

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

December 09 / January 10

ISSUE 151

PARISH COUNCIL

Ducklington Village Pond

Rod d'Ayala, an ecological consultant, came to Ducklington in October to carry out a survey and prepare a report on the village pond. The Parish Council and the volunteers who have historically been involved in maintaining the pond are meeting later this month to consider the report in detail and discuss the way forward.

Mr d'Ayala reported that the low water level in the pond is something that he has observed in many ponds across Oxfordshire in recent weeks, with groundwater levels being at a ten-year low. He indicates that when ponds dry out it causes people to be concerned, but overall life in ponds comes to no harm if even normally permanent ponds dry out – the number and type of species (except fish) present before drying out are likely to be there when it refills.

In terms of the future management of the pond, Mr d'Ayala states that the most important issue to be resolved is what the purpose of the village pond should be. Should the pond be used as a duck feeding site or should it be a habitat for a broader range of wildlife (plants, invertebrates and amphibians)? It is very difficult, if not impossible, to have a large number of resident ducks and a lot of other wildlife at the same time.

This is a question that the village needs to decide as a whole. If we want to allow the pond to support a rich variety of wildlife then there are things that can be done to encourage this – the pond surroundings can be allowed to become more natural and “rough”; shallow basins to enable “bog areas” to develop and could be created between the pond and the road so that the water running into the pond from the road could be cleaned up before it enters the main pond. Local native plants could be reintroduced into the pond and invertebrates and amphibians allowed to colonise naturally. It is likely that a small number of ducks would continue to visit the pond.

None of this would be worthwhile if it is decided that the pond should remain a habitat for the large number of ducks which are here. The number of ducks which live at the pond are only able to do so because of the large amount of artificial feed they are provided with. If residents decide that the pond should become a wildlife pond the artificial feeding would have to stop. Most of the ducks would then leave the area by their own choice as they would not have the food they need to stay.

The Parish Council is intending to hold a public meeting early in the New Year to which everyone will be invited so that people can share their views and concerns and a village-wide decision can be made about the future management of the pond.

Criminal Damage in Ducklington

There have been a disappointing number of incidents of criminal damage in Ducklington in recent months. Several cars parked on Standlake Road near Fritillary Mews have been vandalised during the late evening/early morning.

An abandoned car was vandalised and then set alight in the car park on Aston Road. This has damaged the tennis court fence and burnt out the floodlight system. These items will need to be repaired at the Parish Council's (and therefore Council Tax payers') expense.

The temporary vehicle activated sign erected on Witney Road to highlight the importance of keeping within the speed limit to people driving into the village was vandalised over the weekend of 30/31 October. This will also need to be repaired at Council Tax payers' expense.

It is frustrating that the actions of a small minority of people disrupt the lives of the majority. If you have information about any of these incidents or any other anti-social behaviour in Ducklington, please contact Thames Valley Police on their non-emergency telephone number - 08458 505 505.

Proposed new A415 Thames River Crossing

You may be aware that Oxfordshire County Council has for some time been looking at how to maintain the A415 crossing of the Thames at Newbridge. There are concerns about the strength of the existing 750 year old 6 span gothic arch bridge. An 18 tonne structural weight limit was introduced in 2006 as an interim measure to protect the bridge. Studies carried out by the County Council indicate that the bridge is theoretically unsuitable to carry any level of motorised traffic in the long term. The bridge is a scheduled ancient monument and County Council studies have concluded that it would therefore not be suitable to attempt to carry out any modifications to it to strengthen it.

The County Council has now developed a proposal to build a new crossing over the river Thames, 250 metres upstream from the current bridge. The A415 would be diverted onto the new bridge and the current one closed to all motorised traffic. The new bridge will be built with a double carriageway but would be operated (initially at least) as a single carriageway with traffic light controls as at present. The weight limit on the road will be removed, opening the route to all weights of HGV. 10,000 vehicles currently cross Newbridge per day. Building the new bridge will make the route more attractive to all forms of traffic and this will lead to a predicted increase in traffic of 600 vehicles per day (1 per minute at peak times). If the process to get the required permissions in place to build the bridge goes smoothly building would start in 2015 at the earliest, with the new bridge being open to traffic around the middle of 2016.

The County Council is holding a public exhibition of the proposal at the Rose Revived pub, Newbridge between 26th and 28th November. (Opening times: Thursday 26th 2:00pm to 9:00pm, Friday 27th 10:30am to 9:00pm, Saturday 28th 10:30am to 4:30pm). The proposals can also be viewed online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/newbridge.

It is very important that people who live along the A415 who will be affected by this proposal submit their views to the County Council, positive or negative. Comments can be made online at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/newbridge. Forms for submitting written views will be available at the exhibition or can also be obtained by contacting the Clerk on the details given below.

Reporting faulty streetlights and potholes

If you notice that a streetlight is not working, please report it direct to Oxfordshire Highways on 0800 317802 (a freephone number that has a dedicated answer phone), online at the Oxfordshire Highways website (www.oxfordshirehighways.org) or by email to streetlighting@oxfordshire.gov.uk. You will need to give the number of the lamp (painted high up on the post), the street name and the village name.

Potholes and other problems with roads and footpaths should be reported to Oxfordshire Highways on 0845 310 11 11, online at the Oxfordshire Highways website (www.oxfordshirehighways.org) or by email to northernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Warm Front – help with insulation and heating improvements

The Warm Front Scheme provides a package of insulation and heating improvements up to the value of £3,500 (or £6,000 where oil, low carbon or renewable technologies are recommended). It is a Government-funded initiative and the scheme is managed by eaga plc. If you own your own home or rent it from a private landlord and receive certain benefits you may be eligible for a grant under the Warm Front Scheme. If you have a query about the scheme, please contact enquiry@eaga.com or call freephone 0800 316 2805 or look online at www.warmfront.co.uk.

How to Contact your Parish Council

The Parish Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Lilac Room at the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and observe the meeting.

The Parish Clerk, Mrs Helen Sandhu, can be contacted on:
Postal address: 1 Manor Close, Aston, BAMPTON, OX18 2DD
Email: ducklingtonpc@hotmail.co.uk
Telephone: 01993 851774

Christmas at St Bartholomew's

*Come along to your parish church this Christmas.
You will be very welcome.*

Alpha Course A new Alpha Course is planned to start in February. An Alpha Course is a great way to explore Christian belief through DVD's and informal discussion. Topics include: is Christianity still relevant; why did Jesus die in the way he did; did the resurrection really happen; is the bible reliable; how does prayer work; what do we mean by 'Holy Spirit'? – and much more. If you think you might be interested, do contact Bob Edy or Jessica Parker 775333

Christmas cards with a snow scene of the church, 3 for £1 from Marian Pitman (703374)

Christingle Service

*Sunday 29th November at 6pm
Carols, Children and Candlelight.*

*Brize Singers Christmas Concert
'The Wonder of Christmas' Tickets 703374
Tuesday 15th December, 7.30pm
with Ducklington handbells
£5 with a glass of wine and a mincepie!*

*Carol Service
Sunday 20th December at 6pm*

Christmas Eve Crib Service at 5pm

*Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
December 24th at 11.15pm*

*Christmas Morning at 9.30am
A Service for everyone
God with us! Emmanuel!*

Vicar: Revd Bob Edy, Witney 776625

Enquiries re baptisms, weddings, funerals;
Mrs. Marian Pitman - 703374
(not after 8pm please!)
www.ducklingtonchurch.org

New Year services
on January 3rd
at 9.30am and 6pm

Confirmation Service
planned for December 2010

Fritillary Sunday
April 18th 2010

Weddings. We are delighted that the rules about who can marry in churches have been relaxed so that many more couples will be entitled to have their wedding in our church. To find out more, see www.yourchurchwedding.org – or contact Bob.

Sunday Services:

9.30am Morning Service with Communion, Children's and Young People's Groups, except December 6th and January 3rd which will be a Family Service for everyone.

6.00pm Evening Service on the first Sunday of the month.

DUCKLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship @ 11.00am (followed by tea and coffee)

We celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday 20th December @ 11.00am A service of lessons and carols

On Sunday 27th December the church will be closed and we will be joining our friends at St Bartholomew's, Ducklington for their morning service

Baby & Toddler Group every **Monday** (except bank holidays) **10.00am –11.30am**

Lots of fun for the children and a great opportunity to meet or make friends – just drop in ! (Our last meeting for this year will be our Christmas party on Monday 14th December but we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 4th January 2010!)

Dads & Toddlers will be meeting again in the New Year – watch this space for dates and details.

You will be warmly welcomed at any, or all, of our activities!

Latest News.....

Thank you very much to everyone who joined in our efforts to support the **Samaritan's Purse** Shoebox Appeal again this year. Thank you especially to Ducklington Primary School and the Good Companions who gave so generously (as well as helping with box filling!) and enabled us to pack and dispatch 99 filled shoeboxes!

We are currently getting ready for the arrival, in January 2010, of our new interim pastors, Dennis and Brenda Greer, from Texas, USA. We are renting a house in the village for them and they are looking forward very much to living and working with us all in Ducklington. More information and details to follow next time.....

May we wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year!

BAHA'I ACTIVITIES

The Ducklington Baha'i community invites people of all Faiths or none to their activities:

MORNING PRAYERS & BREAKFAST

Sunday 6th December & January 3th 9.45am – 11.30am

For information about venues and other activities phone Sarah or Michael Richards 779133
email: sejrighards@gmail.com

'The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens'

Baha'u'llah

<p>West Witney Community Church, meets most Sundays at Queens Dyke School 10.30 am and a home group meets in Ducklington most Wednesdays. For more information contact: Mrs Jo McGhee on 702897 Or visit: www.occ.org.uk/westwitney</p>

Christmas Refuse collections

Thurs 31 Dec now
Thurs 7 Jan
Thurs 14 Jan

Mon 4 Jan
Sat 9 Jan
Fri 15 Jan

Christmas Tree disposal
Sat 9 January 10 – 3 at
Woodford Way car park

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DUCKLINGTON PRE-SCHOOL

All sessions are open to 2 1/2 - 5 year olds and run from 9 am until 11:45 am. We accept nursery vouchers and there is no minimum number of days required by new starters. Places are currently available. For further information please contact; Ducklington Pre-school 07779 186957, or enrolment organiser Lindsay Jarvis on 703647, or email:

duckpreschool@yahoo.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL

Ducklington Village Hall can be hired for private functions – children's parties, anniversaries, one-off meetings, etc. and for regular groups – dance and exercise classes, groups for education or pleasure for young and not-so-young.

The main hall has a maximum capacity of 100 and an additional room (the Lilac Room, upstairs) is available for smaller groups and meetings.



The Village Hall AGM was held on 18 November and the following officers were elected:

Chairman	Edmund Strainge
Vice Chairman	Brian Russell
Treasurer	Mike Truran
Clerk of Works	Peter Godwin
Secretary	Sarah Temple

To book the hall or for information about booking fees, contact:

Sally Craig, Booking Secretary: (01993) 772722 (not Sundays, please) until 31 December.

E-mail: sallypcraig@btinternet.com

From 1 January 2010 the new booking secretary will be Sarah Temple 01993 709886 – please avoid calling after 8.30 pm.

BINGO in the Village Hall – in aid of Village Hall funds

Dates for future bingo sessions will be on the third Thursday of the month, as follows:

17 Dec & 21 Jan

Doors open: 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm Eyes down

ALL WELCOME! (No unaccompanied children, please)



**Village Open Gardens
12 & 13 June 2010**



1st DUCKLINGTON BROWNIES

Brownies meet in the Village Hall on Monday evenings (in term time)
from 6 to 7.15 p.m.

Girls aged 7 – 10 years are welcome.

For more information please contact: Mrs Jane Twyman on 774368



DUCKLINGTON & HARDWICK PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

If you would like to get involved in helping to plan the 2010 Show the **Ducklington & Hardwick Flower & Produce Association AGM** will take place on **Monday 7th December at 8pm** in the Lilac Room at the Village Hall. The Committee meets four times a year for an hour or so and then help is needed on Show weekend. We always need new members so please do come along.

The W.I. has come to Ducklington

A new W.I. has come to Ducklington. We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month in Ducklington Baptist Church Hall at 7.30p.m.

We have a warm welcome waiting for you. Come and see the opportunities available with a W.I. membership.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 3rd December. We will be having a Christmas themed demonstration with refreshments.

No formal meeting on January 7th but we will meet at The Strickland at 7.30 for a social drink, all ladies welcome.

DUCKLINGTON MORRIS

We practice on most Tuesdays in the Village Hall from 8.30 to 10pm and then most of us retire to the Bell for a rest, drink and a chat afterwards. We welcome new members who need have no experience as full free instruction will be given.

Those of you who would either like to join us, watch us or have us dance at an event and want further information please contact our Squire, Peter West after a practice, telephone him on 01869 601451 or e-mail him on:- badger@ducklington.vianw.co.uk or badgerducklingto@ntlworld.com or see our website:- www.ducklingtonmorris.org.uk

Our December/January Programme

Sat 19th December:- Again we will be performing our traditional mummers' play in pubs in the Witney area. Watch out for pub details, times etc. on posters or in 'What's On' in The Witney Gazette or the Oxford Times. Come and have a laugh in a cosy christmassy pub!

QUEEN EMMA'S MORRIS

We practice on Wednesday evening at Ducklington Village Hall from 8.15 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. For further information please contact our Squire - Karen Shooter tel: 01993 840320 or e-mail: squire@queenemmas.co.uk or Publicity Officer - Dorothy Allen tel: 01993 776824 or e-mail: daveanddotallen@yahoo.co.uk

Ducklington with Hardwick and Yelford Charity.

This charity is intended "to relieve either generally or individually persons resident in the Parishes of Ducklington, Hardwick, and Yelford who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress", eg help with heating, transport costs etc.

The Charity also considers requests from young people who reside within the Parishes of Ducklington Hardwick or Yelford, who are embarking on courses. For those starting University courses, book grants are awarded and for those who are starting apprenticeships help to purchase equipment etc.

The Charity meets twice a year March and November. However, applications can be made at any time as the Clerk will contact members of the Committee.

In the first instance all requests for grants or help should be addressed to:

The Clerk,
Ducklington & Hardwick with Yelford Charity
16 Feilden Close Ducklington Witney OX29 7XB.

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Village Cafe

is on the second Wednesday in the month from 2 – 3.30 pm in the Baptist Chapel
come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee, all ages welcome.
9th December and January 13th

If you would like to bring **used stamps with about 1 cm of envelope around them**, we will collect them and forward them to someone who is collecting them **to raise funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind**. Alternatively, please deliver your used stamps to 23 Park Road.

DUCKLINGTON SPORTS CLUB

Club Update

Thanks to everyone that attended our recent fund raisers and we have another couple of events coming up that will see us through the rest of this year.

If your shopping takes you to Lidl on weekends, then on Sunday 6th December we will be deploying our junior teams (Under 7 to Under 11) as bag-packers.

On Saturday 19th December at Glebelands, we will be hosting a disco for the youngsters.

We are progressing well with our proposed new pavilion and now have full and completed drawings for the new building that will allow us to price up and go to tender for the new facility.

The DSC Committee are looking for a new Treasurer, as our existing Treasurer will be leaving the post by May 2010. We are looking to hand over responsibilities prior to May if a suitable candidate can be found in the meantime.

We are also looking for volunteers to help collect our 250-Club. Rounds are local to the village and are collected monthly.

Fund Raisers The next key dates for your diary

Lidl Supermarket,- Bag packing	Sunday 6 th December.
Kids Christmas Disco	Saturday 19 th December
Youth 6-a- side football tournament	Summer 2010

250 Club

There are numbers available to join the 250-Club. Here are the latest winners

250 Club August Winners

£100	No. 196	Ray Wiggins
£50	No. 56	Brian Hicks
£20	No. 150	Barry Puddle
£10	No. 245	A. Millbank
£5	No. 194	'Gilly'

250 Club September Winners

£50	No. 34	Ray Bartlett
£20	No. 124	J. Belcher
£10	No. 239	J. Bowles
£5	No. 29	A. Gill

Booking The Club

The Club is available for hire for parties and other uses.

Sport

We are now into our football season and have football teams for all ages, from under- 7 to Veterans.

Contact

If you are interested in helping or joining in any of the areas mentioned, please contact Steve Townsend on 77123 or any member of the Club.

More Information

For more information, see our website: <http://www.ducklingtonsportsclub.com/>

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the December/January issue is 15th January

Items should be sent to Margaret Hellowell, 23 Park Road Ducklington by e-mail or on paper, to parkrd@nildram.co.uk or tel:772565

Keep your Christmas under wraps

Christmas can mean pay-day for criminals. Homes become bigger targets as people go away for the holidays and opportunist thieves are on the lookout for expensive presents. By following a few simple steps you can ensure that you and your family have an enjoyable, crime-free Christmas.

- Shopping for Christmas can be busy and stressful - be aware of your surroundings, watch out for pickpockets, keep bags zipped up and ensure wallets and purses are not visible. Never hang handbags on pushchairs or shopping trolleys.
- Don't leave your shopping on display in your car - keep it out of sight in the boot and make sure your car is secure. Park in a secure 'Park Mark' car park.
- Don't leave Christmas presents under the tree in full view of burglars who may be peering through windows - keep them in a secure place until the big day.
- Don't put your empty boxes from Christmas presents (or any new purchases) out until your recycling collection day and make sure you break up the boxes and secure them together - the boxes and wrappings advertise to burglars what new gadgets and items await them inside!
- Security mark your property. The Safer Communities Partnership is selling Selecta DNA property marking kits for just £15 (normal retail price £49). The kit involves sweeping a paste on which contains a series of unique microdots, only visible under a UV lamp. Your marked property is registered on a national secure database and if your goods are stolen and recovered the police can check on the database for the owner. If you would like to purchase a Selecta DNA property marking kit, telephone the crime reduction adviser Bill Butcher on 01993 861638.

For further crime reduction advice or to find out what the Police and District Council are doing to reduce crime and disorder visit www.whosmybobby.co.uk.

THE OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, WOODSTOCK

Garden Gallery 21st November – 3rd January **Oxfordshire Craft Guild Christmas Exhibition**
Designers and makers from across Oxfordshire display a wide range of traditional and contemporary crafts. Perfect timing for purchasing special Christmas gifts.
Children's Activities at The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock this Christmas

Family Drop-ins

Tuesday 22nd December 2-4pm -**Bobbin' Robin**, Make a bouncing robin Christmas decoration

Wednesday 23rd December 2-4pm -**Woodstock Wonderland**, Make a 3D winter scene

Tuesday 29th December 2-4 pm -**Four Seasons Calendar** Create a 2010 calendar

No need to book, just drop in between 2 and 4 pm, £1 per child no age limits

All children must be accompanied by an adult

For further information please telephone 01993 811456

PILATES

MAT WORK CLASSES
HELD AT DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE HALL
On Thursdays

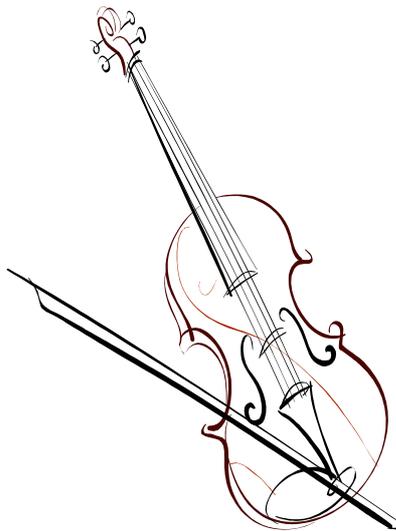
Improvers Class @ 7.00pm
Beginners Class @ 8.10pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:-

Rona Bennett Tel: 01865 820754

Email: ronastella@btinternet.com

Qualified **PILATES**foundation Matwork Instructor



VIOLIN & VIOLA TUITION

Ever wanted to learn to play violin or viola? Want to have fun as well as, or instead of just clocking up the grades? Like to be able to introduce violin riffs into your band's sound? If so this may be for you.

Ducklington based teacher welcomes children, young people and adults, beginners to grade 8, no previous experience of reading music necessary.

To find out more contact:

Victoria Beaumont (BA Hons Music), Grade 8 Distinction
(Guildhall School of Music & Drama)

01993 779482

enableall@live.com

What's new and going on in your local Strickland Arms

Ducklington

01993 703714

A warm welcome from the team and the new manager here at the Strickland Arms, we thought we would drop you a little reminder of some of the new menus that are going on here and some important dates that might be worth putting in your diaries.

Saturday November 21st

Our **Charity Fun Night** with fancy dress and karaoke along with prizes and fun for everyone. There will be a curry buffet included in the price of £5 a ticket per person. The charity we are supporting is **Sobell House** in Oxford, which is a local charity supporting people with terminal illnesses and their families.

See bar staff for a ticket.

Weekly menus and kitchen open times are :-

Monday 12 - 2.30 and 6.30 - 9.00

Selection of meals from our a la carte menu, which is accompanied by our daily specials board and fish specials created by our chefs.

Tuesday 12 - 2.30 and 6.30 - 9.00

Tuesday evenings are our famous steak nights, on which for £7.95 you can get a steak of your choice from our wide selection that has been provided by our very own Denshams of Witney butchers, meat that is locally sourced and butchered.

Wednesday 12 - 2.30 and 6.30 - 9.00

Wednesday is our very popular sausage club, in which you can try our locally made sausage varieties. Choose the type of creamed mash and the flavor of gravy you would like, to add that finishing touch to your meal. All for £6 per person

Thursday 12 - 2.30 and 6.30 - 9.00

Thursday evening is our new fish night in which one of our chefs creates an evening's menu dedicated to the use of fresh fish which is cooked to perfection. This menu will tempt your taste buds and ensure you of an evening of great food with a wine list to accompany the best of menus.

Friday/Saturday 12 - 2.30 and 6.30 - 9.00

A Selection of meals from our a la carte menu, which is complemented by our daily specials board and daily fish specials created by our chefs.

Sunday 12- 3

Our fantastic Sunday lunch menu, using only local meats from our own butchers, Denshams of Witney, all accompanied by 5 different vegetables, crisp roast potatoes, homemade Yorkshire pudding, stuffing and rich gravy. Children's portions available.

Christmas menus are now available.

If you have not booked that family or works festive party, give us a call

So feel free to drop in and say hello and be greeted by the friendly staff and atmosphere that a good local village pub should provide.

Denshams Quality Butchers are now taking orders for Christmas, call in at 49 High Street, Witney or telephone 703714 to discuss your requirements. Free home delivery is available, on request, to Ducklington residents.