

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

December 11 /January 2012

ISSUE 163

PARISH COUNCIL

Zipwire

The grant application for the new zipwire has been submitted. If it is successful a new zipwire will be installed early in 2012.

Bus stop – Bampton bound direction on Standlake Road

A better location for this stop has been agreed with the County Council and the bus company. The new bus stop marker should be installed soon.

New editor for the Ducklington Newsletter

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Helen Strainge as the new editor of the newsletter, taking over from Margaret Hellawell from the next edition. Mrs Strainge's contact details are included elsewhere in the newsletter.

New salt bin

Following the recent hard winters the Parish Council is keen to put into place some measures to improve the safety of the main road through the village on the sharp bends as Witney Road turns into Standlake Road. The Parish Council has asked the County Council to install a salt bin on the wide pavement on the right hand of the entrance to Tristram Road. It will be up to local residents and highway users to spread the salt and the Parish Council asks that this is done sensibly and only on the public road. It is not for use on private drives or paths – taking the salt from the bin for private use is theft. If you want to buy salt to treat ice on your private property you can buy it from builders' merchants and DIY stores.

Parking on footpaths

It has been noted that it is becoming increasingly common for people to park their vehicles on the footpaths in the village. This makes it dangerous for people to walk around Ducklington, especially for those people using wheelchairs or pushchairs as they are forced to walk in the road. It can also cause safety problems for drivers where the parked cars block the visibility at corners and junctions. The Parish Council would be grateful if everyone could remember that the footpaths are for people and not for vehicle parking.

Roadway lights between car park and pavilion

The Parish Council has spent some time investigating ways to replace the roadway lighting and the costs involved. Unfortunately it has become clear that there are faults in the underground cables which would need to be replaced to restore the lighting. The costs of this work have been determined to be too high to justify replacing the lighting. The Parish Council appreciates that this may be inconvenient to some people who use the pavilion at night, but it is hoped that once the first arrivals at the pavilion have turned on the lights at the building there should be sufficient light for people to navigate their way up the road. Please also consider taking a torch if you need to walk between the car park and the pavilion at night.

101 – the new police non-emergency number

101 is the new number to contact the police on for non-urgent issues from 14 November 2011. 101 replaces the existing 0845 8 505 505 number, although both numbers will run side by side until the end of March.

Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day or duration.

101 can be used to report crime such as: stolen cars, property damage, suspicions of drug use or dealing, reporting of a minor traffic collision, providing information about crime.

In an emergency please continue to use 999.

Lower Windrush Valley Project Update

Rushy Common Nature Reserve and Tar Lakes are managed by the Lower Windrush Valley Project (LWVP). Tar Lakes is an 8 hectare open space for local people to enjoy and offers an opportunity to walk around two lakes using footpaths that enable access for all and link to the wider network of public rights of way in the Lower Windrush Valley.

Rushy Common Nature Reserve is a haven for wildlife and so public access is not permitted across the reserve. However, an impressive bird hide offers good views across the site and is accessible to wheelchair users. Keys for the bird hide can be purchased direct from the LWVP and enable use of this and other hides in the Lower Windrush Valley at any time.

The car park at Rushy Common also provides a good starting point for circular walks in the wider area. To find out more contact Jane Bowley of the LWVP on 01865 815422.

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

The work on the planning application to extend the quarry is now, finally, coming together. The technical investigations that have been running for the last 20 months or so in to a whole range of issues; noise, dust, traffic, groundwater, agriculture, ecology, landscape, flood risk are all now being drawn together as part of the Environmental Assessment and will support the detailed working and afteruse proposals. Some further archaeological work has still to be carried out on one part of the extension area and until this is resolved the application can't be submitted to the County Council. Before this takes place a draft application will be presented to your Parish Council. As publicised in the last newsletter we held an open visit to Gill Mill quarry on 5th October. A small number of local people came along and the weather was kind enough to allow us to see active gravel excavation, the processing plant and worked land being progressively reinstated. This included the fully restored Tar Lakes and Rushy Common Nature Reserve. As mentioned last time Rushy Common had been shortlisted for a national award jointly sponsored by Natural England and the Mineral Products Association. The award was presented last month at an event at the Royal Society in London and although we didn't win we received a commendation and were presented with an award for "Commitment to Biodiversity and Nature Conservation". If you have any questions about what we do or about the proposed application please email me at info@smithsbletchington.co.uk or write to Smiths Bletchington, Enslow, Kidlington OX5 3AY.

November 2011

Crime Advice

With winter just around the corner it means we are experiencing long dark nights. Most burglaries occur during the day but at this time of year "the day" has more darkness. I suggest you have a light on a timer so that it comes on as dusk falls then your home doesn't look as inviting as others.

You may get legitimate callers to your home such as meter readers or delivery men calling whilst it is dark but you still need to be vigilant. Ensure that the door or porch is well lit; use a spy hole and door chain and check the identity of all callers. Remember no one has the right to enter your home without your consent wherever they say they're from.

Preventing crime is everyone's responsibility; if you see anything or anyone suspicious ring the police; you will not be wasting their time. If it doesn't look right it's probably wrong.

Bill Butcher, Crime Reduction Adviser, West Oxfordshire

Butchers' Banger wins award at British Sausage Week

In November, local butchers Denshams, owned by Clint Rudd of Ducklington, was named maker of the South East's most 'legendary banger' for their Green Goblin Cider sausage. The team also won a silver award for their Pork and Black Pudding banger.

Taste these at the Strickland Arms or purchase them from Denshams Butchers,
49 High Street, Witney 703714.

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

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St. Bartholomew's Church

Everyone is warmly welcome to all services and events.

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

Sat. Nov 26th at 10am Children's Craft Morning

Sunday Nov 27th at 5pm Christingle Service

Tuesday Dec 13th at 7.30pm concert with the
Brize Singers. Tickets 842229 or on the door

Sunday Dec 18th at 6pm Carol Service

Saturday Dec 24th at 5pm Crib Service

Saturday Dec 24th at 11.15 pm Midnight
Communion

Christmas Day Service at 9.30am.

Sunday Jan 1st 9.30am New Year Family Service

Alpha Course We are planning another Alpha Course in the new year for those who would like to take part. **Do look at our website** for more information about Alpha and contact Bob for further details.

Confirmation The bishop is coming on March 25th for a confirmation service. Please talk with Bob if you would like to know more.

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.

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

*If you are thinking of Christmas gift ideas and would like to give a present with Ducklington in mind, why not take a look at the products we have **on the Church website**: bags, mugs, tea-towels, fritillary notelets and cards. They can be paid for "on-line" and the money made helps maintain the church.*

The website also has full details of all services, events, the facility to listen to sermons, contact details for Marian (church administrator) and Bob, plus a whole host of other information.

You can also subscribe your email address so that you are automatically informed of forthcoming events.

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. and this is a more reflective time with a smaller congregation.

Fritillary Sunday 2012

will be on April 15th



DUCKLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Morning 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.

Activities are 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.

Christmas Carol Service on Thursday 22 December @ 7.00pm

Do join us on this evening for some familiar carol singing and warm mince pies and seasonal refreshments afterwards.

Christmas Day Service on Sunday 25 December @ 10.00am

Come and celebrate with us on this very special day of the year.

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. Simply drop in!

Monday Prayer and Bible Study @ 7.30pm

We meet for fellowship, prayer 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.

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 of you that make regular gifts.

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

Newcomers are especially welcome at all of our gatherings.

Interim Pastor: Brian Brewer
Tel. 07780 786108

Website: www.ducklingtonbaptistchurch.org



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 December

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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. New members are very welcome. Why not come along to one of our meetings, and maybe bring a friend.

Dec 1st Christmas Quiz and Bring and Buy evening
Jan 5th Social – post Christmas meal at the Strickland Arms

For more information please contact Jo on 702897

Used stamps – with about 1 cm of envelope around them, can be used to raise funds. Please collect them from your Christmas cards and letters and drop them in an envelope to 11 Beanhill Road. They will be sent to raise funds for animal charities.

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:
15 December & 19 January.

All money raised goes to the Village Hall funds.

Doors open: 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm Eyes down
ALL WELCOME! (No unaccompanied children, please)

DUCKLINGTON PRE-SCHOOL

All sessions are open to 2 1/2 - 5 year olds and run from 9 am until 12 noon. 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.

DUCKLINGTON MORRIS

Drink and socialise at **The Bell** from 10.00pm on Tuesdays.

To work up a thirst, we practise in the **The Village Hall from 8.30pm**

For more details of beer, banter and practices, contact:
Pete (Badger) West, 01869 601451 badger@ducklington.vianw.co.uk www.ducklingtonmorris.org.uk

P.S Our Mummers' Play will be performed in Witney and Ducklington pubs on Friday 16th December from 8pm. Look out for details on posters around the Village in the near future.

Ducklington CE Primary School News

The build up to Christmas has well and truly started at Ducklington CE Primary School! The hall is ringing with the sound of lovely Christmas Carols and songs – both traditional and modern. This year we are celebrating in style with the Ducklings (Foundation Stage) performing their own Nativity to their parents and carers. Owls and Mandarins (year 1 and 2) are also performing their interpretation of the Christmas story – Christmas and the Aliens! - while for the older children we will be having a Carol Service at St Bartholomew's led by Rev Edy. We will also be celebrating with a Christmas Disco for the children and of course Christmas dinner and parties at the end of the term.

It has been a very busy term all round with many trips and visits. Also staff have been working hard to make the school a better place to be and to learn. A group of year 5 and 6 children went to the Royal Albert Hall in November to take part in Music for Youth. Children from all over Oxfordshire had been working on a unique composition and came together to sing with the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra. This was an amazing opportunity for our children. I know they all enjoyed it hugely and appreciated the honour of singing at such a prestigious venue.

Next term our whole school theme will be 'Food.' We will be kicking off the topic with another WOW! day so the children will all be excited about their learning and looking forward to finding out more. All children across the school will be studying this topic but at a level and with interests appropriate to their age group.

We also have much more to do this year. We have been busy this term transforming our two 'spare - rooms' into literacy and maths rooms. These are now fantastic spaces where children can go in small groups with an adult and work quietly and undisturbed. We are also looking at the Foundation Stage outside area which although well used, is looking tired and in dire need of some new equipment and landscaping. Staff in the Ducklings have worked hard to make the indoor classroom a really spacious and effective learning environment and I am looking forward to seeing what they do with the outdoors!

We are also lucky enough to have a great Parents Association which is constantly running events both to raise funds for the school and to support children's learning.

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 01993 703651.

Sarah Nisbett Headteacher



The AGM meeting will be held on Monday 5th December 2011 at 8pm in The Strickland Arms. New members are very welcome; if you are unable to make this meeting but would still like to join the committee please contact Helen on 709356 or helenstrange123@btinternet.com.

If you have any suggestions or changes you would like to see to the Show or classes, let us know.

We are already thinking about next year's Show, so if you would like to advertise in next year's schedule please let us know, reasonable rates for full or half pages and space on our website.

Facebook, Twitter & our website are all great sources for information and updates about past & future shows. Check them out! www.dhpa.co.uk

Farewell from Margaret

Thanks for all the support and co-operation over the last twenty five years, it has made producing the newsletter a pleasure. My special thanks go to the faithful team of deliverers, and Peter for diligently proof reading each issue.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the February/March issue is 15 January

Items should be sent to **Helen Strange**, 9 Church Street, Ducklington by e-mail or on paper, to helenstrange123@btinternet.com or tel: 709356

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 June 2 – 5th

We had a good turnout at the Open Meetings which were held to discuss plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee as a village community in June 2012. Various suggestions were made and we agreed on a number of events for the four days of the long weekend.

We are hoping that others in the village will join in the planning and offer to help with events that appeal to them. There are lots of ways to be involved. We believe the programme has events for all ages!

The next meetings are on **Wed Feb 29th** at 7.30pm in the Lilac Room at the village hall and again on **Wed March 28th** but there will be groups meeting at other times to plan different aspects of the weekend. Please get in touch with Sally or Ruth if you want more information, or make contact yourself with people on the list. Come along to the meetings if you want to have a part in making these ideas turn into real events!

Book Stall in aid of Ducklington Jubilee Celebrations

Donations of old, new, hardback, paperback, fiction or non-fiction books are required. Please leave any books in the porch at 4 Pound Close, or telephone Roger Barnes on 706198 to arrange collection.

Acoustic Music Event – Sunday 3rd June 8pm

This is a plea for any local musicians and/or singers, who would like to participate in a concert version of "The Bell 1st Sunday Session", to contact Roger Barnes on 706198. Format will probably be that each singer/musician/duo does 2 or 3 songs/tunes – rather like an acoustic mike session.

Other contacts for Jubilee weekend events

Chair of the co-ordinating committee	Ruth Edy 776625
Guitar concert	
Plant stall	Sally Craig 772722
Church Flower Festival	Marian Pitman 703374 and Jane Nichols 704450
VH teas Saturday 2nd (church)	Jane Nichols 704450
VH teas Sunday 3rd (WI)	Jo McGhee 702897
Exhibition of village crafts/skills <i>(Do get in touch if you create items that could go into an exhibition of village talent!)</i>	Ann Morris 702870
Young Farmers Show –Sunday June 3rd	Becky Blandford
Monday 4th Big Lunch and activities on Sportsfield	Robert Spence 703908, Diana Kelsall and Joyce Parry
Monday 4th Jubilee Procession	Joyce Parry 705121
Tuesday 5th Tea party	Jenny Izzard 703473
History of the village photo display <i>(please dig through your old albums for suitable photos!)</i>	June Tayler 704983 and Ruth Bushnell 703978
Decorations, flags, bunting & balloons	Ruth Edy 776625 and Ally Souster
Local musicians/mummers play/bookstall	Roger Barnes 706198
Morris dancing	Richard Ford
Publicity/newsletter	Helen Strange

Thank you. Ruth 776625 ruth_edy6@hotmail.com & Sally 772722 sallypcraig@btinternet.com

MILLHOUSE

construction Ltd

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



Millhouse Construction Ltd is based in Ducklington, we carry out work in and around Oxfordshire. Our work includes **extensions, loft conversions, renovations, new builds and general building (smaller work also undertaken).**

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www.millhouseconstruction.co.uk

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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

Witney Lions Club Christmas Float

Wed 14th December
In Ducklington

6 pm starting from
Feilden Close (Aston Road end)
passing through Lovell Close, Peel Close,
Standlake Road,
Church Street, Back Lane,
Witney Road, Pound Close,
Curbridge Road, Manor Road,
Macray Road, Park Road,
Beanhill Road, Moors Close
and Dale Walk,
leaving the village at 8pm.



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

DUCKLINGTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



December at The Strickland Arms



*1st -24th December 3 courses for £16.95
'Christmas party menu'*

*Friday 2nd December from 9pm
'That's Entertainment'
with the amazing Jeff Denton comedy vocalists*

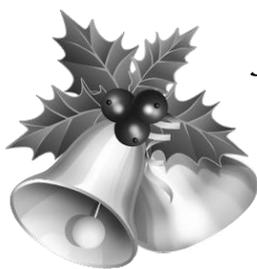
*Saturday 10th December from 9pm
'Pink Floyd and Foo Fighters'
Tribute Night with the fab 'Dark side of the room'*

*Sunday 11th December from 7.30pm
'Christmas Quiz Night'*

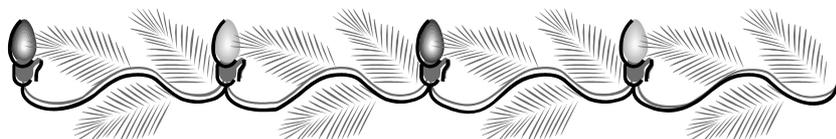
*Saturday 24th December from 7pm
'Cody'
Entertaining us all with classic songs*

*Sunday 25th December from 12noon
'Christmas day lunch'
5 courses for £55*

*Monday 26th December from 4pm
Alex's Christmas party with a free buffet and
'Anne-Marie'*



*New Years Eve 2011
See the new year in with
Great food!! Great music!! Great atmosphere!!
3 course meal for £18.95 6pm, music from 9.30pm with
LOST CHIHUAHUA*



The Strickland Arms Ducklington

www.thestricklandarmswitney.co.uk

January and February Meal Deals



Monday Night

Pie and a Pint £7.50

Tuesday Night

Steak Night

Wednesday Night

Discount wine evening £8.00 a bottle



Thursday Night

Fish and chip night Buy 1 get 1 free

Friday Night

Free pudding Night with every main Meal

Are you over 60 come & enjoy our Senior Meal Deal

Monday to Saturday 2 courses for £7

Or why not try our delicious Sunday Roast

1 course £8.95

2 Courses £10.95

