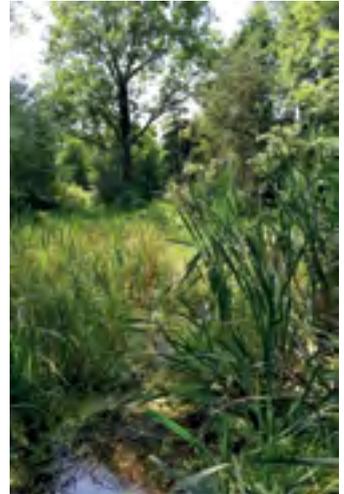




**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER

Village News



Features

- Local Events
- Local Societies
- Lifestyle
- History
- Poetry Corner
- Letters
- Downley Diary

Issue 93 / Dec 2012





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Editorial

After a very eventful summer of Jubilee and Olympics it can be difficult not to feel a bit flat and lacking in things to look forward to. However, we are lucky in Downley that there is a never-ending stream of village activities coming up throughout the year.

By the time you receive this, the annual bonfire and torchlight procession will have come and gone and we will be counting down the remaining shopping days to Christmas. There are several Christmas Fayres to go to at the various schools in the village, several concerts and a community carol singing walk around the village. All the local pubs will be putting on special seasonal entertainment and even the Met Office has promised a "cold winter" which is bound to mean snow on Christmas Day (or maybe a barbeque!).

In this edition we have changed the format slightly to put adverts on alternate pages rather than all at the end. This helps to make them a bit more visible and hopefully generate a bit more of an impact for our advertisers, who after all make this magazine possible. In the next issue (February 2013) we will be constraining all adverts to no more than half a page and introducing a new eighth page size. This will prevent the magazine from exceeding the maximum number of pages that our printer can cope with.

I should also record an apology to Audrey Bridle for inadvertently suggesting that Clive Knapman's poem about Mike's Sabbatical in the last edition was her work. Apologies also to Clive himself.

Finally this will be my final issue as acting editor. Simon Scott will be stepping up to the plate as permanent editor and I'm sure he will take the village news forward to greater heights of innovation and popularity. I know you will be able to make his life easier by submitting many new and interesting articles.

Bill Thompson, Acting Editor

Round-up of Weekly Activities

Aerobic	Tues 6.30pm, Sat 9.30am	Community Centre
Art Club	Thurs 9.30am	St James Hall
Art Group	Tues 10am	Community Centre
BCC Parenting Course	Tues 9am	St James Hall
Bridge Group	Thurs 7.15pm	Community Centre
Chipmunks Woodcarving	Wed 10am	Community Centre
Circuit Training	Wed 6pm	St James Hall
Coffee Stop	Mon 10am	St James Hall
Community Library	Mon, Sat 10am, Thurs 3pm	Community Centre
Dance Classes for Young People	Mon pm & evening	Sunnybank Hall
Dog Training	Tues 6pm	St James Hall
Downley Descants	Thurs evening	Sunnybank Hall
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wed 8pm	Community Centre
Downley Youth Club	Mon 7pm	St James Hall
French Circle	2nd Fri 7.30pm	Community Centre
Greatest Hits Choir	Tues 8.15pm	St James Hall
Happydoodles Children's Art Club	Mon 12.30pm	Community Centre
Homecare meeting	Tues 1.30pm	St James Hall
Karate	Wed 7pm, Fri 7pm	St James Hall
Karate (Shotokan)	Wed 7.30pm	War Memorial Hall
Line Dancing	Tues 12.45pm, Fri 10.00am	Community Centre
Links Lunches	Fri 10.30am	St James Hall
Mums & Toddlers Group - term time	Mon 9am	Community Centre
Nozee Parka	Wed 10am	St James Hall
Philatelic Club	Alternate Thurs 7pm	St James Hall
Pilates for beginners (term time)	Wed 9.30am & 12pm	Community Centre
Simply Walk	Mon 10am	Community Centre
Sing & Sign	TBD	Community Centre
Tai Chi – for Arthritis (term time)	Wed 10.45pm	Community Centre
Tai Chi	Wed 6.45pm	Community Centre

Tai Chi	Thurs am	Sunnybank Hall
Tiger Martial Arts	Mon 5pm	War Memorial Hall
Weightwatchers	Thurs 5.30pm	St James Hall
Yoga	Tues 6.15pm, Fri 9.15am	War Memorial Hall
Zest for Life	Mon 8pm	Community Centre
Zumba	Mon 8pm	War Memorial Hall

Downley Parish Council News

Dates for 2012 diaries:

- Monday 31st December – Lighting the Millennium Beacon at Commonsides at 11.45pm
- Sunday 5th May - Annual Downley Walk starting at 2.00pm from the War Memorial Hall
- Saturday 22nd June - Downley Day at Commonsides starting at 1.00pm
- Saturday 20th July - Concert on The Common starting at 7.00pm
- Tuesday 5th November - Torchlight Procession and Bonfire starting at 6.00pm
- Sunday 10th November - Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial Hall at 3.00pm
- Tuesday 31st December - Lighting the Millennium Beacon at Commonsides at 11.45pm

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 CC) 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. Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions. In January, March, May, July, September and November meetings are at the War Memorial Hall, starting at 7.45 pm. In February, April, June, August, October and December meetings are at the Downley Community Centre, School Close starting at 7.45 pm

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at the War Memorial Hall on Tuesday 23rd April 2013 starting at 7.45 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

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We are your local camera club and would love to share our enthusiasm with you.

Please visit our website to see our programme. Our usual meetings are on Thursday evenings. We are a small friendly club and welcome new members.

Wycombe Photographic Society
www.hwphoto.org



Community Bus Survey

Following on from one of the main issues raised in the Downley Community Plan, the parish council are examining the feasibility of setting up a mini-bus service to enable residents without cars living in the area at the bottom of Plomer Hill to travel to and from the amenities at the top of the hill.

An additional bonus to this proposal is that community activities at St. James Church and the Community Centre (including the Library) at School Close would also be accessible.

Another transport proposal under consideration is to use the same mini bus service based in Downley to carry passengers to and from the 4 nearest G.P. Practices at Tower House Surgery, West Wycombe Road, Desborough Surgery, 65 Desborough Avenue, Wye Valley Surgery, 2 Desborough Avenue and Riverside Surgery, George Street, off Desborough Avenue.

In order to establish if there is sufficient interest to justify the time and effort required to set up such a service, can you please complete the questionnaire below. If there is a good response, the parish council will then set up a steering group to take the project forward.

Please drop off your completed questionnaire form to the Downley Pharmacy at Cross Court or send your responses to info@downley.org.

Alternatively you may complete an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/BLQJJ3R

Question 1. Would you use a shuttle bus between the bottom of Plomer Hill and Littleworth Road/Cross Court? Yes/No

If so, how many times a week _____ or times a month _____?

Question 2. Would you use a shuttle bus between the bottom of Plomer Hill and St.James Church/Downley Community Centre at School Close? Yes/No

If so, how many times a week _____ or times a month _____?

Question 3. Would you use a shuttle between the village via the bottom of Plomer Hill and the doctors surgeries at West Wycombe Road and Desborough Avenue?

If so, how many times a week _____ or times a month _____?

Question 4. Even if you already have a bus pass, would you be willing to pay a small fee if needed to enable the minibus service to operate? Yes/No

Question 5. What level of fee for a return trip do you feel would be appropriate?

50 p ___ £1 _____ £1.50 _____ £2 _____

Question 6. Would you be prepared to volunteer to help organise and manage this project? Yes/No

If “Yes“ please supply your contact details via email to downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk or phone the Parish Council on 01494 462195 and leave a message.

2012 Christmas Worship and Events *at The Parish Church of St James the Great, Downley*

EVERYONE'S WELCOME *Please join us!*

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 24 November from 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Join us for a heavenly host of festive treats, gifts, greetings cards, competitions and lots of good cheer! Refreshments served.

Christmas Toy Service

Sunday 2 December at 11.00am.

Gifts of new and nearly new toys will be gladly received, blessed and passed onto our friends at Saunderton Lodge. Thank you in advance.

Arty-Party and Christingle Service

Saturday 8 December

Register your child for the Arty-Party (the crafty fun starts at 2.00pm) by contacting Nicky on 01494 526896 nicky.skipworth@btinternet.com or just turn up on the day (it is free of charge).

The Christingle Service follows at about 3.00pm in church.

Crib Service with Tree Dressing

Christmas Eve at 4.00pm

Especially suitable for pre-school children, this heart-warming service takes grown-ups and children alike through an interactive retelling of the most special story ever told.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

A warm welcome will be given to all

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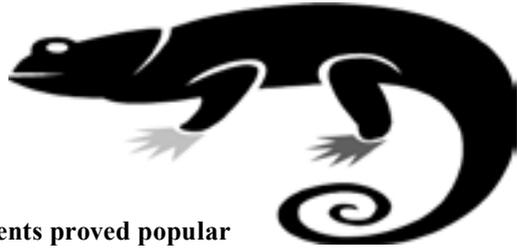
11.30pm on Christmas Eve

**CHRISTMAS DAY
FAMILY COMMUNION**

11.00am

WWW.STJAMESDOWNLEY.ORG.UK

Chameleon Singles Group



Our summer and early autumn events proved popular once again this year. Although we were a little cautious in the planning of outdoor events to ensure alternatives were in place if another rain shower appeared!

We delayed our visit to the Rebellion Brewery in Marlow by a month due to heavy rain on the evening but enjoyed a glorious sunny day at the coast in Southend-on-Sea. We had chosen a weekend where there was a live music festival on the pier so were treated to some free entertainment too. We walked along the 1.33 mile pier, the longest in the U.K. returning on the shuttle train, enjoyed Fish & Chips and of course sunned ourselves on the beach.

We have recently returned from a weekend away to Blackpool. Here once again we were lucky with the weather in late October with a very fine and warm day on the last of our three day stay. Other events over the last few months include an evening out at a sing-a-long ABBA concert and an Elvis night. Plus many of our popular regular events continue to take place such as the pub night, lunch club and quiz night.

Our final programme of the year for November and December has just been published and includes our Christmas Party that will be held at The Chiltern Hotel in Saunderton a week ahead of Christmas Day. Around this of course we have a variety of other events including a take-away evening, Quiz Night, a live music event and a coffee morning. We continue to be open to new ideas and encourage all our members to get

involved as organisers.

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 a local pub which for November is The Crown, Amersham Road, Hazlemere. There is food available if you wish to eat from a reasonably priced menu. You are of course welcome just to join us for a drink, a chat and to find out more about the group.

Our membership 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? There are no strangers at Chameleon, just new friends to be made in a social group run by and for its members.

To find out more call Joyce on 01494 – 461328, Martin on 07747 - 703663 or e-mail: chameleon_bucks@tiscali.co.uk.

**Visit us on-line at:
www.bucksvoice.net/chameleon for more information and an events listing.**

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Downley Common News Mannings Pond is Polluted!

The casual visitor to Mannings Pond at the top end of Downley Common cannot help but notice that the pond has been starting to look a bit overgrown and choked with grass and rushes such that it is becoming difficult to see much open water.

The Downley Common Preservation Society therefore decided it was time to tidy the place up a bit. However, before we went charging in with our hobnail boots it was wisely suggested that a survey or flora and fauna should be performed to make sure there were no biological treasures that might be disturbed; after all, the last time we did this, we managed to obliterate a rare colony of Starfruit which has rarely been seen since.

A qualified surveyor commenced his work in February 2012 and finally completed in October. Readers of previous issues of the news will know that one of the first things he found was evidence of both palmate and the more rare great-crested newt, so beloved of motorway builders everywhere. Better put away the hob-nailed boots then. This newt has almost certainly been present for a long time but not been detected as this is the first amphibian survey to have been carried out.

The remainder of the survey concentrated on invertebrates and plant life in and around the pond and it was particularly noticed that, compared to earlier surveys around 1989, there was a significant reduction in the number of observed beetles and a number of plant species.

Many of the losses among aquatic species point to degradation of the water since earlier surveys. The loss of stonewort, of 18 out of 19 species of water-beetle, almost all submerged and floating-leaved water-plants, and of all molluscs that require unpolluted water; the lack of dragonfly and mayfly larvae, water-boatmen, and water-lice; and

the presence of large numbers of pollution tolerant shrimps and molluscs typical of poor conditions; and the discovery of a number of dead newts, all point to seriously polluted water.

Frequent incursions of dogs were noticed in the main pond many times a day. Most dogs have their fur treated with water-resistant chemicals to control pests such as fleas. These chemicals could be concentrating in the pond and might explain the seriously polluted state of the main pond. The Downley Common Society will consider testing the water quality in order to determine the exact cause in the drop in numbers of invertebrates.

Plants that particularly require culling at Mannings Pond are the pond-sedges, willows and bulrushes. The single plant of variegated reed sweet-grass also needs to be extracted before it spreads. The secondary pond on the south side is very shallow and has become totally overgrown by pond-sedge. This pond had been specially prepared to suit the star-fruit, but has not been maintained since. It is likely that seeds of star-fruit survive in the mud here and could produce plants if the pond is restored to its original condition.

A number of actions have been recommended which the DCPS will be considering for future action.



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

Email: enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk

View of Library



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.

The library has 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 can also laminate your prints, up to A4 size, for a cost of 75p per 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.

Downley Gardening Society

Time flies and we are back in the hall again for our gardening and garden related talks.

Over the next few months we will be entertained by the following:

- Monday 19th November – ‘Plants in a Chiltern garden’ by Jolyon Lea
- Monday 10th December – ‘Birds in Winter’ by Brian Clews with mulled wine and mince pies
- Monday 21st January 2012 – ‘Life in a nutshell’ by John Tyler

Talks are held in the St James’ church hall at 8pm. Non-members are always very welcome, £1.50 including tea or coffee biscuits.

After a disastrous false start to our trip to Wisley in August (the Woottons coach leaked and one poor lady got soaked and it was not fit for



purpose!), we subsequently went on 20th October with Heyfordian and had a great day.

Our Autumn show was another success, although numbers were down due to the unseasonal weather we have had which affected many vegetables and flowers. It is lovely to see the next generation of gardeners having a go with their entries.

Hope you can join us at a talk soon. If you would like to know more please contact Ken Thompson on 01494 524622

Downley Evening WI

Ladies, do you think of the W.I. as being boring and irrelevant to today's world? Let us change your mind.

We meet at The Pastures Church Hall, HP13 5RR at 7.45pm on the second Tuesday of each month. We are a friendly, lively group and you will be made most welcome.

We have had a good summer of events with a garden party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, a BBQ, a tour of West Wycombe House and a visit to the Magic Circle in London. To come is a “Who's Bluffing” fun evening, a trip to a Wyevale Garden Centre, a Christmas concert with “Angelicus” and a mulled wine and mince pie evening. Our ever popular Literary Lunches continue with members bringing something interesting or amusing to read and our speakers at our monthly meetings are usually very entertaining.

So, if you are looking for new friends or a good night out, do come and join us. You will not be disappointed.

For further details contact: Janet Durkin 01494 535662

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The Coffee Stop

Early in October the Coffee Stop helpers held our annual harvest lunch, this coincided with our 10th birthday celebrations and we had a splendid cake which was cut by our very own centenarian, Gwen.

This year we returned to having a cold buffet and a raffle number on the ticket and, due to the generosity of many donors, it was possible for each guest to have a prize. Our Christmas event with mince pies and mulled wine will be held on 17th December after which we will be closed until 7th January 2013.

It should be remembered that The Coffee Stop is an autonomous community service for the whole village, there is no membership and all people of all ages are welcome to call in and have a light lunch or some cake and a drink and meet old and new friends. There is no committee as such and all helpers have

an equal voice, all decisions are reached in regular meetings hosted by Tricia Greggor who somehow manages to keep us in order. We are, however, very grateful to Don Pryde who organises our finances, and also along with David, Ray and Peter helps with putting up and taking down tables. Others on our vote of thanks list are our stalwart volunteer drivers who collect any customers who have mobility issues that would prevent them coming otherwise. Unfortunately, due to ill health, Roger plans to move away from the village to live near his daughter in Wales, we wish him well in this new venture and he will be very much missed.

We are proud of our village and would like to reach out to as many people as possible, please be assured of a warm welcome on a Monday at St James' Hall from 11am to 1pm.



Ann Buxton
pabuxton@hotmail.com

Parent, Toddler and Baby Group

About 6 years ago the parent, toddler and baby group was set up at the Community Centre. Since then, the original children who attended (and many of their siblings!) have moved onto primary school, yet the group continue to meet every Monday during term-time. The group members have changed over the years and we always welcome new-comers.

So, if you fancy joining us on a Monday morning please feel free to pop in for a chat and cup of coffee. For the little ones, there are plenty of toys and games, as well as drinks and snacks. The library is also open during the morning and library staff regularly lead story-time.

We are open 9.30-11.30am every Monday morning during term-time and it's £1.50 per family per session.

So, why not join us with your little one(s) at Downley Community Centre soon?



Altea

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www.alteadownley.co.uk

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WORDS FOR THE WOUNDED Writing Prize



Words for the Wounded is a charity that raises money via writing prizes for the rehabilitation of wounded servicemen and women. We pass the money we received to projects such as Battle Back, which uses sports rehabilitation to help wounded service personnel gain independence and confidence.

Our competition this year is for no more than 400 words of fiction - or a real life tale - or a poem. Remember, no more than 400 words. 1st prize is £250, 2nd prize £100 and 3rd prize is £50. The excellent news is that winners will be published by Writers forum Magazine. Opening date for entries: 11th November 2012. Closing date: 11 March 2013. Winners will be announced on 6th June 2013. The entry fee is £3.50 or if you would like to donate, please go to the website.

Julian Fellowes, one of our patrons says. 'Emma and I feel so strongly that we must never forget the debt we all owe to these brave men and women. We are honoured to be involved in this wonderful charity.'

For more information: email: enquiries@wordsforthewounded.co.uk, or write to Margaret Graham at Words for the Wounded, 12 Woodcote Green, Downley, High Wycombe, HP13 5UN or call her on 01494 630713.

Disraeli Downley Youth Club

The Club is going from success to success with the support of the new joint club leaders Anthony Moule and Sam Robinson. Sam and Anthony, both studying Sport Management at Bucks New University are bringing a sport theme inspired by London 2012.



- Highlights this year have been
- Our annual adventure at Longridge on Thames, Marlow where our members took part in dragonboating, kayaking and canoeing with the late night barbecue and our overnight camp
 - Ice Skating at Slough Ice Rink followed by a DVD and pizza back at the club
 - Dodgeball sessions at the hall are always wild sessions

Our regular activities continue with table tennis, cooking (boys and girls are in on the sessions!), pool, karaoke, our tuck shop with Stephanie in charge - lots more

in the pipeline

Club nights 7 to 9pm at St James's Hall (behind St James's Church) Plomer Hill, Downley. All young people welcome between year 6 and age 16. Membership is £1 a session.

New volunteer leaders are always welcome, too. Fun is guaranteed however old or young you are.

Club Leaders Anthony and Sam: 07533 579901. Patrick Crotty, Chairman, Disraeli Downley Youth Steering Group: 07711 107975

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Downley and Disraeli Neighbourhood Police Update

Downley And Disraeli
Neighbourhood Team
October 2012

October has been a fulfilling month here on Downley and Disraeli Neighbourhood team. The team has for now a good number of officers and all have enjoyed carrying out High Visibility patrols on foot in the area.

Earlier in the Month PCs Colin Bedford and Tom Kenney had the pleasure of attending the Parish Council meeting at the Community Centre. This was a chance for the team to be present at a community led meeting and was taken as a “getting to know you” type meeting. Patrols have continued to operate out of the Community Centre as often as practicable, and there has been much positive feedback from the Parish Council members in relation to this.

PCSO’s Davey Jones, Jen Weaver and Jess Martin continue to conduct the lion’s share of patrol work whilst PCs Bedford and Kenney have been tasked by the neighbourhood supervisors in joining in on a very successful anti-drugs operation in Castlefield.

This month the team’s attention has been made aware of reports of two suspicious vehicle incidents being reported by local schools. Whilst any threat to the safety of children in the area must be treated as an absolute priority, it should be said that the incidents reported at this time do not exhibit signs of threat to warrant any panic. In spite of this we would always recommend that parents show vigilance in who their children interact with during their journey home from school.

The priority of the Team for the next month is to restart the Neighbourhood

Action Group. This will be a multi-agency group in which volunteers from the local community can voice concerns to both local Government, Police and other agencies about local matters. In effect this is the local community’s chance to tell us how they want us to police the area and to set priorities. We would like members of the community to volunteer to act as representatives of the Downley and Disraeli residents. Preferably we would prefer they were not Parish, Local or County council members in the interest of impartiality. Once volunteer names have been received we would wish to conduct the N.A.G on a six-weekly basis. If you are interested please email us and leave your contact details on WycombeWestNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

On another note, Thames Valley Police would like members of the community to nominate local elderly persons who live alone, unsupported to receive a Christmas Hamper from local Charities. This is the time of year which although joyous for many is tinged by sadness for those who are widowed or have no family visiting them. By nominating them for the hamper you will be giving maybe the greatest Christmas present that these elderly folk would wish for. Something just to acknowledge them as existing! It has been said that loneliness is the worst of the modern afflictions and to visit the elderly once can have a greater positive effect than arresting every criminal in Wycombe!

PC Tom Kenney 5931

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How to start a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your road

A Neighbourhood Watch scheme is proven to reduce crime such as burglary, vandalism and car theft in that area, so if there is no scheme in your road, why not volunteer to be a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and help protect your home and community?

It might take up a couple of hours a month but could make a real difference to many people you know. There is lots of information and support available to Co-ordinators.

Firstly, visit your neighbours to see if they would join a scheme, there can be any number

of households involved, generally 6-15 houses in the same road but sometimes more with the help of a deputy.

Then contact Wycombe Neighbourhood Watch by telephoning 101 and they will arrange an informal start-up meeting with all interested households to talk through the benefits and responsibilities.

There is of course an application form to fill in and the police will have to approve you as a suitable person to represent your community, but once that is done you are ready to start work.

The responsibilities of a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator are to share information, raise concerns and liaise with the community police and residents in order to improve safety. Basically this means;

- Distribute (by email usually) the Thames Valley Alert messages – these email bulletins from the police report on local crimes, forewarn of known scams operating, let you know of successful prosecutions and so on, and are an invaluable way of keeping abreast of local issues. There might be a couple of messages on one day and then none for a week, but forwarding these messages to your neighbours is a vital part of the co-ordinator's role.
- Take delivery of and put up Neighbourhood Watch signs in the street – these are great deterrents to opportunistic thieves!
- Advise households on simple security measures such as shed locks, alarms, property markings, how to deal with bogus callers and rogue traders – Neighbourhood Watch has lots of information on all this.
- Encourage neighbours to report any suspicious activity to the police on 999 if a crime is taking place, or on the new non-emergency number 101.
- Discuss any specific concerns you and your members have, such as anti-social behaviour, with your community police.
- Keep records of members and encourage new members to join. Keep an eye on elderly or vulnerable neighbours, and ensure they are advised of all relevant information.

For more information, call 101 or email publicitywdnhwa@hotmail.co.uk

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Heart of the Community

“Heart” is an initiative by the Pastures Church to discover the best way forward to serve the square mile community around its building known as Downley and Disraeli District, High Wycombe.

As part of a special week of Heart activities, we are holding a special exhibition set within our community café to present entries to our Design our Centre competition and the first findings from our research so far.

- Thursday 15th Nov: 8am-8pm Café and Exhibition in Church Hall (Polling station in Church room for Police Commissioner Vote)
- Friday 16th Nov: 8am-7.30pm Café and Exhibition in Church Hall (Rock Solid running from 3pm-9.15pm)
- Saturday 17th Nov: 10am-4pm Café and Exhibition in Church Hall
- Day of Christian Prayer in the Church room: 8am Prayer meeting led by Gloria Dacre/ 10.30am Prayer meeting led by Jodi Cheffy/ 2pm Prayer meeting suitable for young families led by Trevor Lewis/ 7.30pm Prayer event led by Jimmy Cheffy and YOH
- Sunday 18th Nov: 10am-1pm Café and Exhibition plus Special Heart Worship service from 10.45am to award prizes for the Design Our Centre competition and our online survey initiative, give presentations about Heart, and pray for our local community



For more information about our Design our Centre competition or The Heart of the Community Project:

email pastureschurchoffice@gmail.com

facebook search: The Pastures Church

Office contact number: 525074

Blog: <http://pasturesheartproject.wordpress.com>

Submit your views through our Online Community Survey: <http://goo.gl/GHHNz>

Dates for Christmas:

- Sunday 2nd December 10.45am Power Healing Service with a opportunity to receive prayer
- Sunday 9th December 10.45am All-Age Gift Service with Children's Nativity Play in aid of Wycombe Women at Risk
- Sunday 16th December 10.45am Christmas Communion Service [Theme: the transforming love of God] followed by Community lunch
- Sunday 23rd December Christmas Worship Service [Receiving gifts from God]
- Monday 24th December 6pm Christingle Christmas Eve. All-Age Celebration in aid of The Children's Society

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Downley School

The first half term of the new school year has been one of hard work, competition, celebration and fun.

It seems like a long time ago now, but just a few weeks ago we were continuing the celebratory feel of the Olympics and closely following our Paralympic Team GB. Displays all around the school reflected our school summer term project on the Olympics and the children returned to school buzzing with excitement with stories of watching the events both on television, and in many cases, at the actual venues. It was a very exciting summer and the children were really able to appreciate the values and efforts of our athletes. The staff were very keen to build on this spirit and organised a brilliant whole school inter team 'It's A Knockout' event. Every child and member of staff were involved in a wonderful morning of competition, effort and teamwork.

Some of our children have been out and about already. Year 1 developed links with Maplewood School, using their sensory room as part of their work on 'Senses' poetry.

Our Year 2 children gave a wonderful Harvest performance to the school, parents and Downley's senior citizens. We collected lots of donations for the One Can Trust during Harvest week when we were thinking especially of how fortunate we are and how we can help others in our community.

Our sports teams have had a very active start to the year. Football matches and tournaments and a cross country event have been very well attended. You can look at the school's website www.downley.bucks.sch.uk for the latest results. Lots of extra-curricular clubs are up and running now as well and

are very popular.

The wonderful fund raising efforts of the Parents Association have resulted in both playgrounds undergoing improvements with new equipment and markings. Staff and Year 6 pupils have done a great job in training other members of staff and other children so that all children are now able to play games they have been taught and are also creating new and innovative games for themselves. The pond area has been given a major refurbishment and will be ready for children to use very soon. The PA have also been busy organising the Reception and Key Stage 1 Sponsored Bounce and for the first time ever, they organised a buffet evening for parents of our reception children. This was very well attended by existing parents who now have younger children in the school and by parents who are new to the school themselves.

We welcomed members of our Governing Body for 'Governors In School Day' earlier this month. They spent the day in classes with the children and came to our Celebration Assemblies. They remarked on how well the children were learning and were very positive about all aspects of the school.

So a super start to the year. We have just celebrated Eid in our assemblies and as we return to school after the half term break, we will be looking forward to celebrating Diwali, Hanukah and Christmas. We have an exciting time of learning coming up and we look forward to sharing much of it with our local community.

Mrs Webb, Headteacher



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Downley Theatre Group

Since the last Village News, we have enjoyed outings to “Sweeney Todd”, “Ghost – the Musical” and Agatha Christie’s “The Mousetrap”.



Next in the pipe line are trips to Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, for an evening of Carols and readings and to the Royal Albert Hall for Cirque du Soleil in February. By the time you read this, booking will have closed for “We Will Rock You” and “A Chorus Line” but you are most welcome to register interest in two day trips: High Grove House, the Gloucestershire home of HRH the Prince of Wales, in early summer and the Olympic Park, North Section, in August after its opening to the public.

Members are reminded that to continue receiving information about trips, they should complete and return the tear off slip at the bottom of the last flyer. There were 212 names on the mailing list and some housekeeping was

necessary to ensure the details held are up to date.

We use a company in London to book theatre seats which holds them for about three weeks while we circulate members and collect payment. Because of the short time scale, it is not possible to advertise outings in the Village News so becoming a member is the only sure way of hearing about outings.

Do call or drop us a line by e-mail – everyone welcome!

Alan and Claire Baker
82 Littleworth Road, 01494 437552
clairebaker55@btinternet.com

Downley Village Evening WI

Ladies why not come and pay us a visit in the New Year. We meet the 1st Tuesday of the month in the Community Centre at 7.45pm

This January is the exception due to the Bank Holiday when we shall visit our WI neighbours along at the Methodist Church Hall on the 2nd Tuesday.

From February through to December we shall be in our own hall at the Community Centre and would love to have your company.

Speakers are booked for each month and cover an interesting range of subjects. Most months we have social events held locally and, as the weather improves, outings. Our County Federation also has outings planned most months with pick-ups in H/W.

The WI is a friendly, fun loving, warm hearted and caring selection of ladies of all ages, and we at DVE are no exception. Do come and join us one evening.

Details Pat Heath 01494 535998. BFWI Office 01494 526685

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Downley Wine And Beer Club

September 14th saw the start of the DWBC annual mini-break.

A surprising eighteen people went for a four day trip to Liege in Belgium. After an uneventful Eurostar journey we arrived in Liege, freshened up and went to the bar for a drink. The local beer is Juliper and very drinkable. The evening meal at a local restaurant was excellent and despite the country having 3 national languages French, German and Dutch they could mostly also communicate in English - puts us to shame really, doesn't it?

Day 2. We took the local bus to town and assembled for a walking tour of the historic centre. At the finish of the guided tour we took ourselves to the Festival de Wallonia, a local festival of music, food, parades and produce of all kinds.

One area of the festival was called The Gastronomic Village of the Brotherhoods and each type of produce appeared to have a Guild attached to it.

We had a light lunch of a dish called Tartirouflette which is sliced potatoes, small pieces of bacon and a cheese sauce made from their own local cheese, served with a green salad and a piece of French stick. We tasted several beers, some rice pudding cake and local wine. By golly this is the life!

Later we all met up at Maison du Peket. Now, another local speciality is flavoured gin, which is called Peket. The gin can be flavoured with any one of about 26 fruits or a dozen or so other flavours.

Day 3. We caught the bus into town to visit La Batte, the local Sunday market which stretches along the river bank some say for 2 miles. Had a beer at a small cafe at the other end of the market and then

watched the local Carnival and Parade of Giants which are 15ft (5m in new money) high puppets with a man inside each to steer it. There were some 15 of these Giants each an individual person or type and they formed part of a street carnival all of which was fun to watch, but we needed a cold beer after and headed to The Gastronomic Village of the Brotherhoods to find exactly what we desired, then back through town to find the restaurant for the evening meal, which was again of excellent quality, and thence off to Pont Kennedy to watch the fireworks display on Paserelle, a footbridge across the river some ½ mile away. A spectacular display lasted about an hour and then back to the hotel for a well earned nights sleep.

Day 4. Its strange, but the journey home was very much quieter than the journey out but it seemed a lot quicker. The 4 days passed in a flash but the camera was kept busy and the wonderful memories persist.

Here's to the next DWBC mini-break



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Spirit Hair Win BHB Award

Spirit Hair Company are celebrating as they were announced winners of the Salon of the Year 2 Award at this year's exclusive British Hairdressing Business Awards held at the Royal Lancaster London Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, London.

Presented by Hairdressers Journal International, the British Hairdressing Business Awards are now in their 14th year and are designed to specifically recognise and celebrate the business skills, commercial success and professionalism of the hairdressing industry. To enter the awards, salons or individuals have to fulfil the criteria set down and present this in a dossier, which is initially judged by the sponsors of the categories.

Spirit Hair Company and a further 6 salons were taken to the final which was hosted by leading media

personality Dan Lobb, and Spirit Hair Company were delighted when he announced their name.

“We are delighted to have won. This year has been an incredible one for the salon group. To be recognised by your peers as being of one the country's leading hairdressing salons and being involved in the British Hairdressing Business Awards is both a wonderful feeling and a great achievement”

Publishing Director of Hairdressers Journal International, Jayne Lewis-Orr, commented, “Entries were alive with innovation, enthusiasm and entrepreneurial expertise showing amazing skills across the breadth of business management. The judges had an extremely difficult job as standards were so high – to be chosen as a winner at the British Hairdressing Business Awards is a tremendous testimony to Spirit Hair Company's skills and acumen.”



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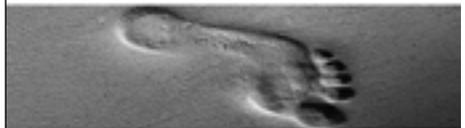
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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints - Winter 2012

Wal, me ole mates, now it's winter time! Frost, snow, sleet, hail, grey clouds, all coming over the common from Nappel...

...have they got some science fiction weather machine over there? Wal so that's what they do in that bunker! (Did you know that if you bang your spade down hard up at the plot, thay knock back?).



Anyway, did you get your overwintering onion sets in? The longer they're in the bigger they get. But what you can do now to keep out of the cold wind from Nappel is to settle down in front of the fire and have a little drink of something interesting, (the senior management has made some very interesting blackberry vodka), and start sorting out your seed orders for next year. (that's 2013 I mean, just in case your amazing mag. doesn't get delivered until January). Someone said you can get real bargains on the interweb, but I went down to Wycombe market and he wasn't there.

I reckon the best HH at the moment is to get your brassicas covered up, the pigeons have got a little peckish (get it? Ha Ha)



in the cold, but any nets need supporting, otherwise they sit on top, squash it down, and peck away...peckish? Peck away... Oh, alright then, I give up. In the garden it's winter tidying time, but do leave the seed heads for the birds, them farmers trim the hedges so tight there's nothing left for 'em. Then get pruning now the saps stopped rising, pretty much everything could do with a bit of pruning, it makes the plant think it's being attacked, so it reacts with growing twice as fast next year.

And what about compost?. It's a good time to rake up all your leaves, and start a heap! Anything can go on, (don't take any notice of those clever Dicks who get all technical), you've either got a sense of humour or you haven't...Get it? Sense of humour,,sense of humour...no? You really must be from Nappel. Get four pallets and make a square or use chicken wire in a circle, and dump all your weeds and stuff in, and in a year or two you'll have some really lovely dark humousy stuff. Also have a bonny, it warms you up, great fun, the smoke annoys your neighbour up at the plot if you're up Jubilee, and that's no bad thing, and the ash is good for next years crops. Take a risk and plant direct some broad beans, my old gramp used to soak em in turpentine to keep the mice away, mind you he always thought the beans tasted a bit odd. Also risk some 'all the year round' lettuce seeds in a seed box, put em on a window sill, then prick em out in a grow bag in a cold frame, you ought to see mine! Even the senior management is impressed!

See you in the spring, don't spend all your time watching day time TV!

Cheerio.

J.H sent from my iSpade.



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Recipe Corner

As the weather turns colder, why not try this easy-to-make winter warmer with a hint of Italian sunshine.

Winter Warming Venison or Beef Stew

Ingredients

500g diced venison or beef
2 tbsp plain flour
2 tbsp olive oil
1 large onion
450g carrots, cut into chunks
2 parsnips, cut into chunks
1 bay leaf
2 garlic cloves
½ tsp mixed herbs
2 tbsp tomato paste
300ml red wine
400ml beef or vegetable stock
Salt & pepper to taste



Method

Season meat, cover with flour & fry in oil until browned all over. Remove from pan and set aside.

Add chopped onion & garlic to pan and fry for 2 mins then add red wine, let it sizzle and reduce for 6 mins.

Add carrots, parsnips, beef, tomato paste, bay leaf, mixed herbs and stock. Bring to boil for 2 mins then transfer to oven with lid on for 1 ¾ to 2 hours at 150C. Can also be simmered on a low heat on the hob for the same time of 1 ¾ to 2 hours.

Add this stew to rice or mashed potato for the perfect winter warmer.

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Are you just too polite?

Thieves we invite into our homes

Everyone knows the basics of keeping their home safe from burglars - but what about the thieves you invite in? Every day we invite total strangers into our homes just because they ask to come in - and we run the risk of being conned and robbed by rogue traders and bogus callers.

Buckinghamshire Trading Standards knows of rip-offs to the tune of £500,000 over the past year - but that could be just the tip of the iceberg. This is what to do when one shows up on your doorstep - and afterwards ring the police non-emergency number 101 and tell them about it.

Bogus Callers

“I’m from the Water Board/the Gas Board/the council, can I come in?”

When a stranger calls, first make sure your back door is locked - an accomplice could take advantage of the distraction at the front door to get in. Open the front door on the chain, take their ID card, close the door and phone the Water Board or whoever (get the number from the phone book, not them) and check that they have really sent someone round. These companies and their genuine representatives will expect this to happen and be happy to wait for you to check. Don’t let them in unless you are sure they are who they say they are.

Rogue Traders

“You’ve got some loose roof tiles/Your drive needs resurfacing”

Be wary of anyone calling at your home offering to do house or garden repairs. Do not let a cold caller hurry you into making a quick decision by saying it’s a special price for today. Do not let them strike up a conversation with you about other things and try to

be a friend, and do not let them tell you that you will be letting them down if you do not agree to the work. Do not hand over a cash deposit, you pay a genuine business only when you are happy with the end result. Do not sign an agreement unless you can see it has the legal 7-day cooling-off clause when you can change your mind. If you do need work doing, get someone in yourself rather than allowing a cold caller to scare you into it - Trading Standards has a booklet with approved tradesmen in your area who you can trust to do a good job for a reasonable price.

If in doubt, keep them out! For more information on rogue traders and bogus callers call Trading Standards on 08454 040506.





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End of the Season for Team Rook

Downley's John Rook and his Spirit Health Clubs Rallycross Team had good weekend in the Final Round of the MSA Hot Hatch Championship at the Croft Circuit, but ended the year in 4th place.

The event at Croft Circuit was the first double header race weekend of the year with the Final Championship round taking place on the Sunday and the stand alone prestigious British Rallycross Grand Prix on the Sunday. The event also attracted the biggest Hot Hatch entry of the year with 11 cars due to take to the track on each of the race days.

This was only the 2nd time John had raced at the Croft Circuit and race day dawned cold and frosty but the tarmac parts of the circuit were damp and the loose section extremely slippery after recent rainfall.

Practice went well and trouble free, this was then followed by 2 of the best qualification heats John had raced in all year. Finishing 2nd on track in both of his first 2 heats, keeping some championship contenders behind him and others having trouble. With the class of 11 cars split into 2 races, John found himself with the 6th quickest time in the first 2 heats.

The 3rd heat didn't go so well. With two 6th place times and an 8th John thought he would be on the grid for the A Final. Then once the grid's came out he was surprised to see he was on pole position for the B Final and knew he would have to win this.

Starting from pole, John made a great start leading the pack away, John then ran wide in turn 4 which allowed Darren Grimston up his inside. John kept on his bumper all the way onto the loose section, watching him slipping and sliding all over the place in front of him, then approaching the tight hairpin, Darren lost control and spun in front of John blocking his inside line. John hit Darren's car and then was hit from behind by Tim Ramsey and this left the 3 of



them blocking the track. John struggled to get the car going, not knowing at the time, he had a damaged radiator, and a boiling engine. John finished the race in 4th place and all he could do was watch the A final to see where other drivers finished. Things didn't go according to plan, John finished in 4th place in the Championship, only 1 point behind fellow competitor Slomwir Woloch.

With Saturday's meeting finished John and his team set about the task to fix the Citroen Saxo ready for the Grand Prix event on Sunday. With a damaged radiator, body work and a hot engine all this had to be sorted before John would find out if the car was race ready.

When Sunday dawned cold, frosty and with snow on the track, John knew today was going to be a challenging day. The car was all sorted and ready to race and grids were formed from the 11 drivers entered.

John continued where he left off on Saturday with 3 good qualification heats which placed him 8th on the 10 car A Final grid. A good start was made and 6 laps later John finished in 7th place in the A Final coming home ahead of some top drivers.

Anyone who would like to sponsor John's 2013 BRC campaign are asked to get in touch on: Jrrallyx726@yahoo.co.uk or call him on: 07581 467465

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Signing with hearing babies boosts communication and language development.

When my daughter was 5 months old we started going to ‘Sing and Sign’ classes. Amy enjoyed the music, props, toys and being with other babies – and I really liked the fact that I was learning a way to communicate with my baby. Through the songs and rhymes I learnt some simple gestures to use when I was chatting with Amy during our usual daily routines.

When she was 8 months old Amy made her first sign, she was tapping her fists on the side of her head and pointing frantically at a picture book. I realised she had seen a picture of a cow in her book and she was signing to let me know she had recognised her favourite animal. After that her signs just kept flowing; Amy would ask for her drink, for a biscuit; she would let me know if she needed help with a toy or if she wanted her toy box to be opened. By the time she was a year old we could have a little chat about her day at nursery school and I found out that she loved to paint with yellow. More importantly we always knew when she was teething as she would sign “pain” in her mouth.

Meanwhile Amy never had those tantrums of frustration as she could always make herself understood. It did not inhibit her speech at all, we always said the word as we signed it, and her first spoken words were her popular signs. In fact she seemed more confident in her communication as she was always sure she could be understood.



Learning to sign with my baby was an amazing experience and really opened up her little world for us, we found out the things that she was thinking about, what she wanted and how she felt - which we would never have known without the simple signs. I felt so passionate about it that I decided to train as a Sing and Sign teacher and I taught classes in Warwickshire for two years. Now we have moved to Buckinghamshire and I am launching Sing and Sign classes in Downley!

Starting in January, in Downley Community Centre, I am running two classes on Thursday mornings, at 9.45 and 11.00. Classes are most suitable for babies aged 5-14 months old. For more information and details of how to book a place please contact me:- mariawebster@singandsign.co.uk tel: 07885 944904 or visit www.singandsign.co.uk

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Downley Ancestors part 4

This edition of Downley News will be published just after Remembrance Day, a time to reflect, and pay tribute to those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Downley Memorial Hall is situated in the High Street, in the heart of the village. In 1923 the people of the village raised the money to have the hall built on a piece of land donated by Sir John Dashwood. It was built in memory of the 22 Downley men who were killed in the Great War of 1914-18:

Ernest Alfred Biggs age 29 – Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. Married with 2 sons, Downley Common. (Brother-in-Law of Frank Austin Martin, also remembered on this memorial).

William Harry Chilton age 21 - Grenadier Guards. Downley Common.

Walter Day age 19 - Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. Downley Common.

Francis Edwin Dukes age 34 - Ox & Bucks Light Infantry – married.

Charles Giles age 35 - Worcestershire Regiment – (Brother of Frank Giles also remembered on this memorial).

Frank Giles age 29 – Middlesex Regiment. Downley.

Frederick Harris age 23 – Kings Royal Rifle Corps. Littleworth, Downley.

William John Joynson died 23 April 1917 age 19 – 16th Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps. He was a Grandson of John and Eunice Joynson (nee Shervill - see Downley Ancestors pt. 3). He was also 1st Cousin of James and William Langley, and John and Joseph Menday also remembered on this memorial.

James Alfred Langley age 22 – Gloucestershire Regiment. (Brother of William Langley, also remembered on this memorial).

William Owen Langley age 21 – Royal Field Artillery.

John Menday age 20 – Machine Gun Corps (Brother to Joseph Menday, also remembered on this memorial). Downley.

Joseph Menday age 21 – Gloucestershire Regiment. Downley.

Frank Austin Martin age 34 – Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. Born in Plomer Hill, parents living at The Golf Links, Downley.

Leonard Maunder age 31 – Rifle Brigade. Downley.

James William Newell age 28 – Rifle Brigade. Plomer Green Lane.

Ernest Charles Pitcher age 21 – Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. Coronation Cottage, Downley.

Edward Plumridge Putman age 19 – Somerset Light Infantry. Born in Downley.

Robert James Styles age 27 – Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. Downley.

Thomas Smith age 20 – Machine Gun Corps. Downley.

Ernest Smith age 24 – Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. Married.

Albert Smith.

Stewart Arthur Spriggs age 21 – Machine Gun Corps. Downley.

The memorial plaque also has the names of five local men killed in World War II:

Cecil Avery, Percival Carrington, Wilfred Harvey, Kenneth Mullett and Harold Stratford.

We shall remember them

Paul Turner

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Poets Corner

2nd Downley Guides

By Sam Payne, Maddie Bray and Becky Skipper; 2nd Downley Guides

Come down to Guides to get a surprise
We meet on Tuesday nights, and we're filled with delight
We go on trips Sarah has flips
We go on hikes and take all night

Guides is the best
It puts us to the test
As we try to win badges to sew on our blankets
We have lots of fun cooking, hiking, camping and run
We put on shows, and everybody knows
That Downley Guides is the place to go
Downley Guides runs from seven to nine
It's nearly our bed time!

Todays Challenge The Cash Machine

Mary E. Howard

I need some cash..must I wait in the queue?
The Bank is so busy.....What else can I do?
Cash point now beckons.....oh dear, a machine.
To battle with numbers and peer at a screen.

First I look at my card-which way does it go?
Read with great care; should be easy I know.
It snatches the card....Now what is next?
I'm calm at the moment, so must not be perplexed.

Pin number that's fine, it's working for me.
How much cash do I need? Oh, I'll press number 3.
Out comes 100.....oh, I just wanted 10.
Still; it saves me returning next week, yet again.

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Letters

For The Love Of Bread

Dear Editor and Downley Residents,

I have never been a great lover of bread, but a few years ago, during a trip to Europe, I was enlightened to the wonders of real, fresh, handmade bread. Upon my return to the UK I could really tell the difference between that bread and supermarket bread, laden with additives and preservatives.

People today all too often bemoan the fact that quality is forgotten in the never ending search for goods which are cheaper and faster to produce. Whilst we may be able to save a few pence on our weekly shop by buying mass produced bread, we inevitably lose some of the joy of savouring a freshly baked loaf. It may be convenient to have our bread pre-packaged, sliced and conveniently included in our supermarket shop, but nothing can beat the smell and taste of a lovingly kneaded loaf.

I would like to bring The Real Bread Campaign to Downley. The Real Bread Campaign promotes bread which has been made with no additives or enzymes and takes at least a 4 hour continuous process to make without part baking or freezing. The Campaign also encourages bakeries which serve their local communities and use locally sourced produce.

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of industrial loaves. Alongside my parents' bespoke celebration cake bakery at our home in Downley and I thought it would be a great idea to share and give back to the community by providing affordable and delicious homemade loaves to be delivered to your door.

I wonder if this is something that the people of Downley would be interested in?

You can follow my bread journey thus far and get more info on my plans for community bread at www.almostalwayshungry.wordpress.com. I would love to hear your thoughts.

Rachael Kan, Rose Apple Bakery



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Dear Editor,

I have noticed some of our older Downley residents struggling to put waste and recycling bins out on collection days. It made me think forward to the winter months and wondered if any of them would wish to take up the option for the council to collect and return their bins and boxes from and to their normal storage places on a regular basis, before the snow and bad weather arrives?

I emailed Wycombe District Council yesterday evening, using the internet web-site and their contact form; to ask if such a service was available for the elderly or infirm. Their response is shown below.

“Thank you for your email, we do offer a collect & return service for people who can’t manage taking their bins and boxes out for collection.

If you could provide me with the address and name for the resident who would like to go onto this service, we can then get an inspector to go and visit the resident and confirm where the boxes will be placed etc.

Kind Regards

Amreen Akhtar. Amreen.Akhtar@wycombe.gov.uk”

I trust this information will be of use. Many thanks.
Shirley Ellis, Littleworth Rd, Downley.

Dear members of the Downley Community

I am writing to invite you to a presentation and forum at the Downley School on Monday 10th Dec at 7pm.

The staff and Governors have recently been introduced to “Values-based Education” and are very positive about developing such an approach to the curriculum and to school life in general. A Values-based school seeks to nurture universal positive values, such as respect, honesty, compassion, trust and integrity. Research evidence, from Australia, clearly shows that Values-based Education promotes high academic standards, whilst nurturing the individual qualities of both adults and students.

I have invited parents to meet with Dr Neil Hawkes, the founder of Values-based Education and to find out more about his work and the impact it has had for children and schools on a national and international scale.

We would welcome members of the wider children’s community to learn more about this approach and offer suggestions. Please contact the school on 01494 527033 or email office@downley.bucks.sch.uk if you are able to attend.

With very best wishes
Mrs S. Webb (Headteacher)



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Tracey Howden, Radnor

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Downley People In The News

Roy Bentham from Downley received his MBE from the Queen at Buckingham Palace on Friday 9 November for Services to Lincoln Cathedral. He was Chief Executive of Lincoln Cathedral for 11 years before retiring and moving to Downley in 2011 to be closer to his daughter and grandchildren who live in Penn. Roy Bentham is currently a Parish Councillor in Downley.

The photo below shows Roy Bentham at Buckingham Palace following the ceremony with his wife Sylvia Bentham, daughter Clara Bentham and Granddaughter Josephine Bentham.



A young girl battling a rare condition is doing well, her mum says as she plots a second fundraiser for the charity which supported them. Arlia Megson, 7, is back at school after doctors said she was in remission from medium vessel renal vasculitis - a devastating illness which damages the blood vessels, which can affect other organs.

Mum Debbie said: "She's doing well, she's up and down to Great Ormond Street for treatment, but the condition is under control. The Downley School has been very supportive, her friends have sent her get well cards so it's nice she's back with them"



If you wonder why commuters using High Wycombe train station have such shiny shoes, it is probably down to this father and son duo. Dressed in flat-caps and tails, Alfie Hurst, with the help of his dad Terry, has launched a Victorian inspired shoe shining business at the station.

"About three months ago I was thinking about what I could do and I came up with the idea. I enjoy amateur dramatics and used to go to Sea Cadets, where I learnt how to polish shoes, so this is a bit of both."

The Downley double-act have built up a bit of reputation for themselves from impressed train-users, so much so the pair are going to take on more staff to polish the shoes and boots of Reading commuters.



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Credits

Editor

The Village News is currently edited by an editorial team drawn from the Downley Communications Forum.
news@downley.org

Layout

Pat Weedon at news@downley.org

Advertising

Contact:

adverts@downley.org

Distribution

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If interested contact Des on:

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

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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

Webmaster Mark Starkey

Deadlines

The Village News is published quarterly in November, February, May and August. The deadline for adverts and copy for the next issue is 31 January 2013.

Copy

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 for all the latest and up to date events and news.*

Nov	24	Christmas Fayre at St James Church 2-4pm
	24	Live music at the Le De with Alan Luck and Ben Grey starts at 9pm
	25	Woodlands Christmas Fayre (at The Guide & Scout Centre) at 11am
	30	Theatre in the Villages - "No Hall 2 Small" at the War Memorial Hall
Dec	1	Christmas Sparkle & Shine at Maplewood School, Faulkner Way, 4pm - 6pm
	2	Christmas Toy Service at St James at 11am
	3	Christmas Menu starts at the LeDe
	8	Downley School Christmas Fair 8 From 11.30am to 1.30pm, Faulkner Way
	8	Arty-Party and Christingle Service at St James at 2pm
	8	Live music at the Le De with Ward 4
	9	All-Age Gift Service with Children's Nativity Play at Pastures Church
	10	Gardening Society meeting Talk by Brian Clews entitled ' Birds in winter'
	11	Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre
	13	Downley Descants Christmas Concert Sunnybank Methodist Church
	14	Concert by Wycombe Concert Band 7.30 at St James Church Hall
	16	Christmas Communion and Community lunch at Pastures Church at 10.45am
	16	Carol Singing in aid of Rosie's Rainbow Fund from 4 to 6.30pm
	19	West Wycombe Brass Band plays Christmas Carols at the Le De from 9pm
	21	End of Shool Term 21 December 2012
	21	Community Carols at Jubilee Green from 6.30
	23	Christmas Worship Service at Pastures Church
	24	Crib Service with Tree Dressing at St James at 4pm
	24	Christingle Christmas Eve at Pastures Church at 6pm
	25	Christmas Day Worship at St James 11.30pm and 11am
	25	Christmas drinks at the LeDe 12-3pm
	26	LeDe open from 12pm on Boxing Day
	31	New Year's Beacon Lighting of the Beacon on Commonsideside at midnight
Jan	8	Beginning of School Term
	8	Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall
	21	Gardening Society meeting Talk by John Tyler entitled 'Life in a nutshell'.