

Contact information

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internet links

Parish Council
www.eyedunsden.org

District Council
www.southoxon.gov.uk

County Council
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Community information
www.sonning.net
www.geocities.com/ship_dun2003/

the parish of EYE & DUNSDEN



About your local parish

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The parish of Eye & Dunsden in South Oxfordshire includes the villages and hamlets of Sonning Eye, Playhatch, Dunsden and Littlestead Green. The parish covers 4 square miles or 10.4 km². The population at the 2001 Census was just 332, made up of 127 households. We have our own village hall, close by Dunsden Church and Green.

What does the council do?

Our responsibilities include commenting on planning applications and the maintenance of green spaces including Dunsden Green and the riverside at Furleigh Bank in Sonning Eye (where there is a small slipway). We support the village hall and other local organisations. Working with the Chilterns Society, we make sure that the network of footpaths and bridleways in the parish is kept clear. We also work with regional government, District and County Councils to make sure the voice of the local people is heard in the plans they make for the area. The council has five elected (voluntary) members. You are always welcome at our meetings in the village hall, usually on the third Tuesday of the month.

Parish Clerk

We have recently appointed Laura Viney as part time Clerk to administer the parish and keep records of our meetings. She is ready to deal with your enquiries on 07855 949 910.

Planning matters

We would like to hear from you if you are affected by a current planning application. The parish council consults neighbours before commenting on every planning application affecting the parish. You may view current applications online at the District Council website. You are also welcome at the public forum we hold at our meetings.

The village hall

Our village hall close to Dunsden Green is the venue for an annual church fête, a bonfire night, for meetings of Dunsden wi and regular bingo nights. It is also home to the Kingfisher Playgroup, yoga and dog obedience classes and is regularly booked for parties by local people. The hall committee also organises regular social events including professional theatre and music evenings with supper.

Parish allotments

Growing your own vegetables doesn't just make for healthier eating: it is good exercise too! The Parish Council provides allotments at low rates at two sites within the parish. One is in Sonning Eye and the other is at Playhatch. Ask the Clerk for further details.

Charities in the parish

Parish councillors represent the area on a number of ancient charities, including the Robert Palmer Almshouses in Sonning and the Poor's Land Charity which makes small grants to the needy. Small grants are also available from the Sonning Educational Foundation for students from families in need.

Beating the bounds

The parish boundary directly abuts that of Reading (which has indicated it would like to expand into our area). It continues east along the river as far as Shiplake; running northward from the river it meets the boundaries of Binfield Heath and Sonning Common, taking in a small part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (aonb). Within the parish are the Thames & Kennet Marina, the Redgrave Pinsent Rowing Lake, Reading Sailing Club, the Mill at Sonning, three pubs, the French Horn Hotel and the Loddon Brewery.

Eye & Dunsden in the news

Our website at www.eyedunsden.org is currently being brought up to date. Periodic updates are also printed in the Dunsden and Sonning parish magazines. If you would like to receive news or minutes from the parish council, please send your email address to chairman@eyedunsden.org. You can also check Parish council noticeboards for details of our meetings. We look forward to meeting you at a local event soon.

The parish in print

The late Brian Law's fully illustrated history of the parish *Eye & Dunsden: two centuries of change* was published to mark the millennium. Although the book is now out of print, a number of second-hand bookshops locally may still have copies.

A community orchard for Eye & Dunsden?

The parish is about to acquire some land north of Dunsden village green which would be ideal for the creation of a community orchard.

Traditional local varieties of fruit trees would be planted and maintained by a group of volunteers. Visits by local schools and groups would be encouraged and an annual 'Apple Day' might be held, including the making of Eye & Dunsden Cider!

Want to get involved? Please come to a meeting at Eye & Dunsden Village Hall, on Monday, 22 January, 2007 at 8pm. Gill Franklin of Cross Lanes Fruit Farm will speak.

Further details from David Woodward on 0118 969 3633.