

D

DIGITAL EDITION

ucklington Village Newsletter



DUCKLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE 213

FEB/MAR/APRIL

Welcome to our **DIGITAL EDITION** of the Village Newsletter. Due to the restrictions in place to protect everyone from COVID-19 our newsletter will be a digital one for you to download. If you have neighbours who you think would appreciate a copy of this. Please print off and pop in their letter box so that we can reach as many in the parish as possible.

PARISH COUNCILLOR CHANGES

Peter Godwin recently resigned from the Parish Council. we would like to thank Peter for his valuable time and experience over many years of service to the village.

Jo George was welcomed by Councillors to their meeting on 4 November 2020 when she was co-opted as a Parish Council member.

GIGACLEAR/MKJ BROADBAND FOR THE VILLAGE

Currently Gigaclear are installing the above in the village in less than desirable weather conditions. This will improve the internet facility and in limited cases is causing problems for householders. Gigaclear have promised the Parish Council that any disruption/ damage will be restored to the original condition before they finish and leave. Gigaclear, who hope to finish their work if current progress remains the same, ask that any complaints are made initially to the staff doing the work.

THE PARISH COUNCIL'S GLEBELAND AND PAVILION

There have been a number of incidents of Anti-Social behaviour reported at the above site. Consequently, we are currently looking into the possibility of installing CCTV cameras

REDUCED SPEED ON THE A415 HEADING TO THE DUCKLINGTON ROUNDABOUT AND SAFER CROSSING,

The Parish Council have been having continuing discussions with Oxfordshire County Highways on speed and the roundabout following the Lidl store opening before Christmas and that of the Travelodge hotel.

The Parish Council's concern is the crossing to Lidl over the A415 to and from Ducklington that requires more safety measures being put in place. For example, the lack of visibility of the island and it's not standing out well in the dark. A recent accident and other near-misses support this view. A Vehicle (Speed) Activated Sign (VAS) on the Witney bound side would make drivers more aware and hopefully reduce speed through the roundabout.

The main need is to slow down the traffic to enable safe access. Unfortunately the roundabout has good overall vision over a great distance that allows/encourages drivers to continue at speed across this roundabout.

PLAYGROUNDS

Much of our play equipment has become rather outdated and a slide has had to be taken out of use due to its age. We are currently looking into replacements and the funding necessary. This is a major undertaking and will take time.

POLICE

Please note that there are various ways of reporting crime or suspected crime.

Ring 101. Don't be concerned that this will go to a national site, but be ready to reply that you are in "Thames Valley". Explain your concern and it will be reported from national to the local Thames Valley Team to action. Ensure that you get a URN number so you can track the outcome.

It would be useful for villagers to keep an eye out for such goings-on and use the 101 service above to report such incidences. Photos assist, BUT only if they can be obtained without danger.

Officers attend Council meetings when time permits and patrol the

village. However, please remember that Thames Valley Police also have their ALERT service that allows you to receive crime alerts and information about where you live. To register go to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk and register for email, phone or text alerts and keep yourself and others safe.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council usually meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Under the current Covid-19 legislation, meetings are held by Zoom until further notice **NOT** at the Village Hall at 7.30PM upstairs in the Lilac Room.

Everyone is welcome to attend and observe the meetings and if you wish to join by Zoom please contact Vice Chairman David Duthie 01993 702261.

The Parish Clerk, Mr Richard Brown, can be contacted by post at 301 Manor Road, Cogges, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 3UQ and by email at: clerk@ducklingtonparishcouncil.org.uk or by telephone 01993 201567 or 07717 470172

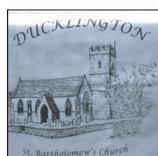
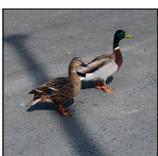
HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor

Ted Fenton
E: ted.fenton@oxfordshiregov.uk
M: 07710 356406

District Councillor

Ben Woodruff
E: ben.woodruff@westoxon.gov.uk
M: 07766 491666





It is hard to imagine that we managed to keep going throughout the Autumn term and although we could not complete many of the activities outside of the school due to the restrictions, the learning continued. At the end of the term, thanks to the Church community and our Foundation governors, each class was able to go to the church for the 'Christmas Experience' - a chance to look at the Christmas story through the images and narrative. The children enjoyed the experience and it was great to hear their thoughts and ideas.

As we were unable to allow parents into school to celebrate the festive period as we would in normal times - we were able to create videos that could be shared with the parents; Year 6 did an adapted rendition of the Twelve days of Christmas, Year 1 retold the story of Christmas through artwork and song, Reception adapted their forest school nativity and the Nursery treated us to festive songs. Finally, we recorded a version of our Christmas service. Thank you to the staff and children for their hard work in putting together these videos.

So, after a successful Autumn term at school, we were braced ready to open on the first day of term, however this was not to be, when Boris Johnson announced the changes at 8pm the day before we were due to return. Therefore, we have started the new year by being just open to vulnerable children and those of key workers. The rest of the children are at home accessing our remote learning on Microsoft Teams - which has been developing and evolving over the term. I have particularly enjoyed setting and recording the Headteacher Challenge each week and having a virtual whole school assembly each week. Let's see what this term will bring...

Russell Leigh

St. Bartholomew's Church

Everyone is warmly welcome to all services and events

Dear friends,

We had all certainly hoped that we would not be at this place of new constraints at the beginning of this new year! We are trying to keep some things going as normal: we have the church open for people to come and pray or sit quietly in that special space. The North Door is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

However we took the difficult decision that we would temporarily have only 4 or 5 of us leading worship services in church, broadcasting out on Zoom. This continues what we have of course been doing since the beginning of the first lockdown in March and our services are open for everyone to join on Zoom.

Meeting ID is 490-568-9876. Passcode 509460, or through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4905689876?pwd=eWtJeUlmcS9SdU42Zi9tZGpUdGhUdz09>

We are also experimenting with posting a recording of the service on YouTube. Please pop in and "take part"! This is generally a quiet time in the church's life as we move from the celebration of Christmas through toward the season of Lent and the preparation for the great celebration of Easter.

You may wish to note the following dates on your calendar:

I will keep everyone informed whether we will be able to hold these services in church, but whether in person, or on zoom, I look forward to you joining us if you would like to come and see.

Ash Wednesday	17th February
Mothering Sunday	14th March
Palm Sunday	28th March
Maundy Thursday	1st April
Good Friday	2nd April
Easter Day	4th April

If you are finding these times of shutdown particularly difficult, then please do call me by telephone or send me an email so that you can talk in confidence about anything that is troubling you in these strange times.

With my prayers for each one of you as you cope with the stress of these days. It may be the lack of a pattern to the day, uncertainty at work or home-schooling. Perhaps you may find the discipline of taking up a new hobby or a long-anticipated project may be just the thing to give you a renewed focus!



Paul Boddam-Whetham, rector@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk 01993 776625 rector@ducklingtonchurch.org.uk
Church website: <https://www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk/>

The Lower Windrush Valley Project (LWVP) publishes a Review of biodiversity opportunities in the Lower Windrush Valley.

The Lower Windrush Valley supports a wealth of biodiversity and is identified in the draft Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Network as a priority area for habitat creation and restoration. A substantial portion of the valley is also identified as requiring the highest level of biodiversity protection, management and enhancement.

The review was carried out during 2020, with aerial photography and data held by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre used to produce valley-wide habitat maps. These maps, along with species data and knowledge of the area, were used to set out several objectives for key habitats and identify opportunity areas where activities to create, connect, extend or enhance habitats would be most beneficial. Opportunity areas identified indicate potential for delivery of objectives and do not imply landowner support.

The review will be used to direct the biodiversity and nature conservation elements of the LWVP strategy but a collaborative approach between landowners, minerals operators, local authorities and other organisations will be required in order to meet the objectives set out. We are particularly interested in speaking with landowners or managers who have an interest in making biodiversity improvements.

For further information, or to request a PDF copy of the review, please contact: lucy.kennery@oxfordshire.gov.uk

TENNIS COURTS

While the parish tennis courts are CLOSED during lockdown. We have a new booking secretary, when the courts are open for use again please contact Jo George.

Email jo.george@ducklingtonparishcouncil.org.uk or text 07790 854 571 to book.

STAY HOME ► **PROTECT THE NHS** ► **SAVE LIVES**

National lockdown: stay at home
Coronavirus is spreading fast.

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR HOME UNLESS NECESSARY.

1 in 3 people who have the virus have no symptoms, so you could be spreading it without knowing it.



If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

a high temperature
a new, continuous cough
a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Get a test and stay at home