

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 117/ December 2018



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## Editorial

Read inside this edition to find out more about the historic decision for District Councils and the County Council to become a single Bucks County Council. This issue contains excellent articles from your Local Councillor and the High Wycombe MP.

There are many local companies who advertise in this community magazine and with recruitment becoming more and more difficult for local employers through the Brexit process then please do contact your local companies first if you are seeking new employment or are retired and want part time work as a top up.

In my humble view, every effort to help local companies should be made and this should be supported by the new single County Council when it is created as many of our local businesses seem to get passed over when large Council's offer contracts. There seems to be a mentality within large Councils to seek to work with large companies and this is not healthy for local small companies or for local diverse economies.

I will now jump down from my soap box and ask you to enjoy this latest edition of your magazine, enjoy your Christmas period and have a Happy New Year.

There is still an opening for a layout / copy Director for our village magazine. The skill set required is graphic design, IT proficiency, Adobe professional experience. Please get in touch with us if you can spare some hours voluntarily every third month to put together the magazine copy ready for the printers.

*Simon Scott Editor*  
*editor@downley.org*



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# Downley Common News

*Come autumn and the DCPS turns its thoughts to cutting down trees. Why do we do this, you might ask?*

Once upon a time, before humans came to Britain following the retreat of the ice at the end of the last Ice Age, Britain was covered in trees – the so-called Wildwood – which remained intact until Neolithic times around 3000BC when the local inhabitants started clearing some areas for farming, though the great majority of the country remained forest. The Iron Age Celts arrived in about 400BC, and with their superior equipment, began large-scale clearances to provide land for cultivation and for grazing. This process of felling, burning and grazing animals on coppice regrowth and seedlings, and converting forest to arable land and pasture went on for hundreds of years.

During the first twelve centuries AD much of the modern landscape became recognisable and the things which distinguish modern woodland from wildwood became widespread, including the separation of the woods from each other, definition of boundaries, enclosure to prevent grazing and, above all, management. By 1000AD it has been estimated that about 20% of Great Britain and Ireland were covered with forest, though in England at this time it was probably less. Forest cover declined only gradually as demand for wood for fuel, furniture and construction was high but by the 19th century, wood was replaced by coal and imported timber such that by the 20th Century, only 5% remained. Since that time, a mixture of natural regeneration and tree-planting programmes (albeit mostly coniferous) has increased that number to about 9%.

Photographs of Downley Common from the 1920's show significantly less tree cover than exists today which suggested that reforestation is well underway. How far do we want this to continue? The logical endpoint is to completely



cover Downley Common with woods similar to Naphill Common, but the cricket and football clubs would probably object as would those who enjoy a picnic on Commonside.

So to answer our question above, it's all about woodland management. The DCPS is trying to keep the margins of the woods roughly where they are but this implies a programme of felling followed by regeneration in a variety of locations around the Common, both by the DCPS and by other groups such as Wycombe Rangers.

Anyone walking from the cricket pitch down to the hydrant (aka Five Points) may be aware how much the trees are encroaching from each side. There is a case for pushing these trees back and this may be a project for future years. Similar projects have been carried out on Naphill Common in recent years which have much improved the environment for walkers and riders.

This year the trees coming down are a rather more modest three hawthorns and two elders

just east of the bonfire site which has helped to push the woods back a few feet. We may do this again a bit further along next year.



*Bill Thompson. DCPS*

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# News from Downley Pharmacy

We are approaching the busy season for healthcare providers. Winter coughs, colds, flu, norovirus all usually take their toll over the festive season and into the New Year.

NHS resources are tight with a push for self care wherever possible. New guidance for GPs lists 35 minor health conditions for which it is now recommended over the counter medicines should no longer be prescribed. This applies even if the patient does not usually pay for prescriptions. There are, as always, exceptions to the rules. For example - where the medication is for long term use, the treatment is for a complex patient, for a condition not considered minor, or one that is the result of another prescribed medication. Patients considered unable to self care due to their medical or mental health or significant social vulnerability are also exempt. Pharmacies may also be limited by the medication licence which may not be as broad for OTC purchase as when prescribed by Doctor. In these cases sales may be restricted to small numbers or to certain age groups. The list and guidance is too long for me to share here but includes the following ailments:

Coughs, Colds and nasal congestion, sore throat	Mild cystitis
Dry skin, dermatitis and other skin conditions	Dry or sore eyes and conjunctivitis
Diarrhoea	Short term pain
Constipation	Occasional migraine

Please consider using pharmacy first – we will advise and direct when unable to help.

To increase self care possibilities and relieve some of the strain at surgeries we at Downley Pharmacy will be launching a private throat swab service with the ability to issue antibiotics without a GP appointment only if bacterial infection is found. This will not only ease the strain at the GP but will ensure appropriate antibiotic use. We are hoping this will prove popular as a walk in service, no appointment or lengthy wait at the GP surgery. We also aim to introduce other limited private prescribing services eg cystitis, travel health (injections and medication).

As always, we hope all our customers enjoy the festive season.

*Downley Pharmacy – see advert for contact information*

## Downley Theatre Group

2018 has seen 10 trips arranged and we already have an outing to “Calendar Girls”, the Gary Barlow musical, organised for April 2019 – there’s nothing like looking ahead! Downley residents are most welcome to join the Group, simply get in touch to be added to the mailing list, there is no joining fee.



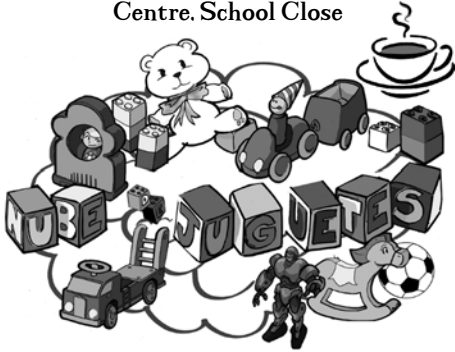
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## Downley Toddler Group

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# Downley Parish Council

## Introduction to the Establishment of Downley Resilience Plan

How well do you know your neighbourhood? Do you know vulnerable people –those living alone or who have some illness or debility not least the elderly and infirm? If there was an emergency or call for help, would you be able to help them or summon the right help?

We live in an increasingly fragmented and lonely society with a significant number living on their own or with increasing old age.

In such a society we all have a duty of care to some degree for those who live around us and whom we can support as good citizens and members of a caring society.

From time to time, emergency situations can occur particularly for a hilltop village such as Downley where severe winters, closure of roads and loss of utilities –to mention a few --have been experienced in recent times. It is not always possible to rely on emergency services –they may be under pressure elsewhere or simply unable to gain access to our village which only has four incoming roads. In such circumstances it is good to have the ability and marshalled resources for self-help to fall back on until professional help can reach us.

A small team from the Parish Council and the Community Centre have been looking at a Resilience Plan for Downley which follows the pattern given by Bucks County Council and has been drawn up by several neighbouring parishes.

All of this can only be achieved by the support and participation by the residents of Downley. There is a need for co-ordination, communication and volunteers to take responsibility for particular areas or roads.

The small planning team are asking if you would please give some thought and if you feel motivated to help to give your name, e-mail address and telephone number with a summary of how you could help to the Parish Clerk. It is emphasised that all information will be held under secure conditions in accordance with Data Protection requirements and will not be seen by any third party.

**If you have any questions would you please direct them to the Parish Clerk at [Downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk) in the first instance who is co-ordinating our response.**

*Thank you, Resilience Planning Team*

### ***JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN - ANSWERS ON PAGE 47***

(No Calculators, as usual)

Jimmy and Hamish work as gardeners at stately homes. They are comparing statistics of the gardens they look after.

1. Jimmy's square vegetable garden has an area of 121 m<sup>2</sup>. Hamish's Vegetable garden is also square, but his has a side length twice that of Jimmy's. What is the area of Hamish's vegetable garden?
2. Both Jimmy and Hamish have herb gardens that are 8m by 6m. Both have divided these gardens into sections using box hedging, which also surrounds the outside perimeter of each garden. These hedges need a lot of maintenance and take around an hour to trim each 5m section.

Jimmy's herb garden is divided into rectangles which are 2m by 3m.

Hamish's herb garden is divided into right angled triangles where the perpendicular sides are 4m by 3m.

How much longer does it take Hamish to trim the box hedging, compared with Jimmy, give your answer in hours and minutes.

By Tutor Jill Burrell - 0773 8609944



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# Road Safety in Downley

*Road safety is a priority for the Parish Council. We have an active Road Safety Committee that meet quarterly to discuss road safety, we are always looking at how we can make our Village safer.*



If you would like to know more about these meetings, the minutes can be found on the Parish Council website [www.downleyparishcouncil.org](http://www.downleyparishcouncil.org).

This year the Parish Council have invested in two Speed Indication Devices (SIDs). These devices are being used in nine key sites, all over the parish to warn motorists of their speed and to build a picture of the traffic issues we have in Downley.

A summary of the most recent SID data:

## Middlebrook Road

	Aug	Sep	Oct
Cars Passing	117,553	174,468	132,888
Cars Speeding	13,859	19,226	14,853
Ave Speed	24.7 mph	24.7 mph	24.7 mph
Speeders/wk	4,620	4,807	4,951

## Pheasant Drive

	Aug	Sep	Oct
Cars Passing	72,136	78,518	54,561
Cars Speeding	5,996	6,883	5,178
Ave Speed	24.7 mph	25.0 mph	25.1 mph
Speeders/wk	1,499	1,721	1,726

It is disappointing to see in black & white that over 14,000 cars were recorded as speeding on Middlebrook Road in October, and the maximum speeds were eye-watering for a 30 mph limit!

Similarly, Pheasant Drive saw a smaller percentage of cars speeding in the same month, but one is too many.

The Parish Council will share this information with the Police and continue to raise speed awareness in Downley.



If you have any comments, please email the Parish Clerk at: [Downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)



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# Lucky Seven The Descants Story Continues



*September 2018 marked the start of our seventh year as Downley's own community choir. When we began we didn't know what to expect but managed our first hesitant concert in December of that same year.*

A recording of this can still be found on YouTube and you will see/hear just how far we have progressed since that time. From a group of very nervous people whose singing had many rough edges, to a CHOIR resplendent in bright uniform, performing concerts to many types of audiences in many varied venues. Any surplus funds from our concerts are donated to mainly small local charities and, to date, we have raised almost £8000.

Last Christmas we performed at six events ranging from Stowe Landscape Gardens to Adams Park. This year we decided to cut down our commitments and we are only performing three times. Our own annual concert is on Thursday 13 December at St James' Church starting at 7.30pm so please buy a ticket and come along. We have also been asked to sing at John Lewis on Saturday 22 December, along with several other local choirs, as part of a fundraising day for Child Bereavement UK.

Since our inception in 2012 members have come and gone but numbers have consistently remained around the upper 40s. We have recently enlisted five new recruits: four ladies and one much needed bass (it goes without saying that the ladies were also well-received!)

It has been scientifically proven that singing has many benefits: Physical, psychological, emotional and social. If you feel you might need uplifting after the excesses of Christmas, consider coming along on a Thursday evening to start 2019 off on the right footing.

**For more details about membership, booking the choir or ticket sales contact**

**Lyn 01494 436063 or Julian 01494 440430**

**We are available to sing at any indoor event and are flexible regarding the size of choir needed.**

*Lyn Cook - Soprano*

## Chameleon Singles Group



*We had a busy autumn of events with plenty to choose from.*

Once again we supported the McMillian Coffee Morning fund-raiser with a member hosting in their home on the Friday morning. The tea, coffee and cake went down well as funds were raised to help out this worthy charity.

The colder snap has meant less members out for a walk so we will look forward to doing more of those when spring comes around. However, for now we are looking forward to our Christmas events. Firstly, for those who prefer to meet daytime we have a Christmas Lunch Club on 7th December and then the following evening we will be at Hazlemere Golf Club for a dinner/dance. Because of the need to pre-book these will only be open to members who have already booked in to go. A further evening Pre-Christmas get-together will take place on the Friday immediately before Christmas for all members.

During the year we have made a couple of visits to the Rebellion Brewery so decided in November to try the even more local Fishers Brewery in High Wycombe.

*Continued on page 15...*

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...Continued from page 13

Located on the industrial estate just behind Morrisons they have an open evening on the first Friday of the month. Our first visit was an enjoyable evening with live music and a bar although on this occasion there was no food available.

Some events run monthly such as the Friday Lunch Club and pub nights both of which are great places to meet other members. We are also regular visitors to Dusty's Blues Club in Holmer Green usually attending a live music event once a month. The group also arranges trips to the theatre, cinema, comedy evenings, days out and various other events throughout the year. As winter is now with us we will be doing a few more inside events such as our Take-Away evenings and Coffee Mornings. These are held at a member's home or sometimes we visit a café or garden centre.

If you are single, 40-60's, looking for a great social life and new friends then why not give us a try? There are no strangers at Chameleon, just new friends to be made. We have several local people from Downley, West Wycombe, Bledlow Ridge, Sands and surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too.

**To find out more call our membership secretaries Terrie on 01494 – 445816, Joyce on 01494 – 817895 or e-mail: [info@chameleonsingles.org.uk](mailto:info@chameleonsingles.org.uk). Visit us on-line at [www.chameleonsingles.org.uk](http://www.chameleonsingles.org.uk) for more information and our current programme or connect with us through Facebook.**

## Coffee Stop

*Wishing all our readers and customers a very happy Christmas, I hope this issue arrives in time to invite you all to our seasonal celebration on 17th December at 11am when we hope to have The Fernie Fields Four again to entertain us and a few representatives of The Downley Descants as well.*



There will be some seasonal goodies on the food table and even some mulled wine for those not driving.

We have had a successful few months managing to break even financially. The traditional harvest lunch was as good as ever even though we catered for fewer numbers than in the heady days when there were 50 plus people. We usually provide a very similar menu to the previous year's and it is well received. If anyone has any comments, positive or negative, we are happy to receive them. We have some new people amongst our helpers and it is very helpful to have fresh ideas and talents to draw on.

It is probably sensible to point out that the Coffee Stop is not a club that you need to join,

it is open to anyone in need of a cup of coffee, a snack and/or a chat whenever they feel like coming. We do have a number of regular customers and we welcome them with open arms but there is no reason why you should not be among them.

Our regular customers are happy to see that soup has returned to the menu for the colder months, always home made by one of us and not an exclusively female effort! Thanks are due to everyone who helps in a variety of ways, you are very much appreciated.

*Very best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2019*  
Ann Buxton  
[pabuxton@hotmail.com](mailto:pabuxton@hotmail.com)



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**editor@downley.org**

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# Gardening Society

*We had our annual evening visit to Peterley Corner Cottage in June which is a beautiful and interesting garden, followed by tea and cakes.*

Our stall at Downley Day looked fantastic and was extremely well stocked thanks to all the donated plants from both members and local gardeners. It's a great opportunity for us to chat with everyone about all things garden related and it also generates a welcome addition to our funds.

This year's Autumn Horticultural Show had our best ever entries which was amazing considering the strange weather we experienced earlier in the year! As usual it was very well attended for prize giving and tea and homemade cakes.

We are back in St James' Church hall on Monday 15th October at 8.00pm for our regular monthly get together after our Summer break. Visitors are very welcome so why not pop along and enjoy a garden related talk followed by tea and biscuits. Meetings are on the third Monday from October through to May. If you would like any further information, please contact us by email: [downleygardensociety@hotmail.com](mailto:downleygardensociety@hotmail.com) or on HW439183.

On Monday 19th November we have a demonstration by Karen Elliott on Christmas floral decorations. We did have 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, but a bit earlier in the year this time.

If nostalgia or local history are more your thing then you then you are in for a treat as on Monday 10th December we have a talk entitled 'Disraeli and a Family Christmas' by a speaker from the National Trust. Plus, as its Christmas there will be homemade mince pies and mulled wine.

*Hope to see you soon and happy gardening.*

## Downley Village Evening WI

*Are you new to Downley.....*

I moved here 16 years ago and didn't know a soul. I met a neighbour who invited me to go along with her to the next WI meeting, as a way of meeting people, and I have never looked back. I've made some lovely and wonderful friends and have helped make other new members very welcome.

We have Speakers on many subjects – Chenies Manor, Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging), Theatre costumes – some who work for charities and some who have had very interesting lives. Talks are followed by social time and refreshments. The WI will never let you down on the food front!!!!

In the past few months Social events have included theatre & cinema trips, a visit to Highclere – on a very hot day – scan appeal garden tours and, on 4th December we will be celebrating our 48th Birthday Party with a catered meal. (We are never very far from food,!!!!).

So, if you would like to make new friends, have an interesting evening with an interesting talk, refreshments and a warm welcome from us all, please come and join us. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month, at 7.45 at the Old School Community Centre.

If you would like further information, please contact Pat Heath on 01494 535998.

**theWI**  
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*We look forward to seeing you.*

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[www.theacupuncturepoint.org.uk](http://www.theacupuncturepoint.org.uk)

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# Downley Wine & Beer Club

*A Riesling good time in Strasbourg*

After 10 years of visiting Belgium, Downley Wine & Beer Club made our annual autumn trip to Strasbourg in France. Home to the European Parliament, this year's group of 21 travellers embarked on Eurostar for a long weekend on a clear and crisp morning in late September.

Strasbourg has a fascinating history with both its German & French heritage resulting in a thriving local beer and wine culture. A few of us visited a small microbrewery in the heart of the city called La Lanterne. Tucked away on a side street off a side street, it was very enjoyable being sat amongst the copper pots & sipping some tasty beer whilst enjoying the ambience.

The Alsace region is the largest producer of beer by volume in France so we were certainly spoiled for choice! The many local wines from Alsace were served up in the traditional wine glasses for the region which are of the small & green stemmed variety. Between all of us, we managed to get through most of the main local varieties of the region such as Gewurztraminer, Pinot Gris, Riesling and of course Pinot Noir. My personal favourite was a white variety called Sylvaner. Give it a go!

On the subject of culture, aside from the beer and wine, the town itself was a beautiful mix of French & German architecture with the stunning gothic Notre-Dame Cathedral at the centre. The guided walking tour of the city gave us a fascinating insight into the history of the town & the region and the 2-hour boat trip on the River Ill was a wonderful way to see the districts with the boat winding its way through the various locks & waterways.

A few of us ended up back in the historic quarter of La Petite France for lunch and the obligatory glass or two of vino in the warm autumn sunshine. We certainly had a Riesling good time! As they say in Alsatian S'Gilt or cheers!

For more information contact us at [dwbc@btinternet.com](mailto:dwbc@btinternet.com)  
or follow us on Facebook at <https://tinyurl.com/DownleyWBClub>

*Steve Morton*



*Photograph Jonathan Martz*

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# Downley Evening WI

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

*I was just looking back at what I wrote to you this time last year and it was full of anticipation for the activities we were planning for December in the run up to Christmas.*

Sadly, if you remember, the weather intervened, and our plans had to be cancelled because of snow and ice. What a shame. I don't know what the weather will bring us this year, but we are ever hopeful and have planned our events in that spirit.

We have our annual evening of Christmas music and seasonal readings, delivered by the Downley Descants and our own entertainment group, Delectable Selection. This will take place – fingers crossed! – on Thursday 6th December at St. James' Church at 8 pm. This is always a lovely evening, with communal carols as well as pieces by the choir and the readings range from poignant to laugh-out-loud. We conclude the evening with mulled wine, mince pies and

sausage rolls. Yum. The best part is that this event is not limited to members. Everyone is welcome. So, do come and join us for some festive cheer to get you in the mood for the Christmas celebrations and some time out from the hassle.

Our December meeting is also destined to be fun, with Delectable Selection once more entertaining us. You may not know it, but this group is often called upon to perform at sister WIs and they have quite the reputation. For being funny, that is ... just in case you were thinking something else! We love to have visitors so if you're free on Tuesday 11th December, why not come along? The WI is a place where women come together to learn, to grow, to express their concerns about modern living, to share their experience and to make new friends.

New WIs are continually being established throughout the country, particularly by young women, who bring their own special flavour and vibe so whilst the Women's Institute may have entered its second century, it remains ever young and relevant to today's woman. Maybe, 2019 will be the year you decide to join and discover for yourself? I hope so. We're waiting to welcome you.

We meet regularly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm at St. James' Church, Plomer Hill. We offer a programme of interesting talks and activities throughout the year couched in a warm and friendly atmosphere with plenty of laughter.

**Call our president, Janet Durkin, on  
HW 535662 for more information.**

*Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!*  
*Angela Taplin*

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# Support your local voluntary Library



Downley Community Centre  
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Tel: 01494 528133

## Library Opening Times

Mondays 10-12 noon  
Thursdays 3-5 pm  
Saturdays 10-12 noon

Email: [enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk)



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### Book Charges

There is a charge of 20p per book for up to three weeks loan and a 20p charge per week is made for each overdue item up to a maximum of £3.00. The loan period may be extended by phoning the library during opening times. Free loan on all children's picture books.

### Computer & Internet Facilities

The library has two computers for member's use, both with internet connection. This facility is free. We also have a copier/printer available. Charges are 10p for a monochrome and 25p for a colour copy. We can also laminate your prints, up to A4 size, for a cost of 25p per copy.

We 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 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
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 Club	Monday 18.45
Wycombe Spiritual Centre	1st & 3rd Fri, 18.30
Zumba	Mon and Weds

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](http://www.bridgewebs.com/downley)

### **St. James Church**

We are looking forward to welcoming many members of the Downley community to St James during Advent and Christmas. Our services are listed on the web site address below.

We are also open for you to pop-in for coffee and a chat every Thursday morning from 9.30. For further information and events for the New Year, please visit our website

[www.stjamesdownley.org.uk](http://www.stjamesdownley.org.uk)

### **Street Lighting**

Please report all lighting repairs to the Parish Clerk at: H.W. 444683 or via "e" mail to [downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)

Please ensure that you include the street name and the house number that is nearest to the light, lights cannot be reported without this information.

### **Downley Parish Notice Boards**

Any notices for the Parish notice boards need to be left at the Community Centre in the wooden box in the oak room in an envelope for the attention of the parish clerk. Notices must be received one month in advance of the event. Notice boards are updated once a month, on the first Thursday of the month. Please post flyers through the letterbox at the Community Centre clearly marked for the Clerks attention. Please notify the Clerk if you have posted flyers at the centre by emailing to [downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)

**All notices must be for local non profit organisations. Please ensure that A5 size notices are supplied.**

## Up & Coming... Please visit [Downley.org](http://Downley.org) for all the latest and up to date events and news.

- Dec 2 DCPS Work Party. Meet at the tank crossing 10pm
- 4 Downley Village Evening WI 48th Birthday Party Old School Community Centre 7.45pm
- 6 Downley Evening WI Annual Evening of Christmas Music St James' Church 8pm
- 7 Wycombe Concert Band Christmas Concert Chilternwood School 7.30pm
- 10 Gardening Society Talk 'Disraeli and a Family Christmas' 8pm St James' Church 11.45pm
- 11 Parish Council meeting 7.45pm at the Old School Community Centre
- 13 Downley Descants Christmas Concert St James Church 7.30pm
- 17 Coffee Stop with Fernie Fields Four and Downley Descants St. James Church 11am
- 20 Carols on the Common led by St James Church Commonside time TBC
- 21 Community Christmas Carols Jubilee Green 3pm
- 23 Nine Lessons and Carols St James Church 11am
- 24 Crib Service/Christingle St James Church 4pm
- 24 Midnight Mass St James Church 11.30 pm
- 25 Christmas Day Service St James Church 11am
- 31 New Beacon Lighting 11.45pm on Commonside

### 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](mailto:news@downley.org) where we would love to hear from you.

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# From Wycombe to Westminster

## Steve Baker MP

*The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has now given his decision on local government reorganisation: Buckinghamshire will have one single unitary authority. All the Councils in Buckinghamshire agreed the current system of county and district councils could not go on.*



Following the announcement, my first concern is to ensure the people of Wycombe receive the best quality service from local government, responding to local concerns and with local accountability whilst keeping taxes low.

Our public services must be rooted within our communities. It will be important for the new council to have a physical presence in our town with hubs to access services and a strengthened Local Area Forum making decisions. Given most people in Bucks live in the south of the county, most councillors serving in the new council will be drawn from the southern towns and villages.

One of the first challenges which the Leader and Chief Executive of the new Buckinghamshire Unitary Council must face is how to ensure Wycombe's assets are used first and foremost to serve Wycombe residents. These assets have been built-up and safeguarded over many years and I know my constituents, quite rightly, want reassurance they will be used to enhance services in our area. As we move forward, I hope local people will unite around proposals which will safeguard and improve the local services on which so many depend.

Turning to local Downley matters, in September I was delighted to open the immersive learning room at Downley School, and meet many of the staff, parents and pupils. Although the innovative, 4D, state-of-the-art room was a huge contrast to my own classroom of nearly forty years ago, I still had great fun trying-out the equipment

and I am sure it will truly enhance the teaching and learning at the school.

In early November I had one of my regular meetings with local NHS leaders. We talked about Winter Planning, and I was told schemes were in place to increase staffing, especially nurses, and that the whole NHS and social care system will be working together to make sure patients receive the most effective treatment during the next few months. This year the Health Trust is recruiting volunteers with a 4x4 vehicle which can be used in heavy snow to transport healthcare to patients. If you would like to offer your services please call 01494 426553, and I know the Trust will be delighted to hear from you. The NHS has also launched its Flu Jab campaign, so if you haven't done so already, please think about protecting yourself from flu this year.

If you would like to get in touch with me, please email: [steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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.

It only remains for me to send season's greetings and to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year.

**If you would like to get in touch with me, please email: [steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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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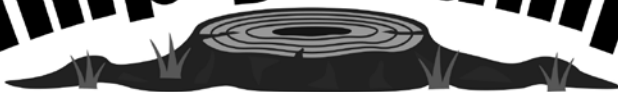
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# News from the District

*The Secretary of State, James Brokenshire, announced on 1st November 2018 that he is supporting a new single unitary district council that will cover the whole of Buckinghamshire, excluding Milton Keynes.*



Following this decision, I will ensure that the residents of Downley and Plomer Hill are heard, that any future organization will put local people first and that local representation is given the highest priority. Whatever happens, it is our Council, our money and our future.

As a new parent of a child at The Downley School I was impressed by the new vision and the future direction that the school is taking. The new immersive learning room was an inspiration and I was pleased to learn of the continuing and increasing involvement between Chiltern Wood School and The Downley School. I wish all new parents, existing parents, pupils, teachers, staff and governors every success for the future.

Regeneration in High Wycombe continues. The Desborough Road/Baker Street area, The Hughenden Quarter and Handy Cross are now showing the results of the huge investment made by the District Council in terms of new housing, employment, leisure and businesses. Ongoing investment and regeneration are planned for the town centre with visions for White Hart Street, Frogmoor, The High Street and what was the Octagon (now part of Eden) coming to a point where planning applications and works are imminent. The District Council has been working hard to see these areas, which have had a lack of investment, being brought back up to a standard we can be proud of. It has involved many third parties which are ultimately not in our control, but agreements have been reached and positive action will soon start.

The new Local Plan has been through the examination stage, and a decision from the planning inspectorate is expected in the new year. It is hoped that the Local Plan will be adopted by WDC around March 2019 following a formal consultation on any changes recommended. The plan will then have full weight in determining planning applications and guard against speculative applications for green field/greenbelt locations and direct development towards locations already specified in the plan. The need for new employment land and housing has been identified along with the required infrastructure. The plan sets out how and where this will be achieved.

On a local level, traffic and parking are always an issue. I am always open to hear about specific local concerns. The contract for the waste collection service is being renegotiated, if you have issues concerning this service I would like to hear from you, I am aware of occasional missed collections which can and should be reported.

I was pleased to be able to donate my ward budget towards the rejuvenation project for Gosling Grove Pond. The pond is an asset to Downley and tribute should go to all involved. The new café on Downley High Street is a welcome addition to the amenities available to local residents and visitors to the common alike. It has often been said that local enterprises need to be supported and I would echo that, so I would urge us all to use all the local shops and services to maintain their existence for the future.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

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

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# Best Kept Village Competition

An excellent result for Downley in 2018

This year Downley has been awarded a certificate of merit in the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village competition. This certificate represents the excellent work that goes into our Village by dedicated volunteers and residents of Downley.

Downley received full marks for Community spaces, this included the Community Centre which is managed by DOSCA, the Memorial Hall, managed by the Memorial Hall Committee and the Common, which is managed the Downley Common Preservation Society. The judges

said that overall, they were very impressed by the visible evidence of Community effort in the Downley.

This is a certificate we can all be proud of, it will be on display in the notice boards.

Litter in the village brought our marks down considerably, despite daily litter picking litter is something that plagues our Village. Please help keep our Village tidy. This year the Downley festival was enjoyed by thousands, the amount of rubbish left at the end of each event for volunteers to pick up was very disappointing. There was a sea of rubbish left on the Common after some events, people had put rubbish in carrier bags and dumped them on the floor next to public bins, this is not disposing of your rubbish responsibly, please take your rubbish home with you.

Lets all strive to achieve an even better result in the Competition next year.

Congratulations to Chalfont St Giles who won the Best Kept Village competition.



Comments to The Parish Clerk @ [Downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk)

## **JILL'S SCIENCE FOR FUN TAKING THE AIR AND GIVING IT BACK**

Where does an oak tree come from?

This a question I often ask my students. Even after a lesson discussing photosynthesis, I still see some blank looks, or am told that it comes from the soil. If it "came from the soil" there would surely be an oak tree size hole in the ground surrounding each tree. Even with a theoretical understanding of photosynthesis it is tricky for most to imagine that the tree was literally made out of air.

Plants use energy from sunshine to power a reaction between rainwater and carbon dioxide from the air. This reaction makes glucose which, with the addition of a few ions dissolved in the water, is then converted into everything the tree needs to make itself; proteins, fats, complex carbohydrates, vitamins, enzymes, leaves, branches, roots, flowers, seeds, just everything.

Similarly, if we ask someone who has lost weight where they think it has gone they tend not to know. In reality they have mostly simply breathed it out. Respiration is the process whereby we release energy from carbohydrates, fats, or (less frequently we hope) proteins. Simplistically, respiration is the opposite process to photosynthesis; energy (originally from that sunshine taken in by the plants) is released as the body breaks bonds to make fats/carbohydrates into carbon dioxide and water. We breathe out the carbon dioxide, together with water vapour. (A little of that water may also go to your bladder too – that's why, when you are using lots of energy on a cold day, shivering, you may find you wind up needing to run for a wee sooner than expected.)

Next time you see that cloud of breath leave your body on a cold day remember you are simply returning to the air that which was taken from it by a plant. The Carbon cycle in its simplest form.

By Tutor Jill Burrell - 0773 8609944



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# Save the(Gosling Grove)Pond Update

*Well, the summer was pretty unkind to the pond wasn't it?*

The water evaporated completely during June and July, leaving a fertile bed of mud behind.

This rapidly became a mass of vegetation and at one point it was possible to walk across without getting your feet wet.....

The stakes used to build up the side of the duck island took root (!), grew to some 2.5 metres high and the lack of water exposed quite a lot of branches and some litter. So the pond took on a rather neglected look which was a shame, especially after all the work that had been done earlier in the year.

A small but very productive working party was assembled in October to deal with the sprouting stakes on the duck island and to clear the litter and fallen branches.

The pictures below show two October views – before and after the work party with many thanks to everyone who turned out to help.

DPC is taking advice on next steps which might include the use of a digger to create a better bank on the south side and make the duck island more like an island.

The message is simply to watch this space...

*Clive Knapman*





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# J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

## Winter 2018

Wal, here it is again—Winter! Lookin out the winder it's blowin a gale, whirlin clouds of leaves blockin the gutters, and rain..... wal more like sittin under Niagara falls wot ever that is eh? ( Wal, I knows wot that is, I likes pullin Mrs H's leg, though sum times she don't see the joke.... ). But I was goin to get a bonny a'go'in up the plot, but I gave up not havin a frogman's outfit!

So wot about winter eh? I suppose you'll be getting round to sortin out the gardin and the plot.... Wal there's the frost, and the rain, and the gales and the mud, and the snow, and starving pidgins eatin every thing that's not a'netted, and with frozen fingers getting yor sprouts picked, so wot with orl that a bonny is a must, but how to get it a'burnin? I'd love for someone to let me know, wot about yor girl guides and scouts, you knows how to do it, if you can tear yourselves away from yor device, and don't say burn an old tyre, that's helpin global warmin and they don't like that up the plot.

Last edition you'll remember I mentioned 'avin a potagy and that my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke wud explain, wal I wish I'd never mentioned it, - he went on and on, and on.... Usin his French style commuter, but I reckon I've sortid it out, it's a fancy kitchen gardin, orl neatly laid out in little sections, maybe makin a pattern with little sections, sum with herbs, some with salads, sum greens and sum flowers, then trendy young folks can show it orf to their trendy young friends, wal that won't keep the wolf from the door, and if you takes out one lettuce it spoils the effect! Wal I reckons that's

really French, wot they wants is a proper veg plot with veg you knows about eh? Spuds, onions, cabbage, leeks, beans, orl in a straight line to please the Lord of the Manor and the Paris Council, proper gardining that is!

Did you get yor bulbs in, wild flowers a'planted , compost sortid and to finish up if you've got clay sprinkle sum lime about, maybe divide yor rhubarb, lift yor gladdy corms and store em in the shed, and sow yor swee peas in pots and put 'em sum where sheltered.

Wal, that's it for winter, just avin a sip of a mate's cider by is wood burner ,

So cheerio and a'bientot ... and hav a good Christmas eh! (Or 'ad one if you gets this after the festivities).

*J.H. Sent from my iSpade.*



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# Downley History Group

*Although the Downley History Group did not contribute to the last Village News, we are still flourishing and have recently welcomed two more people with a interest in Downley past to the group. You may also have seen our display at Downley Day.*



This time we would really like to hear from people who worked at the Mines and West factory when it was in Plomer Green Lane, where West Close is now.

In the 1930s the Mines and West factory was at the Commonside end of Narrow Lane. Are any of your family in this early photograph below? If so, please let us know- we would love to hear from you.

Finally, in the spring of next year we are intending to present some of what we have found about Downley in past times, when we will be holding a showcase event at the Memorial Hall.

As well some short presentations on a variety of Downley-based subjects, there will be a number of old photographs which we hope you will be able to identify the persons shown.

We hope that you will also take this opportunity to bring along photos of old Downley and its inhabitants, and any other artefacts you may have. More information relating to this event will be given in the next edition of the Downley Village News.

**In the meantime, you can contact the society by email at [downleyhistory@btinternet.com](mailto:downleyhistory@btinternet.com)**



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# Downley War Memorial Hall

*Even though the war is over and the first of the millions of servicemen are returning home telegrams were still arriving notifying families of the death of a loved one, from both before and after the Armistice.*

Back in the Spring I mentioned that the son of the publicans at the Harrow had been captured and was a prisoner of war. Sadly, he died from an infection before being released.

It was reported that the Marquess of Lincolnshire and his brother had donated land on Marlow Hill for the building of a War Memorial Hospital. Lady Lincolnshire had given 1000 guineas (£1050) to the building fund. At the meeting held to announce the plans for the new hospital a further £1500 was raised towards the target of at least £15000. By the end of February nearly £7000 had been donated. A football match between Wycombe Wanderers and the RAF to raise money for the Hospital had to be postponed due to fog.

Elsewhere around the town the Wycombe Trades and Labour Council were setting up a scheme to target the 4-5000 workers from Piddington to Wooburn asking them to contribute 2 a week (just under 1p but worth around 60p at today's prices). In twelve months, that could raise £2000.

The Marquess had a son who died of his wounds at Ypres in 1915. Amongst his other titles was Baron Carrington which, on his death in 1928, passed to his brother. The new Baron's grandson was Peter Carrington who became Foreign Secretary and Secretary General of NATO and died earlier this year.

In Downley a meeting was arranged to discuss how best to raise funds for the new hospital. The hope was that a significant figure could be reached by Easter allowing the Village to then concentrate its own

memorial. A further meeting, open to all villagers, was scheduled for 22 February to consider what form this would take.

At this second meeting two options were discussed; the erection of a monument and a village hall scheme. Mr. Butler, agent for the West Wycombe Estate, announced that Sir John Dashwood would donate the site for a Hall and 10 guineas towards the building costs. Several of those present pledged money and it was agreed that the hall would be at the bottom of Chapel Street and that there would also be a visible monument.

The Royal Grammar School were also holding discussions about a suitable memorial for Old Boys lost in the conflict. As well as the soldiers, the first prisoners of war to be released where arriving home including the six men from Downley who had been captured. An event was put on to welcome them back with a number of other soldiers who were at home convalescing also invited. "Considering the present difficulties ... an excellent spread was laid on ... followed by a programme of music and song provided by locals"

The Belgian Relief Fund was being closed as the refugees had all returned home. The remaining money held was transferred to the Belgian Repatriation Fund.

Back to the present and the new front doors that I mentioned last time are due to be fitted during November, so they may already be there by the time you read this.

At the time of writing, our Silent Soldier has not arrived but, hopefully, it will be on display by Remembrance Sunday.

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## **JILL'S MATHS FOR FUN SOLUTIONS FROM PAGE 9**

### **1. 484m<sup>2</sup>**

Explanation:

Side length of Jimmy's = Square root of 121 m<sup>2</sup> = 11m

Side length of Hamish's = 2x11 = 22m

So, area of Hamish's = 22m x 22m = 484m<sup>2</sup>

Alternatively you could simply have said that as the side length of Hamish's is double that of Jimmy's then the area will be (2x2)=4 times the area . 4x121 = 484m<sup>2</sup>

### **2. 1hour 36mins**

Explanation

Jimmy's hedge:

Easiest to do this in full lengths of hedge across and down rather than individual rectangles.

3x8m=24m

5x6m=30m

30 m + 24 m = 54m

Jimmy's time taken to trim = 54 ÷ 5 = 10.8 hours = 10 hours 48 minutes

(0.8 of an hour = 0.8 x 60)

Hamish's hedge:

Outside perimeter = 2 x 8m + 2 x 6m = 16m + 12m = 28m

Inside we need to divide into quarters with two lines perpendicular to the edges

1x 8m + 1 x 6m = 14m

Then divide into eighths with diagonals, length of which is calculated using Pythagoras's theory;

6<sup>2</sup> + 8<sup>2</sup> = diagonal<sup>2</sup> = 36 + 64 = 100

So, the diagonal is 10m (square root of 100).

2 x 10m = 20m

So total length of hedge = 28m + 14m + 20m = 62m

Hamish's time taken to trim = 62 ÷ 5 = 12.4 hours = 12 hours 24 minutes

(0.4 of an hour = 0.4 x 60 mins)

Difference

12hours 24mins – 10hours 48mins = 11hours 84mins – 10hours 48mins = 1hour 36mins

By Tutor Jill Burrell - 0773 8609944



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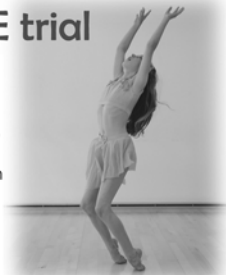
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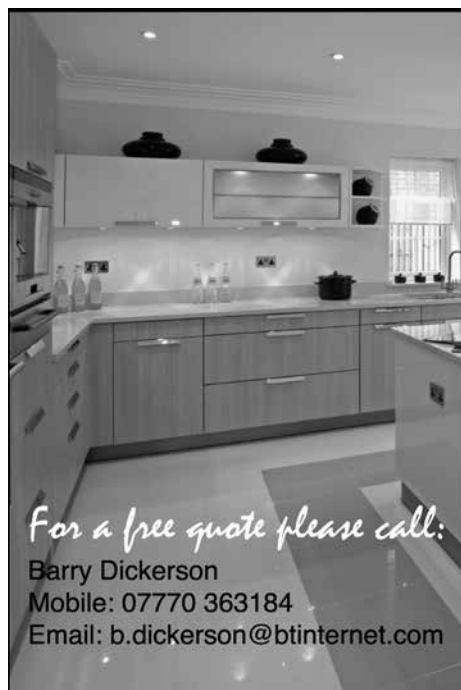
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## Credits

### Editor

Simon Scott at [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org)

### Advertising

Send advertising copy to [adverts@downley.org](mailto:adverts@downley.org)

### Distribution

Coordinated by Sarah Bass. Volunteers to deliver locally are always needed. If interested contact Sarah on:

[sarah.bass001@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.bass001@gmail.com) or 01494 462873

### Rates

Half Page £30 | Quarter Page £20 | Eighth Page £15

### Deadlines

The Village News is published quarterly in November, February, May and August. The deadline for adverts and copy for the next issue is 31 January 2019.

### Website

[news@downley.org](mailto:news@downley.org)

### Copy

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

Any copy or photographs sent to this address may also be used on the [downley.org](http://downley.org) website and facebook page:

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

### Steering Committee

The Downley Communications Forum set up as part of the Community Plan, provides oversight to the Village News, the Village enews and the [downley.org](http://downley.org) website.

**Chairman** Bill Thompson

**Secretary** Peter Loadman

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