

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



May 2016

FROM THE CURATE, REVD JON ROBERTS

What a wonderful time of year! It's that much warmer, there's that much more sun, more birds singing, more children outside playing, there's the smell of freshly cut grass, and if like me you're starting to plan what to grow in your garden this year, then there's seeds to be sown. So much potential about, so much life waiting to burst forth, suggesting at all that spring and summer and even autumn enjoyment ahead; I love it.

As I'm sure you're aware, the Church is in the season of Easter at the moment. This continues for 5 weeks after Easter weekend, until Pentecost; and it's a season of joy. I love the fact that the Church's year coincides so much with the natural year, that our worship joins hands with the worship of nature, that together we may say thank you to God for all the goodness around us, all the blessings we have, and together bring our sorrows and concerns before God.

I've often wondered why, when the Church celebrates Harvest with such vigour, there isn't more time set aside in the church year for celebrating and praying for all this potential life bursting forth, no more so than the sowing of seeds in our gardens, or out in the fields. It's something I try to take up myself. I try to pray for those signs of life springing forth as and when I see them; simply asking God for a little blessing on that bumble bee, that patch of bluebells, those hawthorn buds, and so on; as well as these lettuce seeds. This is a practice which not only helps me feel connected with the natural world around me, it also draws me deeper into the present. It's all too easy to wander round dwelling on things I need to get done, or fixating on that which I could have done better, but to decide to pray for all those joyful signs of spring in the air, that makes me stand in the moment and simply say thank you to God, and hope for new life to come; that is what Easter is all about for me.

Happy Easter to you, and may God bless you this spring with new life!

Rev Jon Roberts
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*The Revd Paul Cawthorne is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham
Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.*
e-mail: bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com and tel: 01865 340460.

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

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

If you have any issues to raise regarding the village hall, please let a committee member know or contact James Bufford (340091), John Barne (343624) or Natasha Eliot (343478).

Are you a Teenager? School Leaver? Starting Work?

Do you need help with things like buying a computer, study materials or maybe equipment for a new job?

If so, The Baldons Fuel Charity might be able to help you.

**Apply to: Barbara Wright (Clerk)
tel. 01865 343276**

Cover Photo: Bluebells in the woods at Baldon House – James Eliot

GARDEN BUDGERIGARS

At this time of year as we spend more time out in our gardens we actually become more aware of the birds that share the space with us. One such species we don't always think of as a garden bird, but is well adapted to the garden setting is the Long Tailed Tit. From childhood I've always called them 'Garden Budgerigars', to me that's what they look like.

To make our gardens attractive to these friendly and excitable creatures we just need a selection of larger bushes and hedges. They can be seen in gardens year round but often in Winter they can be overlooked as they often flock with other species.

They do seem to prefer deciduous plantings in gardens that have a woodland feel, typically of oak, ash and sycamore species. For nesting, preference is shown towards thorny bushes less than 3 metres above the ground. They also like confers and tall bamboo's too.

The nest is constructed from lichen, feathers, cocoons and moss. The nest is a sac with a small, round entrance on top, suspended either low in bushes or high up in the forks of tree branches. Nests have a high rate of predation sadly, which can be very disappointing.

A nice consequence of that is that a breeding pair that have lost their nest or young will turn their attention to helping others of their species raise their own young. We can all learn a neighbourly lesson for that me thinks!

Their main food source is insects and eggs and larvae of moths but in Autumn and Winter they do adapt to eat seeds.

In flocks they have constant contact, calls become faster when the birds cross open ground or if an individual becomes separated from the main body of the flock. It's the calls that makes us aware they are around as the generally flit around silently otherwise.

Pretty simple for many of us to attract these lovely little birds to our gardens then?

Happy gardening

Stuart Mabbutt
Wildlife Gardening Specialist
01865 747243

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Parishes Meeting 12th April

Useful discussion on a number of topics occurred at the annual parish meeting despite there being only 7 villagers present. The usual annual reports of the council business and finances were given and adopted.

The chairman reported that the council had written to OCC about the loss of the subsidised bus service and that it is hoped a meeting with Thames Travel can be arranged to discuss the possibility of an adjustment of the T1 service through the Baldons. Villagers queried whether a regular bus service would be a viable financial proposition for any bus company and whether some volunteer transport arrangement in the Baldons would be a better option.

A progress report on the neighbourhood plan was given and villagers urged to complete the housing needs survey .

Feedback from villagers had highlighted concerns at the damage occurring around the green and along roadside verges due to driving and parking. The council intended to discuss a possible a range of options at a future meeting although maintenance of unadopted tracks is up to residents.

It was reported that we are still waiting for more information from Thames Water about the outcome of assessment of the need for mains drainage in Toot Baldon. A site for a pumping station would need to be found.

Parish Council Accounts

Receipts and B/f	£31,024.50
Payments	(£12,825.82)
Balance	£18,198.68
Baldon Feast Credit and defibrillator budget	(£4,894.54)
Revised balance	£13,304.14

Anyone wishing to see the full accounts please contact John Maskell 343302

Parish Footpaths Warden

The Parish Council has been approached to try and nominate a volunteer footpaths warden.

Oxfordshire Area Ramblers, the Oxford Field Paths Society and the Countryside Access Team (CAT) of Oxfordshire County Council have worked together to develop a network of PFWs throughout the County. To date about 80% of the County's 320 parishes now have a PFW in place. Unfortunately the Baldons is not one of them. The main purpose of a PFW is to walk the footpaths in his/her parish on a regular basis, equipped if necessary with a pair of secateurs to trim away any vegetation that is impeding the footpaths, particularly at stiles, gates and bridges. The PFW also reports to the CAT any serious and less-serious problems affecting the footpaths so that the information can go onto the CAT's database of

such problems; hopefully to be resolved, especially if the problem is a serious one, such as a dangerous tree overhanging a path, or a bridge that is considered to be unsafe to cross. .

Are you a regular walker round the village paths? Would you be willing to volunteer for this not very arduous task?

Please let Dorothy Tonge 343234 or Paul Isaacs our parish clerk 01844 278040 know if you can help. There is a poster on one of the village notice boards.

Village Spring Clean

A big thank you to everyone who turned out in Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon on Sunday for the litter pick. As usual we managed to collect a great deal of rubbish including many tyres, the result of fly tipping. If you happen to see fly tipping taking place please note the registration of the vehicle involved then report it to SODC who can follow it up with the perpetrators. It is easy to do on the SODC website and takes only a few minutes.

Planning applications

The council has received two planning applications this month both for Penstemon house in Marsh Baldon for Stables and an Orangery .The council is considering its response but both can be seen on line at SODC planning ref P16/S0910/Full and P16/S0911

Date of next Meeting

Parish Council Annual General meeting Monday May 9th at 7.30 pm Village Hall
To avoid confusion with the annual parishes meeting the AGM deals with the annual election of officers as well as normal business
Don't forget our meetings have changed to the second Monday of alternate months July 12th, September 7th and November 14th.

FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

For this Division one of the key policies is a commitment to safeguard the national Green Belt and to protect local green spaces under a new Local Green Space planning designation. For the residents of Garsington, Marsh Baldon, Toot Baldon, Nuneham Courtenay and Sandford-on-Thames who are concerned about the City's plans to build 4,000+ houses at Grenoble Road, this will come as very welcome news.

There is also a commitment to support locally-led proposals for garden cities/towns and prioritise brownfield development, making sure that new developments are always matched by the necessary infrastructure to support them. I am personally in favour of one or even two new garden towns (we don't need cities) in the south of the county to take the pressure off existing communities.

Dragon Ignites Battle Against Potholes

A new weapon is being deployed in the battle against potholes on Oxfordshire's roads. The 'Dragon' – so called because of the fire breathing nozzle it uses to dry out potholes – is a mobile patching machine that has already fixed many hundreds of potholes and a multitude of other defects on the county's roads. Skanska, OCC's highways maintenance contractor, has added the Dragon to its arsenal against potholes and is using it to good effect across Oxfordshire, Cambridge and Peterborough. The machine repairs an average of 20 defects day and has filled up to 44 potholes in one shift. So far it has fixed just short of 2,000 in Oxfordshire. The traditional method of pothole repair consists of a two-person gang and a lorry manually filling the potholes with hot tarmac. In the right circumstances, potholes filled using the Dragon can cost as little as £10 compared to £70 for traditional methods. It is also safer and provides a more environmentally sustainable solution. The potential savings that Dragon brings allows additional focus on repairing many of the defects that have yet to form into potholes. These repairs can be done at the same time due the multi-function repair capabilities of the Dragon. It can fill pot-holes, seal cracks and provide a thin overlay to minor surface damage. This preventative maintenance saves money in the long-term as the repairs are all undertaken at the same time.

Recycling Centres To Open Late On Thursdays

Opening hours on Thursdays at OCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres will be extended from 7 April to 29 September. The sites will be open until 8pm on Thursdays in addition to the normal hours of 8am-5pm every day (including Sundays). The Household Waste Recycling Centres can accept a wide range of materials for recycling including garden waste, textiles and electrical items. Food waste should always be placed in the food caddies provided by the district council and collected as part of the kerbside collection scheme. More information about the sites, including layout and a full guide to what can be recycled can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

In Summary – About Me

I represent Berinsfield, Clifton Hampden, Culham, Dorchester, Drayton St Leonard, Garsington, Marsh Baldon, Newington, Nuneham Courtenay, Toot Baldon, Sandford-on-Thames, Stadhampton, and Warborough.

I am the Cabinet Member for Cultural Services at the County Council responsible for the Library Service, the Music Service, the Museum Service, the Registration Service and the Coroners Service.

I sit on the following Boards: Arts Council England SE, Experience Oxfordshire, Oxford Preservation Trust, Oxfordshire Buildings Trust, Victoria County History, Cogges Manor Farm Trust, Oxfordshire Music Education Partnership, Berinsfield Day Centre.

SOUTH AFRICAN PLANTS IN THE WILD AND IN YOUR GARDEN



At the May meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Sue Bedwell will talk about '**South African Plants in the Wild and in your Garden**'. This is the last talk of the spring season before our series of summer garden visits commence.

Sue Bedwell trained and taught at the prestigious Waterperry Gardens. She now runs a nursery from home and opens her garden to the public. Based upon several visits to South Africa and a long gardening experience, Sue will talk about South African plants both for the garden and indoors. She will bring plants for sale on the evening!

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th May.

Visitors very welcome £2.

Isabelle Darby
01491-836867

Advance notice of future events :-

Sat 14 May - Wallingford Gardening Club's Annual Plant Sale in Wallingford Market Place

June to Sept - garden visits

Thurs 13 October - Beautiful Kashmir (Anthony Powell)

Thurs 10 November - Herbaceous Borders (Geoff Hawkins)

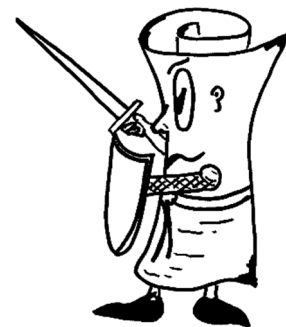
Queen's Birthday Picnic Tea on the Green



Saturday 11th June 4 – 7pm

All villagers are invited for teas, cake, drinks and loads of entertainment. More information in next month's Newsletter, meanwhile ***hold the date in your diary!***

CARTOON EVENT FOR CHILDREN @ WALLINGFORD MUSEUM



Experience a special 'Night at the Museum' at Wallingford Museum between 6pm – curfew (9pm) on Friday 13th May.

Following the great successes of previous years events, this year's 'Night at the Museum' will be a bookable 'Cartoon' event for children featuring Steve Head and his cartoon exhibition plus a chance for children to be creative and draw their own cartoons inspired by Museum items, with help from local artists who will be on hand.

The evening is kindly sponsored by Goring Decorative and Fine Arts Society (GADFAS). There are limited places for children, and although the event is free, there will be a small fee for materials.

For further details and booking, please contact Judy Dewey, 01491-651127, preferably before 5th May!

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

THE EXCAVATIONS AT WESTGATE, OXFORD: THE STORY SO FAR



Oxford Archaeology's Ben Ford, Project Director for the excavations at the Greyfriars site under the former Westgate car park and shopping centre, will talk about the excavations carried out in advance of the redevelopment of the site by Westgate Oxford and Laing O'Rourke. This is the largest ever archaeological site in Oxford and has yielded a rich array of finds, including a medieval mill on the Trill Stream.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 11th May, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford**. Please note that TWHAS talks are now being held on the second Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk

MUSIC AT ST PETERS WALLINGFORD

Date	Programme
14 th May	The Sacconi String Quartet play quartets by Haydn and Mozart and join forces with the Marmen quartet to perform Mendelssohn's octet
28 th May	The Band of Music play music composed in London by Purcell, Handel and JC Bach amongst others
11 th June	Music for cello and piano by Glazunov, Beethoven and Poulenc performed by Adi Tal, cello and Nicola Eimer, piano
2 nd July	An all- Schubert piano recital given by Jinah Shim
16 th July	Andrey Lebedev gives a guitar recital of music by Bach, Albeniz and Villa-Lobos
30 th July	Music for saxophone and piano by Bernstein, de Falla, Rachmaninov and others performed by Huw Wiggin, saxophone and James Sherlock, piano.
20 th August	The Jorgensen Piano Trio play music by Schubert, Haydn, Frank Bridge and Cecilia McDowell
10 th September	The Villiers String Quartet play quartets by Fauré, Delius and Elgar
1st October	The Thames Consort, directed by Jeremy Boughton, perform an elegiac piece by Harold Darke: "As the leaves Fall" as well as more familiar Baroque music by Vivaldi, Handel and Buxtehude.

Tickets are £12 in advance or £14 at the door. All concerts start at 8pm. Full information is available from our website

www.musicatstpeterswallingford.org.uk or from our brochure, copies of which are at the Seven Stars



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Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

Computer Lessons Fridays 10.00-12.00am

Reading Group May 12th 2.00pm

Junior Reading Group Saturday 21st May 10.30am

Coffee Morning Tuesday 17th May 10.30am

Knit and Natter Tuesday 17th May 2.30pm

Royal Tea Party Wednesday 1st June 3.45pm
All Welcome



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NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Meeting

- The Parish Council meeting was held at 2pm on Monday 21st March 2016 at the Village Hall.

Neighbourhood Plan

- An officer from SODC will attend the meeting scheduled for 16 May to give advice on formulating the Neighbourhood Plan.

Defibrillator

- It was confirmed that a defibrillator to be located outside the village hall could be obtained from South Central Ambulance Service.

Damage to pavements by tree roots

- There was no progress on the issue of damage to the pavements by tree roots. It was commented that this is a huge health and safety issue and that the issue would be followed up with Highways. Cllr Lindsey-Gale will bring a Health and Safety inspector to look at the situation on 30 March. Cllr Lindsey-Gale will also raise the issue of cyclists on the pavement and grass cutting with Health and Safety inspector.

New rules on local grass cutting

- OCC to be asked to provide a map of grass cutting areas.

Precept

- It was confirmed that the precept has been accepted by the precepting authority and the first instalment would be paid on 1 April.

Audit

- Audit recommended that the council does not opt out.

Shutters

- Shutter info to go on the website – ongoing.

Extreme weather clearing

- Snow and ice clearing – risk ownership issues – SODC – advice from Highways inconclusive – speak to legal at SODC and OCC about risk ownership issues.

Emergency plan

- It was reported that the emergency plan would be included in the council's plan for the coming year. It was announced that it was expected that a working group will be put together including representatives from the council, emergency services, the village hall committee and residents.

Flooding Strategy

- It was reported that in 2006 the village was flooded and that a report from Monsons had indicated that ditches that had not been cleared by landowners had contributed to the problem. A copy of the report from Monsons has been received and a copy will be given to SODC as their copy was lost in the fire.

Risk Management

- The Risk Management Plan was circulated to members before the meeting and was proposed by Cllr Pritchett, seconded by Cllr Garfoot and RESOLVED to sign the plan without further amendment.

County Councillor's Report

- Cllr Lindsey-Gale delivered her report including the following:

- OCC budget was approved.
- 4.5 million this year and next year from central government. Will be used to elevate the worst of the cuts.
- Will look at unitary this will reduce levels and spending. Devolved powers to parish and town councils. OCC will be coming up with their own plan. Increased demand on children's services and adult care, more demand and less money. District councils plan to get rid of OCC.
- It was commented that many people in the village use facilities at Clifton Hampden and that the road through is used as a route to other local towns. The proposed new road will run north from Didcot on 415 close to Culham science centre and bypass Clifton Hampden. It was commented that the request for a bypass would be included in the Village plan.
- It was reported that the proposed Reading Bridge would be subject to another report.
- Village plan / resilience Emergency Village plan to cover all potential emergencies and it was explained that if the electricity supply to the village is lost then the estate also loses its water supply as the pump cannot work.

District Councillor's Report

- A copy of the district councillor's report was circulated before the meeting and the following items were read out for the information of the public.
 - The district council element of council tax for 2016/2017 has been frozen with service cuts.
 - A new corporate services project has been agreed between South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils and Mendip and Hart District Councils and Havant Borough Council. The five councils have appointed two companies to run some of the back office services and it is expected that the extensive experience of these companies in both private and public sectors will benefit the councils and save money.
 - The five district councils in Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and Oxford City have announced their bid for devolution by the formation of four unitary authorities. This would mean the abolition of Oxfordshire County Council. If agreed it would mean the district councils would take on many responsibilities presently with the County Council. More information on this can be found at: www.oxfordshire.vision
 - Two teams at South Oxfordshire District Council have recently won awards. The Food and Safety Team won Team of the Year at an independent Employee of the Year Awards in Oxford; and the legal team has passed their annual Lexcel assessment. This is the Law Society's mark for excellence in management and customer care.
 - The district council is running a consultation on Air quality. They want feedback on some ideas that could reduce harmful vehicle emissions in South Oxfordshire. More information and the opportunity to comment can be found at: www.southoxon.gov.uk/lowemissions but it was commented that the consultation closed on 25 March.

Financial matters

- The Finance Report and a list of payments were circulated before the meeting and it was reported that the RFO had successfully been added to the Barclays mandate but that there was still some action required to bring it completely up to date.
- It was proposed by Cllr Love, seconded by Cllr Pritchett and RESOLVED that all payments on the payment list be approved and the cheques were signed.
- After some discussion regarding the use of cheques for making payments Cllr Peters proposed that where possible payments should be moved to direct debit, this was seconded by Cllr Pritchett and it was RESOLVED that the RFO would arrange for future payments, where appropriate, to be made by direct debit.

Our next meeting is to be held Monday 16th May 2016 7:30pm at the village hall.

For any further information, all our minutes are available on our website:

<http://www.ncpc.uk/minutes.html>

I look forward to updating you with more news in the next article.

Cllr Love (Chair)

For items and photos to be sent, please contact the Clerk:

Karen Dodd| nunehamcourtenay.clerk@gmail.com

Notes of Nuneham Courtenay Annual Parish Meeting Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall 3.30pm Monday 21 March 2016

Present: Cllrs Jasminder Love, Mark Pritchett, John Peters, Olive Garfoot, Peter Brookes

Officers: Ms Karen Dodd (Clerk) and Ms Barbara Gifford (RFO)

PCSOs: Marie Davenport and Claire Beale

Approximately 20 members of the public

Cllr Love opened the meeting by welcoming everyone thanking them for attending. She also thanked Cllr Garfoot for the buffet and Cllr Brookes for opening the hall and Mrs Brookes for making the cakes.

Cllr Love then introduced the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), to deliver an update on policing matters in the village.

The PCSOs reported that the Thames Valley Police were currently undergoing an economising process, and closing many police stations in smaller towns,

including the station at Wallingford. In response to a question they confirmed that Didcot police station was closing three of its front desks but that Abingdon station was remaining open. The PCSOs advised that there would be no change to the number of police present in the village, and that the non-emergency number remained 101.

It was reported that much of the work of the police in the area is in crime prevention, including making school visits, but that Nuneham Courtenay is a low crime area. However, it was mentioned that residents should be aware of a scam that is prevalent at the moment, where a scammer makes a call pretending to be a police officer and asks individuals for their bank details. The scammer also tells their intended victims to call a specific phone number for verification purposes.

The advice is that the police will **never** ask for banking details, and that any person receiving such a call should **not** give any information, and **not**-call back on the number given. Instead, anyone receiving such a call should wait at least five minutes then contact the police on 101 or their local bank using contact details that they already have.

This is because the scammer is still on the line for up to those five minutes – so wait before you report the call.

Residents were advised that any outside buildings such as sheds should always be secured. The police are happy to carry out a crime prevention survey, and give feedback on how security can be improved. The contact details for the local police can be found on the Thames Valley Police website thamesvalley.police.uk/contactus.htm, or by dialling 101.

Finally the PCSOs advised that residents can sign-up for Thames Valley alerts to receive messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals, local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone. You can sign-up online at: thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

During a question and answer session, it was confirmed that the nearest open police station to Nuneham Courtenay is in Abingdon.

Members of the public raised their concerns about cyclists riding on pavements. The PCSOs said that a fixed penalty notice can be issued to cyclists caught cycling on the pavement but that these cannot be issued by PCSOs. Call 101, and if you know where the cyclist comes from, or the club involved, report this information.

Further, members of the public mentioned that horses are also ridden on the pavements. It was explained that horses can be led along the pavement but not ridden, and anyone seeing a horse being ridden in this way should report it by dialling 101, and a description given of the riders, or the stables they have come from.

A discussion took place about the difficulty in crossing the A4074 due to the amount (said to be some 10,000 cars a day), and speed of the traffic. There is a need for a further camera on the other side of the road, or a sign that illuminates 'Slow Down'. The council will continue to work with the Oxfordshire County Council to try to find a solution.

Lastly, a discussion occurred regarding motorcycle season being upon us, and the speed with which some journey through our village. The PCSOs suggested that these incidents are always reported as this allows the police to measure how big the problem is, and to plan an action in response.

Cllr Love thanked PCSOs Beale and Davenport for attending, and giving the locals so much information.

The Chair gave her report of the work conducted over the last year.

Governance

- It is always necessary for a Parish Council to ensure it follows the correct guidance for the running of the Parish. To this end:
 - Reviewed and updated the standing orders.
 - Reviewed and updated all financial regulations.
 - Reviewed and adopted the Transparency Code.

Estate Signage

- The signage has finally been completed, and delivered. Instructions have been given for them to be erected a.s.a.p.

Planning Items

- The major project for Nuneham Courtenay has been The Brewer's Garage. It is clear to all now, that planning confirmation was given, and the site is well under way. The houses are on-target for completion by end of May 2016. The rest of the development has recently been approved and will commence soon after. This includes the removal of the show-rooms, the development of a delicatessen, and the rest of the project.
- This development has offered to support funding up to £25,000 towards a pedestrian crossing, and discussions have taken place with Highways regarding the likely costs, which are continuing.

Village Plan

- The Village Plan is moving towards its final stages where everyone will receive a questionnaire leading to a final Parish Plan. It has been agreed that when this plan is finalised, we will move to beginning a Neighbourhood Plan.

Website

- The Parish Council website is governed by the Local Government Guidelines for establishing a website. This has been done and made user-friendly. This is now available at ncpc.uk.

Highway Issues

- The Parish Council followed-up with Highways a series of issues, including the use of laybys, pavements, grass-cutting, leaves, etc. Greater clarity has now been obtained as to the future of these issues.

Water for All Saints Church

- Users of the church cemetery now have access to water for the flowers they place.

Parish Council has continued to support the following groups over the last year:

- The Nuneham Courtenay Adult Luncheon Club (NCALC).
- The Village Hall Committee.
- The Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Fields Association (NCSPFA)
- Other initiatives that have emerged from the Village Plan including the Good Neighbourhood Scheme.

Cllr Love reported that during the coming year the council had the following priorities:

1. The first is the formulation of an emergency plan, and that this will include consultation with villagers and all other stakeholders. It was added that the plan would include how an emergency would be dealt with for the good of all in the village (this includes floods, power-cuts, extreme weather conditions, accidents, etc.).
2. The second priority is the creation of a neighbourhood plan; work on this will start when the village plan is complete. It was reported that two members of the council have been on a course to learn more about how to devise an effective neighbourhood plan, and that advice was being sought from officers at SODC.
3. Following feedback from villagers the timings of council meetings will be varied. Feedback received a few years ago indicated that afternoon meetings suited the majority of villagers, but it seemed that this had changed and that future meetings would, where possible, alternate between afternoons, evenings, and Saturday lunchtimes. It is hoped that this will enable everyone to attend some meetings during the course of the year. This will be reviewed.
4. It is hoped that a communication tree will be set up, where each individual has responsibility for contacting one other person if an incident occurs in the village. This can feed into the emergency plan.
5. The development of a play area on the playing fields. It is intended that the Parish Council continues to support this project to completion. Further, the registration of community assets.
6. To respond to the final outcomes of Oxfordshire County Council's plans to make parish councils responsible for various areas e.g. grass-cutting, pavements, and any other areas yet to be disclosed.
7. Continue discussions with Highways regarding a pedestrian crossing.
8. Completion of the instalment of two defibrillators.
9. Introduce a well-being policy to parishioners.
10. Run a planning event to inform locals of policies in a user-friendly way.

Barbara Gifford, our Responsible Finance Officer delivered a report on the council's finances. It was confirmed that the council's assets have increased with the purchase of a laptop and printer, and that although there were some outstanding bills, the council's reserves were healthy.



It is almost impossible to be unaware of the forthcoming referendum on our membership of the EU which will take place on 23rd June. It is perhaps much more possible to have entirely missed the fact that our Police and Crime Commissioners are up for election on 5th May and in some parts of the constituency there are local council elections too.

Many people have written to me on the EU Referendum wanting me to vote in line with their preference. Given that there are only two options I am destined to have to disagree with a proportion of those voting. However to even suggest that I need to vote the same way as another is to entirely miss the difference between a referendum and an election or indeed a Parliamentary vote.

A referendum is a direct vote in which everyone who is registered to vote can have their say on whether to accept or reject the proposal or question before them. In this case it is a question of whether or not each individual voter wishes to remain a member of the EU. My vote is just one vote and counts for no more and no less than the vote of every other person who exercises their right to vote.

An election is a process by which voters elect someone to be their representative to a particular body and the person who gets the most votes wins. In the case of the forthcoming elections we will elect the person to be our Police and Crime Commissioner or our local Councillor where council elections are being held. Once a person is elected they then fulfil the role as they have set out to do so in their election manifesto and use their skills, experience and judgement to do so in the years of their term of office.

The decision on who is elected to take up a role is made for a 4 or 5 year term of office and if the candidate chosen turns out not to perform as voters had hoped there is a chance to elect a different person next time around. With a referendum the decision itself will have long-term influence on the future and the key question is perhaps more critical. Whatever decision is made in June it will be set in our country's history and will influence our future. We do indeed need to be informed but it will be almost impossible for each of us to work through the nuance of every argument that is being put forward. In the end I suspect we will make our decision on how to vote based on a more simple view of how we want to see our relationship with Europe in the future and what matters in our individual or family lives.

The most important thing in any election is that those who are entitled to vote exercise that right. Only when we get a good turnout at elections can we really know the mind of the population as a whole. The biggest news item following the last (and first) Police and Crime Commissioner elections was not the actual results but the fact that the number of people who turned out to vote was disappointingly low. Overall only about 15% of those registered to vote did so.

I would expect that the turnout for the referendum will be high and for my part I am doing my best to steer people to robust information on the issues to help them decide how to cast their vote. I would similarly encourage voters to exercise their right in the election on 5th May. Our Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for our policing which I know is important to many people. Their task is to cut crime and deliver an effective police force for the area they represent. They do not get involved in the operational independence of the force but do work to ensure that the force work in an effective and efficient way. If the Chief Constable does not perform well the Commissioner can remove them from post.

I hope that all those who are eligible will exercise their democratic right and vote both in the upcoming elections and the referendum. Trends show that younger people often do not exercise their right to vote. I hope that we can all encourage them to see the importance of doing so and to make their voices heard alongside all other generations in these forthcoming elections.

ONLINE BUDGETING TOOL AVAILABLE FROM CITIZENS ADVICE

Citizens Advice has developed a simple online questionnaire which can help you to understand what you're earning and spending, and where you might be able to cut costs.

The tool, which is quick and easy to use, is accessible at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting/budgeting/work-out-your-budget/> In order to get started, you need your most recent bank statements, payslips, bills and receipts. However, you can also use rough figures if you just want a general idea of your position.

We are here to help everyone, of all ages and from all backgrounds. If money is tight, Citizens Advice can look into your situation. For further help, call Adviceline on 03444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. Locations and opening hours of our offices in south Oxfordshire can be found on www.caox.org.uk



Wednesday 11th May
7.30pm
Marsh Baldon Village Hall

From May the South Oxfordshire Filling Station meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of the month instead of the first. All are welcome to come and join us at our next meeting on Wednesday 11th May - 7.30pm coffee/tea and cakes, 7.50pm worship time followed by a talk by David MacInnes, former rector of St Aldates Church, Oxford.

[For more information: Liam 07738 004176]

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **June 2016** newsletter
by 16th May 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:
s.harris886@btinternet.com or on 340403.

ARCHBISHOPS CALL FOR ‘GREAT WAVE OF PRAYER’

FOR EVANGELISM DURING PENTECOST

“to see a great wave of prayer across our land, throughout the Church of England and many other Churches”

At the heart of our prayers will be the words that Jesus Christ himself taught us, ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.’

The hope is

- for all Christians to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ
- for all of us to have confidence to share the Gospel
- for all to respond to the call of Jesus Christ to follow Him as disciples, to live out the Gospel, and to seek God’s Kingdom from day to day

For more information, visit: www.thykingdom.co.uk.

A Week of Prayer in the Dorchester Team: Sunday 8th to Sunday 15th May

Sunday 8th (Easter 7)

‘Prayer Cards’ will be given out, and 7 prayer spaces will be set up in Dorchester Abbey focussed on the Lord’s Prayer, available most of the week

Wednesday 11th

Berinsfield Communion @ 9:30 AM

Filing Station @ 7:45, Marsh Baldon Village Hall, with David MacInnes, former rector of St Aldates Church, Oxford, speaking on this 'great wave of prayer' for evangelism

Saturday 14th

LYCIG breakfast @ 8:45 AM, venue to be confirmed

Bringing all our prayers and energy from the week together to think and pray about taking mission in the Team forward

Sunday 15th (Pentecost)

Morning services as per usual, Dorchester, Culham, and Warborough

Evensongs will have a particular focus on the theme of mission in the Team

SERVICES FOR MAY 2016

1 st May	9.30pm	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
Thursday	7.30pm	Ascension Day	Toot Baldon
5 th May		Team Holy Communion	
8 th May	6.00pm	Sung Evensong	Toot Baldon
8 th to 15 th May	Various (see p23)	Archbishops call for 'great wave of prayer' for evangelism during Pentecost	Various (see p23)
15 th May	9.30am	Family Communion for Pentecost	Marsh Baldon
22 nd May	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
29 th May	10.30am	Team Service	Marsh Baldon
5 th June	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

An Open Invitation

Everyone is welcome to come and support Jennifer Morton and Jon Roberts on 26 June at 10.30am at Dorchester Abbey when they are to be ordained priest. This is a Team Service and will be followed by a bring and share lunch.

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
1 st May		9.30am Jenny van Dijk
8 th May	6 pm Sonia Hobbins	
15 th May	9.30 am Natasha Eliot	
22 nd May	9.30 am Liam McCormick	
29 th May	10.30 am Ian Gillespie	

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
24 th April & 1 st May	C Attewill & V Sandilands	H Maskell & J Knight
8 th & 15 th May	I Wright & L Martin	J Brook & J Allnutt
22 nd & 29 th May	A Lyall	A Druce