

The Dukes (Didcot Ukuleles) Report for Didcot Town Council

We would like to begin by saying a very big thank you for our grant of £1463.75. We used the money to buy a sound system. The purpose of having the sound system is so that we can be heard at gigs and so that the different ukulele parts, arranged by Karina, can be heard. We use the sound system at weekly rehearsals so that everyone can hear Karina teaching.

Pictures of the sound system are below. Our first task was learning how to use it! You can see from the pictures that we have a keen group of volunteers who have learned how to use the system, set it up for gigs and monitor the sound levels when we play.



Thanks to our excellent new sound system, we had a very successful 2023.

We played at the Ladygrove Pub twice (in April and December); the money we were paid for these gigs we donated to Didcot emergency Food Bank. In July and August we played at Didcot Railway Centre for The Grub Hub. The money we were paid for the performances we donated to Didcot Train. Also In December we played at Valerian Court's Breakfast with Santa Family Event, the money from this will also be donated to Didcot Emergency Foodbank.

Throughout the year we supported a number of local events by playing for free, this included: Northbourne School Fete; Ladygrove Park Primary School Christmas Market; Be Free Young Carers Family Fun Day and we travelled further afield to play at Thomley. Before Christmas we had a lovely time playing at Didcot Community Hospital for the patients and their families and staff.

There were other local events we played at to support local charities that we did not need our sound system for as we used one provided by organisers, these included Play2Give summer Family Day and Choko Festival. We also travelled further away to play at Bristol and Yeovil Ukulele Festivals.



2024 is going to be an exciting year for The Dukes with lots of events in the diary already! On February 24th, we are arranging an open evening, "Jam With The Dukes" which is will be attended by over 100 ukulele players from around Oxfordshire. The evening will involve, play alongs, open mic slots and learning some new songs. All the money raised from the evening will be donated to Didcot Emergency Foodbank and Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue. Of course, the evening would not be possible without our sound system.

Thanks again!

Karina (and The Dukes)