

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY  
COMMUNITY**

# Village News



## Features

- Local Societies
- Lifestyle
- History
- Letters
- Downley Diary

Issue 90 / February 2012





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# Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	3	<b>History</b>	
<b>Local Societies</b>		The Great Funnel Of Downley	15
Downley Common News	4	Services In Downley	16/17
Chameleon Singles Group	5	<b>Lifestyle</b>	
Downley Theatre Group	6	Downley Arts Prize	18
Downley Village Evening WI	6	A Is For Ox	19
Warhorse	7	Bucks Home Library	20
Coffee Stop	8	Scannappeal Anniversary	20
DOSCA Community Library	9	Cheeseboard	21
Big News For Downley Memorial Hall	10	Spinal Injuries Association	22
Downley Community Centre	10	J. Heartycough Horticultural Hints	23
Parish Council News	11	<b>Letters</b>	
Greenbelt Arts Festival Is Found!	12	Plomer Hill Bridge	24/25
The Downley School	13	In Praise Of Downley Common	26
Wine & Beer Club	14	Do Not Delay?	27
		<b>List of Advertisers</b>	62
		<b>Downley Diary</b>	Back Page

## Editorial

**Happy New Year to all Downley residents. 2012 promises to be an exciting year with both the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics to look forward to. Of course, if you are a republican sportaphobe maybe you won't agree, but you'll need to move to Mongolia to avoid it this year!**

### Arts Competition

The Forum is working up some ideas on running an Arts Competition to be displayed in the village during the week leading up to Downley Day. This will consist of sections for painting, drawing, photography, poetry, and sculpture to be based around this year's themes of the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics with different categories for junior and senior, beginner, enthusiast and professional etc. Read more about this event further on in this newsletter.

### Rogation Walk

For those of a more active disposition, the annual walk around the (nominal) parish boundary will take place on Sunday 14th May at 2pm starting from the Memorial Hall. This might seem a long time to go but the next News won't quite be out in time to remind you so put it in your diaries now. For all you Simply Walkers, this is the ideal opportunity to put your walking skills into practise.

### Diamond Jubilee

Downley will be playing it's part in a chain of 2012 beacons across the country on 4th June that is being organised as part of the national Jubilee celebrations with the first being lit by HM The Queen sometime after 10pm. Downley will be organising other entertainments during that evening, possibly including music and fireworks so put the date in your diaries.

By the time this edition is distributed, Easter will be on the horizon, so if you want to know what's happening, check the diary on the back page. More up to date information can also be found in the website ([www.downley.org](http://www.downley.org)) and the regular eNews, to which you can subscribe through the website.

*Bill Thompson, Acting Editor (still looking for a permanent one!)*

# Downley Common

## News

**The project to open the so-called “sledging slope” by Moor Lane has continued over the autumn and winter with the felling of two hawthorns and a number of elder trees and bushes.**

The intention will be to clear this whole slope and reconnect it to the rest of Commonsides and add it to the area that is regularly mown. This will also improve the view from further along Commonsides, right across the northern part of the Common. The resulting stumps were ground out in February. A bit more landscaping may be required to enable a tractor and mower to go over it with support gratefully received from the Chilterns Conservation Board.

Another project planned for this year is the restoration of Mannings Pond at the north end (or “Top Common”). This is believed to be an old drover’s pond used for watering cattle on their way down to market at Wycombe. The rare *Damasium alisma*, commonly known as Starfruit, is also reputed to exist in Mannings Pond having been rediscovered there in 1992 but not seen since 1994.

The pond is now starting to get a bit



overgrown with grass and various other invasive species such as willow trees and some sort of management programme is needed to restore and maintain the pond in a state conducive to a diverse population of wildlife. To that end we have commissioned a survey to advise on what wildlife is to be found there, with an emphasis on aquatic flora, insects and amphibia, including newts. If the great-crested variety are found that puts the pond into a protected status and limits the type and extent of work that can be performed. As a result the survey will have a large influence on how we manage the pond environment in the future.

Any locals who wish to get involved with this project, particularly if you have any knowledge or interest in pond wildlife should get in touch with the society.

Contact details can be found at [www.downleycommon.org.uk](http://www.downleycommon.org.uk).

*Bill Thompson.*

*Downley Common Preservation Society.*



# Chameleon Singles Group

**It did seem as though we had escaped winter as January came round but perhaps the cold snap showed we were wise to keep most events in the great indoors.**

We have as I write this piece just had our AGM which thankfully is not the “Annual Gripe Meeting” but a chance to review events of the previous year and look forward to those in 2012. One thing that has been significant recently is the increase in members, so much so that we have moved the regular Pub Night to another venue as we were running out of space at the Red Lion in Penn. We will however still be going there for our Friday Lunch Club usually held on the first Friday of the month.

Our programme has a number of regular events and also some specials appropriate to the season. An example of this is our Pancake Night held on Shove Tuesday which is always well attended at a member’s home. We are very open to new ideas and events and encourage all our members to get involved as organisers be it an at home event, trip out or to a venue such as the pub, theatre or cinema. Over the next few months we have a Skittles evening, Brewery visit, Quiz Night, Indian meal, Day Trip to a Steam Railway, Cinema evening, Games night, and a museum visit all planned.

Our pub night on the last Friday of the month is a great place to meet new members and you would be very welcome to come along. We meet from 8pm at The Old Oak on New Pond Road in Holmer

Green and there is food available if you wish to eat. You are of course welcome just to join us for a drink, a chat and to find out more about the group. Our Lunch Club continues to be a successful daytime event and we are now holding this at the Red Lion in Penn.

As mentioned earlier membership has been steadily increasing over the last few months and includes a number of local people from Downley, West Wycombe, Sands and surrounding areas. If you are single, 30 plus, looking for a social life and new friends then why not give us a try?

**To find out more call Joyce on: 01494 461328, Martin on 07747 703663 or e-mail: [chameleon\\_bucks@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chameleon_bucks@tiscali.co.uk). You can also visit us on the web at: [www.bucksinfo.net/chameleon](http://www.bucksinfo.net/chameleon) where there is further information and an events listing.**

## EDITOR FOR THE VILLAGE NEWS

Did you enjoy this edition of the Village News? Could you do it better?

If so, Contact Bill Thompson at: [news@downley.org](mailto:news@downley.org)



# Downley Theatre Group

**The Theatre Group offers trips to West End shows, occasional plays and day trips and sometimes reduced cost offers from Wycombe Swan are circulated to members.**

The cost for theatre trips is generally less than the face value of the tickets and includes return coach travel from Cross Court, Plomer Green Avenue, and a tip for the driver. Suggestions for trips are always welcome although we generally look for the best value and something that should appeal to a large number.



In the past 10 years, we've visited most of the popular West End Shows from "Cabaret" to "Wicked"; been to The National Theatre a couple of times for "The History Boys" and "War Horse"; offered summer day trips to the seaside, Buckingham Palace and the Olympic Games sites in London and festive outings culminating in

the groups 50th trip to Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, for a magical evening of carols and readings on 20th December – a wonderful event to put everyone in the festive spirit.

Most people receive details of trips by e-mail but those without computers have flyers delivered to their homes by Trevor and Christine Roadnight and we are extremely grateful to them for continuing help in doing so. Members who live further afield are asked to provide stamped addressed envelopes so flyers and tickets can be posted. There is no membership fee, the trips are costed so one of us goes free to offset the work involved – approximately 12 hours for each trip.

**Do telephone or e-mail for more details or to be added to the mailing list.**

**Alan and Claire Baker  
82 Littleworth Road  
01494 437552**

**Clairebaker55@btinternet.com**

## **Downley Village Evening WI**

We have been in the village just over 40 years now, we are a friendly bunch of ladies. At our meetings we have visiting speakers, news of events locally and in the county, a competition linked to the speaker's subject and some superb refreshments supplied by the tea ladies of the month.

We meet at the Community Centre on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.45. Visitors are welcome and listed below are the speakers booked for the next few months, do come and join us.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>April 3rd</b> | The History of Holywell Mead by Mrs F Alexander           |
| <b>May 1st</b>   | Elizabeth and Phillip By Mrs B Askew                      |
| <b>June 5th</b>  | Amazing Costa Rica & its Wildlife by Mrs B Hulbert        |
| <b>July 3rd</b>  | The World of Flora Thompson (Lark Rise) by Miss C Bloxham |

**Details Mrs P Heath 01494 535998 or BFWI office 01494 526685**

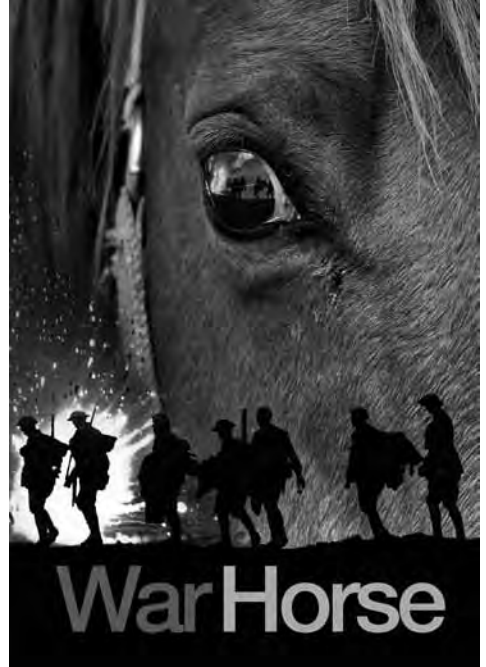
# Warhorse

**In November 2009 my husband Alec, daughter Rebecca and I went to see Warhorse at the New Theatre in London and we were all affected by the sheer brilliance of the production and of course the story that unfolded.**

We wanted to see it again and went with the Downley Theatre Group in November 2011 and it was just as amazing as before. The sheer skill of the puppeteers is incredible and you just forget they are there and you see just horses on stage which look so real. The story of Warhorse is read in school in years 7/8 as it really is a young persons book written by Michael Morpurgo who is a children's author. On the two occasions that we have been, the theatre has been full of children and they all seem to love it. I have read the book and the production kept so close to the story.

Not long after we went for the first time, there was a programme on the television on the making of the theatre production and the daunting task of making horse puppets, well they achieved the impossible. Michael Morpurgo was interviewed and he said he wanted children to appreciate the sacrifice so many young men and their beloved horses made during WW1 and the story certainly does that.

The story has a real meaning for me as my dear Father served in the First World War on the Somme and although he didn't talk about the horrors of it all, he did say that the horses were so brave and lamented the sheer slaughter of so many of them.



Today 23rd January my husband and I went to see the film of 'Warhorse', it was really good and once again kept almost to the story. We both still preferred the stage production and we were so glad of the opportunity of seeing it again and I just say it is so good to be able to pick up the coach here in Downley and to go and see a production and be brought back without all the hassle of trains or parking.

*Carol Tinworth  
Downley Theatre Group*

# The Coffee Stop

**At the start of 2012, we have been fortunate enough this year not to have been affected by snow - so far! We held a very successful Christmas event and were joined, as is now becoming a tradition, by The Fernie Fields Four and the children from The Downley School.**

Our menus continue to be well received and we are always open to suggestions for new items. Bacon butties, Jacket potatoes and substantial soups are just the thing to start off the week or to revive the energetic walkers. Lyn even turned her soup into an impromptu competition recently when she used 12 different vegetables and asked how many people could name them all, Carole Tinworth just took the victory from Margaret Chivers in a closely fought contest!

Every year we gather together any spare money accrued from our various events, raffles, Downley Day etc and donations from helpers and customers, and choose local charities to help. This year we have allocated amounts to The Scouts to help with maintenance of the centre, Rosie's Rainbow, a local charity helping to support children and their families who are experiencing life limiting conditions, and the local branch of PHAB helping disabled people and their carers. We always select from charities that are local and in some way connected with us or people we know. Thank you very much to all the people who have donated to us in various ways throughout the year.

Thanks are also due to several people who gave us Christmas gifts for ourselves; we are very rarely all together to share a bottle of wine etc. so we decided to distribute them with an internal raffle when we had our annual get together lunch recently, it seemed the fairest thing to do, so

thank you all very much.

In the next few months we will be having various extra things going on such as a book sale and demonstrations of interesting crafts. There are several knitters amongst us so if you are having problems with a particular aspect, bring things along and we will see if we can help. Do you want to learn how to send texts on your mobile phone? We may be able to help there as well. We are having a Beetle Drive on Saturday 18th Feb which promises to be great fun. There are lots of things to look forward to so do come along.

*Ann Buxton*  
*pabuxton@hotmail.com*



*The winter is finally upon us and Commonsides newly expanded sledding slope has been put to good use on the recent snowy weekend. What used to be a local rubbish tip has now been reclaimed to form a smooth grassy slope which is ideal for sledding and even a few skiers took advantage of the conditions to brush up their technique. Fortunately Moor Lane was free of traffic such that sledgers were in no danger of being flattened as they tipped over the final bank.*

# Support your local voluntary Library



Downley Community Centre  
School Close,  
Downley,  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire HP13 5TR  
Tel: 01494 528133

## Library Opening Times

Mondays 10-12 noon

Thursdays 3-5 pm

Saturdays 10-12 noon

There is a charge of 20p per book for up to three weeks loan and a 20p charge per week is made for each overdue item up to a maximum of £3.00. The loan period may be extended by phoning the library during opening times. There is now a free loan on all children's picture books.

Email: [enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk)

## Library counter



The library has now been running for six years and during that time we have amassed a constantly changing stock of about 5000 books. This number is split approximately 50:50 between adult and children's books. The library has many non-fiction children's books that cover the present school curriculum. Why not come along and have a look at our selection. If we haven't got the book you need we will do our best to get it in for you providing the cost is not too high. In addition we have wide range of children's books to suit all ages. So why not bring your children to visit your local library?

## Computer & Internet Facilities



The library has two computers for member's use, both with internet connection. This facility is free. We also have a copier/printer available. Charges are 10p for a monochrome and 25p for a colour copy.

We are looking for any used books that are no longer required, these may either be used as library stock or to gather funds for the library on Downley Day.

# Big Lottery, Big News For Downley Memorial Hall

Awards for All, part of the Big Lottery Fund, has awarded £10,000 to the Hall Trustees to be used for the installation of a steel ramp to allow access for disabled persons and the building work associated with it, i.e. new doorway access to main hall and various foundation works for the ramp. The Trustees are currently finalising details with the contractor.

In the last issue of Downley Village News an article about the Hall may have given an incorrect impression. It should have stated that "The Parish Council promised to look favourably on an application for £2,000 per annum for the upkeep of the Hall" rather than that they had agreed to make an annual grant.

The Trustees are very grateful for the continued support of the Parish Council and will be putting the latest grants towards redecorating the main hall. Already

overdue, this will become essential once the new doorway has been created.

The Trustees are also looking to hold another quiz evening in the spring and further information will be available as soon as a date has been confirmed.

Finally, we are all well aware of the sacrifice made by so many of our servicemen including those recorded on the memorials at the Hall. However, these only cover two of the many conflicts during the last century and there may have been local men, or women, who lost their lives after 1945, in Korea, the Falklands, the Gulf Wars or any of the numerous other conflicts where our forces have been involved.

If you know of any, we would be grateful if you could let us know so that we can consider how they too can be included on the Village Memorial.

*Alan Baker*

## Downley Community Centre Finish line in sight

**Refurbishment works that started last September at Downley Community Centre have proceeded to plan and are now virtually complete with final touches being made to electrics, plastering, plumbing, decoration, building access and a tarmac surface to the front of the new extension.**

New facilities include a meeting room, foyer and toilets. The new kitchen has already attracted many compliments and includes a range cooker, fridge and food preparation areas.

Current hirers are thanked for their understanding during the upgrade and will be the first to benefit from the new facilities.

Bookings are now being taken which, for the first time, includes use of the new kitchen if required at extra cost.

**For latest availability please email:  
[bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk)**



# Downley Parish Council

## News

### Dates for 2012 diaries

*Sunday 13th May*

Annual Downley Walk at 2.00 pm from the War Memorial Hall. Memorial Hall

*Monday 4th June*

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Lighting the Beacon at 10.00 pm (More details to follow shortly)

*Saturday 23rd June*

Downley Day at Commonsides starting at 1.00 pm

*Saturday 14th July*

Concert on the Common starting at 7.00 pm

*Monday 5th November*

Torchlight Procession and Bonfire on the Common at 6.30 pm

*Sunday 11th November*

Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial Hall at 3.00 pm

*Monday 31st December*

Lighting the Millennium Beacon at Commonsides at 11.45 pm

Copies of the Parish Council's Minutes are available at the Downley Community Library for residents to read. They are also included on the Parish Council Website.

Please note that the 8 Parish Council notice boards can be used to display notices for Downley based organisations provided that **at least 4 weeks notice is given**. Please drop off notices at the old post office in an envelope addressed to Downley Parish Council. **Please ensure that A.5 size notices are supplied.**

### Street Lighting

If anyone wishes to report details of street light repairs needed in the following roads, they need to phone Ringway Jacobs (lighting contractors for Bucks County Council) on 0845 2302882.

Plomer Hill, Downs Park, Hillfield Close, (Hithercroft Road and Pastures from junction with Tinkers Wood Road up to Bellfields), Westover Road, Sunnycroft, South View, Woodcote Green, Pheasant Drive, Southfield Road, Middlebrook Road, White Close and Merry Down. There are no "scouts" employed to do spot checks of lights that are not working in these areas, so the contractors have to rely on members of the public contacting them with details.

### Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday every month. In January, March, May, July, September and November meetings are at the War Memorial Hall, starting at 8.00 pm.

In February, April, June, August, October and December meetings are at the Community Centre, School Close starting at 7.45 pm. Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th April at the War Memorial Hall starting at 8.00 pm.

Agendas are posted on the Parish Council notice boards at least 4 days in advance.

The Clerk (Chris Hamilton) can be contacted on 01494 462195 or by email at [downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)

# The Greenbelt Arts Festival Is Found!

**Hello Downley! and thank you Mr Editor for asking me to write this article and invite you the reader to what has become, to generations of people, a very special annual event: Greenbelt.**

Back in the 1970s, people got together in a field near Kettering and spent the August Bank Holiday weekend sharing music, poetry and prose which was inspired by their Christian faith. Over three decades later, the mud has gone and the bell-bottom trousers are no more but the aim is the same: to explore life, the universe and everything through faith-inspired creativity and open-minded debate. I've been going to Greenbelt since 1996 when a friend invited me and it changed me forever. In fact, it never ceases to change and challenge me. This year, my husband and I, with our three kids (aged 12, 2½ and 1), are off to Greenbelt again but this time, it'll be different because I'm

leading a group visit to the Festival....and I cannot wait.

Greenbelt 2012 is entitled Saving Paradise. As ever, it will bring together the best in live music, intelligent talks and debates, thrilling performing arts, imaginative and expressive worship, brilliant comedy, visionary speakers, and plenty to do for kids, young people and the whole family! Visit [www.greenbelt.org.uk](http://www.greenbelt.org.uk) to see and hear more. How about YOU come and join those of us already signed up? You don't have to stay in a tent. You don't even have to have a faith, something that might surprise you. Greenbelt is also much less expensive than other Christian festivals. There is even one ticket going FREE for every ten people who book onto the group. Fancy that! Please contact me asap on 01494 526896 if you'd like to know more.

*Nicky Skipworth  
(priest, St James' Church, Downley)*



# Downley School

**There was much celebrating to be done during the second half of last term.**

We had a guest speaker in one of our assemblies from a temple in Slough who told us the story of Diwali and how Sikhs and Hindus celebrate during this festival of light. We also welcomed a guest from the synagogue in Maidenhead who taught us about Hanukkah and how people of the Jewish faith celebrate. We regularly welcome our local vicars from The Pastures Church and they explored the Christmas story in assemblies as well.

Christmas was a fun time at The Downley School. Our youngest pupils in Reception sang their hearts out in their nativity performance, which included some fine acting as well. Local senior citizens, local nurseries and the rest of the school also enjoyed this event, as well as the children's parents of course. There was many a tear in the audience. Year 6 pupils visited The Pastures Church for a workshop entitled Christmas Unwrapped and our Year 4 pupils told their families and members of the local community the story of The First Christmas during a magical evening's performance. Our choir sang beautifully at The Pastures and also St James Church to give more Christmas cheer to villagers.

The school's Parents Association organised a brilliant Christmas Fayre to which most of our children came with family members and friends. Thank you to all members of the community who supported this event. It was great fun and the money raised will directly benefit the children.

As well as all the fun, we focussed on national Anti-Bullying Week in November.

Keeping safe, looking after each other and a zero tolerance to bullying is core to our school at all times, but extra activities such as a theatre group coming to school and a 'Kindness' art competition added depth to our work in this area.

We welcomed lots of mums and grans into school at the beginning of December for 'Mums In School' day. A chance to come into school and join in with activities and see how school works and how the children learn.

The children have been out of school on trips to support their learning as well as learning from specialists coming into school. Year 2 went on a local walk, looking at historical and geographical features of Downley. Year 5 visited Sulgrave Manor and also worked with an outdoor learning drama specialist to enhance their studies of life in Tudor times.

There haven't been many sporting fixtures during this time of dark evenings, but our netball team made us very proud one Saturday in November by winning a ten team tournament at Kingsmead. The children have been enjoying Cross Country training at school – a new development introduced by our new Games specialist teacher.

We are looking forward to the lighter evenings and to spring arriving in the none too distant future. There are lots of activities and trips planned for the rest of the school year. I look forward to telling you all about them in the next issue.



*Mrs Webb, Headteacher*

# Wine & Beer Club

**Due to building work taking place at the Community Centre, the Wine & Beer Club held their Christmas gathering at the Memorial Hall.**

This provided an excellent opportunity for those members bold enough, to “take a turn” on the stage and present an outstanding performance of “Jack & the Grapevine” specially produced, written and performed by a member for the event that proved to be a fabulous, topical and amusingly local pantomime

“Bravo” to all cast members for being brave enough to perform, and encouraging us to heckle them in true panto tradition!

Downley Wine and Beer kicked off their 2012 programme with an evening identifying wines to go with spicy foods. It was run by Warren Edwardes, from Wines for Spice – an independent wine producer who has developed and blended wines specifically for eating with curries, spicy food and other ‘world cuisine’. We thought you might find some of his ‘tips’ useful.

He suggests that the basic principles for matching wine with Spicy Food are to choose refreshing drinks Or those with a touch of sweetness to offset chilli-bite.

- Lager beer cold - Beer has injected gas which produce larger burpy bubbles
- Naturally Sparkling or Semi-Sparkling wine
- Wines should have good mouth-watering lemony acidity.
- Oak-free aging. Stainless steel gives a fresh crisp feel to the wine
- No mouth-drying tannin. So low tannin red wines only and these are only suitable for mild or perhaps medium spices.
- Moderate but not very low alcohol.

Finding few products on the market which offered quality and character to accompany curries Warren used his experience and training in wine tasting and his knowledge of spicy cuisine to blend grapes and wines to produce a number of wines for the job. All 3 of his wines use some Spanish grapes from Catalonia:

Viceroy White - this is a Macabeo / Parellada / Xarel.lo blend and is Very Dry (for mild spice)

Raja Rosé - this is a Garnacha / Tempranillo blend also and is Quite Dry with a light sparkle (for medium spice)

Rani Gold – is a Muscat / Macabeo / Parellada / Xarel.lo blend and is Off Dry (for hot spice – this wine was a favourite of the group)

The above wines are all available mail order from <http://wineforspice.com/> at around £6 per bottle. But he also suggested alternatives from supermarkets:

For mild spices Cavas Hill Reserva White wine - Brut Nature NV from Catalonia Spain

For medium spices - Conto Vecchio Pinot Grigio Blush Rosé from Venetie Italy or Morgon Les Griottes Mommessin light red wine - Gamay Beaujolais from France

And for hot spices - Vinedos de la Posada, Organic Fairtrade 2009 White Torrontes, from La Rioja Argentina or C H Prinz von Hessen, White Riesling from Rheingau Germany

During general conversations he also mentioned that Filtered Wheat beers such as Krystall Weiss or Brachetto de Acqui Italian Red Frizzante wines were also particularly good with hot foods. Downley Wine and Beer members thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and the accompanying foods and wines and felt that they would use the tips next time they went for a curry. Hope you too find the tips useful.

*Paul Homer and Melanie Ashton*

# The Great Funnel of Downley

**Did you know that Downley's woodworking industry played a part in the story of the Titanic?**

It is a little-known fact that because the Titanic had 3 engines, only three of the four 62 foot funnels were functional: the fourth, which only provided ventilation, was added to make the ship look more impressive.



Being fake, it was decided that it could be made of wood to save weight and cost. However this was not a skill the shipbuilders at Harland and Woolf were very familiar with and it was therefore decided to go out to tender. The idea of producing fake wooden funnels was not particularly unusual at that period and there were several companies that specialised in the field, one of which was The Wooden Funnel Company Ltd of Downley (known as "the Woofers") who were in competition with their great rivals the Naphill Artisans (Fake Funnels) Ltd who were more commonly known by their unfortunate initials.



A fierce bidding war broke which was finally won by the Downley firm who proudly completed their most famous contract in the autumn of 1910. This rare photograph shows the completed funnel being transported along Commons side

When the Titanic went down, the funnel became detached from the main superstructure and several dozen individuals from the ship were able to scramble aboard. Unfortunately the huge size of the funnel presented a large area like a sail to the prevailing northerly winds and it was rapidly blown south and was completely out of sight by the time the Carpathia arrived to rescue the few remaining survivors. They were never seen or heard of again but rumours abound of strange craft appearing in an area of sea near Bermuda.

The truth is out there!



# Services In Downley Village

**An extract from a memoir written by Joe Bowler who has lived in Downley all his life.**

Downley in the early thirties, and indeed in some parts much later had very limited services. Water was drawn from the well which collected rain from off the house roof, and in some cases was discharged into large water butts. When the first council houses were built semi rotary hand pumps were fitted in the kitchens, which brought the water up from the well. For the people that moved into the new houses this was a big step forward into the twentieth century.

The main drainage didn't come to the village till the middle thirties, so the waste was dispatched to a cesspit and was collected when necessary by a lorry which we called the 'Dirty Dennis'. For those houses without a cesspit the bucket lavatory was the accepted means of collection, the disposal of which involved all sorts of methods; open trenches across the garden covered with lime and soil, or in open pits, which in time were filled over with earth. They used to say that was where the best runner beans and sweet peas grew. There was a man in the village that used to earn a few shillings for emptying these buckets. He could often be seen in the twilight hours carrying two buckets on a wooden yoke, no doubt to be despatched to his own private little hole.

Those bucket lavatories were sited in small brick or timber buildings which had an small door in one side to allow the bucket to be removed. They were usually sited away from the house, and it wasn't a very pleasant journey to make on a cold winters night, The seats were made from planed wood, mostly single seaters, but sometimes a smaller seat especially for children would be made to fit over the

larger hole. Toilet paper was made from squares of newspaper, a hole pierced in one corner and a piece of string threaded through and hung up on a conveniently sited nail. Much time was spent after reading an interesting piece of paper, trying to find the matching piece from the rest of the bundle. To secure the door a piece of string was fixed to the door and tied back to a nail on the wall.

Because it wasn't practical for everyone to go out to the privy in the cold night air, every household had a collection of chamber pots (often referred to as 'Jerries') which were modestly placed under the bed. It was a convenient way to allow everyone to pee in comfort, and I'm afraid that the emptying of them was left to the mother of the house. They were often emptied on the compost heap as it accelerated the decomposition, not very hygienic, but practical.

Lighting was given from paraffin wick lamps. Some were really beautifully made, and they gave just enough light to read by. For seeing to get to bed a candle was the only other means of light. So when the electricity was finally laid on and each house had a light in the kitchen and one in the living room, as well as one 15 amp plug for power, we all thought we had truly entered the twentieth century. The number of appliances that were connected to the lighting socket was unbelievable, and would have had today's health and safety officials in spasms.

Cooking was mostly done on the kitchen range, a cast iron top on which you could boil saucepans and kettles, with a side oven from which came the most wonderful tasting cakes and tarts as well as the roast

Sunday dinner. From the open front you could make the most delicious toast, much tastier than anything cooked by modern day electric toasters or grills. The main drawback was that the fire had to be lit every morning. This needed lighting wood to start, and the wind in the right direction otherwise you could get a room full of smoke. The main fuel was coal which was delivered in big sacks weighing one cwt usually half a ton at a time, a big outlay for the family.

Very often we youngsters would help out by bringing boughs back from the wood. Sometimes you were able to buy a complete tree from West Wycombe Estate. I remember our family buying one of these trees, cutting it down with a long cross cut two handled saw. The morning ended in disaster because when the tree crashed

down it frightened the horse we had hired along with a cart to get the tree home. The horse reared up and charged off, tearing a wheel off the cart in its rush to get away, I can't remember the outcome, but I'm sure they got the wood home somehow. Trying to copy our elders me and my friend borrowed a similar saw from the farmer Mr Cross. It was really blunt, but we selected the tree we thought would fall nicely. When after hours of sawing the tree finally crashed down it made so much noise it really scared us and we ran off. Of course we would have been in real trouble if we had been caught as I think the tree was suitable for furniture making.

**To read more of Joe's memoir online:  
[downley.org](http://downley.org)**



# Call For Entries

## Downley Village Art Prizes 2012

This year is likely to be one to remember, you don't have to be a sports fan or a royalist to enjoy getting together with friends and family to celebrate big occasions.

Those things we recall relating to major events and significant years tend not to be the parades, records and medals witnessed on TV but the street parties and gatherings experienced together, closer to home.

The Downley Village Art Prizes 2012 aim is to record and enhance those future memories in a tangible way creating a legacy of images and words to form part of personal and community history and of course to be a lot of fun in the process.

There will be four areas of the arts to enter; drawing & painting, sculpture, photography and poetry. These will be divided into two major categories of junior and adult with the juniors in three age groups; pre-school, primary school and secondary school and adults into three categories of beginner, student and professional.

**The themes for contributions are simply:**

**Olympics  
Jubilee**

**The deadline for entries is:  
Saturday 9th of June.**

A local venue (to be confirmed) will hold an exhibition of entries from Saturday 16th through to Saturday 23rd June, when the prizes will be presented during Downley Day.

We hope that as many of the local schools, churches, clubs and societies as well as individuals will take part.

A wide the range of entries will make for exciting pieces of work and a more engaging exhibition.

**These ideas are still being worked up and if any interested folk want to get involved (such as judging) or have any good ideas, please contact [news@downley.org](mailto:news@downley.org). The website will post further information as it is confirmed and eventually the artworks will be displayed there.**





## is for Ox\*

*'Pictures and letters are really blood relations'* E. H. Gombrich (Art Historian)

We all love making our mark and an art prize is great excuse to make a few more. 'Art' is a huge word and many would prefer it wasn't made smaller by using it in combination with 'prize' but don't think competition think sharing. The overriding motivation for a village arts prize is to share images, words and ideas that prompt oohs, ahs and the odd gasp.

*'It's always better to be looked over than overlooked.'* Mae West

The first challenge can be just getting started. For some the stumbling block will be working to a theme and for others the lack of one. A box to break out of versus open spaces and the world as a canvas. We are all different as is our approach to work.

Personally I'm a prevaricator. Graphic designer Shigeo Fukuda puts a more positive spin on building up to marking the first mark. *'When I start work on a job, first I wash my hands with soap. Then I sharpen ten or more pencils with a cutter-knife. This is a sort of ceremony aimed at putting the ideas into shape.'* If any of that has anything to do with building confidence Pablo Picasso seemingly had no such issue, *'Give me a museum and I'll fill it.'* Getting started is also less of an issue for fashion designer Vivienne Westwood but finishing? *'I try one way of doing something, and then try another, to see if that works. But even when I've done that I try its opposite, to see if that works.'*

Junior participants can take heart as Picasso suggests the whole process should be less of an issue for them, *'Every child is an artist. The problem is how to*

*remain an artist once we grow up.'* Being a young artist is not all roses though, do you remember how the peace of the school art room could be shattered at the mention of tracing? If a piece of work stood out on the pin board a sea of hands would go up with cries of *'Please Miss he traced it'* or as a piece was handed in the proud but defensive artist would volunteer *'And I didn't even trace it'*. Any sense of shame was misplaced as it is more than possible that tracing has a distinguished history. In David Hockney's book *'Secret Knowledge'* he reveals and speculates on the use of lenses and mirrors and how artists such as Caravaggio, Velazquez, van Eyck, Holbein, Leonardo and Ingres used them to create their famous masterpieces. The great American illustrator Norman Rockwell would employ a photographer, compose a set, populate it with models and then project the results directly onto his canvas for painting.

*'Immature poets imitate; mature poets steal.'* T S Eliot

Today with computers, image downloading and sampling, the gloves are off and we can create in any way we wish. It is about the end result, the image, how it looks, makes us feel and what it has to say. We all triumph by imagination, after all the person you love is 72.8% water.

*Pat Weedon*

*A lady on inspecting the latest work of Matisse said to the artist 'But, surely the arm of this woman is much too long.' 'Madame,' he politely replied, 'you are mistaken. This is not a woman, this is a picture.'*

*\*As a pictogram the letter 'A' started life the other way up and represented an ox.*

# Bucks Home Library Service Volunteers booked in for Awards.

The volunteers who keep Buckinghamshire's housebound readers supplied with books were recognised for their efforts on 29th November 2011 in Lacey Green Village Hall. 13 WRVS volunteers were presented with an 'Ulverscroft Foundation Certificate of Merit' by Councillor Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, to mark at least a decade of delivering books.

33 of the 263 WRVS volunteers have been delivering books and spoken word to housebound readers in Buckinghamshire for at least the last 10 years. Kari Dome, from Beaconsfield, has been visiting the same lady since 1997 and has followed her around the county when she moved homes, now going to Slough every month. Mary Wiles, from

Prestwood, had been visiting a lady who turned 100 last year and arranged for a letter of congratulations from Sir Alex Ferguson as she's a big fan of Manchester United.

**If you would like to know more about the Home Library Service please contact us on 0845 2303232 or email [homelibraryservice@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@buckscc.gov.uk). Hazel Clarke, WRVS Manager for Bucks Home Library Service.**



## Scannappeal Anniversary

**This year marks Scannappeal's 25th anniversary and currently, every 10 minutes a patient is diagnosed or treated with equipment supplied in the past to Amersham, Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville hospitals. If you, a relative or a friend has had cancer or heart disease, the chances are that they have benefited from Scannappeal's work.**

You can help mark Scannappeal's special year in 2012 and help ensure the charity can continue to provide the most advanced equipment possible for local patients. If you are celebrating a special birthday or anniversary this year, why not share it with Scannappeal and ask for donations in lieu of presents and help the Appeal or hospital of your choice?

Take part in HOST25 – simply ask 25 people round for coffee, tea, drinks or even a meal, either altogether on one occasion or spread over several dates. Make a small charge appropriate to your event.

Challenge25 – get sponsored to

undertake a 25 themed challenge.

*These are just some ideas – Contact Scannappeal on 01494 734161 or email [info.scannappeal@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk](mailto:scannappeal@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk).*

**Make a secure donation to Scannappeal at [www.justgiving.com/scannappeal](http://www.justgiving.com/scannappeal) to support our current fundraising for:**

- **The HeartScan Appeal (Wycombe Hospital)**
- **The Brain Injury Unit Appeal (Amersham Hospital)**
- **The Cancer Fighting Fund**

# Cheese Board

## Local Food, is it all it's cracked up to be?

We are constantly being told to buy locally produced food. I can appreciate the need to reduce food miles and protect the environment, but will we put our traditional regional dishes at risk with an over emphasis on the word local?

What is local? Is it anything produced within 10 miles or 100? What percentage of its ingredients is local? Does it respect local agriculture practice?

I note that supermarkets are now stocking local produce. They even tell us the name of the farm, but how far does it travel before it gets to us? A friend in Norfolk lives next to a field of carrots. When they are harvested they are taken to a packing and washing plant 15 miles away. They then journey to the distribution centre another 80 miles and three days later they come back to the local supermarket. Could these be labelled local? On a rare visit to a local branch of one the 'big four' I noted that their local eggs were packed in Cambridgeshire. Where are they laid? Ours come from Lacey's Family Farm in Lane End.

How much local produce and food miles are in 'Orange Marmalade'? Even in the best scenario it could only be beet sugar and that's not very local. To me real local food is that which can be grown or raised locally with the addition of other, well environmentally sourced, ingredients.

I totally appreciate the ethos of local food but to me it has to be much more. It must be humanely and ethically produced without the need for artificial additives, but the prime motivator must be quality and flavour. Locally produced food does not always meet these criteria. Local food is

generally accepted as being produced by small artisan suppliers making to a high standard. As a deli owner I am constantly bombarded by local producers offering supplies of their lovingly made chutneys and jams that are frankly vastly overpriced or poorer quality than some supermarket brands. I am astounded at the sudden plethora of cup cakes I am being offered that vary from the sublime to sickly sweet stodge and again at prices that do not reflect the quality.

Conversely there are those makers producing amazing foods that would delight anybody. To me our local cheese makers (that's if 17miles is local) Anne Wigmore and Sandy Rose are true masters of their craft and understand taste. Lacey's Farm supplies wonderful Guernsey milk which Anne turns into Waterloo, an unctuous creamy rind washed cheese. The Mead family from Tring are producing a great range of oilseed rape products and Kristina Streatfield's honey from Cryers Hill is redolent of the Chilterns.

If, as one of my customers suggest, we should only eat local what happens to all of our other traditional dishes, Lincolnshire Sausage, Cornish Pasties, West Country Farmhouse Cheddar et al?

Local food can be great and must be encouraged but lets have some great flavours and clarity of its origins. More importantly we should continue to encourage all artisan producers to offer foods of quality and taste so that we continue to have the eclectic mix of food we currently enjoy.



*Les Root  
Roots-Delicatessen*

# “Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”

## Great British Fish and Chip Supper Friday 18th May 2012

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 18th May 2012 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services. You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA. Last year we had over 100 suppers taking part in England and Wales and we raised £6,000. In the three years we have been running the event we have raised £20,000 to support spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the

moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip

Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group. Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives

### For more information or request a fundraising pack:

Call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350  
or email [fishandchips@spinal.co.uk](mailto:fishandchips@spinal.co.uk)  
or visit [www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips](http://www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips)



# J.Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

**Wal, happy new year to all my readers, I hope you took notice of all my vital horticultural hints in the last Village News.**

I don't want to waste my time here, helping you out, eh? Did you get your beans in? I'm blown if I did, too much time sitting here in front of the commuter writing this stuff, and not enough outside! Wal, anyway, did your stuff survive the gales? My netting tunnel got pushed over, but the really good news is that the dreaded white fly on the brussels got blowed right away northwards, and that means over Nappel! Serves 'em right I say, funny lot...never could make 'em out.

Anyway, what about the H.Hs? (get it?). I reckon it's the big tidy up time, and plant and seed ordering time. Make sure orl yor prunin's done, get rid of last years raspberrry canes, cut out most of the old blackberry and loganberry vines and burn them. Get them seed potatoes a-chitting, them Charlotte pots are good for salads, but they don't keep too well, and get Sturon round sort onion sets, they really do keep, my old lady is still using 'em, had some with leeks in a rabbit pie today! Then it's time to get the tommy toes sown, on a window cill if you like, this global

warming's great, they'll ripen outside, they never did 40 years ago! And this weather, really mild, birds singing, bulbs a showin', muntjac love em, how do you keep muntjac out of the garden? Answers please on the back of a £20 note....only joking, a tenner would do. Try early lettuce in a cold frame, and get your peas into seedboxes....peas are good up at the plot, but not directly sown. I'm trying to get Mrs H. to put a few words here about flowers, but she's too busy she reckons, But you could try some late planted summer bulbs, alliums for example (they are oniony things for the more ignorant of you...).

Finally, something that gets me going is when I see on a seed packet, leeks for example, 'Average contents 370' So does that mean I get 370, or maybe only 300, and someone else gets 440? Mind you I'm not too good on figures, so I usually open the packet in the shop and count up to make sure I'm not being diddled. But if you do that don't sneeze!

Here's to longer days, get out there and get digging!

*J.H  
sent from my iSpade.*



# Plomer Hill Bridge

**In edition 89 of the Village News, the Parish Council expressed concern over the works carried out on the railway bridge at the bottom of Plomer Hill. The following letters continue the story.**

*Response from Errol Allen, Senior Traffic Systems Engineer, Transport for Buckinghamshire (3/1/12)*

The fact is that the strengthening of the bridge was a safety scheme that had to be done as a matter of urgency. As a result of this work the carriageway width have had to be reduced to accommodate the process, thus resulting in lane loss.

The re-phasing and re-timing of the traffic lights was circumstantial to this situation. This is because the left turning traffic out of Plomer Hill would have been unable to get to the stopline in anticipation of the left filter arrow going green because of this lane loss (narrowing of the carriageway). You will agree with me that this would have resulted in a wasted green time - that is, seeing the left green filter light but is unable to get to cross the stopline. Therefore, it is only logical to allow both LEFT and RIGHT TURNING traffic to proceed together out of Plomer Hill. I can assure you that this is, cost effective, compliant, safe and sensible given the circumstances.

I have also mitigated the situation by giving more time to this arm of the junction. However, giving anymore time to traffic coming out of Plomer Hill would be counter-intuitive as this would have to be at the expense of the main A40 West Wycombe Road which naturally have priority in traffic signal terms.

This matter has been thoroughly discussed between ourselves and the Local Parish Council and it has been agreed that no further action will be taken for the time being.

Again I apologise for any inconveniences caused, but my only suggestion to you at this point in time is to start your journey at least minutes earlier during the morning peak period.

*Response to the Parish Council from Nicola Head, Team Leader for Bridges (17/1/12)*

The high containment kerbs recently installed on Plomer Hill Railway bridge are a necessary safety measure because the bridge verges have been identified as not capable of carrying unrestricted vehicle loading (they are rated at just 3t). The risk of vehicles over 3t causing structural damage to the bridge deck is considered high, and could result in a collapse onto the railway below, risking both motorists and railway users. Other options were considered to deal with the problem, but there was inadequate room for safety fencing and all options to strengthen the bridge itself (which is owned and maintained by Network Rail) are prohibitively expensive.

It had also been observed that pedestrians were at risk of vehicle impact when crossing the bridge because motorists were going up onto the verges in order to left turn out onto the A40, as there was not room within the standard kerbs to have three lanes of traffic over the bridge.

The kerbs cannot be set any further back because of the layout of the bridge deck beams and structural deck and because we do not want to load the weak verge construction any further. To fit suitable kerbs in we had no option but to narrow the road slightly because of the bridge deck construction and identified weaknesses. The kerbs in use are the smallest possible to do the required job of keeping large vehicles safely off of the verge.

It is acknowledged that there has been some increase in the queuing times on Plomer Hill, so a change has been made to the phasing of the traffic lights to alleviate the situation as much as the geometric constraints of the road layout allows. There is unfortunately not enough room to allow three lanes of traffic over the existing bridge, which was not possible before without over running of the verge, and widening the bridge is unaffordable. The site works have cost in the region of £18,000, which is considerably cheaper than strengthening and widening the bridge which were estimated to cost in the region of £1,000,000.

Whilst the situation is not ideal, Transport for Buckinghamshire has had to make a difficult decision to deal with a serious safety issue within tight economic constraints.

*Further response from the Parish Council (17/1/12)*

The representatives of the Parish Council who met Transport for Buckinghamshire officers on the bridge were unhappy with their response which maintained that they could not obtain any other solution to the problem of the bottleneck on the bridge in peak traffic hours and were left with no alternative. On the day it was apparent that there was a considerable increase in queuing times and this was accepted by the County representatives but they were unable to come up with any physical changes to the high containment kerbs. We argued for the re-phasing of the traffic lights to help improve the flow of outward bound traffic from Downley and certain adjustments have been made.

Downley Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and make further representations to TfB as considered necessary. The whole situation could have been made easier if Transport for Buckinghamshire had taken the trouble to consult Downley Parish Council in the first place but the impression was given that they were under pressure to reduce any risk of damage to the bridge and felt obliged on Health and Safety grounds to make the changes that they did. The latest position regarding the re-painting of the white lines across the railway bridge is that a contractor is being recruited so that this urgent work can be carried out.

# In Praise of Downley Common

‘Oh to be in Downley now that Winter’s here .....’ to misquote Robert Browning. What a joy to pull up the blind and look across to the winter sun lighting up the oaks, cherry trees and beeches that form a lovely backdrop opposite my cottage.

In the short days around the winter solstice the lengthened shadows leave the footpath on Commonsideside and a good deal of the Common in shade, but on the frequent bright days we have enjoyed since September there is a sunny area at the far side where I can still walk and enjoy the childish pleasure of crunching through the crisp leaves, releasing the nutty smell of Autumn. This has happened so much later than usual; the oaks clung to their tarnished gold into December, long after the ash tree had shed its paler yellow leaves to reveal the graceful spread of its bare branches. In the Spring I watched to see whether the oak or the ash came into leaf first to know whether to expect a soak or a splash that Summer. I wonder if there is a Winter equivalent of that old saying to warn us of the kind of winter to prepare for?

This is when the trees show us their bare bones; when we can see them in all their different forms; the embracing spread of the oak, the upreaching branches from the tall trunk of the beech and the tangle of hawthorn. Even with less than perfect sight I can still distinguish and appreciate them clearly etched against a cloudless sky, when only the pattern of exhaust trailing from aircraft scribbles the blue, or red kites swoop and glide.

As I walk a phrase goes through my mind – ‘storing up images against the dark’. Am I quoting something read or heard or did I make it up? Snatches of verse and whole poems memorised long ago come drifting to mind so often. I belong to a generation that ‘learned by heart’ for pleasure and as a useful source of material for exams. In those days text books were not allowed in the exam room although I believe they are now. In old age, unable to see well enough to read, a store of poetry in my memory is such a joy. This ranges from the profound (a sonnet by Shakespeare or Keats), something light-hearted, trivial or just plain silly.

Each day I weigh up the benefit of taking exercise in the fresh air against the disadvantage of braving the strong wind and often decide to forego my daily walk. But even when my warm cottage wins, I can still enjoy the Common from my window. This was what made us choose Downley some 44 years ago, when we moved from Wiltshire and although I enjoy an occasional visit to Salisbury, I have never regretted the move.

Deborah Brewer



# Do Not Delay?

Does anyone else have any knowledge about the DO NOT DELAY! Project which leaves bags for people to donate clothing around Downley?

The Bags bear the pink ribbon symbol which is associated with Breast Cancer Charities worldwide, but careful reading of the information on the bags only reveals that the sale of the clothes goes to help provide 'information and screenings for women ... with breast cancer', and that they donate a minimum of £5,000 each month to this cause.

I was unsure of whether to donate to them because I had heard about companies which collect second hand clothing under the guise of being a charity, and make a lot of money from doing so. Meanwhile real registered charities lose out, and the unsuspecting donor is none the wiser. As companies who openly buy old clothes locally are offering £500/tonne, it is obviously quite a lucrative business to be in if you don't even have to pay for the clothes, but have them donated instead.

I do not claim that this organisation operates in this way, but I have challenged several of the distributors and collectors and none of them speaks enough English to be able to tell me anything about how they operate.

I did a search for the organisation online and their site looks impressive – till you read it in detail. There are articles about Kylie, Sheryl Crow and Betty Ford and their fight against cancer, but no real endorsement from these high profile celebrities. There is a Q&A section which reveals:

It is not a registered charity in the uk, but it is in Lithuania – which had the highest rate of breast cancer amongst women in Europe – 'six years ago'

It funds a small pink minibus (it does not state that there is more than one) which goes to various locations in Lithuania to spread advice about cancer care ('take care of your health, and pay more attention to yourselves for your own sake and the sake of those who love you' - hardly rocket science) and screening using 'special equipment' and 'qualified doctors.' A lot of the copy is in pidgin English – at best.

It says it donates £5,000 a month to this work, but makes no mention of what percentage this is of what it actually earns from its collections in the UK and Ireland (or the rest of Europe) – a key issue for any 'charity'. If clothes are worth £500 a tonne, it could be quite a lot.

If anyone else has any ideas or information about this organisation, I should be glad to hear it. In the meantime, although I think it is an excellent idea to help those with breast cancer – whether here or in the rest of the world, I won't be choosing to donate through their scheme because as far as I can see there is simply too little evidence that this is anything more than a business which makes some donations to a good cause – and I don't think that's the definition of a charity. The Ian Rennie shop is in the village and its credentials are well established.

I should be delighted to hear that my thoughts on this project are unfounded - does anyone else have any knowledge?

Philippa Brewer – School Close, Downley

*Are You Planning a Street Party  
for the Diamond Jubilee?*



*Why Not Join in the Common Street Party on Commonside.*

Set up your own street party on the Common and take advantage of music and a BBQ throughout the evening topped off by lighting the beacon and fireworks.

Keep watching Village eNews and noticeboards for developing information.

## Downley Drivers



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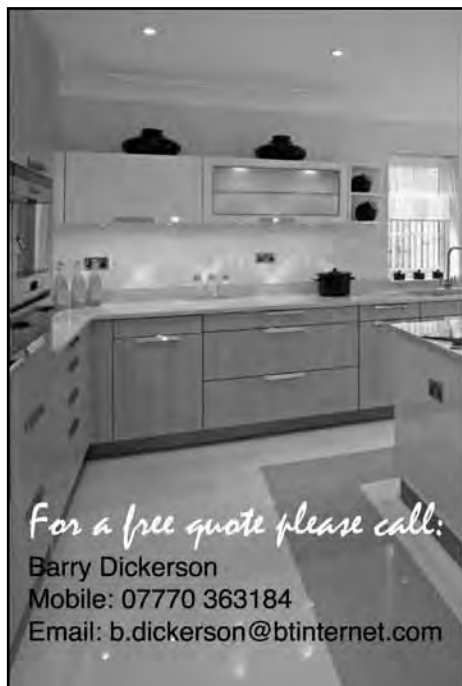
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Academy GB Doors	29	Magic Carpets	44
Altea Beauty & Holistic Centre	30	M&J Motors	43
Andrews Tree & Hedge Care	31	Mary Kay Cosmetics	33
Andy Warner Fencing & Decking	32	Michael Day Lawncare & Landscaping	46
“Are you sitting comfortably” Upholstery	31	M T S Window Cleaning	46
AS Judo Academy	58	New Look Cleaning	44
Aquarius Window Cleaning	61	P K Stroy, Builder	47
Body & Soul Beauty Salon	34	Peter Cork Plumbing	47
Complete Bathrooms & Kitchens	55	P H Decorating	48
Corbel Builders	35	Ranasana Tandoori	49
DJ Coles Property Services	53	Red Kite Paintings	61
D & P Heating	36	Revive Car Bodywork	50
Downley Doggy Daycare	56	Roof Technology	63
Downley Drivers	28	Sewing Machinist	44
Estelle Wingrove Puppy & Pet Training	61	St James’ Church	45
Gadget Plumbing	44	Sprirt Hair Company	52
Hammond Construction	37	Suttons’ Property Maintenance	53
IHD Solutions Web Design	38	The Window Doctor	35
Jasmin Power Clarinet Teacher	38	The Painted Kitchen Company	56
J H Austin Painting & Decorating	39	The Professional Building Company	51
Jill Burrell Tutor	40	Tip to Toe	59
JR Travel. Private Hire	42	Top Marks Tuition	41
K M G Building Contractors	41	Wave a Wand	55
LEAP	60	Woodland Management	53
Le De Spencers Arms	58	Woodland Pre-School	57
Little Bobbins	61	Workmans Aircon	54
Maid2Clean	36	Wye Residential	2

## Credits

### Editor

The Village News is currently edited by an editorial team drawn from the Downley Communications Forum. A volunteer is sought for the permanent position of Editor. Contact:

*info@downley.org*

### Layout

Pat Weedon at *news@downley.org*

### Correspondent

Christine Audcent *news@downley.org*

### Advertising

Contact:

*adverts@downley.org* or 01494 438147

### Distribution

Coordinated by Des Ryan. Volunteers to deliver locally are always needed.

If interested contact Des on:

*desmond.ryan@tiscali.co.uk* or 01494 520938

### Rates

Full Page £40 | Half Page £25 | Quarter Page £15

### Steering Committee

The Downley Communications Forum set up as part of the Community Plan, provides oversight to the Village News, the Village enews and the *downley.org* website.

**Chairman** Bill Thompson

**Secretary** Peter Loadman

**Treasurer** Clive Beard

**Web Admin** Mark Starkey

### Deadlines and Copy

The Village News is published quarterly in November, February, May and August. The deadline for adverts and copy for the next issue is 31 Jan 2012. Please send text in editable format such as \*.txt, \*.rtf, \*.doc, .docx. Photographs to accompany the text should be sent in as high a resolution as possible in any common graphics format. Copy should be sent to *news@downley.org*. Any copy or photographs sent to this address may also be used on the *downley.org* website.

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## Downley Diary *Please visit [Downley.org](http://Downley.org) for all the latest and up to date events and news.*

<b>Mar</b>	3rd	Tea Dances for the Elderly - St James Church Hall between 2pm and 3.30pm
	3rd	Try Some Great Game Dishes at the Le De 6.30pm to 9.30pm
	4th	DCPS Working Party - Meet at the Old Dairy
	6th	Downley Village Evening WI Meeting
	9th	Downley School PA Quiz Night - Downley School 7.30pm. £10 per person
	9th	St James Coffee Morning - 10.30am in the Church Hall (behind the Church)
	13th	Downley Evening WI Meeting - Pastures Church Hall 7.45pm
	13th	Parish Council Meeting - War Memorial Hall
	17th	Enjoy a 'Taste of Ireland' at the Le De from 6.30pm
	18th	Treat Mum to a Mothers Day Sunday Roast at the Le De - Lunchtime
	18th	Mothering Sunday Service at St James - Family Service at 11.00am
	19th	Downley Gardening Society March Meeting - Talk by Adrian Thornton
	30th	School Ends - Spring Term 2012
<b>April</b>	1st	DCPS Working Party - Meet at the Old Dairy
	3rd	Downley Village Evening WI Meeting
	8th	Easter Sunday Services at St James and Sunnybank
	10th	Downley Evening WI Meeting - Pastures Church Hall 7.45pm
	10th	Parish Council Meeting - Downley Community Centre
	14th	Tea Dances for the Elderly - St James Church Hall between 2pm and 3.30pm
	16th	School Starts - Summer Term
	16th	Downley Gardening Society March Meeting - Talk by Edwin Rye
	17th	Woodlands Pre-School Starts Spring Term
<b>May</b>	1st	Downley Village Evening WI Meeting
	6th	DCPS Working Party - Meet at the Old Dairy
	8th	Parish Council Meeting - War Memorial Hall
	8th	Downley Evening WI Meeting - Pastures Church Hall 7.45pm
	12th	Tea Dances for the Elderly - St James Church Hall between 2pm and 3.30pm
	12th	Downley Gardening Society March Meeting - Coach Trip Exbury Gardens
	13th	Downley Walk - Meet at the Memorial Hall at 2pm
	13th	Downley Gardening Society March Meeting - Talk by Brian Fisher