



**DOWNLEY  
COMMUNITY**

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER

## Village News



### Features

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

Issue 119/May 2019





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## Editorial

These long Summer days in Spring seem like a God send, but are they part of the changing climate? Last year was a record high temperature Summer and it lasted oh so long. With this extra sunshine we can all make the effort to catch the sun by considering Solar power in our homes and offices. Every little change we make means big changes across the Country as a whole and reduces the burden on power stations which pollute.

I hope you all enjoy reading this issue and there are some achievements (see MP article) being made by Government, despite Brexit, that are helping our environment.

Downley sees new businesses and people moving in and out of the area on a month by month basis so make those new neighbours welcome and don't forget to mention they are welcome to help with their local magazine, just email me using address below. To all you gardeners, use your water butts if the Summer is as hot as the last, another small change that is good for the environment.

Up Downley Festival will be starting as you receive this magazine so log onto [www.downley.org](http://www.downley.org) for the full schedule of events and to buy tickets. These events get booked out, so be quick. This site is professionally managed by a local expert, so it is safe to buy your tickets here.

One last note, please stop screeching around the neighbourhood late at night in cars, who knows who it is doing this but it's not neighbourly.

*Simon Scott Editor  
editor@downley.org*



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## Downley Common News

### Memorials on the Common

*There have been a number of requests received recently for memorials for departed loved-ones to be placed on the Common in the form of either a bench or a tree. A few have been accepted so far, but there is a limit to how many such requests can be accommodated.*

The most popular location for benches is on Commonsides or around the cricket pitch. Commonsides probably now has a full complement of benches and any more would start to look cluttered as well as getting in the way of mowing the grass. The cricket pitch could probably accommodate more if the cricket/football clubs agree, although eventually that location may also be saturated.

More recently, specimen trees are growing in popularity. Some trees (not all of them memorials) have been planted on the bank to the east of the cricket pitch but that is nearly at its limit. The DCPS would not encourage planting on the open grass area as we spend a lot of time trying to maintain its open heathland character and tend to cut trees down rather than plant them.

Another option for memorial trees might be the Community Orchard next to the Jubilee Allotments where several of the original trees have died and could be replaced. In addition, there are other green spaces around the village. **If interested contact [kristinafrydberg@gmail.com](mailto:kristinafrydberg@gmail.com) and/or [handjwillson@btinternet.com](mailto:handjwillson@btinternet.com).**

In response to these requests, Downley Parish Council has developed a Memorial Policy that offers guidance and clarifies their approach to requests. This policy can be found on the Downley Parish Council website.

*Bill Thompson, DCPS*



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## Downley Evening WI

*Hello again from all of us at Downley Evening WI.*

As always, we've been very busy since I last wrote. In March we celebrated our 56th birthday with a delicious meal catered by the ever-wonderful Ann Tenant and rounded off with a fabulous cake baked and decorated by our own Pearl Keating. We were entertained by Louise Child, a great friend of ours, who sang and played keyboard for us and encouraged us to join in too.

The annual process of considering resolutions (which will then be pursued as social action campaigns) is well under way and the issue most clearly in the spotlight at the moment is concern over the decline in local bus services. This is something we can probably all relate to, at some level, even if we are not directly affected. We all know someone who is. It's not just the country dwellers being hit by these changes. Downley is also vulnerable and faces its own specific geographical challenges, being perched on a hilltop. So debates will be taking place at local meetings and finally at the national AGM in the summer. In the past, many of the social action campaigns by the WI have resulted in great benefit for the country.

Meanwhile, our social life continues to provide us with opportunities to get together for fun, entertainment and education. Our monthly meetings are varied and interesting in theme. Our involvement in the annual Downley Day is fast approaching and preparations are in hand for that. There are outings planned as well as our annual garden party. We really do enjoy being with each other. There's a lot of laughter and fun but also deep friendships which provide support and help and a mainstay against life's up and downs. And I've told you before about the wide range of activities offered by the Bucks Federation of WIs. There is something for everyone. Though if you come along and think something's missing, you can suggest it and start the ball rolling. We love new ideas.

**And we love to have visitors and new friends. Do come along. You'll be very welcome. We meet regularly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm at St. James' Church, Plomer Hill. For more information, please contact our President Janet Durkin on HW 535662.**



*We hope to see you soon.  
Angela Taplin*



## Downley Toddler Group

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## Downley Community Centre News

As part of the The Great British  
Spring Clean, Downley Community  
Centre initiated a litter pick on  
23 March. 14 local volunteers  
were a part of over 563,163 people  
nationwide, including 175,055  
students, who donated their time to take part in the 2019  
campaign - the biggest ever! Cleaning up streets, parks and  
beaches, #LitterHeroes across the country have been making big  
improvements to the environment on their doorstep.

Jo from First Yoga, a local Yoga studio based in Downley  
held three family Yoga and Mindfulness sessions at the Centre  
in February, sponsored by the Community Centre. They were well attended and the  
Centre was happy to be able to provide a family afternoon free of charge to the village.

It has been a year since brownies and rainbows moved to their new meeting place at the  
Downley Old School Community Centre. We love being there and enjoy the facilities it has  
to offer.

At brownies and rainbows we try to provide a variety of activities for the girls to enjoy,  
Girl Guiding having recently introduced a new programme, under the headings; take  
action, skills for my future, know myself, express myself, be well and have adventures.

In November the girls made poppies for Remembrance Day, and then just before  
Mothering Sunday and Easter- daffodils. The centre kindly agreed that we could display  
them for all to enjoy.



These are just a few of the significant  
events during the year that we like to  
theme our activities on. The poppies  
and daffodils were made out of plastic  
bottles, painted and heated, giving the  
girls ideas on how to recycle everyday  
objects. Next term we will be making  
more things, enjoying the outdoor,  
learning new skills and definitely  
having fun!

Rainbows (5-7 years) meet on  
Thursday 4.15pm to 5.30pm and brownies (7-10 years) on Tuesday 5.45pm to 7.00pm. If  
you are 18 years + come and join us too either to help or be a leader and bring your own  
ideas.

[downleybrownies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:downleybrownies@hotmail.co.uk)  
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**Coffee Stop**

*What a wonderful Easter we had, our event was very successful and the sales table was well supported. I've heard that another wonderful summer is forecast so maybe you would like us to reintroduce a salad plate?*



We always welcome suggestions and provision of home-made soup ceases between Easter and the Harvest Lunch. It was lovely to see some children returning during the school holidays, especially as they have been coming since they were really small, we are delighted to see them and do hope they feel welcome. There are sometimes sales tables and craft exhibitions to look at, there is no charge for charities and a small percentage of takings for more commercial enterprises. A note for your diaries that our friend Jo Belshaw will be bringing her Flamingo cards on Monday 15th July.

Yesterday we were really busy but fortunately we managed to supply whatever was requested, please bear in mind that we

shop on the day for just one day so it has to be guesswork what you will require.

As always I would like to send out a request to villagers, if there is anyone who would like to join us occasionally – even our stalwart helpers sometimes have a short notice appointment or sudden illness - and it would be very nice if there was a reserve list of people we could call on to help in the kitchen, pick up and return our customers, and help putting up and taking down tables. If you think you could help in this way please speak to one of us or email me.

"Up Downley" is coming up fast, enjoy that and all of the summer until we meet again.

*Ann Buxton,  
pabuxton@hotmail.com*

**Downley Theatre Group**

We've had a busy start to the year with trips to "Aladdin – the Disney Musical" in February; "Calendar Girls – the Musical" and "A German Life" starring Maggie Smith in April; "The Book of Mormon" in May and "9 – 5 – the Musical" all sorted for June. We already have an allocation of seats for our traditional visit to Cadogan Hall, London, for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's "Christmas Cracker" on Saturday 14 December: full details will be circulated to members in the autumn. We'll be looking at other trips soon, do get in touch

if you would like to be added to the mailing list. There is no joining fee and no obligation to go on any of the outings. Return coach travel from Cross Court is included in the price which is generally less than the face value of the ticket.



*Alan & Claire Baker  
82 Littleworth Road  
01494 437552*

*downleytheatregroup@gmail.com*

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## Downley Descants News

*SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU*

*Much has been written in the past about the effect singing in a choir has on the mind set of choir members, something to do with endorphins, I think.*



These are chemicals produced by the body in response to pain, believe it or not!. Not what you might expect to see in an article about the benefits of singing but they are also produced after vigorous exercise such as aerobics and also singing or listening to music. The effect is to reduce stress and anxiety levels and to lift depression.

Studies have recently proved that singing or listening to music is of great benefit to Alzheimer's sufferers.

All of us at Downley Descants get a buzz from our weekly practices and even more so from performing to appreciative audiences. We are now coming up to a busy time for the choir, starting on Sunday 9th June with a performance at The Dashwood Arms as part of the Piddington Festival of Choirs raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, followed by Downley Day on 15th. We are singing in the arena this year so are at the mercy of the elements. We could include 'Singin' in the Rain' or 'Stormy Weather' but hopefully it will be 'Walkin' on Sunshine', although with our weather in could be 'Let it Snow'. We follow this up with the joint concert with Wycombe Concert Band on 28th, as part of the Up!Downley Festival.

Please come to see us at these events, and be de-stressed.

Charities are important to us and hopefully this year we will break the £9000 barrier for donations since we started in September 2012. Sometimes we do not perform with the intention of raising money but to give entertainment at Churches, day centres, even the Salvation Army and at various lunch clubs etc. If you belong to an organisation that may be putting on an event that would benefit from a choir, please bear us in mind. Our fees are very reasonable and we would consider most things.

Whilst listening to the choir is good, belonging to the choir is great. We meet every Thursday evening at 8pm in school term time at Sunnybank Methodist Church in Moor Lane so why not come along and give us a try. Two free sessions before you decide if the choir is for you.

*See our website [downleydescants.org.uk](http://downleydescants.org.uk) for more details or contact Lyn on 01494 436063.*

*Bob Cook*



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## Chameleon Singles Group



*With Easter late this year we had our traditional pancake night on 5th March. Always a great at home event and well attended with plenty of pancakes and a good selection of toppings too. Well done to Terrie who kept us all fed.*

The unusually good weather at the end of February reminded us it was time to put a few more walks back into our programme. For the first of these we joined Willie Reid on one of his historical tours of High Wycombe. Who would have known just how much history there is here! For most of us after many years living in the local area there was still a lot to be learnt about where we live. As with last year we will be doing another evening walk on midsummers day from the Beech Tree at Terriers with drinks back at the pub afterwards.

Food & drink events seem ever popular with our members. On that note we have held regular coffee mornings and some at home take-away meals. Our hosts have made sure everyone is catered for from Tea and Cakes to Fish & Chip suppers.

For the more active we have been on a day trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon. Always a great destination with plenty to see and do. With a through train now in the summer timetable we left the cars behind and took to rail instead. We have also been 10-pin bowling at the Hollywood Bowl in High Wycombe. As always there is a little competitiveness but at the end the scores were very close.

Some 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. We plan to do our annual trip to the coast in July and then a two-night away trip to visit the museum at Beamish. Add to that our BBQ and summer 2019 looks set to be a good one for Chameleon members.



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.

# pilates



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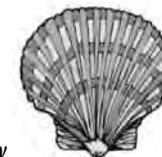
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## St James Voice

*My name is Heather Graham and I have recently been appointed to be the new team vicar of St James Downley. I will be licensed on Monday 22nd July. My first Sunday will be 28th July when we are celebrating St James day with a BBQ after the service, do come along, I would love to meet you.*



I have lived in Wycombe for 34 years and currently live just outside the parish boundary at the bottom of Coates lane, so I know the area well. I am married to Phil and we have 4 adult children who all went to the Church of England school in Wycombe and then to Wycombe High, RGS, St Bernards (now St Michaels), and John Hampden (yes we did have a few diary clashes with 4 children all at different schools!), and have already found that I know members of the congregation through those connections.

I have worked at St Andrews Church in Hatters Lane for the last 18 years as their pastoral Worker, then as curate after my training and ordination in 2016.

I enjoy running and over the last few months since I started to look at the post at St James, I have been running around the Downley parish on a Friday morning praying for the people living in the different streets, so do give me a wave if you see me one Friday morning – I am the one who looks rather red faced and out of breath!

One of the things that really attracted me to the post was the desire of the congregation at St James to show God's love to the community.

As Christians we are all on a journey to become more like Jesus, and he was always to be found at the heart of the community. In the Gospels we read about him turning water into wine when he was a guest at a wedding, or walking through the community spending time with people, from young children to the elderly, men and women, those of high status and the poor and of course those who were ill or struggling. As I start at St James' in the summer I am looking forward to getting to know those in the community, and working with the congregation to come alongside people in whatever they are walking through in their lives, just as Jesus would have done.

I am excited to be part of such a vibrant community, where there are so many different activities and a strong sense of community involvement. I am looking forward to getting to know you and hopefully becoming involved in some of your groups and activities, and plan to pop along to some of your Up Downley events this summer before my licensing.

Please come and see us on Downley Day – we will be with the other churches in Downley and serving great Caribbean food.

Do join us on Sunday 28th July for our St James Day service at 11am followed by a BBQ (rain or shine!).

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## First Tuesday WI

*The clocks have moved forward. The warm Easter has been and gone. All the chocolate eggs have been eaten, as well as the hot cross buns. We can now go to and from our meetings in daylight, so summer cannot be too far away.*

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

June will bring a talk on 'The Language of Fans'. Must take mine out of the drawer!!!!

June also brings Downley Day and the Up Downley Festival. Something to look forward to, together with the hope of a dry, sunny day.

We enjoyed a meal at the Black Horse in Lacey Green and we joined in a Quiz held by Downley Evening WI in March. Unbelievably now, we had to cancel some earlier events because of bad weather!!!!

Members have been to County events – Discovery Day, Presentation Briefing Meeting (when new Speakers introduce themselves and their talks to Members) and the upcoming Archery Taster Evening.

2020 is important in the County as the WI is 100 years old and great events are planned to celebrate this. It will be interesting to hear the Speakers, who cover a broad spectrum of careers, one of whom is Simon King OBE. Each WI sends a Delegate, who then reports back to their members. Some of our future plans involve a tour of West Wycombe House, followed by tea at the Apple Orchard, in their lovely

new restaurant. We are visiting Windsor again, not only the Castle but also a river boat trip. In September we are touring Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, followed by afternoon tea. I just knew food would be included in everything!!!!

We are always happy to hear our members' suggestions on outings, trips or events that they would like to attend and in Committee we discuss the requests and we try to actions these whenever we can.

Please come and join us. We would welcome your ideas and suggestions. Come and chat, listen to our Speakers and have some refreshments (food again)!!!!

We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month in the Community Centre and, if you have any questions, or would like further information, please call our President, Pat Heath on 01494 535998.

May I wish you a lovely summer – warm, sunny days and blue skies. Bees buzzing, butterflies doing whatever they do and – don't forget the strawberries & cream!!!!

*Pat Koning*



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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.

We at the library are still on the lookout for unwanted fairly modern books that you might have tucked away and which you think other people might like to read, please bring them along to the library.

Downley Day is coming, don't forget to visit the library stall and fill up a bag with books for a very reasonable cost.

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## Downley Parish Council

### Precept Statement

*In financial year 2019-20 the Downley Parish Council Precept averages £52.43 per household. This is notably lower than the average of £64 for the whole of Buckinghamshire.*

Downley Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers, they are dedicated to ensuring that the Village gets the maximum level of service within the budget that we have been provided. This year the Downley Parish Council will continue to work towards improving community well-being and providing better services. We will represent the local community, deliver services to meet local need and strive to improve quality of life and community well-being.

Through an extensive range of discretionary powers, the Council seeks to look after the interests of residents through community safety and crime reduction measures and work on planning applications. The Parish Council also provide and manage services such as allotments, bus shelters, litter bins, as well as providing leisure and sports facilities. Further work is undertaken to promote community events and festivals. Finally, the Council is keen to initiate projects to improve the amenity of the village, alongside moves to improve street lighting and traffic calming measures, the Council continues its work relating to commons, footpaths and open spaces, as well as street cleaning. We are busy!

Priorities for the Council this year will be:

- Replacement of 159 Parish owned street lights to LED lights
- Continuing to raise awareness of road safety in Village
- Refurbishment of the Community Library
- Maintaining the Gosling Grove pond
- Ensuring the Parish have a robust Resilience Plan

There has been significant growth in the responsibilities of the Parish Council. The Council will continue to work hard to ensure value for money for all the services provided. There is an expectation in the Village of a very high standard of service which the Parish Council strives to uphold on a very limited budget.

*If you have any questions for the Council, please contact the Clerk at [info@downleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:info@downleyparishcouncil.org)*

*Picture by David Audcent*



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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                     |
| Gong Baths *                       | 1st Sunday 17.30-19.30            |
| 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                 |
| 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              |
| Zumba                              | Mon and Weds                      |



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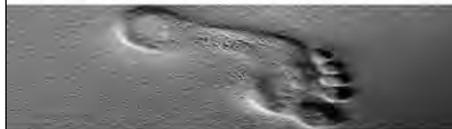
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Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities ...continued

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                            |
| 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   |

Clubs Societies Schools - Promote your event here for FREE!

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

### NEW EDITOR NEEDED PLUS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER 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.

We now need a new magazine Editor as the current one is moving on to pastures new. Skills include ability to read and write and to recognise what might make a good story.

If you feel able to share your Graphic Design skills and have access to InDesign 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

*I know many people are passionate about preserving wildlife and habitats and reducing carbon emissions. Since 1990, the UK has played a leading role in this area, cutting emissions by more than 40%. This is the best performance of any G7 nation.*



The Government's Energy Act puts Britain firmly on track to meet the 2050 target to reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases by 80% and underpins the remarkable investment the UK has seen in its low carbon economy since 2010.

The UK is also a world leader in clean growth. Our Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy identify the huge potential opportunity from clean growth and transition to a low carbon economy. The National Adaptation Programme sets out a plan for dealing with the effects of a changing climate. The Government has also agreed to support and expand offshore wind and made an historic commitment to close all coal-fired power stations by 2025.

The decision to leave the EU has created an historic opportunity to deliver a Green Brexit, where environmental standards will not only be maintained but enhanced. The proposed Environment Bill will see legislation to address the biggest environmental priorities of our age: air quality, nature recovery, waste and resource efficiency, and water resource management. The Government has committed to create or restore an additional 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat to aid species recovery. The Bill will also establish an independent Office for Environmental Protection to ensure we leave the environment in a better condition than we found it.

Moving on to other issues, the Government has published its NHS Long Term Plan ensuring the NHS is always

there for you, me and our families both now and in the future. It will transform patient care and see an additional £20.5 billion a year being spent by 2024. £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 at the hospital, which I have been demanding for many years. It offers a range of diagnostic facilities and 24-hour access to a GP. The Hospital's new state-of-the-art catheter laboratory means 700 more patients can be seen in Wycombe for such things as angiograms and the fitting of pacemakers.

Finally, over the last few weeks I have received a lot of correspondence from constituents about Brexit. I have pulled together the questions I have been asked, and you can see them at: <http://bit.ly/BrexitQnA>

**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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## News from the District

*Wycombe District Council has introduced a new Young People Mentoring Grant to provide mentoring and support to troubled teenagers. Action4Youth and Wycombe Wanderers Sports and Education Trust have been selected as the first two organisations to receive the funding.*



The grant is aimed at engaging with and helping at-risk young people to overcome their particular challenges. Jenifer Cameron, CEO of Action4Youth, said: "Action4Youth is delighted to be involved in this innovative and imaginative initiative working with Wycombe District Council. We know that many young people in Wycombe District will benefit from our mentoring programme and as result the community will be strengthened." Paul Foley, Head of Wycombe Wanderers Sports and Education Trust, said: "Everything we do revolves around helping local people to reach their full potential and we're confident that the Young People Mentoring Grant is going to allow us to facilitate significant positive impacts on the many local youngsters who will be engaged throughout its delivery, and hopefully give them the best possible chances to thrive as they get older."

As part of the ongoing successful economic regeneration of Wycombe, Hilton has announced a partnership with Handy Cross Dev Co Limited to bring a 150-guest room 'Hampton by Hilton' to High Wycombe. The project is an integral part of the Council's masterplan for Handy Cross.



The DesBox project, which will provide accommodation for artists displaced from the Leigh Street factory buildings (which are being re-developed into new residential accommodation) and aims to nurture creativity and entrepreneurship as part of the whole regeneration of the Baker Street area is nearing completion.

Wycombe District Council approved its budget for the 2019/20 financial year - the final budget that Wycombe District Council will set. Council agreed not to increase Wycombe District Council's share of the council tax bill and agreed to a budget which involves millions of pounds of investment across the district on a wide range of projects.

Some of the areas identified for future investment include:

- £6.2million investment in community facilities including, cemeteries, community and sports premises – notably the Risborough Springs Sports Centre and Court Garden Leisure Centre.
- £48.1million for planning including strategic acquisitions and investments, Princes Risborough relief road, Abbey Barn Lane realignment and the High Wycombe Town Centre Master Plan.
- £34.8million investment in economic development including town centre investment and regeneration in order to develop the public realm and develop an increased income stream to fund council services in the future.
- £14.9million investment in housing – including temporary accommodation, a development of park homes at the Bassetbury Triangle, the use of disabled facilities grants and the delivery of affordable housing.

*Continues on page 33...*

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*Continued from page 31...*

We leave a legacy of the leisure facilities at Handy Cross, new shopping facilities, Eden with a footfall of 14 million visitors a year and new homes at Bassetsbury and Ashwells in the pipeline. With regard to the planned unitary council, this authority will continue to be run on a professional basis up until the end of 19/20 and will hand over a council with well-run and sustainable services, a strong revenue stream, a strong balance sheet, no debts and a well thought out and ambitious major projects plan – arguably the financially strongest of all five Buckinghamshire councils.

Looking forward to Downley Day, please look out for the Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme (WRDGS) stall on the common on 15th June. Come and see the work we do (I am a Trustee of the charity).

Paul  
Paul Turner, Wycombe District Councillor  
[paul.turner@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:paul.turner@wycombe.gov.uk) 07825 842292



# Downley Art Show 2019

*Now is the time to get busy painting, drawing, crafting, 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. Everyone has a photo they are proud of so go on - share it with us! Digital Art can also be displayed. Some pieces will be available to buy. The deadline for entries is 26th June, online entry is available at [downley.org](http://downley.org) and hard copy entry forms will be available in the Downley Community Centre where you will also find a box to post them.

As we approach the Festival we would love some help to make sure events run smoothly, so if you would like to become a volunteer for a few hours (or maybe join the team organising the 2020 Festival!) please get in touch at:

**[festival@downley.org](mailto:festival@downley.org)**

Thank you!



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# Bucks Buoys

*In December this year, 4 ordinary men from Bucks will be taking on the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge - The World's Toughest Row - in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and IN-vision. From La Gomera in the Canary Islands their team 'Bucks Buoys' will row 3000 miles to English Harbour, Nelson's Dockyard in Antigua.*

Bucks Buoys are Kevin Luff, 50, his son Rhys Luff, 21 and friends Paul 'Frankie' Smith, 60 and Nic Parslow, 56. Before deciding to take on the Challenge, the Buoys had no rowing experience whatsoever. Inspired by seeing teams from the 2017/18 Race arrive in Antigua, they registered for the Race, bought their boat and began preparations.

Since then their rigorous training regime has been life changing, comprising daily gym sessions to improve their fitness levels (thanks to sponsors David Lloyd Clubs), Iyengar Yoga for strength, mobility and stability (thanks to sponsor Iyengar Yoga Sha-la High Wycombe) and rowing tuition under the expert guidance of Naomi Riches MBE, Paralympian Gold Medallist Rower (and Patron of the IN-vision charity) based at Marlow Rowing Club. The Buoys spend their weekends at sea finding their sea legs and familiarising themselves with the routine they will be adopting during the gruelling journey across the Atlantic Ocean.

The Crew plan to row in pairs, 2 hours on, 2 hours off, 24/7 for the duration of the Challenge, which they hope to complete in 40 days.

As well as facing Atlantic swells up to 40 feet high in the extremely cramped conditions of their 28 feet long by 6 feet wide ocean rowing boat 'Sara-Lou', the Team will need to overcome seasickness, salt sores, sleep deprivation and physical and mental exhaustion along the way. But they are looking forward to seeing whales, dolphins, sharks, night skies unspoilt by light pollution and all the magnificent natural wonders of the ocean in a way that so few have enjoyed; Incredibly, more people have climbed Everest than have rowed across the Atlantic! To find out more about this epic adventure and to follow and support Bucks Buoys' campaign and charity goals, see: Website: [www.bucksbuoys.com](http://www.bucksbuoys.com).

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## J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints Summer 2019

Wal, welcome to summer orl you gardeners and plot a' diggers! Writin this in April Summer seems a long way ahead but of corse when it's summer you got to be a'plannin yor autumn work too! Lookin forward is vital to gardeners, as well as a'doin yor daily and weekly jobs... 'Hang on a minute' ses Mrs H. 'That's wot I duz orl the time without makin orl this fuss about it!' Wal, orl right, but I ave to be careful wot I ses sometimes, you knose wot I means eh! So wots goin on in the gardin now eh? Pretty much everythin I rekons, ow about a'startin with them roses! Wal we've got em orl over the place, Mrs H likes them climbers and ramblers but do you knowes the diffrence? Wal I rekons the answers in the name eh! 'Wot do you mean?' Sumwun from Stoken ses, wal, no surprise there eh! Wal, we've got a new pergola thing out the back wot a local mate did for us and its orl reddy getting covered, roses and honeysuckle and clematis armandii (that sounds a bit posh eh!), I reckon we'll disappear in orl that stuff next year when it really gets a'goin, wal wot a way to go eh!

Up the plot I've got big ideas abowt them squashes, I wants to fill wun of my narrer beds with em, so we've got orl sorts a'goin there, corgettes, ov corse, green and yellor, marrers, pumkins, buttanuts, pattypanns and some funny lookin trumpet things, and so on, summat'l work I rekons and they'll fill the bed. Then spuds'l be a'cummin on so you'll ave yor leeks seedlins reddy to go in where the spuds were when you gets yore erly wuns out. So then get on planning for the autumn, like if you've got a bit of spare ground

after arvestin summat get yor larst years compost eap a'spreddin on it, and think about sowin sum of that green manure in it to dig in over the winter. (Forward planning eh!).

I rekons you'll be a readin this about June time, reddy for the UpDownley Festival, and wun of my gardinin heroes is Gilbert White who kept a record of his gardin in the 18th century, and just to prove nothin much changes here are two entries from early June.... June 1st 1780... 'The tortoise shuns the intense heat' and in 1787, June 7th, 'Ice as thick as a crown piece, potatoes much injured, nasturtiums killed'. Wal its difficult to plan sum times eh!

Wal, in the UpDownley Festival look out for the 'Open Gardins', it's on the 23rd June, and, go on, be brave, open yors too, its not Chelsea, you gets friendly greetings and lots of a'swoopin of ideas. Or if you wants a very pleasant way of spendin the arfternoon then get a ticket from the Memorial Hall, do the gardins then a've a break back at the Hall for tea and cakes..

Wal, I reckon I've filled the space the editor lets me have, (I'm orlreddy thinkin about the autumn wun..ha ha), so I'll sign orf now, ave a great summer, give yourself sum sittin in the sun time ('Wal, that's orl you seems to do' ses Mrs H), as for Brexit my French cussin Jean d'Artichoke ses 'you gets wot you deserves', in French of corse, that's good cummin from him, anyway, now for a little drop of cider, so cheerio, a'bientot, see you at the Open Gardins.

*J.H. sent from my iSpade.*

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## Downley History Group

*As our contribution to the 'UpDownley Festival' the Downley Local History Group will be holding an open evening on Wednesday 26th June at the Downley War Memorial Hall. The event, which will begin at 7:30 pm and for which there will be no charge, offers an opportunity to both long-time residents and those who have moved to Downley more recently, an insight into the history of Downley.*

The evening will be divided into two sections. The first will comprise a number of short talks on various aspects of life in Downley in times gone by, including 'Chapels and Churches', 'The Downley Timeline', 'The Big House', 'Downley Sacrifices' and 'Working at Mines & West', which was one of the last Downley chair factories to close. After the talks there will then be an opportunity for all to look at some of the many photographs of old Downley and its inhabitants that have been contributed previously. As you will see from these photographs there are many gaps in our knowledge and perhaps some of you may be able to help filling in some of those gaps and provide us with more details such as who, when and where?

We are still actively looking to increase our collection of contributed photographs and other memorabilia and we would love to see anything that you may be able to bring with you. Our intention is to scan it on the evening if possible, or if you would prefer we would be happy to contact you subsequent to the event to agree a mutually convenient arrangement.

We hope to see you at the Downley War Memorial Hall for this free event, both to inform you a little about a Downley that you may not know and to help us put together a more complete record of times gone by in our village.



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## Downley War Memorial Hall

*My last article stated that five Downley men were killed during WW2 and then listed six names. The last two of these, Harold Percy and Thomas Stratford, are the same person – Harold Percy Thomas Stratford. Apologies for any confusion.*

Whilst the centenary of the Second World War is still 20 years away, I am going to continue my tales of the men commemorated on our Village memorial without a break.

It is generally accepted that the WW2 was an inevitable result of the Treaty of Versailles that concluded WW1. The punitive reparations the treaty forced on Germany led to the collapse of the country's economy which facilitated the rise of Nationalism.

Added to this, the League of Nations had taken no action following Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia, now Ethiopia, or the Japanese invasion of Manchuria.

Having initially started re-arming Germany in violation of the Treaty Hitler became emboldened by the apparent impotence of the League of Nations and re-occupied the Rhineland in 1936. In March 1938 German troops moved into Austria and soon after Hitler turned his attentions to ethnic Germans living in Sudetenland, a part of Czechoslovakia. With most countries choosing appeasement in the hope that they would go no further the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain initially sent a Mission to try and resolve the issue before meeting with Hitler and agreeing the cession of Sudetenland to Germany.

Despite announcing that he had no further territorial interests in Europe, in March 1939 German troops invaded Czechoslovakia. France and Britain announced that they would support any country that defended itself against a German attack, specifically Romania, Greece and Poland. Hitler launched an attack against Poland on 1 September and France and Great Britain declared war against Germany two days later.



*Ethnic Germans in Saaz, Sudetenland, greet German soldiers with the Nazi salute, 1938. Image - German Federal Archive.*

Several months earlier, anticipating that war was coming, the British Government launched a number of initiatives including: The Military Training Act, the formation of Auxiliary Fire, Casualty and Blood Transfusion Services and Air Raid Precautions.

In High Wycombe the summer of 1939 saw the AFS training on fires in dummy buildings while the Casualty Service tended to those "rescued" from the fire. Calls went out for more recruits as Air Raid Wardens and on 8 July a practice "Black Out" was held. The Bucks Free Press reported that the Air Raid Siren could be heard up to five miles away!

The paper also printed the programmes for the local cinemas and these included A Star is Born (re-made with Lady Gaga this year) and Snow White. Advertisements included many for car sales with Slade's in Penn offering an Austin 7 van for £40 and Davenport Vernon a wide range of vehicles from £20-335.

*Continues on page 43...*



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*Continued from page 41...*

There was also news of the funeral of well known Downley resident Frank Hawes, a stalwart of local football, who had died aged 57.

The Military Training Act was the forerunner of conscription, requiring all men between 20 and 22 to register at their local Employment Office (Job Centre). In Wycombe this happened on Saturday 3 June and was followed a week later by Medical Examinations for the 300 men who had registered. Enrolment into the Militia would start in July. The strategy was to provide six months training before transferring the men to a Reserve. To distinguish these Militiamen from the Regular Army they were issued with a suit in addition to their uniform. However, events overtook these plans and the initial intake were drafted into the Regular Army on the outbreak of war.

Finally, the paper gave details of a report produced by the Bucks Licencing Committee which had identified that the county had more pubs per head than anywhere else! My father was one of the men called up to the Militia and, although living in south London, was drafted into the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry when war broke out. One of the first things he told me when I announced that we were moving to High Wycombe was that "they have more pubs there than anywhere else in the country". It wasn't that I didn't believe him, I just couldn't understand how he would ever have found out. Now it seems obvious that one of his comrades had been reading the Bucks Free Press.



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## Downley Ancestors Part 9 A Murder (or was it?)

*A few years ago, I promised a local story of a tragic death. It's taken a while to research but here it is.*

A distant family cousin (if you've lived in the same area for generations, everyone ends up being related to everyone else by some degree) was the Miller and Farmer at Fryer's Mill, his name – Michael (baptised James Michael in 1836) Fryer. Fryer's Mill was located on what is now the tennis courts at Desborough Rec and at the time of this event was in the Parish of West Wycombe.

**Fryer's Mill**  
 I am going to skip all the grisliest details, but on the 19th April 1916 a child was born at the Mill to Nellie Saunders, a servant of Michael Fryer (senior). The child was born alive but didn't live long.

A bloodied knife was discovered at the mill. Ellen, the daughter in law of Michael Fryer (senior) seemed to know what had happened – a concealed pregnancy and a birth having taken place that day. She witnessed Nellie taking a package, wrapped in brown paper to her Mother's house further along West Wycombe Road, obviously in distress and looking decidedly ill. When the police arrived at Nellie's Mother's house, they found the package and made the inevitable discovery. At the inquest, Ellen Fryer gave evidence and the coroner concluded from the evidence given by Ellen, and the physical evidence from the body that the newborn baby had been murdered. Nellie was charged with wilful murder, to be tried at the next County Assizes.



*Fryer's Mill*

A few weeks later the trial commenced. However, at the outset the judge made a statement that it could be possible for the jury to find Miss Saunders guilty of a lesser charge of manslaughter – he made it clear he was not directing them to do so, but made such an impassioned speech they could hardly do anything else! Nellie was found guilty of manslaughter, despite the evidence which pointed to only one conclusion, on the understanding that Nellie was to be released from custody into the care of a woman who had agreed to care for her and show her a 'different life to that which she had been subject to at the hands of her Mother'. Under no circumstances was Nellie to go back to her Mother's.

There is far more to this tragic tale than we will ever know.

*Paul Turner*

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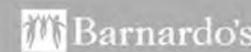
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### Website

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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.

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The Downley Communications Forum set up as part of the Community Plan, provides oversight to the Village News, the Village enews and the downley.org website.

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# OPTIONZ

## HAIR - BEAUTY & LASER SALON



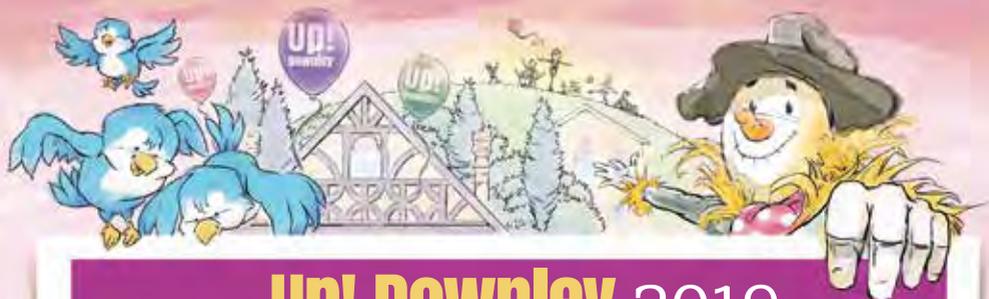
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LASER HAIR REMOVAL - MICROBLADING -  
 MANICURE & PEDICURE - GEL NAILS - EYELASH  
 EXTENSIONS - FACIALS - THREADING - LASH LIFT  
 - HOT & WARM WAXING - MICROBLADING -  
 LASH & BROW TINTING - HAIR DRESSING &  
 MUCH MORE!



ENHANCE YOUR  
 NATURAL BEAUTY

27, BRINDLEY AVE, DOWNLEY, HP13 5UG  
 FREE PARKING! OPEN LATE MOST NIGHTS!



# Up! Downley 2019

## Freetime Showcase

Tuesday evening 18th June

**Drop in and find out about the Freetime and Leisure groups, clubs, activities, services and social gatherings in Downley.**

Join us for a cup of tea and cake or a glass of wine in the marquee on Commons side between 7 and 9pm.

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.

We have groups entertaining us with dance, others playing music and some demonstrating how we can stay healthy and supple as we grow older, so there really is something for everyone.

Downley Brownies and Rainbows, Tuesday Art Group, Chameleon Singles Group and various exercise and relaxation groups will also be there to show you how you can get involved.

Pick up information and chat to people in the following zones:

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



**For more information & bookings:**

**festival.downley.org**

**post feedback:**

**facebook.com/UpDownley2019**

**enquiries:**

**festival@downley.org**

