

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



February 2014



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FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

A belated Happy New Year to all. I wonder how those resolutions are coming on?

Are you managing to spend more time doing less yet?

Are you shedding the pounds in weight rather than money by ignoring the temptations beside the supermarket checkout and petrol paydesk?

Are you planning to try to value contentment and balance rather than driving and striving for 'outstanding' status in school, work or personal life?

Are you planning to give more time to others by volunteering to get involved in our lovely villages - you may find it cheaper, more fun and of more enduring benefit than the treadmill at the gym!

Maybe you have resolved to be a more trusting person looking for the good in people rather than relying on the stultifying fears of self-protective defensiveness, or to see the glass half full in every situation rather than looking at what falls short of your ideal.

Maybe some have resolved to try something new, whether it is tasting the joys of 'messy church' for an older person to enable fresh spiritual growth, or beginning a new sport for a young person to taste new physical dimensions. There's so much we can do to make life richer.

We all have our plans and they can easily get distracted by what has been called poetically "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" and more prosaically by a former prime minister "events, dear boy".

But New Year can be a time to refresh our vision and to lift our eyes from the everyday to what we really want from our precious time in this fragile but wonderful world. God works with our good intentions. Sometimes He gives us the unexpected grace to achieve more than we thought possible, especially if we pray for fresh strength. May this New Year bring you fresh blessings.

Paul

The Revd Paul Cawthorne is Team vicar for The Baldons, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard: e-mail: bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com and tel: 01865 340460

Cover Photo: This beautiful photo of a rainbow over the extension of Toot Churchyard was taken by Ray Claridge. You will see from the notice on p17 that this area is to be consecrated on 9 February at 2.30pm.

We are always delighted to have photos of the villages, so please do send in any that you may have!

DEREK POLLEY

With sadness we record the death after a long illness of Derek Polley, who died at home on the 15th November 2013 aged 77 yrs.

Derek Polley was born and grew up in Benson. He moved to Marsh Baldon in 1964 after his marriage to Beryl Nichols. During his lifetime Derek worked mainly at Harding's Transport and South Oxfordshire Council as a motor mechanic. He was a keen gardener and kept a beautiful front garden. He maintained St Peter's churchyard single handed for many years and instigated the purchasing and planting of the flowering crab trees bordering the north edge of the Church Yard.

His foot balling prowess was well known among his contemporaries. In his early days he trialled for Reading, played for Wallingford Town and after moving into the Village played for the Baldons for several years (a quote from Bill Johns "the best ever player, to play for the Baldons".)

For several years with Beryl and her Mum (Granny Nichols) he ran Bingo's to raise money, which they used to provide a dinner and an evening of entertainment for the Seniors of the Baldons once a year.

Derek was one of the most amiable and even tempered people one could wish to meet and was liked by all. Our condolences go to Beryl and his family. He will be much missed.

John Wright

Beryl, Stephen, Dawn, Alan (Budgie), Cindy and their families would like to thank everyone for their support, cards of sympathy and kind words following the death of Derek after a long illness. It has brought great comfort to us all knowing Derek had touched so many people in different ways during his life in the Baldons.

We would also like to thank the Vicar for a heartfelt service, and all who helped make a very difficult day more bearable.

Thank you for all monies donated at the Funeral and after: to date approximately £575 to be donated to Cancer Research U.K.

Beryl Polley



BALDON FEAST
2-6pm Saturday 16th August 2014
The Great Village Festival for
Nuneham Courtenay, Toot and Marsh Baldon



PLANNING MEETING

A planning meeting is to be held at The Seven Stars 7.30pm Wednesday 12th February for all interested parties. This will be a relatively short informal meeting to discuss ideas and arrangements for the next Baldon Feast. All who wish to be involved should attend (Organizations should send a representative). The Feast is a great opportunity and worthwhile event in which to be involved as it gives our villagers a forward looking joyful occasion.

Should you wish to run a stall please log-in to baldonfeast.org.uk and complete the online application form.

Ralph Slaney - Baldon Feast Organizer on behalf of The Baldon Parish Council
01865 343275 ralph@baldonfeast.org.uk www.baldonfeast.org.uk



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THE SEVEN STARS
BALDONS AND NUNEHAM COMMUNITY SOCIETY SHARE OFFER

BNCS has now made an open share offer. This means that anyone can invest at any time. The rate of interest is the same, i.e. 1.5% over base. If you would like to invest a little more, or know anyone else who would like to invest, you can obtain a copy as follows:

- (a) From the pub. Matt has copies.
- (b) From the website: www.savethesevenstars.com
- (c) We will be emailing everyone on our email list.
- (d) From any member of the committee: Laurence Attewill, Phil Collins, Phil Gardner, Dave Greenaway, Liz Jones, Jacque Lake, Tom Saw, John Simpson, Sonja Van Dijk.
- (e) By calling Liz Jones on 01865 343465 or 07967 977035.

We are hoping to raise at least £15,000 following the initial launch of this open and ongoing share offer so please don't be shy! Completed forms can be dropped off with Matt at the Seven Stars.

GO ACTIVE IN 2014!

The GO Active team in South Oxfordshire are here to help you find a local event to help you have an active 2014.

- Social Badminton at Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield, Wednesdays at 19:20
- Get involved with the Active Workplace Challenge - a national campaign where employees log their activities online for "points". Active travel to work through to participation in sports such as swimming, football and golf will all add up, enabling workplaces nationally to track progress and compete in national and local leader boards.
- If you currently do NO exercise, let us help you with our one month unlimited swim membership for only £5.
- Health walks in Chalgrove every Friday - contact Margaret Wiggall on 01865 890730
- Baldon Runners meet every Saturday from 8am to 9am at the village green
- Need motivation to be healthier, fitter? Attend the Summer Town Clinic "Healthy Resolutions" evening Wednesday 8 January 7.30 pm. Visit their website for more details.

For more information, please contact Nicola Meurer - GO Active Coordinator at South Oxfordshire District Council - 01491 823431 or nicola.meurer@southandvale.gov.uk

VILLAGE SOLDIERS:

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY COMMEMORATION 2014-2018

One hundred years on we are all connected to the First World War, either through our own family history, the heritage of our local communities or because of its long term impact on society and the world we live in today.

Imperial War Museums is leading the First World War Centenary partnership, a network of local, regional, national and international cultural and educational organisations.

Many communities, where the impact of loss on the battlefields was profoundly felt, immediately and for generations to come are commemorating those who served. Across the country communities are working together to discover, remember and share stories from these now distant times.

I would be pleased to know if any projects are underway to connect our village communities to the Centenary, especially through research about the young men who joined up from the Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay.

I am planning my own research and would be keen to work with others to make this a community wide effort. With support from a non-profit making group we could even apply for a Heritage Lottery Fund community grant.

Please contact me sue.m.wright57@gmail.com

LINK YOUR GARDENS TOGETHER

Just a brief wildlife gardening article this month, but one with a clear message.

Last week I was working in a garden when I saw over in the neighbouring garden the homeowner was digging up his entire 100 foot mixed native hedge. Doing this in autumn with all the berries and hibernation areas, you can imagine my horror. Over a period of time, the garden in question has been cleared of all life and all that remains of a once abundant habitat is a lush lawn (void of weeds) surrounded by close board fencing.

When I leant over the fence and advised that autumn wasn't probably the most advisable season to do this with wildlife in mind, and that did he really need to clear the entire hedge line as diversity is the name of the game.

The response was "Oh I can't be bothered with gardening, I'm going to dig the lawn up to and put an artificial one down. Anyway the wildlife will look after itself, there are plenty of other gardens around".

Now, my take on this is that wildlife shouldn't have to adapt just because we decide to leave carnage in our garden. Many people are doing the same in their gardens, so where has the wildlife got left to go. Also what this gardener failed to realise was this was the last mixed hedge in his area, so he was totally removing the last resting place for wildlife that only uses native hedges.

"Remember", I said, "many insects are host specific. Just because they are in one type of hedge, doesn't mean they can quickly adapt to another type."

Lastly, wildlife uses hedges linking many gardens as navigation highways, linking communities together. When removing a hedge or a stand of trees, stand back and see if you are clearing a void in these highways that intersect your area. You could be isolating a population of insects as they can't navigate around, which ultimately can cause local extinction if the clearance is on a large scale.

Next time you are gardening, tidying or clearing, look at the bigger picture and observe what it is you are actually doing.

Happy gardening
Stuart Mabbutt
Wildlife Gardening Specialist
01865 747243

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Baldons & Nuneham Courtenay Senior Citizens Party

It was great to see so many people attend this year's over 60's party at the Baldons Village Hall, and judging by the feedback it was probably the best yet. One comment from a newcomer encapsulated the whole thing, Good food, good drink, the opportunity to meet other people and excellent entertainment. Please do let the village hall committee know if you are aware of any newly eligible villagers for next year's guest list.

The excellent entertainment was provided by Denice's Hand Bell Team, two songs from the musical Carousel performed by Fiona and John and of course the fantastic demonstration of Latin and Ballroom dancing by David and Andrea.

David and Andrea are the current British National Closed Senior Latin Champions which they won (not surprisingly) in Bournemouth this year, and they also finished fourth (top British couple) in the World Championship in Blackpool. Who would have thought, 'Strictly come Dancing' comes to the Baldons.

After the demonstration David and Andrea happily answered any questions, chatted to people and said they had thoroughly enjoyed the whole event. They commented on the atmosphere within the hall and the friendliness of everyone there and said it was such a lovely change for them from the more formal evenings and the dancing competitions. They also said they would like to come back again, and who knows, they might be World champions the next time.

Finally a big thank you to the Village Hall committee and to all the volunteers who helped make it such a memorable occasion.

The Baldons Village Hall is for everyone's use: To book, please contact Ali or Darren on: 01865 340264 or dbaber@rm.com

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for March 2014 newsletter

by 16th February 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 (PLEASE NOTE NEW NUMBER) or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon. For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on: sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk or on 340403.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At our meeting on 12th January we had a long agenda and with a few more villagers present than is usual there were some and interesting discussions and contributions.

The following summarises the key issues.

Planning applications

SODC have approved the planning applications for College Farm House, Baldon House East and The Seven Stars pub, all of which the Parish Council had supported. SODC also refused planning permission and Listed Building consent for an extension at 46 The Green MB on which the Parish Council had expressed concerns.

New Planning applications considered were: Land next to Seven Stars. Following SODC approval for a house on the site an amended plan for a minor extension on the ground floor and the creation of a basement has been made. Durham Leys Farm. Following planning consent for a small house to replace a barn an amended application for the creation of a basement has also been made.

The Parish Council has indicated no objection to either of these applications but has indicated to SODC that should either of these basements not be proceeded with there would be strong objection were the additional volume of the basements be used to argue for larger extension at ground level. This would be potentially seriously intrusive in the landscape and the Green Belt.

Home to School Transport

Lorraine Lindsey Gale our County Councillor attended the meeting and reported on the very difficult financial position of the County Council and updated us on the proposed changes to Home to School transport. John Maskell had represented the Parish Council at the consultation meeting at Wheatley Park School in December and we again reiterated our objections based on the impact for the Baldons and concerns at the apparent weakness of the OCC plans and estimates of savings which had become increasingly apparent. LLG indicated that OCC were between a rock and a hard place in looking for savings and said she recognised that the Baldons were going to be badly affected if the change is implemented. OCC Cabinet is meeting on 4th February to take decisions on this and members of the public can attend.

Repairs to the Green

Following the consultation about the idea of the oak posts to protect the Green from school parking, we had a good response which was broadly in favour of our proposals. However quotations received for the work exceeded our budget and so the BPC has decided to go ahead with the project in two stages: the first, this winter, will comprise the oak posts while the second, the laying of an improved parking surface, will be carried out later when we have reviewed options and costs.

Tracks Round the Green

As most residents should be aware maintenance of the unadopted unmade tracks round the green are the responsibility of householders or land owners who use them, and they need regular maintenance to prevent pot holes from doing too much damage to vehicles whilst not being so good as to encourage speeding. On the west side the council has agreed to make a small grant to assist in repairing the surface. On the south side the track

appears to be getting wider and cars are driving on the green to avoid the pot holes and this needs to be discouraged. Ron Wells who attended the meeting confirmed that he helps to maintain the section from The Stars to Durham Leys but the section from Durham Leys to Blenheim Corner has deteriorated again after being filled in in 2012. It would be a help if villagers on this side would get together and agree what needs to be done when the weather dries up a bit in the spring to avoid further deterioration.

Councillors were also pleased, that consequent on the relocation of the caravan site to his field on the eastern edge of the village green, that Mr Wells confirmed he would repair pot holes and the surface from the corner near Parsonage Farm to the field access off the bridleway.

Village clear up day Sunday 23rd March

As usual in the spring we want to hold our village clear up to spruce up the footpaths, verges, ditches and the green and remove the detritus that has been thrown down and left during the year. Please put the date in your diary and come and help. It only takes about an hour if there are enough of us. As usual strong shoes or wellies and gloves are advised. We will order the usual pick-up sticks etc. In Marsh meet at the Seven Stars at 10.30 am and in Toot liaise with John Maskell about meeting and timing.

More info will be in next month's newsletter.

Garden Mulch

A contractor will be pollarding the willows on the green in the next few weeks. As a green way of disposing of the wood it will be shredded and left on the green for anyone to take as garden mulch. Please take it when you see it.

SODC Governance Review

The council have been informed by SODC that as part of the Governance review of Parishes they will be consulting later in the year on a change in the boundary between Marsh Baldon and Nuneham Courtenay parishes affecting properties and the Arboretum on the western side of the A4074 south of Nuneham Courtenay village. The Parish Council have been considering this and other possible changes under the governance review but have decided that this is a historical boundary and they would prefer to maintain the status quo unless residents affected choose otherwise.

Thames Water

Following a question from the public the council confirmed that we have had no proper response from Thames Water to the issues we raised last year regarding Toot Baldon mains drainage and flooding in Baldon Lane and the council agreed to write to Thames Water again.

Dates of next meetings: Parish Council Tuesday 11th March Village Hall 7.30 pm Annual Meeting of the Parishes of Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon Tuesday 15th April 7.30 pm Village Hall. This is your meeting when you can come and have your say and raise items for the agenda as well as hearing about the work of the council in the preceding year. Put the date in your diary.

If you have an item you wish to raise for discussion please either let the Chairman or the Parish Clerk Paul Isaacs know by 1st April at the latest.



JOHN HOWELL MP WRITES...

Many of us begin a new year with ideas and plans. Although I spend as much time in the constituency as commitments in Parliament allow, this year I would like to meet even more constituents than last year. It is particularly helpful to me to meet community groups and to visit businesses and other organisations. If you are involved in something that you think it would be helpful in my parliamentary work for me to know more about please contact my constituency office to discuss and if appropriate arrange a visit.

I would also like to remind communities of the provision under the Localism Act for communities to nominate 'assets of community value' to be listed so that should the owner decide to sell the group will be given time to come up with a bid for the asset in order to retain it for community use. It is really important for communities to consider whether they have an asset that they would be willing to put in a bid for in order to retain it and if there is something to list it as soon as possible. It is too late once a property is on the market and we are already seeing 'the last pub lost' where this opportunity has not been taken up. The process is administered via the District Council and details on how to nominate can be found on their website. www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/assets-community-value.

For more information my website is regularly updated and offers information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com In addition, if you would like to subscribe to my free e-newsletter please e mail me at: john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com. You can also follow me on twitter [@johnhowellmp](https://twitter.com/@johnhowellmp) or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/john.howellmp



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POWER CUTS

With two lengthy power cuts in the last couple of months (and one or two more in the last year) we thought it might be useful to share some 'DOs'. These are culled from the Scottish and Southern Electricity's (SSE) website (www.ssepd.co.uk) with one or two additional personal observations. Most are blindingly obvious:

- **Loss of power - check it isn't just your house**
 - Check your fuse box or distribution board. This is usually close to the meter and contains fuses or trip switches. Check the main switch (or individual circuit breakers) have not 'tripped' to the off position.
 - Check with neighbours if they've lost power or, if at night, see if other houses have no lights (note - sometimes only one phase is lost and not all houses are affected)
 - Do both things first – when you ring SSE they will usually ask if you have checked!
- **Ring SSE (see details below):**
 - SSE are the local distribution company (don't phone the company you pay for electricity)
 - Keep the number handy. Finding it in the current phone book by torch light is not easy!
 - Don't think SSE automatically know that power has gone off – they clearly don't
 - Don't assume somebody else has rung them – they may well not have and we suspect it takes two or three calls before SSE treat the matter as their problem
 - Hang on – it may take a while to get through, particularly if the problems are widespread
 - Even if the power has been off for some time it is worth ringing – you may be the first to have spotted the problem (especially at night). On Christmas Eve the fault was first reported 1.5 hours after the power went off!
 - Where mobile signals are poor it is worth buying a cheap non-powered landline handset for reporting faults and keeping in touch during power cuts
- **Be safe**
 - Keep a torch or torches handy (candles are really nice, but easy to knock over in the dark)
 - Turn off things that might be a danger if the power comes back on and are forgotten (cooker hobs, etc.)
 - Leave a light switched on – helps to know when the power is back
 - Keep freezer doors closed – helps keep food frozen
 - Check neighbours are OK – especially if elderly or disabled and the power is off for a long time (see note on Priority Services below)
- **Keep informed**
 - Phone the SSE fault number. Once SSE has acknowledged a fault a recorded message is usually set up. It should provide updates giving the time the fault

- was first reported, the problem and the time for fixing the problem (experience suggests the latter is unlikely to be given when problems are widespread)
- Mobile access to the internet? SSE has a ‘fault’ webpage and an app also (see below)
 - Keep a battery-backed radio tuned to local radio for updates. Radio Oxford is quite good.
 - **Once the power is back on:**
 - Rejoice
 - Check everything is working. (If the power has been restored locally and you are still without power then check your distribution board. Sometimes the re-connection will knock out a trip (also worth asking a neighbour to check if you are away)
 - Reset those time clocks
 - **Follow up**
 - Let SSE know if you have any particular comments or concerns
 - Claim compensation or insurance if eligible (note statutory compensation is limited and unlikely to apply unless the period was very prolonged)

Contact numbers and details:

- For reporting power cuts (and follow up):
0800 0 72 72 82 or
<http://www.ssepd.co.uk/CustomerService/PowerCuts/PowerTrack/>
- For fallen power lines or dangerous incidents:
contact the emergency services on 999 first
- Compensation (related to Christmas 2013 incident):
<http://www.ssepd.co.uk/Goodwill/>

Safety. The watchword in all of the above is safety – if you are uncertain about poking around electrics, and the power is off generally, then don’t, phone SSE; if it’s only you that has lost power and the problem appears to be within the home then phone an electrician.

Priority Services. If you (or someone you know in the area) are reliant on power because of a particular medical condition, are elderly or disabled, or have other particular problems (such as a young baby), then it is possible to be put on SSE’s Priority Services list – which means that SSE should offer priority help and additional support during a power cut. Contact: **0800 294 3259** or
www.ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServicesRegistrationForm

Consultation. SSE has asked for feedback from those affected by the Christmas 2013 power cuts. Further details at
<http://www.ssepd.co.uk/HaveYourSay/December2013StormConsultation/>. The consultation runs until 28 March 2013. Or use the general phone numbers given. Colin George (01865 343767, colin.george@virgin.net) is also happy to pass on any views as part of a collected response.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL

Contacting us

Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council is composed of Councillors Frank Casey, Sascha Collen, Suzanne Deakin, Jasminder Love and Colin George (also acting Clerk).

We are happy to be contacted by phone (01865 343767), e-mail (nunehampc@yahoo.co.uk) or in person. We also have a website (much in need of updating) at www.nunehampc.webs.com in which we try to bring you news, forth-coming events and useful local information. We also have a noticeboard next to the flower shop.

We next meet at 2 pm on Tuesday 4 February 2014 in Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall. Meeting agendas and notes are usually posted on the noticeboard a week before a meeting (and on the website when everything is running smoothly). Everyone is welcome to attend any public meetings, but we are also happy to deal with issues at other times.

Past Meetings

The Parish Council last met on 10 December 2013, primarily to discuss the Parish Precept (the charge added to Council tax bills to cover the costs of running the Parish Council and help support local activities). At the meeting the Parish Council agreed to:

- maintain the Precept for 2014/15 based on an average of £50 per band D property despite this bringing in slightly less money
- award a grant to the Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Fields Association for a new gate and signage to augment the funding for gates and fences received from other sources and to allow the Association to start to obtain funds to redevelop the recreation ground from elsewhere.

The finances were also reviewed and the Parish Council has a healthy reserve to enable it to meet actual and expected out-goings this and next year and to maintain reserves for future projects, running the council and future election expenses. The Precept has been confirmed to SODC.

Other matters were discussed, but most are covered amongst the notes below:

SODC Community Governance Review

Following discussion at the meeting, and subsequent correspondence from SODC, the Parish Council, has:

- responded positively to the suggestion that land on the south-east of the village, including the Arboretum, Notcutts and the properties on the roundabout (north-east and south-east sides) should be incorporated into the Parish
- asked that no changes are made to the Parish's boundary that includes part of the Culham Science Park
- noted that SODC will not be pursuing any proposed changes in governance arrangements (mergers, joint meetings, etc.) for small parishes such as ours.

Estates Signage

Final details regarding signage for the Estate are being reviewed with Savills. Inevitably, as land owner, what is acceptable to the University may be a compromise on what some may be expecting/wanting – but we hope that a set of signs will be installed, in the coming months, which will give clear instructions to those visiting the estate and will allow for easier finding of most of the properties. This has clearly been a long-drawn out process but one where ultimately it is the landowner has the say and the Parish Council has had to tread carefully to ensure that something will happen. Our thanks go to Suzanne Deakin for progressing this.

Flood threat

During recent heavy rains we have been trying to check whether there are any problems with the drainage system around the village. A number of blocked road drains were identified and reported to Oxfordshire County Council (being attended to as this is being typed it appears). The lack of leaf clearance has also been reported. Problems with the build-up of water at the village end of the Estate road have also been reported to Savills. If you are aware of any issues please can you advise Colin George? Colin is attempting to update the village drainage plans over the next two months.

Planning

New applications. *P13/S3974/FUL. 3/4 Lower Farm Cottages.* An application has been received which amends the currently approved scheme to link and convert a stable and outbuilding to create a new house. This new application extends the existing stable to create a home office, as well as enlarging the previously approved link block. The consultation period ends on 31 January 2015. The proposals can be inspected online at SODC's website or, in hard copy, by contacting Colin George

Current applications. *Old Coach House, Nuneham Estate.* An application has been lodged for listed building consent for a new extractor fan and roof tile vent. The application is due to be determined by 24 January 2014. The Parish Council has not commented.

Brewer's Garage. An application has been submitted seeking approval of the discharge of condition 13 of the consent to construct the six new houses. The application provides information to show that the land contamination issues have been dealt with according to the requirements of that condition.

28 Nuneham Courtenay. Listed Building Consent has been granted to install a new bathroom extractor fan vent.

Gravel extraction. The Parish Council has received information that the development of the County Council's new Waste and Minerals Framework will commence early this year following the abandonment of the previous draft proposals last year. Because of earlier proposals to develop a site in the Parish, the Parish Council will be monitoring this process very closely and continuing the previously successful fight against development should this be proposed again.

Parish Clerk

Whilst it has been a struggle for a councillor to act as the Clerk, the councillors have found the experience to be invaluable in helping establish what support the Parish Council needs. It has also allowed us to make savings against budgets. However there is a clear need for a dedicated and professional clerk to support the Parish Council and to ensure its statutory responsibilities are properly discharged. A review of the duties, salary and other matters related to the Clerk's post has therefore been completed and the post will be advertised shortly.

WALLINGFORD GARDENING CLUB: LIFE AND COLOUR OF THE PYRENEES

At the February meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Antony Powell will present the "Life and Colour of the Pyrenees".

Antony Powell first trained with Hillier Nurseries before completing an HND in amenity horticulture at Askham Bryan College. He has worked in nurseries and gardens in England and France and travelled to many other countries during his horticultural career. He now manages four gardens in North Hampshire / West Berkshire.

The talk will be held in Wallingford Town Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th February.

Visitors very welcome: £2.

Isabelle Darby

Advance Notice of future talks in 2014:-

13th March - Growing and showing Vegetables (Mick Bradley)

10th April - Ajax, Chelsea and bog football (Janet Prescott)

THE EAST OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

This month's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Jane Harrison. She will present 'The **East Oxford Archaeology Project: Bartlemas Leper Hospital, Littlemore Priory and archaeological landscapes East of Oxford**'. Jane will be talking about the discoveries made by the East Oxford Archaeology Project, and in particular about exciting excavations uncovering more about medieval Oxford, at St Bartholomew's Leper Hospital and the Priory of St Nicholas.



Archaeologist Jane has lived in St Clement's with her family for many years. She is very keen to pass on her enthusiasm for archaeology and history and is delighted to have the opportunity to do so in her home county.

This talk will be held on Friday 14th February, 7.45 for 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall. It will be preceded by a short (I am promised!) AGM.

Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

FROM THE REGISTERS

The funeral of Derek Polley took place at St Laurence's, Toot Baldon on 3rd December 2013, followed by burial in the churchyard.



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 February.

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY: 2.30PM

CONSECRATION OF TOOT CHURCHYARD BY THE BISHOP OF DORCHESTER

At times over the last six years, and although there is still some work to be done, it has seemed that we might never reach the moment when the extension to the churchyard at St Lawrence Toot Baldon is ready to be consecrated.

From the initial fundraising flower festival in 2007 to the planting of the hedging last month and for the massive amount of work and fundraising in between this project has counted on the donation of time, money and effort of many many generous people without whom we certainly would never have succeeded.

It is an impossible task to name everyone individually but you know who you are and so on behalf of the PCC we would like to say a huge thank-you to all those who have helped to make this a reality for the whole community.

Therefore please join us on Sunday 9 February at 2.30pm when we will be welcoming the Bishop of Dorchester for the consecration of the extension to Toot Churchyard.

COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAMME

The Baldons & NC Churches are putting together a monthly **Community Events Programme** to which everyone in the Villages is welcome.

Saturday 15 Feb 10.00 - 12.00

Following Ben Jones' (Curator of the Harcourt Arboretum) talk on climbing the World's tallest tree; we are arranging a Volunteer Working Party at the Arboretum www.harcourt-arboretum.ox.ac.uk. Everyone of all ages and ability welcome, so if you fancy a couple of hours hedge-laying or just want to come along let Colin (colin.george@virgin.net) or Debbie (d.dance@oxforpreservation.org.uk, 341323) know, or just turn up. No equipment needed, just sensible clothes & sturdy footwear. We will retire to the Seven Stars for a beer afterwards for those who can stay.

Date for the Diary: Thursday 13 March Julian Munby, historian and archaeologist 'The history of Nuneham Park'

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2014

2 nd February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
9 th February	2.30pm	Consecration of the new Toot Churchyard extension <i>with the Bishop of Dorchester</i>	Toot Baldon
16 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
23 rd February	8.30am	Said Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	One4All	Marsh Baldon
2 nd March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
5 th March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Berinsfield
Ash Wednesday		<i>with imposition of ashes</i>	
	7.30pm	Holy Communion <i>with imposition of ashes</i>	Warborough
7 th March	7.00pm	Women's World Day of <i>tbc</i> Prayer	Dorchester Abbey
9 th March	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Toot Baldon

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

10th and 24th February when we will be looking at our favourite Psalms

For venues or other information please contact Jennifer Morton Tel. 343302
email: jennifer@morton8.co.uk

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
2 nd February		9.30am Ron Hewitt
9 th February		2.30pm A Druce & J van Dijk
16 th February	9.30am Stephen Dance	
23 rd February	5.00pm Graham Hobbins	

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
2 nd & 9 th February	V Sandilands	N Wells & V Bowler
16 th & 23 rd February	F Ardern	J Brook

Riding Lights Theatre Company



INHERITANCE

Riding Lights **Passion Play** for Lent 2014

A communal experience of theatre and worship at:

Dorchester Abbey

Saturday 12 April - 7:30pm

ridinglights.org/inheritance



Everyone is invited to

Mary Tame's

(ex Headteacher of Marsh Baldon School)

100th Birthday Tea Concert

to be held in Dorchester Abbey

on Saturday 15 February 2014

at 2pm for a 2.30 pm start

followed by refreshments

Thanks to all Mary's friends in the villages of both Dorchester and Marsh Baldon - schools, societies and community - who have generously offered time, talents or in kind to make this a really special occasion.

PLEASE no presents, but if you would like to contribute, there will be a retiring collection in favour of Mary's favourite charities:

the Abbey itself

the Lifeboats Association (RNLI)

Music for Autism

and the chance to sign a big birthday card!