

**THE BALDONS AND
NUNEHAM COURTENAY
NEWSLETTER**



JUNE 2022

FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

June this year is a month for celebrations, it is the month in which we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, a time for street parties, music events, fireworks and flotillas on the Thames!

Underlying all of these joyous celebrations is an acknowledgement of the Queen's lifelong dedication to our nation and to the Commonwealth of Nations. In a speech for the occasion of her 21st birthday, the Queen set a benchmark for the next 75 years of her committed service, she said: "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."

As I read these words, and as I look forward to the Jubilee celebrations, I am reminded of the huge benefit we all enjoy from our village community. The sense of collective endeavour and the success we achieve when we work together; the awareness that we are not alone but live alongside those who wish us well; the simple enjoyment we have in each other's company, whether that is on the cricket pitch, down the pub, or as we pass one another and stop for a chat on the many and beautiful pathways around the village.

I am also reminded of the biblical meaning of a 'Jubilee' year, as laid out in Leviticus 25; a year when everyone was released from their debts, slaves were given their freedom, and land was returned its owner. A Jubilee year is concerned with social relationship, economic security, stability and the wellbeing of the community; it aims to seek to ensure that people live in ways that reflect good relationships with God, with each other, and with creation.

Whatever you are doing in this month of Jubilee, I hope you will find yourselves feeling blessed by your village community and encouraged, like the Queen, to give a little back. In the difficult months ahead as we face a deepening of the cost of living crisis, there may be many who will need a helping hand and all the love and support of our community.

God bless the Queen and God bless you!

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

**ALL SAINTS CHAPEL,
NUNEHAM PARK**

Music & Reflections
Sunday 19th June
4pm

From May to October at
All Saints Chapel in Nuneham Park
there will be a monthly service
Come along and enjoy the music,
the silence and the beautiful
chapel

NEW BENCH IN ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD

The Johns family has donated a memorial bench to the St Peters Churchyard to commemorate the short life of Oscar Johns, born Sydney Australia, November 3rd 2017, died November 5th 2017. Alan Johns, of Home Close, has many relatives buried there including his Great Grandparents Richmond and Caroline Osborne, Grandparents Harry and Esther Osborne, and his parents, Bill and Hazel Johns. Many other family members were Christened or married over the years or have made St Peters their final resting place. It is a place where much family history can be reflected on. The Johns family hopes that the community and visitors can make use of the bench when visiting St Peter's.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The council AGM was held on 9th May. Items dealt with included:-

Election of officers

Chairman: Dorothy Tonge (01865 343234 or chairman@baldonspc.org)

Vice Chairman: Stephen Dance (01865 341323 or sdance@baldonspc.org)

All standing orders and official policies were reapproved and are on the Baldons website.

Southern Track repairs

The Council received a report from the southern track committee that 75% of residents on the south side of the green were supportive of the planned work on the track and the responsibility on householders for its maintenance costs. Further reassurance was given as to the quality of the planned work. The parish council therefore agreed that the CIL (Community Infrastructure levy) money can be released for the work to be done once residents have formally signed up to the maintenance commitment.

Pub parking repairs on the green

The Baldons and Nuneham Community Society have proposed carrying our repair work on the northern corner of the green to restore the corner and provide an area for end on overflow parking for visitors to the pub. The council has supported the plan which can be implemented in the autumn in conjunction with track repairs. A decision on a second proposal to reprofile the 'pound' area on the opposite side has been deferred until July.

Village Green

Now that covid restrictions have been removed it is again necessary for us to remind villagers and visitors of the rules governing the use and activities on the village green. Rules of the green are laid down in the Commons Act and are displayed on the large notice board on the west side of the green, as parking and driving on the green are prohibited by the Act.

Therefore, it is important that the parish council are consulted when private functions on the green are planned and that any associated traffic and parking issues are discussed and agreed in advance. This is a policy the council has adopted over many years which it hasn't been necessary to restate during the past 3 years.

Planning Applications

Romelia, Toot Baldon P22/ S0976/HH An application for a rear single storey and front 2 storey extensions which has been supported by the council.

Court House Farm Barns P22/S1555/FUL A resubmission of an application by Savills on behalf of the college for conversion of a barn to a 3 bedded house. This was initially approved by SODC in 2015 and permission lapsed. The parish council has again supported the application.

Date of next meeting Monday 11th July 7.30pm Village Hall



Platinum Jubilee Celebration on the Green

from 12.30 pm

Sunday 5th June

Enjoy Free: Welcome drink, cake & live band.

Available to purchase on the day: Hog roast, teas and
coffees

*Bring your own picnic, picnic blanket/chairs,
& relax*



Library books to your door

If you or someone you know are finding it difficult to get to the library, the Home Library Service can help!

Run by Oxfordshire County Council, the Home Library Service is completely free and delivers books and other library materials to hundreds of people across the county. Friendly volunteers choose items you like and visit every three weeks to deliver and collect them.



The service is open to people who struggle to physically visit a library. It's also available on a short-term basis after illness or hospitalisation, and to people with caring responsibilities. Registering is easy, simply call your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice



NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Council Tax £150 rebate

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) believes by the end of April it had paid the Government's £150 Council Tax rebate to almost all households in Council Tax bands A-D that pay their Council Tax by direct debit. That would cover, they say, 68 per cent of households.

SODC said it would send a separate letter to the remaining households (those not on direct debit, or whose bank account can't be matched to the Council Tax bill payer) asking them to complete an online form to confirm their bank account details.

Anyone who is not able to complete the form online would be able to confirm their details by calling a special customer service team who would be in place just to deal with rebate requests.

I did wonder how many households in the parish are in Bands A to D, and the answer is quite a lot, 43 properties in fact: Yew Tree Courtyard is all band B; there are even a couple of Band A properties; and many houses on the main road are Band D.

Buses

I'll give you the good news first. Dave Harrison, Principal Public Transport Planner at Oxfordshire County Council, has met with representatives from Culham Science Centre and has informed the Council they are keen to work with the County Council to reinstate the previous route and timetable of service 45 to/from Cowley with effect from September 2022, which will restore the link between Nuneham Courtenay and Clifton Hampden. He says the County Council will be issuing a tender for this service in due course.

He has also said there will no change soon about the route into Oxford of the X39 and X40 because the bus company won't budge. Unfortunately, he does not yet think he can yet restore the X38, which is paid for by the County Council but has been suspended due to the shortage of drivers, because he does not think any bus company would be willing to bid for it while the driver shortage continues.

Trees

I'm not talking about the Christmas trees at the Village Hall car park that Biffa failed to collect in January – they've taken them away now, thank goodness – I'm talking about the trees at the Playing Field that were mentioned in the last Newsletter. I don't think anyone is planting a tree in the parish to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee but in 1977, the year of her Silver Jubilee (25 years on the throne), the Council bought a tree for the Playing Field, a flowering almond. Apparently, it cost £3.80 at the time and an internet site tells me that would be about £22 in today's money. Is it still there? I'm told 45 years is almost as long as one of them typically lasts.

But three years later when Nuneham Courtenay won a prize in a County Council competition, the Council gave the Playing Field not one tree, but nine: two limes, one oak, three wild cherries and three beech trees. I wonder if they're all still there.

The oak is one of the only trees I can recognise but is there anyone who can tell me if the others are still there?

And the Council has not always obtained trees for the Playing Field. In 1980 for the Queen Mother's 80th birthday the Council bought what people often call a Pocket Handkerchief tree for the Arboretum. That's a very distinctive tree too: I might know that if I saw it.

Meetings

John Peters took over from Madhvi Saini as Chair of the Council at the annual meeting on 3rd May. Nicola Misseldine is the new Vice-Chair. The meeting was, frankly, pretty dull but it went through all the Council's policies and procedures, approved the unaudited accounts, and did all the other things it was meant to do. The next ordinary meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday 28th June, a week earlier than normal, so the Council can complete the annual audit by the legal deadline of 30th June.

There is also going to be another special ("Extraordinary") meeting on 24th May to deal with some urgent stuff about the website, the Village Hall electricity bills and the audit.

There is still a vacancy on the Council so, if you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please do let me know or speak to one of the four existing councillors.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Centenary Jubilee

This year marks 100 years of the Village Hall! We plan to celebrate on Saturday the 11th with a vintage Jubilee party! Times tbc, but mark your calendar now!



Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who gave some time to help clean up our village hall! Caroline did an amazing job organising this and has some awesome ideas to transform the hall into a great community space.

Committee members

The village hall has welcomed several new members lately but we could always use your help! Karen will be taking bookings through our new email address NunehamCourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com, or her personal email address. Pete Brookes is officially retiring. We are planning an official thank you for Pete soon. He has been an amazing committee member and worked quietly for the good of the village in so many ways. Do let Caroline or Jenny know if you are interested in helping with the committee.

Yoga

Yoga continues on Monday evenings at 7:30. Do pop along if you are interested in giving it a go! £2 per session payable to the village hall.

Jennifer Taylor - Jenny@datadaysolutions.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR POSTMAN MARK BAYLISS

Dear Friends

I have had the pleasure of delivering your letters and parcels for the last 15 years, however after having two knee operations and ongoing problems, I feel I am no longer able to do the job that I have enjoyed so much. Royal Mail have offered me an ill health retirement package which I have accepted.

When I left school aged 15 back in 1978 the price of a First Class stamp was just 9p and John Travolta and Olivia Newton John were in the charts with "You're the one that I want". For the first two years I was a telegram boy delivering telegrams on a Puch Maxi motorcycle and now after 44 years' service my career has come to an end and I look forward to spending more time with my wife, children and five grandchildren.

You have all been so kind and caring and I will never forget you. I will call in and see as many of you as I can during the next couple of months.

I wish you all love, peace and happiness.

God Bless

Mark

HELLO FROM THE MAPLE TREE!

This is a busy time at The Maple Tree – we have sessions daily, lots of fundraising events happening and we are looking for a trustee who is an accountancy whiz – could that be you?

Check out our Website and Facebook pages for more information about our special events, our summer programme and popular First Aid classes!

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

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: [@themapletreecentre](https://www.instagram.com/themapletreecentre)

Laura Spencer

The Maple Tree Centre Manager



A great place to grow

EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Sat 4th June 7pm Queen's 70th Jubilee Concert Music from the Wedding, the Coronation and the 50th Jubilee to include Handel Zadok the priest, Parry I was glad and Music by Vaughan Williams, Wesley, Purcell and others. Tickets £5 to £30 from <https://www.osj.org.uk/osjevent/queens-70th-jubilee-concert-7pm-at-dorchester-abbey/>

16th to 23rd June Festival of Voices returns to the Abbey. Each day a choir of children from different Oxfordshire Primary Schools perform, accompanied by a youth band and with young guest players. Tickets will be available on the door.

Sat 25th June 7.30pm Benson Choral Society Summer Concert features a festival of wonderful British music ranging from Vaughan Williams' joyous Five Mystical Songs to the beautiful and stirring modern Peace anthem, Ave Maris Stella by Cecilia McDowall. Anita will enchant us with Finzi's ravishing Eclogue and the concert finale will be provided by a choral setting of Elgar's popular Sea Pictures. Tickets from <https://www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk>

Mon 27th June 7pm Keziah Thomas performs The Harp Four Seasons - a fresh take on Vivaldi's enduring classic. Harpist Keziah Thomas, acclaimed by the New York Concert Review as 'Stupendous...totally original and engaging', at her Carnegie Hall debut recital, performs her own arrangement of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Vivaldi's music portrays the essence of nature based on the composer's sonnets in which he describes each season. Expect to hear the peace of Spring, bird song, dogs barking, villagers dancing and some gentle (and not so gentle) stormy weather! Tickets from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/keziah-thomas-harp-the-four-seasons-tickets-292563233507>

Sat 2nd July 7.30pm Berkshire Maestros Choirs Summer Concert

Join us for a fantastic concert which will include a variety of performances by Berkshire Young Voices, Berkshire Youth Choir, as well as our Music Centre Area Choirs, culminating in a massed piece by all the choirs. Tickets will be available from 27th May from the Berkshire Maestros website <https://berkshiremaestros.org.uk>

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the July / August 2022 newsletter
by 16th June 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



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THE SEVEN STARS
at
MARSH BALDON

SEVEN STARS BALDON FESTIVAL 1st & 2nd July

We will be hosting the
Seven Stars Baldon Festival!
A FREE entry event!

Come along and enjoy some amazing live music, something yummy from our fire pit grill and plenty of things to do for the whole family from bouncy castles to magicians, crafts stalls to craft beers!

THIS IS A FREE ENTRY EVENT!

You can rock up with your picnic blanket or grab a table if its free. We recommend booking a table as it's set to be super busy! Tables can be reserved for £10 online now - which can then be refunded against any food or drink purchased on the day.



Scan to find out more and book your table.
www.sevenstarsatmarshaldon.co.uk

Contact us on
sevenstars@freespiritpubs.co.uk
01865 343337

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



CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE

5 th June	10.30am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion
12 th June	4.00pm	Marsh Baldon	Evensong
19 th June	9.30am	Toot Baldon	All Age Holy Communion
	4.00pm	All Saints Chapel Nuneham Park	Music and Reflections
26 th June	10.30am	Dorchester	Team Ordination Service

CHURCH FLOWERS

Marsh Baldon

Veronica Sandilands

Toot Baldon

Jane Brook / Ann Druce



CHURCHYARD COUNT

St Peter's Marsh Baldon
Saturday 11th June 10am -2pm

- Come and help us count !
- Look for plants and bugs that live in our churchyard
- Part of a national project to map biodiversity
- All ages welcome- child friendly