

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



November 2015

FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

The media seems to have been dominated over the summer by refugee issues. Its good that there is attention being paid to the plight of those who are vulnerable and that attitudes seem to be gradually changing from how do we pull up the drawbridge and how dare they invade 'our' space to concern for lives being lost and sympathy for people feeling constrained to leave homes and habitual livelihoods. I vividly recall a docudrama made by the BBC a decade or more ago about an 'invasion' across the Mediterranean and what difficulties the European authorities had handling what was happening. It made a connection for me at the time because I had been working among the people who seemed to be portrayed and could see how much good research had gone into it. It seems so relevant again now that I am surprised there has been no reference to its prescience.

Before becoming a vicar I spent time abroad for a number of years as an aid worker, including with Eritrean refugees sheltering in Sudan and Cambodian refugees returning from the camps in Thailand after the Pol Pot years to try to recommence their former lives. It was illuminating and humbling to hear so many individual stories and to realise how much people had endured and also how much they had to offer. Some of the Eritreans had been in exile for more than twenty years yet still yearned to return to their homelands in the dramatic highlands or the fertile plains. Many families would send a scout back to their former village to check whether homes were still standing and fields free of landmines so they could plant crops to sustain themselves on their return. There was an immense tension while families waited for the scout's return and from the faces of our local workers and their loved ones, we could always tell whether good news or bad had arrived. It reminded me of Joshua being sent to check out the land of Canaan.

There are so many ethical principles involved in trying to understand what is happening and how to respond that it can be very confusing. An honourable part of us wants to treat others like ourselves, following Jesus' teaching, and open-heartedly invite refugees and migrants to share the benefits available here. A fearful part can want the 'problem to go away', often by averting our eyes or trying to classify migrants as somehow less deserving than the settled community. A practical perspective can point to the carrying capacity of our crowded cities and this small island itself as a long-term environmental constraint. An entrepreneurial spirit can welcome the talents and drive of those who have had the ingenuity to brave the journey and the skill to solve many problems to reach here. A compassionate spirit can just want to relieve their suffering however we can. There is so much that we are presented with by the arrival of people who appear as what philosophers call the Other, what we experience through our TV screens as a prostrate little figure on a beach or on the street as an outstretched hand asking and questioning our self-understanding.

It has been fascinating over the summer to hear so many people start a conversation by naming the refugees among their own parentage, which breaks down the sense of otherness. In my case the Huguenot lineage is still recalled

with deep respect for those who permitted my forebears refuge from the conflicts of their time. I wonder what local Egyptians thought when Joseph and Mary arrived fleeing Herod (Matthew 3:14) with a little baby who would grow to share a hope-filled message with the world. The problems we face now are age-old, the yearning for peace as St Augustine said over fifteen hundred years ago is fundamental and perennial. Let us ask God to guide us deeper into his wisdom and peace in these difficult times.

Best wishes,
Paul

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.

The Baldons Fuel Charity

For the past 50 years, the Baldons Fuel Charity has been helping some residents living in Marsh, Toot or Little Baldon with their energy costs. Financial support has also been given towards training expenses or in any other situation when financial help may relieve distress or hardship.

The Charity has an annual income of about £15,000.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, or know anyone in the villages who is, please let us know. Either talk to one of us or obtain an application from the Clerk, Mrs Barbara Wright (343276).

Please note this is no longer age-related. Anyone can apply; the criteria is "NEED".

All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence by the Trustees.

Trustees:
Chris Nichols (Chair) – 343388
John Wright – 343276
Ray Claridge – 343393
David Greenaway – 343496
Alison Porter – 340405
Graham Hobbins – 343227

Cover Photo: James Eliot

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

It's nearly here... Baldons Christmas Craft Fayre
Sunday 8th November

12 - 4pm

Baldons Village Hall

Start getting wrapped up for Christmas with jewellery, homeware, personalised crafts, Usborne books, Christmas decorations, fabric crafts and natural Christmas goodies to name a few... and you can even order your wines direct from Château Haute Fontaine for a truly merry Christmas!

Homemade cakes, refreshments and a go on our raffle in aid of the John Radcliffe Special Care Baby Unit are a must!

All are welcome: admission is free so come along!

BALDON FEAST 2016
The Great Village Festival for
Nuneham Courtenay,
Toot and Marsh Baldon

Saturday 20th August 2016



Save Baldon Feast — We need your help

Baldon Feast is an historic village tradition that was saved from the brink of extinction by a couple of villagers a few years ago. Through their hard work and creative efforts, they have now developed Baldon Feast into an exciting and vibrant event, drawing record numbers from the surrounding villages and beyond. However, the Feast now needs a considerable amount of planning and actual help on the day. Despite many pleas of help from the organizers, we remain a very small core of committee members and we sadly recognize that there are not enough of us to plan and run the event in 2016 without more support.

So! We need your help to SAVE BALDON FEAST!

You could help us by doing any of the following; Joining a short meeting to give us your ideas; Support a team leader in planning / carrying out an activity (even for short periods of time); Give a time-tabled hour or two of your time on the day to help on a stall, take part in an activity, or decorate a tent; Commit an hour or two to put up/take down a marquee; Become involved in any area that specially interests you; Seek out a few interesting raffle prizes or give an hour or two selling tickets on the day; Help with advertising.

Every offer of support will be very gratefully received and you won't be given more to do than you can manage!

PLEASE do think about what you can do, however small. Without you, the Feast cannot manage to continue and a decision about its viability will have to be made before the end of November! Every offer, however small, will be one further step to making it happen!

Please do get in touch with Phylis 01865 343275, phylis@baldonfeast.org.uk

Baldon Feast Committee

Specialist Helplines Available In Domestic Abuse Cases

Henley Citizens Advice is raising awareness of specialist helplines people can call if they suspect that someone they know is in an abusive relationship.

Although friends and family can provide a lifeline by encouraging victims to seek specialist help, Citizens Advice say they currently face difficulties in helping victims this way because most people in Britain do not feel equipped to help people who are suffering from domestic abuse.

Surveys also reveal that more than one in three people who have personally experienced abuse didn't tell anyone else. Victims are often too afraid or isolated to talk to others about their problem.

Henley Citizens Advice staff and volunteers are trained and supported to identify instances of domestic abuse with a simple but sensitive approach during face-to-face advice. The staff and volunteers are then able to provide support and advice to those who are experiencing, or have experienced, any kind of domestic abuse.

People who want to support victims of abuse need to know the steps they can take and where they can get specialist help. Citizens Advice is joining the national "Talk About Abuse" campaign so we can help ordinary people to know how to recognise abuse, talk about it safely and enable victims to make the right decisions for themselves.

If you are experiencing domestic violence or abuse, or you are concerned that someone you know might be in an abusive relationship, you can seek help by calling confidential freephone helplines. You can also get help and support from your nearest Citizens Advice, or call Adviceline on 03 444 111 444.

Helplines:

- If the victim is a woman, you can get help from the freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247 (run in partnership by Refuge and Women's Aid)
- If the victim is a man, you can get help from the Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327
- If the victim is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, you can get specialised help from Broken Rainbow on 0300 999 5428



FIREWORKS NIGHT

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

SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER

Marsh Baldon Green

6.30pm Lighting the Bonfire

7.15pm Fireworks

ALL WELCOME

£10.00 per car £3.00 pedestrians

VILLAGERS FREE !!!!

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

SORRY NO SPARKLERS!

Come and enjoy the evening!



As ever, these events can only happen with the help and support of the local community. We will be erecting marquees, etc from about 10am on morning of Saturday 7th and dismantling on the Sunday morning, so please come along and help us if you can (it's actually quite fun).

From the Interim Governing Body, Marsh Baldon School

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and the wider community,

Thank you to all those who attended our first all-community session on 21st September: we worked together on the school vision and values, and also provided an update on the improvements Mrs Herring and the Interim Executive Board have begun implementing within school. Many thanks to those who fed back their stories after the meeting about the differences you and your children have already seen.

I felt that the meeting was a great success and it was clear that there is a shared vision for the school and that the whole community see that the school is open and welcoming to all once again. A thanks also needs to go to the PTA for their amazing spread, which included one of the best flap jacks I have ever tasted, and contributed to the relaxed and positive atmosphere.

I do of course appreciate that a session with such a wide range of participants will never be able to go into enough depth to meet all individual needs and thanks to those who fed back to governors after the meeting on this. To this end, for parents and carers, I would like to confirm that our first priority is to improve teaching and learning, to ensure every child achieves their full potential - governors will be reviewing with Mrs Herring the full school data for individual pupils (anonymised) 6 times a year to ensure sufficient, rapid improvement is taking place. They will also undertake regular monitoring visits to review progress against the school improvement plan and review all notes of visits from the range of external specialists supporting the school at this time.

Under our second priority - to restore full community engagement and support - we will continue to produce regular updates after each IEB meeting, publish all governor information including minutes of the IEB meetings on the website and will organise further community sessions for all groups with a variety of days and times to allow all to take part.

Under our third priority to create sustainable, robust long term governance we will be implementing a plan at the right time to recruit a shadow governing body to work alongside us for a fixed period. Only once we are satisfied this governing body will execute their duties correctly and for the sole benefit of the children will we pass the full governance responsibilities to them and the IEB will be disbanded. As always if you have any comments, questions or concerns then do email me on kprm1982@hotmail.com or call the school office on 01865 343249 to arrange an appointment with me.

Best Wishes,

Kevin Moyes
Chair of Governors

Exploring the Thames Wilderness

*A talk by Dr Richard Mayon-White, River
Thames Warden*



Wednesday 11 November, Wallingford Town Hall

Doors open 7.30 pm, Talk starts 8.00 pm

Find out more about the hidden wild & natural side to the River Thames.

The wardens of the River Thames Society created a project to describe the nature reserves along the Thames. They found 154 sites that are managed as wildlife habitats, are open to the public and are within a mile of the river. Together they form a "green corridor" stretching across southern England from Gloucestershire to the North Sea. The reserves vary in size and histories, but they all offer space where people can enjoy fresh air and wildlife.

The talk will describe a sample of the reserves, drawn from the book published about the project "Exploring the Thames Wilderness".

Entrance - £5 (with proceeds to CPRE Oxfordshire). All welcome!!

Pay on the door or reserve in advance from CPRE Oxfordshire

T: 01491 612079 E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

Or send a cheque (preferably with S.A.E.) made payable to CPRE Oxfordshire to: *CPRE - Expl Thames, 20 High Street, Watlington, OX49 5PY*

GROW ORGANIC

At the November meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Christie Leary will make a presentation on "Grow Organic".



Christie lives locally in Goring, and was a founder member of the Village Greenfingers gardening club. She is a keen amateur photographer and a member of the Garden Organic (Henry Doubleday Research Association), The Hebe Society and the Reading & District Fuchsia Society.

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

Visitors very welcome £2.

Isabelle Darby
01491-836867

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Meeting

- The meeting took place on Wednesday 16th September 1 to 3pm at the Village Hall.

Winter preparation

- We have arranged for salt to be delivered this year.
- The council is reviewing the purchase of two small salt bins to be placed either end of the main road, and one wheeled bin for estate residents to be able to move salt between locations.

Police report

- The police report indicated that there has been no crime in Nuneham Courtenay.
- The report showed the areas with the highest crime rates in Oxfordshire were within Oxford, Wallingford, Didcot, and Dorchester.

Village Gates

- The council is looking at the gates to the entrance of the village and assessing a repaint.

Parish Council website

- Our new site went live on October 1st 2015 (www.ncpc.uk). Thanks to those who have already given feedback about its user-friendly interface. Our clerk is busily uploading all the relevant data, and local groups e.g. the village hall, luncheon club etc., please contact D. Love through the clerk, and he will ensure any relevant materials are uploaded.

Councillor training

- There have been many changes over the years to the roles and responsibilities of a Parish Councillor, and governments devolving of resources and facilities to local parishes require a good understanding and updating of all the changes occurring. To this end, Cllr Love reported that the Chair's Training was very useful. Our Councillors who attended the Roles and Responsibilities Course reported that it was very good and that they were able to go into detail with the lawyer who was running the course.
- The big changes that have occurred in planning will be explored on a training to take place on 3rd November 2015 for all our Councillors.
- Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council is now better equipped to manage all these extensive changes.

Development of an emergency plan

- The council agreed to embark on a detailed development of the management of any emergencies that may occur in the future. This will support locals in knowing what to do.

Community defibrillator

- The council acknowledged the need for two defibrillators, one on the outside of the village hall, and another for the estate. This is being explored.

Highway issues

- There are many changes occurring, which we'll keep you up-to-date with regarding Highway's devolving responsibilities to local parishes.

- It was noted that OCC Highways will not repair the footpaths in Nuneham Courtenay as they say that it is the trees that are the problem, and that we as a parish do not want to remove them.
- In light of the possibility that the Parish Council may now become responsible for the footpaths, and the cost of anyone falling, we will plan a review with the entire parish next year, and it has been agreed to keep this matter on the agenda.

Fast broadband for the village

- Cllr Love met with Ed Vaizey MP Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy, and John Howell MP. She put the case for Nuneham Courtenay to be included in this current round of implementations, and he has agreed to take our case back to BT.
- We will keep you up-to-date with this process.

Governance

- The council has updated and approved our standing orders, and financial regulations. This will be available on our website soon.

Planning items

- **Street naming for Brewer's Garage development** – The proposal to name the street 'Yew Tree Courtyard' was approved.
- **P15/S2481/HH and P15/S2489/LB – 34 Nuneham Courtenay.** The Parish Council approved the application.
- **P15/S22741/LB – Lower Farm.** The Parish Council had considered this application and voted via email. The response was agreed as No Strong Views.
- **P15/S2443/FUL – Brewer's Garage.** The Parish Council had considered this application and voted via email. The response was agreed as No Strong Views.

Estate items

- **Signage** - Savills have approved funding for this year and are pursuing this item.
- **Complaints** - There have been several complaints regarding dog mess at the entrance to the estate, and reports of an increase of professional dog walkers and their vans on the estate. It has since been reported that they have been spoken to.

Village Plan Steering Group

- The questionnaire for the village plan is in its final stages.
- At the Neighbourhood Planning Conference attended by councillors, we were encouraged to follow-on from our village plan to a neighbourhood plan – thereby ensuring any new developments in the future would first have been considered by parishioners.

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:

Julia Evans | 01235 833 466 | nunehamcourtenay.clerk@gmail.com

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Seniors' Party will be held in the Village Hall on 9th January 2016.
Invitations will be sent out in early December.

If you know anyone who would like to come, but was not invited last year, please contact James Bufford (340091), John Barne (343624) or Natasha Eliot (343478).

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



A Big Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who brought food and wine to the Harvest Supper. The variety of tasty things to eat was amazing.

**Thank you so much for responding to my phone calls.
Jenny van Dijk**

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **DECEMBER 2015 – JANUARY 2016** newsletter
by 16th November please

(note that the following edition will be FEBRUARY 2016)

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.

COUNTY COUNCIL LOOKS FOR £50M SAVINGS

Oxfordshire County Council has launched a public consultation on options for saving money. It has already saved or has firm plans to save nearly £300m since 2010 but believes it needs to find another £50m of savings over the next four years. “The government is rightly reducing public spending to tackle the national budget deficit, which means we have to make some difficult decisions about council services,” says council leader, Cllr Ian Hudspeth.

As well as receiving less money from government, the council faces rising demand for services – particularly for vulnerable adults and children at risk of abuse and neglect. Already about half its budget is spent on 2% of the population of Oxfordshire, and that proportion is set to rise to three-quarters of the total budget as a result of a growing aging population.

The council is consulting the public before taking the decisions and delivering a balanced budget on 16th February 2016. Talking Oxfordshire, the council’s budget consultation, will start on 20 October, when all the savings options will be published on the council’s website. It will close on 30 November.

There will be three public events with an independent chair alongside the leader and chief finance officer to provide residents with a chance to find out about the council’s budget position and have their say. Comments will be collated as part of the feedback process.

The events are 7-8.30pm and dates are:

- 27 October – County Hall
- 2 November – Banbury Town Hall
- 5 November – Regal Centre, Wallingford

People need to register in advance to attend the event so the council can manage numbers. To register for an event or take part in the consultation online, go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/talkingoxfordshire

Hard copies of the budget consultation documents will also be available in every library.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

There was no Parish Council meeting in October. The next meeting will be on Tuesday November 10th, 7.30pm in the Village Hall - all welcome!

Neighbourhood Plan

We were delighted with the response to our consultation as to whether or not the Baldons should proceed with developing a Neighbourhood Plan. A total of 90 Baldons residents responded to the proposal that was delivered to all households at the end of September and the voting was as follows:

- responses 99
- in support 91
- opposing 8

The results of the consultation provide a mandate to proceed and, in addition, 16 people have expressed an interest in being involved in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Plan will be further discussed at the meeting on November 10th after which further information will be released by the lead parish councillors - Elizabeth Gillespie, Stephen Dance and Laurence Attewill.

District Council Election

Due to the resignation of Jon Woodley-Shead for personal reasons, a by-election for the Sandford and Wittenhams Ward was held on October 8th, 2015. The results were as follows:-

Susan Lawson	Conservatives	290 votes
Simon Thompson	Liberal Democrats	249 votes
James Merritt	Labour	89 votes
Anna Casey-Rerhaye	Green Party	50 votes

Susan Lawson is duly elected as our new District Councillor - congratulations!

Planning Matters

P15/S2480/PAR - *FOR INFORMATION ONLY* - The Barn, Hillfield Farm, Toot Baldon.

Change of use from Agricultural to dwelling.

Planning Permission REFUSED by SODC on 18/9/15.

P15/S2717/LB (Listed Building Consent) - Oxford Lodge, Harcourt Arboretum, OX44 9PX.

Installation of computer network cabling contained in wire mesh cable trays in the roof void and white plastic trunking on the internal walls of the Oxford Lodge, Harcourt Arboretum.

BPC responded by 17/9/15 and recommended APPROVAL.

SODC GRANTED Listed Building Consent on 1/10/15.

P15/S2916/HH (Householder) - Court House, Toot Baldon, OX44 9NG.

Alterations to existing barn to create annex to the Court House.

BPC responded by 18/9/15 and recommended APPROVAL but also recommended:-

- that there is no increase in the roof height
- that the materials used are appropriate and
- that adequate arrangements are made for waste disposal given the lack of mains drainage.

No decision from SODC at 13/10/15.

P15/S3039/FUL (Full Application) - Land off Baldon Lane, Marsh Baldon, OX44 9LT.

Formation of a semi-permeable surfaced agricultural track.

Note: this follows P15/S2464/AG where SODC decided that a full application would be required.

BPC responded by 2/10/15 and recommended APPROVAL.

No decision from SODC at 13/10/15.

P15/S3214/HH (Householder) 5, Marsh Baldon, OX44 9LS.

Change 3 windows & 1 door in the single storey 1960's extension at the rear of the house.

BPC to respond by 28/10/15.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR
CALLING SINGERS OF ALL AGES



The Carol Service this year will be on
Sunday 20 December.

**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.

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2015

1 st November	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
8 th November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday	Toot Baldon
<i>Please note time</i>			
15 th November	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
22 nd November	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Service	Marsh Baldon
29 th November	10.30am	Team Family Communion	Dorchester Abbey
Advent Sunday		<i>With Captain Graham Nunn</i>	
6 th December	4.00pm	Christingle	Marsh Baldon
<i>Please note time and place</i>			
13 th December	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

Fellowship Group: Mondays at 7.30pm

9th November; 23rd November;

For venues or other information please contact Jennifer Morton

Tel. 343302; email: jennifer@morton8.co.uk

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
1 st & 8 th Nov	V Sandilands	H Maskell & J Knight
15 th & 22 nd Nov	C Attewill	J Brook & J Allnutt
29 th Nov	ADVENT – NO FLOWERS	

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
1 st Nov		9.30am Sonia Hobbins
8 th Nov		10.45am Graham Hobbins
15 th Nov	9.30am Stephen Dance	
22 nd Nov	9.30am Liam McCormick	