

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

April/May 2011

ISSUE 159

PARISH COUNCIL

Graffiti

The Parish Council is pleased to report that Thames Valley Police's investigations into the graffiti which was done through the village in December successfully identified the people responsible. Two students of a local secondary school, both of whom live in Ducklington, have been issued with Youth Restorative Disposals (action which is used for offences which are considered to be low-level and for first-time offenders aged between 10 and 17). They have written letters of apology to the people whose property was damaged, but unfortunately due to their age, they cannot be required to undertake any direct action to remove the graffiti.

Help us keep the swing seats free from pigeon poop!

Having tried once before to take action to stop the pigeons from roosting on the top bars of the swings and leaving their droppings on the seats below, the Parish Council is hoping that the second attempt will be more successful.

Plastic spikes, which present no harm to birds or to people using the swings were put on the top bars in November, but were disappointingly ripped off on the same day they were installed. The Parish Council would really like to make the swings more pleasant for the children to use but needs your help to make this happen. Councillors will be putting new spikes on the top bars in April and would be grateful if you could tell everyone in your household what they are for and encourage people to leave them alone.

If you see anyone damaging or removing the spikes please get in touch with a Councillor or the Clerk – the Parish Council will always consider taking action against people who damage parish property.

Referendum on the voting system for UK parliamentary elections

A referendum will be held on Thursday 5 May 2011 to decide on the question:

“At present, the UK uses the ‘first past the post’ system to elect MPs to the House of Commons. Should the ‘alternative vote’ system be used instead?”

Don't lose your right to vote – if you aren't already on the electoral register, contact West Oxfordshire District Council as soon as possible. The District Council should also be contacted as soon as possible if you want to vote by post or proxy or to vary or cancel existing postal or proxy voting arrangements.

Electoral Services at the District Council can be contacted by post at: Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney OX28 1NB, by phone on 01993 861522 or on the District Council website at <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/council/electoralregister.cfm>.

Revised Flood Map for Ducklington

The Environment Agency has published revised maps for much of England and Wales, including our parish. As a result of the changes, 34 properties in Ducklington are now considered at a lower risk of flooding than they were before and have been removed from the flood map. No properties have been put in a higher flood risk category. The easiest way to see the updated map is to click through the link on the Ducklington Parish Council website.

Reminder - Annual Parish Meeting

This will take place on Tuesday 10 May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All welcome.

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,
Postal address:
Email:
Telephone:
Website:

Mrs Helen Sandhu, can be contacted on:
1 Manor Close, Aston, BAMPTON, OX18 2DD
ducklingtonpc@hotmail.co.uk
01993 851774
www.ducklingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Dear Editor

Many thanks to the Hussain family for all the hard work they did in helping to arrange for the hand rail on the footpath between Beanhill Road & Moors Close to be restored. Joyce for writing and phoning the Council, Sab for taking pictures of the destruction and obstruction and Jamiel for clearing up the mess. Thanks from neighbours and those who use the path. Mrs E Vaughan.

Gill Mill Quarry Update

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

The current excavations for sand and gravel at Gill Mill Quarry have presented a very special opportunity for archaeologists to understand how our ancestors lived in the Windrush Valley from late prehistoric and Roman periods of time. As part of the planning permission archaeologists are involved at a very early stage in the working of the quarry initially providing close supervision as the soils are stripped back from the top of the gravel horizon. This is followed up by a field team who carefully excavate record and sample all the archaeological remains uncovered in the area. Since the start of quarrying at Gill Mill, Smiths have commissioned *Oxford Archaeology* and over the last 20 years or so they have uncovered roads, ditches, buildings, burials and rubbish pits providing a fascinating insight in to the lives of the Romans who lived here in the 2nd to the 4th century AD. Because of this archaeological heritage we are again working with *Oxford Archaeology* and the County Archaeologist on the possible extensions to the quarry. At the time of writing we are carrying out a magnetometer survey to look beneath the soil surface for hidden features and will then follow it up with shallow trenches to allow the archaeologists closer examination. We will include information, plans and hopefully some archaeological finds at the exhibition on our proposed extension which we are currently trying to organise in early summer.

If you have any questions please email info@smithsbletchington.co.uk or write to me at Smiths Bletchington, Enslow, Kidlington OX5 3AY. Thank you.

Ducklington Primary School News

Ducklington School is a caring, happy, lively and innovative school. We have 196 pupils in single year groups and a very dedicated and talented staff. Team work is strong at Ducklington, together we provide the best education that we can for our children in a warm and supportive environment. Our recent achievements have included the Healthy Schools Award and we are also a Green Flag Eco School. Ducklington is a Church of England School and we have good links with the local parish. If you would like to visit us at any time please contact the office and we will be delighted to show you around.

During early Spring we had two Eco-themed days as part of our Comenius Project. The whole school was involved and focussed on the themes of energy and improving the school grounds. The children took part in activities like planting seeds and flowers, re-designing the school grounds to make them more sustainable, planning an eco-friendly school and finding out about alternative ways of producing energy.

Subjects studied by the children across the year groups this term have included the Great Fire of London, Ancient Greeks and The Romans. Year Four have had a great time learning about 'The Tudors' and enjoyed a trip to Sulgrove Manor in Northamptonshire. Year Five have focussed on more recent History and have been looking at changes in Britain since 1948 with particular focus on the 1960's. Year Six are busy as ever, alongside preparing for SAT's in May they have been focussing their literacy on poetry, journalistic writing, argument, narrative, plays and author studies.

The School benefits greatly from the support it receives from parents and the wider community. We always appreciate any support offered, be it, offering to share experiences and skills, donating materials (recycling for junk modelling is a favourite!) or coming along to our fundraising events organised by our PTA. The PTA is also always on the lookout for companies who can provide sponsorship for fundraising events and donations for raffle prizes. The Parent's Association is a registered charity, and our next major fundraiser for the school will be the **Summer Fayre held this year on Saturday 25th June, between 12-3pm**. We are actively looking for companies and individuals to sponsor rides and stalls at the Fayre Maybe you work for, or know of, a company which can offer support in this way? Please contact a member of the committee info@ducklingtonpta.org.uk (or leave a message in the school office) if you can help.

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St. Bartholomew's Church

Everyone is warmly welcome to all services and events.

Easter services

*Palm Sunday, April 17th: 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 22nd, 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!

Cotswold Churches Festival From May 14th to May 21st the church will be open to visitors each day between 10am and 4pm

Fritillary Sunday

will be on April 17th

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; step-dancing,
handbell ringers, etc

Beer and hymns at 5pm
at 'The Bell'

Special visitors this year – Gentle and Jessica, who are donkeys. Meet them from 2pm at church and join in the Palm Sunday processions!

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 10.30am, to which all are invited.

Sunday Services: 9.30am Parish Communion with children's groups and crèche, except April 3rd and May 1st which will be Family (all-age) Services. 6.00pm on the first Sunday in each month.

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

DUCKLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Sunday Morning Worship @ the NEW TIME of 10.30am

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 will celebrate communion on 10 April and 1 May.

In May, we will also be introducing a **Sunday Evening** meeting. Further details will be displayed on the church notice board and website.

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

Please note that following our meeting on Monday April 4th, we will be CLOSED until Monday 9th May (This is due in part to the two Bank holidays and our decision to take a well earned rest after 9 years). We look forward to seeing you all again in May!! 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. Simply 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.

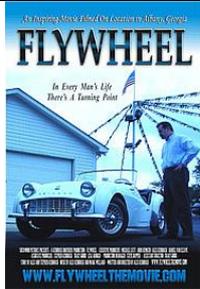
Dads & Toddlers @ 10.00am to 11.30am on Saturday 2 April and Saturday 14 May

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 10.30am for a special gathering together of families, activities for children, flowers for mums and Simnel cake for all.

Movie Nights @ 7.30pm on Friday 8 April and Friday 13 May



We will be showing *Flywheel* on 8 April and *Facing the Giants* (PG) on 13 May. These two full-length feature films are simply not to be missed. *Flywheel* is about a car salesman who intentionally overcharges his customers until reaching a turning point in his life where he decides to end his shady business practices. *Facing the Giants* tells the story of a high school football coach with a mediocre record but whose team eventually go on to win the state championship. Everyone is welcome to these viewings. Soft drinks and popcorn will be available too.



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. Thank you to all who have given to date and to those that have begun to make regular gifts.

Newcomers are especially welcome at all of our gatherings.

Interim Pastor: Brian Brewer
Tel. 07780 786108

Website: www.ducklingtonbaptistchurch.org

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Ducklington W.I.

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

7 April – Growing vegetables in pots – Robert Longstaff

5 May – Make your own hanging basket – materials charge £5

Non members £3 per meeting.

For more information or to book a place to do a hanging basket please contact Julie 775246



Village Cafe

is on the second Wednesday in the month from 2 – 3.30 pm in the **Baptist Church**
come alone or with a friend and have a chat over a cup of tea & biscuit or coffee & cake.
13 April & 11 May

GOOD COMPANIONS

Age UK Link - If anyone has age related problems please let Jenny Izzard know (703473) and she will get in touch with someone who can advise.

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:

21 April & 19 May

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
Our next nearly new sale is Sunday 22nd of May at the Langdale Hall

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 and tuition is free.

Our April/May Local Programme

Saturday April 9th, 11am -12noon and 2.30 - 3.15pm:- Dancing in Witney Town Centre probably by Waitrose, near the Buttercross and at Marriott's Walk.

From 3.30pm:- Free Morris dancing lessons.(not in public)

Sunday 17th April, 1pm (approx) As part of the 'Fritillary Sunday' event in Ducklington, we hope to be dancing in the yard of The Bell and then at 2pm and 3pm by the entrance steps to the Parish Church as usual . This year we will be joined by 'Cornucopia', a team who perform Appalachian step-clog and British clog dances.

Saturday 14th May, We will be repeating our dancing in Witney Town Centre as detailed on Saturday April 9th (above)

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



YOUR VILLAGE TOMBOLA NEEDS YOU!

First and foremost – a big thank you to all those who generously donated items for the tombola stall last year. It was very successful and we raised £190.00 for the Ducklington & Hardwick Produce Association funds.

We are beginning to organise the tombola stall for this year's event which will take place on August Bank Holiday Monday, and we are again requesting donations. As this year we are celebrating the show's 60th anniversary we would like to make it the biggest and the best tombola yet!

Your donation could include any unwanted Christmas presents, toiletries such as shower and bath products, toys, gift packs, or any food or drink products (as long as they will still be in date on August bank holiday), and so on. The proceeds raised from the tombola this year will be donated towards the fund for providing a toilet in St Bartholomew's Church.

Please help us to keep the Ducklington Flower Show going, if everyone gave just one item then we would have an amazing tombola and be able to raise lots of money.

Any donations would be gratefully received and can be left in the box marked 'TOMBOLA' by the garage of 30 Feilden Close. Many thanks!

Joy Cooke and Lorraine Harris

DUCKLINGTON SPORTS CLUB (DSC)

Club Update

The last couple of months have seen us recover from the ravages of winter and we have been fully active for this period, mostly with our football, but also with our in-door cricket nets.

We are progressing with our fund-raising activity which is concentrated on finding sources of money.

Our major aim is to secure the funding for the building of the new pavilion and we are confident that we will see this happen within our stated timescales.

The Club will be holding it's AGM on Thursday May 12th at 8.00pm at the Pavilion at Glebelands.

Sporting Update

We still have about 6 weeks of the football season to go and things are bubbling along nicely. Our five adult teams are still battling for accolades and we have chances to win promotion or lose out to relegation. Within the 5 adults teams we have a range of ability levels and are always looking for new players.

Our Youth teams are doing us proud this year, and whilst we have never been the most consistently successful of clubs we have had our moments, but this crop of kids are near or sitting top of their leagues, and at the time of writing we have two teams in cup-finals, and others waiting to play in semi-finals.

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

We are appealing for any cricketers interested in playing or indeed umpiring to get yourselves ready and make yourselves available for a summer of sport.

If you are interested in any cricket activity, Playing, Coaching or Umpiring then please contact David Duthie, or email the Club via our website.

250 Club

The Committee have decided to suspend the 250-Club for a short while, so that we can re-group and decide how best to deliver this valuable community-connecting fund-raiser. The Committee have been having some difficulty in finding and recruiting collectors for the rounds, so we are thinking about how we operate the club with reduced manpower and footfall.

We realise that the way the 250-Club was collected when we first started may be different from what people require now, We believe we can provide a 250-Club that meets everyone's needs and we are going to determine if by using other collection methods, we can cater for those who want to stay involved. Some consideration is being given to methods such as paying in advance, or paying electronically, etc, whilst still providing the face-to-face contact that some Villagers still appreciate,

We will update you more in the next village newsletter and will enlist your feedback before we make any drastic decisions.

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/>

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the June/July issue is 15 May

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>

STAMP OUT RURAL CRIME

Rural neighbourhoods can be a target for criminals. On Thursday 28 July, The Community Safety Partnership is holding an event in Carterton, to raise awareness of simple steps that can be taken to improve your security and reduce your chances of becoming a victim. More details in the next newsletter.

Go Active - Nordic Walking -The workout that tones the whole body!

- Burns 46% more calories than ordinary walking
- Great for neck, shoulder and back problems
- Easy on the knees and joints
- Suitable for all levels
- Sociable, safe outdoor exercise

Cost £10 for 4 weeks, poles provided, sessions last one hour.

Are you interested in participating in a 4 week course, starting in May?

If so call Lisa on 07764 466 017 or email: lisa.booth@nexuscommunity.org

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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 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/she 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 for one dog or £25 for two dogs per day; compare our prices to costly kennels.

- A bit stuck for tomorrow or need dog care at late notice just give me a call
- if I can help I will
- 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 or

Email: dogholiday@hotmail.co.uk

www.witneydogcare.co.uk

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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 PILATESfoundation Matwork Instructor

The Strickland Arms Ducklington

Spring is here and the daffodils are out and summer is well on the way.

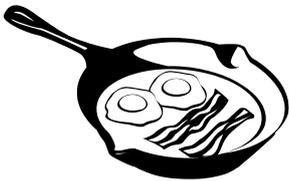
Bev's Café

Bev's café has got off to a flying start so why not give it a try too.

Every Saturday 9am to 12 noon

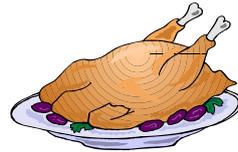
Whether you fancy a full English, a bacon sandwich or just a coffee and to read the paper!

Come along and meet Bev and Jess!



April @ The Strickland

Sunday 3rd April - **Mothering Sunday** treat your mum at The Strickland 3 course Sunday lunch for £12.95



Saturday 23rd April

St Georges Day at The Strickland
English Wadworth Real Ale at £2.50 at Pint
Live Music in true English spirit!

Sunday 24th April - **Easter Bingo**

Help raise funds for
The ROSY Charity

Regular Meal Deals

Tuesday-Friday lunchtimes
senior meal deals 2 course
£7.00

Tuesday night **Steak Night**
From £8.95

Wednesday Night **Spud**
night
From £5.00

Thursday Night -
Fish and Chips - buy one get
one free!!

Friday Night - **Free**
Pudding with every main
course



May @ The Strickland

Saturday 14th May

Come and see the **Amazing**
New Haw leans Jug Band
Experience something different
From 8pm

Saturday 28th May

The Fantastic Dirty Earth Band
Live from 9pm

Monday 30th May

Bingo - help raise money for the Rosy Charity