

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

Village News



Features

- Local Events
- Local Societies
- Lifestyle
- History
- Poetry Corner
- Letters
- Contributions from Advertisers
- Downley Diary

Issue 96 / August 2013





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Contents

Editorial	3	Lifestyle	
New Look to DVN Layout	11	Communication is Key	37
Local Weekly Events		Garden Sharing	39
Round-up of Weekly Activities	5/7	Downley Art Show	41
Local Societies		Writing's a Strange Old Game	43
The Corner Piece Community Garden	7	Theatre for the Autumn	45
Downley Parish Council News	9	West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival	47
Chameleon Singles Group	13	J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints	49
Downley Village Evening WI	13	History	
News from Downley Pharmacy	15	Ninety Years Old - DWMH	51
Downley Common News	17	In the Workhouse	53
Coffee Stop	19	Poets Corner	
Pastures Church	19	The Future King	55
Downley Evening WI	21	Letters	
Science Facts	21	Introduction from revd. Alison Finch	57
Downley Day Report	23	A regular reviews his local of 25 years	59
Menfolk of Downley	23	Contributions from our Advertisers	
Downley Theatre Group	25	Starlight Stores - Downley High Street	61
Downley Descants	27	Autumn Heating Tips - D&P Heating	63
DOSCA Community Library	29	Treat Your Hair After Summer - Spirt Hair	65
Around the Area		Treat Your Feet - Happy Feet Foot Clinic	67
News from the District	31	List of Advertisers	70
News from Wycombe and Westminster	33	Downley Diary	Back Page
Wycombe District Council 'Masterplan'	35		

Editorial

This autumn edition is bursting with new material and new ideas as you will read. I would like to thank all of the new contributors to this issue and apologize to some of you who's articles have not made it into this issue. I will however make sure your articles make it into the Winter edition which will have a new look to it as detailed on page 11.

Plans afoot include creating a young editing team to write and edit a section of the magazine as well as attracting some young talent to the communication committee who will inspire us all I am sure.

Please do offer your feedback to us using the usual avenues of FB, the web site, email and word of mouth. Enjoy your read and support your local businesses who keep the cogs of our community turning but above all enjoy yourselves this autumn.

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
Fencing Training	Wed 5.30pm	War Memorial 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

Continued...

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Philatelic Club	Alternate Thurs 7.30pm	St James Hall
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

The Corner Piece Community Garden

Two White Close residents, Gemma Rogers and Hilary Payne are taking on the challenge to improve the look of their neighbourhood by creating a small community garden.

The plot they plan to cultivate, is on the corner of Southfield Road and Middlebrook Road next to the shop.

With the support of the shop owners, they plan to increase the availability of nectar rich flowers for insects using a mix of bee friendly wildflowers and low maintenance perennial shrubs. As this project is totally voluntary, the gardeners would welcome any

cuttings or seeds that local residents would like to donate.

These types of habitats are essential to help sustain our native bee populations and we hope you too are able to find a little area to develop similar havens for bees and insects. We look forward to hearing from you, thank you.

Hilary Payne and Gemma Rogers
Gemmaelizabethrogers@yahoo.co.uk
hilarypayne@rocketmail.com





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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 9 Parish Council notice boards can be used to display notices for Downley based organisations provided that at least 4 weeks notice is given. Please drop off notices at the old post office in an envelope addressed to Downley Parish Council.

Please ensure that A.5 size notices are supplied.

Dates for 2013 diaries :

Tuesday 5th November - Torchlight Procession and Bonfire on The Common starting at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 10th November - Remembrance Day Service at Downley War Memorial Hall at 3.00 p.m.

Tuesday 31st December - Lighting the Millennium Beacon at Common side at 11.45 p.m.

2013 Best Kept Village Competition

Downley Parish Council were unsuccessful in this year's event; however the Council would like to thank Downley residents for their efforts in helping to keep the area so nice. The Council will be entering next year's and future year's competitions and look forward to your continued support.

Street Lighting

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

Plomer Hill, Downs Park, Hillfield Close, (Hithercroft Road and Pastures

from junction with Tinkers Wood Road up to Bellfields), Westover Road, Sunnycroft, South View,

Woodcote Green, Pheasant Drive, Southfield Road, Middlebrook Road, White Close and Merry Down. There are no "scouts" employed to do spot checks of lights that are not working in these areas, so the contractors have to rely on members of the public contacting them with details.

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 H.W. 462195 OR by "e" mail at : downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk

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The Clerk (Chris Hamilton) can be contacted on 01494 462195 or by email at: downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk

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New Look

Future changes to DVN Diary, round up of activities and timetables from contributors.

We are always striving to find ways of improving the magazine and have recently agreed at the communications committee meeting to change the format of the magazine from the next issue.

Just to remind you all the magazine is presided over by the Communications Committee who meet quarterly before each issue of the magazine is compiled. We are always looking for new people to join the committee and I would be interested to hear from anyone who wants to get involved. My email is at the bottom of this article so please do ping me an email expressing your interest.

We also always look for new Articles written by local people. These should be at least 300 words long but no longer than 500 words. Pictures should always be added if available as this draws the readers eye (provide please these separately as those embedded in 'Word' are low quality). The committee agreed to merge the Downley Diary on the back page with the 'Round-up of weekly activities' on page 5 and 6 into one section. This new section will be found in the centre pages of issue 97.

In addition to this change we will be asking any organisations, groups or individuals who contribute to the magazine to separate their articles from their times and dates.

All times, dates, events, activity sessions, venues etc... will be incorporated into the centre pages. This will allow the readers to find all of the when, where, who information in one section at the centre of the magazine.

We hope this will make it easier for readers to reference what interests them and will allow the organisations, groups or individuals to focus their articles on what they have been or are going to be doing. WI groups can offer reviews on the speakers they have had, safe in the knowledge that the future speakers booked will be diarised in the centre pages.

To allow me, the Editor, to organise all of this information for the future issues I ask that contributors separate their diary dates from the main text of their contribution and email it to me as two separate attachments where possible.

Please feedback your views about this new format once it has been run and I will ensure this get back to the communications committee. Nothing is set in stone, so if it's all too ghastly for you then be sure to feed this back too.

Other important notices;

All finance matters should be emailed to dnaccounts@yahoo.co.uk

Please keep submitting your pictures for the 2014 Calendar and we will include as many as possible.



Simon Scott, Editor
editor@downley.org

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Chameleon Singles Group



The early part of 2013 proved us right to keep mainly to indoor events but with summer well and truly here the great outdoors beckoned.

Our regular events of the Pub Night, Quiz Night and Lunch Club each month have all continued to prove popular. They offer a regular set of events to meet other members and which all the other activities across the month revolve around.

Over the last few months we have had trips to Cadbury World, Rickmansworth Canal Festival, an ELO tribute concert at Wycombe Swan, a visit to the National Trust property at Cliveden and an evening at the Rebellion Brewery. So as you see there has been a lot going on with around seven different events held each month. All are organised by our members who act as hosts and to them all we are very grateful as without organisers there would be no Chameleon!

Our summer events as usual include a day trip to the coast. This year the destination was Bognor Regis and follows other trips to Clacton, Southend, Isle of Wight and Bournemouth in previous years. It's not possible to enjoy summer without a BBQ and one of our members kindly opened up his garden for this traditional event.

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.

Downley Village Evening WI

Ladies do come and pay us a visit - soon it will be autumn when a new interest will help fill the autumn/winter months.

We meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in the Community Centre, School Close.

Speakers are booked until the end of the year, covering a range of subjects. We hold social events through most months and our County Federation has a varied range of interesting events/outings

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Firstly thank you to all who spent time with us around our first birthday celebrations at Downley Day and the week after.

We hope you liked the cake and are pleased to say we raised £65 for Rennie Grove Hospice –thank you for your generosity. We have also collected in the region of £80 for the Bucks, Berks, Oxfordshire air ambulance via our “penny pot” on the counter over the past year so thank you, those bits of change add up!

We hope you have all enjoyed our summer, anyone taking autumn breaks to far shores remember we are able to provide anti-malarial advice and medication without the need for a visit to the Doctor.

Remember we offer one to one consultation, advice, guidance and support. Already many of our weight management clients are benefiting from this service and this Autumn will see Stoptober 2013 campaign to help you stop smoking. Please ask for further information.

Head lice

No doubt with the return to school some will also have gained some unwanted friends. This is a perennial problem and can be difficult to treat due to the problem of re-infestation if all affected associates are not treated simultaneously.

Head lice are grey-brown wingless insects that live in human hair. Nits are the empty eggshells that may remain stuck to the hair shaft long after the lice are gone. Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim and are spread by head to head contact, crawling from one head to another- hence easy spread among children who cuddle and huddle together playing games etc. There is no preference by lice for clean, dirty, long or short hair but they cannot be caught from animals.

It is not always easy to see head lice so wet combing using conditioner and a proper detection comb is advised. Itching, the usual symptom of infestation, can take up to three months to develop as it is due to allergy to the lice not the bites. Hence regular detection combing is the best way of minimizing the problem.

To treat an infestation there are various lotions and sprays available although none are 100% reliable and should always be combined with wet combing follow up. We are always available to advise on the various form available but only treat when lice are detected – there is no preventative value to doing the whole family “just in case”, but don’t forget to inform school and close friends and family so that appropriate checks and if necessary treatment can be done. There is no need for children to remain off school. Itching (and I am sure you are all scratching by this point) does not mean you have head lice and may actually continue for a while after all infestation has been removed.

Most importantly do not be afraid or embarrassed to ask for help with this or any other condition however private or seemingly trivial. We aim to help as discreetly and effectively as possible and are happy for a to have a quiet chat in one of our consultation areas away from other customers. You are probably not the only person we have, or will see that day with similar difficulties.

Fiona, Marie, Louise, Marie, Jacqui





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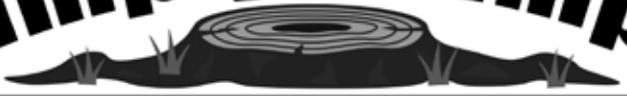
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Downley Common News

A Downley Day with a difference for the DCPS as we were actually selling things for a change

We sold all the wigwams assembled from hazel coppice cuttings (except the big one which nobody could carry!) and about half of the bean poles. If anyone would like some 6ft bean poles, we have a few left at the very reasonable price of £3 for a bundle of 6. Come next year we will make them available earlier in the year in time for your runner beans to start growing instead of waiting till the beans are already too long!

We also ran a consultation about the idea of putting an information board on the Common describing what can be found there and what activities are performed to manage the environment in a similar style to those located on Naphill Common. There are pros and cons to this idea. Educating local residents will hopefully help to improve the way in which people treat the environment, but conversely it adds to the profusion of signs and notices that seem to multiply in modern-day Britain and might be a target for vandals. The idea received overwhelming backing (75 in favour) from those who expressed an opinion with only 8 against. The main provisos were that it be discreet (no flashing lights!), made of natural materials to blend in with the surroundings and for there to be not too many of them. The preferred content is information on flora and wildlife and where to find it,



location of paths and relevant history both natural and human. The DCPS will now consider how best to take this idea forward.

The legal status of Cookshall Lane has finally been established by Bucks County Council after an earlier proposal from the Chiltern Society to turn it into a bridleway. Bucks CC subsequently changed this to a request to convert it to a BOAT (byway open to all traffic) which could have seen any vehicle driving from Huntshill Lane through to the farm. This has now been rejected in favour of remaining as a simple public footpath (see [http://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s41777/Update Report.pdf](http://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s41777/Update%20Report.pdf)). As a result West Wycombe Estate have installed a kissing gate where Cookshall Lane crosses between Naphill and Downley Commons to restrict access to walkers only.

Bill Thompson

Downley Tutor

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Lesley Mumbray-Williams BSc., DipLIS



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The Coffee Stop

Well! When I signed off the last issue's news I wished everyone a hot dry summer – I had no idea I was so meteorologically influential! For the last few weeks we have been basking in a glorious heatwave which may, unfortunately, be forgotten by the time this is read.

Our stall at Downley Day was only fairly successful, partly because of the weather but also there are other organisations doing similar things. Pricing is also difficult; with the cost of ingredients rising all the time we have to be realistic about the cost of donated items. We are having a big think about the best thing to do next year, any novel suggestions will be welcomed.

The traditional Harvest Lunch will be on the 7th October this year and tickets priced £7 will be available from the beginning of September. This price includes a two course buffet meal with a drink and coffee or tea and also a raffle ticket. This is our major event of the year which is a good community gathering and always seems to be enjoyed by all.

Also this year we are planning an outing, subject to sufficient numbers, on 5th September to Chenies Manor. There is a beautiful garden and historic house as well as a café and nearby church. The garden is on the level but in the house it is necessary to be able to tackle stairs. The cost for house and garden is £8 and £4 for the garden only and we plan to subsidise the transport using the residue of Charles' legacy.

We have a few new customers who we hope will become "regulars" and would like to welcome more, we welcome visits from all ages and are particularly delighted when someone has a baby to show off (Duchess of Cambridge please note). Our thanks, as always, to the many people who give up some time regularly or occasionally to give us a hand, baking, preparing, washing up, putting up and taking down tables, driving and particularly to Don who keeps our finances in order.

I wish you all a calm and colourful autumn, let's see if I can do it again!



Ann Buxton
pabuxton@hotmail.com

Update from The Pastures Church

As a Church, we are so proud to be part of Downley village! Many of you know we want to serve the village better through developing our site in The Pastures

We want to thank the whole village for the support and help we have received from so many to shape our initial plans through the community survey, online feedback, exhibitions and individual interviews.

We are now moving into an exciting new phase of bringing in architects to conduct a feasibility study of our initial plans. We hope this study will be finished in the autumn and available as a glossy brochure to present to potential partners, funders, and the wider community in November. We hope to release

the brochure as part of a special week of community kindness where we plan to have a Charity Promise Auction at 2pm on Saturday 23rd November to raise funds for Heart through to do acts of kindness in our community for sponsorship. Please come along!

We realize that we are only one jigsaw piece in the beautiful puzzle picture of Downley and we really look forward to being a heart in our community more and more over the coming years.

Autumn Events at The Pastures Church, The Pastures (near Downley), High Wycombe, HP13 5RR
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Downley Evening WI

How about coming to visit us on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.45pm at The Pastures Church Hall? We are a very friendly group of ladies and would make you most welcome.



Over the last few months, we have held a Garden Party to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Queen's coronation, enjoyed a Summer BBQ and were fascinated by a backstage tour of The Royal Opera House. We managed to keep dry for most of the time at Downley Day and our Tombola Stall proved to be very popular.

One of our members, was thrilled to be invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, as a 'thank you' for her unstinting work running a charity for over 25 years.

Our recent talks – 'Savill & Valley Gardens', 'Life on the Reef', and 'Frayed at the Edges' have been very informative and interesting. Coming up during the next few months, we will be hearing about 'My Life with Norman Wisdom', 'The English Cathedral', 'Colour in the Garden' and in October we will be holding our AGM.

Please come and support our Beetle Drive at 7.30pm on Friday 27th September at The

Community Centre – it is always a lot of fun and quite competitive!

Our ever popular Literary Lunches continue to be enjoyed each month and our Craft Group will be re-starting again after its summer break.

Cribbage has become a new interest for some of us. Those of us who have played before, are helping and encouraging the beginners amongst us, to enjoy this card game. The Bridge Group has had rather a long break, but is hoping to start up again very soon.

Our entertainment group, 'Delectable Selection', continue to meet weekly and have performed their programme at many venues around the area.

We would love to see you at our next meeting – please come along.

**For further details contact:
Rosemary Byrne 01494 538966
or mike.byrne@btinternet.com**

SCIENCE FACTS

AFTER ALL THE SNOW OVER THE WINTER, AND THE SPRING, FOLLOWED BY A BRILLIANT HOT SPELL, SOME FACTS TO MAKE US ALL FEEL OUR EXTREMES ARE NOT REALLY EXTREME AT ALL:

THE COLDEST TEMPERATURE RECORDED ON EARTH WAS IN VOSTOK, ANTARTICA IN 1983. IT WAS -89.2°C .

THE HOTTEST TEMPERATURE RECORDED ON EARTH WAS IN THE LUT DESERT, IRAN. IN 2005 IT REACHED 70.7°C .

THE TEMPERATURE AT THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH IS PROBABLY AROUND $7,000^{\circ}\text{C}$.

ABOUT 80KM ABOVE THE EARTH, ON THE EDGES OF THE MESOSPHERE TEMPERATURES WILL BE AROUND -75 , BUT KEEP GOING UP TO THE EXOSPHERE AT 400KM+ FROM EARTH AND TEMPERATURES AVERAGE 1200°C .

BY JILL BURRELL



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Downley Day Report 2013

Another successful Downley Day (despite the early showers) was followed by an even more successful Concert on the Common which for once was blessed with warm sunshine.

This really brought out the crowds and was a complete contrast to last year's wash-out. CJ Quinn started off the evening with a half hour slot singing some songs of his own composition and was followed by Subrosa5 as the main event with local singer, Antony Barnes in the interval. The collection in aid of Scannappeal came to £500 which was a good result – much better than previous years.

Downley Day will be holding it's AGM on 12th November in the Community Centre. Any who wish to participate



should come along. The Committee will also be deciding on the successful applications for grants at that meeting.

If your local group would like to apply for a grant to support your activities in the village, please send an email to Dave Stagg at d.stagg@tesco.net. You should include details of how much grant you are requesting and what you intend to spend it on. We typically provide support of up to £300-400 depending on the number of applications. Applicants must be local and non-profit-making.

Menfolk of Downley!

The women of Downley have their W.I's and Downley Wives, do you feel left out of gender specific opportunities in the Village?

Alan, my husband, and I have oft puzzled over the provision of a group for the fellers, a get together on a regular basis to chat with like minded souls, perhaps looking at a topic of current news for discussion over coffee and pastries, a visit to local hostelry, walk in the woods, a game of cribbage; something to stimulate the mind following retirement when social contact for men seems to diminish or just an excuse to get together for a bevy.

Something like this takes a while to grow, but it has to start somewhere! Look



at the success of Downley Descants, the Community Choir – an inspiration should one be needed. Interested? Get in touch and we'll work on something that might appeal.

Claire Baker
01494 437552
clairebaker55@btinternet.com

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Downley Theatre Group

Since the last (excellent) issue of the Village News, the Theatre Group saw a performance of “A Chorus Line” in London’s West End in May and visited Highgrove, the private garden of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, 3 July. Both outings were well supported and greatly enjoyed; the energy exuding from the stage at the London Palladium as the performers tapped and swayed through the incredible choreographed pieces of “A Chorus Line” was incredible and how they manage to sing at the same time still remains a mystery... My thanks to George Gatum for his article about our other outing; it sums up our visit most eloquently.

Trips in the pipe-line at time of writing are to Stratford in September to witness the transformation undergone in the year since the London 2012 games to the renamed Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park; the musical version of Roald Dahl’s “Matilda” in October; an evening at the Royal Festival Hall early December in the company of the John Wilson Orchestra and on 20 December we’re off to Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, for the seasonal concert of carols and readings to top off a busy year for the group.

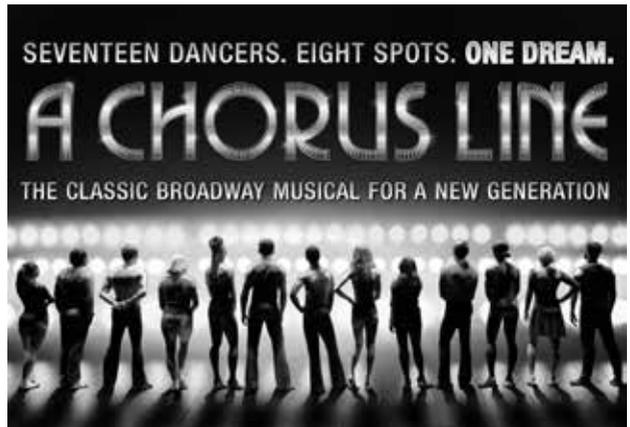
Generally, we organise outings to West End blockbusters, musicals that we think will be popular, with an occasional day trip and concert thrown in for good measure. We haven’t been to many plays, Alan Bennett’s “The History Boys” and the National Theatre’s production of “War Horse” being the exceptions, but we have been



approached to see if more plays would be a possibility. Certainly the idea of seeing Noel Coward’s “Private Lives” starring Anna Chancellor and Toby Stevens is very appealing but would it kindle sufficient interest in the Village for a mini-bus or coach full? If you would like this type of excursion, please contact us so we can gauge its feasibility.

Because of the short time scales, it is not possible to publicise the outings in the Village News. The only way to ensure you are kept informed of future trips is to go on the mailing list so, please, do contact us for full details - there is no joining fee and no obligation to go on the trips. We look forward to welcoming seasoned travellers and new members on future excursions.

*Alan and Claire Baker, 82 Littleworth
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You Raise Me Up

This certainly sums up the experience of singing in a choir and by a strange coincidence is part of the growing repertoire of Downley Descants.

Recent scientific research has suggested that singing in a choir is good for you both physically and mentally. Everyone tells of the buzz they have after our practise sessions and the 'highs' after our concerts.

Downley Descants was set up last September as a community choir following the Gareth Malone series on television. It was incredible how his choirs bonded as a group and became good singers as well! (Remember Military Wives?). We seem to be following the same pattern, definitely bonding as a group and some of the choir becoming good singers. That is the advantage of us as a community choir, you don't have

to be a good singer all you have to do is enjoy singing. 'Everyone can sing' says our extremely talented musical director, Louise Child (Langley) who brings with her a wealth of choral experience and musical knowledge, and really makes our evenings fun.

At the outset we set a target of performing a Christmas concert, and achieved this with great success, donating £350 to local charities as a result. Our next target was Downley Day. This was our first experience of singing outdoors and according to the positive feedback received we seem to have handled it well. All very atmospheric as the storm clouds gathered just as we were performing songs from Les Mis. This was also the unveiling concert for our smart new uniforms partly funded by the Parish Council. We would like to thank them once again for their support and belief in us as a community group. Sandwiched between Christmas and Downley Day was an ad hoc performance at the excellent musical evening at Sunnybank Church. We can be seen on You Tube although we have not had many hits! (We just like singing them)

We are now on our summer break and recommence on September 5th when we will be learning new songs for our next Christmas Concert. If you think you would enjoy singing in a choir, we meet on a Thursday evening at Sunnybank Church, Moor Lane from 8-15 to 9-45 (One trial evening is free).

Please contact Lyn on 01494 436063 or email grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk for more information.

The Downley Descants.



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

Email: enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk

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



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.

You might have noticed our Saturday opening times have changed. With reluctance, due to lack of interest in the extra half hour of opening, the library committee have decided to revert to the original closing time of 12:00pm as from the the 1st August 2013.

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News from The District

Wycombe District Council staff and Councillors continue to work hard for the people of Wycombe, despite continuing decreases in Central Government funding for Local Authorities. We have frozen Council Tax again in 2013 and are continually looking for better ways of delivering excellent and improved services across the District.

Work is starting on the new Handy Cross Sports and Leisure complex and the associated re-development of this area. Included will be a Coachway Park & Ride, new prestigious office buildings, a hotel and a food hall along with a re-located and improved running track and all-weather pitches.

The High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan has been agreed and the Wycombe District Delivery and Site Allocations Plan for Town Centres has been finalised and adopted.

The new Waste and Recycling contract is being rolled out. This is delivering significant financial savings as well as an enhanced service and increased recycling rates – look out for the road-shows and information packs.

The Hughenden Quarter plans (Broom & Wade and Harrisons sites) are being finalised and work should be starting this year to bring new homes, improved transport links into the town and employment to this area.

The Swan Theatre and Town Hall complex is being improved.

Plans are well underway to move the Museum from the current location to Queen Victoria Road. The building housing the Museum, although loved by many, is not suitable for the long-term viability of a museum in Wycombe. The new premises will see larger exhibition spaces, a café and educational facilities set in a location next to the River Wye. Heritage Lottery funding is being sought to offset the cost of the move and the design of the new museum. A change to trust status for the museum will also see financial savings for WDC as well as increased funding possibilities.

Following a reduction in the number of staff at WDC, due to a variety of reasons, the rear part of the Council offices (known as building ‘C’) is being vacated and advertised for let, leading to a significant revenue cost saving for WDC.

The new local plan is being developed. This will look at, amongst other things, employment and housing needs, the environment, transport and infrastructure in the District up to 2031. You can have your say – look out for the next stage of the consultation in early 2014.

The above projects are just some of the ways we are delivering our promise of making Wycombe District a great place to live, work and visit. More detailed information can be found at www.wycombe.gov.uk

Paul Turner
District Councillor for Downley & Plomer Hill
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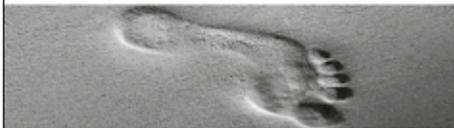
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News from Wycombe and Westminster

Steve Baker MP



I often receive letters from constituents about treatment they have experienced at both Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville hospitals; some people praise the care they have been given but all too often I hear about urgent care failures which are frankly not acceptable. It is for this reason I welcomed the recent report by Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director of the NHS Commissioning Board, following his investigation into death rates at Buckinghamshire hospitals along with others across the country. Sir Bruce has now placed Bucks NHS Trust in special measures and has agreed a plan with the hospital authorities to bring about significant improvements within a few weeks. Local people pay for their healthcare through taxes and they rightly expect a better service than is currently available. I will be watching closely how these changes improve the care given to my constituents.

I am normally in Parliament from Monday to Thursday and in the constituency on Fridays and at the weekend. From the time of the Budget in March until July a great deal of my time in Westminster was spent scrutinising the Finance Bill as it passed through the Commons. I made representations on changes which should be considered, particularly in relation to Revenue and Customs and tax evasion. I was also in the Commons to vote for the Bill allowing for a referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union. I have campaigned for an EU referendum for many years, and am delighted to support all moves to let the people decide on our relationship with Europe.

Where possible, I continue to give support to a number of local community activities in the constituency. Within the last few weeks amongst many other things, I have visited a number of primary and secondary schools;

spoke to Social Services about children in care; met the board of Bucks Business First who have responsibility for supporting employment and business in the county; and presented prizes at the Rotary Club's dragon boat race at Dorney. As many of you may know, I served for 10 years in the RAF as an Engineer Officer, and am privileged to be invited to a number of civic functions where the service of our armed forces personnel are honoured and recognised. In June, I was present at the Freedom Parade, where The Rifles - the county's Territorial Reserve Force - marched through the centre of High Wycombe. I also attend Armed Forces Day in Aylesbury and was delighted to hear the RAF High Wycombe ladies' choir singing.

In anticipation of the High Wycombe Mayor Making ceremony earlier this year, I began a fitness programme as I was determined not to be booed by the crowd for putting on weight during the previous 12 months. I now run regularly and one of my favourite routes is from my home in West Wycombe up Cookshall Lane to Downley cricket ground and the Common. This is a circuit of about a 5km and I think I am making positive progress but I do not anticipate entering the London Marathon any time soon! It has been interesting to see the area changing with the seasons and I know just what a lovely area this is for us all to enjoy.

Please feel free to let me know your views on national issues, of if you would like help with a local problem. You can contact me by emailing steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk or by writing to the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Alternatively, you are welcome to ring my West Wycombe Road office on 01494 448408.



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Wycombe District Council ‘Masterplan’ News

Plans for High Wycombe town centre have been given the green light by an independent planning inspector in a report published this week.

The plans are part of Wycombe District Council’s ‘Masterplan’ which aims to make changes to the High Wycombe town centre which will improve public spaces, promote new opportunities for economic growth and make changes to traffic circulation with a better pedestrian landscape

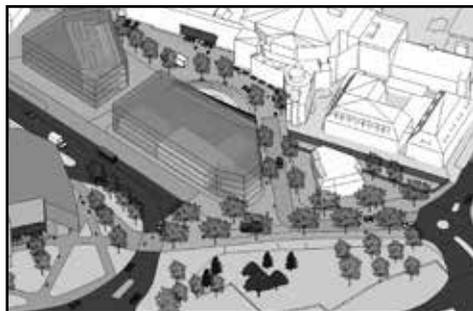
The Master plan sets out to:

- Transform public spaces – creating new public spaces and improving existing public spaces to make the town a more attractive place for shopping and leisure
- Strengthen the economy – by creating new opportunities for businesses, jobs, shops and leisure.
- Bring the town together – by making changes to the road network to make the town more ‘pedestrian-friendly’. This includes changing the traffic flow around the town centre and downgrading the use of Abbey Way flyover as well as improving other streets and pedestrian spaces in the town centre.

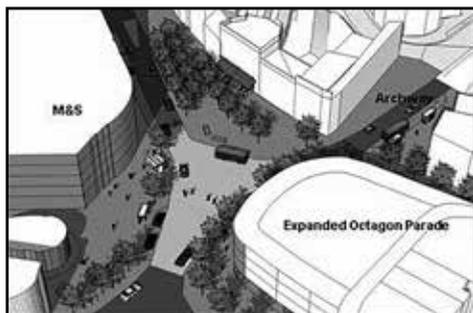
Cllr Neil Marshall, Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainability said: “We want to make the town centre a better place to live, work, shop and visit – and our plans are ambitious. Now we have the green light from the independent Inspector we can make a start. We’ll be working closely with our partners, particularly Buckinghamshire County Council as the local highway authority, to bring these plans to life. As a next step we have

public consultation on specific parts of the plan to do by the autumn.

Paul Crysell, the independent planning inspector, endorsed the Council’s plan, concluding that it was “sound” when assessed against Government planning tests. He said: “The proposed changes to the road system in High Wycombe will be challenging to implement, but they demonstrate the council’s commitment to plan positively for its residents and business community.”



Revisions to roundabout at the bottom of Marlow Hill



Roundabout disappears from outside M&S

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Communication is Key

Inspired by Claire Baker

**I love Downley, that's why I live here!
I am sure you love Downley too, and
getting news of events both past and
future helps me keep up to date with
what has and will happen in my village.**

But how and where can you get this information is the question? I could read the Bucks Free Press or if I am one of the lucky ones, read the Wycombe Star, but that only comes out once a week and unless someone gets the future events to them a week in advance you may not see the advert for Downley Day until it is over. The answer is closer than you think, it's in your hands, quite literally, The DVN (Downley Village News), this is just one of many forms of communication open to you to find out what has and is going on in your village. But The DVN is published every 3 month I hear you cry, so what about now, this very day? Well we have 7 on street notice boards situated around the village, these are accessible to all and hold key information about things happening around Downley, and Chris Hamilton tirelessly updates these boards throughout the year.

Ok so that's great, but what if it is raining? Ok, I get it you are all busy people and probably not prone to running out at a moments notice into the dead of night during a downpour just to find out what band is playing at the Le De Spencer's this weekend! We do have another solution for you. The Downley Community Website (www.downley.org), up to date, full of news, events and information and available 24/7. It is updated in some part daily, news is usually added by Bill Thompson and comes from a variety of sources including the BFP, locals and personal observation. The information is as up to date as we can make it and as accurate as we endeavour to be.

That's great but I don't always remember to go onto the website, I'm a busy person you know! That's ok we can send you stuff via our next form of communication, email, yes we have a newsletter, granted it is not as full as the DVN, Notice Boards or Website but is gives you the latest cover story

and the events happening in the next month or two, plus the news headlines for the previous few weeks. Out of the 2000 + households in Downley currently only 265 emails have been registered, not many considering 32 of them are from outside the UK.

Hold on I hear you thinking, you haven't mentioned social networking? That is true but we do have that covered also, at least Facebook anyway, we don't tweet as we feel that is best done by users rather than a middle aged man with too many other things to do (that's me) besides we give our users the ability to tweet, g+ and like all our pages of interest from news, services and events. Facebook gets updated regularly and we get many people liking the page on Facebook, so we can't be doing so bad can we? So who is the tour de force behind the communications of Downley then? That would be the Downley Communications Forum, we are a committee setup after the Downley action plan highlighted the need for better communications in and around the village, we are responsible for the new look Village News, The New Website, eNews, Notice boards, Facebook page and many other communications activities. We hope you like what we do and we endeavour to keep up the good work even though it is all done on a purely voluntary basis.

The members of the forum are; Bill Thompson, Chris Hamilton, Simon Scott, Pat Weedon, Peter Loadman, David Winterburn, Paul Homer, Clive Beard, Des Ryan, Barry Gay and Me (Mark Starkey).

Hold on, you lot do all that? Actually no we don't, there is so much more involved than this rather short piece can cover, there are the people responsible for delivering this newsletter to your door free of charge, the advertisers that pay for the production, the printers the writers and contributors, that's just the Village News. They and you have a part to play in making sure we all know what's on, in and happening in Downley and for that I thank each and every one of you for your contributions.

Keep them coming, this stuff doesn't write itself!

Mark Starkey



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“Garden Sharing” - could it work in Downley?

Downley has a set of allotments in a corner of Mannings Field that have been very popular for many years, so much so that there are currently 34 residents on the waiting list for an allotment should one become vacant.

Unfortunately this doesn't happen very often so they could be in for a bit of a wait. The Community Plan identified this problem 3 years ago and the action group has been making efforts to locate a suitable area for additional allotments to be set up. To date they have been unsuccessful, largely because Downley is so built up and the few areas of open space available have restrictions on them (we're not allowed to dig up the Common for example).

A suggestion has been made that an alternative solution would be to organise a “Garden Share” scheme in which the owner of a private garden who no longer makes active use of it, perhaps through age or infirmity, allows a more enthusiastic gardener to cultivate it to produce vegetables to be shared between the two parties in lieu of rent. Variations on this basic idea could be agreed on a case-by-case basis.

Such “Garden Share” schemes already exist such as Landshare (www.landshare.net/) which is a national scheme and also more local ones such as at Brighton (www.harvest-bh.org.uk/garden-share) and Totnes (www.transitiontowntotnes.org/groups/food-group/gardenshare/) all of which attempt to match garden owners with volunteer gardeners. Indeed Landshare already lists one “grower” living in Disraeli although none as yet in Downley itself.

The Totnes scheme provides guidance on how to set up a more proactive scheme involving a local organiser to set up and run a system for finding local gardens and matching them with prospective growers. If any local resident is interested in this role, please contact info@downley.org.

In the first instant the Community Plan Action Group would like to gauge the level of interest in such a scheme by hearing from both those with gardens and those who wish to grow things (such as the people on the allotment waiting list) who would like to take part. Again, please contact info@downley.org with details.

Bill Thompson, Community Plan Action Group



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Downley Village Art Show

With over 170 pieces of work again this year including Manga, montage and Matisse look a likes the 2013 Show made a splash.

In addition to the judge's selections this year we asked our visitors (just for fun) to nominate their favourite works from both the adult and junior entries. Initial delight quickly turned to torment as the reality of selecting just two pieces hit home. Individuals and families could be seen bouncing back and forth between their favourites and debating at length their final decisions.

A very high standard of children's work was an aspect this year so high in fact that Ray Styles who is one of our judges, felt that several would hold their own in the adult section.

Timing dictates that by the time this copy of the Village News hits your doormats the follow up exhibition of Downley artworks at the High Wycombe Library will be over. We hope those visitors to the Library enjoy the creative expression of the people of Downley and recognise it is home to a vibrant community that is not without talent.

If you missed it, the winning images from this year Village Art Show and some photos taken of the Library exhibit can be seen at; [facebook.com/Downley.Community](https://www.facebook.com/Downley.Community)

A happy by-product of the Art show has been the number of entrants who have volunteered their works to be considered for our 2014 calendar. We still need more images though as we would like the calendar to reflect the whole of the Village year. There is time to get out there with your cameras and or brushes and when you do let us know. Contact can be made in several ways:

*Post digital images to;
archive@downley.org where they can*

*be posted on the village website or to
[facebook.com/Downley.Community](https://www.facebook.com/Downley.Community)*

*email Simon Scott with details at:
editor@downley.org*

We will need to start putting material together from October.

The two Art Shows held have been well supported but due to a timing clash with Bucks Open Arts Month have resulted in some problems. In part to avoid these and in part take up an opportunity to expand the event it will be moved next year.

Currently the Show runs up to the weekend of Downley Day and the thought is to move this to the weekend of the Concert on the Common. Then by adding other performing arts events such as a concert from our own choir, a drama, a folk evening we can create a week or two of arts events for the village to enjoy.

At this point this is an idea being pursued so please let us know your thoughts.



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Writing's a Strange Old Game

You write a novel, it's published and then you move on to write more, but that first novel always has a special place in the writer's heart. Only the Wind is Free is that novel for me. I based it in part on my mother's life and bless its little cotton socks, it did well for Heinemann and me. What's more, my mum was thrilled.

Only the Wind is Free was published in 1986 or thereabouts. Now Random House have decided to reprint it, under the title *After the Storm* with a new jacket (apparently there are fashions in titles as well as jacket illustrations!). It will be published on August 1st 2013. In fact, Random House is bringing out several of my 'backlist' so it will be fascinating to see what all the other jackets are like.

It might be of interest to you, whether reader or writer, to see how you create fiction based on memories or facts. You need to remember that fiction has a shape, whereas real life just goes on and on! To create a story you need one main character, plus others who will help that character, or hinder them as they head for their goal. It is into this mix that you can incorporate your facts.

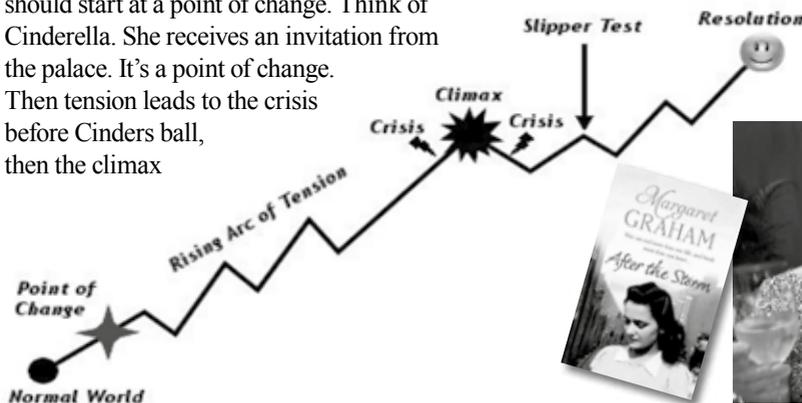
We are all familiar with being hindered! So not only does the overcoming of obstacles draw empathy from us, the reader, it also provides tension. The reader wants to know if the main character overcomes obstacles and succeeds. Have a look at this diagram and see the shape that is common to all fiction. Fiction should start at a point of change. Think of Cinderella. She receives an invitation from the palace. It's a point of change. Then tension leads to the crisis before Cinders ball, then the climax

when all seems well as she meets the prince, then the crisis when she has to leave in rags. The slipper test is when the story has to reveal if she will finally achieve love.

We need to create scenes rather than 'tell' the story. For instance: She walked along the path, quietly following the boy. Suddenly he was gone. She hesitated, then heard him telling her she had to stop, right there. This is 'tell'. If you write scenes instead the same thing would sound like this: She crept along the path in the dusk of the evening, avoiding the dry twigs that had fallen from the overhead branches of the old sycamores. 'Careful, careful,' she breathed, looking up, checking for the boy, but he was gone. She hesitated, confused, but then heard a voice. 'Stop, right there.' It was the boy and she was filled with fear. Once you have hacked the technique, you can let your voice or style take over, and you are off and away.

So there it is. In the next issue I thought we could look at how to get your writing out there. So, cheers for now!

Margaret Graham





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Theatrical Performances for the Autumn months

Downley War Memorial Hall

Because of our past successes with the performances from the Theatre in the Villages repertoire, the W.D.C have allowed us, the Downley War Memorial Hall Committee, to select two different performers this year. We hope you can attend and do enjoy the performances.

My Tutu's Gone Awol - written and performed by Iestyn Edwards.

Part dramatic monologue, part musical revue based around a variety performer's tours of the Iraq and Afghanistan war zones. Part one is a musical revue. We hear songs by Shermann and Shermann, Cole Porter, Ivor Novello et al. We follow Iestyn in his tutu on Combined Services Entertainment tours through Iraq and Afghanistan in the company of Her Majesty's Finest. In part two Iestyn morphs into his legendary Russian Prima Ballerina Madame Galina. Part panto dame, part clown, part stand up, total hit.

Reviews

Joanna Lumley said: *'Hilarious and touching stories of his time on base in Iraq and Afghanistan....he is our eyes out there, and his singing makes me cry every time...proud is not the word! Go Tutu Boy. You rock!'*

Tommy Holgate, The Sun said: *'Irrepressible...hilarious...a tour de force Variety turn!'*
Suitable for ages 16+. No swearing.

Further information available on www.iestynedwards.webs.com.

Friday 25th October at 8pm. Tickets £10 Doors open 7.30pm Tickets: phone 07582710865



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Suitable for families with children aged 8+. No swearing.

Further information available on www.catweatherill.co.uk

Friday 1st November at 6.30pm. Tickets Adults £10 Children under 16 £5.

Doors open 6pm. Tickets: phone 07582710865

Hazel Parnham

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Gemma Rosefield - cello • Guy Johnston - cello • Bjrg Lewis - cello

<p>CONCERT 1 on Thursday 12th September at 7.30pm</p> <p>PROFOFIEV ~ Overture on Hebrew Themes Op. 34</p> <p>MOZART ~ Clarinet Quintet K.581</p> <p>MESSIAEN - Quartet for the End of Time</p>	<p>CONCERT 2 on Friday 13th September at 7.30pm</p> <p>HAYDN ~ Piano Concerto in D major (Hob XVIII:11)</p> <p>SHOSTAKOVICH ~ String Quartet No. 8 Op. 110</p> <p>FRANCK ~ Piano Quintet</p>
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<p>CONCERT 3 on Saturday 14th September at 11.00am</p> <p>BACH - Goldberg Variations (arr. String Trio by D. Sitkovetsky)</p>	<p>CONCERT 4 on Saturday 14th September at 7.30pm</p> <p>SHOSTAKOVICH - 2 Pieces for String Octet Op.11</p> <p>BRAHMS - Clarinet Quintet Op 115</p> <p>MENDELSSOHN - Octet for Strings Op 20</p>
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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints - Autumn 2013

Wal, 'ow are you orf? Right now it's blazing sunshine- I'd heard of it but couldn't remember it.

I dunno, I blames it on Lord Cameron and his cronies, who do they think they are, wot they needs is to do a mornings diggin' up at the plot, that'd sort them out,--dirty hands, clean money, my old Dad would say. (Them bankers never 'ad dirty hands...or did they?)

Anyway..HH's for the next few months.. get yor old raspberry canes off, to let the new ones that've grown through get some light, and the autumn fruiting ones cut orf to the ground once you've got the berries orf. Then remember that red currants fruit on the old wood, so be gentle on the pruning, while black currants fruit on the new wood, so get a bit more aggressive on the prunin' with these. (There's lots on the interweb summun said). Then get yor spuds up, dry them and keep them in sacking sacks. (Sacks made of sacking...drrrr!). String yor onions, salt down the beans or freeze 'em (Freezin's best ses Mrs H, she usually knows best, wal, that's what she says, about knowin' best, you know where I'm coming from here !). As for flowers, I bet you forgot to get yor chrysanths on the go (Canadians calls 'em 'mums', - that could be confusing to us here, e.g. 'av you watered yor mums today? Yor mum's what?). Then tidy up, rough dig the plot, get yor compost in, dig in the bean roots of the finished plants, they fix nitrogen, then 'av a good bonny to annoy yor neighbours.

I 'ad a nemail from my French cousin the other day. M. Jean d'Artichoke. (John is Jean in the land of the grenouille, that can be confusing over here...). So Jean ses that he can't believe that we can grow anything over here, what with the gales, rain, sleet, snow and fog and that we have 27 different names: for rain but only one for sunshine, but he's a bit strange you know, I don't know where

he gets it from, drinks too much of his home made wine, mind you it's good for de-rustin' yor spade!

In yor garden leave the seed heads on yor perennials, for the birds, use grass cuttings for mulch, sow yor overwintering lettuce, and get some aquadulce broad beans a'goin' in seed boxes. Plant 'em out when they're about 2 inches high...(inches, what's that ses cousin Jean...we uses centiwhatsits...) see what I mean about 'im? Then wander round a garden centre lookin' for winter flowering shrubs, it's always good to 'ave some colour in the garden in winter, Mahonia's a good one.

Anyway, honeysuckle's out in the garden as I write this, the sun's still out, (marvels never cease), so now I'm orf to test the deck chair canvas, and if my eyes are closed it's because I'm thinkin' of summat to say to J d'Artichoke, I'll tell you more about 'im next time.

Oh, and ping me a mail of yor hints, for inclusion next time, (I hope you like the techyspeak....).

A bientot,

J.H sent from my iSpade.





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Ninety Years Old

Downley War Memorial Hall

We know that it was “erected [in 1923] by the inhabitants of Downley” and that the site was donated by Sir John Dashwood. That much is stated on a stone at the front of the building. In addition, on the left hand side (nearest Starlight Stores) there is a second stone commemorating the laying of three rows of red bricks on 3 April 1923 by “the inhabitants and friends of Downley”



I decided to try and find out more so contacted Bucks Library Service who pointed me in the direction of the Local History room in the High Wycombe branch where they had copies of The Bucks Free Press going back to the middle of the 19th century. There, the very helpful assistant asked what I was looking for. I gave a brief summary and before I had even looked at the first page he told me that his great grandmother's favourite brother (families were big enough to have favourites in those days) was one of the soldiers commemorated on our memorial, hopefully an auspicious start to my search. Beginning in April 1923 I soon found a report of the laying of the stone and bricks mentioned above, however, it also included details of who had laid the stone.

This was a Mr George Giles who lost two sons in the war, also commemorated on our memorial. With considerable emotion he expressed his hope that the building would perpetuate their memory. Mr Giles was described as the

oldest active inhabitant of the village; at 85 he would probably have some competition today. There followed the laying of the bricks by residents and visitors with each person, young and old contributing towards the building fund.

Afterwards a jumble sale, concert by the West Wycombe Glee Party and a whist drive at the Council Schools brought to a conclusion a memorable afternoon. Over £40 was raised as a result of the day's proceedings. Coming back to the present day. The observant amongst you will have noticed that we have the builders in again, this time for an extension at the rear of the Hall. Hopefully, by the time you read this the work will be complete and we will be close to welcoming back the Sunshine Montessori School with a new venture specifically for younger children.

Next year will be the centenary of the outbreak of World War I and I hope to provide a regular article outlining what was happening 100 years earlier and, where possible, providing a little information about the men who are commemorated on our Memorial.

Alan Baker



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In the Workhouse

Downley Ancestors part 6

There has recently been a very moving series on TV recounting the stories of celebrities who found that they had forbears who had survived, or not, the workhouse and I was reminded that I too have at least one direct ancestor who had spent some time in the workhouse.

This is not a local story, but one which I am sure was played out in every district in the country, time and time again, from the mid 19th century up to within living memory.

I can remember my maternal Great Grandparents very well; they settled in Holmer Green but originally came from Sussex. My Great Grandma was one of eleven children, or so I thought until I discovered that her mother was her father's second wife, she also had four half-siblings! Her mother, Ellen Goacher had married at 16 and took on the four children, the eldest being only four years younger than her. Then I looked deeper into the circumstances and I began to unearth a sad but all too common story of death, true poverty and potential hopelessness, which seems to have had, (I hope because we will never really know), a happy ending.

Ellen Goacher's husband, Mark Longhurst, was widowed at the age of 32, his own mother had already died and I presume he struggled to support and look after the four children from his first marriage. Looking into Ellen's records, I found her in the Union workhouse in Horsham in 1881 aged 10. It is quite understandable that three years later at the age of 13, soon after Mark's first wife died, Ellen could well have been 'boarded out' to earn some money as a child minder, only to find herself getting married to Mark another three years later on 17 December 1887 in Henfield. This does seem

very young, but it is not an uncommon occurrence, what choice would Mark have? A new wife or his children possibly put into the workhouse if he couldn't work.



When I looked into the workhouse records I also found three of Ellen's siblings with her, and then discovered that their father had died in 1874, his last child Eli being born posthumously. Their mother Anne must have had no choice; she had eight children and couldn't support them. She herself was living with her eldest son in 1881 who had recently married, and also with them was her brother-in-law who was described on the census as an imbecile (generic term that could have referred to many conditions). I wouldn't think she would have had the same opportunity to look for a new spouse, unlike her future son-in-law. With no welfare state, no child benefit and no NHS to look after the sick, times were very hard and the threat of the workhouse was always present. The reality of a Dickens novel is not that far in the past.

At the age of three, Ellen had suffered the death of her Father; she was in the workhouse separated from her mother at the age of 10; and married at 16 with four step-children. She then had 11 children of her own in 22 years. Life must have been tough, and so must she, but she remained out of the workhouse and was surrounded by a large family, something she never had when she was a child. Mark and Ellen lived for part of their life at Bassells Farm in West Grinstead. Ellen lived until 1933 aged 61, long enough to see most of her four step-children and 11 children married, including my Great Grandma, Lily Longhurst, in 1914.

Paul Turner
District Councillor for Downley & Plomer Hill



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Poets Corner

A Future King

By Mary Howard

A future King....Third in line to the throne.
Born 23rd July, His destiny not unknown.
The World will watch and not by chance
all the Regalia, Pomp and Circumstance.

The privilege of Royalty, with no step out of place.
Expected is perfection....good manners and good grace.
They have their Royal duties, perform them with a smile,
but really they must sometimes feel they'd rather run a mile.

The scrutiny, the pressure of duties to perform
to keep a rigid timescale, to them that is the norm.
We can all be flexible, relax and change our minds.
Royalty must toe the line (as Harry often finds).

The British Royal family deserve the loyalty
of ordinary citizens; like you and also me.
To have to be escorted most places that they go.
Must be so frustrating to them all you know.

So give three cheers to Royalty, the Pomp and Circumstance.
They put the Great in Britain and are not there by chance.
Now we have a third in line, so, "Welcome" we now sing.
Good Luck, God Bless...Prince Cambridge....Third in line for King.

*nb...at time of writing this poem no name for the
new Prince had been announced.*

*Now we know it is a boy. May we take this
opportunity to congratulate the happy Royal
couple on the birth of their son;
His Royal Highness
Prince George Alexander Louis of Cambridge.
From the Downley residents.*





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Letters

Rev. Alison Finch, to be Team Vicar for St James, Downley, Missioner & Town Centre Chaplain base at All Saints Church, I the Wycombe Team Ministry.

I'm really looking forward to coming to live in Downley and being your Vicar, but before I do, I thought it may be helpful if I shared a little about myself with you.

One of my earliest memories was when I was about 3. I remember being taken to a church and catching sight of a most beautiful stained glass window at the end of a long aisle. I was determined to get to it, and I started running towards the bright colours, then just as I was about to attempt to go up a step, I was grabbed from behind and taken to be with the Sunday School. In many ways this is a parable of my life; a clear straight view, but having a struggle to get to my final destination!

I was born in Aberdeen Scotland 54 years ago, and left there to train as a nurse in Inverness. I came down to England when I was in my early 20's, and was confirmed into the Anglican Church, though not without a struggle, as I was reluctant to deny my Scottish background. However, today I am still fiercely proud of my Scottish roots and it now finds expression in my love of Celtic Spirituality and the music of the Iona Community.

I trained for Ordination at Salisbury & Wells Theological College; I was made Deacon in 1992 and Ordained Priest in 1994 both in the Diocese of Oxford. Since then I have had various ministries, including a stint up in the Orkney Isles. Wherever I go I always ended up being a Chaplain to shops, schools, hospitals or even fishermen. So I am delighted that part of my role is to be Town Centre Chaplain & Missioner. I firmly believe that my ministry is not only to be 'in' Church, but to be seen 'out' of church and in the community.

At the moment I am based in Colchester as Town Centre Chaplain. My husband Richard and I are looking forward to living in Downley, it does feel as though I'm coming home, having lived in Aylesbury before my Ordination Training. I am delighted to see that in St James' Church has 2 beautiful stained glass windows, which I can take time to look at. I hope you'll join me in the journey of faith, as we head towards our final destinations.

Love & Blessings

Alison



Happy Feet

Foot Health Clinic in Downley, High Wycombe

My name is Jenny Cranshaw MAFHP, MCFHP and I am a qualified Foot Health Practitioner. My foot clinic is in Downley, High Wycombe. I offer a comfortable, hygienic environment, in which I treat foot health problems in adults and children.

My treatments include:

- Removing corns
- Reducing thickened nails
- Treating verrucae
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Standard treatment cost £34.00 for 45 minutes and £25.00 for students with valid ID

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A regular reviews his local of some 25 years now it has a new Landlord prepared to make changes.

I have been a regular at The Brickies for over 25 years now and have witnessed the pub change hands more than a few times. As each new owner took over they promised changes for the better but in reality these good intentions rarely mounted to more than just that. Enter Gary Plumley the current landlord and the good intentions finally materialise into a whole host of improvements not only inside but outside too. Gary is a different type of landlord for his background is not that of pub ownership he was in fact a business development manager in the highly cut throat semiconductor industry managing a network of 24 design consultancy companies.

So what improvements have already been made? Well quite a few to be honest, starting with the picket fence around the front of the pub which not only in keeping with the village but is practical as well making the front of the pub safe for both children and dogs, yes dogs are now welcomed in and outside the pub.

Thursday nights alternate between a very popular quiz where plenty of teams of all ages do battle for brain of The Brickies winning all sorts of prizes along the way in what is a very enjoyable evening and a hugely popular Open Mic night which is hosted by Internet sensation Matt Hulbert. Saturday nights alternate between really good local live bands and a jam night with the fantastically talented singer song writer Steph Willis.

Good food is now available with an excellent lunch time menu and evening bar snacks are always on hand. Sam's hamburger is a real favourite of mine and is extremely hard to beat. BBQs are also becoming a feature as well with excellent tunes from local DJ's mixing up great sets.

So why not give it a go, things are changing and you may well be in for a nice surprise.

Regular
Stuart Rothwell





Le De Spencers Arms What's On

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Starlight Stores

Downley High Street

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over your local store – how the time
has flown!**

After an initial wobbly start with the Planning Department of Wycombe District Council, we hope you will agree that the improvements we have made to your corner shop are benefitting the community. We are particularly proud of our fresh fruit and vegetable section – we try to provide the widest range of produce at prices less than or comparable to the supermarkets. Also, the vast majority of our fruit and veg is sold loose so that you can choose the exact quantities you need. Much better for the environment too – less plastic packaging and food wastage!

Our organic eggs are supplied by a local farm at only £1.69 for half a dozen and we bake our “Cuisine de France” bread on a daily basis.

Of course we also stock the “essentials” including pet food, toiletries, confectionary (and have

a well-stocked off-licence) but also have more exotic produce, for example olives, feta and haloumi cheese, 8 different varieties of pasta and our Turkish speciality Baclava, amongst other items. If there is anything we don't stock that you would like, let us know and we will do our best to source it. You may have seen us carrying shopping home for our neighbours – this is all part of the service! And if you are unable to visit the shop personally, feel free to telephone your order on 01494 451145.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in Downley and the surrounding area who has supported us so far and could we please ask you to spread the word to your friends and family? We would very much like to be a permanent fixture, but without the extra custom, this may not be possible.

As the saying goes, “Use it or Lose it!” We look forward to seeing you soon...

Bhulent & Ali

MATHS FOR FUN

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BY JILL BURRELL, ANSWERS NEXT ISSUE

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Autumn Heating Tips

While we are enjoying the warmer days and do not need to have the central heating on, now would be a good time to turn your boiler on and try your central heating to ensure it is good working order before the Autumn months arrive and you place a great demand on it once more.

The end of the summer is also the best time to get your boiler serviced as you will be sure to get a quick response from an engineer which may not be the case in the Autumn when boiler engineers are in high demand. Boiler servicing should be carried out on an annual basis to ensure that it is burning correctly, and that the emissions are as per your manufactures instructions for your particular boiler.

The gas pressure should be checked and the heat exchanger should be cleaned if necessary. On condensing boilers the condense pipe should be inspected to make sure that the pipe outside is sufficiently lagged. It is also a good idea to make sure that the pipes in the loft are well insulated and that the expansion tank is at the correct level.

If you have a sealed system the pressure should be checked to make sure that it is between 1- 1 1/2 bar. Check to make sure that all the radiators are working properly and that they do not have any cold spots. Check to make sure that there is no air in the radiators and bleed them if necessary. If you have thermostatic radiator valves fitted make sure that they are working correctly. They can become stuck when not in constant use. It is always a good idea to have these fitted if you do not have them. It ensures that you are not over heating rooms that are not used so often which will save you money on your bills which only ever seem to rise.

Other useful checks are to ensure the times are set correctly on your room

programmer. Make sure these times are appropriate to your daily routine to avoid heating an empty house. It is always a good idea to have a carbon monoxide alarm fitted. This is also a good time to check that your smoke alarm is still in working order. Under new electrical regulations all new wiring of houses must include hard wired smoke detectors so remember this if you plan to re wire your home.

Lastly, remember it is essential that your boiler is serviced annually by a Gas Safe registered engineer. Don't be afraid to ask to see I.D. A registered engineer will always carry some. Happy heating and don't forget to call us if in need.

George Bennett 01494 715230

Dave Price 01494 527631

D & P Heating



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Post Office, Paypoint, Lotto

Great Ways To Treat Your Hair After Summer

It's been a great summer and it's still not over but how is your hair holding up. After being completely abused by sun, sea, chlorine, wind, straighteners, hair dryers, rollers, etc, is it a wonder that not even a Tangle Teezer is getting through those ends. Let's try and help you get back on track with the following tips that won't break your purse and will help your hair back to a healthy, shiny and feel good state.

1. Treat Me from £5.00

Spirit offer a wide range of hair treatments in salon and to take home. Our most popular in salon treatment costs £5.00. It is BC Repair Rescue Instant One Shot which repairs damaged, weakened and over processed hair, recharging it immediately with new strength and elasticity.

For £10.00 the Joico K-Pak Treatment is the daddy of all treatments and only available in salon. It has the most powerful reconstructive technologies known to hair—to repair and strengthen hair precisely where it needs it, when it needs it.

Our most popular home treatment is the Goldwell 60 Second Treatments that contain a specially developed Brilliance System that acts quickly and effectively on your hair to leave it silky soft and smooth with an enviable healthy glow.

None of the treatments are cosmetic, they are ALL Prescriptive and Professional.

2. Colour Me Back

Whether your highlights have faded into one blur of blonde, your vibrant red is now a washed out pink, your fiery copper has become a brassy nightmare, Goldwell colours are designed to repair while they colour, adding shine, elasticity and restructuring as they work thanks to Goldwell's New Intra-Lipid Technology. Nectaya is our NEW Organic Colour Range with 92% naturally sourced ingredients that contain Argon Oil and Intra-Lipid



Technology. Fantastic to put all the goodness back into the hair from a long hot summer

3. De-Frizz Me

Frizzy hair is a nightmare. Frizzy hair is usually hair that lacks protein and moisture and nearly always needs a good cut on the ends. Whether your hair is naturally frizzy or frizzy through poor condition, Spirit has an amazing range of products that will eliminate frizz no matter how long or how frizzy, from the Permanent Blow Dry to styling products and serums. Ask your stylist for a sample of our new KMS Tame Frizz Range.....

4. Love Me

Looking after your hair should be an essential daily routine. Hair needs your love just as much as your skin needs creams and your body needs clothing. Professional shampoo, conditioners and styling products may seem a fortune compared to high street products but they contain so much more, specialist ingredients, complexes and technologies that aren't available in the lower end products.

Spirit Hair Company has a team of highly trained professional stylists that would love to help you look after your hair. Our consultations are FREE and we will work with you to personalise your hair plan that not only suits your hair but your budget. Call us on 01494 440132 and find us at Kathleen Cottage, High St, Downley

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DOWNLEY SCHOOL SEEKING GOVERNORS

School governors have a unique opportunity to give something back to their community, and to help local children to have the best possible education. Governors:

- Learn and apply transferable skills in a diverse and exciting environment
- Gain insight into the school system whilst building relationships with community members
- Work alongside a wide range of people, making collective decisions and solving problems together.

Governors come from all walks of life and are welcomed from all parts of the community. You do not need any specific qualifications, just time, enthusiasm and a commitment to making a better future for our children. We currently have vacancies for governors at Downley School, so if all this sounds like you please contact our current Chair of Governors, Chris Gentry, on 01494 438167

Canine Cutz

Local dog grooming business is open again after refurbishment

We are very pleased to announce that the salon is under new ownership and prior to our opening we took the time to transformed the shop with a refurbishment makeover.



Mother and daughter team; Joanne and Stephanie are the proud new owners of the salon. Both have a vast knowledge of dog grooming and dog breeds as well as 20+ years hands on experience. Joanne and Stephanie are dog show judges and breeders of Bernese Mountain Dogs. The focus at Canine Cutz is on the dogs feeling relaxed, pampered and at ease in a friendly and professional dog-orientated environment. All dogs are bathed in high quality shampoos and conditioners, trimmed and/or clipped to client's requirements and dried to the perfect finish. Nail clipping, ear plucking and anal glands are included in the overall cost.

The salon is has also received a face-lift and now business is as usual. Canine Cutz now offers flexible, extended opening hours, occasional Saturday mornings and a late night on a Thursday. Leads, collars and treats are available to buy and Arden Grange Dog Food can be ordered on request. For those that can't get to the salon; a delivery

and collection service is also available at a small additional fee. As of 2016 Micro-chipping will be compulsory for all dog owners, therefore in the future, Canine Cutz also hopes to offer a micro-chipping service at a reasonable and affordable cost.

Joanne and Stephanie have loved the warm welcome and the complimentary comments which have passed through their door and hope to welcome many more locals and their four-legged friends!

Canine Cutz also has a new look website at www.canine-cutz.com where you can read more about Joanne and Stephanie and also take a look at their before and after gallery. All enquiries welcome at info@canine-cutz.com or 01494443349 or feel free to pop into the salon!"

*We look forward to welcoming you soon.....
Joanne & Stephanie.*

Canine Cutz

Dog Grooming

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Treat your Feet

Happy Feet Foot Clinic

In my foot clinic the most frequent foot conditions I come across are painful corns and calluses. Corns are localised areas of thickened skin with a central more thickened area.

They are commonly found where the shoe rubs against the toes. Calluses are more broadened areas of thickened skin, commonly situated on the balls of the feet or on the heels. Both corns and calluses are caused by pressure or rubbing forces on the feet and toes.

How can you avoid getting corns and callus?

- 1) The most important cause is from ill-fitting shoes. It is therefore important that when buying shoes to check the following points-
 - A) Are your feet held firmly in place? Avoid shoes that allow your feet to slide about. E.g. flip flops or slip on shoes, or shoes with open backs, as friction can result in hard skin especially at the heels which can crack and become painful. The best fitting shoes are lace ups or ones that hold your feet in place with a buckle or Velcro straps. Good brands of footwear include Hotter, Cosyfeet and Ecco.
 - B) Can you wriggle your toes? If not, the area at the front of the shoe may not be deep enough. Also, check that the shoes are wide enough to stop toes being squashed together. Shoes that are too tight can result in corns on top or between the toes.
 - C) Is there a 1cm gap between the longest toe and the end of the shoe? If not, the ends of the toes rubbing against the shoe can result in corns.
 - D) Are your heels higher than two inches? If they are, more pressure is placed onto the feet which could lead to the build-up of callus.
- 2) Do your socks fit? Socks that are loose can

bunch up and cause pressure so make sure they fit well.

- 3) Have you got dry skin? Dry skin increases the risk of corns and callus so keep the tops and sole of your feet moisturised daily. Keep a tube of Flexitol or CCS foot cream by your bedside and apply twice a day. Avoid moisturising in between your toes as this may promote athlete's feet. Corns and calluses can go away by themselves if the pressure or friction is removed. Without removing the cause, these will return.

How can you treat corns or callus?

- 1) Soak feet in warm water and gently rub away the hard skin with a pumice or foot file. Then apply a foot moisturising cream.
- 2) Do not attempt to cut away hard skin with a blade or scissors as you could damage healthy skin leading to an infection.
- 3) Avoid medicated corn plasters as they can damage healthy skin.
- 4) Corn pads can be helpful in reducing pressure on painful corns.

If you would like any help with treating your corns or callus I will be able to remove tough hard skin painlessly and provide padding that can relieve pressure and friction on the affected area.

*Jenny Cranshaw
Happy Feet Foot Clinic*



List Of Advertisers

Academy GB Doors	26	Mark Evans Plumbing & Heating Engineers	38
Accutum, Chartered Accountants	36	M.D. Garden Services	54
Altea Beauty & Holistic Centre	16	M&J Motors	34
Arnold Funeral Directors	32	M T S Window Cleaning	50
AS Judo Academy	8	My Errand Runner	52
“Are you sitting comfortably” Upholstery	14	New Look Cleaning	44
Aquarius Window Cleaning	18	Pangaea Training	68
BB Plumbing	12	Peter Cork Plumbing	22
Beauty With Helen	42	P K Stroy, Builder	22
Body & Soul Beauty Salon	26	Premier Architectural Joinery	60
Bricklayers Arms	64	Puppy & Dog Training	18
Charlo Architects	32	Plugs Electrical Services	66
Chilworth Care	20	Pushchairs and Car Seats	30
Chris Saunders Foot Care	32	Ranasana Tandoori	4
Complete Bathrooms & Kitchens	58	Revive Car Bodywork	42
Computer Support Call Dan	56	Roof Technology	71
DJ Coles Property Services	54	Satori Circuit Class	56
D & P Heating	6	Sewing Machinist	44
Downley Pharmacy	62	Simply Stumps	16
Downley School Seek Governors	66	Sing and Sign	27
Hammond Construction	6	Spirit Hair Company	40
Happy Feet Health Clinic	58	Sweaty Betties Aerobics	28
Home Phone Solutions	4	Suttons’ Property Maintenance	10
J H Austin Painting & Decorating	34	Taras’s News	64
Jill Burrell Tutor	24	The Window Doctor	30
Joel Akinsipe Computer Problems	48	The Painted Kitchen Company	28
Josh Wood Personal Trainer	62	The Professional Building Company	54
JR Travel. Private Hire	36	The Reflex Zone	40
Keeping It Clean	14	TLC 4 You	8
Kitchen & Bathroom Specialist	46	Top Marks Tuition	32
K M G Building Contractors	46	Vale Conservatories	50
LEAP	48	West Wycombe Care Limited	68
Le De Spencers Arms	60	Woodland Management	10
Lesley Mumbray Tutor	18	Workmans Aircon	52
Logo & Stationery Design	68	Wycombe Photographic Society	12
M Hunt Painting & Decorating	20	Wye Residential	2
Mark Braisher Mortgages	24	Zumba	38
Magic Carpets	44		

Credits

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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 October 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 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.

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

Sept	1	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	1	Bricklayers Arms - Charity Dog Show for Hounds for Hero's: 12:00
	1	Bricklayers Arms - Open Mic night with Matt. 8:30
	5	Coffee Stop trip to Chenies Manor
	7	Live Music from The Shindigz at the LeDe from 9pm
	7	Bricklayers Arms - Singer Songwriter night with Kirsty Fuller. 8:30
	10	Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall
	12/13/14	West Wycombe Chamber Music Concert 7.30 - Church of St Lawrence
	14	Downley Gardening Society meeting - St James Hall
	14	The Downley School Summer Fete at the school 11am to 1.30pm
	14	Downley Albion Football Club Race Night at the Le De from 8pm
	14	Live Music at the Brickies from Steph Willis from 8.30pm
	19	Bricklayers Arms - Open Mic night with Matt. 8:30
	21	Bricklayers Arms - Steph Willis Jam Session. 8:30
	27	Beetle Drive by the Downley Evening WI the Community Centre at 7.30
Oct	3	Downley Common Preservation AGM at the War Memorial Hall at 8pm
	3	Bricklayers Arms - Open Mic night with Matt. 8:30
	6	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	7	Coffee Stop Harvest Lunch at St James Hall
	8	Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre
	17	Bricklayers Arms - Open Mic night with Matt. 8:30
	19	Bricklayers Arms - Steph Willis Jam Session. 8:30
	24	Downley Gardening Society meeting - St James Hall
	25	Hilarious, Dramatic Review 'My Tutu's Gone Awol' Memorial Hall 7.30
	26	Bricklayers Arms - Live Music from Undercover. 8:30
	31	Bricklayers Arms - Open Mic night with Matt. 8:30
Nov	1	Spooky Ghost Stories & Wacky Science 'Boo And Bang' Memorial Hall 7.30
	3	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	12	Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall
	18	Downley Gardening Society meeting - St James Hall