

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 116 / September 2018





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Contents

Editorial	3	Around the Area	
Local Societies		From Westminster to Wycombe	31
Downley Common News	5	Green Flags Awards	33
Downley Pharmacy	7	Jill's Maths for Fun Solutions	33
Downley Theatre Group	7	Lifestyle	
Downley School Governors Corner	9	Drones: Miracle or a Menace?	35
Jill's Maths for Fun	9	Downley Community Orchard	37
Downley Community Centre	11	Save the (Gosling Grove) Pond	39
Downley Descants	13	J Heartycough's Horticultural Hints	41
St. James Voice	15	Jill's Science for Fun	43
Coffee Stop	17	History	
Downley Evening WI	17	Downley War Memorial Hall	45
DOSCA Community Library	19	Contribution from Advertisers	
Downley Day News	21	Hillclimb Garage	47
Downley Up! Festival News	23-25	List of Advertisers	54
Downley Diary	27-30	Up! Downley	Back Page

Editorial

Another year is speeding by and our local magazine remains a constant despite the upheaval surrounding us with Politics, trade wars and GDPR. As your constant reminder that our community life goes on and thrives I can report that we have new organisations putting on events at the local community centre and our magazine sees the return of our regular math and science section that I know you all enjoy so much.

Thank you to all who helped make and / or those who simply enjoyed the UP Festival this year which goes from strength to strength. I hope some of you even enjoyed a pizza on the common from Starlight.

Autumn might bring some rain but let's hope not too much. With it will come colder weather though which means get those boilers fired up again and serviced using one of our local advertisers.

Enjoy this issue and if you are a graphic designer or publisher or simply a wiz at blogging and graphics then we need you. We do need help from someone who can layout future editions of the magazine. Please put your thinking caps on and rally to the cause. Contact me editor@downley.org with all suggestions and any assistance you can offer.

Simon Scott Editor



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Downley Common News

By the time you read, you will probably be suffering torrential rain with newspapers describing a “holiday wash-out”. However, at the time of writing, we are enjoying (maybe not all of us?) a major heatwave. The grass on the Common is extremely dry and crispy and everyone needs to be aware of the dangers of fire. In the current dry conditions it would be too easy for a sudden grass fire to cause significant damage to local properties, so please everyone – take care!

The summer is traditionally the time when we flail those parts of the Common that get overrun with brambles and bracken. We are a little late this year although a start has been made, but at least it gives more time for the honeybees to gather in the nectar. Those local beekeepers need all the help they can get.

One flowering plant we have been trying to keep on top of is ragwort of which there are a few patches popping up on the common near the bonfire site.

Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is also known as Stinking Willie, a marvellous name that should be more widely used! Ragwort is one of the five plants named as an injurious weed under the provisions of the Weeds Act 1959. Under the terms of this Act, a land occupier can be required by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to prevent the spread of the plant. However, the growth of the plant is not made illegal by the Act and there is no statutory obligation for control placed upon landowners in general. The Ragwort Control Act 2003 provides for a code of practice on ragwort but does not place any further legal responsibilities on landowners to control the plant.

Ragwort is generally considered to be poisonous to horses and cattle although horses do not normally eat fresh ragwort due to its bitter taste. The result, if sufficient quantity is consumed, can be irreversible cirrhosis of the liver. Signs that a horse has been poisoned include

yellow mucous membranes, depression, and lack of coordination. Unfortunately ragwort is an excellent source of nectar for bees so it appears that one animal’s gain is another’s loss.

There was a good harvest of new members at this year’s Downley Day and hopefully those who joined have received some contact by email to acknowledge their joining. To those who paid their fees with cash, we would urge you to set up a standing order as this makes life easier for all of us. Also, don’t forget our AGM at the War Memorial Hall on 16th October at 8pm.

Bill Thompson. DCPS



Ragwort with Cinnabar moth caterpillars by Trish Steel

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News from Downley Pharmacy

Repeat Prescription ordering - reducing waste

Many of you will have seen and/or been affected by the recent change of CCG policy directed by NHS England that has stopped prescription management systems operated by community pharmacies.

Pharmacies can no longer initiate a prescription request (with a few exceptions). Patients or their carers are urged to check what is needed and only order those items, preferably via the surgery online ordering system. Automatic prescriptions are not generated by the Doctor at any point, the pharmacy will have ordered the prescription on your behalf at a suitable time interval.

Pharmacies will still receive the prescription from the surgery in the same way.

At Downley we will endeavour to send a message at the time their order would be due. It is then up to patient or their representative to check stocks and order only those items due to run out in approximately 7 days. We will be able to deliver completed and signed repeat

slips to surgeries for patients but will merely be a postman making no checks as to items ordered and received. Anything missed off the prescription will need to be queried with the GP surgery by the patient.

This does appear a backward step from management systems operated within pharmacy but it has been in operation in various parts of England for some time and cost savings have been huge. Indeed it is estimated that within the Chiltern CCG over £660,000 will be saved in the first year alone. Over ordering and wastage is currently huge and all pharmacies can relay tales of months worth of repeated items returned unopened and unused that must then be thrown away. It is hoped that patients and their carers will respond well and check stocks before ordering. Also pharmacies will no longer guessing and ordering items that have stockpiled or are no longer wanted but that have not been reported as such to pharmacy.

Please bear with us in the transition phase to the new system imposed upon us but we fully support the efforts to save money for the NHS.

From all the team at Downley Pharmacy

Downley Theatre Group

Membership dropped significantly following our request to members to contact us if they wished to remain on the mailing list, there are now 195 down from 302.

Since the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) exercise, we have sent out information about trips to “Witness for the Prosecution”, “The Band” and a second trip to “The King & I”. So, if you thought you were on the mailing list and didn’t get those, it means we didn’t received the completed form sent out to everyone in April.

No need to panic, though: should you wish to re-register, please contact us and we’ll take it from there.

For those who don’t know about the Group,

we organise several outings a year from Cross Court to a mix of West End block-busters, performances in Oxford and occasional day trips. There is no membership fee or obligation to go on the trips, pick and choose the ones you fancy!

We are currently restricting new membership to Downley residents until “things” settle down a bit, but guests are welcome to travel with members.

Please note our dedicated email address and use that from now on. Thank you.



Alan & Claire Baker
82 Littleworth Road
01494 437552
downleytheatregroup@gmail.com

Downley School Governors Corner



Pupil Voice

We are immensely proud of our Head / Deputy girls and boys for successfully completing the 'Governors leadership challenge' to deliver on one of their manifesto goals to provide a sound system to play music during break-times. We support and encourage further the nurturing of pupil voice and democratic process that is now taking place in our school.

Other examples are some action research into a pupil's question about the need to wear a shirt and tie, a pupil-led campaign to move towards reducing single use plastic consumption in school, and a planned pupil debate on the subject of homework.

Through Ms Taylor's leadership, we have been exploring ways to increase pupils' engagement as active participants in their education experience and in making a positive contribution to their school and the wider community. Such an approach is widely recognised to develop cooperation, communication and responsibility taking skills and to increase confidence, respect (for self and others), motivation and engagement with learning through being involved in a democratic society in this way.

We can already see our children responding to this in a very positive way, and we look forward to exploring and reporting to you on further initiatives taking place in the new academic year.

Governors recently completed face to face and written pupil surveys which provided a wealth of pupil feedback, a summary of which we will be able to share with you soon. This will further inform our vision work, of which we are in the final stages, and very much look forward to fully launching in the new academic year and will be inviting our school community to come together to share

Irresistible Curriculum

As part of moving our school forward in the next academic year, we will be building on our curriculum. We have worked extremely hard this year to strengthen our school's financial stability and will be investing in enhancing our staff and children's teaching and learning experiences. From September we will be fully launching a fun and exciting 'Irresistible Curriculum', an immersive curriculum that has a proven record of gaining the best results for all children at every level. This will support our learning outside the classroom and the new ICT that will be in place within each classroom. This will develop over time and we look forward to inviting you to a meeting in the Autumn term to share the principles with you.

JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN - ANSWERS ON PAGE 31

1 A runner is able to sprint ever decreasing distances from the start point. First, he runs $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, then he runs $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, then $\frac{1}{8}$ th of a mile. He continues the pattern running half the distance each sprint. How many sprints will it take him to get to 1 mile?

2 If you were to list all the numbers from 1 to 1000 (inclusive):

A What is the most common digit? (Don't check the answer before doing "b").

B What is the least common digit?

3 How can you add eights to get to 1000?

(You may ONLY use 8s and you may ONLY add.).



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Nearest session: Downley Community Centre

Wednesday 19th, September 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Other locations are available.
Ring 01628 857311 to find out more.

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Downley Community Centre

Acoustic Advice Needed

The management committee and trustees are researching methods to improve acoustics in the two main rooms, Oak and Beech. Can anybody suggest an acoustics sound engineer; preferably local who would be willing to advise the centre?

Free NHS Health Checks

This popular event will be repeated again on Wednesday 19th September 2019.

The previous two sessions have been fully booked very early so please book your appointment well in advance by calling 01628 857311.

New Hirer

ARTSPIRATION is a new regular hirer on Saturday mornings during term time; providing art and painting sessions for children.

Contact: Julie Denton 07930 859567

Artspiration@gmail.com

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Community Family Fun Day

An estimated 100+ families supported this first Community Centre Fun Day initiative on 21 July. Over 70 prizes were donated by local charities and well-wishers for the tombola and all the other activities were well supported. The library opened especially for the afternoon and were delighted with the signing of new members and book donations.

Given the summer heatwave this was a tremendously rewarding effort and DOSCA has donated £500 to local children's charity Rosie's Rainbow Fund. A big thank you to sponsors for their generosity and all attendees.

The Downley Community Centre Management Committee.



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bring a friend!*

Downley Descants

Thursday Night is Music Night



Sounds like it could be a good title for a radio programme but don't stay in and listen, come to Downley Descants and be part of making music.

Since the last edition of Downley Village News we have enjoyed (or endured) a long hot summer but that didn't cool our enthusiasm as we sweltered our way through three performances. Firstly, Downley Day where hopefully you managed to hear us. Next year, I am told we will be appearing in the main arena so you'll have more chance to catch us. A couple of weeks later it was our joint concert with Wycombe Concert Band which was part of the Up!Downley Festival and was again a huge success raising £700 for Rennie Grove Hospice Care so thank you for being so generous.

Finally, we were invited to sing at an afternoon tea party for Princes Risborough Methodist Church where we were enthusiastically received particularly for our impromptu 'flash choir' rendition of Billy Joel's 'The Longest Time' while they were eating their tea. No complaints of indigestion so we can't have been that bad. We also managed to fit in a social film evening for our members with a showing of South Pacific complete with ice cream and popcorn, as part of our repertoire is from this show.

I know I am always extolling the virtues of Downley Descants, but we have made giant leaps forward in our six years under the leadership of Louise, our talented and very patient musical director. Basically, though we are still a community choir and always will be with an aim of raising money for charity whilst thoroughly enjoying ourselves along the way. Talking of money raised for charity, the total now stands at £8000 since 2012 which has been donated to a number of local and national charities.

Many people ask if an audition is required and the answer is absolutely not, neither is the ability to read music because you will soon pick up the basics during rehearsals. Obviously, you must enjoy singing, be free on a Thursday evening, and able to get to Sunnybank Church, Moor Lane ready for an 8pm start. You can have two free trial evenings before deciding whether to join.

For more details have a look at our website www.downleydescants.org.uk or phone Lyn on 01494 436063 or Julian on 01494 440430.

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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.'

As you will know from the last article we are currently recruiting a new priest, and if you visit our website www.stjamesdownley.org.uk you will see that there is a full programme of services and activities. Weddings, baptisms and funerals can be arranged as usual.

Forty-three years ago on July 17th David Copcutt laid the foundation stone of the church of St James the Great, Downley. This was a great occasion attended by clergy, including the Roman Catholic Bishop of Northampton and the Anglican Bishop of Buckingham. Our village church was the first in the country to be used jointly by Anglican and Roman Catholic congregations. The two congregations had worked together to plan for and to build and fund the new church.

The church was built from the same building materials as the new housing that was being built in Downley, and looked more like a modern bungalow than a traditional church. All of this gives Downley a unique church building – built by the local community working together to provide a resource for the local community. And that is what the church has tried to be ever since.



For many years the Feast of St James was celebrated at a joint service, often followed by a social occasion. This year, we celebrated the commitment of some of our church members to our mission. A plaque was unveiled in the entrance to the church celebrating the work of David Copcutt as a governor of High Wycombe Church of England Primary School for over thirty years. We were delighted to be joined by the head teacher, Mrs Hawkins. A presentation was also made to Ken and Janet Durkin in recognition of their work for over thirty years in the Friday Links Luncheon Club. The club began as a venture involving several Downley churches and had many volunteers, who provided transport, shopped, cooked and cleaned, providing both food and friendship. Despite the rain, there was a well-attended barbecue as part of the celebrations.

Weekly events:

Sundays 11.00	Holy Communion
Thursday mornings	9.30 POP-IN
Thursday 8pm	Pub Quiz Night at the Brickies - join the St James' team

Events for your diary:

13th October	Caribbean Evening
24th November	Ceidlidh/Barn Dance

We were delighted to welcome so many people from the local community to our Quiz Night in June. We would love to see you at the above events, but please book in advance, as we would hate to disappoint anyone. Full details are on the website.

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

Collis Boucher | cboucher20@hotmail.com | 07971634562

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



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Coffee Stop

Hello everyone, little did I think in the depths of last snowy wet winter that within a few months we would be wishing for rain. The recent heatwave has been fantastic but it has made us lose our appetite and made it difficult for us to guess what people would like to eat. We did try savoury croissants for a couple of weeks but got a firm thumbs down.



We are delighted to welcome new helpers; to anyone who is nervous I would point out that as long as we adhere to the hygiene regulations, we have a free hand to provide whatever we choose. It is often difficult to guess what will be popular but all suggestions are welcome.

One event that doesn't change is the famous harvest lunch. This year it will be held on Monday 8th October from 12 mid day. It will be a two course buffet meal with drinks, coffee and tea and the usual raffle. Tickets will be on sale

a few weeks beforehand and reasonably priced, please make a note in your diary and come along to this joyous village event, open to all.

Thanks are due to everyone who helps in so many ways, and thank you too to the organisers of Up Downley for a very successful festival. A personal thank you too for all the good wishes for my recent move, I continue to welcome inspection tours!

Ann Buxton
pabuxton@hotmail.com

Downley Evening WI

Hello, everybody! How are you surviving the heat?

Sitting with your feet in the children's paddling pool, perhaps, while sipping an ice-cold Pimms? Or sheltering indoors with the curtains closed and praying for rain? Whatever you're doing, I hope you're coping with the unexpected heat wave. As I write, we've just had a (welcome) blip in the weather, with a couple of days of cooler temperatures and some much-needed rain but the heat is set to return so stay safe.

Some of our members recently enjoyed a trip to Savill Gardens, despite the heat. Parasols were the order of the day. Such a practical solution and colourful too. Why not visit our website and see for yourselves? <https://downleyeveningwi.weebly.com/> You'll find all sorts of other information and photos there too.

Later this week, we have our annual garden party, always a lovely event. We really do enjoy getting together and Janet's garden is a stunner.

Our usual programme continues with our August evening meeting offering us a talk by Geoffrey Gudgion on

"Writing and Other Lunacies", and our Literary Lunch group sharing prose and poetry, even newspaper clippings, on the subject of Occupations. Our September meeting will see us baking potatoes ... Intrigued? Come along and find out who we are and what we're about. We'd love to see you.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm at St. James' Church, Plomer Hill. It's always a good evening, with interesting discussion, plenty of laughter and new friends to be made.

Call our president, Rosemary Byrne, on HW 538966, for more information. Hope to see you soon.

Angela Taplin



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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.

Please phone John Morris on 01494 528683



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Downley Day News

The Family Disco on the Friday evening is always an excuse for a picnic and this year was no different. Sam Barnes was debuting as DJ and made good use of the new sound system acquired especially for Downley Day (and available for community use). Everyone enjoyed themselves although the smoke machine was putting out enough smoke to hide the Grand Fleet at the Battle of Jutland!

Downley Day kicked off this year's festival with a few changes, principally the introduction of a falconry display which not only showed some impressive birds and displays of flying but also introduced some real characters. Who can forget Maggie, the African Hooded Vulture with strong streak of jealousy running through her. She would run around squawking at anyone trying to get close to her beloved master (or "mate" in her eyes). Then there was Nanook, the Arctic Falcon who made a bid for freedom and was still missing at the end of the show. The two handlers tracked him via his radio tag and were led a merry chase around the countryside for four hours before eventually coming full circle to find him perched on a house on the Common. Clearly freedom was not really to his taste!



The 5K Fun Run on the following weekend was another success attracting 128 runners around the traditional gruelling course. The top three places were held by:

- 1st: Trevor Hunter
- 2nd: Russell Tapping
- 3rd: Dave Wallace

The full list can be seen at www.downley.org/community/5k-fun-run

The weather also held up for the Concert on the Common which marked the end of the Up Festival. Vibes Steel Band and SubRosa5 entertained the crowds who seemed quite reluctant to go home at the end of the evening. The collection raised £684 for the nominated charities Wycombe Homeless and One Can Trust and although this was welcome, it was somewhat less than last year's total. Too many in the audience claimed not to bring any cash with them – how true this is, is difficult to tell but perhaps we should consider accepting contactless card payments next year.



We would like to hear from local organisations who wish to run the barbeque and/or the teas next year – please contact info@downley.org. Also we will continue to discourage the use of disposable barbeques and the Concert on the Common and request people to not bring their dogs.

The committee will be deciding how to disburse the grants at its AGM on 13th November so if your organisation needs a helping hand then please contact us at info@downley.org with details of the size of grant you would like and the purpose to which it would be put. Please note we don't normally support routine running costs or maintenance and would prefer to hear about specific items or projects.

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The Up! Downley Festival Team need your help to run yet another brilliant village event

Did you know?.. that since it started, the Up Downley Festival has been able to provide funds for:

The Community Heartbeat Trust (installing defibrillators around the village)
Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
The Downley School
Maplewood School
Rennie Grove Hospice

Originally set up to bring the village communities together and to promote awareness of our local groups and activities, the Festival has grown year on year, making a fair profit from some of the major events. The profit is carefully re-invested as donations to local organisations and charities that benefit the residents of Downley.



Our committee and other volunteers are at their busiest throughout the three weeks of the Festival, but behind the scenes planning starts now! This year we would love you to help us make the 2019 Festival better than ever.

We know the sound of volunteering can be a bit scary.... You may be thinking “I’d quite like to help out, but do I need to give hours every week, I’m worried I might not fit it around my current lifestyle”.

Volunteers Emma and husband John moved into Downley in October 2014 and the following June / July had their first experience of the Up! Downley Festival. “We moved from an area with no community feeling and were really impressed with what local people had arranged to bring the area together over the summer. After 2016 Festival, we contacted the committee. We had enjoyed two festivals and thought that these things don’t happen on their own, so could we help. It was also a great way of getting to know more people in the village and learn more about Downley.

We’ve been so welcomed into the Up! Downley committee and this year, we actually ran the bars for both the Comedy night and Oompah band. Running those



continued on page 25...

Emma and John with Rich Hall on Comedy Night



continued from page 25...

was quite hard work, but really rewarding. We hope that with a few more volunteers doing smaller jobs, everyone's role gets a little bit easier. Would we join up again? Yes definitely – it's a real pleasure to be part of such a great community and have pride that we've helped raised funds which go back into the area."

As Emma mentioned, to make the festival easier to run and give more local people a chance to get involved, we're introducing the new simpler volunteer roles.

New volunteers bring new ideas, this doesn't have to be a new event idea, it could be you think of something to make an existing event easier! If you can spare just a little time each month to help in this planning stage it would help enormously.

So, we now need the following volunteers please, to deliver another great event:

- Committee chairman
- Minutes secretary
- Facebook administrators
- Publicity co-ordinator
- Sponsorship Lead
- Event leaders
- ... and more



If you don't see anything that appeals, or to find out more about the roles above, please contact Sue Hannaford at: festival@downley.org to discover more. For a flavour of what goes on visit downley.org festival.downley.org and facebook.com/Downley.Community

*We look forward to hearing from you!
The Up! Downley Festival Team*



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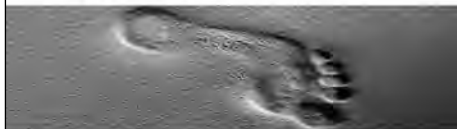
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Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

Downley Community Centre

Alzheimers Carers Support Group	4th Wed 10.30 am
Art Group	Term time Mon & Tues 10am - 12.00
Artspiration	Term Time Sat 10.00 - 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 W1	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

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.

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

DOWNLEY BRIDGE CLUB meet every Thursday at the Downley Community Centre from 7-10 15pm.

We are a small friendly club and all standards of players are welcome with or without a partner. Our club would be ideal for those who play bridge but are hesitant in taking the next step and joining a club.

For anyone wanting to learn bridge no previous knowledge of bridge is necessary. Lessons every week at 6pm

email: syme.pat@gmail.com, phone: 01494 530558
www.bridgewebs.com/downley

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!

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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.

- Sept 2 DCPS Work Party. Downley Common 10pm
- 11 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm at the War Memorial Hall
- Oct 7 DCPS Work Party. Downley Common 10pm
- 9 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm at the Community Centre
- 16 DCPS AGM - War Memorial Hall 8pm
- 21 Bonfire Building on the Common 10pm
- 28 Bonfire Building on the Common 10pm
- Nov 4 Final Bonfire Work Party on the Common 10pm
- 5 Bonfire and Torchlight Procession 6.30pm
- 11 Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial Hall 2pm
- 13 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm at the War Memorial Hall
- 13 Downley Day AGM at the Community Centre 8pm

GRAPHIC DESIGNER NEEDED TO LAYOUT OUR VILLAGE MAGAZINE

The Downley Village News is produced by the Downley Comms Group with the goal of providing the best possible communications to the village. Alongside the magazine they also look after the village website and Facebook page.

The financial success of the Village News has delivered additional benefits including a vibrant village festival and resources that enhance local amenities and venues.

If you feel able to share your skills and have access to InDesgn please contact news@downley.org where we would love to hear from you.

From Wycombe to Westminster

Steve Baker MP

You may have heard about the reorganisation of local government and the possibility of the county and district councils merging to form one new unitary authority.



The Secretary of State recently announced he is 'minded to' decide in favour of one county-wide unitary although he gave more time for the councils to discuss how this might work. The deadline for receiving responses to this proposition has now passed, and the comments constituents shared with me were roughly split between those in favour of the proposal and those who opposed it. The Secretary of State has yet to issue his final ruling and I know many councillors and officials are reluctant to take any significant spending decisions until this is confirmed. This situation cannot be left unresolved for too long and I, along with other Bucks MPs, are urging him to give his final determination as soon as possible.

This year Parliament is celebrating the 100 anniversary of women being given the vote. A new exhibition about the campaign for votes for women, and the representation of women in the House of Commons and House of Lords opened in late June in the Palace of Westminster. It tells the story of women in Parliament using immersive technologies and features rare historic objects, pictures and archives from the Parliamentary collections.

The Wycombe constituency has a strong connection to women's suffrage. One of the first female MPs ever elected to Parliament represented the Wycombe constituency. Vera Terrington was a member of the Liberal Party, and she was one of only thirty-three women candidates standing at the 1922 election. She was

elected three times at the 1922, 1923 and 1924 General Elections. If anyone would like to see the exhibition it is open to the public, free of charge, until 6th October and full details can be found on www.parliament.uk/vote100 I am also happy to arrange general tours of Parliament at any time for constituents or local groups who would like them. Staff in my constituency office will be happy to make the arrangements on my behalf.

As I write, the hot summer weather is continuing. The reservoirs were full and water tables high at the start of the summer, and there are no plans in our area at the moment to restrict the use of water. There has been only one severe drought, in 1976, when the Government appointed a minister for drought just a few days before several weeks of heavy rain! The Thames Water area saw just 5% of the rain normally expected in June, meaning it is one of the driest on record. The company has had to pump in an extra 450 million litres of water to avoid low pressure or no water. Please enjoy the sunshine whilst it lasts, and use water wisely.

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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Fingers Crossed That Hughenden Park Retains Its Green Flag

Three Wycombe District parks have retained their Green Flag status in the Green Flag Award Scheme. The Rye in High Wycombe and Higginson Park in Marlow were this week awarded Green Flags for the year ahead, while Hughenden Park is due a mystery shop later this year.

They are among a record-breaking 1,883 parks across the UK receiving the award.

This international award, now into its third decade, is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

Cllr Graham Peart, Cabinet Member for Community, said: “We are absolutely delighted to receive these Green Flag Awards once again.

“We know how much quality green spaces matter to residents and visitors, and these awards celebrate the dedication that goes into maintaining our parks to such a high standard.

“These three are our biggest stars. But we also have many popular smaller parks and open spaces throughout the district that we care for and improve to meet the needs of local residents.”



Shauna.Hichens@wycombe.gov.uk

JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN SOLUTIONS

FROM PAGE 9

1 He will never get there using this technique. Halving the distance each time means ever shorter distances, never reaching a total of a full mile.

2

A is the most common, by 1 more than the digits 2-9. This is because we included 1000. (Number 2-9 appear 300 times, number 1 appears 301 times).

B 0 is the least common digit as all the other numbers start sequences at various points, e.g. 2, 20, 200, 220, etc. (0 appears 192 times).

3 $888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 1000$

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Drones: A Miracle or a Menace?

The answer to that question is actually both.

Drones are a relatively new invention and take the flying of model aircraft or helicopters literally to a new level. Drones are in essence four rotor helicopters which can fly high, fast and are very stable. So much so that they can hover in the air and take good quality photography. In the future these robot devices may be able to do more such as remote repairs. They offer great benefits and are already used to inspect national infrastructure such as railways, power stations, aiding in disaster and speeding up the delivery of blood.

Outside professional use many amateurs now have drones and these are used for recreation and to capture some stunning photography. Professionals including broadcasters are also using drones and that is why some wildlife programmes are able to get so close up to the subject. The drone can for example just hover near trees capturing images not possible using standard techniques.

Many amateur drone owners fly with the same care as professional users but there are a few that do not. Drones have been found flying near airports and been involved in a number of near misses. They have been flown near and low over property causing disturbance and invasion of privacy. New laws that came in from 30th July 2018 and further legislation from 30th November 2019 is design to combat this as drone usage grows. By 2030 the drone industry is predicted to be worth £42 billion and is likely we will be more drones in the village than buses by then!

The new laws that have just come into force are mainly to do with enforcing a 1km limit around airports but the 2019 laws will go further and are expected to include:

- 50 metres no fly zone around homes
- 150 metres no fly zone around major events
- Drone users to have to register with the CAA and take an on-line safety test.

The new laws will hopefully make it safer while creating as little disturbance from these new airborne vehicles for all. How the new laws will be policed remains to be seen. Did I mention airborne vehicles? That really will be the future when your parcel delivery arrives that way! If you are a drone user in the village or indeed anywhere else, please fly responsibly. Be part of the “Miracle” not the “Menace” that drones can create.

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Downley Community Orchard

Would you like to be a 'Scatterer'? Or a 'Presserer'? Well you could be and then show others how to do it. Or sit under the Spring blossom and then in the Autumn have the first taste of pure Downley apple or pear juice!



The Community Orchard was established in 2003, with about 20 traditional varieties of apple and pear trees. The project was initiated by Downley people, following a nationwide report by charity 'Common Ground,' which focused on the loss of traditional orchards across the nation. Funding was achieved from the Parish

Council, the Chilterns Conservation Board and individuals. Land was provided by the Parish Council with the blessing of West Wycombe Estate. The orchard, adjacent to Downley allotments was 'opened' by the then M.P. for Wycombe, Paul Goodman, families and individuals adopted trees, acting as 'guardians', carrying out various jobs such as pruning and staking.

The trees have prospered and bear fruit in most years. However, time has moved on, as have many of the tree Guardians, and the orchard is in need of volunteer 'orcharders' to help the orchard to continue to prosper, providing the village with an oasis of calm and tranquility, as well as the fruit at harvest time.

If you would like to know more please contact Kristina Frydberg or John Willson. Kristina on 01494 531851. John on 01494 525966.



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Save the (Gosling Grove) Pond

You may be aware that the Parish Council is anxious that this lovely village asset should be preserved and has strongly supported the initiative kindled by a previous chairman, Barry Gay.

The first phase of the recovery took place in September last year with a fantastic turnout of local volunteers working with the Chiltern Rangers to clear weeds and debris and to start rebuilding the duck island.

During the winter months we've seen the water level much higher and a few ducks on the island.

The second phase of the project took place in early March and involved cutting off some diseased branches of the beautiful oak trees and the removal of some of the ones overhanging the water to try and reduce the amount of leaf litter ending up in the water.

This has hopefully allowed us to save one tree which might have needed felling and to allow more light to get down to the pond.

The removal of branches has been done before the start of the main growing season and has been done with the trees' future healthy growth paramount.

A lot of the chipped timber found its way on to residents' gardens where it made excellent mulch, although at the time of writing there is still plenty left.

The Parish Council would like to express its thanks for the support and encouragement given by Wycombe District Councillor Paul Turner and for donating his ward budget of over £1300 to help fund this work.

The next phase will involve the removal of some sludge and leaf debris from the bottom of the pond and will require the use of a digger. This work won't be possible until water levels have dropped again and will be subject to finance being available - so hopefully later in the year.

The project has attracted a great deal of interest especially from children and the feedback from residents has been very encouraging.

Let's hope that this lovely pond will enjoy many more years of life and be a delightful place to spend some time.





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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

Summer 2018

Wal, hello me old mates. Wal, phew, it's the middle of July and now it's like the middle of Africa – so they tells me - not avin bin there I wouldn't know. But at least we don't have they lions and ellyfants up ere. Them over there, beyond the Le De (you knows where I means) are always on about the strange noises a'cummin from the woods. We tells them wot that is – just us ploholders doin a bit of evvy diggingso we ses!!!

So wot about your garden and your plot? Wal, no wonder they made bricks up ere – it's easy – my plot is just one big brick now and the garden – wal, it's just waterin orl the time just to keep my plants alive – leave em for a couple of days and they're dead. But I reckons that by the time you're reading this, we'll be back to monsoon rains....

So wot are you a'doin about the garden and plot ready for winter? Get your onions and shallots hung up in the shed, dryin; check em for mould and if you gets it, ask the senior management to do summat with em right away. Same with your spuds – mine are like marbles and ready roasted thanks to this heat. Ave a good tidy up and if you thinks the stuff won't compost then get it on the bonny. Wal, wot's a plot without a bonny once a year? Then plan for next year and get your seed list sorted. Sum of they garden centres ave out of date packets goin cheap – might be worthwhile takin a chance.

Then get your winter bulbs bought and planted (remember my summer page, orl about summer bulbs). Wal, winter ones don't get frosted like onions and leeks. You knows they be bulbs when you cuts em up.

As for leeks, wal they really are good for the winter and they piddgins leaves em alone – makes their eyes run! Why is it them piddgins

up ere luvs our brassicas (brassiccas – that's anything cabbagey). So you ave to protect em. That's why I've got orl sorts of wire and nettin to keep em orrf. Sum folks say 'wot's orl that junk?' Wal it's technical stuff wot they wouldn't understand. Me and Mrs H went to a stately home recently and they had a potagy... .a wot?! (My French cousin Jean D'artichoke sez he will explain). Anyway, the potagy had beautiful cabbages, no protection – so where were they piddgins?

I can't sign orf without mentioning this ere Brexit thing. I reckons we'll find them seeds gets more expensive, especially they fancy Italian salad ones, because they'll have a tariff - wot ever that is – put on em.

So, that's it for now...back to the waterin then a snooze in the shade.....cheerio and a bientot. We'll soon be avin olive trees to snooze under!

J.H sent from my iSpade



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JILL'S SCIENCE FOR FUN

THE PHYSICS OF FANTASTIC COOLING

By the time this is published I am sure the heatwave of 2018 will be a distant memory, other than the hint of a weather remaining on some of us. However, as I write, the sunshine is in full force and I am inspired to discuss the physics of cooling down.

Our bodies are programmed to maintain a constant temperature of 37°C. In order to cool ourselves, when the weather is hot, we have a few behaviours and mechanisms which depend on physics to achieve their goal.

We may become redder in colour as our blood vessels near the surface get wider (vasodilation) in order to allow more blood to be closer to the surface. The warm blood is then able to radiate heat into the environment around, thus losing some heat from the body. This is infrared radiation, which is the emission of heat in photons of energy travelling as waves from a warmer to a less warm location. The greater the difference in temperature the faster the heat is lost from the warmer surface. We may choose to remove some clothing to maximise the exposed area, and minimise the insulating layer of air trapped around our bodies by the fabric. Wet clothing, such as a wet swimming costume does not trap air, and water conducts heat well, taking it away from our bodies. Another use for this conduction effect of wet fabric is to sleep with a wet flannel/towel; when touched this will conduct heat away from the body, which will dry the towel rather than warming it (as would happen with cold gel pillows where the gel simply warms up over time).

We will also be aware that, when hot, our bodies sweat. Sweat is a bodily fluid which is released by glands onto the surface of our skin via pores in the skin. It is mostly water with some dissolved substances such as urea and salts. It cools us due to a phenomenon called the latent heat of evaporation. The particles in a fluid vibrate a little. If energy is added to them some of this will make the particles vibrate more. The energy used to make them vibrate is being converted to kinetic (movement) energy rather than heat energy. If the particles move sufficiently they escape from the surface of the liquid as a gas, in other words they evaporate. As water molecules on our skin (sweat) vibrate more they evaporate, leaving our body and taking with them heat from our body surface which has been transformed into kinetic energy. The salts in the sweat remain on your skin when the water evaporates, which is why you taste salty after sweating.

We might decide to jump in a swimming pool when we are too hot, or have a cool shower. Initially these cool us because the water is cooler than our bodies, and water is a much better conductor of heat than air so the heat moves from our body into the water. When we exit the water it will evaporate off our skin in the same way as sweat, taking heat with it – it is wise not to bother too much with a towel if it is really hot, the cooling effect of air drying is a great way to cool down.

If we choose to sit in front of a fan we are using the cooling effect of this on our skin. It will remove evaporated sweat more quickly from the area around our skin surface, so the micro humid area around the surface is blown away allowing more rapid evaporation to happen. Similarly the fan moves-on air that has been warmed by radiation from the skin, maximising the heat difference between the skin and the area round it, increasing the rate of radiation from the skin surface.

Putting a tray of ice in front of a fan means that the air blown forwards by the fan is cooled so the cooling effect of the fan is greater. You should bear in mind that the motor of the fan is generating heat through friction so though it gives personal cooling it may well cause an increase in room temperature. One possible way to use a fan to cool a room is to open two windows in a room and place the fan in front of one of them facing outwards. This will blow warm air from the room outside and cooler air from outside will be drawn into the room through the other window; this will only work if outside is cooler than inside, and I personally tend to think that when this is the case the cooler air will enter the room anyway without help from the fan, but it's a theory and a conversation piece when people ask why your fan is pointing into the garden.

BY JILL BURRELL

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Downley War Memorial Hall

Harry Wilfred Chilton, a Guardsman in the 3rd Grenadier Guards died in the 3rd London General Hospital in Wandsworth on 24 October 1918. So far, I have been unable to discover the cause of death but the hospital, a former orphanage and school requisitioned by the Government at the outbreak of WW1, was primarily receiving wounded soldiers. A temporary station was even built at the front of the building to handle the patients, as many as 1800 were resident at any given time.

Now Grade 2 listed and known as the Royal Victoria Patriotic Building, it is a mix of apartments, artist studios and workshops as well as home for a performing arts school that counts Denise Gough, Sarah Parish and Miranda Hart amongst its alumni.

The quarter covered by this issue includes the Centenary of Armistice Day and back in 1918 there was a spate of celebrations and Thanksgiving services as well as “a salute of guns and sustained notes of factory sirens”. In Tylers Green, “flags and bunting appeared as if by magic and the schoolchildren were released for a half-holiday”. News of a Thanksgiving Service at St Margaret’s at 7.30 quickly spread and well before then the church was full. Across the country church bells were rung and for the first time in over four years the church clock chimed the hour.

Shortly after the last edition of Downley Village News was published I met local resident Michael Larkin who told me more about



Painting showing the signing of the Armistice in a carriage of Marshal Ferdinand Foch private train.

Wilfred Bristow. Although reported missing he returned from the war and was very active in Downley, particularly with the Memorial Hall as was Michael’s mother and he vividly remembers meeting Wilf Bristow.

Over the past four years or so I have tried to add something to the names of the Downley men commemorated on our Memorial. I am still hoping that I can uncover something about Albert Smith but it has proved difficult to be sure that any information is referring to the right man.

Sometime next year, the 80th anniversary of the start of the Second World War, I will turn my attention to the five men from that conflict who are recorded on our Memorial.

Back to 2018 and the Hall is shortly to have new front doors fitted along with some remedial brickwork. As with many of the other renovations carried out over the past few years they will be replacing original features from 1923.

A big thank you to all who helped with Open Gardens during the UP Festival. Especially those who actually opened their gardens to us.

In addition to the usual Remembrance Service on Sunday 11 November we will be holding two minutes silence at the Hall at 11.00.

Some of you may have noticed the silhouette of a soldier on the approach to West Wycombe. Known as the Silent soldier it is one of many that will appear around the country over the next few weeks as we approach the centenary of the end of WW1. We will soon have our own outside the Hall. They have been produced by the Royal British Legion to represent those who came back from the War, forever changed by their experiences.

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Award Winning Year for Hillclimb Garage

It has been an exciting year for Hillclimb Garage, having opened at the end of October 2016, reviving the old Renault garage in Littleworth Road.

Offering MOT's, repairs, servicing and a good selection of used cars, they have been busy building the business, literally doubling in size since the beginning of the year. Their signature service is to perform a free 32 point health check on your car and video the results, sending it directly to your phone. "Our customers think its such a good idea – its one thing being told your coil spring has broken, but seeing it on video is a different matter" says Paul Haines, Service Manager "The feedback we get from our customers is so positive, with some videos being watched several times and shared with friends"

In June, they won a Buckinghamshire Business Awards, awarded by Wycombe District Council – High Wycombe Small Business Of The Year, Bill Bendyshe-Brown Award – a cause for great celebration.

Then a couple of weeks later they found out that they had been shortlisted for the finals of the Independent Garage Associations 'Garage Of The Year competition'. The awards ceremony was held at Aston Villa Directors Club and to Hillclimb's delight, they picked up not only Small Garage Of The Year UK, but then went on to win the coveted title Overall Winner Garage Of The Year UK. They were commended for their impressive commitment to delivering first class service to their customers, their user friendly website and their willingness to invest in new equipment.

They picked up prize winnings of £1000 which has gone directly to sponsoring The Soap Box Challenge, an event for 10-14 year olds at Kop Hill Climb in Princes Risborough in September, where teams of kids build and race their own go-karts. The Hillclimb Team will be there helping with repairs and having fun with the competitors.

Hillclimb has big plans for future investment in hybrid and electric car repairs and will continue to build on their growing local reputation. "We pick up local cars, repair or service them and return them cleaned, back to your drive" says Paul, "We have lots of fantastic customers in Downley and are proud to be part of the community here"





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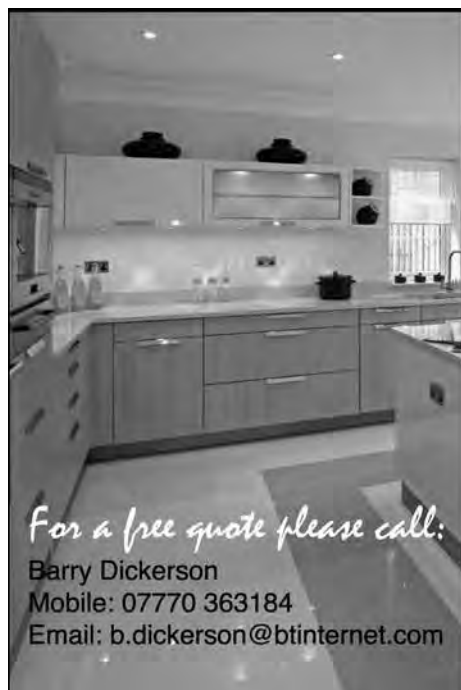
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Some Moments from the **Up! Downley Festival** 2018



Volunteers, Keeping the Fun in the Festival

All involved in this year's event found themselves to be at full stretch so we are taking a look at how we ensure our volunteers enjoy making it happen as much they do taking part.

Go to page 23 for the full story and more pictures.

