

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY  
COMMUNITY**

# Village News



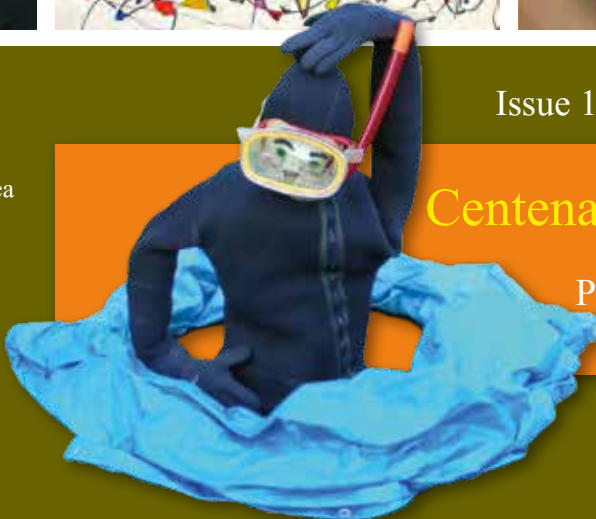
## Features

- Local Societies
- Around the Area
- Lifestyle
- Downley Diary
- History
- Poetry Corner
- Letters

Issue 100 / Sept 2014

## Centenary Edition

UP! Festival  
Pictures Special



# Look What The Sun Brought Out On Downley Day

*Singing, dancing, acrobatics, scarecrows and lots of fun.*

The Up! Festival got off to a scorching start with visitors estimated at over two thousand?



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## Editorial

What an overwhelming success the UP Downley Festival and Downley Day were. You will see from the pictures in this centenary issue of the magazine how many people within this community participated and thoroughly enjoyed the events. Thank you to all the organisers and volunteers who made it such an amazing and interesting schedule of events and performances.

There is an important question to ask YOU, the Downley Community. Should the UP Festival continue? Please read more about this on the back page of this issue. You will find the answer is dependent on whether YOU are able to take time to contribute time.

This being the centenary edition the committee, who puts this useful and interesting local publication together, has thanked the advertisers who support the magazine by not charging for the adverts in this centenary edition. I am ever grateful to the local people and groups who submit articles to be included each issue. Please continue to submit your articles to [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org). I make a special request to Jill Burrell. Please keep supplying us with your excellent brain teasers 'Science Facts' and 'Maths for Fun.'

Enjoy this issue and don't forget the heating tips from last year's issue as the nights will soon be drawing in and only the memories of your wild summer of fun and festival will remain. The change of season also means SAD. Take action to keep SAD at bay.

*Simon Scott Editor*



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# Community Plan Report

## Skate Park

The skate park idea is bubbling on the back burner for the moment. The possibility of installing a temporary facility during this summer got no further due to difficulty in establishing what the local boarders and bikers really wanted. We might try again later.

## Allotments

The Parish Council has recently let 3 half plots that have recently become available and there may well be more in the near future where plots haven't been worked sufficiently this year. The council is also planning to meet one of their regular contractors to obtain a quote for 10 and for 20 additional plots at Mannings Field alongside the existing allotments.

## Speed monitoring

The M.V.A.S.( Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign ) project will be starting in September. The unit will be delivered to DOSCA on Tuesday 9th September at 14.00 , when training will take place for volunteers. There have not been many volunteers up to now and so about 6 more are needed. The Council has written to Tfb to let them know which 7 sites have been agreed with Thames Valley Police. It will need pairs of volunteers, one to hold the unit, which isn't very heavy and the other one to make sure the fittings are secure on the various lighting columns so if you're interested in helping with project please contact [info@downley.org](mailto:info@downley.org)

*Bill Thompson, Chairman.*





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## Garden Club

*We are going from strength to strength and I like to think it's because we have good speakers at our monthly meetings with a wide range of topics associated with our gardening and the very friendly atmosphere which is generated when we come together as a group which all makes for very pleasant evenings indeed.*

You should come and join us, after each talk we finish off with tea, coffee and biscuits and once in a while a speaker will have plants for sale.

To date we have had presentations on, the country side in spring, walled gardens and bee keeping, the glow worm, butterflies and life in a nutshell which took us up to May, when we have a break for other activities. We start back in St James' church hall on Monday 20th October 2014 with presentations on all about ponds, I'm told the speaker is very good and on this occasion we round off the year with mulled wine and homemade mince pies.

We had a most enjoyable June starting with a visit to a local garden where tea and cakes as also provided with the proceeds going to the National gardens scheme which is a nice touch.

Downley Day on the 21st of June was a success all round, we were happy to be part of it and had our usual patch from which we sell numerous plants donated by our members and we took just on £400 which was excellent and we also signed up 3 new members. The highlight of the year is still to come and that is our Autumn Horticultural show on Saturday 13th September. We like to fill the tables with produce and in fact over the past few years we have done just that and the judges have been most complimentary about the standard we achieve considering it is from just our own membership, that's nice.



**We are a friendly group of gardeners who enjoy our meetings and when the speakers are finished we enjoy our refreshments with plenty of chit chat, don't just sit at home watching telly, come and join us. Where else could you get all of this for just £5 for senior citizens and £8 for a family. Give me a call on 01494 524622 or come along to the next meeting on Monday 20th October 8pm at St James' hall where you will be very welcome.**

*Ken Thompson*

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## Coffee Stop News

*This is a celebratory issue of the Downley Village News, Jenny Langley would have been so proud of its progress.*



those people who have given us feedback, it is very valuable, the last meal of fishcakes chips and mushy peas was the least well received but cottage pie and sweet and sour chicken were

Jenny was also one of the founding and much valued members of the Coffee Stop team and we have come on in leaps and bounds since those days nearly 12 years ago. We have evolved from offering coffee and cake and somewhere to chat into a popular light lunch provider within the natural constraints of having to buy and serve on just one day. Recently we had a suggestion that we should try serving a hot meal once a month and this has been popular. Thank you to all of

great. It is always good to have your suggestions and comments even if they are negative as it helps us to plan for the future.

The Harvest lunch is the next event on the horizon on 6th October, make a note in your diaries, and following that homemade soup will return. Thanks to the whole village for your support and friendliness.

*Ann Buxton*

*01494 522118 pabuxton@hotmail.com*

## Downley Theatre Group

*The Theatre Group offers trips to West End shows, occasional plays and day outings.*

There is a mailing list of nearly 200 people in and around Downley with most people receiving information by email. We are very grateful to Trevor and Christine Roadnight who kindly deliver flyers by hand round the Village and some far flung members have details sent in stamped addressed envelopes courtesy of Royal Mail.



2014 has been a busy year with trips to “Candide” at the Menier Chocolate Factory in February, our third trip to “War Horse” and our second to Highgrove Gardens in April; we saw “The Bodyguard” in May and have trips to London, including a visit to Buckingham Palace, arranged for August; “Billy Elliott” in September; “Barnum” at Wycombe Swan and “The Lion King” in October; “White Christmas” the tail end of November – which will be the 75th trip we’ve organised – and our now traditional outing to Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, for carols in December.

There is no membership/joining fee and no obligation to come on any of the trips, do call or email for more details – we look forward to hearing from you.

*Alan and Claire Baker*

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# Downley Common News

## Bonfire

It might seem to be a bit premature to be talking about the bonfire in August but the preparations start quite early in the year. We normally make 400 torches for the torchlight procession and the materials need to be gathered and distributed to a team of people to make them. The basis of the bonfire is typically suitable clump of trees selected as part of the programme to control woodland expansion from taking over the common. This year, some of the fast-growing cherry trees at the end of Moor Lane are marked for removal and as all trees are cut manually (using a double-handed saw). This can be hard going so a group of volunteers is normally needed to spread the load of the day for cutting which will be the first Sunday in October.

Building the bonfire can be a big task as the material containing nails cannot be shifted by the tractor due to the risk of punctures. Bonfire building days need at least 20 volunteers on the last two Sundays of October. Lastly, the clean-up afterwards needs more effort and more people.

The bonfire is a community event that cannot run without community involvement. If you think you can lend a hand then get in touch, come along and make the event a success. See the website at [www.downleycommon.org.uk](http://www.downleycommon.org.uk) for details.

## Sunflowers at Downley Day

To those people who came to the DCPS stand at Downley Day and bought a sunflower, don't forget to send in your photo of the sunflower alongside a measuring pole so that the height can be assessed. There will be a prize for the tallest sunflower submitted by the date of our AGM on 2nd October which will be held in the Village Hall at 8pm.



There were a small number of bags of charcoal sold at the stall at Downley Day. As this was our first foray into making charcoal, we would be interested in hearing how well it performed. If you had a barbeque using this charcoal this summer, we would be interested to hear how well it burnt.

## Information board

We have been fortunate to secure funding for the information board which is planned to replace the existing sign next to the bus stop on Commons side. The board will feature information about the history and environment of the Common, together with a map showing its principal features. No fixed timetable has yet been set but we are hoping to have it in place by the end of the year.

*Bill Thompson, DCPS Committee Secretary.*

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## Downley Makers Market

*It's been a busy 12 months for the Downley Makers' Market – We caught up with the three founder members as they celebrated the market's first birthday.*



This time last year, Fiona Emm, Catherine Smith and Maggie Robb got together on a warm summer's evening and began to plan what would go on to become The Downley Makers' Market – a twice yearly craft fayre in the heart of Downley, supported by a Facebook page designed to bring local makers and artisans together.

“The response to what we're doing has been fantastic” Fiona explained, “Our first event was really well attended and many of our makers reported record sales. We got lots of positive feedback from customers too. It was such a great day that we couldn't wait to start organizing the next one.” The Easter market attracted some very talented and experienced makers from as far afield as Tring, Oxford and Maidenhead's Craft Coop shop. However there were several local makers in the mix too, a couple of whom were selling their work for the first time. “It's very important to us that we include a varied range of sellers so that regular visitors come back each time to discover new talents.” Maggie was keen to point out. “But it's also a big part of what we do to offer really local people the chance to showcase their work. There's a lot of creative talent in Downley and High Wycombe.”

Of course nothing beats the experience of browsing lovely hand-crafted goodies in person, and chatting to the makers who created them. Planning for the Christmas Market is already underway with the date set for Saturday 22nd November. So save the date, and your pennies to make sure you're there to pick up lots of gifts, goodies and treats. And if you're a maker and would like to apply for a stall keep an eye on the Facebook page for updates about registering your request or send the team an email at [downleymakersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:downleymakersmarket@gmail.com)

**If you'd like to join the Downley Makers online visit their Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/TheDownleyMakersMarket](http://www.Facebook.com/TheDownleyMakersMarket) or follow them on twitter @downleymakers <http://downleymakersmarket.blogspot.co.uk/>**

**The Downley Makers' Christmas Market will be at the Downley Memorial Hall on 22nd November between 11 am and 2pm.**

*Maggie Robb*  
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## St. James dialog

*"I can't believe that!" said Alice. "Can't you?" the Queen said in pitying tone. "Try again: draw a long breath, and shut your eyes." Alice laughed, "there's no use trying, "she said, "I can't believe impossible things." "I daresay you haven't had much practise," said the Queen. "When I was your age I always did it for half-an-hour a day, why sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."*

This is the land of the Looking Glass, and Alice probably had good reasons for doubting some of the rather incredible things that were shown her. But there are lots of people who, display a reluctance about accepting a faith, a God, whichever faith or God that may be. "It's no good they say, "but I just can't believe, I've given it a go, I'd like to think it's true, but well – you know how it is." Then they look at me, in a way that says, I should be pitied for wasting my time on a faith laden with uncertainties!

What about your faith? Do we believe? Is our faith genuine? Or are we finding like Alice that we can't believe in impossible things. It's OK you're not on your own. Many people have doubts and fears.

Faith is difficult to explain, but when you have it, you know it's there.

As we enter the beginning of another academic year, when many of us may be searching, searching for answers, searching for peace, or love, searching for something, or someone to believe in. Have faith enough to know God cares and that nothing is impossible for Him. God is holding out his hand, if we take it we will have accepted our faith.

It is possible, believe me, believe your God.

*Blessings, Revd Alison Finch*



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

## View of Library



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

## Computer & Internet Facilities



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

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## Downley Evening WI

*So the dust has settled after the first Up!Downley village festival and the wonderful weather continues. I hope you're all enjoying it.*

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

At Downley Evening, we've continued our usual varied programme of activities including learning about the history of juggling, the role of the modern RAF and the development of modern attitudes to disease and hygiene.

The Women's Institute will celebrate the centenary of its founding next year and there are, of course, special commemorative events being planned, including live streaming of the Annual General Meeting. It is important to remember that the WI is not just about interesting activities and fun: every year the members are invited to consider and take action on issues that we find significant in today's society. In recent years, for example, we have campaigned for an increased number of midwives. This spring we took part in a nationwide debate about the importance of talking openly in our families and communities about our attitude to organ donation. Did you know that a single donor can help transform up to nine people's lives? If you are one of the

majority of people who would be happy to donate your organs, you need to know that your family will probably have the final say on it – unless you talk about it with them in good time and make your wishes known. Time is of the essence in harvesting donated organs after someone dies so think ahead and start the discussion with your loved ones now. Three people die every day waiting for a transplant.

Our local programme at Downley Evening continues with a social supper evening in August, then some flower arranging in September followed by our AGM in October. As always, we have outings and small group activities ongoing. Do come along and give it a try. We are a friendly bunch and love to welcome visitors.

**The second Tuesday of the month at 7.45 at St. James' Church, Plomer Hill: that's our regular time and place. Just turn up! Or contact our president, Rosemary Byrne, on HW 538966 for more details.**





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# Chameleon Singles Group

## About Chameleon... Our History & Aims



*Chameleon Singles Group was formed in 2003.*

The original members were part of a group known as Simply Friends which closed when its founder moved to the West Country. At the time keeping the original name would not have been practical as the founder had registered it and we would have been obliged to buy out the club name.

Over the years we have organised and enjoyed a number of events including pub evenings and lunches, skittles and bowling, coffee mornings, walks and at home evenings for take-away meals, games and sharing suppers. During the summer months we organise a number of day trips both to places of interest and the coast. We also enjoy the great outdoors with events such as barbecues.

Our membership is predominately within the High Wycombe area although we have people from all over South Bucks. Other than day trips most events are held locally and where possible accessible by public transport for those who do not have a car.

Chameleon Singles Group is open to all. By this we strive to be inclusive regardless of background, ethnic origin or circumstances. Our small membership fee is just to cover costs and ensures that everyone can join. The club has no formal constitution or rules. While we have an AGM and publish accounts everyone is encouraged to be part of the organising team. We believe in the area Chameleon is unique as a voluntary not-for-profit group that gives single people the chance to meet up and removes the isolation of being alone.

*Our programme for September & October is currently being planned and as usual for the time of year will have a few more indoor events reflecting the cooler days ahead.*

The long hot summer has allowed us to enjoy a number of outdoor events including a concert at Downley, Bar-B-Que, a day trip to Margate and also to a National Trust Property.

Our new "Meet & Greet" evenings run monthly for potential new members to come along meet current members and find out more. These are usually held on the second Wednesday of the month at O'Neill's in High Wycombe from 7-9pm.

Several of our members are interested in live music, theatre and dance and where we can arrange evenings out to these events. We have continued to go to Dusty's Blues Club at Holmer Green Sports Club on a regular basis and plan to attend a Ceilidh when the new season begins at Haddenham. In August we will be at the Beech Tree on the Amersham Road, Terriers. There is food available if you wish to eat or just join us for a drink.

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 one of our membership secretaries Heike 01494 – 459246 or Joyce 01494 – 817895 or e-mail: [chameleon\\_bucks@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chameleon_bucks@tiscali.co.uk). Visit us on-line at [www.bucksvoice.net/chameleon](http://www.bucksvoice.net/chameleon) for more information and an events listing.**

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# Downley Community Centre

## In association with Downley Parish Council

### Plans for 2014



A programme of improvement has been initiated for 2014. We have replaced the original single gate on Chapel Street with a new double gate to improve access for emergency services and now plan major work on the building itself.

As part of a long term plan to manage the Centre's largest single cost - energy, a roof insulation project has been launched. We plan to remove all the tiles from the original Victorian roof, install up-to-date ceiling insulation before retiling and replacing the old roof lights and flashings.



We also plan to build a porch over the front door.

The management team is mindful that this work will cause some disruption to both local residents and users and will work to minimise this at every stage.

As well as the improvement work we have carried out which includes a new double gate onto Chapel Street there are a number of new hirers and we now have an excellent mix of community and commercial users.

We welcome the new hirers, UKULELE (U3A Group), yoga group, a spiritual meditation group and the war gamers club.

Please see the Downley Village News diary and the web site for the most up-to-date list of activities at the community centre.

We thank all of those local hirers using the Centre for children's parties and family celebrations. We have added a large pull down projector screen and a portable screen together with flip chart easel boards. These items can be used at no extra cost.

Additional improvements in the pipeline include:-

- A new front porch which just awaits planning permission at the moment
- Major retiling work on the old part of the roof.

**Please keep those hire enquiries coming to Cathy Price on 07580 953 181 or email us at: [bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk)**

**We are here to serve you, the local community, so make sure you get the most from this excellent local facility.**

*The Downley Community Centre Committee.*



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# News from Wycombe and Westminster

## Steve Baker MP

*One of the best parts of my role as MP for Wycombe is the variety of people I meet who are trying to improve life for others. At the Downley Annual Parish Meeting, I met the head teacher of Downley School who invited me to visit the school to meet staff and pupils.*



When I visited in June, I was struck by what a lovely school it is. I had a chance to look around the classrooms and also see the children doing the school's innovative wake and shake, which is designed to get pupils alert and ready to learn. Mrs Webb explained the school is rated Outstanding by Ofsted and we explored some of the funding challenges which local schools have faced.

I was delighted therefore earlier this week to receive a letter from the Department of Education which has told me there will be fairer funding for schools in Bucks. The Local Education Authority will receive an additional £18m, which is a 6.5% increase.

On another subject, I held a debate in Westminster Hall on 9th July on Public Consent for Local Plans. You will know Wycombe District Council has recently undertaken a consultation on its development plan for the area. Although Downley is not

directly affected by the proposals, it will obviously have an impact on the lives of everyone living in the District.

I began the debate by outlining two key problems. First, land for development is extremely scarce in Wycombe and there is real public anger at the prospect of building on green-field sites, which would further burden our inadequate infrastructure, especially roads. Secondly, there is a need for more homes particularly for young people and families who find it unspeakably hard to get on the property ladder.

**If you would like to read a full report of the debate, including the Minister's response, please go to my website: <http://www.stevebaker.info/2014/07/public-consent/>**

*Steve Baker, MP*





# Le De Spencers Arms What's On

Live Music  
**Alan Luck**

Saturday 20th Sept from 9pm

Live Music  
**Fluke**

Saturday 25th Oct From 9pm

## Downley Albion Race Night

Saturday 27th Sept from 8pm

## Lions Club Charity Quiz

Wednesday 29th Oct from 8.30pm

Live Music  
**Billy's Band**

Saturday 4th Oct from 9pm

Live Music  
**Elvis & Neil Diamond Covers**

Saturday 22nd Nov from 9pm

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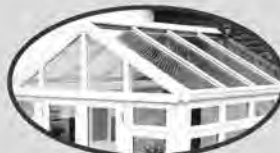
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## Downley Scouts clean up at Cross Court

*A recent request was made by the Parish Council to the leader of the 9th High Wycombe Scout Troup to see if they could organise an urgent mass litter pick at Cross Court, which was in a disgraceful mess, as the Council had been tipped off that inspection of our Village was imminent as we were entered in the Village of the year competition.*



Within 24 hours 15 boys and girls had been assembled and the major litter pick was underway. The Chairman watched the whole event and has nothing but praise for the efforts that they all put in. All were kitted out with gloves and fluorescent jackets and within less than an hour 14 black sacks of rubbish had been collected which even include a car bumper discarded in the long grass!

The evening was finished off with a pizza which Giant Pizza gave on a “buy one get one free” basis and all were eaten on site after hands had been washed, courtesy of the Ian Rennie shop who opened up specially.

Downley Parish Council will be giving a grant to the 9th High Wycombe Troup in recognition of their efforts to enable them to purchase new flags that are necessary, as they have moved from the Pastures Church to the Scout Centre at Coates Lane and their original flags are now obsolete. Unfortunately their funds have been depleted as they had to have a new roof on their equipment storage area at the centre.

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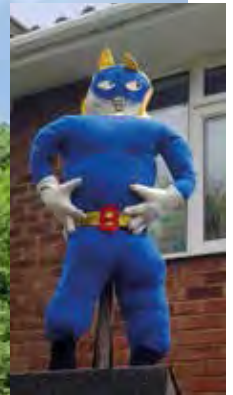
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# Up! Downley Village Festival 2014

*From music and comedy to arts and crafts plus a little magic, in pictures:*

















# Downley Diary events

*Your pull out 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 you TALKS display exercise people  
DATE you TALKS GIG FETE  
societies concert

## Round-up of Regular Activities

Aerobics	Tues 6.30pm	Community Centre
Art Club	Thurs 9.30am	St James Hall
Art Group - term time	Mon & Tues 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
Craft Group	1st Tues 10am - 12.00	Community Centre
Dance Classes for Young People	Mon pm & evening	Sunnybank Hall
Dance Classes	Tues & Wed Begin's 8pm Inter's 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
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 Regular Activities ...continued

Line Dancing	Tues from 12.45pm, Fri from 10.00am	Community Centre
Links Lunches	Fri 10.30am	St James Hall
Meditation	1st Wed 7.45pm - 9.25	Community Centre
Mums & Toddlers Group - term time	Mon 9.30 - 11.30am	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 7.30pm - 8.30pm	Community Centre
Simply Walk	Mon 10am - 11am (12 Coffee)	Community Centre
Sing & Sign - term time	Thurs 9.15am & 12.15pm	Community Centre
(Downley) Spiritual Centre	1st & 3rd Fri 6.30pm - 10pm	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
Wargamers	Mon 6.45pm - 9.45pm	Community Centre
Weightwatchers	Thurs 5.30pm	St James Hall
Yoga	Fri 9.15am (Starts September)	War Memorial Hall
Yoga	Wed 7.30pm - 8.30pm	Community Centre
Ukulele	4th Thurs 10am - 12pm	Community Centre
Zest for Life	Mon 8pm	Community Centre
Zumba	Mon 8pm	War Memorial Hall

## Clubs Societies Schools - Promote your event here for FREE!

### We need a bigger team to recreate the Up! Festival.

The five main areas requiring assistance are; Marketing, Logistics, Sponsorship, Box Office and Event Coordination. To play a part do get in touch. Then we can make it happen again but better! Contact:

**[festival@downley.org](mailto:festival@downley.org)**

You can also help by providing feedback at **[downley.org](http://downley.org)** where you will find a link to our online form. Plus our Facebook page is there for your thoughts on all things Downley:

**[facebook.com/Downley.Community](https://www.facebook.com/Downley.Community)**

## Mobile Vehicle Activation Signs - Volunteers Required!

The Parish Council have purchased this equipment and will rotate it through the following locations every couple of weeks. .

**Plomer Hill • The Pastures • Middlebrooke Road • Pheasant Drive • Coates Lane  
Hithercroft Road • Littleworth Road**

*The Parish Council are appealing for volunteers to help move the equipment. Please contact the Parish Council if you are able to volunteer your time: [downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)*

### 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](mailto: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**

### Street Lighting

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

Plomer Hill, Downs Park, Hillfield Close, ( Hithercroft Road and Pastures from junction with Tinkers Wood Road up to Bellfields ), Westover Road, Sunnycroft, South View, Woodcote Green, Pheasant Drive, Southfield Road, Middlebrook Road, White Close and Merry Down. There are no " scouts " employed to do spot checks of lights that are not working in these areas, so the contractors have to rely on members of the public contacting them with details.

For all other roads in Downley, please report outages to the Clerk via phone on H.W. 462195 OR via "e" mail to [downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)

### 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 Parish Notice Boards

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.**

---

## Up & Coming... *Please visit [Downley.org](http://Downley.org) for all the latest and up to date events and news.*

- Sept**      6    Millar & Spencer perform Jazz in the Village at the Memorial Hall from 8pm
- 9    Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall
- 13    Downley Gardening Club Autumn horticultural show
- 20    Alan Luck plays live at the Le De Spencers Arms from 9pm
- 27    Downley Albion Race Night at the Le De Spencers Arms from 8pm
- Oct**        4    Billy's Band plays live at the Le De Spencers Arms from 9pm
- 10 - 12    Hughenden Art Group Exhibition - Hughenden Valley Village Hall
- 14    Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre
- 20    Downley Gardening Club - Talk by Rod D'Ayala - All about ponds
- 25    Fluke play live at the Le De Spencers Arms from 9pm
- 29    Lions Club Charity Quiz at the Le De Spencers Arms from 8.30pm
- Nov**        5    Downley Bonfire and Torchlight Procession Commonside, 6.30pm
- 9    Remembrance Day Service - War Memorial Hall at 3pm
- 11    Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall
- 14    Ian English Boodlum Band at the Memorial Hall from 8pm
- 17    Downley Gardening Club - Talk by John Tyler - Countryside in Autumn
- 22    Elvis and Neil Diamon tribute live at the Le De Spencers Arms from 9pm
- 22    Downley Makers 'Christmas' Market Memorial Hall from 11am until 2pm
- Dec**        8    Downley Gardening Club - Talk by Betty Page - Comic monologues using hats
- 9    Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre
- 31    New Year Beacon Lighting On Commonside at 11.45pm

# The woods of Downley Common

*Many of us went along to the Downley Day this year and as a way to reflect on the area of common and woodland where it was held a local resident has offered this History to the area.*

Commons of pasture and large woods are typical of the Chilterns and community rights in both were regulated. Timber was felled for the manorial lord; firewood and house wood were available for the tenants; while other timber was used for faggots (a bundle of sticks to sell), charcoal, sheep hurdles, carts, fence and ploughs.

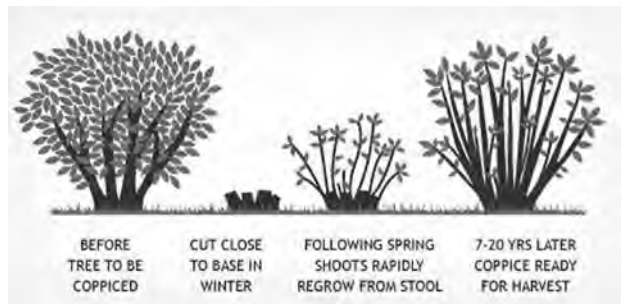
The undergrowth could be collected for winter fodder, sheep and cattle could be pastured there and woods could be used for pannage (pigs) for a fee. In 1218, 14,000 bundles of firewood were sent from West Wycombe via Marlow to the markets at Southwark. This was mostly fallen wood.

Always there was competition between grazing which prevented regrowth and left open pasture and the management of the woods. Manors protected their woodland rights by constructing a wood bank and ditch as a boundary and the Hughenden boundary behind the scout hut may have begun like this. Such banks were often planted with hornbeam. Pennage (confining of animals in pens) will have been allowed on lease in years that were good for beechmast (nuts from the beech tree).

Landlords favoured enclosure (pennage) to allow regeneration so restricted the cutting of young beech helping the beech to prosper as against the previously common ash and oak. Only willow, maple, hazel and bushes could be freely cut down. Gradually woods were enclosed, laid out,

planted, matured and left uncut for a minimum of 10 years. Between 1600 and 1800 there was much grubbing up both for farms and woodland. As a result the beech forest replaced the earlier mixed woods. Pollarding (upper branches are removed to promote a dense head of foliage) was introduced to prevent grazing animals reaching the new growth and coppices (tree cut to the base and new shoots grow up to be harvested in 7 to 12 years) were created and protected for 7 years.

Coppicing can be seen on the path past well cottage to Hughenden. Both pollarding and coppicing were labour intensive during creation so these practices began to decline after the nineteenth century. Few trees are left on the common



over 100 years old but pollards can be seen between Downley and Naphill around which beeches were planted for furniture, wheel spokes and here there is little ground cover. Older woods can be identified by more ground flora such as bluebells, wood anemones, dogs mercury and wild service trees.

*Continued on page 45*

**Downley Community Centre**  
*The Old School/ Library*

**Sweaty Betties**  
**Aerobics**



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Bluebells



Wood Anemones



Dog Mercury

*Continued from page 43...*

In 1797 Thomas Langley reported that there was a considerable loss of beech due to the pressure for arable cultivation during the Napoleonic Wars. By 1793 coal was being brought to the Vale of Aylesbury and the Chiltern Valleys by canals to the demand for Chiltern firewood declined. The Chilterns were saved by the growth of the chair industry, beech not being suitable for hop poles, baskets or chair seats, only the turned legs etc. By 1810 there was a prosperous industry: elm for seats, ash for bows and beech for the legs. The local centre for the trading of turned wood was the Bird in Hand Pub so by this time Downley common woods would have had their fair share of bodgers. Merchants would have purchased the bodgers products. Prices were marked up on a board in the pub and credit given to the bodgers so some of the sales proceeds would have gone towards pub bar tabs. Local housewives preferred to have credit for the butchers or bakers who would also exchange credit for cash.

By the nineteenth century there was a change from coppicing to high forest, mostly beech. The crop was harvested by the distinctive Chiltern selection system with timber trees cut and dragged out. The smaller wood was then thinned to increase the value.



Wild Service Tree

The thinning's were available to the bodgers.

Once timber was imported from the growing British Empire the system broke down and the woods were left to degenerate. After 1906 the area became a leisure destination with excursion trains from London bringing ramblers and picnickers to what they saw as rural arcadia with healthier air

than London to offer. In 1908 the first bus from Beaconsfield to Wycombe arrived and by the 1920's the green line buses brought people out from London and allowed people to commute so there was a burst of house building. Downley grew and the common was surrounded by a mixture of housing and stretching away down Plomer Green Lane.

With the influx of demobilized troops who often built their own homes on plots of land the population grew and there was more work in the area and improved facilities in Wycombe. In 1928 the bus service not only took people from Downley to school but also ran a midday service so the workers from areas such as Frogmore could return home for lunch.

The last visible common rights were the iron chained horses, the rope tethered goats and geese kept on the common.

*Noreen Talbot*



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## J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints Autumn 2014

*Wal me old mates, how was yor summer? Did yor toms and spuds get the dreaded blight?*

*Wal, I got away with it, but my early spuds ( variety Rocket), were very sluggy, but the rest of 'em,- Charlotte, Desiree and Maris Piper were really good and not sluggy, why, I don't know, any ideas from you spuddy experts in the garden club?*

Anyway, Desiree, wot a name for a spud, sounds French to me, I'll 'ave a word with my cousin Jean in froggy land, he might know, but he'll come up with some tale about his spuds being bigger and tastier than ours, so I don't suppose I'll bother. But wot about wot the frogs calls spuds... 'pommes de terre'... 'earth apples', I asks you, wot a name, they don't look at all like apples, but that's the froggies for you!

So it's autumn now, but never too late to get a few things on the go. Always think a few months ahead, and of course it's apple and pear time! And you knows wot that

means if you've been a'readin' this column before! Yes, yor right! It's cider and juicin' time! Keep a look out for appley happenings up at the orchard, there'll be a juicing jolly there, so bring along yor fruit and 'ave a go on the scrat, and if you don't know wot that means, then come along and find out!

Anyways, doin' yor bit in the garden is good for you, so them medical folks ses, and I found a quote from a 17th century gardener wot I likes, Master William Coles, ( actually 1656 if you don't know wot I means by 17th century, this is for Nappelites who might be a'readin' of this, but you Downley folks are on the ball, baint you?). So he ses that diggin' and weedin' 'opens the pores, cleaneth the blood of fuliginous and sooty vapours which usually offend it, and this is the reason sweatin' is such a good remedy for feavours'. So get sweatin' and get rid of the fuliginous vapours!-----Good eh?

And finally, a rather philosophical quote, 'He that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.' Confucious. C.551 BC. I bet there's some deeper meanin' here, can summun let me know? Hmmm.

*J.H. sent from my iSpade*



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## Downley War Memorial Hall

*Leonard Maunder* was born in 1883 to Henry a farm labourer, and Emma a Pillow Lace maker. He became the first Downley resident to die in the War during what became known as the First Battle of The Aisne. He died in the village of Soupier about 25 miles north west of Reims and is buried nearby. His name is shown on memorials at La Ferte-sous-Jouarre, Downley and West Wycombe.



Leonard originally enlisted in 1899 to 3rd Battalion the Rifle Brigade and served until 1907. Two years later he married Ada Dillow and the 1911 Census shows him as a Chairmaker. As a Reservist he re-joined the regiment in August 1914 and spent time in Cork and Cambridge before moving on to Newmarket. The Battalion left for France on 9 September and he was killed just sixteen days later.

Leonard's death was reported in the South Bucks Free Press edition of 23 October with the following account and photograph:

"On Friday last the wife of Pte. Leonard Maunder, a reservist of the 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade, received official news from the War Office that her husband had been killed in action on September 25th. The intelligence was received with much regret in Downley where the deceased was well known and much respected. He enlisted in 1900 and served eight years with the Colours, two years being spent in India and one year in Aden. At the time he fell at the post of duty he was serving his last year as a Reservist. Deceased was a keen sportsman and for some time rendered yeoman service to the Downley Albion Football Club. During his association with the Club he carried out the duties of Hon. Secretary with conspicuous ability. A resident of the district writing about deceased says:- "The whole village will always feel proud to remember that one so brave fought and fell in such a glorious cause." Deceased, who was 31 years old, leaves a widow and a little son to mourn their loss and to them general sympathy is extended."

Two weeks later the paper published further tributes to Leonard including this letter from a comrade who was with him when he died

"You know by now the sad news that awaits you. It is very hard for you. How I have thought about you all. If you remember there were four of us at Cambridge, well I am the only one left. Poor Leonard, Cox and Stillwell all went in about 5 minutes. We went into action about 4.45 on the morning of 25 September and I lost all three chums by 5 o'clock. It was very hard for me. We brought Leonard back and buried him peacefully. I cannot tell you how I felt. His wish was that he would meet you in a better land. I hope it will soon be over. Bear up as much as you can ... remember me to Mr Maunder [Leonard's father] I hope I shall be with you all again soon. PS Since waiting to post this letter your letter has come to hand with two packets of fags. I am returning the letter."

*Continued on page 51*

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*Continued from page 49...*

There was also this from Sgt H R Vickers, a former colleague at Messrs Joynson and Holland who was with the Bucks Territorial's at Chelmsford:

"Just a line to express the great sorrow I felt on hearing of poor Len. Maunder's death. Please express my sympathy with all his relations. He always struck me as an honest straightforward man. I have no doubt that as a soldier he was respected by his comrades, did his duty nobly and died a hero's death. I know his death will be felt by his employers and all with whom he came in contact"

At home things appeared a strange mix of war and normality with regular news from the front alongside local cricket results. As Summer moved into Autumn the number of deaths reported increased dramatically and every issue of the paper contained columns of the names of those who had joined up. Meanwhile, the Chair Trade was putting men on short time as orders were cancelled in early August and was then being exhorted by the Board of Trade to move into those markets that the German furniture industry no longer had access to (USA and the British Empire). By October there were reports of a shortage of rushes to meet Government chair and furniture contracts.

In Burnham Beeches a sentry guarding a railway bridge shot and killed his Lance Corporal when he received no response to "Who goes there" warnings.

There had also been a significant influx of Belgian refugees and details of their arrival, fundraising activities on their behalf and entertainments for their benefit featured in every issue.

*Alan Baker, alanbaker49@btinternet.com*

## Winning Scarecrows

*We were all won over by the Up! Festival Scarecrows. But we did do an informal survey of the Concert on the Common crowd and came up with three favourites who won Up! Festival T shirts.*



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# Poetry Corner

## Regrets

*Margaret Bode*

We used to talk of anything when first we met.  
No silences, no awkward pause, no sorrowful regret.  
We'd talk of feelings deep and true,  
Of Sunflower seeds and morning dew,

A thousand things all bright and new.  
Discussions on any subject we cared to devise,  
From war and peace and politics, to birds and butterflies.  
We could have talked throughout the night,  
Made love beside the firelight,  
And talked again, it seemed so right.

But slowly things began to change, unnoticed at the start.  
We no more spoke of buttercups or feelings of the heart.  
Raindrops and rainbows gone unseen.  
Ignored as though they'd never been,  
And all this passed as in a dream.

Through the years the silences gradually increased.  
Until one day our conversation altogether ceased.  
Then suddenly you went away;  
Would that you were here today.  
There'd be so much to say.





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- 1 in 4 of us are living with a life-changing illness that needs specialist care. That's 18 million people in the UK today.

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Join us and become a hero!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Ryder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a soft, light-colored shadow or glow effect behind the text.

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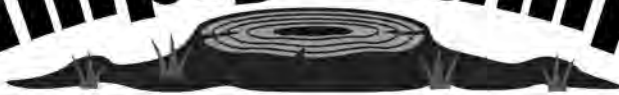
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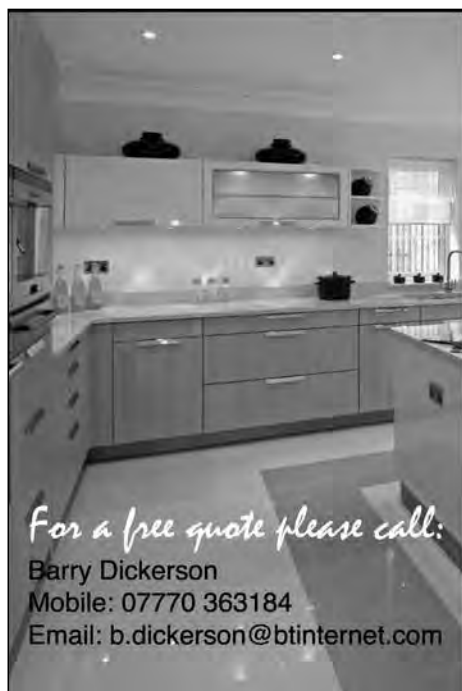


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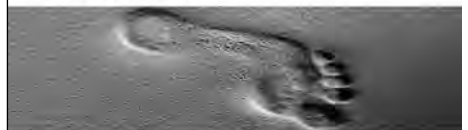
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## Credits

### Editor

Simon Scott at editor@downley.org

### Layout

Pat Weedon & Lucy de Rojas at news@downley.org

### Advertising

Send advertising copy to adverts@downley.org

### Distribution

Coordinated by Des Ryan. Volunteers to deliver locally are always needed. If interested contact Des on: desmond.ryan@tiscali.co.uk or 01494 520938

### Rates

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### Deadlines

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

### Steering Committee

The Downley Communications Forum set up as part of the Community Plan, provides oversight to the Village News, the Village enews and the downley.org website.

<b>Chairman</b>	Bill Thompson
<b>Secretary</b>	Peter Loadman
<b>Treasurer</b>	Clive Beard
<b>Webmaster</b>	Mark Starkey

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# It Looks Like The Village Festival Went Down (*or is that UP?*) Well.

## The Question Is Do We Do It Again?

The answer is we would like to but we do need some help.



A great deal has been learnt but we need a bigger team to recreate the Up! Festival.

The five main areas requiring assistance are; Marketing, Logistics, Sponsorship, Box Office and Event Coordination. To play a part do get in touch. Then we can make it happen again but better! **Contact:** [festival@downley.org](mailto:festival@downley.org)

**You can also help by providing feedback at [downley.org](http://downley.org) where you will find a link to our online form. Plus our Facebook page is there for your thoughts on all things Downley: [facebook.com/downley.community](https://www.facebook.com/downley.community)**

