

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

February/March 2011

ISSUE 158

PARISH COUNCIL

Graffiti

You can't have missed the many new pieces of graffiti through the village which were mostly done in the second half of December. The Parish Council has been in touch with the local neighbourhood police team and is reassured that officers are working hard to identify the offender(s). All incidences of graffiti which were done up to and including Wednesday 5 January have been photographed and logged by the police and can now be cleaned up. Unfortunately, where the graffiti is on private property it is up to the householders to remove it. The Police are keen for anyone who has information on this issue to contact them on the non-emergency telephone number – 0845 8 505 505.

Council Tax 2011/12 – Parish Council portion

The Parish Council is aware that these are difficult financial times for many people. Despite the economy remaining depressed we are all too aware that the prices of many essential goods, particularly fuel, are rising. The Parish Council receives 85% of the income it needs to run its services from its share of residents' Council Tax. This share is called the precept. When the budget for 2011/12 was being considered in order to set the precept it became clear that in order to keep operating the existing services the precept would need to be increased. The increase will be £5.62 for a Band D property for the year, slightly more for properties in higher Council Tax bands.

The Parish Council believes that neither the County nor District Councils intend to increase their share of the Council Tax this year. These larger authorities have been offered an additional grant by the Government if they freeze their basic amount of Council Tax in 2011/12. Local councils such as the Parish Council do not receive any funding from the Government and are not therefore offered any grant to enable them to freeze their share of the Council Tax.

Temporary closure of Newbridge

The County Council intends to apply for a temporary road closure of the A415 at Newbridge for 9 days from 19 February 2011. The closure is necessary to allow essential bridge repair and carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out. There will be no access for any vehicles, including emergency service vehicles, although access for pedestrians will be maintained. The suggested diversions are either via the A40 towards Oxford or through Aston and Bampton over Tadpole Bridge to the A420.

Date for your diary – Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is not a meeting of the Parish Council, but is a meeting of the parish (you!) which just happens to be organised by the Parish Council. It is a (hopefully!) interesting and informative evening, with presentations given by the Parish Council and, usually, the County and District Councillors as well as speakers from village organisations who want to share their news with local residents. Outside speakers from organisations of interest to the parish are also often invited, with representatives from RAF Brize Norton and Smiths of Bletchington who operate Gill Mill, giving presentations last year.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 May at 7.30pm.

If anyone has a suggestion for an organisation or speaker who they think should be invited this year, please get in touch with either the Clerk or a member of the Parish Council.

Allotments

The Parish Council is responsible for the management of the allotments bordering the A415 near the petrol station. Residents from the parish of Ducklington are given first priority when allotments become vacant, but there is only one person from Ducklington currently on the waiting list. If you, or anyone you know would like the opportunity to grow your own when an allotment becomes vacant please contact the Parish Clerk via the contact details given below.



Keep up to date with the Parish Council website

www.ducklingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

- News affecting the parish
- Learn about the village environment with live water levels and temperatures
- Use the site to contact us or report issues in the Parish
- See what clubs and societies are doing with the Ducklington Diary
- Get updates on local services
- See what improvements the Parish Council have been making recently
- Access minutes of meetings
- Send us your club news or meeting information

Sign up for updates via email, and we will let you know as soon as anything new is posted.

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

Gill Mill Quarry Update

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

Many of the consultants who have been gathering data since last summer on a range of technical issues are now beginning to feedback their results. We have received draft reports on noise and dust arising from the proposed quarrying operations; on the agricultural quality of the farmland and on the archaeological interest of the proposed extension. A geological model of the area has largely been completed together with a preliminary report on the hydrogeology of this part of the Windrush valley. The Floodplain Meadows Partnership is continuing to study Ducklington Mead and extensive ecological work is also still ongoing. We are also moving forward with the flood risk assessment and our consultants have asked me to pass on a request for any evidence, anecdotal or otherwise about flooding in and around the village over the years but particularly the 2007 event. This could be dated photographs, diary entries or other records, even simple recollections about your own or neighbouring properties that were flooded. This sort of information will provide the opportunity to compare computer modelled predictions of future floods against the realities of past events. If you have such information and would like to be a part of the current research please use the feedback facility on our website www.smithsbletchington.co.uk; (follow the links through the Community Zone>Planning Applications>Gill Mill>further information>feedback), email info@smithsbletchington.co.uk or write to me at Smiths Bletchington, Enslow, Kidlington OX5 3AY. Thank you.

Martin Layer
January 2011

2011 Census

Recruitment is underway to fill temporary part time and full time vacancies for the census on 27 March 2011. The majority of the vacancies are for Census Collectors who contact householders, in addition there are vacancies for Census Coordinators and Special Enumerators. To find out more or register your interest apply at www.censusjobs.co.uk.

St. Bartholomew's Church

Everyone is warmly welcome to all services and events.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9th. Lent is not primarily about chocolate but is a time for personal reflection about the way that we live our lives. During Lent, we will have a number of discussion groups each meeting for five sessions. If you would like to join a group, do contact Bob for details.

Alpha Course We are planning an Alpha Course and would like to invite anyone who is interested in exploring the Christian faith, to come along. The first half of the course will be on Wednesday evenings for five weeks, starting on March 16th. If you would like to know more, there is a website: uk.alpha.org - or contact one of: Martin Dines (776789), Jessica Parker (775333) or Bob Edy (776625).

*The church is **open every Wednesday** from 9am until 1pm. We hope that people will appreciate the opportunity to come 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.*

The Cotswold Churches Festival will take place between the 14th and 22nd May this year for the first time. St. Bartholomew's Church will be open every day that week and during both weekends. We would welcome any one who would like to display their art or craft work in the church during the week, to contact Sue Green at: standsgreen@aol.com or call 01993 703578

Jan 29th at 7.30pm - Guitar Concert in church

April 17th - Fritillary Sunday

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*

Every Sunday

There is a service in our 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 peaceful time.

On Jan 30th Feb 27th & March 27th there will also be an informal reflective service at 6pm.



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 normally 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 Prayer and Bible Study @ 7.30pm

We meet for prayer, 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.

Dads & Toddlers @ 10.00am to 11.30am on Saturday 12 February, 12 March and 2 April

Savour the smell and the taste of our bacon rolls and enjoy a mug of fresh tea or coffee at these events. 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.

Mothering Sunday – 3 April

We will be meeting at the earlier time of 10.30am for a special gathering together of families, activities for children, flowers for mums and Simnel cake for all.

Lent

On Ash Wednesday, 9 March 2011, we will begin a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. For further details of our prayer and bible study during this period, please contact Brian or Paula on 07780 786108 or via e-mail at bpbrewer1@yahoo.com.

North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank

Ducklington Baptist Church is a satellite collection point for the foodbank. If you would like to donate food, with a "best before date" of at least six months, please bring it along to the church at the beginning of our regular Monday or Saturday morning events for parents and toddlers. Further information about the foodbank is available at www.northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk.

Newcomers are especially welcome at all of our gatherings.

Interim Pastor: Brian Brewer
Tel. 07780 786108

Website: www.ducklingtonbaptistchurch.org

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PACT Witney Children's Centre Ducklington drop in. This free group for children under 5 is held every Tuesday from 9.30-10.30 (term time only) in Ducklington Baptist Church. We provide a variety of activities and end each session with song time. Come along and meet the Children's Centre staff and other parents/children in the area. For more information please contact Kerry or Helen on 01993 834991.

Ducklington Baptist Church Baby & Toddler Group

Would you like a time and place where you could share ideas about parenting in an informal and non-threatening environment?

We are planning another parenting group which will meet in Ducklington for 6 weeks on Thursday evenings starting on Feb 3rd. There will be 3 sessions, then a two week break, then 3 more sessions, the last session being on Mar 24th

[i.e. all sessions in term time]

The material is geared towards parents of children under six years of age. To register your interest, please contact us asap and if you want to know more, please ask!

Janice 706866 janice.bosley@talktalk.net Ruth 776625 ruth_edy6@hotmail.com

Ducklington W.I.

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

Thurs 3rd Feb Quiz Night

Thurs 3rd Mar Annual meeting followed by a talk from a Community Police Officer.
All welcome

For more information please contact Jo McGhee 702897



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.

February 9th & March 9th

GOOD COMPANIONS

The Autumn meetings of the Good Companions have been interesting and informative with subjects such as the Witney Railway, the Mitford girls and poems. Our Christmas Lunch went very well and we had a super Performer who was a great Elvis Presley, whom we won't forget for a long time !

Our next meeting will be on Monday 7th February at 2-15 p.m. in the **Village Hall**. We welcome all Over -60's, any queries please phone Jenny Izzard on 01993 703473

Plastic Milk Bottle Tops: A big Thank you to all those people in the village who leave their tops outside my door at 38, Witney Road. These are going to help the Hospice Movement. Also the Good Companions who give me loads!

Age UK Link - Jenny Izzard . If anyone has age related problems please let me know and I will get in touch with someone who can advise.



Ducklington Flower Show NEEDS YOU!



Ladies and Gentleman 2011 is a marvellous year as 2011 is the 60th Anniversary for the Ducklington & Hardwick Produce Association Flower Show.

We are looking for people who enjoy organising, team spirited and have bags of community spirit
If this sounds like you we have room on the committee for you!

If you are also a dab hand with numbers the committee is also looking for
someone to take on the role of treasurer.

. If you don't fancy joining the committee but would like to volunteer your help on the day
let us know, all help is gratefully received.

Being part of the Flower Show is a great deal of fun and there is also a lot of job satisfaction

If you are interested in helping or would like more information please contact Steve Townsend on
778142 or come along to our next meeting on 7th February 2011.

Its your show too!

Classes. . . its your decision!

The Flower Show is all about showing off and having fun, we would like to make sure that you get the most out of the show and get to show us what you can grow, make etc.

We would like to know is there anything you think is missing from the classes that you would like to enter in? What class would you enter in if it was available?

Please email your suggestions to
helenstrange123@btinternet.com

We will consider all suggestions, so please let us know what is missing.

Its your show too!

ADVERTISING & SPONSERSHIP

Calling local Companies

We have perfect prime advertising space left in our big 60th Anniversary Programme.

We also have a website and can be followed on facebook so any adverts placed in the programme will be added to our web pages.

If you are interested in advertising in our Big 60th Anniversary programme please contact Helen Strange 709356 or
helenstrange123@btinternet.com

Contact us today to avoid disappointment!



2011 Photography Classes



The classes for the 2011 show are as follows.

Children's Photography Class is Bird(s)

Adults Photography Classes are Celebration(s), Shadow(s),
Country Pursuit, Windswept & Transport

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:
17 February and 17 March

Many thanks to those of you who supported us in 2010:
our merry band of helpers, the donation of items for prizes
and to those who came to play Bingo.

We raised £1,850 for the Hall funds.

We hope you will continue your support in 2011 – Joan and Linda.



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 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

We are looking for someone who would be willing to donate their time and skills to help us create some new dressing up costumes we need a variety of outfits that represent different cultures, someone who can copy pictures and help create such costumes.

If anyone can help please contact myself Claire Lodge 01993 200415 or email ducklingtonpreschoolfundraising@hotmail.com

We are also looking for any costume jewellery, bags, scarves, and accessories or any unwanted Christmas gifts suitable for tombolas for future fundraising events please bring them to the Village Hall and give to a member of staff or add to our collection box. Many thanks, Claire Lodge

NEARLY NEW SALE – Sunday 6th February, 10.30 – 12 noon Langdale Hall, Witney

WITNEY FAIR TRADE MARKET

Saturday March 5th 10.30 - 4 pm at the Langdale Hall off Market Square, to be opened at 10.30 by best selling children's author, Philip Pullman Admission Free All welcome.

Musical interludes by local performers, fairly traded goods on sale from around the world, including Traidcraft goods, jewellery, crafts, textiles and toys. Raffle, tombola, children's games, face painting and free samples to try. Auction at 2.00 pm Fairtrade refreshments will be served all day.

Every purchase will make a real difference to somebody's life!

Organised by Witney Area Fair Trade Action Group www.waftag.blogspot.com
01993 881364

DUCKLINGTON SPORTS CLUB (DSC)

Club Update

The last couple of months have seen little activity for us due to bad weather and we have been unable to play sports nor open the Club much. Hopefully the bad weather is behind us and we can step up our playing commitments. Football will continue until May and we have just started in-door nets at Henry Box School for the cricketers, so there will be cricket activities now until the end of summer.

The Committee is continuing with establishing its fund-raising status and following on from our new found Charity status we will be applying to the Football Association to gain Chartered Standard. The Club have appointed a Fund-Raising Czar to go find funds as we need to progress quickly this aspect of the new building.

Glebelands was again the unwelcome venue for some unauthorised ice rallying, when trespassers decided on Christmas Eve, that it was a good idea to drive their cars around our snow covered playing fields, causing significant damage to football goals by driving across the cricket square and through the football posts ripping the nets and causing damage to the stanchions. The Club have been reluctant to padlock the access gate via the Pavilion to the field as unfettered access is required for emergency vehicles, but this is becoming a depressingly familiar crime that is being visited upon us, so we need to act to counteract this mindless vandalism.

Club Update

The Club are planning another *Quiz Night* on Friday 11th March. This date will be confirmed nearer the time, via our website. The format remains the same. i.e. Teams of up to 5 may enter. Entrance Fee is £10 per team, with a £50 first prize. There are special "free drinks prizes" and sandwiches are provided and a good time guaranteed. For those that have not attended a Quiz night before, there is a light-hearted and fun approach to the questions and lots of thought provoking trivia. Questions will not include – "what is the capital city of Kyrgyzstan", but may include 'how many would it get in Scrabble'.

250 Club

Due to the inclement weather and the 'draw-committee' being unable to meet, we had some catching up to do, with 4 draws from October to January. Here are those results. Winnings will be distributed as normal on the next visit from your Collector.

October Winners 2010

£50	No. 236	M. Smith
£20	No. 271	Mrs Edwards
£10	No. 125	S. Weston
£5	No. 173	Mrs Wiltshire

November 2010

£100	No. 139	V. Clarke
£50	No. 261	Mr Peachy
£20	No. 199	Mr Edwards
£10	No. 14	K. Fisher
£5	No. 278	D. Kirk

December Winners 2010

£50	No. 20	Mrs James
£20	No. 17	A. Downing
£10	No. 12	Mr Bedward
£5	No. 34	R. Bartlett

January 2011

£50	No. 11	J. Cook
£20	No. 59	R. Mirfield
£10	No. 42	A. Chester
£5	No. 142	M. Hobday

Booking The Club

The Club 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/>

Abingdon Air and Country Show 8 May

At Abingdon airfield, Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire, the event will be supporting the RAF Benson-based, **Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance**, a Charitable Trust which relies wholly on public donations.

Further information and advance tickets are available on our website: www.abingdonfayre.com

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 News

We are pleased that the four performances of our Mummers' Play in three Witney pubs on Friday 17th January raised £121.51 for Riding for the Disabled, New Yatt. Sadly, the performances in the Ducklington pubs planned for Saturday 18th were cancelled due to the extremely snowy conditions.

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?

The style of Morris Dancing that originated in and is still that mostly performed in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire is known as 'Cotswold' style. It can be recognised by distinctive stepping and dancers wearing white 'grandad' shirts both common to nearly all Cotswold village traditions.

The two other styles of Morris are North-West Morris originating in Lancashire and recognised by its highly rhythmical and equally different stepping and clicking of the dancers' clogs; and Border Morris originating in the Welsh-English Borders distinguished by the dancers' blackened faces, their energetic and noisy dancing and distinctive stepping.

Nowadays, the performing of all three styles can be seen in most areas of England

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the April/May issue is 15 March

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>

Dog sitting/walking/holiday service

Need a reliable experienced dog sitter, with facilities for both long and shorter periods?
Do you feel there are only so many times you can ask friends and relatives?
Try our professional service - I am at home all day and love dogs.

My wife and I look after dogs for owners, be it by the day, weekend or longer. We walk round Witney Lakes, local fields and pathways or do shorter walks if preferred. I only have dogs from one family at a time. I am not a soulless, heartless Kennels but a family home that looks after your dog whilst you are away. I care about your dog, he can live in our house or outside in our enclosed garden, whichever you prefer.

References available approved by RAF Brize Norton and many local dog owners.

Dogs hate going into Kennels but love coming to our home. Come round and meet us, no commitment, I charge a standard £15 a day or £90 a week per dog; compare our prices to costly Kennels.

- A bit stuck for tomorrow? Icy and cold outside but your dog still needs a walk? Then just ring and I could be there today, I live in Ducklington!!
- Want to go away for a few days but dog cover is a worry?
- Booking your holiday and need to know your dog is catered for, in advance?

I am very flexible and could be the answer to your problem.

For a no commitment chat and availability, ring Allan 07519 667770
dogholiday@hotmail.co.uk

The Strickland Arms

Ducklington

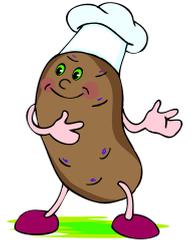
01993 703413

What's on at The Strickland Arms

Tuesday Nights is STEAK NIGHT
from Rump to T-bone cooked just the way you like it!

Wednesday Night is SPUD PUB NIGHT
Delicious Jacket potatoes filled with many delightful toppings

Thursday Night is FISH AND CHIP NIGHT
Homemade Beer Battered Cod, Chips and Peas
Buy one! get one Half price!!



Fabulous Sunday Roast Served from 12noon till 3.30pm

Bev's Saturday Morning Cafe

Starts Saturday 5th February

Come along and have a Coffee and Cake or a Full English Breakfast
9am to 12pm Every Saturday



BINGO NIGHTS

is the last Monday of the Month
Monday 31st January 2011
Monday 28th February 2011
Eyes down 7.30pm



Saturday 12th February 2011

Valentines Dinner Dance

3 course meal for £15.99 and the fabulous Cody
Please book in advance



Regular Live Music and events
see our boards for our specials and meal deals!!

and keep an eye on our website for the latest information

www.thestricklandarmswitney.co.uk
info@thestricklandarmswitney.co.uk