

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



308. *Rubus fruticosus* L.

Bramble, Blackberry.

September 2010

NOW
DELIVERED
FREE TO ALL
HOUSEHOLDS
IN THE
BALDONS AND
NUNEHAM

Dear Friends,

Once again pictures of a natural disaster elsewhere in the world are being flashed across our television screens. This time floods have devastated the lives of up to 8 million people who live in the flood valley around the Indus River in Pakistan. The extent of the disaster is difficult to comprehend, reporters describe it as the greatest natural disaster of modern times. Yet unlike the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 relief has been relatively slow to flow in. This suggests we are selective in whom we wish to save. There are other factors, the footage of the tsunami was more dramatic, there have been questions raised about Pakistan politics and we are experiencing a recession.

The Christian imperative to 'Love our neighbour as ourselves', allows for no such selection. In fact Jesus goes further and instructs us to 'Love our enemies'. We know from experience elsewhere in the world that our hesitancy to give help can be the opportunity for more violent groups to win the hearts and minds of the suffering peoples by responding to the pressing basic needs of food, water, shelter and security. It is time to be honest about our slowness to give and feel guilty, I include myself here as one who has not yet made a donation.

It is a strange and mysterious world where we longed for rain for the garden this summer and Pakistan longs for the rain to stop. An opportunity to thank God for our good fortune in living in Oxfordshire and not the Punjab at the moment but also to reflect on our subsequent responsibilities. What a good thing God is not quite so selective in the way he loves us!

Best wishes,
Ros

There are many ways to give but the Disasters Emergency Committee is one of the easiest, www.dec.org.uk or phone 0370 60 60 900

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

The Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh is Curate for The Baldons, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard: e-mail hannah.cleugh@googlemail.com and tel: 01865 341382

AN EXTRACT FROM ABIGAIL CULLEN'S LETTER TO THE ELIZABETH LANE FOUNDATION TRUSTEES:

I am writing to thank you for your generous contribution to my Seychelles Field Trip. It was a trip of a lifetime and I had such an amazing experience. Working with the Nature Protection Trust of the Seychelles, we achieved so many things.

First of all we did a lot of work with the Seychelles giant tortoises. We had to repair the large wooden enclosures, to prepare them for the smaller tortoises to be moved into. We had to repair the smaller enclosures and weigh and measure the tortoises ready for release.

Other conservation work we carried out included surveying both managed and unmanaged plots of land at different altitudes on the island.....we surveyed vertebrates and invertebrates, as well as the vegetation in order to determine whether the conservation techniques currently employed are working to restore native species and habitats..... We also surveyed the Seychelles Sheath-tailed bat roost, counting the number of bats we saw flying about.

Doing all this amazing work has inspired me to go on similar expeditions when I've finished my University degree and carry out research which would not have been possible with your generous support. Thank you for helping me to have a trip of a lifetime, a trip I'll never forget.

A THANK YOU FROM THE EDITORS

As Nuneham residents will know, for many years Olive Garfoot has done sterling work distributing the newsletter around those parts of the village away from the main road. Sadly Olive is no longer able to continue with this mammoth effort and the editors past and present would like to thank her for all her hard work.

We would also like to thank Colin George and Fay Benson for volunteering to take on this role from now on.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for October 2010 newsletter **by 16th September 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.

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 340562 or at The Barn House, Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on: s.harris886@btinternet.com or on 340403.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Community Safety

Some concerns were raised with the council about noise late at night in The Croft and there have been a small number of incidents of vandalism and theft occurring in the villages during the summer. Thames Valley Police were called to an incident in The Croft near the Village Hall, and have been involved with other incidents. Ken Cooney our Police Community Support Officer has said they will try and keep a closer watch on the village. In the mean time villagers need to be alert to any strange goings on or suspicious activity particularly at night and call the police if concerned. A 999 call for genuine emergencies or 0845 8 505 505 for less urgent matters. As a village we no longer have a functioning neighbourhood watch scheme. Would any villager be willing to explore setting one up again?

Traffic in the Village

As a result of concerns expressed through the Parish Plan questionnaire about the amount of through traffic ignoring our 'access only' designation the Parish Council has decided we need to undertake a traffic survey to assess the extent of the problem before we are able to consider appropriate action with the Police.

John Maskell has agreed to be the organiser and will be looking for volunteers to help. Please contact him if you can offer some time (tel: 343203). The survey will be conducted after the summer holidays.

Thames Valley Police have also conducted a speed survey following on from concerns expressed by the community. No excessive speed was found although the police were in a prominent position on the green. Speed checks in other areas may be appropriate in future.

Oxfordshire County Council Minerals and Waste Strategy

Our County Councillor David Turner and Cllr Colin George from Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council briefed the Parish Council on the discussions taking place regarding a new OCC Minerals and Waste strategy that could lead to an expansion of sand and gravel working in South Oxfordshire. Discussions on site options are still at an exploratory stage but include the possible expansion of sites in the Dorchester/Warborough area and Nuneham Courtenay. The council has already written to OCC asking for more information to clarify and justify the proposals and will keep in touch with other parishes' views. The County Council will be publishing a final strategy document for a period of formal consultation later in the year.

Baldon Row

The Parish Council would very much like to thank the residents of Baldon Row, Toot Baldon, for their prompt compliance to the request to trim back the hedges and banks. Your response has enabled the general business of the lane to continue without the inconvenience and interruption caused to vehicles by overhanging obstructions.

The Council has asked Oxfordshire Highways to repair the gaping pot holes, but unfortunately they are not so quick to respond. We shall be contacting them again.

Oxfordshire's Big Debate

The County Council have launched a public debate on how services might be re-shaped to respond to the financial savings the County is being required to make. OCC wish to know what local people think of priorities, what services must be retained what could be changed or cease and where could red tape be reduced. It is an open debate. All the information is on the County Council website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk and follow links to The Big Debate.

The Fete

In spite of all the uncertainty of the weather we have had another highly successful village fete. Even the few showers didn't last long and didn't appear to deter people from attending and enjoying themselves. There was something for everyone. The games, the dog show, the cake stall and the beer tent, and pig roast, all seemed very popular as did the tea tent with cream teas.

Organising the fete is no small matter and thanks must go to the Slaney Family for all their hard work again. Also thanks to everyone else who helped in one way or another (you know who you are), as usual a great Baldons team effort.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th September 7.30pm Village hall

POLICE "HAVE YOUR SAY" MEETING – FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Dawn Hunt will be holding a surgery on Marsh Baldon Green from 6.00pm – 7.30pm on Friday 24th September.

COMPOSTED GRASS CUTTINGS

There is a large pile of grass cuttings from the cricket pitch behind the pavilion. It would make good compost (as it's been there over a year) – anyone is welcome to help themselves.

Robert Denning

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The last meeting of the Parish Council took place on 8 July 2010. Notes of the meeting are available on the Nuneham Courtenay PC website: www.webs.nunehampc.com. The following is an update of issues arising over the summer:

Speeding

The turning off of speed cameras in Oxfordshire has become the subject of considerable media interest and much of this attention has focused on the camera here. A meeting was held with parishioners on 12 August. The meeting noted that:

- Speeding and road safety remain serious concerns
- The camera will be remaining in-situ for the time being
- The Parish is legally and financially unable to take on responsibility for the camera
- The speed camera is not seen as a panacea, does not reduce speeds throughout the length of the whole village, and creates its own problems
- Highways officers will press ahead with proposals to reduce speeds to 40 mph past the Arboretum as a buffer zone
- The County has suggested that the Parish looks to purchase speed activated warning signs. These would cost £3.5 - 6k each and would need to be financed from a separate fund-raising exercise and/or increasing the precept
- Past discussions with County Highways suggests there is little more that can be done, or that Highways will pay for, that would help reduce speeding
- The Parish Council will write to the County and John Howell expressing our concerns about speeding and the lack of effective speed controls
- The Parish Council will progress the idea of a poster campaign to alert motorists of speeding and safety concerns. We intend approaching Marsh Baldon School to assist with this through a competition for the school children

If anyone has further concerns, questions or ideas then please contact Fay Benson

Gravel Extraction

The County Council is consulting on its new Minerals and Waste planning policy. A site in Nuneham Courtenay is included in the sites under consideration for sand and gravel extraction. The possible development of sites to the south could also threaten the area with significantly increased lorry traffic. NCPC has been discussing the proposals closely with parishioners in Lower Farm Lane and Baldons and Radley Parish Councils. The PC has responded to the consultation process asking for the removal of the site from further consideration. The County's minerals 'Core Strategy' document will be sent out for public consultation in October. The Parish Council will make further representations in due course. More information is on the website, or can be obtained from Colin George.

Planning

An application for listed building consent has been received for alterations to the bathroom at 25 Nuneham Courtenay to improve accessibility. The PC has no objections.

The proposed car park extension at the Arboretum has still to be decided. It appears, from discussions, that a gate will be provided for pedestrian access close to the village.

Finances and precepts

For 2010/11 the Parish precept was set at an average of £40 per band D property. The appropriate sum for each property was included in Council Tax bills. Most of the money raised pays to keep the Parish Council operational, legal and solvent. We shortly have to consider the precept for 2011/12. We would welcome the views of parishioners over the running of the council and the precept in the next three months.

Rubbish and vermin

Concerns have been expressed over the number of rats in the village and also the quantity of rubbish being put out for collection. SODC will undertake control measures for householders for a small cost. Individual attempts to control numbers have had a limited success. The Parish Council has offered to co-ordinate a more concerted effort. Let us know if you'd like to be included in this.

We have been asked to remind householders that the bins are intended for domestic rubbish and, if you regularly have more rubbish than can be contained in the relevant wheelie bin, that additional bins can be sought. Contact SODC on 01491 823416 or visit the SODC website for further information.

Vacancies for Councillors

Jonathan Soffe, who lives in Church Cottages, has replaced Tom Long. Andy Marshall has recently resigned due to work commitments and will be sadly missed. There is therefore still a vacancy for a fifth councillor (and we need five councillors to operate properly). Please talk to us if you would be interested.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will take place in Marsh Baldon Village Hall on Thursday 2 September 2010 at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend. There will be the usual public open session.

Contacts

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Jonathan Soffe

studio@jonathansoffe.co.uk

Colin George

colin.george@virgin.net

Jane Dymock (Parish Clerk)

01865 863709 nunehampc@yahoo.co.uk

FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – ELIZABETH GILLESPIE

Localism Bill and SODC Core Strategy

We are awaiting the details of the Localism Bill which is due to come out this autumn and is expected to be ratified in November of 2011. In the meantime the Regional Spatial Strategy numbers, which are the South East Plan's house-build target numbers, have been withdrawn, which has given the Councils an opportunity to re-think. The new government has made clear that we will still be required to maintain a five year land supply and on balance SODC has decided to move forward with its Core Strategy as it is believed that the absence of a Core Strategy in place would permit abuse of the development process by developers. At the moment they are concentrating on the Market Towns as the pressure is greatest in these.

I personally am looking forward to the Localism Bill which we understand will empower our villages and towns to take responsibility for their own vision for their communities and housing numbers will be no longer dictated by Central Government but realistically drawn up by us.

Once again I would like to reiterate that the Conservative Government has given assurance that it does not intend to build on the Green Belt but we will, of course, continue to monitor this extremely carefully.

Fly Tipping

I notice that there has been a slight increment in fly tipping in the villages and SODC are very keen to catch the perpetrators of this. We are in fact in the process of prosecuting a few such offenders; however in order to identify the culprits we need the evidence; it is imperative to phone SODC immediately (03000 610610) with, if possible, any culpable car registration numbers. Should there be any identifying papers in the load **do not remove them from the site**, photograph them if possible but in any case call SODC immediately to alert.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING

This event is normally held in September in Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall. However this year's coffee morning will be postponed until the repair works to the hall are finished. Details of the revised date will be confirmed in due course.

June Shepherd, Olive Garfoot & Marcia Trinder

BERINSFIELD HEALTH CENTRE FLU VACCINATIONS

Foregoing any unforeseen disaster the clinics will be held on the following dates.
All clinics will be 'drop-in'. No appointments necessary.

Saturday 9th October 2010 (MAIN CLINIC), 08.30 – 11.30 hrs

Tuesday 12th October 2010 2pm – 4pm

Thursday 14th October 2010 4pm-6pm

Tuesday 19th October 2010 2pm – 4pm

Friday 22nd October 2010 3pm – 5pm

It is always helpful, and allows things to move along more quickly if patients attend for their injection in a short sleeved shirt/blouse.

As always the elderly who come on the car services will be immunised within the car service slots and do NOT need to attend the clinics.

Those patients who attend the 'combined clinics' in November, need not attend as they will receive their vaccine at the time of their clinic appointment.

Children DO NEED to make an appointment in normal TREATMENT ROOM time to receive their vaccine as this affords them the calmer atmosphere of an individual appointment.

We have been assured that our supply will be available on time and in enough quantity. There is no need for a separate H1N1 vaccine this year, as this vaccine has been incorporated into the main seasonal vaccine.

Pregnant women who have NOT previously had H1N1 vaccine should attend and receive the seasonal vaccine with H1N1 in it as they are in a higher risk group.

BALDON EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Lunch on the Green was again very successful and well attended by the villagers. Thank you to all those that helped in putting and taking down the marquees as well as all the other help. In particular thank you to Paul for arranging the helicopter and also the assault course.

BEC also ran the bar at the Baldon Feast and thank you to Ralph and his family for all the work that they put in to arranging this event which I am sure was bigger and better than last year despite the weather putting a bit of a damper on it.

Next event will be the Fireworks on Saturday November 6th.

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting takes place on 30th September at 8pm – all are welcome. This is the opportunity to elect a new committee, find out what is happening about extending the hall and ask questions

Other events for your diary

15 October – Quiz Night

26 November – Bingo

Regular Weekly Activities in the Village Hall

Day	Time	Activity	Contact	Other details
Monday	9.30 - 10.30 am	Fitness class – Non-Aerobic exercise for strength, toning and relaxation	Caroline Wilkes 07930 540111 or carolinew@llexan.com	Term time Pay as you go or book a block of classes
Tuesday	9.00 am - 3.00 pm	Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre (for the elderly)	Phylis Slaney 343275	
Wednesday	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	Drawing class	Steve Empson steve@beardmill.fsnet.co.uk	Term time, starting 29 September - by application
Wednesday	2.00 – 5.00 pm	Drawing class	Steve Empson steve@beardmill.fsnet.co.uk	Term time, starting 29 September - by application
Wednesday	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Fitness class – Non-Aerobic exercise for strength, toning and relaxation	Caroline Wilkes 07930 540111 or carolinew@llexan.com	Term time only Pay as you go or book a block of classes
Thursday	9.30 – 11.30 am	Toddlers Group (see article on p15)	Alice Bedford 340261	Term time, starting 9 September - drop in and pay as you go
Friday	9.00 am – 3.00 pm	Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre (for the elderly)	Phylis Slaney 343275	

Sep 16th Dorchester Abbey 11.00
Concert by the Fibonacci Ensemble
for Autistic Children.

All welcome to this free concert.
Tickets not necessary.

Sep 16th Dorchester Abbey 7.30
Fibonacci Ensemble

We are delighted to welcome this wonderful chamber group to Dorchester which happens to have amongst its members the principal oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn and trumpet from the Orchestra of St John's.

Glinka - Trio for Clarinet, Bassoon and Piano
Milhaud - Suite D'apres Corrette for Oboe, Clarinet and Bassoon
Mendelssohn - Konzerstuck for Clarinet, Basson Horn and Piano
Poulenc - Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano
Brahms - Clarinet Trio

Sep 17th Dorchester Abbey 7.30

A concert of Songs, Arias and Duets from the world of song and opera performed by the students of Christine Cairns from the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Sep 18th Dorchester Abbey 10.00
Come and sing with John Lubbock.

Sep 18th Dorchester Abbey 7.30

Orchestra of St John's Soprano: Shirin Asgari Conductor: John Lubbock

John Woolrich - The Theatre represents a Garden Night
Mozart - Overture, The Magic Flute
Mozart - The Queen of the Night's Aria from The Magic Flute
Strauss - Prelude to Ariadne Auf Naxos
Strauss - Zerbinetta's Aria from Ariadne Auf Naxos
Beethoven - Symphony No 7

Sep 19th Dorchester Abbey 7.30

Orchestra of St John's OSJ Voices Soprano Milena Dobrzyscha

Baritone: David Stout, Conductor: John Lubbock
Bach - Prelude and Fugue in B Flat Minor
Saint Seans - Two Motets - Calme de Nuit - Les Fleurs et les Arbres
Villa Lobos - Bachianas Brasilieras No 5
Brahms - Four Songs for female choir, two Horns and Harp
Fauré - Requiem

Oct 29th Cushion Concert, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford 7.30

Orchestra of St John's Conductor: John Lubbock

Wolf - Italian Serenade
Respighi - Il Tramonto
Tchaikovsky - String Serenade

Dec 12th Dorchester Abbey 7.30

Orchestra of St John's OSJ Voices Conductor: John Lubbock

Programme of Christmas Music to include;
Vivaldi - Winter from the Four Seasons
Corelli - Christmas Concerto
Carols and Christmas Motets

Dec 18th Oxford Town Hall 7.30

Orchestra of St John's OSJ Voices Conductor: John Lubbock

Handel's Messiah

Dec 19th Ashmolean 7.30 Tickets: £20
Cushion Carol Concert

Tickets: OxbOffice on 0845 680 1926



Orchestra of St. John's Ltd 7 Warborough Road, Shillingford OX10 7SA

OBERAMMERGAU WITH MARCUS AND MARY BRAYBROOKE

Early on the morning of 28 June, there was a small exodus from the Baldons as nine of us set off to join other friends, old and new, on our long awaited trip to Germany. The ultimate aim was to see the Passion play at Oberammergau but before travelling up into the beautiful Bavarian mountains, we spent five days on the Rhine, staying in picturesque Boppard. Our hotel was magnificently sited on the river bank and many beers were consumed as we sat enjoying wonderful hot and sunny weather, watching the barges go by.

We made various expeditions from Boppard, including trips by cable car and by boat, enjoying spectacular views of the Rhine from the top of the local mountain and of the mountains from on board the boat. We visited Koblenz and Cologne, with its huge and fascinating Cathedral, and heard some splendid organ playing by a nun in the Abbey of Hildegard of Bingen.

Marcus and Mary led the group with great patience and skill, ensuring that we all managed to arrive at the right place at approximately the right time and had also had an opportunity each morning to reflect on and prepare for the experience of the Passion Play. This amazing event first took place in Oberammergau in 1634, as a result of a vow taken by the villagers to perform such a play every ten years if God would deliver them from the plague. From that day, it is recorded, no one else in Oberammergau died of the disease and the play has taken place ever since, apart from two political interruptions and a change in the year so that it now falls at the beginning of each decade.

Everyone taking part is from the village, including the Director, Musical Director and Designer and at the start of the play you are transported into a real and vibrant community as the huge cast of all ages rushes onto the stage waving palms in preparation for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. With a cast of almost 1,000 adults and 550 children, plus a chorus of 50 singers and a similar sized orchestra and all the back stage and front of house staff, the scale of the production is huge. From May to October visitors flock in to watch the 4 productions a week. The organization of the visitors is prodigious. When we arrived at our Guest House we were presented with our tickets for the play, vouchers for lunch and dinner and an English translation of the script (the text is in German). The play starts at 2.30 pm, ends at about 10.30 pm. and there is a three hour break for dinner in the middle. Each visitor is allocated a restaurant for lunch and dinner. Some of us ate in a charming old restaurant run by two sisters, one of whom was singing in the chorus in between serving our meals. She chided us for not recognizing her on stage – "I was winking at you". In the second half we did better and clapped the wonderful singers even harder.

The splendid music in the play was a surprise, based on the 1820 score of a local musician, it has been adapted to fit text changes and is an integral and very beautiful part of the play. The other surprise was the animals - sheep, goats, doves, a horse, two camels and of course a donkey. The huge stage can accommodate them all. Centre stage, Old Testament stories in tableau form are staged between scenes of the

main play, creating moments of stillness and connecting The Old and New Testaments.

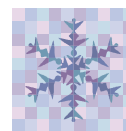
The play brought to the events of Holy week and particularly to the Crucifixion an almost unbearable reality. It was a momentous and unforgettable experience and sharing it with friends made it all the more special. We are deeply grateful to Marcus and Mary for making it happen.

VS

TOUR TO CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA WITH A CRUISE ON THE NILE AND ON LAKE NASSER

Thinking about next year's holiday yet? If so you may be interested in the visit to Egypt, which we are arranging in November 2011. This includes tours of Cairo, Alexandria and the Pyramids as well as the highlight, a cruise on the River Nile and on Lake Nasser. There will also be the opportunity to visit two famous mosques, the world renowned Al Azhar Mosque and a Coptic Christian monastery, the old Ben Ezra Synagogue and a School for the Deaf which is supported by Biblelands.

Please let us know if you would like details
Mary and Marcus Braybrooke
17 Courtiers Green, Clifton Hampden OX14 3EN
01865 407566 MarcusBray@aol.com



CLIMATE CHANGE – IS IT A PROBLEM?

Presented by Dorchester Abbey and Dorchester Carbon Project

Have your say! Join the debate at our community discussion evening.

Venue: **Dorchester Abbey, Wednesday 15 September 2010 at 7 pm**

Open to all ages. Put your questions to our panel of experts.

Participate in our fun group quiz to see how much you know.

Should we do anything about it?

Stalls, children's stands, refreshments available.

BALDON PLAYERS

The Baldon Players will be presenting a show of sketches and songs, some familiar, some new, to raise funds for the refurbishment of Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall. The show involves older and younger members of the Players, and Marsh Baldon School....and we hope a bit of audience participation too.

The shows will be held at Marsh Baldon Village Hall on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 September 2010. Tickets will be available from 1 September from Colin George on 01865 343767 or colin.george@virgin.net. Look out for posters and flyers with more details.



The Youth Club will resume on the second week of the new term and will continue to hold meetings every second Friday, in the Marsh Baldon Village Hall.

The Youth Club has proven extremely popular over the last few years, and we're excited about building on this, as it is a great way for the young members of our community to get together with their friends in a fun, social environment.

The Club is open to anyone between 11 and 18, and we encourage residents of the village to bring along a friend. Former pupils of Marsh Baldon are also welcomed.

Each meeting has a theme or planned activity, and there's loads of time for you to chill out and enjoy some of the games offered. Members very much steer this, so we'd welcome your ideas for activities you'd like scheduled. Events such as bingo, jewellery-making, drumming, magic shows and quiz have been popular.

Meetings for this term will be held on:

September 10
September 24
October 8
October 22
November 5
November 19

The first meeting, on Friday September 10, will be a "pizza & Wii" theme, so please do come along.

Time: 7.30 - 9.30; Annual membership fee: £ 3.00 (guests not attending more than 3 events are not required to pay membership fee); Fee per session: £ 2.00 per person

The Baldons Toddler Group

Why would you go to a baby and toddler group? It might be full of trendy yummy mummies with perfectly behaved offspring, who only eat organic food and would rather be doing yoga... Or alternatively, women with hordes of grubby children who rush about screaming. Is this really where you want to spend the precious time you have with your baby? Wouldn't it be better to wait until your baby is older? Is there any value to toddler groups at all?

In an ideal world our children would have lots of friends of all ages and the older ones would nurture and teach the younger ones whilst learning caring and nurturing skills themselves.

For most of us baby and toddler group is the closest thing to this we can manage. The children are of mixed ages and the older ones learn to be gentle and share, while the younger ones interact and learn from the older ones, right from an early age.

At the same time many parents and carers make some of their best friends over a cup of tea or coffee while watching their children play. Parents can gain knowledge and reassurance, sympathy after sleepless nights, handy contacts and sometimes just someone else to hold a fractious baby for a spell.

Most children adore being in a group and it is a really good way for them to feel comfortable in that environment before starting pre-school or nursery. They often make friends who will be with them right through their school years.

As for the mothers, we are all like you: we love our children, worry about them and try to do the best we can for them. Everyone has concerns; everyone has had a problem with something; everyone has an answer to something!

So what are you waiting for? Here is an opportunity to get the best start for your baby, and possibly the best therapy for you!

The Baldons Toddler Group meets on Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11.30 am at The Baldons Village Hall, during term time. The first meeting of the autumn term is 9 September: your first visit is free, after that it's just £2.00 per session, to cover the cost of hiring the hall.

Contact Alice Bedford (01865 340261) for details, or just turn up!

Article by Emma Jennings

GOACTIVE (GET OXFORDSHIRE ACTIVE)

Touch Rugby: It's social, it's fun, it's mixed – come and try Touch Rugby!

Learn the skills and play the game – ideal for absolute beginners!

Wallingford Sports Park, Mondays, 6, 13, 20, 27 September 2010, 7 – 8.30pm

For more information visit www.in2touch.com/uk or contact Paul on 07540 539123

FREE Swimming Lessons for 50+: Abbey Sports Centre in Berinsfield

Tuesdays 3.15 – 4pm, Starting 7 September

To book call 01865 341035

Return 2 Netball: Rediscover the fun in Netball – or come along and try it for the first time! Only £3 per session.

Wheatley Park Sports Centre, Wednesdays 7 – 8pm

Call Hendriette on 01491 823175 to express your interest.

Tai Chi Taster Session, Clifton Hampden Surgery: 1 September, 1.30 - 2pm, £2

Call 01491 823175 to book your place

NEW Beginners Jog Group in Didcot

Complete a 10 week beginner's course and receive a running shirt, water bottle and training log book!

Didcot Wave Leisure Centre, Mondays, 11am – 12pm, Starting 13 September

Cost: £2 per session. Call Annette on 077 5458 0749 to book your place.

Ladies Mountain Bike Rides - FREE

These rides are aimed at competent female cyclists who wish to improve their off-road skills, and ride with like minded women.

Meeting Place: Mountain High, 41 Reading Road, Pangbourne, Berks, RG8 7HY

Next Ride: Saturday 28 August, 10am

To book contact Rachel Davey: 07810 508859 www.getagripmountainbiking.co.uk

Salsa in Berinsfield: Get fit to the rhythm of the music.

Abbey Sports Centre, Thursdays 7.30 – 8.30, Cost: £3.50 per session

Learn to wakeboard and water ski in Berinsfield

Enjoy a fun day out; whether trying waterskiing or wakeboarding for the first time, or honing your existing skills.

Oxford Wakeboard and Ski Club, Queenford Lake, Burcot Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7PQ. To book call 07974 369982

Quote "GO Active" for your 10% discount.

Cost: Mention GO Active and get your first lesson for £20, or five tows for the price of four!

Call 07974 369982, email bookings@oxfordwsc.com or visit www.oxfordwsc.com to find out more

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Kings Copse	0945
Watlington Road, Bobby Fryer Close	0947
Cowley Centre, The Nelson	0954
Cowley Centre, The Nelson	1325
Watlington Road, Bobby Fryer Close	1331
Kings Copse	1334
Toot Baldon, Wilmots	1340
Marsh Baldon, Baldon Lane	1344

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CLERGY

Revd Ros Latham

Ros is from rural North Yorkshire, having been a farmer's wife and an RE teacher before becoming a vicar. She joined the Dorchester team as team vicar for the Baldons, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard in October 2007, living in Berinsfield. She is married to Peter and between them they have six children.

Revd Hannah Cleugh

Hannah is our curate. She grew up in the north-east, and came to Oxford as a student to read Theology. After graduating, she stayed on to do research into the English Reformation. She trained for ordination at Ripon College, Cuddesdon and she and her husband David (who is curate in Dorchester and Stadhampton) joined the Dorchester Team in July 2009. Hannah was ordained priest by Bishop Colin in Dorchester Abbey on 27th June 2010.

Revd Dr Marcus Braybrooke

Marcus was vicar for the Baldons from 1993 to 2005. He and his wife Mary now live in Clifton Hampden and continue to play an active part in the Dorchester Team. He has for many years worked for understanding and co-operation between world religions and is author of over 40 books.

FROM THE REGISTERS

The following marriages took place at St Lawrence's, Toot Baldon:

Matthew Juniper and Eleanor Newbigin on Saturday 10th July.

Ashley Worrall and Natalie Hobbs on Saturday 31st July.

Danny Adlam and Kim Corebery on Saturday 7th August.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Tuesday 28th September 7.30pm at Penns, Marsh Baldon

The Fellowship Group is for anyone who would like to get together to discover more about the Christian Faith. Our autumn series of meetings begins on 28th September then fortnightly until Christmas. Each meeting we will be looking at a chapter of John Pritchard's book 'Living Jesus'. This book, by the current Bishop of Oxford, looks at the diversity of the person of Jesus and how he is perceived in society in general and by different traditions of the Church. What then does knowing Jesus mean for us in the 21st Century? Join us and help us to find out.

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

5 th September	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
12 th September	11.00am	Morning Worship with Baptism	Toot Baldon
19 th September	9.30am	Holy Communion Marcus Braybrooke	Marsh Baldon
26 th September	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	One4All Pet Service	Marsh Baldon
	10.30am	Team Confirmation	Dorchester Abbey
	7.00pm	Praise@7	Dorchester Abbey
3 rd October	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
10 th October	6.00pm	Evening Worship for Harvest followed by Supper	Marsh Baldon

Morning Prayer in St Peters: Every Thursday at 8.00am

CONFIRMATION AT 10.30AM ON 26TH SEPTEMBER

Please come and support members of our Team congregation who will be confirmed by Bishop Colin. This is a good opportunity for the Team to meet and celebrate our faith together. It is also very close to the tenth anniversary of Bishop Colin's consecration as our Bishop.

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
5 th September		9.30 am Ann Druce
12 th September		11.00 am Ron Hewitt
19 th September	9.30 am Erik Anggard	
26 th September	9.30 am Ian Gillespie	

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
29 th Aug & 5 th Sept	L Martin & I Wright	J van Dijk & S Hobbins
12 th & 19 th Sept	W Barclay & R Dill-Anggard	A Druce & D Brook
26 th Sept & 3 rd Oct	V Sandilands	N Wells & V Bowler
10 th October	EVERYBODY PLEASE FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL	