



DUCKLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

August/September 2025 Issue 233



Photo by Paul Lishman

As we soak up the golden weeks of summer, it's been a joy to see the village buzzing with activity under such lovely weather. The DHPA committee are all looking forward to the annual Village Show. A cherished tradition that brings our community together in celebration of creativity, talent, and good old-fashioned fun. Whether you're entering your prize courgettes, showcasing your crafts, or simply coming along to enjoy the day, it promises to be a great day out. We also have the big fundraiser live music event, at the Sports Club, on Friday of August bank holiday weekend, so snap your tickets up soon! Please also look out for the additional services at the Church. I am particularly looking forward to Hymns and Pimm's 😊 If you would like to get in contact or send any ideas for your bi-monthly newsletter, then please send me an email. The deadline for the next issue is Friday 12th September. Thank you.

newsletter@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Emma Buckard

Dates for the Diary

- Sunday 3rd Aug. – Church Service with Holy Communion, 10am
- Sunday 3rd Aug. – Church Hymns and Pimms, 6pm
- Sunday 10th Aug. – Church Compline, 6pm
- Friday 15th Aug. – Village VJ remembrance, 9am
- Sunday 17th Aug. - Church Picnic in Cokethorpe Grounds, 4pm, followed by Evening Service in the Chapel
- Wednesday 20th Aug. – Village Show Entry Deadline
- Friday 22nd Aug. – Sports Club Big Fundraiser
- Sunday 24th Aug. – Evening Prayer at the Church, 6pm
- Monday 25th Aug. – Bank Holiday / Village Show
- Wednesday 3rd Sept. – Ducklington School returns
- Saturday 13th Sept. – Church - Annual "Ride and Stride" in Aid of Oxfordshire Historic Churches
- Tuesday 7th Oct. – Village Hall AGM, 6.30pm
- Sunday 12th October – Apple Pressing Day

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

Reminders

Dog waste – We kindly ask all dog owners to be responsible and considerate by cleaning up after their pets. Please respect the 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



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

www.ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Village Art Trail

Great news. The first artist is starting work on a wooden piece at Bartholomew Park. Natasha, who started work in July, will be carving on site. Please visit her website:

www.natasha-houseago.co.uk

Everyone is welcome to walk to park and watch her work on most week days, weather dependent. Other pieces of Art will be placed in the autumn.

The funding for this project is from a S106 application, specifically allocated to Art only.

Ducklington Village Hall



For bookings please contact Amanda Armitage on:

adrianarmitage5@aol.com

or complete the form on the website:

ducklingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Ducklington Village Hall weekly timetable

- Monday – Seated Exercise Class 11am – 12pm
- Monday - Chess from 7pm
- Tuesday – Tai Chi Quigong 12 – 1pm
- Tuesday – Pilates 10.30 – 11.30am
- Tuesday - Duck Morris Dancers from 8pm
- Wednesday - Dance from 4.30pm (Dancemania)
- Wednesday – Ducklington Parish Council meeting 7.30pm (1st Wednesday of the month only)
- Thursday – Warm Welcome Space 11.30am – 3pm
- Thursday - Dance 4.45 – 6.45pm (Dancemania)
- Ducklington WI from 7.30pm (2nd Thursday of the month only)
- Friday - Zumba 11.15am – 12pm
- Saturday - Dance 9.15am – 1.45pm (Dancemania)

Village Hall News

The Ducklington and Hardwick Village Hall AGM will be held in the Village Hall at 6.30pm on Tuesday 7th October 2025. All villagers are very welcome to attend. As usual, the posts of Chair will be open for any interested parties. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sarah Varnom, Vice-chair.

Can you help the Village Hall committee?

We are looking for a talented freelance web designer to help us to develop our website. We need it to be current and attractive, with photos, contact details, terms of hire and links to our booking form.

A small honorarium is available if you are interested. We would like it to be reviewed annually.

If interested please contact:

sarah.varnom@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



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.

October/November Newsletter deadline for entries is 12th September 2025.

newsletter@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



This Newsletter is recyclable



Are we heading in the right direction for West Oxfordshire's future?

Tell us what you think about our vision and proposed approach. This is your district and your plan. Influence what comes next.



Or visit
westoxon.gov.uk/localplan2041



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www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk
or call the Welcome the Warmth team on **0800 038 6775**



scan me



Ducklington Morris

A few days ago I found a fascinating article by local Morris historian Keith Chandler describing the history of the Ducklington sides who were dancing in the mid 1800's. It appears that around that time there were as many as three separate sides in the village, alongside teams in Stanton Harcourt, Eynsham and Bampton. In common with many other sides, Ducklington faded away until the side was revived in 1980 by energetic enthusiasts from the then Ducklington Folk Club. Photographs on view in The Bell show a strong side with as many as a dozen dancers, more lately including - dare I say it - women! The days of Morris sides being exclusively male are thankfully long past.

Today there are as many women in the side as men, and our latest recruit is indeed a very welcome keen teenager. We are eager to gain more dancers of all ages, male and female, and would love to see you on Tuesday evenings from 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Our Squire, Chris Howe, can be contacted on squire@ducklingtonmorris.org.uk if you would like to find out more and join us on a practice night. May the dance go on!

Richard Ford (Deputy Foreman)



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

I hope everyone is enjoying the lovely summer we are having so far. I continue to be hard at work engaging with residents and doing my best to help people with any questions, queries or issues that they may have. August is going to be a busy month for me. I will be spending two weeks volunteering on a Scouts Summer Camp and hopefully moving into my first home!

Drainage Gulley Clearance

One of the things that was raised on the doorstep with me throughout the election campaign was the need for our drains to be cleared throughout the village. Therefore, I am pleased that all the drainage gullies in the village have been cleared. This should lead to less standing water on our roads when we get a downpour. If there are any drains you think do still need to be cleared, then please get in touch with me, or alternatively, report to FixMyStreet.

Overdevelopment in our Villages

There is no doubt that we do need more housing around Witney. As a first-time buyer myself, it has been incredibly difficult to find a one-bedroom property within a price that I can afford. However, we need development in the right places, with the right infrastructure, schools, doctors, hospitals and new road improvements. The new local plan that West Oxfordshire District Council are working on, should support all of these common-sense ambitions many of us hold – they just need to get a wriggle on and approve it so that developers are held to it!

Refurbished Splash Park on The Leys

The Splash Park at The Leys has been given a new lease of life following feedback from parents and young people at various consultation sessions last year. The opening times for the newly re-opened splash park are:

Weekends & School Holidays (18th July – 2nd September): 10:00-18:00

Weekdays (from 2nd September): 12:00-18:00

Local Government Re-organisation

There are three options on the table for new Unitary Authorities (new councils) here in Oxfordshire. The three options are:

- Oxfordshire Council – one council would be responsible for delivering all council services. Currently, over 80% of services we receive come from Oxfordshire County Council.
- Oxford and Shires Council & Ridgeway Council - Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council would be dissolved to create Oxford and Shires Council – West Berkshire Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of the White Horse District Council would be dissolved to create the Ridgeway Council
- Greater Oxford Council, Northern Oxfordshire Council & Ridgeway Council – Oxford City would swallow up the surrounding villages, such as, Kidlington and Culham to create a Greater Oxford Council – West Oxfordshire & Cherwell will be combined to create a Northern Oxfordshire Council – West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse would create a Ridgeway Council

All the information on these council proposals can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/local-government-reorganisation-and-devolution/interim-proposal>

Potholes

Potholes are the bane of our lives. That is why I am working with the Council to get some of our local roads re-surfaced. Like some of your Parish Councillors, I am also a FixMyStreet SuperUser – meaning that we can raise a works order with the road contractor directly, so please get in touch about potholes, because we can improve our roads when we work together.



Witney Library Update

The mini library on the Witney Road is a great asset for the village, but I know many of you will rely on services within Witney Library. I am pleased that the refurbishment is progressing as planned, with the library due to re-open later this year. If you do need support, then please do visit the temporary library at Witney Fire Station.

Upcoming Roadworks

The following road works will be taking place over August/September:

- Tuesday 26th August; 20:00 – 06:00Hrs - Resurfacing to Eastern Bypass Ducklington Onslip.
- Wednesday 27th August; 20:00 – 06:00Hrs – Resurfacing to Eastern Bypass Dual Carriageway on top of Ducklington Interchange.
- Thursday 28th August: 20:00 – 06:00Hrs – Resurfacing to Eastern Bypass Dual Carriageway near B4022 Interchange.
- Friday 29th August; 20:00 – 06:00Hrs - Resurfacing to Eastern Bypass Dual Carriageway near B4022 Interchange.

These works are purely for maintenance with everything being reinstated “like for like”.

Overall, being your County Councillor is a real pleasure. I look forward to seeing many of you on Bank Holiday Monday at the Flower Show on 25th August. As always, please do get in touch if you require any support or have any questions.

Cllr Thomas Ashby

Witney West & Ducklington | Oxfordshire County Council

County Hall | New Road | Oxford | OX1 1ND



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

We're excited to let you know that applications are now open for the Community Activity Grant 2025, with £22,000 of funding available with individual grants ranging from £500 to £1,000 to support local projects that bring people together, tackle loneliness, and create a stronger sense of community across West Oxfordshire.

From coffee mornings to sporting activities, community picnics to neighbourhood events – this funding is here to help local people with local ideas make a difference where it's needed most.

Who can apply? We welcome applications from:

- Voluntary sector organisations, including community action groups, charitable groups, and village hall committees
- New informal groups (when partnered with a formal group acting as the named applicant) serving West Oxfordshire communities
- Non-profit constituted or charitable groups based in and serving the district - including sports clubs

We'd be incredibly grateful if you could help us spread the word through your networks, newsletters or community pages. Below is some suggested wording you can simply copy and paste. Suggested post copy in red below:

West Oxfordshire District Council's Community Activity Grant is now open, offering £22,000 in funding with individual grants ranging from £500 to £1,000 to support local ideas that bring people together, build connections across the community, and help everyone feel welcome.

Whether it's a neighbourhood event, a social group, or a project to support wellbeing - if you've got an idea, now's the time to bring it to life.



Apply by 12 August 2025



Find out more on how to apply: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/communities-and-leisure/community-grants-and-funding/>



VJ Day remembrance

On Friday the 15th of August we will pause to remember VJ day 80.

We will remember the sacrifice of those fighting in the far East, those who came home and those who didn't. The VJ 80 day flag will be raised at 9am and the Rector will lead us in prayers. VJ wreaths will be placed on the War memorial.

Please come and join us .
Village Events committee.



PILATES CLASSES

Discover the power of Pilates - a full body workout that builds strength, improves flexibility and enhances posture. Pilates targets your core, boosts mobility and supports a healthier, more balanced body. Whether you're looking to tone, prevent injury, or simply move better, Pilates offers results you can feel. Come and join us to feel the difference!

Ducklington Village Hall
Tuesday @ 10:30am

Madley Park Hall
Tuesday @ 7:45pm

Windrush Primary School
Thursday @ 7:00pm

Turley Farm Barn, Hailey
Friday @ 9:30am

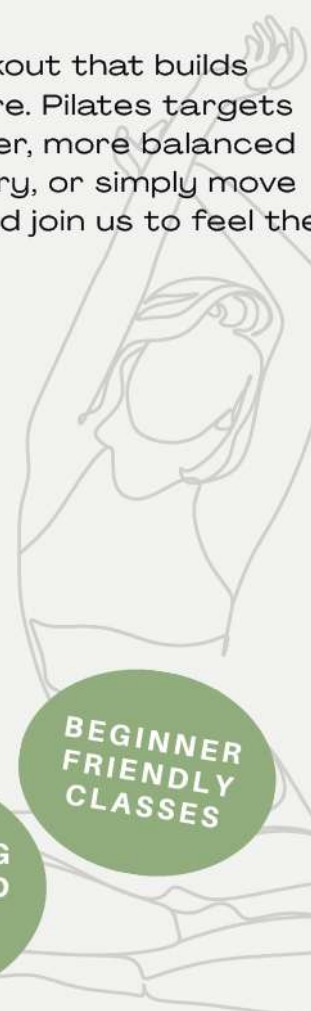
FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
pilateswithsarah@yahoo.com

 pilates with sarah

 [pilateswithsarah.witney](https://www.instagram.com/pilateswithsarah.witney)

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TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE SPORTS CLUB BAR

Thank you!

We would like to thank all the friends (and Friends!) in the village who get involved in church activities and help in practical ways, perhaps by bell-ringing, or helping on Fritillary Sunday or just turning up for special occasions! We appreciate your support and know that many of you love having the church building so centrally placed in the village.

We are wondering if there are people in the village who would like to be involved in more of the other church activities; such as helping with the refreshment stall and/or the (basket themed!) tombola stall at the Ducklington Flower and Produce Show, on August Bank Holiday Monday, sharing in the care of the wildflower area of the churchyard, providing flower arrangements in church, or cleaning and maintaining the church building.

Also, there are other events and activities you might like to know more about and join in:

August 3rd 6pm: Hymns and Pimm's in church

August 17th 4pm: Parish Picnic at Cokethorpe School followed by Evensong in the Cokethorpe chapel

Saturday Sept 13th: Historic Churches Trust - Ride & Stride event

Sunday October 19th: Afternoon Pet service in church

Weekly on Thursdays 11.30am - 3pm - Warm Welcome Space in the village hall

A monthly local rambling group: a new initiative!

Want to know more? Contact friends@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk and we will put you in touch with the right person. Or if you don't want to use email, drop a note to FRIENDS of Ducklington church c/o The Rectory, 6, Standlake Road, and we'll do the rest!

Kind regards - and thank you!

David Cole and Ruth Edy



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





As we head into August it's time to start thinking about this year's annual apple pressing day on 12th October, at the village green.

I think we have all noticed the unusually dry, warm spring, and the effect this has had on the plants and trees. It's been suggested that some things are two weeks ahead of their usual growing cycle. That could well be true, the lack of spring frosts have encouraged many of the apple trees to produce a bumper crop of fruit. I have certainly noticed the apple trees where we live had a wonderful show of spring blossom, and are now heavy with ripening fruit. The big question is whether the apples will be ready ahead of our planned village pressing day in October.

For this year's event we are planning to close part of Church Street, by the pond, to allow a bit more room for the event. We are hoping to have a good selection of visiting tractors and vintage vehicles to add to the atmosphere.

Remember, it's a community event, so if you have any apples, we shall be pressing on the village green from 11.00am to 4.00pm. The juice is free to take away. As usual, the village events team will be providing refreshments in the vintage tea tent and there will be cider, made from last year's juice, to taste as well.

I hope you will all be able to come down and enjoy the day.

Regards
Jim Shackell

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



The next Barn Dance will be on Saturday 1st November from 7.30, with Levity and Richard, as usual. (This is a change from the original planned date, due to a busy Village Hall.) Tickets will be £6.00 and there will be a raffle.

Hope to see you there to dance away the November gloom.
Richard



**Ducklington C of E
Primary School**

Headteacher's Thoughts

Mystery at Magpie Manor, our Y5/6 production this year was performed to two packed houses at the Shed at Cokethorpe – it was an amazing show. I was extremely impressed with the way the children learnt, delivered and performed their lines, songs and acting so brilliantly. Well done everyone.

Year 4's headed to the Cotswold Wildlife park later that week, looking at different habitats and their resident animals – it was a fun and interesting trip and I certainly learnt a great deal.

During our final week, we have enjoyed 'The Jungle Book' and Y1 – Y6 headed off to the Ashmolean museum for a variety of workshops and activities – thank you to Ms Carolan for organising the whole trip. Finally, yesterday, Reception and Year 1 had a visit from Farmer Gow's with their animals and Year 6 had their Leavers Service, an opportunity for them and their parents to share their experiences of primary school. We have had quite a busy two weeks.

As we reach our final day of the academic year, it is time to say our farewells and thank yous to Ms Butt and Mr Mahony as they head off for the next adventures. I would like to personally thank them for all their hard work here at Ducklington and wish them well for the future. We will miss them.

Living in the Light

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are in the midst of a heatwave—the kind that makes you search for shade, crave ice cream, and wonder if your garden might just turn to dust before your eyes! The sun has certainly been making itself known these past few weeks, blazing down on us with an intensity that's hard to ignore.

And yet, we live in Britain—so let's not get too used to it! We know, don't we, that the clouds will soon return. The skies will soften, the temperature will dip, and we'll be swapping sunglasses for raincoats before long. That's the rhythm of a British summer: glorious sunshine one day, grey skies the next. But even when the clouds gather and the breeze cools, there's a comforting truth that remains—the sun is still there.

That simple truth offers us a deeper reflection. There are times in life when everything feels bright and easy—when joy is abundant and we feel fully alive. But there are also seasons when clouds gather. Perhaps we face difficulties, feel weary, or experience uncertainty. It's in those times we must remind ourselves: the light hasn't gone. Like the sun behind the clouds, it remains—steady, faithful, and waiting to shine again.

For people of faith, this speaks deeply of God's presence. Even when we don't feel it, even when life is overcast, God's light and love remain constant. Jesus once said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (John 8:12).

This summer, whether you're basking in the sun or sheltering from a sudden downpour, I invite you to reflect on where you find light in your life. What lifts your spirits? Who helps you feel seen and supported? And how might you share that light with someone else who may be feeling clouded over?

Let's be a village where the warmth isn't just in the weather, but in our relationships—where kindness, encouragement, and care shine brightly, no matter what the forecast says.

"Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."
— J.M. Barrie

With every blessing,
Andrea

Rector, St Bartholomew's Church, Ducklington



01993 776625



rector@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk



www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk

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Village Planters

I am delighted to report that there has been a hive of activity at Mosaic HQ!

Thanks to the amazing volunteers we have three completed planters, and, three more on the way. Look out for the planters from September. They will be filled with spring-flowering bulbs for a lovely splash of colour as you enter the village.

Here are some of our volunteers at work.

Thanks to Lori, Gill, Jennifer, Jenny, Joyce, Lesley and Ally.



Asylum Welcome

Volunteers required for our Witney Friday Drop-in sessions. The drop in for **Asylum Welcome** runs on a Friday morning 10.00 – 13.00. It is held in the hotel classroom.

We are looking for compassionate volunteers to join our small team in Witney, providing advice and information to asylum seekers. The team attend drop-in sessions at the Witney hotel accommodation on Friday mornings, responding to a range of queries about entitlements, asylum process and daily issues.

Full training and support is provided.

Please contact volunteer@asylum-welcome.org for further information about how to apply.

Thank you.

Ducklington WI

Perhaps you've been considering coming to see what Ducklington WI is all about because we are, indeed, a varied bunch! Going from strength to strength, we would be delighted to welcome newcomers on the second Thursday of each month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. For any further information, please contact Jennifer Pratley via email: jenniferpratley@hotmail.co.uk



Ducklington Warm Welcome Space

Contact: Gill Long
07780 781839 ducklingtonwarmwelcome@gmail.com



The Warm Welcome Space, located in Ducklington Village Hall, continues to offer a friendly and inclusive environment for everyone in the community.

We are one of thousands of Warm Welcome Spaces right across the UK.

Together, these community spaces bring connection, friendship, and human warmth to communities. Our space is a warm, welcoming, safe, and free space that is open to everyone in the community. We are open every Thursday 1130 -1500. Enjoy hot drinks, light lunches and lots of cake. Come for a short time or stay for the whole session. Everyone and all ages are welcome.

This month, we celebrated Jean's 90th birthday and enjoyed a wonderful performance by the bellringers:



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 us a message on:

ducklingtonwarmwelcome@gmail.com

2025 Photography Classes:

- Bridges • Machinery • Rooftops
- Architecture • Friendship • Signs
- Churches • Multi colour •

2025 Flower Arrangement Classes:

- Nursery Rhymes • VE Day • Hat



****Tombola donations needed****

Please leave your kind donations, in the boxes outside of the following houses:

**52 Witney Road
23 Park Road**

Thank you!



The Village Show will be held on **Monday 25th August at 1pm**, at the Ducklington Sports Club. Please visit the website for the show schedule: (copies should have already landed on your doorstep!)

www.ducklingtonvillageshow.co.uk

Please note there are changes to the entry deadline:

**** All entries must be emailed or delivered by Wednesday 20th August ****

If anyone would like to hold a stall, then we would love to welcome you to the Show. We are also in need of volunteers to steward the judges between 10am and 12pm, and to help run various activities during the day. So, if you think you could spare an hour or two on the day, then please get in touch using the details below. **Thank you!**

For any queries, feedback, ideas or interest in the events held at the Show, please contact the committee:

duckflowershow@gmail.com

 Search "Ducklington & Hardwick Produce Association"
www.ducklingtonvillageshow.co.uk

Ducklington Netball Team

This month the Netball team met for a social evening to watch the final of the Women's Super League. A great afternoon watching a great game, with some bubbles! We are a social team, who meet on Wednesdays, anyone is welcome and we would love to welcome you. If you are interested, then please get in touch via the Newsletter contact details.



DUCKLINGTON LADIES NETBALL TEAM

Friendly team for all abilities
Every Wednesday 7-8pm
(weather permitting)
At the Ducklington Sports
Ground
Over 14s
£2 per session



Bells Pizza & Mac

Pulling up in Ducklington
community car park
every Friday
from February 7th.

Pre-order on 07799001405
or come and see us at the hatch

Menu

Pizza

Margherita	10
Pepperoni	12
Ham & mushroom	12
Ham & pineapple	12
Ground beef, onions, peppers & jalapeños	12
Salami & chilli	12
Chicken & BBQ	12
Mediterranean veg	12
Butternut squash & feta	12

Mac&cheese

Classic mac	8
Mac & bacon	10
Mac & garlic mushrooms	10
Garlic pizza bread	6

*Order at the hatch
or pre-order on
07799001405*



✉ bellspizzaandmac@gmail.com
f @bellspizzaandmac

📍 The Community Car Park
🕒 Fridays 5pm-8pm





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Evening 6-8

Sundays

Traditional Roasts

12-2:30

Open daily from 12 Noon

What's on...

All our Monthly Events

Traditional Sunday Roasts!

Served 12 - 2.30pm every Sunday

Keep on eye on Facebook for

Live music and other events

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

NEW!! Karaoke Last Friday



Oxford temporary congestion charge

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

Do you travel into or around Oxford? We want to hear from you.

The Botley Road closure means a delay to improved bus services, safer cycling routes, reduced congestion and cleaner air.

We are proposing a temporary congestion charge for cars at six camera-operated locations in the city, starting later this year. We have been asked to do something now, to tackle the congestion in Oxford and make it easier for people to travel into and around the city, while our traffic filters trial is delayed.

Take a look at our proposal and Share your views

oxfordshire.gov.uk/
CongestionChargeConsultation

Building connections, expanding opportunity

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



New Opening Times at Witney Splash Park

Weekends & Holidays:

10:00-18:00

From 18th July

Cllr Thomas Ashby

DUCKLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Ducklington Parish Council has discretionary powers to award grants to local groups or organisations for 'purposes which may bring a direct benefit to the area or any part of it for some or all the inhabitants.'

The council has set aside a percentage of its annual budget to award grants to local community groups and organisations, with the aim of supporting projects that improve or enhance the parish and are beneficial to our community.

The awarding of a grant will always be at the discretion of the council and with reference to the allocated and available budget.

The council's grants policy has four tiers of funding:

- a small grant of up to £500.00,
- grants of £501 - £1,999.00,
- large grants between £2,000.00 - £2,999.00, and
- larger grants above £3,000.00.

Grant applications from local organisations are invited from **1st August 2025** with the closing date of midday on **31st January 2026** (no late entries will be considered)

The application form is available below and can be emailed to the Parish Clerk at: clerk@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or posted to the Village Hall (full address at bottom of application form).

Grants will be considered based on their potential to meet the Council's Vision and Community Objectives as well as for their benefit to the residents of Ducklington.

VISION:

For Ducklington and the surrounding area to become a zero-carbon community that is thriving, inclusive, beautiful, biodiverse and sustainable now and in the future.

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES:

- To improve health and wellbeing, inclusivity and resilience
- To maintain a pleasant, safe and well looked-after village that all can enjoy.
- To increase opportunities for everyone to exercise, socialise and enjoy green spaces.
- To provide support for, and work with, Ducklington's strong and active community

A Grant application form is available here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GHZJJM5AxKmM8YVZHcPB8AEsIA11-Dc1EkJYqpXqunc/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.gjdgxs>

or contact the Parish Clerk for a hard copy.



Ducklington Parish Council MUGA Hire Use Policy

This policy outlines the terms and conditions for the hire and use of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Ducklington for private bookings. By booking the MUGA, the hirer agrees to abide by all terms and conditions set out below.

1. Booking and Payment:

- **Hourly Rate:** The hire charge for floodlit use of the MUGA is £20.00 per hour.
- **Booking Procedure:** All bookings must be made in advance through the Parish Clerk: clerk@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Bookings are subject to availability.
- **Payment:** Full payment for the hire period is required at the time of booking to confirm the reservation. Payment methods accepted are bank transfer or cheque payable to Ducklington Parish Council.
- **Last Booking Time:** The last booking slot for the MUGA is 9:00 pm. All activities must cease, and the facility must be vacated by 10:00 pm.

2. Key Collection and Return:

- **Key Collection:** Upon confirmation of booking and receipt of payment, details for key collection will be provided. Keys must be collected from the Parish Clerk.
- **Key Return:** The key must be returned to the Parish Clerk immediately at the end of the booked session. Failure to return the key promptly may result in a charge for a lost key or an additional hire charge if the delay impacts subsequent bookings.

3. Permitted Use:

- The MUGA is designed for football, basketball, netball, and general recreational play.
- Only non-marking footwear is permitted on the playing surface.
- The hirer is responsible for ensuring that all users adhere to safe practices and use the equipment appropriately.

4. Prohibited Activities:

- The following activities are strictly prohibited on the MUGA:
 - Smoking or vaping.
 - Consumption of alcohol or illegal substances.
 - Glass bottles or containers.
 - Dogs or other animals (unless specifically agreed for an assistance animal).
 - Bicycles, scooters, skateboards, or similar wheeled conveyances (unless part of a pre-approved organised activity).
 - Fires, barbecues, or any form of pyrotechnics.
 - Loud music or excessive noise that may disturb neighbouring residents.
 - Any activity that may damage the playing surface or surrounding fencing.

5. Hirer Responsibilities:

- **Supervision:** The hirer is responsible for the adequate supervision of all participants, particularly children under the age of 16.
- **Safety:** The hirer must ensure the safety of all users during the hire period. This includes checking the facility for any obvious hazards before use. Any defects or concerns must be reported to the Parish Council immediately.
- **Damage:** The hirer is responsible for any damage caused to the MUGA facility, equipment, or surrounding areas during their booking period, beyond normal wear and tear. The cost of repair or replacement will be charged to the hirer.
- **Cleanliness:** The hirer must ensure the MUGA is left clean and tidy at the end of their session, with all litter removed. Failure to do so may result in a cleaning charge.
- **Emergencies:** In case of an emergency, the hirer should call 999.
- **First Aid:** The Parish Council does not provide first aid cover. It is the hirer's responsibility to ensure appropriate first aid provisions are in place for their group.

6. Floodlights:

- Floodlights are included in the £20 per hour hire charge.
- Instructions for operating the floodlights will be provided upon key collection.
- Floodlights must be switched off at the end of the session.

7. Cancellations and Refunds:

- Cancellations made with more than 24 hours notice will receive a full refund.
- Cancellations made with less than 24 hours notice may incur a cancellation fee or result in no refund, at the discretion of the Parish Council.
- In the event that the Parish Council has to cancel a booking due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., severe weather, facility maintenance), a full refund or alternative booking slot will be offered.

8. Liability:

- Ducklington Parish Council accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury sustained by individuals using the MUGA, unless directly caused by the negligence of the Parish Council.
- Hirers are advised to have their own public liability insurance in place if they are organising a formal activity or event.

9. General Terms:

- The Parish Council reserves the right to refuse or cancel any booking at its discretion.
- The Parish Council reserves the right to amend this policy at any time. Hirers will be notified of any significant changes.
- Failure to comply with these terms and conditions may result in the refusal of future bookings and/or additional charges.

Contact Information:

For bookings and enquiries, please contact:

The Parish Clerk: clerk@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

By proceeding with a booking, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the terms and conditions outlined in this Ducklington Parish Council MUGA Hire Use Policy.

GRANT AID APPLICATION

Application for Grant Aid

The Council has discretionary powers to award grants to local groups or organisations for ‘purposes which may bring a direct benefit to the area or any part of it for some or all the inhabitants.’

Any local group or organisation may apply for Grant Aid provided it supports the council’s vision and objectives, and meets all the criteria.

The Parish Council’s Vision is:

For Ducklington and the surrounding area to become a zero-carbon community that is thriving, inclusive, beautiful, biodiverse and sustainable now and in the future.

The Parish Council’s Community Objectives are:

- To improve health and wellbeing, inclusivity and resilience;
- To maintain a pleasant, safe and well looked-after village that all can enjoy;
- To increase opportunities for everyone to exercise, socialise and enjoy green spaces; and
- To provide support for, and work with, Ducklington’s strong and active community

Criteria for making Grant Aid to any Organisation, Club or Society

1. Any organisation, club or society that wishes to make an application for Grant Aid must submit a fully completed application form by midday on **31st January 2026**
2. The funding must be used for the benefit of residents of the parish.
3. The organisation, club or society must be non-profit making.
4. All applications must be accompanied by the most recent annual accounts and a copy of the most recent bank statement.
5. Each application must state the names of any other organisations to which an application for Grant Aid has been submitted.
6. Receipts for all transactions that have been made with the Grant Aid must be provided to the Parish Council.
7. A 3-month follow-up of the project is required, stating what stage the project has reached and what has been spent so far (unless the funding is for an event more than 3 months in the future)
8. Any unspent grant will be returned to the Parish Council.

9. Any grant that the Parish Council offers is on the understanding that the applicant is responsible for obtaining any necessary legal permissions and the offer of the grant by the Parish Council should not in any way be taken as authorisation.
10. Where appropriate (no images of minors without express permission from guardians), a photograph of the project will be sent to the Parish Council for publicity purposes.
11. The applicant must mention the Grant Aid in any press releases, online communications, social media channels and websites.
12. Non-compliance of publicity requirements may result in the offer of the grant being reduced, withdrawn or reclaimed. Applicants must cover the cost of publicising the grant and this cannot be included in applications for Grant Aid.

To be considered for an award, applicants must answer all the questions on the application form and provide the necessary details requested.

Successful applications will be recorded in the minutes of the Parish Council and applicants notified in writing.

Grants from successful applications will be paid in April 2026.

Who can't apply for Grant Aid

For legal reasons applications cannot be considered from:

1. Individuals
2. Organisations which support or oppose any political party
3. Organisations that discriminate on grounds of protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex, race, religion and belief or sexual orientation
4. Organisations or establishments for whom central government, health authorities, county or district council are the appropriate statutory funder

Application for Grant Aid

Name of organisation			
Registered Address			
Post Code		Tel No.	
Contact Name			
Position in Organisation			
	<small>(i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)</small>		
Registered Charity	YES/NO	Registration No.	
What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation:			
How many members do you have?			
Approximately how many of your members live in Ducklington			
Is membership restricted in any way?			
What is your annual subscription, if any?			
Are you affiliated to a national organisation? If so, which one?			
Local venue/meeting place			

Purpose for which grant is required (please give as much detail about the project as possible and use a separate sheet if required)												
Total cost of the project	£											
Amount of grant aid applied for	£											
Has your organisation applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	YES/NO											
If YES please give details	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Body or Organisation:</th> <th>Date of application:</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>£</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>£</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Body or Organisation:	Date of application:	Amount			£			£
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		£										
How will the grant be spent (please give costing and timing details)?												
Who will benefit from the project? How will they benefit?												
What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?												

Declaration

1. We have read the criteria for making Grant Aid to organisations
2. We have provided a copy of the most recent annual accounts
3. We have provided a copy of our most recent bank statement
4. We agree to provide to the Parish Council a 3-month report on the status of the project and copies of all receipts for transactions that have been made with the Grant Aid
5. In any publicity that is given to our project, we agree to acknowledge that a contribution has been made by Ducklington Parish Council
6. We agree to mention the Grant Aid in any press releases, online communications, social media channels and websites.

Signed on behalf of (organisation) _____

Chairman _____ Date _____

Secretary _____ Date _____

When completed, please return form to:

Steve Smith, Parish Clerk, Ducklington Parish Council

clerk@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or

c/o The Village Hall, Standlake Road, Ducklington, Oxfordshire OX29 7UX

N.B. Return no later than midday 31st January 2026.

Returns after this time will not be considered