

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter

RIDE + STRIDES



Saturday 13th September 2014

Help preserve the history on your doorstep by taking part in a sponsored cycle, walk or horse ride around Oxfordshire's churches. All funds raised go to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and 50% can be passed on to a church of your choice.



See inside for more details of how to support the Ride + Stride!

September 2014

DAVID PORTER: A personal tribute



David and Alison were enjoying a lovely holiday in Cornwall at the beginning of July and were walking along on the coastal path on the 2nd July near Truro when David's heart stopped. The air ambulance took him to the hospital in Truro but they were unable to save him. His funeral took place on the 17th July.

I first met Alison and David at the famous Baldons' Wine Tasting Club I think about five years ago when they were newly in Marsh Baldon.

We got to know each other over many convivial tastings. David and I shared a love of wine from Alsace region and the Pinot Noir grape which was a firm favourite for him also. I saw David last, at a tasting of Australian wines in June. When I was unable to select a favourite from all of the wines we had tasted because I liked them all, David displayed his gentle sense of humour by saying "aha that old chestnut!" We will all miss him at wine club.

At his funeral, we heard a moving tribute from Fritz Vollrath who had been working with David for the past 15 years. Everyone was astounded and fascinated to hear how eminent David was and what a loss to the scientific community he will be. In my opinion, physicists who turn their attention to biology almost always make a significant contribution as did David. Although I had discussed a little of his latest work with him I had only just begun to explore our mutual interest in science.

What struck me though, was that the tribute that Fritz gave was not the David we all knew at home in the villages. We knew about his gentle, sharp sense of humour, his willingness to enter into village life where quietly, without fanfare, he joined in with everyone to create the sense of community that we all feel here. Whenever there has been an event in the village you will have noticed that David was there helping to set up and take down. Almost unnoticed, he would make a comment which was the trigger for others to find a better way forward with a task in hand.

David was always interested in my work and encouraging of my efforts in learning to run! In every way it feels like a light has gone out and now I can only imagine finishing the conversations that I would like to have had with him. I will not forget him: he was a good man and a good friend.

Rachel Fallon

FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

It feels strange trying to enjoy the usual relaxed August pleasures against a backdrop of tragic and heartrending news bulletins about increasing chaos in other parts of our fragile world. It is good to see that the tendency to shut foreign happenings out of our consciousness has been penetrated by the depth of what is happening in the Holy land and the wider East. The conflicts in Iraq, Palestine and Ukraine are so brain-numbingly complex and humanly insuperable that there is a tendency to despair.

That is a shortcut emotion of course (as anyone who has ever seen a rainbow should recall!). Christians and all people of goodwill are enjoined to keep hearts open to suffering; indeed we should be worried for our spiritual health if we can ignore the suffering of our neighbours in the global village easily. Some go closer to the suffering, such as the brave witnesses (young adult and active retired) of the 'Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel,' who for years have felt called to lie awake at night in Palestinian houses listening to the drones overhead and aftermath of wails while trying to "provide protective presence to vulnerable communities, monitor and report human rights abuses and support Palestinians and Israelis working together for peace" (<http://www.eappi.org/>). They must be feeling so overwhelmed now that the sense of powerlessness seems nearly complete.

It's not helped by the way so many conflicts seem to have elements of superpower games in the shadows behind the fallen bodies. In the Iraqi and Palestinian cases it's primarily the Saudis and America trying to bolster the reach of their ideologies with metalwork and money, with a lot of the satellite states, and also renewed entrant China and old hand Russia, providing yet more sources of armaments to make killing easier.

For those with shares in the arms manufacturers (to call them primarily a defence industry is a moral cowardice of modernity) and the many technical support companies around our country, it has a bull market component and we should all consider checking our own situations for any pension fund or other complicity. (This is one area at least where the Church of England seems ahead of wider society in its own conduct and persistent if unwelcome prophetic message - <https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/eiag/ethical-investment-policies.aspx>).

It feels disrespectful to those concentrated in the Gaza strip for a vicar in a far-off affluent culture, with lots of soul-affirming greenery where freedom is taken for granted and tunnels are about children's games more than escape from a ghetto, to dare to pontificate. If there is a clash of civilisations starting, an overly simplistic if seductive thesis, there may not seem much we can do about it. If it is more to do with a perennial universal human tendency to slide into fear, and what on the playground would be called bashing, when faced with problems of geography and human variety, perhaps we can reflect that the traditional languages of sin and the importance of love for neighbour are eliminated from human discourse at our peril. That is less an indictment and more a positive message. It's a challenge to dare to engage or reflect and to run the risk of becoming better people in doing so. Psalms 22 and 23 have renewed message if we choose to make time to attend.

As we recall the significance of the Great War in these months, let us weep for three Israeli teenagers and hundreds of Palestinian children in UN 'safe' schools with equal attention, and pray for those whose lives are disfigured by resort to the scared man-child strategies of firing rockets and launching revenge attacks. Such tears and prayers can help to heal, as those of a mother at the foot of a lonely cross.

Best wishes

Paul

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

RIDE+STRIDE 13 SEPTEMBER 2014

A number of Baldoners will be taking part in the annual sponsored Ride + Stride on Saturday 13th September, which raises money to be split between Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and our local churches. The Baldon churches will of course also be open to receive visitors.

You can help by:

- **Participating as a “StRider”**
- **Sponsoring any of the “StRiders”**
- **Providing practical help – for example a “support vehicle” might be appreciated by those planning longer routes!**

For more information, please visit the Ride+Stride website: <http://ohct.org.uk/ride-stride/> or contact Stephen Dance on 341323 or sdance@fsmail.net

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for October 2014 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. 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.

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Village Hall Committee is on Wednesday 17th September at 7.30pm. The AGM is villagers' chance to question the committee on the previous year's activities and plans for the future.
ALL WELCOME!

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



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Lovely 18th century detached cottage to rent
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Please call Paul and Fiona on 341827

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning applications

14 The Croft: An application for a side extension has been supported by the parish council.

Land next to Seven Stars: SODC have recently approved the amended planning application and single storey permitted development for the new house on this site, but have also now withdrawn permitted development rights for the future so that any new proposals for development on the house or the land will require full planning applications to be submitted.

Cardinal House: The owner of Cardinal House has applied to SODC for conversion of the offices to residential purposes, a single dwelling, under the new permitted development rights for conversion of office buildings. Separately there has been an application to SODC for the granting of a premises license for the provision of alcohol and music which the Parish Council understands may be related to a cookery school. The Parish Council will be responding to these applications during August.

Erection of posts Manor Farm entrance

The council has received a number of complaints about the erection of posts on the triangle of land at the entrance to Manor Farm. The council has supported the concerns expressed and these have been taken up with the land agent for Queen's College.

Dog waste bins

Following the installation of dog waste bins in Marsh Baldon the council have agreed to obtain another one for Toot Baldon to be installed in due course in the vicinity of the notice boards at the top of Court House drive.

SODC Governance review

The Parish Council have now been formally informed of SODC's decision to change the parish boundary between Marsh Baldon and Nuneham Courtenay so that land and properties on the west side of the A4074 between Nuneham Courtenay and the Golden Balls roundabout become part of Nuneham Courtenay parish. The date of the transfer is not yet known and we have asked for clarification given that Parish Council elections are due in 2015.

SODC Local plan 2031 Issues and Scope

Last month the council referred to the consultation SODC were undertaking on the potential growth of housing and the options of where it should go. A big thank you to everyone who wrote or emailed a response following the advice and guidance that Elizabeth Gillespie prepared on behalf of the parish council which circulated via the village emails.

The Parish Council challenged the basis and assumptions of the projected housing numbers, objected strongly to the option of development in the Green Belt on the south side of the city which raised again the need to protect land south of Grenoble Road. We and neighbouring villages have been fighting this for over 10 years and it is important that we continue to do so. We understand that SODC in considering the responses will be making their recommendations and consulting again later in the year.

Being able to use a village email circulation (thanks to John Clark for hosting the data base) to get information out quickly when time is short, as in this case, is very helpful and we hope those of you on the list found it useful.

Home to School Transport

OCC have now confirmed that following consultation on changes to the free Home to School transport to save money, free transport to Wheatley Park School for children in year 5 from the Baldons will cease from September 2015, free transport being provided only to the Oxford Academy.

Information from SODC and OCC

SODC Recycling

The waste that previously went to landfill now goes to the new Energy from Waste facility (EfW) at Ardley where it's burnt to produce energy.

Connecting Oxfordshire

OCC are preparing a Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) which will outline their vision for a transport network to support economic growth in the county. There will be public consultation in 2015 and more information on the OCC website

Date of next Parish Council Meeting

9th September 7.30.pm Village hall

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council and Councillors

A Parish Council is a legal entity with the requirement to represent the needs of its Parish and Parishioners. Councils have specific responsibilities and have a right to be consulted on matters by the district and county councils. Parish Councils cannot be abolished, but they can be merged, replaced with an annual parish meeting, or run on behalf of the Parish by those outside. Five years ago our Parish Council had little support and there was the threat that a series of councillors would be imposed on it. At that time the Parish confirmed that it wished the Parish Council to be run by local members and five of us stood forward. Though there have been changes in the councillors we have tried to keep the Parish Council going with representation within the Parish. At various times in the last five years we have had affirmation that the Parish Council should remain as a fully functioning council, meeting regularly. However we do need councillors to keep us quorate and to help reflect local views and interests. There remains a vacancy for a fifth councillor – and we do need someone to come forward to help fulfil that role. If you want to be involved in local issues (and there are numerous issues in and around the parish at present which could have an impact) then please consider putting yourself forward. Please contact the Chair or one of the councillors if you are interested.

Planning

SODC Local Plan response

In the 'interim' newsletter we advised parishioners of the consultation on the SODC Local Plan 2031. Thank you to those who responded directly to the PC's request to comment on the proposals and also to those who also commented to the PC.

The Parish Council responded directly to the consultation exercise giving its views on the majority of matters raised, including the specific issues regarding the need to provide additional housing in the district. The response:

- queried the housing number calculation
- opposed the expansion around existing towns and cities
- suggested there were benefits in considering increasing the provision in existing locations (e.g. towns and villages where there was appropriate infrastructure and the character was maintained), a new community, increasing density of developments
- expressed caution about focusing housing around the proposed Science Vale
- indicated the changing nature of employment and the need not just to consider employment land, but infrastructure to support

A copy of the full response is available on request.

Local planning matters

There have been no recent planning applications - no application has yet been registered on SODC's website for the Brewer's Garage showroom redevelopment noted in the last newsletter.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16 September 2014 at 7 pm in the Village Hall, though this is subject to review, so please look out for updates...

If you have issues to discuss then please do not hesitate to contact a councillor or the Clerk. At present contact details remain:

Chair: Colin George 01865 343767 colin.george@virgin.net

Councillors: Jasminde Love (Vice-Chair), Frank Casey, Suzanne Deakin

We are reviewing the contact arrangements with the new Clerk and we will issue these shortly



Employment Action Group

RAISE ASPIRATION • CREATE OPPORTUNITY

Following our highly successful apprenticeship pilot project with Williams Performance Tenders, we are seeking to recruit a Business Engagement Lead to expand and develop the programme locally. **We are looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and dynamic individual with an understanding of the needs of small/medium sized businesses, and with some experience in community and social work.**

For full details of the position, please call 01865 341944 or visit our website:

www.employmentactiongroup.co.uk

TIME TO TAKE STOCK AND LOOK AT OUR PLANTING SCHEMES

A highlight in many gardens is when everything seems to be in full bloom and the garden is alive with wildlife.

As August progresses, more species of butterfly are visible in gardens so we need to plant up our pots, troughs and borders with suitable flowers etc. Long forgotten and old-fashioned cottage garden plants are ideal for this. With their fragrant flowers, in all sorts of shapes and colours.

Colours tend to be very vivid at this time of year, perhaps more so than at other times of the year, so Rudbeckia and Echinacea are two plants I would happily advise to grow as they are very agreeable to many insects that start to form the food chain out there in our wildlife gardens.

This time of year is ideal to stand back and take stock of our planting schemes. If you are not happy that the colours and types are attracting enough wildlife, plan to add more perennial plants in late autumn and see if we can all extend the flowering season a bit longer.

Leaving some ivy to flower into the Autumn is a great way of extending the nectar season for the bees. Ivy doesn't have to mean neglect. Wildlife gardening isn't about doing nothing; it's about gardening in a slightly different way.

Happy Gardening
Stuart Mabbutt
Wildlife Gardening Specialist
01865 747243
www.stuartmabbuttgardeningltd.com

OPPORTUNITY FOR ONE PERSON TO RECEIVE BELL RINGING INSTRUCTION STARTING SEPTEMBER

As many will know, a new church bell ringing band was established in the Baldons in 2012 in order to ring in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. For two and a half years we have attended weekly Saturday morning practices at St Peters in Marsh Baldon where we have been instructed by two of the best instructors in the Oxfordshire region. We have great fun and enjoy the practices as well as ringing once a month for a Sunday service.

There is an opportunity for one more person to start to receive instruction on a Saturday morning from 10-10.30am. This would be individual instruction.

If you think you would like to learn to bell ring, and would enjoy being part of the band, please contact me and I can tell you a little more about it. Alternatively, come along to St Peters on a Saturday morning, meet the band, have a cup of coffee and watch some ringing. The band ranges in age from 15yrs to 60+yrs!

Catherine Mason: Tel 01865 343503; Email: catherinevmason@gmail.com

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

7 th September	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
14 th September	6.00pm	Evening Worship	Toot Baldon
21 st September	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
28 th September	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family <i>One4All</i> : Pet Service	Marsh Baldon
5 th October	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

Fellowship Group: normally 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7.30pm.

Venues and further details from Jennifer Morton 343302; or email: jennifer@morton8.co.uk



SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE BALDONS

Sunday school runs on the third Sunday of the month, during the Holy Communion service at St Peter's, Marsh Baldon. We have a mixture of stories, craft and activities for children age 3-8 based around the Christian faith. We welcome all newcomers! Please do bring your child / children along; the next session will be on 21st September.

ST PETER'S CHURCH FLOWERS

Debbie Dance and Veronica Sandilands would like to say a huge thank you to the St Peter's flower arrangers, who have worked particularly hard recently, as the list has become very short. We think that flowers in our churches contribute greatly to the feeling of welcome and it would be wonderful to have more people to help.

Do you enjoy arranging flowers? We would love to hear from you.



We also thought it would be fun to have an informal flower arranging morning, with some refreshments - and Harvest seems an ideal time to get together to decorate the Churches, Please look out for Harvest Dates and more details in next month's newsletter.

Debbie Dance (d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk; 341323) and Veronica Sandilands (vsandilands@btinternet.com ; 340562)

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
7 th & 14 th Sept	A Lyall	H Maskell & J Knight
21 st & 28 th Sept	D Dance	J Brook & J Allnutt

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
7 th September		9.30am Ron Hewitt
14 th September		6.00pm Sonia Hobbins
21 st September	9.30am Stephen Dance	
28 th September	9.30 am Tom Saw	

**Court House
Open Garden
Thank you!**

Dear All,

**We would like to say
thank you to everyone
for making the Court
House Open Garden
on 29 June such a
success. We raised a
total of £1280.30, to be
split 50:50 between the
Baldons Churches and
the Red Cross.
(£640.15 each)**

Thank you!

Fiona and Paul Ardern



**COFFEE MORNING IN
AID OF MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

**You are warmly invited to a coffee morning in aid of
Macmillan Cancer Support,
at 11 am on Sunday 28th September,
at East Wing, Baldon House.**

Jennifer Morton, June Shepherd and Olive Garfoot

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