

# **The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**



**December 2014 – January 2015**

# CAROL SINGING



*Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014  
Meet at the Seven Stars at 6:00 pm  
Or at Baldon House at 7:30 pm  
All welcome!*

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## FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

*Once in Royal David's city*

As soon as we hear the first few bars of this familiar hymn, our minds are taken to a different place. Whether we hear a young treble voice's purity or carol singers on the doorstep against the crisp air, a pub carousing version, friendly church carol service or charming school nativity play we are lifted away from our immediate worries for a few moments into something special, something that puts our own lives and preoccupations into a wider context - historical, psychological, properly spiritual.

*stood a lowly cattle shed*

Where are we taken? Not to some great palace of the powerful, an ancient equivalent of the Square Mile's glittering conceit or grand town hall, but to a humble everyday place where donkeys chew on hay and the smells are of a natural perfume. Somewhere that speaks to us of the earth. The soil and soul from which we are formed.

*and his shelter was a stable*

Before the age of the motor car, before buses and trains, the stable was the garage, the horse the engine of work and movement. A centre of operations, the hub of the household. There in the centre of it Jesus was born.

*with the poor and mean and lowly*

Yes, even though we try to honour God's majesty with grand cathedrals, this was much more like a little village church set in the midst of its community, where people come to pray, to reflect, to find space and depth in the living quiet. With them, alongside them, for them...Jesus came.

*lived on earth our Saviour holy*

He lived. As he grew from that manger, he experienced life's rollercoaster of sorrows and joys, fears and rainbow hope. He was betrayed by men yet continued to trust God. He saw people die yet spoke of new life. He overturned the tables of the moneylenders, yet spoke compellingly of peace and gentleness. He taught and healed, he walked and listened. All the time loving those around him, forgiving his disciples' weaknesses and showing them a new vision of how life could be for those who dare to show mercy and loving-kindness. A hard-won holiness, a way to knowing our inner selves better and bringing saving grace to an often dark and tired world. A candle shining in the midst of winter's darkness. Come, let us allow our hearts to be warmed by the baby who helps us grow.

May your Christmas be a time of blessing.

Paul

*The Revd Paul Cawthorne is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay,  
Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.*

e-mail: [bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com](mailto:bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com) and tel: 01865 340460.

## ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for February 2015 newsletter

by 16<sup>th</sup> January 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.

## *Baldon House Lamb For Sale*

Delicious, grass-fed Jacob x lamb for sale.

Organic, lean and flavourful.

Various cuts including legs, shoulders, racks, mince.

For prices and collection please call:

Catherine Young on 07964 399 546

or Emma Timms on 343 317 (Wednesdays 10am-2pm).



# LIVE ON

TO THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN  
AND THE FUTURE OF THE LIVING



## Poppy Appeal

The British Legion was first founded back in 1921 and the first poppies to be sold were handmade of red silk and when the first poppy factory was set up off the Old Kent Road in London it was staffed by just 5 disabled ex-servicemen.

It was to uphold the memory of the fallen and to give help to those who had returned and facing an uncertain future. Now 90 years on the Legion is still going strong giving help, support and comfort to service men and women to face the future, and also giving help to bereaved families.

This year in our villages we raised the grand sum on £993.32 and I thank all those who gave so generously to the Poppy Appeal. My grateful thanks also to those who gave their time collecting, raising this wonderful amount.

If you would like to help in the future please let me know: I do need more help. My number is 343318.

Thank you, Iris Wright

## VILLAGE FIREWORKS



A positively balmy November evening, some great food and wine, Dodgems at the Fair and topped off with a spectacular Firework Display... **Bonfire in the Baldons** was a tremendous success!!

These events do not happen by chance and without a lot of hard work by a number of people and the Baldons Events Committee (BEC) would like to offer a huge thank you to all those villagers that gave up their time to help with marquees, car parking, the bar and all those other little things that make the event such a success. We would also like to offer a special thank you to Martin Delafield for his never ceasing efforts in keeping the bonfire together through the preceding week...and for actually lighting it!!

**BEC** exists for 2 reasons:

- To organise social events in the Community for the Community
- To provide appropriate donations toward worthy Village causes

The Village Fireworks event is a critical part of the BEC calendar in that it is the only event that normally provides a surplus and thus allows us to deliver those additional events and donations for the Community. We thought it worth taking a couple of paragraphs to try to explain a little more of what we do.

The Firework event allows us to subsidise Lunch on the Green, the Ball or the Barn Dance. It also provides for the Xmas Tree on the Green and presents for the children. And since BEC was formed, over £4,000 has been donated to various Village organisations including the Churches, Youth Club, Hand Bells, Baldon Players, Village Halls, Seven Stars and the Lunch Club.

Over the years, BEC has also invested significant monies in the purchase and maintenance of an amount of capital equipment - namely marquees, tables and various other paraphernalia that provides the infrastructure for events such as The Feast to take place in the village. This equipment is also often hired out at preferential rates to Villagers and should BEC ever be disbanded, this equipment, which is stored on the Village Hall premises, would belong to the Community. Should any Villager wish to see the Report and Accounts of BEC, John Maskell, our Treasurer, would be only too delighted to take you through the detail. John can be contacted on 343203.

If anyone has any other questions, further suggestions for events or requests for donations we would welcome them. Please feel free to get in touch with any of other members of the current Committee; Sonja Van Dijk (Chair), Alison Porter (Secretary), Darren Baber, Phil Collins, Bruce Don, Rachel Fallon, Chris Lake, Jonny Langstaff-Ellis, Robin Timms or Emma Torevell.

Once again, many thanks for all your support.... we look forward to organising many more events for the Villages.

BEC Committee.

## **BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### Planning applications

Two planning applications have been received and commented on by the council.

46 The Green: an application for a rear extension on this listed building was supported and has subsequently been granted planning consent by SODC.

College Farm House: This application was for retrospective approval of an open fronted shed which had been built not in accordance with the original SODC planning consent or its related conditions being applied with. The parish council had supported the original application but reflected concerns about the new application to SODC. A decision is still awaited from SODC.

### Village pond

Those of you who walk round the green or come to the school will, we hope, have noticed the pruning of the willows and cutting back of brambles etc. which has taken place round the pond near the school. The area was beginning to look overgrown and is now more open and attractive and will look even better as the pond fills during the winter months. The work has been done voluntarily by Paul Cawthorne with a bit of help from others; an excellent bit of voluntary community action for which we are very grateful.

### Baldon Feast

Councillors were delighted to hear from Ralph Slaney that the Baldon Feast is secure for 2015, and that following a very successful meeting he had held in early November a steering committee has been formed. So thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be involved and help in various ways. We look forward to another great event in August. Ralph will be putting more information in the newsletter.

### Bonfire

Another very successful bonfire night was held on 1<sup>st</sup> November, thanks to the hard work of Baldons Events Committee members.

### Winter Flooding Problems

As in most winters we will get some flooding occurring, hopefully not in houses but on roads and in ditches which create problems for a few days.

Land owners and householders who have a ditch or culvert on or outside their property have a riparian responsibility for ensuring that water flows easily off the road or land and into the ditches and along the drainage channels without obstruction. Blockages and obstruction either from plant life or rubbish can cause flooding and a problem for others. SODC and OCC and environmental services urge communities and property and land owners to do all they can to help reduce the likelihood of problems.

The Parish Council maintains the main ditches on the village green but would householders please help and check that ditches on or adjoining your land are free flowing and clear of obstructions.

If road drains become blocked they should be reported to the Highways Dept. for clearing. But it helps if the surfaces of drains are kept clear of grass cuttings and waste. If you have road drains outside your property please try and help to keep them clear, and check them if they are draining slowly.

### Baldon Lane Pumping station

New pumps are being installed by Thames Water in this pumping station during November which it is hoped will resolve the long standing flooding problems in Baldon Lane. The situation will be monitored and any continuing problems referred back to Thames Water.

### Toot Baldon Mains drainage

The council received an update on the discussion with Thames Water on mains drainage. Progress has been slow with the holiday period. Contact has been made with the Environment Agency and Thames Water to locate monitoring and test results carried out around 2006 – nothing has come to light yet, but EA are trying their offsite storage facility. A questionnaire will be sent to all Toot residents shortly and, hopefully, the formal application will be submitted to Thames Water before Christmas.

### Village web site

The Baldons Community web site is in the process of being changed to a new host, [www.parishcouncil.net](http://www.parishcouncil.net). This is an organisation which provides websites to parish councils all over the country, and has a good track record. The new site is set up and being tested at the time of writing and it will be live in the near future. It will still be reachable via the same address, [www.baldons.org.uk](http://www.baldons.org.uk). More information will be in a subsequent newsletter but if you use the current website you will notice the change when it happens. Further information from Peter Burke, [peterdavidburke@gmail.com](mailto:peterdavidburke@gmail.com). Any offers of help with running the website will be gratefully received.

### SODC Voter Registration update

SODC have informed parish councils that the next phase of completing the new electoral register will happen in the next few weeks and may have been completed before the end of November. Letters will be sent out to residents confirming their inclusion on the new register. The only action that may be required is for individuals to decide whether to opt in or out of the open register and this can be done by phone. All the necessary explanation will be in the letter.

### Date of next Meeting

Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Village Hall

Allotment Ground Marsh Baldon

To Let – Vacant allotment plot adjacent to the Village Hall available immediately.

£70.00 per Annum

For more details please contact Andrew Peters, Smiths Gore

For and on behalf of  
The Queen's College, Oxford

01865 733309; [andrew.peters@smithsgore.co.uk](mailto:andrew.peters@smithsgore.co.uk)



# BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

CHRISTMAS CRAFT AFTERNOON

Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup>

At 3.45pm



Join us every Wednesday  
at Berinsfield Library

For Our  
Story and Rhyme Time.

At 3.45pm

All Ages Welcome

*Children to be accompanied by an adult Please*



Here to help



**join in ● explore ● discover ● log on**



## **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**

### **FROM THE GLOBAL RETREAT CENTRE**

Dear Friends...

We hope you have seen the poster with the invitation to this year's Panto -

#### **Into the Woods**

Global Retreat Centre

Friday 19th December at 7pm

We are having such fun working on this production and although we can't promise Jonny Depp (He will be playing the Wolf in the Disney version of Into the Woods in January), we will have lots of fairy tale characters and surprises for all the family.

The Retreat Centre has specially arranged for this evening performance for the residents of Nuneham Courtney and the Baldons. Please feel free to bring any friends and family who you may think would enjoy such an evening. It really is such a unique event as we will be building a stage within the old ballroom.

I do hope that you will be able to join us for this truly magical and not to be missed event. I would suggest that you register by 10th December as we may then make the remaining seats available to others.

Marneta Viegas



**BALDON FEAST 2015**  
*The Great Village Festival for*  
*Nuneham Courtenay, Toot and Marsh Baldon*  
*2pm Saturday 15th August 2015*



**YES! YES! YES! YES! YES! YES!**

After a very successful village meeting in October we had another meeting on the 5th of November where we were able to form a new committee of enthusiastic members keen to see the continuation of this historic festival. So, we can now say YES to next year's event.

With this re-organization it is now hoped that the Baldon Feast will continue into the foreseeable future. The way we have been able to structure the committee is such that we should be able to continue to give a vibrant feel to this great local event. The committee shall be holding regular meetings throughout the year at which we shall consider improvements and new ideas. Should you have any thoughts or ideas please email me.

After persuasion by the Council and the Committee I have accepted the privilege of continuing as Organizer. We have cleared most of the obstacles needed to carry on and I am sure we shall have a great 2015 Baldon Feast. We have yet to find a Website Manager: This is a great opportunity for someone as a project or hobby and something that could be added to one's CV. Is there someone from thirteen to thirty or nineteen to ninety who would like to take this on? We already have a site up and running, but it needs looking after and updating, "baldonfeast.org.uk". If you are interested please email me for details.

There is going to be plenty to see at the Feast with new features on the horizon taking shape and like last year the inclusion of craft stalls to our enlarged market. The BBC will also be there represented by our compere Henry Wymbys. So, now is the time before you make other arrangements to make a note of the dates.

Baldon Feast dates for the diary:

Saturday 15th August 2015

Saturday 20th August 2016

Saturday 19th August 2017

There you have it!

Now you have all the dates why not arrange to be there. Displays, competitions, bands and so forth are already being planned. For those who have never attended, you are really missing out on this; one of the great events in South East Oxfordshire right on your doorstep. Like the old adage goes "Use it or lose it" don't let us get to the situation again where we might lose yet another of our traditions. Let's fight to keep our Britishness. We will fly the flag again. Will you be there to see it?

Ralph Slaney - Baldon Feast Organizer on behalf of the Baldons Parish Council  
ralph@baldonfeast.org.uk; 01865 343275

# NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Meetings

The Parish Council meeting scheduled for 11 November had to be cancelled because illness meant the meeting would not have been quorate and no business could be conducted.

The meeting is being re-arranged and a December meeting is planned to review budgets and the Precept for 2015/16. Please look out for further details

## Annual Return 2014

The notice of completion of audit has been posted. The return and the responses from auditors

## Planning

No new applications have been received. The planning application to convert the store behind the Old Post Office (P14/S2948/HH) as ancillary residential accommodation has been approved by SODC.

## District Councillor

Some of you may have noted the news that our ward councillor, John Cotton, has been made leader of SODC following the death of Ann Ducker. We wish John well in this new role. John remains as our ward councillor (until the elections in May 2015 when the district ward boundary changes will be brought into effect) and has indicated a willingness to attend future Parish Council meetings.

## Power Cuts

This time last year the area was hit by power cuts as a result of the bad weather. A reminder that the power distribution company does not necessarily know about lack of power until it is reported. The contact number for Scottish and Southern Electricity for reporting of power cuts and updates is 0800 072 7282 or (mobile) 0345 072 1905. In the event of power cuts please look out for vulnerable neighbours.

## Contact details

**Chair:** Colin George. colin.george@virgin.net 01865 343767. 39 Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9NY

**Clerk:** Julia Evans. nunehamcourtenay.clerk@gmail.com. 01235 833466. Moorcroft, The Greenway, West Hendred, OX12 8RG

**SODC:** website: [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk). Councillor. John Cotton

**Oxfordshire County Council:** website: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk).

Councillor: Lorraine Lyndsay-Gale

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

### **It's That Time of Year....**

Our Christmas Bingo will be held on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. As always there are lots of great prizes and loads of Christmas cheer. Come along!

There are many regular events now being held in the Village Hall, including a thriving Luncheon Club (once a month) and our growing yoga sessions (Monday at 7:30). The Luncheon Club has installed a beautiful new range cooker. Films nights will resume in January.

### **PACT CAROL CONCERT**

Back by popular demand, PACT's annual carol concert is being held once again at Dorchester Abbey on Sunday 14th December.

There will be a children's tea party from 5pm-6pm with fun activities for the children and refreshments for all. This will be followed by the carol concert at 6pm-7:30pm with performances from the Abbey Choir, Cranford House Junior Choir and professional soprano Erin Hughes as well as lots of opportunities for the congregation to join in for classic Christmas carols.

The carol concert is free to attend but there will be a retiring collection to raise funds for therapeutic services for adopted and fostered children.

We look forward to seeing you there and encourage you to bring friends and the whole family to join in the festivities.

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance via PACT's website: [www.pactcharity.org/carols](http://www.pactcharity.org/carols)

Tickets are limited so please don't delay and register for tickets today.

### **CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM JOHN HOWELL MP**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas. It is my wish for us all that 2015 will be a good year. May I also say thank you to all those who work hard in our communities to make them special for the rest of us. It is always a pleasure when I get the opportunity to visit community activities and I look forward to learning yet more about what is being done during the forthcoming year.

With best wishes  
John Howell MP

## **WINTER LOOMS**

As we face winter and all she brings, I always like to look back at what autumn offered us.

Rich earth tone colours, falling leaves, everything preparing to take a well-deserved rest over the winter. Migrants from north, leaves turning falling, fungi. A season of mists and mellow fruitfulness - beautiful colours signalling the coming winter and end of year - harvest. Crunchy leaves conkers and new school uniforms. Bejeweled cobwebs glittering in the autumn sun after a frost or a mist.

These are just some of the descriptive terms you have mentioned to me. What about winter though, what to you reflects the winter season?

Plenty to do out in the wildlife garden in winter though. Fruit trees and hedges to be pruned, but don't overdo it, leave some to berry to provide food and shelter. The prunings can be turned into stick piles and used to thicken up the bases of hedges as well. It's a great season in which you may have the time to consider some big projects - digging a pond, for example, making some new wildlife nestboxes or digging out a new flowerbed.

What the wildlife wants at this time of year though is food, water and shelter, so don't be tidying everything away or raking up every leaf in sight. Under a layer of leaves can be a degree or two warmer so that's where much of the wildlife could be. Garden by all means but care needs to be taken to avoid wholesale destruction. It won't just be hedgehogs hibernating under those leaves under your hedge.

The world won't come to an end if those leaves stay there, will it?

Happy Gardening  
Stuart Mabbutt  
Wildlife Gardening Specialist  
01865 747243  
[www.stuartmabbuttgardeningltd.com](http://www.stuartmabbuttgardeningltd.com)

## **WALLINGFORD GARDENING CLUB: WINE, MINCE PIES AND QUIZ**

At the December meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, our members will test their gardening know-how with a short quiz. Following a very brief Annual General Meeting, they will all enjoy wine and mince pies!

This event will be held in the Ridgeway Community Centre, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th December. Visitors very welcome £2.

Advance Notice of future talks in 2015:-  
8th January - University Gardens of Oxford (Dr Stephen Head)  
-which will be followed in the summer with a relevant visit.

## SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

7 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Christingle	Toot Baldon
	6.00pm	Team Confirmation Service	Dorchester Abbey
14 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
21 <sup>st</sup> December	5.00pm	Carol Service	Marsh Baldon
<i>Please note time</i>			
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Marsh Baldon
Christmas Day	10.00am	Family Communion	Toot Baldon
28 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Team Service	Berinsfield
4 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
11 <sup>th</sup> January	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Toot Baldon
18 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am	Holy Communion (with Sunday School)	Marsh Baldon
25 <sup>th</sup> January	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Service	Marsh Baldon
1 <sup>st</sup> February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

### Fellowship Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 7.30pm

After a break in December, please note provisional dates for January are Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

For venues or other information please contact Jennifer Morton: 343302; [jennifer@morton8.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@morton8.co.uk)

## FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
<b>ADVENT</b>		<b>NO FLOWERS</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> December		Help and Holly please! See below
4 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> January	F Ardern	H Maskell & J Knight
18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> January	A Lyall	J Brook & J Allnutt
1 <sup>st</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> February	V Sandilands	A Druce

St Peter's will be decorated for Christmas on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December**. If you are able to spare a little time to help decorate the Church, or can provide some holly and greenery, we would love to hear from you. Veronica Sandilands: 340562 or [vsandilands@btinternet.com](mailto:vsandilands@btinternet.com).

For information on decorating St Lawrence's, please contact Jane Brook on 343457

## SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
7 <sup>th</sup> December		11.00am Sonia Hobbins
14 <sup>th</sup> December		9.30am Ann Druce
21 <sup>st</sup> December	5.00pm John Mason	
24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30pm Ian Gillespie	
25 <sup>th</sup> December		10.00am Graham Hobbins
4 <sup>th</sup> January		9.30am Ron Hewitt
11 <sup>th</sup> January		6.00pm Jenny van Dijk
18 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am Stephen Dance	
25 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am Tom Saw	

**FREE ADMISSION**

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

# **INTO THE WOODS**

**FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER**

**7PM - 8:45PM**

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL:**

**Please email (how many adults and children)  
[info@globalretreatcentre.org](mailto:info@globalretreatcentre.org)**



**BRAHMA KUMARIS**  
WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY (UK)



Come and join BEC for  
**Carols**  
round  
**The Christmas Tree**



**6.30pm**

**Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2014**

**Mulled wine, mince pies and more  
from the Seven Stars**

**Father Christmas might come too!**