

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

Village News



Features

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

Issue 104 / September 2015



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Contents

Editorial	3	News from the District	29
Local Societies		Downley Diary	31 - 34
Downley Common News	5	Lifestyle	
Downley Community Centre	7	Downley Flints Recycled	35
The Downley School	9	Biggest Loser ia a Winner	35
Downley Village Evening WI	9	Downley Village Art Show 2015	37
News From Downley Pharmacy	11	Jill's Science for Fun	39
Coffee Stop News	13	Feedin the Birds	41
Downley Descants	13	Paddington Goes on Holiday	43
St. James Voice	15	J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints	45
DOSCA Community Library	17	History	
Downley Day	19	Downley War Memorial Hall	47
Downley Evening WI	21	Poetry Corner	52 - 53
Chameleon Singles Group	23	Letters	55 - 59
Downley Village Evening WI	25	Jill's Math's for Fun Answers	60
Jill's Math's for Fun	25	Contributions from our Advertisers	
Around the Area		Altea - The Downley holistic Centre	61
From Wycombe to Westminster	27	List of Advertisers	62

Editorial

The Downley Day picture on this issues back page shows how successful this year's day was. Great turnout and lots of pleasure had by all attending the event and all of the other events held during the UP Festival! Thanks to all of those who volunteer and contribute their time and energy to making this festival such a rip roaring success!!

We recognise that this Autumn issue is running slightly later than scheduled and our apologies for this. We sincerely hope this has not impacted on you too much.

It is fascinating that sink holes appear at random (article on page 5). We wanted to bring you more on the sinkhole phenomenon but were restricted by space in the magazine. Those of you who have access to the WWW must search sinkholes. There are some truly amazing sinkholes out there.

A sad farewell to Mrs Webb, the head teacher at The Downley School. Mrs Webb is moving on to new challenges and we wish her all the best. I thank her for her regular articles and hope to welcome contributions from the interim head teacher Mrs Harris who is now in post.

Enjoy this issue and we are going to have an Indian summer heatwave to take us into Autumn.

Simon Scott
Editor



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Downley Common News

Bonfire Campaigns

The DCPS presence at the Downley Day stall was focussed on recruiting helpers for building the bonfire. Many people think the bonfire is built entirely by using the tractor, and indeed some of it can be. However, large quantities of the material deposited consist of wood with nails and screws in it and bitter experience has shown that using the tractor on that just results in a very expensive puncture repair. So the at risk material has to be piled up by hand leaving all of the green stuff to be moved by the tractor. This needs people-power and the two Sundays prior to bonfire night is when we need them. We received a good response from locals at Downley Day and we will be contacting them in due course but any other volunteers who want to come along and help will be much appreciated.

Flailing

You may have seen evidence of grass cutting on the central common area in the past few weeks and may be wondering why it looks patchy and not cut all over. For a start, cutting it all over is a big job that we don't really have time to do so we need to pick and choose the most important areas. The main reason for flailing is to keep down the less desirable growth such as bracken and brambles while at the same time giving the wildflowers a chance to flourish. There are particular areas where brambles and bracken always come up so the main aim is to keep them under control and try to inhibit them spreading. It's not a difficult task but does need someone with time to do it so if you fancy trying your hand then please get in touch.

Sinkholes

Everyone knows about the depressions in the Dells and the smaller versions dotted around in the woods but do you know how they got there. There are a number of theories, the most prevalent being that they were pits left over from digging out clay for use in making bricks and tiles. While that may be true for the larger examples in the Dells, it is more likely that the smaller ones are sinkholes. We've heard about sinkholes in the news recently with an alarming example in Walters Ash that appeared in the driveway of a house there. Well, a new one has recently appeared in the woods just to the east of the bonfire site. It is only small (so far about 6 feet across) but the sides are overhanging and should only be approached with caution.



What are sinkholes? According to the US Geological Survey, sinkholes are common where the rock below the surface is limestone, carbonate rock, salt beds, or other kinds of rock which can naturally be dissolved by groundwater circulating through them.

As the rock dissolves, spaces and caverns develop underground. Sinkholes are dramatic because the land usually stays intact for a while until the underground spaces just get too big. If there is not enough support for the land above the underground caverns, then a sudden collapse of the land on the surface can occur - a sinkhole.

Bill Thompson DCPS

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Downley Community Centre

OAK room refurbished

During the summer, major works have been undertaken to modernise the OAK room.

A completely fresh design has dispensed with many of the storage cupboards, the old carpeted floor, old pipework and electrical fittings.

It has come with a new colour scheme incorporating off-white shades and soft greys to complement the original wooden features of the room in addition to new lighting and solid flooring.

Roman blinds have been fitted which, together with a new double door between the Oak and Beech rooms are designed to improve the acoustics and independence of each room.

Completion of this work represents reaching the next milestone in the development of the Community Centre and greatly enhances the appeal of the facility to all members of the community.



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The Downley School

Wow – what a final term it's been for The Downley School! Project Based Learning has been a huge success. The children have been highly engaged in their projects and many parents have come into school to celebrate the creativity and the rich, deep learning. The children have been extremely proud of their work and of all of the outcomes



If you have come into school over the last term you may have been invited to an 'Ugly Bug Ball', a production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', a 'Produce Show' or a Tea Party in remembrance of VE Day. You may even have had to take part in a Fair Trade chocolate tasting experiment! These are just a few of the amazing projects from the term.

School visits have been a highlight! Our youngest children went to Odds Farm; Year 1 visited Mop End outdoor centre; Year 2 have been to the Cotswold Wildlife Park; Year 3 to the Chiltern Open Air Museum; Year 4 to Cadbury World; Year 5 to Hughenden Manor and also the Imperial War Museum and Year 6 to the Frontier Centre (residential) and Whipsnade Zoo. As ever, the children are always wonderful ambassadors for the school when they are out.

In school, the children have taken part in a Day of Dance, Sports Days and Inter team Music Competition. They also came to school for 2 days as 'Crime Scene Investigators' and had to solve mysteries by using their scientific knowledge and skills. These are all opportunities for our children to develop their talents in exciting ways.

Our School Council, Values Council and 'Go Givers' committees have done some excellent work in the school community and outside of school as well. The 'Go Givers' project was completely child-led with the children choosing a charity to support and a way of raising money for it. They chose Wycombe Homeless Connection and raised money at the Summer fayre by 'Sponging the Teacher!' It was a very popular event! They also went to Aylesbury to the 'Make A Difference' sharing event with children from lots of other schools.

Our Values-based Curriculum has continued to have a wonderfully positive impact throughout our school. We welcomed many visitors over the year who have said they are inspired by our work.

Although the weather was drizzly, our Summer Fayre was very successful. It was excellent to see many members of the community there. Thank you for coming to that event and also to those of you who came to watch Year 6's incredible production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' as part of the 'Up Festival'.

We are so fortunate that our school community is so supportive. We have received more goodwill from volunteers this year than ever before. The Governing Body, the Parents Association, The Safer Routes Group, and many, many parents and family members who have given their time and commitment to our children.

In September, Mrs Dawn Harris will be taking over as the school's Interim Headteacher. She will work with the staff and the rest of school community to continue to make The Downley School the special and unique place it is. I have been so very privileged to have been a part of this amazing community for the last 5 years. Thank you to everyone who supports the school in any way. Please continue to do so. I wish you all the very best for the future.

Mrs Webb
Head teacher, The Downley School



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“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.

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Thank you in advance.**



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The Downley School - Award

Downley School have been awarded £1,875.00 from the Local Area Forum for their hard work on road safety awareness.

The Downley Day Committee also contributed £125 making a grand total of £2,000 which the school will spend on new equipment. Thanks to the School Governors and particularly Sonia Workman for all of their hard work on this awareness campaign.

News and advice from Downley Pharmacy

Firstly a huge thank- you to all who supported our tablets in the jar competition during the Downley UP festival. In total we raised £123.70 for the charity ASSERT which supports families affected by Angelman Syndrome.

The total was 1382 with guesses ranging from 700 to 7120. Our winner was a very thrilled Christine Evans with a guess of 1400 well done! These tablets were taken from just a small proportion of those returned to us daily for safe destruction, a reminder of how wasteful we can be! Please be careful when ordering your repeat medication that you only request items needed, once supplied they cannot be re-used. The cost to the NHS is in the region of £300 million per year money that we all know could be used to fund extra staff or the newer costly treatments now possible.

Are you flu safe - get the jab

Thoughts of autumn and winter approaching lead to the subject of annual flu vaccination. For most people influenza is a nasty short term illness, but for some it can lead to more serious illness that may require hospitalization. The seasonal campaign aims to reduce these complications.

If you are 18-65 and fall into one of the following high risk categories you are eligible for a free flu vaccination funded by the NHS which can be provided within pharmacies. At Downley Pharmacy this is a walk in service available most days without appointment.

At risk categories are:

Asthma or lung disease

Chronic heart disease

Diabetic

Chronic kidney disease

Chronic liver disease

You've had a stroke

You have an illness or are taking medicines that lower your natural defences

Please speak to Fiona for details.

If you fall outside of the eligibility group you can still choose to get vaccinated against flu and help prevent this debilitating infection from spoiling your winter. We can provide the flu jab for you at a small cost.

Flu vaccination provides the best protection but good hand washing practice is also important at all times to prevent spread of infection.

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Coffee Stop News

The Coffee Stop continues to thrive and be much enjoyed by our customers, if the noise level is anything to go by. We would also welcome new visitors, please don't be shy, this is a meeting point for everyone, there is no minimum age!



of weeks beforehand. We will be meeting soon to finalise the menu which is likely to follow a similar pattern to previous years, a buffet serving of a selection of main courses followed by desserts, coffee and mints and of course a raffle. Our fingers are crossed that Jenny will be persuaded to make some more apple pies.

Having said that, one of our regular visitors, Gwen Snook, celebrated her 103rd birthday with us back in June, she is certainly a role model for us all to aspire to. Dial-a-Ride have been very helpful, after a few teething problems, in transporting less mobile people to join us and our volunteer drivers are much appreciated for assisting the others who are more able to get in and out of regular cars.

Our Harvest Lunch will be on Monday 5th October, always a popular event, please put the date into your diaries so that you can book tickets from us a couple

There will be other things on offer during the next weeks, stalls, quizzes etc. Let us know if there is anything of particular interest you would like us to arrange and we are hoping to organise another Christmas shopping trip to Bicester some time in November. Soup will be back after the Harvest lunch – I know people look forward to that!

Enjoy the rest of the Summer,

Ann Buxton

01494 522118 pabuxton@hotmail.com

You'll Never Sing Alone...

Downley Descants have had a very busy summer performing at Downley Day, Up!Festival, with Wycombe Concert Band, and an afternoon at The Heights Nursing Home, all in June.

You may have seen us at one of these and maybe joined in with our audience participation piece, You'll Never Walk Alone complete with scarf waving (WWFC not Liverpool!) We had very good feedback for this new venture and will probably use it again in the future.

We now have a website (downleydescants.org.uk) containing details of upcoming performances, recordings of past concerts and contact details – Thank you Julian.

Other developments include adding more classical pieces by the likes of Mozart and John Rutter.

A group of us attended a workshop by John Rutter at Dorchester Abbey which



whetted our appetites for this extension to our repertoire. This may sound like we are becoming a bit serious, but nothing could be further from the truth; we still enjoy our Thursday nights and some of us are learning a few things about music, even me, I enjoy singing archipelago (A Cappella) and even more so giving it some wellie (Fortissimo). Three of our members have also joined Wycombe Orpheus but have all vowed to stay with their roots in Downley because it is so enjoyable.

It seems incredible that we are just about to

Continued on page 15...



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...Continued from page 13

start the fourth year of Downley Descants. We started in September 2012 and have become well established as a community choir in Downley and the surrounding areas. We have also developed a reputation for the social aspect of the choir and the friendly welcome prospective new members are given. The first meeting of the new term

St. James Voice

July was a busy month for us at St James, and now that the schools are closed, and the holidays are here I can take a break too.

In July, we had the festival quiz at the church, thanks to all who came. We also had a welcome social evening, and at the end of the month on St James' Feast Day, we had a Church Barbecue, the next day Bishop Alan came to the Church to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for our church building. Bishop Alan spoke about the Symbol of St James, which is a scallop shell, and how people tie it around their necks when they are on a pilgrimage.

How many of you travelled this summer, it may not have been a pilgrimage, but it will have been a journey for refreshment, for fun and a chance to get away from it all. A time for reflection maybe, a time for thinking about where you've been and where you're going to.

By the time you're reading this it will be September, when summer begins to fade, and our thoughts turn to things 'starting up' again. Schools open, clubs and societies start their autumn programmes, and new opportunities appear.

Once again our lives will be on a journey, taking up new experiences, getting into new routines. You may not be St James, or taking up a scallop shell to go on a pilgrimage, but I pray that as we begin our journeys this September that God will be with you, and He will give you peace.

is on Thursday 17th September starting at 8pm. We meet at Sunnybank Church, Moor Lane every week during school term times and would be pleased to see any of you who enjoy singing. Don't forget there are no auditions and you do not have to read music.

For more details contact Lyn on: 01494 436063 or Julian 01494 440430

Events happening at St James your Parish Church

'Start' A 6 week course, discussing why we are here, to help people discover the basics of Christian Faith.

'Life' What is it like? Some say it's a dream, others call it a joke. Some describe it as a puzzle – and a lucky few enjoy the life of Riley. If you've got questions about life and the Christian faith and are looking for answers, then why not make a **Start!**

Bible & Beer discussion group is starting at the 'Brickies' in September. All welcome and you don't have to drink only beer! If you would like to join any of the above groups, contact me on 524213. Or chaplain@alisonfinch.com

Harvest Thanksgiving will be on Sunday 13th September.

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View of Library



Your Community Library has been entered into a ballot to potentially win funding that will benefit all residents of Downley who use the Village library. Please look out for ballot boxes around the village, if you see one PLEASE VOTE for us! Thank you.

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 Day 2015

So another year's Downley Day has come and gone and again the weather played its part in making it all a huge success.

Family Disco

The family disco seems to work its magic in pulling the crowds onto the Common. The event outside the marquee seems almost more popular than the disco itself – perhaps we should rename it to “Family Disco and Booze-up on the Common”.

Moving on the Downley Day itself, it's always good to watch LEAP perform their latest routines and you seldom hear “Oklahoma” belted out with such assurance – well done guys! Vocal performances were much in evidence on the day with both the Downley School choir with an impressive repertoire for such a young group and the ever reliable Descants at nearly the other end of the age range. It goes to show that singing is good for you



with their Sumo Wrestling and it was good to see the Martial Arts Club back demonstrating how a range of youngsters can benefit from the self-discipline they teach as well as being able to stand up to those who might do them harm.

This year, for the first time, the Downley Day weekend included the Downley 5K fun run which attracted over 150 runners on the Sunday morning to run, stagger and occasionally walk the 5 kilometre course through the woods and up and down the hills around Downley. I'm told the final 2 hills close to the end was a particularly sadistic bit of course planning. Well done to all those who completed the course; come back next year to see if you can get up that final hill without stopping! Many thanks to the sponsors of the trophies and refreshments.



whatever your age or ability. Thanks to all the sponsors who contributed to the raffle, unfortunately too many to list here.

Many thanks to the Downley Disraeli Youth Club for standing in for a no-show

The final event was Concert on the Common which seems to be taking on a life of its own. Many thanks to Q Logistics for lending the truck as a stage and thanks to the four bands who gave us such a great evening; Papatruck kicked off with some foot-stomping bluegrass followed by

Continued on page 21...



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...Continued from page 19

XcS who changed the mood with some Caribbean, full-of-sunshine music. Blind Storm belted out some classic numbers and finally Fawesome brought it all to a rousing finale at the end of the evening. One slightly sour note was the amount of rubbish left on the Common at the end of the evening and many thanks to those who cleared up the



next morning. This will certainly be an issue to address more seriously next year.

The Downley Day AGM will be held on 20th October at the Community Centre, where we will be awarding grants to worthy local organisations who have applied for support. If your local group would like to apply for a grant to support your activities in the village, please send an email to Dave Stagg at d.stagg@tesco.net. You should include details of how much grant you are requesting and what you intend to spend it on. We typically provide support of up to £300-400 depending on the number of applications. Applicants must be local and non-profit-making. Anyone wanting to join the committee and help next year will also be very welcome.

Bill Thompson. Downley Day Committee

Downley Evening WI

Hello again! Since we last saw you, the WI has continued our celebration of our Centenary with a number of important events, not least the AGM held in the Royal Albert Hall and visited by Her Majesty the Queen with her daughter Princess Anne and her daughter-in-law the Countess of Wessex, all WI members.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

This year the whole event was relayed live to the cinema in High Wycombe so that many more of us could feel part of the proceedings. It was excellent and we really felt we were there, up close and personal!

At Downley Evening, we've been very busy with our regular programme which has included some fascinating talks (including one by Downley resident Margaret Graham, author of many novels and most recently the Easterleigh Hall series – highly recommended). Our summer activities always comprise a garden party and a barbeque too, both of which were successful and much enjoyed by all attendees. Most recently, we took a trip to Coughton Court, a National Trust property in

Warwickshire with beautiful gardens and strong links to the Gunpowder Plot.

Coming up, we have talks by Mike Dewey, on 8th September, will speak to us about Downley 100 years ago in WW1. The 13th October is our AGM and we will have Norman Rhodes giving us a talk about the Workaid Project. So there's plenty to interest and inspire us – and you, if you would like to join us! You can be sure of a warm welcome, a laugh and some good cake! We meet on the second Tuesday in the month at 7.45pm in St. James' Church, Plomer Hill.

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



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Chameleon Singles Group

Summer would not be summer without a day trip to the coast.



This year nine of us made a welcome return to the east coast with a day at Clacton-on-Sea. Lucky with the weather the sun shone most of the day with few clouds to spoil the fun. It was even warm enough to venture onto the sands for the afternoon although the tide was in putting paid to sandcastle building! A fish and chip supper on the pier made for a fitting end to a great day out.

Several of our members are interested in live music, cinema and theatre and when there is something of common interest we try to book taking advantage of group rates where possible. Events over the last few months include a Chinese Meal at Top Wok in Princes Risborough, a summer BBQ held at a members home and a visit to the Rebellion Brewery to mention but a few. There is always a lot going on with several varied events each month offering something for virtually everyone. 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 no organisers would equal no Chameleon!

Our regular events each month include the Lunch Club on the first and the Pub Night on the last Friday of each month. For those interested in live music we visit Dusty's at least once most months for some great live bands at the Holmer Green Sports Club. Coffee mornings have also proved popular and it is likely we will do more of those as the cooler days return.

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 or Joyce 01494 817895 or e-mail: chameleon_bucks@tiscali.co.uk. Visit us on-line at www.bucksvoice.net/chameleon for more information and an events listing.



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DOWNLEY VILLAGE EVENING WI

Downley Village Evening WI meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Community Centre School Close at 7.35 pm. Visitors are always welcome, do come and find out what a friendly group of ladies we are.



We have booked speakers on a variety of subjects most months, September - Tales from the Top Table – What the toastmaster saw. October - The Story of the Poppy Appeal, November is our Annual meeting no speaker booked but a social time is planned.

During the summer we had outings to gardens and we took part in the Downley Day events in June/July. A meal at a local pub and events in member's homes all feature on our calendar. Our County Federation has outings in Bucks and beyond most months

Phone 01494 535998 or email patheath@virginmedia.com.

Check out the posters around the village updated every month.

JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN - ANSWERS ON PAGE ?

Sweet mathematics is the theme of this quarter's puzzle:

1 You are presented with 3 sealed, brown paper bags of misshape chocolates, and told that all the bags have been labelled incorrectly, one is labelled "delectable dark chocolates", one is labelled "marvellous milk chocolates" and the third is labelled "a medley of milk and deepest dark chocolates". You would like to give a bag of chocolates to three of your friends, each of whom would have a preference for a different chocolate type – one for milk, one for dark, and one would prefer a mixture. You don't want to open all the bags first, but you figure it would be acceptable, in the circumstances, to have taken one chocolate from one bag without opening the bag fully to look inside. One chocolate from the right bag will tell you all you need to know. Which bag should you take one from in order to ensure that everyone gets their favourite selection of chocolates?

2 I have 3 bags each containing 2 Giant Jelly Dinosaurs. One bag contains 2 green dinosaurs, one bag contains 2 red dinosaurs and one bag contains one red and one green dinosaur. I choose a bag and pull out one sweet from it, and it is a red dinosaur. I really like red Jelly Dinosaurs, but I'm not keen on green ones. How likely is it that the second sweet in the bag is also red?

3 A bar of chocolate which is x squares long by y squares wide needs breaking into individual pieces. Each break must be made separately, no stacking of sections allowed. How many breaks will be needed to complete the task?

BY JILL BURRELL





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ELVIS AND NEIL DIAMOND

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MEN FROM URANUS

Saturday 3rd Oct from 9pm

LIONS CHARITY QUIZ

Wednesday 28th Oct from 8.30pm

WARD 4

Saturday 21st Nov from 9pm

THIS THAT AND THE OTHER

Saturday 12th Dec from 9pm

THE WEST WYCOMBE

BRASS BAND

Wednesday 17th Dec

Christmas Carols from 9pm

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From Wycombe to Westminster

Steve Baker MP

One of the cornerstones of the British way of life is parliamentary democracy, and I should like to thank everyone who cast their ballot in the recent General Election



I should particularly like to thank those who voted Conservative, but whether you voted for me or not, I am honoured and proud to be your Member of Parliament.

During the last few weeks you may have seen on national TV and newspapers I am leading the Conservatives for Britain campaign. The group has been formed to discuss the criteria by which to judge the Government's EU renegotiation, and will prepare the ground to leave the European Union if it is not possible to agree a new relationship of peaceful trade and co-operation rather than ever closer political union. I believe the UK's present relationship with the EU lacks democratic accountability and consent, and I welcome the Prime Minister's commitment "to reform the EU and fundamentally change Britain's relationship with it". I believe the UK should be a sovereign nation and Parliament able to decide which EU laws apply in this country. I have an optimistic global view of the UK's future, and have great confidence in the British people.

Of course, Britain's relationship with Europe is not the only constitutional matter under consideration. After the Parliamentary recess we will be debating Bills to give further devolution to Scotland, Wales and our cities, and giving English MPs a veto over matters only affecting England. We will also be implementing our manifesto pledges on education and childcare, taxation, enterprise and employment, housing, planning and security. Many of us will have questions about both the Counter-

Terrorism Bill and the Communications Data Bill: balancing the very real threats we face against protecting liberty and privacy is a delicate matter which is bound to provoke a range of views.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has introduced his first budget of this Parliament. It is clear George Osborne intends to deliver a growing economy and control the national finances and see the national debt fall, as well as moving us to a higher wage, lower tax and lower welfare society. There were some eye-catching initiatives such as the raising of the Inheritance Tax threshold to £1million for married couples, cutting Corporation Tax, confirming our commitment of spending 2% of our budget on defence, and putting welfare on a sustainable footing. I have been re-elected to serve on the Treasury Select Committee and will continue my work to ensure this country's finances are sound. I retain my commitment to full employment, rewarding work and making sure the country lives within its means.

If you would like to comment on the Government's programme, please email me: steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk. If you despair of the bureaucracy of government and would like my help with a particular issue, please phone my constituency office on 01494 448408.

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News from the District

Dear residents,

Firstly I would like to thank you for returning me and Wendy as your local District Councillors in May. The turnout was the highest for a while, no doubt aided by the general election on the same day. May I assure you that we will be working for the residents of Downley & Plomer Hill and representing you with the same vigor in the coming four years as we have in the last four years. Following the elections, as often happens, there was a change of leadership and various changes to the Cabinet. I took the opportunity to stand as Chairman of the Planning Committee and was duly elected by my Conservative colleagues to undertake what is a daunting, difficult and complicated role.

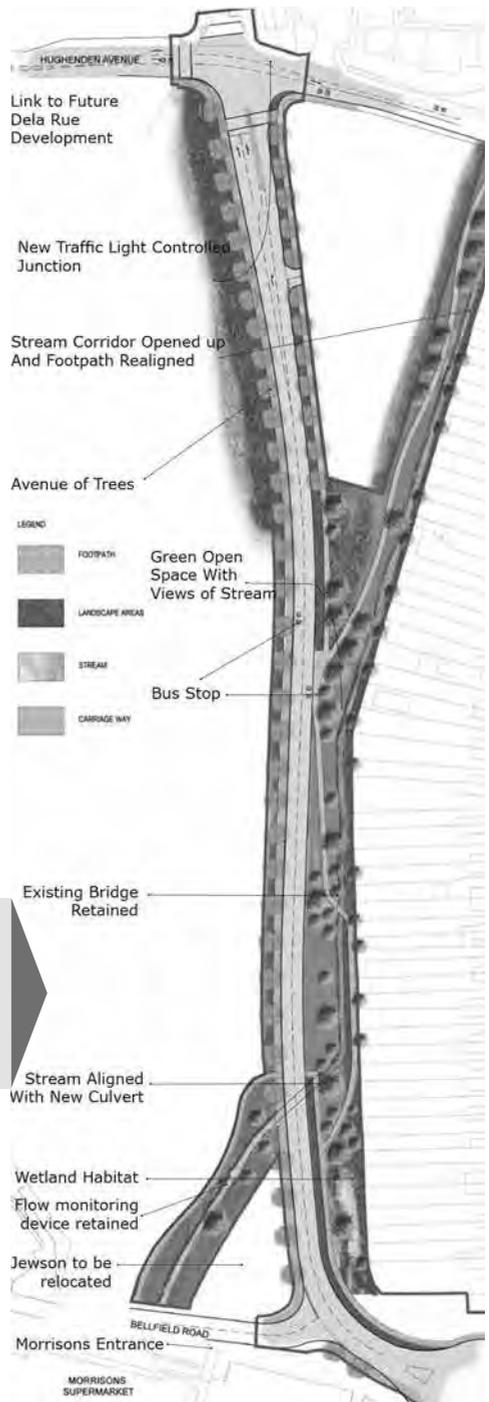
Over the coming months and years Wycombe District Council, in consultation with residents, will be finalizing the new local plan and looking forward to what we need in our District in terms of employment, housing, and infrastructure, whilst at the same time maintaining the quality of the environment in which we live. We will also be continuing on the improvements to our town centre, including the new route for traffic, and enhancements to Frogmoor.

I am pleased to see that at last the Hughenden Quarter (Broom and Wade, and Harrison's sites) is being developed. This is the culmination of several years of hard work to bring about employment generation, housing, and a green route from the town centre out to Hughenden Park.

If you have any issues you wish to bring to our attention please contact Wendy or me. I have put my contact details below, or see the WDC website.

Best wishes, Paul.

Cllr Paul Turner
Downley & Plomer Hill
07825 842292
paul_turner@wycombe.gov.uk



Downley Community Centre
The Old School/ Library

Sweaty Betties Aerobics



Every Tuesday 6.30pm – 7.30pm
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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!*

societies CLUBS show NO art starts BOOKS
go you
DATE TALES
concert display exercise FETE people

Round-up of Regular Activities

Downley Community Centre

Aerobics	Tues 6.30pm
Alzheimers Carers Support Group	3rd Wed am
Art Group	Term time Mon & Tues 10am - 12.00
Bible Study Group	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Bridge Group	Thurs 7.15pm
Chipmunks Woodcarving	Wed 10am
Community Library	Mon & Sat 10am Thurs 3pm
Craft Group	1st Tues 10am - 12.00
Dance Classes	Begin's Tues & Wed 8.30pm
Downley Village Evening WI	1st Tues 7.35pm
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wed 8pm
French Circle	2nd Fri 7.30pm
Lace Making	Term time Thurs 12.45pm
Line Dancing	Tues 12.45pm and Fri 10am
Mums & Toddlers Group	Term time Mon 9.30am
National Childbirth Trust	Mon & Fri evening
Pilates - term time	Wed & Thurs 7.30pm
Pilates for beginners	Term time Wed 10am
Simply Walk	Mon 10am and Thurs 11am
Sing & Sign	Thurs 10am - 11am (12 Coffee)
Spiritual Centre (Downley)	1st Fri 6.30pm
Tai Chi – for Arthritis	Term time Wed 10.45pm
Wargamers	Mon 6.45pm
U3A Ukulele	4th Thurs 10am - 12pm

Round-up of Regular Activities ...continued

St James Church Hall

Art Club	Thurs 9.30am
Coffee Stop	Mon 10.30am
Dog Training	Tues 6pm
Downley Evening WI	2nd Tues 7.45pm
Downley Youth Club	Mon 7pm
Greatest Hits Choir	Tues 8.30pm
Karate	Wed 7pm
Links Lunches	Fri 10.30am
Louise Dance class	Wed 9am
Philatelic Club	Alternate Thurs 7.30pm
Weightwatchers	Thurs 5.30pm

Sunnybank Methodist Church Hall

Dance Classes for Young People	Mon pm & evening
Downley Descants	Thurs evening at 8pm
Tai Chi	Thurs am

Downley War Memorial Hall

Karate (Shotokan)	Wed 7.30pm
Sunshine Montessori	8.30am Every Day
Yoga	Wed 9.45am & Fri 9.15am
Zumba	Mon 8pm

Clubs Societies Schools - Promote your event here for FREE!

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

ASSISTED SCRABBLE

Do you like Scrabble but struggle to play without help? Assisted Scrabble takes place at St. James Church, Plomer Hill, Downley on the fourth Friday monthly from 2.30 to approx. 4pm

It is for those unable to play on their own, to participate in a friendly game, with the aid of a partner. Each player needing help can have a friend to assist with reading the letters available to them and/or placing words on the board. You can bring your own helper, or we can try to find someone to assist. If you would like to play but need no partner do come. If you can also lend your own scrabble board we would be grateful!

Volunteers to help in this fun afternoon are very welcome.

Further information & to reserve a place:

Barbara(BucksVision) tel: 01494 564019 email: rippbrip@gmail
or Joe Arthur 01494 534582 email:joe.arthur30@gmail.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 contact:

Margaret Stagg on 01494 530736
email: Margaret.stagg@tesco.net

Disraeli Downley Youth Club contact:

Patrick Crotty on 07711 107975
email: Patrick@crotty.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

Downley Art Group

We are a group of amateur artists who work, generally, without a tutor and devise our own programmes. We meet at St James church hall every Thursday from 9.30 a.m until 12.00. This term is running until July 23rd. If you would like to spend the morning with friendly artists creating a variety of work, please come along or contact Lorna:

Murray.lorna@ymail.com
telephone 01494 638236

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

Downley Parish Notice Boards

Any notices for the Parish notice boards need to be left at the Community Centre in the wooden box in the oak room in an envelope for the attention of the parish clerk. Notices must be received one month in advance of the event. Notice boards are updated on the first and last Monday of each month only. All notices must be for local non profit organisations.

Please ensure that A.5 size notices are supplied

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

- Sept** **12** Downley Gardening Society Autumn Show - 2.30pm St James Hall
- 13** Harvest Thanksgiving at St James Church at 11am
- Oct** **1** Downley Common Preservation Society AGM at the War Memorial Hal
- 4** Animal & Pet Service at St James Church at 11am
- 11** Healing Service at St James Church at 11am
- 13** Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre at 7.45pm
- 25** Bonfire Building meet on the Upper Common by Bonfire site
- Nov** **1** Bonfire Building meet on the Upper Common by Bonfire site
- 1** Bereavement Service at St James Church at 11am
- 5** Bonfire and Torchlight Procession meet on Commonsides for torches at 6.30pm
- 8** Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial Hall
- 10** Parish Council meeting Parish Council meeting at the War Memorial Hall at 7.45
- Dec** **6** Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party meet at the Old Dairy
- 6** Toy Service at St James Church at 11am
- 8** Parish Council meeting at the Downley Community Centre at 7.45pm
- 20** Lessons and Carols at St James Church at 11am
- 24** Crib Service at St James Church at 11am
- 24** Midnight Mass at St James Church at 11.30pm
- 25** Christmas Eucharist at St James Church at 11am
- 27** Alternative Christmas Morning Prayer at St James Church at 11am
- 31** New Years Eve Beacon lighting meet at the Beacon on Commonsides

Who would have thought that Downley flints could be recycled

In clearing some ground in our garden we accumulated over 60 bags of Downley flints. Before consigning to the Council tip, we persisted and eventually donated all bags through three web sites: namely Freecycle, Freegle and the lesser know Preloved.com

The bulk were recycled into ballast for a double shed base in Sands whilst hand picked flints totalling 5 bags were 'recycled' into a sculpture as shown in the accompanying photograph.

Entitled 'SKINFLINT' the sculpture was exhibited in May 2015 as a protest against the London Borough of Hackney's actions against making doorways uncomfortable for sleeping in by the homeless.



The artist Rebecca Brennan felt that Downley flints which had already been removed from the soil were more cost effective and environmentally friendly than removing from fields!

Next time you are de-cluttering please try recycling first.

*Paul & Janice Homer
Downley*

Biggest Loser is a Winner

.A Downley resident, Sonia Workman (right), has gained the title of 'Biggest Loser' in Rennie Grove's sponsored healthy lifestyle challenge

Sonia Workman (43) lost 22.4% of her bodyweight and a total of 19.4kg to scoop the top prize at an awards ceremony at Pendley Manor on Sunday (14 June).

Sonia said: "This experience has genuinely given me a new lease of life. I used to exercise when I was younger, but had got out of the habit since I had my son eight years ago. Now I've taken up cycling, running and gymnastics and I'm going to carry on at the gym. Our Personal Trainer, Garry, has been a real help – inspiring and motivational throughout."

Sonia began the challenge in January and worked hard alongside 14 other contestants – four of whom also came from in or around High Wycombe – during the 18-week program arranged by the hospice charity in conjunction with nutrition and fitness experts. Kim Crundall of Balance Nutrition in St Albans devised the nutritional program for participants and Places for People Leisure at Wycombe Sports Centre in High Wycombe provided access to gym facilities, dedicated exercise classes and personal trainers for the duration.



Sonia Workman

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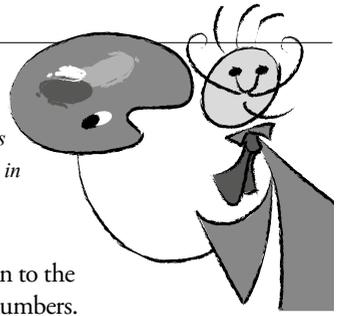
Jody Smith

59 Grays Lane, Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP13 5UG

Tel: (Home) 01494 451861 / (Mob) 07979 648239

Downley Village Art Show 2015

A feature of our Art Show is its range and diversity. Experienced artists share wall space with spontaneous school children and framed photographs are displayed alongside hand written poems, raising admiration and smiles in equal measure.



For the last two years a crafts fair has added a further dimension to the Show and this year in particular it has resulted in a rise in visitor numbers.

Below are a few images of the Show and its work. To view all of winners work and the crafts fair images in glorious colour visit the village Facebook page at: facebook.com/Downley.Community



Studying the work



Craft Fair - Bird Box



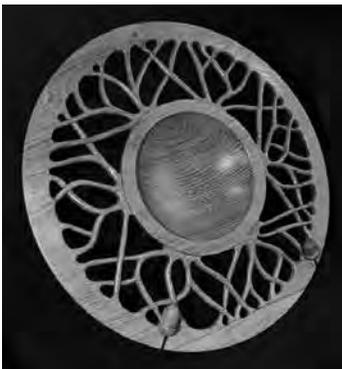
Alex Powell - Still Life



Finley Clarke - Plant



Georgia Gay - Panda Speaker



Don Murray - Winter Canopy



Carol Tinworth - Where is My Water?



Craft Fair - Jewellery

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SCIENCE FOR FUN

ALL THINGS ARE RELATIVE, EXCEPT THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

Earlier this quarter, on a rare day off, I was lucky enough to attend a series of lectures relating to Einstein's theories and how these relate to Newtonian Physics, and to the latest physics findings. The goal is to find that unifying theory that will provide the answer to everything in the form of an equation which will fit on a T-shirt. One day it will happen, maybe tomorrow but more likely in several generations time. In the meantime, highly simplified into an (almost) non-mathematical nutshell this is what we are working with:

Classical Relativity:

How people moving at different speeds (or when one is static and the other isn't) relative to each other agree on what they observe.

If you throw a ball at 10km/h from the front of a car to the back of it, whilst going forwards at 40km/h it would appear to the occupants of the car that the ball travelled at 10km/h; anyone standing still at the side of the car could measure the speed of the ball as 30km/h (40-10). If the passenger in the back happened to fail to catch the ball, and there was no rear screen then the ball may exit the car at what now appears to be 50km/h (40+10) to the occupants of the car, but would be 10km/h to the bystander.

Newton's laws of motion:

1. Anything that is moving carries on moving in the same direction and at the same speed unless an external force (such as friction, drag, or a kick) acts on it.
2. Force is a product of mass and acceleration.
3. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Einstein's Theories of Relativity:

Special: That bit about speed being relative to the observer, that doesn't apply to light.

Rather than the speed of light changing for an observer the space (distance) or the time changes.

General: Mass curves space and time.

Imagine a blanket stretched out, then imagine dropping a tennis ball in it, it will dip and curve where the ball is. Now throw a ping pong ball near it and it will roll towards it in the way that gravity pulls objects. Put a cricket ball on the blanket and it may form its own curve in the space blanket, deeper than the tennis ball's curve as its mass is greater.

Quantum Physics

In this everything has a discrete rather than the continuous nature that Newton postulates. Energy, and matter are interchangeable, and you can't measure two things simultaneously, and if we don't know the state of something then it is possibly in both states simultaneously as long as we don't check (no Schrödinger's cats were harmed during the writing of that sentence).

String Theory

All the particles of matter and energy are just manifestations of fundamental, one dimensional particles called strings.

The future

Breakthroughs will come when we unify these laws and equations, when we ascertain what Dark Energy is (73% of all that is) and what Dark Matter is (23% of all that is), when we detect and analyse gravitational waves, and when we further analyse fundamental particles and sparticles (super particles) and string theory is further investigated.

Lots of maths still to do, lots of theories to formulate and investigate, lots of particles to accelerate and a whole cosmos to explore. If you take nothing more from this just remember that we know a great deal relative to that which we knew 100 years ago, and all things are relative, except the speed of light.

BY JILL BURRELL

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Feeding the Birds

Red Kites were once of the verge of extinction in the UK, with less than ten birds left in Wales. A re-introduction took place, starting in 1999 at ten release sites across the UK, and the birds have thrived ever since.

These large, agile birds are quite small footed for their size, but are more than capable of finding their own food without supplementary feeding. The RSPB recommends that people don't feed Red Kites, as it encourages them to come into close proximity to humans, which can cause confrontation as barriers are broken down and they lose their natural fear of man. Raw meat which is not eaten, can cause serious health problems for other animals, and may encourage vermin, if it is not cleared up once discarded.

Red Kites can be seen in most counties across the UK and you can get great views of these beautiful birds around the country. Although there is the temptation to see these birds up close by feeding them, it is better for them to find their own food.

Another feeding issue is feeding bread to the ducks and other waterfowl. Most of us will have done this as children, or taken our own children to do the same. However, bread is not part of any birds' natural diet, and if fed in too higher quantity, can cause serious vitamin deficiency (the cause of Angle Wing – a deformity of the wing joint, resulting in the bird being unable to fly) or starvation. Any uneaten bread can change the balance of the water, which can increase the threat of further disease. The once beautiful local village pond, will slowly silt up, de-oxygenate and require expensive maintenance in the future to solve the problem (the pond will need to be dredged and re-planted).

White bread is the worse to feed, as it has little nutritional value and just bulks the birds up. Wholemeal is better, if it's fed as part of a varied diet. Frozen peas and sweetcorn (defrosted, fresh or tinned, and you don't need to cook them), torn up lettuce, rolled or porridge oats (uncooked), seeds (the bird seed you feed to your garden birds) and cooked rice. The most important thing above all is portion control, as it's unlikely you are the only person feeding the birds!

*Deb Depledge, Wildlife Adviser
RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL*



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Paddington Goes on Holiday

When my grandpa, who lives in Downley told the family that he was going to go to Peru it was suggested that I might go to keep him company. He agreed, but wanted to have a close look to make sure I didn't weigh too much! I had no idea why at the time..

Anyway, a few days later we finally set off and flew to Lima. Grandpa said I should stock up on marmalade when we get to the hotel because there wasn't going to be any for a few days. I didn't like the sound of that! Then we went to a place called Cuzco where we met local people who were mountain guides and porters and Grandpa had a technical discussion about equipment, medicines and other things. Marmalade was never mentioned.



Was this the deepest darkest Peru I had been told about? The scenery was breathtaking. Grandpa said 'quite literally'. After four days we finished the journey and I perked up when Grandpa said there would be marmalade when we got to Machu Picchu.



A fantastic train and boat journey then followed which I enjoyed immensely. I met lots more people. As you know when you are having fun, time passes very quickly and it was soon time to come back to England.

When we got back to the airport we had to go into London to get home so Grandpa took us round to Marylebone to get the train to High Wycombe. The lady behind the ticket counter said 'I am very sorry to tell you but Marylebone is closed for engineering works you will have to go round the corner to . . . Paddington.'

Grandpa and I just looked at each other and laughed. I knew I was home.



Then off we went. After two days we reached a very high pass where the air was very thin. I was strangely unaffected but it was a little tiring having to pose for photographs with lots of people who seemed to recognise me including local mountain guides and everybody who had heard about my recent film.

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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints Autumn 2015

Wal, hello again me old mates, so how is the garden, and yor plots up the common, if you've got one,--crikey it's been hot eh?

And dry, and them new folks up the plot, and sum of the old ones (Me? That'd be telling!), keeps takin' the stones orf to give a nice seed bed,--a wot? It's not a Monty Don scene here you know, Downley clay gets it sorted I reckons, no wonder they made bricks up 'ere, anyway, my uncle Sid (to repeat myself for those of you who can't remember my older 'ints) ses a bucket of stones is worth a bucket of water, them stones holds the water, see!

So it's getting' to autumn now, and maybe you've got yor over winterin' greens in, well protected from them pidgens, leeks doin' OK, and the plot tidied up, like the garden, get them bulbs in, scattered tastefully across the lawn to give an impression of nature, wal, that's wot the senior manager here calls it. And wot about them autumn colours, get on the inter web to see wot's good for that, and buy some autumn shrubs in pots at the local garden centre.

Wal, how's my French cousin gettin' on? Mrs H. managed to get over there, and got caught up in the French strike, so no boats back, lots of shoulder shruggin' and hands wavin' about from the frogs, 'so wot' ses cousin Jean,' just sit in the garden for a bit, 'ave a glass of summat, orl will be OK'... OK wot! Now that doesn't help the cordial relationship! He then starts quotin' Voltaire..'Cultivate votre jardin' he'd got it right, but try it on Downley clay, not the same eh? (Am I missin' something a bit deep 'ere, my missus ses think about it....hmmm).

Did you get on the common for the 'Fascinatin' walk'? I heard it went OK, but apparently the ants didn't do much, why is it they loves livin' in my cold frames? I suppose it's nice and warm and nice fine soil, just right for 'em, not like up the plot!

Now for Gilbert White's diary 1785 (country vicar)... 'Dogs eat the gooseberries when they become ripe, and devour the plums as they fall'. Strange dogs eh? I loves Gilbert White, wot a life eh? A bit of preachin' at the week end, weddin's and funerals, and the rest of the time doing the garden. And that was the bad ole days,- for some maybe but not them in the church! And another clergyman writin' in 1618, William Lawson, vicar near Durham, who seems to get someone else to do the work, ses 'Your gardiner had not need to be an idle or lazie lubber', then a monk Walafrid Strabo, in 840 AD, 'If you do not refuse to harden or dirty your hands, then spread whole baskets of dung on the sun parched soil, then you may rest assured, your soil will not fail you'. That quote I reckon will do for the top of the HH list for the autumn!

Cheerio and a bientot

J.H. sent from my iSpade





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Downley War Memorial Hall

Walter Aspley Day and Frank Austin Martin

With apologies to those who attended Mike Dewey's talk as he rather stole some of my thunder. However, I have tried to add to his comments rather than repeat them.

Walter Day and Frank Martin both died on Saturday 25th September 1915 the first day of the Battle of Loos. They served in the 5th Battalion Ox & Bucks Light Infantry and were not at Loos itself but a few miles away towards Ypres where, as part of the 14th Light Division, they fought in the second attack on Bellewaarde one of a series of diversions away from the main attack. Walter was 19 and at the time of the 1911 census was a chairmaker like his father. The following is an extract from the Battalion Diary for which I am indebted to Sandie Williams a Downley resident whose grandmother was Frank Martin's sister and sister-in-law to Ernest Biggs who had died a few months earlier.

The attack on Bellewaarde at 04.20am on 25th September 1915 saw the Battalion in the centre of its Brigade with 5 KSLI on its right and 9 RB on its left. 5 O&BLI attacked in two columns. The Right quickly achieved its objective of the second German trench line on the outskirts of the ruins of the farm. However, communications with the rest of the Battalion, 5 KSLI and its supporting artillery became very difficult and the strength of the German counter attack was increasing all the time. By 8.00am the line was being held by only 200 men who were, however, inflicting huge casualties on the Germans. These few men were eventually forced to retire. The Left column was required to wait in open ground until the British bombardment had ended but, through loss of direction, were then caught by German artillery and practically wiped out. Battalion casualties were 13 Officers (out of 15) and 463 Other Ranks (out of 767). 139 were listed as 'missing', a testament to the effects of the shell fire'.

The respective reports in the South Bucks Free Press were as follows:

"Information has been received from the War Office that Private Walter day of the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry (son of Mrs D day) is missing"

"Residents of Downley have heard with much regret the death of Sargeant Frank Martin (son of Mr George Martin) Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, who was killed in action on September 25th at the age of 35 years. Altogether the deceased served about 18 years in the Army, most of his time being spent in India. Before the outbreak of the war he resided with Mr. Fred Langley at "The Royal Oak", Paul's Row. He was a member of the Slate and Cricket Clubs connected with that hostelry and took part in all kinds of sport; in fact he was a young man who did his utmost to brighten the lot of others. While at Wycombe he served as a postman, taking the Flackwell Heath round. He was of a bright and cheerful disposition and much respected by all who knew him. General sympathy is extended to his parents who have lost a dutiful son."



Acting Sergeant Frank Martin



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The main offensive at Loos began after a four day artillery bombardment that saw 250,000 shells fired on German positions. At the same time French forces attacked the enemy at Champagne and Vimy Ridge. General Haig had been reluctant to launch the attack for a number of reasons but was persuaded by the Allies numerical supremacy of 7:1 over the Germans at that time. The shelling was followed by the release of 140 tons of chlorine gas some of which blew back on the Allied lines causing seven deaths amongst more than 2500 casualties. It was in this battle that Rudyard Kipling's son John died. Sadly, this was another occasion when Allied plans came to nothing and only three days later they had retreated to their former positions having suffered over 50,000 casualties.



Pithead winding gear at Loos, known to the British soldiers as Tower Bridge, with the slagheap behind it.

The South Bucks Free Press of Friday 1 October had reports of several local men that had died, were missing or wounded during “*last Saturday’s big attack in Flanders*” as well as an “*In Memoriam*” notice for Corporal E G Smith who had died on 25 September 1914. There will be more on him in next month’s article.

The same edition of the paper had a report that four more men from Chapel Street Downley had joined the Royal Field Artillery making 19 from the 11 houses there. The RFA had been based in Daws Hill Road.

For the following three weeks the paper made sombre reading as more news filtered through and almost every page had reports of local men missing, wounded or killed in the same action. Amongst these was George Owen from Marlow. Of five brothers who had enlisted he was the third to die. By November, the paper was publishing requests from families for information on soldiers who had initially been reported as wounded but of whom they had heard no more.

In its edition of 15 October the paper reported on the meeting of Wycombe High School Governors that was discussing the request from the VAD that the school be handed over to them for use as a hospital. The VAD representative said that they had considered using RGS but regarded it as unsuitable “*The sanitary arrangements in part were very bad*”. The Governors agreed to the request and in doing so apologised to Miss Christie and the Girls for the inconvenience. Within the current school there is a block named after Miss Christie.

Two weeks later three more Downley men had joined up bringing the total for the village to 90.

The paper had also reported on numerous Harvest Festivals, Horticultural Society shows and “*Our Day*” which appears to have been on 21st October when all of the local towns and villages held events to raise money for the Red Cross. Beaconsfield topped the list with over £1200 while Downley managed £6/15/11/2 (about £6.76) although a Jumble Sale for the same cause a week later raised a further £15/4/6 (over £2250 in total at today’s prices).

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Poetry Corner

A North Pembrokeshire Spring

Helen Willson

Country of primroses, abbeys and castles.
Age-old Preseli Hills, cromlechs and blue-stones.
Sea-caressed shingle of smooth-patterned pebbles,
Lobster pots, lifeboats and grim Bethel chapels.

Narrow rock inlets, saints' chapels in ruins,
Stark glory to David - rose stone carved cathedral;
Cottage windows like candles against a gold sunset,
Streaked clouds over Ireland like a vast artist's palette.

Green lawns where once Bishops ruled in great splendour,
Brown stream banked by celandine, violets and daisies.,
Deep green swirling Teifi tumbling white over Cenarth,
Twisted cliffs towering, topped by the Coast Path.

Shops with wool blankets traditionally woven.
Pottery, coracles, hill gold, and laverbread,
Welsh words singing and dancing their patterns,
Two names for each town, each port and each village.

Wild sheep-track moorlands, windswept and treeless,
Nothing but heather and grey boulder outcrops,
Gorse gold on the mountains and lining the valleys,
White silence of sea mist hiding velvet of Dinas.

Carn Ingli looms triple-topped high over Newport,
The schooners that once rode the tide are now gone.
All future unknown but faithful Celts left us
Eternity - traced on a cross in their churchyard.

© H. Willson

A North Pembrokeshire Spring won the adult section of this years Art Show

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Poetry Corner

A Trip to the Sea

India Harris

From her 'Poems for Children' collection

We ate some oats
Drank a cup of tea
We were getting ready
For a visit to the sea.

We got our bathing suits
And the key
We bought the cream
To protect us from bees.

We went in the garden
Got in the car
We went 10 miles
It wasn't to far.

When we arrived
We went to get ice creams
We won't eat anything else
At least that's what it seems.

We went home
At the end of that day
And my Mum said
We will do it next May.

*A trip to the Sea won the junior section of this years
Art Show*

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Catherine Price

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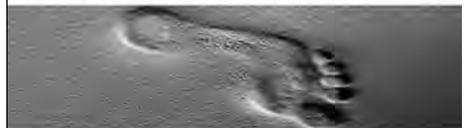
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Letters

High Wycombe & District Philatelic Society

We are at present on our summer break, but we will be back on Thursday, 10th September for our traditional opening event a Bourse (or Stamp Market). In the following months we will have our popular members' evening, an auction, and this term's minor competition will be a Cover Competition. There will be our usual displays by visiting speakers, and we are arranging some exchange visits with other local societies. We are visiting Amersham on 12th November, and they will return to us on 24th March next year. Our journeys 'on the road' are proving very popular, and because they are on an exchange basis they also provide the opportunity for us to receive them and see what their members collect. We recently visited Windsor, and they will be returning to us next year. Our last visitors were from Hale Philatelic Society, based in Edgware, returning a visit we made to them last year.

Our programme for next season is now ready, and you will find it on our website www.hwphilatelicsociety.co.uk or otherwise contact me on 01494-563155. Copies are now available in the Downley Community Library.

New members are always welcome. Subscriptions are still only £5 per annum, payable in September each year. Meetings are held normally on alternate Thursdays, September to May, (but there will be some changes around Christmas this time), locally at St. James' the Great Church Hall, Plomer Hill, Downley, from 7.30 pm until 10.00 pm.

In the stamp world, quite a lot of attention was focused this year on the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black, the first stamp ever issued in the world in Great Britain in 1840. (The modern equivalent is shown here, costing 63 times as much as the one in 1840, and that is not allowing for decimalisation!). Some of us went along to the special stamp exhibition in London, which was really exciting, with exhibitions from all over the world. Quite a lot of people there too, one wonders why sometimes when perhaps stamp collecting is no longer the hobby it once used to be. Plenty to be excited about if you are a collector, and even if you are only a fringe collector, joining your local stamp club (i.e. us!) you could enlarge and improve your collection quite a lot at minimal expense through our bourses, auctions and exchange packet. Perhaps we might see you at one of our meetings.

Ken Richardson
01494-563155





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Letters

Wycombe Swan Volunteer Ushers Recruitment Evening

WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER – 7.00pm-10.00pm

HOSTED BY THE FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER STEPHANIE CLARKE

The Wycombe Swan is currently recruiting for new volunteer ushers. This is a very rewarding role which will entail selling merchandise, ushering on doors and being able to see a multitude of theatre that heads through our doors every year!

We're looking for committed friendly individuals that can offer to duty at least 15 duties per year to include two pantomime performances. This is your chance to immerse yourself in the theatre experience and meet lots of people with the same interests. We boast lots of great social events as well such as our Awards Evening and Post Pantomime party as well as running monthly coffee meetings.

We're holding a recruitment evening where you can come and find out more about what the role entails and meet lots of current volunteers who will reveal all the fantastic experiences they have had as a volunteer usher over the years. If you wish to come along please email your interest with Stephanie Clarke who will add you to a list of attendees.

For further details or to be added to a list of attendees please contact:

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Stephanie Clarke 01494 552810



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Letters

Starlight and Goliath!

Starlight Stores is a force to be reckoned with!!

The great wheels of commerce turn without mercy, even in Downley, with competition from the Leviathan of Tesco and the gargantuan Morrison's, Starlight stores is a thriving emporium of fine produce and gastronomic delights. I was worried I was going to have to leave the village if those two megaliths forced Starlight into submission, but no, they've held their nerve and gained strengths the big stores can only dream of.

Where else can you get cherries the size of plums or sweet potatoes as big as a man's face? Sweet grapes, white and red plus the best strawberries for miles?

Organic, they've got a big organic section now....exotic crisp breads and unusual cereals, antipasti and pasta.

I've learnt of new dimensions to breakfast time....the Turkish way! Spicy Turkish sausage, fried eggs, peppers and vine tomatoes...fantastic start to a busy Sunday...did I mention the bread too?...yes, that's Turkish too, thick slices along with your breakfast.

Fridays are a particularly good day to visit, the store is packed with the new delivery, shelves groaning...I am spoilt for choice.

Don't miss the Borek...they make it on site for high days and holidays...spinach and feta cheese or potato...if you're lucky you might get them hot. A fantastic snackI've been known to buy a whole stack and pop a few in my freezer.

You see, Starlight love food and know the difference between what is good and worth eating and what other stores fill their shelves with. They have imagination and know that good food doesn't have to come in polystyrene trays wrapped in cling film, but has been lovingly picked for the good folk of Downley to enjoy.

Thanks Starlight ...a giant of independent retail!

Peter Redman

JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN - ANSWERS

1 Take a chocolate from the bag labelled "a medley of milk and deepest dark chocolates"; we know all the labels are incorrect, so if this chocolate is dark, then the bag contains dark chocolates, if it is milk then the bag contains milk chocolates.

Therefore if the bag labelled as a mixture is dark then the bag labelled as dark must be milk and the bag labelled as milk must be a mixture as all labels are wrong.

Similarly, if the chocolate removed is milk then the bag labelled dark is a mixture and the bag labelled milk is dark.

2 The answer is $\frac{2}{3}$ or 67%

Many answer $\frac{1}{2}$ or 50% but this is about the sweets not the bags.

If one sweet is red we know the bag does not contain two green sweets. So we know it is a bag that contained 2 red or a red and a green sweet. So, there are three possible sweets left; we could be selecting a red from the 2 reds bag, a red from the red and green bag, or a green from the red and green bag. That's 2 possible outcomes of a red being in the bag, and one of a green being there.

Probability is a fraction of

number of "wanted" outcomes

number of possible outcomes

THAT'S

2(reds)

3 (sweets)

3 $Xy - 1$

(The answer will always be one less than the total number of pieces. Break one gives two pieces, break two gives 3 pieces, etc.)

BY JILL BURRELL



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Altea - The Downley Holistic Centre

Altea has been established in the heart of Downley village since 2006 and we pride ourselves on our excellent customer service and have recently become an appointed Clarins salon.

We offer an extensive range of treatments and therapies for ladies and gentlemen including Clarins facials and massages. At Altea we believe in the beauty of nature and support the rainforests by sponsoring The Rainforest Foundation and also support the Born Free Foundation by adopting wild animals.

The Altea Rainforest Ritual and the Altea Goddess Ritual are favourites of our clients.

Welcoming you with the soft sounds of the rainforest....you will enjoy a relaxing face and body treatment beginning with a foot and lower leg ritual. Warm oil will be drizzled onto your back, followed by a massage of your back, neck and shoulders. A relaxing facial and scalp massage follows. Your body will be spritzed with wonderful aromas throughout representing the humidity of the rainforest... finishing with a hot or cold drink.

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We can help you decide which treatment you would like to book for yourself or to buy a gift for someone special.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Please contact us on 01494 528285 or visit www.alteadownley.co.uk

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List Of Advertisers

Academy GB Doors	24	M A Hunt Painting & Decorating	18
Adult Learning Courses	48	Mark Braisher Mortgages	26
Altea Beauty & Holistic Centre	56	Mark Evans Plumbing & Heating Engineers	50
A Hollick	14	Mark Gonsalves Kitchen & Bathroom Specialist	44
Arnold Funeral Directors	54	M.D . Garden Services	58
Beauty With Helen	28	M&J Motors	22
Beccy Ede Registered Homeopath	58	Pangaea Training	42
Bricklayers Arms	36	Peter Cork Plumbing	20
Canine Cutz Dog Grooming	52	P K Stroy, Builder	20
Chilworth Care	18	P K InPrint	10
Chris Saunders Foot Care	54	Plugs Electrical Services	50
Cleaner Required	8	Positive Steps Children's Day Nursery	60
Complete Bathrooms & Kitchens	52	Puppy & Dog Training	60
DJ Coles Property Services	58	Pushchairs and Car Seats	40
D & P Heating	6	Ranasana Tandoori	4
Downley Pharmacy	24	Revive Car Bodywork	28
Gatepost Fencing & Decking	38	Roof Technology	63
Hammond Construction	6	Simply Stumps	56
Holiday Chalet To Let	48	Sing and Sign	54
Home Phone Solutions	4	Sweaty Betties Aerobics	30
J H Austin Painting & Decorating	22	Suttons' Property Maintenance	12
Jill Burrell Tutor	48	The Window Doctor	40
Joel Akinsipe Computer Problems	46	The Painted Kitchen Company	30
JR Travel. Private Hire	38	The Professional Building Company	36
Kar Driving School	58	TLC 4 You	8
Keeping It Clean	16	Top Marks Tuition	54
K J Upholstery	16	Tutor 'A' Level Chemistry	14
K M G Building Contractors	44	Vale Conservatories	10
LEAP	46	Woodland Management	12
Le De Spencers Arms	26	Wycombe Photographic Society	14
Louise Austin School of Dance	48	Wye Residential	2

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 31 October 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.

Chairman Bill Thompson

Secretary Peter Loadman

Treasurer Bob Cook

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Up! Downley 2015

Some images from this year's Festival

Many more can be found on the village Facebook page:

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