

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

Village News



Features

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

Issue 107 / May 2016





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Editorial

The Editor would first like to apologise to Mr Ispade and his regular readers for failing to include his article in the spring issue of the DVN. Spring is the busiest time of year in the garden and I am sure many readers missed not being able to read ispade's tips for Spring while sipping a cuppa tea between gardening jobs. Rest assured ispade is back in this Summer issue p.41.

The EU referendum vote is looming and there is serious and comical content for readers in this issue. Whatever your view make sure you make it heard by voting on 23rd June.

It has been a challenge fitting in all of the content to this issue as it is crammed with UP Festival content too. Don't forget as with previous years tickets can be purchased for all of the events online at www.festival.downley.org. Please see the 'save the Downley pharmacy' info on the web site www.downley.org.uk. The pharmacist, Fiona, and her team need our support.

We welcome new contributors to this issue and as always are seeking more of you to contribute your articles to the magazine so don't forget to drop me a line if you feel you have a great idea for an article editor@downley.org.

Enjoy your community this summer and here's hoping the Sun shines for Downley Day.

Simon Scott
Editor



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Downley Common News

February saw the latest phase of our project to turn a corner of the Common into a coppice. The idea here is to generate and maintain an area of low level growth to allow wildlife to shelter in which is a sort of halfway house between open grassland and woodland. For a number of years the area between the cricket pitch and the track down to the old Dairy has been gradually replanted with whips of hazel, ash willow and other similar varieties. This February we planted another 50 whips donated by The Conservation Volunteers and funded by Ovo Energy as part of a nationwide tree-planting programme. Hopefully they will survive better than the previous batch that were planted in almost the same place but which were overwhelmed by bracken and didn't survive. We will need to cut back the bracken around the whips more thoroughly this time.

Spring is usually a quiet time on the Common. Plants are starting to emerge from the winter chill and it's difficult to do much without disturbing all the new shoots. The newts have returned to Mannings Pond so they can't be disturbed till Autumn and the bracken and brambles haven't really got going yet so there's nothing to flail. It's a good

time to spruce up the tractor but the battery decided to throw in towel and was only revived when some more water was added – so much for being “maintenance-free”.

The Common suffered one of its occasional incursions by joyriders back in March when a Vauxhall Corsa broke through one of the new posts by the old Dairy and went for a ride round the bonfire site before charging off down Sunnybank. This was interrupted by them first hitting the one post set in a serious lump of concrete so that they had to reverse and aim for the adjacent post which sadly gave way allowing them down Sunnybank and from there past Well Cottage and into the woods. After briefly passing the Scout Hut they finally set fire to the vehicle part way down the hill. Obviously, anyone who witnessed any of this should contact the police, but we're not holding our breath.

Downley Day will be coming up next and we are planning our usual display of activities to try and inspire more of the local residents to join our little group and get involved so stop by the stand and have a chat.

Bill Thompson
Downley Common Preservation Society



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The Downley School

As the days get lighter and the winter months are forgotten, it is hard to believe that we are already at the start of the final term of the school year!



It seems like only yesterday we were welcoming the children to their new classes and year groups, yet in what seems like no time they will soon be thinking about their new year groups! The spring term passed in a flash and was packed full of events and learning around the school.

In school, Reception took delivery of eggs which hatched out into chicks over the course of a week. All of the children were very excited to welcome the new chicks into their classrooms. Many year groups have also taken the opportunity to learn off site. Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to our local Harvester where they learnt about how to set up their own restaurant and then put everything they had learnt into practice when they set up their own 'Super Restaurant' in the hall. Year 4 took their learning about the Water Cycle to a new level when they visited Didcot Sewage works to see how our water gets from source to tap. They also managed to bring their Rainforest project to life thanks to their visit to the Living Rainforest in Reading. Year 6 were learning about modern technology and went on a trip to The Science Museum to learn how technology has shaped the world we live in today.

Year 5 found out what it may have been like to not only live without modern technology, but without much food too when they visited Hughenden Manor to learn about life there during World War II. Year 2 also learnt about war, but went further back in time to World War I. They hosted a tea dance as their project outcome and were very proud to show off everything they had learnt to their invited guests.

Sporting activities have also been very much on the school calendar. On Tuesday 26th April the Under11 boys of The Downley School beat Carrington School from Flackwell Heath to complete an outstanding season of football in which the school have been crowned 7 a side District champions, 7 a side County champions, English Schools Regional finalists, District League champions and, following Tuesday's win, District knockout cup winners. The side's success has been built on the fantastic team spirit amongst the players and a real determination to do their best every time they stepped out onto the pitch. The Year 5 & 6 netball team also took part in a tournament. All of the girls played very well – some of them had never been on a proper marked netball court before and despite a rocky start, the second team managed to come second overall!

Lots of our school governors came to our second 'Governors in School Day' of the year last week. As well as spending the day in classes with the children, they helped the staff and children say congratulations to Mr Chris Gentry who was celebrating having been a governor of the school for an amazing 25 years! We are so very grateful for all of the hard work he has carried out and it was lovely to be able to celebrate this milestone with him.

We mentioned in our last newsletter that we wanted to look for ways to bring the Values Based Education that we follow in school out in to the wider community and we were very pleased when our Year 3 children managed just that! During the month of December we explored the value of Consideration and our Year 3 children decided that they wanted to show

continued on page 9



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The Downley Village News is only as good as it's content.

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...continued from page 7

consideration to others, particularly others in our local community. They decided that they wanted to go and visit The Downley Heights Care Home and share some games that they had made and songs they had learnt with the residents. Both the children and the ladies and gentlemen they visited had a wonderful time. We hope that this will be just the start of ways in which we can engage with the local community, so if you have any further ideas or if you have any time or expertise that you would like to offer, **please contact us either by email at office@downley.bucks.sch.uk or telephone 01494 527033.**

*Mrs H Hadaway
Acting Headteacher*



Ever thought of giving something back to your community? – The Downley School Governing Body has one co-opted Governor vacancy and we are looking for a person with a skill set in Human resources.

Is this you? Do you have skill and professional expertise in Human Resources? Would you like to make a positive impact for the children and staff at The Downley School by contributing your expertise?

Here's what's involved...

Becoming a school Governor provides a great opportunity for personal development and learning transferable skills. Support, mentoring and training are provided. You will be required to attend Full Governing Body meetings, make visits to school as well as becoming a valuable committee member, monitoring and supporting critical areas of the school.

Interested? Here's how you can find out more...

If you have the passion, enthusiasm, commitment and time to work as a part of a dedicated team to support the school to be successful and make a difference for all of the children in our school then the Governing Body would like to invite you to contact us to find out more about the role by emailing sworkman@bucksgfl.org.uk

Some important things to know...

This is a volunteer role.

Please note that Governors will be required to produce evidence of identity and complete a declaration form. All Governors will be checked against the ISA First list, and anyone who is likely to have unsupervised contact with children will be required to obtain a disclosure from the DBS.

A full list of the names of the School Governors will be available as soon as all the appointments have been finalised.



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St. James Voice

Over the few years I've been Vicar of this parish, the one thing people ask me most about is prayer. Often people find it hard to pray, don't know how to pray, or just feel lost about the whole idea of prayer. Prayer is simply a conversation with you and God, talk to Him as you would a friend. However, just in case that still doesn't help you. Here's a way which might. It's called 'The Five Fingers Prayer'.

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember.

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and police. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the leaders of our Country, leaders in business and industry, that they may wise decisions. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. This is also our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will tell us. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain.

5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. Your little finger should remind you to pray for yourself.

Hope this helps a little!
Blessings.

Alison (Vicar)

Downley Evening WI

Hello again. I hope the lighter evenings and the spring flowers are lifting your spirits and helping to dispel any lingering winter blues and bugs.

At Downley Evening WI we have been throwing ourselves into celebrating our 53rd birthday (in March) with a superb meal prepared for us as ever by the wonderful Ann Tennant and her team. We chose music as the theme of the evening as entertainment was provided by Louise Child and members of the Downley Descants. We had a great time listening to a variety of pieces, each one introduced by a different member of the choir with a personal story of what the music meant for them.

April saw us on 'virtual' safari with Teresa Hehir who shared her love of wildlife photography and the trips she has undertaken to secure fabulous shots of game in the wild. Very inspiring. Our meeting on May 10th brings us Stuart Ottley to speak about the Caracol charity. June, of course, sees the Up Downley

Festival getting underway and we shall be involved with Downley Day, running our tombola as always. Thinking of June makes me realise how close we are to summer and I'm already looking forward to the social events that are a regular part of Downley Evening WI's calendar – we really do enjoy getting together over a cup of tea or a glass of wine. You could be part of that!

Why not come along and meet us? The second Tuesday in the month at 7.45pm in St. James' Church, Plomer Hill. There'll be cake ...

For further information, call Frances, our president, on HW 524835.

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Coffee Stop News

At our Easter Coffee morning we celebrated with Hot cross buns and Spring flowers and Lyn and Maggie once again arranged a lovely raffle display of Easter Eggs, chocolate novelties, plants and small gifts. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this happy event.



With Spring sunshine in mind we were planning a mystery outing in the direction of the River and into Berkshire. However there were insufficient numbers to make it viable. Maybe later this year we can combine it with a Christmas shopping expedition which is always very popular.

Once again we are appealing for some kind angel out there to look after our finances! It is a very simple procedure recording the takings each week, banking, and signing the occasional cheque when required. Plenty of help is on hand. The need is now urgent as our current Treasurer is leaving Downley this Summer.

We are also badly in need of volunteer drivers to transport some of our more infirm customers who so look forward to their Monday outings to the Coffee Stop. Some of our volunteer drivers are no longer in the first flush of youth themselves (I do count myself in that category!) Among the numerous taxi firms in the area, is there one who would be willing for an agreed rate to provide multiple pickups? Please would you contact Pat Greggor on HW528405 or Chris Audcent on HW639954 if you can offer any help.

Despite all we continue to thrive as can easily be heard by the decibel level coming from St James' Church Hall on Monday mornings! There are books and magazines to pass on as well as occasional stalls,

including seasonal visits from Phoenix cards. We encourage new ideas for menu items, always welcoming inspiration for our shopping trips!

Enjoy the Summer which we hope will arrive soon.

*Ann Buxton
pabuxton@hotmail.com*

“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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www.theacupuncturepoint.org.uk

Downley Descants – A member’s view

We are all delighted to be back singing after the Easter break as there always seems to be something missing on a Thursday when we do not meet.



As in previous articles we have included the thoughts of individual members giving their own perspective on the choir and what it means to them. The following is from Rebecca,

a relatively new member, who sings in the alto section.

“I have been lucky enough to be invited to join the Downley Descants for what has been a busy and exciting start to the year. I was welcomed by the friendly choir and it has transformed my Thursday evenings. Louise conducts us in a firm and beguiling manner, ably assisted by our accompanist Yuan.

For me it has been a bit of a lifeline, singing is marvellous exercise for the lungs.

The lively dedicated committee organised a marvellous fish and chip supper and quiz night in February, with over 60 meals served and great fun to boot.

A concert was given in January at Amersham Free Church and Downley WI invited us to be the ‘after dinner entertainment’ for their recent anniversary celebrations “

Rebecca (alto)

There is a full programme for the summer with appearances arranged at :-

The Heights Care Home on June 2nd

A Private Birthday Party on June 5th

Downley Day on June 18th

Joint Concert with Wycombe Concert Band as part of Up! Downley Festival on June 24th.

We are always looking for new members so if you think you might be interested please contact Lyn on 01494 436063 or Julian on 01494 440430 or take a look at our website www.downleydescants.org.uk.



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Downley Community Centre

Refurbishment Programme 2016

The Centre has reinvested £30000 from surplus income over expenditure over the past 12 months or so into ongoing refurbishment.

The latest projects include the complete refurbishment of OAK room, new energy efficient lighting throughout the building and a porch with a new custom made front wooden door.

This has been achieved without any increase in hirer fees for the last 6 years ... and no increases are currently planned.

To prevent damage to the open space outside the building the Centre has now taken delivery of a number of logs generously donated by the National Trust at Hughenden Manor.

The logs were delivered by Steve Kirkpatrick, Estate Warden and have been carefully placed at the edge of the open area to protect the grass and kerbs.



In a joint tribute by the Trustees and the Parish Council, a memorial bench has been installed by the front door in memory of Grahame Brown. Grahame made a huge contribution to the development of the Community Centre since the doors were first opened in 2002.

The siting of two further wooden benches on concrete bases at the far edge of the lawn has been made possible by funding from Cllr Wendy Mallen and Cllr Paul Turner.

In preparation for the opening of their new store in High Wycombe, Waitrose hired the Community Centre for their staff training.



Former milkman Duncan Kennerson, 75 (see photo) is shown trying on his new uniform in time for the opening in March 2016.

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Chameleon Singles Group

Several members booked our short Gourmet Cruise to St Malo at the end of May taking the opportunity to get away for a few days with an early season trip.



Staying on the food line no doubt we will be having another summer BBQ at a member's home on a warm summers evening too. Talking of summer our trip to the coast this year will be to Brighton where even if the weather does not turn out to be the best on the day there will be plenty to see and do around the old town streets.

Over the last few months' members have enjoyed a meal out at The Bellcote - a new Marstons Pub on the outskirts of Chesham, a film show at home, brewery visit, a take-away evening, live music and a day out at Greys Court in Henley. Some of our popular events run regularly so there is no reason to miss out with both Friday Lunch Club and the Pub Night taking place every month on the first and last Friday respectively. All events both at home or a local venue are organised by members acting as hosts. To them all we are very grateful as no organisers would equal no Chameleon!

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. We also go to the theatre, live music performances, comedy evenings and various other events. Coffee mornings have also proved popular and it is likely we will do more of these both at home and at venues such as Garden Centres and cafes in the coming months.

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 the slightly earlier time of 7:30pm. There is food available if you wish to skip the cooking at home and many members take that opportunity!

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. We have several local people from Downley, West Wycombe, Sands and surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too.

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..



John 'Dusty' Dunsterville host of Dusty's at Holmer Green Sports Club.



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Buckinghamshire HP13 5TR
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Thursdays 3-5 pm
Saturdays 10-12 noon

Email: enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk

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

View of Library



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

Computer & Internet Facilities



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

Don't forget to support the Library stall on Downley day. As usual you will be able to fill a bag with books for a very reasonable price. All proceeds go to help cover the costs of the library.



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From Wycombe to Westminster

Steve Baker MP

While most of my political life is necessarily spent in Parliament it is crucial I receive feedback from constituents on issues of concern to them so that I may represent them effectively. One local issue a number of Downley residents have written to me about is the possible change to community pharmacy services.



Community pharmacy is a vital part of the NHS and could play a greater role. The Government is consulting on proposals for a more efficient, integrated, innovative system that reflects patients' expectations. The Government believes there is real potential for far greater use of community pharmacy and pharmacists in England: in prevention of ill health; support for healthy living; support for self-care for minor ailments and long term conditions; medication reviews in care homes; and as part of more integrated local care models.

I attended the Westminster Hall Debate on Community Pharmacies on 23rd February, when the issues were fully aired. I'll be visiting the pharmacy shortly and I will be glad to raise the issues with Ministers.

On 23rd June, every voter will have the opportunity to vote in the EU referendum. I believe the safer choice is to vote to leave. The EU is plagued by high unemployment, a dysfunctional currency, ineffective political institutions, a migrant crisis and a democratic crisis. If we remain, we will not be able to control our borders with a fair and humane migration policy which stops discrimination against people outside the EU. Every week, the EU bills us over £350 million; in Buckinghamshire, our NHS Trust has a challenging deficit which is less than half a day's net contribution to the EU. If we remain, our negotiated rebate will be at risk and our contributions will continue to increase. We may change the British government but the European project of ever-closer economic and political union will continue just the same.

I want to reassure anyone who is thinking of voting to leave that the UK has the world's fifth largest economy, with the best armed forces of any nation, more Nobel Prizes than any European country and more world-leading universities than any European country. Our economy is more dynamic than the Eurozone, we have the most attractive capital city

on the globe, the greatest "soft power" and global influence of any state and a leadership role in NATO and the UN. I am confident our future will be safe and prosperous outside the institutions of the EU.

Editor's note; Mr Baker has set out points for the Brexit campaign above. In the interest of balanced reporting the Editor has taken extracts from the 'Stronger in' website www.strongerin.co.uk as follows;

The economy; Being part of Europe makes our economy stronger, helping British businesses small and large, creating jobs for British people, and delivering lower prices for British families. Almost half of everything we sell to the rest of the world we sell to Europe - and we get an average of £24 billion of investment into Britain per year from Europe. That's why the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) estimates that 3 million jobs in Britain are linked to trade with the rest of Europe.

Better leadership; If we want Britain to be a leader in the world, we need to be in Europe helping to take the big decisions – not sitting on the sidelines, powerless. In today's complex world, the UK has more control over its destiny by staying inside organizations like the EU. We would never dream of leaving the UN or NATO. Why would we leave the EU?

Better security; In today's world, many of the threats to Britain's security are global in nature - like the aggression of Russia, terrorism and cross-border crime. Being in Europe, working with our closest neighbours and partners to tackle these threats, makes Britain safer.

If you would like to comment on the Government's programme, please email me at: steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk

If you would like my help with a particular Government or Parliamentary issue, please phone my constituency office on: 01494 448408.



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- Greek Cookery

Please refer to our website for our full range of courses:
www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk

I am interested in the following courses.....

Name and contact details.....

Please hand this slip to Cathy Price at Downley Community Centre or email Susan Cunningham at Bucks Adult Learning.
 scunningham@buckscc.gov.uk

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Resident in Downley, I am a science graduate, a qualified teacher and a mum. To discuss your needs please call me;

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News from the District

As Spring turns into Summer, and we all look forward to longer and warmer days we can also look forward to another Downley Festival. What has made this event successful is undoubtedly the people who have given their time and expertise organising the individual events and the festival as a whole, and also everyone who takes part and attends.



Thinking about the wider picture in Downley, there is so much going on, daily, weekly, monthly and all year round, there is something for all ages and interests be it clubs, societies, classes, Downley Day, Concert on the Common, Parish Council, the churches and the list goes on. I often say to my District Council colleagues from other parts of Wycombe District that if they want to see how a community thrives, just take Downley as an example. None of this would be possible without the dedication of a huge number of local people who make all this happen, there are far too many names to mention individually, but I will make an exception by mentioning the late Parish Councillor, Grahame Brown. A bench was unveiled in his memory in April at the community centre in honour of his service to Downley Parish.

Since my last article, the new Leisure Centre has opened along with Waitrose at Handy Cross, and the spine road between Hughenden Park and the town has opened to pedestrians, hopefully soon to be opened to road traffic as well. Improvements to Hughenden Park itself are underway with

the intention that WDC will apply for green flag status for the park. Work has started on the Extra-Care and Royal Star and Garter developments, also on the old Compair site. There are many other regeneration projects coming forward and I will bring news of these in the coming months. Work on the new local plan for the district continues and as part of that the development briefs for the released reserve sites are starting to come forward for public consultation. WDC has recently launched an updated website, and for the local plan latest search for 'new local plan'.

The EU referendum is only a short time away, some may remember voting to join what was then the EEC but for most of us this will be the first time we have had the opportunity to vote on the issue, whatever happens, whether we stay in or leave, it is the people who will decide. I therefore ask that you do vote, we all have the same opportunity and probably never will have again in our lifetimes

Best wishes for a long and happy summer.

Paul Turner; Wycombe District Councillor
paul.turner@wycombe.gov.uk



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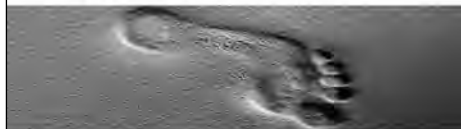
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Downley Open Art Studio

Through the month of June, across Buckinghamshire, over 500 artists and makers will be opening up their work places to the public. This year, we are fortunate that this, the largest annual visual arts event in Buckinghamshire and one of the biggest in the country, coincides with our very own Up Downley! Festival.

The village has several artists who enjoy painting with local groups and show their work as part of Bucks Open Studios. One of them, **Helen Willson**, will open her workplace on Downley Common, showing colourful paintings - framed and unframed - in watercolour, acrylics and mixed media. Helen also produces greetings cards, hand covered notebooks, sketchbooks, lampshades, bookmarks, gift tags - all suitable as small gifts.

'My approach is both figurative and semi-abstract. I love the vibrant colours and the exciting range of materials.

The colours, textures and shapes of the countryside are my first love but I vary subjects and deliberately don't stick to a particular 'style' as I like to be as responsive and versatile as possible and am constantly learning and developing.

I have gained so much from lots of inspiring tutors and am lucky to have had the chance to exhibit and sell paintings in exhibitions here in the Chilterns, the Malvern Hills and in France....it's very satisfying when someone chooses a painting that you have created. I am looking forward to taking place in this, my 4th Bucks Open Studios.'

Helen paints with local painters in the West Wycombe Art Group

(www.westwycombeartgroup.com) and exhibits with them at their popular August Bank Holiday show, as well as at Longwick and Nettlebed.

Open Art Studio in Downley runs from Saturday 11th June to Sunday 26th June and will be open at weekends 2-5pm and on Wednesday 22nd, Friday 17th and Friday 24th between 11am-5pm.

Just look out for the yellow signs. There is free entry and sale of older work. On the last day, the garden will also be open as part of the Festival 'Open Gardens'.

For more information:

- Up Downley! Festival programme festival.downley.org
- Bucks Open Studios bucksopenstudios.org.uk/exhibitor_details.asp?id=2957
- email: handjwillson@btinternet.com

Another Downley artist, **Pauline James** is exhibiting for the third year running with five other painters at the George and Dragon pub in West Wycombe. This show will be open between the 18th and 26th June from 11 am to 6 pm with late night openings on Saturday 18th June, Friday 24th, and Saturday 25th until 9pm.





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Book Groups

There are quite a number of book groups in Downley. There are also a lot of people who would wish to join a book group.

Let's get them together!!!

Contact:

**clairebaker55@btinternet.com
if you are one in one or one who
wants to be in one.**

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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
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Round-up of Regular Activities

Downley Community Centre

Alzheimers Carers Support Group	3rd Wed am
Art Group	Term time Mon & Tues 10am - 12.00
Bible Study Group	Sun 10am - 12pm
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 (ballroom and Latin)	Tues 7.30pm & Weds 8pm
Downley Village Evening WI	1st Tues 7.35pm
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wed 8pm
First Class Learning	Sat 10am
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
Pilates - term time	Mon 7pm, Wed 6.30pm, Thurs 7.30pm
Pilates for beginners	Term time Wed 9.30am
Simply Walk	Mon 10am and Thurs 11am
Sing & Sign	Thurs 10am - 11am (12 Coffee)
Spiritual Centre (Downley)	1st and 3rd Fri 6.30pm
Tai Chi – for Arthritis	Term time Wed 10.45am
Wargamers	Mon 6.45pm
U3A Ukulele	4th Thurs 10am - 12pm
Yoga	Friday 7.30 - 8.45pm

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

St James Church Hall

Art Club	Thurs 9.30am
Assisted Scrabble	4th Friday of month 2.pm - 4.pm
Coffee Stop	Mon 10.30am
Dog Training	Tues 6pm
Downley and Disraeli Youth Club	Every Mon bar the 3rd of the month
Downley Evening WI	2nd Tues 7.45pm - in the Church
Downley Gardening Society	3rd Mon of month 8pm
Greatest Hits Choir	Tues 8.30pm
Karate	Wed 7pm
Links Lunches	Fri 10.30am
Louise Dance Class	Sat 9.30am
Natalie's Meditation Class	Wed 8.30pm -10.30pm
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

Downley War Memorial Hall

Fencing Training	Wed & Fri 5.00pm
Karate (Shotokan)	Wed 7.30pm
Sunshine Montessori	8.30am Every Day
Yoga	Wed 9.45am
Yoga	Term time Fri 9.15 am
Zumba	Mon 8pm

Guide & Scout Centre

Rainbows.Brownies/Guides	Mon from 4.30pm
Guides	Tues from 7.15pm
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	Wed from 6.00pm
Dog Training	Thurs from 6.30pm
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	Fri from 4.30pm

Ukulele Strummers

The ukulele is a fun instrument to play. Join us at the Downley Community Centre on the fourth Thursday of the month. We begin at 10am and finish around noon.

Contact

Sylvia Chadwick; sylvia.chadwick@zen.co.uk for more information.

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:

**Rowena Drewitt
Email: rowena_patrick@hotmail.com**

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 -
Please note there will not be a Parish Council meeting in August 2016.

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 Theatre Group

We've hit the magical number of 250 members – incredible!

More are always welcome to join us on evening trips from Cross Court to the West End and Oxford for a variety of entertainment and day trips.

Contact

**clairebaker55@btinternet.com
For more information**

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@gmail.com
telephone 01494 638236**

Street Lighting

Please report all lighting repairs to the Parish Clerk at: H.W. 444683 or via "e" mail to downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk Please ensure that you include the street name and the house number that is nearest to the light, lights cannot be reported without this information.

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 once a month, on the first Thursday of the month. Please post flyers through the letterbox at the Community Centre clearly marked for the Clerks attention. Please notify the Clerk if you have posted flyers at the centre by emailing to downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk 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.*

- June**
- 5 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy
 - 11 Scarecrow making workshop see festival.downley.org for details
 - 11 - 24 Downley Open Studio on the Common: Saturdays/Sundays 2pm-6pm, Wednesday 22 & Fridays 17 & 24 June 11am-5pm
 - 17 Family Disco - Marquee on Commonsides at 7pm
 - 18 Downley Day - Commonsides at 1pm till 5pm
 - 19 5k Fun Run starting from - Marquee on Commonsides at 10am
 - 21 Common Adventure Trek Starting from the Beacon - Commonsides
 - 23 'A Bit on the Commonsides' Comedy Night - Marquee on Commonsides
 - 24 Downley Descants and the Wycombe Concert Band - Maplewood School at 7pm
 - 25 'Downley Dynamos Day' - Mannings Feild 11am - 5pm
 - 25 Barn Dance - Marquee on Commonsides
 - 26 Open Gardens Garden venues around the village
 - 30 A Night With Subrosa 5 - Marquee on Commonsides
- July**
- 1 - 3 Beer & Cheese Festival - Le De Spencers Arms
 - 2 Craft Fair & Granny's Attic - Downley Community Centre
 - 2 Cinema Night - Marquee on Commonsides
 - 3 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy
 - 4 - 9 Art Show - Downley Community Centre
 - 11 'Concert on the Common' - Commonsides at 7pm

A Bit on the Commonsides - Comedy Night

Without a doubt the biggest event of the Up! Downley Festival 2016, you have to make it to our comedy night on Thursday 23 June from 8.30pm. If you came last year you will remember the amazing MC Andrea Hubert who got us all warmed up for some brilliant comedy. She's back again this year to introduce a fantastic line up of three hilarious acts... Oh! There is a contributions bar.

Justin Moorhouse

Comedian, actor, writer and radio presenter. He has not only appeared on Live at the Apollo, Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and The Comedy Store but is also a winner of both Celebrity Mastermind (specialist subject Les Dawson!) and the Champion of Champions on Radio 5 Live's Fighting Talk. Justin also writes and appears in the Radio 4 sitcom 'Everyone Quite likes Justin', often repeated on Radio 4 Extra. Plus he is funny, very funny.

"Moorhouse charms the pants off the crowd" *Sunday Times*



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The last four years have seen Abandoman tour with multi-platinum artist Ed Sheeran, headline comedy stages at every major UK music festival (including Glastonbury, Latitude, Bestival, Leeds & Reading), host London's St Patrick's Day event to over 15,000 revellers in Trafalgar Square, and be named out of over 2000 acts as the Sunday Times' "Best Musical Act" of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2014. They have also appeared on 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.

"A freestyle talent that is unparalleled anywhere in the market. No two shows could ever be the same as they pick out audience members and freestyle about them, with comedic timing and witty rhyming that's so impressive it could've been scripted." *Independent*



Sy Thomas

Local lad and 'Chairboy' Sy is an actor, presenter, as well as stand-up comedian and has appeared on 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Sy burst into the world of presenting at kids TV channel Nickelodeon, where he fronted all of the station's live studio projects and continuity for nearly 2 years. He has written and presented two series of CITV's much loved gadgets show 'The Cool Stuff Collective', drove across Africa in a £100 car for the award-winning documentary 'End of The Road', co-hosted 'The Joey Page Show' on FUBAR Radio, and most recently went viral with his gender swap experiment 'Guy Does Online Dating as a Woman'. In 2015 he took his first full-length solo stand-up show 'Jumper' to Edinburgh festival to rave reviews and packed houses.

"Highly Enjoyable" *Time Out*



Music Mix for Up Festival 2016

The festival kicks off with the traditional Family Disco followed by a heady mix of music in many guises; the pop and rock of Concert on the Common, the popular classics courtesy of the Downley Descants with the Wycombe Concert Band, the accomplished musicians of the Red River band (and their caller who will have everybody on their feet!) and the popular Subrosa 5 (incredibly well received at Concert on the Common!) make a welcome return with their own performance in the marquee so what could be better!?

Get into the swing of the Festival at the **Family Disco** - throw some shapes on the dance floor - then get your breath back while the kids have a go!

Downley Descants and the Popular Wycombe Concert Band share the stage to deliver a diverse range of show tunes and popular classics. This was a sell out last year so book quickly!

Hand clapping, foot stomping **Barn Dance fun from the Red River Band** – great musicians and a caller determined to get everyone up on their feet - time to let your hair down! There will be a contributions bar at this event.

Subrosa 5, Indie rock band took Concert on the Common by storm in previous years and this time they have the stage to themselves for a night of great music with a contributions bar.

Finally the popular **Concert on the Common** closes the Festival with an evening of local musical talent, picnics and family time. Find yourself a space and enjoy the bands.



Start the 2016 Festival off with a Scarecrow Making Workshop!

Join our scarecrow making workshop on Saturday 11 June on Commonside.

Share ideas and have fun making your festival scarecrow. Arrive empty handed, take your own personalised scarecrow home! Only 18 workshop places available so go to festival.downley.org to book your place. Price £5 (per scarecrow)

Come to one of three hour long sessions starting at 10.00am, 11.30am and 1.00pm.

The workshop includes:

- Scarecrow making technique demonstrations
- Start your own scarecrow
- Mounting tips
- Enter the 2016 Scarecrow Competition

If you can't make it to the Workshops and want to buy some scarecrow clothes, why not pop into this year's festival charity the **Iain Rennie shop on Cross Court.**

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



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Downley Village Art Show 2016

We can't believe the Art Show has been running for 5 years! After this year's show we will have exhibited nearly 1,000 pieces of work produced by talented local people.



Visit the exhibition throughout the week and vote on your favourite pieces of work. Our panel of local artists will also judge the skills and creativity of work in each category with results published on Facebook and in the Village News. Prizes will be awarded to first place Junior winners.

Now a key feature of the Up Downley Village Festival we need you to submit your own drawings, paintings, photographs, digital, 3D and poetry to make the 2016 exhibition the best yet and to showcase the talent that we have in Downley. The Art Show features work from the youngest children and complete beginners to our most experienced local artists.

The exhibition starts on **Monday 4 July** and is open every evening that week between 6pm and 9pm. Any

works for sale will be marked up and on **Saturday 9 July** between 10am and 1.00pm there will be a final opportunity for the public to browse or to buy work produced by our local artists. The main focus of this exhibition however is to share and celebrate the creativity of local people and we would love you to bring your work along to share.

Details of entry

You can enter the Art Show online at festival.downley.org.

Entry Forms and guidelines can be requested by email from festival@downley.org and will be available to collect from the foyer of the Community Centre from 1 June. Please return your completed entry forms to the box provided at the Community Centre or post to **Downley Parish Council, P.O. Box 1091, High Wycombe HP13 5WU**.

The deadline for receipt of all entries is 30 June.

Enjoy getting creative between now and the Art Show and we really look forward to seeing the results.



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Cinema Night

Ahoy me Hearties, Jack sparrow here to tell you I will be showing my favouritest film 'Pirates of The Caribbean' at 7pm on Saturday 2 July.

Prepare to make sail to the marquee, darkened especially against the summer evening sun, all you need to do is come dressed in your bestest pirate get up and there may just be prizes, sorry treasure, for the best costumes. AARRRRRRR. There will be popcorn and ice cream-a-plenty to create an authentic cinema experience! (Plus a contributions bar for the adults – with rum of course!)



Downley 5K Fun Run

After the success of 2015, we are proud to announce the date for this year's race.

Come and run (or jog) the beautiful woodland course on Sunday 19th June at 10.30am. We begin with a warm up before making our way to the start. The course begins on the road but you are quickly into nice flat woodland. A lovely downhill section through rolling fields is an opportunity to gain some time. Up and over 'Echo Valley' with stunning views of Hughenden. Down through 'Blue Bell' wood and towards the toughest section of the run. Two steep hills through the woods are a real challenge for even the most experienced of runners. A nice flat end to the race though and anyone with a fast finish will relish the amazing crowd that awaits you.

All funds raised will go to the Downley School and The Downley Day Committee who offer grants to local organisations. Limit of 300 runners so be quick! Go to festival.downley.org to get on the starting line.





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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints Summer 2016

Wal, me ole mates, it's summer, and I'm sure yor wonderin' what happened to my Spring Hints!

Wal, my iSpade sent 'em orf but somehow they got mixed up with other stuff at the iSpade H.Q., and blow me, no Hints for you at that critical time of year! I reckon it' them Nappelites infectin my system. So I've put together a bit of a mix of Hints, so here gose...

Did you get yor seed orders in, and orl yor plantin schedules worked out? Yor wot? I bung em in when I reckons it's the right time, them instructions on the packets don't always work for Downley. You'll already ave got yor ground ready, compost and muck dug in, peas and beans direct planted or in seed boxes to stop the mice eatin em. And keep it goin, eh, especially things like lettuce, spinach and so on. My tommy toes are well up in their pots, ready to go out now I reckons, that is if they're for outside, and keep on sowin lettuces, carrots and get yor marrers and corgettes planted out now too. And how did yor spring bulbs do?

Mine was the best ever, daffs especially, spring flowers nearly always yellow eh? Primroses and cowslips too, though the woods will be full of bluebells now I reckons. Wot a lovely time of year it is, Mrs H. keeps on and on about it...

And wot with the government messing about, changing their minds orl the time, wal, wot about money? I knows how to beat the banks, the ones wot keeps yor money I

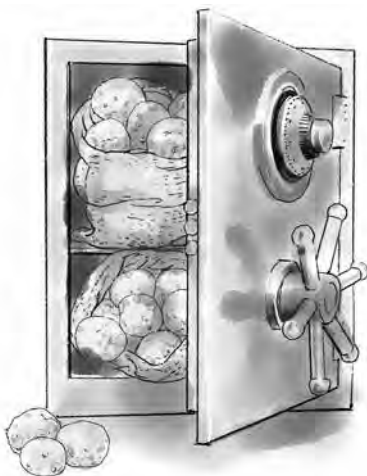
means (if you've got any ha ha!). I can get 800% return in six months, rather than ardly anything after a year (listen carefully Nat. West or Barclays), just put one potato in and after six months dig it up and you gets eight! Wot about that then! Let's ave a potato currency, that'd be summat eh? 'A pint of bitter please, ow much?', 'eleven spuds sir', 'oh it was only ten last week', I'd better go and dig another root... (He's gone daft agin, ses Mrs H, but I reckon it'd work, and be more fun eh), But Mr Osbourne wouldn't want to get his hands dirty, I bet!

Then how is my French cousin now, Jean d'Artichoke? Wal, wot about the In or Out vote? 'Wot?' he ses, in froggy language, 'Wot vote?' But I ses to him that if it's out he'll ave to be searched when he visits Mrs H and me. 'Wot?' he ses agin, 'Orl they'll find is a few snail shells, a bit of garlic and a stub of a Gauloise, and I'm keepin them'. Wal, that's the froggies for you., then he ses that we'll have to be searched if we visits him, but there's no chance of that! He'd rather be takin the sun, restin' is eyes, testin his May raspberries and takin a sip or so of his home made wine, mind you I've had sum of that, finished up in A&E down Wycombe. (When A&E was there, wot is the world cummin to eh?).

Anyway, don't forget Downley Open Gardens on June 26th, and the Common Expedition on mid summers day... hmmm the days then get shorter after that, but you can't ave it orl ways... (Confucious or someone ses). Mrs H and me might see you orl on June 26th, you never can tell!

Cheerio and a'bientot,

J.H. sent from my iSpade



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The Rumble in the Garden

Here we are today, on this auspicious afternoon. It is simply glorious to see the sun again after a long absence. However it's presence in the garden has brought two old adversaries out of the playroom, and back into the ring.



They've both been in training for this event for some time, and there's been a certain amount of trash talk in the run up, including a well-publicised incident outside nursery, where the Hulk shouted poo very loudly at Mummy before running away. You might not already know them, so let's meet the key competitors -

In the blue corner, sporting a determined face and a fetching sun suit, and weighing in at a whopping 14 kilos, we have the 22 month old wayward toddler we lovingly call the Hulk. He's been training hard for the fight, running up and down the garden, punching his reflection in the mirror, throwing toys at his sister, screaming uncontrollably in the pushchair. Some would say he's the feistiest he's ever been. He's been on a strict diet of BabyBells and beetroot (no-one is entirely sure why) and has been drinking only milk to ensure he's fighting fit. The referee has had a stern word with him about his recent bitey form and has asked him not to go the way of Mike Tyson. We're all reminded that a good clean fight is in order.

In the red corner, weighing in a few Swiss rolls heavier than she'd like, sporting some sturdy ankles and a snot coated summer dress to hide the bumps, we have, dear reader, yours truly, "Mummy". Mummy has been in training for this event since The Great Bobble Hat Battle of last December. She knows she let herself down, and was beaten within a few short seconds by a swift but cunning - hat thrown in puddle - manoeuvre. Determined not to suffer the same fate, she has been tying hats on Baby Annabell dolls for months now.

The moment is finally here, the crowd (his 4 year old sister "The Diva", and a few random stuffed toys) settle into their seats and the hush descends in the garden. We find our competitors facing each other across the paddling pool. The Hulk is laughing inanely, Mummy is trying a new tactic and is wearing the sun hat on her own head. She is pulling a funny face. The Hulk knows her game though and makes a run for the edge of the garden, he trips over a frog watering can on his way. He is laughing hysterically, Mummy takes the opportunity and gets the hat on the head as he lies prone on the floor. He pulls it off immediately. He laughs in her face. She tries again, he pulls the hat off and in one swift movement launches it into the paddling pool. The bell rings, we have a winner.

Sad and dejected Mummy walks back towards the house. She turns to congratulate her cunning opponent. To add insult to injury, she finds he has picked up his sister's sunhat and is happily parading around the garden wearing it, lapping up her delighted whoops and giggles. Mummy goes into the house to regroup and prepare for round 2, Toddler vs Sun cream.



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Pilates? What is it?

First of all it's the type of exercise that we do at Downley Old School Community Centre on Monday evening and Wednesday morning. The slow, precise exercise moves aim to build strength in core muscles and realign the body. The result is better posture, muscle tone and body awareness and fewer aches and pains.

The Pilates method was the brainchild of Joseph Hubertus Pilates (1880 -1967) who actually called his system of exercise 'Body Controlology'. Joseph was born in Germany and was a sickly child who suffered from asthma, ricketts and rheumatic fever but who was so determined to overcome his weaknesses and improve his body that later as an adult he was asked to pose for anatomy charts.

He moved to England in 1912 and trained further as a boxer and instructor in self-defence. When he was interned as an alien in a camp on the Isle of Man at the onset of the First World War he used his skills for the benefit of the other inmates and developed a rehabilitation programme for those injured in war. In 1919 he returned to Germany to train the Hamburg Military Police in self defence but when he was approached to work with the German army he preferred to leave for America.

On the boat across the Atlantic he met his future wife, Clara and together they established a studio on Eighth Avenue, New York in a building where there were several dance studios. This is how the Pilates regime came to be closely associated with the world of dance and celebrity and explains why the original 34 Classical Pilates exercises are so difficult to do for people who do not have gymnastic training.

It is only because Clara encouraged Joseph to share his knowledge and experience with instructors from other exercise backgrounds that we have what we know as Pilates today. Joseph encouraged his apprentices to adapt and improve upon his methods using their own background knowledge and experience for the

benefit of the participants in their own classes. This is why no two Pilates teachers ever teach in the same way today.

The schools of thought best known in England are Lynne Robinson's 'Body Control Pilates' and the Canadian 'Stott Pilates' method. A fairly recent development is 'Fitness Pilates' which is a more vigorous form of exercise.

At DOSCC members of the groups are encouraged to listen to their bodies and to work at a level which is suitable for them. Many members start as complete beginners and generally see an improvement in about ten weeks. It is important to stick with Pilates for at least ten weeks to begin with and to be patient because it takes a while to coordinate correct breathing and core muscle control. Classes are small so that people receive individual attention as necessary and can exercise in safety.

If you would like to know more contact Sue 01494 532088.

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Distraction and Sleep Deprivation

I read an article recently that made me think of how I could improve my productivity and spend less time feeling tired and getting distracted. Two main points jumped out at me as I find both present in my daily life and I also observed others around me showing the same habitual behavior.

1) Using your phone, tablet, or computer in bed

Short-wavelength blue light plays an important role in your mood, energy level, and sleep quality. In the morning, sunlight contains high concentrations of this blue light. When your eyes are exposed to it directly, the blue light halts production of the sleep-inducing hormone melatonin and makes you feel more alert. In the afternoon, the sun's rays lose their blue light, which allows your body to produce melatonin and start making you sleepy. By the evening, your brain doesn't expect any blue light exposure and is very sensitive to it. Most of our favorite evening devices—laptops, tablets, televisions, and mobile phones—emit short-wavelength blue light, and in the case of your laptop, tablet, and phone, they do so brightly and right in your face. This exposure impairs melatonin production and interferes with your ability to fall asleep as well as with the quality of your sleep once you do nod off. As we've all experienced, a poor night's sleep has disastrous effects upon productivity.

The best thing you can do is to avoid these devices after dinner (around 8pm onwards) television seems to be OK for most people as long as they sit far enough away from the screen.

2) Impulsively surfing the Internet.

Did you know it takes you 15 consecutive minutes of focus before you can fully engage in a task? Once you do, you fall into a euphoric state of increased productivity called flow. Research shows that people in a flow state are five times more productive than they otherwise would be. When you click out of your work because you get an itch to check the news, social media, a sport's score, or what have you, this pulls you out of flow. This means you have to go through another 15 minutes of continuous focus to re-enter the flow state. Click in and out of your work enough times, and you can go through an entire day without experiencing flow.

Both these tips have a common element and the first thing that springs to mind is 'the author obviously doesn't like social media' not true, I love social media, it affords us the chance to reconnect with family and friends we may spend years never hearing from or communicating with. My thoughts are this, engage with others, stop the device usage after 8pm and focus on the task in hand be it your family, job, sport, hobby or just the next chore on your list. You may find you get more done and your family will engage back with you.



Mark Starkey

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£1050 raised at a fabulous LitFest Day on April 16th!

The Words for the Wounded LitFest, held at the revamped Community Centre, drew an audience from as far away as Lyme Regis in Dorset, and London, as well as the immediate vicinity. It seems our village is building a reputation for hosting arts events, and news of Downley based Words for the Wounded events is spreading.

With several journalists in the audience, the founder and administrator, Downley's bestselling author Margaret Graham was tempted to behave, but that was short lived. With her two fellow administrative grannies, it soon became a fun day as the speakers arrived.

Matt Pain, a trustee of WforW opened the event, introducing Elizabeth Buchan, bestselling author of *I Can't Begin to Tell You*, who was interviewed by Margaret. Jemima Hunt, Literary Agent and Editor, Tracy Baines, fantastically successful genre short story writer, and Catherine Balavage, who owns and edits the international *Frost Magazine* then told us all about their writing lives.

Paul Vates well known actor and playwright read excerpts of their work. Sharon Bennett and Julie Winters exhibited their art, and Arrow, my publishers gave us free books for the audience.

The raffle brought in over £250 thanks to the huge, (honestly) generosity of our own Tesco Express, and MyLocal, and various well known companies as well as our lovely artists Sharon

Bennett and Julie Winters who each donated a piece of their art. Lunch was a buffet and the 'catering staff', Margaret's family worked tirelessly behind the scenes and it seems had a lot of fun along the way. Best of all, WforW's work was helped enormously. It is one of the few charities where the expenses are absorbed by the team, so every penny raised goes to where it's needed.

WforW are to hold a Short Story Day Workshop at the community centre with Margaret Graham and Tracy Baines on 24th September. For more details: margaret@margaret-graham.com or 01494 630713



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Downley War Memorial Hall

Ernest Charles Pitcher

Robert Styles

The Battle of the Somme commenced on 1 July 1916 bringing with it a growing number of obituaries in the local paper and after three weeks the death of 21 year old Private Pitcher at one of the subsidiary actions, probably either the battle for High Wood or nearby Delville Wood or in preparation for the battle for Poziere. All were typical of the bloody attack and counter-attack attritional fighting that characterised much of the Somme offensive after 14 July.

Unfortunately for his family although they were informed that he was missing some time in August it was April 1917 before they heard that he had died. The official letter read "It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office notifying the death of Private E C Pitcher ... which occurred on 21 July 1916. I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council at your loss." There were four other sons in the Armed Forces.

Prior to volunteering for the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry in 1915 Ernest Pitcher lived with his family in Coronation Cottage and was a chair maker working for R Howland & Sons in Denmark Street. I do not know if the Cottage still stands in the Village and would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows it's where it was, or still is.

If the Pitcher family had a long wait for news that was nothing compared to fellow villagers the Styles at Prospect Place (does that still exist?). They did not hear until nearly fourteen months after their son Robert's death.

Robert Styles was a Lance Sergeant, a rank that I was unfamiliar with. It was used at the time to identify a Corporal who was filling the role of a Sergeant. Unlike a full Sergeant the rank could be withdrawn by the Commanding Officer at any time.

He was reported missing after an engagement on 30 July 1916 whilst leading his platoon through Guillemont Village. Along with a number of neighbouring villages, Guillemont marked the unofficial front and, like the battles mentioned above, was fought over continuously for several months causing thousands of casualties on both sides.

Robert was 28 when he died and had been a Reservist in the Territorials at the outbreak of the War and joined up in 1914. Prior to this he was employed by Mr J T Edgerley of Frogmoor Gardens. His older brother George was serving in Salonika.

Sir William Ramsey died on 31 July 1916. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1904 "in recognition of his services in the discovery of the inert gaseous elements in air" (along with his collaborator, Lord Rayleigh, who received the Nobel Prize in Physics that same year for their discovery of argon). Sir William lived in Hazlemere and is buried in the parish church.

On 25 August 1916 the South Bucks Free Press listed almost a full column of local men reported wounded and noted that 150 of the 3500 Wycombe men serving their country had died in the War.

Back to 2016 and the Trustees of the Hall are currently working on a plan of repair work to the front of the building. This requires specialists in timber and brickwork as well as non-standard bricks.

Alan Baker

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Poetry Corner

Downley Day

By Ellen France

I went to Downley Day last year,
As I nearly always do.
The weather wasn't too promising,
Although to give it its due
By two o'clock it was doing its best
To keep the rain at bay,
So the crowds turned out to wander about,
As you do on Downley Day.

I stopped at the library stall, bought some books, and had a chat,
Had my photo taken – with a grizzly bear – well you can't do better than that!

The Gardening Club had plants and flowers.
The Descants sang – despite the showers;
Yet as Louise got wetter and wetter
The choir performed just better and better.
The weather was looking dreary now,
So I went in the Marquees.
They were really very busy in there,
Especially serving teas!

I'll certainly go again this year,
I wouldn't want to miss it.
The lovely people I always meet
Will make it worth a visit.

So come and join in if you can,
You really know the way,
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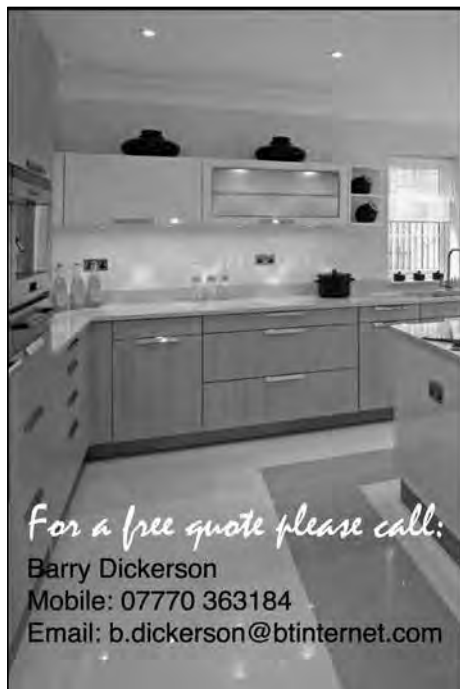
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Letters

Dear Friends,

My London Marathon Challenge.

I write to update you all on my success with completing the London Marathon. I also take this opportunity to say thanks to you all for your fantastic support. Collectively you have raised over £3100 for the British Lung Foundation. As some of you will recall, I wanted to run the London Marathon in memory of an industry friend, Andrew Lynn and I'm sure Andrew would be thrilled at your generosity. I completed the marathon in 4 hours, 46 minutes & 36 seconds. I suffered from a stitch between miles 13 & 22, which made the second half heavy going, but I hope to get a chance to better this another year.

I thought I'd share some of my photos from the day with you.

Thanks again for all your support. I could not have done it without you.

Best wishes Bob Yates



Boy that stitch hurts at mile 17



Nearly there at mile 25



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This issues letter to the Editor must be consumed starch and all with a pinch of salt ;-)).

Dear Voter,

Dexit – Remain or Leave?

So the campaign is up and running and the big question is on everyone's lips - does Downley declare independence and sail off to a glorious but unknown future or does it stay anchored to its traditional homeland of Buckinghamshire and the UK?

What are the issues? Well like the Scots before us there is great concern about what currency we would use and like them we have the choice of keeping the pound (we may not be allowed if young George has any say) or moving to the euro (you must be joking) or going down the third way as described by that distinguished economist and fellow contributor, Mr J Heartycough, introduced elsewhere in this publication.

His intriguing thesis is to move to the potato standard and beat price rises by minting our own currency. He clearly has the germ of an idea and I feel it could take root if developed further. The humble tuber on its own would be somewhat cumbersome so it would probably need to be available in a number of convertible denominations including the crisp and the chip as small change and the rather more valuable baked jacket for those larger purchases. Like the gold standard before, it has the virtue of having an intrinsic value unlike modern currencies which are only a "promise to pay the bearer" and who believes their promises eh?

Of course, there is the risk of letting rip with uncontrolled hyperinflation if people can't control their gardening habits. In years to come would children be taught about the "Great Downley Potato Bubble" in the same terms as tulips and South Seas? Well, not if there was sufficient regulation to clamp down on counterfeit potato growing and smuggling of illicit chips from down the hill. I see a role for the newly formed "Downley Diggers" to police rampant allotments.

But enough of dry economic theory, what other concerns will influence your vote? High on the list must be the ability to control our own borders and to decide who can come into Downley from outside. We could adopt the Trump solution and build a seriously high wall all the way round the village. Ideally this would start at the top of the Pitch for defensive purposes although some might say that those newly acquired parts of "greater Downley" at the bottom of the hill might feel somewhat aggrieved at being excluded – still, omelettes and eggs and all that.

I see a number of benefits; firstly the residents of Naphill and Hughenden would have to go through the middle of town to get to the M40 – no more rat runs! Secondly, all those people who think they live in Downley but don't, can complain to those estate agents (and the Bucks Free Press) who encouraged them in their misconception in the first place.

Those of us with a revolutionary inclination and an interest in history will be aware of the "Red Downley" movement that tried to break with the overlordship of West Wycombe House and finally succeeded in breaking free of West Wycombe Parish in 1984. Dexit is simply the latest step along a long path.

If the glorious opportunities outlined above leave you cold and you're more worried about being £2.50 poorer in 20 years' time then turn your back on Dexit and stick with the status quo. Alternatively, put your cross in the Dexit box and join the revolution, brothers (and sisters).

Yours sincerely Neil Garage

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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

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

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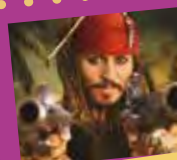
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