

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



February 2019

FROM REVD JON ROBERTS, CURATE IN THE DORCHESTER TEAM

We've been watching and reading CS Lewis' fantastic story, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', a fair bit over the last couple of months. We had a 'Narnia advent calendar', we have the old BBC film, and a couple of different versions of the book. My son's really been enjoying this story and playing with the characters in a lot of different ways.

One of the things I like about the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is how the characters wrestling with the seasons reflects the arc of the story. When our four young stars of the story first enter Narnia, they have to battle against the elements; it's not that pleasant a place to be. Bitterly cold, knee deep in snow, not to mention the fear because 'even some of the trees are on the witch's side'. Yet, slowly but surely, the snow begins to melt, the rivers begin to flow... and then (something I loved as kid as much as my son does now), Father Christmas shows up! And with presents! Shortly following this is the end of winter completely, the trickle of spring becomes a torrent. And Aslan is here, the culmination of everyone's hopes!

The beginning of 2019, like the start of any new year is always a time which beckons possibilities, offers so much in hope and dreams as to what might be this year; but it's also one of the most miserable times of the year! February and March are still very much in winter; cold, wet, dark (we wish we had snow!), and no longer with Christmas to look forward to.

But spring's not far away. Even as I write this I've seen daffodils and snowdrops poking their heads above the ground, there are catkins of the hazel trees, and by the time you're reading this there could be blossom on the trees, frog spawn in the ponds, and we might have even seen a bumblebee or two. Soon this trickle will turn into a torrent, just as in Narnia, and before we know it spring will be in full swing.

For the inhabitants of Narnia, those animal creatures I'm sure we all love, the thought of Aslan their hero has kept them going, kept them hoping for many a year, even without the possibility of Christmas.

I wonder what's kept you going this winter? Or what still keeps you going? I wonder what hopes and dreams you have for this new year which might sustain you as we go forward. And I wonder who's going to be your Aslan this year?

God bless you this Spring and this new year.

FROM OUR CHURCHES

Over the centuries, thousands of Carols must have reverberated around the rafters of our churches and I am sure that the singing at the Carol Service this year was as good as it has ever been! Thank you so much to everyone who came and sang so enthusiastically - it was lovely to see the Church full and to hear the congregation in such good voice.

The Carol Service is a complete village event and there is much organisation that goes on beforehand to make it all appear effortless. We are indebted to many and especially thank Jacquie and Chris Lake for the delicious mulled wine and those who provided mince pies; thank you too to those who prepared and decorated the church, cleaned and moved chairs, made sure candles were alight inside and outside and more - the list goes on.

As always, a big thank you to the Choirs; lovely to have the School Choir singing and to welcome visiting singers. It was especially good to see some wonderful home-grown talent back for Christmas. So thank you to everyone for making time to come and make music. We could not, however, do it without the support of our organist Roger Derbyshire, joined this year by his daughter Alice on the flute. We are very fortunate and deeply grateful to them.

The Baldons Carol Services would not be the same without the Handbells. The other day I was asked about their history. I don't know when they were originally cast but their connection with the village goes back to around 1936, when Jack Greenaway and friends, then teenagers, did a series of concerts in the Village Hall in order to raise money to purchase them, under the guidance of Freddie Carter who ran the village store. Clearly Mr. Carter was a talented musician, and the thirteen pounds required was duly raised. The bells have since been expertly restored and ring as sweetly as they ever did. A warm thank you to those who have kept the bells ringing over many generations.



The Churches remain at the heart of our villages. Before Christmas Lily and Ben celebrated their beautiful wedding in St. Peter's and Marsh Baldon School presented its enchanting Nativity play, also in St. Peter's.

Toot Baldon Church was the lovely setting for the Christmas Morning service, and we are indebted to Jennifer Morton for conducting both our Christmas Services.

The process for appointing a new team Vicar for the Baldons is underway and in the meantime we appreciate the various visiting priests who conduct our services.
VS

Sue Booy is Team Rector for the Dorchester Team. Any queries about services, or if you would like to speak to someone about a baptism, wedding, or funeral the person to contact in the first instance is the Administrator in the **Dorchester Team Office** on **01865 340007**. Or, if you prefer, email admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk.

01865 340007 is also the number you can ring **at any time** if you need to contact a clergy person urgently.

Baldons Churchwardens: Debbie Dance (341323) and Ian Gillespie (341398).

EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Sat 2nd Feb 7.30pm Reading Phoenix Choir and Aldbourne Band Gold and Brass Joint Concert!

The evening will include choral music by Thomas Morley, Anton Bruckner, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Ola Gjeilo and Bob Chilcott. You will also hear brass music by Chick Corea, Billy Joel and that great composer of film music, John Williams. The band and the choir will combine together to deliver some great favourites: Handel's Halleluiah chorus from the Messiah, I was Glad and Jerusalem by Charles Hubert Parry and John Williams' Hymn to the Fallen. Tickets from www.readingphoenixchoir.com.

Sat 2nd March 7.30pm Corona Strings Best of Britain

Two great classics of British music for strings, Ralph Vaughan Williams's inspired Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis along with Edward Elgar's magnificent Introduction and Allegro, form the backbone of this programme. We give a rare performance of the magnificent Sea Sketches by Welsh composer Grace Williams and Gerald Finzi's beautiful Eclogue with piano soloist Anita d'Attellis and the programme is completed with Elgar's intensely moving Elegy and Peter Warlock's own arrangement of his highly popular Capriol Suite of 1928. Tickets from www.ticketsoxford.com

Tues March 5th 2.00pm University of South Dakota chamber choir

Chamber Singers is the premiere vocal ensemble at the University of South Dakota. It is comprised of graduate and undergraduate students selected through audition from the entire university student body. Known to critics for "creating a choral concert of stunning beauty and musical understanding," its repertoire, which is primarily a cappella, includes music from the Renaissance to the present in a wide variety of styles. Free concert. All welcome

Safari Supper
Saturday 23rd
March 6.30pm

Drinks and Canapes in Toot
Starters in Toot
Mains in Marsh
Cheese and Coffee in Marsh
Cost: £15 to include wine

If you would like to come (villagers only) please email us on:
info@baldonsevents.com

Please state if you have dietary requirements
Couples will be allocated to different hosts

WANTED=
HOSTS

If you would be willing to host 8 – 10 people for either starters in Toot
or mains in Marsh, please let us know
Costs will be reimbursed
Please let us know by 10th February

MARY ☆ BERRY

AT THE FILLING STATION
IN CONVERSATION WITH RICO TICE



Marsh Baldon Village Hall, OX44 9LL
Wednesday 13th February 2019

Join the South Oxfordshire Filling Station to hear special guest Mary Berry being interviewed by Rico Tice from All Souls, London, about the part that her Christian faith has played in her life story.

Arrive for mulled wine and canapés from 7pm, ready for a 7.45pm start.

Space limited so book your free ticket online: www.bit.ly/mary19



thefillingstation.org.uk
07879 626828

Baldons Parish Council

South Oxfordshire District Council Plan 2034

There will be a village meeting for all residents of Toot Baldon and Marsh Baldon to discuss the South Oxfordshire District Council Plan 2034.

Michael Tyce of CPRE and Cllr. Sue Lawson (Sandford and the Wittenhams Ward) will be attending the meeting to explain the plan and its implications for the villages.

The meeting will take place at the Village Hall, Marsh Baldon, on Thursday 7th February 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Responses to the plan must be submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council by 18th February 2019.



BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

SODC Local Plan 2034

The new Local Plan from SODC is now out for a limited consultation until 18th February. It proposes a large increase in housing and loss of Green Belt land and overturns a previous version of the plans which had protected the Green Belt. The loss of Green Belt round the southern edge of Oxford and the building of houses affecting land off Grenoble Road, 1700 houses, and land off the B480 Northfield, 1800 houses, have serious implications for villages.

There are concerns that the housing numbers are greatly inflated beyond an objectively assessed need, that there will be a lack of infrastructure. The environmental implications could be serious. The traffic implications for the A4074 and surrounding roads from other developments including at Berinsfield and Culham are also considerable.

Information on the plan and the important issues for us has already been circulated via the Baldons Info email. Details of SODC drop in events are on the Baldons web site

Following discussion at the council meeting on 14th Jan the council agreed to hold a public meeting for villagers on **Thursday 7th February at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**. See separate notice and village notice boards and Baldon info emails.

This will help the Parish Council finalise its response reflecting villagers' views and also help you understand the SODC plan and submit your own comments by the 18th February.

Villagers are being urged to respond to the plans in writing or via SODC web site by 18th February: -

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/emerging-local-plan>

If you wish to make representations by letter send them to
Adrian Duffield
Director of Planning
South Oxfordshire District council
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Abingdon OS14 0SB

Planning applications

Parsonage Farm P18/S4171/FUL An application by Savills on behalf of Queen's College for the conversion of barns off the farmhouse yard to provide two houses, a 2 bedded and a 3 bedded. The Parish Council has agreed to support this

application which is compatible with the Baldons Neighbourhood Development plan (NDP).

Orchard Cottage, The Green, Marsh Baldon P18/S3847/HH an application for a replacement garage. Whilst not objecting to the principle the council has expressed concern at this plan and the dimensions of the proposed garage and its impact on other property.

Durham Leys Marsh Baldon P18/S4286/FUL An application for the development of 6 houses on a site identified in the Baldons NDP for which previous planning consent has been granted. The new plan proposes 3 and 4 bedded properties and 2 semi-detached 2 bedded cottages. Plans can be seen and comments made on SODC website.

Parish Council elections May 2019

In last month's newsletter we mentioned the elections for parish councils coming up in May 2019. Have you thought about it or of being involved? All parish councils welcome people with new ideas and who want to help shape the services and future of their communities. Details of the election will be announced by SODC in March. Don't just assume putting your name forward won't be welcome, that's what elections are for, to give electors a choice.

Precept for 2019

The council has had a long discussion on budget requirements for 2019/20 and the repairs and work needed in the villages in the coming years. A decision has been taken to reduce the reserves held by the council and to increase the precept by 5% for the coming financial year. This is still a very small increase.

The council also agreed to a request by the PCC for continuation of and an increase in funding towards the maintenance of the Churchyards. The council agreed a sum of £1000 plus inflation for 2019 and inflated annually thereafter. This is considered to be of benefit to the entire village.

Flooding in The Croft

Problems at the top of the Croft have recurred this winter and although farmers have done some work on ditches to try and improve drainage this hasn't yet resolved the problem of water on the road. The Council has now asked the highways department to investigate the problem and drainage and assess whether a new culvert under the road may be needed. In the meantime care will be needed on the bend during periods of bad weather.

Village spring clean 7th April

We hope to hold the annual Village spring clean on Sunday 7th April. Please put the date in your diary and try and plan to come and help. More info next month

Oxford to Cambridge expressway

There is no new information available as yet

Date of next meeting

11th March 7.30 pm Village Hall

Annual Parishes meeting

8th April 7.30 pm Village Hall



WREATH WORKSHOP

A big thank you to all who participated in the wreath making workshop. On the day we raised £352 which we have split between 'Restore" and 'Keyhole gardens"

Our next event will be the ever popular 'Plant swap" in early May. A perfect place to bring your surplus plants and seedlings. Look forward to seeing you there!

Diana and Lizie



OWN A PUB – BECOME A BNCS SHAREHOLDER!

The Seven Stars is a community-owned asset in the heart of our villages. It is run by Matt and his team and supported by the Baldons and Nuneham Community Society (BNCS), which was set up to save the pub. Villagers chipped in to buy shares and it's now owned by over 150 shareholders, represented by the BNCS committee.

There is an opportunity to buy shares in BNCS, which will give you not only a stake in the pub but also a small rate of interest annually. We'd love to have new members, so if you are interested please click on the website or contact any of the committee.

CALL CITIZENS ADVICE CONSUMER HELPLINE WHEN YOU HIT PROBLEMS!



It's time for the January sales - and to the tired shopper it seems as if the whole country is mobilised in some civil emergency, pouring along the pavements, off buses and into the shops in search of reduced goods. And inevitably everyone else is in competition with you as you swing your loaded shopping bags through the driving snow, pushing the melting slush with your boots, wearily schlepping from one shop to another, trying to beat closing time, longing for cappuccino... does it sound familiar?

But although the seasonal ordeal might be draining all your energy and enthusiasm, you can still shop with confidence, knowing that the Citizens Advice helpline is there to help you if you have a consumer problem – if you need to return faulty goods, if you've bought something fake or counterfeit, or if something you've ordered hasn't arrived.

The Citizens Advice consumer helpline (03454 040506) is open Monday to Friday 9 - 5 (closed bank holidays). Advisers will answer your call, explaining how you can pursue your claim. They cannot make a complaint or take legal action on your behalf but they can give you practical and impartial advice, explain the law which applies to your situation, and also pass complaints to Trading Standards for you.

Before you call the helpline, prepare by jotting down the factual details of your problem, such as when you paid for the item or service; how much you paid; how you paid; the seller's name and address; and what you have done so far to resolve the issue.

Citizens Advice can also be contacted in person during opening hours or on Adviceline (03 444 111444). For locations of offices and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **March 2019** newsletter
by **14th 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 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on:
sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk or on 340403.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

South Oxfordshire Local Plan

The Council is holding a parish meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 5th February in the Village Hall to discuss the new South Oxfordshire Local Plan. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

The Parish Council is very concerned about the possible impact on this parish of South Oxfordshire's new Local Plan, which seeks to allow massive developments in the Oxford Green Belt on the edge of Oxford. The Council cannot see how these developments would fail to generate even more traffic through Nuneham Courtenay.

South Oxfordshire District Council is not carrying out a public consultation on the new plan but people can make comments up until 18th February. The parish meeting will give you a chance to find out more about the new Local Plan and help you to make up your own mind about what could happen.

Council Tax for Parish Council

The parish council will cost you a little less for 2019-20 after the council set its budget at its last meeting and decided to demand only £5,000 from South Oxfordshire, rather than the £5,530 demanded in recent years. South Oxfordshire obtains this money by adding it to the Council Tax on homes in Nuneham Courtenay.

For a Band D property, the parish council will add about £49.80 per year (less than £1 per week) to the Council Tax bill you receive in February, down from £55.30 this year – a reduction of about 1%.

The parish council felt it had built up sufficient reserves that it could afford to budget for a small deficit in 2019-20. Other parts of your bill will, however, be going up because both Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Police think they need extra money.

Red phone box

Who uses the red phone box in the village? The Council would like to know because it is considering asking British Telecom to decommission the phone box and turn it into a site for a defibrillator.

The Council wants to know if this would inconvenience parishioners so please contact us if you think it would affect you or someone you know. Most phone boxes that aren't used have already been decommissioned so the Council assumes this one is still being used but we don't know by whom. Typically, payphones are used by people without mobile phones, who are mainly either older people or children.

Dates for your diary

2019 is the year the parish council and the whole of South Oxfordshire District Council are up for election. If you are thinking of putting yourself forward, nominations are likely to open on 26th March and close on 3rd April. Voting is on Thursday 2nd May.

The first meeting of the new parish council will be on Tuesday 21st May at 7pm when the newly-elected councillors choose a chair and vice-chair. Before then, on Tuesday 30th April, there will be the Annual Parish Meeting, open to all parishioners. This will run from 7.30pm to 9pm.

The parish council's next meeting is on Tuesday 5th March at 7pm. All the meetings mentioned above will be in the Village Hall.

COLOUR AT A COLOURLESS TIME

It's not all doom and gloom, not even in Winter. Indeed, though the colour variety outside may be reduced at this time of year, our gardens still have an immense amount of colour shade. As I always say, if we choose to look. On a windy day, a bramble patch offers up subtle silvers and red. The underside of leaves often look silvery, and the stems offer up various shades of dark red.

There are a huge range of viburnum plants for winter colour. Look out for evergreen varieties like *V. tinus* and *V. burkwoodii*. *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Dawn' is also brilliant with strongly scented pink flowers.

Witch hazel is grown for the wiry flowers it bears along the branches. *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Diane' has red flowers, 'Jelena' is coppery coloured and 'Pallida' is best for yellow.

Daphne is a shrub with intensely fragrant flowers in winter and early spring. Look for *D. odora* and *D. bholua* and grow near gates and doorways. Sarcococca or Sweet box is well-named. Its intense fragrance can be detected from across the garden. It produces tiny perfumed creamy flowers in winter followed by shiny black berries.

Plants with berries on in Winter offer colour, with extra flashes of colour when feeding birds arrive to gorge on them. Even if you don't want to venture out into your garden or local area in the Winter cold, just sit in your window with a warm drink and take the time to notice the colour that's still visible in the natural world. It can take a few minutes to focus the mind to start to notice these subtleties, but it's time well spent.

Happy Gardening
Stuart Mabbutt
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www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



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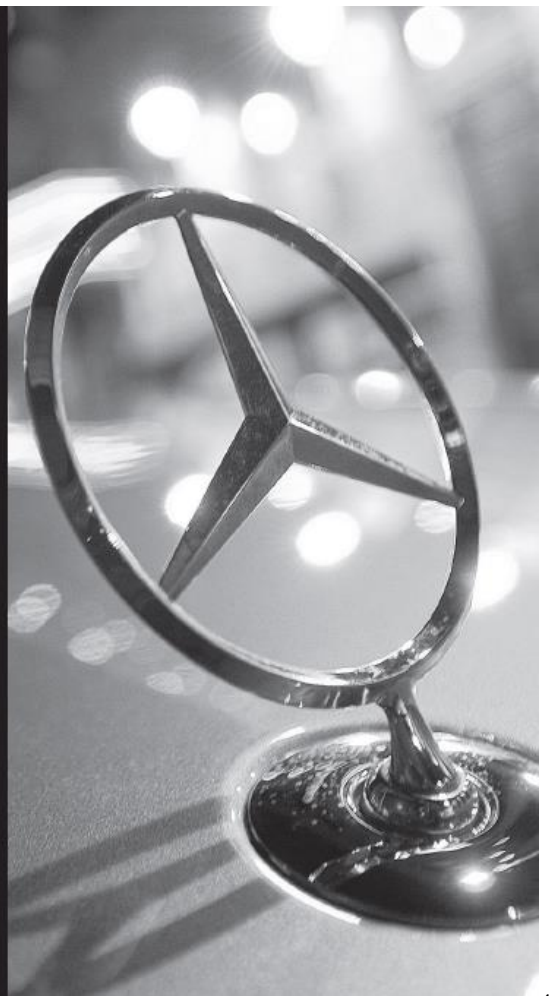
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References Available Upon Request



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Curling up in front of a log fire may be the purrfect way to keep warm and cosy. But did you know 50% of chimney fires take place between now and March? Take look at **Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** top tips and don't let the sparks fly

- Get your chimney swept at least once a year, if you regularly have log fires get it swept more frequently
- If you have a 1st floor fireplace check that it is clear of debris
- Store logs away from the fireplace

Find out more at: www.365alive.co.uk

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SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2019

3 rd February	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Toot Baldon
10 th February	4.00pm	Evening Service <i>Jon Roberts</i>	Toot Baldon
17 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>Marcus Braybrooke</i>	Marsh Baldon
24 th February	8.30am	Said Holy Communion <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Marsh Baldon
Friday 1 st March	6.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer	Clifton Hampden
3 rd March	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Toot Baldon
6 th March Ash Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>with imposition of ashes</i>	Berinsfield

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
3 rd February		9.30am Ann Druce
10 th February		4.00pm Ian Gillespie
17 th December	9.30am Stephen Dance	
24 th February	9.30am Catherine Mason	

FLOWERS

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
27 th Jan & 3 rd Feb	F Ardern	S Hobbins & J van Dijk
10 th & 17 th February	C Attewill & V Sandilands	H Maskell & J Knight
24 th Feb & 3 rd March	P & J Slaney	J Brook