

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



July - August 2018

FROM REVD JENNIFER MORTON

A recent episode of 'Escape to the Country' featured Oxfordshire and the escapees wanted to move further west out of London, to avoid the traffic in St Albans where they currently lived. Had they, I wondered, ever been to visit this county during the rush hour when the roads to and from work and school are very congested? Those who live in Nuneham Courtenay or Clifton Hampden can testify to that. The other main impetus to move away from the sprawl of urban areas always seem to be the desire for peace and quiet. Those of us who live in South Oxfordshire are lucky enough to enjoy the peace of the countryside that surround our villages, however I won't say quiet, because even away from the road and traffic noise the countryside is anything but. If we listen we can hear the birds, maybe a fox or the deer, or as I heard the other night the heavy breathing of the horses in the field next door. But are there other sounds we should be listening out for?

It is all too easy in our communities, when our lives are busy, to miss hearing when our neighbours are in need of a listening ear. We can become complacent that the small community spirit will prevail and assume everyone has regular contact with someone. However for those who have difficulty leaving their home for whatever reason, isolation can become more and more of a problem. As someone who lives alone, I know that I can go a whole day without speaking to another person. Then could it become two, then maybe a whole week or more.....?

Loneliness is one of the main social ills of our time but in our communities we are fortunate that, for those who are able to get out of the house, there many opportunities to get together with others, at coffee mornings, lunch clubs, with other parents at the school gates, book and other clubs and classes, in Church. This pre-supposes that there is no difficulty in getting there. We must remember that it is not only the frail and elderly that are so often housebound, but also parents with new babies or young children.

However, over the summer many of these opportunities will not be there to provide a meeting point and it becomes even more difficult not to feel trapped and isolated. Our Churches are one place each week that can offer a welcome and friendship when all else takes a break but even these are not always easy buildings to access or comfortable if they have no facilities, however warm the welcome.

So, as we approach the holiday season when so many of these regular opportunities to get together take a break, can we listen out for those whose voices in our communities we need to hear? What as friends and neighbours can we be doing to make sure that no-one that we know feels abandoned or alone?

Here in the Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay I believe our ears are quite well attuned to what goes on around us and there are many existing support networks in place. However, we must never assume someone else has stepped in or is available during the holiday season. Perhaps we can be the one to organise something to help?

While we are without a Team Vicar, as Ian and Debbie, the Church Wardens, have already said, the normal business of our Church continues and for any questions in respect of the buildings or their maintenance they are available to help. The usual services will be taking place, with both familiar and less familiar faces leading our worship.

Our administrative arrangements have also changed, so 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.

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

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The villages of the parish raised £592.39 and together with gift aid the total was £651.14. This is the largest amount in the last 5 years. I would like to thank everyone who contributed and also the people collecting the Christian Aid envelopes - namely John Barne, Stephen Dance, Japh Slaney, Sonia & Graham Hobbins and Bruce Don & Fran Butler.

Many thanks indeed

Ian Gillespie

Church Warden



Wednesday 11th July 2018
2018
at
7.30pm

Marsh Baldon Village Hall
OX44 9LL

You are invited to the South Oxfordshire Filling Station on 11th July to engage with the Christian faith in an informal contemporary context. We meet at 7.30pm for coffee/tea and cake, followed at 7.50pm by worship, a talk and prayer.

Our speaker will be Bart Gee, who was born with Arthrogyriposis, a disability that severely affects muscles and joint movement. He will be speaking about how God has enabled him to live a fulfilling life.

All are welcome. The talk usually starts about 8.15pm so join us then if you can't make it earlier.

If you are interested you can find out more at <http://thefillingstation.org.uk>.
Or contact Liam McCormick (07738 004176), Catherine Mason (07879 626828) or Tom Hunnings (07778 104806).

NANNY WORK - PART TIME

I live in Toot Baldon and am looking for a before school nanny 3 days a week from September, plus occasional after school care. Total hours 8-10 / week. Driving essential for the school run, plus a love of early mornings! If you are interested and would like to know more please get in touch with Sara on sara@mcdouall.co.uk or 343567.

Many thanks.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Road closure Toot Baldon for installation of Faster Broadband

We have had some early information that BT will be installing cabling to extend faster broadband to Toot Baldon in August, which will require a road closure. We don't have full details but the provisional dates which need to be confirmed by Highways are from 17 to 21 August and will involve a closure from the Croft to near Potlands. The faster broadband will be to supply the following postcodes: OX44 9NG, 9NH, 9NF, 9NE, 9NQ, 9NJ, 9ND, which we are sure will be welcomed.

Neighbourhood Plan

The final version of the plan has been lodged with SODC and we are now waiting for them to agree the date for the referendum in the village.

Parking outside the school

The council is currently seeking estimates for repairs to the edge of the village green used for parking outside the school, and it is hoped to be able to undertake some work during the summer. There is concern at the deteriorating condition and whilst it is not the Parish Council's responsibility to provide parking for parents dropping off at the school some repairs are necessary. It is hoped that in good weather local parents will walk to school.

SODC Local Plan

It had been expected that SODC'S Local Plan would be subject to a planning enquiry and later adoption in the next 12 months. However political changes at the council mean that it is proposing to delay the submission of the plan and revisit the sites proposed for housing growth. Much has been written in the local press about this. As a Parish Council we had supported SODC's plan for housing growth at Culham, Chalgrove, Didcot and Berinsfield but it is now is likely that if the government allows SODC to delay submission the council will revisit the plans for housing including those sites previously rejected and opposed by us including land south of Grenoble Road. It is expected that there will be consultation on this later in the year so our fight to protect the Green Belt in this area may have to go on.

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

There is no additional information available about plans for the expressway but if Highways England announce their preferred broad corridor in July as expected there will be publicity in the local press and we will endeavour to communicate information in the village.

Planning applications

The council has been notified of two permitted development applications: an extension at New Farm House Toot Baldon and an office conversion at Little Baldon Farm.

Dates of next meetings at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Monday 9th July and Monday 10th September.

OXFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED

Oxfordshire County Council would like to thank our volunteers and all volunteers across Oxfordshire for the difference they make every day!



Volunteering in Oxfordshire is thriving with one voluntary organisation for every 289 people in the county and around 4,500 voluntary and community organisations across Oxfordshire – that's significantly higher than the national average.

Oxfordshire County Council has approximately 3000 volunteers who do an amazing job in their communities - delivering books to people who can't get to libraries, teaching children how to code, organising activities for adults with disabilities, and much, much more!

The council also works with the voluntary sector to deliver local services and support thriving communities across Oxfordshire. This includes funding Oxfordshire Volunteers - a dedicated volunteering website for Oxfordshire.

Councillor Mark Gray, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Local Communities, said: "Volunteering is clearly something that goes to the very core of who we are in Oxfordshire and we should definitely be proud of it and sing it from the rooftops.

"The message should go out loud and clear – thank you to Oxfordshire's volunteers, you do us proud."

Miriam Chappell from the OCVA (Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action) added: "Volunteering is of great benefit to our communities, but what often goes unsaid is the benefit it also has for the individual. Volunteering can be a way to make friends, do something different, and add a fresh routine to your life.

"Volunteering offers you the chance to gain new skills – whether you're hoping to improve your confidence, develop an interest, or even change career. The wellbeing benefits of volunteering, from increased self-esteem to improved social connections, cannot be overstated"

There are volunteering opportunities to suit everyone - from volunteering for the National Trust, to whipping up your favourite bakes to sell, to driving people to appointments, to helping teach digital skills at your local library!

Get involved - visit OxonVolunteers.org

Glorious cut flowers from Toot



Lizie's "COUNTRY BUNCHES" are available to order now until the first frosts.

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above £15)**

**Info...
Ox 343 219
07590 580 631
liziegiraudeau@gmail.com**

FAMILY ARCHAEOLOGY DAY @ WALLINGFORD MUSEUM



On Saturday 28 July 2018 from 11am – 4pm, Wallingford Museum has organised another exciting Family Archaeology Day at the Museum.

Bring along your fossils to show our expert, Steve Head, who will be on hand to identify anything you might have found. Steve will also be able to show you some of his own fossil collection from around the world.

You'll be able learn all about how archaeology is done from the experts and see the results of recent work done in Wallingford Castle. You'll also be able to take part in some 'hands-on' work - pot-washing, identifying pottery, bones, shells, ironwork and much more. Then you can find out how to begin to identify the sort of pottery that helps to date the finds from archaeology, and even try making your own pots for fun!

There'll be a display of things found in past years in the Museum or courtyard, including the rare medieval chess piece excavated from behind the Museum which is now on display there!

So there's plenty of family entertainment for this special archaeology day! Entry is by Museum ticket at the door - £5 per adult (which gives unlimited entry until 30 November) but accompanied children are FREE.

'RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN WALLINGFORD AND ITS ENVIRONS'

Richard Oram (Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council) will talk to TWHAS on Wednesday 11th July, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.



Richard has been providing archaeological advice to South Oxfordshire District Council and Cherwell District Council for the last 12 years. He has an interest in all periods of Archaeology up to and including the late 20th century, and is particularly interested in transition periods such as the Late Iron Age to Roman and the Roman to Saxon period. He is also interested in transportation and trade links between settlements and how the infrastructure of the prehistoric and Roman landscape may have functioned and what evidence for this may have survived. Visitors (£4) are most welcome. www.twhas.org.uk



Criminals setting up fake Wi-Fi hot spots – Citizens Advice warning

It ought to be a time of the pleasantest relaxation, that moment when you slump down comfortably into a cosy chair in your favourite coffee bar, get out your cell phone and connect to the free Wi-Fi. But Citizens Advice has warned that just this simple leisurely action can be targeted by criminals, who are setting up their own Wi-Fi hot spots to try to get you to connect to them.

Typically, the fraudsters broadcast a Wi-Fi connection with a vague name like "free_wifi" or "coffee_shop_wifi". If you connect your phone to this, any data you are sending can be captured.

Even if you log into emails using an "app", without typing in the password, the phone will still send your password over the Wi-Fi and it could be intercepted. If you use automated passwords and do not enter your user name and password manually, these details can still be intercepted.

To avoid being becoming a victim of this scam, do one of the following:

- * Make sure you are connecting to a trusted Wi-Fi hot spot, operated by the venue you are in - ask staff if you are in doubt.
- * Do not use public Wi-Fi for online banking or anything else sensitive, but use your 3G, 4G or 5G connection instead (data sent over these connections is always encrypted).
- * Use a VPN (virtual private network) when connecting to public Wi-Fi.

The updated Little Book of Big Scams at

<https://www.met.police.uk/globalassets/downloads/fraud/the-little-book-of-big-scams.pdf> has more details about this and other prevalent frauds.

And if you suspect that you've been scammed, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or on the Internet at www.actionfraud.police.uk. Alternatively, get in touch with Citizens Advice on Adviceline 03 444 111444, or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. For locations and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale



SCIENCE & RELIGION LECTURE

Wednesday 25th July 2018

7.30pm

Dorchester Abbey
Dorchester-on-Thames
OX10 7HH

“Male and Female He Created Them”:
Science, Faith & Questions of
Sexuality and Gender

A talk by Professor Chris Cook
Director, Project for Spirituality, Theology &
Health, Durham University



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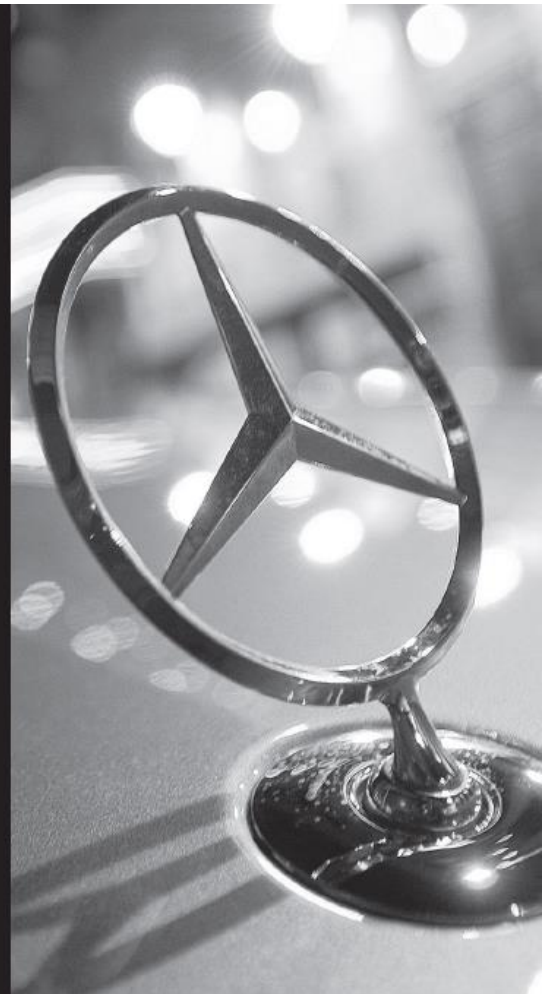
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SIDESDUTY

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
1 st July	11.00am Graham and Sonia Hobbins	
8 th July		6.00pm Jenny van Dijk
15 th July	9.30 John Mason	
22 nd July	9.30 Liam McCormick	
5 th August		9.30 Ann Druce
12 th August		9.30 Sonia Hobbins
20 th August	9.30 Stephen Dance	
26 th August	9.30 Natasha Eliot	

FLOWERS

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
27 th May & 3 rd June	F Ardern	V Bowler
10 th & 17 th June	I Wright & L Martin	S Hobbins & J van Dijk
24 th June & 1 st July	P & J Slaney	H Maskell & J Knight
8 th & 15 th July	A Lyall	J Brook
22 nd & 29 th July	F Ardern	M Trinder
5 th & 12 th August	V Sandilands	V Bowler
20 th & 26 th August	I Wright & L Martin	S Hobbins & J van Dijk

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **September 2018** newsletter
by 16th August 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.

SERVICES FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2018

2 nd July	11.00am	Aircrash Memorial Service <i>Preacher: The Archdeacon of Dorchester</i>	Toot Baldon
9 th July	6.00pm	Evening Worship <i>Brian Newey</i>	Toot Baldon
15 th July	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>Bishop Humphrey Principal of Ripon College</i>	Marsh Baldon
	3.30pm	Evensong <i>followed by tea at Cardinal House by kind invitation of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine</i>	Marsh Baldon
22 nd July	8.30am	Said Holy Communion <i>Jon Roberts</i>	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship (with Baptism)	Marsh Baldon
29 th July	10.30am	Team Service	Drayton St Leonard
5 th August	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Toot Baldon
12 th August	6.00pm	Evening Worship <i>Songs of Praise</i>	Toot Baldon
19 th August	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>Marcus Braybrooke</i>	Marsh Baldon
26 th August	8.30am	Said Holy Communion <i>Jon Roberts</i>	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship <i>Jon Roberts</i>	Marsh Baldon
2 nd Sept.	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

SAVE THE DATE!

This year the Dorchester Team reaches its 40th birthday, and to celebrate everyone is invited to a Team Service at Dorchester Abbey on **Sunday 30th September at 10.30am** followed by cake and fizz. If you know of anyone who has moved away but was particularly involved with the Team please make sure they are invited to join us as well. Also over that weekend there is to be a Flower Festival in the Abbey and Team Parishes have been invited to be part of this.