

A photograph of a large field of yellow daffodils in full bloom. The flowers are in the foreground and middle ground, with green leaves and stems. In the background, there is a large, leafless tree on the left and a brick building on the right. The building has a sign that says "DIDCOT COLLEGE". The sky is overcast.

Didcot Diary

March 2016

Didcot Diary—March 2016

NEWS

Didcot Power Station building collapse: book of condolence



Didcot Town Council and its partners would like the families and loved ones of the victims of the Didcot Power Station building collapse to know that our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time, and that we share in their sadness and grief.

Local communities are shocked and saddened at the tragic events that took place on Tuesday 23rd February.

The power station has been at the heart of Didcot for over 40 years. Everybody working at the site, whether local or from further afield has always been warmly welcomed into the town's community.

We have made a book of condolence available for people to express the sadness they feel whether they are residents of Didcot, the surrounding towns and villages or those visiting the town.

The book of condolence will be available at Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7HN between 9am and 4.45pm Monday to Thursday and 9am to 3.45pm on Friday.

It may be available outside these hours by prior arrangement via Didcot Civic Hall on 01235 512436, civichall@didcot.gov.uk.

We also recognise that people nationally may wish to contribute to a book of condolence . Anyone who is unable to visit us to sign the book of condolence in person can now share their thoughts and prayers

Online at <https://t.co/mcfstUx2GH>

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Mayor's Ball & Mayor's Party

On the evening of Friday 26th February the Mayor hosted a charity ball which was attended by nearly 100 people. It was a chance to dress up, have a fantastic meal and raise money at the same time for the Mayor's two chosen charities, the Royal British Legion and South and Vale Carers. Many thanks to all those who attended.

A raffle was held on the night which raised £700 but together with ticket sales and donations the amount raised for the charities reached nearly £2000.

The annual charity ball is open to everybody so if you didn't get a chance to come this year watch out for the date next year. On the other hand you may want to have a night out at the Mayor's party on 30th April.....

Des Healy invites you to the

MAYOR'S PARTY



30th April

Marlborough Club, Didcot

Tickets £5
8 pm til late

Charities supported:
Royal British Legion and
South & Vale Carers

Live music featuring Finding Henry and The Crimps

Tickets available from Didcot Town Council

Clean for the Queen

On Saturday 5th March a team of people helped with the annual litter pick. This year's theme was 'Clean for the Queen' to help celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday.

As a result some 46 bags of rubbish said cheerio to Didcot. Thank you to all the volunteers that took part. We hope to have more volunteers next time so please contact us if you'd like to get involved.



Councillor James Hart & team of volunteers



Park Run's 1st Birthday at Didcot—Saturday 20th February 2016



It was a chilly grey morning that welcomed everyone to Park Run's 1st birthday at Ladygrove. Many came in fancy dress to add to the occasion but spirits were high despite the low temperatures. The Mayor Councillor Des Healy watched the start of the race which included runners of all ages and abilities. He witnessed the enthusiasm of race finishers and awarded well-earned prizes before everyone went off for celebratory tea/ coffee and cake! What a great way to start your weekend.

Park Run (5km) takes place every Saturday morning at 9 am at Ladygrove Park – find out more at www.parkrun.org.uk/didcot

Didcot Town Council says “thank you”

Two simple words that make a big difference

We're looking forward to our Awards Evening on 6th April.

Thank You

People have been nominating Didcot based groups and individuals who have given time and effort for the benefit of others, whether it is charity work, volunteering for a club or society or just being a good citizen and going that extra mile to help the people of Didcot.

Didcot Town Council's awards evening is an annual event and not only focuses on the “John Eldridge Award” for voluntary service to the community but also acknowledges the work of grant aid recipients and the winner of the “Best Kept Allotment”.

Mrs Jean Eldridge donated the John Eldridge award following her husband's death whilst serving as Deputy Mayor of Didcot in 1992. It was considered appropriate to found an award in his name to recognise voluntary work undertaken in Didcot.

Grant aid awarded by the council supports organisations and individuals who work for the benefit of the people of Didcot.

There will be a chance for guests to speak to those people who have received grant aid during the year and hear how projects are progressing before the winners are announced.

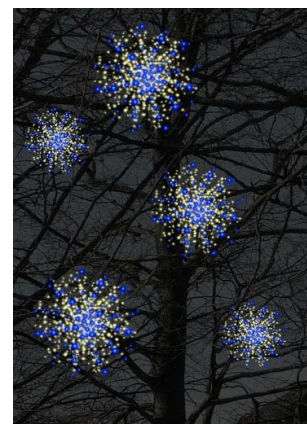
New Christmas lights for Didcot

The Council's Environment Committee has recently considered some designs to modernise the town's Christmas lights. Instead of festoons across the road it's likely that there will be larger motifs in the form of star bursts.



We'll be asking companies to provide quotes and the favoured design is a star burst that comes in different colour themes.

For more information look out for reports to the Environment Committee.



Ladygrove Lakes

In October we experienced low dissolved oxygen levels in the small lake so we had to resort to using an aerator to stop the fish dying, as they struggled for oxygen. When levels are low the fish come to the surface and start gulping air in order to get some oxygen into their system – this is always a desperate sign that all is not well. We are grateful to the Environment Agency for the loan of this machine which saved our fish stock in the small lake.

There are many ducks in the small lake that park users feed with bread. Natural duck muck along with uneaten bread starts to upset the natural balance within the lake. This causes silt to build-up in the lake as it uses up vital oxygen as it decomposes.

On 4th March we moved some of the fish from the small to the large lake where there is room for them to grow. This will also reduce the dissolved oxygen demand within the small lake. We also treated the small lake with Siltex which is a treated chalk compound that breaks up silt. By that action it also releases oxygen, which is just brilliant. The small lake will have a dressing of a couple of tonnes of Siltex annually to help control the silt problem.

After the Siltex treatment, on Thursday 31st March the Ladygrove Fishing Association will add 1500 Crucian Carp and 500 Tench to the small lake to boost these species. They will be small 2 year old fish, sourced from a fishery, to grow in the lake after the existing population has been reduced. Fish growth is limited by the size of the water and the numbers of fish within it. It's always wonderful to see the condition and volume of fish at these events.



The Fishing Association's Spring clean-up takes place on site on Sunday 10th April, 9.30am – 1pm. Club members and volunteers along with Didcot Town Council staff will collect litter, remove snagged angling kit/ line from the greenery and cut back overhanging branches in order to prepare the lakes for the coming season.

Local residents can purchase a permit to fish the waters from Didcot Angling Centre: Adults pay £24, adult concessions £12 with Juniors £10.80 and junior concessions £5.40. Anglers outside the area can still fish the lakes but must buy a day ticket, available from the angling centre or Acorn Angling: £5 per adult and £3.50 per junior. Members can have a guest to fish with them for £2.50. Everyone over 12 has to have an Environment Agency rod licence – they do inspect on site and they impose a £2,000 fine if you don't have one – no excuses.



Parks & Gardens

Winter had a late cold snap seeing a light dusting of snow in early March but that didn't stop the daffodils and Hellebore flowers from standing proud after night time frosts! Bumble bees were out and about looking for spring nectar on Mahonia flowers whilst midges have hatched and catch the light as they dance in the sun. Birds have been busy building nests in the hedgerows and spring has arrived!

The purple and white crocus along Hitchcock Way are an eye catching sight along with the daffodils at the entrances to the town, which now have the new 'Welcome to Didcot' signs.

The Council wants to get involved with Britain in Bloom by improving the look of the town. If you feel you would like to be part of this let us know. We will want people to volunteer their time to help plant up new areas in and around the town and commit some regular hours to maintenance. You may have some ideas yourself about what you would like to see improved – so get in touch.

Events

This spring we have Perry Hatwell's Fair at Ladygrove Park from Thursday 21st until Sunday 24th April. This is a repeat of the fair we had on site last year that was well received.

In June we have the Didcot Town Youth Football Club which is hosting the 6-a-side County Tournament at Edmonds Park on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June. This is a great event for junior football players of all ages and for anyone interested in good grass-roots level football. You will see some brilliant talented young players onsite keen to win their age group trophy. The club also provides refreshments on site so come along and support your local clubs.

Information Centre



Easter Refuse Collections and May Bank Holiday:

Friday 1 st April	collection will be Saturday 2 nd April (green bin, food bin & brown bin)
Friday 6 th May	collection will be Saturday 7 th May (grey bin & food bin)
Friday 3 rd June	collection will be Saturday 4 th June (grey bin & food bin)

Don't forget Saturday collections start an hour earlier at 6am, so please put your bins out the night before

Grant Aid

Didcot is fortunate in having a wide variety of community groups and charities that contribute to the life of the town. The hard work carried out by an army of volunteers helps to make our town a better place to live. Grant Aid is used to support organisations and individuals who work for the benefit of the people of Didcot, and for the council's own arts and entertainment projects. Some of the groups that have received Grant Aid in 2015 include:

- Christmas Day Lunch
- Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice
- St Birinus School Concerts
- South Oxfordshire Food & Education Alliance
- Revitalise
- South & Vale Carers
- Didcot Twinning Association
- Didcot Girls School Lighting Equipment

Anna Gatrell who provides the free Christmas Day lunch told us:

“My Free Christmas Day lunch for people on their own was once again a big success with 52 attendees and helpers in attendance and two dinners delivered to people who could not attend. I even had a last minute request (a couple of days before Christmas) from Southern Vale Housing to ask if a 95 year old lady who had moved to France earlier in the year with her family but had been made homeless could join us. She was of course more than welcome and one of my volunteers picked her up.



*The attendees arrived from midday onwards, had tea/coffee/biscuits before settling down for Christmas dinner and pudding at 1pm then after watching the Queen's Speech we played bingo with prizes, more refreshments through the afternoon before leaving at around 4.30, each with a hamper
Many thanks to Didcot Town Council for the kind donation to this worthy cause”*

If you would like to apply for Grant Aid please contact the Council Offices or see our website.



UPCOMING SHOWS AT THE CIVIC HALL:

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN
9TH APRIL 2016
2PM

ELVIS IN TROUBLE
30TH APRIL 2016
7.45 PM

SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING
13th MAY 2016
7.30PM

ROB BECKETT
20TH MAY 2016
8PM

TEA DANCE
24TH APRIL 2016
2PM

NEIL SANDS—90 GLORIOUS YEARS OF MUSIC
24th MAY 2016
2PM

A NIGHT OF DIRTY DANCING
9TH JULY 2016



**Didcot
Volunteer Centre**

Your local transport scheme

Do you enjoy driving?

*We urgently need your help to
drive local people to their
medical appointments.*



Tel: 01235 816709



YoungDementiaUK



Supporting people of working age and their families to live well with dementia

www.youngdementiauk.org

YoungDementia UK
YoungDementia UK PO Box 315, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1ZN
Charity No 1085595



Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre

A journey of learning and discovery

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Family Workshop: Pond Explorer

Friday 1st April 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm

Try your hand at pond dipping and find out about the fascinating creatures that live in and around our ponds. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

This event is for children aged 7+ only (no younger siblings please).

Please wear outdoor clothing and dress for the weather.
£4 / child

Family Fun: Whatever the Weather

Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th April
10 am – 3 pm

Come rain or shine, wind or snow, we love to play outdoors, whatever the weather. So dress for the weather and join us at Sutton Courtenay for weather themed games, activities and makes.

No booking necessary - so just drop in. Picnics welcome. £4 / child

Get in touch

Email: sceec@bbowt.org.uk Phone: 01235 862024

Where to find us

Milton Park Estate, off the A34, 3 miles north of Didcot
Sutton Courtenay, Sutton Courtenay Road, Abingdon, OX14 4TE

Supported by



See what's happening at our other education centres at College Lake near Aylesbury and Woolley Firs near Maidenhead:

www.bbowt.org.uk





**RECYCLING
SORT
IT OUT!**

Free compost giveaway!

Come and join us to fill your box, bag, or container with top-quality compost for free – and don't forget your shovel!

Saturday 9 April 9.00am – 11.00am
Rye Farm car park, Culham Road, Abingdon OX14 3NN

Sunday 10 April 9.00am – 11.00am
Old South Oxfordshire District Council car park,
Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED



Free recycling goodies



Pick up kitchen caddies and liners



50% off compost bins, now only £10 (cash)

All while stocks last



**THAMES VALLEY
AIR AMBULANCE**

KILIMANJARO

18-28 FEBRUARY 2017

TAKE ON ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST ADVENTURES IN THE HEART OF AFRICA FOR YOUR LIFE-SAVING AIR AMBULANCE



TO START YOUR JOURNEY
tvairambulance.org.uk/kilimanjaro
kate.martin@tvairambulance.org.uk



Sobell House Hospice Bereavement Service are seeking to recruit a new group of Volunteer Bereavement Workers



The Bereavement Service was set up in 1985 in response to the demand for continuing psychological and social support from family members. Volunteers are an integral part of the service, and currently we have 21 working with bereaved clients in the client's own home or in 'counselling' rooms here at the hospice. We ask Volunteers to give 12 to 16 hours per month to the role.

The Bereavement Service will offer you a 70 hour induction training course starting in October 2016 and then ongoing supervision and team meetings designed to support your casework with allocated bereaved clients.

The use of a telephone and car are essential requirements; and all legitimate expenses will be reimbursed

Two 'Open Evenings' to help prospective volunteers to find out more about the role, the Bereavement Service and the wider hospice organisation.

These are at Sobell House, Churchill Hospital in Oxford on Thursday 21st June (6pm to 8pm) and Wednesday 6th July (4pm to 6pm).

We do not encourage those who have experienced a significant bereavement in the last two years to apply.

To find out more please contact Julian Bond, Bereavement Service Co-ordinator on 01865 225857 or Julian.Bond@ouh.nhs.uk

Public Open Day



Celebrating Biomedical Research

Thursday 21st April 2016

Location: Tingewick Hall, Academic Block, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, OX3 9DU

Activities

11.30 – 12.00 Tour behind the scenes of AVIC - Acute Vascular Imaging Centre, see how we research heart attack and stroke in patients.

Tour booking essential please book online at oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk or telephone 01865 743341.

12.00 – 17.00 Main exhibition, Tingewick Hall
Come and see over 30 interactive stands demonstrating biomedical research taking place in Oxford. Find out about the latest research techniques and meet doctors, scientists and nurses. **Booking not essential.**

12.45 – 13.45 "Good to share? Data, research, privacy and the NHS", Lecture Theatre 2
A panel-led debate on the exciting but often challenging issues around mass sharing of patient data to support research and improve patient care. The audience will be encouraged to ask questions in this mediated debate, to feature Professor Martin Landray, Deputy Director of the University of Oxford's Big Data Institute; Carol Moore, Head of Projects, Healthwatch

Oxfordshire; Kerrie Woods, Programme Lead for the Oxford NHS Genomic Medicine Centre and Federica Lucivero, Marie Curie Research Fellow, King's College London.

14.00 – 14.30 Key note speeches to include Dr Tony Berendt, Medical Director, Oxford University Hospitals, Professor Keith Channon, Director, NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre and Dr Caroline Hargrove, Technical Director at McLaren Applied Technologies who will talk about how data analysis and simulation tools for motorsport are now driving innovation in surgery and patient care.

15.00 – 15.30 Public lecture, Lecture Theatre 2
Professor Adrian Harris, University of Oxford Department of Oncology, will talk about 'New ways to Treat Cancer'.

15.45 – 16.15 Public lecture, Lecture Theatre 2
Dr Matthew Snape, Jenner Investigator and Oxford BRC Consultant in General Paediatrics and Vaccinology, Department of Paediatrics, University of Oxford, will talk about 'Meningitis Vaccines – can we do more?'

To book a place on the tour or lectures please visit oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk or telephone 01865 743341

Council
well Roa



Wallingford history walks and Museum tours in 2016

During 2016 there will be opportunities to join one of the popular history walks led by Judy Dewey and Wallingford Museum volunteers.

On Sat 2nd April there will be a walk around the Castle earthworks in the morning, followed by a Town history walk in the afternoon. So a full day to absorb Wallingford's history, and a super opportunity to visit the Museum's latest exhibitions between your exercise! Put the date in your diary now!

Separately arranged group visits to the Museum or history walks (or combined) are proving increasingly popular. They can be specially tailored to your group's requirements.....out of hours, introductory talk, etc. If your group / society/ school would like to book for 2016 then please phone Judy Dewey as soon as possible, tel: 01491- 651127.

Look out too for special events this year. As well as the Town and Castle history walks (2 April), there will be A Night at the Museum (13 May - for children - and 28 Oct), Family Archaeology Day (23 July), a William the Conqueror event (20 August), BunkFest offers, and the Agatha Christie Weekend (9-11 Sept).

There are two new special exhibitions at the Museum this year **'1066: William Comes to Wallingford'** describing that William the Conqueror came to Wallingford after the Battle of Hastings to cross the River Thames with his army! But why did he choose Wallingford? and **'300 Years of Cartoons!'** a spectacular private collection , featuring about a hundred cartoons of all kinds.

And if you come early in the season, your £5 entry ticket will give you terrific value, as you'll be able to return as many times as you like for no extra cost. The Museum is open from 1st March. Children under 16 are free, when accompanied by an adult. More details at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Didcot Town Council

Your councillors		
All Saints Ward		
Anthony Dearlove	43 Crossville Crescent OX11 7HE	T: 01235 818665 Email: anthony.dearlove@aol.co.uk
John Louth	45 Bond Street, Surrey TW20 0PL	T: 07776 232 404 Email: john.louth@didcotconservatives.com
Ron Milton-Eldridge	2 Partridge Close OX11 6AB	T: 07540 262 124 Email: ron.milton-eldridge@didcotconservatives.com
Alan Thompson	3 Cronshaw Close OX11 7JT	T: 01235 202652 Email: alan.thompson670@ntlworld.com
Margaret Turner	2 Morrells Close OX11 7DJ	T: 07713742409 Email: maggienn.turner@gmail.com
Ladygrove Ward		
Simon Clarke	8 Finham Brook OX11 7YE	T: 07776 307 570 Email: sclarke.ladygrove@gmail.com
Steve Connel	3 Cam Close OX11 7XE	T: 07540 432 461 Email: steve.connel@southoxon.gov.uk
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Neville F Harris	180 Abingdon Road OX11 9BP	T: 01235 511363 Email: nevhar@aol.com
Anthony Nash	43 Blackthorn Road OX11 6AY	T: 07733 104 875 Email: Anthony.Nash@southoxon.gov.uk
Charlie Robertson	47 Sir Frank Williams Avenue OX11 6AS	T: 07949 412 596 Email: charles.robertson@southoxonconservatives.com
Bill Service	15 Nunney Brook OX11 7FN	T: 07752 101 048 Email: bill.service@hotmail.co.uk
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Michael Turner	2 Morrells Close OX11 7DJ	T: 01235 812958 Email: michaeljturner.turner@gmail.com
Orchard Ward		
Johanna Nash	43 Blackthorn Road OX11 6AY	T: 07800 855 415 Email: johanna.l.nash@gmail.com
Park Ward		
Tim Bedford	22A Church Street OX11 8DQ	T: 07930 958 748 Email: tdrhost@btinternet.com
Des Healy	19 Collingwood Avenue OX11 0AL	T: 01235 212102 Email: no email address
Ben Shaw	14 High Street, OX11 8EQ	T: 07934 389 171 Email: bjhshaw@btinternet.com