

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



May 2015

SPRING FANCIES

A delicious medley of singing

*St Peter's Church,
Marsh Baldon*

9th May 2015, 7.30pm

Tickets £10 (£8) including wine and refreshments



Christian Aid Week 10 - 16 May

We work with poor communities across the world to bring lasting change for the most vulnerable people on earth, regardless of faith, gender or race.

FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

What a warm spring we are experiencing. I hope people have had a chance to enjoy the weather over Easter and get the garden tidying and planting underway in the unusually sustained sunshine (the shop has just run out of barbeque rolls here in Berinsfield, so people are obviously enjoying it!). It has been lovely to see the primroses emerging around the village pond by the school and cowslips in quiet corners.

I wonder whether it will be raining by the time you read this though. In some ways I hope so as a dry spring can store up problems for tender plants and farmers. It is such a joy to see the buds on the large trees begin to unfurl amid the gentle mix of spring weather, the cherry blossom appear in its billowing drifts and people's smiles begin to open up again after a long winter. It takes time of course and comes in staccato fashion, as poetic reference to April as the cruellest month starkly reminds us. I guess it was the same staccato and questioning process for the disciples, especially the women who saw the empty tomb and ran to share the good news. Jesus' first words when he appeared to the hesitant gathering of disciples were "Peace be with you" (John 20:21). He knew how their unfurling would be gradual and their ability to take in the new energy would only gradually gain confidence. They knew they would have to deal with considerable scepticism and deliberate misunderstanding (Matthew 27:64 reminds that scepticism isn't a modern invention of a scientific age which thinks it knows so much better than its forebears, as its Greek moniker should also remind us!). Confidence came gradually as those first women and men compared their varying experiences of their risen Lord and gradually realised it couldn't all be wishful thinking.

However those ordinary people knew that something very special indeed had happened in their midst. Something they could not understand fully but could not easily dismiss the importance of. Something, or rather someone, who had taught them so many good and gentle lessons about the deep realities of life that it seemed horribly unfair he had been put to death by the people who found his truths uncomfortable. Yet despite all that had been done to him, here He now was in a new reality which challenged many of the buttoned down understandings of life, which asked people to unfurl their consciousness, to open their hearts to there being a mysterious wonderful truth about his message of God's love being too powerful even for death to destroy. In the resurrection, Jesus had shown that the sins of the evildoers and the misunderstanders like Judas were not triumphant, that God had a power which was so great it would not be defeated, that Peace would continue to be spoken even by the One who had been on the receiving end of violence, that love would continue to shine into the dark corners of a world inhabited by all-too-fallible humanity. The disciples in offering their tentative faith and their open questions made possible the sharing of that message of hope. Let us thank God for their offering and unfurl ourselves to what Jesus shows us in our own century about the importance and reality of divine love.

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.

Experience a 'Night at the Museum'!

Experience a special 'Night at the Museum' at Wallingford Museum anytime from **6pm – curfew (9pm) on Friday 16th May!** Following the great success of last year's World War II event, this year the clock is turning back to **The Middle Ages!**



Be sure to **bring your torch** so you can explore the museum's medieval secrets at night and seek answers to our **special quiz**. If you are brave enough, you can find the man in the dungeon, the hooded monk, the wicked robber on the pillory... and much more. You can even dig for 'treasure'!

And even if this isn't your thing..... it's a great opportunity to see the Museum in an evening, instead of our normal opening daytime opening hours! There's plenty to see – not only can you read original letters from Agatha Christie, you can find out more about her life in Wallingford during the 42 years she lived at Winterbrook House. You can also discover the fascinating story of Wallingford's Royal Castle and learn about the Town's place in Magna Carta.

All this for the price of the entry ticket – just £4 for an adult, and free for children – but if you've already visited this season, of course you can use your ticket again, and again and again....

Eccentric Oxford: a History of Mischief & Mayhem

May's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Richard O. Smith. He will present 'Eccentric Oxford: a History of Mischief & Mayhem'. This entertaining talk will present an amusing, yet historically accurate, trawl through Oxford's alternative and lesser known eccentric history (covering the writer expelled from Oxford on his second day for fighting a duel in a college quad, the University's official advice on 'How to tell if an Oxford women is a prostitute' and how Oliver Cromwell discovered you should never mess with an Oxfordshire Librarian!).



Richard O Smith lives in Oxford and is a tour guide, running the Eccentric Oxford Tour. He is also a comedy writer and contributes material to Radio 4's The Now Show and The News Quiz.

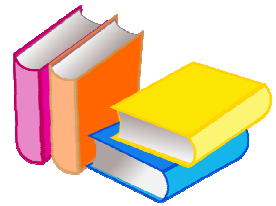
This talk will be held on **Friday 8th May, 7.45 for 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall.**

Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL SPRING SALE on Saturday 9th May 2 – 5pm

Do you have any items (bric-a-brac, books, toys or nearly new clothes etc.) you would like to donate? If so, please bring them along to the Village Hall between 4.00 pm and 8.00 pm on Friday 8th May.



In addition to the above, we would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to donate any plants from their garden or a raffle prize. Please contact John 343203 or Chris 343388. Your contribution will be very much appreciated.

Why not come along and support your local village hall, there will be many bargains available.

The Baldons Village Hall is for everyone's use: we have a fully equipped kitchen and can provide toddler toys, and children's chairs and tables. To book, please contact Ali or Darren on: 01865 340264 or dbaber@rm.com

FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH GILLESPIE

I am pleased and proud to report that the SODC officers have managed to maintain the high standard of service the Council gives us, in extremely difficult circumstances. They are continuing to demonstrate huge stoicism, mostly still working on borrowed desks or at home; however, they are due to move into their new offices in Milton Park at the end of May. This, of course, will be an interim arrangement for a couple of years, until we have our new offices closer to home. All public meetings will be held in Howberry Park, Crowmarsh.

Our new Leader John Cotton, despite the fairly dire circumstances, is dealing with all the varied and numerous challenges we now have with awe inspiring capacity; Unelected quangos from the City with power grabbing ambitions being just one of the problems he is coping admirably with.

It is a source of much sadness that I will no longer be representing the Baldons as your District Councillor. The Boundary changes have meant that were I to have continued in my role with the Baldons it would have also entailed my representing villages with very different Planning agendas to ours. I felt that the conflict would put me in an untenable position and so have opted to stand for the Garsington and Horspath ward. Their priorities and concerns are very much the same as the Baldons and, providing, and in the hope, that I am elected, I can absolutely assure you that I will continue to fight wholeheartedly for our mutual causes.

FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

Many issues are raised in Parliament on a wide range of subjects and the issues raised with me privately are no less many and varied. Generally in my monthly newsletter I seek to report back on the issues being raised in Parliament and in the constituency that seem to generate wider interest.

However, I am often asked for an overview of the work of an MP and thought it may be of interest to share something of the range of issues that are raised. A quick glance at the issues coming across my desk in the last couple of months is fairly typical.

In the constituency I have visited schools, met with GPs and GP Practice managers, I have been asked to declare a new post office facility open in Stadhampton and also a new disabled toilet at Goring and Streatley Station!

I have met with representatives from parish councils in the south of the constituency to assist their request for a review of the AONB and I have met with residents in and around Henley to discuss air traffic issues in the skies above the town - drawing together experts from key organisations to inform discussion.

I have had the pleasure of meeting people undertaking apprenticeships in two Thame based companies and joined in the welcome for the Princess Royal as she visited Thame Market to celebrate their 800th birthday!

In Westminster I have met with school groups from across the constituency visiting parliament, and I have attended sessions to support constituents on a range of issues from the volumetric industry to Alzheimer's.

Back at my desk many issues are raised by email, letter and phone. Some are personal issues that my office seeks to help with and they can relate to absolutely anything. Other issues are lobby issues where I am regularly asked to support both sides of an argument!

Some people comment that when they see the Chamber of the House of Commons on television it can be relatively empty. This is because behind the scenes in Westminster there are many meetings going on and a range of Committees sitting in other locations. For example I sit on the Justice Select Committee which takes evidence on enquiries relating to any matter dealt with by the Department of Justice.

So, all in all it's a varied and busy programme. But there is always time to pursue specific issues on behalf of constituent groups.

Further details of the work of Parliament are available on the Parliament website at www.parliament.uk.



BARN DANCE!



Date: 6th June 2015

Time: 6.15pm (Dancing from 7.15pm)

Venue: Parsonage Farm, Marsh Baldon

Ticket Prices (inc. food voucher)

£12 Adults, £6 Children 6-11yrs inc.

£0 Children of 5yrs & under

For tickets please contact:

baldonsevents@gmail.com or

[tel: 01865 343203](tel:01865343203)

Ceilidh Band :

Mouse & Trousers!



TAKE CONTROL OF IMPENDING DEBT PROBLEMS

Citizens Advice is urging people who are worried that they are running into debt to seek help as soon as possible.

The consequences of falling behind on basic bills like rent, council tax or energy bills can be serious. In extreme cases, non-payment of rent can lead to eviction, energy debts can result in your power being cut off, and not paying council tax can lead to a prison sentence.

Citizens Advice is seeing an increasing number of people seeking help because they can't make their incomes stretch to cover essential bills. Low pay and slow wage growth have left many people struggling to pay for rent, energy supplies and council tax.

It can be very difficult to cut back on these costs, but there is action you can take to get your finances back on track. If you are worried about debt, come to Citizens Advice for help as soon as you become aware that there is a problem. Problems only get worse if they aren't tackled early.

Top tips on dealing with debt

1. Dealing with debt problems is easier when the debt is small, so take action before the figures start to spiral out of control.
2. Don't take out more credit or a loan to cover your debts.
3. Look carefully at your spending. Is there anything you can cut down on? Draw up a realistic budget.
4. Do talk to your creditors and let them know you are having problems.
5. Don't pay off the creditor who is shouting the loudest but first pay the most important bills, like mortgage or rent, council tax, and gas and electricity. Otherwise you will be in danger of losing your home, having your gas and electricity cut off, or ending up in court.
6. Don't ignore court papers.
7. Citizens Advice gives free, independent and confidential advice. They will help you work out repayments and negotiate with your creditors, and also help you keep out of debt in the future. A CAB adviser can check and see if you are missing out on benefits, tax credits and other help to which you might be entitled, and can help you make a claim.

For further help, call Adviceline on 03444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau, see www.caox.org.uk

WALLINGFORD GARDENING CLUB NEW ZEALAND AND SINGAPORE



At the May meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Gwen Barton will talk about plants from New Zealand and Singapore.

Gwen is the vice chair of East Reading Horticulture Society and has lived in many third world countries. She has a passion for her subject with talks that always illustrate a variety of plant life. Gwen has been a speaker for more than 15 years, and all her talks include 'plants & humour'.

The talk will be held at **Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford** at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th May. Visitors very welcome £2.

Advance notice of future events in 2015:-

9th May (Sat) - Plant sale in Wallingford Market Place

Further details from 01491 836867

GIVE GOLF A GO THIS SPRING?

GO Active has teamed up with local golf clubs to encourage more people to get active outdoors and learn how to play golf with free tasters and discounted coaching for beginners.

Golf is the perfect way to help you get moderate exercise. The sport has added heart and cardiovascular benefits of helping you stay happy and calm as well as build strong social networks that can boost your mental wellbeing – all important factors for reducing stress.

Book a free or discounted coaching session for an hour with a golf pro and if you are up for the challenge, sign up for a beginners' course. Coaching sessions will be taking place at the following clubs:

FREE - 22 April 6.30pm and 25 April 10am

- Drayton Golf Club
- Springs Golf Club

FREE - 22 April 6pm and 25 April 10am

- Goring and Streatley Golf Club

FREE - 23 April 6.30pm and 25 April 10am

- Carswell Golf and Country Club

Only £7 - 20 May 7pm, 21 May 10am, 23 May 3pm, 26 May 7pm

- Hadden Hill Golf Club

There is limited availability for each session, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Anyone who completes a beginners' course will also receive a goody bag with their own golf club and GO Active t-shirt. To book call 07717 836750 or email hendriette.knouwds@southandvale.gov.uk

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the time of going to print, our next Parish Council meeting was scheduled for 20th April 2015, along with our Annual Parish Meeting with High Tea. Feedback from these will, therefore, feature in the next newsletter.

However, this does give me an opportunity to update the parish on various items including the Brewer's Garage development

Brewer's Garage

I wrote to the owner of Brewer's Garage requesting a status update. He responded with the following information:

- Six Houses have been approved and builders waiting to start.
- SODC are due to confirm in writing that the final pre-commencement planning condition has been discharged. But he has only recently been advised that some further site testing is required – this in progress.
- Approval for a planning application to replace the showroom with four flats is pending, although he has been advised that they were in the process of writing up his application when their offices were destroyed, and that due to relocation, a delay had been caused due to their IT system but they are working to speed the process up.

As a result, the owner has begun to clear the site in preparation for the development to start.

Shop/Deli

Obviously the development of the garage is linked with our shop/deli. I wanted you to know that all of your responses to the shop survey had been analysed by the Village Plan Steering Group, and all your comments have been invaluable in influencing the direction that the shop moves in, and what it supplies.

Thank you all for your contributions. If you don't tell us through the surveys we circulate, it's difficult to ensure the village gets what it wants. There will be further consultation with the owner nearer the time of the completion of the shop/deli.

Gravel and Mineral Extraction

You will have noted from Lorraine Lindsey-Gale's feedback on this subject in this newsletter that we as a parish will still need to be vigilant of any possibility of gravel extraction being suggested again within our parish. If Grenoble Road is to be developed (you will have noticed that this has been challenged by the South Oxfordshire District Leader in The Oxford Times) we will have to re-state our position.

Housing

As most of us know, across the nation the pressure is on to build more housing. Oxfordshire is under pressure to meet some of this need.

Aware of how fast things are moving, our Village Plan Steering Group organised a mini-housing survey of perceived need by parishioners. This was distributed, and many of you have responded. This will be shared at the next Parish Council meeting.

It is important that parishioners help shape any development, if any, in our parish. We further must ensure that our beautiful parish, conservation and history are protected. Any development, however small that might be, must consider our past history of flooding and the environment, to minimise any impact on this unique parish.

To this end, once the Village Plan has been completed, the Parish Council would be wise to consider a Neighbourhood Plan. We only have a few small sites in the parish, but we need to be prepared.

Parish Council Election update

The election was uncontested. The previous Parish Council will retire on 11th May, and the new Councillors Peter Brookes, Olive Garfoot, Jasminder Love, John Peters, and Mark Pritchett will take office.

A thank you to our previous council for all that they have done to support our parish, and a welcome to the new Councillors who intend to take the parish forward.

Next Parish Council Meetings/AGM

The next meeting is preceded by the AGM at 2 pm on 18th May, and immediately followed by a Parish Council meeting held at our Village Hall. The agenda will be on the board as usual. All welcome!

Village Plan Meeting

The next meeting will be on 11th May 3 – 4:30 pm at the Village Hall. The agenda will be the questionnaire. All welcome!

Thank you.
The Chair, Cllr Love.

If you wish to add anything to the Parish Council agenda, please contact the Clerk:

Julia Evans | 01235 833466 | nunehamcourtenay.clerk@gmail.com

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council has recently responded to important consultation proposals from SODC and the Oxfordshire County Council.

SODC Local Plan 2031

Last summer SODC published a consultation document based on proposals for meeting a substantial increase new housing for the years up to 2031 with a series of options for consideration as to where they should go. In responding the Parish Council raised our objections about the increase in numbers and the robustness of the calculations, our concern to protect the Green Belt from development, and urged SODC to follow its existing plans. We asked villagers to respond supporting our concerns which many of you did.

SODC recently published their follow on proposals for a period of consultation which closed on 2nd April but the detail can be seen on line at SODC. Follow links to planning policy and local plan revision.

SODC proposals now include increasing the housing targets for the larger towns and villages in South Oxfordshire together with a suggestion of a slight relaxation in planning policy for housing in smaller villages controlled by the development of neighbourhood plans.

Whilst the Parish Council has supported in principle the strategy SODC wish to pursue we have expressed concern that SODC are being required to plan for a further increase in its housing targets to meet an estimated unmet need in Oxford City and the continuing threat to the Green Belt that might ensue .

OCC Transport Strategy 2031

The Council has also responded to Oxfordshire County Council consultation on a Transport Strategy for the years up to 2031. Proposals are wide ranging involving roads, public transport and responses to the increasing demand on Oxfordshire's roads

Key interests for the Baldons are proposals to increase cycling and cycle tracks, the creation of a park and ride facility at Sandford on Thames and the possibility of a new river crossing on the Thames with a link road south of the Baldons to the M40. These latter proposals we objected to because of their potential long term impact on the villages and the Green Belt.

Planning applications

Court House Farm Barns. P15/S0570/FUL The agents for Queens College have submitted a planning application for conversion of a former barn and stable building to a 3 bedroomed house .which the parish council has supported and SODC permission is awaited. Planning permission has previously been granted for conversion of another barn on this site.

Cardinal House Baldon Lane. SODC have now granted planning permission for an extension and alterations for its conversion to a Masonic Centre.

Elections May 7th

Parish Councillors are now aware that there will not be a contested election to Marsh Baldon or Toot Baldon parish as the existing 6 councillors who agreed to stand again have been elected unopposed. There will therefore be no Parish Council election on May 7th and as a consequence there will be no big election expenses bill to come out of the parish budget.

Village Clear up April 12th

Thank you to everyone who turned out on a sunny but windy Sunday morning, as usual we collected a large amount of rubbish and the green and roadside verges which will look better if only for a few weeks! A small number of dog poo bags were collected from the green in spite of the presence of waste bins nearby.

Broadband

Progress on installing the equipment for faster broadband in the Baldons has continued near the Seven Stars. The completion date appears to be September 2015

Date of next meeting

The Annual General meeting and the first meeting of the new council is on Tuesday 19th May 7.30 pm village hall.

Please note this is a week later than our usual 2nd Tuesday due to the close proximity of the election date.

If you have any items you wish to raise on the agendas please contact the Parish Clerk, Paul Isaacs, on 01844 278040.

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the defibrillator funds so far. Marsh Baldon Parish Council now owns the BT phone box, and we are speaking to the electricians to transfer the electricity supply.



We have raised £500 so are half way to our target. We would be most grateful for any further donations - there is still time to get them to us. There are also leaflets available for anyone who would like one "You only have minutes to save a life" which explain the use of community defibrillators in more detail. Please contact Sara McDouall Saw or Tom Saw on 343567 with any donations, or if you would like a leaflet.

Sara and Tom

Minerals & Waste Plan

The new Minerals and Waste Core Strategy was approved by the County Council on 24th March. This was a huge setback for our local community groups, PAGE and BACHPORT who have fought a valiant campaign against it, mainly on the grounds that the Local Area Assessment (how much gravel has to be dug by the county each year) was still too high, and that the Council had failed to consult local residents on the final methodology they used to calculate it. Cllr Lynda Atkins put in an amendment which would have seen the figure substantially reduced. I supported this amendment and spoke in favour of it. Unfortunately on the day we were three votes short. The new plan proposes that extraction will rise from 0.715 million tonnes a year to 1.015 million tonnes a year, until 2031. Before it can be adopted the plan must go before an Inspector at an examination in public. This will provide local protestors with another opportunity to challenge the proposal. It will be up to the Inspector to decide.

The Core Strategy documents of the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy can be found at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy>

Council Wins £12.9m For Highway Drainage & Streetlighting Improvements

Oxfordshire County Council has been successful in bidding for £12.9m of Government money to improve street lighting, road drainage and carriageway condition in the county. The Council is one of 31 across the country to bid for one-off major infrastructure schemes. As part of the bidding process the council had to guarantee £1.6m of funding from its own budgets – taking the total spending to £14.5m. Some of the money will be spent on reviewing and replacing Oxfordshire's older street-lighting with more modern streetlights between 2015 and 2018. Highway drainage will also be improved in various parts of the county – which will in turn make road surfaces more resilient to poor weather and potentially lead to savings. Road edges will be strengthened where necessary.

The Council will also use the money to install Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) systems that allow water to drain away from roads more quickly. An example of SUDs is the use of swales – which have already been installed in some new developments in the county. Swales are shallow drainage channels with gentle side slopes in the ground where water running off sites, including roads, can collect and soak away. The council will now further develop a programme of work in line with its recently reviewed Highways Asset Management Plan.

For more information: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/mar/council-wins-%C2%A3129m-highway-drainage-and-street-lighting-improvements>

Oxford Aspires To Host First Wireless Electric Bus Project

Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council are excited to announce a commitment to work on a joint study for an innovative Wireless Electric Bus project. Working in partnership with Oxford Bus Company, MBK Arup Sustainable Projects (MASP), and sister company eFleet Integrated Service (eFIS), the plan is to trial the use of double decker buses that can be wirelessly charged.

MASP, a joint venture company between Mitsui & Co., Ltd, and Ove Arup & Partners Ltd., and enabling company eFIS have successfully implemented an electric single deck bus trial in Milton Keynes. There is now a vision for all parties to study the technical and commercial feasibility of replacing the existing busy Park and Ride buses in Oxford with a fleet of around 20 new electric vehicles. The buses will have zero tail pipe emissions and will be the first double decker vehicles of their kind to operate in the UK. The new electric buses will recharge their batteries wirelessly during their working day. Power transmitted from a coil buried in the road at the Park and Ride stops will be picked up by a similar coil on the underside of each bus. Ten minutes parked over a coil will replenish the energy needed to run each bus for the day.

For more information: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/mar/oxford-aspirations-host-first-double-decker-wireless-electric-bus-project>

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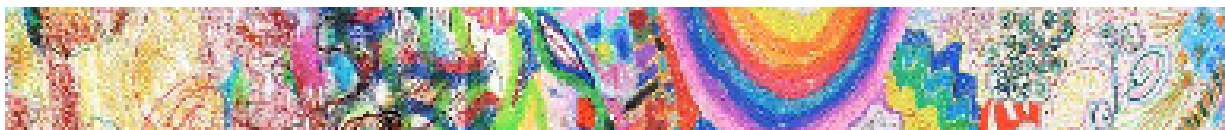
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BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your Local Library
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Books



Coffee Morning
Tuesday 19th
May
11.00-12.00am
All Welcome

Free use of the computers

Half Term Craft Afternoon

Wednesday 27th May 3.45pm
Children to be accompanied by an adult please

One to One Computer
lessons for over 50s
Friday mornings



Book and a Bun
Reading Group
2nd Thursday of the
month 2.00pm
12th March
9th April
14th May
11th June



Here to help



join in ● explore ● discover ● log on



THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY

For the past 50 years, the Baldons Fuel Charity has been helping some residents living in Marsh, Toot or Little Baldon with their energy costs. Financial support has also been given towards training expenses or in any other situation when financial help may relieve distress or hardship.

The Charity has an annual income of about £15,000.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, or know anyone in the villages who is, please let us know. Either talk to one of us or obtain an application form for a grant from the Clerk, Mrs Barbara Wright (343276).

All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence by the Trustees.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP
THAT IS WHAT THE CHARITY IS FOR!**

Trustees:

Chris Nichols (Chair) - 343388

John Wright - 343276

Ray Claridge – 343393

David Greenaway – 343496

Alison Porter – 340405

Graham Hobbins - 343227

SEE, SMELL, HEAR, TOUCH AND TASTE YOUR WILDLIFE GARDEN

I hope with the new found warmth you're not rushing out into the garden and overdoing it, leading to the inevitable Battered Muscles Syndrome?

Benefits come in many forms from spending quality time with nature. Often, wildlife gardening is made up of endless little tasks but the pleasure of having wildlife all around really focuses the mind.

Be it bird song, the new smells and textures that are reappearing on what seems a daily basis now. If you are a forager you may be enjoying the varied tastes of the new green shoots from various ground flora, often just discarded as 'weeds'. Or maybe you are giving you garden a good dose of 'looking at', which I often talk about but is an activity that's very often overlooked.

At this time of year many of us are planning how to make our garden work even harder for wildlife, as well as look good and a place to retreat and relax in. Making a garden suitable for wildlife is variation in habitats.

Even if we do all this, the simple act of busying ourselves with those not so essential tasks often means we are all walking like zombies and missing much of the pleasure.

Just take a walk around your garden, and just focus on a single sense. Doesn't matter which one you choose, sight, touch, smell, sound, taste, it really doesn't matter. Just choose one, and see how much more you will notice. Just walking around your garden with a camera will get you 'seeing' much of what we all are in the habit of strolling past on a daily basis. Even in our own gardens.

Happy Gardening

Stuart Mabbutt - Wildlife Gardening Specialist

01865 747243 : www.stuarmabbuttgardeningltd.com

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for June 2015 newsletter

by 16th May 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: s.harris886@btinternet.com or on 340403.

The 2015 Dorchester Lecture

Wednesday 24th June

7.30pm in Dorchester Abbey

Dorchester-on-Thames
OX10 7HH

Professor Roger Ainsworth

will talk on

**‘Creative Partnerships -
The Brunels,
Father and Son’**



Isambard Kingdom Brunel and his great achievements are familiar to many, at least in this country. But far fewer are aware of the great creative partnership he formed with his father, Sir Marc Isambard Brunel.

Professor Ainsworth will explore the historical and technical background, the genetic imprint, to the ingenuity which was a hallmark of all they achieved.

Tickets £10:

Email friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk in advance, for seats in front section of the Abbey.

Or seats further back in the Abbey will be available from 6.45pm on the day.

SERVICES FOR MAY 2015

3 rd May	9.30pm	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
10 th May	6.00pm	Evening Service	Toot Baldon
Thursday 14 th May	7.30pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
17 th May	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
24 th May	9.00 am <i>please note time</i>	Family Communion for Pentecost	Marsh Baldon
	7.00pm	Taize@7	Dorchester Abbey
31 st May	10.30am	Team Service	Drayton St Leonard
7 th June	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

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

Venues and further details from Jennifer Morton 343302; email: jennifer@morton8.co.uk

FLOWERS

	Marsh		Toot
3 rd & 10 th May		F Ardern	S Hobbins & J van Dijk
17 th & 24 th May		P & J Slaney	H Maskell & J Knight
31 st May & 7 th June		A Lyall	J Brook & J Allnut

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
3 rd May		9.30am Ann Druce
10 th May		6.00pm Graham Hobbins
17 th May	9.30am Stephen Dance	
24 th May	9.00am John Mason	