

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

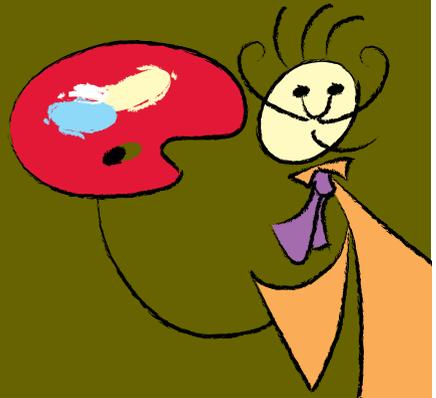
Village News



Features

Local Events
Local Societies
Lifestyle
Poetry Corner
Letters
Downley Diary

Issue 95 / June 2013





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Editorial

The last quarter has been hectic for all those involved with community matters. Elections came and went with Wendy Mallen being re elected to represent us at County Council Level. New initiatives are being planned like the NAG and I urge you to get involved with your local community as your efforts make our community stronger, safer and more fun for us all. If you feel your time is too limited to be on the NAG then pen an article or ask one of your children to pen an article for us to use in future issues. These types of activities present well on CV's for potential employers in this difficult job market. Start with something on Tech or a recipe idea.

The summer looks to be active too even if the weather disappoints as last year. The arts show is coming, the school Fate', great entertainment at our local watering holes. Enjoy your summer and keep supporting your local magazine...

Simon Scott, Editor

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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
Bible Study Group	Wed 7.30pm	Community Centre
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
Dance Classes	Beginners Tues 8pm Intermediate 9pm	Community Centre
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
Happydoodle Children's Art Club	Mon 3.45pm - term time	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
Lace Making - term time	Thurs 12.45	Community Centre
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
Patchwork Craft Group	1st Tues 10am	Community Centre
Philatelic Club	Alternate Thurs 7.30pm	St James Hall

Continued...

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Pilates for beginners - term time	Wed 9.30am & 12pm	Community Centre
Pilates - term time	Thurs 6.30pm	Community Centre
Simply Walk	Mon 10am	Community Centre
Sing & Sign	Thursday 9.30am & 11am	Community Centre
(Downley) Spiritual Centre	1st Fri 7pm	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	Fri 9.15am (Starts September)	War Memorial Hall
Zest for Life	Mon 8pm	Community Centre
Zumba	Mon 8pm	War Memorial Hall

Downley Parish Council News

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 A5 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 Jacob (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. For all other roads in Downley, please report outages to the Clerk via phone on H.W. 462195 OR via "e" mail to downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk

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 p.m.

In February, April, June, August, October and December meetings are at the Downley Community Centre, School Close starting at 7.45 p.m.

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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Class time: 17.30-18.15

The club is a charity promoting children's and women's leisure



Email: alan@asjudoacademy.co.uk
www.asjudoacademy.co.uk

Chameleon Singles Group



The first few months of 2013 proved us right to keep mainly to indoor events although we are now looking forward to enjoying some of the long, maybe hot, summer days.

Over the last few months we have had a take-away meal at home, pancake night, visit to the Rebellion Brewery, walk and bowling evening all of which have been well attended. In April we ventured out to Birmingham to visit Cadbury World and while this is of course popular with children us adults enjoyed it too!

Our AGM and a review of the year took place at the end of January and once again went without a hitch. One small change we made was to re-focus on the 40+ age group which better reflects our activities. The committee remains much the same as last year although we are always on the look out for new organisers, ideas and events. As a group we do what our members want so there really are no boundaries to the type of events we hold, providing they are legal and decent of course!

Following the success of our holiday last year to Blackpool we are planning this year to visit the Beer Festival in Munich at the end of September. With hopefully drier weather this year, at least at some point, we plan to do some day trips to places of interest such

as museums, houses and gardens and one to the coast.

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 Crown, Amersham Road, Hazlemere. There is food available if you wish to eat until 9pm 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, 40 plus, looking for a better 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 – 817895, 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.

Upcoming Event

Bricks, Bodgers and Broomsticks

On Sunday 9 June 2013, the Chiltern Open Air Museum is throwing open its doors and becoming a traditional working common for the day. Lords, ladies and commoners are all invited to roll up to Bricks, Bodgers and Broomsticks, a free family event where you can experience some of the fascinating ways our ancestors lived on, celebrated and eked a living from common land.

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Pastures Church Appeal

Dear Friends,

The Promise Auction as advertised here is one way the pastures church hope to raise funds & generate interest in the project of re developing our site (artist impression of finished building below) but we are also seeking to identify partners & donors too. If you feel you or your organisation could help us in this way please contact us. We hope to obtain £20,000 in the coming months to pay for Architect's to draw up building plans. We hope to raise £8,000 with the help of the Church membership at our gift day later this month* but we can only do so much on our own!

To coincide with the Promise Auction we have dedicated part of our building to an exhibition outlining the work we have done & the plans we have, anyone

is welcome to drop in from 10-23 June to view the exhibition. Inspired by Christ and motivated by our faith in Him, the members of The Pastures Church are committed to serving those in need throughout our local community.

*The Heart of the Community
Working Party & The Members
of The Pastures Church*



**Heart Promise Auction
2pm Saturday 22nd November 2013
at the Pastures Church**



**Ironing
Shopping
Gardening
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Dog Walking
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Driving
and many other
small acts
of kindness!**

Come and bid for promises of local kindness worth up to £25 with a starting bid of £1. Come and bid for an act of kindness and help your community. You can also submit a promise by Thursday 13th June for the auction catalogue. Contact Church office for an application form and more info [pasturesoffice@gmail.com or 525074]. All proceeds will be donated to the Heart of the Community Project for the greater benefit of the local community.

Plumbing Offer

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News from Downley Pharmacy

Having been open for nearly a year we feel we are settling well into the community. We recently carried out a patient questionnaire as part of our NHS responsibilities which pleasantly returned an overall rating of very good-excellent from 97% of those responding.

One example of comments made was“ I am very pleased the pharmacy is here. It makes life much easier and everyone is always very polite and pleasant” Thank you to all who took the time to complete the questionnaire, we are delighted with the resounding positive response and will endeavor to keep up the good work.

Spring is here and with it for some will come the torment of hayfever. Predictions this year are pollen levels could be higher than usual due to the long winter delaying the growing season. This results in tree pollen being released at the same time as grass pollen. Symptoms of hayfever vary, for some, symptoms are mild and come and go, others can be severely affected with symptoms present throughout the season. Help is available for both and we can advise what is the best for your personal needs, either to purchase or when a visit to the Doctor is needed for the most severe symptoms. Much of the

medication is available as an unbranded form at a reasonable price.

A ‘top tip’ for hayfever sufferers, treatments work best as preventative medication and may take up to a week to start working properly. It is therefore best to be prepared before the peak grass season in June. Also, when pollen counts are high, try and stay indoors with doors and windows closed. Keep car windows closed when driving, especially on motorways and when you venture out wear sunglasses. It may help to shower and change when you return indoors, especially after that evening barbecue on hot days.

Looking forward to the summer holidays we are launching a weight management service for help and support to loose weight. Come in for friendly support in that battle to shed some pounds!

For those venturing further afield we can supply all preventative malaria medication without a need for a visit to the GP

We look forward to seeing you at Downley Day where we will be offering various health check services.

Fiona, Marie, Louise, Marie and Jackie



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Downley Common News Coppicing Project

In 1998 the Downley Common Preservation Society commissioned a new Management Plan to help us conserve the environment on the Common.

The plan included a number of projects, one of which was to create a coppice wood between Plomer Green Lane, the track that runs down to the old Dairy and the cricket pitch. The original purpose of planting this coppice was to generate a habitat that was a sort of scrub without it turning into woodland as any scrub will eventually do if not managed.

We originally planted 100 saplings in February 1999 adjacent to the cricket pitch, consisting of a mixture of willow, ash and hazel and it is interesting to see that the surviving plants were predominantly hazel with a few ash and hardly any willow. The proximity of the large oak tree at that end of the coppice was always going to reduce the water availability and perhaps the willow suffered as a result. Most years since then the Society has planted another strip of saplings moving gradually towards the Dairy track.

Last year it became apparent that some of the earlier saplings were turning into substantial trees and needed to be cut back to prevent the area turning into a wood, which would have defeated the original purpose. So in February the first strip of trees were cut down to ground level and the cuttings have now been converted into a range of lengths for use as pea and bean



poles. These will be offered for sale at Downley Day and the proceeds will go back to support the Common.

The cut trees will sprout from the base and will regenerate into new coppice trees, getting thicker and more numerous in the process. It is hoped that this will become an annual event whereby we harvest successive strips of coppice and utilise the cuttings as a cash crop.

Other possible applications will include producing willow and hazel hurdles for use as garden screens, although this takes a bit more effort and the materials collected to date may not be suitable. **It may even be possible to convert some of the wood into charcoal – is there anyone local who knows how to do this?**

Bill Thompson

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The Coffee Stop

At last a little bit of sunshine to cheer our hearts, it has been such a long slog this winter with a couple of hiccups for snow.

We have had an Easter event with a wonderful Simnel cake made by Jean and hot cross buns as well as the normal fare. Pauline and Lyn organised a raffle of seasonal treats too and on another week we had a bran tub of toiletries. We are always open to hearing any ideas of providing more interest as well as providing a space to have a light meal and a chat.

Downley Day is fast approaching and we will have our usual cake and produce stall, any donations gratefully received on the morning of 22nd June after 10.30. It could be a cake, just a pot of jam, a few muffins or cookies to sell in small amounts or individually, any contribution would be fantastic.

Throughout the year we gather up any donations or money from fundraising events to donate to local charities. This year we have given a donation to the Downley School to use for musical instruments and have had a charming



letter of thanks, it is heartwarming to support a local cause that is appreciated and the children always delight us with their singing at Christmas. We also have some money remaining from Charles' legacy so we plan to support the Butterfly Walk and have a paver inscribed in his memory to help the local hospice.

Thanks are due as always to all who help us in various ways throughout the years, they are a very loyal band and much appreciated. Our Harvest Lunch this year will be on 7th October, please put the date in your diaries and make sure you obtain tickets in good time for this very popular event.

I wish everyone a warm and dry Summer for a change.

*Ann Buxton
pabuxton@hotmail.com*

Downley Village Evening WI

Ladies do come and pay us a visit, you will be sure of a warm welcome. Our meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month in the Community Centre at 7.45 in the centre of the village.

Speakers are booked for each month and cover an interesting range of subjects. Most months we have social events and outings which range from coffee evenings, pub meals, the Swan theatre and local gardens in the summer. Our County Federation has outings planned most months with pick-ups in H/W.

The WI is friendly, fun loving and warm hearted, for 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

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The Downley School Summer Fair
Talent Show
1st £25 - plus lots more prizes



If you would like to take part in the 'Downley Schools Talent Show' competition at the Summer Fair, **Saturday 8th June**, please complete the form below and return it to your class teacher by **Friday 24th May at the latest!!** You are welcome to enter on your own, or form a group with your friends.

There will be a small charge for entry to the competition to cover the cost of prizes for the winners of:

£1.00 per individual £3.00 per group

On the day you need to supply a CD with your name and the track number clearly marked. These can be collected at the end of the day.

The judges will be looking for:

- A) APPEARANCE
- B) CHARACTERISATION
- C) ENTERTAINMENT VALUE

Due to a number of demonstrations at this year's Fair only 12 acts will perform, so please send your form back quickly.

Send the fee with your entry into school marked **Summer Fair - Talent Show**. The order in which the acts will appear, and the time of each act will be posted in classrooms in the week prior to the event and on the day. Any questions contact Tonia 01494-636126

✕

♪♪★ 'The Downley Schools Talent Show' ★♪♪
Saturday 8th June

Name of Pupil(s) entering competition: -----Class()
-----Class()
-----Class()
-----Class()
-----Class()

Name of your act/group:.....
What you are singing/dancing/doing acrobatics/ musical instrument etc:

Signature of parent/guardian Contact Tel. No.....
.....

Downley School

Spring has been a long time coming this year. We were so pleased to see some sunshine as we returned for the summer term and we look forward to lots of outdoor activities in the next few months. Despite the cold weather, last term was still as busy and exciting as ever.

We launched our values based curriculum in February. 'Love' was the first value we explored in depth, followed by 'Compassion' in March and 'Respect' in April. Although The Downley School is already full of wonderful models of these values, making them explicit, exploring different scenarios and having mature and reflective conversations is making a big difference in the school. Parents are very much on board and everyone feels extremely positive about this deepening of learning in the widest sense.

We learn lots about the work of different charities over the course of a year and last term we supported the NSPCC and Comic Relief. Hearing about the work of charities broadens our understanding of life and gives us very real examples of how we and others demonstrate values such as compassion and dedication. 'Mums In School Day' coincided with Comic Relief Day and was a huge success with so many mums and grandmas joining us in enterprising lessons and activities to raise money for charity.

The weather made it difficult to get out during the spring term. Several visits and events had to be postponed or cancelled due to snow. However, we made up for it by having some big events in school. Year 5 told us the story of Robin Hood in the most wonderful production of 'Hoodwinked'. Book Week was wonderful. Every class

explored a picture book in great depth. No matter what age we are, picture books can tell the most amazing stories and we

all really enjoyed some very deep learning as we engaged with these books throughout the week. We enjoyed a really interesting visit from Mark Neil who is the official Poet Laureate of Milton Keynes. The children produced some excellent poetry and worked on their performance skills with him. The Book Fayre was open all week and the highlight for everyone was our 'mufti' Book Day when all sorts of weird and wonderful book characters came to school. Our Year 3 and Year 5 pupils all entered into the spirit of Greek Day and Tudor Day respectively, by dressing up and experiencing a taste of life in those time periods. The learning activities during the two days ranged from watching the Greek Odyssey to dancing to Tudor music – all the children looked fantastic in their costumes.

Our sports teams are getting warmed up for lots of action this term. We have some extremely talented sports stars who achieve outstanding results both in school and out of school representing many different clubs. I must congratulate our Under 10s football team who have reached the final of the Wycombe District Schools Under 10 Knockout Cup, having demonstrated great determination and commitment in their journey to get there. We wish them the very best of luck! Well done also to our netball team who won a recent tournament at Kingsmead.

Here's hoping for lots of lovely sunshine for our final term of the year!

Mrs Webb, Headteacher



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Community Plan Report

As many of us know, The Downley School has introduced values based education exploring a different core value each month.



The value for April is ‘Respect’. At the recent Community plan meeting, while reviewing the plan outcomes and discussing ongoing issues identified by residents still to tackle such as;

Speeding, Parking on verges, Dog mess, Litter, Overgrown hedges obstructing pathways

Could it be that we don’t actually need complex action plans to address these issues? Perhaps we just need to follow the lead of our outstanding school and turn to the value of ‘respect’.

Many of us enjoy living in Downley and one way this has been recognised is by being voted Best Kept Village two years in a row and runner up last year. Wouldn’t it be great to be Best Kept Village winners again AND tackle some of the issues identified by residents by being positive role models for the children in our village by demonstrating respect for our neighbours and neighbourhood?

Following on from the report in the last edition, the group reviewed how the recommendations for the environment and transport have fared over the last couple of years.

Environment

1. Glass collection. Some talk of blue bins for glass but still to be confirmed
2. Improved lighting. The Parish Council has to prioritise the replacement of existing lighting so additional lighting has taken a back seat
3. Dog poo. Campaigns have been held but there is little discernible difference to date.
4. Litter bins. If you think a litter bin is needed in your area, take photographs and send to the Wycombe waste department
5. Planning. A link to planning decisions is now on the Downley.org website
6. Noise. No action taken to date. A “Respect” campaign was suggested
7. Hedges. No action to date. Could be included in a “Respect” campaign
8. Coffee shop. No action. Survey response available to support should a planning application be made

Transport

1. Bus routes. Despite representations to Arriva, they have decline to make changes to the 31 or 39 bus routes. A proposal for a community bus service up & down Plomer Hill attracted negligible interest which rather supports the Arriva viewpoint.
2. Traffic lights. The re phasing of lights at the bottom of Plomer Hill has been overtaken by events such that queues are not much worst and unlikely to improve despite Parish Council protects.

Continued on the next spread...

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...Continued from previous spread

3. Zebra crossing. These were investigated and found to be prohibitively expensive. However, the painting of double yellow lines has had the beneficial effect of improving visibility at junctions and so making crossing safer
4. Pot holes. A perennial problem that is not going to go away.
5. Salt bins. More bins have been installed including another one to be installed at Ford Way
6. Speeding traffic. It was suggested that the 30mph campaign at the bottom of Coates line could be copied whereby 30mph signs are stuck onto wheelie bins and are therefore visible on bin day.
7. Parking. Another perennial problem although the double yellow line have made an improvement in certain areas.
8. Roundabout. A consultation produced no clear preference for any of the possible replacements
9. Cycle routes. No action
10. SRS. Still active. A junior road safety officer has been appointed. Kiln Pond Lane is due to be resurfaced this summer.

Bill Thompson, Chairman

Downley Evening WI

Ladies – why not come along and visit Downley Evening WI.

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

In March we celebrated our 50th Birthday party at High Wycombe Cricket Club. Members were served with a delicious three course meal and our guest speaker, Countess Howe gave a most interesting and amusing talk about her year as High Sheriff for Buckinghamshire.

Unfortunately our meeting in February had to be cancelled, because of the extremely icy weather conditions, so we did not hear about 'Travels along the Silk Route'. Hopefully this talk can be arranged at a later date.

At our Group Meeting, we heard about 'Weird and Wonderful Weddings'.

Recently, some members visited The Hindu Temple in Neasden and in May, a 'Behind the Scenes Tour' of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden has been arranged.

In the coming months, we are looking

forward to 'My Life with Norman Wisdom', hearing of 'Life on the Reef' and learning about lace with a talk entitled 'Frayed at the Edges'.

In July, we will have the second celebration of our 50th year, when we hold our Golden Garden Party. For this event and for our June barbecue, we are hoping for warm, sunny weather!

Our ever popular Literary Lunches continue each month, as does our Craft Group.

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

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On the Buses

As an occasional Arriva bus user I experience the problems of many when service 31 becomes unreliable and living opposite a bus stop suggests to passengers that we know when the next bus is due!



To put a positive spin on this I have now discovered this web site which I have used on my bus stop's unique no (prefixed BUCD) & position:
<http://www.nextbuses.mobi/WebView/BusStopSearch/BusStopSearchResults/bucdmdpj?currentPage=0> which works using texting too.

The web site gives real time information and tests this afternoon show the status to be very accurate.

There is a new and very useful service available to all who travel using the bus but you will need access to the internet or a smart phone.

Simply visit this web site; <http://www.nextbuses.mobi>

You will arrive at a web page looking like this:



You will be able to search real time information about buses on your route which will help you to speed up your travel time and manage you travel arrangements more accurately. The technology uses a GPS system to locate buses and where they are on their routes which in turn allows you to know when a particular bus will arrive at your stop. So, no more being late for the bus!

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Art Club

Summer Events Update



Well. As you can imagine, we at happydoodle are very excited about the impending Downley Art Competition! Naturally we are encouraging all those who attend our weekly classes to submit their best work. We remember how high the standard was last year and no doubt this year it'll be even better; we can't wait to see the exhibition in June.

Free Summer Art Event. To celebrate the start of the exhibition, and the summer generally (come on – there might be a summer this year, you never know) we are going to stage a free community event. When you submit your entries at the Community Centre on Saturday 15 June, come and see happydoodle at the same time. Children can build and decorate their own kites and then, at 4pm – if the weather is kind to us – we will gather on the common to

stage a mass kite flying extravaganza. Everyone is welcome (whether they are entering the art competition or not), and if we do get the chance to get the kites air-bound it'll be a great laugh.

We've had a brilliant term at happydoodle and our after-school classes are now regularly fully booked with children from all over the district. We've been painting, printing, sculpting, drawing and collaging... and having a very good time in the process. The Easter workshop was a great success and booked up very quickly. This summer we will be running three workshops over the holidays for both pre-schoolers and 5-12 year olds; look out for our posters around the village or check our facebook page www.facebook.com/happydoodlearts for details nearer the time.

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The advertisement features a central illustration of a woman with long blonde hair smiling at two children. Below this, there are smaller photos of children in a classroom setting. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout with varying font sizes and weights.

Note - happydoodle run art classes for children aged 5-12 on Mondays from 3.45-4.45pm, as well as workshops, birthday parties, school sessions and gallery trips. We use famous artworks to inspire a wide variety of art projects.

To contact happydoodle regarding any of our courses or workshops or to join our mailing list, please call us on 07448793813, or email happydoodlearts@gmail.com.

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Downley Theatre Group

Downley Theatre Group, led by Claire Baker, celebrated its 60th outing to 'theatre land' with a trip to see 'We Will Rock You' at the Dominion Theatre.

Despite a slightly late arrival, due to road closures and heavy traffic, we were soon enthralled by one of many rock anthems belted out by the baddie Killer Queen, excellently performed by Brenda Edwards. For lovers of the iconic rock band, Queen, you could not fail to recognise the superb renditions of their many hit numbers and the audience were ready to sing along and offer thunderous applause.

Even though this was very much a trip down memory lane for Queen music aficionados, old and new, the cast performed



as well as they sang with a storyline similar to a James Bond-like sub plot of good versus evil but set 300 years into the future on a place once known as Earth where Rock 'n' Roll and all live music had been banned. The Bohemians, rock's freedom fighters, led by Galileo and Scaramouche set out to unlock the hidden instruments at Wembley stadium and set Rock 'n' Roll free again.

Singing along to Bohemian Rhapsody at the end was the icing on the cake!

Kevin Wilson

Cirque de Soleil, Royal Albert Hall

Michael McIntyre may say that on Friday evenings "the traffic's a nightmare!" but on Friday February 8th, our coach left Downtown Downley (that's Cross Court Parade to you and me) on the dot of 6pm and cruised into London, pulling up outside the RAH at 7.15, just as the doors were opening. A perfect start to what was to be a fabulous evening.

Cirque de Soleil gave us a stunning experience of modern circus. Using a fantasy about a little boy who somehow stumbles into a mysterious Otherworld kingdom as the vehicle for the show, the virtuoso acts rolled out thick and fast, punctuated by humorous interludes with acrobatic clowns. High wire and trapeze artistes, contortionists who created the most amazing, imagination-defying shapes with their bodies and the two men on the Wheel of Death who almost took flight at times in breathtaking feats of

strength, balance and daring: these were just some of the highlights. I have to admit I even felt relieved when some of the acts finished just so that my heart could come out of my mouth! Add to all this costumes that were eye-catching and colourful, live music that was slick and professional and you have a show that flowed with ease and confidence. Claire Baker, the trip organiser, told us that she'd had to negotiate our tickets via phone calls to Montreal last year. Claire: it was worth it!

Angela Taplin

To hear about future outings do call or drop us a line by e-mail – everyone welcome!

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Downley Gardening Society



Our society has recently heard talks on the Lacey Green windmill, one from Edwin Rye on when he won Gardener of the year and soils and growing mediums.

The talks are about an hour long and then we have tea, coffee and biscuits and a bit of a catch up, all very friendly. If you would like to come along we meet at St James church hall at 8pm, non-members are always very welcome.

Future events:

- Monday 20th May 'Wild flowers of the Chilterns' by Rod D'Ayala
- Monday 3rd June visit to local garden
- Saturday 15th June coach trip to Leeds Castle in Kent

- Saturday 22nd June plant stall at Downley Day
- Saturday 14th September Autumn horticultural show
- Monday 21st October 'Woodland Wildlife' by John Tyler

Annual subscription costs just £8 per household or £5 for senior citizens. Talks are £1 for members and £1.50 for non-members. If you are interested in joining either pop along to one of our talks or call Ken on 01494 524622

Connecting young people in Downley with their Community and Environment

'The Friendly Tree'

Downley Connect enjoyed their very first event in March by joining Downley Common Preservation Society to plant an Oak tree sapling near to the climbing tree on the Common.



Children, Mums, Dads and Grandparents joined the DCPS team working together to clear the ground of brambles, digging a hole and then planting the tree.

The children also enjoyed a well earned break with hot chocolate and a beautiful story entitled 'The Lonely Tree'. We then talked about naming the tree and the wonderful suggestion of 'The Friendly Tree' was decided by the children.



It was great to see everybody having fun working together and we would really like to thank DCPS for a really enjoyable morning on the common. We very much look forward to connecting again soon.

Look out for more events coming soon on Downley Community website and Facebook Page.

Or if you would like to join our mailing list please contact Sonia and Amber downleyconnect@btinternet.com

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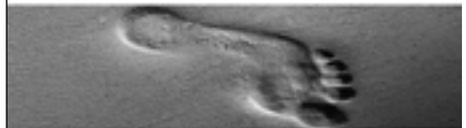
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View of Library



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



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Downley Day is coming. Don't forget to come and fill a bag with books.

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Bridge

A Game of strategy

Bridge is one of the most, if not the most popular card game in the world. If you have never played it you have heard of it and the first known reference to the rules of Bridge date from 1866.

Bridge is one of the most, if not the most popular card game in the world. If you have never played it you have heard of it and the first known reference to the rules of Bridge date from 1866.

In 1866 it was commonly known as Biritch (Russian for whist) and it rapidly spread in popularity across Europe and to the Americas. Over the years the game evolved into the modern game which has been played in the same way since the nineteenth century.

FACT; Within 15 miles of Downley there are 10 to 15 bridge clubs associated with the English Bridge Union.

The game can look complicated to a novice but it can be picked up with practice. It involves strategy, teamwork and luck. A bridge table has 4 people making up 2 teams of 2 (North / South team and East / West team). The teams

play against each other to attain the highest number of points and ensure their opponent's lose points.

Bidding takes place on the number of tricks a team can achieve from their cards and the opposite team try to reduce the number of tricks in your hand. Bidding takes additional dimension when you agree bidding conventions with your playing partner and you agree a final contract. If you achieve this contract then extra points are awarded but deducted if you do not achieve it.

You can see that very quickly strategy takes hold whilst playing which is one of the things that makes the game of Bridge very social and exciting.

The Downley Bridge club meets every Thursday from 7PM at the Downley Old School Community Centre. Subs are £2.00 (includes tea & biscuits) and all are welcome. We are a friendly club and can help beginners to get started. For more information call us on 01494440892 or visit our web site www.bridgewebs.com or email pennyhancox@aol.com.

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Social Housing public consultation

People living in Wycombe District are being urged to have their say about the way social housing is allocated in Buckinghamshire.

Wycombe District Council PR 2213
24/04/2013 [For Immediate Release]

Major consultation on how social housing is allocated. Social housing in the county is allocated using the Bucks Home Choice service which is operated in partnership with the four district councils - Wycombe District Council, Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern and South Bucks working together.

Currently the partnership operates an open housing register so that anyone can apply to go on the register. However, because most of the applicants on the housing register are unlikely to qualify for social housing, councils have to divert efforts from helping people with a genuine housing need in order to process all the applications which come in. More than 9,000 people are currently on the housing register in Buckinghamshire and only around 1,700 properties became available last year.

Local councils in our area are considering making some changes to the way the housing register will work in the future, so so they have launched a public consultation to ask people for their views about who should be allowed to join the register and many other issues around allocating social housing in the future.

Councillor John Richards OBE,
Wycombe District Council's Cabinet

Member for Housing said: "We want to look at the best way to help those most in need of housing. Making some changes to the way the housing register runs will allow us to concentrate our efforts on the people who need our help the most. The demand for social housing in Buckinghamshire far outstrips supply and we don't want to raise people's hopes by being on the housing register when they are almost certain not to meet the criteria to qualify to get social housing.

"We need to make changes, but before we do anything, we want local people to be involved in shaping how we run the social housing register. I would like to encourage everyone to have their say on the proposals to ensure that the decisions we make represent the views of local people, at the same time as looking to support those in greatest need to get the help they deserve."

The consultation starts this week and runs until 2 June. The quickest way to have your say is to visit the web site www.buckshomechoice.gov.uk. If your too late to have your say then we will be sure to update you on the outcomes.



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Abbey Way Flyover undergoes routine safety inspection which proves inconclusive

Detailed report due in June 2013.

ROAD chiefs in Buckinghamshire called for a detailed inspection of the Abbey Way flyover because a routine structural survey proved “inconclusive”. Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) said there was uncertainty over the results of the routine inspection of the busy flyover last week, sparking a more detailed probe. The county council’s transport arm said the findings of the “intrusive inspection” will be ready in June.

In a statement, TfB said: “Following a routine inspection, a decision was made to conduct a further more detailed investigation of the flyover. “The results from the routine inspection

are inconclusive; this has led us to undertake a more detailed investigation to ensure that the structure continues to remain safe and operational. “Once we have the full information, we will be in a position to consider the most appropriate long term maintenance of the flyover.”

As we have all seen one lane in each direction of the Abbey Way flyover has been closed as a result of the survey and TfB said this has not caused any delays. However, CCTV cameras have been installed at each end of the flyover so transport bosses can continue to monitor traffic movements.



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HS2 Controversy

Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin MP has been invited to the Chilterns by council bosses to see the damage HS2 would cause.

Members of Chiltern District Council are unhappy at Mr McLoughlin's refusal not to stop the controversial high speed rail project despite continuing pressure from campaign groups. So councillors passed a motion at a meeting on Tuesday 21st May to ask him and Transport Minister Simon Burns to meet with them to discuss their concerns.

The motion said they wanted to talk about "the deficiencies of the rushed, weak, and inadequate Draft Environmental Statement, which omits proper consideration of a tunnel to fully mitigate the devastating impact and hardship HS2 would bring".

Council Leader Nick Rose said after the meeting: "I am inviting Mr

McLoughlin and Mr Burns to Chiltern so they can see, first hand, the damage and hardship they are inflicting with a scheme which has been roundly condemned by the National Audit Office.

"I want to remind them that there are much more important priorities for infrastructure investment that will bring jobs and growth now, not years down the line.

"I want them to come with an open mind, look at the facts and the alternatives that 51m [a campaign group made up of the local authorities affected by the route] has put forward and decide to consign the HS2 project to its rightful place, the scrap heap."



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Downley People In The News

Downley man receives Maundy Money

A Downley man has spoken of his pride after being presented Maundy money from the Queen as reward for his hard work.

Grandfather-of-three David Copcutt was handed two purses containing the traditional coins for his service to the church and community at the Royal Maundy Service. He said: "It was an absolutely brilliant day - from the choir and the organ, through to the service, everything was wonderful, it was an absolute honour to be there and to be presented the money by the Queen.

(BFP 23/4/13)



Downley Heart Patient walk Marathon

A woman told she would not be able to run the London marathon wants people to sign up as organ donors.

Lucy Fenner, 26, of Littleworth Road, was told on March 12 she would be unable to run the marathon due to heart condition, dilated cardiomyopathy, which was diagnosed in 2008. But a determined Miss Fenner has decided with her doctors that walking the 26-miles alongside her mother could be achieved safely.

(BFP 3/4/13)



Downley Pensioner on round-Britain walk

Andy Peddle, 70, is part-way through an 18-month sponsored trek across the UK to raise £100,000 for the Salvation Army causes.

Wearing a top hat and tails, Mr Peddle, from Downley in Buckinghamshire, is visiting the majority of the Salvation Army's churches, lifehouses - formerly known as hostels - and charity shops, covering 7,900 miles, or 15 million steps.

(Evening News 24 3/3/13)



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Review of windows 8

From office bod.

Have you too just been exposed to the new windows 8? Having been used to a normal windows layout for the last 15 years it is comforting to know that the desktop still exists on windows 8 so when I get too confused I revert back to type.

The layout feels very fresh and much more interactive. The tools most of us use all of the time such as the internet, pictures and office are all conveniently laid out in front of you on the screen and are easy to access. Once into a particular program it can be confusing navigating around but this is just a matter of getting used to using the new layouts and methods of access. The old methods of right click, left click and double click have been enhanced with another layer of sliding across and up or down the screen. Sliding different ways presents different functions.

For example slide right to left to bring up the bar allowing you to get back to where you started. Slide down and you can navigate to a new web page or open an additional one. I have found that I am using a mixture of navigating with the mouse and clicking the



mouse together with sliding and clicking directly onto the touch screen. This makes me feel as though I am interacting much more with the software and I am free to use it in a way that suits me rather than being confined to using a mouse.

I am sure apple users have felt this for some time but I have avoided getting to into ipads because historically (can I say historically as the BBC computer was only here in the 80's) office work requires office software and windows is all I have known. As an office bod I do think this is a welcome advancement and I will definitely enjoy feeling more free to choose how I interact with word and excel programs.

A big thumbs up for windows 8 from this office bod.

Write your own review on tech you use so we can include it in our next issue. 300 to 500 words is plenty and email it to editor@downley.org

Bucks and Oxon initiative to help rough sleepers.

Local volunteers are taking part in this national initiative to stop rough sleepers having to spend a second night on the streets.

There is a single number and email if you know someone who is sleeping rough **call 07793 834 871 or email outreach@connectionfs.org**. The team will respond to any email or phone call received by 5pm and will go out early the following morning to visit the rough sleeper and offer them an emergency bed for the following night.

This new front line service is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, with Wycombe District Council acting as the lead authority to drive the Bucks and Oxfordshire Single Homeless (BOSH) project forwards.

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Downley Village Art Show 2013

With over 170 pieces of work and visitor numbers averaging over 50 each evening, Downley gave last years Village Art Show a warm welcome. It's back again and it will once again give a demonstration of the talent and creativity in and around Downley.

From Colin the Cockerel made of chicken wire to Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass walking sticks, the range of artwork and variety of styles last year was a delight. We would like the show to be as inclusive as possible again this year and so not to inhibit your creativity so there are no set themes for entries. It is open to a wide range of media with categories for adults and juniors. We would like to consider your work for publication in the Downley Village Calendar for 2014 so please tick the box on your entry form if you would like to be considered.

There are modest prizes to be won across media and within categories but we would like to reward contributors with further exposure of their work. There will be a Best of Show exhibition is to be held at the High Wycombe Library from July 30th through to August 18th.

In more detail:

You need to select your qualifying category from: Juniors; 4 and under, 5-11 and 12-16. Adults; Beginners, Students (or those with modest experience) and Experienced.

Work is to be entered in the following media groups:

- Drawing, Painting & Crafts
- 3D
- Photography
- Poetry

Entry Forms will be made available to local schools, clubs and societies or can be requested by email from info@downley.org, downloaded from downley.org or via the online form there.

The deadline for submission of entry forms is 8th June by post to Downley Parish Council, P.O. Box 1091, High Wycombe HP13 5WU, by email to info@downley.org or via the online form there.

Artworks are to be delivered to the Downley Community Centre on 15th June between 10 am and 13.00 pm. A receipt will be provided as will a label to be attached to artworks. All artworks are left at your own risk. If you are able to provide digital images of your work we can publish them here and online.

Glazed work must be framed, please do not use clips that leave exposed glass edges. Prints of original work will be accepted when in a card window mount.

Work will be exhibited midweek evenings between 6.30 am and 9.00 pm from the 17th to the 21st June in the Oak Rooms of the Community Centre. If entries exceed the space available organisers will have the final decision on the work displayed.

Best of show awards will be announced on Downley Day held on the common on 22nd June. The judges decision is final.



Downley.org for more details



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Downley Video Diaries - presents Downley Now & Then



A collection of memories, images and stories told by you the Downley residence.

Our hope and indeed dream is to collate a collection of video interviews and stories from the Downley residence to publish online via YouTube and the Downley Comms Channel, we hope this will be a continuous process that will grow over time to build a bigger picture of what Downley was and is like to live in and around Downley.

Now to get the ball rolling we are looking to hold some interviews with local residence during the Art Show week from 16th June to 21st June 2013.

If you would like to contribute to the continuing history of Downley, please fill out the form online at www.downley.org/downley-video-diaries Or if you are not on the internet please call Mark on 07980 897 508 after 7pm.

You will need to be over 16years old unless you have consent of a parent or legal guardian and at the time of filming they will need to be present.

We are looking for Stories about life in Downley as well as interview style pieces.

Questions we will be asking:

- Why do you like living in Downley?
- Did you go to school in Downley if so where and what is your earliest memory of school life?
- If applicable, were you in Downley during the 1940s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. What was it like back then?
- How has Downley changed from then to now?
- Do you know any interesting fact about Downley that isn't common knowledge? (Not rumors)
- What is life in Downley like now?

We will be editing the videos, but we are looking for natural conversation pieces that can add to our growing history.

A Year In Pictures Our Village Calender

**Have you created or planned some images yet?
Sasha Leek was the first to do so and you can see her photographs at: [facebook.com/Downley.Community](https://www.facebook.com/Downley.Community)**

To produce this calendar we need you to submit your images representing 12 months in Downley to info@downley.org or post them onto our Facebook page (above). Those submitting work to the Art Show can tick the box allowing those pieces to be considered for the calendar.

There is a lot of the year left so get out there and record it in pictures and maybe your image will be one of 84 to hang on the walls Downley of residents next year?





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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints - Spring 2013

Wal, hello everyone, hope yor orl OK after the strangest Spring we've ever 'ad!

What with the cold and wet and the sort of feeling you don't want to get out in the morning, today, (end of April), it's sunny and almost warm and my little seedlings can't believe their luck! And you may remember my bit about wellies in the last HH, now everywhere I go people are wearing big black boots! Have they got my message or have fashions changed? And where are they getting 'em from, that's wot I wants to know! But I bet they're paying a lot for em! And believe it or not one of them welly wearers actually 'ad some mud on em! (They must 'ave been up at Jubilee, if you wants mud that's the place to go!).

Anyway, wot about the HHs...wal, lets 'ave a look at my little plants. (Orl veg, or nearly orl, Mrs H 'asn't come up with her 'ints yet). B. beans planted out and doing well, (Aquadulce and Bunyards Exh'n). Peas too, Onward and Early Onward up in the seed trays, ready to go out...I always grow 'em like this now, the mice seem to leave 'em alone then). They was really good last year. Leeks just coming up, greyhound cabbage ready to pot up from their cells, This way they get a good start, but do keep them pigeons orf 'em. I'm also trying beetroot in cells, Monty Doodah does that, he reckons they won't bolt...we'll see...anyway once they're nicely up you thin to the strongest and plant out after a couple of weeks. I've tried Boltardy and Detroit, Detroit the best so far, both sowed at the same time. (Do they grow beetroot in Detroit? I thought it was cars, or was). Chard's up too, both white and rainbow, pots a planted, I've put some black plastic over the bed after planting, to warm up the soil, should 'ave done it earlier but was probably doing something more important like sitting at home with eyes closed planning next months tasks.Tommy toes now in first potting up, I'm just trying a couple of old favourites this

year, Money Maker and Marmande, that's the big beef tomy toe from acorse the channel some where. I tried all sorts of exotic ones last year, complete waste of time, Jubilee at 600feet up on windswept Chiltern clay might not be the best place to grow 'em! And wot about my rhubarb? I've got jungles of it! With custard wot else do you need for pud! And do you know I saw some the other day in a trendy veg shop, £5.95 a kilo! (that's over 2 lbs I reckon). Mine must be worth about £150. then!

I tried buying some pansies the other day to get a bit of early colour in the garden, planted 'em out in pots, the next day they'd been pulled up and eaten by what I reckon was a blessed muntjac, wot's the use I reckon!

Now just to sign off here is a little cautionary tale. If you walk acorse the fields you might 'ave seen some enormous piles of 'compost' for spreading on the fields. It's recycled domestic green waste and it's processed at High Heavens recycling plant, and then delivered free to farmers. But this year they 'ad a problem at the plant and a lot of minced up plastic got into it. Something is now being done about it, but please, when you put yor green waste in the wheely, don't put plastic in, it rather spoils the object of the exercise!

Now to get the mower out, (it actually started after the winter, wot a miracle, I never get it serviced, waste of time I reckon...wal, until it won't start...ha ha.).

Now get out there and get working, not too much time in the deck chair,eh! (Oh, and don't forget them courgettes, pumpkins and so on, beans too, and sow yor 2014 cabbages before the next Village News comes out.).

Don't get sun burnt. Ta ta for now.

J.H sent from my iSpade.

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Recipe Corner

Summer BBQ Home Made Burger and Relish

Ingredients

For the burger

540g/1lb 3oz minced beef

25g/1oz chopped coriander or 1 x hot chilli pepper

1 onion, chopped

1 tbsp mustard reduce to 1 tsp if using chilli pepper above

free-range egg yolk

1 tbsp Olive oil

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Place all the burger ingredients in a mixing bowl and stir to combine. Using your hands, shape into four equal-sized patties. Cook the burgers on the BBQ for 15 minutes, or until cooked through, turning once.

Top each burger with a slice of cheese towards the end of the cooking time.

Top the bottom halves of the ciabatta rolls with the relish, lettuce, followed by a slice of tomato. Arrange the burger and cheese on top of the ciabatta, followed by a slice of red onion. Top each burger with the other halves of the ciabatta rolls and serve.

Making the relish;

Into the blender place the following;

1 x clove of garlic, 6 x sun dried tomatoes, 6 x ground pepper corns, 1 x hot chilli (optional), 1 x tbsp tomato ketchup, 1 x tbsp olive oil, ½ cup of grated parmesan cheese, Pinch of salt, ½ inch of chorizo sausage (optional)

Blend it all until it makes a paste. Put it into microwave for 120 seconds on high power, mix well and it's ready to spread onto your burger rolls. This amount of relish makes enough for 4 burgers.

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Poets Corner

Reflections Shocks

By Mary Howard

Fitting room identity.
Look in the mirror..”Is that me?”
Went to buy some clothes today,
then the mirror had its say.

Those mirrors, oh, they now reveal
what winter clothes tried to conceal.
Winter now, thank goodness passed,
brought eating habits, now outcast.

So, out in sunshine, walk when can.
Full length mirrors never ban.
Healthy eating, avoid cake,
biscuits too for heavens sake.

So, if you are a bit like me,
eat when bored, what may you see?
Unhealthy extra pounds of weight
added at alarming rate.

So, mirror, mirror on the wall,
Please don't lie to me at all.
By autumn, please reflect to see
a slimmer, healthier, fitter me.

Wish I Was

By Mary Howard

If I could choose an item that I would rather be,
a computer would be marvelous, you see.
An automatic up-date would be my daily friend.
I'd have an anti virus. A firewall to defend.

To isolate “unwanted”, as computers sometimes jam,
I'd press a little button, getting rid of spam.
Must keep the battery charging, now really I must dash,
to check on other details, before the final crash.

Glitches in the system clear methodically.
Computer? Yes, I know for sure, that is what I'd be.





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Letters

Downley Neighbourhood Watch Association

Dear Reader,

The Downley Neighbourhood Watch Association (D.N.H.W.A) was founded as an independent association in 2001, largely at the determined instigation of Christine and David Audcent whose efforts resulted in a formally constituted body to support local Neighbourhood Watch road coordinators registered on Thames Valley Police records. Meetings were regularly held in St. James's Church hall, Downley, sometimes with invited Police representatives present, when relevant issues were aired and opinions fed back to police management.

Christine and David Audcent were obliged by prevailing health issues to step down after 2006 and I continued as official Chairman. However the last public meeting in Downley in November 2010, held in my absence due to an unwelcome knee injury, elicited a very poor response and attendance. This was despite adequate local advertising and specific contact with N.W. Watch road coordinators recorded with the Association.

Since that time the Association has been effectively defunct, whilst remaining as affiliated to the Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association and residents have rarely questioned its existence. The present Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, holding the Association archives, have agreed with my recommendation to officially disband the Association, whose written Constitution does not specify a procedure for doing so.

I therefore propose that with effect from 1st August 2013 the Downley Neighbourhood Watch Association will be officially stated to have been dissolved.

Local residents who consider that it should be reinvigorated/re-established with new officers are invited to come forward with proposals for nominating and adopting volunteers to those posts, by contacting the undersigned by fax or telephone on 01494 528047 or by emailing the present Hon. Secretary on m-williams26@sky.com Please indicate your considered method of doing so. The present officers would stand down.

Disbandment will not affect the operation of the Thames Valley Police "Alert" messaging system directed by telephone and email to registered addressees who are predominantly N.H. Watch coordinators of their road schemes.

Continued...

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Downley Neighbourhood Watch Association

...Continued from previous spread

The Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association (W.D.N.H.W.A.) Chairman, Geoff Pegg and his elected Committee are resolved to recruit new N.H.W. schemes and continue to support existing schemes and road coordinators across the district, registered with Thames Valley Police.

Accordingly, one proposal for the use of the funds (about £300) held in the D.N.H.W.A. bank account is that the sum should be donated to W.D.N.H.W.A. to further assist its valuable work.

An alternative proposal suggests that the funds should be used to establish a discretionary reward or trophy to encourage young Downley/Disraeli residents to become constructively involved in a local community body (such as the Youth Club for example) or in evolving events.

Roger Lawson, Chairman D.N.H.W.A.

Downley History Articles

Many thanks to those readers who contacted me regarding the series of articles on the history of Downley written by Noreen Talbot and published in Downley Village News a few years ago. I have received copies of some of the articles and have written to Noreen. When we have seen all the articles, we shall be in a position to judge the best thing to do with them.

Des Ryan





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Dear Reader,

My name is Darren Mitchell and I am the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant responsible for the Downley/ Disraeli Neighbourhood. The other officers responsible for the day to day policing of Downley and Disraeli are PC Colin Bedford, PC John O'Callaghan, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) David Jones and PCSO Jennifer Weaver. Hopefully you will have either met my officers or seen them about on their patrols. If you haven't spoken with them yet, please feel free to approach them and either say "hello", or even ask them a more in-depth question about what is happening in your area.

In relation to what is happening in your area, we are in the process of trying to restart a Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) for the Downley and Disraeli neighbourhood. When I first moved onto the Neighbourhood team, two years ago, the NAG was in existence, but mainly consisted of police and councillors, with one or two members of the community. This was not, how a NAG should be and unfortunately the NAG was dissolved.

The idea is, it is a community lead meeting, to discuss any issues of concern for the community. A NAG is made up of a chairperson, chosen from the neighbourhood and a representation of five to ten other neighbourhood members. One of your local police officers or PCSOs, either a councillor / council representative / housing association (where applicable) and basically any other public body that can assist with problem solving issues within your community. It is important that anyone who would like to join the NAG, is community minded and willing to problem solve the bigger issues that can arise within your neighbourhood. The meetings should be held every six to eight weeks and initially my team will assist in setting up the new NAG. After it is set up, it will be for the community to continue with it and the Police and other officials will attend to give updates on what is happening in the area and what help they might be able to give to any issues.

So, if you live within the Downley or Disraeli neighbourhoods and would like to help your community and become a member of the NAG, please contact me on the telephone / e mail below.

Telephone 101 and ask for Sgt Darren Mitchell at the Neighbourhood Policing Team at High Wycombe or e mail Darren.Mitchell@Thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Sgt Darren Mitchell

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Thank you to Anna for her huge contribution to the community in Downley.

Dear Downley Residents,

Anna Braisher, one of the founder members of the Community Centre volunteer management group has now chosen to move on and, after 10 years of dedicated community service, she has stepped down as the Community Centre's bookings manager.

In 2001, the first Downley residents' survey was undertaken. Amongst several popular opinions expressed at the time was that The Old School Building (the original Downley Victorian School) be retained for community use after the closure of Downley Middle School. Anna joined the formation group in 2002 to prepare a plan that would result in the school being converted into a community centre to include a library and public IT facility. Her background and expertise in the fashion industry proved invaluable with her sound advice and recommendations on décor, textiles and colour plans always giving the centre a fine professional look.

After an initial period as our Secretary, Anna suggested (which usually means you get the job!) that the combined administration and bookings role be separated and from that point Downley Community Centre had its first dedicated Bookings Manager. The centre has prospered since. After the Downley Parish Council acquired the freehold from Bucks County Council a programme to modernise much of the administration was carried out which has resulted in easing the work of booking and accounting which are now handled electronically.

We thank Anna for her contribution to the project spanning over 10 years, whilst also finding the time to work, care for her family and raise three children. She now moves on to give more assistance to her husband Mark as he develops their new venture in the financial services sector.

The management committee and Trustees of Downley Community Centre expressed their appreciation at their AGM in March.

We now welcome Cathy Price into the role of Bookings Manager who has already settled in well, no doubt helped by her 30+ years of involvement with Downley village life too.

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Did Vicky Pateman ever think she would find herself working at a children’s hospital in Cambodia when she was at Downley Middle School. Probably not. But she also never thought she would have worked in America, Italy, Switzerland along the way too!

Today High Wycombe-born Vicky is the only international member of staff in the Development Team of a hospital of over 300. Doctors and nurses at Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap see over 500 kids every day. From heart surgery to broken bones, much like many other hospital Buckinghamshire, they deal with a range of illnesses. “Everyday I see children from poor families who can’t afford simple medical treatment because they earn less than £1.00 a day. This hospital provides free care and I work with a great group of people to make this happen” says Vicky.

After studying in Southampton, Vicky graduated in Marketing in 1999 and then spent two summers working as a tennis coach at a kid’s camp in America. In 2000 she dove into marketing sector working as a Marketing Assistant where she stayed for three years before deciding to move to Rome, Italy to be an English Teacher.

Two year later, and after some travels Vicky was drawn back to London where she began her six year stint in the creative marketing team for the world’s largest private travel and education company, which also resulted her working in Zurich, Switzerland until 2012.

“I love working on promoting travel and cultural exchange, but development had always been an interest of mine” says Vicky. “After nearly a decade in marketing I thought I had some skills which could be put to good use somewhere else – and after lots of research I was offered a job in South East Asia.”

“The team here are amazing and have genuine compassion and dedication to all the kids they help. Cambodia is a poor country and so there are deaths from easily preventable illnesses like malnutrition. Treatment can cost as little as £15 which is relatively small amount to those in the UK. This job has put a lot of things into perspective that’s for sure.”

If you are interested in learning more about Angkor Hospital for Children or want to learn more about working in development email: vicky@angkorhospital.org

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Simon Scott at editor@downley.org

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Advertising

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Deadlines

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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 editor@downley.org. Any copy or photographs sent to this address may also be used on the downley.org website and facebook page: [facebook.com/Downley.Community](https://www.facebook.com/Downley.Community)

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

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Downley Diary *Please visit Downley.org for all the latest and up to date events and news.*

June	1	Live music at the Brickies - Laura Williams from 8.30pm
	1	Laura Tapp plays acoustic guitar at the LeDe from 9pm
	2	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	3	Downley Gardening Society meeting - trip to local garden
	8	The Downley School Summer Fete at the school 11am to 1.30pm
	8	Live Music at the Brickies - Steph Willis from 8.30pm
	11	Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre
	15	Buckinghamshire Open Gardens 2013 - Kayalami 2pm to 5.30pm
	15	Ward 4 playing Rock & Roll at the LeDe from 9pm
	17/21	Downley Art Show - The Community Centre at 6.30pm until 9pm
	20	Downley SCholl Music Evening at 7pm
	21	Family Disco on the Common from 7pm
	22	70's & 80's Rewind Disco at the LeDe from 9pm
	22	Downley Day on Commonside 1pm to 5pm
	23	Buckinghamshire Open Gardens 2013 - Craiglea House 2pm to 5.30pm
	23	Buckinghamshire Open Gardens 2013 - Faversham Meadow 2pm to 5pm
	27	Buckinghamshire Open Gardens 2013 - The Bunch Wotton Underwood 12 to 4pm
	29	3 piece Acoustic and Electric Set at the LeDe from 9pm
July	7	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	9	Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall
	13	Concert on the Common from 7pm
	13	Live Music at the Brickies - Steph Willis from 8.30pm
	24	End of School Term
Aug	4	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	4	Live Music at the Brickies - Steph Willis from 8.30pm
	13	Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre
	26	Family Fun day at the Brickies starts at 1pm
Sept	1	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	10	Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall
	14	Downley Gardening Society Autumn Show at St James Hall