

## PARISH COUNCIL

### **Report on the Village Pond Meeting - 25th February 2010**

Over fifty people from the village gathered to hear speakers and ask questions about the future of the village pond in the main hall of Ducklington Primary School. Rod d'Ayala, a pond expert, gave a short talk with slides about the ecology of ponds and applied some of his ideas to our village pond. This was followed by questions and suggestions from the floor and another short contribution by Martin Layer, who had experience of a similar pond in his village of Sibford Gower.

Mr d'Ayala talked about two extremes of ponds – one a wildlife pond and the other a duck pond. He suggested that you could not really have both, because ducks tend to destroy most other wildlife.

Mr d'Ayala stated that one of the factors that produces mud in the pond is run off from the road and the other is duck droppings, the nutrients from which produce algae which eventually die, deoxygenating the water, and then fill the pond.

It was suggested that a filter system of stones, reeds and wild irises could be built below the road run-off pipes and a mock-up photograph of such a system was shown.

The general feeling of the meeting was that the ducks should remain but many people voiced the opinion that there should be fewer ducks than the current number of around 65, in order to maintain a healthier pond. It was generally agreed that the filter system might be a good option.

Mr Layer, who works for Smiths at Gill Mill, kindly offered to provide a borehole close to the pond which would monitor water table levels throughout the year. This might give some information regarding pond water levels.

At the Parish Council Meeting in March it was decided to follow the general wishes of the village regarding the ducks and to install the filter beds at some later stage.

### **Future Developments at Gill Mill**

Martin Layer, Planning and Estates Manager for Smith & Sons (Bletchington) Ltd writes about the future plans for developing the quarry at Gill Mill:

“Smiths Bletchington has begun an extensive community consultation programme over preliminary proposals to extend the life of its Gill Mill quarry. The family-owned company has been extracting sand and gravel at Gill Mill for over 20 years and at the same time has been progressively returning the land to a mix of after-uses including nature conservation, public access and agriculture. The quarry is an important supplier of aggregates to the building industry in Oxfordshire and more recently has become a local centre for the recycling of construction waste in order to provide alternative recycled aggregates. While a planning application will not be submitted until 2011, the company wants to give local people every opportunity to comment as its plans evolve over the coming months. It has already briefed a liaison committee made up of representatives from Ducklington, South Leigh and Hardwick with Yelford Parish Councils and is proposing a public exhibition later this year. It will in time also be carrying information on its website [www.smithsbletchington.co.uk](http://www.smithsbletchington.co.uk) and will provide updates through this newsletter. The company's Planning and Estates Manager, Martin Layer, will attend the Ducklington Annual Parish Meeting on 20 April to provide a short overview of the early thinking.”

### **Ducklington Annual Parish Meeting 2010**

The Annual Parish meeting will take place on Tuesday 20 April 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Martin Layer from Smiths of Bletchington will make a presentation about future plans for Gill Mill (see item above) and there will be the usual annual presentations from the County Councillor, District Councillor and the Parish Council. Thames Valley Police, RAF Brize Norton and Ducklington clubs and groups have also been invited to make short presentations. There will be an opportunity for local residents to ask questions and raise issues of concern to them. People who came last year thought that the meeting was interesting and enjoyable – why don't you come along and see for yourself!

## Parish Council election – 6 May 2010

2010 is a year of elections – there will be an election for the local District Council representative on 6 May and (at some point, possibly also 6 May) a General Election. The nine positions on the Parish Council will also be up for election. Provided they meet certain qualifying criteria (information available by contacting the District Council on 01993 861522) local residents can nominate themselves to be elected to the Parish Council. Nomination papers are available from the District Council at the telephone number given above. Nomination papers have to be returned to the District Council by noon on Thursday 8 April.

## Elections – registering to vote, proxy and postal votes

If you aren't already on the electoral register make sure that you don't lose your right to vote at any of the elections on 6 May this year and the General Election by submitting a "claim" to vote to West Oxfordshire District Council by Tuesday 20 April 2010.

Registered voters can apply to vote by post. The deadline for these applications is 5.00pm on Tuesday 20 April.

Registered voters can apply to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf. New proxy applications have to be received by the District Council by 5.00pm on Tuesday 27 April.

Forms to make these requests are available from the elections office at the District Council on 01993 861525 or via their website at [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk)

## Removal of old BT/electricity pole at Standlake Road near Strainges Close

Thanks go to Terry Reeves who persuaded BT and Southern Electricity to finally sort out the duplication of poles at this location and got them to remove the old and rotten pole. His persuasive powers were clearly better than those of the Parish Clerk who had tried several times unsuccessfully to get this issue resolved.

## 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.

**Please note that the meeting in May will in fact be on the second Wednesday of the Month – 12 May.**

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

## Bank Holiday Waste Collection

Normal day	Revised day
Thur 8 April	Fri 9 April
Thur 6 May	Fri 7 May
Thur 3 June	Fri 4 June

## FISHING

Any angler aged 12 years or over, fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels in England must have an Environment Agency rod licence.

**Rod licences** are available from:

- Post Office outlets throughout England and Wales,
- online, by [direct debit](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/fishing)  
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/fishing>
- and over the telephone on 0844 800 5386. The phone line is open from 8.30am to 8.00pm daily from March to September.

### Ducklington Lake

Contact: Witney Angling Society, Mr Michael Mann, 704711. [b.mann@ntlworld.com](mailto:b.mann@ntlworld.com)  
Permit: **No Day Tickets Available.** Membership and Guest Tickets From State's Tackle Or Michael Mann.

Further Information: State Fishing on Fettiplace Road Tel: 702587

## St. Bartholomew's Church

Everyone is warmly welcome to all services and events.

### Easter services

*Palm Sunday, March 28th: 9.30am Parish Communion  
with children's groups and crèche*

*Mon – Wed. of Holy Week: Night Prayer at 7.30pm*

*Maundy Thursday: Communion Service at 7.30pm*

*Good Friday: April 2nd 10am. Reflective Service*

*Easter Sunday: 9.30am. Easter Celebration*

*The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of the Christian faith and the 9.30am service on Easter Day is always a very happy and special one.  
Do come along!*

**Courses** The 2010 Alpha Course is well under way. In the Autumn there will be a five week course 'What Christians Believe'. If you think that you might be interested, do contact Bob Edy.

### Frittillary Sunday

will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>

The field, plant stall, village hall and church will be open from 11.30am.

Ploughman's lunches will be served from 11.30am and then teas from 2pm until 5.00pm.

Church tower open; Morris Dancers; handbell ringers, classical trio, etc

**Special visitor this year – former international clown of the year, Roly Bain  
Special 'shows' at 11.30 and 2.30pm**

Please come along and bring your friends.

For those who can stay, there is a short service at 5.30pm.

### 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 11 am, to which all are invited.

**Sunday Services:** 9.30am Parish Communion with children's groups and crèche. except April 4th and May 2nd which will be Family (all-age) Services. 6.00pm on the first Sunday in May (but not April).

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](http://www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk)

# DUCKLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

New things are taking place at Ducklington Baptist Church and you are invited to be part of all that God is doing there!

**Sunday Morning Worship @ 11:00 a.m.** – Our worship time is filled with a blend of familiar songs of the church as well as contemporary Praise and Worship songs. Each Sunday the Scripture is taught by our pastor, Dennis Greer. The time of teaching is followed by a fellowship with tea and coffee. We celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month.

**Monday Evening Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.** – We meet for fellowship and study every Monday evening at the church. In April we will begin the study of Paul's letter to the Colossians. Regardless of your experience in studying the Bible, you will enjoy the lively discussion and the rich fellowship with others who have a desire to learn how to study God's Word.

**Monday Baby & Toddler Group @ 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** (*except bank holidays*) – These mornings are filled with fun for the children and some great chat time for their Mums. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with your friends and enjoy making new ones. Just drop in!

**Wednesday Prayer Time @ 8:00 p.m.** – Dennis and Brenda Greer host our prayer time each week in their home at 9 Bartholomew Close here in the village. We would love to pray with you and for you, so please feel free to come and join us. If you would like to submit a prayer request, please see the Greer's e-mail address and telephone number at the bottom of this announcement.

**Dads & Toddlers meet one Saturday each month @ 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** – The bacon rolls are not to be missed at these events. If you are a Dad or a Granddad, you are invited to come and join us for some wonderful conversation with other guys while the children play. Upcoming dates are 24 April, 22 May, and 26 June.

**You will be warmly welcomed at any or all of our gatherings!** For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Greers @ 07780 786108 or via e-mail @ [dlq1981@gmail.com](mailto:dlq1981@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto:duckpreschool@yahoo.co.uk)

## Handbag Auction – Ducklington Village Hall Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010 – Doors open @ 7pm.

Tickets are available from Emma Shirley - 40 Witney Road, Ducklington, 01993 708108. Priced at £3.00. Tickets are on sale now, they are selling out fast, so to avoid disappointment call Emma now to buy your tickets!

Your unwanted accessories are still needed please (many thanks to all those who have already donated handbags and accessories). We have over 100 bags so far, so great bargains can be expected. We need tissue paper & carrier bags to fill the handbags on the night please.

There are some great raffle prizes to be won in the evening including; Tickets to Windsor Castle, Hatton Farm Park, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Blenheim Palace, Wychwood Brewery, manicure, cut & blow dry. We also have 2 x Silverstone tickets and a Jenson Button signed photo, both will be auctioned on the night.

# DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

- Please save your Tesco and Sainsbury's school vouchers for Pre-School. Please put them in an envelope marked for Pre-School in the Village Hall letterbox.
- For all those that shop on the internet, please read on... Easyfundraising is a FREE service and at no extra cost you can raise funds for Pre-School. You still shop directly with each retailer as you would normally, but simply by using the Easyfundraising site first, each purchase you make will generate a **cashback donation** to Pre-School. Simply log onto <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> and choose Ducklington Pre-School as your cause. For example, spend £25 with WH Smith and 3.5% will be donated. You will have raised £0.88, at no extra cost to your purchase. Make any purchase from Amazon and 2.5% will be donated. Insure your car with Direct Line and raise £35.00, or purchase a mobile phone from O2 and earn £17.50, and so on....

## Witney Children's Centre Stay and Play Session

Witney Children's Centre has moved its drop-in from Ducklington Village Hall on Thursday afternoons to West Witney Primary School. We will be starting this group on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March - the time will be the same 1-3pm. All welcome.  
Please phone or text 07717221886 for more information.



## Village Cafe

is on the second Wednesday in the month from 2 – 3.30 pm in the Baptist Chapel  
come and have a cup of tea or coffee, all ages welcome.

**14 April and 12 May**

## WANTED:

**3 or more bed property in Ducklington.** Must have double garage and utility room. Anything considered. Contact Paul Read/Abigail Jones Tel. 01993 702054 [prexpressions@googlemail.com](mailto:prexpressions@googlemail.com)

**Low cost accommodation** for friendly writer/author in return for providing help and assistance. Currently living temporarily in the Bell Inn, would like something more long-term and participate in village life. Phone Cornelius: 700720 or 07833 957744 Please leave message if I am out.

## Ducklington W.I.

We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month in Ducklington Baptist Church at 7.30 – 9.30 p.m.  
April 1st, Stanley Jenkins from the Witney Museum on Witney railway  
May 6th, Belly dancers display

# 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.

A set of **Audi Keys** was found in the Village Hall just before Christmas 2009.

Despite asking our regular users, they have not been claimed.

If they belong to you, or you know who they may belong to please contact the Booking Secretary on 01993 709886.

## ***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:

**15 April & 20 May**

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

ALL WELCOME! (No unaccompanied children, please)



## **Ducklington Open Gardens**

To raise funds for the upkeep of your Village Hall

**Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th June**

**For those opening gardens and/or helping – and anyone who would like to help – there will be a meeting on Wednesday 28th April at 7.45pm in the Lilac Room (upstairs at the Village Hall).**

Note this will follow a regular Village Hall meeting for hall users which is at 7pm in the same venue.

Gardens will be open from 1.30 – 5.30 pm and there will be lots of things happening in the village as well. Admission by programme – available over that weekend from the Village Hall and from most gardens participating – price held since 2002 at only £2.50 per person, valid over the two days.

There will be over a dozen gardens open, some favourites and some new. **If you think you might like to open yours as well, there is still time – just let one of the organisers below know by 4<sup>th</sup> April.**

Sally Craig: (01993) 772722; [sallypcraig@btinternet.com](mailto:sallypcraig@btinternet.com); Ruth Edy: (01993) 776625  
[ruth\\_edy6@hotmail.com](mailto:ruth_edy6@hotmail.com); or Alison Souster: (01993) 772747 [allysouster@btinternet.com](mailto:allysouster@btinternet.com)

## **DUCKLINGTON & HARDWICK PRODUCE ASSOCIATION**

59<sup>th</sup> Show on August Bank Holiday Monday



Thank you to all the people who volunteered to help.  
The Show will go ahead this year.

# DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

## 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 local April/May Dance Programme.

Sat April 17th from 11am	Oxford Folk Festival; With lots of other dance teams processing around the streets of Oxford City Centre finishing up dancing in Cornmarket Street.
Sun April 18th from 2.30pm	Fritillary Sunday, Ducklington (outside the Parish Church )
Tues 20th April from 8.00pm	In the yard of The Bell Inn Ducklington
Sat May 1st from 10am	At Bourton-on-the Water start near the Motor Museum and at various points around the village.
Tues May 11th from 8.00pm	At the Falkland Arms Great Tew with several guest sides.
Mon May 31st from 6pm	At The Horseshoe, Bampton.as a guest side at The Bampton Day of Dance

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

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

### Deadline for the June/July issue is 15th May

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

## OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS 2010

Oxfordshire Artweeks 2010, from 8<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May, boasts a record number of events plus a number of new features. As always, visitors can expect a warm welcome at artist's homes, studios, workshops, schools, galleries and gardens all over the county and on Art Trails organised by artists in close geographical proximity. Details of all this and more can be found by visiting [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)

In addition to regular Artweeks' exhibitions, garden designers **Sarah Naybour** and **Paul Ridley** are to create a Sculpture Garden at Oxford Castle. They will construct a new dynamic in the old exercise yard with new beds and sculptures by Artweeks' artists.

*Oxford Artweeks Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May is organised into three geographical areas*

*City Exhibitions: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May*

*South Exhibitions: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May*

*North Exhibitions: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May*

All exhibitions are free

*Oxford Artweeks brochures will be available from the beginning of April from libraries, Tourist Information Centres, museums, galleries, shops and many other public venues, or online at*

[www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)

## THE OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, WOODSTOCK

### EXHIBITIONS Garden Gallery 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 9<sup>th</sup> May The Arts of Art

Reveals the techniques and tricks of the art world from perspective to lighting. Interactive displays include the 'art machine', a large-scale exhibit where visitors can create their own art by squirting paint at a giant spinning screen.

**For further information please telephone 01993 811456**

## WHATS HAPPENING AT THE STRICKLAND? Tel: 703413

### **MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH TILL 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL IS....NATIONAL CASK ALE WEEK**

Celebrate with us this national treasure of REAL CASK ALES. A weeklong event in which you can :-

- \* choose from the 4 new ale ranges for that week
- \* sample any 3 in our special 1/3<sup>rd</sup> pint glasses for the price of pint.
- \* eat and enjoy the ale with a pint and sausage and mash offer. Any pint of ale of your choice and a plate full of 3 of Denshams award winning sausages on creamy mash and onion gravy for only £6.50.
- \* go on a Brewery tour of Wadworths – ask in pub for details. This will be followed by a steak dinner back at the Strickland Arms

### **WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH IS .... our once a month poker night**

- \* starts 8.30pm, but be early as it is very popular, £10 per person with winner taking all.
- \* run by local lads, who have been running poker nights for many years, are very professional and make all standards of players welcome.

### **THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL IS....IN HOUSE SINGLE DARTS TOURNAMENT**

- \* £2 to enter per person \* First throw starts at 8pm
- \* Registration form is on the darts board notice board.
- \* Cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> and an in house trophy for the winner

### **SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL IS....Bank Holiday weekend horse race afternoon**

- \* join us at 5pm on this Easter Sunday afternoon for a fun packed afternoon electronic horse racing
- \* a professional event run by outside company who provide an afternoon of eight races on which you can bet and win .
- \* Also you will have the chance of sponsoring a race or even becoming an owner of any of the horses in any of the eight races, which if your horse wins a special prize goes to the owners.
- \* once the racing is over there will be a FREE buffet just to help wash the beer down.
- \* So if you're a race lover or not come along and enjoy an afternoon of great beer, friends and something a little different to make this great Bank Holiday weekend even more special.

### **MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL IS....The annual Strickland Arms cake decorating competition and in house single Aunt Sally competition.**

- \* The cake decorating competition is open to anyone and is £2 each to enter; all money will go to the pub's designated charity Sobell House
- \* basically make and decorate a cake in the style of your choice, bring it along to the Strickland Arms at 1pm. From 1pm till 2 pm they will be judged by our cake loving panel who will announce the winner.
- \* Once the judging is finished all cakes will be auctioned off, with money again going to Sobell House.
- \* **Aunt Sally competition will start at 3pm and is £2 per person to enter**
- \* This is a singles knockout tournament \* Cash prizes and trophy for the overall winner
- \* You can register for this event on the day, but all entries must be in and paid for by 2pm so the draw can be made.

### **FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL IS ....St Georges Day, so all you English folk this is the time to celebrate your patron saint with us.**

- \* Pie, mash & pint £7.00 all day \* A meat draw in the evening
- \* play your cards right with the host with the most " Ginger Minger"

### **SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL IS....The famous monthly quiz night**

- \* starts at 8.30pm \* max 4 team
- \* £10 per team to enter, with all money going to cash prizes for the evening fun, plus some spot prizes
- \* few nibbles thrown in during the evening to keep the brain ticking over

### **SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY IS OUR FIRST EVER....MAY BANK HOLIDAY STRICKLAND ARMS BALL**

- \* A ticket only event with a cost of £5 per person which will all be donated to Sobell House
- \* Live music \* Slave auction (all money raised going charity) \* Pig roast
- \* Dress code is black tie for the men and dresses for the ladies \* Tickets on sale April 1<sup>st</sup> from bar

We look forward to seeing you all, and hope that there is something here that will help bring a touch of fun whilst in the company of friends and the Strickland team - Take care Lee and team