

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

October/November 2011

ISSUE 162

PARISH COUNCIL

New Parish Councillors

As residents were informed in the separate sheet which accompanied the August/September newsletter, David Duthie who lives at 10 Lovell Close was elected unopposed as a new parish councillor in July.

At its meeting on 7 September the Parish Council co-opted Mrs Sarah Stanley who lives at 8 Manor Road to fill the vacancy on the council which was created when Brian Hicks resigned in April. No election was requested for this vacancy.

The Parish Council now has a full complement of 9 Councillors.

Ducklington pond

Progress on the proposed improvements at the pond continues. The Parish Council appreciates that progress may appear slow, but the necessary consultation with external agencies, particularly the Highways Agency, always creates a delay and it is important to make sure that the changes which will be put in place are the right ones, rather than the wrong ones done more speedily. The central willow tree has now been removed and the sludge at the bottom of the pond will be dug out and carried away off site shortly – we are grateful for Smiths of Bletchington for their help with this. A formal design plan improving the way the water drains from the highway towards the pond has now been prepared by a specialist design engineer, with the cost of the design again met by Smiths of Bletchington. The design has been agreed by the Parish Council and has been sent to Oxfordshire County Council for their approval. The design is available on the Parish Council website and on the noticeboards for people to see.

The Parish Council now needs to work on identifying ways to meet the cost of implementing the design. Once this has been achieved and the work has been done the pond should be back to the condition it needs to be in to survive into the future.

Zipwire

The Parish Council has decided to replace the rotted zipwire with a new steel product from an established playground equipment supplier. A grant application will be submitted to WREN, a not-for-profit business which receives money from landfill operators through the landfill tax and redirects it back to the communities near the landfill sites in the form of grants for community, conservation and heritage projects.

We need to produce evidence of community support/community demand for the grant application, so if you or your children want to see a zipwire back in the village, please either contribute to the evidence which is being compiled by the Primary School, or send something in writing direct to the Clerk at the address below.

Bus stop – Bampton bound direction on Standlake Road

This bus stop is currently not marked with a formal pole and flag. The Parish Council has received several reports about problems caused by where the drivers are choosing to stop, which is typically adjacent to the relatively steep grass verge where it can be hard for people, especially those who are a little older or who have mobility issues, to alight.

The Parish Council has now provisionally agreed that a new pole and flag should be installed to mark the stop, at a better location slightly further down the road. Subject to a suitable new location being agreed by the County Council, the bus company, the Police and the Parish Council (!), a new heritage bus stop sign (similar to the one on the opposite side of the road) should finally resolve this problem.

New editor for the Ducklington Newsletter

After almost 25 years as the editor of the Village Newsletter, Margaret Hellawell would like to pass the reins onto somebody else, or a group, in early 2012.

Margaret reports that it takes her between 5-8 hours every other month to produce the newsletter for which she receives a small fee from the Parish Council.

If anyone would be willing to take over this role it would be helpful if they could chat with Margaret about what is involved first – her telephone number is 772565 and then expressions of interest should be sent to the Clerk at the address/email address below.

The Parish Council is extremely grateful to Mrs Hellawell for her editorship of the newsletter over the past 25 years and wishes her a happy retirement!

Additional plastics recycling – West Oxfordshire District Council trial

From 26 September residents will be able to put polythene, bubble wrap, shrink wrap, cling film and compost bags in their black recycling boxes. The lighter weight plastics should be contained in a tied plastic bag to prevent them from blowing out of the boxes whilst they are waiting collection/being collected.

New County Council consultation on draft Minerals and Waste Planning Strategies

The County Council has published a further consultation on its draft Minerals Extraction and Waste Planning Strategies which will cover the period up to 2030. The consultation closes on 31 October 2011. The draft plans can be viewed on the County Council's website at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste.

Printed copies of the plans will be available in all libraries in the County.

Review of electoral arrangements – Oxfordshire County Council & Parliamentary Constituencies

These are two separate reviews. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is proposing changes to the electoral divisions for Oxfordshire County Council in order to improve voter equality (so that each division contains a similar number of electors) and to reduce the number of Councillors overall which will reduce the costs of running the County Council. Ducklington is currently part of the Bampton division. Under the proposals, Ducklington will become part of a new combined Witney West and Bampton division. You can see more information about the proposals and comment on them (the deadline is 10 October 2011) at:

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/oxfordshire/oxfordshire-county-council-fer>.

No changes are proposed for the Witney constituency in the parliamentary constituencies review which was started on 13 September. More information about the review can be found at:

<http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/council/ConstituencyReview.cfm>

The deadline for comments is 5 December 2011.

Cycling on the footpath

The Parish Council has been contacted by a local resident with concerns about the number of adults and children of secondary school age who cycle on the footpaths in Ducklington. Many of the footpaths in Ducklington are narrow and will not safely accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists. The only stretch of footpath which is designated as a shared cycle path is near the roundabout outside the Four Pillars hotel. Cycling on a footpath is an offence under the Highways Act and since August 1999 anyone who is guilty of cycling on a footpath can be served with a fixed penalty notice.

Reporting anti-social behaviour

The Parish Council welcomes local residents helping to keep Ducklington a safe and happy place to live, by being aware of what is happening in their local area and reporting any concerns to the Parish Council and Thames Valley Police if necessary. Any reports of anti-social behaviour (graffiti, property damage, inappropriate behaviour in a public place) should always be reported to the police on their non-emergency number which is 0845 8 505 505.

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

Crime Reduction

Although West Oxfordshire is still one of the safest places in the country, we must be aware that thefts and burglaries will still occur. Most crime is opportunist so with some reasonable precautions it can be prevented. There are many other things that can be done to reduce crime but very often they are specific to the particular property and it may require a survey. Crime reduction surveys are available free of charge so if you would like the crime reduction advisor to visit please contact Bill Butcher on 01993 861638.

Further crime reduction advice is available at: www.saferwestoxon.co.uk

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Gill Mill Quarry Update

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

I was hoping that I could have reported that our application was about ready for submission to the County Council. However a couple of issues, combined with the summer holidays, means we are running behind schedule. One of the issues was the potential impact of our proposals on the operations at RAF Brize Norton. We have now had detailed discussions with Defence Estates who provide technical advice to the MoD to ensure that the proposed mineral workings and afteruses don't increase the risk of bird strike to aircraft. Our consultants are now preparing their specialist reports for the Environmental Impact Assessment which will accompany the planning application. We will have a draft available for discussion with the Parish Council in the near future. The Rushy Common Nature Reserve which opened to the public in May has been shortlisted for a national award jointly sponsored by Natural England and the Mineral Products Association. The award, celebrating the Year of Biodiversity, is for mineral workings which have added significant biodiversity value and will be announced next month. If you have been to the reserve we are offering **two £50 photographic equipment vouchers** for the best photos taken at Rushy Common or the neighbouring Tar Lakes. The competition closes on 31st October 2011 so have a go and see our website www.smithsbletchington.co.uk for details. We are also organising a short tour of the existing quarry workings on Wednesday 5th October starting at 2pm. Numbers are limited so if you would like to see what we do at Gill Mill then please email info@smithsbletchington.co.uk with **Gill Mill Tour** in the subject line or write to me at Smiths Bletchington, Enslow, Kidlington OX5 3AY. Thank you.

How will you be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee in June 2012 ???

In 2002 Ducklington celebrated the Queen's Golden Jubilee with an Open Gardens event. What shall we do next year as a village community to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend?

Some events are already planned for the weekend, June 2nd-5th and there are suggestions for others - another Open Gardens event? a Big Lunch? (see www.thebiglunch.com)

There will be an Open Meeting in the Lilac Room at the Village Hall on **Wednesday Oct 12th at 7.30pm** to co-ordinate all the planned events and to see if the idea of another Open Gardens event has support.

PLEASE COME if you have ideas to share!
PLEASE LET US KNOW **before** the meeting
if you would like to open your garden for part of the weekend!!

Sally Craig 772722 sallypcraig@btinternet.com
Ruth Edy 776625 ruth_edy6@hotmail.com
Ally Souster 773999 ally@uksg.org

Church Floodlights

It is some time since the church external floodlights were last switched on, but now we have low energy bulbs in the lights (150 watt), the PCC have agreed that we switch on the lights between dusk and 11pm from 1st October. This will enhance what is already a beautiful Grade 1 listed building, and also provide some measure of improved security. The original cost of the lights was provided by fundraising at the Strickland Arms, and there is a plaque in the pub to this effect.

St. Bartholomew's Church

Everyone is warmly welcome to all services and events.

Harvest Festival Weekend on September 24th and 25th. Our lovely church looks particularly beautiful when decorated for Harvest. It will be **open between 2pm and 4pm on Sunday** if you would like to come in and look around. Also, do come along and enjoy singing the traditional hymns at the 9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving Family Communion Service.

'Greater than Gold' is a musical based on the story of Mary Jones. It's a lovely tuneful set of songs featuring adults, children from the Church and the school – plus an orchestra. It lasts about one hour and there is no charge for admission so please come along at 6pm on Saturday October 15th. If you cannot come then, we will be including several of the songs in the morning service on the 16th at 9.30am

'Living Jesus' Many people are unsure what to make of the person of Jesus and during October and November, inspired by the book 'Living Jesus' by John Pritchard, the Bishop of Oxford, our parish church will be focusing on who we think Jesus is. If you are interested, look at the church website for more information – or come along to listen to the sermons or join the discussion groups.

November 6th On the Sunday after All Saints Day, the 6pm service will include a time when we remember, and thank God for, those who have died in recent years. If you have a loved one whom you would like included, please pass on their name to Bob Edy or to Marian Pitman – and do come along to the service if you would like to.

Remembrance Sunday, November 13th In addition to the 9.30am morning service, there will be a short service in church starting at 10.40am followed by a ceremony at the village war memorial at 10.55am. Everyone is welcome to join at any stage.

Church opening every Wednesday The church is open every Wednesday from 10am until 1pm. We hope that people will appreciate the opportunity to look around – or just to sit and enjoy the beauty and the peace. There is a box for prayer requests just inside the north door.

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

Dates for your diary

September 25th - Harvest Festival - service at 9.30am, church open 2pm to 4pm
October 15th at 6pm – 'Greater than Gold'
November 26th – Children's craft morning in church
November 27th - Christingle Service **at 5pm** (note the time)
December 13th - Brize Singers Concert at 7.30pm
December 18th - Carol Service at 6pm
December 24th - Crib Service at 5pm, 'Midnight Service' at 11.15pm
April 15th 2012 - 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

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FREE MOVIE NIGHT FOR ALL



7.30pm on Friday 11 November

Fireproof is an action-packed love story about a fire fighter, his wife... and a marriage worth rescuing! In US cinemas it touched the hearts – and souls – of millions of filmgoers.

Everyone is welcome to this screening at Ducklington Baptist Church at 7.30pm on Friday 11 November.

Soft drinks and popcorn will be available too!

+ Sunday Worship @ 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 normally celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday **2 October** will be a special **harvest** service, during which we will take a look at the work of BMS World Mission in Peru.

Sunday **13 November** will be **Remembrance Sunday**. 'They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

On Sunday **23 October** and Sunday **27 November** we will meet at **5.00pm** in the evening for an alternative service, beginning with a time of fellowship to get to know one another better before we respond to God's love with our songs of praise, our prayers and our Bible reading. There will be no service in the morning on these two Sundays.

+ Monday Baby & Toddler Group @ 10.00am to 11.30am

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.

+ Samaritan's Purse

As in previous years, we will be collecting shoe boxes and Christmas gifts for Samaritan's Purse at the beginning of November. For further information, please contact Brian Brewer.

+ 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 any of the above events. 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 make regular gifts.

DUCKLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Witney Road, Ducklington, OX29 7TX

Interim Pastor: Brian Brewer
Tel. 07780 786108



Ducklington W.I.

The members of Ducklington WI would like to thank you for your support at the Ducklington Flower Show. Winners of our competitions are:

Children's sweet jar with 152 sweets

Adults' sweet jar with 154 sweets

The cake weighed 876g / 31 oz

Golden Bucket was won by

Steven Pomroy

Cecile Villemont

J Edgington

Mr Sheel of Bletchington

We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month in Ducklington **Baptist Church** at 7.30 - 9.30pm. New members are very welcome. Why not come along to one of our meetings, and maybe bring a friend.

Oct 6th – Harvest Supper with Ducklington Handbell Ringers

Nov 3rd – Make your own Christmas Card with Nina Stubbs

For more information please contact Jo on 702897



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.

14 September & 12 October

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 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:
20 October, 17 November and 15 December.

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; Cheryl Alcock, telephone Witney 709872 or email duckpreschool@hotmail.co.uk.

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Ducklington CE Primary School News

The wet and windy weather at beginning of September didn't stop the children having a wonderful WOW! day to start our new topic of 'Let's Build.' All children across the school are working on this topic this term with each class taking a different aspect. On WOW! day the children were busy building; one classroom was transformed into a medieval castle, complete with a dungeon. We now have an amazing Eco greenhouse in the field made of wood and recycled water bottles. Also outside you will find tribal dwellings, animal homes and a fabulous waterproof house for the fourth little pig! The Kingdom of Camelot has also appeared in miniature. The children had a wonderful day and it wasn't all about just having fun. The children spend time planning their buildings, deciding on suitable materials and collecting them. On the day there had to be cooperation, teamwork and trust and the children all lived up to expectations and we were all able to enjoy the experience. We were also delighted to welcome parents and Governors during the afternoon to see what we'd been up to. We are holding an Open Day on Friday November 11th. If your child is starting school next September or you want to come and find out more about our lovely school please do give the school office a ring for further details.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all children, parents, staff and Governors for the very warm welcome to Ducklington.

If you would like to support the school in any way please visit our website www.ducklingtonprimaryschool.org.uk or contact the school office on 703651.

Sarah Nisbett Headteacher

'DUCKLINGTON MORRIS

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

Our Local October/November Dance Programme

Due to the onset of Autumn, our public open air dancing will mostly stop until next Spring. However we will continue to perform at indoor events, mostly at other Morris sides' ale's (i.e. parties) and our own ale in the Village Hall on Saturday, November 19th.

Our News!

Our Day-of-Dance this year was very successful with excellent weather and five guest Morris sides starting at Stow-on-the-Wold continuing through six other Cotswold villages finishing at the Strickland Arms and then The Bell where there was also music and singing.

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



DUCKLINGTON & HARDWICK PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Thank you to everyone who got involved with this year's flower show. It was really encouraging to see so many new faces especially new young faces. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did and have caught the "exhibitors bug"

We would also like it known, that we really appreciate the people who volunteered on the day, helping with stalls, BBQ & the gates, you helped make this year's show so successful!

The website is up and running now so check it out for photos, updates or if you wish to contact the committee. www.dhpa.co.uk

Last but not least, if you have any suggestions of changes you would like at the show or classes you would like to see available, please let us know.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the December/January issue is 15 November

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>

MILLHOUSE

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40 Witney Road, Ducklington, Witney, Oxon, OX29 7TX



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For enquires and further information please contact Matthew Shirley on 01993 774872 or 0780 3249264 or via email at info@millhouseconstruction.co.uk

Charity Event in aid of The Pituitary Foundation

at Ducklington Village Hall
on Saturday 8th October 2011
between 1.00-5.00pm

Charity Christmas Cards 7- 12 November

The Athenaeum Room,
The Corn Exchange, High Street, Witney.
10.00am - 4.00pm.

A wide choice of over 200 cards from more than 25 different charities.

Advent calendars, wrapping paper, tags and small gifts also available .

Organised by Cards for Good Causes.



We are a family home that looks after your dog whilst you are away. We invite your dog to live with us in our home, we are not a kennels but a family home in Ducklington, max of 4 well socialised dogs, we offer Day care and overnight boarding.

References available – sniff out our great Website

Come round and meet us, no commitment, We charge a standard £20 a day from 7am - 7pm or £30 for two dogs per day. Our overnight rates start at £20 a night

For a no commitment chat and availability

Ring: Allan 07519 667770

Email: dogholiday@hotmail.co.uk

www.witneydogcare.co.uk