

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 118/March 2019



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## Editorial

Although we were all caught out by the flurry of snow in weeks gone past it now feels like spring is in the air as the nights get progressively lighter. This spring issue of the Downley Village News sees important information from Westminster. Brexit will soon be upon us and the end of the process of leaving the EU somehow this feels like the start again. Are you exhausted or are you excited? Post your views on the Downley Facebook page, I am sure this will be interesting reading.

Whichever view you hold on Brexit the Summer will bring the Downley Festival where you will be able to experience some excellent entertainment and forget about the EU pressures on our island Country.

England has the chance to achieve another grand slam victory in the six nations rugby tournament and by the time this issue is posted through your doors the results will be out. The team who work hard to bring you this publication are in need of some more team players and so please email [bill.thompson473@gmail.com](mailto:bill.thompson473@gmail.com) if you have time to spare to assist us in maintaining this excellent local magazine.

Enjoy this issue and remember a community is only as good as the people who contribute to its health and happiness. Everyone can spare some time to help elderly neighbours, keep the village clean or volunteer for the Parish Council or DVN magazine. Please offer your help and together our community will remain healthy.

*Simon Scott Editor  
editor@downley.org.*



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# Downley Common News

## Mannings Pond

Winter is always a quiet time on the Common, but it does give an opportunity to do a bit of maintenance on Mannings Pond while the newts are off on their holidays. When you walk past the pond, you can see lots of bull rushes and grass and other vegetation growing in the middle. In fact, almost all of this is floating and it provides a platform to support leaf mulch and other debris that, in time would totally clog up the pond and possibly even fill it in. The project over the last few years has therefore been to gradually remove a strip around the outside edge. In reality this has turned into a bit like painting the Forth Bridge; as soon as we get all the way round, the original section will have grown over again. We can already see this happening where grass is invading the section we started on three years ago.

It seems we are not the only ones to be taking this approach; a recent visit to Daisy Pond over the border in Naphill shows our opposite numbers there have a similar project to clear vegetation from their pond as seen in the photos alongside.

The causeway between the north and south parts of Mannings Pond are also prone to colonisation by Willow trees which is not the right place for them as we are trying to prevent excessive leaf fall into the pond so we have also cut these back. They will regrow in time. The



cuttings make a useful addition to the dead hedges that surround the pond which are there to try and stop dogs going for a swim.

Wading waist-deep into the pond on a chilly January day is always a pleasure, so any volunteers who would like to help out are always welcome. See: [www.downleycommon.org.uk](http://www.downleycommon.org.uk).

*Bill Thompson. DCPS*



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# Downley Evening WI

*I was reading this morning that lots of people are complaining that this January has seemed especially long. It's a funny thought, isn't it, when this January has the same number of days as all the other Januaries we've lived through ... I wonder if you have felt like that?*

Are you relieved to see the back of this first month of the year? Our perception of time passing is very personal and subjective, of course. Perhaps this month has seemed to drag for you because of short, dark days. Or illness, yours or a family member's. Or the interminable talk about Brexit. Whatever the reason, February is now on the doorstep and the days are already longer. Snowdrops are popping up and the supermarkets are selling daffodils and tulips so we know that Spring is coming, despite the ice, frost and snow currently featuring prominently on our weather forecasts.

Downley Evening WI got the year off to a good start with a talk about recorded music and our programme of speakers continues in February with a presentation from Gill and Barry Goodman entitled "Good morning, Lords and Ladies". Sounds intriguing. The March meeting, as always, is a closed meeting when we celebrate our birthday. We do love a good party. There is always plenty going on apart from our monthly meetings. We have a craft group and our Literary Lunch group – please note though that the Literary Lunch is far from highbrow!

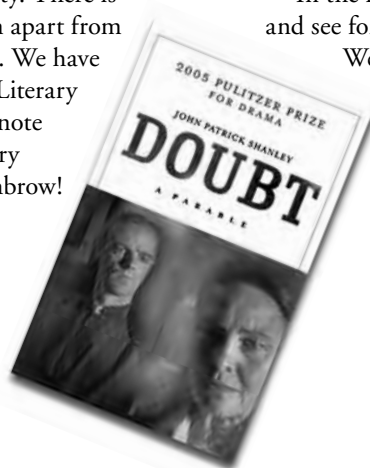
Each month has a topic and members bring along something they've read on the topic to share with the group. Very often, this might be a humorous poem (Pam Ayres is very popular), a newspaper piece, an extract from a favourite book anything goes. And the conversation flows, as does the inevitable fun. It's light-hearted and great for everyone.

The Bucks Federation of WIs also provides a wide range of opportunities and activities. For example, there is going to be a Fused Glass Workshop in March and we are being offered tickets for a performance of Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Doubt, a Parable" by John Patrick Shanley, in April. That's just a couple of highlights to give you an idea of the scope of what's on offer. As ever, alongside the sociable side of our involvement in WI, there is a constant thread of social action and our deliberations have begun about this year's campaign. I'll tell you more about that next time.

In the meantime, why not come along and see for yourself what we're about.

We meet regularly on the second

Tuesday of the month  
at 7.45pm at St. James'  
Church, Plomer Hill.



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



---

# Community Assets Available to Borrow

Over the last few years, a number of items have been purchased by fund raising groups at the request of individual societies on the understanding they can be used by the wider community groups. These include:

1. Small marquee, white, 10 x 4m held by Downley Community Centre
2. Large gazebo, purple, 6 x 3m held by Downley day
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Other items will be added to the list in due course. An up to date list is available at: <https://www.downley.org/community/communityassets>

These items are available for use at specific events by community organisations within the Parish. This excludes commercial organisations or private parties. A named individual must be responsible for the items during the loan period and naturally any damage would need to be paid for. The groups that look after these items may add their own conditions

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# Downley Community Centre News

## Father Christmas Grotto

Held for the second time, his appearance this year was even more popular than before. Over 35 mostly very good children patiently waited for an audience when they were presented with their free gift. A big thank you to the volunteers who helped organise this event.



## DCC grant

Illegal fly tipping is an increasing problem in our area so Downley Community Centre was very pleased to make an award to the Downley Common Preservation Society which enabled them to purchase and install a camera to help catch offenders. The equipment was supplied to a Bucks County Council specification and can provide vital evidence that has been used in other areas to lead to successful convictions.

## Hirers News

- a) A new beginners class for yoga is starting up. Thursdays between 6 and 7pm  
Contact: rohinimitra9@gmail.com tel: 07984 839212
- b) A new combination of Pilates and dance mix is proving popular on Tuesdays, 6 - 7.15pm.  
Details from rachel@rachelburtonfitness.co.uk tel: 07984 167016
- c) Moo Music has an updated programme for 2019 and different day and time during term time. Thursdays 10.30 – 11.15 am Contact:  
Gabriella Stiles gabby@moo-music.co.uk tel 07523 841036

*The Downley Community Centre Management Committee.*



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# Downley Descants News

*Downley Descants is a community choir serving the village of Downley and the surrounding area. We are accepting new members and are available to sing at events.*



Christmas seems so far away now and we look back again on the past festive season very fondly with memories of our successful concert performances. There is so much excellent music composed for the Christmas season and we were delighted to entertain with serious (e.g. the moving song “Bethlehem” from the musical “Martin Guerre”) and fun pieces (e.g. a fast moving version of “The Holly and The Ivy” that was over so fast we needed to sing it twice!) as well as a mix of the traditional carols. For the Christmas concerts we unveiled our new conductor’s podium for Louise, our musical director and conductor. Singing together is so much easier when we can all see Louise’s directions.

We started back refreshed soon after the New Year and we are currently learning a song from “The Greatest Showman” and one originally by Bob Dylan. We’ll keep the titles secret for the moment but we expect to be performing them soon.

Singing and having fun are still high priorities for us as a choir, and I’m glad to report that we continue to make significant donations to charity. In the 6+ years we have been together we have raised over £8700 for charities selected by our members. We sang at John Lewis on the last Saturday before Christmas to raise money and awareness for Child Bereavement UK and the proceeds from our Christmas concerts have enabled us to donate £405 each to the Children’s charity based in Aylesbury, Pace and to the Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme, a Wycombe based charity that

supports the homeless.

Since we started out tentatively in 2012 we have grown and developed together as a choir. We now have a membership of 52 male and female singers and each year we work hard and build in confidence that shows in our performances. We are always accepting new members. Maybe you would like to give us a try; you are most welcome. If you want any information or to register your interest then you can let us know via the “contact us” page on our website ([www.downleydescants.org.uk](http://www.downleydescants.org.uk)) or you can telephone Lynn on 01494 436063 or Julian on 01494 440430. If you prefer, you could just come along to a rehearsal. We meet most Thursdays during school term times at 8pm at Sunnybank Church, Moor Lane, Downley, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP13 5YP. We cater for all abilities but there is no need to be able to read music and we don’t have auditions. We even give you 2 free try-out weeks for you to see us for yourself. Maybe singing and the well-known health benefits it brings could be a new thing for you in 2019. What have you got to lose?

*Julian Grigg - Tenor*



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# Coffee Stop

*Hello again everyone, I hope you had a most enjoyable Christmas, we celebrated in our usual fashion with seasonal goodies, a raffle and an appearance from 'Allsorts' and a selection (a warble? A Trill?) of Downley Descants leading us in Carols and a rousing performance of the Twelve Days of Christmas. A Fitting send off for the year.*



Since then we have sad news to report; our oldest and very loyal customer, Gwen Snook, died at the grand age of 106. Gwen lived in the area all her life, she married but never had children although she was very close to her sister and her family. Tragically Gwen's sister and brother in law died in a plane crash leaving two young children and Gwen was very much involved with their upbringing, she was immensely proud of her family and later she would bring photographs and update us with news. Gwen was widowed in middle age but fiercely independent she had a car and drove herself all over the country often with friends, this independence continued until her final weeks although she gave up driving long ago. Gwen was always busy and made amazingly fine knitted shawls for every new baby as well as keeping Romanian orphanages supplied with little bonnets. When knitting became too difficult she graduated onto 1000 piece jigsaws and kept her brain in gear doing wordsearch puzzles every day. Probably uniquely in High Wycombe, Gwen was the recipient of 6 Birthday

Cards from HM The Queen which she shared with us and was immensely proud of. Gwen was one of our most regular customers and also of the Links lunches, she was a great role model, a stalwart friend and will be much missed.

At this time we also remember with great affection our dear friend and colleague, Maggie, who passed away exactly a year ago. Another great friend, role model and general influencer, whenever something needed doing Maggie would leap into the breach, whether it was organising the raffle or wrapping all the boxes of biscuits. Maggie tackled her last illness with supreme bravery and humour, always considerate of those around her, we miss her very much.

Thank you to everyone who helps us, please come and visit us at St James' church Hall every Monday from 11am to 1pm for a snack and a natter. I wish you well for the Spring which must come soon.

Ann Buxton  
pabuxton@hotmail.com  
07951 145662

# Downley Day News

At our AGM in November, the Downley Day committee awarded grants to the following organisations, all of whom are based or support projects in Downley and the surrounding area.

- High Wycombe Sling & Nappy Library in Downley to support volunteer training
- Downley Common Preservation Society to fund a camera for recording evidence of fly-tipping
- Downley Lodge residential home for adults with learning disabilities to equip a sensory room
- PAWT in a Storm to support animal rescue and rehoming work

*Continued on page 17...*

# pilates



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...Continued from page 15

We also funded the Christmas Tree at Jubilee Green and the Community Carol Singing on the 21st December with the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Downley Day 2019 will be on Saturday 15th June with the Concert on the Common on Saturday 6th July 2019.

Happy New Year and good wishes to all those who have supported the village in the past. We are always looking for help to organise the events we run, so volunteers should contact us via [info@downley.org](mailto:info@downley.org).

## Chameleon Singles Group



*We had a busy winter season of events with plenty to choose from including our two festive meals.*

Once again both of these were well supported and our table at Hazlemere Golf Club enjoyed not only some good food but dancing too. A further celebration at our December Pub Night rounded off 2018 well.

January is the month we hold our AGM and planning meeting for the year. This was held as usual at the Pub Night on the 25th. There was a good attendance and few ideas came forward for events later in the year including a short trip to France and to Beamish in County Durham. The summer BBQ has already been planned and a day trip to the coast will again feature.

In early February we visited Croydon Airport Museum. This is in the original terminal building of the first London Airport which was in service until 1959 when operations fully transferred to Heathrow. A visit to the world's first ever control tower was a definite treat.

With the colder days currently with us we are doing fewer outside events but will resume these with one of the Snowdrop Walks in West Wycombe Park. It is planned to do more walks throughout spring and summer and hopefully we'll have good weather to match.

Some of our events run monthly like the Friday Lunch Club and Pub Nights both of which are great places to meet other members especially for newcomers. The group also arranges trips to the theatre, cinema, comedy evenings, concerts, days out and various other events throughout the year. As spring is now nearly with us, we will be doing a few more outside events and taking the opportunity to explore both near and further afield. Coffee mornings are a popular event held at either a member's home, café or garden centre. We plan to do several of these throughout the year.

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 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.**

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

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# St James Voice

*Thank you to everyone who came to Carols on the Common on December 20th.*



It was lovely to see so many people and we look forward to repeating this event next Christmas. All the churches in Downley working together, or Downley ACTs organized this event. Our next event will be the dawn service on Easter morning, Sunday 21st April, and will be led by Moor Lane Methodists. All are very welcome to attend. ACTs have also arranged a “Safari Meal” which will be held on May 18th. Look on our website for more details if you are interested in coming along.

Although we are a very small church community, we at St James are very committed to charitable work and fundraising. During Advent we held a Toy Service at which toys were donated for the children of families at Saunderton Lodge. Several members of the congregation also took part in the Reverse Advent Calendar scheme operated by the One Can Trust. Instead of taking something out of a calendar, a packet or tin of food was added for each day from Advent Sunday to Christmas Day and the boxes taken to the One Can Trust in time for distribution for Christmas. Thinking further afield, St James also supported the Disaster Emergency Committee Indonesia Tsunami Appeal.

We have a full programme of services all the way up to Easter, details of which can be found on our website [www.stjamesdownley.org.uk](http://www.stjamesdownley.org.uk).

At the time of writing we are particularly looking forward to our service of Holy Communion at 11.00 on March 10th, which will be led by the Bishop of Buckingham.

Our church part of the Diocese of Oxford but this is divided into four smaller ‘episcopal Areas’, each overseen by their own Area Bishop. The Bishop of Buckingham is the Rt. Revd. Dr. Alan Wilson. We hope that many people from the local community will be able to join us and will report back on the occasion in the next edition of Downley Village News.



If you visit our website you will see that we are in the process of recruiting a new Associate Priest for St James. We have been without an incumbent since the retirement of Rev Alison Finch. We are immensely grateful to the High Wycombe Deanery team and in particular to Melvyn Bleakley and Jenny Roughan for leading our services for the last few months. However, we are very optimistic that a part time priest will soon be in place and very excited about our future development.

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

Collis Boucher | [cboucher20@hotmail.com](mailto:cboucher20@hotmail.com) | 07971634562

Paul Perowne | [p.maddockperowne@talktalk.net](mailto:p.maddockperowne@talktalk.net) | 01494 465608

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# First Tuesday WI

*The Turkey and Tinsel are well past. How about your New Year resolutions? Supermarkets are filling their shelves with Easter eggs and hot cross buns. Hopefully Spring is not too far away – the days are lengthening, the bulbs are shooting up and, hopefully, the weather will not become too wintery, stopping us from getting out and about.*



We celebrated our 48th Birthday with a party at the beginning of December. It was catered for us by Anne Tennant, which meant we could all sit back, look on and tuck in!!!!

Our 2019 had started. January's talk was about Cliveden – its Power, Politics & Scandals and February had us 'Trekking the World – no mean feat!!!!

The next few talks involve The Royal Flying Doctor Service, 40 years of teaching and Victorian women – Corsets, Crinolines & Mangles. Anyone remember mangles?!!!!

Our talks are very diverse and give us insight into the lives of very different people and of past times in our history. The WI is a very broad church – groups meet in cities, towns and villages. Meetings are held in pubs, village halls & the odd stately home – but wherever we meet, all offer the same warm welcome, a speaker or a demonstration, social time and, of course tea & refreshments.

There are also opportunities to learn new things – crafts, flower arranging, book clubs, to name a few. Chances to go on visits to new places and see new things. In December a group went to Windsor Castle. Not only did we see the wonders of the building, we also saw Meghan's dress on display. Last year saw visits to Highclere & Blenheim Palace. And there are always visits for pub meals and cream teas and coffee evenings!!!

Many trips and opportunities are available at either local, County or National level. Friendships are made, new places are visited and the opportunity to see and try new things are there for all. Please come and visit us and see what we can offer you. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month, at 7 45pm, in the Old School Community Centre. You will be given a warm welcome and, who knows, you might see a familiar face. If you would like any further information, please contact our President,

Pat Heath on 01494 535998, who will be very happy to help.

In the meantime – if it's not too early – have a very happy Easter – and watch the hot cross bun intake -another resolution has bitten the dust!!!!

*Pat Koning*



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Downley Community Centre  
School Close,  
Downley,  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire HP13 5TR  
Tel: 01494 528133

## Library Opening Times

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

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



## Follow us on Facebook.

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

## Book Charges

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

## Computer & Internet Facilities

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

Now that Christmas is over and perhaps you have read all the books you had as presents, please think of the library if you want to give them a new home.!

The library has copies of most of the Downley News going back to the first issue in 1987. We do have a few gaps and 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, 30, 45, 46, 47, 64, 68, 69 and 73.

Please phone John Morris on 01494 528683



View of Library

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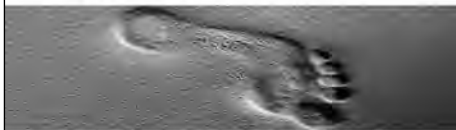
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# Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

## 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 WI	1st Tues 19.30
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wed 20.00
First Class Learning	Sat 10am
Flower club	3rd Tues 19.30
French Circle	2nd Fri 19.30
High Wycombe Church of Christ	2nd, 4th and 5th Sun 15.00
Kingdom Dynamics Chapel	Sun 10am - 12.00
Lace Making	Term-time Thurs 12.45
Line Dancing	Tues 12.45 and Fri 10am
Moo-Music. Sensory for 0 - 5 yrs	Thurs 10.00-11.15
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
Pilates and Dance Mix	Tues 18.00-19.15
Rainbows	Term-time Thursday 16.15
Relationship Counselling	By appt
Russian group	3rd Thurs 14.00
Simply Walk	Mon 10am and Thurs 11am
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 - beginners	Thurs 18.00-19.00
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	Tues 9.15am
Yoga	Tues 6.15pm
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.

- March            3    DCPS Work Party at 10am at the Old Dairy
- 12    Downley Parish Council Meeting at the War Memorial Hall
- 25    Barry Gay Memorial Walk starting at the Community Centre at 10am
- April            7    DCPS Work Party at 10am at the Old Dairy
- 9      Downley Parish Council Meeting at the War Memorial Hall
- 18    DCPS Open Meeting at 8pm in the War Memorial Hall
- May             5    DCPS Work Party at 10am at the Old Dairy
- 14    Downley Parish Council Meeting at the War Memorial Hall
- 26    Downley Walk Rogation Day Walk around the Common and the Parish

### 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

*As I am sure you know, the Parliamentary calendar is currently dominated by the UK's withdrawal from the EU. It is clear people want parliamentarians to come together and find a mature compromise that enables the UK to plan for a post-Brexit future.*



Everyone wants confidence and certainty, so we can begin to focus more on other important issues. Over the last few weeks I have worked closely with many MPs with differing views on Brexit trying to find common ground, and that has included meeting with the Prime Minister on a number of occasions. As a result of these discussions a group of MPs have agreed on the 'Malthouse Compromise' which I believe can command a majority of the House of Commons.

I have always been convinced it would be preferable to leave the EU with a deal in place, of the kind the EU offered in March 2018, and I have said this to the Prime Minister and others. We should continue to work closely with our European neighbours on matters of security and international crime, and seek to participate in EU research, innovation, education and cultural programmes. It can only be in everyone's interest to co-operate on citizens' rights, border facilitation, data exchange, recognition of driving licences, and similar. I would also like the Government to propose an advanced free trade agreement covering all sectors, with zero tariffs on goods including services, no quantitative restrictions and no new barriers. We must continue to be good friends and allies to our European neighbours through NATO and joint security arrangements, but as an independent country.

Moving on to other matters, I was pleased to see the Government's NHS Long Term

Plan which will protect the health service now and, in the future, ensuring the NHS is always there for you, me and our families. The Long-Term Plan will transform patient care and see an investment of £20.5 billion a year in real terms by 2023-24. £4.5 billion is being allocated to GP services and community care. The Plan's principal aims are to provide the best maternity care in the world; support people as they grow old whilst maintaining their independence; improve outcomes for all major conditions; increase the NHS workforce; and bring the NHS into the digital age.

In Wycombe, all this follows the welcome news of the opening of the new Urgent Treatment Centre, which offers a range of diagnostic facilities as well as 24-hour access to a GP. There is further good news with the Hospital's new state-of-the-art catheter laboratory and the announcement that Scan appeal is currently working with the Hospital Trust to fundraise for a new MRI scanner which will hopefully be installed at Wycombe Hospital in summer 2019. The scanner is so advanced it will be one the first of its kind in any European hospital.

**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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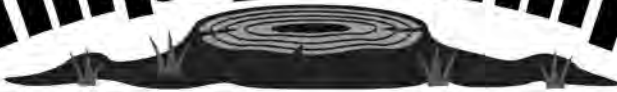
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# News from the District

*Wycombe District Council is united behind the Secretary of State's decision to create a single unitary council in Buckinghamshire by 1 April 2020, based on equal partnership with all the other Buckinghamshire authorities.*



We are committed to building an excellent new unitary council. The challenge is about getting the structure right for the future, doing what is right for Bucks. This is a once in a generation opportunity to remodel the way we work for and with our communities and we have a duty to all our residents to ensure it has the best possible chance of success. At the time of writing, we are in the process of ensuring we get what is right for all our residents and communities in Wycombe District and are waiting for further details from the Secretary of State and confirmation of the exact timetable and processes.

WDC has awarded over £560k to local community groups and charities. 14 organisations will be receiving community support grants for 19/20. Cabinet Member Cllr Peart stated that “They do fantastic work in our district’s communities, looking after the environment, looking after the elderly, looking after people’s welfare and wellbeing and looking after people who are facing real hardship in their lives”. In addition to these grants, WDC accepts applications for smaller community grants of under £1,500 all year round. If you would like more information, please contact me or refer to WDC website ‘apply for a community grant’.

The long-awaited plans for the regeneration of the Chiltern Centre are expected to be presented to the Planning Committee in February, followed hopefully by a planning application. The new owners of the Chilterns have been working with WDC, and the plans will unlock the possibility of improving Frogmoor.

WDC are well under way reviewing properties which are unlicensed and occupied as a House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO). In co-operation with Bucks Fire and Rescue, Housing Options and Trading Standards, the private housing team has reported a successful start. I have long campaigned for more regulation to protect occupants, neighbours and communities from the effect of badly managed HMO’s. This is the first step. I am hopeful that eventually all HMO’s will be licensed and therefore regulated for the safety and wellbeing of the tenants. If you are a landlord or a tenant, and would like more advice, please contact the HMO hotline on 01494 421777.

*Paul*

*Wycombe District Councillor Paul Turner  
paul.turner@wycombe.gov.uk  
07825 842292*

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# Making a Habit of It

*At the weekend I went to one of my “geeky days out”; a day of lectures on a science topic is my idea of fun. This particular day was relatively lightweight, rather than relativity, gravitational waves, the quantum revolution or the mathematical world, it was a day of “How to be a Better You”.*

The topics were varied, but I decided to base this quarter’s Health contribution around one comment made during the day:

“It takes 66 days to form a habit.”

This is helpful to our health in so many ways. We all know how easy it is to take on board some pleasurable habits – my guess would be that those habits that give instant reward are much quicker to take on than others. Reintroducing an old pleasurable habit is easier still. Smoking, eating chocolate (or most commercial breakfast cereals, as there is little nutritional difference) for breakfast, that glass of wine with each meal, the packet of crisps when feeling peckish at 9pm, the 11 am snacklet on biscuits, the 3pm piece of cake, the Friday night pints of beer in the pub with friends after a hard week at work. All of these, and many more, are easy habits to acquire. To quit them we need to have amazing will power and commitment. In most cases we will need to change not just our habits, but also our way of life in order to succeed and remain successful in our commitment.

Maybe one way to do this is to acquire new habits. We will need those 66 days to develop them and instil them as habits; their reward may not be so instant as the cigarette after dinner, but a habit is a habit and a good habit will make us feel healthier and that long term reward will help attain and keep this new addiction.

What can we do?

Perhaps it would be wise to place our new habit where the old one once was, to replace one with the other would be a double victory.

A Friday night run or swim after work.

A glass of iced water in place of the coca cola (don’t kid yourself that aspartame in place of sugar is any better for you).

An egg muffin (this is basically an omelette cooked in a muffin tray) with sour cream in place of a cream cake.

A full fat live yoghurt after dinner, with berries and grated 90% chocolate on top (as long as it doesn’t give you a migraine – that stuff kills my head) instead of a piece of cake or a sticky pudding.

A glass of iced nettle, green, mint or ginger tea instead of wine.

Bacon and egg, or smoked salmon for breakfast instead of the sugary options.

Most importantly decide for yourself what your goal is, what habits you need to lose, what habits you want to take on. Then be kind and patient with yourself. You may stall, but you won’t fail. Keep getting back on the horse whenever you fall off.

Another tip from this weekend was not to be a dabbler, instead to be the person who jumps straight in. Every morning turn the shower on icy cold and jump straight in, do that for 6 weeks and you will find you have taken control of yourself.

How much do you want to be a Better You?

*By Tutor Jill Burrell - 0773 8609944 - PHC Ambassador*



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# Second Annual Memorial Walk and Family Walk at Rogation-tide

## Memorial Walk

On Monday 25th of March, the second annual Memorial Walk will take place in memory of the late Barry Gay who did so much to establish “Simply Walk” in Downley over eleven years. It will also commemorate Joe Arthur ( Simply Walk Leader ) who died in tragic circumstances last Spring. The Walk will leave the Community Centre in School Close at 10 am, it will last about 90 minutes and be followed by free refreshments (including cake) at the Centre. There will also be a raffle In aid of the charities their families supported.

## Rogation Walk

This walk for Downley families and friends will take place on 19th of May leaving the War Memorial Hall at 2 pm. The Rogation walk follows part of Downley’s historic boundary and traditionally marks our Parish territory. Also lasting some ninety minutes, it will finish at Le De Spenser’s Arms on the other side of the Common for free tea, coffee or fruit drinks served by the Landlady.

## Guidance

Both Walks will be led and back marked by trained leaders and back-markers who will have recce-ed the walks beforehand and are there to help you. Walkers of all abilities are welcomed. Please aim to arrive ten minutes before the start and wear suitable clothing and boots or strong shoes. If you are likely to feel thirsty, please carry a bottle of water with you. If you have any questions please contact Pat Greggor or Jeanne Steward.(01494 527004)





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# J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

## Spring 2019

Wal me ole mates, can you believe it eh, it's ere, "Wots e on about" ses Mrs H, orlways a chippin in eh! Wal, e's on about SPRING! 'Spring time, pretty ring time' or summat like that, with orl nature a'wakin up, sun up for longer, its even decided to shine over Nappel way, and they certainly needs to cheer up eh!

Wal, wot did I get up to back in January eh? I gose to Oxford, (that's a big trip for me), and went to the West Oxford Allotments Potato Day, wal there is such a thing, there was loads of stuff for sale there, hundreds of sorts of spuds, all varieties of veg and so on, so did I get summat?...." Don't go spendin too much" she ses. Wot! I ses, once a year I reckons I can blow the moths out of my pocket eh! Anyway I cums away with first early spuds, 'Colleen' (that's Irish I thinks), and favourite Fir Apple, I've ad em before, and... wait for it,.... I'll copy orf the seed packet---- 'super hardy winter survivalists, the best veg to grow in windswept, cold, unsheltered gardens, even in poor wet soil' ---- now that sounds like Downley allotments I reckons, so wot am I goin on about? Wal, it's Russo Siberian white Russian KALE! You sows indoors in early Spring, or later outside, transplant, and pick the leaves as you gose, they have 'whiteish blue green leaves, white stems with a ruffled shape'. Another sort is 'Siberian Red Russian and Dwarf Scarlet Purple, with very decorative deeply curled, crimson-purple leaves'. You gets em from Pennard Plants, Just make sure you keeps the pidgins orf em! Ideas please on makin em edible? For us, not the pidgins Ha Ha!

So its orl go right now, the bulbs up in the gardin, (if you got round to plantin em

in the autumn), and I saw snowdrops in flower in early January, that's a cheerful sign eh! Sweep up them leaves wot are swampin yor flower borders and compost em, keep a'sowin yor peas and beans, plant yor onion setts, Sturon the best, and get them spuds a'planted but remember they can get frosted once they're up. Can you remember where you sowed yor wild flower seeds? Don't go and hoe em orf, thinkin they're weeds, but you wuddent be the first, and wot about the Downley Open Gardins day in the Up Downley Festival? Av a go, its not Chelsea you knows, and if you wants a nose into other peoples gardins and a cup of tea and cake at the Memorial Hall with a chat to orl the Downley gardin folks. then get yourself a ticket. Oh, I nearly forgot to mention tommy toes, eh, sow em or buy the plants, with global warmin yor bound to get a good crop!

So that's it for now, nothin from French cousin Jean d'Artichoke, he's a sulkin over Brexit I reckons, why I don't know,

So cheerio and a bientot,

*J.H. sent from my I Spade.*



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# Up Downley Festival 2019

## Is on its way!

*Starting with the traditional Children's Disco and Downley Day and ending with the massively popular Concert on the Common the 2019 Festival is going to be huge this year.*



Comedy Night will be a sell out as usual with Phil Wang and Mark Simmonds already booked with a couple more acts to be revealed. We're improving the sound quality this year but probably keeping the slightly wonky stage as our acts seem to enjoy the element of risk and make it part of their act!



The Oompah Night is back due to popular demand! Drinking games and silly outfits will be the order of the night, lots of beer and great music from the Lederhosen clad band.



Now is the time to get busy painting, drawing, sculpting, taking photos and writing poetry to make the **8th Annual Art Show** even more diverse than previous years. If you have never exhibited your work before this is the ideal place to do it – beginners work hangs alongside experienced artist's pieces and the local schools and Nursery also contribute to make this a truly 'Downley' Art Show.

**Freetime and Leisure Showcase** -Tuesday evening 18th June - Drop in and find out about the extensive range of Freetime and Leisure groups, clubs, activities, services and social gatherings on offer in Downley. Join us for a cup of tea and cake or a glass of wine in the marquee on Commonsides.

Don't miss an opportunity to meet the people running the groups, to participate in our interactive stalls and find out what you and your family might like to get involved in.

Visit the various Zones, pick up information and chat to people about:

Wellbeing & Get Active	Downley Community
Food & Drink	Hobbies & Interests
Junior Groups & Activities	Services in Downley

There are numerous other events taking place within this three week period so watch out for the Programme which will appear on line shortly and will be delivered with your Summer edition of the Downley Village News!

As we approach the Festival we will really need some help at some of our events to make sure they run smoothly, so if you are interested in becoming a volunteer for a few hours please get in touch at: [suehannaford01@gmail.com](mailto:suehannaford01@gmail.com) – Thank you!

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# Downley History Group

*We thought it would be more appropriate to have the public launch of the Downley Local History Group as part of the 'Up! Downley' activities. Our opening event will be in the Downley War Memorial Hall on Thursday 27th June- a date for your diary. Look out for further information in the summer edition of the Village News.*



Just recently we received a couple of photos from someone who attended the original Downley School at the end of Chapel Street, during and after WW2. These show the victory bonfire celebrations on the Common-mostly of younger children but with a few adults. A number of the children are holding torches of a similar



construction to that sold on November 5th each year. There is however some difference of opinion as whether the event marked the end of the war in Europe (VE-Day) or victory over Japan (VJ-Day), and only a very few names of those in the photos could be recalled. Are you able to help with either of these queries?

We are still collecting photos that show Downley in times gone by, as well as any memories that you may like to share, possibly of family members in some of the photos shown here and in previous editions of the Village News.

**So if you are able to help with further background on the victory bonfire, any of the names in those photos, or with you or your family memories please contact us at: [downleyhistory@btinternet.com](mailto:downleyhistory@btinternet.com)**

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# Downley War Memorial Hall

*Throughout the Spring of 1919 the local paper continued to report the death of many servicemen each week. Some had previously been reported missing in action whilst others had died from their wounds.*

A few were late notifications of deaths occurring in the final days of the war and occasionally there was news of a POW dying before his release. At least one man had been sent home from his unit with influenza from which he succumbed.

Meanwhile, the fund to build the new War Memorial Hospital had passed £9500 by the end of May with four of the local furniture factories joining forces to raise a further £1000.

On a similar note, numerous social events had been arranged in the Village to raise funds for the Hospital and these had been very successful. On one occasion, the refreshments provided by the Committee and friends so far exceeded the requirements that the surplus cakes and jam tarts were held over for an additional party for the children. Together, they raised over £500 at today's prices!

The town's first Memorial, a new organ at the primitive Methodist Chapel in Westbourne Street, was unveiled by the Mayor in early March.

On Easter Monday there was a meeting held at the Methodist Chapel in Downley where a Mr. Frederick Barlow gave "an interesting and comprehensive talk" on Wesleyan Methodism. His father had been involved before him so he was able to cover events going nearly 70 years. The original chapel had been built in 1824, extended to include a gallery in 1861 with the School Room being added three years later.

The following day a "Gathering" was

held at the Council Schools to raise funds for the Village memorial. It featured The Memorial Band and a wide range of activities including: beauty competitions for both ladies and gentlemen, a ladies nail-driving contest, a ladies tie-tying contest and a gentleman's hat-trimming contest. There ought to be something there that we could resurrect for Downley Day! At the end, £16 (close to £1000 at today's prices) had been raised.

In addition to deaths and memorials there was clear evidence of things beginning to move on.

With the repatriation of the Belgian refugees almost complete the Prime Minister sent a letter of thanks to the Town for the efforts made to look after them.

The High School had been to view their old premises once the VAD Hospital had closed and were in talks with the Education Authority and some architects about the future.

Wycombe Phoenix Athletic Club had restarted after closing down during the War and are still going strong today!

For the first time in four years there were reports of football matches that did not just involve teams from the Services based in and around High Wycombe.

The Electric Light Co. had given notice that owing to the Summer Time Act they had to charge for 20 units per quarter for the Summer quarter whether or not that much was consumed. The only way to avoid paying would be to use no electricity at all!

As 2019 sees the 80th anniversary of the start of WWII, in my next article I shall begin to look at how that impacted on the Village and surrounding areas.

*Continued on page 43...*



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...Continued from page 41

The five men from Downley killed during that war were:

Cecil Avery	Roy Carrington
Wilfred Gerald Harvey	Kenneth Mullet
Harold Percy	Thomas Stratford

I have some basic information about them but would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows of these men. As far as I can see, only Wilfred Harvey was married, to Joyce Menday, and may therefore have had a child.

Back to the present and the new front doors have been fitted and stained to match their predecessors. Let's hope they last as long.

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## Hillclimb Checks For You

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We check the oil and grade it out of 10 with a full explanation – we can even let you know when it will need attention! Anyway, our techs love a new machine to use and they have found it fascinating to use, we can't believe we are the only garage in the UK (as far as we know) that uses this technology. Well, we are Garage Of The Year UK you know!



Anyway, if you fancy knowing the full status of all of your fluids and components, remember to book into our workshop (which you can now do online) and enjoy that this is a service we provide for our lovely Downley residents for Free!

Til next time!

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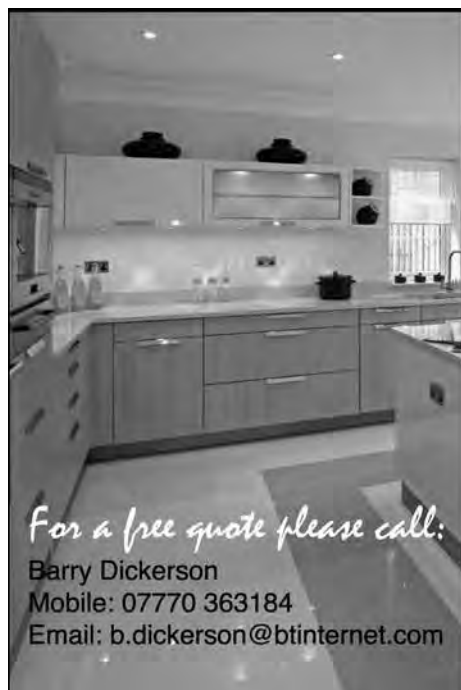
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Please send text in editable format such as \*.txt, \*.rtf, \*.doc, .docx. Photographs to accompany the text should be sent in as high a resolution as possible in any common graphics format. Copy should be sent to [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org).

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

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Students learn topics and skills they will need whatever school they move on to following the selection exam, and they maximise their academic potential both in exams and in school work.

Mock tests give students a chance to acclimatise to exam taking and to learn that exams are to be enjoyed and not dreaded.

- Literacy and numeracy help for all ages.
- KS3/4 Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths.
- KS5 Biology.

Resident in Downley, I am a science graduate, a qualified teacher and a mum.

To discuss your needs please text me;

**Jill: 0773 860 99 44**



# Up! Downley 2019

Village Festival  
**15 June - 6 July**

## **\*THE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS SO FAR:**

**Family Disco**

**Downley Day**

**Liesure/Freetime Showcase**

**Comedy Night**

We reveal 2 of the comics going under canvas on page 39

**Oompah Band**

**Open Studio**

**Downley Dynamo's Fun Day**

**Open Gardens**

**Downley 5k Fun Run**

**Downley Local History Group**

**Downley Descants Concert**

**Village Art Show**

**Its Common Knowledge Walk**

**Concert on the Common**

\*At this early stage the programme is open to changes

**For more information & bookings:**

**festival.downley.org**

**post feedback:**

**facebook.com/Downley.Community**

**enquiries:**

**festival@downley.org**

