

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

Village News



Features

- Local Societies
- Around the Area
- Lifestyle
- Downley Diary *Pull Out Section*
- History
- Poetry Corner
- Letters
- Contributions from Advertisers

Issue 99 / May 2014





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Contents

Editorial	3	Bucks Open Studios	29
Local Societies		Downley Artists at Bucks Open Studios	29- 31
Community Plan report	5	Higher Creations	31
Coffee Stop News	7	Writing Tips	33
Downley Village Evening WI	7	Downley Diary Pull Out Section	35-38
Downley Common News	9	Up! Festival News & Highlights	39-43
The Downley School	11	Downley Village Art Show 2014	45
Downley Descants Community Choir	13	J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints	47
St. James Dialog	13	History	
Get The Best From Your Local Pharmacy	15	Heritage Pictures	49
Hall Hiring's at The Pastures Church	17	Downley War Memorial Hall	51 - 53
DOSCA Community Library	19	Poets Corner	53
Downley Evening WI	21	Letters	
Chameleon Singles Group	21- 23	The Downley Donkey Debate	55-57
Your Local Defibrillator	23	Keep Our Streets Clean and Safe	59
Around the Area		Contributions from our Advertisers	
Chapel Lane Works	25	Car Seat Safety	61
News from Wycombe and Westminster	27	List of Advertisers	66
Lifestyle			

Editorial

Spring comes around quickly and thank goodness after the flooding we have endured over the last 6 months. As the weather improves we have a great deal to look forward to in the coming three months. Gardeners are busy already, sprucing up their patch of this great land and tending to the tulips in full bloom. Our local sports teams are gearing up for a summer of competition (and watching the World Cup). The artists who live and work locally will be excited by the changing season and colours.

All of the local residents will be looking forward to the 'Up Downley Festival' this year. Remember to keep up to date with what's on via the Downley social media platforms and by looking at the poster displays around the village. The scarecrows will be reminding you or scaring you out of your wits when they appear from nowhere. The Festival is packed with great performers and events so make sure you get the most out of the fun on our doorsteps!!!

Thank you to all of the local people who contribute to this lively local magazine and please remind your friend or neighbour to write an article for us on any subject they are interested in. Please email them to editor@downley.org. I look forward to reading them all.

Simon Scott
Editor



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Community Plan Report

Allotments

Some of you will have been contacted to check if you still want an allotment and it appears that there is still a healthy demand. The current plan is to try and extend the existing allotment to create another row of half-size plots. Permission has been received from the West Wycombe Estate (who own the land) and now the Parish Council need to source some funding to establish the new plots – digging, fencing etc. This, combined with the gradual conversion of existing full size plots into half size ones will hopefully satisfy the additional demand.

Garden Share

It's been a bit of a slow start to the garden share scheme, but one local resident at the north end of the Common has indicated that she has a plot that could be made available to someone who would like to utilise it. Contact info@downley.org (or the Parish Clerk) if you're interested and we will see if some arrangement can be made. Anyone else who has a garden, or part of garden that they can no longer manage should get in touch and it can be advertised. Some idea of the size would be helpful.

Skate Park

Things are still moving forward with the skate park idea. We are still hoping to use the basketball court behind St James for a trial period during the summer holidays, but various permissions need to be obtained first. Anything more permanent is currently a long way off and the basketball court would not necessarily be its home. Potential users still need to confirm their interest to info@downley.org – it won't happen without enough interest.

Downley Donkey

One of the facilities that the Community Plan in 2010 didn't identify was the need for another supermarket in the village and judging by the response to the news that Morrisons has bought the Downley Donkey from Enterprise Inns, the proposal is not a popular one. Barry Gay, Chairman of the Parish Council has given a full description of the story elsewhere in the village news.

Bill Thompson, Chairman.

Could You Help The Up! Festival? Do You Have A Sound Desk or could you set up a stage in our marquee?

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festival@downley.org

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Coffee Stop News

Hello again everyone.



a very loyal and much valued list of drivers who regularly help, but on occasion there is a last minute hitch or a holiday needs to be covered. I would be most grateful if there are people who could offer to help at relatively short

Last time I asked if anyone had any suggestions for new menu items and it seems as if this fell on deaf ears. However to liven things up a bit we have decided to try out having a monthly “special” hot meal for £2.50, the first of these will be offered on 2nd June as cottage pie and peas. We will try out other items for a few more months on the first Monday to see how you like them, on those occasions we will also have sandwiches and cheese ploughman’s plates available. Please give us some feedback as it is quite difficult guessing what will be popular but this scheme has been suggested to us as an interesting experiment. We try to shop economically and interestingly and it seems as if the salad plates are not as popular as they once were so these will be reduced, soup makers also have a rest between Easter and the harvest lunch.

I do have another plea, though, and that is for drivers to help transport some of our customers who have mobility issues. We have

notice but are not able to commit to regular transport, I’m sure there are people who would be happy to assist in those circumstances so please let me have your names and contact details. Our customers are always extremely grateful for this help which enables them to have a couple of hours chatting to their friends and just generally getting out of their houses. There is also the chance to swap magazines although it would be nice to take home any that aren’t collected as we have no storage space, interesting leaflets regarding events and services in Downley are sometimes available, eg. the new bus timetables.

We are also planning a “**Mystery Tour**” finishing up at a garden centre, please call in on a Monday between 11 and 1 for further details, we look forward to seeing you there.

Ann Buxton

01494 522118 pabuxton@hotmail.com

DOWNLEY VILLAGE EVENING WI

Ladies summer is coming so why not pay Downley Village Evening WI a visit now the evening are longer and travel not so difficult. We meet at the Community Centre at 7.45 on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Speakers booked from June onwards will be talking about:

Rock ‘n’ Roll • BFWI Federation Archives • Tai Chi • Romans in Bucks • London Livery Companies

DVE have the reputation of being a friendly WI and apart from the above we hold social events between meetings. Our County Federation also have a wide range of events very month open to all members subject to ticket allocation. We would love to meet potential new members, do come and visit us. Please note we are a separate WI from our friends at Downley Evening who meet in another hall and the 2nd week of the month.

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Pat Heath, President DVE

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Downley Common News

The winter months see very little activity on the Common and this year there was not even a bit of sledging to report on. As a result this report summarises the work still to be done at Mannings Pond:

- Remove most if not all of the remaining branches of the felled Oak tree. Removing these branches will disturb the silts and hopefully promote seed disturbance.

- Remove the Willows growing alongside the central causeway. If badly damaged the causeway will be repaired with clay / soil dug from nearby. The area either side of the causeway was one of the known historic locations for Starfruit.

- The basin furthest from the track to be divided into three parts and as time allows one area to have all or most of the sedge removed by pulling or digging to create a more or less open bare mud habitat; the adjacent area cut back hard with a brush cutter, all cut material removed and the area subsequently trampled and disturbed as much as possible to promote bare areas; the remaining area left unmanaged. The pond should then be left for two years and the success or otherwise of the different treatments gauged by the presence and abundance of any notable plant such as Starfruit, Water Purslane and Lesser Marshwort.

- The deeper section of the pond to be the subject of localised control of taller emergent plant species, Reedmace and Yellow Flag. Reedmace especially to be targeted, but it should be emphasised not removed altogether.

- If time / resources allows perhaps clearing more of the leaf litter in the section of pond on the bank closest to the track, raked out in the autumn. This would create an area of deeper open water – which in time will be colonised and grown over by other plants. In the short term, it may provide better habitat for larger species such as Great Crested Newts.

- It is also suggested that the large Beech tree in the angle between the two parts of the pond is pollarded later in the autumn, to reduce in future the volume of leaf litter in the pond. Deep leaf litter is likely to reduce germination of and/or suppress growth of germinated pond plants such as Starfruit. In addition, the following tasks would help to establish how well the current management is working.

- To collect from a few places in the ponds, cores of silt, to be sorted and the presence of any notable plant seeds to be identified. This simple project could confirm that the rationale behind the management work is valid – i.e. to promote the more unusual pond plant species. Any seeds found could be used in growing trials away from or at the ponds themselves.

Bill Thompson, DCPS Committee.



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The Downley School – April 2014

As we end this spring term and move towards the summer term, we are preparing ourselves for an extremely busy, yet exciting, time as there are some major (national) changes which have to be in place for September.



The new National Curriculum has to be introduced and our summer term starts with an INSET day in which staff and governors will be working on its implementation. Expectations of standards for Maths, English and Science have been raised considerably by the government and the new curriculum is extremely prescriptive in these core areas, but it does allow for flexibility throughout the other subjects. Following consultations with our whole school community, we will be tailoring our curriculum to what is important to us at The Downley School. We will also be working hard to ensure the free hot lunch programme is introduced for all Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils – which will be a major operation! We are desperate for lunchtime volunteers for September. If you could spare an hour or more each week to help our youngest pupils at lunchtimes, please contact the school office and we will be in touch with you **(01494 527033 or office@downley.bucks.sch.uk)**.

The children continue to amaze us with their deepening understanding of the values we focus on each month. Through the month of March we explored 'Trust' – in many ways and on many different levels. The 'ethical' vocabulary being developed throughout the school and the impact of this is proving to be extremely positive. I think we're all so pleased that we haven't seen any snow this term. Learning has not been disrupted at all – thank goodness! Reception and Year 1 actually had a visit by a **Bucks County Council gritter**, which they found very interesting despite the lack of snow.

We had lots going on this half term starting with a fantastic **Book Week**. Two excellent authors visited and inspired everyone! Reception and Year 1 children came back to school one evening for 'Bedtime Stories' with staff reading stories to small groups. There was even milk and biscuits to add to the cosiness and enjoyment of the occasion. Our 'mufti' Book Day saw many wonderful book characters come to school and we also had the Book Fair for everyone to visit – what a great week!

Lots of children have sung and danced their hearts out performing on stage in front of large audiences this half term. The Year 5 Production of '**Porridge**' was outstanding! We have some very talented actors and comedians in this year group. Many of Year 5 and Year 6 children performed in '**Energize**' at **The Wycombe Swan** along with hundreds of other pupils from Buckinghamshire schools. They were superb and a real credit to our school. Our **netball** and **football** teams have been in action already and are looking forward to the summer term and our wide range of extra curricular clubs run on an ongoing basis. An inter-team Cross Country competition was one of the highlights of **Dads in School/Sport Relief Day** on March 21st. Almost 200 dads came to school and participated in lessons and activities. The children learned about the valuable work of the charity Sport Relief as well as having fun! Lots of enterprise activities went on throughout the day and we sent over **£350** to the charity.

We are looking forward to a busy, sunny and successful summer term!

Mrs Webb, Headteacher



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Calling all Warblers!

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I joined the choir March 2013 and can honestly say I have enjoyed every moment. The choir are a very friendly group of people and very welcoming when I attended a rehearsal for the first time. You have two trial evenings to see if this choir is for you, so come along and try us out. We would be delighted to see you, whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass. The ability to read music is not a requirement nor do we have auditions.



Subscriptions are very modest if you decide to join and we have very smart outfits to wear at our concerts.

Social events are organised throughout the year and our recent concerts have raised money for very deserving local charities. If you are interested (don't be shy), please contact Lyn Cook on 01494 436063 or e-mail grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk for more information.

Two forthcoming events, at which we are performing are Downley Day on 22 June and then at Downley School, a joint concert with the Wycombe Concert Band on Friday 27 June. Both these events come under the umbrella of the UP Downley Festival.

Esme Thomson

St.James dialog

Not long now, just a few weeks to go, and then the waiting will be over, the hard work finished, and for those of us who have prepared well in advance, we can sit and enjoy. It may be that family are coming round, or like me you've made a note in your diary! And no, it's not the Downley Festival.

Are you wondering what I'm talking about, or have some of you cottoned on, yes the FIFA World Cup will soon be upon us. The supermarkets are informing us, that they have the best deals for drinks and snacks. The TV channels are telling us to stop everything and watch 22 men and a referee run up and down football pitches in the hope of winning a rather small, but beautiful gold World Cup Trophy.

The World Cup competition we are told, is a model for international relationships. Countries participate in this tournament who have vast differences in wealth and beliefs. For some it waves a flag of hope in politically fraught times. A religious journalist who works for the BBC world Service, said, "that the world cup will once

again grip the world for a few week in an addictive distraction that might be linked alongside recreational drugs. Something that provides a short-lived excitement but nothing more."

Of course there is more to life than kicking a ball around for 90 minutes, but I think the period of the world cup does something to people of all nations and religions. For a few weeks it demonstrates some of the better qualities of religion that are worth repeating, such as hope, joy, unity, friendship and hospitality. And if it brings people together it can't be such a bad thing!

COME ON ENGLAND (and I'm a Scot!)

Blessings, Revd Alison Finch

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How To Get The Best From Your Local Pharmacy

It has been interesting to see the reactions to news of Morrison's developing on the site of the Downley Donkey. We have often heard the phrase "use it or lose it" within Downley Pharmacy since we have opened two years ago, and are now well aware how the local community appreciate us being here for easy local help and advice. For the welcome and support we thank you.

I recently came across a post on the NHS choices facebook page about how Pharmacists play a key role in providing quality healthcare and how best to make use of their clinical expertise and practical knowledge. I thought I would share some of the key points.

A community pharmacy, such as Downley Pharmacy, will prepare and dispense prescription and non-prescription medicines. They are also able to give you advice about how to use your medicines and highlight any possible side effects.

They offer advice on common problems such as coughs, colds, aches and pains, as well as healthy eating and stopping smoking. They can also help you decide whether you need to see a doctor.

This means that your pharmacist (or the trained counter staff) may ask you a range of questions before handing over any medicines, especially if you ask for medicines that do not require a prescription. You can talk to your pharmacist at any time in confidence, by phone or within the private consultation area if you prefer, even about the most personal symptoms, and you don't need to make an appointment.

When you collect a prescription you may be offered or can ask for a medication review. This is an appointment with a pharmacist to check how you are getting on with your medicine. This is useful if you regularly take several prescription medicines or have a long-term illness.

To get the best results from your medicines,

it's important that you use them properly. If your medicines aren't used in the right way, they could do you harm. Don't use them beyond their expiry dates, and don't use other people's prescription medicines. Any unused or expired medicines should be returned to the pharmacy for safe disposal rather than putting in the bin or flushing down the toilet.

Your pharmacist can advise on when and how to take medicines, a daily timetable reminder sheet can easily be prepared if that helps, how best to store them- the bathroom cupboard is probably the worst place!

Advice on whether you can continue to take over the counter medicines such as painkillers and indigestion remedies as sometimes they may affect prescribed medicines is also easily given.

Always ask the advice of a pharmacist if you are unsure about how to use medicines for your children. This is really important. If children are given the wrong medicine or the wrong amount, this is likely to affect them more than adults. For young children use an oral syringe to give them liquid medicines. You can accurately measure out smaller doses, and it's easy to get in their mouth without spilling any. However take care to avoid choking. The best way is to gently trickle the medicine down the inside of the child's mouth.

Some types of packaging can be difficult to open. Your pharmacist may be able to dispense your medicines in different containers. Ask them what they can offer. Child safety is the biggest concern, so always store medicines in a place where your children can't see them or get at them. If larger print on the label or as a supplementary leaflet is also possible if needed for those less able to see.

We look forward to our continuing involvement in the Downley community- look out for our scarecrow due to appear in June for the UP festival.

Fiona, Marie, Jackie and Louise



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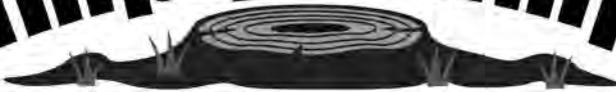
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Hall Hiring's at The Pastures Church

A good change!

Let me introduce myself, I am Gloria Dacre – booking secretary at The Pastures Church. You know during the last year or so we have expanded our hall hiring through partnering with other businesses and/or individuals. It has been so exciting and challenging at the same time.

Let me take you through a stroll down memory lane with me.

I would like to introduce Louise, Restorative Justice Co-ordinator with Youth Offenders, who hires one of our halls for training volunteers. Louise was looking for a hall that would hold about 20 – 30 people, where they could use a projector, have a relaxed atmosphere and most of all a kitchen to use. Through the months we formed a relationship through this partnership. We love having this group with us and we get good feedback from them as well. Earlier this year Louise did several training sessions and our Church Café was able to offer a light lunch at a very reasonable price. This saved Louise time and money.

Moving on to Lucy, who heads up Slimming World in this area, they have been with us for over a year now and seem to be growing and enjoy the spacious room with the kitchen for hot drinks at their disposal. Again we have formed a relationship through partnership, some of our team even joined in to lose a few pounds / inches, with success. Way to go Slimming World.

Then there is the children's birthday parties, from bouncy castles to clown's or party games – it spells FUN anyway you look at it!

The Hiring's are so diverse, Diabetes Coffee Mornings, day conferences, and much more. What I love is that each hiring is special in its own way.



In 2014 we wanted to improve how we handled Hall Hiring's, so we put together a team of friendly, professional people to work together to assure that we meet the need of each event. Our Church Café is available to cater for events as part of our team function.

Don't forget our HEART initiative where the Pastures Church is remodelling its building and community life to provide a network of resources, projects and support structures with the aim of enabling and encouraging local people to reach their full potential and achieve their dreams. For more information visit our web site www.thepastureschurch.co.uk

If you would like more information on Hiring a Hall at The Pastures Church for your next event contact Gloria at: gloriadacre@gmail.com or Michael at michaelgriffiths207@gmail.com

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View of Library



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

There is now a free loan on all children's picture books.

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

Computer & Internet Facilities



The library has two computers for member's use, both with internet connection. This facility is free. We also have a copier/printer available. Charges are 10p for a monochrome and 25p for a colour copy. We can also laminate your prints, up to A4 size, for a cost of 75p per copy.

Downley Day is coming. Don't forget to come and fill a bag with books. This helps with the finances of the library which is independent of Bucks Library Service.

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Downley Evening WI

Downley Evening WI has had a terrific beginning to the year despite the horrible weather!

We've enjoyed a fascinating illustrated talk about Antarctica given by one of our own members, Ann Buxton, and been initiated into some of the secrets of expert chocolate-making by Anton Boon, a master chocolatier based in Princes Risborough (complete with tasting!) In March we celebrated our 51st birthday with a delicious three-course meal prepared for us by the wonderful Ann Tennant and her team. Dinner was followed by a cabaret performance from Louise Child and it was a most enjoyable evening. We've been 10 pin bowling and our Pictionary evening was a scream! Everyone had a good time and I think it will definitely be something we'll do again.

Looking ahead, on May 13th, we going to have a talk on the history of juggling (yes, I did say juggling!). We are certainly covering a wide area of interests this year because in June, we are having a presentation about the RAF whilst in July, we will be learning about Diseases, Drains and Women Doctors. As always, alongside

our regular meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, we have other activities running: the usual craft, literary lunch etc, plus an outing to Harrow School and these are just our own programme. There are many other activities and opportunities provided by the county organisers as well as the possibilities for learning and leisure at the WI's own Denman College.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Let's not forget the forthcoming Up Downley Festival. Have you started designing your scarecrow yet? Our members will be involved, as always, in **Downley Day** but we will also be contributing to the success of the festival in other ways so if you would like to be part of our team, do please come along and see us at **St. James' Church, Plomer Hill, on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45 or contact our president, Rosemary Byrne, on HW538966 for more details. You can be sure of a warm and friendly welcome.**

Chameleon Singles Group

Our current programme reflects the fact the summer months are now with us.

Along with the usual indoor events we have once again added walks, visits out including one to the Rickmansworth Canal Festival and our annual day trip to the coast. This year we will be heading off to Margate in search of a good beach and hopefully plenty of sunshine too!

Several of our members are interested in live music, theatre and dance and where we can arrange evenings out to these events. We have recently been going to Dusty's at Holmer Green on a regular basis and in early February went to a Ceilidh in Haddenham. Other events that have taken place over the last few months include a Quiz Night, Take-Away evening at home, Coffee Morning, Lunch club, Walk in Wendover Woods and Pub night. 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!

Our pub night is a great place to meet up and you would be very welcome to come along

continued page 15





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Continued from page 13...

and join us for a drink. We currently meet at The Beech Tree, Amersham Road, Terriers, High Wycombe from 8pm. Next dates are 30th May, 27th June, 25th July and 29th August. There is food available if you wish to eat. We also have a monthly "Meet & Greet" evening where the focus is very much on welcoming newcomers to the group. This is held at O'Neills in High Wycombe on the second Wednesday of the month from 7pm to 9pm.

Our membership includes a number of local people from Downley, West Wycombe, Disraeli, 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 one of our membership secretaries Heike 01494 – 459246 or Joyce 01494 - 817895 or e-mail: chameleon_bucks@tiscali.co.uk. Visit us on-line at www.bucksvoice.net/chameleon for more information and an events listing.

Your local DEFIBRILLATOR

Lifesaving defibrillator now installed at the Downley Community Centre.



According to the British Heart Foundation there are around 60,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests every year. Acting quickly when someone is in cardiac arrest and fighting for their life is crucially important. Increasingly, AEDs, (Automated External Defibrillators) are being placed in communities, public places and workplaces. These are known as public access defibrillators and represent a positive step towards saving lives.

A defibrillator is a life-saving machine that gives the heart an electric shock in some cases of cardiac arrest. This is called defibrillation. When someone has a cardiac arrest, early defibrillation is essential to significantly increase the chance of survival. According to the British Heart Foundation, for every minute that passes without CPR and defibrillation reduces their chances of survival by 10%.

Our local community now has its own public access defibrillator at the Community Centre in School Close to safeguard the lives of adults and children in the community. Needless to say this is made available 24 hours a day.

The device that has been acquired is called the iPAD SP1 AED, which stands for Intelligent Public Access Defibrillator and is a nominated device of the British Heart Foundation. It is designed so that it can be used by minimally trained people, using a series of voice prompts and illuminated illustrations to guide a rescuer through what to do, step by step, until medical help arrives.

Our thanks to Cllr Wendy Mallen and Bucks County Council for their funding support which made this project possible.

This unit is available to any member of the public, 24 hours a day.

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For more information contact any member of the Downley Community Centre Management Committee

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Chapel Lane Works *A Response to queries arising from the meeting of 25/02/14:*

Transport for Buckinghamshire have responded to a series of questions posed by the Parish Council concerning the works at the bottom of Plomer Hill. The following answers will interest those of a more technical inclination.

1 Existing and proposed horizontal and vertical alignment at Plomer Hill - are we improving the vertical alignment on the north-east corner?

The horizontal alignment of the northern kerblines at the Plomer Hill Junction has remained the same. Regarding the Western kerbline, a 10.5m bus has been tracked around the corner travelling in the direction of Plomer Hill and can carry out this manoeuvre with no conflicts. Larger HGV vehicles can also carry out this manoeuvre. It would also be expensive to relocate this kerbline because of the position of statutory utility equipment and although very few covers are present, BT Open reach are located in this footway and relocation would be very expensive. The Eastern kerbline was not relocated as with the restrictive nature of the carriageway over the Railway Bridge and the Eastbound A40 any intermediate widening would be of no benefit. BT Open reach are also located in this area.

The Vertical alignment of these kerblines has also been marginally adjusted on site to remove the low spots that were evident at the junction with the A40.

2 Has any thought been given to moving the westbound stop line for the right turn into Plomer Hill to improve the situation for large vehicles turning out of Plomer Hill?

The location of the Westbound Stopline of the A40 has been adjusted to accommodate swept paths of larger vehicles exiting Plomer Hill. There are 2No phases that allow vehicles to exit Plomer Hill in the direction of High Wycombe

The first will not benefit from moving the stop line back as the right turn filter from the A40 will also be in operation.

The second will benefit from the stop line being moved back as the right turn filter from the A40 will not be in operation. This will also be the phase when most of the larger vehicles exiting Plomer Hill will make this manoeuvre as both narrow lanes exiting Plomer Hill are released.

The existing length of the right turn filter lane from the A40 at Plomer Hill has been retained by reducing the length of the central hatch in between the Mill End Road and Plomer Hill Filter lanes.

3 Are we sweetening out the radii on North East and North West corners' at Plomer Hill?' and if not why not? To improve the swept paths, especially for large vehicles.

Same as answer for question 1

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News from Wycombe and Westminster

Steve Baker MP

I have received a great many letters and emails from people living in the Downley area about the proposed conversion of the Downley Donkey into a Morrisons M Local store. Each person has received an individual reply, but thought it might be interesting for me to write an article in Downley News so that everyone can be aware of my thoughts on this matter.



As someone who runs through Downley once or twice a week on a route from my home in West Wycombe, I know that Downley has a beautiful village atmosphere. I know Downley people are very protective of this and civic pride is to be welcomed.

The truth is that I have no legal power to intervene in this situation. The shop can be developed under current planning law and the power of the community to decide these matters is vested in Wycombe District Council. The Parish Council is also able to express the view of local people and I know from my attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting in April that it is keen to do so. A decision is expected on 22nd May on certain aspects of the scheme and must take into account all the reasonable concerns expressed about impact on neighbours and the local area. Although I am excluded from the decision-making process, I will ensure that the petition and the correspondence I have received are passed to the Council.

As a Member of Parliament, rather than a councillor, my role is to ensure local practical experience is reflected in the general rules established in law under which these decisions are made. I am increasingly convinced that the system of land use planning needs root-and-branch reform so that our communities are shaped by property rights, covenant protections and neighbourliness. I appreciate the Localism Act has not gone as far as I would have liked. I wanted neighbourhoods and home owners to have real power over the

decisions affecting them and I should like to see this changed.

When political power is necessary in such decisions, it ought to be exercised locally through a democratic and accountable vote. I am sure this is right: in societies where individual politicians can decide these questions on their own corruption is rife. It is a mark of a mature democracy that politicians are not able to simply act unilaterally without due process being observed under the rule of law.

I am aware Morrisons is responding to wider community concerns and is in touch with the Parish Council. Ultimately, the power to decide whether our local independent stores flourish rests with the people of Downley using their purchasing power. It is clear the pub failed to succeed commercially as too few people patronised it. If people refrain from using Morrisons and Tesco but spend their money with Starlight Stores and Downley News, then those independent shops will quite rightly triumph.

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.

Steve Baker, MP

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Bucks Open Studios

The Visual Images Group (VIG), an alliance of 600 artists and makers living and working in Buckinghamshire, has announced that it will again be organising its members into the annual Bucks Open Studios.

Now in its 29th year, Bucks Open Studios is the largest visual arts event in Buckinghamshire and one of the largest in the country, and it will take place from 7th to 22nd June 2014.

Over 500 artists and makers from the county including painters, glass workers, basket weavers, metal workers, wood turners, jewellery makers, book makers, print makers and silk makers will be opening their studios to the public for free and showcasing their talent through demonstrations, exhibitions and workshops.

The event has grown in every way year on year with more participants, more venues, and more visitors. There is an amazing wealth of talent within Buckinghamshire and Bucks Open Studios covers a vast array of artistic disciplines and levels of involvement from professional artists with international reputations to passionate hobbyists. So whether you are an art enthusiast or just fancy an interesting day out, you can talk directly to the artists about their work, watch demonstrations and even be inspired to take up a new hobby.”

To find out more about Bucks Open Studios 2014 please visit the website: www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk

Downley Artists Exhibit at Bucks Open Studios

Do you like original art, and would you like to see the work of local artists? If so, did you know that for two weeks every year local artists across the whole of Buckinghamshire open their studios or hold exhibitions to showcase their work?

It takes place in early June and has been going on for 28 years and is called, Bucks Open Studio. This year several Downley artists will be part of this county wide event.

Pauline James, a Downley artist has been part of the Bucks Open Studio for some time and is one of five artists that have regularly exhibited at the **Parish Rooms in West Wycombe**. This year these Parish Rooms artists have decided to make a couple of changes.

One change is to move the exhibition across the road to a meeting room adjacent to the **George and Dragon in West Wycombe High Street**. Another

continued on page 29



© Linda Travers Smith

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continued from page 27...

change is to increase the period of their Open Studio exhibition. Artists exhibiting there with **Pauline James** are **Linda Travers-Smith, Polly Priestley, Keith Francis** and **Julia Johnson**.

The exhibition will be open each day from 11am – 6pm from the 12th to the 18th June.

Other local residents exhibiting at different venues are **John Ashton** who is exhibiting at **Wycombe Court** and **Helen Willson** who is exhibiting at **Bigmore Farm**. All the named artists are members of the **West Wycombe Art Group**.

Do spend time visiting Bucks Open Studios and talk to the artists. There will be directories with all the venues listed available shortly from libraries, tourist boards and shops. Look out for them and spend some interesting hours visiting some lovely exhibitions and studios in some lovely locations.



© John Ashton



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Pauline James, Local Artist

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Higher Creations is a member of Bucks Open Studios and for the second year will participate in Bucks Open Studios from Saturday 7 June through Saturday 21 June 2014. (Closed on Sunday's and Monday's)

We also are planning to be part of Downley Day on 21 June and the wonderful Downley Arts Festival on 12 July. Our studio, Unit 2, The Dairy, Downley High Wycombe, is open to the public. Phone Peter Dacre on 07768 990291 or Gloria Dacre on 07827 971348 for more information.

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Writing tips

When people think of creative writing they tend to think of short stories or novels. But why not widen your horizons and think - plays or screenplays.

An ex-student of mine writes for *Midsomer Murders*. It's a different process of course, but the structure is exactly the same. Starting at a point of change and then the murders happen! Rather a lot it seems. There are many screenplay writing books and courses.

Basically what happens is that one would present an idea. If the powers that be like it, then you would write the first draft. Then the next, and the next until, in consultation each time with the producer or director you will have reached perfection – or not. But there is usually payment at every stage, and then payment again completion and on repeat.

Then there is the radio which produces many plays. A radio play is quite a different beast to a television drama because there is no visual help. Again there are many 'how to' books, and the market is there.

And what about stage plays? Paul Vates, a friend of mine is a professional actor and writer. I went to a read-through of the latest play 'wot he wrote' *Voltemand and Cornelius* are joyfully returned arranged by his agent at the Hope Theatre above the glorious Hope and Anchor pub in Islington. A pub which has seen the likes of *Madness* and *Dire Straits* performing in their earlier days. Paul's play was performed by professional actors and afterwards the audience was invited to say what they felt was good, and bad, and which bits sagged. Well, we all know that feeling! Paul will go away, work on it again and hopefully it will be put on elsewhere. It deserves to be. I loved it for its wit and emotion and I'm super critical.

To help along those writing the old favourite – books - which they



have self-published, my charity www.wordsforthewounded.co.uk will be launching The W4W Self-Published Book Award in November 2014 in addition to our Writing Prize. Writers will be able to submit self-published fiction, memoir or poetry collections. Keep an eye on our website for more details.

In the meantime together with another 2 grannies from the W4W team I am doing a tandem skydive to raise money for W4W on 3rd May and honestly, truly it is nothing to do with each of us being strapped to a fit young man for the dive down! Have just heard that we've been joined by a baby of a bloke so that makes 4 for the team. Every penny goes towards the recovery of the wounded troops and trust me, they need every bit of dosh we can come up with.

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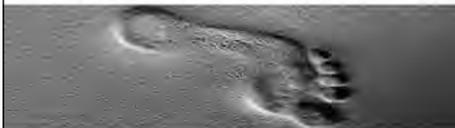
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Downley Diary events

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GO you display exercise people BOOKS
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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	Mon 10am - 12.00	Community Centre
BCC Parenting Course	Tues 9am	St James Hall
Bible Study Group	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm	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 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!

Recycling success

Residents of Chiltern and Wycombe District Council are showing their commitment to recycling and are proving how simple it is to recycle! Between October and December 2013, under the new recycling and rubbish service, residents have recycled 53% of their waste. Before the start of the new service in April 2013, the recycling rate was 44%.

Through recycling your waste this reduces the amount of rubbish going to landfill. This means that we have lower disposal costs, are reducing the environmental impact of landfilling waste and helping to preserve the natural resources that would have been used in the manufacture of those products. The target by 2015 is to achieve 60% recycling.

To help your council achieve the target of 60% recycling remember that you can use your blue wheelie bin or reusable bag to recycle foil, cartons, aerosols, glass bottles, glass jars, plastic bottles, food tins, drink cans, plastics pots, tubs and trays.

Residents in Chiltern can still sign up to receive a fortnightly garden waste collection starting for just £35 for the year. **Visit www.chiltern.gov.uk/garden for ways to pay.**

HELP NEEDED

A small group of people is researching into local men who served during the Great War. If you have a family connection with, or stories concerning, any of them, the group will be very pleased to hear from you.

**Please e-mail Teresa Ryan on teresamryan@yahoo.co.uk
or Jeannette Gay on jeannette.mary@btinternet.com**

In addition, a talk will be given by Mike Dewey as part of Up! Downley on Wednesday, July 2 in the Memorial Hall

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

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

**The Clerk (Chris Hamilton) can be contacted on
H.W. 462195 Or by email at : downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk**

Volunteers Needed

Chilworth Care is looking for individuals to volunteer their time to help run the activity programme for elderly people and adults with learning disabilities who attend its day centre in High Wycombe.

Please offer us a few hours of your time if you are able to spare it.

**For more information please contact Gina McHugh
on 01494 523 480 - Thank You**

Mill End Voices

Mill End Voices is an adult mixed choir operating on a "Come and Sing" basis. No previous experience is necessary, although an ability to read music would be an advantage in our sometimes fast-paced rehearsals. The choir is a not-for-profit organisation which raises money for the High Wycombe Music Centre PTA. There is no membership or annual subscription: just pay £10 on the door (£5 for first timers)

All adults welcome: 18 - 80!

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

Next session: Sunday 13 October

**Millbrook Combined School, High Wycombe,
HP12 4BA**

For further information: patrickgazard@gmail.com
or visit www.millendvoices.org

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**

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

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

- June**
- 2 Downley Gardening Club meeting - visit to local garden
 - 10 Parish Council Meeting
 - 20 Family Disco, the marquee on Commonsides, 7pm - 9pm
 - 21 Digital Camera Tips from Wycombe Photographic Society, Memorial Hall 10am
 - 21 Downley Day, Commonsides, 1-5pm
 - 22 Thanksgiving Service, the marquee on Commonsides, 10am
 - 22 Bricklayers Dog Show, Commonsides, registration at 11am, event start 12 noon
 - 22 Open Gardens in Downley, start at Memorial Hall at 12noon
 - 23 Art on the Common, Adult Class at 10am at the marquee on Commonsides
 - 23 Art on the Common, at 1pm in the marquee on Commonsides
 - 23 Circus School, in the marquee on Commonsides at 6pm
 - 24 Work Out On The Common, in the marquee on Commonsides at 7:30pm
 - 26 Jonny and the Baptists, in the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm
 - 27 - 29 Bricklayers Arms' Beer Festival, at Bricklayers Arms
 - 27 Downley Descants and the Wycombe Concert Band Concert at the Downley School at 7:30pm
 - 28 Downley Dynamos' Sports Day Fun at Mannings Field, starting at 11am
 - 28 Downley's Got Talent, in the marquee on Commonsides at 7:30pm
 - 29 The Moonrakers at the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm
- July**
- 2 Downley in Photos, at the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm
 - 4 - 6 Le De Spencers Arms' Beer & Cheese Festival, at the Le De Spencers Arms
 - 5 Flower Festival at Sunnybank Methodist Church at 10am
 - 5 Bec & Toms Awesome Laundry at the Downley School at 2:45pm and 4:15pm
 - 7 - 12 Downley Village Art Show, Community Centre 6:30pm - 9pm
 - 8 Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall
 - 10 Downley School Music Concert at the Downley School at 7:30pm
 - 11 Magicians Morgan & West at the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm
 - 12 Festival Craft Fair at the Community Centre, 11am - 3pm
 - 12 Concert on the Common
 - 13 Tea Dance at the Memorial Hall, 2 - 4pm

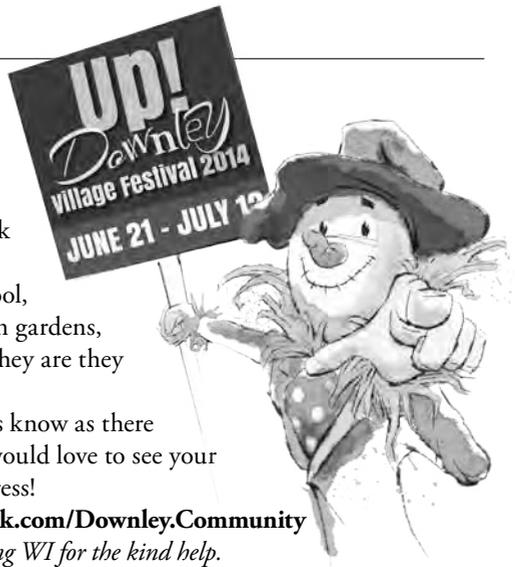
Up! Downley Village Festival Needs Your Scarecrows

To promote the festival we want to populate the village with scarecrows (sporting UP! signs).

The aim is to have them in place in the week prior to the festival for maximum publicity. Create a scarecrow to represent your club, school, business or just for the fun of it. They can be in gardens, shop windows or garage roofs but where ever they are they will be right behind the Up! Festival.

If you are planning your scarecrow do let us know as there will be only so many signs to go around. We would love to see your photos, both the end results and work in progress!

Email festival@downley.org or like [facebook.com/Downley.Community](https://www.facebook.com/Downley.Community) and post them there. *Thanks to Downley Evening WI for the kind help.*



Express Yourself at the Downley's Got Talent Night

The marquee used on Downley Day will stay up until the following Saturday when it will become the venue for a night music, comedy and well... surprise us!

Locals Lucy Newell and Heather Morgan are bringing MAOS their Musical Theatre Society to host proceedings and they just need your talent to present. Several acts have stepped forward and we would love to hear from more. Are you hiding your 'starlight' or do you know someone that just needs that bit of encouragement to take their performances beyond 'GarageBand'? Let us know at festival@downley.org and we will put you in touch with Lucy and Heather who will get you on the bill.

Being Part Of it

Yes we hope you'll find lots to see and enjoy but also find plenty to do and take part in.

As with the talent night there are plenty of other events that require participation so don't hold back there!

For those with a physical bent we have; Circus School, an Open Air Workout, Dynamos Day including Mini World Cup Tournament and an Its A Knockout Obstacle Course. **To test your grey cells;** an Independence Day Quiz. **For the arty;** Photography Tuition, Landscape Art Class, Flower Festival, Art Show, Creative Writing Talk and a Crafts Fair **(If you have crafts to sell there are still tables available contact: festival@downley.org).**

There are Three Ways to Book Your Tickets.

1. Online at: festival.downley.org

Pay by credit card via our paypal account for tickets to be emailed direct. Pay by BACs and once cleared for tickets to be emailed direct. Reserve your tickets, allow three days, put a cheque in an envelope and collect tickets from the Downley Pharmacy.

2. Phone: 07980 897508

Allow three days, put a *cheque in an envelope and collect tickets from the Downley Pharmacy.

3. Personally: Saturdays 10am-12noon

At the Downley Pharmacy cash or *cheque box office. **Cheques payable to Downley Village News. We would like to thank Downley Pharmacy for their support of the Festival Box Office.*



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Meet the Performers

We have four cracking acts headlining our first Village Festival and we would like to tell a bit more about them.

First up:

Jonny and the Baptists

Thursday 26 June, Memorial Hall 7.30pm

The UK's hottest musical comedians present a blisteringly funny, fiercely intelligent antidote to our stupid world. From silly to satirical and occasionally sexy, their Downley Village debut promises a riotous mix of old favourites and new material covering everything from library closures and loneliness to the decline of the great British pub.

From the stars of Radio 4's *Now Show*, *Infinite Monkey Cage* and *Sketchorama* and 2013 New Act of the Year, Musical Comedy Award & Amused Moose Edinburgh Award nominees.

'Musical comedy's rising stars' *Sunday Times*

'Uproarious rock'n'ROFL-ing... the melodies are as good as the punchlines' *Independent on Sunday*

****** 'A triumph... if you're looking for a fun time, the Baptists will deliver'** *Chortle*

Note* **We caught their act at the Edinburgh Fringe where they rased the roof
Probably not for Ukup supporters, the easily offended or under sixteens



Moonrakers

Sunday 29 June, Memorial Hall 7.30pm

An Oxford-based group of four musicians, some from the classical and some from the folk tradition. Instrumentally, the group is sufficiently diverse to create different sound textures for each piece. The fact that the band **"just OOZES quality"** *Living Tradition* is down to the careful arrangements and selection of tunes and songs, presenting **"exquisite music"** *BBC*. The choice of material is largely from the Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English traditions, reflecting a love of traditional tunes and contemporary songs 'in the idiom'. They are rapidly creating a buzz in the world of acoustic music, with four albums receiving glowing reviews in the music press and appearances at many festivals, arts centres and churches in the South. This **"fine organic collection of apt musicianship"** *Earbuzz* displays **"a true respect for the British folk tradition"** *eMusic*.



Note* **By popular demand from local folk music lovers

A tapestry of acoustic sounds and warm vocals



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Bec and Tom's Awesome Laundry

Saturday 5 July, Downley School, two performances 2.45pm & 4.15pm

Oh pants! It's laundry day! But Bec and Tom have others ideas (WARNING these ideas many contain awesomeness). Join the puerile pair in a world of silliness, make believe and bad celebrity impersonations. A sketch show for cool kids by childish adults.

"If all children's shows were this good we would all be going to see them with or without children." **** *Broadway Baby*

"It was a fantastic show that I would recommend to anyone who is a fan of CBBC comedy." *Primary Times*

"...hilarious sketches, games and stories."

**** *The Edinburgh Evening News*



**Note A great success with kids and adults at the Edinburgh Fringe 2013
You might laugh till you hurt but it is good for you*

Morgan & West

Friday 11 July, Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Magical duo Morgan & West fooled leviathans of trickery Penn and Teller, on a television's Fool Us hosted by Jonathan Ross. Now They are Up to dazzle Downley. Two incredibly well rehearsed magicians in terms of magic tricks and performance script delivery, basing themselves in the Victorian era with an array of magical entertainment that delighted the audience through a highly impressive and diverse repertoire. From card tricks to mind reading, the performance included everything anyone could have hoped for, without boundaries being pushed - the stand out element that made the performance so enjoyable being that close to every trick when one assumed each was over, contained one further impressive surprise. Never mind regular applause, these performers quite genuinely bring a smile to the face of every audience member.



**Note
A popular return visit to Downley so make sure of your tickets
An endearing double act with amazing magic tricks*

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Downley Village Art Show 2014

There may be some changes to this years exhibition but it still needs your imagination, creativity and craft.

The Village Art Show is now in its third year attracting nearly two hundred exhibits. The show is distinctive in its range of work. Drawings, paintings, photographs, 3D and poetry from the very young to the rather more experienced. An annual opportunity to share your creative output with others in Downley.

As part of the Village Festival the exhibition is now later in the year, running from **Monday 7 July until Saturday 12 July** when it will share the Community Centre space with a crafts fair adding a further dimension to the day. This may also provide a sales opportunity for those Art Show exhibitors interested in selling their work.



Details

You need to select your qualifying category from: Juniors; 4 and under, 5-11 and 12-16. Adults; Beginners, Students (or those with modest experience) and Experienced. Work is to be entered in the following media groups:

Drawing, Painting & Crafts

3D

Photography

Poetry

You can enter online at festival.downley.org. Entry Forms will be made available to local schools, clubs and societies or can be requested by email from festival@downley.org. Entries by post should be addressed to **Downley Parish Council, P.O. Box 1091, High Wycombe HP13 5WU**. The deadline for receipt of entries is 1 July.

Artworks are to be delivered to the Downley Community Centre on Saturday 5 July between 10.00 am and 13.00 pm. A receipt will be provided as will a label to be attached to artworks. **Collection will be on Sunday 13 July from 11.00 am to 13.00pm.** All artworks are left at your own risk.

If you are able to provide digital images of your work we can publish them in a future edition of the Downley Village News, online at downley.org and our facebook page:

facebook.com/Downley.Community

Glazed work must be framed and to have a D-ring / eyelet fixing with string / wire between for hanging. Please do not use clip or similar frames. Prints of original work will be accepted when in a card window mount. ***Please take care with framing so to avoid damage to your work.***

We have modest prizes for best of show awards and they will displayed on collection day and posted online.

Most importantly have fun putting your work together and we look forward to seeing the results.



Bridge of Sighs Sharon Bennett, a winner 2013

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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints Summer 2014

*Wal me ole mates, summers got here at last!
Miracles will never cease...wot with the
monsoon, and no frost to speak of to kill
orl the slugs, then it goes dry, so good ole
Downley soil bakes a hard crust so nothing
much can get through,..wal, and another thing,
do you know how acid or not yor soil is?*

Does it matter? Wal, them experts ses it does, but I reckons that's a bit too clever for us Downley folks, and as for Nappelites, wal, just forget it, eh?! Anyway the daft thing is that the Chilterns is made of chalk, what's alkali, (so they ses), but on the tops it's 'clay with flints' (don't we know it?), which is acid...so that's why Mrs H. can grow her rhodies and azaleas, and why up at the alloment we have to pop on lime round our brassicas to counteract the acid...if you wants to get technical and impress 'em at the garden club just say summat like – 'Oh, by the way, my pH is under 7, how's yours?' --'Oh dear, is it?' You can buy a kit if yor that bothered.

So what about yor roses? Now's the time to just look at 'em, lovely eh? Colour, scent, little ones, climbing ones, great big ones.. Do you know which is which? (The muntjac don't care, they eats the lot). Wal, there's basicly four sorts, so they reckon up at Stoken, -they always reckon they knows best, but so they do up at Flakkel (up on the clay again, acid soil, see). Anyway there's 'hybrid tea', 'floribunda', climbers and ramblers, if you wants to know more then google it (ses one of the allomenteers, e's a bit strange I reckon). Just pick off the old blooms to keep 'em a comin' (but that's a bit difficult with my neighbours Kifsgate, it's gone up his tree about 50 feet!). And feed 'em on fish, blood and bone (do



veggy gardeners use this stuff?).

So what else now? Get out yor anti blight spray- you'll remember wot I said last year, use Bordeaux mixture, and give yor pots and toms and roses a good going over, and if you breath in the spray you'll never get a cold again. (or anything else I reckon, you know wot I means, ha ha).

Anyway, wot about my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke? Wal, they've got a drought in France, the Mayor's cut off his water pipe, so e's got to bucket it in from the village pump, and that's a good twenty minutes walk away, I reckon we could sell 'im some of ours, a euro for a bucket of water eh?!

Get some peas in for an autumn crop, and make sure you gets that amazin' feeling when you digs up yor first root of early spuds, makes it orl worth while eh?!

Finally, don't forget the big Downley festival, - open garden visits maybe, scarecrows all over the place, Downley Day with garden club plant sale, and all that music they're planning. 'Up Downley'—look for the posters, and on the inter web.

See you there, (or up at the plot), Keep a'weedn', cheerio and a bientot,

J.H. sent from my iSpade



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Heritage pictures

Photographs are essential to our heritage and many of us who live in Downley do not know how the village used to look 30, 40 or 50 years ago.

We are fortunate that there is a vast collection estimated at 17,000 pictures which are held at High Wycombe Library, The Wycombe Museum and at the Bucks Free Press Offices. Sharing Wycombe's Old Photographs (SWOP) is the name of this remarkable resource. Its data bank dates back to the year 1870 and can also be accessed by visiting;

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/centre-for-buckinghamshire-studies/online-resources/swop/>

.....search away.....have some fun..... This sounds like a long, tedious link but it really is fun to take 10 minutes out and look through some of the old pictures of High Wycombe and the surrounding areas. You can even get some fashion tips!!! Try image reference number 51699. I must rush out and buy the Mrs this outfit!!

There is a presentation being given at the Memorial Hall by Mike Dewey featuring images from SWOP on 2nd July as part of the Downley Festival week so pop along to see how the village looked 100 years ago and the local impact of WW1. You will also be able to hear some music from that era played by the Fernie Fields Wind Quartet. Refreshments will be served but I'm told they will be within date.

Simon Scott, Editor



Commonside showing Golf Link Pub



The Old Post Office

From the Common looking toward Commonsidge

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Downley War Memorial Hall

There are no doubt a myriad of books available at the moment giving detailed coverage of World War 1, it's causes and it's consequences so I will keep this brief.

Underlying everything was an upsurge in Nationalism (sound familiar?) and Imperialism, unresolved territorial disputes and a system of alliances that ensured once the conflict had started all of the major European nations would be compelled to join in.

In 1912 and 1913, the First Balkan War was fought between the Balkan League and the fracturing Ottoman Empire. The resulting Treaty of London further shrank the Ottoman Empire, creating an independent Albanian state while enlarging the territorial holdings of Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, and Greece. Feeling hard done by the Treaty Bulgaria attacked both Serbia and Greece in June 1913, it lost most of Macedonia to Serbia and Greece as well as Southern Dobruja to Romania in the 33-day Second Balkan War, further destabilising the region.

A year later, when visiting Sarajevo, the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by a group of Serbians. This led to an ultimatum from Austria-Hungary to Serbia with a series of demands that were unlikely to be met. When Serbia refused to meet them all Austria-Hungary declared war. Russia, Serbia's main ally, ordered a partial mobilisation and, under the terms of one of the alliances mentioned above, this brought Germany into the fray declaring war on Russia on 1 August 1914.

continued page 53





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continued from page 51...

At the same time Germany demanded that France remain neutral then invaded Luxembourg and declared war on France on 3 August. After Belgium refused a request from Germany to allow their troops to cross its borders into France, Germany declared war on them the following day. This triggered another alliance and brought Britain into the war to defend Belgium.

Despite everything that was going on in Europe the most important news in the Bucks Free Press during the first half of 1914 was the settling of the four month long industrial dispute between the Furniture Trade manufacturers and their operatives. This had commenced in October and was eventually concluded under the arbitration of Sir George Askwith, a Kings Counsel with experience in the area of Industrial Relations.

There was little news of Downley aside from reporting activities at the Wesleyan Chapel and the Progressive Methodist Sunday School.

In late July there was an increase in activity with Lord Kitchener inspecting over 100 Scouts at Watlington, including boys from High Wycombe, and a major gathering at Bovingdon Camp with nearly 4000 infantrymen. A quick peek at the edition for Friday 7 August shows things beginning to warm up but that will have to wait until the next issue.

Coming back to the present, a shelter has been built to the rear of the Hall and a new play surface has been laid there to improve play facilities for the school. In the last few days we have had some topsoil delivered to allow us to finish off the work on the eastern side.

Looking ahead to the Up! Downley Festival, amongst the numerous events planned are several that will be held at the War Memorial Hall. I am sure that you will find much more on this exciting new initiative elsewhere in the Downley Village News.

Alan Baker, alanbaker49@btinternet.com

Poetry Corner

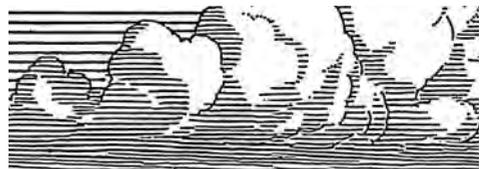
The Miracle of Skies

by Mary E. Howard

Whipped into frenzied shape, to form
twisting, violent, raging storm.
Clouds change to bring a gentle breeze,
floating over land and seas.
Mystical, with wispy trails,
forming angels, wearing veils.

Kaleidoscope of colours dance.
Natural beauty, not by chance.
Cloud contours change, with hues that blend.
This masterpiece, a natural trend.
Brilliant sunsets, dawn and greys.
This miracle around us plays.

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With dancing forms that won't stand still,
delight the eyes, the colours thrill.
Rainbow magic casts a spell
to lift the spirits, sadness quell.





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Letters

The Downley Donkey Debate

The first time that Downley Parish Council (or Wycombe District Council) were made aware of this potential change of ownership was Friday the 21st March despite the fact that negotiations between Morrisons and Enterprise Inns commenced in November 2013

We now know that a registry search was made late December but still no alarm bells were ringing as the negotiations were between two companies that had no obligation to reveal their plans to WDC. The first time it became public knowledge was when the landlord of the Donkey was given 7 days' notice

My immediate reaction was to call an emergency Parish Council meeting which we managed to arrange for the following Weds the 26th March. This was attended by almost 100 residents who raised many issues and concerns. I took a hands vote and it was plainly obvious that the meeting was unanimous that "Downley" didn't want a second superstore, no matter what name was over the door.

Just prior to this meeting DPC had been in discussions with CAMRA with a view to having the Donkey listed as a community asset, which would mean that if the deal fell through we would have first call on mounting a counter bid, providing we had 21 signatures on the evening of the meeting. In the event, this was easy and the respective forms were hand-delivered to the offices of WDC next day. Our application has been acknowledged and we should hear the outcome by the end of May. (It is interesting to note that Sarah Golding of the Le De Spencers Arms now wishes to be listed in the same way as she doesn't want to suffer the same fate as the Donkey!)

At the time of the meeting, the Planning Application had not been received, but 24 hours later we were notified of its content. It was obvious that the actual building would remain almost as at present, the only change being a small acoustically protected out building to the rear of the premises which probably wouldn't warrant refusal. No details have yet been received concerning signage or illumination.

In our representations to WDC we have concentrated our objections on:

- The excessive opening hours 06.00- 23.00hrs, which is out of keeping with other stores in the village.
- The noise disturbance in this residential area would be unacceptable particularly with the 24hr ATM machine installed.
- The proposed 6 metre high car park illuminating columns which will create unacceptable light disturbance to neighbouring residential properties.
- The pylons on the plan disregard the existing tree line all of which are subject of an application for TPO registration although some will need upgrading.

continued on page 57

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KIRSTY 07967030767

continued from page 55...

- The site is on a very dangerous bend with blind spots ,particularly when approaching the village past Plomer Green Avenue. The Downley Parish Council recommendation is that, should WDC be minded of approval, this should be conditional that Morrisons are obligated to fund at least one zebra crossing in the vicinity and that the entrance is moved further northward. In addition, a serious study should be undertaken to assess the need to provide a roundabout at this dangerous junction.

Anticipating that with adjustments this planning application is eventually likely to go through, in spite there being over 60 individual objections plus a petition of 460 names from Downley News I have met and maintained a regular dialogue with senior executives of Morrison M stores (Bradford) with a view to encouraging them to adjust their planned operation to suit our village way of life. Unlike the other superstore which opened in Downley without any consultation. I can able to inform you that they are talking concessions on :

- Reduced opening hours (including their licence application for 06.00 - 24.00 hrs)
- No Sunday deliveries
- No deliveries outside opening hours
- Delivery vehicles will only visit twice per day.
- Small delivery vehicles only, not of the articulated variety used by the other superstore in Downley.
- The provision of a “coffee stop” in store with outside facilities on the green as optional.
- The retention of the children’s play area.
- Confirm that they want to be involved with the local community and to support village events including the schools.

Although not universally agreed, given the circumstances and the delays in discovering the proposed Morrison M Superstore planning application, I think the Parish Council has acted in the best interests of the village. Had I not maintained a dialogue with “the opposition” and the plan has gone through unopposed, none of the above would be remotely possible. Having said this ,we are using every avenue possible (including a meeting with our MP Steve Baker) to stop this proposal in it’s tracks! I have made sure the Directors of Morrison M know our feelings that the village DO NOT WANT ANOTHER SUPERMARKET as we are already well catered for and the arrival of another player sharing the existing plate can only lead to disaster particularly for the smaller independent stores.

Ultimately no business can survive without the patronage of its customers and Downley residents have the freedom of choice as to where they shop!

Your Parish Councillors really care about your village and we hope that this huge issue can be resolved satisfactorily.

Barry Gay, Chairman, Downley Parish Council



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Keep our streets clean....and safe

I apologise in advance for what may sound like a rant but the pavements of Downley increasingly feel like an excrement laid minefield. This is a call for help to all Downley residents.

I have been living in Downley for a number of years and have been a resident of Plomer Green Lane for about 3 years. One of the pleasures of living here is sharing our wonderful environment with amongst others our dogs and their owners. Given the number of dogs in Downley it is obvious that the vast majority are responsible when it comes to picking up dog poo, otherwise we would not be negotiating a minefield but navigating a flood.

For one reason or another, however, the selfish minority have begun to make their presence felt and the school run (walk) has become an extended game of hop scotch trying to avoid poo. The inevitable result, however careful and skilful one is, is poo in the house courtesy of the children's shoes or their scooters. The inconvenience is bad enough but with young children it is nothing less than a dangerous health hazard.

As I say above this is not a rant but a call for help. I am not naive enough to think that this note will convert that selfish minority, despite the fact that cleaning up ones dog's mess and using the various dog mess bins around the village would be the simplest thing in the world.

Instead, if you spot a dog owner failing to pick up his dog's mess please report it to the Dog Warden Services (who are contracted by the council (and paid by us) to deal with such issues). The telephone number to call is 08444 828352.

Please provide as much information as possible about the perpetrators, including time of offence, where it took place, the breed/type of dog and their owner's address if you have it. Letters and serious fines can be issued which will hopefully act as a deterrent.

I can (just about) cope with cleaning up the mess, but sooner or later (if it has not happened already) a child will fall ill.

Thank you, from a local resident.

Happy Feet

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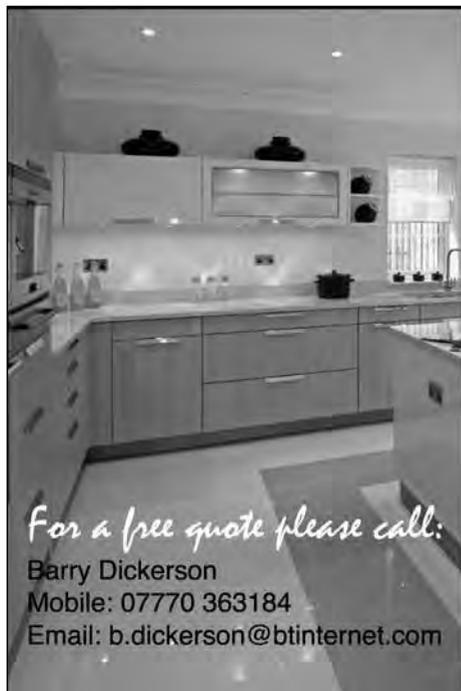


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10 Things You Didn't Know About Car Seat Safety

Pushchairs and Car Seats have been selling and fitting car seats for over 10 years. Sometimes the best thing we can do regarding child safety is give advice rather than selling a product. With that in mind we have put together some information regarding car seat safety that you maybe didn't know.

1 80% of child car seats are incorrectly fitted.

2 All Car Seats have to pass a UK safety standard called ECE R44.04. This safety standard is not as rigorous as it could be (for example does not include side impact testing) and many seats are tested to a much higher standard using the swedish plus test. The new Isize regulations which are not yet in force will recommend children are rear facing up to 15 months.

3 Car seats are all classed in 3 groups, Group 0+ (birth-13kg), Group 1 (9-18kg), and Group 2/3 (18-36kg).

4 Children are not tiny adults. At a birth a child's head represents around 40% of his or her bodyweight. At 1 year old it is around 25% of his or her bodyweight. Bones are not fully developed which means that the spine and internal organs are at greater risk.

5 In a frontal impact crash at 30 mph, everything in your car travels forwards with a force of 25 times it's own mass. This means that adults in the back of the car travel forward weighing the equivalent of 3 tonnes.

6 When a collision occurs at 50 km/h (31 mph) the stress inflicted on the neck of a child that weighs 15 kg and is seated in a forward facing position will be the equivalent of 180-220 kg. If the child instead is seated rear facing, the stress would be reduced to 40-60kg.

7 The world leading country in terms of child safety in a car is Sweden. Between July 2006 and November 2007 not a single child under the age of 6 years old was killed in a car crash.

8 The most powerful collisions we are likely to be involved in are front impact and in such collisions a rear-facing child seat reduces the risk of injury by around 90%, compared to 50% in a forward-facing seat.

9 In the UK the law states that your child must be in a child restraint system until they are either 1.35m tall, weigh 36kg or are 12 years old. Crash Test dummies do not have ages so it is the weight or height that is usually the key factor.

10 Booster cushions provide almost no protection for the child's head, neck or spine. A high back booster or Group 2/3 car seat may be more expensive but provides much greater protection.

*Jon Buxton
Pushchairs and Car Seats
shop@pushchairsandcarseats.co.uk*

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