

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



November 2016

FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

I am writing this on St Francis' day, having just heard that the agreement at the meeting of all the governments in Paris about how to limit dangerous climate change has been ratified by enough countries to come into force. It should be a time of rejoicing but there is a strange feeling today because it is increasingly clear how difficult it is going to be to hold the already-happening increase in global temperatures "well below 2C" as the agreement finalised.

Aviation and shipping were kept out of the text which means that their CO2 emissions won't be counted in the agreement. That doesn't mean their contribution to global warming is any less, just that it is being in the main forum ignored! There is another group of people working on this, but it does seem a case of the ongoing power of industrial lobbying being unfortunately aligned with some heavy-flying nations' self-interest in the wriggle to evade responsibility. Reading about plans to expand Heathrow or another airport "to meet demand" and the limited scope for fuel efficiency gains does makes one wonder. Is policy formation in the Department for Business with so much talk of growth promotion still alienated from environmental reality? The media talk of politicians rarely draws the two themes together, which seems to me to be preventing public awareness moving forward. The decision about opening up a new channel of extracting yet more fossil fuels through fracking will be an indicator of official resolve.

While it was clearly good news that the Paris accord was signed, there is a danger that people will think now the experts are getting moving, the problem doesn't need considering much more by us. There is positive movement. Much of the most progressive environmental planning and investment is happening in China as it tries to plan to move on from its overdependence on fossil fuels. The billions being invested in renewable technologies and improved energy storage capacity so we are not so dependent on the vagaries of windspeeds and sun are very encouraging and a contrast to the way some western oil companies have reneged on their statements of environmentally-responsible intent in recent years. California is planning to reduce its emissions use by 80% by 2050 and is building a megabattery storing solar power to meet local peak use instead of turning on the gas plant on hot afternoons when people "demand" more air conditioning.

So does a distinctive Christian stance matter or have anything to add ? St Francis taught us about the spiritual benefits of consciously trying to live lightly and in harmony with creation. Should this be kept out of political discussion in furnishing our fragile economy with whatever it claims to need for growth at this vulnerable time in our national history? It's a powerful argument, but perhaps St Francis would counsel reflection on the benefits of consuming less for the sake of our earthly and spiritual home.

*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

SOME NOVEMBER REMINISCENCES FROM JOHN WRIGHT

(written in November 2015 after the Remembrance Sunday service)

It was almost as if it tolled the solemnness of the occasion as a solitary bell called Barbara and me up the path to the little church. Once inside we took our place in a pew and looked around at the congregation. There was a goodly number but not full; not surprising really as to younger people the First World War would seem as long ago as Waterloo.

As we sat waiting for the service to begin, I wondered how long ago it must have been when I became aware of Remembrance Sunday and concluded that it must have been 1935 when I was 8 years old. I recall walking across the village common on the way home from Sunday School and noticing a group of people standing in front of the war memorial and apparently holding a service. I watched for a short while and then hurried home to Sunday tea in the front room in front of the fire. My reverie was cut short by the announcement of the opening hymn, Onward Christian Soldiers, followed by readings and prayers and the rollcall of the fallen...the names seemed to go on and on.

Then came “We will remember them” and finally the two minutes silence. What do people think of during the two minutes silence? Is their mind blank or do they have something specific to think of? I have often wondered. On this occasion I thought sadly about my first cousin, Horace Wright, who was born in the same village as myself but thirty years before me. He died on the Somme in February 1917, aged just 19. He is listed on the big Thiepval memorial of those with no known grave.

The service closed with the National Anthem and the blessing. We walked out of our lovely village church into hazy autumn sunshine and looked out across the fields to the Chilterns in the distance. Another year, another Remembrance Service. What has changed? I quote from our National Anthem. “Lord make the nations see that all humanity should form one family the wide world over”. Is that conceivable?



Need a job? Looking for a career change?

Did you know there is a Job Club near you, in Berinsfield? Employment Action Group is a local charity who offer free and friendly support to help you find training, voluntary work, apprenticeships and paid employment.

Would you like some help with your CV, job applications and interview tips? For free & friendly advice contact 01865 341944. Mon-Fri 9-5pm.
www.employmentactiongroup.co.uk



www.marshbaldonschool.co.uk

Autumn term at Marsh Baldon Church of England Primary School



Our harvest celebration in church on a crisp autumn morning at the beginning of October. The children shared stories, talked about our local food bank in Wallingford and sang beautifully. We were proud of them all!

It has been a busy but exciting start to the new school year. In September we welcomed new children to Class 2 and Class 3 as well as our new Early Years children into Class 1. They have all settled into school life very well and are enjoying getting to know each other. We also welcomed to our staff Miss Matilda Attewill, as our new Class 1 teacher. She has been a positive addition to the teaching team and is well liked by all the children.

During November, we will be keeping the children busy with lots of activities, visitors and events to support personal safety. Our Year 6's are going to the John Radcliffe hospital to take part in the *Injury Minimization Programme*. This is a super programme that supports young people to manage their own risk and to be able to cope with an emergency. Our older children will also be visited by the Fire and Rescue Service to talk about fire safety. The week beginning 14th November is national Anti-bullying week, and at Marsh Baldon the children will be taking part in lots of events and activities to learn the importance of being a good friend, staying safe online and being a positive member of our school and wider community.

We will also be holding an open afternoon on Friday 17th November to welcome all prospective parents and children, age 4-11 years, to sample life in our school for themselves. If you have a child born between 01/09/12 and 31/08/13 who will be starting in primary school in September 2017, please be aware the closing date for applications is 15th January 2017. Applications to join other year groups are welcomed at any time.

Sarah Herring – Head Teacher
01865 343249
office.3188@marsh-baldon.oxon.sch.uk

Marsh Baldon C of E Primary School



Open Afternoon

for prospective parents & children

Friday 18th November

1:30—3:00pm

Meet our head teacher

Take a guided tour with a Year 6 pupil

Stay and play in Class 1 with your U5s





Christmas Fayre



Nuneham Courtenay

Village Hall

November 19th 1-4PM

Crafts

Wreaths

Refreshments

Cakes

Teddies

Jewellery

Wooden gifts

ceramics



Christmas film



Do some Christmas shopping and have a social afternoon





FIREWORKS

Bonfire, Fireworks, Funfair, Bar, Mulled Wine, Food and more

5th NOVEMBER

Marsh Baldon

6.30pm Bonfire Lit

7.15pm Fireworks

ALL WELCOME!

Suggested voluntary donation:

£10.00 per car £3.00 pedestrians

VILLAGERS FREE!!!!

Villagers - please support the bar and make a donation in the buckets.

SORRY NO SPARKLERS!

We need your help, please. Do come, It's actually quite fun!
5/11 Saturday 10.30am erecting marquees
Evening: car parking and marshalling
6/11 Sunday Taking down marquees
Please contact baldonsevents@hotmail.com if you can help us.



BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning applications

Durham Leys Farm. The application for a 4 bedroomed house on the site of the stables was supported at SODC planning committee despite the objections raised by the Parish Council.

Marsh Baldon School. SODC have approved the application to increase the height of the fence.

Barn at Court Farm. Planning application for garage granted

Penstemon House. An application to amend the previously approved planning application for stables is being considered by the parish council.

Grant to PCC for St Peter's Church improvements

As some of you may have noticed at Baldon Feast there was a display board outlining the thinking of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of ways of improving facilities at St Peter's Church in the interests of both parishioners and the whole village community. As part of the initial feasibility studies the PCC have requested a one off grant of £1500 from the Parish Council to help with the costs and this has been supported by the council.

Post Box outside the Seven Stars

Due to the removal of the list of collection times there has been some confusion about this post box. Following enquiries by the Parish Council the Royal Mail have confirmed the box is still in use and the last collection times are as follows.

Mon to Friday 16.30 pm
Saturday 08.00 am

Trading standards

Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards are appealing for information from anyone who has received a flyer put through their door for gardening, home repairs, roofing, driveways or similar tradesmen. The team would also appreciate a call if you have recently or just been cold called by traders offering to carry out by any of the above services. It may be that you know or seen an elderly or vulnerable neighbour having work carried out which is not required and something that does not look quite right, again please contact the Doorstep Crime Team and the team will carry out intelligence enquiries out on the. Company. You can contact the Doorstep Crime Team directly by calling directly on the designated mobile number 07711 117455. Your call and information will be treated in the strictest confidence, it can and will remain anonymous.

Date of next Parish Council meeting

Monday 14th November Village Hall 7.30pm.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council met on Saturday 1st October at 12 noon. Present were Cllr Love, Cllr S. Gray, Cllr M. Saini, Peter Brookes, Elizabeth Clibbon. Apologies were received from Mark Pritchett and John Peters.

Broadband

Following on from the last article, Mark Pritchett fed-back via email that by the look of the map, Nuneham Courtenay is due to be set-up by December 2017.

New Tables for Village Hall

The Parish Council agreed to buy new tables that are light and easy to fold-away – as all locals have been struggling with the very heavy and old tables – many of which are now broken. The Chair has arranged for 14 new rectangular, and 4 round tables. We hope that these will be delivered as soon as possible.

Parish Clerk

We are actively seeking a new Clerk. However, there is a shortage of Clerks across Oxfordshire. We have raised our rates to be in-line with the present rates-of-pay, and are offering £15 per hour. Should anyone know someone who may find this of interest, please contact Simon Gray at the email address: nunehamcourtenay.clerk@gmail.com.

Sale of University Land in Nuneham Courtenay Parish

The Parish Council discussed what they knew at the time of the meeting, which was that there are 3 separate lots for sale:

- Nuneham Estate including houses, church with land either side, Home Farm, the Global Retreat Centre, Allotments, and Number 14.
- Upper Farm and Lower Farm.
- The Village including Church Cottages, a variety of houses along Nuneham Courtenay High Street, The Metal Yard and Allotments.

Savills have already written to all lease-holders and tenants answering their questions directly, so they are all clear.

The obvious questions being raised for the parish are about what happens to the village hall, the car park at the village hall, and the overspill car park on the corner of the road, the church and the graves either side of the church. We know that the cemetery behind the church is not for sale. Neither is the Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Fields Association's land (playground).

The Chair agreed to seek clarity from Savills regarding these concerns. Savills responded promptly with the following points:

Church: *The Church and grounds are owned by Oxford University and are being sold as part of the sale of the Estate. There are no plans to change the current use by the University in the foreseeable future.*

Village Hall: *The University own the land on which the village hall is situated, and this is included in the sale. The hall itself is owned by the village. It is being marketed on this basis along with details of the two car parking areas. We are not aware of any plans to change this.*

There is natural concern over who buys the three lots and residents would like the new owners (or Savills if they are operating for them) to attend a future Parish Council meeting to inform the community of any plans.

There were further concerns that buyers of lots on the estate will not bring in large haulage vehicles to travel up the estate road.

Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Fields Association

The meeting confirmed that it has always been the case that the Parish Council has insured the Playing Fields and will continue to do so once the Playing Field is re-opened.

Nuneham Courtenay Adult Luncheon Club

The club is looking for another cook to support this popular luncheon club – so if you wish to help or know of anyone who might want to, please contact Sheila Harris at the following email address: sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk.

Ron Benson's Retirement

The Chair thanked Ron, who for many years has supported the parish, in his role as farmer – especially in bad weather conditions. We all wish him a happy retirement.

Resignation of Chair

The Chair tendered her resignation and Peter Brookes thanked the Chair, along with other Councillors for all the years that she has supported the Parish Council.

Chair's Comments

I was invited to be on the Parish Council when Fay Benson was Chair – six years ago, and three years ago my focus was developing the Village Plan with the village. The nine-steps were ones that would first identify the community, then through a series of events listen to the direction that locals wanted to go in, and help initiate those various projects.

When I was asked by Elizabeth Gillespie to take on the Chair role, I did so out of necessity – which enabled the Parish Council to go forward. Since then, three Councillors have been trained and two new Councillors began in the Spring. In the Summer, I decided that it was time for me to move on. I do not believe anyone should stay too long in any role. Further, I want to finish the Village Plan process, fund-raise for the children's playground – as part of the Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Fields Association (NCSPFA) and finally, in these voluntary roles establish the Good Neighbourhood Scheme.

Thank you to those who have tried to persuade me to stay on. However, I'm not moving or leaving the village, just redirecting my time to where it is most needed now. I have spoken to the Councillors and offered any support in handing over, and this combined with a new Clerk, I am sure will help us to continue. I am passionate about our parish and only want the best for it. Thanks to all who have supported me in my role as a Councillor during these years.

In the meantime, and up until the next meeting on 2nd November 2pm at the Village Hall, please contact Simon Gray at the clerk's email address below.

Lastly, a notice went up asking parishioners to consider the vacancy that now exists for a Councillor, and as with the Clerk role, please contact Simon Gray at the same email address.

Simon Gray and the Clerk's email address: nunehamcourtenay.clerk@gmail.com.

Cllr Jasminder Love (Chair)

For items and photos to be sent, please contact nunehamcourtenay.clerk@gmail.com [Our website is: www.ncpc.uk](http://www.ncpc.uk)

HERBACEOUS BORDERS

At the November meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Geoff Hawkins returns to give a talk about how to design, plant, and look after herbaceous borders.



Geoff worked as Head Gardener at the Mill Court private estate in Hampshire, and retired from there after 35 years. As a head gardener he ran the small estate of 30 acres working in greenhouses, vegetable and fruit gardens, herbaceous and shrub borders as well as looking after the trees, ponds and natural features on the estate.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th November.

Visitors very welcome £2. Isabelle Darby, 01491-836867



NARNIA

a journey of discovery in
Dorchester Abbey

Interactive Exhibition
22nd Oct - 22nd Nov
9am - 4.30pm

Half term activities

Free Tuesday drop in workshops
from Sept 13th 3.30pm-5.30pm

Find out more or book a school visit:
www.dorchesterabbey.org.uk education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

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A dramatised adaptation of
Charlotte Brontë's gothic novel:

Jane Eyre

will be performed at 7:30pm
in St. Mary's Church, Garsington,
on Thurs 10th, Fri 11th & Sat 12th Nov.

Adults £10, Children 12 & under £5

Tickets available from:

Phil Benner (01865 806537)
Janet Betteridge (07538 181079)
Angharad Jeffery (01865 368262)
"Country Collections" 47 High St.,
Wheatley, or
book online: www.ticketsource.co.uk

FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

Unitary Debate

The report commissioned by OCC from Grant Thornton came up with an option that suggested a single unitary council but with some decision making devolved to different parts of the county based on the current boundaries of the five district and city councils. A recent meeting of OCC's Performance Scrutiny Committee saw County Councillors from across all parties interested in exploring this option further – and the OCC Cabinet has now agreed to do that. The key features are:

- A strategic unitary council with overall responsibility for determining a framework of delegation of powers and budget.
- Constitutionally established area boards reflecting the administrative boundaries of the current city and district councils exercising these delegated powers and budgets.

This model is still a single unitary, but builds on existing strengths and familiar geography, rather than starting from scratch. At this stage it is just a possible option that OCC is keen to explore further while acknowledging that there needs to be a lot of detailed negotiation in the weeks and months ahead.

Grant Scheme Launched For Open-Access Children's Services

A £1m start-up fund has been launched by OCC to help community groups develop and deliver open-access children's services. Local solutions for open-access provision – such as 'stay-and-play' - will complement a comprehensive new service for 0-19-year-olds across Oxfordshire, which ensures the most vulnerable children are protected and that families who need extra help are identified at an early stage. As part of OCC's continuing investment in early intervention, and in addition to the £1m fund, new teams of 'locality workers' will advise and support community groups delivering open-access sessions – as well as other universal services such as schools, health and early years providers. Council-funded open access provision will continue to be offered at the new children and family centres, and other buildings as part of the new 0-19 service from next year. I will continue to work with the Berinsfield Children's Centre support group who are working hard to find a way to maintain services in their village as it is one of the centres that OCC will not be funding under the new arrangements. I delighted that Dorchester and Warborough & Shillingford Parish Councils have offered sizable donations to their fund.

Minerals & Waste Plan Examination In Public

The long-awaited Examination in Public of the proposed Minerals & Waste Core Strategy for Oxfordshire was held in Oxford from September 20th – 30th which I attended. The Inspector conducted a very thorough investigation and I am pleased to report that he took serious notice of the issues that PAGE, OXAGE and BachPort have been working so hard to bring to the fore: the proposed Local Area Assessment figure for sand and gravel being too high, the level of minerals re-cycling in the county being under-estimated, the balance of extraction between the West and the South of the county being unnecessarily

skewed, and the inadequate consultation conducted by OCC running up to the publication of this latest version of the Strategy. OCC has already offered to make changes to the Plan, however these modifications were very minor. The Inspector has decided to issue an Interim Report by the middle of October outlining his reaction and requirements going forward. By the time of my next report we should know where we stand.



Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of 33 Squadron

The Central Band of The Royal Air Force are proud to celebrate the centenary of 33 Squadron with a spectacular concert at the stunning Dorchester Abbey



Friday 16 December 2016

7.30pm | £15 per person

All proceeds to the RAF Benevolent Fund

Tickets available from www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford

Proud to support



**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**
THE HEART OF THE RAF FAMILY

FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

During the September Parliamentary recess I took the opportunity to meet up with residents in many parishes across the constituency. It is the only recess that does not coincide with school holidays and so it is easier to arrange meetings as more people tend to be around. This annual opportunity for an intensive series of meetings is one that I enjoy and find particularly helpful. Some communities have local issues that they wish to discuss but it is also interesting to see the sorts of issues that are coming up in different communities across the whole area. This year I was particularly struck that many of the issues that were raised were issues that related to local councils rather than directly to Parliament, issues such as bus services and traffic calming. Whilst I am always interested to know the issues that concern people I am limited in what I can do on these issues. I know that many people find it frustrating when it seems that national government and different councils seem to bounce things between them.

As an MP, I deal with issues such as foreign affairs, our defence policy and armed forces, the future of the NHS, changes to the planning system (not individual applications), the Budget and our public finances, the operation of the judicial system, immigration, policing, energy and the environment, prisons policy, and education. The list is not exhaustive. The things that I can best try to help with are, therefore, matters for which Parliament or central Government is responsible. Local councils, in our case County, District and Parish, have devolved responsibility for specific local issues relating to the area they cover. Most often the quickest way to resolve issues is to go to the body that has responsibility for the particular issue. However at times I know that individuals and communities feel that they are getting nowhere and it is then that I can sometimes intervene in some way but this can only be in seeking constructive discussion or creative solutions or help break through a deadlock. In the end though I do not have any power over local councils to dictate what they must do, nor was it ever thus.

The needs of our population are changing. For example our overall longevity is to be welcomed but it does mean that the cost of care and of medical services are rising hugely and the demand on a variety of other services increases. We are in a time of change and sometimes change can at first seem like something less good. A period of change turbulence can be inevitable. However if we bear with it and embrace change there are huge opportunities for growth and improvement. I am always happy to discuss issues, to explore different ways of doing things and to help access alternative funding where appropriate.

For more information about my work both in Westminster and in the constituency please do visit my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp



BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your Local Library
and see what we have on offer

Junior Story time
Saturday 5th and 19th November 10.30pm

Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

Computer Lessons Thursdays 2.00pm

Reading Group Thursday 10th November 2.00pm

Coffee Morning Tuesday 15th November 10.30am

Knit and Natter Tuesday 15th November 2.30pm

All Welcome



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ADVENT PRAYER

Christmas and the run up to it are always an exciting and busy time of year. It's also a time of year when our local churches are busier than ever, with many people coming and going to a variety of services, whether or not they're regular attenders. We, the church always enjoy this time of year, we always work very hard to provide for the people in our parishes, but this year, we're going to do something slightly different.

As a team of local parish churches we're going to pray, not just as we do every year, but this year we're going to pray for the presence of God's Spirit to bless the lives of everyone who comes to church, and for us to have the grace to respond in ways which best witness to the love of God.

We're going to pray for each person we come into contact with throughout Advent and Christmas, we're going to pray for the love of God to be in their lives. We're going to pray that they will enjoy and be fed through our services and through contact with us the family of God.

We're especially going to pray that those searching will find, that those interested will be welcomed, and that we your local church can best know how to serve our parishes; and that we may be blessed with new relationships in this most exciting time of year, the time of year when we get ready to welcome Jesus Christ into our world and into our lives.

THE COMING OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN AID OF HFT THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Our fantastic Coming of Christmas Concert is taking place at Dorchester Abbey on Thursday 8th December! This year we are delighted to announce that we will be joined by the actor Martin Clunes, OBE, actress Caroline Catz and the Choir of Magdalen College, Oxford.

Join us for a candle lit evening of music and readings. The event will raise money for Hft, helping us to support adults with learning disabilities to live the lives they choose and access the support they need. Tickets are available here: <http://bit.ly/Hft-Christmas> or by telephone: 0117 906 1767

DORCHESTER ABBEY CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF THE OXFORD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER, 7.00PM

With the Choir of Winchester Cathedral and readings from John Simpson, Patricia Hodge and Toby Jones. Tickets £25 - £70 (includes wine and food)

Call 01865 743444 email charity@ouh.nhs.uk or visit www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/dorchesterconcert

CHRISTMAS CHOIR
CALLING SINGERS OF ALL AGES



The Carol Service this year will be on
Sunday 18th December at 5pm.

**If you would like to join the Christmas Choir please
could you contact me by email or telephone.** To
enable rehearsals to be arranged to suit as many people
as possible please could you indicate any days of the
week you would be unable to come because of a regular
commitment.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Veronica Sandilands: vsandilands@btinternet.com or
telephone 01865 340562.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **December 2016 – January 2017** newsletter
by **16th November** 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 NOVEMBER 2016

6 th November	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
13 th November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday	Toot Baldon
20 th November	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
27 th November	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
Advent Sunday			
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
4 th December	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
11 th December	4.00pm	Christingle	Toot Baldon

Please note time

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
6 th November		9.30am Jenny van Dijk
13 th November		10.45am J & H Maskell
20 th November	9.30am Ian Gillespie	
27 th November	9.30am Natasha Eliot	

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
30 th Oct & 6 th Nov	F Ardern	H Maskell & J Knight
13 th & 20 th Nov	P & J Slaney	J Brook
ADVENT		NO FLOWERS