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**DOWNLEY  
COMMUNITY**

## Village News



### Features

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Around the Area  
Lifestyle  
Downley Diary *Pull Out Section*  
History  
Letters

Issue 108 / August 2016





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## Editorial

Firstly, a couple of announcements; please see the FB page and web site for information on parking and why some of our street lights may go out.

As the [www.downley.org](http://www.downley.org) web site is mobile ready more and more of you are using it and discovering what's on locally. Thanks to Mark who is its creator and I am sure you would all agree it is an excellent platform. Keep hitting it.

I certainly feel these past few months have been a roller coaster of events and change. We are living history right now by having a front row seat to the Political battlefield that was Brexit. It has left injured strewn around Westminster, some ousted or resigned and a victorious new leader. I think it is fair to say that no one expected the result but us stoic British will soldier on and make a success of it whatever the weather.

As if these events were not enough we had the highs and lows of the football Euros and now coming out of the Political battlefield we are being soothed by the amazing performance of GB sports men and women who are providing us with a flood of Olympic Games medals.

The history we are living does not stop here. This November we have the US elections with the apprentice star D Trump as a serious candidate for US President!!! It just proves that celebrity and power are merging into one and the same thing over the Pond.

This issue has all the usual excellent content and gives you a chance to catch up on the success of the UP Festival! Enjoy your read and grab your seats for the autumn show of living history.

*Simon Scott, Editor*



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# Downley Common News

*The summer months are the main time of year for getting the tractor out and doing some felling.*

There is always a balance to be drawn between keeping the bracken and the brambles under control (otherwise they take over and make the Common inaccessible to walkers) and not removing too many of the wildflowers that provide support to the insect (and particularly honey bee) population; even brambles have flowers! So July has seen the tractor trundling around concentrating on the worst bracken and bramble patches as well as clearing some of the more overgrown paths.

In addition, the summer sees large numbers of small saplings popping up out of nowhere and as we don't want the Common to be more wooded than it already is, it's a job for our volunteers with a mattock or a spade to go and remove them, preferably by digging them out if possible, or by cutting them back to ground if not.



This year the Downley Cubs helped out by attacking the bracken in the coppice area. The Society planted several dozen new saplings back in February and if these are to survive (and the last lot didn't) then they need access to light and water, both of which can be restricted by bracken completing overgrowing them. So our intrepid cub-pack battled their way through bracken a good two foot taller than themselves in search of some completely hidden saplings with the aim of pulling out the bracken to make a good 2-3 foot space around each. After an evening's work they uncovered almost all the saplings which now stand and good chance of surviving till next year. Another badge well-earned!

As we head towards autumn we will be selecting the areas where we want to push back the trees where they are encroaching on the grassland section of the Common and will then cut a selection in October ready to dispose of the cuttings on the bonfire. Any suggestions on where tree encroachment needs to be addressed will be gratefully received.

The Society put on another successful display at Downley Day where an old Victorian treadle lathe provided by Don Murray was pressed into service to show our younger visitors how they can make a flower out of a simple hazel stick. It also gave them the chance to play with some very sharp chisels under the apprehensive eye of their parents. Thanks to James for manning the lathe and Brian for recruiting the parents.

*Bill Thompson  
Downley Common Preservation Society*

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# News from Downley Pharmacy

Firstly, a huge thank you for all the support in the recent national campaign against proposed cuts to pharmacy funding. Please be assured Downley Pharmacy has no intention to close although we are tightening our belts and reviewing the level of certain services that we operate, and for which we receive no direct payment. We are also looking at how we can expand the additional services we provide to re-coup some of the anticipated loss of income. One of these services is the NHS and private flu vaccination service which has proved popular and more convenient to many over the past couple of years. Pop in at a time convenient to yourself- easy access and no queuing at surgery clinics, we can also review your medication needs at the same time.

Many of you signed both the online petition to Parliament and the paper petition to Downing Street urging a re-think to proposals. The petition to Downing Street contained over 2 million signatures- the largest ever healthcare petition in the UK equating to 3500 for each constituency in the UK. I believe Downley Pharmacy gathered nearly 1000 alone apologies for losing count of the number of sheets I sent off! Editorial support was also given by a number of newspapers and TV news bodies. Medical and patient groups and those representing older people have also publicly urged a re-think.

As I write at the end of July we are entering a phase to lobby parliament. We want Ministers and officials to get around the table with pharmacy representatives as soon as possible. I anticipate many of you will be writing again over the summer months with the template letter that I will be displaying!

With a new Prime Minister and a changed Ministerial team at the Department of Health, there is now the opportunity to explore an alternative path; the pharmacy sector wants to work with the Department of Health and other parts of government to make the pharmacy sector and the health system overall more efficient, whilst ensuring that no patient loses the reassurance, care and support pharmacies provide.

- We want service improvements that would relieve pressure on General Practice and other parts of the health care system, and lead to significant cost-efficiencies, as well as tangible benefits for patients.

- We want the talks to be based on three simple principles: the regular supply of medicines from local pharmacies provides a foundation for high quality, convenient patient care and improved health outcomes; there should be a needs-based approach to the distribution of community pharmacies that works for communities and for patients; and patients come first - they must not lose the many benefits they get from convenient local pharmacy services.

Thank you again for all the support and making us feel so needed as part of the community in Downley.

*Fiona and team  
Downley Pharmacy*



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

We would love to hear your stories and reports. Whether you represent a club or society or just have a tale to tell do get in touch.

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

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# St. James Voice

*As we turn the calendar to the first of September, we think of the things we ought to do at this time of year, schools start, clubs open up again, friends catch up, and as we write all these events in our diary or calendar, we sometimes sigh at the never ending round of events and meetings that we have to do, and if you're like me September can be a trying month as I begin to pick up the pieces of my life that I let go of in July. It almost feels like I should be saying 'Happy New Year', as I meet people I haven't seen for ages.*

However, September is a beginning not just for those of school age, but for adults too, who have opportunities to engage in part-time studies, or pursue hobbies. There is fresh opportunities to go out and meet new people, do new things.

The wind of change blows through us in September, just as the wind itself gusts and reminds us autumn is near. This is a time when the calendar seems to remind us of the Bible's promise, "Behold I make all things new." (Rev 21)

So welcome September, as you would an old friend, with an eagerness for new experiences and joys and with hands outstretched to help others in the family, in our circle of friends and in our community.

Just for your information St James Church is starting up all sorts of interesting things in September. Here's just a few for

you to think about.

New Tots and Teddies in the Church every week from Wednesday the 7th of September 1.30pm – 3pm

Pints of View – Have you ever wanted to give your point of view on some of LIFES BIGGEST QUESTIONS meet at the Bricklayers Arms 2nd Tuesday of the month from 13th September at 7.30pm

START – Life! What's it like? What's it for? Some say it's a dream others a joke. If you are looking for some answers. We are putting on 6 week course for those who want to Discover what Christianity is all about. Monday 26th of September at 8pm in St James Vicarage, Plomer Hill.

If you want more information on any of the above events, please give me a ring on 524213.

*Alison - St.James Church*

## ***JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN - ANSWERS ON PAGE 41***

**1** A family wants to get through a disused railway tunnel. They are all scared of the dark, but have just one torch with them, and it is low on batteries (why do these things always happen in maths questions!). Dad can make the journey in 2 minutes, Mum in 1 minute, James, their son, in 4 minutes and Rosie, their daughter, in 5 minutes. Unfortunately, the narrow tunnel will only fit a maximum of two people together at one time, moving at the speed of the slower one.

Can they all make it to the other side if they have a torch battery which lasts only 12 minutes?

**2** How many dogs does Lizzie have if all of them except 2 are poodles, all of them except 2 are Labradors, and all of them except 2 are labradoodles?

**BY JILL BURRELL**



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# Downley Evening WI

*I can't believe how quickly this year is going!*



August already, the Olympics are upon us, Up Downley is a fast fading memory and the summer is past half way. I hope you're making the most of each and every day and enjoying the warm weather.

Downley Evening WI members always enjoy the summer months, with our annual BBQ and garden party as well as the other trips and events we organise. Recently, (on the hottest day of the year, in fact) a group of our ladies visited the Aston Pottery in Oxfordshire. This was a return visit as they went last December to take advantage of the Christmas shopping opportunities offered by the Pottery and wanted to go back to admire the wonderful gardens. They had a great day, by all accounts. I suspect Aston Pottery may become a regular feature on our calendar.

At our evening meetings, as always we've been entertained and informed by our speakers. Paul Deacon is a toastmaster who gave us a fascinating insight into his role in a variety of different scenarios, from weddings to formal City dinners. It was particularly interesting to hear how "the

wedding breakfast" has changed over the years.

Margaret Graham, local author and founder of charity Words for the Wounded, focused on the art of the short story. There is so much more to it than just the number of words! The technique is important and specific and she announced a day workshop on short story writing to be held by Words for the Wounded on Saturday September 24th right here in Downley. What a fabulous opportunity for all you aspiring writers!

We've been delighted to welcome some new members recently and they are settling in well and contributing to our wonderful little community. But there's always room for more. Do come along and visit us – the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in St. James' Church, Plomer Hill. You'll find a happy and sociable group. And cake .... don't forget the cake!

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

*Angela Taplin*

## Parish Council Changes

*Downley Parish Council would like to announce a change to our organisational structure.*

Following the Annual Parish Meeting in May we have a new Chairman, Cllr Carole Burslem. Cllr Burslem brings a wealth of knowledge to the Council and has been a Councillor for a number of years supporting Cllr Gay in the role of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Burslem is warmly welcomed into her role as Chairman by her fellow Councillors. Cllr Gay, the previous Chairman of the Council has taken a side step after leading the Council for 8 years. Those of you that know Cllr Gay know that he is usually up a ladder fixing something in the village, or leading 50 people on a Simply Walk or if you miss him doing either of those things you may find him dressed as Santa supporting the local schools. Cllr Gay worked tirelessly for the Village in his role as Chairman and we are delighted that he has stayed with the Council in the role of Vice Chair.

**Would you like to know more about the Council or join the team that supports our delightful Village? Please contact the Clerk for more information: [downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk) or call 01494 444683**

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# Coffee Stop News

*What a strange Summer we are having, from really cold to searing hot with everything in between.*



At The Coffee Stop things don't change much, the usual menu seems to be popular and we can adapt things to suit individuals. Recently we have made a few toasted sandwiches which were well received, and in the hot weather it was safer to make meals to order so don't be afraid to ask for anything you don't see.

A date for your diaries will be the regular and very popular Harvest Lunch on 10th October from 12 noon, the price isn't set yet but you can be assured of excellent value for a two course buffet meal with tea and coffee and the usual superb raffle.

Sadly, our founder member, Chris, will be leaving the village soon for pastures new and a quieter retirement in Rutland nearer to family. They will be leaving a huge hole in the village community and we wish Chris and David all the very best in the future.

Now for the begging bit! – We are always in need of help of various sorts, shopping, making cakes or sandwiches, washing up, driving and last but not least someone to take over our accounts. The latter actually very simple for anyone who is used to handling money as it just involves banking the takings and paying out for the shopping and hire of the hall. We are a very friendly bunch so join us and make new friends or rekindle old acquaintances.

We are open every Monday, apart from Bank Holidays, from 11am, so we hope to see you there; as always, any comments or suggestions are welcomed and will be acted upon if at all possible.

*Ann Buxton  
pabuxton@hotmail.com*

## Downley Community Centre

*Downley Village Evening WI commemorated their National Federation's centenary with the planting of an Acer bush in the grounds of the centre.*

The Community Centre also welcomes 'Breathe Easy', a new support group for people suffering with lung conditions meeting on the second Friday of each month at 1-3pm. Next meeting Friday 13th September. Contact details: [www.blf.org.uk/support-in-your-area](http://www.blf.org.uk/support-in-your-area) Tel 03000 030 555

The Beech Room gets the first part of a major and long overdue, make-over during the summer holiday with the upper part of the room comprising ceiling and joinery being re-painted to match the colour scheme in OAK room.

And.....£20 was donated for Karla's Challenge for whom Karla Boddy was taking part in a Trans alp cycle ride to create awareness and raise funds for Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a condition affecting her sister Ann.





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# Downley Descants - A Choral 'Cure-All'

*Well, here we are about to start our fifth year as a community choir.*



During this time we hopefully have helped our members come to terms with personal illnesses and tragedies as well as seeing new relationships develop. You could say then that 'all life is here' and we like to think that singing helps with all the things that life throws at us. We are non-profit making and since our establishment in 2012 have donated over £3000 to local charities and good causes, which makes us all feel good.

We have had a very busy summer with quite a few performances ranging from entertaining the residents of 'The Heights' nursing home to our concert for Up!Downley with Wycombe Concert Band. It looks as though the autumn and the period up to Christmas will be much the same.

Our repertoire now includes 27 pieces ranging from Mozart, to show-tunes, to gospel so we are quite versatile now even including a bit of acting as well as singing. Did you see the performance of 'There is Nothin' Like a Dame' complete with sailors hats and featuring 'Eunice' our very own South Pacific girl scarecrow at Downley Day and Up!Downley ??? . Incidentally, her name was chosen because the song is sung in unison which is abbreviated as 'unis' on our printed music scores.

The ladies of the choir are currently learning 'Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of my Hair', also from the show, South Pacific, which could be very interesting so watch this space! You can see then that whilst we take learning the pieces very seriously we also have a lot of fun and have sorely missed our Thursday nights during the long summer break.

**Our new term starts on Thursday 8th September at Sunnybank Church in Moor Lane starting at 8pm so now's the time to come along and give us a try for a couple of weeks with no obligation before deciding if you would like to become a member. Remember, there are no auditions or age restrictions, all we ask is an enjoyment of music and a sense of fun. If you are interested take a look at our website 'downleydescants.org.uk' or contact Lyn on 01494 436063 or Julian on 01494 440430.**

*Bob Cook*

*Bass (singing all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order)*

## Olaf

Apparently Ruby, daughter of Chettina Masters screamed with delight when she heard she had won Olaf, having guessed his name correctly in the Community Centre marquee at Downley Day.

A knitted scarecrow was 'seated' on the Community Centre table for a competition to guess the name, finally revealed as 'Olaf'.

*Paul Homer*



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# Downley Day 2016

*D016 just managed to continue Downley Day's long tradition of beating the weather. The Disco on the Common on Friday 17th June attracted a large crowd picnicking outside the marquee until the heavens opened at 10pm and drove everyone inside.*

Downley Day on the Saturday remained dry and was again well-attended. Although accurate numbers are difficult to estimate, there were well over a 1000 there. The Downley Queen kicked off proceedings followed by a display by the



local Cheerleading Academy. Popular events included the sock-wrestling, an event involving each protagonist attempting to remove a sock from the foot of their opponent and the ever-popular dog show during which the "musical sit" was considered the most entertaining. Choirs from both the local Downley School and the Downley Descants entertained the crowd and our regular DJ, John Johnny got the kids up and dancing in the arena.

A good selection of stalls from local societies, charities and local businesses were present and the organisers would like to thank the many local businesses who contributed prizes to the raffle.

Profits from the day go towards the funding of future events including Concert on the Common on Saturday 9th July and the Community Carol Singing and Christmas Tree in December. Any surplus will be distributed to worthy local charities and societies and applications should be submitted to the Downley Day Committee before the AGM in October.

Concert on the Common featured three bands; Re:covered, Blind Storm and Fawesome and attracted a large crowd on Commonside on the 9th July. Thanks to everyone who performed and attended and who contributed to Rosie's Rainbow Fund, our featured charity of the evening. Many thanks also



to Q Logistics who provided the stage truck and to Hillclimb Garage who sponsored the event. Lastly, thank you to those who took their rubbish home and to those who cleared up after those who didn't.



*Bill Thompson  
Downley Day Committee*

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# Chameleon Singles Group

*Our short Gourmet Cruise to St Malo in Northern France was an event that certainly exceeded our expectations. Good onboard food and accommodation on the ferry to and from Portsmouth and a superb meal at Lion d'Or inside the walled town made for a great trip. There was time to explore too outside all the eating with much to see in this welcoming French town.*

We went to see "Grease" at the Luna open air cinema at Stoner Park in July. While there is always an element of chance with the weather it turned out to be a dry sunny evening and just right for a night at the movies with a picnic. Also in July we had a day trip to Bourton-on-the-Water to enjoy this famous Cotswold village that sits on the River Windrush. A tributary of the Thames the river also passes through Burford and Witney as well as the village from which it takes its name.

Over the last few months members we have also enjoyed a visit to the Rebellion Brewery, live music at Dusty's Blues Club and a meal out at Pizza Express to mention just a few. 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. We also go to the theatre, live music performances, comedy evenings, go for walks and various other events throughout the year. Coffee mornings during the cooler months are also popular and it is likely we will do more of these both at home and at venues such as



Garden Centres and cafes.

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 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](mailto:chameleon_bucks@tiscali.co.uk). Visit us on-line at [www.bucksvoice.net/chameleon](http://www.bucksvoice.net/chameleon) for more information and an events listing.**





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Downley Community Centre  
School Close,  
Downley,  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire HP13 5TR  
Tel: 01494 528133

## Library Opening Times

Mondays 10-12 noon  
Thursdays 3-5 pm  
Saturdays 10-12 noon

Email: [enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk)



## Follow us on Facebook.

You can link to us through 'Groups'. See what's new on the library shelves!

### Book Charges

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. Free loan on all children's picture books.

### 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.

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?



View of Library



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# From Wycombe to Westminster

Steve Baker MP

*There is no doubt the last few weeks have been a fast moving time in British politics after the Leave result and David Cameron's decision to hand over power. I believe the people of the UK made the right choice for our country in the EU referendum.*



Theresa May has proven successful as the longest-serving Home Secretary in over a century, and she receives my support as our new Prime Minister. We can move forward as a country and retain the stability that is required to negotiate our smooth and successful exit from the EU.

I know the public took the referendum vote seriously and I understand that some people are now anxious about the future. That is to be regretted; I am certain we have nothing to fear from becoming a self-governing country, making our own laws, trading freely with the world and conducting public policy on the basis of UK citizenship.

There have been many positives that have emerged following the Referendum result, most notably the queue of nations openly discussing a desire to trade with the UK. Australia and New Zealand have asked to pursue a free trade agreement with us, while governments such as Canada and India wish to see rapid progress towards good trade deals.

In my last Westminster to Wycombe letter I spoke about the Government's consultation on community pharmacies. Although the Government has yet to make an announcement on this, I thought readers would like to know I am going to the Downley Pharmacy in Cross Court in early August to discuss the issues raised in the consultation with the pharmacist based there. As I know local people value this amenity highly I am taking an active interest in how the Government intends to develop community pharmacies and am committed to local people being given the best possible service.

Another issue I should like to update you on is noise arising from trains travelling through Wycombe. I met representatives from Network Rail in July to make the case on residents'

behalf. Network Rail told me there had not been any particular changes to the trains or timetable which could have given rise to new noise nuisance. However, they agreed to my suggestion that if those people who are inconvenienced note the dates and times of particularly noisy trains and send this data to me I will pass this to Network Rail for further investigation. Anyone wishing to submit information should send it to me at the Constituency Office, 150a West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe HP12 3AE or send me an email.

**If you would like to comment on the Government's programme, please email me at: [steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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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[www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk](http://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.  
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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;

**Jill: 0773 860 99 44**  
[jillburrell@rocketmail.com](mailto:jillburrell@rocketmail.com)

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# News from the District

*Another successful year for Downley Day, Concert on the Common and the Up! Downley Festival, many people contribute to the huge amount of effort that goes in to organising these annual highlights in the Downley year which are enjoyed by so many Downley residents and visitors and I am sure that everyone who attended appreciates the time and dedication that the members of the organising committees put into these events.*



The overall turnout for the EU referendum in Wycombe District was 76%, and the staff in the two Downley & Plomer Hill polling stations were certainly kept busy throughout the whole day. So whether you voted to Remain or voted for Brexit we now have a result and we must work together to achieve the best possible future for ourselves, our children, our community and our country.

At the time of writing, Transport for Bucks and Carey's are about to start roadworks on two of the main routes used by residents to exit and enter Downley. The bottom of Hughenden Avenue and Coates Lane will see disruption for a number of weeks starting in August but hopefully the end results will be worth the short-term inconvenience and we will finally see Coates Lane join up with Hughenden Avenue through the new development opposite Hughenden Park.

Hughenden Park improvements continue with a local residents survey being conducted regarding the renewal of the children's playground equipment.

The next phase of the High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan is due to start which will see the new Westbourne Street road layout being continued along Desborough Road to the site of the old gasworks. Details can be found at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport/scheme-and-projects](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport/scheme-and-projects).

The River Wye behind The Swan Theatre has been revitalised as part of a

community project being led by WDC as part of its work to improve the town centre and improve the river and wider vision of the High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan. Co-ordinated by Chiltern Rangers, volunteers from WDC, the police and fire stations and people on a 'Young Roots' youth project have been working together to enhance this part of the river.

Alongside the new Local Plan, WDC is consulting on a new Residential Design Guide. Consultation closes on 16 September. Thank you to everyone who sent in responses to the Local Plan consultation which has now closed, there will be another opportunity to comment at the end of this year or early next year before the final draft plan is sent to the Inspector for examination. The documents for the Residential Design Guide consultation can be found at [www.wycombe.gov.uk/consultation-draft-residential-design-guidance](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/consultation-draft-residential-design-guidance).

*Paul Turner; Wycombe District Councillor  
[paul.turner@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:paul.turner@wycombe.gov.uk)  
07825 842292*



"We," who come together to create the DVN need more volunteers to deliver the DVN magazines around the distribution area within Downley. Normally this consists of one street or part of one if the street is very long. It takes only about an hour of your time. At the moment we have no reserve volunteers to cover for holidays or sickness.

**Please get in touch with  
Teresa or Des Ryan  
on H.W. 520938 or e-mail at:  
desmondryan64@gmail.com  
Thank you in advance.**

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# Downley Diary

*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!*

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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
Natailie'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

**Hughenden Art Group Art Exhibition  
2016 October 14th - 16th October**

**Hughenden Village  
Hall Coombe Lane HP14 4NX**

**For more information please email  
hughendenartgroup@outlook.com**

The Evening WI meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.45 at the Community Centre.

In December we have our Birthday party with outside caterers and entertainment which winds up 2016. We are all systems go for 2017 with a varied programme already booked.

Do come along and join us one evening, a warm welcome is guaranteed and home made refreshments.

**Pat Heath President  
01494 535998  
patheath@virginmedia.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**

Membership of the Group continues to grow and we will reach our 100th trip on 5 September with a visit to The Palace of Westminster. Everyone welcome to join: there is no fee and no obligation to go on any of the outings, which vary from West End shows and local theatres to whole days out and about. Suggestions for destinations always welcome!

Please telephone or email for more details.

**Downley Theatre Group**

**Alan and Claire Baker**

**01494 437552**

**clairebaker55@btinternet.com**

**Book Groups**

Are you in a book group? Would you like to join a book group? Please contact me so people can be introduced to each other for reading pleasure.

**Claire Baker  
01494 437552  
clairebaker55@btinternet.com**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)

**All notices must be for local non profit organisations.  
Please ensure that A5 size notices are supplied.**

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

- Sept 4 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy
- 7 Tots and Teddies at St James Church
- 10 Downley Gardening Society Autumn Show - St James Church Hall at 2.30pm
- 11 Birds of Prey Day - Le De Spencers Arms 12-4pm
- 13 Pints of View - Have you ever wanted to give your point of view on some of LIFES BIGGEST QUESTIONS meet at the Bricklayers Arms
- 24 Live Music - Neil Diamond & Elvis Tribute - Le De Spencers Arm from 9pm
- 26 START - A 6 week course for those who want to Discover what Christianity is all about. Monday 26 th of September at 8pm in St James Vicarage, Plomer Hill.
- Oct 1 Macmillan Coffee morning - St James Church at 10am
- 1 Live Music - MFU - Le De Spencers Arm from 9pm
- 2 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy
- 14 Hughenden Art Group Exhibition - HUGHENDEN VILLAGE HALL - For more information please email: [hughendenartgroup@outlook.com](mailto:hughendenartgroup@outlook.com)
- 15 Live Music - Sian B - Le De Spencers Arm from 9pm
- Nov 5 Bonfire and Torchlight Procession - Torches on sale at Commonsides from 6.30pm
- 6 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy
- 19 Live Music - Sian B - Le De Spencers Arm from 9pm
- Dec 4 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy

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# Positive Parking

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You, as a driver, must not wait or park

- on pavements preventing a double buggy/wheelchair/mobility scooter getting past
- on double yellow lines
- near a school entrance on the yellow zig-zag road markings
- anywhere you would prevent access for emergency services
- opposite or within 10 metres of a junction
- on a bend
- restricting access to the entrance of a property
- blocking a dropped curb (which has been lowered to help wheelchair users)
- at bus stops
- Dropping off and picking up passengers - even stopping for “two minutes” - is not a suitable reason for causing an obstruction as the safety of other road users can be compromised.

You, as a pedestrian, using the pavement who believes they are being obstructed, can call police on 101. The call taker will need the following:

- Date and time of the obstruction
- Registration number and, if possible, make, model, colour of the vehicle
- The type of obstruction – blocking access, blocking the footpath
- Location of the vehicle – road name, number of the property closest to the vehicle or closest junction.

**FOR A TRIAL PERIOD ONLY:** If you are unsure if a vehicle is causing an obstruction, parked in an inappropriate manner or know a vehicle is a persistent offender, who regularly parks causing an obstruction, you can email a photograph to [Alan.Gibson@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Alan.Gibson@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) where it will be assessed and suitable action taken or advice given to the registered owner of the vehicle.

Police are unable to deal with parking issues on private land, this is deemed a civil dispute and the responsibility of the land owner to rectify.

**You, as a member of the public in Downley or Disraeli, who witnesses a vehicle driving on a pavement, can send a video recording to:**

**[WycombeWestNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WycombeWestNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)**

**Visual evidence of this type of offence is required, eye-witness accounts with verbal reporting are not sufficient enough to progress.**

*PC 6739 Craig Duncan, PCSO C9433 Ceri Sydney, PCSO C8621 Alan Gibson,*

*Downley and Disraeli Neighbourhood*

*High Wycombe Police Station*

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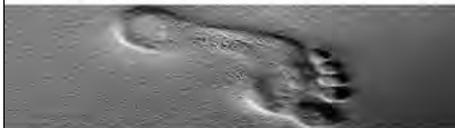
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The Parish Council are currently considering a proposal to:

**Switch off the street lights in the Village that are owned by the Parish Council in the hours of darkness after midnight. This is a cost saving measure and the cost of setting up the scheme has a two year payback timeframe**

The Council are holding a public consultation on this proposal. There will be three drop in sessions in the Village Library on the following dates where members of the public can speak to Councillors and find out more information:

**Saturday 17 September 2pm - 4pm**

**Monday 19 September 10am-12 pm**

**Thursday 22 September 6pm - 8pm**

You can also email the Clerk for more details at:

[downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)

There will be information going up on the Parish notice boards in due course and on the Parish website:

[downleyparishcouncil.org](http://downleyparishcouncil.org)



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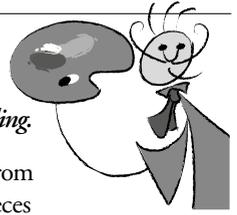
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# Downley Village Art Show 2016

*Every year the standard of entries into the village Art Show seems to get better and this year definitely exceeded expectations. The quality of work was outstanding.*



We saw a torso sculptured from clay and a dragon painstakingly made from loonbands amongst the craft, as well as some beautifully carved wooden pieces and for the first time some intricate mosaic from Judy Maynard. The work from the children at Woodlands Play Group and Happy Doodle Art Group was spectacular - there are definitely some up and coming artists living in Downley! Sam's 'Shadows' and Fred's 'Bear fighting dragon' received a deservedly high numbers of votes from our judges and the public who visited.

The adult artists submitted some amazing work including still life and life drawings which really impressed our panel of judges who, because of the exceptionally high standard, found it hard to come to a decision. John Ashton's painting 'The Samovar' finally took the adult experienced first prize whilst David Phillip's 'Scary Cat' caught the public's eye.

One area that was slightly depleted this year was photography. The entries that we received were stunning but if you are like me and can't resist snapping anything that appeals to you it will probably appeal to others too, so print off a couple of your best images and submit them in next year's Art Show!

Again a massive thank you to our panel of judges, volunteers and to everyone who visited and submitted artwork - I can't wait to see what Downley produces in 2017!

*Sue Hannaford*

*[facebook.com/Downley.Community](https://www.facebook.com/Downley.Community) for full list of winners*

## Downley 5K Fun Run

*Over 140 runners of all ages ran, jogged and walked through the beautiful woodland around Downley on Father's Day.*

Following the success of last year's race the organisers were keen to repeat the amazing atmosphere that the event creates. With great support from the crowd and marshals, the runners all finished with a smile on their face. The race was won by a 10 year old boy who was kindly encouraged by a Downley dad up the steep hills through the woods. They finished united, holding hands and sprinted to the finish, showing the 'Spirit of Downley'.



*Sam Clarke*

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# Downley Up Festival 2016

*To kick start the village festival we begun with our second annual scarecrow workshop. Amongst a bale full of straw, children and old clothes an impressive 25 unique scarecrows were assembled. Some people arrived planned and ready for action with ideas already in place, whilst others simply hoped for the best! All in all, everyone had a great time designing, stuffing and making their scarecrows and were proud of their creations. From then on they could be seen in and around the village in people's front gardens, in hedges and up trees!*

The scarecrows were the start but as the following pictures capture, there was lots more fun over the following 3 weeks.



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## ***SCIENCE FACTS***

***E***lectrons orbit the nucleus of atoms.

***M***oons orbit planets.

***P***lanets orbit the stars.

***S***tars orbit the centre of their galaxy.

***S***ome galaxies orbit other galaxies, forming local groups.

*This last fact may be surprising to some, and you still might be expecting me to say that those galaxy 'local groups' which are orbiting each other or being orbited are ultimately orbiting the centre of the Universe. However, that is not so. There is no centre of the Universe. There is no great mass at any central point which would cause the rest of the Universe to orbit around it. There is no origin point of the Big Bang as many might have intuitively expected.*

## ***MATHS FOR FUN - ANSWERS***

**1** Yes!

Dad and Mum go through first. (2mins) - Then Dad returns with the torch. (2mins)  
Rosie and James go through. (5mins) - Mum returns to Dad with the torch. (1min)  
Dad and Mum go through. (2mins) - Total time  $(2+2+5+1+2)$  mins = 12mins

**2** Three!

One of each type mentioned.

***BY JILL BURRELL***

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## J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints Autumn 2016

*Wal me ole mates, who'd a thought it eh? The referendum I means, My froggy cousin Jean d'Artichoke ses that's it. 'Why don't you just float off into the ocean, and take orl your rain and fogs, and moanin' and groanin' with you, and leave us in froggy land alone, eh?' Wal, I reckons that's a shame, eh? What ud we do if we didn't ave the froggies to ave a larf over,, and wot about orl the rules about how many strawberries in a pot of jam, and wot about French beans?*

And garlic, wal, garlic eh, sum of them young ones up the plot try to grow that stuff, wot a larf eh, you needs a bit more sun than we ever gets,, and a good old onion is just as good, and if you wants to see decent onions 'ave a look at mine eh? Summat I reckons is that the more weeds with the onions the bigger the onions (that's wot my uncle Syd from up Stoken told me and he was always right). Oh, and weeds is good for wildlife I reckons.

So wot about yor 'arvest? Mrs H. loves my spuds, they're doing OK, wot a summer joy it is digging that first glorious root, up it comes, with already hints of pleasure coursing through my veins,, then you spots the pale hint of the first gorgeous globe, a peerin' up at you through the rich, dark peaty loam, and yor thoughts gese on to yor supper a' waitin', wot Mrs H. is goin to get, new spuds, a splodge of butter, a touch of salt and a sprig of mint, that's worth all the work, eh! (Almost poetry for a second ses Mrs H, but she's a bit like that eh!).

So it's tidying up time I reckons, and get yor compost and manure in once you've got yor stuff out, though you'll still 'ave yor leeks and sprouts and broccoli a' growin, if them pidgins ave kept orf 'em. Burn all the mouldy leaves to kill orf them spores, turn yor compost 'eap once a month ready to dig in the lovely stuff

in the spring, and don't worry too much if yor plot isn't up to next doors standard, doin' the plot is supposed to be fun I reckons, jolly people, peace and quiet, a bit of a chat about which way up to plant yor beans, then warm you 'ands on the bonny.

So wot about the Up Downley festival? Wot a brilliant three weeks,, and the Open Gardens, I had a chat with sum of you then, a lovely day, lovely people and a good bit of money for the Memorial Hall, 100 years since the battle of the Somme, orl them allotmentees going over the top, after digging their trenches instead of their plots, wot a world, still, it's 2016 now, not 1916, it's no good a'moanin', but sum times I can't help that! But something to really cheer you up...a mate of mine in Downley as got bee orchids in his front lawn! So it's always worth not cutting orl yor grass in summer, you might 'ave sum too, just watch where you puts yor feet!

Finally, Mrs H. has cum up with this Victorian recipe for pottin' compost, I just can't wait to 'ave a go at it.....

2 barrows of goose dung steeped in blood,  
2 of sugar bakers scum,  
2 of night soil,  
2 of fine yellow loam.

Mix monthly for 2 years. You could get a bag at the garden centre instead!

Cheerio and a' bientot

*J.H. sent from my iSpade*



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# Downley War Memorial Hall

*Frederick Harris*  
& *Charles Giles*

The Battle of the Somme continued into the Autumn of 1916 with numerous attacks and counter attacks designed to capture, or recover a variety of strategic positions.

With increasing pressure on the German Army in Russia, Italy and now Romania the British and French decided to increase the size and tempo of attacks on the Somme, to weaken the German defence and achieve a general German collapse. Originally planned for August they were subsequently delayed to allow for the use of tanks.

On 15 September a number of offensives were launched including one at Deville Wood that involved the 9th Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps, part of the 14th (Light) Division. The plan was to secure German forward positions in preparation for the main advance and they had three tanks in support. However, two of these broke down and the third was knocked out by a shell.

This was the first time tanks were used in battle but they had limited success due to breakdowns and getting stuck in the mud. German historians later admitted that their defences came close to collapse during this offensive and it may have been four days of rain, turning roads into swamps, that saved them.

It was in this action that 23 year old Frederick Harris, a stretcher bearer, was wounded. He died five days later at No. 36 Casualty Clearing Station.

Frederick was a machinist in the chair making industry and lived with his family in Littleworth (regarded as a separate hamlet back then). His mother's family name was Langley and they were also from this area.

Charles Giles was not featured in the local paper until June 2017. He was with the Worcester Regiment at the time of his death having enlisted in the Ox & Bucks but been transferred once he got to France. He suffered severe shrapnel wounds to the head on 28 October. It is likely to have been a similar operation to that in which Frederick Harris was wounded.

The Matron of the hospital Charles was taken to asked if he would like to see his mother but he replied that the journey might be too much for her. He was then asked if he had any message for his family and said "Tell them I am alive and happy."



An operation was performed on 5 November but he never regained consciousness and died eight days later.

Charles was 35 when he died and had been living with his father George, mother Anne (nee Mines), and younger siblings in Chapel Street. He was a chairmaker like most of his family.

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*Frederick Harris*

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# The Enigma Cody

*Who was that man who landed his aeroplane on Downley Common in 1912?*

The American showman who styled himself “Colonel Samuel F. Cody” was born on a farm in the Mid-West, left home at 14, was a ranch hand until in 1888, age 21, he joined the Wild West section of a travelling circus as a sharpshooter. Cody came to England in 1890 after his young wife, Maud, had shot a member of the audience during a shooting display that went disastrously wrong. Cody met and fell in love with actress Lela King and Maud returned to USA in 1891 never to see Cody again. Cody became a household name in Britain when he wrote a play “The Klondyke Nugget” in which he and Lela starred. They toured successfully with this for 5 years from 1898.



*Man-lifter War Kite designed by Cody*

In the early 1900s Cody became obsessed with flying and became a Kiting Instructor at British Army Balloon Factory, Farnborough. While there he designed and built British Army Aeroplane No.1. Piloting this on 16th Oct 1908 Cody became

the 1st person in Britain to fly a powered aircraft. In 1909 Cody successfully applied for British Citizenship. On his application form he gave his name as Cody (it was Cowdery) date of birth 1862 (it was 1867) place of birth Birdville, Texas (it was Davenport, Iowa) he also lied about his marital status as he and Maud were never divorced. In his shows Cody had been billed



as Buffalo Bill Cody’s cousin, brother and even son but was no relation of his.



Cody died in a flying accident in 1913 and though never in the armed forces he was given a military funeral where 1,000 soldiers volunteered to accompany his

coffin to the Army Cemetery at Thorn Hill. He was the 1st civilian to be buried there.

Details of Cody/Cowdery’s life have recently been published by University of Oklahoma Press in “A Pair of Shootists” by Jerry Kuntz. A copy will be in Downley Community Library soon.

*Chris Lees*



*The wreckage of Cody’s fatal air crash*

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# Letters

## A BIG THANK-YOU TO DOWNLEY!

I just wanted to say a huge thank-you to the people of Downley, who contributed to our Christian Aid door to door envelope collection and “The Big Breakfast” at Moor Lane Methodist Church on the Saturday morning of May 21st. It was the nicest breakfast I’ve had for a very long time, and kept me going all day!

Together we raised a fantastic figure of £1,320!

So many thanks to all, who very generously gave money, and to those who (also very generously) gave their time, to knocking on the doors of your neighbours and friends, during Christian Aid Week in May. There seems to be a little bit of friendly rivalry as to who collects the most!

If anyone would like to help next year, please do get in touch now, so I can work out who collects in which road. Then I can ask you nearer the time (usually the middle of May each year) if you would still like to help. Once again, well done Downley, and thank you. I always knew it was the best place to live!!

Paul Perowne, [p.maddockperowne@talktalk.net](mailto:p.maddockperowne@talktalk.net) 01494465608  
(Christian Aid Co-ordinator for Downley)

### Calling a Poet or Two.

Those living locally who like to write or rhyme poetry are being missed by the Downley Village News.

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Thank you  
*Editor*



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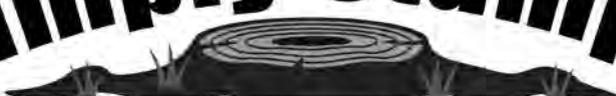
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## Credits

### Editor

Simon Scott at [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org)

### Layout

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### Advertising

Send advertising copy to [adverts@downley.org](mailto:adverts@downley.org)

### Distribution

Coordinated by Des Ryan. Volunteers to deliver locally are always needed. If interested contact Des on: [desmondryan64@gmail.com](mailto:desmondryan64@gmail.com) 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 July 2016.

### 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](mailto: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](https://www.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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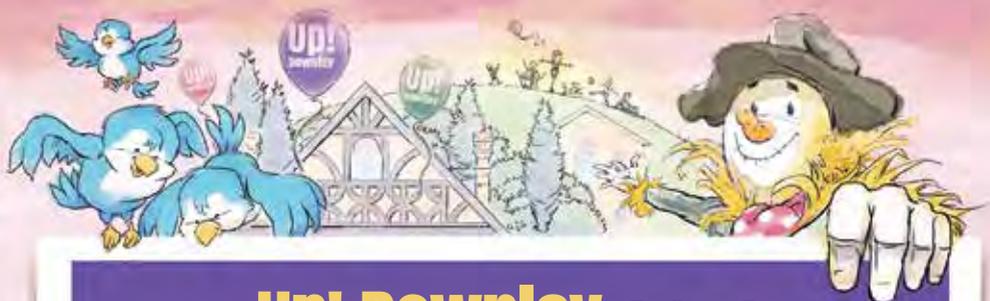
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# Up! Downley 2016

Village Festival

**Some images from this year's Festival**

Many more can be found inside and on the village Facebook page:

**FACEBOOK.COM/DOWNLEY.COMMUNITY**

