

DUCKLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

February/March 26 Issue 236



Thank you **Elin Shephard**, age 13, for sending in this lovely picture of the “Ducks on Duck Lake” enjoying the sun on a winter morning.

Welcome to the first Village Newsletter of 2026, and a very Happy New Year to you all. This month, we are excited to share updates on the Village Hall's new website, publish the final instalment of the Ducklington History Trail (with thanks to Mark Collishall), and much more. I would just like to draw your attention to the important changes to the Dix Pit Recycling Centre booking system, that residents should be aware of. You will find information in Councillor Thomas Ashby's report. All publications of the Newsletter are available to read online in full colour, please visit the Parish Councils website:

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

Warm regards, Emma

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

- Monday 2nd Feb – DHPA Annual Village Show AGM, 7.30pm
- Friday 13th Feb – Ducklington School finishes for half term
- Monday 23rd Feb – Ducklington School return for Spring Term
- Friday 13th Mar – Newsletter entry deadline (Feb/Mar Issue)
- Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday
- Friday 27th Mar – Ducklington School finish for Easter Holiday
- Friday 3rd Apr – Good Friday, Bank Holiday
- Monday 6th Apr – Easter Monday, Bank Holiday
- Monday 13th Apr – Ducklington School return for Summer Term
- Monday 4th May – Early May Bank Holiday

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

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

www.ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

February/March Newsletter deadline for entries is Friday 13th March 2026: newsletter@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



This Newsletter is recyclable

All newsletters can be viewed on the Parish Council website in full colour:

<https://www.ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/village-newsletter>

GROW YOUR OWN IN DUCKLINGTON!

Have you ever dreamed of harvesting your own fresh vegetables, vibrant flowers, or crisp salads? Now is your chance!

Ducklington Parish Council currently has **three vacant allotment plots** available for residents. Whether you are an experienced gardener or a complete beginner, we would love to welcome you to our growing community.



Location

Our well-maintained allotment site is conveniently situated just off the **A415**, right next door to the **Lidl Supermarket**. It's the perfect spot to enjoy some fresh air and peace while being close to local amenities.



Affordable Annual Rent

- **Average annual rent:** £25.00
- *Note: Final cost is adjusted based on the specific size of the plot.*



Why join us?

- Enjoy fresh, organic produce.
- Get active and enjoy the outdoors.
- Join a friendly community of local gardeners.



Interested? Get in touch!

To find out more or to reserve your plot, please contact **Steve Smith**, the Parish Clerk:

- **Address:** Ducklington Parish Council, Village Hall, Standlake Road, Ducklington, Witney, Oxfordshire OX29 7UX
- **Email:** clerk@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Plots are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so get in touch soon to start your growing journey!



Flower Show Annual General Meeting
2nd February 2026
Ducklington Sports Club
7.30pm

All welcome!

We are looking for new committee members and volunteers. Please come along to the AGM or drop us an email: duckflowershow@gmail.com



**DUCKLINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL**

Please don't forget to send any village news, pictures, feedback, ideas for future editions to:

newsletter@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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



Friends of St Bartholomew's Church, Ducklington



A reminder for Friends of Ducklington Church....

**On Monday 23rd March, at 7pm there, in the church, there will
be a Cheese and Wine evening**

to say thank you to all those who support the church by being
Friends.

If you are not a Friend, and would like to be, you can find out
more by emailing Friends@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk, or by
dropping a note into The Rectory, 6, Standlake Road, addressed
to **FRIENDS** c/o The Rectory, please see the Friends leaflets in
church.



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:

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

The 14th February walk leaves from the village pond. We make our way to Red House on the
Standlake Road, cross the A415, and then up the paved road to Home Farm, a footpath to Yelford,
and Hardwick, and then along the Windrush Path back to Ducklington and The Bell.

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

Johan Schoeman



West Oxfordshire District Council is celebrating the success of its **Westhive community crowdfunding programme**, which has supported 28 local projects since 2023 and helped
raise almost £950,000 for community-led ideas. From youth activities and heritage
restoration to mental health support and food-waste initiatives, the programme
highlights the power of communities coming together to create positive change.
Looking ahead, the programme will move to a new provider, Crowdfunder UK, from April
2026, following a review shaped by community feedback. This change will make it even
easier and more accessible for local groups to launch projects and attract support.
The sixth and final round of Westhive will launch in January 2026. If you have a
community project or idea and would like support to fundraise, please visit the West
Oxfordshire District Council website:
[https://news.westoxon.gov.uk/news/council-celebrates-community-crowdfunding-
success-as-it-looks-to-the-future-of-community-grant-funding-in-west-oxfordshire](https://news.westoxon.gov.uk/news/council-celebrates-community-crowdfunding-success-as-it-looks-to-the-future-of-community-grant-funding-in-west-oxfordshire)



Ducklington & Hardwick Village Hall

Charity No. 266806



Ducklington Village Hall weekly timetable

- Monday – Seated Exercise Class 11am – 12pm
- Monday – Chess from 7.30pm
- Tuesday – Pilates 10.30 – 11.30am
- Tuesday – Quigong 12 – 1pm
- Tuesday – Duck Morris Dancers from 8pm
- Wednesday – Dance from 4.15pm (Dancemania)
- Wednesday – Ducklington Parish Council meeting 7.30pm (1st Wednesday of the month only)
- Thursday – Quigong 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
- 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



Last year (2025) we have been busy organising events in the village such as:

VE and VJ day celebrations, Apple Pressing, Christmas Fayre, and Carols around the Christmas tree.

Also, for the first time, we created our very own "Ducklington" calendar and sold over 100 copies. We will need village photos for next year's calendar - watch this space.

We have raised over £2,000, so a big thank you to everyone who supported us at these events. We were able to donate £504.50 to the British Legion from funds raised at the VE day celebrations.

We hold a reserve to help fund/subsidise future events and are keen to support community groups in the village. Therefore, any group that would like to request a small donation, please contact me on the below email address. Also, anyone wishing to volunteer at future events, please do get in contact:

jo.george@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thank you, Jo George.

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Helping You Create a Better Home



Ducklington Morris

Chris Howe, Squire
01993 773634

Ducklington Morris had a successful 2025 with numerous dance-outs during the year, which culminated in the annual Autumn Ale. Eight other Morris sides attended the event and an excellent evening was had by all - what could better than dancing, food and drink on a cool autumn evening?

We are still practising in the village hall most Tuesday evenings, and if you are thinking of giving it a go, please come along at 8pm. If you want to check we will be there please send me an email or use the contact form on the website.

Our next public event will be Fritillary Sunday in April.

Best wishes for 2026
Chris Howe

squire@ducklingtonmorris.org.uk

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



Introduction

I want to start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! I trust 2026 has begun positively for everyone. As I share my first thoughts of the year, I'd like to take a moment to look back on the Christmas season just gone.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who helped organise the Warm Welcome Christmas Lunch. It was a truly wonderful occasion, and it was fantastic to see so many people join in—thank you again for making it such a memorable event! Later that evening, I attended the District Council's Christmas Carol Service at St Bartholomew's Church. It was another brilliant gathering, and I'm grateful to all who played a part. Personally, I felt honoured to be asked to do a reading at the church where my parents were married and where my siblings and I were christened!

This year has already seen me busy with fresh casework from residents across Ducklington. Many of these matters relate to road maintenance, and I, along with local volunteers, have been actively reporting potholes. I'm hopeful that we'll see significant improvements to our village roads soon.

Planning Concerns

One of the topics that fills my inbox is planning around Ducklington and Witney. I share many concerns people raise with me – the main concern being the introduction up-to nearly 5000 more homes across Witney in the next 15 years. With any new housing developments, it is critical that the District Council prioritise local people. This is something that just hasn't happened. For example, many 'affordable homes' go to those who live in Central Oxford, where they are moved to our town. Surely, this is wrong? We have hundreds of people on our local housing register, so we need to prioritise local people to Ducklington and Witney – that should not be rocket science.

Witney Library

Many people have been in touch about how much they enjoy the new space at Witney Library. If you or family members were not aware, the library underwent a refurbishment last year and re-opened in December. The opening times are:

Monday	9am - 7pm
Tuesday	9am - 1pm
Wednesday	9am - 7pm
Thursday	9am - 7pm
Friday	9am - 7pm
Saturday	9am - 4.30pm
Sunday	Closed

Bartholomew's Close Public Art

Congratulations to the Parish Council for their ongoing dedication to the Public Art Project. The newly unveiled sculpture at Bartholomew's Close is truly impressive, and the attractive new planters placed at the village entrances add a delightful touch to the area.

Progress is also being made on the 'sensory garden', and as spring approaches, these improvements promise to enhance the vibrancy and charm of the village.

Household Waste Recycling Centres Changes Come into Effect

From 14th January, residents are being asked to book slots to visit their local HWRC. When you arrive at the tip, you will need to prove proof of address.

I have real concerns that this is going to make it more difficult for people to visit the tip, which in turn, could lead to more fly-tipping. If you or a family member is not online to book a visit to the tip, then you can call the council on the phone number below:

Oxford Congestion Zone

Despite much opposition, the Oxford Congestion Zone is now live. Here in Ducklington, we will get 25 passes to travel through the areas below. Once you have used your 25 passes, you will need to pay £5 to travel through the areas in the table. Blue Badge holders are exempt, but do need to apply for their exemption.

Charging point	Charging days	Charging times
Hythe Bridge Street	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
St Cross Road	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
St Clements Street	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
Thames Street	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
Marston Ferry Road	Monday to Saturday	7am - 9am and 3pm - 6pm
Hollow Way	Monday to Saturday	7am - 9am and 3pm - 6pm

Further information can be found on the County Council website:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/connecting-oxfordshire/temporary-congestion-charge>



Oxford temporary congestion charge

Starts Wednesday 29 October 2025

If you drive a car in Oxford

From Wednesday 29 October cars with permits and all other vehicles can pass through the 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

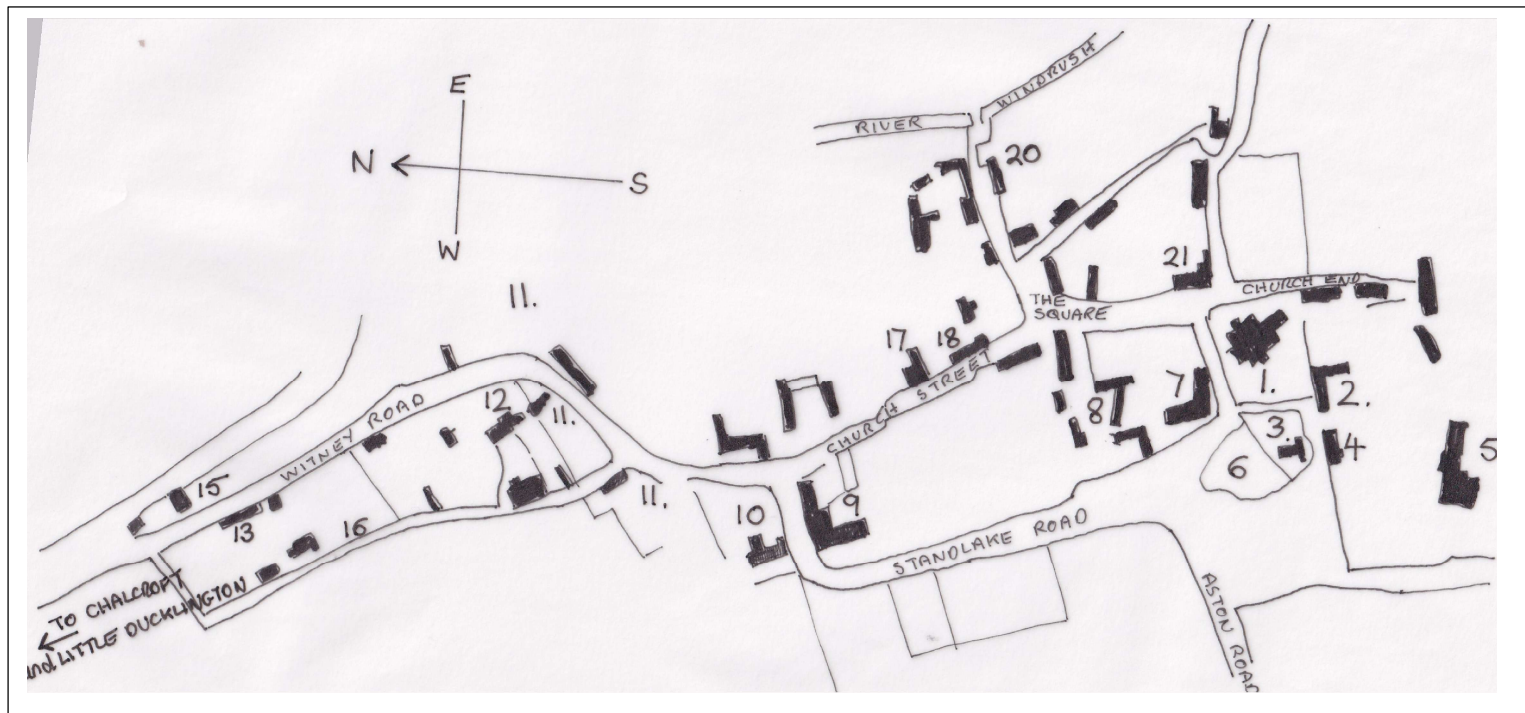
oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking

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

Ducklington History

Whilst rifling through an unlabelled white box that I randomly extricated from the collection of Ducklington history society material, I found a small paper booklet titled "Ducklington History Trail". Created in 2010 by the Ducklington History Group, it takes the reader on a guided tour of the more notable part of the old village. I can find no information as to if/how it was distributed, and it seems a crime for it to languish without the Ducklington community being aware of it. So, my aim is to share it with you across several editions of the newsletter.

A trail is of no use without a map; and whilst the booklet has a somewhat blurry one, by good fortune the original hand drawing was also in the box, which is reproduced below. The History Group then selected 21 sites and provided descriptions to convey some of the history of each. The June 25 – Jan 26 editions of the newsletter gave brief descriptions of the first 15 locations; here is the last instalment:



16. **Tristram Road.** On turning left into Tristram Road, there are three old cottages on the left hand side, the detached Lilac Cottage and the semi-detached Brecon and Pear Tree Cottages. The latter have a datestone of 1676 on the front elevation. The orientation of these cottages is curious as until 1837 there was no road access to them. Tristram Road was only created on enclosure when it was renamed Backway Private carriage Road and Public Footway. Proceed along Tristram Road, passing the back of the Strickland Arms and two converted barns on your left. Cross over Witney Road and proceed down Church Street to The Old Farmhouse.
17. **The Old Farmhouse.** Originally called Ducklington Farm this was the last working farmhouse in the village. On the wall is a datestone of 1682, probably the date of the original building which was refaced in the early nineteenth century. To the rear of the property, just visible from the road, is a two storey stone granary. Continue along Church Street to the next property, Lynden House.
18. **Lynden House.** Dated 1661, Lynden House, originally a farm house of two storeys and attics, retains chamfered beams and a gabled central stair turret. The barn conversions opposite originally belonged to Ducklington Farm, and the development of Strainge's Close was the farmyard. Proceed along Church Street turning left at The Square towards Windrush Farm, passing the site of the blacksmith's forge (19) on the right.
20. **Windrush Farm & Cottage.** At the end of the tarmac road, Windrush Farmhouse is on your left, behind which are the original farm buildings, largely intact, and are a good example of the layout of an eighteenth century farmstead. Windrush Cottage, opposite, is a fine example of an early seventeenth century thatched house which retains ovulo-moulded, wood-mullioned windows and is typically single storeyed with attics. Return to The Square, turning left towards the church to Church Farm.
21. **Church Farm.** Church Farm is possibly late sixteenth century making it the oldest property in the village after the church. It has stone mullioned windows, a through passage and winder stairs. The lane running down

the side of Church Farm leads to the Lowe Windrush Park, and the Fritillary Meadow which is open to the public one Sunday a year in April, when many people come to view the rare flowers in their natural setting.

The continuation of Church Street, now a private road, was the main road to Standlake before 1800. It is significant that there are no pre 1800 properties fronting the present Standlake Road beyond the pond.

That's it! This concludes the reproduction of the Ducklington History Trail. I hope you enjoyed it.

Mark Collishaw, Ducklington

07801 835542

mcollishaw13@gmail.com



Meet the Parish Councillors – Matt Barker

We are delighted to introduce **Matt Barker**, who has been a dedicated member of the **Ducklington Parish Council** since 2017 and has served as our **Vice-Chair** for the past four years.

Matt moved to Ducklington in 2011 with his wife, Lesley, and their two daughters. Having grown up in an RAF family—with a father who served for 24 years—Matt's early life was one of constant travel, living across the UK, Germany, and the Netherlands. This experience of moving home regularly perhaps explains his deep commitment to building a strong, rooted community here in Ducklington.

Matt's professional career began in the civil service at age 17, but he found his true calling in the glass industry at 21. For over 19 years, he and Lesley have run their own business, specialising in the intricate and historic craft of **restoring stained glass**.

Driven by a desire to support local families and youth, Matt spent four years as a **school governor at the Batts School** and has been a familiar face at **St Mary's Church** in Witney. There, he served as a "sidesman" and was heavily involved with "Groundbreakers," the church's Sunday school programme.

Within the Parish Council, Matt has been a driving force for village connectivity. At the start of the pandemic, he and his family established the **village Facebook page** to ensure no resident felt isolated and that help was always just a message away. Matt also founded the **Village Events Committee (VEC)**, which he continues to Chair. Under his leadership, the VEC has brought the village together for landmark celebrations including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the King's Coronation, and VE Day commemorations. Matt is the first to credit his team, noting, *"We could not put these events on without the amazing people who give up their time and the expertise they bring."*

Matt is equally passionate about protecting Ducklington's unique character. He is a vocal campaigner for **saving the Moors from development** and a consistent advocate for reducing speeding traffic through our streets. He also plays a vital role on the **"Projects" sub-committee**, ensuring that S106 developer funds are managed carefully for the long-term benefit of the entire village.

When he isn't busy with council business or his restoration work, Matt is a lifelong fan of music and football, having played the sport competitively since the age of seven.

The Parish Council is fortunate to benefit from Matt's community-minded leadership, his creative expertise, and his dedication to preserving the beauty and safety of Ducklington for future generations.



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



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



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Ducklington Sports Club Update

We'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to our junior players and their parents who gave up their time in mid-December to help Witney Round Table as Santa's Sleigh toured the streets of Ducklington. It was fantastic to see so many familiar faces out supporting the fundraiser, and thanks to the generosity of local residents, around £500 was raised from the village alone. A brilliant community effort all round.

It's been great to get back to playing football in January, even if the weather has had a few other ideas along the way. Fingers crossed for good conditions as the season continues.

Behind the scenes, early planning is now underway for the Ducklington Sports Club Beer Festival. It's always a highlight in the village calendar and we'll be sharing more details very soon.

A quick reminder that Ducklington Sports Club bobble hats and scarves are now in stock and available to buy over the bar at the club. Finally, our popular monthly sports club quiz returns on Friday 30th January, so get the date in your diary and come along for another great night at the club.

Football

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

www.ducklingtonsportsclub.co.uk

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@ducklingtonsportsclub.co.uk



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





St Bartholomew's Church, Ducklington. Finding Warmth in the Waiting Season

Dear Friends,

February and March are months of transition. The brightness of Christmas has passed, spring is not yet fully here, and the days can still feel cold and quiet. And yet, this in-between season has something important to offer. It invites us to pause, to notice, and to trust that even when things appear still, change is quietly underway.

In nature, growth often happens unseen. Beneath hard ground and winter frost, new life is already forming. In much the same way, our community is shaped not only by busy events and summer gatherings, but by smaller moments, the choice to step out when it would be easier to stay in, to connect when it might feel inconvenient, and to keep showing up for one another.

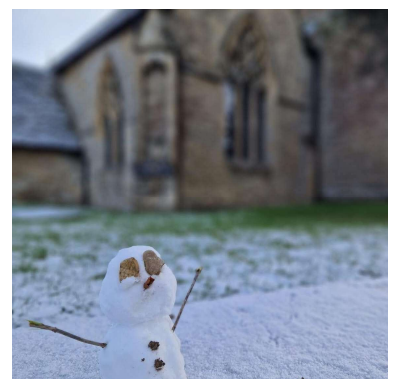
Winter can make coming together more challenging. Darker evenings and colder days naturally draw us inward. Yet experiences like the recent **St Bartholomew's Rambling group** walk remind us how rewarding it can be to share time and conversation, even when wrapped in coats and scarves. These walks, which are open to everyone, are usually held on the second Saturday of the month and offer more than fresh air; they offer companionship, encouragement, and the simple joy of being together.

It is in this spirit that we are also introducing a new **First Sunday of the month service 10am, "Worship Together"**. This shorter, relaxed and inclusive service is open to everyone, whatever your age or experience of church. It is a gentle opportunity to pause, to be together, and to create space for reflection and for meeting with God in a friendly and unhurried way.

At the heart of village life is the understanding that we are stronger together. Community grows through shared time, kindness, and presence, through walking alongside one another, listening, and making space for connection. As we move slowly towards spring, may we continue to nurture these moments, building friendships and relationships that carry us forward into brighter days.

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

☎ 01993 776625
✉ rector@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk
🌐 www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk



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Evening 6-8
Sundays Traditional
Roasts 12-2:30

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

Watch all of the Six Nations with us
Equire now for Valetines and
Mothers Day.

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.

Did you see our tree in church during the Christmas tree festival? Our decorations were crafted with the help of Joyce, with the theme of the Holly and the Ivy. We had a fun Christmas Bingo on the 11th December with some amazing prizes. Many thanks go to all those involved.

We had a fabulous, cooked Christmas Turkey meal on the 18th December thanks to our wonderful volunteers Mel, Gill C and Diane. We were thrilled to have Santa visit us and bring us all presents. We were very spoilt, and we send our thanks to Santa! We were very grateful to Harriet who played the piano and we joined in with many carols and Christmas songs.

If you want to support us, join us as a volunteer or find out more about our space, I would love to hear from you. Send a message to: ducklingtonwarmwelcome@gmail.com
I look forward to seeing you at Ducklington Warm Welcome Space soon.

Gill Long
Warm Welcome co-ordinator



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WILD DUCK

By the time you read this, 2026 won't be quite so 'new', many well-intentioned resolutions will have fallen by the wayside and life, for many, will have reverted to familiar patterns.

My resolution is to forge ahead with caring for our small green spaces in Ducklington, so that they serve our wildlife and offer us little patches of wonder and beauty as the seasons change. We already have a solid group of volunteers who put their hand to various planting and gardening tasks - but if you'll join us, we can do lots more (and you'll get a bit of a Green Gym workout)!

The scope to make a difference is vast. According to the *State of Nature report (2023)*, across the UK, the species studied have declined on average by 19% since 1970 and nearly one in six species are threatened with extinction from Great Britain! Studies have found that that UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries, with on average about half its biodiversity left - far below the global average of 75%. It means the UK is in the bottom 10% globally for biodiversity.

What could YOU do to make a difference? Perhaps you want to encourage a particular butterfly, moth or bird that you used to see a lot of, but is now in decline. Or you might have visions of hedgehog highways linking different parts of the village. Or perhaps a garden pond is more your thing? So many possibilities!

Please join me and Jo George at the Bell at 7pm on Thursday, 19th February for a drink and an informal chat. We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas and to share ours with you. If you can, let me know that you are coming but if you can't, just turn up. See you there!

Marilyn Morris - mhighcroft@gmail.com

I am Heidi Bramwell and I would like to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Ducklington CE Primary School. It is an honour to be leading Ducklington and be part of such a warm and caring community.

The staff and children have come back refreshed from their festive break and have settled back into school well, all ready for their new learning.

In Nursery, the topic this term has been 'winter wonderland'. The children have enjoyed a variety of winter and Arctic themed books such as 'A thing called snow'. Some activities have included winter yoga poses, snowman hedgehog models, Arctic animal paintings, small world play and cotton bud snowflake craft. The snow on the first day back really helped to kick start our topic and draw in the children's interest and excitement!

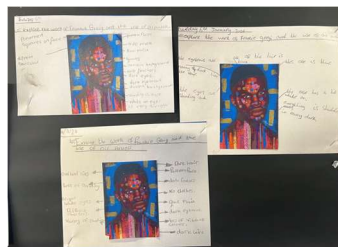
In Reception, the team have welcomed the children back together after the Christmas break. They have been so happy to catch up with their friends and settle back into routines. The children have enjoyed a variety of activities, including developing their handwriting and playing number games. There has been great excitement exploring the outdoors and discovering the snow. It has been a joy to see their enthusiasm, confidence and love of learning shine through.



Year 2 have started to learn about Grace Darling and her amazing rescue, they are also exploring how schools have changed over time and interviewed a school governor to learn more about schools in the past. They have started a printing unit in art and are exploring relief printing. The children enjoyed using their hands to make printed paper to embellish with drawings of flowers. This week they will visit the refurbished library in Witney and choose a book to borrow for the classroom. This is a brilliant way to encourage reading for pleasure.



Y4 have been learning about Anglo-Saxon settlements. They learnt how the Saxons used a method called Wattle and Daub to create walls for their buildings. First, they created their wattle frame and then had enormous fun using clay, water and hay to make their daub walls. The children were very pleased that they did not use the additional material of manure that the Anglo-Saxons would have!



Year 5 have been really enjoying engaging in some fantastic science investigations with electricity. We have been creating simple circuits using our bodies to start with and then moved onto testing different components of a circuit. We have loved investigating and testing different theories and are super excited to test some materials to find out whether they are conductors or insulators too!

In year 6, we have started off the year by looking at the body in more detail. In Science, we have learnt all about the circulatory system and how our muscles get the oxygen they require. Over the next few days, we will be consolidating our learning by writing a blog on this in our English lessons, challenging ourselves to include technical vocabulary amongst relative clauses and parentheses. During art, we have focused on the artist Frankie Greig to explore the shapes that make up our facial features. We have used a variety of mediums to recreate these features and look forward to creating our mixed media self-portraits in the next few weeks.





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