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COMMUNITY**

Village News



Features

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

Issue 114 / Feb 2018





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Editorial

At long last the nights are getting lighter even though the cold of Winter has not quite left us. This DVN issue has been packed with articles on this occasion but some of your favourites have not quite made the deadline. I will make sure to chase these regular contributors up for the next issue.

Please remember that lots of local people are working very hard as volunteers to bring you a spectacular Up Festival this year. Anyone who has time on their hands is welcome to help or volunteer for one of the many jobs undertaken locally which include roles on the Parish Council, DVN committee, Festival Committee, Community centre support, library support as well as the many other community related roles that are always ongoing. Just recently a community spirited couple, Des and Teresa, handed over the organisation of the DVN deliveries to other local volunteers (see inside for more details).

Enjoy this issue of the DVN and enjoy this years Festival. Don't forget to buy your tickets online at www.downley.org where you can also keep up to date with all local events. There will be a new coffee shop in the High Street by the next DVN is published.

Simon Scott Editor



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Downley Common News

It may say Spring on the front of this issue but I'm writing this in January when the snow is still coming down and the slush is drifting against the back door. No spring here yet!



Mannings Pond occupied much of our time in December and January and quite good progress was made in clearing excess plant life from the northern edge, although it was at the cost of acting as human icebreakers. We probably should wear steel-reinforced waders instead of rubber ones. An interesting feature of the rushes and sweet grass that grow in the pond is that it forms a floating mass. If you press down on one edge the whole surface will bob up and down. If a section is cut away from the rest, it can be floated over to the edge of the pond and pulled out, although being water-logged it is extremely heavy.

The snow and high winds during December and January have taken their toll on the plant-life with a number of trees and large branches coming down, two recently across Plomer Green Lane. The large branch that was left in the Dells as an obstacle to motorcycles has now been joined by a further two

branches in almost exactly the same. It may look like an over-enthusiastic DCPS but I can assure you it was all Mother Nature's doing. Come the drier weather we will be trying to clear some of these trees and branches away to make the area accessible for flailing and to generally tidy up.

Talking of tidying up, there has been some debate recently concerning the extent to which the Society should remove brambles and other undergrowth from around clumps of trees on Commonside. Some have welcomed the limited work done to date and others are concerned lest this go too far and turn Commonside into a more park-like environment. While it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time, we would be interested in hearing resident's opinions of how far this should go.

*Bill Thompson, Downley Common
Preservation Society*



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News from Downley Pharmacy

Price and availability of medicines has been a big issue for us in the last few months. We know how important getting your medicines is and I would like to explain more about why getting your medicine may be difficult for us at the moment.

Why is my medicine out of stock? If manufacturers suffer problems in producing medicines, or if prescribing habits in an area change, then shortages can occur. Recent changes in the exchange rates also means that stock usually sold to pharmacies in the UK may now be exported meaning there is less stock available.

Variations in stock availability at different Pharmacies. We use different wholesalers whose stock availability also varies. Some manufacturers restrict the amount of a specific medicine that a pharmacy can order, this is known as a quota. Once a pharmacy has used their quota for the month it can be really hard to get any more until the start of the next month.

What is the difference between brands and generics? Medicines can have more than one name: A generic name which is the ingredient of the medicine (eg. ibuprofen) these are often produced by more than one manufacturer. A brand is the name the manufacturer gives to the medicine (Nurofen). If your doctor prescribes by brand name, we are required to supply that brand. If your doctor prescribes using a generic name, we can supply any available product which matches that drug description.

Why are my new tablets a different size, shape or colour? For various reasons the supplies of tablets at the pharmacy constantly changes from various manufacturer leading to your tablets having a change of appearance. If you have any concerns please ask a member of the pharmacy team to check for you.

What are pharmacists doing to help? This is a national problem, the scale of the medicines shortages means that lots of suppliers don't have stock available. We try really hard to find stock for all our patients. This includes, liaising with GPs to find alternatives, many phone calls to suppliers, seeing if stock may be available in other pharmacies, and more.

What can patients do to help? Order your medication in plenty of time (but no more than seven days before it is due). Only order what you require. If you have unused medicines in your cupboard use these first (remember to check the expiry date). Check which items you are collecting and if you have a surplus tell us before leaving the shop, this enables us to put the item back into stock and saves the NHS money. We do try really hard to source items for you but sometimes there simply is no availability!

Lastly as I write this article at the end of January we are uncertain as to the reimbursement rate of certain commonly prescribed items already sourced and supplied by ourselves at a rate above that set out by the government for January. The feeling is that as in November and December prices that covers our cost should be agreed. If this does not happen we will have supplied at a loss to ourselves. We are not prepared to keep such items in stock ready for prescriptions to arrive so we have to source on an as needed basis only causing potential delay in issue.

From all the team at Downley Pharmacy

Downley Toddler Group

Come along for a cup of tea and a play.
visit the library for Story time.

Ages 0-5

Mondays, 9.30am to 11.30am
at the Downley Community
Centre, School Close



Term time only

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MONDAYS 7pm & 8pm
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The Woodland Pre-School

If you have a baby or toddler have you thought about a pre-school yet?

“Woodlands” is an established setting for 3 & 4 year olds with some spaces for “rising 3’s” and is open every day with new longer hours.



We can be found at the top of Coates Lane nestled in the National Trust wooded area in the Guide & Scout Centre. We offer a varied, exciting curriculum with opportunities for children to play and learn at their own pace whilst being encouraged and challenged to try out new and varied activities. We have a well-resourced outside area that the children love and which, with Downley Common and woods, means we make the best use of our beautiful natural world to enhance the children’s learning.

We have spaces for this summer term and our registers go up to 2020!!

For more information, please look at our website www.thewoodlandpreschool.co.uk or call 01494 521953 to arrange a visit.

The Woodland Pre-School, The Guide and Scout Centre, Coates Lane, Downley, HP13 5UX



Downley Theatre Group

At the time of writing, the last “flyer” to go out was sent by email on Sunday 14 January advertising a trip to see “The King & I” on 16 July. Unfortunately, we have yet another IT mystery on our hands as some people received it and others didn’t.



As you’re probably aware, emails that cannot be delivered “bounce back” to the sender but I didn’t get any so presumed all was well. Please get in touch if you didn’t get that so we can hopefully get to the bottom of the problem.

Our trips to “Kinky Boots” in March and “The King & I” are both full and we do not operate a waiting list. We also

have an allocation of seats for The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra’s Christmas Cracker Sunday 16 December, full details will be circulated nearer the time, but do keep the date free!

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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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Downley Community Centre

Santa's Grotto

The Centre staged its first 'Santa's Grotto' this year. With Father Christmas in attendance over 20 eager children with parents and grandparents patiently waited their turn for a private audience. Every child was rewarded with a small free gift. This event marks a slight change of focus for the Centre as part of its community events initiative. Approved community events for non-profit making local groups may be funded and actively promoted jointly by the Centre and the group.



Santa, aka Father Christmas, has already booked the Maple Room for December 2018!

Back by popular demand

(20mins that could change your life)

Following the very successful Bucks NHS free Healthcare day which we ran in the library in December we have now agreed a date for a second session. Soon after the initial publicity the appointment system was fully booked so a repeat is already booked for 20 March 2018. Please look out for new posters going up on the public notice boards or go online to make an appointment. Just Google Bucks NHS Health Checks.

Filmmaking in Downley

Much excitement last month as we hosted a London based video production company who came to Downley to make a film. On 10th January over 70 people, actors and film crew took over all the rooms for the day to provide a local base of operations for all their catering and support needs as they produced a film in Green Leys.

Moo Music

The centre welcomes a new hirer this month, Moo Music, who will run weekly music and sensory sessions for babies and children up to 5 years of age. Mondays 1.30pm -2 30pm. See centre pullout section for details.

New Grant scheme

The Community Centre has now established a formal grant funding scheme to help with community projects. Any Downley area club or association may apply if they are looking for financial support for a local, non-profit, activity or initiative that directly benefits the local community.

In the first instance please contact us on grants@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk or go directly to our website page where you can download an application form. The committee will assess proposals for all projects on a monthly basis.

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Downley Community Library
Tuesday 20th March 2018

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bring a friend!*

Coffee Stop

It seem such a long time since I last wrote our update, we have had our usual Christmas festivities, enriched by visits from The Fernie Fields Four and The Downley Descants, and also seasonal disruption for snow.



We also had a hygiene inspection and have now passed with flying colours since the hole in the kitchen wall has been closed up with the extraction unit in place. The new kitchen floor is also very good, now if anything could be done with the acoustics...!

We are going through turbulent times, quite apart from Chris and David moving out of the district, Joan has decided to become a customer rather than presiding over the takings, Pat needs to step down from some of the tasks she has so valiantly undertaken as she has so many other commitments. Finally we have had the news of Maggie's illness so our thoughts and prayers are with her and Andy and their family at this difficult time. All of these people have contributed so much time and energy in the Coffee Stop for which we are

profoundly grateful. So many others are stepping into the breach to help us and we are determined to keep going to justify all the hard work that has gone before in the last 13 years or so (I lose count).

As always, if anyone has any good ideas for a menu option or a special event, interest or trading stall we will always consider them. This is a vibrant village and we would love anyone newly retired or just with a few hours to spare occasionally to come and find a whole new circle of friends. Please help us to keep this enterprise available for all villagers. Our thanks to all of our unsung heroes goes without saying but nevertheless I am saying it – thank you all.

*Ann Buxton
pabuxton@hotmail.com*

JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN ANSWERS ON PAGE 21

In maths a sequence is a string of terms that follow a pattern. The simplest sequence is 1,2,3,4,5,6, __ , __

I think we all know the next two numbers are 7 and 8, and that the pattern is adding one as we progress through the sequence.

What are the next two terms in each sequence below?

(No calculators please, it's more fun without them.)

- a. 84, 91, 98, 105, 112, 119, __ , __
- b. 7, 8, 10, 13, 17, 22, __ , __
- c. 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, __ , __
- d. 96, 84, 73, 63, 54, __ , __
- e. 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, __ , __
- f. 2, 4, 7, 11, 16, 22, __ , __
- g. 12, 22, 40, 74, 140, 270, __ , __
- h. 15, 45, 135, 405, 1215, __ , __
- i. 12, 6, 24, 18, 72, 66 __ , __
- j. 7, 16, 23, 32, 39, 48, __ , __
- k. 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, __ , __
- l. 3402, 1134, 378, 126, __ , __

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St. James Voice

The mission of St James the Great, Downley is To worship Jesus and allow his love to reach out to us and our community. Last summer we began to look for new ways to reach out to the community. Our Thursday morning Pop-In providing drinks, cake and conversation is proving popular. This is in the church and everyone is welcome, including your four-legged friend if you are dog-walking.

One of the most exciting developments has been Downley ACTs- all churches together. The communities of The Pastures Church, Moor Lane Methodist and St James are meeting together regularly for social occasions and prayer evenings. The progressive meal with a course at each church proved popular and great fun. Carols on the Common was a completely new venture which we plan to repeat next year.

At St James over Christmas we enjoyed meeting new friends at our services and social events including the St Andrew's Day Quiz and the Christmas Fayre. Christmas Eve particularly enjoyable; Nine Lessons and Carols, a Crib Service attended by lots of families with young children and a very special Midnight Mass. We also supported local charities. Our Toy Service gifts were sent to Saunderton Lodge. Many of us put together Reverse Advent Calendars, boxes of tinned and packet food and toiletries for the One Can Trust in High Wycombe.

Looking forward, our Palm Sunday Service on Sunday 25th March will begin in the church hall at 11.00. We will then walk into church and the service will be a narrative gospel telling the the Easter Story and performed by members of the congregation. Our celebration on Easter Sunday (April 1st) will again be at 11.00. On both occasions there will be lots of traditional Easter music and readings, so please come along and join in. There will also be an Easter Dawn Service on Easter Sunday at 6.30am hosted by The Pastures Church.

And finally, one of our congregation, David Copcutt, retired as a governor of High Wycombe Church of England School after thirty years of dedicated service. We are saying goodbye to Susan and David Tame who are moving away after living in Downley for fifty years. During that time they have both served St James Church with great faithfulness. Susan has been involved in the church in many ways, including several terms as churchwarden. We wish them well for the future.

Weekly events:

Sundays 11.00	Holy Communion
Thursday mornings	9.30 POP-IN
Thursday evenings	Pub Quiz at the Brickies



Events for your diary:

19th April	Downley ACTs prayer meeting 7.30pm
30th June	St James Quiz 7.00pm start, £12 ticket, supper provided
13th October	Caribbean Evening

If you require any further information please contact our church wardens:

Collis Boucher: collis.boucher@apmg-international.com

Paul Perowne: p.maddockperowne@talktalk.net 01494 465608

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Sound Journey Group

Come on a journey through sound.



A new way to relax and unwind is coming to Downley in February.

The Sound Journey group is for anyone who would like to experience the transformative power of sound for themselves. Just bring something comfortable to sit or lie on and allow the gentle tones of gongs, singing bowls, musical instruments and nature sounds to transport you to wherever you need to be.

Sound therapy is becoming increasingly popular as more people discover its benefits. Qualified Gong Practitioner, Paula Tait, explains “After a Sound Journey, people say they feel more relaxed, less stressed and full of energy. Why not come along and see what a Sound Journey can do for you?”

All welcome. No experience necessary.

Downley War Memorial Hall, High Street, Downley, Bucks HP13 5XJ
Tues 27th Feb and 27th Mar 2018. 7.45pm. £14 per session. Booking essential.
Contact Paula Tait on 01494 440356 or www.paulatait.com

Downley Village Evening WI

With a bang, NOT a whimper, DVE WI entered 2018



On January 2nd, Downley Village Evening WI was whooshed into 2018 on the coat tails of a hilarious talk by Kate Lace, or that's the author name her naughty books blazon on the jacket. However, as her talk From Guns and Rose to Hearts and Flowers made clear, she writes different books under different names. She entered the army but moved onto to romantic fiction, in itself a roller coaster of a journey, with many a titter along the way.

In February on the first Tuesday evening of the month, Dinah Latham chatted about her nursing experiences, and again we were in for a good laugh.

In March, Izzy Foley, a member of our WI brought us up to date with Tales from the Costume Store. Izzy has many of these as she creates costumes for film and TV.

Ah, April – with the daffodils out, and spring very much on the way Peter Hague will reminisce about God's own country - Yorkshire – its food and traditions, and then Downley resident and bestselling Penguin author Margaret Graham - aka Milly Adams - will be sharing more tales from the writers' frontline. Indiscreet as always, she'll swear everyone to silence.

Do remember to come along and be entertained, not just by the speakers but by the friends you have already made or will make. Don't forget: the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7.45 at the Downley Community Centre, School Close. Go on, you know you'll enjoy it. Great cakes as well.

*For more information, our President
Pat Heath would love to hear from you.
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If you would like to know if acupuncture could be of benefit to you please contact Louise on **07860 820914**.

www.theacupuncturepoint.org.uk

All the right notes (but not necessarily in the right order) from Downley Descants



Downley Descants is now in its 6th year during which time we have had great fun and enjoyed great camaraderie, learning new songs and performing in many concerts. We have raised over £6000 for various charities over the years which makes it all the more worthwhile.

Last year, one of our most loved and reliable members, Barry Gay, passed away. Barry loved coming to choir each week so we thought it only fitting that we should remember him by holding a special memorial concert at Chiltern Wood School. This will be held on Friday 27th April starting at 7.30pm. Proceeds from this concert will be donated to Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis to enable research into the illness from which Barry suffered.

Bob (Tenor)

Our activities since the last edition have been mainly centred around Christmas and all our varied performances. This year it was six of the best, ranging from singing in the courtyard at Stowe Landscape Gardens with an audience of quite literally two men and a dog, two sell out concerts at St James' Church and providing after dinner entertainment for the 'over eighties' Christmas lunch at Adams Park for the High Wycombe Guarantors.

There were 150 diners and guests including our local MP, the Mayor of High Wycombe and TV's Fern Brittan. We also sang for M&S in the town helping them raise over £750 for their chosen charity Child Bereavement UK. As Bob has said, we have a really fun evening on Thursday's so why not come along and have a go, everyone is welcome. We meet during school term time at Sunnybank Methodist Church in Moor Lane starting at 8pm or 7.45 if you want a chat beforehand. You can have two free trial evenings before deciding whether the Descants is for you.

If you are interested in joining us, or to purchase tickets please contact Lyn on 01494436063. e-mail: grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk or Julian on 01494440430. You could always check out our website downleydescants.org.uk for more details.

Starlight Café

Your local starlight store in the High Street is converting half of its premises to a Café and deli. The owner Sam thinks this work will be ready by March 2018 which will allow us all to sit and enjoy a coffee and cake anytime the urge takes us. The DVN will run another article once all the work is complete.

Editor's note.

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Downley Evening WI

Hello from all of us at Downley Evening WI.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The first twelfth of the year has been and gone but we've got off to a good start with an enthralling talk from Tony Eaton about the mysterious disappearance of the well-loved bandleader Glenn Miller. It was a cracker of an evening with extraordinary and unexpected insights into his death ... Spoiler alert! Don't believe what the Hollywood film tells you.

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed a talk about Madagascar from Sheila Keating, as well as 10 pin bowling down at the Eden Centre, and our 55th birthday party. Of course, as always, there's a full menu of events on offer at county level too, ranging from craft (Strictly Sequins) to science (Investigation and Discovery Day) to theatre and museum trips. You need never have a dull moment.

I'm a fairly recent member of the WI. Why did I join? First of all, a friend invited me along to a meeting or two. What kept me coming though were the people I met. There is such a range of women among the members – I

don't think there is such a thing as a 'typical' or 'stereotypical' WI member. Not in the 21st century. Women of all ages and backgrounds belong. They bring a wealth of life experience and opinions and attitudes. At Downley Evening WI, I found a community with a lot of shared history but also an openness to new faces, with enquiring minds and kind hearts, and a well-developed sense of humour. A community that cares about each other and that's got to be good.

We meet regularly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm at St James' Church, Plomer Hill. We promise a warm welcome, a stimulating gathering and plenty of laughs. And don't forget, there's cake ... Call our president, Rosemary Byrne, on HW 538966, for more information. Can't wait to meet you.

Angela Taplin

JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN - ANSWERS FROM PAGE 13

- a. 126, 133 (add 7 to each successive term)
- b. 28, 35 (add 1, then add 2, then add 3, etc)
- c. 21, 34 (add the previous two terms to get the next term, e.g. $8+13=21$)
- d. 46, 39 (subtract 12, then 11, then 10, etc)
- e. 49, 64 (successive square numbers)
- f. 29, 37 (add 2, then 3, then 4, etc)
- g. 528, 1042 (double the previous term then minus 2, then 4, then 6, etc)
- h. 3645, 10935 (times the previous term by 3)
- i. 264, 258 (minus 6, times 4, minus 6, times 4, etc)
- j. 55, 64 (plus 9, plus 7, plus 9, plus 7, etc)
- k. 17, 19 (successive prime numbers)
- l. 42, 14 (divide by 3)

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Chameleon Singles Group



We ended 2017 with our annual Christmas events in December and our pub night on the last Friday of the month.

As in the past we held two dinners for the festive season, one at lunch time and an evening dinner dance at Hazlemere Golf Club. Both events were well attended and enjoyed by all. A few members even went to both so you can see good food is always a driver!

At the end of January we hold our AGM evening. This is very much an informal event held at the monthly pub night. We reviewed events over the past year to see which worked well and perhaps one or two that didn't for whatever reason. It was also a time to look forward to the New Year and get some ideas for our events over the spring and summer months. The ideas I am pleased to say flowed and it looks like we will have a full and varied programme over the next few months. Ideas included Horse Riding, Bowling, River Trips, Craft Fairs, a Farm Visit, Theatre and at home take-aways. Now how is that for variety which along with our regular events there is sure to be something for everyone.

Some events run monthly such as the Friday Lunch Club for which in February we went to the recently opened Spindle and Thread in High Wycombe. We are also regular visitors to Dusty's Blues Club

in Holmer Green usually attending a live music event once a month. We also go to the theatre, cinema, comedy evenings, and various other events and trips out throughout the year. As the milder days of spring approach once again we will be doing more in the great outdoors with walks, trips and days out.

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 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. We have several local people from Downley, West Wycombe, Bledlow Ridge, Sands and surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too. To find out more call our membership secretaries: Terrie on 01494 445816 Joyce on 01494 817895 e-mail: info@chameleonsingles.org.uk. You can also visit us on-line at: www.chameleonsingles.org.uk for more information or connect with us through Facebook.



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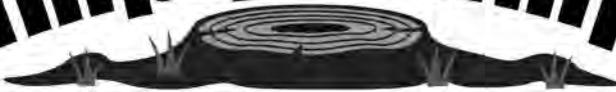
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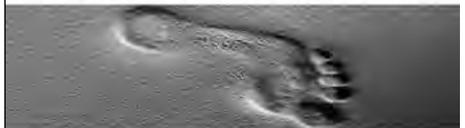
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Downley Diary

Round-up of Regular Activities

Downley Community Centre

Alzheimers Carers Support Group	4th Wed am
Art Group	Term time Mon & Tues 10am - 12.00
Bridge Group	Thurs 19.15
Chipmunks Woodcarving	Wed 10am
Community Library	Mon & Sat 10am Thurs 15.00
Counselling	by appointment
Craft Group	1st Tues 9.30am - 12.30
Dance Classes (ballroom and Latin)	Tues 19.30 & Weds 20.00
Downley Village Evening WI	1st Tues 19.35
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wed 20.00
First Class Learning	Sat 10am
Flower club	3rd Tues 19.30
French Circle	2nd Fri 19.30
High Wycombe Church of Christ	2nd, 4th and 5th Sun 15.00
Kingdom Dynamics Chapel	Sun 10am - 12.00
Lace Making	Term time Thurs 12.45
Line Dancing	Tues 12.45 and Fri 10am
Martial arts	Monday 20.00
Moo-Music. Sensory for 0 - 5 yrs	Monday 13.30 - 14.30
Mums & Toddlers Group	Term time Mon 9.30am
Pilates - term time	Mon 18.45, Wed 18.30, Thurs 19.30
Pilates for beginners	Term time Wed 9.30am
Relationship Counselling	By appt
Russian group	3rd Thurs 14.00
Simply Walk	Mon 10am and Thurs 11am
Sing & Sign	Thurs 10am - 11am (12 Coffee)
Tai Chi – for Arthritis	Term time Wed 10.30am
U3A Ukulele	4th Thurs 10am - 12.00
Wargamers	Mon 18.45
Wycombe Spiritual Centre	1st & 3rd Fri, 20.30
Yoga	Fri 19.30

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
Karen Pilates	Wed 9.30am
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
St James Church Coffee Morning	Thurs 9.30-12.30

Sunnybank Methodist Church Hall

Dance Classes for Young People	Mon, Wed afternoons & Tues evening
Downley Descants	Thurs evening at 8pm
Moor Lane Playgroup	Mon - Fri Term time only

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
Pilates	Mon 7pm

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

Rambling in and around: If you are a rambler or would like to get out for a stiff walk anytime then please contact us, your local ramblers group.

<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/wycombe-district>

Join one of our regular walks planned between February and April 2018.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to both Desmond (Des) and Theresa Ryan who have laboured relentlessly for some 10 years to ensure the Downley Village News magazine is sorted and issued out to the many volunteers who then deliver this through your door in Downley. This is no meagre task as there is a circulation of some 2,200 homes that receive this local magazine. From me and all the people on the committee (volunteers who put together your local magazine) as well as those who know them in Downley; we all offer Theresa and Des our thanks and wish them well now that they have handed over the sorting and organisation of delivery to other local volunteers in Downley.

Best wishes

Simon Scott. Editor of the Downley Village News New

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

A Song for Barry

Downley Descants will be holding a special memorial concert in memory of Cllr. Barry Gay. On Friday 27 April at Chiltern Wood School.

Ticket price £7.

Contact Lyn on 01494 436063 or
grannyandbobby@talktalk.net

All proceeds will be towards research into Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis.

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 1 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

4 DCPS work party at 10am

8 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

13 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm at the War Memorial Hall

15 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

22 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

29 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

April 1 DCPS work party at 10am

5 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

10 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm at the Community Centre

12 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

19 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

26 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

27 "A song for Barry" Downley Descants Concert at Chiltern Wood School from 7.30pm

May 3 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

6 DCPS work party at 10am

6 Rogation Walk starting from the War Memorial at 2.00pm

6 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm at the War Memorial Hall

10 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

17 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

24 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

31 St James Church Coffee Morning from 9.30 - 12.30 every Thursday

Tree Felling in the Woods

If you go down to the woods on the east side of the Common, below the Scout & Guide Hut you will see some changes.

The National Trust (whose woods they are). Forestry contractors have been taking out some dangerous trees and a selection of others along the edge of the footpaths to create an open woodland ride similar to those created on Naphill Common. This will allow more light into the wood, encourage regrowth of younger

trees (the next generation) and allow ground vegetation to become established.

It looks a bit messy at the moment but in time the works will make the woodland healthier, safer, richer in wildlife and more pleasant to walk through.

Below is what it looks like at the moment.

Looking towards Echo Valley



Looking up towards the Scout Hut



Street Lights

You may have noticed some new LED street lights on the High Street.

LED lamps are the future of street lighting – they cost less to repair than sodium and are more energy efficient although their colour and lighting patterns are different.

The Parish Council is in the process of deciding the future of street lighting in Downley where we currently have mainly sodium lights.

Since these are becoming increasingly difficult to repair and will become obsolete in 2020, a decision needs to be made about their replacement.

Bucks County Council are currently replacing thousands of sodium units in High Wycombe and therefore the replacement of Downley's lights is a priority for the Parish Council.

If you would like to make any comments on the changes, please send these to the Clerk at Downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk.

All comments are welcome and will help the Council shape the future of street lighting in our village.

Do Join us if you can in the Barry Gay Memorial Walk & Annual Downley Rogation Walk

The Barry Gay Memorial Walk is on Monday 19th March
leaving the Community Centre at 10.00 a.m

The Annual Downley Rogation Walk is on Sunday 6th May
leaving the Memorial Hall at 2.00 p.m

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From Wycombe to Westminster

Steve Baker MP

Along with other MPs in Buckinghamshire I regularly attend meetings with the providers of local NHS services, including the chief executive of the Hospital Trusts and GPs.



At our January meeting we discussed pressures on the hospital over the winter period. Despite additional numbers of people presenting at A&E over the last few weeks, the hospital's contingency plans have proved to be robust and there has not been a crisis. Whilst I was at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, I asked to look around a new facility which has been built to improve the way ambulances handover patients to the emergency team. The new facility had only been open for a few days when I visited, but I was told it had already proved successful and allowed patients to be treated promptly and effectively.

I know the doctors who commission NHS services are always looking for patients and the public to help shape health services. In the past healthcare services have often focused on activities but more emphasis is now being put on outcomes. The new Outcomes Framework has been written by a small team of patients and public volunteers with relevant experience, and these outcomes will be used to help design services in the future. The NHS is also looking at ways to improve the way the NHS deals with medicines. A further study involves both the local Clinical Commissioning Group which is working with the charity Macmillan Cancer Support to look at cancer services on a projected entitled 'Living with and beyond cancer'. A survey has been set-up to find out which elements of cancer services are working well and to discover if new support should be provided. They would like to hear from those currently undergoing or have

undergone treatment or who have cared for someone with cancer.

If you would like to comment on any of these consultations, please go to the Let's Talk Health Bucks website at www.letstalkhealthbucks.nhs.uk/

Another issue I know is of concern to local people is housing. I am pleased that the Government is trying to tackle our national housing crisis; the housing budget has been doubled and new initiatives have been introduced including the Government's most recent proposal to allow some limited building upwards on existing developments provided it is keeping with other buildings in the area. Although these are national schemes I am also interested in how we build a range of homes that meet local housing need here in Wycombe and I have written to the Leader of Wycombe District Council about this. I have also recently met the senior teams from our local social housing associations and looked around some new build properties and sites for development. In particular I am working with Red Kite on its plans for developing new homes in the Wycombe area.

If you would like to get in touch with me, please email: steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk. If you despair of bureaucracy and would like my help with a particular issue, please phone my constituency office on: 01494 448408.



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JILL'S SCIENCE FOR FUN ENERGY FROM DOUGHNUTS

Fossil fuels have given mankind our present day lifestyle, but they do not offer us a future. Global warming, acid rain and global dimming are all possible consequences of our reliance on gas, oil and coal. In addition the political instability of many areas where we source these fuels adds to our issues with them. Then there is the obvious fact that they will soon run out, and they are not renewable within the existence of our species. So we need a solution if we are to maintain our way of living, and continue to advance into a fuelled, technological future. Renewable options such as Sun, wind, biofuels, tidal, geothermal and hydroelectric all come with their own issues of land usage and reliability. Nuclear fission is the most obvious candidate for the level of power we need, but it has its own issues of waste matter which it would be good to avoid if possible; this is the main solution for now, and the most likely way ahead in the absence of a breakthrough in technology

That breakthrough is certainly being chased as we speak, by joint efforts of governments across the globe, by individual governments and by private companies. Hopefully it will come in the form of nuclear fusion. This is the process that heats the Sun. Simplistically speaking, hydrogen nuclei come together and join to form helium nuclei; in doing so they release vast amounts of energy. If we can harness this process in "star" chambers on Earth we could use this energy to generate electricity in our power stations. This idea has been around for many years. It has been found that the conditions required for fusion to occur can be provided within a Chamber called a Tokamak (toroidalnaya camera magnitsnaya katusha, which is Russian for toroidal [doughnut shaped] chamber magnetic coils). In the chamber deuterium and tritium (both isotopes –forms of- hydrogen) are heated to 100 million degrees Celsius. The plasma state they form at this temperature is charged so it is able to be contained and directed around the Tokamak by a magnet. The particles fuse to form Helium plus one neutron, and they release energy. We know this process should work well, it does a grand job in our Sun and all the other stars in the Universe.

The biggest Tokamak in the World is in Oxfordshire; the JET (Joint European Torus), was built in the 1970s and it is still capable of producing Fusion Energy today. However, it is purely experimental. In France there is a new Tokamak currently being built as a joint venture between USA, Russia, South Korea, Japan, India, the European Union, and China. This Tokamak, the ITER, will be around twice the size of JET. The goal of this €4 billion project is to progress the experiments further and achieve greater energy output than energy input. In the meantime many smaller Tokamaks are currently operating, attempting to achieve the same goal of net energy production. When we achieve this fusion will provide all the Energy we need. Its fuel is plentiful, cheap and easily accessed from seawater. Its end products are considered harmless.

The future of energy is doughnut shaped, the future is fusion.

BY JILL BURRELL





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

Name and contact details.....

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Barry Gay Memorial Walk & Annual Downley Rogation Walk

Memorial Walk

The late Barry Gay was instrumental in setting up the “Simply Walk” group in Downley. This is a countywide programme of free, sociable, volunteer-led walks which aim to help people get outdoors and be more active. In Downley the walks take place throughout the year whatever the weather and take advantage of our beautiful common, woods and parkland.



Barry loved walking and had a great knowledge of the many walks in the area. The activity is now enjoyed by up to 70 people on 2 or 3 walks each week. The Simply Walk Leaders would like to honour his memory by holding a Memorial Walk in recognition of all he did to promote walking as a fun, sociable and healthy pastime.

The Memorial Walk will take place on Monday 19th March which will be the 11th Anniversary of the very first Simply Walk in Downley. The walk leaders extend a warm welcome to everyone in order to make this a special event.

The walkers will leave the Community Centre at 10.00 a.m. and follow one of Barry’s favourite walks. (if this will be your first walk please arrive 10-15mins. early) The duration will be approximately 90 mins. followed by light refreshments at the centre for which a small donation would be gratefully received. All donations will be sent to “Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis” a charity which supports research into this incurable disease from which Barry suffered.

In addition to refreshments, Barry’s daughter, Jo Belshaw, will be on hand with a stock of really attractive greeting cards which you may like to peruse. If you would like to buy any, then 20% of the purchase price will also be donated to Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis.

The Downley Parish Family Walk on Rogation Day

Residents of Downley and their friends are invited to join in the annual Parish Walk on Sunday 6th May which will start at the War Memorial Hall, High Street at 2.00 pm.

This is a walk for all the family around part of our historic parish boundary. It will take about one and a half hours and will finish at Le De Spencer’s Arms on the Common at about 3.30 pm. The team at the pub will be on hand to provide free tea, coffee or fruit juice for all walkers. The walk will be led and back-marked by trained walk leaders; a description of the walk and a map will be handed out on the day for those who like to know where they are going!

No need to book, just turn up on the day with your friends and family and join in a fun walk in our beautiful woods and rolling Chiltern Hills. This walk commemorates a local tradition of marking the boundary of our parish. In ‘the old days’ it used to involve tipping up small boys and using them to ‘beat’ the boundary markers.we won’t be doing any of that but we hope it will still be enjoyable.

For more information on the above walks or any of our usual Simply Walks on Mondays and Thursdays, please contact Jeanne Steward Tel: 01494 527004



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A Song for Barry

Presented by: **DOWNLEY DESCANTS**

Downley Descants will be holding a special memorial concert in memory of Cllr. Barry Gay. On Friday 27 April at Chiltern Wood School.

Ticket price £7.

Contact Lyn on 01494 436063 or grannyandbobby@talktalk.net

**Friday 27th
April 2018
7.30pm**
Chiltern Wood School,
Faulkner Way, Downley
HP13 5HB

**All proceeds will be towards research into
Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis.**

Green Leys Christmas Lights 2017

Each year the residents of Green Leys decorate their houses with Christmas lights.

This event has grown year on year. Instigated by Heather and Kelvin (no.16) we all get together in the garage of Niki and Darren (no.15) on December 1st each year for a bring and share supper whilst watching the grand switch on. For the past 5 years we have organised that any donations from passers-by are forwarded to local charities.

This years nominated charity was Butterfly house. The South Bucks Community Day Care Hospice which has recently moved into new premises. We were delighted to be able to present them with a cheque for £526.00. This was made up from residents, Mums and Dads walking their children to school and drivers bringing their families to look at the lights. One evening an anonymous donation

was made of £250.00. We were completely overwhelmed by this generous amount.

The residents of Green Leys would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who donated.

Bigger, Better and Brighter next Christmas? Watch this space.

Cathy (Nº 18)



WforW holds another LitFest on April 21 2018 in Downley

Words for the Wounded are holding their annual LitFest on April 21st at The Community Centre, School Close HP13 5TR again with a fabulous line up of speakers and a pretty good lunch, with wine.



Introduced by Downley resident and bestselling author, Margaret Graham (aka Milly Adams), who is the founder of the charity, helped by two other grannies, Jan and Penny, the speakers

include Jack Smethurst, star of stage and screen, who will take us behind the scenes of his rich theatrical life. Jan Moran Neil, performance poet, writer and actor. Jason Hewitt, playwright and author of the blisteringly successful *Devastation Road*, and Paul Rabbitt, author of scrummy books on parks, bandstands and

beautiful things green.

There will also be a panel of professional authors to answer any questions of life and work behind the scenes of the writing world, and how to write that book you're all sitting on.

10.00 to 5.00 (Registration 9.30). Tickets £35 each to include lunch, wine, teas, coffees and cakes.

It's always a fun day, so make sure you phone Margaret on 01494 630713 or email her on Margaret@margaret-graham.com to reserve your seat. Every penny as always goes towards helping our veterans. More details: www.wordsforthewounded.co.uk

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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

Spring 2018

Wal me ole mates, another year eh! Wal it'll be March I reckons by the time you gets this, and wot with him over the Atlantic and 'im, Kim bristle head, over there somewhere too it'll be a bit of luck if we digs our spuds this autumn eh! (Or they'll be ready roasted). Wal, my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke as well as always a moanin and a groanin about everything, wal, almost everything, he does smile a bit when he ses to me 'that wot with Brexit you'll not get the froggy money you expects for yor farmers, so just watch yor veggy prices go up' he coughs through the normal clouds of Gitane smoke. So get your veg in up the plot, seeds is cheap enough eh! Then my cousin in Canada sends a picture of im and family in the new year, only -27C, wal, no wonder they can't get anything a'growin till May, so cheer up I ses, it's not orl bad eh?

So there am I up the plot, after the snow in January, avin' a look at wots survived and wot as'n't, not much, wot with the snow, pigeons, mice, deer, - but that's not wot its orl about is it! Mrs H. ses 'wot you've got up there is'.... wait for it.... 'mindfulness' - Wot! Wot's that? She gose on to tell me, and I ses I reckons Ive done that for most of my life, dreamin away, time passes, a bit of diggin', then maybe a chat, listen to the birds, get a good dose of the here and now, and get away from orl that wots it called? 'Virtual world', aaaagh, not for me, it's sun on yor back and wind in yor hair eh, and a bit of time to plan the next bit of diggin'. Them young ones, wots their minds full of eh? Wal, orl they seem to be bothered about is ow many friends they've got, they don't even know wot a friend is I reckon, wud they plant yor cabbages for you if you had a dose of flu?

Mrs H ses 'get on with it, rambling on', - so orlrite I will - how are yor bulbs? Don't worry about takin orf the seed heads or even diggin'

'em up once they've a 'flowered, let nature take its corse. You might get this by the Spring equinox, 12 hours light, 12 hours dark, orl good eh? Trees a' leafin up, bluebells comin up, everything up pretty much, yor tommy toes comin up on the winder sill or greenhouse, courgettes, marrers and pumkins too, and keep them lettuces on the go too! And wot about the kids? Spuds is a good way to get them a'starded (Spuds and kids eh, ha ha!). Get a plastic bucket, drill some holes in the bottom for drainage, fill up with soil and compost, (humous for developing yor sense of humous.... Get it? Ha ha...) 'hmmmm' ses Mrs H... plant yor spuds, maybe 3 in the bucket, and about 3" deep, then watch 'em grow, cover up if there's frost about, in the autumn the tops'll die down, kids can tip the lot out, pick 'em out and clean 'em up, the kids and the spuds.... Boil straight away, the spuds not the kids, wot more could you want? Wal a bit of butter maybe, a feast! (Did you know that the letters T and H don't exist in Bucks, so it's bu'er, try sayin 'a bit of butter on my halibut', you really could be a Bucks Boy!).

So that's about it for now, keep the weeds down, feed the birds, sow lots of wild flower seeds and don't forget yor mindfulness!

Cheerio and a'bientot!

J.H. sent from my I Spade



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Downley War Memorial Hall

*John Menday
Thomas Smith*

The long-awaited German Spring offensive had been launched with Operation Michael in March 1918. Although it captured a significant amount of ground much of this was the former battlefields of the Somme and assault eventually stalled as its supply lines failed to keep up. Overall it failed to meet its strategic goals which included capturing Amiens, Arras and the Channel ports. In addition, amongst over 200,000 casualties they had lost substantial numbers of their new “elite” Stormtroopers.

The second stage, known as Operation Georgette, was targeted further south around Armentieres and began at dawn on 9 April 1918 following two days of bombardment. Eight divisions advanced up to five miles over a nine-mile front before they were halted by British reserve troops. The following day they launched a further attack to the north which involved the British 19th and 25th Divisions the latter included the 25th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps (MGC) amongst whose number was Private John Menday.

John was reported missing on 10 April although it was July 1919 before his family were finally told that it must now be deemed that “he had died on that day or to have died since”. This was reported in the local paper that elsewhere had several articles about the forthcoming Peace Celebration.

John, another Chapel Street resident, had enlisted soon after his 18th birthday the previous year and after 12 months training was sent to France about two weeks before his death. His older brother Joseph had died the previous September.

Thomas Smith had enlisted into the 58th Battalion MGC and by April 1918 this was part of the 19th Division involved in the same action.

The German attacks continued over the next few days with several new assaults launched with continued success. It is likely that Thomas died during one of these. Ultimately though, Operation Georgette fared no better than



German A7V tank at Roye on March 21, 1918. CC-BY-SA 3.0

its predecessor as the Allied armies retired to higher ground. Once again, there were huge casualties that included a high proportion of Stormtroopers. With over a million American troops due to arrive in France within weeks, these two assaults represented Germany’s last chance to win the war.

Thomas lived with his family in Blacksmith Yard Downley and was recorded on the 1911 Census, aged 13, as a farm labourer. By the time of his enlistment he was working in Mr Spriggs furniture factory.

Back to the present day and to the Trustees surprise, the new floor was completed during half-term and looks very good. The lighter colour and smooth finish give the Hall a brighter and airier feel to the Hall. We are now turning our attention back to the front of the building where a couple of areas need work. Although not large, as ever they require specialist professionals to work with the materials, including granite and oak, that are no longer in common use.

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



British Lewis gun team Battle of Hazebrouck, 15 April 1918.

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Downley History Group

Can any reader identify any one in these photographs? Other answers needed are; where were they taken? the date? and the occasion (some of course are obvious)?

We have a growing archive of photographs of Downley and are very interested in adding to the collection. We are sure there are all sorts of pictorial gems hidden away in cupboards and lofts! Do you have interesting local stories to tell and record for the Downley future folks interest and entertainment? Should Downley have a fancy dress competition at Downley Day?

Please contact Brian Knott on: 01494 441487 if you have any answers to the above questions or if you have any historical pictures taken in Downley.



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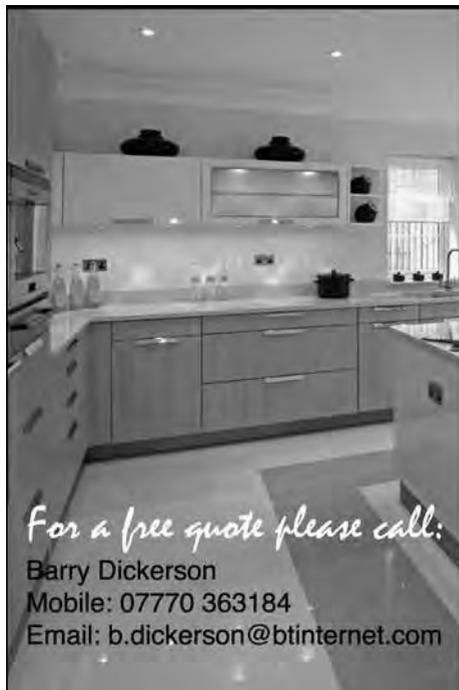
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Canine Cutz. Wow! Five Years On

2018 has been a very exciting so far for Canine Cutz with many more exciting plans for the rest of the year and its only just the end of January!



On the 20th January, Stephanie, the Salon Manager entered in to her first Grooming competition, which on this occasion was The Grooming Show 2018. Grooming competitions happen all over the world and have thousands of competitors and spectators who attend. They aren't as you'd imagine though, it's not all poodles and its not purple heads and zebra bodies, although the 'Creative' classes are always full of many zebra poodles with purple heads!

Stephanie took one of her dogs, Coco and they were entered in a Mixed Breed Workshop class with 11 other competitors, all competing for 1st -3rd place. Unfortunately, although they achieved a beautiful groom, they weren't successful on this occasion but that's OK, it was their first show!

Steph plans to enter as many competitions as she can this year with a variety of eye catching and different dogs.

Canine Cutz are entering in to their 5th year of business this year and they cannot wait to tell you what they have planned!

Canine Cutz are introducing NEW add-on spa treatments for your pets throughout this year, including Blueberry Facials and Hot Essential Oil Towel Wraps, Emmi-Pet Ultrasound Dental Treatments, Pawdicures and Mud Baths specifically developed for shedding breeds.

Not only that, Stephanie, Joanne and the team will be attending and hosting seminars with world renowned Dog Groomers and Tutors this year in order to continue their development and education to ensure that you and your dogs are receiving the most up-to-date, best on the market treatments and styles. Not only that but the team at Canine Cutz are delivering safe conduct too. Already the girls have attended a seminar this month, have one booked to attend next month, will be hosting one in March and as well as attending and competing in the Master groom Competition in April, they will be attending seminars that weekend too! Phew, a busy few months ahead.

To celebrate their 5th year in business, the team at Canine Cutz will be making subtle improvements to the salon and the way in which the business operates in order to provide the best possible grooming experience and atmosphere.

Canine Cutz really do strive to make sure all of their clients are happy and are catered for in the best possible way. They only ask one thing; please ensure that you book in advance. From attending seminars with other groomers, the girls have learnt that it is common practice amongst busy and successful salons that clients must book in advance to have their appointments!

I'm sure your hairdresser is booked because they are good? I'm sure your beauty therapist or nail technician is too? I'm pretty sure that an appointment has to be booked at your doctors or your dentist or even the vets?

Dog grooming is still a business, as much as the girls love what they do and love dogs through and through, they are still making a living and they are certainly running a business and ask that their clients respect this fact.

The team at Canine Cutz hope to see you soon and look forward to keeping you updated about the exciting 5th year of business!





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For more details and to offer your help, please contact Sue Hannaford at:

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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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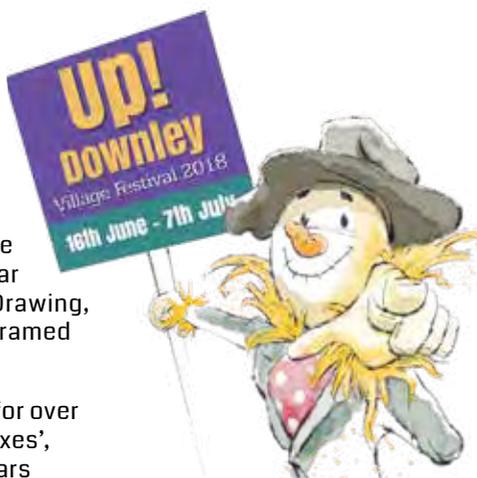
Downley Village Art Show 2018 'MadBoxes' step forward to sponsor prizes for junior artists

One of the exciting features of our Village Art Show has always been its diversity. Having the work of skilled mature artists shown alongside the exuberance of the very young is a delight. This year the winners of the three junior age groups in the Drawing, Painting and Craft categories will see their work framed by talented local picture framer Mark Amos.

Mark (an artist himself) has been a picture framer for over twenty years, and set up his own business 'madboxes', just off of Desborough Avenue, a little over four years ago. Mark takes picture framing to a whole other level (visit madboxes.co.uk to see for yourself) specialising in framing unusual objects as well as offering a wide range of mouldings and mountboards to suit every style of framing.

So if you are (or know of) a budding artist between 4 and 16 years old, start planning your work now. There is plenty of time, deadline for entries is Wednesday 27 June. As always there are gift vouchers to be won by juniors in the other categories.

More details of the Village Art Show in the next Downley Village News, eNews and Facebook page: facebook.com/Downley.Community/



Downley Open Gardens Could you share your garden for an afternoon?

We would like to add more venues to our garden tour.

This year our local gardeners will throw their gates open on the afternoon of Sunday 24 June. Visitors start their tour from the Memorial Hall and are provided with a guide to the venues. It is a day for all who enjoy the colours, fragrances and gentle conversations to be had in a village garden.

Our green fingered hosts will be rewarded with afternoon tea and wonderful cakes in the Memorial Hall and a feeling of an afternoon well spent.

Contact Hazel: festival@downley.org



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