

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY  
COMMUNITY**

## Village News



### Features

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

Issue 120/August 2019



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## Editorial

There is an official change to the Downley Village Magazine. I am continuing as the Editor until such time as a replacement can be found within the Downley area. I have moved out of Downley, so it is sensible to have the role taken over by someone who lives locally and knows what is going on from Day to Day.

The role is voluntary and will require around 25 hours work each quarter to Edit the magazine, put together the article and advert changes as well as attend the quarterly coms committee meetings. It is a fun role and if you are new to the area you will meet lots of committed volunteers who keep the community values alive in Downley by organising the festival and make sure the place in which you live offers the fullest choice for Families and businesses alike.

Please contact me on the email below if you would like to volunteer for this role.

Please enjoy this issue and remember that there is a very active local FB page @downley.community and web site www.downley.org with up to the minute news, so if its not in the magazine you will find all your local information online.

*Simon Scott Editor  
editor@downley.org.*



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## Downley Common News

*At Downley Day in June the DCPS publicised a proposal for a new project to try and manage the anthill population on the Common.*

The map below shows the extent to which the Common is now populated with anthills which has significantly increased over the last few years.

The clear space in the middle is the bonfire site so you can see the effect of regular flailing on the anthills – they don't like it.



The proposal is to remove anthills using the bucket on the tractor as shown in the photo. In each of the areas shown on a rotational basis and to leave the ants to flourish in the remaining areas.

We have also started the annual flailing programme, our yearly attempt to keep the bracken and brambles under some sort of control so by the time you read this, you should have seen a number of freshly mown areas. There are a number of areas where brambles have infiltrated a patch of rosebay willowherb (better known as fireweed) so sadly, the fireweed has to go as well. Anyone who would like to have a go at driving the tractor and do some flailing is welcome to come along. You do need to be a member of DCPS for this so that you are covered by insurance.



*Bill Thompson. DCPS*

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## Downley Evening WI

*Hello from Downley Evening WI.*

I hope you're all well and enjoying the summer. We've recently had our annual garden party, which is always a lovely occasion, especially when the sun shines on us as we sit in Janet Durkin's wonderful garden, sipping Pimms, nibbling delicious sandwiches and cake. We've had some very interesting meetings since I last wrote. The aptly named Mr Sandy Primrose spoke to us about the language of flowers. This talk was not at all what we anticipated, however, because Mr Primrose is an expert botanist, so we received top-quality instruction about plants and flowers. Another evening we were visited by author Catherine Jones (who writes under the name of Kate Lace, among other pseudonyms) and she recounted how her life in the military led eventually to her writing career. She had a store of funny anecdotes which kept us well entertained. And last month saw us welcoming medical detection dogs. September will see us having a talk by Alastair Lack, on his life with BBC World Services. That should be fascinating, and you are very welcome to come and join us.

At county level, there are, as always, lots of opportunities for both fun and education. The county's autumn event is all about 'Women in Uniform', with a focus on 100 years of women in the military. The guest speaker will be Mrs Julia Upton MBE who is currently High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire. That's in October. Before that, though, in early September, there is an outing to London to learn about 'The People's Post' which will take us through the history of posting a letter, from Roman times right up to the

establishment of the GPO. It includes a visit to the Postal Museum and sounds like a great day out.



So, as ever, we have a full programme lined up, quite apart from our sub-groups such as Craft, and Literary Lunch. There's always plenty going on. Why not come and see for yourself? 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.

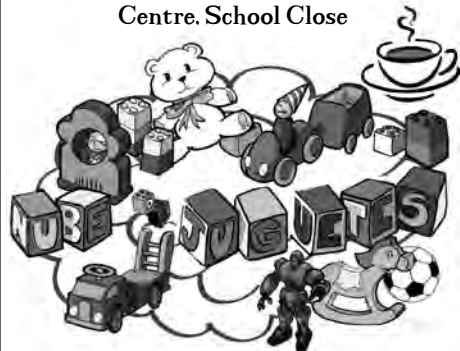
*Angela Taplin*

## Downley Toddler Group

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## Downley Community Centre News

*Downley Community Centre is much more than a meeting place in the centre of Downley*

Over the last 3 years the Centre has been very active in donating to charitable causes and sponsoring local events.

The Centre has donated funds of:

- £500 for local children's charity Rosie's Rainbow Fund by organising its first community family fun day
- £255 to Butterfly House, previously known as South Bucks Hospice (a sum matched by Downley Parish Council)
- £600+ for Macmillan's Cancer Support the World's Biggest Coffee Morning
- Pledged a substantial contribution in conjunction with Downley Parish Council towards a detailed road safety assessment survey
- Contributed to CCTV surveillance cameras in conjunction with Downley Parish Council to monitor fly-tipping and other rural crime offences

The venue has hosted community-based events too and waived normal hire charges:

- Annual Art Show in conjunction with Downley's Up Festival
- Run free mindfulness and well-being sessions for children
- Organised a free Neighbourhood Watch meeting on "cons, scams, doorstep issues & cybercrime"
- Managed a number of health specific initiatives including free NHS health check sessions, defibrillator training, first aid courses, fall prevention talks, food safety and hygiene courses

Downley Community Centre is home to numerous clubs, associations and the local community library and is situated in the very centre of the village on the old Middle School site between School Close and Chapel Street. The building comprises two large rooms both fitted with modern kitchen units, has ample parking with access from School Close. The Centre has free Wi-Fi, a fitted projector screen and can host functions for up to 120 people with full wheelchair access provided.

The Centre is run by a group of committed volunteers who meet regularly to manage and maintain the facility on behalf of all local residents.



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**Coffee Stop**

*Hello Everyone, I hope you are enjoying this remarkable summer,  
something to remember when the evenings draw in.*



A date for your diary is 14th October when we will hold our annual Harvest Lunch. This is always a most enjoyable affair and very reasonable for a two course meal with cold drinks and coffee or tea, the style will be as usual with buffet service and assistance for anyone who need it.

Since the kitchen refurbishment has been completed, we are very proud of attaining our five star rating. This involves record keeping and strict protocols on how we prepare the kitchen and the food, and do the washing up and also explains why we discourage other people, apart from the designated team, from coming into the kitchen, it is all for your safety. Please make sure we are advised if anyone has particular allergies.

Lately we have had a surge of requests for tea cakes and also jacket potatoes, but none

for bacon butties. it's quite difficult to judge what will be popular on any one day but we try hard. Please let us know if there is anything you don't like or alternatively would like us to provide.

We are very grateful for our supporters who unstintingly give their time in the kitchen, organise rotas, host meetings, drive, erect tables and put them away and for our cashiers and Andy who keeps our accounts in order. More people are always welcome in whatever capacity.

Lyn recently represented us at the Service to install our new vicar, Heather Graham, we hope she will find our village welcoming and supportive. I look forward to seeing you on a Monday.

*Ann Buxton,  
[pabuxton@hotmail.com](mailto:pabuxton@hotmail.com)*

**Best Kept Village, Downley**

Every year Downley enters the "Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village" Competition. It has just been announced that we came 3rd with a score of 86 out of 100 (only two marks behind 2nd place!)

We have been given the Community Award to reflect the excellent work done by many volunteers across the Village. A very big "thank you" to all of you and to our Clerk, Chettina Masters, who does so much behind the scenes to co-ordinate all of this great work.

There was favourable comment on the appearance of the Village and good evidence of Community support. The comments and marks will be displayed on the Village Notice Boards.

We anticipate that the Award will be presented in the early Autumn and Community Leaders and Volunteers will be invited to a small celebration at the Community Centre.

This is the best result by Downley for several years (last recognised in 2012. It reflects well on our community spirit and hard work together to make Downley a great place to live.

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## Coffee Morning

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## Downley Descants News

### Singing in the Rain



As part of Up! Downley we performed again with Wycombe Concert Band and chose 'Singing in the Rain' as the title. If you remember during early June we had a particularly wet spell of weather so we thought it quite appropriate and went ahead with getting the programmes printed. Then what happened, the sun came out and when the concert took place, we were in the middle of a heatwave. We had previously had to cancel our performance at Downley Day due to our Musical Director being admitted to hospital for an emergency operation, so this also put the joint concert in jeopardy. Luckily, we have a very accomplished conductor within our ranks who bought along his accompanist, took over the baton and the concert went ahead. We are indebted to Keith and Gwen who did a marvellous job, without them our concert could not have gone ahead. Our charity this year was Youth Enquiry Service, based in Frogmoor in High Wycombe for whom we raised £700. Y E S is an organisation offering free, confidential support and counselling to 13-25 year olds. They receive no funding other than donations so they were absolutely thrilled with this amount and assured us it would be put to good use.

We decided to finish the summer term early but instead of a rehearsal the following week, we organised a showing of 'The Greatest Showman' (complete with ice creams and crisps), chosen because it features a song from our repertoire. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and went off on their summer break in a happy frame of mind. We are all delighted with the news that Louise is

making a slow but steady recovery and is looking forward to our new term in September. We already have some new pieces in the pipeline to work on before we start preparing for the Christmas season. Christmas carols in September? We are almost as bad as the shops!

Downley Descants was formed in 2012 as a friendly community choir and is open to anyone who enjoys singing. There are no auditions, just come along for a couple of weeks before you decide whether the choir is for you. Our year is split into three terms, roughly equivalent to school term times and we hope to perform concerts in each. Christmas is particularly busy and I remember two years ago performing six times over the period. We meet on a Thursday evening from 8pm, although some members come a little early for a chat. We finish at 9.30, always feeling better at the end than we did at the beginning, that's the power of music, to lift the mood and instil a feeling of wellbeing.

**If you think you might be interested in coming along on a Thursday please contact us: Lyn 01494 436063 or Julian 01494 440430 or take a look at our website: [www.downleydescants.org.uk](http://www.downleydescants.org.uk).**

*Bob Cook - Bass*

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**Chameleon Singles Group**



*We have been lucky with summer this year as warm dry weather greeted us on most of our events. Our midsummer walk on 21st June was dry and bright and a great opportunity to explore some local paths and woods before returning to the Beech Tree pub at Terriers for well earnt drinks.*

As usual we had a day trip to the coast and this year's destination was Brighton. Rather than take cars this time we booked onto a coach trip and let someone else do the driving. Brighton has plenty to offer from the beach to the tower and of course the many unique shops to browse. A good day was had by all.

We made a return visit to the Prestwood Steam Rally this year having missed a couple of years. Perhaps something a bit more for the mechanics amongst us but there were plenty of stalls, crafts and food offering something for everyone.

Summer would not be summer without a Bar-B-Que and at Chameleon there is no exception. One of our members kindly hosted this event in his garden and we were greeted with warm sunshine for our Sunday afternoon event. Needless to say, the food was a great attraction and enjoyed by all.

Food & drink events seem ever popular with our members. We have held coffee mornings and at home take-away meals with our hosts making sure everyone is catered for from Tea and Cakes to Fish & Chip suppers. Coming up we have a meal out at the Wee Waif in Charville and a visit to the Rebellion Brewery.

Some events run monthly like the Friday Lunch Club and the new Thursday 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 have planned a two-night away trip to visit the Museum of the North at Beamish in September.



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.

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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## St James Voice

*In the previous edition of Downley News I wrote about my forthcoming licensing as team vicar of St James. This happened on Monday 22nd July and I am delighted to be officially part of your community.*



I have received a wonderful welcome here and will be spending time in the coming months getting to know everyone. I came along to Downley Day and was very impressed by the huge variety of groups and people represented there and the many events that took place as part of the Up Downley festival.

On my first Sunday we celebrated St James Day with a BBQ for the community, and it was lovely to have a chance to meet more people and start to get to know them.

St James was one of the first disciples called by Jesus, along with his brother John and their fishing partners Simon (later Peter) and Andrew. They were ordinary people, just like us, doing the job they had been brought up to do, and yet they gave up everything to follow Jesus and went on to achieve enormous things for God. James even travelled all the way to Spain to tell people there the good news of the gospel. Today many people walk the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St James).

I will be working in the church on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays and will be around for our Pop-In for a Cuppa every Thursday morning from 10 and 12.30 if you would like to chat or pray about anything, and of course everyone is welcome to our Sunday services which start at 11am.



*Rev Heather Graham*  
[Heather.graham@stjamesdownley.org.uk](mailto:Heather.graham@stjamesdownley.org.uk)  
01494 534315

## Downley Theatre Group

There is no membership fee or obligation to join in, pick and choose the trips you like the look of. Email is the best way to receive details about outings, but you can receive information by post if you don't have access to a computer. Do get in touch!

*Alan & Claire Baker*  
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## Downley Day News

*It's good to see Downley Day moving with the times as the event was opened by a King and Queen represented by Leon Santos and Mia Ferens this year as shown in the photo. Excuse the stilt-walker photo-bombing the shot!*

The entertainment was kicked off by the talented LEAP cohort who presented an excerpt from "Finding Neverland".

Making their first appearance at Downley Day was High Voltage Entertainments featuring stilt walking, juggling and fire-eating – please don't try this at home!

The ever popular dog show was well-attended as usual – many thanks to Temple End vets for supporting this.

And finally it was good to see the martial arts display team run by John Gilbert return to the arena to show what his kids can achieve with the right training.

Concert on the Common featured 4 bands this year, Vibes Steel Band, Overtime, Hustler and old favourite Fawesome. As CotC gets bigger and more popular we have had start adding some control measures to keep things under control and avoid any possible problems, so concert-goers will have noticed the presence of four stewards patrolling Commonsides in high-vis jackets. In addition restrictions on barbeques have now become a permanent feature due to the risk of fire and potential danger to small children running around. Please take note of this for next year. Traffic on Commonsides also remains an issue which will be addressed. Despite these issues, everyone still seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks are due to Q Logistics for the loan of the truck and Hillclimb for their sponsorship

The 5K Fun run attracted 138 runners and was won by Russell Tapping in a time of 19min 07secs. To find your place and time visit <https://www.downley.org/community/5k-fun-run>



Profits from the Downley Day events go to support the local community in the forms of grant awards. You can apply for such a grant if you are a local non-profit-making organisation providing benefits within Downley or to Downley residents. Application must be submitted to: [info@downley.org](mailto:info@downley.org) by 17th November 2019 and contain details of the amount requested and the purpose to which it will be put. The purpose should be a specific project rather than just a contribution toward running expenses. For guidance, a typical award is a few hundred pounds.

Lastly, the Downley Day Committee will be holding its AGM on the 19th November in the Community Centre at 8pm at which time we will announce the successful recipients of the above grants.

*Bill Thompson, Downley Day Committee.*

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The library has a constantly changing stock of about 5000 books. This number is split approximately 50:50 between adult and children's books. The library has many non-fiction children's books that cover the present school curriculum. Why not come along and have a look at our selection. If we haven't got the book you need we will do our best to get it in for you providing the cost is not too high. In addition we have a very wide range of children's books to suit all ages. So why not bring your children to visit your local library?



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## Downley Parish Council

### Update on speed awareness in the Village

*The Parish Council are approached regularly on the issue of speeding. Indeed, the feedback that Council received from parishioners at Downley Day put it as the number one priority for residents. So, if you're concerned about speeding, what can you do?*

First of all, there are certain key inputs used by Bucks County Council (Transport for Bucks) to ascertain if there's a speeding problem in an area:

- Parish Speed Indication Devices – these are the flashing signs you will see around the village that show your speed. These are manned by volunteers who locate them around the village, charge the batteries, collect the data. This data is collated by the Parish Council and used to work out speeding hot-spots. Data can also be fed to the Police. This data is published on the Parish Council's website (<https://www.downleyparishcouncil.org/>)
- Speed surveys – these are the rubber tubes that can be seen from time to time across the roads. A survey costs £450 and will collect data on speeds, vehicle type and time of day. The key data is what's known as the 85 percentile. A statistic that demonstrates "how fast most people go". The recent survey on Middlebrook Road showed an 85 percentile as c40 mph. Even though this exceeded the 30-mph limit, TFB didn't feel it merited further action.
- Stats on the severity of accidents as obtained from Police reports ([https://www.crashmap.co.uk/Home/How\\_It\\_Works](https://www.crashmap.co.uk/Home/How_It_Works)) with crashes categorised as Slight, Serious & Fatal. This seems dispassionate and only looks at accidents rather than near misses but is the TFB (and is emulated across all counties) way.

There are a number of other activities that residents who are motivated to see change can consider doing as an energised community:

**Community Speed Watch** (<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/>) is an initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds.

**Other initiatives** – Sustrans ([www.sustrans.org.uk/](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/)) is a charity that looks to 'reclaim the streets from cars' and has a number of initiatives including one called "DIY streets" that will guide residents on how to mobilise themselves, lobby the necessary parties and generate an action plan.

**Can I report dangerous driving to the Police?** You can report any incident to the police via 101, or if it is life-threatening to 999. Reports of speeding would most likely go to 101. You might want to also keep a log of dates and time of incidents, along with any registration plates. It may help TVP. You can also engage the services of the local PCSOs (Search Thames Valley Police Downley PSCO) and you should find the Wycombe West policing neighbourhood team with contact details.

If you are interested in any of these initiatives, residents are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings (there is always a slot near the start of the meeting for public questions). Both District and County Councillors regularly attend too, so this is an opportunity to engage them.

*Cllr D Egmore, Chairman of the Road Safety Committee*

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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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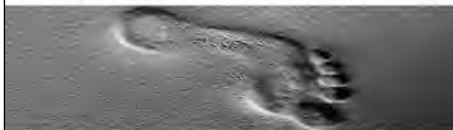
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St James Church Hall

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 6.45pm

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

**St.James Church list of events**

- One Can Trust Quiz on Friday 27th September at 7.00pm at St James Church, tickets £15, includes three course meal and glass of wine. 01494 512277 or email onecan@live.co.uk
- Pet Service on Sunday 6th October at 3pm
- Caribbean food on Saturday 12th October 7-11pm at St James Church, tickets £12 including food, bring your own drinks and glasses

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

**Downley Parish Notice Boards**

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

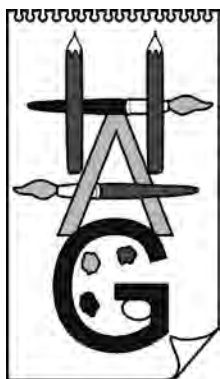
**All notices must be for local non profit organisations. Please ensure that A5 size notices are supplied.**

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

Sept	1	DCPS Work Party - 10am at the Bonfire Site
	4	Downley School term starts
	10	Downley Parish Council Meeting at the War Memorial Hall
Oct	6	DCPS Work Party - 10am at the Bonfire Site
	8	Downley Parish Council Meeting at the Community Centre
	17	Downley Common Preservation Society AGM 8pm at the War Memorial Hall
	27	Bonfire building 1st stage - 10am at the Bonfire Site
Nov	3	Bonfire building 2nd stage - 10am at the Bonfire Site
	5	Bonfire and Torchlight Procession - Torches start selling at 6.30pm on Commonsie
	9	Sunnybank Christmas Fair -At 10am till 12pm at Sunnybank Chapel
	10	Bonfire clear-up - 10am at the Bonfire Site
	12	Downley Parish Council Meeting at the War Memorial Hall
	19	Downley Day AGM - 8pm at the Community Centre

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**From Wycombe to Westminster**  
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*The Care Quality Commission inspects NHS and care services to ensure they meet national guidelines for both care and safety. The CQC published its latest report on our local hospital services on 18th June 2019. It found overall the service offered was Good, with the Caring element rated Outstanding.*



This is excellent news and shows just how much the local hospital services have improved over the last few years. We have much to be proud of. Wycombe Hospital is one of the top places in the country to be treated for heart and stroke conditions, and 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.

I hold regular meetings with the chief executive of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust which runs our hospitals, the Clinical Commissioning Group which decides on the services provided locally, and Oxford Health which is responsible for mental health. The meetings allow me to get a good understanding of the issues facing the NHS in our area, and I also have the opportunity to raise individual constituent's issues and concerns. The NHS Long Term Plan, which I wrote about in the last issue of Village News, will transform patient care with £4.5 billion being allocated to GP services and community care alone.

Another issue which I know constituents care deeply about is care for the environment. I was recently approached by a farmer living in the constituency about animal welfare issues and farm payments, which I was able to raise directly with the Secretary of State. He also told me of his work creating

wild flower meadows, which have the benefit of both looking beautiful but also providing a good habitat for traditional pollinators such as bees, butterflies and insects. He kindly invited me to visit his meadow which I had the pleasure to do one sunny morning in June when the meadow was at its most splendid. If you are interested, you can see a video of my visit on my website (see [Stevebaker.info](http://Stevebaker.info)).

I know it is important to protect our rural heritage for future generations. The meadow I visited had taken 10 years to be revitalised. Although things like wildflower meadows play a critical role in promoting biodiversity they usually cost the farmer to maintain. Good stewardship of the land is best achieved by protecting farmers' livelihoods.

**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. Steve Baker MP**





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## DAVE KENDALL

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## News from the District

*The Government appointed independent Inspector has signed off the Local Plan for Wycombe District as being 'sound' subject to the Council accepting some relatively minor modifications.*



The Local Plan is a key strategic document, required by law, which sets out the roadmap for sustainable development of the District up to 2033. It sets out a housing target for the District, allocates new sites for housing and economic development and identifies areas which will be protected from development. The Inspector conducted a public examination into the proposed Local Plan which included a series of public hearings in July and September last year. Members of the public and key stakeholders were invited to participate and present their evidence to her in person.

The next stage of the process is to have the Plan formally adopted by the Council and this is planned for 19th August. Assuming that the Council does indeed adopt the Plan, it will mean that we all have a clear vision and a way forward to help us manage and deliver sustainable development in Wycombe District. It will mean that we can manage what is built where, instead of being subjected to speculative developments which rarely puts housing where it is most appropriate and certainly contributes little to the infrastructure needs.

Three new additions to Wycombe District Council's staff are now on hand to offer shoppers a helpful, friendly presence in High Wycombe town centre. The council has employed three full-time street wardens to work in partnership with HWBidco's Town Ranger, Thames Valley Police and support agencies based in High Wycombe. As well as providing a reassuring, visible presence in the community, the wardens – working with the council's partners – are on hand to help deter crime and anti-social behaviour, reduce the fear of crime, and foster community cohesion. They will also take enforcement action if required. The employment of the three street wardens is the latest initiative by WDC to improve the town centre. The council continues to work with local businesses and potential businesses to widen the offer for residents and shoppers. WDC has been acquiring vacant shops and refurbishing them and letting them at affordable rents to encourage new independent traders like Mad Squirrel, Lata Lata, Lunch and The Works. We're also planning to transform the gateway into the town at the railway station by acquiring the listed Brunel building, which has been derelict for too long, and running it as a potential managed workspace scheme. Another historic building was acquired by WDC and is now leased to the Historic Buildings Trust. Number 2 & 3 High Street 'The Wheatsheaf Inn' in High Wycombe has been found to date from 1399.

Transition to the new Buckinghamshire Unitary Authority is gathering pace. News, webcasts of meetings and information can be found at [shadow.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://shadow.buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

In my role as the last Chairman of Wycombe District Council I have the pleasure of

*Continues on page 33...*

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...Continues from page 31

attending many engagements in Wycombe District during the year and recently I was invited to the Fremantle in Bloom awards, held at The Heights Care Home in Downley. The Heights are also holding a 'Memory Lane Café', a relaxed drop-in café for people with memory difficulties and their care givers. The café will be open every four weeks and more information can be obtained by contacting [Jackie.chivers@fremantletrust.org](mailto:Jackie.chivers@fremantletrust.org).

And finally, a very warm welcome to Revd. Heather Graham. Heather was licensed on 22nd July as the new team vicar at St James' in Downley.

*Paul Turner*

*Wycombe District Councillor for Downley & Plomer Hill  
[paul.turner@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:paul.turner@wycombe.gov.uk) 07825 842292*



## Street Wardens Arrive in Wycombe

*Three new additions to Wycombe District Council's staff are now on hand to offer shoppers a helpful, friendly presence in High Wycombe town centre.*

The council has employed three full-time street wardens to work in partnership with HWBidco's Town Ranger, Thames Valley Police and support agencies based in High Wycombe.

As well as providing a reassuring, visible presence in the community, the wardens – working with the council's partners – are on hand to help deter crime and anti-social behaviour, reduce the fear of crime, and foster community cohesion. They will also take enforcement action if required. Cllr Graham Peart BEM, Cabinet Member for Community, said: "Our new street wardens are a very welcome addition to the Wycombe community. Do say hello if you spot them, and do let them know if you see any anti-social behaviour."

The employment of the three street wardens is the latest initiative by WDC to improve the town centre.

The council continues to work with local business and potential businesses to widen the offer for residents and shoppers.





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m. 07891 688525

## J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints Autumn 2019

Wal, hello me ole mates, wal I'm a'writin this in July, and its hot, wal I means hot eh! Waterin, waterin and a'waterin, if you has to do this then make sure you don't wash out orl them, wot you calls em, nootryants, wot keeps the plants a'growin, so I reckons wot you've got to do is fork in yor compost, mulch, even yor farmyard manure, ( got at a gardin center), to hold the water and give them roots summat to get hold of eh? And then there's pots, not pottytoes, but them proper old fashioned luvly clay ones. Wal, when its hot they're a real problem, wot with slugs when its wet, and dryin up when its hot and dry , so why 'ave em eh? Wal Mrs H. ses the best thing with pots is that you can move 'em about, to suit yor trendy gardin design, you can always stand em in gardin saucers to keep em wet she ses, but who is it wot gose round wit h the waterin can eh? But there's me a'goin on about 'ot wether when you might be readin this in pourin rain and freexin cold eh?

So you'll ave had yor summer, got a lot of yor spuds up, and stored em, in breathable sacks of corse, definitely not in plastic, they'll rot, and you'll be a'pikkin yor tommy toes if they ave'nt got the blight, pikkin yor runner beans, I allers grows Scarlet Emperor, old uns the best eh? Then wot about the gardin in the autumn? Corse it's show time too, did you get yor onions into the local show, and yor sweet peas, wot a scent, and did you present em properly? Them judges don't mess about, but I rekkons they should take a bite out of em to check the flavour, that'd make their eyes water eh! I ad sum sweet peas in a pot, wot a scent, "Lovely" ses Mrs H, "Makes a change from some of the stuff you brings home". She's always a'goin on about getting veg from the supermarket, because it's cheaper than payin rent for yor plot, seeds, nettin, seed trays, but that's not wot its about up

the plot is it, 'ave a bit of mindfulness a'diggin over for the winter, (we ses mindlessness over Napple. . . Ha ha). And you gets a friendly chat up there, them young ones takin on a plot with kids is good for em, them kids luv's it, better than them phones sum of em cant leave alone, I'd ban em up the plot!

If you've got any fruit trees in the gardin then get prunin, this teknikle, so read carefully! (This was in a magazine so must be right!)

1. Prune new shoots that are a'growing from the main stem to about five leaves from the base.
2. Prune new shoots growin from the side shoots to one leaf from the base (but leave any fruit of corse!).
3. Prune out all vertical shoots'.

If you does that yor tree'll be in good condition for the new year. Then tidy up yor flower beds and deadhead orl gone over flowers, mulch away with yor home made compost, ave a bonny up the plot and breath in that lovely bonny smoke and sit down on the old chair yor mate gave you, open up the cider bottle and coult yor blessins I rekkon, another season a'sorted, and arvested, and Brexit or not you'll ave enough to keep a'goin, just like it was in the war, eh!

I had a message from my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke, he sed e'd given up on us over the channel now, "Why don't you just paint yourselves blue like before the Romans and just stop a'moanin about about everything". Wal, that's good a'cummin from im, e's got it made, sunshine, olives, melons, garlic, sweet tommytoes, erbs, but then he makes his own wine, I uses it instead of creosote for the shed, I wondered why he was that funny colour Ha Ha!

Wal that's it for now, so. . .

Cheerio and a'bientot,

*J.H. sent from my iSpade.*

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## Downley History Group

A feature of our recent event 'A Peek into the History of Downley' was the number of photographs that either formed part of the presentations or were available for subsequent study.

These photographs were obtained from a number of sources including from Downley people and we are always on the lookout to add more to our digital collection.

You may be put off offering some of your old photos of past Downley because of concerns about their quality, BUT there is no need to be. Shown below is an example of an old photograph of Well Cottage as it was received, with what can be brought out without great difficulty using modern photographic software. The major requirement is that they are scanned at high resolution, which we can do and then return the originals to you.



So, please, have a look again through the old family photograph collections to see if you have anything that we can help keep for posterity, and if you do contact the Downley Local History Group at downleyhistory@btinternet.com or ring 07791 853504.

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## Downley War Memorial Hall

*At the beginning of September 1939, the first evacuees arrived in High Wycombe, part of the 1800 children that had been allocated to the Town. Later in the month a group from Marylebone were assigned to Downley. The Village had also established ARP provisions with regular nightly patrols.*

The full text of the King's message to the Nation was printed in the local paper which also had details of the preparations for war going on throughout the area. These included reducing jury size at the Quarter sessions from 12 to 7, introducing a Food Control Committee and numerous examples of blackout breaches and cyclists failing to show rear lights.

News of the first casualties was arriving together with that of the sinking of SS Athenia on 3rd September by a German U-boat 200 miles north west of Ireland. Six weeks later came news that HMS Royal Oak had been sunk whilst at anchor. Amongst the survivors were three local sailors but the following week came news that Stoker Fred King from High Wycombe had died in the attack. Elsewhere in the town the High School was overcrowded with 422 pupils, including 62 evacuees, in a building designed for 300. The Mayor and Mayoress were weighed out along with all the Aldermen and Councilors. Rather embarrassingly I suspect, the Mayoress was one of a small number that had gained weight.

In Downley, the WI had held a competition for the largest crop from 2 seed potatoes.

Miss Ford was the winner and all produce went to the War Memorial Hospital. On Sunnybank two neighbours had come to blows ending with Mrs Gladys Redrup being Bound Over for six months and having to pay 4 shillings costs. On a lighter note, the Hollywood actor James Stewart had been seen watching the cricket at Marlow during a stay with fellow actor Robert Montgomery and his wife at Little Marlow Manor House.



*Survivors in one of Athenia's lifeboats*

From the start of this series of articles I should have included a "nothing changes" section as I have frequently come across stories from 100 years ago that resonate with the present. In October 1939 a policeman stopped a lorry in Marlow High Street that he believed had crossed the bridge whilst over the weight limit. It transpired that the Lorry (7.5 tons) and it's cargo of four cast iron wheels (4 tons) far exceeded the 5 ton limit. The driver was fined £2 (about £125 today).

**The first Downley man to die in World War 1 was Cecil Avery. I know that there are some Averys living in the village now so any details about Cecil would be much appreciated.**

*Alan Baker  
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## Letters

Dear Downley Community.

On behalf of Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme, I just had to write and thank you for the wonderful time we had at Downley Day. The organisation, the people, but most of all the sense of community, really made the day special for us, you should all be very proud.

At Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme (WRDGS), we care about the vulnerable homeless in our community. WRDGS have been helping homeless people, into their own home, opening the door to employment access to support services and a fresh start in life since 1996.

We help to prevent homelessness by:

- Guaranteeing the deposits required by private landlords to secure a tenancy
- Helping tenants to stay in their homes, by liaising between tenant, landlord and benefits agencies if problems arise which could lead to eviction.
- Giving free, confidential advice on housing related matters.

If you or someone you know is homeless or facing eviction, please call our office 01494 528557 to speak with our team and get advice.

Are you a landlord with a property to let? WRDGS have a waiting list of homeless people needing accommodation, we are always looking for bedsits, studios and one to three-bedroom properties in reasonable condition. We offer a guarantee against loss, damage or rent arrears; speedier payment of housing benefit; a comprehensive inventory, this service is provided FREE to landlords with properties in the Wycombe District Area.

WRDGS is always looking for ways to raise funds to run this scheme, if you would like more information on how you can support us then please visit our website [www.wrdgs.org.uk/donations](http://www.wrdgs.org.uk/donations). Thank you once again for such a warm welcome, we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Sarah Priestley  
Communications & Fundraising Officer



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Dear Downley Community.

Since joining the Parish Council in 2017, I've learnt a lot about our community and the great things we do.

I've also realised that I took a lot for granted about how local communities like Downley stay so great.

There are so many things I just assumed the Council sorted, whether it be at County, District or Parish level and whilst they play a large part, so much is as a result of the volunteering efforts of the great people that live within our very community.

A very simple example of this is litter.

Do you know how we get from littered hedgerows and roadsides to the beautiful, clean community that you see one Downley almost every day???

The council right? Well actually no. All rubbish discarded outside of ....designated public property ???eg schools??? is cleared away by the residents of Downley. They do this completely of their own free will and don't make a big fuss to get recognised for their amazing efforts. They do this solely to keep the village beautiful.

I would ask you as part of this wonderful community to please help by either just committing to put your rubbish in a bin or go one step further and volunteer for litter picking. This can be done at any time through the year and we can help by lending litter pickers and providing rubbish sacks.

We are currently exploring other ways of working with the community to reduce litter, including education, campaigning and children-led activities. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved please contact the Clerk at info@downleyparishcouncil.org

Cllr Roxi Sapsford



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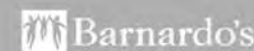
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The Village News is published quarterly in November, February, May and August. The deadline for adverts and copy for the next issue is 31 October 2019.

### Website

news@downley.org

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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.

Any copy or photographs sent to this address may also be used on the downley.org website and facebook page:

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### Steering Committee

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

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