

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR NEW WEBSITE?

We are excited to announce that the **Ducklington Parish Council website** has had a major refresh! It is now easier than ever to stay informed about what's happening in our village.

What's New?

- **Village Hall Hub:** Check out the updated Village Hall page featuring new photos, updated information, and direct links to the new VH booking site.
- **Meeting Updates:** Quick access to council agendas and minutes.
- **Upcoming Events:** All the community links you need in one place.

Explore it today at: www.ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Your village, your council, your website.

Spring has finally arrived, and it's lovely to see the sunshine returning, and the village starting to brighten up after the winter months. With better weather ahead, many of us will be out and about more, enjoying walks, gardens and community life. Unfortunately, winter has also left its mark on our roads and pavements, and potholes remain a real issue across the village and wider Oxfordshire. If you spot a pothole or other highway problem, you can help by reporting it directly via FixMyStreet at: <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Reporting issues really does make a difference, and every report helps keep our village safer for everyone. Don't forget, all publications of the Newsletter are available to read online, in full colour. Please visit the Parish Councils website:

<https://www.ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Best wishes, Emma Buckard

newsletter@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Local Police

PC Josh Bennet:

Josh.Bennett@thamesvalley.police.uk

PC Kat Giles

Katherine.Giles@thamesvalley.police.uk



County Councillor

Cllr Thomas Ashby

E: thomas.ashby@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Mobile: 07425 152459



Dates for the Diary

- Friday 3rd Apr – Good Friday, Bank Holiday
- Monday 6th Apr – Easter Monday, Bank Holiday
- Monday 13th Apr – Ducklington School return for Summer Term
- Sunday 19th Apr – Fritillary Sunday, from 11am
- Monday 4th May – Early May Bank Holiday
- Thursday 7th May – Local elections
- Friday 15th May – Newsletter entry deadline
- Friday 15th – Saturday 16th May – Duck. Sports Club Beer Festival
- Friday 22nd May - Ducklington School finish for Half Term
- Monday 25th May – Spring Bank Holiday
- Sunday 7th June – Big Lunch Live

Reminders

Dog waste – We kindly ask all dog owners to be responsible and considerate by cleaning up after their pets. Please respect our beautiful village and keep an eye on your furry friends.

Safe and considerate parking in Ducklington - Ducklington Parish Council is keen to promote safe and considerate parking in the village. This means being aware of others and not blocking their access or causing a hazard.

The Parish Council

The Parish Council meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall

(The Lilac Room) at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and observe the meetings. For any queries please contact:

The Parish Clerk, Mr Steve Smith

Post: The Village Hall, Standlake Road, Ducklington OX29 7UX

E: clerk@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



DUCKLINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL

More information about the Parish Council, services, local events and news updates is available on the Parish Council website:

www.ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

June/July Newsletter deadline for entries is Friday 15th May 2026: newsletter@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



This Newsletter is recyclable



Do you want to be a Councillor on our Parish Council?

As some of you may know many parts of the UK are holding local elections on **Thursday 7th May 2026**. Here in Ducklington we will have an election for a seat on West Oxon District Council. There may also be an election for the Parish Council. As a village we can have up to 9 Parish Councillors. We currently meet that number; however, one individual has confirmed they will not be standing for re-appointment.

The Parish Council meets in the Lilac Room at the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings tend to last around 2 hours.

Am I eligible to stand for election?

To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish or town council election, you must:

- Be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights.
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Meet at least one of the following three qualifications:
 - You are and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish you wish to attend from the day of your nomination onwards.
 - You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of the election.
 - Your principal or only place of work during the 12 months before your nomination and the day of the election has been in the parish area.

If we get more than 9 people who wish to stand then there will be a vote on 7th May.

If you have any questions on the Parish Council, please contact the Chair, David Duthie, via email to:

david.duthie@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Or if you feel you would like to stand, then request a nomination pack from the Parish Clerk, Steve Smith, at clerk@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

There are lots of new people who have moved into the village since the last election, so if you think you could make a difference, why not step up and see.



fods
Friends of Ducklington School
Registered Charity No. 104889

THANKS TO DUCKLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL FOR OUR SENSORY GARDEN GRANT!

We are so grateful to Ducklington Parish Council for their generous grant towards the development of our **new Sensory Garden at Ducklington Primary School**.

This funding will help us create a calm and engaging outdoor space to support our pupils' wellbeing and learning through nature. We are very appreciative of their support of our school community.

Illustrations include: a ladybug, a watering can, a wheelbarrow, a rake, a watering can, a sunflower, a box of soil, and a pair of gloves.

Your bin collection day is:

THURSDAY

Green week	
Recycling	
Food waste	
Garden waste	

+

Grey week	
Rubbish	
Food waste	

Visit our website or contact us to:

- **Sign up** for garden waste collections (chargeable service)
- **Report** a missed collection (within two working days)
- **Request** a food waste caddy
- **Replace** a damaged or broken bin
- **Ask a question** about recycling

 www.westoxon.gov.uk
 **01993 861000**

In the event of severe weather disrupting services please visit our website for more information.

Updates will also be available on our social media channels.

Waste & recycling calendar

2025/26

Green week

Green week	Grey week
Thursday 25 September	Thursday 18 September
Thursday 9 October	Thursday 2 October
Thursday 23 October	Thursday 16 October
Thursday 6 November	Thursday 30 October
Thursday 20 November	Thursday 13 November
Thursday 4 December	Thursday 27 November
Thursday 18 December	Thursday 11 December
Saturday 3 January (No garden waste)	Saturday 27 December
Thursday 15 January	Friday 9 January
Thursday 29 January	Thursday 22 January
Thursday 12 February	Thursday 5 February
Thursday 26 February	Thursday 19 February
Thursday 12 March	Thursday 5 March
Thursday 26 March	Thursday 19 March
	Thursday 2 April



REF:THURSDAY 2

Ducklington and Hardwick with Yelford Charity.

The object of the Charity is to relieve, either generally or individually, persons resident in the Parishes of Ducklington, Hardwick and Yelford, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. For example: help with heating, transport costs etc. The Charity also considers requests from young people who reside within the Parishes of Ducklington, Hardwick or Yelford, who are embarking on Further Education or Apprenticeships. Grants can be made for books or to help with the purchase of equipment. In the first instance please write to the Clerk, Mrs Gillian Caton:

10 Lovell Close, Ducklington, OX29 7YQ, Tel: 01993 702261 / 07720868954, Email: gilliancaton5@gmail.com

St Bartholomew's Rambling Group

The Rambling Group invites villagers from Ducklington, surrounding villages and Witney to join us on Saturdays at 10.00am for a countryside walk. We welcome parents with smaller children in large wheel strollers, and dogs on a lead.

We tend to concentrate on local routes, and aim for walks to be 1-2 hours in duration. We pace ourselves, and don't mind more adventurous walkers leading the pack, and will support slower walkers bringing up the rear.

At some point on the walk we usually stop for a drink and a brief reflection.

The following dates have been earmarked for walks:

14 th February	14 th March	11 th April	9 th May
13 th June	11 th July	8 th August	12 th September
10 th October	14 th November	12 th December	

Please feel free to contact me (Johan) at LLM2@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk for further information.

Johan Schoeman



- Testing and inspection
- Fault finding and repairs
- Domestic electrical work
- Installations and upgrades
- Maintenance

Westwood Electrical

is a professional electrical services company built on reliability, quality workmanship, and a straightforward honest service.

Areas covered

Witney/Oxfordshire/Cotswolds
Birmingham – surrounding areas
London – surrounding areas

- www.westwoodelectricalservices.co.uk
- westwood.electservices@gmail.com
- 07861420693



Ducklington WI

Love Your Heart

As February is the designated month of all things 'hearts', at Ducklington WI we value our health and wellbeing, and understand the need to look after our hearts in every sense of the word!

Come and join us every second Thursday in the month, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. You'd be made most welcome.



For any further information, please contact Jennifer Pratley via email:

jenniferpratley@hotmail.co.uk



Ducklington & Hardwick Village Hall

Charity No. 266806

Ducklington Village Hall weekly timetable

- Monday - Chess from 7.30pm
- Tuesday – Pilates 10.30 – 11.30am
- Tuesday – Qigong 12 – 1pm
- Tuesday - Duck Morris Dancers from 8pm
- Wednesday – Ducklington Parish Council meeting 7.30pm (1st Wednesday of the month only)
- Thursday – Qigong 9.30am – 10.30am
- Thursday – Warm Welcome Space 11.30am – 3pm
- Thursday - Dance 4.45 – 6.30pm (Dancemania)
- Ducklington WI from 7.30pm (2nd Thursday of the month only)
- Friday - Zumba 11.15am – 12.15pm
- Friday – Love Dance Academy 3.30pm – 7pm (starts 17th April)
- Saturday - Dance 9.15am – 1.45pm (Dancemania)

Details of all the activities can be found on the Village Hall website.



We are pleased to launch our new Ducklington & Hardwick Village Hall website and branding:

<https://ducklingtonvillagehall.co.uk/>

The website has all the information you need to know about the hall - including details of the rooms for hire, regular activities that take place in the hall, upcoming events and useful documents.

For information about booking the hall please email

bookings@ducklingtonvillagehall.co.uk

You can also advertise your activity or event taking place at the Village Hall – just email us with all the details and a poster and we will add it to the website.

Hire the Village Hall >>



Email us at
bookings@ducklingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Ducklington & Hardwick Village Hall

Charity No. 266806

[Home](#) [A brief history](#) [Hire the Village Hall](#) [Regular activities](#) [Events](#) [Useful information](#) [Contact us](#)



Ducklington & Hardwick Village Hall has been at the heart of the village since 1920 and plays a vital role in the community of Ducklington and Hardwick.

We have various **regular activities** taking place in the Village Hall and we welcome bookings for parties, special events, small workshops, etc.



The local community and all users of The Village Hall are reminded that this fantastic facility continues to enjoy Gigaclear's free hyperfast 900Mbps full fibre broadband.

For bookings please contact::
bookings@ducklingtonvillagehall.co.uk
or complete the form on the website:
ducklingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Ducklington Events Team

Save the date – 7th June Big Lunch Live!



We are pleased to announce that the funds of £241.08, raised at the Christmas Fayre in 2025, were donated to Warm Welcome Space. Ducklington is lucky to have such fantastic volunteers in our village, running a group that makes everyone feel welcome. We hope this donation helps support the incredible work the group does for the local community.

What's coming.....

The team's next event is the **BIG LUNCH LIVE** on Sunday 7th June. Live music, tea, cake, ice cream, games and face painting. So save the date and more information will be in the June/July village newsletter.

Anyone one wishing to volunteer at future events, please do get in contact: jo.george@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

JLDA building design

Transforming Homes & Spaces by Design

- ✓ Planning Applications
- ✓ Building Regulations
- ✓ Construction Drawings
- ✓ New Builds & Extensions
- ✓ Loft & Garage Conversions
- ✓ Internal Alterations

"JLDA has done 3 designs for us. The first one has transformed our lives. The work was of the highest quality and the level of service excellent."

★★★★★

Call now for a
Free Consultation: 01869 349825

Email: design@jlda.co.uk
Visit: www.jlda.co.uk

Helping You Create a Better Home



What's new for 2026....

Elected at our AGM in February...

Chairperson – Edward Todd

Secretary – Lauren Holifield

Treasurer – Liz Priest

New committee members – Cheryl Alcock and Rachel Sharp

We look forward to welcoming you to the show on 31st August!

Flower Arrangement Categories

- Celebration of sport
- Literature
- Woodwork

Photography Categories

- Wildlife
- Transport
- Seaside
- Having fun
- Trees, fruit
- Archways
- Agriculture

Oxford temporary congestion charge
Starts Wednesday 25 October 2025

7 am - 7 pm
Charge for cars only
Pay online by midnight tomorrow

If you drive a car in Oxford
From Wednesday 29 October cars with permits and all other vehicles can pass through the six congestion charge locations for free.

If you don't have a permit you will need to pay £5 per day to drive a car through the six congestion charge locations.

Permits are available for residents, blue badge holders, community health and care workers, mobile traders and many other groups.

Find out more about the congestion charge

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/congestioncharge

Building connections, expanding opportunity

From 14 January 2026 you will need to **book a time slot** before every visit to our Household Waste Recycling Centres.

You can book up to **two weeks** in advance or **30 minutes*** before you visit.

*Subject to availability

The booking system will help manage demand and make your visit quicker and easier.

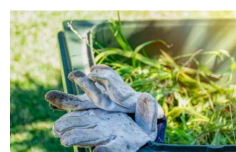
Scan me

oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking

Unable to book online?
Call 01865 519800 Monday to Friday.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Garden waste subscription still £52.50 - now even greener!



Keep your garden tidy and help the environment by subscribing to the garden waste recycling service – still just £52.50 a year.

You will no longer receive a sticker for your bin as subscriptions are tracked using smart in-cab technology, making the service simpler, greener, and more efficient than ever.

Benefits of subscribing:

- Hassle-free kerbside collections of grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, leaves, and small branches.
- Garden waste is composted, reducing landfill and supporting sustainability.
- Your subscription helps maintain and improve local recycling services.

Sign up online today for a year of convenient, eco-friendly garden waste recycling – good for your garden, and good for the planet.



www.westoxon.gov.uk



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Councillor Thomas Ashby
Oxfordshire County Council

Follow me on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CLlrThomasAshby
thomas.ashby@oxfordshire.gov.uk

07425 152459

Introduction

Over the last couple of months, it's been a pleasure to speak to many of you in the village. That's the best part of being your Councillor, speaking to you and understanding what really matters!

Please, if you do see me in the village, feel free to come and say hello.

The Moors

For many years, The Moors has served as a vital green space for the Ducklington community. Here, the changing seasons are reflected in rising water levels... But today it is a site under siege by developers armed with "dodgy data" and a disregard for our village's soul.

We have watched the Environment Agency backtrack, admitting their flood maps were a fantasy. We have stood in our wellies, watching the very land they claimed was "safe" disappear under a lake of winter rain. To build over 100 homes here isn't just a planning error, it is a betrayal of our village and betrayal of future families who will be left to bail out their living rooms while the developers walk away with their millions.

Our sewage system is choking, our roads are at a breaking point, and the unique identity of Ducklington is being bled into the urban sprawl of Witney.

That's why we need the District Council to hold their nerve! Don't let landowners and developers bully you into breaking our village. Stand with the people who live here, who love this village, and who know its truths better than any computer model ever could.

Reject this development. Protect our home. Keep The Moors green.

Parking at the Junction of Witney Road / Curbridge Road

With support from the Parish Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Police, we request that people avoid parking at the Witney Road/Curbridge Road junction. As many visitors to the lake park there, we are considering measures like 'Keep Clear' lines to address this issue.

Potholes Continue to Plague Our Lives

Over the winter, I have continued to work with local people to report our potholes for repair. I am incredibly disappointed by the lack of support from our County Council – we pay a lot of Council Tax, therefore the least we expect is for them to repair our roads adequately.

Thank you for reporting them to FixMyStreet – I am incredibly grateful for you taking the time to do so, even if we do not get the support from the Council we deserve.

Ducklington Arts Trail & Sensory Garden

Wow! Don't we have a fantastic local community! The arts trail and sensory garden are coming along brilliantly. The community spirit and support the community and volunteers have shown in creating these village assets is truly amazing. Keep up the good work - I know we are all looking forward to them being completed.

FRITILLARY SUNDAY

19TH APRIL 2026

Ducklington Village, from 11am.

Visit the Fritillary Field for a talk about the field and enjoy a range of other activities throughout the day.

- Activities in the Church
- Tower Visits
- Gifts
- Morris Dancing
- Art Gallery
- Refreshments
- Raffle
- Cream Teas
- Ploughman's Lunches
- Refreshments
- Plant Stall



Dance Classes at Ducklington Village Hall

Fridays:

- Babies** (ages 2-4): 3.30-4pm
- Minis** (ages 4-6): 4.15-5pm
- Juniors 1** (ages 7-9): 5-6pm
- Juniors 2** (ages 10-12): 6-7pm



Classes launch on April 17th and we are currently taking free trial bookings!

Love Dance Academy offers inclusive dance classes for ages 2-12. Our classes are all about developing a life-long passion for dance and movement in our students. We believe that dance is for everyone and that each child can benefit from dance in their own way. Contact Miss Emily via email, phone or Instagram to secure your space!

Dance for every body.

www.love-dance.co.uk



07403760872

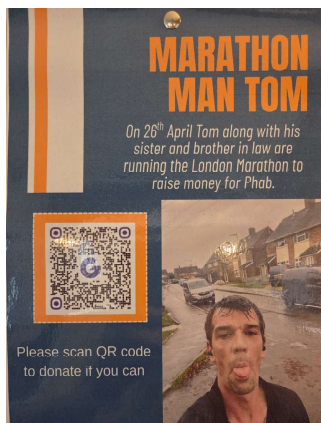
info@love-dance.com

[@love_dance_academy_](https://www.instagram.com/love_dance_academy_)

FUNDRAISING

Leila Dowley – Irish Dancing Championships

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our fundraiser quiz night! We had a brilliant evening and are so grateful for all the generosity, donations and encouragement shown for the Marion Flanagan School of Irish Dancing. Well done to "Park Road 4eva" for winning the quiz trophy, and a huge thank you to John, our quizmaster and, of course, to the amazing dance performers for making the night so special. If you weren't able to make it – or would still like to help – there's still time to support Leila on her journey to the World Championships. Simply scan the QR code to donate. Thank you again for your amazing support!



We warmly invite you to our forthcoming Services and Events at St Bartholomew's

Holy Week

- 10am - 29th March **Palm Sunday Service**
- 6pm. - 30th March **Compline**
- 6pm - 31st March **Compline**
- 6pm - 1st April **Compline**
- 6pm - 2nd April **Maundy Thursday**
- 2pm - 3rd April **Good Friday reflection**
- 8pm - 4th April **Service of Light**
- 10am - 5th April **Easter Family Celebration**
followed by an Easter Egg hunt

19th April 10am Fritillary Sunday Service

For more information, please visit our website at www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk
Revd Andrea Colbrook
rector@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk

JustGiving



Scan to visit Angela Dowley's JustGiving Page

Report by Charlie Maynard, MP for Witney



The Thames Water outage caused a huge amount of trouble for all of us. Many elderly and vulnerable people were suddenly left without water, schools and businesses had to close, parents needed to stop work suddenly to go and pick up children or look after them at home, boilers stopped working. The Thames Water operational team worked hard to get the burst repaired and to set up water stations. There were certainly plenty of things that could have been better, but I am very grateful to the individuals who provided us with water and got water back into the pipes.

It was a faulty old repair that burst, and then two pumps failed as they tried to restore water into the network. These failings highlight just how bad our water and sewage infrastructure is and how underinvested it has been. My focus was on doing my best to tell people about what was going on and to get water to people who did not have any. This involved seeking information from Thames Water - especially from the engineers working on fixing the problem - and pushing the company to take actions where I thought they were needed. This included setting up additional water stations in Burford and Minster Lovell - which were the last places to get water back - and getting water deliveries to vulnerable people.

The *Dirty Business* series on ITV about our local heroes Ash Smith and Peter Hammond has also done a powerful but painful job of highlighting the mess our water sector is in. A few weeks back I was out on the Moors along with Ben Morel-Allen, our WODC candidate in Ducklington for May's election. We were standing in polluted floodwater in the dark looking at the impact it has on grazing. We were there along with Matt Barker who led the campaign to save the Moors. When everything seemed lost, Matt and three of us Lib Dem district councillors kept on fighting to cajole the Environment Agency to change their flood maps and get the Moors redesignated correctly as a high flood risk zone. We finally managed to persuade them after more than two years of campaigning and I'm delighted that the EA has stood by their findings.

The fault for the defunding of our water sector and our environmental regulator is fairly and squarely the result of some disastrous Conservative policies. However, what's so depressing is how Labour is not addressing the core underlying problem of Thames Water's terrible finances and is instead seeking a solution which will just kick the problem beyond the next General Election. I thought Thames's restructuring plan was so bad that I personally fought Thames Water and its financiers all the way from the High Court to the Supreme Court last year. I continue to fight with my Liberal Democrat colleagues to fix this problem. We have a long way to go, but we will keep at it.



Cedar Court Care Home

60 Moorland Rd, Witney, OX28 6LG



Cedar Court is a warm and welcoming home set on the edge of the Cotswolds. We offer the highest standards of care where dignity is respected, interests are nurtured, and our residents are cared for like family. With a range of **residential, nursing and dementia care** on offer as well as specialist care for younger people with disabilities, Cedar Court is the ideal choice.

We currently have vacancies for permanent and respite stays. Call us today to book a viewing and to meet our team.

Call us on 01993 226400 or visit healthcarehomes.co.uk



Committed, compassionate, caring

Ducklington Solar Farm



We have received an update from Nicola Jones, Principal Planning Manager at Innova, regarding the final stages of the local energy project.

The good news for the village is that **no further major construction works** are expected between now and the point the site goes live ("energisation"). Residents can expect a much quieter period ahead as the project moves into its final phases.

Progress made so far:

- **Late January:** A small team were on site for 2–3 weeks to complete "low voltage" trenching. This work is entirely within the site boundary, though it is dependent on the weather and ground conditions.
- **Early February:** The team worked on the on-site cable connection. This involved connecting the site to the existing ducts and the "Point of Connection" on Curbridge Road.
- **Mid-February onwards:** Once the cabling had been finished, the presence on site is now very minimal—mostly just electricians arriving in a single van to complete the internal wiring.

Final Touches: In the coming months, you may notice some minor works to finish the internal access tracks and the start of the **landscaping programme**, which will help the site settle into the local surroundings.

The project team would like to thank the community for their patience during the main construction phase. We will continue to share updates as the site approaches its final "switch on" date.



Meet the Parish Councillors – David Duthie

We are delighted to introduce **David Duthie**, who has proudly served as our **Chairman for the last four years**. A cornerstone of our community, David is now in his **39th year** as a Ducklington resident. With approximately **15 years of service** on the Parish Council, David brings an invaluable wealth of experience and a long-term perspective to our village's local government.

For David, Ducklington is more than just a place to live; it is home to a family history that spans generations. Both of his children, Laura and Sam, were raised in the village, and his own decades of involvement in local life reflect a deep-seated commitment to ensuring Ducklington remains a vibrant community for the future.

Throughout nearly four decades in the village, David has lent his expertise to almost every facet of our community. He has served as a **Governor at the Primary School** and held the responsible position of **Treasurer on the PCC of St. Bartholomew's**. His passion for local sport is equally well-known; as a former committee member at the **Ducklington Sports Club**, he dedicated many years to coaching youth football and cricket, helping to shape the sporting lives of many local youngsters.

David's presence is felt throughout the village week in and week out. Most Sunday mornings he can be found in the tower of **St. Bartholomew's**, where he serves as a bell ringer, maintaining one of our village's most historic and atmospheric traditions.

An ardent sportsman, David's dedication extends to his own active lifestyle and his support for regional teams. He has held season tickets at **Gloucester Rugby** for over 20 years and **Gloucestershire Cricket** for over a decade. He remains a regular on the court himself, playing badminton once a week and pickleball twice weekly. His leadership in the sporting world also takes him further afield as the **Secretary of Stanton Harcourt Cricket Club**, a role that has seen him travel the world with the team.

When he isn't on the court or attending to Council business, David and his partner, Gill, are enthusiasts of live theatre. They are regular visitors to the Everyman at Cheltenham and The Barn at Cirencester, among other regional venues.

The Parish Council is incredibly fortunate to benefit from David's 39 years of village history, his financial and educational experience, and his tireless, community-minded leadership as Chairman.





Sponsored By
**PHEASANT
RETREATS**
01993 772555



Local Beers • Live Music • Gin Bar • BBQ

FA Cup Final • Football Tournament • Classic Cars • Vintage Vehicles

Friday 15th May from 5pm • Saturday 16th May from 2pm

LIVE
MUSIC
FROM

The Honey Badgers • Friday
The Prevention • Saturday

DJ RUSS
BOTH
DAYS

Glebelands Playing Fields, Ducklington



SCAN ME

Takeaway

Home Cook Oriental Food

Scan for Menu & Order

All dietary requirements catered for
Available Thurs-Sunday
Call/Message: 07554 491641



Authentic Asian Food Delivered Fresh & Gluten Free

Welcome to Eat @ A's – Your home for authentic Oriental meal kits delivered across the UK for you to cook and savour at home.

Rooted in tradition and driven by purpose, we offer home-made meal kits that are bold in flavour and made with care in our West Oxfordshire kitchen.

Our dishes come with easy to follow instructions for you to enjoy the cooking experience with results that transports you back to the orient.



www.eat-at-a.co.uk



Ducklington Sports Club



Spring has arrived and, hopefully, we are now through the worst of the winter weather. It certainly feels like it has been one of the wettest starts to the year for a long time, with plenty of disrupted fixtures and soggy sidelines. With brighter days ahead, it is great to see the pitches busy again and football continuing across the club.

The big news this month is that the Ducklington Sports Club Beer Festival is back, kindly sponsored by Pheasant Retreats. This year's event will take place on 15th and 16th May, and promises to be another fantastic weekend for the village. Alongside a great selection of beers and gins, there will be live music across the weekend, an over-35s Football Tournament, and we will also be showing the FA Cup Final at the club.

Friday evening will kick things off with live music from The Honey Badgers, while DJ Russ will be keeping the atmosphere going across both days.

On Saturday evening, we are particularly excited to welcome The Prevention, a brilliant three-piece covers band with a strong local following, playing rock and pop favourites from the '60s through to the 2000s. It should be a fantastic night at the club.

More details will be shared soon, but for now please save the dates!

Contact

If you would like to get in contact with the Sports Club to hire, play football, or just ask about what we do, please use the website or give the secretary, Ed Todd, a call / email:
07500 284693

secretary@duckingtonsportsclub.co.uk

Football

All age group fixtures, along with league tables and results for U12s+, can be seen on the Ducklington Sports Club website:

www.duckingtonsportsclub.co.uk



MILLHOUSE

construction ltd

Established 1998

Extensions Loft Conversions Renovations New Builds General Building



FREE ESTIMATES • DETAILED QUOTATIONS

We give free estimates & detailed quotations which always come with a guarantee.
For a full list of our services, photo gallery of previous projects
and customer references please visit our website



Contact Matthew Shirley on
01993 774872, 07803 249264
or info@millhouseconstruction.co.uk
www.millhouseconstruction.co.uk



TROPIC

- Skincare
- Body care
- Bronzing
- Sun care
- Hair care
- Make up

Tropic, one of the UK's fastest-growing beauty companies, creates multi-award winning products that contain nature's most nutritious ingredients, delivering visible clinical results, freshly made in our Surrey Beauty Kitchen



30-day happiness guarantee

Contact me if you would like a FREE brochure,
consultation or to place an order



Emma Shirley
Mobile: 07770 578579
Email: emmas.tropic@gmail.com





Dear Friends,

As the days grow longer and the first signs of spring begin to appear around our village, we are reminded of the quiet miracle of growth. After the stillness of winter, life begins to stir again, flowers push through the soil, birds return with their song, and gardens slowly come back to life. Spring gently reminds us that growth often begins with something small, like a seed planted in the ground.

In many ways, our lives and our community grow in the same way. Small acts of kindness, a helping hand offered to a neighbour, or time given to support a village project can grow into something far greater than we might ever imagine. These small seeds of care and generosity help our community flourish.

Spring also leads us into the joyful season of Easter, a time that speaks deeply of hope and new beginnings.

Of course, Easter wouldn't quite be Easter without a little fun as well! Chocolate eggs begin appearing in the shops, colourful foil wrappers soon fill our homes, and many of us will enjoy sharing these treats with family and friends. The Easter egg has long been a symbol of new life, perfectly fitting for a season when everything around us seems to be waking up again.

You are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate Easter together at **St Bartholomew's Church on Sunday 5th April**. Our Easter service is a wonderful opportunity for the whole village to gather, reflect on the message of hope that Easter brings, and celebrate the season together. Whether you come regularly or are simply curious to join us, you will be very welcome.

As we enjoy the beauty of spring this year, perhaps we might all take a moment to consider the small seeds we can plant in our own lives, through kindness, encouragement and community spirit. May this season encourage us all to **bloom where we are planted**, nurturing the small beginnings that help our village continue to grow and flourish together....

With every blessing,
Andrea Colbrook
Rector, St Bartholomew's Church, Ducklington

 **01993 776625**

 rector@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk

 www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk

**Christian Aid Week 10th – 16th May
2026**

No matter our own circumstances, there is always someone worse off. If we can help in any way, no matter how small, we can call ourselves good neighbours - something that Ducklington can always be proud of.

You can donate to this via the St Bartholomew's donation envelope online – either by scanning the QR code or selecting this link:

<https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/ducklington-christian-aid-2026>

Envelopes will also be distributed around the village.



The Bell Inn

A warm friendly space offering a great selection
of drinks and many traditional Pub games

Food served daily;
Lunch 12-2:00
Weekday Lunchtime
Specials!
Evening 6-8
Sundays Traditional
Roasts 12-2:30

Join us this April and May
for all our usual monthly and
weekly events. Follow us on
Facebook for any other events.

Pop in to the pub to see what extra
events we've got going on.

Call us on 01993700341
Email us:
Thebellinn297@gmail.com
or message us on Facebook

Large groups catered
for, with bookings
outside of usual food
service times available.

Monthly Events:
Quiz Night 1st Sunday
Open Mic 1st Friday
Folk Music Session 3rd
Sunday
Karaoke Last Friday

Ducklington Warm Welcome Space

Contact: Gill Long
07780 781839 ducklingtonwarmwelcome@gmail.com



The Warm Welcome Space, located in Ducklington Village Hall, 11.30am-3pm, every Thursday, continues to offer a friendly and inclusive environment for everyone in the community. Free of charge.

We offer a friendly, safe space with free lunches, cake and hot & cold drinks.

Pop in for a cup of coffee or tea anytime during the session or stay for lunch (usually around 1pm). You will find lots of friendly people, excellent company, chats and on some Thursdays, we have activities such as quizzes, bingo, singing, and crafting. Board games, dominoes and jigsaws are always available. Bring your knitting or crafts to share with us.

Since the last Newsletter we have enjoyed a very interesting talk about the birds who visit the lakes near the village. We were played bird songs to help recognise resident and visiting birds. All the work on the reed beds means there are now some wetland species visiting this area for the first time, who will hopefully become a regular sight.

We celebrated National Warm Welcome Week wearing the colours of the organisation and enjoyed a cake, made by Carol, to mark the occasion.

Maria, one of our regular visitors, gave a talk on Fairground Life which was enjoyed by all. We had our first Beetle Drive with a basket of goodies kindly donated by Sally, Jenny and Maria. June, our Quiz Queen, arranged another quiz and kindly donated the prizes.

If you want to support us, join us as a volunteer or find out more about our space, we would love to hear from you.

Send a message to: ducklingtonwarmwelcome@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you at Ducklington Warm Welcome Space soon.

Gill Long and Mel Johnson



Supporting Our Community: Parish Council Grant Awards 2025/26



At our February Council meeting, members had the rewarding, yet difficult, task of reviewing this year's grant applications. We are incredibly fortunate in Ducklington to have so many dedicated groups working to improve village life, and this was reflected in the high quality of the projects submitted.

The Challenge of Choice

This year the Council received requests totalling over **£11,100**. However, to ensure we are acting as responsible stewards of your council tax, our internal policy caps total grant spending at 15% of the annual precept. For the upcoming financial year, this set our budget at **£7,087.50**.

While we wish we could have funded every project in full, we had to scale several awards to remain within our fiscal limits, while still ensuring the maximum possible benefit for the village.

The 2025/26 Awards

Following a unanimous vote, the Council is delighted to announce that **£7,000** has been awarded to the following local organisations:

- **Ducklington Sports Club (£3,700):** Supporting our local sports club and maintaining vital recreational facilities.
- **Friends of Ducklington School (FODS) (£3,100):** Investing in the education and enrichment of our village children.
- **Ducklington Over 60s Lunch Club (£100):** Helping to maintain social connections and support for our senior residents.
- **Oxfordshire Citizens Advice (£100):** Ensuring our residents have access to expert, impartial advice when they need it most.

Looking Ahead

These grants are made possible under the statutory framework of **Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972**, which allows the Council to spend money for the direct benefit of the parish and its inhabitants.

We are proud to support such a diverse range of services—from youth sports to elderly social support. We look forward to seeing these funds put to work over the coming year! **David Duthie, Parish Council Chairman**

WILD DUCK

A big thank you to everyone who turned up at The Bell on 19th February to share ideas and discuss ways we can work together to improve conditions for wildlife in our village.

In order to raise some of the funds needed for new planting, we will be having a table at the Big Lunch this year. This will include a plant sale, so if you are able to spare any plants - perhaps you are lifting and dividing old favourites or have been super-successful in raising seedlings this year - we would love to have them. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Another idea raised was how we might help our hedgehogs, and whether we might develop a 'hedgehog highway' in the village. I haven't seen one for several years, but I know there are others of you who are regularly charmed by the snuffings of a regular hedgehog visitor, with the added benefits of slug control that they offer. If you are one of those lucky people, have you ever wondered how they manage to get about, hindered by the fences and barriers we put in their way? Hedgehogs can travel 1-2 miles every night in search of food, and we could help enormously by providing access from garden to garden.

It's good to see the wild daffodils, snowdrops and primroses that we planted last year. We plan to add to these this year, and also to develop some taller wildflower areas where appropriate. If you are interested in volunteering for an hour or so on one of our working groups, please get in touch for details.

Finally, thanks must go to the Wild Ducks who showed up on 7th March to help move soil and prepare for planting at the new sensory garden at Chalcroft - it was a great effort by all and it's good to see this project, designed and delivered by the Parish Council, nearing completion.

Marilyn Morris - mhighcroft@gmail.com



Art Trail

The Art Trail is progressing well and we hope it will be finished late spring/early summer. We will announce an official opening day soon.

The Sensory garden on Chalcroft is part of the trail, and has a Pam Ayres poem inscribed in the pathway.

A big thank you to all the volunteers that spared a few hours on Saturday 7th March to build the hedge, install posts, dig beds and plant flowers at the garden and planters around the village.

A few more hours are needed to finish the planting, and a date will be published on the village community Facebook page.

The wooden art at Bartholomew Close Park is now finished, and two further art pieces, made from metal, will be installed in the village in the next few months.

We are pleased to see the mosaic planters at the village entrances and Chalcroft now beginning to flower.

If you wish to volunteer, please email and thank you to all the volunteers who have helped so far.

Jo.george@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk





Darryl Jeffery & Son
Window Cleaners
Tel 07931 947360

**Traditional &
 Reach & Wash System**
**All Framework & Sils plus
 more done as standard**
Other Services Available
Gutter Clearing & Cleaning
Conservatory Roof Cleaning
Solar Panel Cleaning
**Pressure Washing &
 Treatments**



What will you find?

Looking after someone

Help with life events

Keeping fit and well

Living at home

Community support

Money matters

Finding a care home

Things to do

Live Well Oxfordshire

Connecting you to activities and services in your community



Live Well Oxfordshire: A directory of over 2,800 local activities, care services, and support for unpaid carers is available at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/livewell



Moss Removal - Roof Cleaning & Repairs - Render & Brickwork Cleaning
Solar Panel Bird Protection - Chimney Repairs & Cowl Installation

www.mossinator.co.uk 01865 362797 info@mossinator.co.uk