

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

Village News



Features

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

Issue 115 / June 2018





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Up!
Downley
Village Festival 2018
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Editorial

Welcome to another Summer edition of your local village magazine. The High Street is changing, and you can read about these changes in this issue and the next issue. With the new look comes new offerings to local residents all being illuminated by refurbished LED street lighting.

The UP Festival is coming and promises its usual assortment of excellent events. Please do order tickets via the web site www.downley.org and keep up to date on the Downley FB page.

Since one of the items changing in the High Street is the old Post Office building I would ask anyone who is living in or has refurbished any old buildings or houses in and around the common over recent year to get in touch if they would like an article written on the ups and downs of the refurbishments or whether any interesting discoveries were uncovered during the process.

The Parish council continues to replace the various notice boards around the area and the Downley School is going through some changes of staff. I appeal to the new staff or long-standing staff at the school to try to submit an article to the Downley Village Magazine as many readers miss the quarterly update of what's on at the School. Please contact editor@downley.org so I can make sure you receive the reminder emails for article.

Let's hope that the British weather comes good for us throughout the Downley UP Festival season but whatever it brings I hope you all enjoy your Summer in 2018.

Simon Scott Editor



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Downley Common News

Spring is always a colourful season on Downley Common and it makes a marked contrast to the appearance compared to the last edition when we still seemed to be in the depths of winter. So here is a quick round up of some of the more colourful, slightly unusual and even positively unwelcome blooms witnessed recently.

The **Gorse Bush** is particularly spectacular at the moment near the bonfire site although the winter snows seem to have taken their toll with a number of broken branches visible. Kissing may well be in season but perhaps the lesson is not to overdo it.



Japanese Knotweed.

Despite being sprayed last year, this hardy perennial seems to be popping up again without a care in the world near the cricket pitch. The intention is to have this patch sprayed repeatedly to try and keep it under control if not eradicated completely. Everyone should note that it is a criminal offence to encourage its spread.

However, the stalks can be

turned into quite tuneful penny whistles.



lying plants are safe. If you try to pick too many blackberries, a backache soon ensues.

The Glove Tree. The old saying “Ne’r cast a clout till May is out” seems quite appropriate to the specimen observed at the end of Hunts Hill Lane as the little woolly mittens seem tailor-made to protect against late frosts. A marvellous example of evolution adapting to the British weather.



The Dog Poo Tree. A native to this country, it is nevertheless an unwelcome visitor and seems to be proliferating. It is said that dog walkers intend to take the flowers home with them but there appears to be little evidence of that. These occasionally brightly coloured flowers contain a rather unpleasant nectar and are to be discouraged. Again, evolution in action to prevent them being picked.

Ground-hugging brambles. These brambles, otherwise known as “backache blackberries” have evolved to evade the reach of the tractor-mounted flail which a minimum height setting, below which low-



Bill Thompson, Downley Common
Preservation Society

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News from Downley Pharmacy

As part of our NHS contract we support health promotion and education.

Public Health England are once again running a stroke awareness campaign with the objective to raise awareness and encourage those witnessing the first signs of stroke to call 999, even if not sure. Below are the key messages from the campaign- how to recognise the signs of stroke, the importance of prompt action and also how to reduce your risk of stroke.

Urgent medical attention increases the chance of a good recovery. Stroke is the fourth largest cause of death in the UK. It kills more women than breast cancer and more men than prostate and testicular cancer combined. Over half of stroke survivors have a disability, with a third of survivors in the UK being dependent on others.

STROKE- ACT F.A.S.T.

This is the easy way to remember the signs of stroke

FACE - has their face fallen to one side? Can they smile?

ARMS - can they raise both arms and keep them there?

SPEECH - is speech slurred?

TIME - call 999 if you see any one or more of these signs.



Transient ischaemic attack (TIA) is also called “mini-stroke”. It has the same signs as stroke, but gets better within 24 hours. However, it could be a warning sign of a more serious stroke, so it also needs to be treated as an emergency by calling 999. Rapid diagnosis allows urgent steps to be taken to reduce the risk of having a stroke. If you think you have had a TIA in the past and have not sought treatment, contact your GP.

REDUCING YOUR RISK OF A STROKE

Some people are more at risk of having a stroke if they also have certain medical conditions. These include:

High blood pressure

High cholesterol

Atrial fibrillation (an irregular heartbeat)

Diabetes

Monitoring and treatment of these conditions reduces the risk of stroke.

Certain lifestyle factors may significantly increase the risk of having a stroke. They include:

Smoking

Being overweight

Lack of exercise

Poor diet

Excess alcohol consumption

For help and advice on any of the above call in and speak to us or search ‘Act Fast’ or visit the Stroke Association at: stroke.org.uk

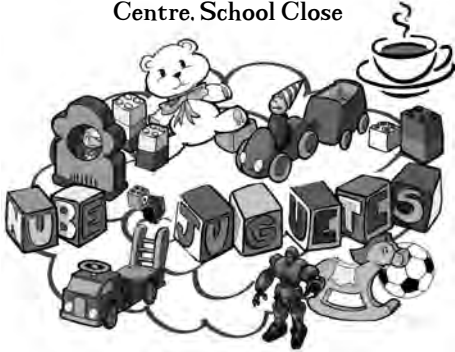
From all the team at Downley Pharmacy

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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Family Fun Day

21st July • 2pm - 5pm



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All Monies raised will be donated
to Rosie's Rainbow Fund

All happening at:

DOSCA • School Close, Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 5TR

The Woodland Pre-School

We are excited to announce that "Woodlands" will be opening from 8.00am - 3.30pm from September 2018!!



If you are a working parent or would like flexibility for the times that your little one comes to Pre-School, please ring us to arrange a visit or to discuss how we can meet your needs. We offer both the Universal entitlement of 15 hours for funded 2, 3 and 4 year olds and the Extended entitlement of 30 hours. There are some spaces for non funded 2 year olds - particularly useful for children approaching their 3rd birthday to settle them in gradually to the pre school environment. In addition we will be running a breakfast club so you can be assured that your child has a good breakfast to start their day (additional charges apply).

Whether it is building an obstacle course, dressing up as a knight or princess, making a dinosaur world or enjoying a story, your child will learn as they play. We use our beautiful natural environment to enhance our children's learning so you may find us out and about visiting the Community Library or exploring the Common throughout the year to find badger setts, bluebells, animal and tractor tracks etc.

For more information, please look at our website www.thewoodlandpreschool.co.uk or call 01494 521953 to arrange a visit. We look forward to welcoming you to the Woodland Pre-School. The Woodland Pre-School, The Guide and Scout Centre, Coates Lane, Downley, HP13 5UX

Downley Theatre Group

The introduction on 25 May this year of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has generated a lot of work, including setting up a designated email address.



All members of the Theatre Group have been contacted directly seeking their permission to hold personal details so we can carry on sending information about outings – those who don't respond by 25 May will have their data removed from the mailing list.

On the brighter side, we were overwhelmed by the prompt response of so many members and are confident that the Group will continue to function after this "cull".

Very unusually, we have already have dates in the diary for:

Wednesday 5 September: Agatha Christie's "Witness for the Prosecution" at County Hall, London

Wednesday 31 October: Take That musical "The Band", New Theatre, Oxford

Sunday 16 December: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's "Christmas Cracker", Cadogan Hall, London

Further ahead, "Calendar Girls", the renamed Gary Barlow musical "The Girls", is coming to the New Theatre, Oxford, in April 2019 and we'll be looking into that, too.

Full details will be sent out to members in due course, do get in touch if you wish to join – there's no fee and no obligation to go on trips.

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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

COMMUNITY FUN DAY – Saturday 21 July 2-5pm

Come along for some outdoor fun (weather permitting) and creative enjoyment for the first family fun day organised by Downley Community Centre.

*Bouncy Castle • Didi Cars • Candy Floss • Face Painter • Tombola • Children's Lucky Dip
Children's Craft Table • Afternoon Teas • Outdoor Games*

Free admission - all proceeds will be donated to Rosie's Rainbow Fund, a Thames Valley based charity that supports sick and disabled children in hospitals, schools and in the community.

Chipmunks in Downley are in danger of becoming extinct!

A small woodcarving group is in danger of closing due to a shortage of members.

Would you like to have a go? we can offer advice and help you to carve something beautiful out of wood?

Sessions take place each Wednesday morning 10.00-12.00 at Downley Community Centre
Pop in or Phone Margaret on 01494 523912

Downley Community Centre - Grants Committee

The first grant has been made following approval by the Downley Old School Community Association grants committee. As reported in the last issue of Downley Village News a formal grant funding scheme to help with community projects has been established. Any Downley area club or association may apply. For funding criteria please email: grants@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk

The first beneficiary is Butterfly House (formerly known as South Bucks Hospice) our local community hospice. Downley Community Centre donated £255 towards the funding for 7 pairs of walkie talkies for their clinical staff. In this instance the same amount was matched by a donation from Downley Parish Council. Total £510.

"Thank you for the support in providing funds for emergency "Walkie Talkies" to assure the safety of both our staff and patients. I cannot tell you how much we value and appreciate this donation."

A Downley resident recently visited the Hospice and was greeted with a big thank you and informed that the equipment is on order.

Bucks NHS Health Checks

The second session in March was fully booked again soon after the date was announced. Consideration is being given to offering a third session if there is sufficient demand. To register your interest, without commitment, in advance please email: events@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk

New Hirers:

Downley Community Centre welcomes Brownies and Rainbows this month. They meet every Tuesday and Thursday respectively during term time.

Up! Festival 2018:

Downley Community Centre will again be hosting several events including the popular Art Show 2-7 July and back by popular demand the Grape Downley Wine Taste on Saturday 23 June.

Paul Homer and the Downley Old School Community Association (DOSCA) committee

'My Dream House' by James Donald, Friday 9th February 1990

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Coffee Morning

Come and join us for a chat
over a cup of coffee and some biscuits!

Every Thursday morning at

St James Church
Downley

From 9.30 to 12.30

Come along and
bring a friend!

Downley Descants

Time goes swiftly on its way. All to soon we've lost today

These are words from the opening song we performed at our memorial concert for Barry Gay on 27 April: A Song for Barry. This was a well-attended and very emotional evening, evoking memories of a well-loved choir member and pillar of the community.



Several of Barry's favourite pieces were sung, including a selection from Les Miserables during which his granddaughter Georgia, one of our newer members, movingly performed two solos to much applause. As a result of the concert the choir was able to donate over £1000 to the charity, Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis, to help finance research into this incurable disease. Other recent performances by the Downley Descants have been at Chiltern Manor Care Home on the occasion of the 70th wedding anniversary of the parents of one of our members. Kathie tells me her parents married as teenagers and are now both in their 90s! Later in the month we were asked to sing at North Dean Village Hall for members of the Rotary Club at their Easter dinner. A small group attended and was well-received.

The choir held a quiz with a fish and chip supper which was a fun evening. This was to raise money for our own funds and financed the coach that took us to Stowe where we performed at Christmas.

This is the last Village News before the Up! Downley Festival so this is a reminder that we will



be performing, as usual, at Downley Day which is a free event and also a joint concert with the Wycombe Concert Band on Friday 29 June at Chiltern Wood School, as in previous years. Please make sure you buy your tickets in advance, through the festival box office, to avoid disappointment.

Now to our usual plug for new members: our last concert, A Song for Barry was a real success. The camaraderie and the feeling of belonging seems to get stronger with each performance, as does our ability to entertain our audience. If you would like to give us a try, come along at 7.45pm to Sunnybank Church, Moor Lane on any Thursday evening during school term-time. You can have two free sessions before deciding if you like it enough to become a member.

Contact me (Lyn 436063 or 07974 026213 e-mail: grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk) or Julian 440430. Check out our website: downleydescants.org.uk for more details.

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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.'

Each week, as part of our prayers for the church and the world, known as Intercessions, we use our Mission Prayer:

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On Sunday 29th April 2018, we said goodbye to our parish priest, Alison Finch. Alison has been with us for the last five years, and it is fair to say that we have never had a priest like her. She has brought so much to the life of our church, both in our worship and in our community. She introduced us to Celtic worship music, often accompanying us on her guitar. She led Lent courses. She began our annual Pet Service. Alison reached out to the Downley community through Pints of View and the weekly quiz at the Brickies and through Tots and Teddies. She was a great supporter of social events such as our Caribbean and Murder Mystery evenings.



The service was a mixture of laughter and tears as we looked back at Alison's long service as a priest, beginning at a time when she was very much a woman in a man's world. Alison's choice of hymns reflected her strong view that Christianity should be part of the world where people are, her love of folk music and her fierce pride in her Scottish roots.

The service ended with lunch, prepared by the Phoenix Team, presentations of flowers and gifts and a cake.

Alison's departure marks both an ending and a beginning for St James. We have said goodbye to a much-loved priest, and now we begin the process of recruiting someone to help us to deliver the mission of our church. We approach this with great optimism and hope, secure in the knowledge that our time with Alison has strengthened us and that God is with us in the next stage of the life of this church. This was the key message of her final sermon at St James focused on Psalm 139, which begins O Lord, you have searched me and known me, ending at the point I come to the end- I am still with you.

We look forward to updating you on our progress in the coming months. In the meantime, services will continue as usual on Sunday morning at 11.00 am or Pop-In for a Coffee and a chat on Thursday mornings between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm. You will be very welcome!



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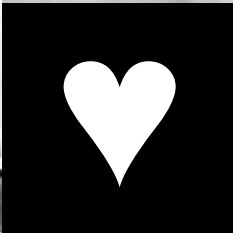
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Downley Gardening Society

Hopefully your gardens are looking lovely after the difficult winter weather.

Our monthly meetings continue in St James' Hall until our Summer break and resume in October, all newcomers very welcome.

- Monday 21st May - talk entitled 'interesting plants for outdoor containers' by Brian Fisher
- Monday 15th October - talk entitled 'Morning Coffee, afternoon Tea' by Sandy Primrose
- Monday 19th December – demonstration by Karen Elliott on Christmas floral decorations, we had a similar talk by Karen last year and unfortunately the winter weather kept a lot of people at home but it was so good we asked Karen to come again, a bit earlier in the year.

We also have our evening visit to a local garden on Monday 4th June. This year we will

be visiting Peter Ley Corner Cottage, meeting at St James' Hall at 6.30pm for car sharing if needed, £8 to include garden visit, tea and cake. Please contact David on HW 436803 if you are interested in coming along.

We will be holding our annual plant stall at Downley Day on Saturday 16th June, come along for some lovely plants at bargain prices.

Then our annual Autumn horticultural show is on Saturday 8th September at St James' Hall. All welcome to see what can be achieved by our members, there is also tea/coffee and cake.

If you would like any further information please contact us by email: downleygardensociety@hotmail.com or on HW 439183

Happy gardening.....

Downley Day News

Planning has started for Downley Day for 2018 (on 16th June at 1pm) and the committee is busy finalising the details. The programme of events this year will include:

- **Opening by the Downley Queen (applications still being accepted)**
- **Musical performance by, Downley Descants**
- **Song and dance by LEAP**
- **Falconry Display by The Hawking Centre (see <https://www.thehawkingcentre.co.uk>)**
- **Plus the ever-popular Dog Show**

The **Family Disco** is on the previous evening in the marquee so bring a picnic and prepare to relax while your children enjoy themselves at the disco.

The **5k Fun Run** takes place on Sunday 24th June starting from Commonsides at 10.30am.

The **Concert on the Common** will be 3 weeks later on 7th July starting at 7pm featuring

- **The Vibes Steel Band**
- **SubRosa 5**

(both returning by popular request)

This is a charity event so please bring some cash with you and make sure you take all your rubbish home.





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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

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Downley Community Centre
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Email: enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk



Follow us on Facebook.

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

We will be happy to give space on the library notice board to Downley clubs and organizations should they need to advertise any activity. Please keep any information to A5 size.

We still have a some gaps in our copies of the Downley News, if anyone has any of the following copies tucked away we would be most grateful if we could borrow them to make copies. Those we are short of are: issues 7, 45, 46, 47, 64, 68, 69 and 73.

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Coffee Stop

Hello again, isn't it nice to have some proper Spring weather after all the doom and gloom. We enjoyed our Easter event hugely, the hall looked so pretty due to some members artistic efforts – you know who you are Janet! Lyn and Sue organised a very efficient raffle with suitable Spring-like prizes.



The snow disrupted our efforts on a couple of occasions, the slope is just too much to negotiate when it is icy. Now, however, we are back to normal and we are most grateful to the extra people who are leaping into the breach when we need them, it really is most encouraging to see some new faces and hope they will enjoy meeting new friends too.

We will stop serving soup at the end of April for the summer months and offer more salads, you may have noticed that we discontinued those for a while. As always, if you have any ideas for menus we could try please ask, there are only about 6 of us who do the shopping so you get the limits of our imagination!

It was a severe blow to us all when our dear friend and colleague, Maggie, died in February after a short sudden illness, she was such a vital and energetic member of our team we really miss her. We have done

our best to support Andy and it is wonderful that he is still willing to supervise our accounts and help in the many other ways that all of our “unsung heroes” do.

We have welcomed various trading stalls and cards sales which make the morning more interesting and people continue to bring magazines to swap although, if they don't go, it would be helpful to remove them as we are very short of cupboard space.

This copy of Village news is being accelerated to provide coverage of “Up Downley” which I hope will be well supported. I am moving down the hill in a couple of days but will continue to feel I belong to Downley and will carry on with all the things I normally do, please forgive me if this is a little disjointed but my world is disappearing round me!

Ann Buxton
pabuxton@hotmail.com

Downley Evening WI

Downley Evening WI refuse to have their spirits dampened by the depressing spring weather



We have enjoyed our 55th birthday party in March despite cold and snow. Once again, we were treated to a delicious three-course dinner prepared by Ann Tenant and her team. They really do us proud.

In April, we heard about the creative weaponry developed by our British boffins during the Second World War. Our speaker, Gordon Rogers, also revealed quite a few details about his own creative exploits as

a youth, experimenting with explosive materials which ‘fell into his hands’ as things often did in those days before Health and Safety regulations clamped down on the natural curiosity of young lads. Blowing things up seems to have been a major hobby of his ...

The May meeting focuses on charitable activity with a talk from Anne Bauling on the Supershoes charity. We will also be

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discussing this year's potential resolutions to be debated at the Annual General Meeting in June. Our summer programme continues as always with interesting and entertaining talks.

Downley Day on June 16th will see our usual stall set out with fun activities and prizes to win. We hope you'll come and see us and take part. It could be a good opportunity to get to know some of our members and ask any questions you may have about the WI. The summer always sees us out and about being sociable and enjoying life. Do come and visit us. You'll be most welcome.

Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm at St. James' Church, Plomer Hill. We laugh a lot, enjoy each other's company and never take ourselves too seriously. Call our president, Rosemary Byrne, on HW 538966, for more information. Hope to see you soon.

Angela Taplin

From Wycombe to Westminster

Steve Baker MP

Back in 2016 I visited Downley Pharmacy to meet the pharmacist and staff to discuss the Government's Pharmacy Access Scheme and I was delighted the Pharmacy qualified for the scheme, enabling it to continue playing a key role in local healthcare provision.



I am well aware how much the people of Downley value the services of the local pharmacy.

I was therefore pleased that amongst various consultations being undertaken by our local NHS a recent one on medicine saw doctors, pharmacists, carers and patients alike come together to discuss how to ensure people receive the medicines they need in the most effective way possible. Members of the public told stories of leaving hospital with large numbers of drugs without knowing how to take them effectively, and others of storing drugs and equipment which kept arriving unnecessarily each month on repeat prescription. There is an increasing trend for pharmacy professionals to undertake reviews for patients to ensure they know how to take their medicines correctly, and to avoid one drug counteracting the effects of another.

At this meeting medical professionals

underlined the importance of returning unused and expired medicines to pharmacies, but also stressed prescriptions should be checked before leaving the pharmacy as it was possible to reallocate any unwanted items at this stage, but not once they had left the premises. The NHS' policy on medicines continues to be developed, and if you would like to contribute to the debate please let me know and I will pass on your comments to the relevant people or go to www.letstalkhealthbucks.nhs.net

In recent months I have attended some great local events, one of the privileges of being an MP. Each year I try to attend the Gang Show put on by local guides and scouts, and it is always a pleasure to see the children enjoying taking part and combining new material with old Gang Show favourites. I also attended the annual



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dinner of High Wycombe Round Table, another valuable community group bringing people together whilst supporting charitable causes both locally and nationally.

At the end of April I visited Red Kite Community Housing to learn more about its plans for three innovative new companies. Twenty11 will see homes rented based on a person's ability to pay and gives access to services designed to encourage independence and community involvement, whilst the establishment of a new property company (Edenmead) will build homes for sale with the profits subsidising other homes for low rent. A third company, Pennvale, will provide estate services including a lettings agency, which will manage market rent and affordable homes and offer a trusted service to both local landlords and tenants. I am excited the Twenty11 model will be the first of its kind in the country, and will hopefully help people to have an affordable home of their own.

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.

Downley Village Art Show

Monday 2nd July until Saturday 7th July in the Community Centre.

The Downley Art Show comprises around 200 exhibits of work exclusively produced by local people. The work is diverse including drawings, paintings, photographs, digital, 3D (sculpture, wood carving, papier mache etc.) and poetry.

Many of our exhibitors have never shown their work before and this makes the occasion really special. Exhibitors range from pre-school to the rather more experienced - you will be surprised how many talented individuals live amongst us!

This is an opportunity to share your creative output with others in Downley so enter your own work and join in the

fun. There are small prizes for the junior categories but the viewing 'Public' also has an opportunity to select their favourite in each. So, if you don't exhibit this year come along, appreciate the fantastic display of local creativity and cast your vote!

Entry details on the Downley.org website or available at the Community Centre.

Many thanks to 'Madboxes' the High Wycombe picture framers who will frame the works of the 3 junior winners in the Drawing, Painting & Crafts category. The owner Mark lives in Downley and is also an artist. Visit madboxes.co.uk to see his creativity which extends to the framing itself.



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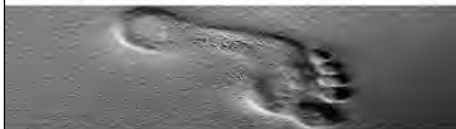
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Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

Downley Community Centre

Alzheimers Carers Support Group	4th Wed 10.30 am
Art Group	Term time Mon & Tues 10am - 12.00
Bridge Group	Thurs 19.15
Brownies *	Term time Tuesday 17.45
Chipmunks Woodcarving	Wednesday 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 19.30
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
NCT - Baby Massage Courses *	Friday 10.30
Pilates - term time	Mon 18.45, Wed 18.30, Thurs 19.30
Pilates Gentle	Term time Wed 9.30am
Rainbows *	Term time Thursday 16.15
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 health	Term time Wed 10.30am
U3A Ukulele	4th Thurs 10am - 12.00
Wargamers	Monday 18.45
Wycombe Spiritual Centre	1st & 3rd Fri, 18.30
Yoga	Fri 19.30

Downley Diary | 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 2.45 - 8pm Tues 4.15 - 9.15pm Fri 3.45 - 6.15pm
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.

CHIPMUNKS in Downley

The Chipmunks are a small group of Woodcarvers who meet up once a week at the Downley Community Centre.

We would welcome new members to our group. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 10.00-12.00 in the Oak Room at the centre. Just off School Close.

Whether you have experience or not of woodcarving does not matter. Although we are not teachers we can give advice and help anyone who may be interested. Why not come along and see what we do. You would be very welcome.

Phone Margaret 01494 523912

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

The DVN always need more volunteers to deliver the DVN magazines 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.

Please get in touch with Sarah on 01494 462873 or e-mail at: sarah.bass001@gmail.com
Thank you in advance.

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

Comedy Under Canvas

Another great line up line for Downley's 'Bit on the Commonsides' with four spectacularly successful acts performing in the marquee. A big shout out for Ben McDougall-Hutchins the festival chairman who works in the world of comedy (I think that's what he said) and successfully brings these nights together.



Zoe Lyons

Zoe's trademark high energy, brilliantly observed routines and sharply written material has left her with an ever-growing fan base. Last year she won both the Comedian's Comedian Award and Chortle Best Club Comic.

As well as being a series regular on Mock The Week and The Wright Stuff, Zoe's extensive TV credits include Room 101, Dara O'Briain's Go 8-Bit, Comedy Gala, Live At The Apollo, The John Bishop Show, Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled Pointless Celebrities and winner of Celebrity Mastermind.

Radio credits include The Frank Skinner Show and The Jason Manford Show, The News Quiz, Just a Minute, The Unbelievable Truth, The Now Show, It's Not What You Know and The Rest is History.

'Lyons has what it takes to delight any crowd' (Guardian)

'Hugely confident, passionate, energetic... she gets better and better... Excellent' (Daily Mirror)

'Confident and razor sharp' (Observer)



Ed Gamble

Ed Gamble is a stand-up comedian, writer and actor well known as a regular on Mock the Week and for playing the lead role of Georgie Carlton in BBC America's Almost Royal, a 'cult US hit'. Following its success in the US, the show was transmitted on E4 and returned for a second series.

Ed has co-written and appeared in four series of Greg Davies' Man Down, along with appearing on numerous shows including The Russell Howard Hour, The Apprentice: You're Fired, Russell Howard's Stand Up Central.

On stage, Ed is currently on tour with his latest show Mammoth, which sold out the entire run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2017 including extra shows added every weekend. This is his largest nationwide tour to date, including three nights at Leicester Square Theatre. Ed previously won a Chortle Award in 2014 for Best Compere and has provided national tour support for Greg Davies' tours in 2017, 2013, and 2012 as well as tour support for Russell Kane and Chris Addison.

'An ability to open his mouth and spontaneously say something hysterically funny' (The Guardian)

'Attention-grabbing liveliness and considerable flair' (Telegraph)

'Gamble is a powerful, compelling orator' (Chortle)

The Up! Festival is Nearly Here!

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Edd Hedges

With an incredibly endearing stage presence, Essex-boy Edd Hedges has a natural affinity with an audience and since winning 'So You Think You're Funny' in 2013 his career has skyrocketed. Taking the UK circuit by storm, Edd's debut Edinburgh Fringe show Wonderland impressed audiences and critics alike, with many praising Edd's uniquely disarming comic style and talent for storytelling. At only 23, Edd appears to be older and wiser than his years and has all the hallmarks of a very promising career.

'Edd Hedges is a joy to watch.' (Scotsman)

'Supremely affable style.' (Chortle)

'Flight of the Conchords meets 8 Mile' (Chortle)

'Raucous, expansive and relentless hilarious' (Times)

PLUS SPECIAL GUEST

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festival.downley.org

[facebook.com/Downley.Community](https://www.facebook.com/Downley.Community)

Return of other regulars to the Up! Downley Festival

Oompah Band

Last year's band returns for another thigh-slapping Oktoberfest night with fine German Bratwurst Sausage, beer, dancing and general silliness. Full booking details in the enclosed programme or at Downley.org.

Morgan & West-Magicians

An opportunity to see a hugely talented duo with a unique brand of magic who bamboozled Penn & Teller. This is a fascinating time travelling act intertwining humour and magic that will keep both adults and children guessing.

Expo Downley

Meet the people who run the Downley clubs, societies and independent businesses in person. Come and find out what they have to offer and how you can get involved.

The Grape Downley Wine Taste, Downley Community Centre

Come and taste a selection of wildly different and interesting wines from around the world and slightly 'off the beaten track' in a very relaxed atmosphere (chances are you will bump into your friends and neighbours there too!).

The Downley Wine & Beer Club provide a background of the origin, region and history of the wines, and if you discover something new, all the wines will be locally available at the time.

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Three Artists to Appear in Top Art Exhibition

Over the August bank holiday weekend three Downley painters, Pauline James, Helen Willson, and John Ashton, will be exhibiting alongside other local artists in the annual West Wycombe Art Group (WWAG) Exhibition



Pauline and Helen, High Wycombe born and bred, met and became friends when they attended Wycombe High School but John is a latecomer to the area having only lived in Downley for 38 years. Through a love of art, all 3 are now friends and WWAG members.

Pauline and her husband Peter, who was a lecturer at the Wycombe College/University, moved into Downley in the 60s and have two sons who were educated locally. She has been involved with the National Trust at Hughenden Manor for many years. A practising artist, she has organised various art courses, has also managed an art studio and now belongs to several art groups including WWAG, where she was chairman for two years.



Helen, unhappy with her O level art result, moved on to a career involving research, academic librarianship, teaching and educational management. Her rediscovery of painting came after a long gap and, after sketching on holidays with her husband John, she was inspired to attend a few workshops. After retirement, this developed into a real passion

for art and, as a member of several groups, Helen is now a well - respected figure on the local art scene. She now exhibits in Bucks Open Studios and with WWAG.



John was born and grew up in Manchester. Thirty year's service as an RAF navigator resulted in a final posting to RAF High Wycombe where he and his family settled in Downley and he and his wife Hilary have lived for 38 years. Although from childhood he has always drawn and painted, John did not even take O level art at school and, like Helen, he rediscovered art in later life. He found WWAG almost as

soon as he arrived here and he has made many friends in the group. Like Pauline and Helen, his art has developed over the years and he has joined several other groups, the most prestigious one being the Armed Forces Art Society of which he is a past chairman. John is also known for his cartoons under his pen name Erik.

As well as painting together regularly, all three have exhibited in the area and more widely, Helen in France, John in London, and Pauline in France, Germany and Pakistan. Some of you will have already seen their work in the Up Downley Festival.

The WWAG Exhibition in West Wycombe Village Hall is open from 10.00am to 6.00pm, Friday to Monday, 24 to 27 August. Don't miss this celebration of local talent. You could be surprised.

A Fond Farewell from the Downley Makers' Market

It's hard to believe that five years have passed since we first got together to plan the inaugural Downley Makers' Market. Back then, we had two goals: for our own creative work to reach a wider audience; and just as importantly, to meet and sell alongside other local makers. With three of us working in textiles already, the hunt was on to find stallholders with different skills and products to offer. We booked a venue – the lovely Downley Memorial Hall – and set about the task of uncovering local talent. Through social media advertising, word of mouth and a few well-placed leaflets we soon had a steady trickle of applications coming in.





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Over the years that trickle has grown to a flood, and we've been so impressed by the high standard and originality of the lovely things people make. We've welcomed pensmiths, glass-makers, potters, ceramicists, artists, jewellers, chocolatiers, candle-makers and florists, and our customers have come from not just Downley but further afield too – with newcomers to the village often remarking on its lovely setting and steep approaches! We've always made sure that the majority of our stallholders have been very local, but over the years we've complimented their talents with makers from further afield, allowing small creative businesses to reach a wider audience.

Sadly, we now feel the time has come to rest the Downley Makers' Market. As founding organisers we are busy with new commitments and we also believe that there is a fine balance between putting on a really successful market and an event that people are too familiar with. We've had such a great time running the markets, and it's been an honour to meet so many lovely and talented people. Friendships and creative collaborations have also been forged – which is probably the best by-product of all! Thank you to everyone who took part in our events – your smiling, welcoming presence in the hall and your enticing stalls were what made the events so special, and thank you to our customers - we've loved each and every one of you. We will continue to keep our Facebook page running so that we can bring you news of other local events – a useful resource if you're a maker – and also news of all the small creative businesses who've sold with us.



In the meantime, do keep in touch with makers through their websites, social media, online shops and the Craft Coop shops in Maidenhead and Marlow. We really believe that it's vital to shop locally, and with small creative businesses whenever you can.

Maggie, Fiona and Catherine
www.facebook.com/TheDownleyMakersMarket



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The Downley Memorial Hall

Have 3 events for you to enjoy as part of the Up! Downley Village Festival



Open Gardens Gardens around the village

Lots of new gardens to explore this year. Start at the War Memorial hall where amazing Afternoon Teas served from 1.30pm.



Sun 24 June
2.00pm-5.30pm

Morgan & West Magicians

Unique and hugely talented duo as seen on Penn & Teller. Fascinating act combining humour and magic for Adults and Children.



Sun 1 July
8.00pm-10.00pm

Moonrakers Folk Music

By popular demand the return of Oxford-based four-piece folk group including magical celtic harp. This event is likely to sell out.



Fri 6 July
8.00pm-10.30pm

J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

Summer 2018

Wal me ole mates, summer eh, I'd 'ardly notice it at the moment, but anything's better than the winter we've just 'ad eh! Wal it did go on, when wud it stop? talk about global warmin, wot a joke! Still you'll be a 'wanderin in the woods, a'lookin at the bluebells, cherry and 'awthorn blossom, and the beech, wal wot a sight now eh? Just wonderful. But the gardin and the plot? Over Nappel they're only just a'wakin' up, and as for Stoken they don't get summer at all up there, and the wind, wal, just look at their broad beans, they rekons a 45 degree lean is upright eh!

Bulbs... did you see them daffs at Hughenden? Fantastic eh, and they don't dead 'ed 'em, just mows 'em down later. That's the way to treat yors too I rekons, but wot about them summer bulbs? 'Wots he on about?' 'ses Mrs H,... Summer bulbs... wal, my book ses these is summer bulbs... begonias, dahlias, gladdies, and yor nerines, oxalis, cannas (lily like) elephant ears and so on. If you gets technical you needs to include tubers and corms, as well as bulbs. 'Wots the difference?' 'Ses Mrs H, testin me agen,... wal, bulbs are fleshy and 'ave different layers like onions, corms and tubers are solid. Orl of these are tender perennials wot means they keeps a'growin year after year but gets frosted and can't survive outside winters (that's why they're called summer bulbs, get it?). So get 'em up and store 'em, then replant after the frosts 'ave gone. That means you've got to 'ave somewhere to keep 'em and space to plant 'em. Them dahlias makes a lovely show, there's sum up the plot, wonderful colour, that's wot I likes up there, great big splodges of colour.

Now to yor tomy toes. Wal, you might 'ave got 'em a goin' from seed at home, or got 'em from yor gardin centre, anyway get 'em into big pots, or grow bags or straight into the ground,

they needs lots of space and loads of light and manure, but to get fruit not just leaves take orf the lower leaves, pinch out any suckers or side shoots and I reckons to take orf the tops above the third truss to get strong plants and fruits... Then waterin', make it regular, if you misses a week then if you floods in the water to make up you'll probably get cracked skins.. (the tomy toes not you!) Ha Ha! Then cut down the waterin' when they begins to ripen, that'll concentrate the sugars. (And beware of blight eh, you can read about it on the inter web).

'Ow are yor wild flower seeds a'doin? Wot! You didn't sow any? You still can, just buy a packet and scatter anywhere, you'll be a'do'in good for nature for this autumn and next Spring, a splash of colour, you can't go wrong and the bees 'll say thank you... You knows I likes gardin quotes, so here's one...

'We have descended into the garden and caught three hundred slugs. How I love the mixture of the beautiful and squalid in gardening, it makes it so lifelike.'

Evelyn Underhill

And another one...

'The best thing about grandpa's house was the wonderful garden. 'I grow all my own vegetables' Grandpa said proudly, 'I don't eat vegetables' Oliver told grandpa'

Vivian French.

Wal that's it for now, (nothin' in from French cousin Jean d'Artichoke, he's sulkin' agen and probably joinin' the rest of the froggies by goin' on strike).

Cheerio and a'bientot



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Downley War Memorial Hall

With the German Spring Offensive stalling by the end of April 1918 Downley experienced another quarter without any of the serving villagers dying. However, they were still out there, and some had gone missing. Word had arrived that Private G Parslow, unheard of since 24 April, was an unwounded prisoner of war in Germany. Whilst Mr and Mrs Bristow were seeking news of their son Wilfred who had gone missing in March

Nearby, the publicans at The Harrow in Hughenden Valley had been informed that their son had been wounded and taken prisoner whilst Captain Robert Dashwood, was missing. It was later reported that he had been killed in action. His older brother, Captain Sir John Dashwood, was serving with the Tank Corps in France at the time and it was he who later donated the land that the Memorial Hall stands on.

Every month the local paper reported the amounts raised by the Red Cross "Penny Collection". During the three months of May, June and July a total of more than £18 was collected in Downley. Today, that is equivalent to over £1200!

The Wycombe Abbey School orchestra, supplemented by members of the London Symphony Orchestra, were also raising money for the Red Cross with a concert in the school hall. The paper also reported on various Remembrance Day services held around the area. With the Armistice several months away people had chosen the anniversary of the start of the War as an appropriate day to remember those who had died.

The national papers had two significant items to focus on, the shooting down, and death, of the Red Baron and the introduction of a Luxury Tax in the

Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Baron. A replica of the famous Manfred von Richthofen's red triplane is below.



© Oliver Thiele



Budget. Whilst the South Bucks Free Press didn't mention the Baron, the Furniture Manufacturers Association offered numerous suggestions on what constituted a luxury, including the following:

- Perambulators costing more than £10*
- Wallpaper costing more than 10/- (50p) per roll*
- Chairs with arms costing more than £10 (£5 without arms)*
- Carpets costing more than 5/- (25p) per square foot*

Finally, the Divisional Food Commissioner asked for help from farmers and landowners to assist schoolchildren in picking blackberries. The Ministry of Food hoped this would add materially to the supply of jam.

*Alan Baker. alanbaker49@briinternet.com
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Downley History Group

The Downley History Group is building up a collection of photographs and memories relating to Downley in times gone by. This time we wonder if you could name any of the people in the photograph below, when it was taken and what was the occasion?



Also, in the early 1980s a booklet was published entitled 'Downley in Times Past', written by Tony Roussell. As well as a number of photographs of old Downley it also included the memories of a large number of local people. However the names of the people who contributed are not given and the Downley History Group would very much like to identify them. Were these recollections part of your family history? A very limited sample of the memories follows:

'I well remember when I was 10 years old a great event took place. Piped water was brought to Downley. Trenches were dug all around the village to lay the pipes. The work was done by contractor from Walters Ash called J Smith & Co. Every house was then connected to the water main and had running water for the first time. The pipes were laid by the old High Wycombe Water Co and the charge for being connected up to the main water supply was £3 per house. This took place in 1932.'

'In 1926 the first bus service to Downley started by Mr Holland of Lane End who owned the Pioneer Bus Company. Until then, in order to get High Wycombe, you either had to walk all the way, or to West Wycombe Road and catch one of the buses which occasionally ran along that road.'

Continued on page 45...

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...Continued from page 43

'Another interesting event of 1929 and 1930 was when the roads were made from granite and tarmac for the first time. Until then the roads are just been stones which had been put down and rolled into a smooth surface. It was necessary to make the roads of a more firm foundation because increasing traffic had worn ruts into the sides of the road.'

'Mr West had one of the four telephones in the village and I well remember his number was Naphill 21. Mr West also bought the first refrigerator in Downley. It was a "Frigidaire" made in America and was very, very large. You could easily hang four sides of beef, two pigs, and two lamb carcasses inside it. This was about the year 1933. Mr West also bought a Morris motor van to deliver his meat. You could leave an order with Mr West and the meat would be delivered the same day in time for lunch.'

'There were three chair factories in Downley. Mines and West which stood at the top of Narrow Lane and is still there, Mines Bros which had an entrance off Plomer Green Lane and was owned by Mr Cliff and Mr Ralph Mines. This is the factory which is very close to the school. This factory was almost completely burnt to the ground in 1932 and rebuilt afterwards. The other factory was at the bottom of Plomer Green Lane, which is before you turn right at the butcher's shop.'

'There were four pubs up here you see. Two of them did not open on Sundays. Two of them just had six-day licences. Of course the pubs were not so much for drinking were they? They were for people passing through the mills and things like that.'

'I remember the Village Hall being built, as a matter of fact I am in the picture when they laid the stone. The stone for West End Chapel was laid by the local dignitaries you know who pay for the bricks to be laid. I do not know I forget who related in the village hall I should know as soon as you said but offhand I do not remember as I say I well remember it being built.'

If you are able to help, or perhaps have some other memories written by family members about those times we would love to hear from you - Please contact Brian Knott on: 01494 441487



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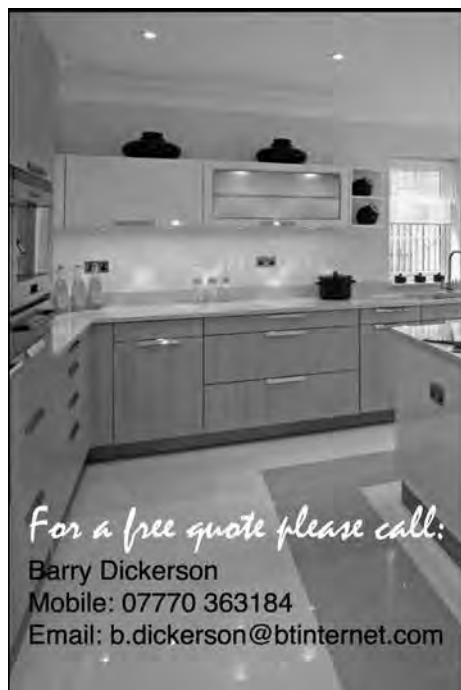
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Starlight Café

Starlight Store & The coffee shop on the common

Adding to the success of the hairdressers in Downley High Street which you read all about in the last magazine edition, your local Starlight store is also ringing in the success with the changes made during April 2018.

The owner, Sam, took the decision in April 2018 to divide the store into two. Following a short fit out and refurbishment the Starlight store now has one side as your local store and the other as a coffee shop and eatery, 'The coffee shop on the common' serves sandwiches, snacks and homemade cakes to local residents between 8am and 4pm Monday to Saturday.

But Sam has not stopped here. He is delivering more improvements and choice for us in our local High Street.

The coffee shop on the common has been granted a full restaurant licence and starting in June 2018 Sam will be offering freshly made pizzas to eat in or take away between 11am and 11pm every day as well as continuing to offer excellent coffee and a variety of other snacks and cakes.

The UP Festival is coming this June and July so please support your local coffee shop on the corner and Starlight store when you are enjoying the open spaces of the common and the various events on offer in the village.



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Up! Downley 2018

Village Festival

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