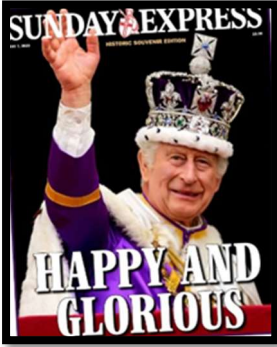


The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



June 2023

FROM REV TERESA STEWART-SYKES



'Happy and glorious' proclaimed the Guardian and the Sunday Express headlines after the Coronation last month, and what a pageant and display of all things British it was! This month we look forward to the King's official birthday on 17th June and the Trooping of the Colour at Horse Guards Parade which will prove to be another showcase of all things British.

The first time the ceremony of the Trooping of the Colour was performed was during the reign of King Charles II. In later years it was decided that this parade would be used to mark the official birthday of the King or Queen and it became an annual event after George III became King. The format of the Trooping of the Colour has its origins in the discipline of troops on the battlefield. The 'colour' is a regimental flag displaying the uniform colours and insignia worn by soldiers of different units. The role of a regiments 'colours' was to provide a rallying point on the battlefield, so to make sure that all the troops could recognise their own regiments 'colours' and so gather at the correct point during a battle, there was a daily parade of regimental colours up and down the ranks of troops formed up in lines. Today this annual ceremony has come to symbolise all that is great about British culture and the significant role of the Sovereign as a national figurehead.



There was much discussion at the time of the Coronation about the role of the monarchy in modern Britain, with some commentators suggesting that events such as the coronation and the Trooping of the Colour are displays of our 'soft power' to the world. Other commentators however decried such displays as a sugar coating of our national history and culture which includes the conquest and colonisation of commonwealth countries and, to our shame, the slave trade.

In 2020 the Church of England apologised for its links to slavery and called these links a 'source of shame'. In October 2022 the new King Charles gave explicit support to the commissioning of a report into the monarchy's involvement in the slave trade; this was after a document was discovered showing the 1689 transfer of £1,000 of shares in the slave-trading Royal African Company to King William III, from Edward Colston, the company's deputy governor.

The church teaches that all of us have skeletons in our proverbial cupboards, we all have done things of which we are ashamed; we live in an imperfect world, and we behave imperfectly. Jesus encourages us not to judge one another but to acknowledge our shared 'brokenness': "first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye" (Matt 7:5)

So, as we celebrate great national events like the Trooping of the Colour, of course there are questions for us to answer about our shared past, about our shared experience of justice or injustice in the present, and the direction we are travelling together as a nation into the future. But our celebrations can still be 'Happy and Glorious' if we are willing to acknowledge our 'brokenness' and to grow together in love.

Rev Teresa

CAN YOU HELP OUR VILLAGE BATS?

Come along and help us survey the bats at Toot Church



WHY? Bat numbers in the UK have declined dramatically over the last century. At St Lawrence church in Toot Baldon, we are helping to monitor the UK's bats by taking part in the **National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP)** and running two sunset surveys in June. By monitoring bats we can help the **NBMP** discover how bats are faring and the factors that are important for their survival. The National Bat Monitoring Programme has been running since 1996. It provides us, and government, the information needed to help inform bat conservation. We love our bats at Toot and we want to keep them happy and safe!

WHEN? 10th June 8.15pm and 24th June 8.30pm

WHERE? St Lawrence Churchyard, Toot Baldon

HOW? We will be counting the bats as they leave their roost in St Lawrence church. Bring a folding chair and wear something to keep you warm as we will continue the survey until it gets too dark to see the bats! You might also like to bring a torch as it will be dark when we finish. You will be given instructions and all you need to take part. Please arrive promptly for the pre-survey briefing at 8.15pm!

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

Our current curate is The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood who lives in Berinsfield.

Our safeguarding officer is Sara McDouall: saramcdouall@gmail.com

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

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The first meeting of the new and nearly new councillors, following the King's Coronation, had all the hallmarks of Changing the Guards. Dawn McGiveron (Toot Baldon) was elected as Chairman, with Andy Speight as Vice-chairman. The remaining councillors are; Lauren Collett, Phil Price and Adam White, all from Marsh Baldon. The remaining seat at Toot Baldon is open for co-option.

The new council recognised the enormous contributions from the outgoing council. Very special mention should be made of the dedication and hard work of Dorothy Tonge who has acted as Chairman for the past 20 years. Throughout this time, she has worked tirelessly in the best interests of the villages. Hugely knowledgeable and with a keen sense of fair play and justice, she has successfully fought hard to preserve the character of the villages while acknowledging that change is part of everyday life. Although no longer a councillor, Dorothy has agreed to act as a 'font of all knowledge' consultant to the current council.

One of the priorities for this council will be to decide on which projects to spend the CIL funds, received from the various housing developments. The money from these developments must be spent on improving the infrastructure for the villages and must be spent within five years of receipt.

Suggestions so far have been:

1. Play area for children on the green
2. Improving Tinny Lane for walkers
3. Reinstating gate pillars at the far end of the track
4. Providing water on the allotments
5. Footpath map of the village in the noticeboards

Please email the Clerk (Tom James) if you have any ideas or views on how the council should spend this money: clerk@baldonspc.org.

Marsh Baldon School

The week beginning 24 April was a busy time for the school. On the Monday, inspectors from the Education Department of the Oxford Diocese visited the school. The inspection focuses on the impact of the Church School's Christian Vision on pupils and adults. The school has just been given an overall rating of 'Good'. Any inspection is a demanding and, somewhat, stressful exercise and the school should be congratulated on the excellent report, which can be found on the School's website. On the Friday, Governors appointed Mrs Carolyn Hanwell, Deputy Head at Stephen Freeman School in Didcot, as Headteacher from September 2023. Another example of changing the guard with the Beccy Harris, the current headteacher, taking over at St Barnabas School in the city.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The list of Trustees, who served during the year, were:

Mr D Greenaway
Mr C Nichols
Mrs A Porter (Chair)
Mrs A Barne
Mr A Johns (Treasurer)
Dr B Don
Mrs J Lake
Mrs E Timms (Clerk)

There were two Ordinary meetings of the Trustees in 22, supplemented by telephone and email communications between the Chair, Clerk and the other Trustees.

The main business remains the settling of fuel allowances for needy parishioners and granting of special payments (Level A and B) for hardship cases or for educational purposes.

Income for the year, almost exclusively investment income, totalled £18,897 (2021 £16,953.) and expenditure £20,350 (2021 £15,339), leaving a deficit for the year of £1,453 (2021 surplus was £1,614).

Payments were made to a total of 24 parishioners re' 'Cash in Lieu of Fuel' payment and two other parishioners for Education related purposes. Cost of Personal Alarms was £1,037, covering 6 individuals. Payments under the headings 'Level A and B Grants' and miscellaneous grants, totalled £14,286.

There were no changes to the investment portfolio in the year. The market value of investments had decreased by £26,810 compared with the previous year, leaving net assets of the Charity, at 31st December 2022, of £719,025 (2021 £745,835).

Alison Porter
Chair
The Baldons Fuel Charity

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

London Plane Trees

Edward Whorwood, the County Council Tree Officer who covers South Oxfordshire, gave details to the parish council on 9th May of the work planned on the London plane trees along the main road.

He said there were three basic options for how pruning the branches over the main road would affect the traffic: One option is a 6pm to midnight full closure of the A4074 through the village on a Sunday evening when two crews could tackle all the branches over the road, two trees at a time. There would still be access for the emergency services and local residents.

The other two options were for four or eight days of closing a stretch of the main road on one side and having traffic lights controlling the traffic using the side that remained open. The length of the closure would depend on how many crews were working at any one time.

The parish council felt the Sunday evening closure was much less disruptive for residents and through traffic. The other options seemed to guarantee days of traffic jams on the A4074.

The work on the trees is unlikely to happen before July. Edward Whorwood said work could not go ahead on any tree if there were an active nest, but he said that the only birds that nest in the London plane trees are occasional pigeons as the trees aren't a native species. He said the work would probably happen every six to eight years in future.

Edward Whorwood also consulted the parish council about planting a new London plane tree somewhere on Highways land, similar to the recent planting of the Tibetan cherry tree on land at the southern end of the village by the junction with Baldon Lane.

May 2023 elections

The Green Party's Sam Casey-Rerhaye was re-elected as your South Oxfordshire District Councillor on Thursday 4th May. She received 895 votes (74%) and her Conservative opponent Edwin Samu received 315 votes (26%).

These were almost the same shares as the two parties received four years ago when Sam received 73% and her Conservative opponent received 27%. But fewer people voted this year than in 2019. In the whole of South Oxfordshire only two parties won more than one ward this time: the Liberal Democrats and the Greens. Labour won Didcot South and the Henley Residents Group won – you guessed it – Henley-on-Thames. The Liberal Democrats now have an overall majority with 21 of the 36 councillors and the Greens are second with eight. There will be those

four “groups” on the Council plus the one Conservative elected in a split result in Didcot West.

South Oxfordshire District Council has its Annual Meeting on Thursday 18th May when the Council will elect a Leader and we will find out if the Liberal Democrats have decided to take control themselves or continue their coalition with the Greens.

Next Parish Council meeting

The Parish Council will probably have to call an extraordinary meeting before 20th June because the auditor had not completed work in time for the meeting on 9th May. There are two vacancies on the parish council, so please contact the Clerk or one of the councillors if you think you might like to become a parish councillor.

Geoffrey Ferres,

Parish Clerk,
Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council
Tel: 07419 991623
Email: clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk



Welcome Home

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE RE-OPENING OF
GLOBAL RETREAT CENTRE, NUNEHAM COURTENAY

2 PM: OPEN HOUSE & GARDENS,
SHORT TALKS & MEDITATION

5 TO 7 PM: REFLECTIVE EVENT,
PERFORMANCES, TALKS & MEDITATION

SUNDAY 23RD JULY

NUNEHAM COURTENAY ADULT LUNCH CLUB

We weren't going to miss out on the Coronation so a good time was had by 43 members on the 11th May. It was great to see everyone looking wonderful in their regal finery.

Anyone looking to do voluntary work? We would love you to join us. To all you budding gardeners the lunch club is happy to take any surplus vegetables or fruit you may have.

Please email our secretary Jan at jandystevens@hotmail.com

Love to all
Georgia Gillett - Chair



ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the July / August 2023 DOUBLE ISSUE 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



Vintage Tea Party

June 10th

3-5 pm

Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall



For one day only the Village Hall will be transformed into a vintage tea shop selling a traditional afternoon tea. Join us for refreshments and music from the 40s and 50s. No charge to attend but cakes, refreshments, and vintage china will be offered for sale.

Booking clerk: There are a number of small roles available to help out the hall. We need someone who can look after the bookings for us. This is done mostly via email and usually involves less than a dozen inquires a month. Let us know if you can help!

Bookings: Contact Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com if you want to make a booking

Yoga: Monday nights in the village hall at 7:30ish. Come along and give it a go, £3 a session

Thank you: Well done Michael for a hilarious bingo calling stint. Our thanks to Rod for ensuring the bins go out each week



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The Dovecote Hair Studio

Hello! My name is Karen, and I have opened a small hair studio in the dovecote in Little Baldon Farm.

My hours, prices and online booking is available via my website
www.thedovecotehair.studio

or you can contact me direct on 07538993460.

Tuesday Thursday and Friday are long days with late appointments, while Wednesday and Saturday are by prior arrangement and as required.

Hope to see you soon, Kx





Looking for a babysitter, or someone to mow your lawns?

I am a responsible 15 year old person who engages well with children and mows in straight lines!

If you would like to contact me, please do so on 07388 677402. £7 an hour.

Many thanks,

Sam McDouall Saw

Maths and Science help up to GCSE level

I am an A-Level Maths, Physics and Chemistry student, who would be happy to help others understand and improve their maths and science work, up to GCSE level. £7 per hour

You can contact me on 07561 407451

Thanks

Alexander Eliot

WANTED - HELP IN THE GARDEN

I need a bit of help in the garden, probably 2 hours per week or so.

Please contact June Harris on 01865 343371 to discuss. I live in Nuneham.

Thank you.

JOHN HOWELL MP WRITES

This month with the local elections we have seen people come and people go as councillors. Firstly my thanks to all those who have worked as local councillors, at parish and district in the last four years or more. Having been a councillor myself I know very well the work that is involved and that sometimes it can be a thankless task. You can never please everyone and there are always more people ready to complain than to compliment. Welcome too to new councillors. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Turnout figures show that local elections pass many people by or that many are simply not interested. I think this may be that they do not appreciate the work that is done at a local level and the decisions that local councils have responsibility for. Issues are often raised with me that I have to defer to local councils as the councils are fully autonomous and responsible for their own decisions. So perhaps it is timely to remind people what the different councils do and how elected representatives can help on the relevant issues.

Let me start with the most local level of democracy, the parish council. This the elected body closest to the community. Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (as statutory consultees), and campaigning and delivering better services and facilities for the community. They often provide allotment space, manage community centres, play areas and equipment, and deal with issues such as litter, graffiti, dog offences and fly posting. As a formal body parish councils have the ability to influence other organisations that make decisions affecting the community such as the district and county councils, health authorities, police. As such parish councils have an important role in local democracy and can be a great resource to support a thriving community.

The next tier of local government in this area is the district council. The constituency is served by two district councils, Cherwell District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. They are responsible for local services, including planning, housing and associated benefits, rubbish collection, environmental services, leisure services, some car parks and council tax collection. This is the level which has been the subject of much discussion on its continuance or whether it should be merged with the County Council to create a Unitary Council.

Finally we have the County Council. This is a much larger council which is responsible for services across the whole of a county. This Council is responsible for local services, including education, social services, transport, roads (except trunk roads and motorways), public rights of way, libraries, the fire service, culture, trading standards, bus subsidies, minerals, waste and recycling (disposal) and the environment.

Each of these councils has elected representatives who take decisions on the relevant issues and are there to help residents in the areas of their responsibility. These people should be the first port of call to raise concerns with as they have direct access to information and, in the case of the larger councils, the officers employed to assist. Contact details for local councils and councillors are usually widely published. However if anyone has difficulty in locating the details for our County or District Councils details are available on my website under the tab labelled 'The Constituency'.

From my own experience as a local councillor, and working alongside many other councillors, I know that most people who put themselves forward for these roles do it because they want to help and support their community. I would therefore encourage residents to take an interest in what they do and seek their support if necessary. In the same way that I have been elected to be part of the parliamentary decision-making process, so they are elected as part of the local decision-making process. Similarly as I can sometimes help with issues relating to central government departments, so local councillors can help with issues relating to their councils' areas of responsibility.

As always, if there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in the Constituency, please do look at my website. The address is www.johnhowell.org.uk. My contact details are also on the website.

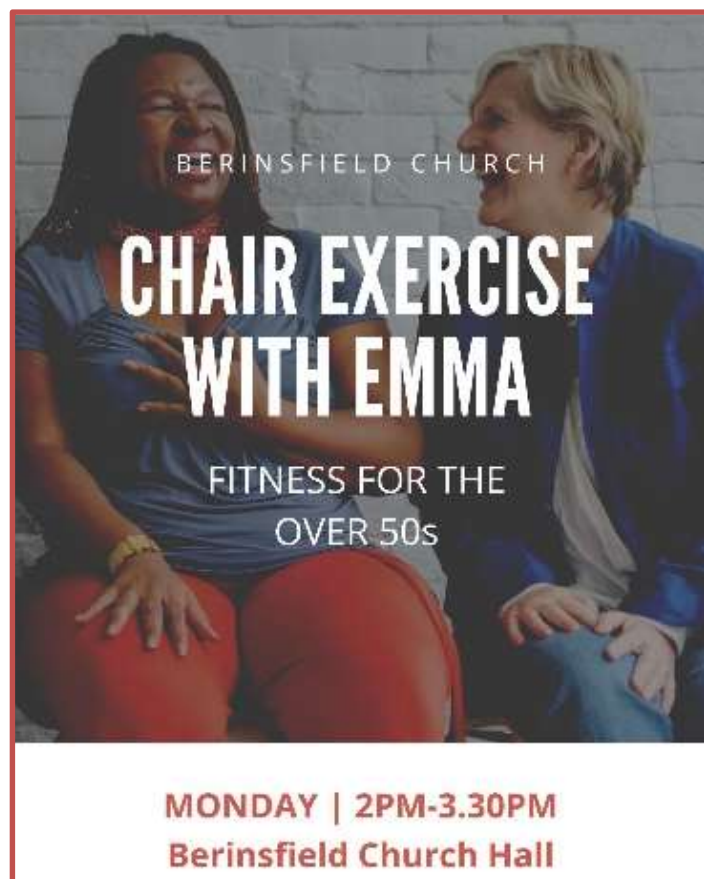


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BERINSFIELD CHURCH

TUESDAY 10.30AM-12PM
EVERYONE WELCOME



BERINSFIELD CHURCH

**CHAIR EXERCISE
WITH EMMA**

FITNESS FOR THE
OVER 50s

MONDAY | 2PM-3.30PM
Berinsfield Church Hall

KNOWLEDGE OFTEN REVEALS

It's been nice to rediscover working in the garden, now the weather has improved. No, I don't mean gardening, I mean working on my laptop. I don't mean working on my laptop in a summerhouse, at the end of the garden, I mean sitting in the garden, on a bench, at a table, under the pergola, with the sun gently shining through. Noticing the shimmering shadows and sunny blotches on the patio below out of my peripheral vision whilst working, caused by the leaves of the vine growing over my head.

It's easy to think nature is out there somewhere, in some far-off land, or far off nature reserve, or some other place. Not right outside our back door. To be absorbed in my laptop screen, whilst working, but still feeling enveloped, and encased in nature, can be a creatively inspiring thing.

I also quickly realized, that although I have a lifetime of experience of listening to birds, and identifying them, just by their calls and songs. I almost have to relearn on some level, to recognize them again. When I emerge from Winter, I often hear something I know I know, but I have to give my mind and memory time and space to re-remember those lost connections. That time and space I spend just enjoying being back out in nature, not worrying myself about identifying, cataloguing, and categorising. Just enjoying things for what they are.

So, I encourage you to do the same. Just step out into nature and enjoy it for what it is, in all its forms. Knowledge often reveals to us that we don't know, so this year, focus less on the knowledge of the nature around you, and more on being aware of it, and just enjoying it.

Happy Gardening
Stuart Mabbutt - Wildlife Gardening Specialist
www.wildmaninspires.co.uk - 01865 747243

HELLO FROM THE MAPLE TREE!

Our fabulous Children's Centre needs one or two trustees. We are in particular search of a special person with some time to spare and a background in finances. Are you able to join our small but lovely group of trustees? Can you help us to grow and improve our services?



We have something for every family with young children – a session each weekday and once a month on a Saturday.

Check out our Website and Facebook page for more information about our special events, our summer programme, and our popular First Aid classes. For details, please go to www.mapletree.org.uk. We are here to help, if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249. Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

We're looking for more foster carers in Oxfordshire to provide a safe and secure home to a child when they are unable to live with their parents. It may be for a short period of time, or they may stay with a foster family long term.

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www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering

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If you feel you could be a foster carer, please register your details here to find out more: <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/fosteringenquiry>

**WOMEN AND WAR:
FROM THE FRINGES TO THE FRONT LINE –
NEW EXHIBITION TO TELL THE STORIES OF
WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES**



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

- Exhibition opening on 3 June and running until 10 September 2023
- Charting the evolution of women's roles in the armed forces from the Second World War to today
- Personal accounts of women's experiences in the armed forces, from those recruited to help 'set Europe ablaze' in the Second World War SOE to those who now take on front line combat roles.
- Objects on loan from a range of individuals and other museums, many on display at the Woodstock's SOFO Museum for the first time

**Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN
www.sofo.org.uk**



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Oxfordshire Libraries

June events at Berinsfield Library

Stories & craft Saturday 17 June 10.30am
An eco-craft and stories themed around the natural world to celebrate Great Big Green Week. For ages 4+



Book Club Friday 30 June at 2pm

Contact the library for this month's book or turn up to say hello and help choose the next one. All very welcome



Knit and Natter – Tuesday 6 June 2.30pm
First Tuesday of each month. Enjoy a chat while spending time working on your latest project. All crafts welcome



Rhymetime Wednesdays at 10.30am
Singing and rhyming fun for under 5s and their parents/carers. Every Wednesday during school term.



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

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE 2023

4 th June	10.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
8 th June (Thursday)	4.00pm	Berinsfield	Corpus Christi Benediction
11 th June	4.00pm	Toot Baldon	Evensong
18 th June	9.30am	Marsh Baldon	All age Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Nuneham Courtenay	Evening reflections in words and music
25 th June	10.30am	Dorchester Abbey	Team Service

❖ SAVE THE DATES:-

- ❖ Sunday 2nd July Annual Air Crash Service at St Lawrence, Toot Baldon
- ❖ Sunday 6th August, Breakfast Feast, St Lawrence, Toot Baldon

CHURCH FLOWERS

Date	Marsh	Toot
4 th & 11 th June	Iris Wright	Vanessa Bowler, Linda Brook and Tracey Greenaway
18 th & 25 th June	Alison Lyall	Jenny van Dijk, Ann Druce and Heather Maskell
2 nd July		All help please for Aircrash Service

Thank you to those who helped and donated flowers to St Lawrence's church for the weekend of the 30th April, the church looked beautiful.

Many thanks

Vanessa Bowler

DORCHESTER ABBEY EVENTS

Saturday 3rd June 7pm - Brahms Double concerto, Beethoven Eroica

Beethoven's mighty third symphony strikingly marked the end of the classical era. Tonight's concert sees it perfectly paired with the final orchestral work of his worthy successor, Johannes Brahms. Soloists Charlie Lovell Jones and Yoanna Prodanova come to the stage alongside OSJ Voices for this evening of seminal works from the German masters. The concert starts with Agnus Dei, Barber's own arrangement for choir of his Adagio. Tickets £5 to £30 from www.osj.org.uk