

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY  
COMMUNITY**

# Village News



## Features

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

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& a Happy NEW YEAR*

Issue 109 / November 2016





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# Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	3	Chameleon Singles Group	25
<b>Local Societies</b>		Take Care This Winter	25
Downley Common News	5	<b>Downley Diary</b>	27-30
The Downley Pharmacy	7	A Note from the Parish Council	31
St. James Voice	9	<b>Around the Area</b>	
Downley Theatre Group	9	From Wycombe to Westminster	33
Downley Village Evening WI	11	News from the District	35
Pride Comes Before a Fall	11	Inconsiderate Parking	37
The Downley School	13	<b>Lifestyle</b>	
Downley Community Centre	13	The Hughenden Stream	39
Downley Descants	15	West Wycombe Pre-School	41
Downley Wine and Beer Club	17	J Heartycough's Horticultural Hints	43
1st Downley Guides	19	<b>History</b>	
DOSCA Community Library	21	Downley War Memorial Hall	45
Bus Route 30	23	<b>Poetry Corner</b>	47
Rennie Groves Shop Cross Court Downley	23	<b>List of Advertisers</b>	54

## Editorial

My last editorial spoke of the living history that was then the coming US Elections. Well history has once again proved all the polls and pundits wrong. The reality TV star and businessman has won the big job. Not only that but he has his own 'ism.'

Trumpism (plural Trumpisms)

A characteristic phrase or statement made by Donald Trump, especially if seen as bizarre or fascistic.

We surely are living in interesting times and who knows what is next around the corner. Whatever your turn brings you I hope you can enjoy this Christmas issue of the Downley Village News. Once again our contributors have surpassed themselves and I thank you all for your efforts in delivering such interesting content. Don't miss the Hughenden stream 'part 2' article which gives you another insight into the comings and goings of our local stream.

We are sorry to lose one of our long standing advertisers. Perhaps you can post on FB which one it is as a little competition? We hope they come back soon and do remember to use the companies who advertise in here. They are your local companies and everyone needs to support local business first. They are part of the fabric of your community.

Enjoy your Christmas and New Year celebrations.

*Simon Scott, Editor*



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# Downley Common News

*Another successful bonfire and torchlight procession was held on the traditional 5th Nov. Many thanks to those people who helped pile up the wood into a very respectable heap this year.*

Only a limited amount of tree-felling was done this year, principally removing a very damaged hawthorn to the east of the bonfire site. Next year we will probably continue cutting back the encroaching woods towards the north part of that location where there are some very prolific hawthorns.

In other news, there has been a series of work parties carried out by Chiltern Rangers to “scallop” areas of woodland along the bridle-path that runs alongside Manning’s Pond. The idea is partly to push back some of the woodland that is encroaching onto the bridle-path itself, but mainly to create some different habitats to allow some biological

diversity. Woodland can start to become rather uniform, particularly where invasive holly starts to take hold which is the case at the northern end of the common (towards Naphill). Creating areas of low level scrub will combat this issue. In addition, the junction of the path leading across Manning’s Field has been opened up to make it easier for walkers to access.

Another project being considered by Chiltern Rangers is to open up the access to the pond on the other side of the path opposite Mannings Pond. You may not have realised there is one there but it is currently deep in the middle of a tangled area of trees and bushes and is very difficult to access. Opening up this access will enable some degree of maintenance to be carried out more easily.

Over the winter months we will have another go at removing some of the reed-mace and sweet grass currently overgrowing Manning’s Pond. The work done last year has been quite successful and the area cleared has so far stayed clear, so we are hopeful that continuing this work will actually make a difference and help to make the pond look more like a pond. You never know, it might even encourage the starfruit to reappear.



*Bill Thompson  
Downley Common  
Preservation Society*



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# News from Downley Pharmacy

As I write this the news that NHS funding cuts we have been fighting against are to be imposed from December resulting in a considerable loss to our NHS income which rely on. Contrary to some reports however Downley Pharmacy will not be closing although we do face times of change in order to maintain profitability as a business.

There was much protest, locally and nationally against the initial proposal. This has indeed been re-thought and is now not as severe as first intended but will still mean an overall cut in income of 4% for 2016/17 and 7.5% for 2017/18. Various allowances and payments are being re-jigged, losing some and merging others. There are continuing cuts in re-imburement levels for medication supplied causing us to use more varied suppliers bringing day to day variation in brand of product supplied although we will endeavour to stay as consistent as possible.

A pharmacy access scheme with the stated aim of ensuring that a baseline level of patient access to NHS community pharmacy services is maintained has been announced and we in Downley will qualify for the payment, which is guaranteed until March 2018. A similar payment in previous contracts was however abolished leaving me with concerns for the longer term.

The emphasis of demonstrating quality of care and service will be recognized by quality point payments (similar to GP's). There are also rewards for pharmacies that show a role of health promotion relevant to their local community and in line with national campaigns. We will be looking to achieve Healthy Living Pharmacy accreditation in line with this. We are confident of the community support during this process, which will involve some questionnaires and surveys- watch this space! We will also be looking towards working with community organizations to promote wellbeing and health promotion, please contact us if as an organization we can work with you.

As any locally (or nationally) commissioned services are introduced we will also be aiming to be accredited to supply. As the Flu service has shown the locality, ease of parking and prompt drop in service available we are convenient and friendly- over 95% of those completing the questionnaire willing to return and recommend us to friends and family.

As the festive season approaches please bear in mind that the surgeries will be closed from Saturday 24th- Tuesday 27th December inclusive and again on from Saturday 31st December until Tuesday 3rd January. Please allow 3-4 working days when ordering your regular repeat medication but do not order early before Christmas unless you actually need it if you will run out or are going away. If the order is early due to holiday please be certain to mention this when you place the order as computer systems will reject if the time interval since last issue is too short and will not know of the special circumstance.

We hope you all enjoy the festive season. Please join us in wishing Marie well in the New Year as she leaves to have her second child.

*Fiona and team  
Downley Pharmacy*



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

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# St. James Voice

## *JESUS vs SANTA*

Santa lives at the North Pole...  
JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh...  
JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...  
JESUS is always with us.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...  
JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...  
JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa...  
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap...  
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...  
JESUS has a heart full of love

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...  
JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"...  
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys...  
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, and repairs broken homes

Santa may make you chuckle but...JESUS gives you lasting joy..

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...  
JESUS became our gift and died on a tree... the cross.

We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas,  
Jesus is still the reason for the season.

Why not come to church this CHRISTmas?  
There is a list of our services in the Downley Village News.

Season's Greetings

*Alison - St.James Church*

## **Downley Theatre Group**

*The Theatre Group offers trips to West End shows, occasional plays and day outings.*

The group celebrated its 100th trip with a special day out to the Palace of Westminster followed by a narrow boat trip on the Regents Canal. This outing filled within a week of being advertised and there were quite a few disappointed people who couldn't go; plans are being made for a repeat visit to the Houses of Parliament in the New Year. Due to tight time-scales, it is not possible to publicise our jollies in the Village News so please get in touch to be added to the mailing list. There is no membership fee and no obligation to go on any of the trips. Do get in touch with any questions:



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# Downley Village Evening WI

*Do you remember Calendar Girls, a film written about a real-life WI?*

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Well, Downley Village Evening WI don't strip off, but then again, you never know. And we may be the smaller of the two WIs in Downley but we have a huge amount of fun, speakers, and buns to offer members.

We meet at Downley Community Centre, School Close on the 1st Tuesday of the month, at 7.45 and would love to see you. We also hold quiz/coffee evenings held in member's homes, and how about our evenings out in great local pubs - for supper and a drink, and don't forget the trips to the Swan theatre. Sometimes we even let the men come on our various outings.

Our County Federation has outings in Bucks and beyond most months The National Federation of WIs keep us updated on important issues, and our resolutions are listened to by Government.

Do come and meet us, you will be so welcome. Remember it's the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Community Centre, School Close, at 7.45 where together with a speaker we provide what the WI is famous for. No, not calendars but friendship, and great cakes /coffee.

**Check out the posters around the village updated every month or phone:**

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**email: [patheath@virginmedia.com](mailto:patheath@virginmedia.com)**

## Calendar Girls



## PRIDE Comes Before a Fall

*1 in 3 people over the age of 65 and half of those over the age of 80 fall at least once a year.*

1. Keep your home safe
2. Visit a GP if you are concerned about falls
3. Come to the falls talk with Dr Thakkar

People aged 65 and older have the highest risk of falling, with 30% of people older than 65 and 50% of people older than 80 falling at least once a year. 50% of falls are preventable and through raising awareness we are hoping to reduce the number of falls.

A free talk is being presented by Dr Raj Thakker to promote fall awareness at Downley Community Centre at 11.30am-12.30pm on Friday 27 January 2017.

*Organised by NHS Buckinghamshire Federation of Clinical Commissioning Groups*

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# The Downley School

*It has been a hectic but immensely enjoyable first half term for me as the new Headteacher at The Downley School.*



One of the highlights of the first seven weeks was a brilliant whole school inter team 'It's A Knockout' event. Every child and member of staff were involved in a wonderful morning of competition, effort and teamwork. It was a great success and a great start to the year.

Our value for the month of September was "Confidence" and as part of this we celebrated International Day of Peace on 21st September. We are exploring 'Empathy' this month. The children constantly surprise us with their perceptive and sometimes extremely profound understanding of the values which are becoming embedded in every aspect of our school life.

Our sports teams have seen lots of action already this year. Football tournaments and a cross country event have been very well attended. Lots of extra-curricular clubs are up and running now as well and are very popular. We do as much as possible to encourage children to be involved in sport!

We've welcomed lots of parents through the doors this half term. Parents Consultation evenings, two information evenings for parents and lots of volunteers to help in the classrooms.

Our Parents Association are a fabulous group of parents who meet every month and work on organising fund raising events. So far this year they have organised a Sponsored Bounce and a Fish n'Chips evening for parents of our new reception children.

*Mr D Leith, Headteacher*

# Downley Community Centre

*The Management Committee will be going ahead with the second stage of redecoration in the Beech Room as part of the overall plan to modernise the facilities at the Centre.*

Specifically, we have now booked contractors to work during the Christmas holidays to prepare and decorate the walls and woodwork, bury all the unsightly cables and to upgrade the kitchenette facility to the standard achieved in Oak.

Work will commence during the third week of December and the project is scheduled to complete in eight days. There will be some minor disruption to users during this time but please rest assured that we will keep this to an absolute minimum.

Training sessions are becoming more popular at the Centre by retailers such as Waitrose and the Co-op. On-going healthcare courses are also being held by various sectors of the NHS as well as staff training for local general practices.

The annual and very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning was hosted again at the Community Centre, run by Mrs Brenda Cork and her friends at Downley Village Evening WI. The event raised £243.00

Brenda would like to thank every-one from the village who visited and of course the WI cake bakers.

Mrs Pat Heath also raised money for the second year running for the Royal British Legion with her knitted poppies; two designs were made and have all been sold locally.

*Paul Homer*



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# Downley Descants - A Choral 'Cure-All'

*Here we are nearly at the end of the first term of our fifth year and what a term it has been.*



We have been learning Christmas music since late September and practising and taking part in six performances before the big day comes. This will leave us fully deserving of a rest accompanied by a turkey leg and perhaps a little something in a glass before we start again fully rejuvenated and eager to learn new pieces ready for the New Year. If you have not heard us perform yet why not come to our Annual Concert at St James' Church on Thursday December 15th.

Our first concert this term was for the Downley War Memorial Hall but sadly only attracted a small audience. Those who came however left with a similar 'afterglow' to that experienced by the choir after every performance, so why make excuses just come along, you might be pleasantly surprised.

It was nice to see that local dignitary Mr J Heartycough with his 'missus' at the Memorial Hall (thankfully, minus his i-spade!), for their very first concert. After avoiding us for the last four years he finally succumbed and said he really enjoyed the evening, so why not give us a try and come to our future events whenever you can (contact details below).

Our Annual concert will see the first public appearance of our very own new keyboard complete with various accessories which now means we no longer have to borrow one from another local choir. We were able to purchase this after generous grants from both Downley Parish and Wycombe District Councils. We are very grateful for their support and to learn that we are now regarded as an important group within the community. This aspect has always been important to us right from the beginning and we are proud to be held in such high esteem.

**We attract new members each term but are always looking for more. If you think we may be right for you, why not come along on any Thursday evening (school term times only) to Sunnybank Church in Moor Lane at 8pm. There are no requirements for auditions, all we ask for is an enjoyment of singing and the convivial atmosphere it provokes.**

**Please contact Lyn on 01494 436063 or Julian on 01494 440430 or visit our website [downleydescants.org.uk](http://downleydescants.org.uk). We look forward to welcoming you.**

*Bob Cook  
Almost a Bass*



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# Downley Wine and Beer Club

*Trip to Hasselt, Belgium. 23 - 26 September 2016*

On Friday morning 23rd September we boarded taxis to Wycombe railway station for a long weekend in Hasselt, Belgium with Downley Wine and Beer Club.

The outward journey on Eurostar saw 22 of us loaded with party food and sparkling wines enjoying the start of a four day break, organised within the group.

This has become a legendary annual pilgrimage to the beer lover's paradise, with chocolate and good food included. After a stress free journey via Brussels we were welcomed at our hotel with a light snack and a glass of Cava served at exactly the right temperature.



Having settled in we took a 10 minute leisurely stroll to the restaurant for our pre-booked evening meal. The owner of the restaurant was a Rolling Stones fan and their pictures adorned the walls. Luckily there was no music to accompany our outstanding dinner. As dusk turned to evening, the town hall opposite appeared beautifully illuminated complemented by its colourful floral displays.

Saturday morning we had free time to explore the flea market and local cafés for a beer followed by a brassiere for lunch. After, we all met up for a guided walking tour of different local pubs and bars with a tasting of an unusual beer at each. Most of the beers were not available elsewhere. A great way to spend an afternoon.

Evening dinner was an a la carte occasion which again excelled.

Sunday was warm and sunny again and the more agile of us assembled for a guided climb up the local cathedral tower or carillon. Our guide was explaining some technical details on the second floor when the bell sounded for a call to morning service; its amazing how quiet it sounds when the bell stops ringing. The clear view over the town from the top was spectacular as we waved to others in our group waiting at ground level.

After lunch we had exclusive use of the local land train for a tour of the town, terminating at a former Jenever (gin) distillery, now a museum where we had a fascinating tour and tastings. With a little free time remaining before evening dinner, some of our members then walked to the Japanese Garden which was well worth a visit.

For our last evening, we enjoyed another delicious pre-booked meal before travelling home on Monday afternoon. An excellent time was had by all. Planning is already under way for next year's 9th Belgium trip.



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*Why girls should 'Keep Calm and Start Guiding':*

## Consider becoming a 1st Downley Guide

It may not be the top of most young girl's 'to-do' list but I challenge any girl who is or was part of the Girl Guiding movement to find a reason NOT to become involved. Where else offers girls an environment of fun, friendship, challenge and adventure? What other club empowers individuals to find their voice, discover the best in themselves, allows them to make a positive difference in the community and gain a sense of citizenship? I want to prove to you how cool Guiding really is; show how it moves with the times whilst retaining the core values of the original movement.

In a media based society young women find it difficult to figure out their place in the world; are they the sporty girl? The clever girl? The pretty girl? Guiding offers girls a safe haven; for two hours a week the girls can be anyone they want to be. 1st Downley Guides offers a meeting place that is a free space; it allows the girls to take their minds off issues that they might be dealing with elsewhere and speak out on issues that are important to them. We are a liberal and modern organisation that allows its members to take the lead; the girls make the decisions, shape the activities and utilise different platforms to ensure their voices are heard.

As a unit we undertake a wide variety of activities at our Monday meetings; the activities are variable and are determined by the girls based on their interests. Some of the activities include; swimming, international cooking, guest speakers/ demonstrations from local businesses and charities, pamper evenings and an assortment of arts and crafts. The girls also complete challenge badges and Go-For-Its, some of which cover the more traditional elements of Guiding; fire lighting, wide games and charity fundraising. The Guides are given the opportunity to take their meetings outside

of the meeting place through organised trips to London and the surrounding area; additionally they are offered the chance to spend time away from home at camp. One of the main events each year for 1st Downley is the Big Gig Wembley at which the girls have had the opportunity to see the likes of Labrinth, Ella Henderson, Jess Glynne, The Vamps and Little Mix. The concert is designed specifically for Guides and The Senior Section offering age-appropriate music and activities all within a friendly and safe environment. There are a lot of artists on every line up so it gives the girls an opportunity to see their favourite bands as well as discovering new talent.

Guiding allows young girls experience adventure as they step outside their comfort zone; it encourages them to try new things in a non-competitive environment; from camping to rock climbing to community projects and fundraising. The leaders of 1st Downley aims to boost the girl's confidence and increase their responsibility; we move the girls towards independence and provide familiarity and progression. We are a dynamic family which is constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of today's society yet we strive to maintain the integral objectives of new friendships, teamwork and confidence.

**1st Downley Guides is always looking for vibrant young women to take Girl Guiding into its next chapter. So if you know a girl aged between 10-14 that fancies keeping calm and trying Guiding then ask her to get in contact with Emma Burslem, Leader in Charge ([emma\\_burslem90@outlook.com](mailto:emma_burslem90@outlook.com)) to arrange a trial session. No waiting list and all girls welcome.**

*Emma Burslem*



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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 25p 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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## Bus Route 30

*Arriva made changes at very short notice on Sunday 4 September.*



For readers who are not yet aware of the minor change and some bus drivers who after several weeks still occasionally follow the old route, the new route within Downley follows The Pastures, Plomer Green Avenue, Gray's Lane, Commonside, Littleworth Road, Hithercroft Road, Tinkers Wood Road and The Pastures then the previous route back to town.

The school bus stop close to the junction of The Pastures and Plomer Hill is now also a route 30 stop as shown by the affixed timetable. One of the lay-by stops in The Pastures has been replaced by a new kerb side stop almost opposite Tinkers Wood Road.

Arriva have made minor timing changes to the route, to ensure the route remains at the present frequency by being more commercially viable and in turn this will improve reliability.

The bus route is a private commercial business operated without any public subsidy and over which no council (Parish, District or County) have any right, or jurisdiction to tell the bus company what to do or how to do it, anymore than any other business.

If there are any individuals inconvenienced to such an extent that they have been unable to access the bus on its new route please contact Councillor Paul Turner as there are other options

*The Downley Communications Committee*

## Rennie Groves Hospice Shop, Cross Court, Downley

*As you will notice we have changed our name from Ian Rennie to Rennie Groves. This is because we have amalgamated with Grove House Hospice mainly based in Hertfordshire*

We now have 26 shops covering Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. Our shop in Downley has been open for six and half years, mainly thanks to our wonderful customers and donators. We are very lucky to have good parking at the front of the shop, or at the rear for large or heavy goods.

We now have a couple of discount shops where we can sell items that do not sell in our shop, so we do not have to discard very many of our donated goods. We also have a company that will buy our rags, old shoes and handbags. Unfortunately, we cannot sell TVs, video players, videos, computer equipment, large furniture items, large electrical equipment, bicycles or baby equipment. We can take small electrical items, which are tested before sale.

This year we are having our late-night Christmas Shopping Evening on Monday 5th December, 5:00pm - 7:30pm. We will have lots of new, unused items including toys, books, beauty items and bric-a-brac as well as our normal stock. We hope to have a raffle and of course our lottery tickets. There will be mulled wine, soft drinks and nibbles as a thank you to all our supporters and friends.

Please come along and meet our managers, Mandy and Jacqui, and some of our volunteers. By the way, we are always looking for new volunteers, both male and female, whenever you have a few hours to spare.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year, Happy Christmas.

*Liz (volunteer).*



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- Flower Arranging
- Create your own Website or Blog
- Computers for Beginners
- Greek Cookery

Please refer to our website for our full range of courses:  
[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.  
 scunningham@buckscc.gov.uk

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

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## Chameleon Singles Group

*In Mid-August we held our annual day trip to the coast. This was perhaps not the best day weather wise as we headed off early one Saturday morning to Brighton.*

It was very much a day in the shops and on the pier as the wind and rain greeted us for much of the time. A highlight was not a day on the beach but taking the new British Airways i360 trip. This is currently the world's highest vertical moving viewing platform and had only opened a couple of weeks earlier. It was certainly a good experience on the 20 minute ride with good views across Brighton, Hove, the South Downs and the English Channel.

Over the last few months members have also enjoyed live music at Dusty's Blues Club in Holmer Green, an evening meal at The Bellcote just outside Chesham and a visit to Waddesdon Manor. Our August Bank Holiday BBQ held at a member's home was a good end to the summer season on a fine evening. 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, cinema, live music performances, comedy evenings, do the occasional walk and various other events and trips out throughout the year.

Coffee mornings during the cooler months

## Take care this Winter.

We in the Neighbourhood Policing Team have this word of caution for Downley Residents. Nights are drawing in and there will be fewer daylight hours in the coming months. Please remember to lock up and secure your houses and do not leave Christmas presents or empty laptop/electrical boxes outside after Christmas as it is telling burglars that you have just bought new and valuable presents.

Thank you

PC 6739 Craig DUNCAN  
Neighbourhood Policing Team- Downley.  
High Wycombe Police Station, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 1BE  
Tel: 101 - Mobile: 07970 923547 - Email: [Craig.duncan@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Craig.duncan@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

are also popular and for our first in the autumn we were pleased to take part in the MacMillan Cancer Support world's biggest coffee morning. As well as coffee and cakes members along with a few neighbours helped raised funds for the charity through donations and competitions.

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 at: [www.bucksvoice.net/chameleon](http://www.bucksvoice.net/chameleon) for more information and an events listing.**

"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  
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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!*

societies  
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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
Breathe Easy	2nd Fri 1 - 3pm
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 & 3rd Fri, last Mon 6.30pm
Tai Chi – for Arthritis	Term time Wed 10.45am
Wargamers	Mon 6.45pm
U3A Ukulele	4th Thurs 10am - 12pm

Round-up of Regular Activities ...continued

St James Church Hall

Art Club	Thurs 9.30am
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
Sunshine Montessori	8.30am Term time only
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

### 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**

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 Day News

Due to the limited number of applications for grants at the time of the AGM on 18th Oct, the deadline has been extended to 31st Dec and decisions on awards will be made at the Committee meeting on 10th Jan. Applications to be made to [info@downley.org](mailto:info@downley.org).

Our next event will be Community Carol Singing on Friday 23rd December at 3.00pm starting at Jubilee Green around the Christmas Tree opposite the Co-op and finishing with mince pies and mulled wine at the Community Centre at around 4.30pm

**Bill Thompson, Downley Day Committee.**

### SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES THIS CHRISTMAS

December 18th	Carol Service	11am
December 24th	Crib Service	4pm
	Midnight Communion	11pm
December 25th	Christmas Day Family Service	11am

### 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.

- Dec
- 2 Wycombe Concert Band Christmas Concert t ChilternWood School at 7.30pm
- 3 Live music from the Alan Luck Band at the Le De Spencers at 9pm
- 4 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy
- 10 Woodlands Pre-school Xmas Fayre 12-3pm at the Guide and Scout Hut, Coates Lane
- 15 Downley Descants Christmas Concert at St James Church at 7.30pm
- 18 Carol Service at St James Church at 11am
- 20 Annual Carol Concert - 2nd Downley Guides at Downley Methodist Church at 7.15pm
- 22 Carol Singing with the West Wycombe Brass Band at the Le De Spencers at 9pm
- 23 Community Carol Singing - Meet at Jubilee Green (opp Co-op) at 3pm
- 24 Crib Service St James Church at 4pm
- 24 Midnight Communion at St James Church at 11pm
- 25 Christmas Day Family Service at St James Church at 11am
- 31 Lighting the New Year Beacon on Commonsides at 11.45pm
- Jan
- 1 Downley Common Preservation Society Work Party Meet at the Old Dairy

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# A note from the Parish Council

*This summer Downley was awarded a Certificate in the Best Kept Village Competition. This accolade was much deserved and recognises that a great deal of effort goes into keeping our village looking welcoming and tidy.*

The village has rarely looked better. We did have some feedback from the competition judges and there are areas of the High Street that need improvement. We are putting measures in place to work on these areas and have high hopes for next year. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers in the village who contribute to the upkeep of the village. Litter doesn't always find its own way to the bin!

You may have seen notices posted recently notifying residents of a lighting consultation. This proved to be very popular, with most of the participants voting a 'yes' to switching the street lights off between 12 midnight and 5am. There are major lighting works needed in the village in the coming years and this project will save money that will be re invested into our street lighting. Our Community Library has a new look this year. If you haven't been to see it, please do. We are very fortunate to have a community library. Libraries are a brilliant resource to local communities. As with everything though it needs to be used to remain viable so if you're not already a member please support our local library.

The Council have overseen over a hundred projects and enquiries in the village this year. We have carried out vital maintenance to the allotments and worked closely with the local school on their road safety campaign. We are regularly liaising with the Police to keep our village safe and are constantly busy with local projects and work streams. This year has been the first year of grass maintenance devolution, the Parish Council are now responsible for nearly all the grass maintenance in the Village and the feedback has been very positive. The Village is a thriving hub of activity, the number of volunteers in the village that are all working towards a common goal is overwhelming, Downley Day, the UP festival, Bonfire night, the Downley Common, the Community Centre, The Memorial Hall, there are too many to name. These are all managed by volunteers so a big thank you goes out to all of them from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council meet once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, members of the public are encouraged to come along to our meetings. The Parish Council also have a website [www.downleyparishcouncil.org](http://www.downleyparishcouncil.org) and the Parish Clerk is available on Mondays to meet with residents that wish to discuss matters of the village. The Parish Council are also contactable by phone 5 days a week during office hours on 01494 444683. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year from the Downley Parish Council



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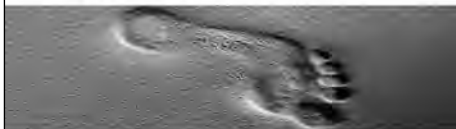
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# From Wycombe to Westminster

Steve Baker MP

*I know the issue of community pharmacies is close to the hearts of people living in the Downley area. I received many letters from residents when the Government was undertaking a review of pharmacies, and you may know in August I visited the pharmacy in Cross Court to discuss the issues with the pharmacist and staff there.*



On 20th October the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department of Health, David Mowat MP, made a statement in the House of Commons on the future of community pharmacy. The Government announced it will introduce a Pharmacy Access Scheme in areas where there are fewer pharmacies and high health needs. I am delighted the Downley Pharmacy will qualify for the scheme. I hope and expect this measure will ensure pharmacies will continue to play a key role in local healthcare. Some of the ways in which this will be achieved will be by embedding pharmacies in the urgent care pathway, ensuring patients with urgent repeat prescriptions are referred by NHS 111 directly to pharmacies, and that NHS England will encourage the national roll-out of minor ailment schemes.

Pharmacies are an important element in providing good care for people, but there are other local charitable services which complement NHS provision. One of these is South Bucks Hospice which offers a range of counselling and complementary therapies as well as palliative care. I have accepted an invitation to visit the new South Bucks Hospice which is currently being built on the old Kingswood School site off Totteridge Road. The South Bucks Hospice is a wonderful organisation and I know many people value the care it has provided them and members of their family on its present site in Amersham Road. When the new premises open the hospice will offer even better facilities and treatments for people following its motto of Affirming Life Through Palliative Care. If you would like to volunteer or support its activities, please get in touch with the charity's organisers as I know they would be pleased to welcome you.

I recently participated in a debate in the House of Commons on Homelessness. Even before I was selected as the Member of Parliament I volunteered with Wycombe Homeless Connection and continue to support its work both in Wycombe and in Parliament. My caseworkers, based in the constituency office, regularly receive enquiries from people facing the threat of homelessness. There are many reasons why people find themselves in this situation including family breakdown and mental health issues, but the single greatest loss of a tenancy is simply the landlord wanting their property back. The issues in Wycombe are compounded by London Boroughs housing their homeless families in Wycombe. This pushes up local rents and reduces the availability of housing for our own families in the area. Homelessness is not an easy issue to solve, but to be safely and securely housed is one of life's basic needs and we must all do what we can to ensure no-one sleeps on the streets.

**I should like to send you my very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. As ever, 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 despair of the bureaucracy of government and would like my help with a particular issue, please phone my constituency office on 01494 448408.**



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# News from the District

*Several years ago, as part of my role as an elected District Councillor, I was asked to become a Trustee of Wycombe Almshouses and the Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme (WRDGS). Wycombe District Council nominates several Trustees and I was pleased to accept. I am now Chairman of Trustees of Wycombe Almshouses.*



Wycombe Almshouses is not a housing association but provides housing to people with a Wycombe connection; who are in housing need and may find it difficult to find housing elsewhere; we also have an age restriction so our residents tend to be older, although recently we have appointed new residents who are much closer to our lower age limit of 50. Wycombe Almshouses charity was founded in 1686 and we now occupy a site in Bowerdean Road, moving from the 'old' Almshouses in Easton Street which were demolished in the 1960s to make way for the Law Courts. All our properties are independent living flats, and we employ a Scheme Manager to look after the day to day needs of the site and be on hand for any of our residents who have any concerns. Looking after a charity which is well over 300 years old is a responsibility, but the rewards more than make up for the time and effort involved.

The Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The charity helps those who are not in priority need for housing (therefore not likely to be housed by a housing association or Wycombe District Council) into private rented accommodation, where very often our clients may be able to pay the rent but find it difficult to find the 'rent in advance' and 'rent deposit' which may run into thousands of pounds. The scheme also advises clients and does a huge amount of work maintaining tenancies and sourcing landlords willing to assist the

scheme in finding suitable accommodation in the Wycombe area. Many of our clients would be homeless if the WRDGS did not exist. WRDGS works collaboratively with Wycombe Homeless Connection and the Housing Options team at WDC, although it fills a unique niche that is vitally important. Funding the day to day running costs for the WRDGS is a constant issue, as is finding people to volunteer as Trustees. If you think you can help in any way, have a few hours to spare we are looking for new Trustees, particularly anyone experienced in fundraising or bookkeeping and we would very much like to hear from you. Please contact [info@wycrent.org.uk](mailto:info@wycrent.org.uk) or contact me direct for more information.

The two charities are completely independent from each other, and perform different functions, but recently referrals from the WRDGS have seen clients eventually finding a permanent home at the Almshouses. Sometimes things have a way of working out. So, in this season of goodwill and above all hope, I leave you with season's greetings.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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

*Keeping our roads and pavements safe for everyone. From our local Thames Valley Police Officers To be read in conjunction with the Positive Parking article which appeared in the Downley Community Village News, Autumn 16 issue.*

Thames Valley Police (TVP) officers have been involved in educating residents regarding parking, which causes difficulties for other people, leaving warning letters under windscreen wipers and a fixed penalty notice when appropriate.

The Highway Code, which all drivers are legally bound to adhere to and review regularly to ensure they are aware of changes, is very clear regarding parking restrictions – see the details opposite.

A Police Officer or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) can issue a £30 ticket - which can be left on an unattended vehicle - for inconsiderate parking or causing an obstruction depending on the exact circumstances and the officer's discretion.

Please remember: pavements are for pedestrians, they are not to be driven on at any time as this is a specific offence under the road traffic act, careless driving and driving in a place other than a road. Should video footage be obtained showing this act then action may be taken against the offender.

**Please adhere to the parking restrictions, such as white advisory lines and yellow lines, which are in place for safety reasons.**

There has been a great deal of debate and uncertainty about what constitutes an obstruction when vehicles park on pavements. The information below should provide some clarity to a person who believes there is an obstruction:

- It does not matter how many wheels are on the path as long as there is sufficient room for pedestrians to pass.
- Adequate room must be left to enable a double buggy, wheelchair or mobility scooter to pass unhindered (these are the biggest things that need to use a footpath).
- If you see a vehicle restricting access to a footpath/pavement it is not automatically causing an obstruction.
- A person must be using the footpath to be obstructed.
- You, as a pedestrian using the footpath, are obstructed if you cannot safely pass the vehicle on the pavement, are forced onto the road or forced to cross the road to use the opposite path.
- Just because the manner in which the vehicle is parked offends you does not constitute an obstruction.

TVP advises against approaching vehicle owners in person, leaving notes under windscreen wipers or “naming and shaming” on social media sites. Should vehicles be deemed to be parking in a dangerous manner or to be causing an obstruction please follow the reporting guidelines and leave the problem to the police. Please remember all calls to the police are prioritised by state of emergency and that a vehicle causing an obstruction is not considered an emergency unless other vehicles are involved as part of a road traffic collision.

**To report an obstruction, please contact the police using the non-emergency number 101. As these incidents are not deemed an emergency the call will be resourced depending on available units. When an officer attends their decision to act or not will be a true and fair assessment of the obstruction. If you would like to contact a member of the Downley/Disraeli Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) you can call 101, send an email to [WycombeWestNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police](mailto:WycombeWestNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police) or email through the TVP website [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)**

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# The Hughenden Stream. Now You See It, Now You Don't.

## Part 2

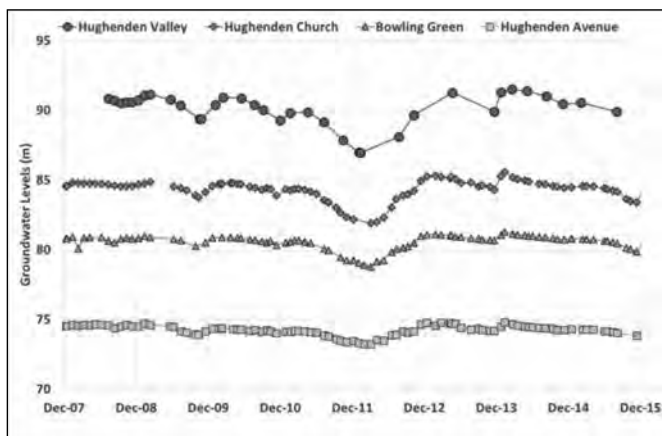
*Following on from John Wilson's article on the Hughenden Stream in the spring 16 DVN. I have been asked to write a follow up article.*

I have gathered data collected by the Environment Agency and other organisations on the water levels and stream flow in the local area. This data is freely available, and is becoming much easier to obtain, with much data available to download online. In this area, groundwater monitoring is extensive, with 4 observation boreholes monitoring levels along the axis of the Hughenden Stream, although stream flow is not recorded. The closest flow gauge is on the River Wye at West Wycombe (upstream of where Hughenden Stream meets the River Wye).

As John indicated, the flow in groundwater fed streams, such as Hughenden Stream and the River Wye, is dependent on the relationship between groundwater levels and the topography. These are both fed from groundwater from the underlying Chalk aquifer. Groundwater levels are dependent on the relationship between rainfall, and recharge, or the proportion of rainfall that falls which reaches groundwater. Before recharge can occur, rainfall first satisfies the soil moisture deficit, a measure of how dry the soil is, and how much water it can accept. This varies over the year according to how much rainfall has already been received, and how much water is taken up by crops or trees.

During the summer months, a significant soil moisture deficit exists, therefore

most rainfall events do not result in recharge, and groundwater levels steadily decline. Once the growth of plants and trees slows towards the winter, and the rainfall increases, the soil moisture deficit is overcome and recharge occurs, resulting in rising groundwater levels and chalk streams starting to flow. The annual cycle of groundwater levels is shown in Figure 1 for four boreholes along the axis of Hughenden Stream.



*Figure 1) Groundwater Levels from Observation Boreholes along Hughenden Stream (data: Environment Agency)*

Figure 1) shows the groundwater levels along the axis of the Hughenden Valley from 2008 to 2016. Each line is a

*Continued on page 41...*



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*...Continued from page 39*

time series of water level measurements, from a single observation borehole. The northernmost is Hughenden Valley, close to the Cryers Hill roundabout, which has the highest groundwater levels (top line). Groundwater levels are also shown for boreholes near Hughenden Church and the bowling green. Groundwater levels fall to the south, so that by Hughenden Avenue, levels are around 15 m lower. If we had corresponding river level data, we would be able to determine a groundwater level at which flow would occur at a specific point in the river, but sadly, this is not recorded.

Seasonal fluctuation is generally highest in the upper parts of the catchment, with boreholes on the hill

tops in the Chilterns often recording annual variations in excess of 40 m/year (not shown on Figure 1), whilst further down the valleys, groundwater fluctuations may be 1 m/yr or less, as shown in the Hughenden Avenue observation borehole record on Figure 1.

Changes to the expected weather patterns can result in changes to when Hughenden Stream appears, such as during winter 2011-2012, where a dry summer and delayed winter rainfall led to groundwater levels continuing to fall until March / April in 2012, therefore stream flow would have been delayed until much later in the summer.

*Kath Standen*

*Downley resident and Principal Hydrogeologist*

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*Karen House  
Committee Chairman*

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## J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints Autumn 2016

*Wal me ole mates, 'ere we are into winter, hibernation time for nature, and us, I reckons.*

So I suppose we can sit back, philosophise a bit, with yor eyes a'closed, thinkin' deep philosophical thoughts, 'Deep wot' ses Mrs H, 'orl yor thinkin' about is where to get sum more muck for the plot, or not thinkin' at all! Anyway, a cold misty morning, sun out, wot a pleasure just watchin' the smoke from yor bonny a'driftin' slowly into the sky, like a sort of allotment wraith, just occasionally getting into the eyes of yor plot neighbour.

So wot about the autumn, did you do yor big tidy up? Leavin' the seed heads on yor 'er-bashus plants, and the weeds up the plot, then finches loves 'em? Wal, I reckons this autumn was just right for summat else a'growin' in nature, and this year in the gardin too, wot does the followin' mean to you? Toad's hat, toads tump ,ceps, grissets, morel, blewit, blue leg, boletus, shaggy cap, parasol, agaric, lawyers wig, death cap, stink horn? Wal by now you'd 'ave got it eh? We've 'ad sum in the gardin, but I'm not allowed to eat 'em, wal, sum ones still got to dig up the spuds eh! Of course French cousin Jean d'Artichoke 'as a larf about us not eatin' 'em, he'll eat anything, even the chemists in froggy land 'ave pickchers of the ones you can eat, but he takes no notice, I wondered why he's that funny colour! Over Nappel this year they 'ad lots of em, but they gets all scientific over 'em, one Nappelite was seen bendin' right down and starin' at the ground and not movin', they called the para medics but he was a'studying one of 'em with a magnifyin' glass... wot, as'n't he got anything better to do? There's even poems written about 'em, James Woodhouse an 18th century Surrey cobbler, wrote the followin', plus more but I've only got space for four lines.

They fear no more the fatal scythe  
But proudly spread their bonnets wide  
With coverings formed of silk and snow,  
And lined with brightening pink below

Wal, if you didn't catch on before you must know now wot I've been a'talkin about, eh?

Anyway, wot can you do in the gardin this winter? Plan yor year to cum of course! You'll know wot's done well and wot as'n't, so wot to grow and wot not to, get your seeds a'ordered, new soft fruit plants put in, my autumn raspberries were a dead loss, with mould on the berries 'cos of the damp. I suggests just get summer ones, you've orl got freezers anyway. I'm experimentin' with green manure, meanin' sowin things like clover in the autumn, to dig back in the Spring, they fixes nitrogen and swamps the weeds, so you might think my plot is weedy, but oh no, it's green manure, no comments please ha ha! And do you save seeds for next year? Uncle Syd always collected his runner bean seeds, he reckoned he only bort one packet ever, forty years ago, he kept the seeds every year since, talk about in breedin', but he was from Stoken! If you do keep 'em, make sure they're in a paper packet, not plastic, and keep 'em cold so they'll know when winters finished and be ready to germinate. Fox gloves, sun flowers, honesty and cosmos are good for this accordin' to Mrs H, so it must be right eh!

I'll close with this from Gilbert Whites diary. ... 1772, December. 'Nasturtium, Indian flowers in December, song thrush sings' sounds like global warmin' then! And wot about this, to cheer you up, 'Brewed half a hogs head of strong beer with five bushels of malt, and two and a half pounds of hops at same time made 12 gallons of small beer'. December 1760. Wal, I've got a gallon of home grown cider on the go in the shed, I'll report on that next year!

Cheerio and a'bientot

*J.H. sent from my iSpade*

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# Downley War Memorial Hall

*No deaths to report this quarter but there was plenty going on in the Town*

A year ago I mentioned that Mr Gomm had been influential in bringing a substantial order for chairs to local factories. Thanks to Wycombe Museum I have been able to get a photo of a local chair from that time. Autumn 2016 saw John Gomm stand down as Mayor and, with his Deputy, announce that a fund would be started to purchase "X-Ray Apparatus" for the Cottage Hospital. By the end of the year a series of four Grand Concerts had been arranged at the Town Hall, one each month during January to April. Lieutenant Maxwell-Stewart of the Royal Field Artillery, which was still based in the town, was the main organiser.

Meanwhile, The Wycombe branch of the Women's Adult School held a meeting in the Gym at Godstowe School at which Miss Muriel Matters gave a presentation on the Montessori Method. She had studied under Dr Montessori in Barcelona and opened her own school in the East End of London.

Whilst the destruction of a Zeppelin that crashed in flames over Potters Bar had been clearly visible in Marlow the lights of the Entertainment Fair had to be extinguished at 8.00 pm to avoid it becoming a target.

With Christmas approaching, World Stores at 1 Oxford Street were advertising their Dried fruit and Atora suet for those making puddings.

Back to the present day and many of you will have noticed the scaffolding erected recently at the front of the Memorial Hall. This has been to allow the replacement of rotting oak timbers, associated brickwork, lead flashing and Damp Proof Course. In addition, we have taken the opportunity to repair a couple of panes in the stained glass window.



*WW! Chair*

*Alan Baker*  
*alanbaker49@btinternet.com 07890 762527*

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# Poetry Corner

## I Dreamt Last Night

*By Frederick Everest*

Yes, some people find it funny  
That I don't have a scythe,  
They've had this mental picture  
All the time they've been alive

That I should wear a hooded cloak  
Coloured deepest black  
And explain in sombre tones to them  
Why they cannot go back.

I'm not the only one of course,  
There's sixty of us now,  
All taught the trade by Him upstairs  
To whom we pray and bow.

Wars, disasters, famines, plague  
We're always on the go,  
We cross the deserts and the plains  
And mountains under snow.

Some smile when we raise them up  
And those in pain look glad,  
Some cry out for all they've lost  
And others just look sad.

You ask me what I fear the most?  
It's all this modern stuff:  
Cryonics, CPR, you know,  
It makes my job so tough.

"Oh sorry, time to turn around,"  
I have to try and say,  
"Him upstairs has changed his mind,  
Today is not your day."

"I've got another job come through  
So you will have to wait.  
Forget me now, we'll check the chart  
And He'll choose another date."

Sometimes I ask who'll come for me  
When finally I die?  
They smile and say I'm not to fret,  
But they never tell me why.

But I've no time to dwell on things,  
Life is short, you know,  
I've got a load more visits now,  
So I'm afraid I've got to go.

I'm glad that we could have this talk  
And you've seen I'm not that scary  
And when it's time to visit you  
You'll be that bit less wary.

So farewell for now, go back to sleep,  
And be glad that you're alive;  
And you never know, when your time comes,  
I'll try and bring that scythe.

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The Third Annual Festival  
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Up! 2017 is in the planning stage  
and we would love to hear from the  
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not come up with an event that  
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Les Root

*Festival Committee Chairman*

**Email: festival@downley.org**

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## List Of Advertisers

Academy GB Doors	38	Mark Braisher Mortgages	40
Adult Learning Courses	24	Mark Evans Plumbing & Heating Engineers	36
Altea Beauty & Holistic Centre	54	Mark Gonsalves Kitchen & Bathroom Specialist	51
A Hollick	14	M.D . Garden Services	44
Arnold Funeral Directors	32	M&J Motors	22
Beauty With Helen	4	Pangaea Training	50
Beccy Ede Registered Homeopath	10	Peter Cork Plumbing	20
Calme Complementary Therapies	49	P K Stroy, Builder	20
Canine Cutz Dog Grooming	53	P K InPrint	10
Chilworth Care	8	Plugs Electrical Services	36
Chilworth Home Care	18	Puppy & Dog Training	8
Chris Saunders Foot Care	32	Pushchairs and Car Seats	48
Complete Bathrooms & Kitchens	53	Rachel's Kitchen	6
DJ Coles Property Services	44	Revive Car Bodywork	42
Downley Pharmacy	38	Roof Technology	55
First Class Learning	26	Simply Stumps	52
Gatepost Fencing & Decking	46	Sing and Sign	32
Gym Fit	34	Suttons' Property Maintenance	12
Hammond Construction	6	The Acupuncture Point	14
Holiday Chalet To Let	24	The Mowchak	42
Home Phone Solutions	4	The Painted Kitchen Company	26
J H Austin Painting & Decorating	22	The Professional Building Company	44
Jill Burrell Tutor	24	The Results Academy	34
Joel Akinsipe Computer Problems	50	The Window Doctor	48
JR Travel. Private Hire	46	TLC 4 You	8
Keeping It Clean	16	Top Marks Tuition	32
K J Upholstery	16	Tutor 'A' Level Chemistry	14
K M G Building Contractors	51	Vale Conservatories	10
Le De Spencers Arms	40	VPA Direct Virtual Business Support	49
Lottie's Hairdressing	49	Woodland Management	12
Louise Austin School of Dance	24	Wye Residential	2
M A Hunt Painting & Decorating	18		

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## Credits

### Editor

Simon Scott at editor@downley.org

### Layout

Pat Weedon & Lucy de Rojas at news@downley.org

### Advertising

Send advertising copy to adverts@downley.org

### Distribution

Coordinated by Des Ryan. Volunteers to deliver locally are always needed. If interested contact Des on: 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 January 2017.

### Copy

Please send text in editable format such as \*.txt, \*.rtf, \*.doc, .docx. Photographs to accompany the text should be sent in as high a resolution as possible in any common graphics format. Copy should be sent to editor@downley.org.

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

facebook.com/Downley.Community

### Steering Committee

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

**Chairman** Bill Thompson

**Secretary** Peter Loadman

**Treasurer** Bob Cook

**Webmaster** Mark Starkey

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