



# DOWNLEY COMMUNITY

## Village News



### Features

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

Issue 102 / Mar 2015





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 Garry Almrott, Darrell Litchfield, Steve Harnet,  
 Rob Mackay, and Neil Wood

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## Editorial

At long last there are signs of spring coming to the landscape in Downley. Buds are peeking out and the birds are chirping. I am sure all of the local gardeners are busying themselves to make sure there is a flurry of blossom throughout the summer months. Dog walkers will be relieved to see temperatures lift when on that early morning walk.

Time passes so rapidly and before we know it the second 'UP Festival!' will be upon us. The Festival runs from 20th June to 11th July and offers entertainment and fun for all age ranges. Please keep volunteering ([festival@downley.org](mailto:festival@downley.org)) and getting involved with your local community where you are able. Remember that tickets to the various events can be purchased through the newly refurbished web site [www.downley.org](http://www.downley.org). PayPal is the easiest way to buy your tickets online but there are numerous payment options available. Above all enjoy the 'UP Festival!' as it's organised by you for you.

This issue is crammed with fascinating content provided by local people. The science facts (page 65) will get the grey matter working amongst all of those Scientists in the community. The Artists too as trying to picture nothing takes imagination. Here is a challenge; try drawing it? But remember, does the paper exist? I look forward to reading your answers on the Downley Facebook page.

One last reminder; do not forget to Vote in the General Election. Every Vote helps to shape the political future of this great country of ours.

*Simon Scott Editor*



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## School takes proactive approach to improving road safety

*Parents recently shared concerns over road safety around The Downley School following a steady increase in vehicular traffic in and around the school site, which has led to a number of near misses!*

Based in the village of Downley, the school site is in a residential cul-de-sac and the site is also shared with Maplewood School and Sunshine Montessori Nursery. As you would expect near a school, morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups are a very busy time involving vehicles coming on to the school site and in the neighbouring roads as well as pupils and parents/carers. This increase in the volume of traffic, combined with cars parked on corners and speeding motorists, leads to poor visibility for all users around the school - particularly young children.

According to Think, part of the Department for Transport, around 1400 children aged 0-11 are killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads every year – almost 27 children every week. These shocking figures have galvanised the Safer Routes to School Group at The Downley School to spring into action and really focus on road safety, starting with a week-long campaign to raise awareness of the road hazards around the school and how the school community can really have a positive impact on everyone's safety. As a values-based school, pupils are familiar with values such as consideration, patience, respect, to name a few, and all of which are essential for any road users.

Chris Gentry, Chair of Governors at The Downley School who took part in the week's activities believes, "The safety of our pupils is one of the school's top priorities and the Governors are fully behind the Safer Routes to School Group's work to improve the road

safety in the areas in and around school."

Commenting on the road safety campaign, Police Community Support Officer C8841 Weaver said, "The Downley and Disraeli Neighborhood Policing Team are fully behind the Safer Routes to School initiative that The Downley School has organized. It is really important to raise awareness to parents/carers drivers about the issues that schools face during drop off and pick up times. Lots of children are walking around and are very vulnerable to being



involved in an accident at these busy times. We are working alongside the Downley School and have held assemblies with both key stages to educate the children on the dangers of crossing busy roads and increase their knowledge of road safety. We were present throughout the week to support the Safer Routes to School Group and encourage drivers to park elsewhere rather than outside the school."

*Continued on page 7...*

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...Continued from page 5

Parents/carers received advice including alternative locations within the village as to where they are able to park and walk to school. Children already participate in the Going for Gold scheme which encourages the benefits of walking to school and pupils earn recognition for doing so. The school has also been awarded a Bronze Award for the Modeshift Stars initiative by demonstrating the different ways in which it educates and promotes road safety to the school community.

Sonia Workman, a parent volunteer of the Safer Routes to School Group noted, "The reason for the campaign is that our young people are important and it is up to our school community to keep them safe by raising awareness amongst both pupils and parents/carers. Road safety is a key life skill."

But as with everything, the proof really is in the pudding and after only a week, has road safety behaviour really changed? Sonia goes on to say, "We are really pleased by how the school community has responded and the significant improvement in the reduction of traffic around our school site within a few days. However, road safety is an ongoing initiative, which the Safer Routes to School group will continue to promote passionately. We are well supported by our Parish Council who is assisting us to look at longer term solutions."

### About The Downley School

The Downley School is located in the village of Downley close to High Wycombe and has 423 pupils.

**For more information please contact:  
Sonia Workman  
Safer Routes to School Group  
Sonia969@btinternet.com  
07740165168**

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## Coffee Stop News

*We have had a most enjoyable time since my last epistle. In November Pat organised a coach trip to The Bicester "garden centre" which was a really great day out as well as being a good source of Christmas presents. There was also plenty of time to just sit around and drink coffee and chat which is what we do best.*



At our Christmas event we were also visited by the hygiene inspector, we suspect because of the delicious food and entertainment on offer! Several of our members have attended the course run by the council and we have a four star rating proudly on display. The hot meals will continue until Easter and then for the summer they, and the soup will be discontinued.

Our Christmas event was well supported and this time we were joined by a choir from The Disraeli School who sang sweetly and movingly to us all, they were a delight and luckily we managed to get all the correct coats back to them when they left! As a Christmas present, as they left, each of our customers was given a box of biscuits using the much appreciated legacy of Pauline Seagrove.

Last week most of us gathered for our annual get together lunch at The Harvester. The various Christmas presents that had been given to us were raffled, it seems the fairest way since we are not all on duty at the same time. Thank you very much to the donors – you know who you are!

We've been very fortunate this winter not to have suffered from snow or floods, long may it continue, we've recently had some cheerful sunshine and the snowdrops are coming out, days are getting longer and there is a sense of optimism around. We are a friendly, cheerful group and would love to have more people join us, on either side of the serving hatch, it's a great way to keep in touch with all the things going on in the village as well as just "hanging out" with our friends, to use the youth vernacular! As always, any offers of help are always gratefully received.

Monday mornings at St James' Hall is the place to be from 11am to 1pm

*Ann Buxton*

*01494 522118 pabuxton@hotmail.com*

## DOWNLEY VILLAGE EVENING WI

*2015 starts the year of the WI Centenary. WIs nationality will be holding special events to celebrate this historic year.*

Downley Village Evening's programme for the next few months has speakers booked on the following topics, London that Never Was, The Magistracy, Three Voices of Women, Further Adventures of an Author and The Work of an Auctioneer. The rest of the year is booked more details in the next Village News.

We regularly visit the Swan Theatre, enjoy meals at various pubs and hold social events mid- month in member's homes. Our County Federation go to numerous and interesting locations during the year with pick-up points in H/W.

We try and accommodate all member's tastes and interests to make belonging to DVE an enjoyable, informative and fun evening. Do come along one evening we welcome visitors and potential new members. We meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.45 pm at the Community Centre School Close Downley.

**Details phone Pat 01494 535998 or check out the posters around the village.**

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## The Downley School – January 2015

*Wonderful things continue to happen at The Downley School! There is so much to tell – but I would like to focus on one thing in particular for this article (please look at our website [www.downley.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.downley.bucks.sch.uk) to see all our latest news).*



Those of you who know the school will know that it's a very special place. Every member of staff gives their all, each and every day, striving to make a difference to the lives of our children. From the moment I joined the team, I felt privileged to work within this community and with the most dedicated team of people.

We have really grown together and are extremely proud of our work. Over the last two years we have embraced a 'values based' curriculum. Children, staff, governors and families have focused on a core set of values; all of us contributing to making our school a beacon of respect, positivity, equality, peace, kindness and so many more values.

Visitors instantly comment on the wonderful 'feel' of the school and we always receive excellent feedback from organisations when our children visit places on school trips.

'Character building' is currently in the news and high on the government's agenda – but we have been focussing on this for a long time now. In fact we were incredibly proud to be awarded the International Values Based Education Trust's quality mark last May, as well as becoming a 'Beacon Peaceful School' in December. That's quite something in this day and age – with the world around us in a chaotic state!

As we move into the future, we would very much like to deepen our understanding of values and, as well as exploring them through work in school and our homes, we would like to work with different people or groups within the local community.

We would like to welcome many more people into school. To work with people who have a skill to share, stories to tell about something they are passionate about, or just to spend time with us in the classrooms. Individuals, groups, organisations, businesses – we really want to hear from them all.

But we would also love to get out into the community more – visiting places and people, learning about where we live, the people and the environment we are a part of. To recognise and to help to create value! We would hope to inspire you and to be inspired by you!

If you would like to come into school or work with us in any capacity, please contact me via the School Office ([office@downley.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@downley.bucks.sch.uk)).

I'd love to hear from you!



*Mrs Webb, Headteacher*

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## Downley Gardening Society

*Just take a look at our programme for 2015. It's unbeatable!!*

We have very good speakers on various topics associated with our love for gardening and the presentations are followed by tea, coffee and biscuits and plenty of friendly chat which all makes for a very pleasant evening.

As spring arrives we will be visiting blooming gardens and organising coach trips for the summer months in 2015.

Don't miss out on the evening visit to a local garden where we enjoy tea and cakes and in most cases the host donates the entry fee to a particular charity which is rather nice. Downley Day is an event we support by having a stall at which we sell a variety of plants donated by our

members and this in itself gives great pleasure knowing we are doing our bit for the village. All this is on offer for just an annual subscription of £8 per household and £5 senior citizens.

Come and join us, we are not experts just a friendly group of gardeners enjoying our society.

Give me a call on HW524622 or just turn up at one of our meetings where you will be most welcome.

**Please see the centre pages for all of our upcoming events, times and dates.**

*Ken Thompson*

## Downley Evening WI

*Well, I hope you've all managed to avoid the various bugs and lurgies that have been plaguing us through the holiday season.*

Christmas and the festivities of the New Year seem a long way off already, don't they? But Downley Evening WI shared some lovely celebrations, I must say, beginning in early December with our annual evening of Christmas music and readings courtesy of Angelicus.

Since the turn of the year, we've had a fascinating time with Graham Laurie who told us about Roald Dahl's early life, before he became the famous children's author, and particularly about his wartime activities as a pilot and intelligence gatherer. Our speaker on February 10th is Peter Hague, a National Trust volunteer, who is going to tell us about West Wycombe Park and the Dashwoods. We're all looking forward to that.

March sees us celebrating our 52nd birthday with our annual birthday party – a closed meeting, I'm afraid! But everyone's welcome to join us in April when we'll be having a talk about Lip Reading and Deafness. As a linguist and former languages teacher, I'm quite excited about that. Further ahead, we have a talk coming up about travelling in Malaysia. Our programme is nothing if not varied!

**So why not come along and give it a try? You can be sure of a warm welcome, a laugh and some good cake!**

**For further information, call Frances on HW 524835.**





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## News from Downley Pharmacy

### In support of Love Your Gloves

Do your hands always feel cold? Do your hands and fingers sometimes go blue or white and then red and sore?

This is the title of a campaign during February to raise awareness of Raynaud's phenomenon. This is a very common condition that is estimated to affect over 10 million people in the UK. For some it is no more than a nuisance but it can also be severe interfering with one's daily life.

A Raynaud's attack may occur upon exposure to the cold or even a slight change of temperature. The fingers and/or toes can change colour due to restriction of blood flow. There are three colour changes, white when the blood is prevented from reaching the small blood vessels, bluish when the blood has become deoxygenated as it is not circulating correctly, and the red when circulation is restored. Not everyone has all three colour changes, the white phase which comes first is the most significant.

Treatment of Raynaud's is a challenge, drug intervention is not always required with many patients using methods to keep warm. Drug therapy which gives symptomatic relief rather than a cure is indicated for those suffering intense pain or functional impairment. Response to the drugs is variable and often more than one type maybe tried before success is achieved.

Methods that can be helpful to avoid attacks in fluctuating temperatures include:

- Avoid touching cold surfaces and objects.
- Carry gloves to wear when visiting the cold/frozen food aisles of supermarkets.
- A hairdryer (or hot air hand dryer in public toilets) is useful for warming hands, clothes and shoes.
- Use a shoulder bag or shopping trolley rather than bags with handles to prevent restriction of blood flow to the fingers.
- Carry handwarmers with you.
- When watching television place a hot water bottle behind your back or under your feet.
- A good way to warm hands (or feet) is to fill a box with polystyrene packaging and put your hands in.

**If you require further information on this topic  
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Email: [enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk)

Save the journey into town and  
join your Local Community Library,  
Old School Community Centre,  
School Close

## Library Opening Times

**Mondays 10-12 noon**

**Thursdays 3-5 pm**

**Saturdays 10-12 noon**



The library will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June this year and the committee would like to thank all those Downley residents who have supported it. A small celebration will be held, probably during the "UP festival." We would like to see more use made of our facilities, So come on you Downley folk, as it says at the top of the page "support your local voluntary library." It was, after all, set up at your request!

The library now holds information folders on all the Downley men who died during the First World War. Anyone interested in looking through them will be welcome during opening hours. We will also try to arrange an electronic version of the folders.

## 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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## 10 Years

*The idea of a library was born when the Parish Council sent a questionnaire round the village asking what amenities villagers would like to have. A library was well up the list of suggestions. After some investigation of other volunteer run libraries, usually tied to county systems, it was decided to run the library separately from the county due to the setup and running costs.*

Initially the books available at the opening of the library were either donated locally, or came from the Iain Rennie Hospice bookshop in Castle Street that was in the process of closing down. We were very lucky in that we had plenty of help from the community in sorting the books we had been given, a long table was set up in the Oak room with cheerful working parties sorting and preparing the books for installation onto the computer program we use. The Parish Council also helped in providing a sum of money to enable us to purchase both fiction and non-fiction books which we used to establish the children's section of the library.

Early on we were very lucky in that Castlefield School was refurbishing their library and we were able to obtain all their old shelving, the cost of new would have been prohibitive. A group of volunteers descended on Castlefield to dismantle and transport the bookshelves to the community centre, where DOSCA had them reassembled, including the counter which also came from Castlefield, this was later replaced with our purpose built one thanks to the Parish Council. We obtained our movable bookcases from county at no cost since they were surplus to requirement.

In addition to the books we also were able to purchase three computers and a printer thanks to the Parish Council and our local district councillors; two of the computers are for the use of members of the public. The third computer enables the library to keep track of the books.

Now our library looked like the real thing, we were up and running and this year will be our 10th Anniversary. All this could not have happened without help from the Parish Council, local Councillors and DOSCA, but most of all our small group of loyal volunteers who have manned the library over the years. We are always looking for new volunteers to replace those who have fallen by the wayside for whatever reason.

We are always glad of donations of books, especially those that are relatively new, so if you were given one for Christmas or birthday and having now read it please think of your community library!

Thanks to all the help we have received from the community when we started and since, we have made it to this our 10th anniversary year.

*Sandra Morris*

## Book Club in Downley

*We meet monthly on a Tuesday evening in our houses over a glass of wine and a few nibbles.*

The meetings last about 2 hours and are very informal. Recently we have read *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, C J Sansom's *Dissolution*, Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, Eeny Meeny by M J Arlidge and Ann Widdicombe's *The Clematis Tree* - quite a mixture of styles and genres.

*Sue Smith 01494 443493*



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## St.James dialog

*I'm writing this the day after our well attended and successful Burns Night Quiz, and to say a huge THANK YOU to all who attended, we made nearly a £1,000 for Church Funds, and we had a great deal of fun and laughter too!*

The Quiz and its organisation kept us on our toes and gave us something to look forward to once Christmas and New Year were over.

Now on the 2nd of February we celebrate Candlemas, which is 40 days after the birth of Jesus, this is when Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple to give thanks to God for their child. By tradition this is seen as the last day of Christmas and we now turn our heads and hearts towards Lent and Easter.

It's strange this year, because there are only 16 days between Candlemas and the beginning of Lent. One minute we are celebrating Jesus' birth and the next we are looking towards His death. It reminds me of a Conference I

attended a few years ago entitled 'From the Cradle to the Grave', where, we Ministers were given resources for Christenings and Funerals. I'm aware that you will be reading this only a few weeks before Easter. So just a timely reminder that we Ministers are there for you not just for Christenings of Funerals, but anytime you need a helping hand or an ear to listen. You know what they say a problem shared is a problem halved. May you all know the love and grace of God this Easter and beyond.

*Love and Blessings, Revd Alison Finch*

**Please see the centre pages for our Holy Week & Easter Services at St James**

## Downley Community Centre Building Refurbishment

The Centre has now completed all essential work on the roof over the old Victorian school part of the building. A new roof, modern insulation and the installation of modern roof lights and flashings will all ensure much improved energy efficiency for the future whilst maintaining the essential character of the Centre.

We have also enhanced the building at the front with the completion of the new front porch. Our special thanks go to our outside sponsors for contributing substantially to the cost of this work. These are; Veolia who contributed the major part of the finance for the roof. Thanks also to County Councillor Wendy Mallen who made the funding of the porch possible.



*The Downley Community Centre Committee.*



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[jillburrell@rocketmail.com](mailto:jillburrell@rocketmail.com)



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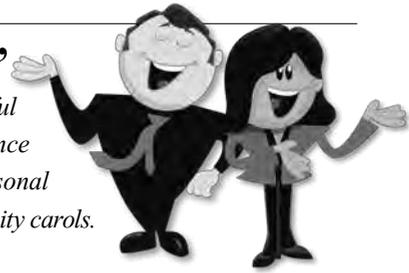
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## Downley Descants are... “Alright”

*Another year starts with the memories of a hugely successful Christmas concert still fresh in our minds. A packed audience at St James' Church enjoyed a varied selection of both seasonal and ordinary pieces and enthusiastically joined in the community carols.*



The most positive feedback we had was for the pantomime (if you were there you will see the significance of the headline) several people were noticed with tears in their eyes at the comedy and the sight of six members of the choir in fancy dress performing a potted version of Cinderella. We hope it did not overshadow the musical pieces as we thought our performance was one of our best. But then we are a little biased I suppose! On the strength of our concert we were able to donate £550 to two local charities, which made all the preparation and stress worthwhile.

We started our new term in January and are preparing for our next concert at the War Memorial Hall on March 7th, which will include some old favourites and some new

items, but probably not a pantomime. We then look forward to the summer with Downley Day and the Up Festival. Then we concentrate on Christmas again, how time flies when you are enjoying yourself! Enjoying yourself really sums up Downley Descants because that's what we do every Thursday night, during school term time, at Sunnybank Church, Moor Lane starting at 8pm.

**We are always looking for new members so why not give us a free trial for two weeks to decide if the choir is for you. Contact Lyn on: 01494 436063 or: [grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk) for more details.**

## Did you know that Guiding & Scouting is flourishing in Downley!

We have over 200 young people meeting every week at our Centre, ages ranging from 5 – 18. If you With such a great range of activities on offer it is a tremendous opportunity for our Young People to learn many new skills including Leadership and Personal Development.

### Timetable

*Mon Eve* - 2nd Downley Rainbows (5-7 yrs)  
3rd Downley Brownies (7-10 yrs)  
1st Downley Guides ( 10-14 yrs)  
Downley Rangers (14 yrs+)

*Tues Eve* - 2nd Downley Guides (10-14 yrs)

*Wed Eve* - 9th High Wycombe Beavers (6-8 yrs)  
Cubs (8-10 yrs) & Scouts (10-14 yrs)

*Friday Eve* - 3rd High Wycombe Beavers (6-8 yrs)  
Cubs (8-10 yrs) & Scouts (10-14 yrs)

If you would like your child to join us then contact the email address at the bottom of this page – there may be spaces available.

**Leaders, are you interested in working with Young People?** Perhaps you were in the Movement when you were young- would you like to give something back?

There is lots of support and training given – give it a try. It is so worthwhile and is tremendous FUN!

**Contact me on 01494 530736 or email: [Margaret.stagg@tesco.net](mailto:Margaret.stagg@tesco.net)**

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# Chameleon Singles Group

*The New Year began well for the group with a full programme for January & February. This is often the time people are more reluctant to go out so our hosts have made that special effort to ensure some attractive and well attended events. While predominately indoor events we planned in a couple of walks and also a trip out to the Rebellion Brewery.*



Our regular events each month include the Lunch Club on the first and the Pub Night on the last Friday of each month. The Lunch Club as the name suggests offers a chance to meet up for a light lunch while the pub night is an evening event held at The Crown in Hazlemere where food is also available. Our “Meet & Greet” evenings which we ran last year are currently not taking place during the winter but we plan to have something new over the lighter and warmer summer months.

Several of our members are interested in live music, cinema and theatre and when there is something of common interest we try to book up as a group. We regularly visit Dusty’s Blues Club at Holmer Green Sports Club which has some creditable performances for such a local venue. Events over the last few months include a Take-away evening at home, Coffee Morning and a Pancake evening to mention just a few. There is always a



lot going on with around seven different events each month. All events both at home or at a local venue are organised by members acting as hosts. To them all we are very grateful as without organisers there would be no Chameleon.

All our events are open to new members with the Pub Night a great place to meet up. You would be very welcome to come along and join us for a drink on the last Friday of the month at The Crown, Amersham Road, Hazlemere from 8pm. There is food available if you wish to eat and many members take that opportunity to skip the cooking at home!

**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 great 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  
and Joyce 01494 817895 or e-mail:  
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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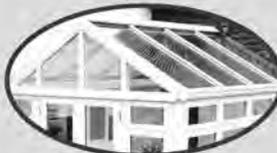
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Keep up with what's on and download our menu on our website.  
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# Disraeli Downley Youth Club

AGM – 8 pm Monday 23rd March

St. James Side Room

*The good news is the Youth Club is now in its fifth year of providing a resource for local young people to meet together and to enjoy outings and activities. can be easy to miss these things.*

Recent activities have included an Adventure Day at Longridge, Badminton and 10-pin bowling sessions. The members are now looking forward to lighter evenings when they can get to do outside activities.

The bad news is that the Youth Steering Group is still struggling to find willing volunteers prepared to give an occasional couple of hours to help our excellent Youth Club Leader. Further bad news is the present financial dilemma - although we believe this may be solved by some further small grant appeals and some fundraising. It is hoped to hold a Fun

Quiz in March – please look out for the date.

Please consider giving some help to the present very small number of people keeping the Club open – the sad alternative is the closure of the Youth Club.

**Please be in touch with either the Chairman:**

**Patrick Crotty on 07711 107975**

**email: Patrick@crotty.co.uk**

**Secretary:**

**Margaret Williams on 07743088009**

**email : m-williams26@sky.com**

## ***JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN - ANSWERS ON PAGE 65***

**Cross that bridge when you come to it.**

**[An unrealistic scenario to bridge the gap between fun and maths – for those who think there is such a gap.]**

**Four people, Jenny, Kevin, Liam and Milly, need to cross a bridge, at night time, on foot. The bridge will only hold the weight of two of them at a time, and they need the one torch they have for each journey as it is somewhat rickety (the bridge, not the torch). The need for the torch means that after any two have crossed one will need to return the torch to the other side, until all four are across. They can only ever cross at the speed of the slowest person crossing at that time, no carrying each other across is possible because – well because those are the rules of this maths problem.**

**Jenny can cross the bridge in 1 minute.**

**Kevin can cross it in 2 minutes.**

**Liam can cross it in 5 minutes.**

**Milly will take 8 minutes, because she is, unsurprisingly given the state of the bridge, nervous.**

**What is the shortest time it will take to get all four across the bridge, and what order would they cross in to achieve this?**



**BY JILL BURRELL**

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# Responding to your needs

## A digital makeover at Downley.org

*For those of you that are regular visitors to Downley.org, you may have noticed a bit of a facelift, first launched in 2011 at Downley Day, the website has been providing information to the community, regular news, events, local service listings and monthly enews publications.*

Things change though as we are all aware, new ideas, directions and ways of presenting information have to move with the times, We have been busy beavering away behind the scenes, creating, coding, upgrading and above all listening, yes we have taken on board your comments, criticism and suggestions, although we haven't been able to include all the suggestions, we have added and changed about 90% of them. We may need some time and help with the other 10%.

### What's New?

A new smarter design enables a better user experience, many users found the darker background hard to read and distracting. We kept the images of Downley and the artwork and are looking for more images to feature, more on that later.

The seasonal themes have changed, as some of the colours were not so readable, the colours of the logo button and the background images are the only elements to remain.

The Listings are now more informative and if there is additional information the 'read more' link will appear.

The download listings are now descriptive and each section has its own relevant downloads.

Booking form, Social feeds, News, Events, Special Notices, Newsletter signup and so much more in the future are more accessible

The website has been upgraded to be faster and more flexible.

A new feedback section is now available to gather your thoughts on what you would like to see on the website and in the village, you submit the question/suggestion and we make sure the right person sees it.

The website is also now responsive and mobile ready.

So you see we are busy working away for better communications to the village and we have so much more to do, but that's another story...

*Mark Starkey*



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

**Sweaty Betties**  
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# Celebrate Spring at The Downley Makers' Market

*Thanks to everyone who came along to support the 2nd Downley Makers' Christmas Market last November – we had a record number of lovely customers through the door and all our makers reported great sales.*



It was quite overwhelming to see The Memorial Hall so packed – especially on what was a miserable wet day. If you came and bought – thank you so much! We really do appreciate everyone who comes along to our markets – you wouldn't believe the scary feeling we get the night before an event when we wonder "Will they come?"

This year we were proud to welcome quite a few visitors from outside of the area who had made the trip especially for the market. We reckoned we could always tell if we had a 'newbie' to Downley as they said things like "It's quite high up here isn't it?" Having said that – we have



always intended that the markets should be first and foremost a resource for Downley – and we're hoping to see lots of you – familiar faces and first-timers - at our spring market on Saturday 28th March – that's the Saturday before the Easter weekend – so save the date!

As I write we are currently facing the tricky task of allocating tables to eager makers. We try to put together a mix of local makers and people from further afield so that you the customers have plenty of choice. For the spring market this year at least 50% of our makers will be new – so even if you've come to one of our previous events before you're sure to find something fresh and different to tempt you. Whether you're shopping for Easter treats, birthday presents,

wedding gifts, homewares or a lovely present for yourself come along and discover a wealth of local creative talent.

You can find out more about The Downley Makers' Market on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/TheDownleyMakersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/TheDownleyMakersMarket) We now have getting on for 500 'likers' – most of whom live locally and believe in supporting small local business – the page is a great place for networking with other makers or potential buyers so if you're a maker please drop us a line there and we will share your work and do our very best to promote what you do. You can also email us at:

**[downleymakersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:downleymakersmarket@gmail.com)**

We will be hoping to hold our markets at The Downley Memorial Hall for the foreseeable future as we love it there! It's such an atmospheric venue in the heart of the village and while we could certainly fill a much larger hall with stallholders we feel that the market's location is part of its charm and success. Your continued support will ensure that we can keep putting on markets that help local makers reach a wider audience. So see you there!





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# Downley Diary events

*Your pull out section to what's on in the village.  
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the big annual events, you'll find them all here!*

CLUBS societies show NO art starts BOOKS  
GO you display exercise people  
DATE TALES GIG FETE 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 10.30am - 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,” who come together to create the DVN need more volunteers to deliver the DVN magazines around the distribution area within Downley. Normally this consists of one street or part of one if the street is very long. It takes only about an hour of your time. At the moment we have no reserve volunteers to cover for holidays or sickness.

**Please get in touch with Teresa or Des Ryan  
on H.W. 520938 or e-mail at [desmond.ryan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:desmond.ryan@tiscali.co.uk).  
Thank you in advance.**

**Words for the Wounded are holding a LITFEST DAY at Downley Community Centre on 18th April 10.00 - 5.00 to raise funds for the recovery of wounded troops.**

Margaret Graham of Downley, founder of WforW and author, will be in conversation with KATIE FFORDE. We will have two Midsomer Murder writers, as well as Penny Deacon, crime writer, Sarah Taylor of the Kate Nash Literary Agency, and a self-publishing panel.

The fee is £50 including lunch with a glass of wine, and refreshments, and a chance to network and chat to the authors.

**For tickets and information: [www.wordsforthewounded.co.uk](http://www.wordsforthewounded.co.uk)  
or email: [administrator@wordsforthewounded.co.uk](mailto:administrator@wordsforthewounded.co.uk) or contact Margaret on 01494 630713**

The WforW writing competitions will close on 11 March 2015. If you have self-published a book, or like to write poetry, short fiction or memoir we have competitions for you.  
[www.wordsforthewounded.co.uk](http://www.wordsforthewounded.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 (Chettina Masters) can be contacted on 01494 444683**

**Or by email at : [downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)**

**Downley Orchard**

The Downley orchard is a small orchard next to the allotments in Mannings Field and has several fruit trees and a nut tree.

We are currently looking for a local person to look after the orchard.

If you would like more information then please contact Sonia at [downleyconnect@btinternet.com](mailto:downleyconnect@btinternet.com)

**Are you able and interested in working with Young People in Downley?**

Two of our local facilities are looking for assistance Downley Guides and Stouts (see page 23), contact:  
**Margaret Stagg on 01494 530736**  
**email: [Margaret.stagg@tesco.net](mailto:Margaret.stagg@tesco.net)**

Disraeli Downley Youth Club (see page 27), contact:  
**Patrick Crotty on 07711 107975**  
**email: [Patrick@crotty.co.uk](mailto:Patrick@crotty.co.uk)**

**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. 444683 OR via "e" mail to [downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)

**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.**

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

- Mar**
- 1 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy
  - 7 Downley Descants in Concert At the War Memorial Hall - 7.30pm
  - 10 Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall
  - 14 Live music from 'This, That and The Other' at Le De Spencers Arms - 9pm
  - 16 Gardening Society talk at St James Hall - 'Animal Architecture' by John Tyler - 8pm
  - 21 Steak Night at The Le De Spencers - 4.30pm/9.30pm
  - 27 Live music from 'Alan Luck and his band' at Le De Spencers Arms - 9pm
  - 29 St James Church Palm Sunday Holy Communion - 11am
  - 30 Through to 1 April St James Church Compline & Meditation - 7.30pm
- April**
- 2 St James Church Maundy Thursday Agape meal & Holy Communion with feet washing
  - 3 St James Church Good Friday Stations of the Cross - 12 noon
  - 4 St James Church Holy Saturday Children's Easter picnic
  - 5 St James Church Easter Day Holy Communion - 11am
  - 5 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy
  - 14 Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre
  - 18 Words for the Wounded LitFest Day Downley Community Centre - 10am/5pm
  - 20 Gardening Society talk at St James Hall - 'Seasonal Plants' by Edwin Rye - 8pm
- May**
- 3 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy
  - 5 Rogation Day Walk - Meet at the War Memorial Hall
  - 12 Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall

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# News from Wycombe and Westminster

**Steve Baker MP**

*Readers of Downley Village News will know the local health service is my top local concern. I have spent many hours speaking-up for local people and trying to get the services they would like at Wycombe Hospital.*



None of us can have missed stories in the national papers about waiting times at A&E during the Christmas and New Year period. I understand that locally in Bucks there were very few people turning-up inappropriately at A&E, although there was a slight increase overall in those coming to hospital over previous years.

One issue which drives people towards using emergency hospital services and A&E is the difficulty they often encounter with getting an appointment with their local GP and therefore their condition worsens before they get appropriate help. I feel this only underlines my view that there should be a casualty unit staffed by GPs at Wycombe Hospital where people can simply turn-up and be seen out of normal hours and given the treatment and reassurance they need. This view was echoed by the Secretary of State for Health recently in the Commons, when he said “I have visited my hon. Friend’s local hospital. I commend him for his interest and I commend the hospital for the remarkable turnaround. From being a hospital in special measures, it has done extremely well. We want to implement the proposals in that review [the NHS Five Year Forward View] and we want also to make sure that for the oldest and frailest people there are alternatives that mean that they do not have to visit hospital.”

Turning to my work in the House of Commons, I should like to tell you about a debate I led on money creation and society towards the end of last year. When I was preparing for this I was amazed to learn the subject had not been discussed in Parliament at any length since 1844 when Robert Peel was Prime Minister under Queen Victoria.

The subject appeals to MPs from across the political spectrum: my debate was supported by Caroline Lucas (Green), Michael Meacher (Labour), David Davis (Con) and Douglas Carswell (UKIP).

It is a fact that banks create money when they lend and that caused a huge credit boom, tripling the money supply under the last Government. No society can do that without profound consequences, and these consequences are with us today: a bloated financial system with too few restraints on bankers’ conduct, houses priced at levels which too many can’t afford, and an economy biased towards London and the South East which in turn puts pressure on public services.

Evidence shows that in this country there is a hard limit to how much the public will pay in taxation. If all political parties are committed to balancing the books, it will be necessary to take overall Government spending down to the level that people will pay in tax, and there is a historical limit; depending on how we measure GDP, it is somewhere between 35% and 40% of GDP. At the moment, debt interest is already forecast to overtake education spending. This is the nub of the problem. Balancing the books means Government living within tax payers’ means. There is no kindness whatsoever in making to those in need attractive promises that subsequently cannot be kept. That is not kind; it is cruel.

The UK has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, and figures show an increase in the number of people in employment.

*Continued on page 39...*

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...Continued from page 37

However, there is still much to do to address the underlying deficit and the Chancellor's work is not yet done. My work on the Treasury Select Committee in Parliament seeks to

address these issues and to provide long-term prosperity for everyone.

*Steve Baker, MP*

**01494 448408**  
**steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk**

## News from the District

*Local residents remain satisfied with the way Wycombe District Council runs things and provides value for money, a recent district-wide survey has revealed.*

Cllr Richard Scott, Leader of Wycombe District Council, commented:

“Against a national backdrop where satisfaction with councils is decreasing, we’re pleased to have maintained local residents’ confidence in how we run things at Wycombe District Council. While it is good news that residents have high levels of satisfaction with a number of our services, particularly the enhanced recycling collections, we aren’t complacent and know that there are further improvements that we can make to other services, albeit within our limited resources. It was reassuring, however, that the survey confirmed that we are focusing our efforts on things that local people want improving, such as a new sports and leisure centre and regenerating High Wycombe town centre. We’re working hard to deliver the quality services that local residents have come to expect from us and through our “people” priority, we will continue to improve the way we engage with and listen to our residents and other key stakeholders.”

Construction of the new spine road/green corridor running from the town centre through to Hughenden Avenue is due to start in the Spring. The road is a key part of the improvement and regeneration of the old CompAir site which will soon provide employment, housing and social care on this derelict area of Wycombe. The new sports

and leisure centre continues to move ahead, with the Waitrose building and the new coach way/park & ride structures on the same site now also taking shape. It seems incredible that it was nearly four years ago that the vision for Handy Cross was still at the drawing board stage, and we are now seeing that vision take shape.

Wycombe District Council is again setting a balanced budget with no increase in the District portion of the Council Tax bill. Following a clean audit of the 2013/14 accounts the District returned a surplus which is being invested in projects which will aid economic re-generation, businesses and job creation. Setting a balanced budget in future years will be challenging, but your District Council is already looking ahead to better ways of working, investing in the future economic prosperity of Wycombe, and as always striving to make Wycombe District a better place to live.



*Best wishes, Paul*

**Cllr Paul Turner**  
**Downley & Plomer Hill**  
**07825 842292**  
**paul\_turner@wycombe.gov.uk**

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# Downley Girl in Hollywood

*Following Downley girl, Lianna Liew's major film debut in Hollywood, she agreed to be interviewed exclusively for Downley Village News.*

*Where in Downley did you used to live, did you go to school there?*

Near the common. I didn't go to school in Downley as I grew up in Stokenchurch. I later went to Wycombe High School.

*What are your favourite memories of Downley?*

Family. A lot of my family live in Downley so I miss being able to see them regularly. I remember how happy I was to leave when I first came over to the US. I felt like I needed to get away and it was an exciting fresh start for me. It still is this crazy new life where I'm finally building and shaping my career, but I do get pretty homesick. I miss my family so much and the peace and quiet of Downley.

*Did you always want to act? What was your earliest influence?*

No, I haven't always wanted to act. I used to want to be a vet, then a chef, and it wasn't until I was about 14 when I realised acting was my calling (if I was an actor I could be anything I wanted, I could be a vet and a chef!)

I may not have realised it at the time, it only became clear to me very recently, but my grandfather was probably my very earliest influence. I think he planted the seed in my mind when he encouraged us [the grandchildren] to put on a little show at Christmas times. I always loved entertaining the family and into our teens these performance evolved to family bands as we all developed our music skills.

*When and what made you go to the US? Why did you go to AADA instead of in the UK?*

I was in a point in my life where there was nothing keeping me in one place. After playing the lead in my first short film I knew I swayed more towards the screen than the stage and Los Angeles is the heart of that industry.

The American Academy is the oldest sustained drama school in the English-speaking world and their campus sits right in the centre of Hollywood, where Charlie Chaplin's studio once stood. Their alumni include Paul Rudd, Kim Cattrall, Danny DeVito, and Grace Kelly, to name a few. I believed this was where I really needed to be in order to receive the best training and insight on acting for the screen and springboard into the film and television industry.

*What was your first acting role and whom did you act with, who was the director?*

My very first role was as Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol at my primary school – Ha! My first film role was a lead in the short film, Truth or Dare, which was produced by The Lane End Players. But the first role I had where I really understood what it took to become a character and where I applied that knowledge was as Susy Hendrix in Wait Until Dark, directed by Jules Aaron.



*Continued on page 43...*

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*Continued from page 41...*

*How easy was it to get your first film role? Did you have to audition for many parts or did it come quite quickly?*

Ha-ha, I wish it came quickly! It's never easy in this industry. It's always just a case of getting out there and auditioning as much as you possibly can, and then you have to forget about an audition as soon as it's over, otherwise your emotions will get the better of you. I couldn't tell you how many auditions I went to before I landed my current role as Elle in *Other Halves*, and I have no idea how much I've auditioned since. However, I do have another job lined up when I finish filming *Other Halves*, and that's the best thing any actor can hope for.

*What would you advise to young people in Downley who want to get into movies?*

Know that this is 100% what you want to do. If there's any other field you're considering then acting isn't for you, an actor is an actor because there is simply no other job that would make him/her happy.

If that's you, then training is the first step, stage school is a great starting point and I also started at the Wycombe Swan Youth Theatre. We're so privileged in High Wycombe to have the Wycombe Swan, and I give great credit to the Youth Theatre for exhibiting a true professional environment. I'd also say, read plays, read lots and lots of plays. Understand different writers and their different writing styles, form your own opinion of the texts you read – your English teacher isn't trying to make your life hard.

*What would you like to achieve in the future? Do more movies, try going into theatre, be Governor of California?*

You know, Schwarzenegger banned pet ferrets in the State of California, truly momentous stuff!

Seriously though, I'd like to get some work in television, a little guest or recurring role would do me just fine for now. I'd love to do more movies as well. Theatre's great but unfortunately it just doesn't pay the bills.

*Do you ever come to the UK. When will we see you back in Downley?*

I was actually in Downley over Christmas. It was the first Christmas at home in 3 years. It was lovely, I was so happy to be back and I got to see all my family! Nothing beats a proper British Christmas! I'm not sure when I'll be back again, but I'm aiming for summer 2016

*What amusing experience would you relate if you went on a chat show?*

So, on Hollywood Boulevard there are a lot of street performers and people dressed as iconic movie characters – e.g. Darth Vader, Batman, Spiderman, various incarnations of Johnny Depp, Wonder Woman etc... and of course Superman.

Now along Hollywood Boulevard there's a supermarket called Fresh & Easy, it's actually owned by Tesco (so I can get my HP sauce and Baked Beans there ;D). One day during my first year in LA, I was shopping in Fresh & Easy, and who should I see also trawling the aisles? - only Superman, basket in hand, browsing the shelves of the yoghurt section. And when I went to the self-checkout, there he was again in front of me, all suited and booted, casually scanning his items. I still kick myself for not thinking to snap a picture. It's definitely something you don't see everyday and definitely something missing from Downley's new mini Morrisons!

**Find me on Twitter @LiannaLiew or my website: [www.liannaliew.com](http://www.liannaliew.com)**

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**TUESDAYS** Downley Methodist Church Hall,  
 Moor Lane, Downley HP13 5YP

19.00 - 19.30 - Body Blast  
 19.30 - 20.00 - INSANITY  
 20.15 - 21.00 - \*Fitness Pilates

\* these classes are run as blocks in line with school terms

**WEDNESDAY** St James Church Hall,  
 Plomer Hill HP13 5NB

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 09.55 - 10.25 - Total Body Conditioning

**SATURDAY** St James Church Hall,  
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## Up! Scarecrows

*Everybody loved them last year! Up! Downley Village Festival 2015 Needs Your Scarecrows again so it's your chance to use your imagination and create your own scarecrow to represent your club, school, business or just for fun (though we are planning for a scarecrow trophy this year).*

We had over 30 pop up in 2014 so let's see how many we can bring to life this year - we want to populate the village with scarecrows (with those in the best position holding UP! Downley Village Festival 2015 signs).

The aim is to have them in place the week prior to the festival for maximum publicity. Last year we saw them in shop windows, on hedges and garage roofs promoting the Festival so now's your chance to be inventive!

We would love to see your photos of work in progress and the end results! Email [festival@downley.org](mailto:festival@downley.org) or like [facebook.com/Downley.Community](https://www.facebook.com/Downley.Community) and post them there.

Thanks to Wye Residential our official scarecrow sponsors.



## Festival Volunteering Anyone?

*The Up! Downley Village Festival 2014 surpassed everybody's expectations and was a huge success with many highlights from the birth of the Scarecrows to the massive crowds turning up to the quiz etc.*

Feedback showed that over 85% of people felt that the Festival made them more aware of what goes on in and around the village and many commented that it provoked a fantastic community feel in Downley that they hadn't experienced before. The new Festival committee (Chairman Les Root) had to decide whether it could possibly support a 2015 Festival and decided that it just couldn't 'say no'!

As we approach the Festival there are many opportunities for volunteers to help out, so if you would like to join us in setting up venues, putting up signage, making teas and many other essential jobs we would love to hear from you!

**Please Email: [festival@downley.org](mailto:festival@downley.org)  
or call Sue Hannaford (Secretary) on:  
01494 440114 or 07979797712**

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## Art Show & Crafts Fair

*Are you Arty? You don't have to be Van Gogh - if you haven't previously exhibited a drawing, painting, poem, photograph, sculpture or other example of your handiwork in the Downley Art Show - this is the year to start! Every year we have had over 170 exhibits shown by new and returning artists (there is no age limit).*



Downley gave last year's Village Art Show a warm welcome with over 50 people viewing the exhibition every evening. The quality of work is always impressive and everybody enjoys soaking up the atmosphere - so start thinking about your entry! We know there is masses of talent and creativity in and around Downley so don't be shy - show us yours!

The deadline for submission of entry forms will be the first week of June - full details on how to receive the forms etc. will soon be available on the website and in the next edition of the Downley Village News.



The Up! Downley Village Festival 2015 Craft Fair presents the perfect opportunity to sell your handmade items or to visit, admire and buy locally produced crafts over a cup of tea and homemade cake! This will take place on the final day of the Art Show, Saturday 11th July.

**If you would like to sell your own handmade craft items please contact Les early to book a table.**  
**Email: [festival@downley.org](mailto:festival@downley.org)**



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## The Programme is Taking Shape

*As you can see below the UP! Downley Village Festival 2015 programme is filling up nicely with the popular pre-existing events; Downley Day, Concert on the Common and the Art Show holding it all together.*

The programme will feature new outdoor activities 'The fascinating world of Downley Common' and 'The Gruffalo Walk', making the most of our unique countryside as well as the return of three successes from last year; Popular Classics, Mike Dewey's Talk and the Beer and Cheese Festival.

**Look out for Information on:**  
**festival.downley.org**  
**facebook.com/DownleyCommunity**

**Want to take part or have a question?**  
**Contact: festival@downley.org**

### Up! Downley Village Festival 2015 *This is a draft programme which will evolve*

- |             |             |  |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| <b>June</b> | <b>12</b>   | SCARECROWS - Start to appear and take residents during the festival        |
|             | <b>19</b>   | FAMILY DISCO - Marquee on Commons side from 7pm                            |
|             | <b>20</b>   | DOWNLEY DAY - on Commons side from 1pm/5pm - stalls, displays and more     |
|             | <b>20</b>   | CELIDH BAND - A hooley in the marquee on Commons side from 7pm             |
|             | <b>21</b>   | 5K FUN RUN - Starts from the marquee on Commons side from 10am             |
|             | <b>21</b>   | GUITAR RECITAL BY DAVE CUMMINGS - Memorial Hall 7.30pm                     |
|             | <b>22</b>   | ART ON THE COMMON - Capture the landscape - Commons side 10am/12pm         |
|             | <b>23</b>   | VILLAGE WORKOUT - Marquee on Commons side from 5pm/6.30pm                  |
|             | <b>25</b>   | COMEDY ON THE 'COMMONSIDE' - Marquee on Commons side from 8pm              |
|             | <b>26</b>   | DOWNLEY DESCANTS CONCERT - Our Villgae Choir at Maplewood School           |
|             | <b>27</b>   | DOWNLEY'S GOT TALENT - Taking the stage in the marquee on Commons side     |
|             | <b>28</b>   | GRUFFALO CHILDREN'S EVENT - Starting from Commons side 2pm/5pm             |
|             | <b>28</b>   | OPEN GARDENS - Around the Village - Starting at the Memorial Hall 2pm/5pm  |
| <b>July</b> | <b>3/5</b>  | BEER & CHEESE FESTIVAL - Le De Spencers Arms - A treat for the taste buds  |
|             | <b>4</b>    | CABARET EVENING - Song and dance at the Memorial Hall 8pm/1030pm           |
|             | <b>6/11</b> | ART SHOW - Local talent on display in the Community Centre nightly 6pm/9pm |
|             | <b>7</b>    | THE FASINATING WORLD OF DOWNLEY COMMON - see ad below                      |
|             | <b>8</b>    | CREATIVE WRITING WITH MARGARET GRAHAM - Library 7pm/8pm                    |
|             | <b>9</b>    | MIKE DEWEY'S TALK - Memorial Hall 7pm/10pm                                 |

*Continued on page 51...*



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...Continued from page 49

- July 11** CRAFT FAIR - Beautiful things to view and buy - Community Centre 11am/3pm
- 11** CONCERT ON THE COMMON - End of Festival party on Commons side
- DOWNLEY DYAMOS DAY - TBC
- FLOWER FESTIVAL - TBC
- QUIZ EVENING - TBC

## Plans for Your Own Event?

There is still room for more events in the Up Downley Village Festival 2015 programme. If you are planning an activity or event that you would like included in the printed programme please let us have details by the end of March. There will be a small fee for publicity and advertising if you are planning to charge entry to your event. If you would like to discuss how this works please email: [festival@downley.org](mailto:festival@downley.org)



### *The fascinating world of Downley Common*

*An evening expedition to visit  
Ant City, Star Fruit Mire,  
Drover's Watering Place,  
Badger's Hole, The Bus  
Stop Tree and many other  
curious places. Join us for  
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*Base camp location,  
date and time to be announced.  
A Festival Event*

Ever wanted to know what it would be like to take a stroll through the deep dark wood? Or meet a...

## GRUFFALO

We are looking to perform the Gruffalo at the UP festival in June and would like to invite individuals interested in acting, puppeteering and theatre production to get involved.

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or visit [www.downley.org](http://www.downley.org)



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---

# The Up! Festival Opportunities for Sponsorship

*The Up! Downley Village Festival was a resounding success in 2014 with over 6,000 people attended 31 different events organised by local volunteers and run for the benefit of the community. This year we are also supporting two local charities.*

Extensively promoted in print and online via what's on websites, the Downley community website and Facebook page we are making sure that nobody forgets that the Festival is coming! During and after the event in 2014 the Festival enjoyed wide coverage in the Bucks Free Press and local media and we are confident that on the back of last year's success this will be even more prominent in 2015.



*"We really enjoyed the whole event and the fact that most people in Downley got right behind it."*



We are looking for sponsors for this year's Festival and if you are interested in supporting this amazing event, we will be printing 4000 programmes with over 2000 door dropped to local households with the remainder being distributed widely to community venues, businesses and retail outlets. All in addition to a great online presence with your logo delivering links back to your website.



*"Fantastic community feel !!!!!"*

## **To get involved:**

**Sponsorship application deadline is 18th April 2015. If you are interested in promoting your company during this year Festival, please email: [festival@downley.org](mailto:festival@downley.org) or call:**

**Up! Festival Chairman Les Root on 01494 451429 or:**

**Sponsorship Coordinator Lee Newbold on 07764 902 949.**

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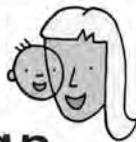
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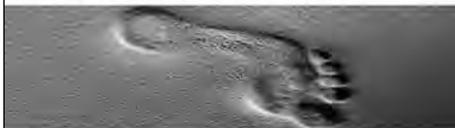
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## J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints Spring 2015

*Wal me ole mates, a happy and productive and colourful new year and spring to you or! Spring, wot's that I ses, sittin' inside, it's the middle of January and a cold slushy sort of rain is fallin' and blowin', it's 2 O'clock and it's dark...not the day for a couple of hours in the garden or even up the plot.*

(Mind you I did grab an hour in the garden the other day and dug up the best Jerusalem artichokes ever...and you know what that means...wal, so Mrs H. ses!). Look it up on the inter web for more info, ha ha! But I could do with a bit of a plot trip, them pidgins and now a pheasant (refugee from the Lord of the Manor's shootin' party, touch forelock, be ever so humble, thank you sir for lettin' me 'ave a bit of ground to feed the wife and kids, cor..cabbage soup again, yum yum) has been a peckin' away at my brassicas and now even the chard, but it don't like the leeks yet, they're fattening up very nicely!

Anyway, I thought I'd change the theme a bit and 'ave a look at nature in a bit more detail, I've got a lovely book off the inter web, 'Lookin'at Nature, by Elsie Proctor, published in 1965, full of brilliant things to do for kids, miles better than lookin' at yor 'device'... yor wot? At least my cousin in the land of the frog doesn't 'ave one, wal, he did, but he dropped it into his cider to clean it up and it completely dissolved.

I'm fairly sure you knows that we breathes in oxygen and breathes out carbon

dioxide, whilst plants, roughly speakin', does just the opposite, and plants and animals breathes out water vapour. Wal, get one of them big plastic sweet jars, lay it on its side, put a bit of soil in, with some little plants and seeds, water a bit, seal it up, you won't ever have to water it again, or unseal it, the plants balance their own atmosphere, wal, so the book ses, but I'm not sure Mrs H. wants it in the house, so I reckons this experiment will 'ave to wait, but you can 'ave a go, eh?

So yor now getting' yor spring sown done, compost dug in, mower started up, (you hope!), deck chair out, and maybe even getting' some early rhubarb, and those lovely leeks with some cheese sauce.

And the final thought for this spring edition, from Gilbert White's diary, (Country vicar, Selbourne, 1765), April 12th, 'Planted five rows of potatoes in Turner's garden, and put old thatch in the trenches, sowed Baker's field, 1.5 acres,... it has been hand picked of the weeds by the women, and is get clean.' Wal, ses Mrs H, You won't get me a doin' that, do you want tea or not, and where do you get the old thatch?

Cheerio and a bientot

*J.H. sent from my iSpade*





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# Dance a Proposal.

*Downley residents took part in a 'flash mob' style dance demonstration in the Eden Shopping Centre to help spring a surprise proposal from a local man to his lady.*

The dancers attend a local dance club held at the Community Centre on Tuesday evenings and were all in on the surprise as they danced a rumba to the couples favourite song and then displayed large boards asking: 'Will you marry me, Shelly?' Floods of tears followed, but tears of joy of course as Shelly said, yes!



Another Downley dancer, Alan Mayes, also had something to smile about recently when he achieved Highly Commended in his first dance medal for Ballroom Waltz and Quickstep. After all the practising the exam itself was over in a flash, but the result was outstandingly memorable and gave him a really good start to the year.

*Karen Groves*

*Comingdancingwithme.co.uk*

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## Dash for Dad 2015

*An event for the whole family this Father's Day morning, you and your family can take part in either a 1K or 2K fun run, the 5K Dash or the 10K challenge!*

This is the perfect opportunity to view the stunning grounds West Wycombe Park, courtesy of Sir Edward and Lady Dashwood, and enjoy the activities on the day including arts and crafts stalls, bouncy castle, refreshments, face painting and a music band

**Date: 21 June 2015**

**Registration & Distance:**

1km & 2km £2.00 • 5km £8.00 • 10km - £10.00

**Minimum sponsorship:**

Raise as much as you can

**Location:**

West Wycombe Park, High Wycombe



## Bumps are back!!

*The Parents and Toddlers Group at Downley Community Centre is back under a new name 'Bumps and Babies'*

The local group is for expectant, new mothers and pre-schoolers who meet in an informal environment for a chat with refreshments and play with toys with their little ones.

The format remains as before. The only difference is that the group is now organised by the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) charity.

**Mondays 9.30-11.30am during term time.**

**More details: [HighWycombe@nct.org.uk](mailto:HighWycombe@nct.org.uk)**





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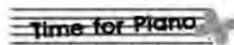
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# Downley War Memorial Hall

*James William Newell*

The second Downley man to die in the WWI was James William Newell, a Private in the 2nd Btn. Rifle Brigade and son of Thomas and Mary Newell of Plomer Green Lane. He died on 9 May 1915. Unfortunately, the only references to Private Newell in the South Bucks Free Press were in two lists of “Downley men on Active Service” sent in by Private J Allen. However, the first was in the 18 June edition and the second six weeks later; the latter recorded that he was missing.

The official record states that he was killed in “France & Flanders” but Regimental records show that the 2nd Btn. Rifle Brigade were fighting in the Battle of Aubers on that date. This action, a joint British and French operation, was an attempt to capture Aubers Ridge from where German forces had good views of the British position. The battle, about 20km south west of Lille, lasted no more than 24 hours from early on 9th May until the last men returned back to the British lines. In all, there were over 11,000



*Briefing before The Battle of Aubers Ridge*

casualties (one of the highest rates of loss in the entire war) with the 2nd Btn. Rifle Brigade losing more than 630 men and 21 officers. Historians consider the offensive an unmitigated disaster. Private Newell’s grave is at La Chapelle-d’Armentieres a few miles north of Aubers.

Meanwhile, back at home, E. R. Scovill was producing weekly reports for the local paper entitled “Tactics and Strategy for Beginners” and Wm. McIlroy, Drapers of Church Street, were offering a free pair of Jason stockings for the Belgian refugees every time a customer ordered three pairs. There was still a great deal of activity surrounding the Belgians with most local villages having a support committee and numerous fund-raising events detailed in the paper every week.

In April 1915 the Kings Royal Rifles left the town after spending several months training in the area and there were reports of two families, the Scovills of Wooburn who had six sons on active service. Perhaps in response, William Harrison of Marlow wrote in stating that he had five sons, two grandsons and a son-in-law in the armed forces!



*German soldiers in crater, taken the day  
The Battle of Aubers Ridge started*

The only news from Downley concerned the Wesleyan Methodist Church Sunday School and The Primitive Methodist Church. If there is anyone out there who has more information on Mr Newell, I would be pleased to hear about it.

*Alan Baker*  
*alanbaker49@btinternet.com*

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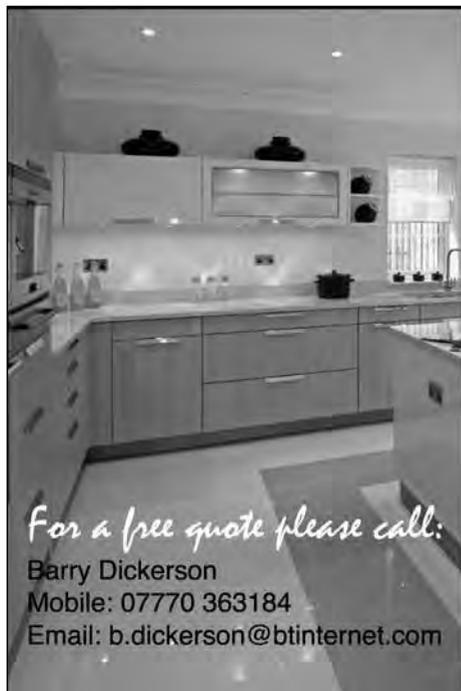


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## Have you considered volunteering?



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The Hughenden, West Wycombe and Chiltern property group of the National Trust are holding a:

### **Volunteer Open Day on 14th March, 10am -1pm at Hughenden Manor**

Whether your interest lies with history, gardening, helping with events or the countryside, we have the right volunteering opportunity for you. It is a great way to make new friends, learn new skills or to develop new interests. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers for a variety of roles such as room guides for Hughenden Manor (open throughout the year), the home of Victorian prime minister and author Benjamin Disraeli and the secret location for British map making during WW2.

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Why not come along on the 14th to find out more, meet some of the team and have a look around. We'll even throw in some tea and biscuits.

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# Poetry Corner

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*Catherine Price*

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## **THE THEORY OF NOTHING**

**A**toms, the building blocks of all things dead, alive and cosmic; each is made up of protons, electrons and neutrons, which in turn we could break down into quarks and gluons (this last being responsible for sticking quarks together – perfect nomenclature!).

**A**toms are made up of a nucleus around which there is space with one or more electrons bouncing round, billiard-ball-like (probably not an accurate description but more so than that which most of us may have learnt; and apologies to all those students to whom I state that electrons circle in fixed shells at energy levels around the nucleus, the whole truth just isn't needed for the exams). Electrons take up negligible amounts of the space around the protons and neutrons. When I say space I, of course, don't mean air (that would be full of atoms itself), I mean vacuum, nothing, zilch, diddly-squat, nada. That total emptiness is what makes up 99.99999999999999% of everything: you, me, your home, Downley Village, the Earth, our Solar System, the Milky Way, the Universe. To put this in a scale you can visualise a billiard ball sized nucleus sitting in a space the size of St Paul's Cathedral with a single, small fly flitting around the space, the fly being the single electron of a hydrogen atom.

**I**f we were to compress atoms, taking away that space and making a grape sized bundle of nuclei this would weigh around 100 billion tons. Mash enough grape size bundles together to give a ball of this matter with a 20km diameter and you have the smallest of neutron stars. The particles making up these stars are mostly neutrons, because when that compression of the atoms happened the negative electrons went back to join positive protons resulting in neutrons. So the difference between them and us is the space between them, the manner in which the negatives have somehow escaped neutrality and left positive particles in the nucleus. Escaped into nothing!

**N**othing is important, and all that separates us from being neutral, inordinately dense bodies is that very nothingness.

*BY JILL BURRELL*

# **ANSWERS TO FUN MATHS - FROM PAGE 27**

**MINIMUM TIME TAKEN IS 15 MINUTES**

**JENNY AND KEVIN CROSS THE BRIDGE FIRST (2 MINS)**  
**JENNY RETURNS WITH THE TORCH (1 MIN)**  
**LIAM AND MILLY CROSS (8MINS)**  
**KEVIN RETURNS WITH THE TORCH (2 MINS)**  
**JENNY AND LIAM CROSS (2 MINS)**

**[JENNY'S AND KEVIN'S RETURNS WITH THE TORCH COULD HAPPEN IN EITHER ORDER WITHOUT ANY IMPACT ON TOTAL TIME TAKEN.]**

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## List Of Advertisers

Academy GB Doors	24	Magic Carpets	50
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A Hollick	14	Mark Gonsalves Kitchen & Bathroom Specialist	46
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DJ Coles Property Services	58	Puppy & Dog Training	64
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Jill Burrell Tutor	22	The Painted Kitchen Company	30
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JR Travel. Private Hire	40	The Reflex Zone	10
Kar Driving School	58	Time for Piano	58
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K J Upholstery	16	Top Marks Tuition	54
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Louise Austin School of Dance	50	Wycombe Photographic Society	14
M A Hunt Painting & Decorating	18	Wye Residential	2
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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

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

### Deadlines

The Village News is published quarterly in November, February, May and August. The deadline for adverts and copy for the next issue is 30 April 2015.

### 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>	Bob Cook
<b>Webmaster</b>	Mark Starkey

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# Up! Downley 2015

Village Festival

20th June - 11th July

## Be Part of This Years Festival!

Up! Downley was a resounding success in 2014 with over 30 popular events organised by local volunteers and run for the benefit of the community and local good causes.

The plans are well under way for this year. Inside pages 45 to 53 set the scene and suggest how you can get involved by sponsoring, staging an event, volunteering or just by booking your tickets!



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all things Downley at:  
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