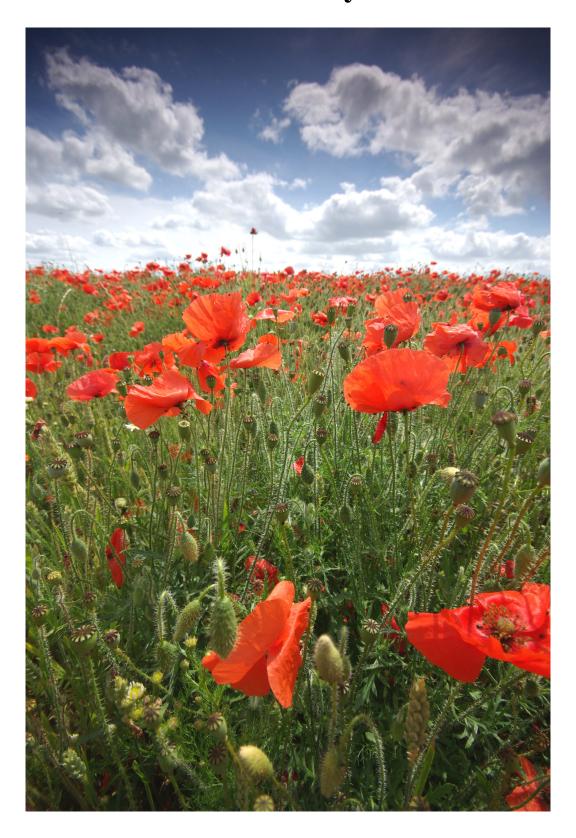
The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



November 2014



THE BALDONS AND NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR CHRISTMAS PANTO
AT THE GLOBAL RETREAT CENTRE

THE WASSESSEED OF THE

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER
7PM - 8:45PM



BOOKING ESSENTIAL:

Please email (how many adults and children) info@globalretreatcentre.org

FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

It has been good to see how the work going on to remediate the immediate fabric problems of Marsh Baldon church is coming to a successful conclusion. There's repainting still to do then we can relax a bit on that church. At Toot we are just getting going on the programme of works which we have been told by the architect's inspection is essential to halt deterioration and keep the building ship-shape for a new generation.

- Some people still seem to think that the government funds all our churches, which would be rather nice, but in reality we lack the joined-up thinking of some central European countries about preserving our old built heritage to give better bearings to our present.
- Some people think that the Church of England has vast expendable reserves, but that is a conveniently simplistic understanding which forgets that most of the capital is already committed to paying the pensions of retired vicars (sorry we are living so long!) and paying the stipends and partial housing costs for ten thousand-odd present staff trying to live out the Gospel in parishes.
- Some central church funding does go to paying for the upkeep of buildings, through for example the Churches Conservation Trust which looks after Nuneham Courtenay and other local churches where the community has changed too much for local support to be feasible, but the vast majority of our beautiful churches are reliant on the amazing generosity of local people.

The key point is that local communities need to look after all aspects of their churches if they value them and that renewed localism is if anything going to increase in coming years. To be honest, there never was an easy time and in the nineteenth century funding would have depended mostly on the largesse of the local squire-archy (causing moral and practical dilemmas for any vicar who spoke out too candidly about abuses of power by the landed gentry as Jesus sometimes did!). In my previous country parish in Shropshire it is chronicled that two hundred and fifty years ago the church was in a dreadful state and most of the services were non-Eucharistic and taken by the local schoolmaster who was not well-appreciated, so there has always been an ebb and flow in parish resources.

We are very fortunate in the Baldons that people have given so sacrificially of their time, money and energies to organise and implement a programme of proper care for our church buildings. As the creation of the churchyard extension at Toot showed, there is a creative energy which comes into play when there is a clearly-identified and costed job to be done and I am very grateful to everyone who helped in so many ways and thought long-term to make that happen.

Voluntary effort can take us a long way and it is good to hear that is now starting to move on some of the routine maintenance and small repair tasks at Toot. However there are some which are too big for that to be sufficient. The mullion window to the right of Toot porch has deteriorated badly and shoddy Victorian repair may have made it worse. We may need £11,000 - £12,000 to sort that out properly. I am nervous at the sight of rot under the pews in the south west corner at Toot. We could ignore it and hope we get a dry next decade or we could put a bit of extra money in now to investigate closely whether it is a small problem we can nip in the bud. Which would we do if it were our own home? Would you like to help with a particular part of the job ahead? As Sara

details elsewhere, and Laurence and Graham can describe, much is already underway, but much still needs to be done.

So, as I think about what kind of ministry presence you would prefer from your new vicar over the next decade, one thing clear in my mind is that the more professionally and systematically we tackle these infrastructure issues together now (as the parish leaflet Sara and Debbie produced encourages us), the freer I will be to concentrate on matters of the spirit in coming years. We are at a fascinating juncture of our national life where matters of identity, social life, purpose and personal fulfilment are coming into fresh question and an enquiring scrutiny, which I think could be a profoundly creative time. If we can sort the bricks and mortar early, then we may have the freedom of mind and energy to engage in reading more clearly the signs of our disorientated age and in being able to see where the Spirit may now be leading us.

Best wishes 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.



We have received a letter from Macmillan thanking the villages of Marsh Baldon, Toot Baldon and Nuneham Courtenay for their donation of £300 raised at the coffee morning in September.

Many thanks to all who helped to organise, attended and donated.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for December 2014 – January 2015 DOUBLE ISSUE newsletter by 16th November 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.



Countryside Champion needed for Wallingford Area

The Campaign to Protect Rural England is looking for a new Chairperson to help co-ordinate activities in its Wallingford district, which also covers Didcot, Benson, Dorchester, Ewelme, the Baldons and other surrounding areas.

CPRE works to protect and promote the countryside. We have a very friendly and supportive Wallingford area committee, but would love to find someone to come on board as Chairman. It's a great way of getting to know your local area and helping to influence local decision-making on issues as varied as planning policy, affordable housing, litter, minerals and water. With so much development scheduled to come through in the area in the next 20 years, it is vital that someone is in place to speak up for the countryside and make sure that we can keep thriving village communities.

The role is voluntary and needs a commitment of just a few hours a week. No particular knowledge or qualifications are required, but it would suit someone with leadership or organisational experience and good people skills.

Full details are available on the CPRE Oxfordshire website www.cpreoxon.org.uk; Or by calling the CPRE Branch Office on T: 01865 874780

Helen Marshall, Director, CPRE Oxfordshire

Need a babysitter?

15 year old experienced babysitter available Friday and Saturday evenings. Please contact Rose on thedowntonfamily@yahoo.co.uk or 01865 343475 £5 per hour **HOST** is looking for kind, friendly, hospitable people of all ages whose imaginations are caught by the idea of welcoming an international student at university here, far from his or her own family, to their home, for a day, a weekend or at Christmas.

You don't need to live near a university, as students will travel for the privilege of meeting you, learning about real life in this country, and sharing their own culture. HOST is a voluntary activity which makes ambassadors for international goodwill of us all. Please see www.hostuk.org or call local organiser Jing Wang 01865

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Baldon Feast.

On 9th October the Parish Council held an open meeting in the village hall to which all villagers were invited to discuss the future of the Baldon Feast (see article in last month's newsletter and later email circulation) and to assess the support that would be necessary to secure its continuation.

Seventeen villagers attended including some members of the Parish Council, Ralph and Phylis Slaney and representatives of the PCC, the school, village hall committee and BEC and others. There was unanimous support for the continuation for the feast.

Although Ralph Slaney had advised the Parish Council he would stand down from organising the Feast, when asked, he indicated he would be prepared to continue, providing a small number of committed villagers were willing to form a team to help him with the planning and coordination for the event. Particular help was needed in fundraising, organising the raffle, web site support and some secretarial support which Sheila Harris volunteered for.

During the discussions various names were mentioned of people who may be able to help and join the committee but it was agreed that the representatives of the village groups would go back to their committees for nominations; anyone else in the village is also welcome to volunteer. Names can be given to Ralph or Sheila Harris or Dorothy Tonge. Ralph indicated that planning for the event next year needed to start in November and that he would need nominations/names as soon as possible and would hope to convene a meeting in November.

Whilst this encouraging progress to securing the Feast for the future if names don't come forward to Ralph and a team isn't established the Feast will not be able to take place. This is a village event and its organisation should not be left to one individual. Most villages who hold regular summer fetes have a coordinating committee of villagers and if we in the Baldons want to continue, volunteers need to come forward to help, not just on the day but in the planning and coordination necessary to make it a success.

Mobile Library Service

Oxfordshire County Council is consulting on changes to the mobile library service to make it more responsive to need. It is indicated that it is not intended to make financial cuts but to make better use of the vehicles by reducing the service in some locations where there is little or no local use and providing a longer and better service to those areas that need it and improving the service to housebound people.

It does not appear that there will be a change to the Baldons' service which will come fortnightly for half an hour to the school. The details of the OCC plans can be found on the OCC website at http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries, where there is also a questionnaire about mobile library usage. The Parish Council will have this consultation on their agenda at the next meeting in November and will welcome any village feedback.

SODC Voter registration update

The following information is taken from the SODC web site

'The new voter registration system'

'From 10 June 2014, the UK has Individual Voter Registration (IER), a new way of registering to vote. Until then, all eligible voters within one household registered using a single form. The introduction of IER means individuals are now responsible for their own registration.

Although you will have to register individually, you can for the first time complete the entire registration process online, making registering to vote much more accessible and convenient.

Existing voters and the transition to IER

The transition will begin by confirming existing electors whose names are already on the electoral register. This means the majority of people, whose circumstances remain unchanged since the electoral canvass this year, will not need to do anything.

In cases where people cannot be confirmed we will write to invite them to register individually. When someone registers individually, in addition to confirming their name and addresses, they will also be required to provide their date of birth and national insurance number to verify their identity.'

SODC have written to Parish Councils indicating that during the autumn they will, be sending out household enquiry letters (HEL) to clarify the occupants of properties where discrepancies may exist between different government databases, this to be followed by letters inviting occupiers to register to vote .(ITR)

Most people will already be on the register and will receive a letter confirming this with no further action needed.

All the information is on the SODC web site, easily found from the quick links to voter registration on the SODC home page www.southoxon.gov.uk

Date of next Meeting

November 11th Village Hall 7.30 pm when the agenda will include Baldon Feast and budget planning for 2015 amongst other matters.

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Seniors' Party will be held in the village Hall on 10th January 2015.

Invitations will be sent out in early December.

If you know anyone who would like to come, but was not invited last year, please contact James Bufford (340091), John Barne (343624) or Natasha Eliot (343478).

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

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 2 pm on Tuesday 11 November 2014 in Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall. All welcome. Please let the Clerk know of any items that you might wish the Parish Council to address at that meeting. Having not met for a while there will be a significant number of matters to discuss. However the discussion is expected to include Estate signage, governance and a number of other historic matters.

Planning

There have been a number of recent applications. The current position is:

Decisions taken

P14/S2656/LB and P14/2655/HH. Granary, Lower Farm Lane. Extension providing new entrance. Approval granted.

P14/S2596/FUL. Harcourt Arboretum (in adjoining Parish). New ticket office. Approval granted.

• Decisions pending

P14/S2431/FUL and P14/S2432/LB. Brewer's Garage. Replacement of showroom with flats, tea room, etc. The Parish Council has responded supporting the application but has made a number of comments based on matters raised by parishioners against the previous application.

P14/S2948/HH. Old Post Office. Conversion of store to ancillary residential accommodation. The Parish Council has objected on the grounds that this appears to create a self-contained dwelling whose use is not ancillary to the existing property and on design grounds.

Other matters

P14/S2943/DIS. Brewer's Garage. New housing – release of conditions. These are not subject to a formal public consultation. The Parish Council has made a comment on the proposed landscaping.

Mobile Library Service.

The County Council is currently conducting a consultation on the future of its mobile library service. The proposal is to remove the service from stops that are little used or are unused. The proposal notes that Nuneham Courtenay has fewer than 3 'visitors' to the service and therefore to cease serving the village, expecting users to go to Marsh Baldon or Littlemore stops which will continue to be served on a fortnightly basis. Further information about the consultation, which runs until 31 December 2014 are available on the County Council's website or from the Chair of the Parish Council (see details below). The Parish Council would like to hear from those using the service (or who might use the service) for their thoughts. We will discuss a response at the next Parish Council meeting.

Finances

• Precept Setting 2015/16

Between now and January 2015 the Parish Council has to consider the Precept for the coming year. It is important that we consider expenditure and will be looking, primarily, to the emerging Village Plan about priorities. We would welcome thoughts on the current level of precept of £50/annum per Band D property and any areas of expenditure which we should be considered.

• Annual Return 2014

This will be discussed at the next PC meeting. We will be posting the notice of completion of audit shortly the audit shortly.

• Village Plan

The Parish Council has under-written the cost of the Village Plan following the reduction of funding from ORCC. However due to changes at ORCC, Councillor Love has managed to secure £1,200 from ORCC, covering not only the funding originally expected, but to contribute towards the costs of completing the Plan. This is a significant, and unexpected, contribution back into the funds held by the PC on behalf of the Parish.

Extra Brown Bin collection

SODC has advised that they will be allowing those residents using the brown bin garden refuse collection service to put out an extra brown bin's worth of garden waste and this will be collected, with normal refuse collections, during week commencing 27 October. 27 October is a normal brown bin collection day for Nuneham Courtenay so the advice is to put out garden waste into open sacks or reusable bags (and not trade refuse sacks). Further information is on the SODC website.

Contacts

Chair: Colin George. <u>colin.george@virgin.net</u> 01865 343767. 39 Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9NY

Clerk: Julia Evans. New e-mail address for the Clerk: nunehamcourtenay.clerk@gmail.com. 01235 833466. Moorcroft, The Greenway, West Hendred, OX12 8RG

SODC: website: www.southoxon.gov.uk. Councillor. John Cotton

Oxfordshire County Council: website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk. Councillor. Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Jumble Sale

Our big busy jumble sale is back in the Village Hall on Saturday November the 15th from 2-4 pm. Stop by to grab a bargain or have a cup of tea and a chat. Get there early if you want one of Shelia Brooke's gorgeous cakes to have with your tea! Book a table for £6 and make a bit of extra cash for Christmas. Or if you are having a clear out and want to donate some things you can leave them at the Village hall on Wednesday that week. Either way, if you need help call Jenny on 01865 343459 or jenny@datadaysolutions.com.

BINGO!

Save the date! Our popular Christmas bingo will be held on Friday the 12th of December, with some really great prizes. Check out the parish magazine for more details next month.

And in other news.....

There is a thriving ashtanga yoga class now in the village hall on Monday evenings at 7:30. Ages 15 and up are welcome. This is for all abilities. Please note that this is yoga for fitness, not meditation.

THE SOBELL CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

at

RADLEY COLLEGE

Saturday 22nd November 10am – 5pm Sunday 23rd November 10am – 4.30pm

* Over 60 stalls * Refreshments *Unique Gift Ideas

Sobell House Hospice

Come and support Sobell House Hospice Charity www.sobellhospicecharity.org.uk
Charity number 1118646

AUTUMN WILDLIFE GARDENING

Autumn seems to be upon us suddenly this year and it's easy to view any small garden differently. An impending sense of decay followed by regeneration is in the air.

Much of what we do for wildlife at this time of year is about providing hibernation or shelter spaces to over-winter, it's a matter of life and death.

An amount of tidying up is inevitable, but try to resist it and not do too much. Let perennials remain, so their hollow stems can shelter invertebrates - and even provide fixed points for spiders' webs. Prune them down when we are moving into spring when all the creatures have emerged again. Many of what will inhabit those hollow stems are what we consider the predators of what we consider pests. So allowing them to re-emerge next year is beneficial to many gardeners.

It's great to see a group of neighbours gardening with wildlife in mind and thinking about hibernation zones at this time of year. This neighbourhood network of gardens is the name of the game. It's not just about what you do in your garden - it's about what we all do together. Many of us can't begin to hope to fit all the wildlife features into our own gardens - but between us all, we could achieve so much.

Happy Gardening Stuart Mabbutt Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243 www.stuartmabbuttgardeningltd.com

WALLINGFORD GARDENING CLUB: BUTTERFLIES AND ORCHIDS OF THE UPPER THAMES REGION

At the November meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Malcolm Broadsword will share his past experience, and present from his image library of many orchids and butterflies.

Malcolm is a retired chemist, and a keen amateur gardener and photographer. He was awarded a RHS Banksian Medal at the Hardy Orchid Society Show in 2007. His interests include Japanese gardens, hardy orchids and plant propagation.

The talk will be held at **Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford** at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th November.

Visitors very welcome £2.

FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH GILLESPIE

As I am sure you are all aware, our Leader, Ann Ducker, very sadly, after a characteristically brave fight with cancer, died on Sunday 21st September. This is an enormous loss to the District Council and indeed Oxfordshire. Her Leadership was synonymous with Integrity, her ambition was solely for the good of our County and we have much to be grateful for. Under her leadership SODC has flourished and achieved national recognition as one of the best Councils in England. She has left a legacy from which we will all benefit and I know I, along with many others, will greatly miss her. Her memorial is to be held at Dorchester Abbey on the 6th November at 11am.

Ann will be an extremely difficult act to follow but, as one must, we have just elected a new Leader, John Cotton, whom I know to be fully up to the job and am confident will carry the Council onwards and upwards. John has now appointed his cabinet, and I have been made Cabinet Member for Development / Building Control (taking ownership and assisting in the implementation of Policy), Grants and Northern Parishes.

The Consultation statistics on the SHMA housing allocation have now been analysed and it has been decided that there will be a refined Consultation, with reduced options, to be going out in February and March. Once more I am afraid, our many responses will be crucial.

The City continue fighting for their aspirations on the Green Belt and we will continue to oppose and do our all to thwart their plans which, I still firmly believe, are not primarily driven by the concern for the benefit and good of our County, present or future, but by their own political and financial ambition. Central Government, of late, have been particularly supportive of the Green Belt this is going to be of help in the ongoing battle which I am still confident we can and should win.

UPDATE ON CHURCH REPAIRS

The PCC and fundraising group are delighted to say that the works at St Peter's Church are nearly completed bar snagging. We are planning on finishing painting the interior before the Carol Service. Many thanks to all those who have given in time and money to make this possible.

Our next task is to tackle repairs at St Laurence's, Toot Baldon, some of which can be done by the community. However, some work needs funds for more specialist work, including stone masonry. We have already made a start on tasks such as cleaning out rotten wood, assessing damage underneath and clearing gutters.

If anyone would like more information about the repairs needed and ways in which they could help please contact Debbie Dance, Graham Hobbins, Laurence Attewill or Sara McDouall Saw.

The Friends of the Church of St Mary at Long Wittenham

RECEPTION AND TALK on

"THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME – LOVE, DEATH AND RECOLLECTIONS"

6.15pm for 7.00 pm on Saturday 22 November in the Church of St Mary's, Long Wittenham.

Ruaraidh Adams-Cairns is a surveyor and ex-soldier who has been visiting the Somme for over 10 years, collecting stories about soldiers and connecting them with specific locations on the battlefield.

Ruaraidh has put together an engaging talk which he gives in conjunction with an actor, which tells the story of this important battle through the eyes of some of the people who experienced it.

General Sir Mike Jackson, former Chief of the General Staff, has described the talk as "A truly moving insight into the horrors and losses of the day the British Army suffered its biggest ever casualties".

The Reception, which is being generously sponsored by Knight Frank, will commence at 6.15 pm and the talk is expected to start around 7.00 and will finish about 8.00 pm.

Tickets cost £10 for adults and £4 for children 16 and under. They can be obtained from: -

Jeremy Croxson Street House 01865 407806 Ruth McCreight The Old Farmhouse 01865 407958



Handy Man available for odd jobs

Gardening, landscaping, painting, general maintenance etc. undertaken.

Call Sean Andrews on: 07974 863662

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2014

2 rd November	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
9 th November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday	Toot Baldon
16 th November	9.30am	Holy Communion including Sunday School	Marsh Baldon
23 rd November	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Service One4All	Marsh Baldon
30 th November	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
7 th December Please note time	11.00am	Christingle	Toot Baldon
	6.00pm	Team Confirmation	Dorchester Abbey

Fellowship Group: Mondays at 7.30pm: 3rd & 17th November

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

FLOWERS

LOWERS			
	Marsh	Toot	
2 nd & 9 th November	C Attewill & V Sandilands	V Bowler	
16 th & 23 rd November	P & J Slaney	S Hobbins & J van Dijk	
30 November	ADVENT – NO FLOWERS		
SIDESDUTY			
\mathbf{N}	Tarsh	Toot	
2 nd November		9.30am Jenny van Dijk	
9 th November		10.45am Ron Hewitt	

9th November 16th November 23rd November 30th November 9.30am Tom Saw 9.30am John Mason

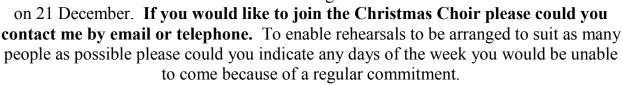
SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE BALDONS

Sunday school runs on the third Sunday of the month, during the Holy Communion service at St Peter's, Marsh Baldon. We have a mixture of stories, craft and activities for children age 3-8 based around the Christian faith. We welcome all newcomers! Please do bring your child/children along; the next session will be on 16th November.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR - CALLING SINGERS OF ALL AGES

Christmas is an especially wonderful time to get together and sing and from mid-November we will be starting to rehearse for the Carol Service



I look forward to hearing from you.

Veronica Sandilands: vsandilands@btinternet.com or telephone 01865 340562.



Baldons Christmas Craft Fayre Sunday 9th November 12 noon 'til 4pm



It's that time of year again and we have everything you need to get that festive feeling!

Christmas decorations and cards * homeware * jams and preserves * jewellery* handmade textiles* soaps* Children's books * local ales and much more! Have a coffee and a catch up, a go on our charity raffle and get ahead with the Christmas shopping! We have something for everyone and look forward to seeing you all there!

Admission is free and all are welcome!









FIREWORKS NIGHT

BONFIRE, FIREWORKS, FUNFAIR, MUSIC, BAR, MULLED WINE, FOOD AND MORE

SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER

6pm - Lighting the Bonfire

ALL WELCOME

£10.00 per car £3.00 pedestrians

Villagers - please support the bar and make a donation in the buckets.

SORRY NO SPARKLERS!

Come and Enjoy the Evening!