

PARISH COUNCIL

Bus shelters alongside A415

The installation of two new bus shelters on the A415 past the roundabout into Witney has recently been completed. These bus shelters are within the parish of Ducklington. They were installed free of charge and will be maintained and cleaned free of charge by the company which will receive the advertising income from them. The Parish Council also secured a financial contribution from the company for giving its permission for the shelters to be installed. This has been set aside for future improvement works to the playgrounds.

Virtual footpath by the Old Rectory on Standlake Road

The Parish Council has been working for a long time to persuade Oxfordshire Highways to undertake some measures to improve the safety of pedestrians walking past the Old Rectory where the actual footpath becomes very narrow and then disappears altogether. Highways has now installed what they call a "virtual" footpath at this point where the roadway is too narrow to install a real footpath. This has been created with white lining and red reflectors. The Parish Council hopes that this work and the painting of "SLOW" on the road in both directions will improve safety at this location.

Bartholomew Close open space

The Parish Council owns the riverside area of open space at the bottom of the Bartholomew Close development for the benefit of the residents of Ducklington. The Council has recently undertaken some work to make this space more user-friendly – opening it up into one space, installing a bench and ordering the installation of a litter bin. It is a beautiful spot which the Parish Council hopes can be enjoyed by local people even more now. Please remember that there is very limited parking on this residential development and the Parish Council requests that anyone needing to come by car to use the open space parks in the Aston Road car park which is only a 5 minute walk away.

Pigeons in the playgrounds

The Parish Council recently paid for and installed plastic anti-roosting spikes on the top bars of some of the swings on the village playgrounds. These plastic spikes do not harm birds (and are not dangerous to people) but prevent the birds from sitting on the top bars of the swings and leaving their droppings on the seats below. Disappointingly most of the spikes were ripped off on the same day they were installed. The Parish Council plans to install a further set of spikes and requests that they are left intact so that we are able to keep the seats clean and pleasant for the children to use.

The pond

The water has returned (although it is not yet very deep), and so have the ducks in full force! There were over 70 ducks at the pond at a recent count. You may remember that at the village pond meeting in February most people felt that it would be preferable for there to be fewer ducks on the pond. The pond will naturally support a small group of ducks – the only reason there are so many is because people continue to feed them, often with large quantities of bread which is in fact harmful to ducks because of its high salt content. The Parish Council repeats its request for people to stop feeding the ducks – it is not good for them to live in such a congested group, they contribute to the mud build up in the pond and the left-over food attracts vermin.

Dog fouling

Although everyone knows that they should pick up after their dogs and the Parish Council has ensured that there are several dog bins installed through the village, some people continue to let their dogs foul the footpaths and grass verges. Allowing your dog to foul in a public place is an offence and represents a danger to public health - dog faeces carry many germs that can cause illness and in extreme cases could result in blindness. Please clean up after your dog.

If you see someone leaving dog faeces in a public place you can report it to West Oxfordshire District Council on 01993 861000. Offenders may be prosecuted.

Roadway lighting between the car park and the sports pavilion

Anyone using the car park and the pavilion at night will be aware that there have been problems with the two roadway lights for some time. The Parish Council has been working to resolve this and to get the lights working again. The control gear on one of the lights has been replaced but it appears that there is a fault in the underground cable which runs between the two lights. The electrician working for

the Parish Council is continuing to investigate this and we hope that both lights will be working again soon.

Anti-social behaviour

One of the local neighbourhood police officers came to the November Parish Council meeting to discuss local policing issues. There have been some more incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village recently – damage to the fence which runs between Moors Close and Beanhill Road, damage to the noticeboard on Witney Road and some new graffiti. The Police Officer asked the Parish Council to encourage anyone who has information about any of these incidents or any other anti-social behaviour in Ducklington to contact Thames Valley Police on their non-emergency telephone number - 08458 505 505.

Changes to local subsidised bus services

The County Council recently carried out a review of the bus services within the county which it subsidises. There are two changes affecting service 19 which runs through Ducklington – the operator will change to RH Transport instead of Stagecoach, and the 8.05am bus between Witney and Carterton (which passes through Ducklington at 8.11am) will be withdrawn. These changes will take effect from 13 December.

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
Website:	www.ducklingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Ducklington and Hardwick with Yelford Charity

The charity makes a one off grant for young people going into further education or starting an apprenticeship/course, of £100 . Application for this grant can be applied for in the first instance by writing to:

The Clerk, Mrs Joyce Parry at 16 Feilden Close Ducklington Witney Oxon OX29 7XB.

Please note this grant is only available to persons living within the Parishes of Ducklington, Hardwick or Yelford.

Gill Mill Quarry Update

From Martin Layer, Planning & Estates Manager, Smith & Sons Bletchington

I explained in my last update that we were gathering the technical information necessary to prepare for our proposed planning application and that the public exhibition to help explain our ideas was now scheduled for the spring of 2011. I also explained that we had taken on board feedback about the importance and value of Ducklington Mead by removing neighbouring land from the area under consideration for quarrying. We are still working on this but will ensure that the Mead and its setting remain unaffected by our proposals. Data gathering and fieldwork is still being carried out and this will continue until we have a comprehensive picture of this part of the valley. Only then will we be able to progress our ideas. While there will not be a great deal more to report for a month or so, I thought you might be interested to know that our restoration work on areas quarried to date has been profiled in the leading trade magazine *Mineral Planning*. The article compares the wildlife rich restored areas of **Rushy Common** with the low ecological value grassland that existed previously. Our long term management of this site and the neighbouring **Tar Lakes** will build on this early potential to provide a valuable nature conservation and amenity asset for local people. The reserve and the lakes will be opened in the coming months. We obviously hope that this restoration work will assist our case for an extension and I will include more detail in our exhibition. The article is available on our website www.smithsbletchington.co.uk; follow the links through the *Community Zone* and *Gill Mill*.
November 2010

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

St. Bartholomew's Church

Everyone is warmly welcome to all services and events.

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

Sat. Nov 27th at 9.30am Children's Craft Morning

Sunday Nov 28th at 5pm Christingle Service

Tuesday Dec 14th at 7.30pm 'Sing Gloria' - concert
with the Brize Singers

Sunday Dec 19th at 6pm Carol Service

Friday Dec 24th at 5pm Crib Service

Friday Dec 24th at 11.15 pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day Service at 9.30am

Sunday Dec 26th at 9.30am Communion
(shortened)

Sunday Jan 2nd 9.30am New Year Family Service

Alpha Course We are planning another Alpha Course in February 2011 for those who would like to take part.

Do look at our website for more information about Alpha and / or contact Bob, Martin Dines or Jessica Parker for further details.

Church opening every Wednesday The church is open every Wednesday from 9am until 1pm. We hope that people will appreciate the opportunity to go in and look around – or to just sit and enjoy the beauty and the peace. There is a box for prayer requests just inside the north door and a short time of prayers at 10.30 am, to which all are invited.

Enquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals to the **Parish Administrator, Mrs. Marian Pitman - tel. 703374** (not after 7.30pm please!)

Vicar: The Revd Bob Edy, Witney 776625

Website: www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk

Guitar Concert

On Saturday January 29th at 7.30pm in the church, we have a classical guitar concert featuring Ray Burley and Gordon Giltrap. Tickets for this top class event (inc a glass of wine) are £ 10 and £ 6 (conc) from Roger Barnes, Frank Levermore, Bob Edy, Ray Burley or Marian Pitman.

Every Sunday

There is a service in church at 9.30am

On the first Sunday in the month, this is a Family Service lasting about 45 minutes. This is quite informal and is suitable for all ages.

On the other Sundays, we have groups and activities for children and young people at the same time as the morning service.

On the first Sunday in the month, we also have a Communion Service at 6pm. The congregation is smaller and this is a more reflective time

Fritillary Sunday 2011

will be on April 17th

DUCKLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Take a look at what's happening here at Ducklington Baptist Church.

Sunday Morning Worship @ 11.00am

We follow a simple and uncomplicated form of worship. Our services last about an hour, in which

- We sing a mixture of traditional and contemporary songs of praise
- We pray for the needs of our local community and for the wider world, and
- We listen to what God is telling us through the reading and an explanation of a passage from the Bible.

A programme of activities is available for children.

Tea and coffee is served at the end of our services.

We celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month.

Monday Baby & Toddler Group @ 10.00am to 11.30am (except bank holidays)

These times are filled with fun for the children and great conversation for their mums and carers.

They're a wonderful opportunity to meet with existing friends and to make new ones too. Just drop in!

Monday Bible Study @ 7.30pm

We meet for fellowship and study every Monday evening at the church. Whether you have previous experience in studying the Bible or none at all, you will enjoy the lively discussion and rich camaraderie with others who are keen to learn more about God's Word.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting @ 8.00pm

Brian and Paula Brewer host a mid-week prayer meeting in their home at 9 Bartholomew Close, Ducklington. We would love to pray with you and for you, so please feel free to join us. If you would like to submit a prayer request, please contact Brian or Paula on 07780 786108 or via e-mail at bpbrewer1@yahoo.com.

Dads & Toddlers @ 10.00am to 11.30am on Saturday 11 December and Saturday 8 January

Savour the smell and the taste of our bacon rolls and enjoy a mug of fresh tea or coffee at this event. If you're a dad or granddad, come and join us for conversation with other men while the children play and their mums enjoy a break.

Toddler Nativity Celebration – Saturday 18 December @ 4.00pm

Bring your little angels, wise men (and women!) and shepherds along in costume if possible, to help us re-enact the story of the Nativity of Jesus. There will be lots of fun and photo opportunities and refreshments to follow.

Christmas Carol Service – Thursday 23 December @ 7.00pm

Join with us for some familiar carol singing on this evening and enjoy some mince pies and seasonal refreshments afterwards.

Christmas Day – Saturday 25 December @ 10.00am

Come and join the celebration in our morning service on this very special day.

Please note - There will be no service on Boxing Day, Sunday 26 December. Our regular activities will resume on Sunday 2 January 2011

Thank you – to Ducklington Primary School and to everyone who donated shoe boxes and Christmas gifts for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child at the beginning of November.

Interim Pastor: Brian Brewer
Tel. 07780 786108

Website: www.ducklingtonbaptistchurch.org

Ducklington Baptist Church, Witney Road, Ducklington, OX29 7TX

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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.



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

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:

16 December & 20 January

All money raised goes to the Village Hall funds.

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

ALL WELCOME! (No unaccompanied children, please)



Ducklington W.I.

We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month in Ducklington **Baptist Church** at 7.30 - 9.30pm.

2nd. Dec. Musical evening with \Dave "Dickie" Davis, old time favourites to modern classics. Open evening - free to members and £3 for visitors. The competition for this meeting is to bring something you have made to do with Christmas. Competition will be judged by the guest speaker.

6th Jan 2011 Social evening at the Strickland pub in Ducklington.

We are also hoping to arrange a trip to the pantomime in Witney, details at the Dec. Meeting.

Ducklington History Group

We are currently writing a history of Ducklington 1900-1950 and are trying to locate the whereabouts of a brass plaque, which used to be in the school, that recorded all the names of the men from the village who joined up during the First World War. It was unveiled in the schoolroom in September 1919. Does anyone remember it, or what became of it? We don't want the plaque back, but we would like to record the names on it. Also it seems that relatives of the war dead were presented with a framed memorial of those who gave their lives, executed in gold and green with ivy leaf border and dark oak frame. If any one has one it would be nice if we could photograph it for the history. Any information, or anything else interesting about Ducklington, please contact Roger Barnes, 4 Pound Close; Tel 706198; e-mail roger@ducklington.com



Village Cafe

is on the second Wednesday in the month from 2 – 3.30 pm in the **Baptist Church**
come with a friend and have a chat over a cup of tea & biscuit or coffee & cake.
December no meeting 12 January

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

Nearly new sale – Sunday 6th February, more details in next newsletter

DUCKLINGTON & HARDWICK PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

August Bank Holiday Monday



If you would like to get involved in helping to plan the 2011 Show, which will be our 60th, the AGM will take place on **Monday 6th 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.

DUCKLINGTON MORRIS

We practice on Tuesdays in the Village Hall from 8.30 to 10pm.
Both sexes and all age groups welcome. No experience necessary.

Our December/January Programme

Friday 17th and Saturday 18th December:- Again we will be performing our traditional mummers' play in pubs in Ducklington and Witney in aid of a local charity. 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!

Further details from Peter West on 01869 601451 or e-mail :- badger@ducklington.vianw.co.uk or badgerducklingto@ntlworld.com or see our website:- www.ducklingtonmorris.org.uk

Did you Know?

When and how did Morris Dancing start? We are sometimes asked this but to be honest nobody really knows! There is written evidence that it was being performed in this country in the fifteenth century and there are several unproved theories. One is that it was learnt by English soldiers during Richard the Lionheart's Crusades in the Holy Land in the twelfth century. It has been claimed that there have been similar dances performed by natives in that area. Another is that it was learned during the Spanish Wars possibly from the Moors who invaded Spain and that 'Morris' derives from 'Moorish'. There definitely are similar dance styles seen in areas of Spain.

DUCKLINGTON SPORTS CLUB (DSC)

Club Update

During the summer the DSC achieved charity status which will help us in our pursuit of funding for the new Pavilion. We have to have pledged a major proportion of the required monies before we can start any work. We anticipate that grant aid will be available but may be more difficult to obtain, than before, but we are keen to build momentum now and we are confident that we will stick to our timetable of a brand spanking new pavilion by early 2012.

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

We are working closely with the Parish Council and we will soon meet with them in a joint steering committee to ensure we work mutually for the benefit of the village in this venture.

The Committee are still looking for new helpers to assist us. We have general roles for those interested in helping us, specifically we need volunteers to collect our 250-Club; also for anyone interested in Cricket Umpiring, either every week or just on the occasional Saturday (in the summer).

Our footballers are busy and well into their season and many of our teams are close to the top of their leagues. Our dozen or so adult and youth teams play at home on Saturday and Sundays and can be seen in the flesh most weekend mornings and afternoons. There is a Tea-bar on Saturday mornings when our younger age group play, so come down and enjoy a warm drink and snack whilst supporting your local teams.

Coming Months

Football will continue its enjoyable and enduring progress through the coming months and the club are going to do some work on the Cricket nets. The Witney Lions were kind enough to provide the club with a donation to be spent specifically on cricket equipment, so we will be installing a batting mat soon, in that corner of the field.

250 Club

There are slots available to join the 250-Club. It costs £1 per month. Here are the latest winners

250 Club September Winners

£50	No.261	Mr Peachey
£20	No.33	D Tolley
£10	No.228	Mrs Huckin
£5	No.202	A Faulkner

Booking The Club

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

Contact

If you are interested in helping or joining in any of the areas mentioned, please contact Steve Townsend on 778142 or any member of the Club.

More Information

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

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the February/March issue is 15 January

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

Denshams Quality Butchers

are now taking orders for Christmas,
to discuss your requirements:-

call in at 49 High Street, Witney
or telephone 703714

Free home delivery is available, on request, to Ducklington residents.

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**Improvers Class @ 7.00pm
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:-

Rona Bennett Tel: 01865 820754

Email: ronastella@btinternet.com

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