



Dates for the Diary

- Monday 10th Feb – DHPA Annual Show AGM, 7pm, Sports Club
- Friday 14th Feb – Ducklington School finishes for half term
- Monday 24th Feb – Ducklington School return
- Tuesday 4th March – Shrove Tuesday - Village Hall 3-4.30pm, come and have fun tossing pancakes!
- Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday - Church Service 6pm
- Sunday 9th March - Church Annual Meeting - 10am (Open meeting for the first part of the service).
- Friday 14th March - Newsletter deadline for entries
- Sunday 30th March – Mothering Sunday - Church Family Service 10am
- Friday 4th April – Ducklington School finishes for Easter Holidays
- Saturday 5th April – Barn Dance in the Village Hall
- Friday 18th April – Good Friday Bank Holiday
- Monday 21st April – Easter Monday Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 22nd April – Ducklington School returns for Summer Term

Welcome to the February/March 2025 issue of the Ducklington Parish Council Newsletter, and a Happy New Year to you all.

We had some wonderful village events during 2024, D-Day 80 celebrations, Village Show, Beer Festival, Big Lunch, Apple Pressing, and more! Thank you to everyone involved in making these such memorable occasions.

We are lucky to have some great food services in the village, from The Bell, Eat @ A's and now we can look forward to Bells Pizza and Mac van that will be in the village car park 5-8pm Friday evenings. Look out for full details of these services in the newsletter.

If you would like to advertise a business or add an entry of interest, maybe a photo you have taken recently, or an achievement by a village group, the deadline for entries in the next issue will be **14th March 2025**. Please get in contact. All ideas for what you would like to see in each issue are welcome.

newsletter@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Plan



DUCKLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The questionnaire associated with the production of the Ducklington Parish is included with this copy of the newsletter. The survey is a way of finding out more about what local residents think about and want in relation to key issues. It is an important part of making the Plan, and the results will be used to form the draft policies within the Plan.

To keep it simple, we're asking for one response per household, rather than one per person. Please try to answer all questions. The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete, and there is a space for comments at the end.

The paper copy of the survey can be returned by post in the prepaid envelope provided. Alternatively, you can complete online: www.surveymonkey.com/r/DUCKLINGTON

If someone else in your household wishes to complete the survey individually, they can do so electronically (but may need to use a separate electronic device) or can request a separate hard copy survey by emailing info@communityfirstoxon.org

Supporting information and materials relating to the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the Parish Council website. A copy of this survey is also available on the website, along with some maps of the village and local area which may help in answering the questions.

Local Police

PCSO Helen Keen

Landline: 101 Ext: 3803924

E: Helen.Keen@thamesvalley.police.uk

County and District Councillors

County Councillor - Ted Fenton

E: ted.fenton@oxfordshire.gov.uk

T: 01993 358056

District Councillor – Adrian Walsh

E: adrian.walsh@westoxon.gov.uk

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

Missing Bus Stop!

It's come to our attention that there is a missing bus stop along the Witney Road, opposite Moors Close, heading from Witney and into the village. While some bus drivers are happy to stop there, others are not aware it is an actual bus stop!

The Parish Council have contacted Oxford County Council, who have agreed to install a new bus stop – this will include a new pole, flag, and timetable. They are also going to replace the pole on the opposite side of the road, so that it is taller and the flag can point towards the road (rather than into the bush!)

The picture, to the right, shows where the new stop will go and what it will look like.

Paul Lishman



Reminders

Dog waste - We kindly ask all dog owners to be responsible and considerate by cleaning up after their pets, especially in the cemetery where there have been increased cases of dog waste.

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 recently employed Oxford Direct Services Trading Ltd, a limited company wholly owned by Oxford City Council that provides cost-effective commercial and public sector facilities management across Oxfordshire, to repair the fencing and kickboards and replenish the play bark in and around the zipwire facility at Glebelands playground. Cllr Jo George was suitably impressed with their workmanship and commented that it "looks brilliant". The parish council hopes that the improvements will be appreciated by the children in the village who enjoy using the facility.



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 9 – 10am
- Tuesday – Pilates 10.30 – 11.30am
- Tuesday – Yoga 5.40 – 8pm
- Tuesday - Duck Morris Dancers from 8pm
- Wednesday - Yoga 9.30 – 11am
- 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
- Friday - Yoga from 6.40pm
- Saturday - Dance 9.15am – 1.45pm (Dancemania)

BARN DANCE

Ducklington Village Hall
Saturday 5th April

7.30pm till 10.00pm

Tickets £8 per person



Richard Ford as caller with band 'Levity'

Tickets available on the door or book by calling Richard on 07796 468591

All ages welcome - no dancing experience needed

Please bring your own refreshments!



IT'S TIME TO THRIVE!

SEATED EXERCISE CLASS

FREE CLASS!

Donations are welcome.

Classes start:
9th Sep 11am-12pm

Workout With
Oliver Halls

Certified Personal Trainer

- 👉 Improve Flexibility
- 👉 Boost Circulation
- 👉 Enhance Balance
- 👉 Social Interaction

Ducklington Village Hall
Oxfordshire, OX29 7UX

📞 01235 352 776
✉ hannah.tomlin@walfinch.com

"Babies' red hats needed!

Calling all knitters/crocheters - please pass this message on to friends and family.

A new Quality Improvement project in Maternity will involve babies who require extra observations being offered red hats as a visual reminder.

Some knitted/crocheted red hats have already been donated, but more are needed.

The project will **start on 27 January 2025**, and will initially run for three months: do you know any knitters/crocheters who would like to help out?

In this picture the rulers indicate the approximate size of hat that is needed (newborn), and they can be plain or patterned, so long as they are red.

Contact Amanda Armitage or
newsletter@ducklingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cub Scouts

Cubs is for young people aged 8 to 10 ½ who want to:

- Master new skills and try new things
- Have fun and go on adventures
- Make friends
- Are curious about the world around them
- Help others and make a difference, in their own communities and beyond

Every week, we gather at Standlake Village Hall in our Cub Pack between 18:30 and 20:00 to take part in lots of interesting and challenging activities achieving anything we set our minds to, and having lots of fun along the way.

We have a few spaces available, for more information please get in touch!

email info@rn98.co.uk or visit www.rn98.co.uk/membership



****We also have a new Beaver section open and there are spaces available. There are also a few spaces available for Easter in Cubs, please do get in touch using the details above****

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



Ducklington Morris

Chris Howe, Squire
01993 773634

As the nicer weather and light evenings are no more, Ducklington Morris have been practicing on Tuesday evenings in the Village Hall (from 8pm). In the last couple of months we have had two new members join the side and I'm happy to report they are making good progress learning the steps and dances. I'm hopeful that the additional dancers will allow the side to attend more events in 2025. We have been invited to a couple of Morris Ales (an excuse to dance, eat, drink and sing) which gives us a chance to demonstrate our skill and catch up with old acquaintances. Our first public display for 2025 will be Fritillary Sunday, where we hope to have the North-West side, Masons Apron, and the Appalachian side, Cornucopia, join us.

Now is a good time to take up Morris dancing and we are happy to teach anyone from the age of 11 upwards (subject to a parent/guardian being present if the person is under 16). We can also offer support for activities based around the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

As always, if you'd like us to perform at your event or you'd like to try Morris dancing then please drop me an email.

squire@ducklingtonmorris.org.uk



Free level 1 and 2 training

for ages 9+

Give your child a skill they will never forget and get them cycling confidently.



OXFORDSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL



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

Takeaway

Home cook Oriental Food
Scan code for menu or call me

6 out of 8 dishes are GLUTEN FREE

Scan to Order
Call/Text Amie on 07887 998224
Email eat-at-a@outlook.com



Subject to Availability

Available after 6:30pm on Mon/Tue/Thurs
Available all day on Wed/Fri/Sat/Sun

PLEASE WAIT FOR CONFIRMATION

Collection : Ducklington



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

Quiz

Quiz master John Smyth is set to wow you with his notorious quiz again on Friday 7th Feb at 8pm. See the Facebook page in order to book your team on!

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



Starting the season in style! Thank you to Courtiers and Liz Evans Beauty for sponsoring the U10 Yellows.





Dear Friends,

As the winter months gently give way to the promise of spring, I find myself reflecting on the storylines of life—the twists and turns that shape our days and keep us guessing. Like a great book or a gripping film, life is full of intertwined narratives, some joyful, some challenging, all woven together in ways we often only begin to understand as the story unfolds.

Life rarely follows a straightforward path. There are moments of celebration and delight—weddings where love is pledged, baptisms where new life is embraced, and milestones that mark the start of a new chapter. And there are seasons of sorrow, too—goodbyes we weren't ready for, questions that feel unanswered, and challenges that test our strength.

As your parish church, we are here to walk with you through it all. In the highs and lows, the twists and turns, the questions and uncertainties, our doors are always open, and our hearts are ready to share the journey with you. Whether it's a baptism to welcome new life, a wedding to celebrate love, or a funeral to honour a life well lived, we are here to remind you that no matter where life's story takes you, you are not alone.

The Bible reminds us of this truth again and again. In Isaiah 41:10, God says, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." These words offer hope, strength, and the assurance that God is with us in every chapter of our story.

So, as we step into this new season together, I encourage you to take a moment to pause and consider your own story. Where are you finding joy? Where do you need strength? And how might we, as your church family, support you?

Whether you're planning a joyful celebration or seeking comfort in a time of loss, know that we are here for you. Life's storylines may keep us guessing, but together, with God's grace and each other's support, we can navigate every twist and turn with faith and hope.

With every blessing,

Andrea Colbrook

Rector St Bartholomew's Church, Ducklington.

Andrea, Rector.

01993 776625

rector@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk

www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk

Tues	04 March	Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) – Village Hall 3-4.30pm Come and have fun tossing pancakes
Wed	05 March	Ash Wednesday - Service in church 6pm
Sun	09 March	Church Annual Meeting - 10am Open meeting for the first part of the service.
Sun	30 March	Mothering Sunday - Family service 10am

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
- Bronzing
- Hair care
- Men's range
- Body care
- Sun care
- Make up
- Baby range



Gifts for Valentines Day and Mother's Day to suit all
budgets. FREE gift wrapping available

Products suitable for all skin types, also to help specific
skin concerns. FREE, no obligation 1:1 consultation

30 day happiness guarantee

Orders placed weekly. FREE local delivery

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



Emma Shirley
Mobile: 07770 578579
Email: emmas.tropic@gmail.com
Shop: www.tropicskincare.com/emmashirley



History Society

Making sense of accumulated material

This is a call to those in the village who are curious about the Ducklington of yesteryear, or may have something to contribute.

I am writing again for two reasons. One is to ensure that the community has some sense of the wealth of material that was collated by those associated with Ducklington History Society activity in recent decades. The other reason is to ask if any in the community are as curious as I am and might want to be involved in making sense of it, as I do.

Thought I'd also share another slice of village history, just to give the community another sniff of the material that is being stored by the Parish Council ... a photo of one of the two long-gone village shops. Given that the older parts of Ducklington encircle the church and the Bell Inn, it's likely not a surprise that one shop was in this vicinity. For those not familiar with this part of the village, Church Street runs straight due east at the corner where Witney Road becomes Standlake Road, and a short walk down Church Street reveals a square of unremarkable tarmac on the left, which is rather grandly named The Square. Anyone who has posted a letter in the post-box at this location will have been just a few yards from the building in the image here. Signs on the building reveal that this was also the 'Post Office', that the building had a 'Public Telephone', and that they were a stockist of Lyons Tea! Just one of a huge number of insightful and interesting photographs from times gone by. There's another photograph in the archive of an even older view taken from exactly the same spot that shows what previously existed immediately opposite ... the village smithy!

If the fact that this archive exists makes you curious as to what could be achieved with the sizeable content, and you consider you could help contribute or make sense of it such that something of value could be created from it, I'd ask that you reach out. It could be that a gathering of individuals and a pooling of ideas could produce something meaningful. If you are interested, or want more information, please contact me.

Mark Collishaw, Ducklington
07801 835542
mcollishaw13@gmail.com



Ducklington Warm Welcome Space

Contact: Gill Long
07780 781839 gillylong17@gmail.com



We are in the village hall on Thursdays between 11.30am and 3pm. Come and join us in a welcoming, warm, free and safe space. Stay all the time, come for lunch, or just pop in for a cuppa. You'll always be sure of a warm welcome, a friendly face, good company, and excellent cake. Bring your crafts, newspapers, cards, games or just yourself. Share your hobbies with us and maybe teach us some new things.

Join us for our monthly seated exercise classes or in a game of table tennis with our volunteers.

Last month we all got very creative when we were asked to take part in the Christmas tree festival held in the church. We also had a very big surprise at our Christmas party when Father Christmas visited and brought us all presents. We are looking forward to more fun and friendships in 2025.

We welcome people living with dementia and their carers to join us. Our volunteers have undertaken Dementia Friend training.

We are open all year round and all ages are welcome.

Please let me know if you would like to be met at the door on a Thursday, or if you are interested in joining our lovely group of volunteers.

Gill Long



Ducklington WI

Our vibrant village WI continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall, and new members would be made most welcome. The evening usually involves a speaker, and we have had a variety of fascinating, inspiring and educational talks over the years, a regular monthly competition, a raffle and, of course, refreshments! We have also arranged trips and other activities between meetings.

If you are interested in joining us, please do come along and dip your toe in the water. And, if you have any questions, my email address is jenniferpratley@hotmail.co.uk. Looking forward to seeing you!

Festival of Christmas Trees at St Bartholomew's Church, Ducklington December 2024

When Rev'd Andrea asked the different communities in the village to provide a decorated Christmas tree for the weekend of Festival of Christmas Trees, our WI ladies certainly came to the fore. To a simple twig tree, a range of decorations were added, all stars, and all in various media, whether it be knitted, crocheted, hand-stitched, cross-stitched, origami, tatting, twisted wire, and even salt dough. The end result was really effective and many visitors to the church delighted in the impact the tree had amongst all the other beautiful displays. A huge thanks to all those who contributed.



Our Christmas Meal at The Plough, Alvescot 12 December 2024

So, our annual Christmas meal was a sparkly and festive affair with food aplenty, jolly camaraderie and the choir from St Peter's church who came to entertain the revellers... including us! What a lovely way to end the evening, especially when we were asked to join in with some of our favourite carols. **Here's to a kind and peaceful 2025.**



Business Spark

Start Your Brilliant Business Now

📅 Saturday 8th February

🕒 9:30am - 12:30pm

📍 Holiday Inn Oxford, OX2 8JD

CHERWELL BUSINESS

SPARK

WEST OXFORDSHIRE BUSINESS

SPARK

Funded by
UK Government

 **Cherwell**
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

 **WEST OXFORDSHIRE**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

OxLEP
Business



St. Bartholomew's Church

Ducklington Bellringers



Do you enjoy hearing the sound of church bells ringing?
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to try your
hand? Would you like to give it a go?

Then come and join us on Wednesday evenings,
7.30pm till 9pm, at

St Bartholomew's Church.

Learn a new skill

Become part of a band

Give something to the community

Our Tower Captain is Richard Ford and he looks forward
to hearing from you:
07796 468591



*Are you a Friend of St. Bartholomew's Church
Ducklington?*

If so, make a note of this date -

- Wednesday March 26th.

*when there will be a Cheese and Wine evening
(in the church and village hall) to say thank you to
those who support the church by being Friends!*

*And if you are **not** a Friend, and would like to be,
you can find out more by emailing...
friends@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk*

*Or by picking up a leaflet in church or by dropping
a note into The Rectory, 6 Standlake Road*

Thank you

David Cole 01993 779726
6 Back Lane, Ducklington OX29 7UE

2025 Photography Classes:

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

2025 Flower Arrangement Classes:

- Nursery Rhymes • VE Day • Hat •



AGM – Monday 10th Feb 2025, 7pm,
Sports Club

duckflowershow@gmail.com
www.ducklingtonvillageshow.co.uk



Enhance the appearance of your property with
our quality assured friendly service



Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning - Render & Brickwork Cleaning
Patio & Driveway Cleaning - Installation of Bird Protection
Fitting of Chimney Caps

info@mossinator.co.uk - 01865 362797

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



The Bell Inn

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

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

Open daily from 12 Noon

What's on...

All our Monthly Events plus...

February

Join us for all the 6 Nations Rugby Games
Valentines Day Menu, ask in pub
or view on our Facebook Page

March

All the 6 Nations Rugby Games
LIVE MUSIC Saturday 15th

Food served daily;

Lunch 12-2:30

Evening 6-8

Sundays 12-2:30

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