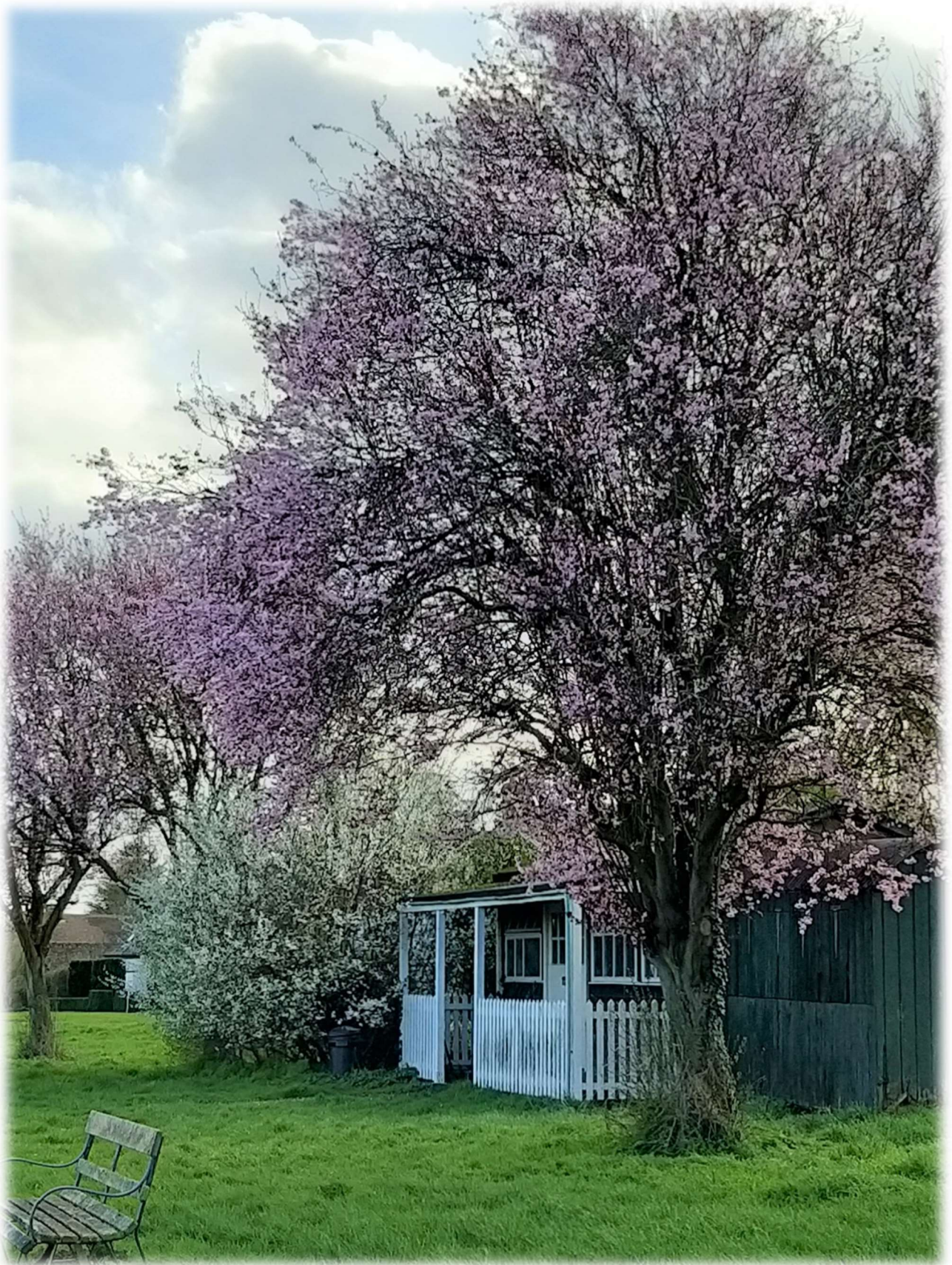


# The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



April 2021

## FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

Over the past year we've all learned some new vocabulary, nearly all of which has been linked to the pandemic. This year's new word is 'roadmap', and the concept of a roadmap came to my mind as I was marking out a labyrinth in the churchyard of St Leonard and St Catherine in Drayton St Leonard. The similarities between the two are striking. Like a roadmap a labyrinth, in contrast to a maze, has both a fixed entry point and a fixed route to its centre; there is only one path to follow. Also like a roadmap, a labyrinth has opportunities to pause and reflect, on what has happened in the past and on what the future might hold. The purpose of both is to journey to a new way of being.

Whilst a roadmap is a new concept, labyrinths have fascinated many cultures throughout history, it is an art form that can be traced back 4000 years. The mosaic floors of Roman villas, for example, sometimes included the pattern of a labyrinth. In the mediaeval period, the church began to use labyrinths as a tool for meditative prayer and many churches have a labyrinth depicted in the flooring of the nave; Chartres Cathedral built in the 13th century is a most famous example.

In the modern times, amidst the busyness and stress of our lives, using a labyrinth to walk slowly and to reflect has become a very popular form of mindfulness and prayer. The labyrinth I am creating in Drayton St Leonard churchyard will be ready to use from 28th March and will be available for the whole week before Easter. Why not pop by if you have a spare 15 minutes, there will be a printed guide available in the Church porch to explain how to use it.

Easter is a time when Christians remember the sense of helplessness and confusion the disciples experienced after Jesus' death and resurrection. They had no road map to follow but discovered courage within themselves and a gift of communication to share the life-changing news of a new way of living a life of freedom and love. This 'Good news', this gospel, was spread all over the globe by these confused and uneducated men and women; St Thomas travelled to India, St James to Spain, St Matthew to Ethiopia, St Matthias to the Caspian Sea and of course St Paul to Asia.

I hope that the next few months find us all discovering within ourselves gifts to help us on our roadmap out of this pandemic and that we might take with us all that we have learned on this crazy journey to build better, more caring and more resilient communities.

*The Revd Teresa Stewart-Sykes is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.*

e-mail: [RevTeresa@outlook.com](mailto:RevTeresa@outlook.com) and tel: 07823 809112

*The Revd Jennifer Morton is Associate Team Vicar and lives in Toot Baldon:  
[jennifer@morton8.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@morton8.co.uk).*

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

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

## DESIGN A LOGO FOR THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY (IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT FUEL)



New logo

We are wondering if any of the very many creative adults, teenagers or children in the Baldons would like to design a logo for the Baldons Fuel Charity.

As its name suggests, historically the charity's mission was to provide fuel for residents in need. Now, although still helping with energy costs, we have a much wider remit and can offer a financial helping hand for those in our community who may be looking for support towards the costs of education (such as school transport), personal alarms for the elderly or in other situations (such as unexpected costs due to the Covid pandemic).

If you have an idea for the logo we would love to see it - please email or deliver it to the Clerk (address below) before 30 April. A small prize will be given for the chosen logo.

Meanwhile, if you wish to apply for financial assistance, please request a simple application form from the Clerk of the Baldons Fuel Charity:

Emma Timms, Holman House, 14 The Croft, Marsh Baldon, tel: 01865 341461,  
email: emmy980@hotmail.com

or speak to one of the Trustees (see below). Please be assured that all requests and any personal information provided are treated in strict confidence by the charity.

The Baldons Fuel Charity Trustees are:

Alison Porter (Chair) – 340405, Chris Nichols – 343388,  
David Greenaway – 343496, Ali Barne – 343624, Alan Johns – 343268,  
Bruce Don – 343330.



**“Life Before Wicket”**. This month's cover photo shows a Spring Blossom in front of the Marsh Baldon cricket pavilion. For more information on the upcoming summer Baldons Cricket Club sporting and social calendar, please see pages 6 and 7.

## **BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **Bioabundance**

After considerable discussion councillors agreed to support the work of Bioabundance, which we referred to in last month's newsletter, by joining the group and contributing £250 to the fundraising for the legal challenge to SODC Local Plan 2034.

### **Stones round the Green**

Concerns have been expressed to the council about the position of stones being placed outside properties round the Green which although intended to protect the green immediate in front of properties can act as an obstruction if placed on the track. The council was also alerted to the possibility that any physical or material damage following collision with a large stone deliberately placed on the track could lead to a legal claim against the homeowner.

The Council's policy is that stones placed round the edges of the green outside houses should be placed **on** the grass and **not** on the track.

### **Flooding on Roads**

Following pressure from the parish council the Highways department have now cleared the culvert in Toot Baldon but other problems of blocked /broken drains remain, we will be pressing Highways to deal with this and problems at the top of The Croft. In this case, the ditch and drains cannot cope with the volume of water draining from the neighbouring field. The Council will be looking again at developing action plans with landowners and the Highway Department to reduce future problems.

### **Collaboration with Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council**

The council has agreed to an approach by Nuneham Courtenay PC to collaborate with them in dealing with flooding problems involving Thames Water as well as Oxfordshire Highways Department plans for the Golden Balls roundabout which forms part of the OCC Strategic Plans for road improvements.

### **Planning applications**

*1 the Croft P21/S0496/HH* an application for construction of a rear porch, supported by the council.

*6 The Green P21/S0027/HH* an amended application for demolition of garages and construction of a single garage, home office and studio/gym. Following concerns at the scale of original plan the council agreed to support the amended plans.

*Parsonage Farm P20/S4319/FUL*. It was reported to the council that SODC have approved the amended plans to modify the internal layout to create one house rather than the two initially approved.

### **Solar Farm P20/S4360/FUL**

The council has been informed that modifications and amendments to the application have been submitted by the developers to SODC which appear to be

intended to provide answers and clarity to the application as required by SODC. The parish council will be considering the amendments, but it seems unlikely they will change the council's objections. Councillors have requested a meeting with planning officer.

### **Dates of Future meetings**

The Annual Meeting of the Parishes of Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm via Zoom. This is the open meeting when you as villagers receive the annual report and accounts of the Parish Council but the open session is there for you to raise any issues, ideas and concerns with us. If there is something you wish to raise in advance please email our clerk Tom James no later than 12<sup>th</sup> April.

The Baldons Parish Council AGM and business meeting will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm; venue to be confirmed.

### **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Items for the May 2021 newsletter  
**by 16<sup>th</sup> April please**

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter. Please send copy to Natasha Eliot: [tashaandjames@btopenworld.com](mailto: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](mailto:leanna.maggs@gmail.com) or on 01865 340 521

## **Christian Aid Week is 10 – 16 May 2021**

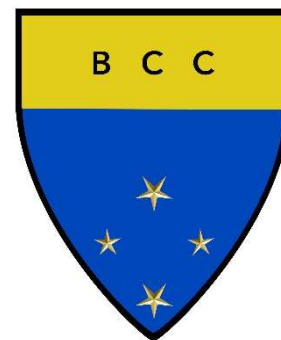


Look out for the donation envelope with next month's newsletter.

**Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face.**

**Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live.**

## BALDONS CRICKET CLUB: SPRING HAS SPRUNG



Spring is finally here and with it all the glorious gifts it brings: vibrant blossom dripping from frost-bitten branches, cheeky daffodils poking their way through overgrown grasses, the soft scent of the rich soil bringing new life, and morning birdsong bouncing inside your pillow-bound head like a fizzing Berocca.

Yet, in the season of bounty, nothing can compare to the excitement at the release of the Baldons Cricket Club fixture list, so star-studded with sporting and social events that the Milky Way pales into insignificance more befitting of its chocolatey namesake. And so, straight to dessert shall we:

Sun 25th April	Horley or Oxford Downs (Village Cup 1st Rnd)	away
Sat 8th May	Oxford Brookes Invitational XI	home
Sun 23rd May	Gary Crook XI	home
Sun 6th June	Islip	home
Sun 20th June	Marlow	home
Sun 4th July	Hanney	home
Sat 10th July	Sydenham	home
	<b>BCC BBQ (post-match)</b>	
Sun 18th July	Great Milton	home
Sun 25th July	Britwell Salome	home
Sun 1st August	Great Haseley	home
Sun 15th August	Astons	home
Sun 29th August	Great Haseley (6-a-side tournament)	away
Sun 5th September	Great Milton	away

Having gorged our eyes on our industrious fixture secretary's trolley of sweet treats, inevitably the chef must remind us that he will need to buy ingredients for the next round of delights. Or I suppose, to abandon the metaphor, facilities need upkeep and scrumptious teas need cooking. With that in mind, I draw your attention to the bargainous match fee structure for the 2021 BCC season:

£5 for under 25s  
£10 for over 25s

Last, and absolutely not least, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to BEC for their contribution, Martin Delafield for his priceless help with the trailer and, of course, the Parish for their continued support. We strive to create a cricket club for all, a club of which the community can be proud, and it is the seemingly limitless generosity of our very neighbours that is getting us there. Thank you.

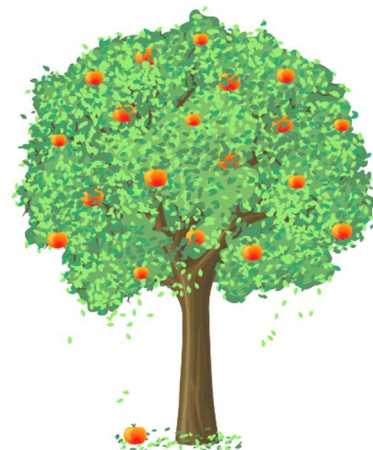
If anyone would kindly like to help support the club, please email us at [baldonscc@gmail.com](mailto:baldonscc@gmail.com)

## **BALDONS COMMUNITY ORCHARDS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The orchards projects are progressing.

The apple orchard now has a plank bridge across the ditch – this is made from ekki (a West African hardwood) which was reclaimed from a bridge in Cambridge.

We have planted 3 bird cherry trees on the other side of the ditch, will be ordering a bench and an information board is underway. We hope to host a welcome community event in the orchard once we are all allowed to gather again. We would like to thank the Baldons Millennium Fund and the Tree Council for funding this orchard project.



In the pear orchard-to-be, most of the visible brambles have now been dug out by John Barne – many thanks to him. If you would like an orchard work-out we need volunteers to help dig out some nettle patches (when the Covid rules allow unless you are happy to work solo). We will provide guidance (if needed) and refreshments. If you are able to volunteer your time (even an hour) in the next few months please could you contact Lizie: [liziegiraudeau@gmail.com](mailto:liziegiraudeau@gmail.com)

We would like to thank Sam Casey-Rerhaye for granting us £1,000 towards the cost of creating this orchard from the Councillor Community Grant Scheme and to Tom James for helping us with this grant application.

Ali Barne, Diana Belli, Lizie Giraudeau and Sarah Marchant

## **A NEW CHAPTER AT THE SEVEN STARS**

Dear shareholders and villagers,

As you may know, Matt Ford is leaving the pub on 23 March. We are really grateful to Matt for building up the pub over the last 7 years, and wish him every success and happiness in his new ventures.

We are delighted to announce that the committee has found an excellent new tenant, and we are very much looking forward to the next chapter in the life of the Seven Stars.

Our new tenant is a company called The Seven Stars at Marsh Baldon Ltd. which is owned by Mark Higgs. Mark is currently the lessee of three other successful village pubs: The Castle at Edgehill, The Red Lion at Hellidon and The Sun Inn at Hook Norton, and also is a part owner of an associated catering company. Together they form a small pub group called Free Spirit Pubs (website here: The Free Spirit Pub Company - A collection of country pubs, rooms, weddings & events (freespiritpubs.co.uk)).

We are extremely pleased to have found Mark. His vision matches the vision which the community set out 7 years ago when we bought the pub and he has the experience and longstanding team to be able to take that vision forward. You will have seen some new decoration to the outside of the pub, and when he takes over, Mark is planning some internal and garden refurbishment before opening when Covid allows – we can't wait!

Mark has asked us to pass on this message:

**“I'm super excited to bring this pub back to life again after what has been a difficult year for all of us during this pandemic.**

**Village pubs are my life, I live for the chatter at the bar, serving great food and most importantly delivering a very important part to the local community. Myself and the team have decades of experience and we truly believe that the most important part of a great village pub is genuine, warm hospitality. I can't wait to meet you all and create some wonderful memories, a fantastic pub that we can all be very proud of both locally and further afield.**

**I'd like to thank Matt and the committee for all their support and guidance over the last few months.**

**Warmest wishes, Mark”**

As always, if there are any questions, don't hesitate to raise them with a member of the committee or to [info@bncltd.com](mailto:info@bncltd.com).



# NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting has been arranged for 7pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. It's not possible to hold it face to face this year so it will be held using Zoom, a well-known remote meetings software package.

It's your chance to catch up with what the Council has been trying to do for the community and to give your views about what needs doing in Nuneham Courtenay. Usually, we might meet in the Village Hall and share refreshments but this year you can make yourself comfortable at home and you'll have to provide your own refreshments.

You are very welcome to take part in the meeting and you can do it either using a computer or a telephone – if you use a landline, I think you may need a modern tone phone (the sort that sounds musical) rather an old-fashioned pulse phone (the kind that makes clicks).

If you're taking part on a computer, you can click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95335064456?pwd=cXR4bG5MaGhBalJMUXFSSmJRdEd2dz09>

You can also go into Zoom on your own computer and type in these details:

**Meeting ID: 953 3506 4456**

**Passcode: 040376**

You can use one tap mobile on your mobile phone:

+442080806592,,95335064456#,,,,\*040376#

+443300885830,,95335064456#,,,,\*040376#

Or you can call one of these UK phone numbers:

0208 080 6592	0203 481 5237	0203 901 7895	<b>Meeting ID:</b>
0330 088 5830	0203 481 5240	0208 080 6591	<b>953 3506 4456</b>
0131 460 1196			<b>Passcode: 040376</b>

## Gravel extraction

The Council has joined with our neighbours Sandford-on-Thames Parish Council and other interested parties to commission a response from Lichfields, a Reading-based planning and development consultancy, to the latest Minerals and Waste consultation. Lichfields have argued that on the criteria set out by the County Council the Nuneham Courtenay site is a non-starter, especially but not only because the site is now being listed by Historic England for its importance as a Romano-British pottery site, also for its prehistoric ring-ditches and enclosures and for medieval ridge and furrow following the Keevill Heritage report, to which the Council also contributed financially.

The Council believes the County Council should now abandon this option: Nuneham Courtenay should be taken off the table!

## A4074

A reminder that the A4074 may be shut on some nights between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April to enable surface dressing to be carried out.

### **Last meeting**

The Council met on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, another remote meeting using Zoom. The Council heard reports from our County and District councillors, dealt with financial matters and discussed all the usual topics: speeding, conservation, the Playing Field, transport and the website but also future options for broadband in the Village Hall now the original deal with TalkTalk Business has come to its end.

The Council approved grants to Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice and to Bioabundance, the campaigning arm of South Oxfordshire Sustainability.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May is the Council's annual meeting at which it elects its chair for the coming year and deals with a lot of formal business, such as re-adopting key governance documents and policies. As things stand, this will be the last meeting the Council will be allowed to hold via Zoom under the Covid-19 legislation: after 7<sup>th</sup> May, meetings will have to be face to face.

### **FOUND**

Found at the Nuneham end of the Avenue these glasses. Calvin Klein frames. Quite small.

To claim please ring Mandy on 01865 343352.



## **SARAH WELLS** **Cordon Bleu Cooking**

---

*A First Class Service  
For All Occasions*

**Delicious home-cooked everyday dishes ready for the freezer, or  
two/three course dinner party meals delivered to your door**

Enquiries welcome - call Sarah on 07721 609600 or 01865 407538  
email: [sarah@cordobleucooking.co.uk](mailto:sarah@cordobleucooking.co.uk)

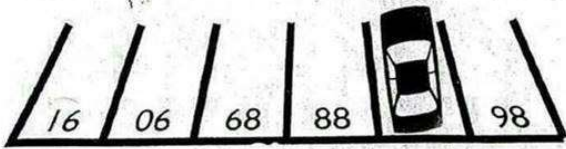
**Established over 25 Years**

## PUZZLE PAGE – JUST FOR FUN

A bit of lateral thinking...	If...TOOT BALDON = 12, BERINSFIELD = 21, NUNEHAM COURTENAY = 36, MARSH BALDON = 18, ... <i>what is THE SEVEN STARS = ?</i>
------------------------------	--

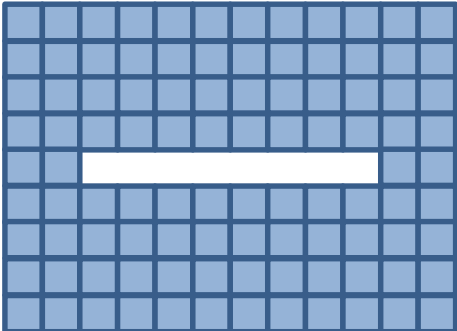
A snail is climbing a wall 10m high. It climbs 3m up each day, then slips back 2m each night. How many days will it take to reach the top of the wall?	An old chestnut...
--	--------------------

Electoral arithmetic...	In South Oxfordshire, there were 55,000 votes cast and the winner got, respectively, 8,000, 4,000 and 3,000 more votes than the other three candidates. How many votes did the winner get?
-------------------------	--

<p>What is the number of the parking space that this car occupies?</p> 	A wacky garage...
---	-------------------

A visit to the Pyramids...	A young woman visited the Great Pyramids of Egypt in 1995. So moved by the trip, she vowed to return one day with her children to see these great wonders. She fulfilled her vow when, in 1969, she and her son visited the Great Pyramids. How is this possible?
----------------------------	---

What has four letters, sometimes has nine letters and never has five letters?	A riddle...
---	-------------

And finally...	<p>You have a 12ft x 9ft room with a central chimney breast (obviously not carpeted!). Your carpet fitter tells you that the carpet can be cut from a single <b>square</b> piece of carpet with just one cut to the carpet (which doesn't have to be a straight line). How can you do this?</p>	
----------------	---	---

*Answers in the next edition*



## A great place to grow

Happy Spring from The Maple Tree in Wheatley! How exciting – the sun is shining and the World is beginning to open up again, and so are we!

We are continuing with our online programme, but we will be able to hold sessions at the Centre from April 12<sup>th</sup>. Spaces are limited and must be pre-booked by emailing [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk). Covid measures remain in place and there is a suggested donation of £2.50 per family per session.

**Messy Mondays:** Play and Learn sensory/creative activities from 10:30-11:30

**Tuesday: Play and Learn:** Once Upon a Rhyme-Time from 10:00-11:00

**Wednesday: Well-Baby Clinic** (with Health Visitors) to be booked through the NHS and **Maple Babies:** Group support for new parents from 10:00-11:00

**Thursday: Play and Learn:** Little Scientists, activities for the under 5s from 10:00-11:00

**Friday: Play and Learn: Solitary Bee to Social Butterflies:** a new group for young children (from 12 months to 3 years) who have missed key socialising opportunities during this past year from 10:30-11:30

**Saturdays: Family Fun** on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, Dinosaurs (April 17<sup>th</sup>), Construction (15<sup>th</sup> May), Space (19<sup>th</sup> June) from 10:00- 12:00

### Weekdays 1:1 Sessions

The Maple Tree is offering 1:1 sessions to parents needing a listening ear during these trying times; this can be by phone, online, in the Centre or on a walk.

**Appeal for new Trustees, Advisors and Volunteers:** We are looking for people from our local area to join our committed and friendly group of trustees. We are especially keen to recruit some trustees or volunteers who have a particular skill set in business, accounting, garden design or fundraising. We are also looking for volunteers to help with our sessions, working with young children alongside our dedicated staff team.

A big thank you to our local district councillors who kindly gave us some grants to buy new indoor and outdoor play equipment and a super new noticeboard that will soon be placed outside the Centre displaying all our activities. Thank you so much for supporting us during this difficult time!

We are here to help you, if you need help, advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249. Email: [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk) Website: [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley](https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley)

Laura Spencer - The Maple Tree Centre Manager

## REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

The third British Covid-19 lockdown has felt very different to the first one, in March 2020. Maybe, because much of the current one, has been during the long and dark Winter nights. Whether Boris Johnson's current exit roadmap, will transpire, and whether the world looks and feels the same, if and when we get through this, I don't know. What I do know is, Spring has sprung.

The evenings are drawing out, my lounge window is ajar through the day, and how blissful it is to hear all the outside sounds instead of the acoustics of my accommodation, and my own thoughts being the main soundtrack to my life over the past few months.

People are clearly looking to the future as my phone is now ringing, with people asking when I will start to lead my guided walks in nature again, and when will I recommence with my wildlife gardening consultations? All in good time folks, all in good time.

You don't need me to be able to enjoy the slowly drying soil, the slight lawn growth, the sound of the birds, the buzz of the bees, the smells on a country walk, the feeling of the wind in your hair and the rain on your face. Nor the taste of the remaining Winter harvests, if you have a veg plot.

These little things remind us life goes on, your gardens will awaken, and give you the joy you had during the first lockdown. The local green spaces will once again be the oasis to retreat to, as you did last year. The blue skies seen from your windows, will trigger past memories, and visions of new memories you will build going forward.

I will be back amongst you, soon enough, but I'm currently still shielding, awaiting my shot at the vaccine. Get out there, even in my absence, and enjoy nature, in all its forms. We are nature, not separate from it. It sustains us and we sustain it.

Enjoy!

Happy Gardening

Stuart Mabbutt  
Wildlife Gardening Specialist  
[www.wildmanisnspires.co.uk](http://www.wildmanisnspires.co.uk)  
01865 6747243

# Home Library Service

## **BERINSFIELD LIBRARY**

**offers the Home Library Service to all members of the community all year round not just during COVID. The offer is open to all who need it, whatever your age, long or short term.**

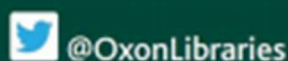
**Stuck for something to read or listen to let us know and we can help.**

**Contact Linda on 07912474379**

**Our community activities are all on hold for the moment but many can be accessed on line why not have a look at the Oxford County Council web site or follow us on Facebook**

**We also offer e-books and Audio Magazines and newspapers**

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)





**GT INSURANCE**  
SERVICES LTD

**Finding the right  
cover for you, at  
the right price**



**Your local insurance experts, specialising in..**

**Personal:**

- ✓ Car
- ✓ Van
- ✓ Household
- ✓ Motorhome
- ✓ Classic vehicle

**Business:**

- ✓ Fleet Insurance
- ✓ Public Liability
- ✓ Employers Liability
- ✓ Commercial Combined

**Find out  
how much  
you could  
save!**

Call Keith, Sophie or Robin on **01865 570970** or email us at [info@gtinsuranceservices.co.uk](mailto:info@gtinsuranceservices.co.uk) with any questions you may have, alternatively, please visit our website at [www.gtinsuranceservices.co.uk](http://www.gtinsuranceservices.co.uk)

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

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR EASTER AND APRIL

We are returning to services in church however our return will be gradual, so here are the services for Easter and the month of April.

2nd April	Good Friday	10.30am- 11.30am	From St Lawrence, Toot Baldon	Faith Walk between the villages
<b>4th April</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>St Lawrence, Toot Baldon</b>	<b>Holy Communion with Easter Egg Hunt!</b>
11th April	Low Sunday	5pm	St Peter, Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion
25th April	Easter 4	5pm	St Lawrence, Toot Baldon	Evensong

If you would like more information, or if you just want to chat, please give me a call (07823 809 112) or drop me an email [revteresa@outlook.com](mailto:revteresa@outlook.com)



A free Church of England phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers.

Do share the number, 0800 804 8044, with those who may be feeling lonely and isolated.

Diocese of Oxford Church at home services are available to dial into too - find out more at [www.oxford.anglican.org/livestream](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/livestream)