

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

Village News



Features

- Local Events
- Local Societies
- Lifestyle
- Downley Diary *Pull Out Section*
- History
- Poetry Corner
- Contributions from Advertisers

Issue 97 / November 2013



2014 Downley
Village Calendar



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Editorial

A difficult week ending 22nd November trying to work out if it would snow. The BBC weather forecast was very informative though. In case you missed it their December forecast is, 'will it snow, will it snow, will it snow?' Rest assured your local Downley village news will be much more informative and we hope this DVN can accompany you on the sofa just in case the BBC forecast comes to fruition.

Snow or no snow, no Downley Home should be without its DVN 2014 Calendar available at local stores while stocks last....wrap it up or hang it up in your home this Winter. Thank you to all of you who have commented that they enjoy reading our magazine which would not be the same without the enticing articles supplied to us by you.

Talent abounds this village and I continue to pursue young talent to make up our Young Editors Team (YET) and I hope to continue this mission in the coming months. Meanwhile I urge you to snuggle up and pour over this issue. Have a Merry Christmas and a better New Year.

Simon Scott, Editor



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Downley Parish Council have 2 vacancies for new Members who can be co-opted following a successful interview process. If you are a Downley resident and are over 18 years of age and are interested in this opportunity, please contact the Clerk to the Council on 01494 462195 or by “e” mail at downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk

Copies of the Parish Council’s Minutes are

The Coffee Stop

Last time I wished you a colourful and calm autumn – “colourful” certainly, but “calm”- not exactly! Last night we braced ourselves for the storm to end all storms but luckily seem to have survived in the village with nothing more serious than the odd fence and some pots blown over.

In September we had our first ever Coffee Stop outing, subsidised by Charles’ legacy, to Chenies Manor. We had a lovely warm day and the gardens were absolutely beautiful, most of us managed to visit inside the house as well which was fascinating and full of history. In November we are off again to visit the garden centre in Bicester where there are also some other shops to explore and the possibility to choose some Christmas presents as well as the vital cafe. We are very grateful to Pat for organising the coaches, many of our customers are not able to get out and about as much as they would like so it has been a rare treat for them and there were enough people to help with those less mobile amongst us.

The harvest lunch was a great success as always, very hard work as our numbers are dwindling a bit but well worth it for the delight and thanks expressed by visitors. December 9th will be our Christmas event with mince pies and mulled wine available

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.**



and hopefully the Fernie Fields Four if their touring programme allows!

Some of our helpers have had to step down for personal reasons but hopefully we have some new recruits and would be grateful for many more – it is always hard preparing a rota several months ahead especially when several people are unavailable at the same time. Pat copes admirably with this task but more people would make her job easier. It would be particularly helpful for someone to volunteer to do the shopping occasionally, there are only 5 of us who do this and we run out of ideas to tempt appetites. The other regular roles are cake bakers, potato buyers and soup makers so if you have been inspired by Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood we would be only too happy to road test your efforts! Nothing too difficult and we can guarantee an appreciative clientele.

Thank you everyone for all your help in keeping our show on the road.

We wish you all a winter that is not too anything, and a very happy Christmas.

*Ann Buxton
pabuxton@hotmail.com*

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Downley School

It's been an excellent first half term of the new school year! The children have settled in to their new year groups very well and have worked extremely hard. Our new staff have also settled in really well and feel like established members of our team already.

We have had lots of fun this half term. For the second year, we held a brilliant whole school inter team 'It's A Knockout' event. Every child and member of staff were involved in a wonderful morning of competition, effort and teamwork. It was a great success and a great start to the year.

Our value for the month of September was 'Peace' and as part of this we celebrated International Day of Peace on September 21st. We are exploring 'Equality' this month. The children constantly surprise us with their perceptive and sometimes extremely profound understanding of the values which are becoming embedded in every aspect of our school life.

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

Our sports teams have seen lots of action already this year. Football tournaments and a cross country event have been very well attended. Lots of extra-curricular clubs are up and running now as well and are very popular. We do as much as possible to encourage children to be involved in sport!

We've welcomed lots of parents through the doors this half term. Parents Consultation evenings, two information

evenings for parents and lots of volunteers to help in the classrooms.

Our Parents Association are a fabulous group of parents who meet every month and work on organising fund raising events. So far this year they have organised a Sponsored Bounce and a buffet evening for parents of our new reception children.

Lots of our school governors came to 'Governors In School Day' a few weeks ago. They spent the day in classes with the children and came to our Celebration Assemblies. They work extremely hard for the school and it was nice to be able to say thank you to them in front of the children – for whom they do the work!

Finally, to reinforce the importance of walking to school and keeping safe, we organised a 'Walk to School' crocodile. Hundreds of children and their families walked to school from The Downley Donkey in high visibility clothes – which they then were able to wear instead of their uniform for the day. Parents were also invited to take part in our Wake and Shake on that morning. Lots of healthy and safe messages!

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

Mrs Webb, Headteacher





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Downley Community Orchard

Did you know that the Community Orchard is ten years old this winter? Ten years ago Kristina Frydberg, now in New Zealand, working with others, achieved funding and permissions from West Wycombe Estate and the Parish Council to plant some 22 traditional British fruiting trees on a plot of land adjacent to Jubilee allotments. (If you don't know where that is, go to the north end of the common, past the cricket pitch and head left along the track). The trees have largely succeeded, and have made considerable growth, and this year has been the best yet for apple and pear production. When planted the trees were adopted by families and individuals, the Orchard Archive has full details of the type and variety of tree,



and the 'adoptees'.

However, some of the 'adopters' have moved away, as has Kristina, so we need to re-invigorate the community aspect of the orchard, for instance, a blossom time picnic, and a juicing/cider making day in October, perhaps complete with barbecue, apple crushing and pressing, (we have the equipment), and indeed supping the bountiful juices oozing from the press. So how about getting involved in the orchard, all ages very welcome, an introductory day can be arranged on site, complete with apple juice and Downley cider....'share and enjoy!'

If you would like to become a 'Downley Orchard' then contact John Willson on 01494 525966 or email: handjwillson@btinternet.com.



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Chameleon Singles Group



The “better than 2012” summer meant this year we could make use of the great outdoors.

While we did not have a holiday away this year a day trip to Bognor Regis meant we were able to take in that great British event of going to the coast. We enjoyed a little sunshine on the beach, the crazy golf and of course a Fish ‘N’ Chip supper.

Several of our members and in particular some who are new to the group are interested in live music. We have recently therefore been going to Dusty’s at Holmer Green on a monthly basis and a few have been to events just down the road at the Royal British Legion. Other events that have taken place over the last few months include a visit to Claydon House, a Curry Night at the William Loosely, a late summer BBQ and a day trip to the Bluebell Railway. So as you see there has been a lot going on with several different events held each month. All are organised by members acting as hosts and to them all we are very grateful as without organisers there would be no Chameleon!

For Christmas this year we are organising two events to cater for both those who prefer a daytime or an evening event. Our daytime event will be held at The Dolphin on

Totteridge Lane while for the evening event we are going to the Hazlemere Golf Club for a dinner dance.

Our pub night is a great place to meet new members and you would be very welcome to come along and join us for a drink. We meet from 8pm at The Crown, Amersham Road, Hazlemere. Next dates are 29th November, 27th December, 31st January and 28th February. There is food available if you wish to eat.

Our membership includes a number of local people from Downley, West Wycombe, Sands, and surrounding areas. If you are single, 40 – 60’s, 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.

Additional Talent

As well as those in our community who have offered their Art or Photographs for the Downley 2014 Calendar there are many more local people who could help with the Editing of this Village News.

Our Young Editing Team (YET) is still a work in progress and this quarter I hope to present to schools to find people to join this YET. If you are between 12 and 18 and want to contribute some of your time to creating and editing this useful local magazine then please email me editor@downley.org

I am sure you are inspired by the young singers from Downley who have been in the news for their talents. The likes of Leigh-Anne Pinnock of Little Mix, X Factor contestants or Lily Taylor an Open Mic UK contestant. Your talents might be with the written word so let your talents shine as part of the YET.

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News from Downley Pharmacy

Preparing for Winter Health

Sickness rates increase over the winter-coughs, colds, flu, and the winter vomiting bug. Most people recover from minor illnesses without needing to see a doctor.

A combination of rest, fluids and the right over the counter medication will usually get you back on your feet. Medical help and advice is close at hand for the more troubling symptoms, if you are worried or just don't seem to be getting better. The team at Downley Pharmacy can provide advice and over the counter medication to ease the symptoms of everyday ailments such as coughs and colds. Fever and pain relief for headache, earache, sinus pain etc. Symptomatic relief from stomach ache and other symptoms of bugs or that over-indulgence during the festive season may bring is also available. Discuss the problem or how best to be prepared and we will help accordingly, or refer to your GP when needed.

With the increase of coughs and colds over the winter season there comes an increase in the needs of those with respiratory conditions such as asthma and COPD. We, like the Doctor's surgeries are keen that medication regimes are

understood and followed to maximise their benefits. At a recent training day I attended inhalers were likened to Belgian chocolates and champagne- too good to waste! We have since invested in a simple gadget that helps us assess your inhalation technique and whether you are receiving the dosage prescribed at the place where it works i.e. your lungs. Following this quick check we can give advice on any alterations that maybe made to give maximum benefit with least side effects. Young or old can be assessed with this device and we will be offering the service to all those collecting prescriptions for inhalers over the coming months.

I now just need to give a gentle reminder that whilst we do not recommend hoarding of regular medication, we do encourage you to think ahead at the festive season to ensure you have sufficient supplies especially if you are going away. In case of extreme weather conditions (as at anytime) we are happy to collect prescriptions from all Wycombe surgeries and can deliver medication to those who need or are unable to get out.

Wishing you all the best for the Christmas season and a happy New Year!

Fiona and the team at Downley Pharmacy

Menfolk of Downley!

The inaugural meeting of the Men's Group floated in the last issue of the Village News has, by now, been held: little to report at this point as the date fell after the deadline for news this time round. Do get in touch if you're interested in meeting with gentlemen in the area for activities that appeal to the group.



Claire Baker 01494 437552 clairebaker55@btinternet.com

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Downley Common News

Recent Activity

Those of you who walk across the Common from the village up to the Le De (or vice versa) will have seen signs of activity in the area to the east (i.e. downhill) of the bonfire site. The edge of the woodland there has gradually been creeping further out into the grassland area and the trees there have been getting bigger and bigger. Starting at the northern end about 10 years ago and moving south, we have been gradually cutting back both the small and large trees and bushes to leave a strip approx. 10 yards deep where smaller plants can regenerate.



The idea is to avoid the creation of a sharp boundary between woodland with large trees and no undergrowth on one side and open grassland on the other by creating a different sort of environment where smaller low-lying plants can flourish and wildlife can find some cover. This year a whole swathe of hawthorns that was creating a sort of hedge has

been removed and a large ash tree felled. The main trunks of trees are used to block off access to the Common where there is the risk of vehicle incursion.

New Posts

Talking of preventing vehicle access, we have started a programme (funded by the Parish Council) of replacing posts around the Common that are starting to deteriorate. The ones along Commonside and around the cricket pitch are still in generally good condition as these were installed most recently but those at the top of Butterfly Bank (up the slope from Sunnybank Chapel) and those near the old dairy are at the end of their life. They will therefore be replaced and should be in place by the time this goes to press. There are areas particularly to the north end of the Common where posts are not really appropriate so we will continue to plant screening bushes (typically hawthorns) and lay down logs at points where vehicles could get onto the Common.

Bill Thompson



Chiltern rangers launch their web site

We are pleased to see that The Chiltern Rangers have launched their web site which enables local people to get involved with environmental conservation and enhancement projects.

Visit www.chilternrangers.co.uk to find out more about how you can help and what projects they are involved with. Don't forget you can also visit www.chilternsociety.org.uk to help preserve & enhance the Chiltern Hills.



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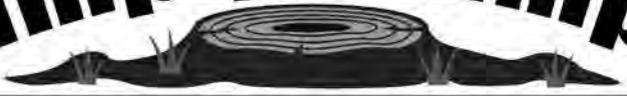
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Downley Evening WI

Please note the change of venue - Downley Evening WI now meet in St James Church at 7.45pm on the second Tuesday of every month.



Ladies, why not join us, you will be made very welcome. We have been busy during recent months and have had interesting speakers, as well as participating in many events. We listened to 'My Life with Norman Wisdom', 'The English Cathedral' and 'The Publishing of Pride & Prejudice' at the Group Meeting. In October we held our A.G.M. and two of the local police force came to talk to us.

After an informative visit to the Royal Holloway College in August, we enjoyed a tasty tea in the Library. Later in the month, a walk around Downley was followed by lunch at Le De Spencer. Members and friends proved to be extremely competitive at our Beetle Drive in September. We had a visit to Wycombe Law Courts and

were guided through Court procedure by volunteer magistrates.

Recently we were shown around Hughenden Manor, where we learnt about the part the Manor played in the war effort, as well as visiting the newly-opened rooms on the top floor. Spectacular views across the hills can be seen from these windows.

Our entertainment group, 'Delectable Selection' continue to perform 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

Some biology topics relevant to the season;

Most Christmas trees used to be taken from the forest, but nowadays commercial and sustainability issues mean they are grown on specialist farms, and are replaced with new saplings after each harvest. They normally take around 10 years to grow to 7ft tall and an acre of Christmas trees will release enough oxygen for the respiratory needs of around 18 humans, and remove from the atmosphere as much carbon dioxide as a car releases on a 25,000 mile journey.

When grabbing kiss under the mistletoe over the Season you may think that is its main purpose on the planet (it may well be at that precise moment). However, mistletoe is an important source of food for many birds, which then either spit it out or, more commonly, defecate the seeds; these may land on a tree branch on which they stick and then grow. Many species of birds will then nest in the mistletoe foliage.

At this time of year we look out for Santa and his flying reindeer. But did you know that, if the movies and all the Christmas card depictions have it right, Santa's reindeer are all female. Reindeer are the only species of deer where both the males and females grow long antlers. However, the males shed their antlers at the beginning of winter (late November-early December) whereas the females do so after giving birth in the spring.

BY JILL BURRELL

Downley Tutor

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Vicar's Voice

I've been living in Downley for 2 months now, and I'm beginning to feel that I'm part of the community.

I've been to the local shops, joined in the quiz at the Brickies, been at a school assembly, joined the Beavers at one of their evenings, taken a Remembrance Day parade and I'm getting to know many people who live here. Now my house, that's a different story, the boxes are just about unpacked, the paint is just about dry and the pictures are waiting to be hung on the walls. Oh and I've just found the Christmas decorations. "There's no point putting them up in the loft," Richard (my husband) says. "Christmas will soon be here."

How can it possibly be time for Christmas and all the preparation that goes with it? It seems only yesterday that we were planning our summer holidays and now we're looking forward to Christmas.

Or are we? How often, when you mention Christmas to people, do they just moan and groan about how much there is to do - shopping for presents, putting up decorations, preparing food, writing cards and so on?



Christmas seems to have become a chore because we put so much pressure on ourselves, and in the process, we lose sight of the anticipation and wonder of waiting for the arrival of baby Jesus. We rush around the shops trying to buy better presents than we did last year, often putting ourselves into debt. It's so easy to be swept away by all the trappings of the season, I think for many of us, the real meaning at the heart of Christmas has been lost!

Revd Alison Finch Vicar at St James

JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN

Whilst wrapping of presents for the festive season, all that neat folding of numerous sheets around your carefully chosen or hastily settled for gifts, here is a problem for you to ponder.

You may be aware that it is considered impossible for ANY piece of paper to be folded in half more than 7 times (try it, see how you get on). But, if it were possible, if we could go on folding in half again and again ad infinitum, approximately how many folds would be required to make the wedge of paper sufficiently thick to reach ...

A.the Moon

B.the Sun

[Hint: assume the distance of the Moon and the Sun from the Earth is 400,000km and 150,000,000km respectively. A piece of paper is about 0.1mm thick.]

Resist the urge to grab a calculator. Solution on page 57

Solution for Jill's Maths for fun, Autumn edition 2013

Substitute the letters of the alphabet with the number of their position in the alphabet, i.e. A=1, B=2 ...

Y=25, Z=26. When you do this with the full names, as given, the equation (**Will + Kate = George + 200**) will balance;

Will = William Arthur Philip Louis = 311

Kate = Catherine Elizabeth = 171

George = Prince George Alexander Louis = 282

311 + 171 = 282 + 200

BY JILL BURRELL

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It's Raining Men – Hallelujah!



That's what we'd all be saying if it were true. Come on ladies why not persuade the men in your life to come along to Downley Descants on a Thursday evening, they would enjoy it and perhaps so would you!

Why is it that in most choirs the vast majority of members are ladies? Why is it that men will stand on a football terrace on a Saturday afternoon and sing their hearts out but think that singing in a choir is somehow not a manly thing to do?

Downley can be different, just come along to Sunnybank Church on Thursday evenings at 8pm during school term time.

At the moment our male contingent amounts to 3 tenors and 2 basses, which although producing a good sound would give an overall more rounded sound to the whole choir if the numbers increased.

Come on men of Downley your choir needs you ! We are more than happy to welcome new ladies too of course.

Since the last issue of DVN we have held a Musical Quiz Night which was a huge success and was enjoyed by all. Singing-wise we have been concentrating on

Christmas. This may seem odd especially in September but by December we should have got it right. Our Christmas repertoire is varied, some traditional and some exciting new arrangements of seasonal classics which will be aired at our various performances over the festive period.

Plans for the new year are already in progress with a prospective joint concert with Wycombe Concert Band and local performances at Downley Day and the new Downley Festival. Although performing our songs is the icing on the cake, we are still basically a community choir for the village, where new friends can be made and we can all enjoy singing together.

Just a reminder: there are no auditions and you can have two free evenings as a trial to see if our choir is something you'd like to be a part of.

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

Bob Cook

Downley Theatre Group

The Theatre Group offers the chance to travel to London for "block-buster" West End shows with return coach from Cross Court, Plomer Green Avenue, and occasional day trips. Please call or email for full details.

The suggestion of branching out into trips to straight plays in the last edition of the Village News resulted in four people getting in touch, rather disappointing, but it's not too late to express your interest so please contact us.



*Alan and Claire Baker, 82 Littleworth Road, Downley, HP13 5UY
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Community Plan Report

Speed monitoring

September saw the Community Speedwatch system set up on Middlebrook and Littleworth Road on separate mornings to monitor traffic speed. This county-run initiative is apparently designed to educate the travelling public to moderate their speed. To achieve this, the radar is preceded by warning signs and the operators wear hi-vis jackets. Anyone recorded exceeding the speed limit by 10% + 2 mph are sent a letter by the police. 3 such letters to any individual and a police visit is incurred to explain the error of their ways. Given the significant warning of our presence it is not surprising that there were no instances of anyone exceeding the allowable limit.



The view of the Community Plan group is that there needs to be some monitoring of traffic speeds at various times of the day and different times of the week to determine what the incidence of speeding actually is. This needs a system that covertly records traffic speeds (unlike the Community Speedwatch system) so that the success of any deterrence can be assessed. The group will be investigating to see what can be set up. Any reader with suggestions of how this might be achieved should contact info@downley.org.

Skate Park

One of the suggestions for new facilities that was identified in the survey 3 years ago was a skate/BMX park for the teenagers in the village. While this was never going to be an easy thing to achieve, the Community Plan group is now starting to investigate what might be possible. One suggestion is to install a temporary set of ramps at a suitable location during next summer and to see what level of usage it attracts and what issues (if any) would need to be resolved.

This will inevitably cost money and take time and effort so it would be good to get some input from potential users in the village. Calling all you boarders and bikers out there – contact info@downley.org with your views and/or leave some feedback on our Facebook site (www.facebook.com/Downley.Community).

Village of the Year

Back in the summer, Downley entered the “2013 Best-kept Village Competition” run by Bucks CC. While not among the winners, we were awarded a certificate of merit which currently hangs in the Community Centre and the following comments were received from the judges.

“The youth play area overlooking High Wycombe has good facilities but there was a considerable amount of litter and rubbish around which detracted from the facility. The War Memorial was very pleasing and work was being done to the memorial hall itself. The pond and open area in Gosling Grove was an attractive feature and well-maintained. The Millennium garden area is a very attractive feature at the approach to Downley”

So if we organise a bit of a litter pick next year, we should be among the medals!

Bill Thompson, Chairman

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Mobile road signs and major road improvement works, on going until Summer 2014

I am sure we have all seen the digital signs being placed at every Junction and the road improvement works getting underway on West Wycombe Road. The works are to improve the A40/A4010 Chapel Lane junction in Wycombe and started on 14th October 2013.

Phase 1 of the works will comprise diverting or protecting various utility equipment including electricity, gas and cable television. The works are required to enable the construction of the main project which is set to take place between February and May 2014 and finishing some time during the Summer of 2014.

So its bye bye to the corner house 323 West Wycombe Road (I wondered who had knocked it down!) and hello traffic jam Christmas.

Don't forget to take warm blankets and food supplies when venturing out just in case you get stuck for hours trying to get to or from Downley.

For more sensible information log on to www.buckscc.gov.uk/chapellane
Happy motoring !!

Pioneering motorway noise barrier study moves forward

Ground breaking ideas for a new form of noise barrier along parts of the M40 have taken a major step forward.

A feasibility study into the new barriers which combine traffic noise mitigation with the production of green energy has been completed. The Highways Agency will now start work to develop a performance specification for how the so-called photovoltaic enabled noise barrier should perform and seeking ideas from industry on the possible product.

Ginny Clarke, Chief Highway Engineer at the Highways Agency, said: "We've been impressed by the professionalism, energy and organisation this partnership has put in to drive the work to this point. We are committed to our environmental responsibilities and now we're going to take the idea to the next step by looking in real detail how we could use these barriers, which, if constructed, would be a first on roads managed by the Highways Agency and could power signs as well."

People living alongside parts of the M40 in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire have been affected by traffic noise for many years. M40CEG has been campaigning locally and working closely with neighbouring parish councils and local district councils (Wycombe District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council) for many years and its work was recently boosted by an injection of funding from an environmentally focused organisation. The Agency has noise barriers on its network and solar powered signs but to combine the two in the way proposed by the feasibility study would be a first in England. The Agency will now lead the next stage in consultation with the local community and are aiming to complete more detailed technical and site studies on the suitability of possible products by Spring 2014. The following stage would involve a detailed appraisal for implementing a pilot scheme on the M40.

Downley Community Centre

The Old School

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News from Wycombe and Westminster

Steve Baker MP



When the Coalition Government came into power three years ago, there were undeniable signs that state-directed public services were unable to meet the complex needs of the 21st century. Financial pressures and changes in population are making new demands on services and at the same time, quite rightly, people's expectations are higher than ever. This means the way in which public services are delivered has had to change.

Too often in the past, public services have been provided and people have been told the arrangements were in their best interests. In effect, we have had to like it or lump it. The Government has been looking for new ways of allowing people to influence decisions which affect them, and we now have more power to make these decisions for ourselves. It is clear to me that if we had patient-led commissioning, those patients would demand A&E and maternity services at Wycombe Hospital. That is why I have been working on this idea with the think-tank Civitas.

Across the country there is currently a consultation being carried out called The NHS Belongs to the People – A Call to Action. A number of public meetings are being held locally including High Wycombe. These provide opportunities for people to give their thoughts on how everyone's healthcare needs can be met, and what must happen to build an excellent NHS now and in the future.

There is a rich tradition running through this country of friendly societies, co-operatives, charities and trade unions which have worked for the benefit of their members and the communities in which

they operate. Such groups should be encouraged allowing us to once again to discover that society is the co-operation of a free people. Each November the nation comes together to remember those who have died serving their country particularly in the First and Second World Wars and other recent conflicts. At the end of the October I was present in the Chilterns Shopping Centre at the launch of this year's Poppy Appeal, and will be attending the civic Remembrance Service at All Saints Church. We must all work for reconciliation between nations so that all people may live in freedom, justice and peace.

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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“Garden Sharing” - An Example

Following the article in the last issue suggesting that garden sharing might solve the current lack of allotment space in the village, the following example offers a suggestion of how it works in one case.

The View from the Roots

With retirement came the desire to start growing vegetables again but our original veg plot had been turned over to a low maintenance garden with decking and ponds when lack of time precluded the maintenance of vegetable beds.

Spurred on by the desire to grow vegetables with flavour I decided an area of raised beds was the ideal solution. Regrettably, her indoors had no appreciation of my vision which required the removal of both the lawn and flower beds, I am still at a loss to understand why. A solution was to hand when our neighbours, Norman and Rita Belson remarked that they were finding it difficult to maintain their veg plot and would I be interested in taking it over.

After long and considered reasoning, about 10 seconds, I jumped at the opportunity. Who would not want to take over a productive plot that had been lovingly maintained for over half a century, yes they have lived in Downley that long. In the autumn of last year, work commenced with the construction of a gateway in the dividing hedge and the mulching of the plot and planting of potatoes.

Our first season was not an outstanding success, with the runner beans hardly cropping but a trip to Kew gardens revealed theirs were rubbish as well. The curly kale was decimated by caterpillars. The salads however cropped well and the courgettes were prolific which surprised Rita. Our combined gardens have produced a plethora of preserves with the air thick with the smell of pickling vinegar. Now only the cooking apples need to be picked, the crab apples turned into jelly, the garlic and onions to be planted, and, and, and. . .

It has been a great opportunity to take advice and share fresh garden produce with our neighbours. Is it to be recommended? Of course.

Les Root

The View from the Belsons

The article on garden sharing in the Autumn issue touched a chord with us – we have been doing this with a neighbour for a year now and it’s been a great success. Last year we were ruefully looking at our veg. plot which has been cultivated since 1954, and we realised that in our 80s with severe mobility problems and increasing frailty, it was beyond our capabilities.

On having a discussion over the hedge with our lovely neighbours (the Roots) it was discovered that Les was going to dig up his lawn to grow vegetables and the magic phrase “I’ll do it for you” was an answer to our prayers. Access is by a small gate at the bottom of the garden so they could come and work anytime. There is no question at all about losing our privacy; it’s very good to see again heads bent over forks or putting in bean poles, cultivating peas, beans, potatoes, courgettes and salads over such a long stretch of time. Produce and jars have been very generously shared, tools borrowed and ideas swapped. Yes, we have experience but fresh ideas and younger approach are appreciated.

It’s essential to be on good terms with your neighbours, but as long term residents, this has never been a problem.

If any readers are considering garden sharing, all we can say from our point of view is that it has been a very great help to us and I hope to the good people next door.

Norman and Rita Belson

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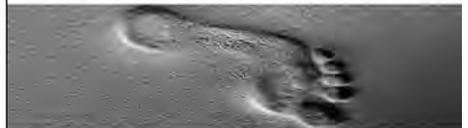
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Up! Downley's Village Festival 2014

The Downley Village Festival aims to highlight the creative and social activities of the Village, be fun and entertain.

Visitors to Downley from June 21st through to July 12th should be in no doubt there is something is happening here. The hope is with your participation, individuals, clubs, societies and schools the village will be populated with scarecrows many holding placards saying Up! Downley. Scarecrows in Downley Dynamos football strips, having a drink outside the Le De or as Scouts and Guide at the top of Coates Lane. These model villagers will be welcoming and publicising our Village Festival. Three weeks of comedy, theatre, music, dancing, quizzes, competitions, walks and talks.

Downley Day will kick start proceedings and provide an opportunity for participating groups to promote their events. We are hoping for good mix of events. Performances from touring professionals and home grown talent. Activities such as a family 'school sports day' featuring races with eggs, spoons, sacks and three legs and a get Downley Dancing programme culminating in a 'Tea Dance'? A concert from the Downley Descants and a Shakespeare production from the Downley School? Add to these ideas for a crafts fair, a food fair, a rounders competition, comedy and film nights, the list goes on and it just needs the Village to be **Up!** for it.

The successful Village Art Show has moved its date to be part of it and we hope as many of our other local groups, sporting, creative and social will also come on board. On Wednesday 6th December at 8pm in the Community Centre there will be a festival opening evening, aiming to explore, create and

adopt ideas to make up the programme of festival events. Down to timing that evening may be past when you read this or just be too short notice but it will be only the starting point and there will be plenty of opportunity for involvement.

If you think you could add, in any way to the success of the Up! Downley Village Festival please get in touch at: festival@downley.org

The Concert on the Common on the 12th July will provide the closing party night for the festival. Wouldn't be nice to think you had been a part of it, staged an event, sung a song, had an idea or just made a great scarecrow!

Keep in touch online at: festival.downley.org and get in touch at: festival@downley.org





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Downley Diary events

Your pullout section to what's on in the village.
From the weekly clubs and society sessions to the big annual events, you'll find them all here!

CLUBS show NO art starts BOOKS
go DATE MOVIE TALKS GIG exercise people
societies concert FETE

Round-up of Weekly Activities

Aerobic	Tues 6.30pm, Sat 9.30am	Community Centre
Art Club	Thurs 9.30am	St James Hall
Art Group	Mon 10am - 12.00	Community Centre
BCC Parenting Course	Tues 9am	St James Hall
Bible Study Group	Wed 7.30pm - 11pm	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 11am - 1pm	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 Evening WI	2nd Tues 7.45pm	St James Hall
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wed 8pm	Community Centre
Downley Village Evening WI	1st Tues 7.45pm	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 12.45pm -2.45pm	Community Centre

Round-up of Weekly Activities ...*continued*

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 - 12.00	Community Centre
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 9.45am & 11am	Community Centre
(Downley) Spiritual Centre	1st Fri 7.30pm	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

Clubs Societies Schools - Promote your event here for FREE!

Downley Parish Council Dates

2013 diaries:

Tues 31st Dec - Lighting the Millennium Beacon at Commonsides at 11.45 p.m.

2014 diaries:

Sun 25th May - Annual Downley Walk starting at 2.00 p.m. from the War Memorial Hall.

Sat 21st June - Downley Day at Commonsides starting at 1.00 p.m.

Sat 12th July - Concert on the Common starting at 7.00 p.m.

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

Sun 9th Nov - Remembrance Day Service at Downley War Memorial Hall at 3.00 p.m.

Wed 31st Dec - Lighting the Millennium Beacon at Commonsides at 11.45 p.m.

Downley Parish Council Meeting Dates

All meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday every month.
Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions. Agendas are posted on the Parish Council notice boards at least 4 days in advance.

Held alternate months at:

War Memorial Hall 7.45 pm

January, March, May, July, September and November

Downley Community Centre, School Close 7.45 pm

February, April, June, August, October and December

St James Church

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve - Crib Service 6pm and 11.30 Midnight Mass.

December 1st Toy Service

December 22nd 9 Lessons and Carols

February 2nd Christingle Service for Candlemas at 5.30pm.

All are welcome. The Crib Service and the Christingle Service are very much all age events - children very welcome

Downley Evening Women's Institute

All events at St James church 7.45 PM every second Tuesday

'Colour in the Garden' and 'Christmas Crackers' are the two next talks at our November and December meetings.

We are also looking forward to the 'Angelicus' concert on 5th December and a **Mulled Wine Evening** on 18th December.

Our ever popular **Literary Lunches** continue to be enjoyed each month and our **Craft Group** is busy preparing for the **Christmas Fayre** on 9th November.

Art Group

Every Monday 10.00-12.00 at Downley Community Centre teaching a wide variety of subjects, predominantly using water colours, pencils and pastels. Pen and ink are also used.

Contact Judy Maynard: judy@wellwatered.org

Downley Spiritualist Centre

Meeting in Beech Room at Downley Community Centre. A sanctuary meeting monthly on Friday evenings 7.30-9.00pm Divine Service then 9.15-9.45pm Healing. An opportunity to explore the nature of humanity and further your journey into self-awareness and self-knowledge. Demonstrating medium in attendance at every meeting. Tea and coffee afterwards. All are welcome. Free will offering taken up.

Contact Laraine Spragg: spragg.l@sky.com

S

Mill End Voices

We are a recently formed 'Come and Sing' adult mixed choir - men are always welcome - meeting at Millbrook Combined School on every second Sunday of the month. Directed by Patrick Gazard, the choir sings a wide variety of repertoire, focusing on songs from musical theatre and film as well as some light classical works. The atmosphere is very relaxed, and no previous experience is necessary. There is no membership or annual subscription: you just pay £10 on the door.

All adults welcome: 18 - 80!

We meet on the second Sunday of the month 2.30 pm - 5 pm

Millbrook Combined School, High Wycombe, HP12 4BA

For further information: **patrickgazard@gmail.com**

The Lace Makers

We are a group of bobbin lace makers who have been together for over 20 years. We moved to Downley Old School Community Centre in April 2013 and meet in term time on Thursdays from 12:45pm until 2:45pm. We are a self help group and some of us also knit, do cross stitch, patchwork, quilting and beading.

If you would like to join us please come along and meet us, you will be most welcome.

For any further information needed please phone: Frances Butcher on 01494 524835

Downley Connect

Connecting young people in Downley with their Community and Environment

Winter Event - National Tree Dressing Day

Sunday 8 Dec

Do you enjoy playing on or in the trees on the common?

Then come and join us in showing appreciation for our trees by decorating them.

If you would like to join in please contact Sonia and Amber downleyconnect@btinternet.com

Downley Village Evening Women's Institute

We meet at Downley Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.45pm. We have a wide variety of speakers, meet for social activities, fundraising activities and join other WIs from group and county.

It is an opportunity to make new friends, catch up with old ones and have some fun. We welcome visitors and new members. Information about meetings can be found on village notice boards or by ringing our president Pat Heath on: **01494 535998**

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

Dec	1	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	1	Woodlands Pre-School Christmas Fayre At Scout & Guide Centre at 12pm - 3pm
	5	“Angelicus” Christmas concert by Downley Evening WI 8pm at St James Church
	7	Downley School Christmas Fayre at Downley School 11am to 1.30pm
	7	Live music with Alan Luck and his band at the LeDe from 9pm
	9	Downley Gardening Society - Dr Pat Morris talks on hedgehogs, 8pm at St James Hall
	10	Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre
	14	Singer Songwriter night with Kirsty Fuller at The Bricklayers Arms from 8:30pm
	21	Live music with Alex Kew
	21	Community Carol Singing at Jubilee Green at 5.30pm
	22	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	24	Family Christmas Carol sing-along at The Bricklayers Arms from 7pm
	24	Children’s Crib Service 24 December 2013 at 6pm at St James Church
	25	Holy Eucharist 11am at St James
	31	New Year’s Beacon lighting and Auld Land Sine at midnight on Commonsides
Jan	5	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	4	Live music from Bob Newell at The Bricklayers Arms from 8:30pm
	7	Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall
	11	Live music from Button and the sex panthers at The Bricklayers Arms from 8:30pm
	18	The Steph Willis Jam Session at The Bricklayers Arms from 8:30pm
	20	Downley Gardening Society 8pm at St James Hall
	27	Live music from Maz Manzini at The Bricklayers Arms from 8:30pm
Feb	1	Live music from Amir Sharma at The Bricklayers Arms from 8:30pm
	2	Downley Common Preservation Working Party at the Old Dairy at 10am
	8	Live music with Captain Dale at The Bricklayers Arms from 8:30pm
	11	Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre
	15	Live and unplugged with Tony Goff at The Bricklayers Arms from 8:30pm
	19	Downley Theatre Group trip to “Candide - Depart Cross Court at 5.30pm
	22	Dicky’s Blues Jam at The Bricklayers Arms from 8:30pm
Mar	1	Live music with Ant Barnes at The Bricklayers Arms from 8:30pm

Adult learning - your local WEA

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WEA stands for Workers Educational Association.....but you don't have to be a 'worker' to join one of the excellent classes on offer. Founded over 100 years ago, the WEA remains the UK's largest voluntary provider of adult education.

Set up to make access to high quality higher education accessible to everyone, it has a marvellous track record with about 75,000 people currently attending high quality courses on a huge range of subjects such as literature, philosophy, science and art history. These courses are organised by local branches and their members and are responsive to local interest. One of your nearest branches is the Beaconsfield Branch which would love to see you at one of the daytime courses and workshops planned for 2013-14. You can choose from: New writers at the postwar BBC Radio; Russian

Literature; USA Politics; Russian Art; Kitchen Gardening; London Exhibitions 1851-1951; Leonardo da Vinci; English Cathedral Architecture.

You don't need any qualifications, only the desire to expand your horizons in the informal and friendly company of excellent tutors and other adults. The fees are kept as low as possible to allow everyone to be able to enrol.

You can find out more about local WEA courses on the website www.wea.org.uk, by asking for a leaflet at your local library or by contacting either Anna Cherkas 01494 813529 amcherkas@yahoo.co.uk or Sarah Lock 01494 816501 ukandsar@gmail.com

Enjoy looking at what's on offer - we hope to see you at one of the new courses.

Time & Place

The Downley Village Calendar

Look out for your copy in the following outlets: Starlight Stores, Downley News & Convenience Stores, Downley Pharmacy, Bricklayers Arms and Le De Spencers Arms

The calendar images are by local photographers and artists, young and old. Some were created to feature in the Village Art Show others are personal records of familiar locations and events. Thanks to those who submitted images and to our sponsors 'Your Print Solutions'. Dave Jackson and Trevor Bunting gave their time for free to produce the calendar. The calendars are A3 and cost only £4, just right for a small Xmas present.



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Art Club

Time for an update from your friendly neighbourhood art club! Things have been moving at quite a pace for us here at happydoodle since our last Downley News catch up.

Our Monday night art club ran happily for over a year at the Community Centre, and we met so many talented young people during this time. As we always say, Downley is clearly a very creative village! As ever we tried to be as innovative with the sessions as possible, so that these young artists could really experiment and try out new things each week. We have included some images of their work because we want to show off just how good their work is. A big thank you to all the children and their parents who came along to happydoodle on Monday evenings, we had a brilliant time and hope you all did too.

Sadly all good things come to an end, and we said a reluctant goodbye to our Monday night club in October. The reason behind this difficult move was an opportunity that was just too good



to turn down. We now run the new Art Club at Wycombe Museum on Tuesday evenings, for children aged 6-11. The first course is based on the new exhibition at the Museum, 'A Brush With Art'. (If you haven't been to see it already by the way, you should definitely go and check it out – it's very good). As well as our trademark art exploration sessions, we are now able to offer children enrolled on the course



the opportunity to take part in Arts Award at Discover and Explore levels. This is a great chance for artistic children to show what they have learnt and achieved in a tangible way, and certainly seems popular so

far! We can show the children behind the scenes at the Museum, introduce them to staff and allow them to handle objects that are otherwise out of sight. At the time of writing, the first course has just got underway and we are very excited to see how it develops!

As well as our course, we also offer a Holiday Art Club, and the occasional birthday party. This Christmas, we are back at the Community Centre for one day only – 8 December – for our ever-popular Christmas workshop. For two hours children aged between 5 and 11 will be able to make Christmas themed arts and crafts, whilst their grownups race round the shops safe in the knowledge that their kids are happily engaged in creative activities. Places are limited and filling up quickly, so please email us on happydoodlearts@gmail.com if you would like to book.

Workshops at 10 -12 and 1-3pm, £15 per child.

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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Writing's a strange old game

I said last time that I'd talk about getting your work out there.

For a start: Presentation. Send in your novel to an agent or publisher in double spacing. Include a synopsis in single spacing of your novel which should be no longer than two pages, shorter if possible. Your covering letter should be short and sweet. Just mention any successes, and a brief mention of the type of novel: thriller, romance etc.

It helps if you have some evidence of previous success so why not enter writing competitions. If you are lucky enough to be short-listed or even a winner then put it in your letter.

If you are sending in a short story or article to a magazine remember to send it double spaced. Check the requirements of the magazine. Some have guidelines you can download. Analyse the short stories and articles in the magazines and stick closely to their style. Look at the length required and adhere to that.

To help you write to the best of your ability why not join a writing circle or writing course? Not only do you get feedback on your work but you are amongst like minded people. It's should also be great fun. It's a good idea to sign up for weekend writing weekends such as the Winchester Writers' Conference. Not only can you take various courses over the weekend but you can meet agents, publishers and professional writers for individual critiques. Find these via the search engines.

The publishing world is changing fast. If you fail to find a publisher you can bring out an ebook and sell it on Amazon. You can also write a blog for people to access on line. You can self-publish a physical book. But how do people know it's out there? Some people place copies of their books on trains hoping that word of your book spreads. You can give talks and perhaps sell some there. It's every writer's problem – where to sell their books if

they are not taken by bookshops. The sad truth is that bookshops seldom take self-published books, though both e and physical books are welcome on Amazon.

So, find the writing competitions. Maybe start with the Yeovil Literary Prize (www.yeovilprize.com). I founded it to raise funds for the arts of Yeovil and it is now in the capable hands of Liz Pike, one of my ex-creative writing students.

Last but not least, please don't forget Words for the Wounded which launches again on 11th November. It is open to entries of up to 400 words and can either be poetry, non-fiction or fiction. I launched it last year to raise money via donations and entry fees for the rehabilitation of our wounded.

Just go to www.wordsforthewounded.co.uk and support us. Every penny raised goes to the wounded and trust me, they need all we can raise. Good luck! More writing tips next time.

Margaret Graham





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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints - Winter 2013

Wal me ole mates, and a few new ones- perhaps, eh? My readership survey shows my fame is spreading, summon said they'd 'eard of me over Nappel , but they were too polite to say what was said!

Wal, 'ere I am, it's October, with end of month deadline, time runnin' out, jobs needin do'in, (stressin' me out I can tell you), but the cider's a bubblin' away (more later), so I'm multi taskin' by sitting in the dentist's waiting room, it's pouring with rain outside, and filling in time by scribblin' this lot down. So wot about the H.H's? Wal, this morning the apples was tumbling down wot with the wind and rain, but don't let 'em go to waste, if you've managed to keep yours by the time you get this then get yor cider a'goin', (there's plenty on the common). I've got two gallons fizzin' a'way,-just bust up the apples somehow, (bash 'em in a bucket or ask me for a lend of my scratte), then juice 'em up, (I've got a little press), or use a kitchen juicer, then stick the juice in a gallon jar, or any bottle, put an air lock in to stop the air gettin' in and away it'll go. (the natural yeasts do the trick). So then it's Downley scrumpy in the spring! Wal, that's summat to look forward to I suppose....I've had me tooth done now so back home, rain still pourin' down, nights drawing in, getting' colder...(Cheer up ses Mrs H, at least yor not 'avin' to do the shoppin'). Wal, that's true, I never likes the idea of 'avin' to dress for Wycombe....

Anyway, wot about my French cousin M. Jean d'Artichoke? He's a real pain, always tryin' to get one over you, he was on about potato and tomato blight..(la malade de pommes de terre 'e ses....wot!?) .Spray 'em wiz ze copper powder, he keeps on and on...it's the blue powder the French put on everything, (it's called Bordeaux mixture, very French...?) anyway it

couldn't be Liverpool or Gateshead mixture could it, not the same froggy feel. Anyway I now know why he always looks blue, but HE never gets blight or mould!

So 'ere's yor winter H.H's. Did you get yor bulbs in (it's never too late), and paint sticky rings on yor apple tree trunks to stop them codlin moths a'crawl' up to lay eggs in next years blossom. Then up to the plot for rough diggin', (Get Lord Cameron to give you a hand...Ha Ha...). Dig in compost and manure, weed yor leeks and feed 'em for size, make sue you keep the pigeons orf yor brassicas, also my kale had a nasty touch of the caterpillars, must net 'em better next year. Chard doin' grat, Brussels comin' on.

So 'ave a great Christmas, and get ready for the spring..! (And don't forget yor raspberry vodka, a little warming drink on the shortest day always helps the winter blues!).

Bye bye, oh, and o' revoir from J.d'Artichoke

J.H sent from my iSpade.



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Get ready for Christmas with the Downley Makers' Market

It might only be the beginning of autumn, but already many of us are thinking about Christmas – what to buy and how to decorate our homes.

But if the thought of doing all your Christmas shopping on-line or in the over-stuffed chain stores fills you with dread, fear not; The Downley Makers' Christmas Market is here to help. The brainchild of three local mums – all makers and designers of beautiful stitched and re-made home-wares – The Downley Makers' Market will take place on Saturday 30th November at the Memorial Hall on Commonsides, and will be dedicated to all things Christmassy. Bringing together a diverse range of local creativity under one roof, the Makers' Market promises to be the perfect opportunity to buy unique and beautiful presents whilst supporting local creative talent.

From her dining-table work area Fiona Emm explains the ethos behind the Makers' Market she co-founded with two friends over the summer. "We're all local mums working from home, trying to fit in what we do with looking after children – I was already selling my textile work over the internet, but I missed the interaction of meeting and



'The Forest People' by Catherine Smith

chatting to customers and other makers. Setting up the Makers' Market has really helped keep me motivated and stay inspired."



Fiona Emm at a recent craft fayre

Fellow 'maker' Catherine Smith agrees, I love going into the studio and getting stuck into something, but it can be quite isolating.

It's been really great planning The Makers' Market because it's as much about creating a local community of like-minded creatives as it is about finding buyers for our work. High Wycombe has a great tradition of crafts' people and artisanship, and there is still a lot of that going on - in peoples' sheds and in their spare rooms. We've been overwhelmed by the number of talented people who've been in touch since we launched the idea. It's very exciting."

Catherine is currently working on a hand-stitched range of Christmas decorations she's nick-named 'The Forest People'. She finds inspiration in the natural environment and traditional Scandinavian design. Like Fiona she trained as a textile designer and before becoming a mum worked full-time creating home-ware ranges for a number of big name brands.

Maggie Robb is the third member of the Makers' team, having met Fiona and Catherine at a local pre-schoolers playgroup. Before moving to Downley she lived in London and worked in the TV industry – but the design and making of furniture was always a passion. "I was actually thrilled when we moved here, because I knew all

continued...



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Makers Market continued...

about the town's reputation as a centre of excellence for furniture production. I couldn't wait to check out the chair museum!" She says, laughing. Once settled in Downley she was quick to sign up on a course in traditional re-upholstery at Bucks University. Along with personalized cushions and lavender bags with a feline twist, she'll be selling up-cycled furniture reupholstered in designer and vintage fabrics.

Just like Fiona and Catherine she's been overwhelmed by the interest that local people have shown in the first ever Downley Makers' Market. "We've got a really diverse range of people booking stalls for November 30th—from jewellery-makers, card-makers

and bakers to people working with old Victorian photographs and vintage textiles. Hopefully something to suit every pocket too." So make sure you save the date and your money for the Downley Makers' Christmas Market on Saturday 30th November. You'll be supporting local makers and discovering unique gifts and decorations made with love.

To find out more about The Downley Makers' Market visit their Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/TheDownleyMakersMarket>. You can also email them at: downleymakersmarket@gmail.com And follow them on twitter @Downleymakers

Dancing for the Mayor's Fund Raising Appeal

Comedancingwithme.co.uk recently demonstrated ballroom dancing and got people dancing outside the Guildhall in the centre of High Wycombe as part of the Mayor's Fund raising appeal; we helped to bring in £714 for charity as well as enjoying the vintage tea dance theme.

The dance group meet every Tuesday evening in the Beech Room of Downley Community Centre where the floor bounces with jives, chachachas and sambas, along with the more elegant ballroom waltz, quickstep and foxtrot. Members of Comedancingwithme.co.uk learn new steps and polish up their dance floor routines. The class has been running for several years now and beginners classes start every term to which all are welcome; those who are more experienced can tune up their technique and style for the many social dances in the area.

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Ninety Years Old Downley War Memorial Hall

Further delving into past editions of the Bucks Free Press has uncovered a report of a fundraising event at Whitsuntide and the official Opening Ceremony in July 1923



Firstly, the afternoon of Bank Holiday Monday saw an “animated scene” despite the pessimistic weather forecast. Large numbers came to the Common to spend a few pleasant hours away from the monotony of life’s daily toil. Once there they were greeted by “pear trees like hills of snow, apple blossom blushing against the background and borders a blaze of wallflowers, tulips, polyanthus, alyssum and aubrietia” and their attention was immediately attracted by the splendid Memorial Hall which was approaching completion.

The Committee was congratulated on the results of four years hard work and there was praise for the builders, Messrs White & Co. who were considered a credit to the industry. The building was described as reminiscent of the Tudor period. The Hall measured by 55 by 23 feet with a club room 22 by 20 feet together with kitchen, committee room and “the usual offices”.

The walls are of brick from the Peterborough area, steel windows and the roof is constructed with diagonal boarding covered with asbestos tiles. There was still £200 to raise but the fete raised about £27 towards this sum.

Those attending patronised the tea tables, hoop-la, bowling for the pig (a gift from Mr

Aleck Stacey), board and ball and many other games. Most impressive was the Salvation Army Band under the supervision of Mr J Brooker. They played a selection of marches, medleys and “Gloria” from Mozart’s 12th Mass. The pig was won by Mrs Wilfred Youens. The winner of the board and ball competition was Mr R Sexton who won a pair of picture frames made from aircraft propeller tips by Mr Arthur Batts.

Saturday 28th July saw another substantial crowd at the Hall to witness the official opening of the new Memorial Hall. To date almost £825 had been raised with a further £250 still to be found. (This makes the initial cost of the Hall £60-100,000 at today’s prices. Seems like a bargain!)

Local ex-servicemen had donated £31. 15 shillings towards the purchase of a pianoforte. Great praise is due to the indefatigability of the Committee especially the Hon. Sec. Mrs M Culley.

As to the day itself, The Chairman, Mr Willoughby Youens, presided with assistance from the Rev. Ernest Bury (formerly curate at Downley).

Mr Youens began by reminded those present why they were there and that many of those that survived would never forget the War period, the bereavements and sorrow. Rev Bury expressed his appreciation of the honour bestowed on him to formally open their Memorial Hall. On his arrival back in the Village the previous night he had felt that the Hall was a perfect example of what a Village Hall should be and expressed his gratitude to Sir John Dashwood for the donation of the land and the Committee for

continued ...

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Ninty Years Old continued...

the very able way they had carried out the scheme. He hoped that the youth of the Village would be inspired by the building and would maintain the sporting spirit that was so eminently a part of Downley. He then recited “A Song of England” by Alfred Noyes before asking for a Minute’s Silence whilst they might think of those who gave their lives. He then declared the Hall “Open”. The Salvation Army Band then led the singing of “O God our help in ages past”.

The Hall was looking particularly bright with vases of flowers on the window sills. The Band then played “Comrades in Arms” before two little girls (Lucy Faulkner and Hilda Ford) presented a charming bouquet to Mrs Bury. Those present then enjoyed a

varied programme of music from the Band and many stalls and sideshows. Mr B Picton gave a joint of meat for the winner of the ball and board whilst the winner of the skittles received a pig.

On to the present day. The extension to the Lower hall was completed on time and Sunshine Montessori School moved in at the beginning of September. We now turn our attention to the eastern side of the site where plans have been agreed to provide additional access to the rear of the property. This will involve the felling of some old trees which will be replaced with new specimens. Once again we are grateful to The Big Lottery Fund and the Parish Council for grants to help fund this work.

Alan Baker

Poets Corner

Everyones Friend

By Mary Howard

He copies his cousin, it really looks funny.
If his cousin sits down, I’ll bet any money
he’ll do the same, he’ll be still and then oh!
suddenly “take off” and keep on the go.
If you ignore him, brown eyes plead with you
“Talk to me please”, so of course, you do!

He’ll run when he sees an open door.
Has he escaped? Well, I am not sure.
Perhaps slipping and sliding; his cousin is there
observing quietly from an arm chair.
The little one gradually does as he’s told....
then....pulling the curtain and grabbing a fold.
Will he learn to behave, oh yes! he will
For this little chap is a **puppy** still.

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Preparing your car for sale

Whether or not you plan to sell your car privately or part exchange with a dealer, the number one priority is to make it look as good as possible. Byron Lindsay, owner of Revive! High Wycombe mobile bodywork and alloy wheel repair specialist offers these top tips:



- Give your car a good clean inside and out. A scruffy interior with crisp wrappers, dog hair and crumbs could put off potential buyers and drive down the dealer's offer. If you don't have the time or equipment to do it yourself take the vehicle to a car wash service for a full valeting.
- Take a walk around the vehicle to check for cracked headlights and wing mirrors, and replace if necessary.
- If you have minor scratches and scuffs to the bodywork or alloy wheels ask an accredited mobile bodywork repairer such as Revive! to give you a free estimate for the repairs. For most cars the work will cost less than the weekly shop and your vehicle will be worth considerably more as a result. A prospective private buyer will want to get the best looking car for their money, so if yours is scratch free and at the right price you'll be on to a winner. Again dealers will factor in the cost of putting the car right into the price they offer you so aim to give them the car as forecourt ready as possible.
- Ensure your tyres have a decent level of tread all round.
- Lift up the bonnet and give the engine compartment a dust and clean. If it is oily clean it with a proprietary de-greaser but if it is just a bit dusty polish with a cloth and a spray of WD40. Everyone looks under the bonnet when they're buying a car (even if they don't know what to look for!) and a clean engine compartment easily impresses.
- If your rear parcel shelf looks tired, remove and re-spray with black aerosol paint to make it look as good as new
- Check that your service history is up to date and sort out your car paperwork neatly for inspection by the buyer. Vehicles with a full history can be worth more. If the car has been maintained by a local garage they will have your records on file and can update your service book if necessary.

Revive! specialises in repairing minor scuffs and scrapes to vehicle bodywork and alloy wheels. It has the largest accredited network of SMART repairers in the UK and is the first to have ATA accredited technicians. Revive!'s customers include car dealerships, fleet operators and private motorists. Smart repair is a quality, cost effective and time-saving alternative to taking a vehicle to a bodyshop for minor paintwork repairs. Costing far less than most insurance policy excesses, the work is fully guaranteed and carried out at a time and place to suit the customer, minimising vehicle downtime and protecting the owner's no claims bonus.

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Le De Spencers Arms

The Le De Spencers Arms is a traditional Chiltern's flint pub, nestling in the woods at the back of Downley Common.

We are a Fullers House, awarded Cask Marque accreditation and recognised in Camra's Good Beer Guide, you can expect to find great cask ales and fine wines. Add a menu of seasonal home-cooked food and you may find your time passing surprisingly quickly.

Landlady, Sarah, has recently expanded the team to include a new head chef. Aaron joined the team several weeks ago and is using his expertise to bring fine home-cooked food to the Le De's tables. With a new menu launching in November, make sure you check out the specials board where Aaron is showcasing his skills with mouth-watering dishes such as Game Cassoulet, Thai Fish Curry and BBQ Sticky Ribs. Traditional Sunday roasts remain a firm favourite. Booking is essential to avoid disappointment.

Very much the 'village pub' the Le De is home to Downley Cricket Club in the summer and Downley Albion Football Club and the Le De Darts Team in the winter. With a new website launching in November, you will be able to keep up to date with all the local teams and also with 'What's On' at the Le De. From live music and a regular Wednesday Quiz Night to Food Nights (starting in 2014) there is something for everyone

at 'The Shed'. As the nights draw in, our focus at the Le De turns to Christmas and New Year. The Christmas menu is available in the pub and on the website. Join us on Thursday 19th December for an evening of Christmas Carols with the West Wycombe Brass Band. Why not bring in 2014 with our 60's 70's and 80's night (ticket only). Fancy dress isn't essential but there are some great prizes, including a stay at Stoke Place Hotel, for the most authentically dressed customers.



Come and sample what your friendly local has to offer. Outside is a large child friendly garden, whilst inside enjoy the warm, friendly atmosphere with an open fire, low ceilings and rustic beams.

**Find and contact us at: Le De Spencers Arms,
The Common, Downley, HP13 5YQ
01494 535317
www.ledespencersarms.co.uk**

Sarah Golding

JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN

Solution for the problem on page 19

A. 42

B. 51

Explanation;

You can either double 0.000001km (the thickness of the paper) until you get to the distance to the Moon/Sun, or halve 400,000km and 150,000,000km until you get to the thickness of the paper. The latter is easier in my opinion, assuming you didn't reach for the calculator.

BY JILL BURRELL

Happy Feet

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Baby Signing

It is possible to talk / communicate with your baby even before it can reply back and way before they grow up and are telling you what to do! So make the most of it while you are able. The favourite signs being used by babies in Downley include, 'more', 'where', 'Daddy' and 'Duck'.

To show how amazing it can be to sign with your baby I thought I would share a story from a mum who attended Sing and Sign classes with her son, Ned:

"When I fell pregnant with our little boy, the only thing my partner Simon and I were absolutely sure about was that we would take our baby swimming. However a few months later I spent the afternoon at a friend's house and saw her little girl signing - I couldn't believe how easily she seemed to be able to communicate. While I was there she was playing on the floor with a pop-up-animals toy and was signing all the animals as they emerged. She was also able to sign to ask for 'more' and signed 'where' before the animals popped out. She was only just a year old and didn't have any spoken words - it was quite amazing! As tiny as she was, it was like she was having a conversation with her mum!

So when our son was born we decided to go along to Sing and Sign classes to learn how to use this form of communication. Ned is now 18 months old and using over 50 signs (and he's saying a lot of those words too). His favourite signs are 'car', 'bus', 'train' and 'plane', he knows all the animals too. This is great when looking through books with him as he can sign what he sees - which in a way is like he is reading! He is very proud when he 'reads' to us.

I have a few stories about his signing.



One particularly memorable one was how he had a special sign for his Grandad, which we had invented ourselves. He would put both hands up to the side of his face to imitate the glasses he always wore. Simon's dad actually passed away a few months ago but he signed 'Grandad' from his buggy when we walked past the end of his road the other day. It was moving to know he was thinking about him. How otherwise would we have known what thoughts were in his little head?"

If you would like to learn to sign with your baby, just like Ned's mum, then come along to Sing and Sign classes in Downley, there are still places available for the current term. NEW to Downley I am now running signing classes for toddlers, if your baby is 14 months+ come along to an active class which encourages involvement from your little one and helps to boost speech development.

Maria Webster
mariawebster@singandsign.co.uk
Tel: 07885944904
www.singandsign.co.uk





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What is a Verruca

Happy Feet Foot Clinic

Verrucae are warts that occur on the feet and are caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). The virus causes an excessive production of keratin in the top skin layer, resulting in thickening of the skin.

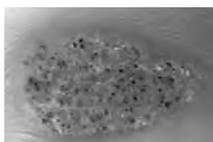
They are commonly found where the shoe rubs against the toes. Calluses are more broadened areas of thickened skin, commonly situated on the balls of the feet or on the heels. Both corns and calluses are caused by pressure or rubbing forces on the feet and toes.

What does a verruca look like??

A verruca can initially look like a small, dark puncture mark in the skin. As it progresses black dots appear which are blood capillaries, and it can develop a rough cauliflower appearance. To tell whether it is a verruca, it can be helpful to look through a magnifying glass. A verruca will have an absence of skin lines as in the picture below.

When pinched, verruca can be painful.

Verruca can occur singly or can be made up of multiple, small, tightly packed individual warts called mosaic verruca.



How may I have caught it?

Verrucae are spread either directly from person to person or indirectly if a person walks across floor that has infected foot deposit skin cells on it. The virus thrives in moist, damp environments such as swimming pools and communal shower areas. A verruca can also be spread from one foot to the other by contact. A virus is more likely to infect the skin if your skin has a cut or a scratch. After becoming infected with the virus the verruca may not appear for weeks or even months.

Do I need to treat it?

Most verrucae disappear within 2 years without treatment; therefore it is not necessary to treat the verruca unless it is painful or it is spreading.

What treatments are available?

Acids such as salicylic acid are available- e.g. Bazuka which works by breaking down the hard skin and irritating the skin, causing an immune response to destroy the virus. It is best to check with your pharmacist prior to self-treating a verruca as topical ointments are not suitable for everyone, e.g. if you are diabetic.

Another form of topical treatment is Glutarol. It is especially effective on mosaic verruca. It destroys the virus and dries the skin which prevents spreading of the virus. A natural remedy could be tried using tea tree oil or Thuja Tincture.

Duct tape can be effective in the treatment of verruca especially if used in conjunction with acid treatments. This is thought to work by starving the verruca of oxygen. Cryotherapy can be also effective. Liquid nitrogen or nitrous gas is sprayed onto the verruca. Several treatments are necessary and treatment can be painful.

Other useful tips

Wear verruca socks to prevent the spread of verrucae. Don't share towels. Avoid getting a verruca – Treat athletes feet, moisturise if you have dry skin, use surgical spirit if you have very sweaty feet and wear flip flops in communal areas.



If you need any advice or treatment for verrucae please ring me on 01494 639994 at the Happy Feet foot clinic.

Jenny Cranshaw

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Your local Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) are a key part of Neighbourhood Policing in Thames Valley. NAGs focus their work around the main priorities that are identified after consultation with the local community. Members, who are all volunteers, take on responsibility for achieving certain tasks on behalf of their neighbourhood.

What's in it for me?

There are several benefits to you in getting involved in your local NAG. As a member of your NAG, you can; Influence decisions and encourage action on issues that matter to people in your neighbourhood. Have chances to change things for the better in your neighbourhood. Gain a sense of satisfaction in making a difference to local quality of life. Add something valuable to your CV – working as part of your NAG can demonstrate lots of skills to a prospective employer. Work together with key partner agencies.

How do I get involved?

For more information about getting involved in your local NAG, please call 101, the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number. Ask to speak to a representative from your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Or you can enquire about joining your local NAG by visiting your local police station.





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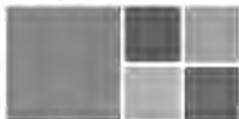
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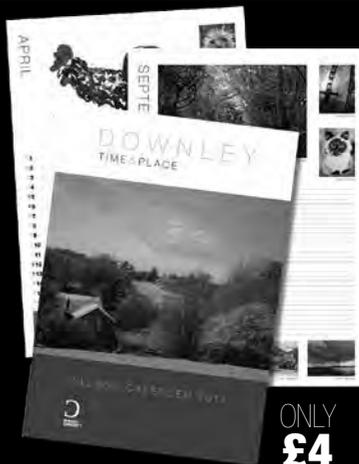
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Half Page £30 | Quarter Page £20 | Eighth Page £15

Deadlines

The Village News is published quarterly in November, February, May and August. The deadline for adverts and copy for the next issue is 31 January 2014.

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)

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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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Our village venues will host comedy, theatre, dance and musical performances from touring professionals as well as home grown talent. This will be our first Festival and we hope it captures Downley's imagination.

Be a part of it

The Festival will provide the ideal opportunity to highlight what you can do. If you are a local club, society, school or an individual with an idea be sure your event is part of the programme. On Wednesday 4th Dec at 8pm we are holding an open evening at the Community Centre and we would love to see you there but if not do make contact with your thoughts.

.....
If you think you could add, in any way to the success of the Up! Downley Village Festival we want to hear from you!
.....

See page 33 For More Information & visit
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