

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

Village News



Features

Local Societies
Around the Area
Lifestyle
Downley Diary *Pull Out Section*
History

Issue 110 / March 2017





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Editorial

This bumper issue of the DVN has an enormous content and thank you to all the local community who sent in articles and other content. We have also attracted some new advertisers and it is good to see that there is some confidence in this community post Brexit. In fact, all the local businesses I have spoken to during this last three months have said business is getting busier which is a good sign and a reflection of our British stoic nature. It makes you feel proud to be British and I wish all of you, and the local businesses in this thriving community every success for 2017.

Don't forget that our Community is supported by our local councillor (a regular contributor) and our Parish Council. Beyond this there is the District Council and of course our High Wycombe MP who is also a regular contributor to this magazine. These elected people are there to support and help in our communities which is often something that we forget so if you are in need then seek their support as this is what nits communities like Downley together and makes our British society the envy of the world (grandiose I know, but also true).

As always, keep an eye to our FB page and downley.org which will inform you of all the upcoming events. The social media platforms are thriving in Downley. New visitors and return visitors to these platforms are rising. A continued effort from local volunteers ensures these online areas and up to date and informative. Should you want to contribute to community life in Downley then contact the Parish Council, get in touch online, email me or email your local councillor. Local residents are needed for School Governor's posts, Parish council posts, the UP Festival committee, the magazine and web platforms. This is rewarding work and enables you to become more rooted in your own community.

Simon Scott, Editor



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Downley Common News

It's winter so it's time for more pond work. Our continuing project to expose some clear water in Mannings Pond has continued with work parties in both December and January. December was particularly challenging as a hard frost on the day necessitated breaking through a half inch layer of ice before plunging into the water. Still, good progress was made in clear the margin of weed and reeds. This was continued at our mid-week work party in January. In addition, we removed the 2 large tree trunks left over from the professional work done two years ago. They have been left temporarily in the woods until moving to block off a known joy-rider's access point at the end of Hunts Hill Lane. We now leave Mannings Pond alone until next winter to allow the newts to get on with whatever it is they do in the summer.

We have more saplings arriving in January so will be intending to plant these out in the new coppice area by the track leading to the old Dairy in February, probably before you read this.

There is generally less for us to do in Spring as we don't like to disturb the wildflowers and nesting birds. However, the posts around the Common always need maintenance and this is a good time to replace these that need it. 18th April is the date for our next biannual meeting where members come and say what they would like the Society



to do. It's also our opportunity to remind members that subs are now due.

The society also helps to load up the beacon on New Year's Eve, although it is not strictly a DCPS event. While those who turned up seemed to enjoy themselves, we understand there was some disruptive behaviour close by during the evening and would like to apologise to anyone who was disturbed by this.

*Bill Thompson, Downley Common
Preservation Society*



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The Downley Village News is looking for a Volunteer Designer

The Downley Village News is published quarterly and has a window of about two weeks to put together. The designer would be part of team of volunteers who successfully produce a publication that informs the local community and raises funds toward community projects.

Please contact Pat Weedon: news@downley.org

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St.James Voice

At St James, we are very keen to play a full part in our local community.

We support local charities such as the One Can Trust and Wycombe Homeless Connection. You may have met some of our congregation at the Brickies Quiz Nights or at Pints of View. You will certainly have seen us if you have been to Downley Day. Perhaps you have attended our social events such as Burns Night, Caribbean and Murder Mystery Evenings, or our quiz evenings. You may have taken part in Christmas concerts as a member of the Womens' Institute, Downley Descants or Scouts. In the past, we have been involved in our local schools and in the Heights Care Home.

We welcome the community into St James. You may be a regular visitor to St James as a member of one of the very many clubs and activity groups that use our facilities. Activities take place on most days of the week and most are not religious. A quick look at the Regular Activities section of this magazine shows how St James is a meeting place for people of all sections of the Downley community including a wide range of interests and ages. We are fortunate to have recently refurbished Church Hall and a Church building that can be used very flexibly, adapting easily from our usual Sunday Service format to an area suitable for use by Tots and Teddies every Wednesday from 1.30-3pm. If you have small children and would like to come along any Wednesday, you will be most welcome. We have a good selection of toys and provide drinks and biscuits so come along and give it a try. Within the church building is the Rainbow Room, a comfortable seating area suitable for use by small groups. St James' Church is proud to be the home of the Colours of the Downley Branch of the British Legion.

Of course, as a church we would most like to welcome you to one of our services. A service of Holy Communion is held every Sunday at 11.00am and after the service you are most welcome to stay for tea or coffee. We are currently planning our Easter Services and will ensure that the details are widely available in the community and on our website. Details will be available on our website www.stjamesdownley.org.uk. Information will also be available on posters around the village.

Our Mission Statement reflects our desire to be part of and to serve our community:

To worship Jesus and allow His love to reach out to us and our community. We also have a special prayer, printed on every service sheet and said most Sundays

God of Mission

**who alone brings growth to your Church,
 send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning
 wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.
 Help our church to grow in numbers,
 In spiritual commitment to you,
 And in service to our local community,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Revd Alison Finch

Ever thought of giving something back to your community? Do you want to play a role in driving school improvement?

The Downley School Governing Board currently has two Co-opted Governor vacancies and we are interested in hearing from people particularly with skills and experience in Finance, Human Resources and Health and Safety / premises. Is this you? 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 Board would like to invite you to contact us to find out more about the role by emailing governors@bucksqfl.org.uk

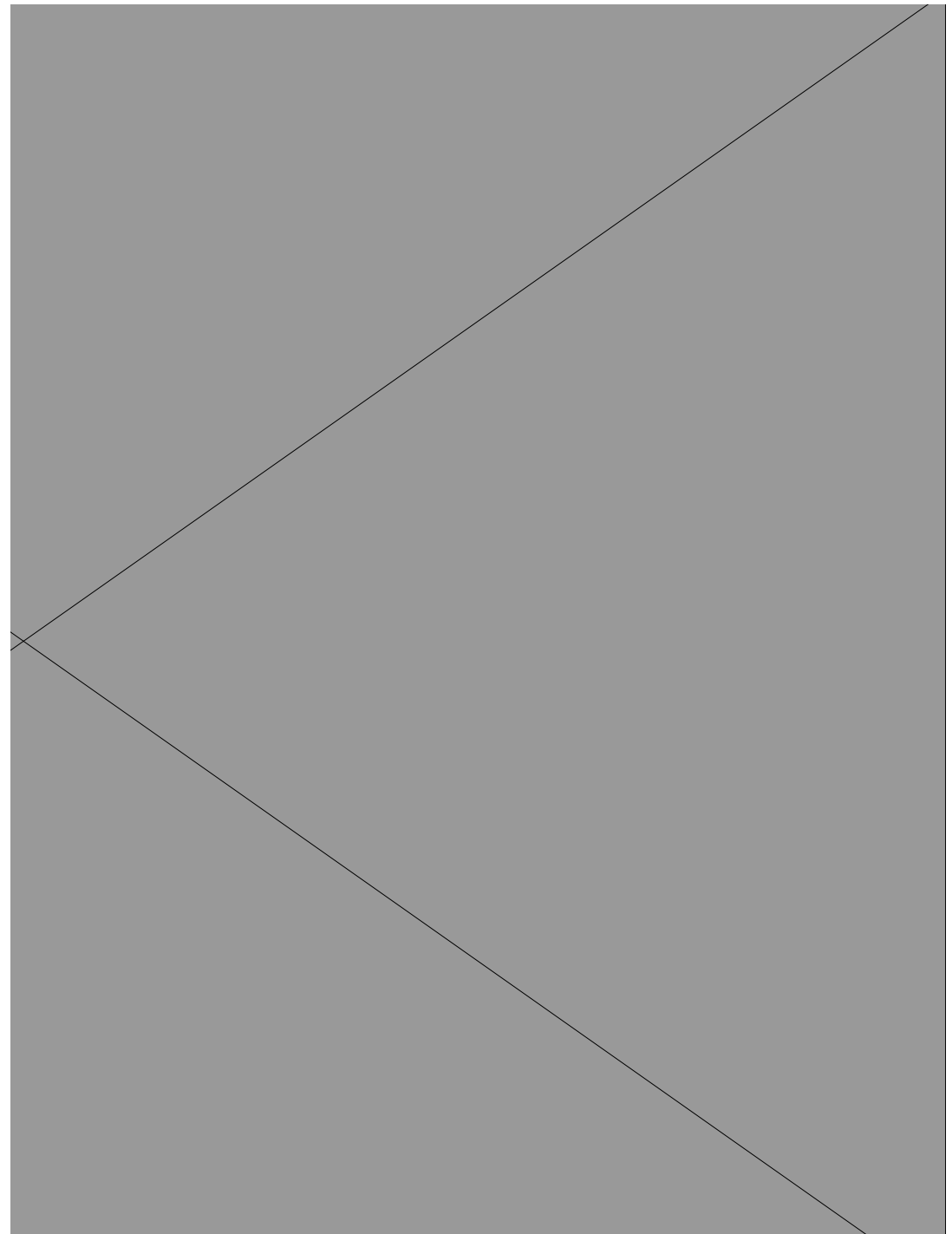
Some important things to know...

This is a volunteer role.

Please note that Governors will be required to produce evidence of identity and complete a declaration form.

All Governors are required to be DBS checked.

A full list of the names of the School Governors will be published on the school website as soon as the appointments have been finalised.



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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.

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Continued from page 13...

Typical, isn't it? You wait months for an outing, and then another two come along squeezed around those already booked! Remember, places cannot be held so email us at address below for more information on how to pay.

Following on from our very popular trip in September last year, we have managed to secure a further two tours of the Palace of Westminster free of charge through our MP, Steve Baker. This guided tour takes in the Houses of Commons and Lords, the Great Hall and connecting corridors. Don't miss this exciting tour opportunity but be aware the building is very old so there will be lots of stairs to climb during the tour.

Alan & Claire Baker
01494 437552
clairebaker55@btinternet.com

Downley Evening WI

Hello again! I hope you're all coping with the rigours of winter and not suffering too much from the cold and damp.

theWI
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At Downley Evening WI, we know how to combat the seasonal 'blues' – by enjoying good company, informative talks, fun activities and lots of cake!

We've got 2017 off to a great start with a wonderfully entertaining presentation by Tony King entitled from Hollywood to Broadway. Not quite what you might expect as the main focus was on the railways which cross the continent but lavishly illustrated with snippets of film and music. I've never yet heard such applause for a speaker in my time as a member. We'll definitely be inviting him back and if, in the meantime, you get the opportunity to hear one of his talks, I'd say go for it. You'll be entertained and informed in equal measure.

We have a full programme of speakers lined up to take us through the year and we're already getting underway with our extracurricular activities as we have a Beetle Drive in February. I went to my first one a couple of years ago, not knowing what to expect, and it was great fun. Fast, furious and hilarious. So I'm looking forward to having another go. The regular spring fixture on our calendar is our birthday party in March. This is always an excellent evening, catered as ever by the marvellous Ann Tenant and her team. Sadly, for you, this is only open to members, I'm afraid, but if you were to join us – well, next year you could be sitting with us enjoying a beautifully-cooked three course meal and stimulating talk. Oh, and birthday cake, of course ...

We've been happy to welcome some new members recently who have already started making a real difference, getting involved on the committee, bringing new ideas and enthusiasms, but there's plenty of room for more. Do come along and give it a try. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at St James' Church, Plomer Hill, from 7.45pm. You'll find a warm welcome and lots of new friends. Call Rosemary, our president, on HW 538966 for more information. See you soon!

Angela Taplin

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We will endeavour to be in contact with all of you but in the meantime we would love to hear from you via the Up Downley website, email below. We also hope to be able to offer places to small independent local business.

Les Root
Festival Committee Chairman

Email: festival@downley.org

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Now that Christmas is over and perhaps you have read all the books you had as presents, please think of the library if you want to give them a new home!

The library has copies of most of the Downley News going back to the first issue in 1987. We do have a few gaps and if anyone has any of the following copies tucked away we would be most grateful if we could borrow them to make copies. Those we are short of are: issues 7, 30, 45, 46, 47, 64, 68, 69 and 73.

Please phone John Morris on 01494 528683



View of Library

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 25p per copy.

"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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Book Group

There were four responses to the suggestion of starting a new Book Group in Downley.

The ladies interested have been put in touch with each other so they can take the idea forward themselves. Would you like to be involved? Please contact me (Claire Baker) and I'll pass your details on.

Claire Baker 01494 437552
clairebaker55@btinternet.com

Downley Village Evening WI

Tuesday 14th March 2017, 7.30 - 10.00 is our Birthday Party. We have caterers to cook us a Supper and we will be entertained by Joan Dark and Rosalie Field.

Literary Lunch
April 12th "Coincidences"

March 21st at St James Church Speaker:
Simon Browne from Bourne End Antiques.

Pat Heath President
01494 535998
patheath@virginmedia.com
www.downleyeveningwi.weebly.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 - 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

Worship Group

I would like to let people in Downley know that there is group of Christians meeting at the Downley Community Centre every 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the Month starting at 3pm. We'd love to meet people from the Downley Community and welcome them to any of our services.

Saroj Patel (Mrs)
07985 901299

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES

We meet for worship every Sunday at 11.00am. The service reflects the prevailing season of the Church and lasts just over one hour.

Family Communion
This takes place on the first Sunday of the month. These acts of worship are fun and engaging for children of all ages. EVERYONE WELCOME!

www.stjamesdownley.org.ukm

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 A5 size notices are supplied.

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

Mar 5 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy

8 DCPS mid-week work party at the tank crossing (by cricket pitch)

14 Parish Council meeting at Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

18 Spring Downley Makers Market at the War Memorial Hall 10am - 2pm

Apr 2 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy

8 'This, That and the Other' at the Le De Spencers Arms from 9pm

11 Parish Council meeting at the Community Centre at 7.30pm

12 DCPS mid-week work party at the tank crossing (by cricket pitch)

18 DCPS Biannual Meeting at the Memorial Hall at 8pm

May 7 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy

10 DCPS mid-week work party at the tank crossing (by cricket pitch)

21 Rogation Walk starting outside the War Memorial Hall at 2pm

June 4 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy

14 DCPS mid-week work party at the tank crossing (by cricket pitch)

16 Family Disco in the marquee on Commonsides at 7pm

17 Downley Day on Commonsides from 1pm

18 Fathers Day Fun on Mannings Field

19 Yoga for children in the marquee

The Downley School

Whole School Charity Vote



On November 18th 2016 The Downley School had an exciting event. The School and Values Councils had been tasked by Mr Leith to choose a charity for the whole school to support. The chosen charity would receive some of the money raised during the school Enterprise Projects and any money raised from the school fundraising. The councils were provided with a range of the charities suggested by staff. It was decided by the School Councils that it would not be in keeping with the school Values for them to choose the charity alone. Instead they wanted to be considerate and they wanted to enable the whole school to vote

(including the pupils and all the adults that work for the school).

To do this the children shortlisted the charities by rating them based on the one they felt was most to deserving to the one they felt was least deserving. The results showed that the shortlist for the rest of the school to vote on would be Barnados, Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, World Wildlife Foundation, Cancer Research and Thames Valley Air Ambulance. All of which are extremely deserving charities. They then organised a whole school vote which included its own Polling Station.

On the day the children were supporting Children in Need and were dressed in their superhero costumes. They all attended a whole school assembly which outlined the five different charities. They also heard about the voting process and the importance of Democracy.

They were also fortunate to hear from our local MP Steve Baker who explained his role as an MP and answered the key questions they had. Including "What has been the most heated discussion you have had in the House of Commons?" The children were delighted that Steve Baker attended. Before he left he also showed the children how to vote and cast his own vote.

A group of the Year 4 children said "We are so lucky to get an MP to visit. We have been really looking forward to Steve Baker coming into the school because we have never seen an MP before. We found him very interesting and inspiring!"

Throughout the day the classes came to the Polling Station in the Hall. They had to register their names and then they received their ballot papers. Once they had their ballot papers they went into a polling station to cast their vote. They then put their vote into the ballot boxes.



Continued on page 37...



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Continued from page 35...

When the Polling Station closed the School Council and Values Council worked hard to sort the votes into the charities that were chosen. They then had the difficult job of counting them into stacks of twenty to make the counting easier. After the count the result was announced by the School and Values Councillors to their classes. We are proud to say that the chosen charity was the World Wildlife Fund.



The day was a real success and the children really enjoyed the event. Throughout the experience the school values were greatly used. The children had to show Tolerance towards each other's opinions, Compassion for the charities, Respect for each other's ideas and Self-Control if their charity wasn't chosen. The children's behaviour and consideration for others was exemplary and we are so proud of the school.

Mrs Barlow, Values Leader, The Downley School

Downley Descants - An Alto's View

From my usual place in the back row of the Alto's there is a view of almost everyone in the choir. A mix of people, some friends and neighbours of many years, others more recent arrivals in Downley or around the area. United by music, strangers become friends.



Under the direction of Louise and our accompanist Yuan we enjoy learning and performing an ever-growing number of songs, some with hauntingly beautiful harmonies that make the spine tingle and others more light hearted, and still more known from stage and screen.

When the Downley Descants began five years ago, we had no idea that we would develop such a repertoire.

The amazing thing is that Louise has helped us to grow from our tentative beginnings into a choir - some of us with little or no previous musical experience, others rusty from early beginnings in school or other musical training, but together we make music.

The good news is that everyone is welcome to join us and enjoy the fun of being a part of this choir, and the pride in achieving and performing for others.

During the Christmas period, we performed on five occasions for various audiences and raised £830 which was donated to Alzheimers Society UK (Berks, Bucks, & Oxon) and Motor Neurone Disease Association (South Bucks). We were also involved in a charity day at Marks and Spencer where more than £700 was raised for Child Bereavement UK. This makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Come along for a couple of free trial weeks to see what the choir can do for you. For more information and contact details look on our website: www.downleydescants.org.uk If you have no access to a computer, please contact Lyn on 01494 436063 or Julian on 01494 440430.

Beryl Taylor - Alto



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Name and contact details.....

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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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Mr. and Mrs. Joynton, of Frogmole place, Downley, have received the official news from the War Office that their son, Rifleman W. Joynton, of the King's Royal Rifle Corps (who has been missing since 23rd of last April) was killed on that date. This dear lad was 19 years of age, and had



THE LATE RIFLEMAN W. JOYNTON.
been in France about three months. His death adds one more to the growing roll of brave lads who have given their lives for King and Country. His friends can only hope to meet him in a better Land, where there will be no war or sorrow, but "Peace, perfect peace." Prior to joining the Army in the summer of 1916, Rifleman W. Joynton was employed by Messrs. Joynton and Co., Station Street, Wrotham. He went to France in January, 1917.

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From July 1st to 31st, 1897, at 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1897.

Open Ticket Admission 50c, 10c, 5c, 2c, 1c, 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 45c, 50c, 55c, 60c, 65c, 70c, 75c, 80c, 85c, 90c, 95c, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 1.60, 1.70, 1.80, 1.90, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 2.60, 2.70, 2.80, 2.90, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 3.60, 3.70, 3.80, 3.90, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 4.60, 4.70, 4.80, 4.90, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 5.60, 5.70, 5.80, 5.90, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 6.60, 6.70, 6.80, 6.90, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 7.60, 7.70, 7.80, 7.90, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 8.60, 8.70, 8.80, 8.90, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 9.60, 9.70, 9.80, 9.90, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 10.60, 10.70, 10.80, 10.90, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 11.60, 11.70, 11.80, 11.90, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 12.60, 12.70, 12.80, 12.90, 13.00, 13.10, 13.20, 13.30, 13.40, 13.50, 13.60, 13.70, 13.80, 13.90, 14.00, 14.10, 14.20, 14.30, 14.40, 14.50, 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14:00 Total Body Conditioning
20:00 Pilates Strength & Stretch
Downley School, The Pasture, Downley



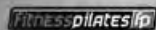
Thursdays:

19:00 Cardio Bootcamp HIIT Style
19:30 Legs, Bums & Tums
20:00 Yoga Based Stretch
Village Hall, Queen Street, Piddington



Wednesdays:

19:00 Fitness Pilates
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Any copy or photographs sent to this address may also be used on the downley.org website and facebook page:

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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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Secretary Peter Loadman

Treasurer Bob Cook

Webmaster Mark Starkey

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and those Scarecrows

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ESHAAN AKBAR • JOE BOR • MARK WATSON • ROBERT WHITE

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SO BE SURE TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS EARLY!

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