

Dunchideock Parish Guide

Introduction

This Guide is to welcome you to our lovely village, situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the edge of the Haldon Hills.

Dunchideock is a small, rural parish situated in the Kenn Valley Ward of Teignbridge District. The parish covers 392 hectares and is the fourth smallest (0.6% of the total area) in Teignbridge. The Cornish sounding name reflects its early existence as a Celtic settlement, the origins of which go back before the 7th century Saxon invasion of Devon.

The Registrar General's mid year 2010 estimated population is 299, up from the population at the 2001 census which was 262. There were 92 households in 1991 and to date this is now 106. The number of rateable properties is about 123. We have 19 grade II, one grade I and one grade II* listed buildings in the parish.

Dunchideock is 8 km (5 miles) from the county town of Exeter and 9 km (5.6 miles) from the next nearest large settlement of Chudleigh. The parish is scattered with small settlements in several places rather than concentrated in a single area of housing.

The remainder of this "Dunchideock Guide" is intended to be a simple A-Z guide to what is here, what happens and who does it! Obviously, this will gradually become out of date but the parish web pages (see later) should be current. Any feedback and corrections will be most welcome (to the editor - see end).

Dunchideock Data A-Z

Bed & Breakfast

Drakes Farm, Ide. Nova Easterbrook (256814)

Bus

Dunchideock is served by a Devon County Council supported rural bus route between Exeter and Bridford, providing five services daily, Monday to Saturday. This is operated by Country Bus (01626 833664) service 360. The official bus stops are Webberton Cross next to the Old Post Office and at the bottom of the hill next to School Lane, the road leading to the Village Hall and Thornes Meadow. This is the timetable:

Departs Webberton Cross	07.43	09.53	12.32	14.31	
Arrive Exeter	08.13	10.20	12.58	14.58	
Depart Exeter	08.35	11.15	13.15	16.15	17.55
Arrive Webberton Cross	09.02	11.42	13.42	16.42	18.22

Businesses

This is primarily a residential and agricultural area, with most of the land managed by our four farms. Local businesses include a country house hotel, a horse riding stable and several small light industries (car repairs, woodworkers, etc.) occupying the Grade II barns at Dunchideock Barton.

Church

The church of St. Michael and all Angels dates from the 13th century, partly re-built in 1669. It contains outstanding woodwork extensively restored by Herbert Read in 1892. This church is Grade I listed and holds regular Sunday services throughout the year, details of which are to be found both in the porch and in the Country News magazine (see later).

The Priest-in-charge is Revd. Graham Mayer who lives in Christow (01647 252845 - not Tuesdays). Our churchwardens are Ray Mallett (833351) and Jamie Cumming (832499), who are both also members of the Parochial Church Council. There is a regular Village Prayer Forum - contact Tina Cook (832057).

There is a Congregational Chapel in Ide. Parish Registers going back to 1583 are held in the Devon Records Office (384253).

Citizens Advice Bureau

The local HQ is in Dix's Field, Exeter 0344 411 1444.

Councils

Dunchideock's public services are provided by Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council. The following summary of specific contact numbers may be useful although all things are on their webpages nowadays:

	Teignbridge DC	Devon CC
Main Switchboard	01626 361101	0845 155 1015
Roads		0845 155 1004
Abandoned Vehicles	01626 215860	
Fly Tipping (Environment Hotline)	0800 328 6402	
Environmental Health (out of hours)	01395 516854	
Building Regulations	01626 215793	
Council Tax, Benefits	01626 215000	
Planning Applications	01626 215743	
Refuse Collection & Recycling	01626 215838	

DCC Councillor Alan Connett (01626 638102)

TDC Councillors Kevin Lake (825767), Charles Nuttall (07486 041108) and John Parrott

Country News

This is a newsletter produced by Dunchideock and neighbouring Shillingford St. George Parochial Church Councils. It contains the church news for both parishes but also contains a monthly diary of forthcoming village events and enclosures of general interest. It is delivered monthly to your door, free of charge. You can place adverts in it for a nominal cost.

Dentists

Exeter has a number of dental practices & some offer NHS care. For more advice, contact NHS (822348) or see www.nhs.uk/service-search/dentist/locationsearch/3

Doctors

There isn't a doctor on whom we can call in the village. Most of the parish use either Ide Lane Health Centre, Alphington (439869) or St. Thomas Health Centre, Cowick Street (278031). There is also a health centre in Chudleigh, (01626 852222). The nearest Accident & Emergency unit is at the RD&E hospital in Barrack Road, Wonford, Exeter (411611).

Electricity

The company who looks after the power lines is Western Power Distribution (Emergencies - 0800 678 3105 or General - 0800 096 3080) and this is the number to ring if you have a power failure. Nowadays of course, your electricity can be bought from many other providers who operate nationally - see www.energywatch.org.uk or call 08454 04 05 06.

Farmers Markets

These are held in Exeter on Thursdays from 9am to 1pm in Fore Street. Similar markets operate in CREDITON, Christow, Cullompton, Buckfastleigh, Tavistock, etc. For a list of local producers of everything from meat to hanging baskets, go to www.bigbarn.co.uk.

Film Nights

Monthly from Autumn to Spring on Friday nights in the village hall. Not a club – all are welcome for a charge - £5.00 which includes tea/coffee and “bites”. The emphasis is on the best of the current releases but the show always kicks off with a “Tom & Jerry”. The individual shows are advertised in the Country News and by posters. For more information contact see [Film Night](#) on our my pages.

Haldon Belvedere

At one time, most of the land in Dunchideock belonged to the Palk family who, up until the early years of the 20th century, lived in a very substantial house, the remaining part of which is what is now The Lord Haldon Hotel. In 1788, the Palks built the three cornered tower which is on the top of the hill. It is known variously as Haldon Belvedere, Lawrence Tower or Lawrence Castle, in honour of Major General Stringer Lawrence (b 1697 d 10th Jan. 1775, aged 78), the founder of the Indian army. Haldon Belvedere is open to the public during the summer. It also has accommodation that can be rented. It is also licensed for Civil Wedding/Partnership Ceremonies.

It is well worth a visit and if you manage the 99 steps, the view from the roof terrace on a clear day is wonderful. Take binoculars to help you to pick out the landmarks, such as Hay Tor, Exeter Airport and Portland Bill. For opening times, see the notice board at the end of the drive, which is near the car park at the top of the hill adjacent to the Trusham turning. Or see www.haldonbelvedere.co.uk.

To hire the accommodation, phone Debbie Parnall (833 846).

Hotel

The Best Western Lord Haldon Hotel (832483) is a busy country hotel (23 rooms), specialising in conferences and weddings. In addition has an excellent restaurant with a full a la carte menu including lunchtime and evening bar menu and also a Sunday lunch.

Internet

There is an immense amount of fascinating information available about Dunchideock on the internet. Even the Treacle Mines are there! The starting point is to look at [my village home page](#) and follow the links on the pages. We have high speed fibre broadband in Dunchideock – see my web pages.

Kennels

Animal Paradise at Clapham (832595) is both kennels and cattery. They do dog grooming there also!

Library

A Devon County Council Mobile Library calls monthly, stopping at Sideling Close on School Lane between 11:55 and 12:15 on third Monday of the month.

Member of Parliament

Mel Stride is our MP, representing Central Devon - constituency office 823 306

Motoring

For motorists, there are several petrol stations nearby, the closest being the Winning Post, on the A38 at the top of the hill opposite Exeter Race Course, and the Shell Garage half way up Haldon Hill at Kennford. Also, try Kennford Garage for servicing (832050).

Newspaper Deliveries

An excellent and very reliable daily (including Sunday) delivery service is run by Country News - contact Dorothy & Ted Chegwin (833672).

Neighbourhood Watch

The parish used to participate in the Devon and Cornwall Police Community Watch Association's Neighbourhood Watch scheme but this ceased to work a few years ago.

Notice Boards

The Parish Council maintains three notice boards, located at Dunchideock Bridge, Haldon Bridge and Underdown. Look on these for village events and small adverts for gardeners, cleaners, wood suppliers, etc.

Parish Council

Dunchideock Parish Council holds its meetings in the Village Hall. Please come along and be a part of the discussions regarding the running and future of your village. Meeting dates and times are advertised on parish notice boards. The councillors (and their specific responsibilities) are set out on the Parish Council web page at www.dunchideockparishcouncil.wpcomstaging.com

Parish Plan 2005 - Some Opinions About Our Future

This was completed in 2005 (copies available from the Parish Council) and confirmed the consensus to maintain the parish more or less as it stands today. Essentially, people were happy with their existing lifestyle, enjoyed country life and wanted the minimum change. It is a village of incomers with 64% having arrived in the past 15 years and 10% in the last year. Almost a third of those eligible for work were self-employed. The population is skewed towards middle age with 35% in the 40-50 age group but only 18% over retirement age.

Perhaps in response to the isolation of the parish, technology has caught up with us and no less than 75% of households said they had a computer and 84% of these use the internet.

Car ownership is high with only 3 households not having a car. A 53% majority have two cars and one household has six! Consequently few people (<5%) had transport problems.

Alongside this "modern" lifestyle, there is a clear appreciation of the countryside and a determination to protect and maintain the environment.

The village was united in its attitude to development. Over half (54%) did not want any new housing and a further third (33%) wanted no more than 10 new houses in the next decade. A minority (6%) wanted more than 15 dwellings.

Those against more tourism outnumbered those in favour by more than 2:1 and slightly less than that ratio were against the introduction of more light industry. Some other points:

- 75% supported the idea of special nature reserves with 15 volunteering to help
- Dunchideock is a village looking for more cohesion. It is geographically spread out and for many there is a desire for more village activities with a number dreaming wistfully of both a village pub and shop.
- Communal services, such as electricity, water, postal services, and refuse collection were all satisfactory. Only the attention to the roads, particularly in winter, attracted a critical reaction (60%).
- As well as the responses to the 63 questions, there were some 400 specific comments and suggestions. Many of them proposed improvements to the environment, the roads and to the Parish Council (though overall it was thought to be doing a good job) and of course aired particular irritations and difficulties.

Whilst this was all some 5 years ago, much is still relevant to current life here – the large majority of the respondents still live here! However, any new thoughts from recent residents would be welcome. The Parish Plan will probably be replaced by a Neighbourhood Plan, a project to start in 2013

Police

Our "Neighbourhood Beat Manager", or local bobby, is PC Dave Hawkins. The general police enquiry line for both these and non-urgent calls is 101

Post Offices & Shopping

Ide Community Shop and Post Office (410035) is an excellent post office & village shop, also licenced to sell alcohol. Opening hours are Mon - Fri 8:00am – 12 noon and 3pm – 7pm Saturdays 8am – 1pm and Sundays 9am – 12 noon. See www.ideshop.co.uk

The post office counter is open Mon - Fri. 9am - 11:45am and 3pm – 5pm. Sat. 9am – 12 noon.

There is a similar Post Office and Stores run by Howard Milton (832201) in Kennford. The store is open Mon-Sat. 7am - 8pm, Sundays 8am - 7:30pm. The post office counter is open Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri. 9am - 5:30pm; Wed & Sat 9am - 1pm.

If you want superb local meat products, try Oinkers traditional farm meat at their Marks Farm Shop, Longdown (811336) or Taverners Farm Shop, organic & free range meats, Kennford (833776). For organic vegs., visit Shillingford Organics in Shillingford Abbot, (832729). Make use of their home delivery service for veg, also dairy, bakery, meat and fruit.

Local garden centres include Boyces Farm & Nursery, Shillingford St. George (832218) and Springwells Garden Nursery, Ide, (410545). Again, don't forget www.bigbarn.co.uk.

Pubs & Restaurants

There are several pubs in the area, all of which serve food. Ide has The Poachers (273847) and The Huntsman (272779). There is the Nobody Inn (01647 252394) in Doddiscombsleigh. To the east, there is the Ley Arms (832341) in Kenn along with several hotels nearby such as the Gissons Hotel (832444) in Kennford. Over the hill into the Teign valley is The Manor (01647 252304) at Lower Ashton along with the Teign House (01647 252286) and the Artichoke Inn (01647 2523 87) in Christow. But of course, closer to home in Dunchideock, The Lord Haldon Hotel (832483) has a public bar and an excellent restaurant.

Refuse Collection

Refuse and recyclable materials are collected by the Teignbridge District Council. If you have any collection problems, phone Teignbridge District Council Refuse Collection & Recycling (01626 215838).

Schools

Depending on where you live in Dunchideock, primary schooling is served by Ide First School, Doddiscombsleigh Primary School or Kenn Church of England Primary School. The associated secondary schools are West Exe Technology College and Teign School. Enquire at the county Divisional Education Office (386826) for your children. Where your home is beyond the statutory walking distance from the designated school, free transport is provided to the *nearest* school

Doddiscombsleigh Primary School	01647	252 253
Exeter College		205 222
Ide Primary School		259 964
Kenn Church of England Primary		832 347
Stover School, Newton Abbot	01626	354 505
Teign School	01626	366 969
Torquay Boys' Grammar School	01803	615 501
Torquay Girls' Grammar School	01803	613 215
West Exe Technology College		660 100

Social and Recreational Activities

Although we are a very small community, some social and recreational activities do take place here, some of which we share with neighbouring parishes. The following is a brief summary:

- **History**
Shillingford St George has an active Local History Society that usually meet in their village hall. The contact is the Revd. Christopher Pidsley (833588)
- **Horse Riding**
Dunchideock has recently become popular for horse riding with a number of commercial riding stables in the area. Our local contact is Home Farm Stables, (832645).
- **Walking**
As well as riding, this is a wonderful area for walking. We have plenty of delightful quiet lanes along with four public footpaths. Don't forget Haldon Forest Park at the top of the hill. So arm yourself with a large-scale map (OS Explorer map No. 31 Torquay & Dawlish 1:25 000 will show you all the detail) and have some great days exploring.
- **Whist**
This club meets in the village hall every other Friday for most of the year. Contact Lawrence Dow (833000) or Colin Bond (832401).
- **Film Club**
Films are screened on the 4th Friday of the month at the village hall – see earlier item.

Water

Our water provider is South West Water; report leaks to 0800 230 0561 (24 hrs/day). Other enquiries or emergencies to 0344 346 2020

Veterinary Surgeons

There are many vets around this area, including St. David's Veterinary Hospital (271221), The Veterinary Centre (491838) and Polsloe Veterinary Clinic (436006).

Village Hall

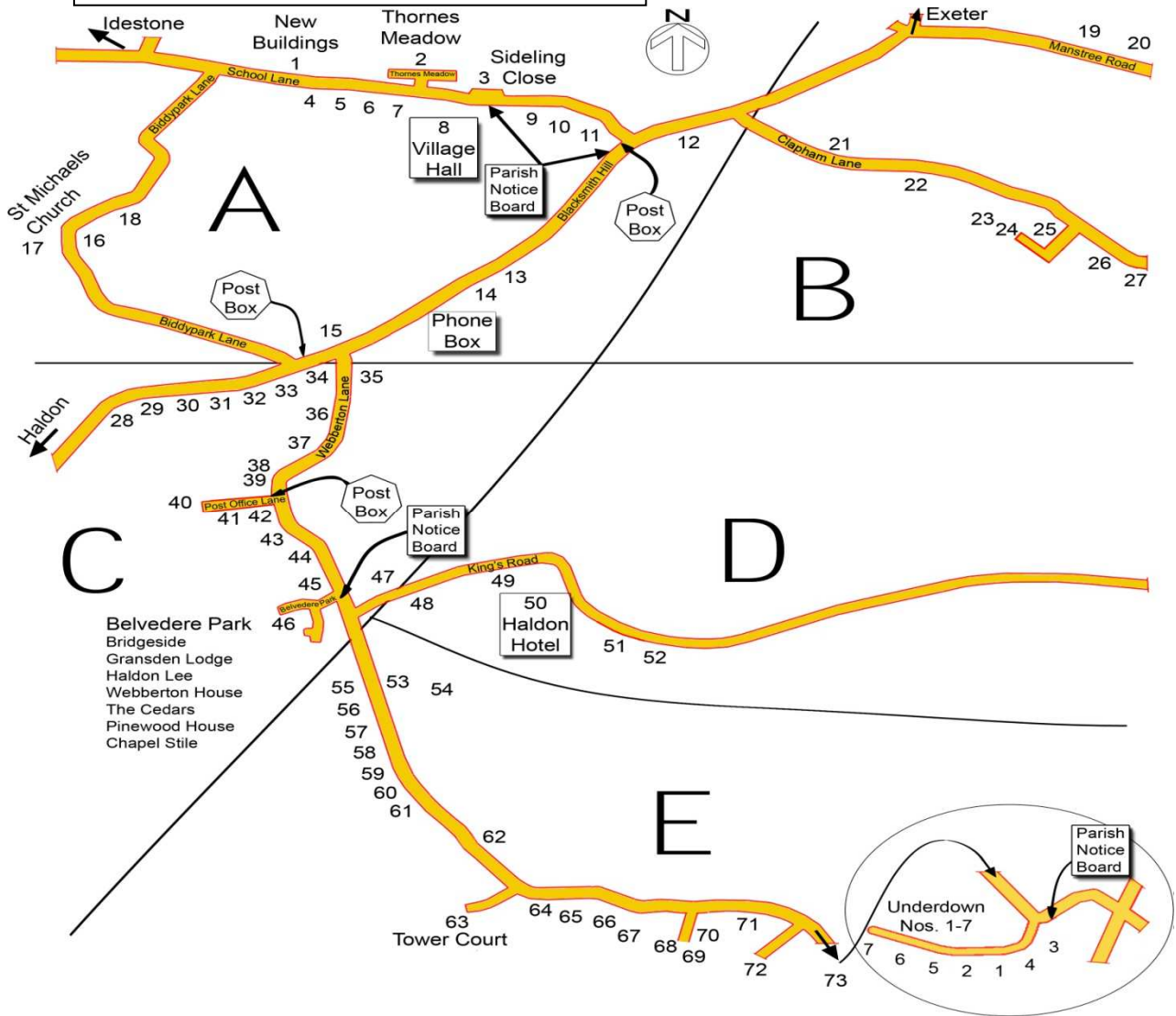
The village hall, built in 1860, used to be the village school prior to its closure in 1961. The hall complies with disabled access standards and health and safety requirements. Various groups such as the Parish Council, Women's Institute, whist, table tennis, etc. use it on a regular basis. Don't forget film nights. To book the hall, email village.hall@mail.com The postcode is EX2 9UQ

Summary

This is, of course, a brief introduction to some of the things that Dunchideock has to offer. If you need further information about local matters, the best way to find out is to ask your new neighbours or any member of the Parish Council.

This guide has been produced by myself when I was Chairman of the Parish Council to welcome new residents but also to keep everybody informed about the parish. The Parish Council no longer produces this guide but I continue it myself – contact Dudley Swain (833353). Please tell me, of corrections, additions or updates you spot. Thank you.

Dunchideock Property Finder



April Cottage	E 64	Haldon Brake	Haldon	Mikindani	C 37	The Court No.2	A 10
Bagwells	C 40	Haldon Court	E 59	Mill Bungalow	B 23	The Croft	B 22
Barton Cottages	A 18	Haldon Gardens	E 56	Mount Pleasant	E 62	The Garden House	E 58
Belmont	B 19	Haldon Grange	E 54	New Buildings	A 1	The Lodge Haldon Grange	E 53
Belvedere House	Haldon	Haldon Hotel	D 50	Nimbus	C 42	The Meadows	A 4
Belvedere Park	C 46	Haldon House	D 49	North Lawn	C 47	The Oak Lodge	C 39
Belvedere Place	Haldon	Haldon Lee	C 46	Oaklands	C 28	The Old Forge	A 14
Borough	E 72	Higher & Lower Horrells	Idestone	Orchard House	B 20	The Old Mill	B 24
Bridgeside	C 46	Hillside	E 61	Pear Tree Cottage	C 41	The Old Post Office	A 15
Butts	C 33	Hillside Cottage	E 60	Penn Hill	E 55	Thorns Meadow	A 2
Chantemerle	C 30	Home Court	E 65	Penn Hill Farm	Haldon	Throstle-Kennaford	A 11
Chapel Stile	C 46	Home Farm	E 71	Pinewood House	C 46	Tower Court	E 63
Copse Cottage	A 5	Hoppins	B 27	Rectory Cottages	A 16	Tree Tops	Haldon
Crinan	C 36	Idestone Barton & Cottage	Idestone	Riverside Cottage	A 9	Underdown	E 73
Cross Cottage	C 34	Kenn Court	D 52	Sideling Close	A 3	Village Hall	A 8
Dunchideock Barton	A 17	Kootenay	C 29	Smoke on the Water	A 7	Webberton Cottage	C 43
Dunchideock House	A 12	Lawrence House	D 51	Squirrels Nest	C 38	Webberton Court	C 44
Dunchideock Thatch	B 21	Little Lyalls	E 70	Stable Cottage	E 67	Webberton House	C 46
Forest Lodge	C 32	Lower Copse Cottage	A 6	The Barn / Robin Hill	D 48	Webberton Meadows	C 35
Foxglove Cottage	E 66	Lower Ralifee Cottage	A 13	The Beeches	C 31	Yeos Farm	B 25
Gransden Lodge	C 46	Lyalls	E 69	The Cedars	C 46	Yeos Farm Bungalows	B 26
Greenacres	C 45	Lyalls Cottage	E 68	The Cottage Haldon Gds	E 57		

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