they want timeless certainties?

Here our understandings of what a person is are stretched, too long impoverished by losing the language to even discuss the perhaps admirable but failed pseudo-scientific project to banish the language of sin from our vocabulary and our experience.

I write that wistfully, as a spiritual seeker after a rejuvenated language where we dare to discuss such matters again at depth. Without it, I fear for our common future.

There is a temptation to retreat into a quietism which pretends it can stay calm by just not engaging. That is easier for us in rural Oxfordshire perhaps than the inhabitants of urban multi-cultural communities. But of course we know that our humanity is capable of more honourable responses. The vibrancy of the Cowley road shows us what can be added to our knowledge and life experience by mutual meeting, yet even that carries risk.

Mutuality is about more than stark cartoons which can demean unintentionally or provocatively. Mutual fear can lead to the ratcheting up of tensions which results in bombs and bullets flying in both directions, but mutual respect can lead to understanding our common bonds, to refinding the real charisms of love, forgiveness and valuing the stranger.

As we worked together in the sun to bring food to war-weary refugees, I learnt so much from my Muslim colleagues in Sudan, about prayer, true charity and respect. The pen is indeed a mighty symbol, but more so is the warm and open heart.

Paul

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

e-mail: bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com and tel: 01865 340460.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for March 2015 newsletter

by 16th 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. 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 or on 340403.

CHANGES AT THE NEWSLETTER

As you may be aware, the cost of printing this newsletter is borne jointly by the PCC, the Baldons Parish Council and Nuneham Parish Council, who collectively feel that it is important that the newsletter should be provided free of charge to all villagers. While there is a contribution to costs from advertising, this does not bring in a huge amount, and the editor, the PCC and PCs regularly review the costs incurred and investigate ways to keep these under control.

As a result, we have decided to switch our printing from a commercial printer to a small business who specialise in printing parish newsletters, who we anticipate will provide better value for money.

All other arrangements for the newsletter will remain the same, but should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Natasha Eliot – Editor: 01865 343478 or tashaandjames@btopenworld.com

VILLAGE WEB SITE

The Baldons Community web site has now moved to a new host, www.parishcouncil.net.

We believe this is a move which will future-proof the website and we have high hopes for the future. The website is now live and you can access it on www.baldons.org.uk, or just by googling 'Baldons'.

The site is still developing and with the passage of time should give a good overview of events and activities in the area. Further information from Peter Burke, peterdavidburke@gmail.com.

Any offers of help with running the website will be gratefully received.

RUGBY OPPORTUNITY

Wheatley RUFC Senior, Junior and Mini sections are looking for new players to come and join them playing this great game.

Wheatley RUFC and its two senior teams offer the flexibility to allow budding amateurs to play a high level of rugby with our 1st team, whilst our 2nd team offers rugby to those who are just starting or finishing their careers or those who just enjoy playing the game. Training takes place every Tuesday at 7pm on the Holton Playing Fields (OX33 1QL).

Our minis and Juniors aim to make rugby fun whilst focusing on the core values of rugby. During training and matches all children are given the same opportunity to play, not just the strongest.

We are always looking for new girls and boys to play this great game, regardless of their ability. We pride ourselves in giving every child the opportunity to play, whilst having the senior players come along to support the minis and making training fun for all involved. It is a brilliant way for your child to make friends and learn the core values of rugby - Enjoyment, Teamwork, Respect and Discipline. Training takes place every Thursday at 6:30pm for our U9s – U12s and at 7pm for U13s and up. We also train every Sunday at 9:30am for our U9s and up, and at 10am for our U6s – U8s.

Our membership fees are also the best around Oxford whilst offering great value for money. Every child gets three free taster sessions before you have to join us.

If you have any further questions please email us –

wheatleyrucf@outlook.com or follow us on twitter @wheatleyrucf or check us out here <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/wheatleyrucf>

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Please contact Sue: 01865 883488 or email: sue.hunt@oxonrcc.org.uk

CLIFTON HAMPDEN SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP DECEMBER 2014 - JANUARY 2015 NEWS

The recent survey questionnaire was returned by over 10% of registered patients who gave a very positive response on the way in which the Practice operates and deals with patients.

Patients who wish to be registered as carers and qualify for a carer grant of up to £600 should apply to Carers Oxfordshire. Only three grants are currently available and details on how to apply are available at the Surgery.

The “Friends & Family” patient consultation system is in operation at the Surgery and reporting cards are available at Reception after all appointments. The on-line appointment and prescription renewal system is working well but appointments with a nurse still need to be made by telephone.

Following some further welcome donations, there is now a good prospect of the proposed defibrillator being installed outside the Surgery early in the New Year.

We hope that the Practice website will soon include useful information on where to go for treatment for minor ailments (e.g. local pharmacies), minor injuries (e.g. local hospitals) and other medical issues requiring specialist clinics. Any patients with medicines within their use by date can hand them in to the Surgery for recycling to third world countries where they are really needed.

All older patients need to remind themselves of the risks from influenza and arrange to have an immunisation jab if not already done.

Any questions for the PPG on non-clinical matters should be referred to Chris Dupond or Roger Mitchell by email at christopherdupond@btinternet.com or rogermmit@aol.com.

COTTAGE GARDENS

At the February meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Tony Clear will give an illustrated talk on Cottage Gardens.

Tony trained in landscape and amenity horticulture in Surrey and has been involved in horticulture for more than 45 years. Moving to Worcestershire, he took up a position as assistant gardener at Spetchley Park Gardens, staying there for 17 years. He has been Head Gardener at Brook Cottage Gardens near Banbury for the past 20 years.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th February.

Visitors very welcome - £2.

BALDONS WINE CLUB



END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER AND 2015 TASTING DATES

2014 kicked off with a trip to the USA in February. March took us to Bordeaux and Laura Clay presented an in depth fabulous tasting of wines from this important region. Laura is back at the helm for our February 2015 tasting, wearing her UK Champagne Ambassador hat. This will be one not to miss!

Buyers Favourites was the theme for the annual Wine Society walkabout tasting at Oxford Town Hall in April. Food and Wine Matching (always a challenging but fun night), Australia, Vinho Verde and the Languedoc-Roussillon were the themes throughout the summer months. October took us to Southern Italy for some late summer sunshine in a glass which included a delicious Perricone (a grape we'd never heard of!), from Sicily.

In November Anthony Barne presented a fabulous tasting and presentation of Burgundy. What a treat! Anthony will be back for sure!

There are some great tastings lined up already for the 2015 vintage including two fabulous guest tutors in February and April and also our first BWC trip to a wine region in May.

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY – CHAMPAGNE WITH LAURA CLAY £20.00

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH – THE RHONE VALLEY £15.00 members £20.00 non members

also

APRIL – ALSACE TASTING WITH HELEN SAVAGE MW £20.00 (date to follow)

MAY 6th – 10th BWC TRIP TO ALSACE

Learn more about the wine in your glass. Everyone is very welcome.
Email me to book your place at the Champagne tasting in February. It's filling up fast!

Cheers!

Linda Simpson

Baldons Wine Club

lindasimpson99@gmail.com

07973 183684

www.explorewine.co.uk

70 YEARS AGO

From: 1st Lt., Air Corp, Duty flying Control Officer

To: Commanding Officer Seventh Photographic Group. U.S. Army

The following is an account of the crash of F/O Gentile in Aircraft P-38,F5E-4LO,44-24284 on 8 January 1945.

AT 10.30 hours F/O Gentile was airborne from USAAF station 234 to fly a local flight. At 1100 hours the pilot called by radio that he was experiencing difficulty due to lack of manifold pressure and would some pilot give him some advice. After accepting advice F/O Gentile was still unable to correct his troubles and was told to bail out and abandon his aircraft. At 1109 the aircraft crashed approximately four miles north of the base.

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The Oxford Times Friday 12 January 1945

BALDON TRAGEDY

THREE DEAD AFTER PLANE CRASH

“An American aircraft crashed on a house at Toot Baldon on Monday and two children lost their lives while their mother was severely burned. The pilot of the aircraft bailed out it is understood, but was killed. The children were Joy Marie Taylor, aged three months and her four year old brother, Colin Taylor.

Their parents Mr and Mrs John Waring Taylor live at the Old Farmhouse, Toot Baldon. The aircraft crashed into the house and burst into flames setting fire to the building. The cottage was severely damaged as a result. Three N.F.S. pumps and two mobile units turned out to deal with the blaze.

Mrs Taylor and her children were taken to the Radcliffe Infirmary where the younger child died on Monday. Colin succumbed to his injuries the following day.

Mrs Taylor’s condition was at first regarded as serious, but on inquiry at the Radcliffe Infirmary yesterday (Thursday) it was stated that her condition was satisfactory.”

Report of the Aircraft Accident Committee 5th February 1945

“The pilot was on a high altitude training flight. At 28,000 feet he reported having engine trouble .. he was advised to feather left engine. Pilot next reported both engines feathered, altitude 13,000 feet and being unable to start either engine. Pilot advised to bail out if aircraft was not under control by 3,000 feet. His last transmission stated he was at 2,600 feet.” F/O Albert Gentile was killed as he bailed out. Investigators found his chute was unopened and concluded that he may have hit a part of the aircraft before he could pull the rip cord.

With grateful thanks to Bill Jackson of Toot Baldon for the information on the details of the Photographic Reconnaissance Group based at Mount Farm (Berinsfield) 1943-1945.

C.T. January 2015.

ARIAS AT THE ABBEY 2: SATURDAY 14TH MARCH, 2015 7.30PM.

Following the success of the October 2012 concert, 'Arias At The Abbey 2' will be held at Dorchester Abbey on Saturday 14th March 2015 at 7.30pm.

This second evening of popular classical music and song will feature soloists Stuart Pendred, Hannah Pedley, Kylie Watt and Anthony Gregory; The Oxford Chamber Orchestra conducted by Neil Farrow and the award winning Wallingford Parish Church Choir directed by Sue Ledger, in aid of the Bone Cancer Research Trust.

The programme will include excerpts from Carmen, Tosca and Les Miserables, and drinks and canapes will be served in the interval. Tickets £25, students/U18 £15 at www.bcr.org.uk/ariasattheabbey, enquiries to ariasattheabbey2@bcr.org.uk or tel 01491 825680.

WINCHESTER - A CITY IN THE MAKING

February's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Ben Ford. He will present '**Winchester - A City in the Making**'.

Ben is from Oxford Archaeology and his illustrated talk will describe the archaeological results from the largest recent excavations to be published from Winchester. He will discuss the changing nature of peoples' lives and the city's development from the Iron Age enclosure, through the Roman civitas of Venta Belgarum, to the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval streets of England's first capital.

This talk will be held on Friday 13th February, 7.45 for 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall. Visitors (£3) are most welcome. www.twhas.org.uk



Volunteer drivers wanted

A local CHARITY is looking for volunteer drivers for a pilot project helping people live well and successfully after a spell in hospital.

The aim of the Circles of Support project, which runs until May 2015, is to ensure ex-patients are supported in their activities, helping to build relationships and reduce isolation. This might involve journeys to see friends, families, lunch clubs etc., and this is where a volunteer driver – who will be reimbursed for mileage – will help.

For more information, visit the ORCC website: www.oxonrcc.org.uk or call Emily or Sue on 01865 883488.



BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Precept for 2015/6

At the November meeting of the Parish Council there was the annual discussion at this time of year on the budget requirements and the setting of the parish precept for the coming financial year, leading to the request we have to make to SODC each January.

In the past the council has only asked for increases every 4-5 years and has absorbed increases in expenditure and inflation until fairly substantial increase becomes an inevitable requirement. This year the council has resolved to move to recommending a small increase every year linked with inflation as a more efficient way of planning our expenditure and meeting new costs.

The council has therefore recommended a 4% increase in the precept for 2015/6. This equates with an annual increase overall for Marsh Baldon of £194 and £99 for Toot Baldon to be shared by the number of houses in each of the villages.

Parish Council Elections May 7th

Alongside the General election on May 7th there will be the SODC election of District Councillors and the Parish Council election for your councillors for Toot Baldon Parish and Marsh Baldon Parish. Marsh has four council seats and Toot two seats with separate elections taking place for each parish.

SODC will be publicising the election and seeking applications for those interested in standing for election during March and April. If you are interested in standing and want more information on what is involved speak to any Parish Councillor.

This election is very important for the village. The Parish Council is the first level of democracy where your elected representatives represent the interests of the community on a wide variety of issues to SODC and OCC and other bodies, whether on strategic policy, local planning and related issues as well as managing a local budget (the precept) and dealing with a range of local practical village matters.

Planning applications

The Baldons and Nuneham Community Society have submitted a new planning application for the Seven Stars which is for the building of a much needed new toilet block off the main bar area. Plans can be seen on the SODC web site planning ref P14/S3709/Ful. The Parish Council supported the application which SODC has also now approved.

The Dairy, Manor Farm Barns, Toot Baldon. A new application is being considered by the council for the erection of a garden shed. Planning ref P14/S4081.

Provision of an Emergency Defibrillator

Many villages in Oxfordshire and elsewhere are being encouraged to have a defibrillator available 24/7 to accelerate the rapid response needed when emergencies arise and ambulances take time to get here.

Sara McDouall (our medical expert) has briefed the Parish Council on the importance of this bit of kit and its life saving potential, and councillors have given their support to her

proposal that we explore all the practical issues and how best to move forward, the likely costs and sources of funding. The use of the old telephone box on the green in Marsh Baldon would be an appropriate location to house one if it is upgraded and the phone line disconnected as BT have previously indicated the box and service are redundant.

Sara has provided more info, see her article elsewhere in the newsletter, and has asked for feedback on your support or otherwise for this proposal, which we will need, if we are to find ways of securing the finance and going ahead. There will be more information available in future newsletters.

Village clear up Sunday 12th April

As usual we intend to hold a village clear up day on Sunday 12th April please put the date in your diary and come and help. It is a week or two later than usual.

There is always a lot of rubbish to pick up from roadside verges ditches and round the green and the more people who help the quicker we are done. Meet on the Green at 10 30am or liaise with John Maskell for collecting in Toot Baldon. There will be pick-up sticks, waste bags etc. supplied by SODC but please bring strong shoes / wellies and gloves. Meet in the pub afterwards for a refreshing drink.

In the event of really bad weather and we may have to postpone to the following Sunday. A reminder will be in the March Newsletter.

Flooding problems Baldon lane

During November Thames water installed a new pump and equipment in the pumping station on Baldon Lane and has now informed the council that the work they promised to resolve periodic failure of the pumps has now been completed. Councillors will be monitoring the situation during the winter months and if problems and associated flooding continues to occur will take this up again with Thames Water.

Trees on the Green

A few of the Chestnuts on the west side of the green are showing signs of disease and are dying back. The Parish Council have agreed with the agent for Queen's College that two of the trees can be removed and the Parish Council has agreed to plant two Pin oak trees as replacements, similar to the one we planted for the Jubilee. We hope to do this this winter subject also to SODC tree officer approval.

These Chestnuts were originally bought for the village by Mr Charles Priestley, the previous owner of Baldon House. If any villager would also like to sponsor one of these replacement trees please let Laurence Attewill know tel 343336.

It is likely that more of these Chestnuts will be affected by disease in the coming years and the council will be discussing with Queen's College plans for their gradual replacement.

Dog Waste Bin Toot Baldon

The new waste bin for dog poo should have been installed by the end of January at the top of The Avenue just beyond the Parish Council and Church notice boards. If you walk your dog nearby please use it.

Faster Broadband

The first indication that faster broadband is on its way was seen just before Christmas when engineers were working near the Seven Stars getting the ground ready for installing new cables.

Next Parish Council meetings

Tuesday 10th March 7.30 pm Village Hall

Tuesday 21st April 7.30 pm Village Hall

Annual meeting of the parishes of Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon.

This is the annual open meeting where the parish council gives its annual report and at which villagers can raise items for discussion. It will be the last village meeting of the current council prior to the election in May. If you have an item you wish to raise on the agenda please contact Paul Isaacs the clerk on 01844 278040 by 10th April.

Tuesday 19 May: Annual General Meeting and first meeting of the newly elected Parish Council.

DEFIBRILLATOR PROPOSAL

There is a proposal to install an automatic defibrillator into the now rarely used telephone box on the side of Marsh Baldon green.



This would require a removal of the telephone line and some refurbishment of the telephone box. There would be a fundraising initiative associated with this proposal.

If the scheme were to be followed through the installation of the defibrillator would be accompanied by training opportunities for anyone in the villages both in its use and performance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Before going ahead with this scheme you are invited to express your comments, whether in support of the scheme or if you have concerns. Please express these comments or any questions in the first instance to Sara McDouall Saw via email sara@mcdouall.co.uk, by the end of February. This scheme is supported by the Parish Council.

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Seniors' Party was held in the village Hall on 10th January, and was a great success. Many thanks to all who put so much work into it, both committee and non-committee, especially those who provided the entertainment: Mary Small and her friend Susie, Stephen Dance, John Barne, Beth McLaughlin, Graham Hobbins, John Simpson, Bruce Don, Kevin Harris and of course the Handbell Team.

The Baldons Village Hall is for everyone's use: to book, please contact Ali or Darren on: 01865 340264 or dbaber@rm.com

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Since the last newsletter there have been two meetings of the Parish Council and some significant changes.

At the meeting on the 8 December 2014 the Parish Council:

- signed the clerk's contract of employment, with an official start date of 1st September 2014,
- reviewed the comments made by the external auditors on the Annual Return, which was received in October,
- reviewed the potential financial out-turn for 2014/15 and identified additional areas of support for various local initiatives including the Good Neighbour Scheme and Adult Luncheon Club,
- approved the Precept for 2015/16 which was set at £4,500 (with no increase on the current base charge per Band D property).

At the open section of the meeting a parishioner raised concerns at openness and transparency of Parish Council business and it was noted that there were issues of non-compliance with relevant legislation in holding meetings to discuss Parish Business.

Councillor George has therefore resigned as Chair, remaining on the Council to ensure some continuity ahead of planned retirement from the Council prior to the next election. Councillors Deakin and Casey also resigned from the Council.

This left the Council inquorate so SODC appointed District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie so that the Parish Council could co-opt new members at an Extraordinary General Meeting, which was held on 14 January 2015.

At that meeting Councillor Love was appointed as Chair and the following councillors were co-opted:

- Mark Pritchett
- Olive Garfoot
- Peter Brooks

Cllr Gillespie then stood down.

Regular Parish Council meeting dates were agreed up to the May election. These dates are

- 21 January 2015 3 – 4.30pm
- 11 February 2015 3 – 4.30 pm
- 9 March 2015 2 – 4.00 pm
- 20 April 2015 2 – 4.00 pm

Parishioners are welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council thanks Councillors Deakin and Casey for their work and welcomes our new Councillors.

Contact

The Parish Council can be contacted through the Clerk:

Julia Evans nunehamcourtenay.clerk@gmail.com 01235 833 466

FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH GILLESPIE

I am writing this newsletter on the day that the Offices of SODC have been victim of a devastating arson attack. There were three almost consecutive attacks on different properties close by and our offices were the final goal. It is believed that these were all motivated by personal vendetta.

Although much of the building is completely destroyed, part of the building, was, mercifully virtually unscathed, however, we will be in a better position to judge the situation in the near future. The services providing basic care, rubbish etc. are unaffected and we are hopeful to have the major part of our other services up and running over the coming days.

I have every confidence that, with John Cotton at the helm of a very able team, what could have been a disaster will, in the long run, prove to have been merely a substantial inconvenience. I would ask everyone to be understanding and patient, but please do not hesitate to contact me personally should there be any pressing issues of concern.

On other matters, we are in the advanced process of working on the coming budget and I am confident that it is going to be business as usual. Donning my portfolio hat, I can report that we are also looking at making modifications to our Grants policy and I will update you on this in the next newsletter.

FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

Transport Improvement Works

Ahead of Christmas work was completed on the £7m A423 Southern Bypass Scheme at Hinksey and Kennington Roundabouts. Work on a series of multi-million pound transport improvement projects is to start in January 2015. Schemes on London Road, the Plain in Oxford City and Milton Interchange will all get under way, marking the latest phase of investment in the county's transport infrastructure and future economic success.

The work is designed to be phased but some of the funds are dependent on spending within a certain time frame. If a project were to be deferred, it would mean some residents would not benefit from improvements. It was welcome news that we were given 6 year road maintenance funding as it will enable us to plan over a longer period with certainty of funds. Please information on future schemes:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/dec/major-transport-improvement-work-begin-january-2015>

Consultation On Oxfordshire's Children And Young People's Plan

We would like your views to find out if the Children's Trust is on the right track, so it concentrates on the areas that are most important to you and the young people of Oxfordshire. The Children and Young People's Plan drives the work of the Children's Trust and is jointly authored by all of the Trust's members. It is based on evidence from the Oxfordshire Children's Needs Analysis 2014. The Children's Trust wants Oxfordshire to be the best place in England for children and young people to grow up in,

by working with every child and young person to develop the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential.

Consultation closes on 20th February 2015

Please see:

https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/CYPplan_Adults/consultationHome

Consultation On Care Home Fees For April 2015

As in previous years, Oxfordshire County Council is undertaking a consultation regarding the fees paid to care homes. The Council recognises the need to ensure that good quality care is sustainable and properly funded, and we are mindful of our obligations to consult with providers regarding this matter. We would therefore like to invite you to participate in this consultation and share with us your views on care home fees for 2015-16. Your views will then be shared with and considered by Cabinet in making decisions about future care home funding.

Consultation closes on 8th February 2015

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/carehomefee2014/consultationHome>

Oxfordshire Leads The Way For Recycling

Oxfordshire County Council has maintained its position as one of the best counties for recycling of waste in the country, coming top in 3 of the 7 categories. Figures compiled by the Department for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs (Defra) show that Oxfordshire had the lowest amount of residual waste per household in the country. The county was also top of the tables for recycling & composting percentage and dry recycling percentage and was the best performing county council for household waste per head. *Please see:* <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/dec/oxfordshire-leads-way-recycling>

Be Prepared For Winter

The county council website provides a considerable amount of advice on how to mitigate problems from the winter weather, including guidance from the Highways Agency and Central Government. There is a particular focus on travel and what residents can do to help us before and during emergencies.

Please see: <http://winter.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/node/21> and <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/fireandpublicsafety/emergency/AreYouReadyBooklet.pdf>

We are committed to keeping a network of major roads free from ice to minimise the risk of accidents and ensure the smooth flow of traffic. Precautionary salting (sometimes called 'gritting') helps achieve this aim. Gritting teams have already been out in November due to falls in overnight temperatures. The County Council's website displays a considerable amount of information including up to date information on road surface temperatures that indicate when and where gritting will take place. It also shows the roads that are routinely salted during the winter. The page also links to general advice on dealing with snow and ice, and school closures. Daily updates on the roads are also sent out via twitter for those following @oxfordshirecc.

All the information can be obtained from:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/salting-gritting-and-snow-clearance>



FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

I am writing this month when we have just witnessed one of the worst attacks of arson known in the area. The fire at the district council offices, the funeral directors, and the cottage in Roke Marsh left significant problems, enormous concern and much uncertainty. I am grateful to all those who have worked so hard to get the district council services up and running so quickly following the event. I know that the midnight oil was burning and weekends given up to help. I would also like to record my thanks to the fire service and police for the excellent work they did on these incidents.

Arson attacks are thankfully rare events. More generally there is good news that the level of crime has reduced across the county. However I was particularly delighted to see figures recently published that showed that in the four year period from June 2010 to June 2014 there has been a 30% decrease in recorded crime in the Thames Valley Policing area. I was pleased to have the opportunity to put this on record in the House and to seek the Minister's congratulations for our police force on their work to keep us safe.

The state of our roads is an issue regularly raised with me. Maintenance and repairs are a responsibility of the county council and I welcomed the announcement of nearly £17 million of new funding for Oxfordshire for road maintenance. This is part of £87,143,000 of funding allocated for roads maintenance in Oxfordshire up to 2020/21 – the first time councils have had certainty over funding for this length of time. This will mean they can plan ahead and spend more efficiently and effectively. It is much needed money to tackle potholes and improve our roads.

I have been advised that a campaign organisation has categorically stated that Henley is sitting on a seam of shale gas. This strikes me as extremely doubtful and I have asked both for information about this and proof that it is not so.

With several months until the election and plenty of work to do it is frustrating that things already seem to be focusing on campaign issues. Let me reassure readers that my office is keeping focus on the work that needs to be done and will continue to help with issues where we are able as usual. My contact details are below. If I am not the right person to help with a particular issue we will always try to direct you to those best placed to help.

Further details of the proposed legislation and the work of Parliament are available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk. As always I am interested to hear views on the proposals before the House.

For more information my website is regularly updated and offers information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. In addition, if you would like to subscribe to my free e-newsletter please e mail me at: john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com. You can also follow me on twitter [@johnhowellmp](https://twitter.com/johnhowellmp) or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

RAY NICHOLS

Ray Nichols was Vicar of Dorchester from 1974 to 1987. His funeral took place in the Abbey on December 22nd and addresses were given by his son Paul and colleague Reverend David Barton. Excerpts from these addresses are included below, but Sue Booy's would be happy to provide full copies of each address on request.

Ray Nichols was a man of many contrasts and surprises. At school, sport was the only thing that really mattered to him at school and he was let off beatings if he had played well the day before! Yet, in spite of only a brief formal education, I think he was one of the most well-read people I have ever met and could always offer profound and thought-provoking advice on pretty much any subject, or provide startling insight into complex theological issues.

During the war the Merchant Navy took him everywhere, from the North Atlantic to Australia and Argentina, while later years saw him promoting Christian knowledge all over the world.

During his seafaring days Ray's life centred around duty free whisky, meeting friends in London's jazz clubs and rubbing shoulders with the likes of Stephane Grappelli and George Shearing. Maybe that's where his love of music was ignited. Then, one night in 1946 his life changed for ever. *In that year [his brother] Percy had taken Ray to hear some of the best and most powerful preachers in London. And Ray had always scurried off afterwards, avoiding a conversation. But one evening, at a family event, they found themselves sharing a room together, and scurrying off was out of the question. "Isn't it about time?" Percy asked. And Ray discovered it was. The claims of Christ upon him were unavoidable.*

He threw himself into youth missions before formally training for the priesthood that would become his life's work. *That change owed itself to his brother, and family was, throughout Ray's life, the place where most he felt comfortable and the place where, for him, prayer was best prayed. To the end it was prayer with Barbara that sustained him. And that sense of family and faith all bound together clearly imprinted itself strongly on each of their four children.*

At his peak, Ray scaled the heights of 5'3". As we reflect on his life it's obvious that this was a big man in a small package. For a small man, he leaves a big hole. Now there was a man.

SPECIAL SERVICE AT DORCHESTER, 5PM 8TH FEBRUARY

On Sunday 8th February at 5pm, there will be an evening Eucharist in which the music will be led by the Thames Consort (directed by Abbey organist Jeremy Boughton). The musical setting of the Eucharist will be the Mass for Five Voices by William Byrd with anthems of the Tudor period.

**DORCHESTER TEAM AND THE CHURN BENEFICE SCIENCE MISSIONER,
TOGETHER WITH RIPON COLLEGE CUDDESDON PRESENT THE FIRST IN A
SERIES OF PUBLIC TALKS ON SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANITY.**

Speaker: Revd Dr Joanna Collicutt, the Karl Jaspers Lecturer in Psychology and Spirituality, Ripon College Cuddesdon

Topic: God, the brain, and the person : What do Christianity and neuroscience have to say to one another?

Venue: Dorchester Abbey

Date: Wednesday 4th February 2015, 7.45
(doors open at 7.30, refreshments available)

All Welcome!

About the speaker:

Joanna Collicutt has a longstanding interest in the relationship between science and theology, especially in the area of neuroscience and understandings of the human person. This interest was developed when she was the head psychologist for services to people with brain injury and neuro-disability in Oxfordshire in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and has been maintained in her current role as Oxford Diocesan Advisor on Spiritual Care for Older People. Her academic background is in experimental and clinical neuropsychology, and she has carried out research in the area of natural theology.

DORCHESTER TEAM LENT TALKS 2015

Revd Dr Michael Lakey: Understanding St Paul and his Epistles

The writings of St Paul have been immensely significant for the theology and practice of the Church for most of its history. From St Augustine reading Romans, to Luther reading Galatians, and beyond, St Paul can be found, just below the surface, in nearly all Western Christianity. However, though he is everywhere, St Paul is sometimes not read as much as he could be. Partly this is because we favour the Gospel readings, but can also be because St Paul's writings contain much that is difficult (whether for ancient or modern readers).

These five short Lent talks in Dorchester Abbey on Sunday evenings (35 minutes + questions and discussion) aim to offer an introduction to some of the issues and ideas that might help us to understand and appreciate St Paul better. When and where did he write? How ought we to think about his transformation from persecutor to apostle? Why did he write the way he did? What were his views about God, the World, salvation, men and women? You do not need to be a specialist! They will be followed by a short act of compline-style worship (apart from 22nd February and 15th March).

22nd February 6pm - Paul on the Damascus Road : from persecutor to apostle
Followed by Taize@7 for those who wish to stay

1st March 6pm - Paul and the Galatians

8th March 6pm - Paul and the Corinthians

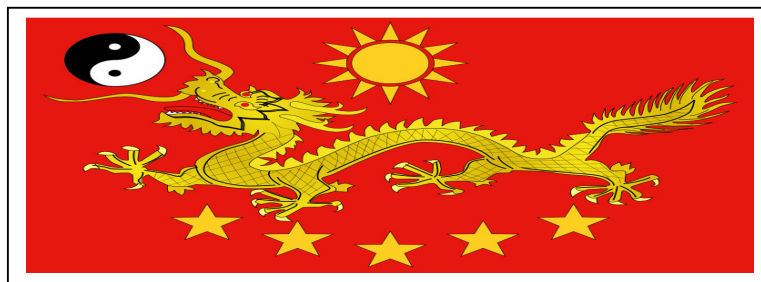
15th March 6pm - Paul and the Romans (this talk will be part of the regular Evensong)

22nd March 6pm - Paul and Resurrection



BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

HALF TERM CRAFT AFTERNOON
Wednesday February 18th
At 3.45pm



Join us every Wednesday
at Berinsfield Library
for Our
Story and Rhyme Time.
At 3.45pm
All Ages Welcome
Children to be accompanied by an adult please



Here to help



join in ● explore ● discover ● log on

THE HARCOURT ENSEMBLE

Chamber music for flute, harp and strings

7.30pm, 21 March
St Peter's Marsh Baldon

Music by Bach, Debussy and Ravel
Proceeds towards the Church development fund

Contact Elisabeth on 343369 or at elisabeth@flutesinspired.co.uk
for more information.

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SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2015

1 st February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
8 th February	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Toot Baldon
15 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
18 th February Ash Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>with imposition of ashes</i>	Berinsfield
	7.30pm	Holy Communion <i>with imposition of ashes</i>	St Birinus Chapel Dorchester Abbey
22 nd February	8.30am	Said Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Service	Marsh Baldon
2 nd March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
6 th March	tbc	Women's World Day of Prayer	tbc

Fellowship Group: 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7.30pm

For venues or other information please contact Jennifer Morton Tel. 343302
email: jennifer@morton8.co.uk

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
1 st & 8 th February	V Sandilands	A Druce
15 th February	V Sandilands	A Druce
LENT		NO FLOWERS

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
1 st February		9.30am Graham Hobbins
8 th February		6.00pm Ann Druce
15 th February	9.30am Ian Gillespie	
22 nd February	9.30am Liam McCormick	