



**DOWNLEY  
COMMUNITY**

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER

# Village News



## Features

Local Societies

Around the Area

Lifestyle

Downley Diary *Pull Out Section*

History

Issue 121/November 2019



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From Town to Country



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## Editorial

The Downley Village News team wish you all a Merry Christmas. You should receive this issue of your Downley Village News prior to Christmas. I say this as we have had some changes to the group of Local residents who volunteer their time to put together your local magazine.

I want to personally extend my thanks to Pat Weedon who has been creating the layout and organising the printing of the Village News for 8 years and is still very active in our community. Thank you, Pat, for your herculean efforts over the years to make the magazine content exciting for readers. I know all the communication committee members are extremely grateful to Pat for his assistance and we wish him well with his other varied community commitments.

Pat has handed the baton over to Geoff Gray, we extend our welcome to Geoff who joins the other communications committee members who volunteer their time and ensure your Downley Village News remains current and of interest to all Downley residents.

This issue is packed with content and new advertisers to the publication. No MP article will appear in this issue as Parliament is suspended until after the looming General Election in December. Don't forget to exercise your democratic right to vote.

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

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# Downley Common News

*Autumn is always a busy time on the Common, so here is a quick round up of recent activities.*

## **Mannings Pond**

This year we shifted our annual clean-up of Mannings Pond to the warmer month of September and welcomed the Downley Scout troop and their parents who came along to help. They made great progress in clearing out the sweet grass that had grown up since the last work party and finished off by taking a cooling dip in the pond. It's a



good it was still late summer; they wouldn't have enjoyed it so much in January! Thanks to the scouts and their parents for their enthusiastic efforts.

## **Bonfire and tree felling**



October is our traditional time for targeting any trees that we want to fell and this year we stayed focussed on the area that was started last year. The main aim was to clear some of the competing trees that were starting to compete with a large specimen oak. These included a couple of hawthorns and a young, very one-sided ok tree that was starting to interfere with the specimen tree.

At our AGM in October we elected a new treasurer, Mike Morgan, who replaced Bob Cook. We would like to extend our thanks to Bob for the many years he has filled the role and the healthy finances that he been able to pass over to Mike.

We also welcomed a new member, Wayne Snook, to the committee.

*Bill Thompson. DCPS*

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# Downley Evening WI

*Where does the time go?*

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

It seems only yesterday I was greeting you all on behalf of Downley Evening WI for the summer edition of the Downley Village News and here we are already at the end of October, autumn fully upon us and Christmas coming up very fast indeed. Where does the time go? I remember my mother saying that when I was a child. Of course, as a child, time seemed to go slowly and the longing for the Christmas/birthday/holiday was intense and seemed interminable. As we get older that changes ...

Another favourite phrase of my mother's was her reply to me when I'd couldn't find something and I'd go to her, asking 'Mummy, where's my ... (whatever)?' And she would invariably answer 'Where's the snow that fell last year?' You can imagine my bewilderment. I'd give her a logical, rational answer because I knew that snow melted and disappeared (bright child), but that didn't do the trick. It took me years to understand what she was getting at. With age, comes wisdom.

With age, comes also opportunity. Here at Downley Evening WI, we like to provide lots of opportunities for our members to grow, develop their knowledge and skills, to interact and discuss, to laugh and support each other. We like to have fun and we like to confront the serious side of life too. Our visiting speakers are varied and interesting. Our sub-groups are creative (Craft, Literary Lunch), our outings are fun (there's a keen group who

like to go 10 pin bowling) and we are a sociable bunch. We're already planning some Christmas events, notably our annual Christmas concert evening with the Downley Descants which will take place on Thursday December 5th at 8pm. Everyone is welcome. It's a lovely evening of music and seasonal readings followed by the obligatory mulled wine and mince pies. What's not to like?

With the end of 2019 looming, our attention is also turning to our big Centenary year. 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the Bucks Federation of WIs so there is a busy programme of events planned for next year which will bring the whole county together. That's perhaps one of the best things about the WI: it is both local and close-knit, and part of a much wider community, firstly at county, and then at national level, uniting women of all ages who share values and concerns. There's always room for one more – could it be you? Come and see for yourself. We love visitors. 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.

**But just in case we don't – we wish you a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.**

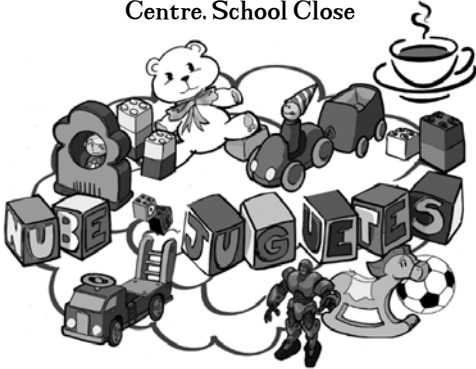
*Angela Taplin*

## Downley Toddler Group

Come along for a cup of tea and a play.  
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# Downley Community Centre News

*With over 35 regular hirers, activity in and around the centre continues to create a buzz.*

## ACOUSTICS PROJECT

Since the centre was converted from the old Victorian school in 2003, there have been a number of extensive projects identified that required large funding. The latest project is to implement a sound reduction plan. After extensive research and visits and discussions with other local halls and acoustic engineers, the sloping sections of the Oak Room ceiling have been fitted with over 40 sound absorbing acoustic panels. Each panel is designed to absorb sound reverberation that is created due to a lack of soft furnishings. The success of these panels has been noted elsewhere so once hirer feedback is received, the Centre plans to fit panels in the Beech Room too. Funding is achieved entirely from surplus income.

## Father Christmas Grotto

**Saturday December 14 10.00 – 12.00**



By popular demand this will be repeated for the third year as his appearance last year was even more popular than before. All well behaved children will be presented with their free gift.

**Contact: [bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk)**

## Macmillan Cancer Support in their World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Downley again played its part to help organise Macmillan's biggest fundraising charitable event with guest appearance by the Mayor of High Wycombe. A big thank you again to Downley Wives who made this event possible. This year Downley rose over £600 as our village contribution towards the national scheme which has run since 1990 and has been providing funds for numerous people facing cancer.



*Management Team – Downley Community Centre*



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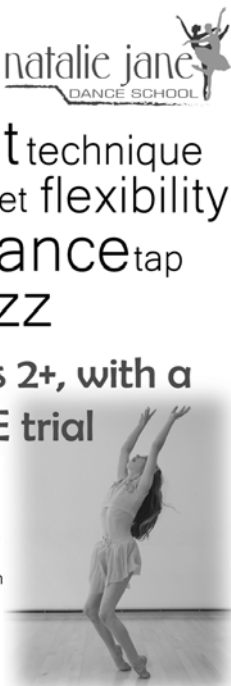


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# Coffee Stop

We hope you all enjoyed the Harvest Lunch as much as it appeared, we have received several compliments which are always very gratifying. Sadly, there are fewer people attending these days as some years ago we catered for over 50 people. If there are any suggestions on things you would like changed, added or subtracted, please let us know, preferably soon whilst it is still in your mind. We start planning the event in the summer and allocating the various dishes according to our strengths. I think we can agree that the apple pies are a firm fixture on the menu and the artistic decorations add a lot to the convivial atmosphere.

Looking forward to our next event, which will be as near to Christmas as we can manage, on 16th December, there will be a raffle and the opportunity to sing some Carols as well as some seasonal fare and music. Home-made soup will make a welcome return next week. That taxes our skills in making sure it can be enjoyed by all, including people on special diets, but we are learning. We sometimes have the same one two weeks running but that is because we are lucky enough to have several soup makers and they may not always be aware of what has been served on previous weeks.

We are most fortunate to have several loyal helpers who have been with us for many years and we have gradually been adding to our numbers with some new faces,(and hands!) who are heartily welcomed into the team and much appreciated, it really is a great way of

getting to know people in the village whilst doing a very valuable community service. We do not have a committee as such, we are just a group who meet every few months to swap experiences and ideas, please make sure we have things to discuss!

Our heartfelt gratitude to all the other unsung heroes who help with driving, putting up and tidying away tables, looking after our money and generally keeping things ticking over.



*Ann Buxton,  
pabuxton@hotmail.com*

## **PART TIME CARETAKER NEEDED**

The Community Centre is looking for a new caretaker to take over early next year as the existing caretaker retires. The job involves visiting our Centre each day and generally helping with the proper running of the building. The part-time position would ideally suit a recently retired couple who live nearby who can spare a little time early morning and late evening to lock and unlock our building and secure the premises.

Previous experience in looking after a building would be an advantage but not essential.

**If you are interested please make contact with David Worsdall at: davidworsdall@gmail.com for more information.**



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# Coffee Morning

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bring a friend!

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# Downley Descants News

## *What Downley Descants Means to Me*



I'm not a great singer, and with a low voice that can't reach the high notes I've always found it awkward and uncomfortable to sing, for example in church, where I'm often growling in my boots an octave down. However, I love music and wanted to try a choir where I could be an Alto and enjoy singing the low notes with others to help me along. So, once I had retired from teaching five years ago, I started looking for a choir to join. I asked my husband Alan who was a member of Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice choir to find out if the director Louise knew one which I could join that was relaxed and needed no audition. Surprise, surprise, she suggested Downley Descants, which she conducts. I had not heard of the Descants as we don't live in Downley and with much trepidation I came along and gave it a go. Five years on I'm still singing, and Alan has also joined. What I love about the choir is the wonderful range of music we sing – songs from the latest musicals such as the Greatest Showman, Abba and Beatles, to the beautiful Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus, perhaps my favourite piece. We sing mostly in four parts, Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass, and there are enough of us so we don't feel exposed, but not so many that anyone would feel anonymous. Louise makes the rehearsals such great fun, combining a wicked sense of humour with great musical ability and the skill to get the best out of us. She has enabled a mixed bunch of people and voices to sing

some really lovely music.

Not being a Downley resident hasn't been a problem, as everyone is very friendly and welcoming. To foster the social side, we have had quiz nights, a picnic before re-starting after the summer break, and sometimes films. My favourite outing with the choir was when some of us went to sing in Dorchester Abbey with the composer John Rutter whose choir music is always a delight (if a challenge) to learn. Of course there'd be no point having rehearsals if you aren't going to sing in front of other people and I have especially enjoyed our concerts, though it's a little nerve-wracking. With Downley descants I've sung in Marks and Spencer's, John Lewis, a golf club, and even Stowe at Christmastime, as well as other concerts during the year – most recently in a pub garden in the summer, and of course not forgetting Downley day!

I very much look forward to our weekly Choir evenings, and if you like singing too why not join us? We meet at 8 o'clock on Thursday evenings at Sunnybank Church, Moor Lane – and to help get into the seasonal spirit, come to our Christmas concert on Thursday 12 December, 7.30pm at St James' Church.

*Penny - Altos*

**For more details  
about the choir and concerts,  
contact Lyn Cook 01494 436063  
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# Chameleon Singles Group



*We have had a good variety of events over the autumn although we are now moving towards more inside events as the cooler days and darker nights set in. January marks our AGM where we will plan events for the months ahead and look forward to another year of days out, at home events, visits, theatre and pub nights etc.*

In September we attended the Bluegrass BBQ event at Fishers Brewery. It was a good opportunity to try out some different drinks and alternative BBQ food offering something a little different to the usual. October saw a return visit to the Improve Comedy evening at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. The team that put on this event make up the comedy from audience suggestions and a very good job they make of it too. We plan to go to another night early in the new year.

Our autumn trip to Beamish was a done over a long weekend. Not only did we spend a day visiting the museum but also had a chance to visit the Angel of the North, Newcastle and Whitley Bay as part of the trip. A particularly good Italian Restaurant was enjoyed by all on the Saturday evening. Food & drink events seem ever popular with our members. We hold 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 visit to the **Rebellion Brewery** and our Christmas events including a **dinner/dance at Hazlemere Golf Club, Christmas Lunch at the Spindle & Thread** and an at home sharing supper.

Some events run monthly like the Friday Lunch Club and our new Thursday date for the Pub Night. Both work well, making use of quieter times at the venues and are great places to meet other members. They are especially suitable for newcomers to the group. Chameleon also arranges trips to the theatre, cinema, comedy evenings, concerts, days out and various other events throughout the year. We have planned a day trip to Guernsey in the New Year.

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

To find out more 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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# St James Voice

There has been plenty going on at St James this autumn including a quiz night to raise money for a defibrillator for the One Can Trust, a Caribbean evening complete with the Wycombe Steelpan Orchestra, a pet service and some diy work on our church and hall. It has been great to meet many people from the community at these events.



As we approach Christmas amidst the uncertainties we face daily on the news, for our nation and many countries across the world, there is a joy in being able to participate in long established traditions like carol services, Christmas dinner and present exchanges as well as spending time with our families and friends. Christmas is a time of year that brings out the best in people, so many give up their time to help the homeless and those who are struggling and share their time and love with those who are lonely. At the heart of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, who came into the world as a baby, to live and die on earth as a man, experiencing the same joys and sadness's and uncertainties that we do, so that today when we go through pain or when we feel anxious about the future, we know that we can talk to him, because he really does understand.

Our Christmas services are shown below, please do come and join us. You could: make a Christingle at the nativity service; enjoy mulled wine and mince pies at the midnight service; and sing carols at all of them.

We would also love to invite you to join us and the other churches in Downley for Carols on the Common on Thursday 19th December at 6pm by the beacon, followed by mulled wine and mince pies int the memorial hall.

Looking ahead to the new year, we will be holding a quiz night on Friday 21st February to which all are welcome. Look out for more details on our website.

*Rev Heather Graham*

*Heather.graham@stjamesdownley.org.uk*

*01494 534 315*

*or 07876 292 288*

## Everyone welcome to our Christmas services at St James, Downley on Plomer Hill

Sunday 22nd December	Carol Service	11.00am
Christmas Eve	Nativity Service	4.00pm
	Holy Communion	11.30pm
Christmas Day	Family Communion	11.00am

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Messiah, the Lord, Luke 2:11*



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# Downley Local History Group

## *One for the Diary*

On the evening of Saturday, February 29th 2020 the Downley Local History Group, together with the Downley Common Preservation Society, are presenting a talk '**Downley Common, its Origin and Survival within the Parish of West Wycombe**' to be given by the local historian Dr Frances Kerner. Tickets for this event, which will be held at Downley War Memorial Hall and starts at 7:30 pm, will cost £2 per person. They are available from our treasurer, Mike Morgan, who can be contacted on 01494 514252 or [mikegmorgan65@gmail.com](mailto:mikegmorgan65@gmail.com) (don't miss out the 'g'!).



Downley Common has been an integral part of the village since its oldest dwellings, such as St Davids, Vale Cottage and Blacksmiths Cottage, began to cluster around its edge. Whilst a number of properties near the common still have the original Commoners' Rights of Estover (gathering dead wood) and

Pasturage, nowadays Downley Common plays host to a variety of activities from football to fairs, from Downley Day to walking across the common and further into the woods just to enjoy the surrounding countryside. Although in the Chilterns many commons have survived, this is not always the case, and there is no doubt that we in Downley are fortunate to have such a treasure today on our immediate doorstep.

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

## Library Opening Times

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

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



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

## Book Charges

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

## Computer & Internet Facilities

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

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

With winter not far away why not visit the library to pick up a book and cosy up to a warm fire. We have a large range of fiction to cover all tastes so we are sure you will find something to suit you. We also have many biographies of well known people that might suit your taste.



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# Update on Village Resilience Plan



Readers of the Village News will be aware that a small team are working on developing a Downley Village Resilience Plan to be activated in natural emergencies such as prolonged bad weather when we cannot rely on external help. A first draft has been completed and discussed with the Bucks County Resilience team and is now being amended.

In the end any Resilience Plan relies on volunteers to help out with all the routine tasks of helping our neighbours in a time of crisis and offering any specialist practical skills such as nursing or the use of specialist equipment eg 4X4 vehicles to add to the armoury of resources we can deploy.

We do have handful of willing volunteers who have agreed to help out but we need more. There is a particular need for street representatives who can communicate both needs and responses to those who are more vulnerable or live on their own.

Would you please consider carefully and see if you can help? Please send your name and contact details in a sealed envelope to the Resilience Planning Team at the Community Centre. Strict rules of confidentiality will be observed under GDPR rules and names will not be shared with anyone else.

A Resilience Plan is only as good as the level and commitment of willing volunteers who agree to help fellow villagers who may be in need. Downley needs to draw on its Community Spirit!

Many Thanks,

*Resilience Planning Team*

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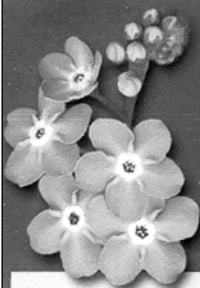
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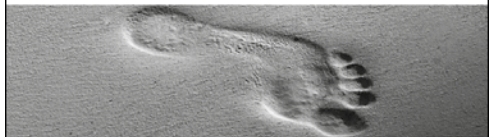
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# Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

## Downley Community Centre

Alzheimers Carers Support Group	4th Wed 10.30 am
Art Group	Term-time Mon & Tues 10am - 12.00
Artspiration	Term-time Sat 10.00 - 12.00
Bridge Group	Thurs 19.00
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 & 20.30
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
NCT - baby massage courses	Friday 10.30
Pilates - term time	Mon 18.45, Wed 18.30, Thurs 19.30
Pilates gentle	Term-time Wed 9.30am
Rainbows	Term-time Thursday 16.15
ReboundFit (new)	Weds 18:00
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

### St James Church

Downley Evening WI	2nd Tues 7.45pm
St James Church Coffee Morning	Thurs 10.00am - 12.30pm
Top Notes Choir	Mon 7.45pm - 9.45pm
Chepping Wycombe Trefoil Guild	2nd Thursday 7.45 p.m.

### St James Church Hall

Art Club	Thurs 9.30am
Assisted Scrabble	4th Friday of month 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Coffee Stop	Mon 10.30am
Downley and Disraeli Youth Club	Every 2nd and 4th Monday
Downley Gardening Society	3rd Mon of month 8.00pm
Karen Pilates	Wed 9.30am
Karate	Wed 7.00pm
Natailie's Meditation Class	Wed 8.30pm - 10.30pm
Philatelic Club	Alternate Thurs 7.30pm
Weightwatchers	Thurs 5.30pm

### Sunnybank Methodist Church Hall - [margaretstagg75@gmail.com](mailto:margaretstagg75@gmail.com)

Dance Classes for Young People	Mon 2.45 - 8pm; Tues 4.15 - 9.15pm; Fri, 3.45 - 6.15pm
Downley Descants	Thurs evening at 8.00pm
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	Tue 9.15am
Yoga	Tue 6.15pm
Yoga	Wed 9.45am
Yoga	Fri 9.15 am Term time only
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

**20**  
DEC

## **Community Carol Singing**

**Walk round  
the village and finish at the  
Community Centre for mince pies  
and mulled wine.**

**STARTS 4.00pm**

### **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 523 912**

### **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 email at : [downley\\_pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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

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**phone: 01494 530558**

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

### **St. James Church**

We would love to invite you to join us and the other churches in Downley for **Carols on the Common** on **Thursday 19th December at 6pm** by the beacon, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the memorial hall.

**[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. 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 for all the latest and up to date events and news.

1st Dec	Downley Common Work Party - Meet at the bonfire site	10.00am
2nd Dec	Christmas Moo Market at the Community Centre	1.30pm
6th Dec	Christmas Wreath Workshop at the Community Centre	7.30pm
7th Dec	Woodlands Christmas Fair - Free entry	
12th Dec	Downley Descants Christmas Concert - St James Church	7.30pm
14th Dec	Father Christmas Grotto at the Community Centre	10.00am
19th Dec	Carols and the Common at the beacon	6.00pm
20th Dec	Community Carol Singing, starts Jubilee Green opp Co-op	4.00pm
31st Dec	Beacon Lighting on Downley Common	11.30pm

**For full, up to date, details of upcoming events visit**  
**<https://www.downley.org/community/whats-on-events-list>**



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RingGo is widely used throughout the UK; details are available at [www.myringgo.co.uk](http://www.myringgo.co.uk). If you would like to email Parking Services ([parking@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:parking@wycombe.gov.uk)) we can provide an information sheet which guides a person through the process of setting up a free account when phoning RingGo for the first time.

For anyone who prefers not to carry a mobile phone, you could call RingGo on a landline before leaving home and pay for parking in advance but of course this cannot guarantee a space on arrival. Alternatively, a RingGo account could be shared with family or friends, with cash reimbursements to the account holder.

We do appreciate the frustrations of customers who do not use any of these payment methods and apologise for any inconvenience that this may have caused, but there was no viable alternative to converting to a cashless option.

*Ann Phillips (Mrs)  
Parking Services  
Wycombe District Council*



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# Downley War Memorial Hall



Advance parties of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) left Portsmouth for France on 4 September 1939. By the end of the month about 150,000 British soldiers were over there. However, the Wycombe conscripts from the summer were not fully trained at that stage and only left in mid-October to join probably either the 1st Bucks Battalion or the 4th Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. They would have reached the Frontline sometime in January 1940.

This period is generally referred to as “The Phony War” as very little was happening.

However, in Wycombe Ida Langley, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leonard Langley, was marrying Walter Ward of Suffield Road whilst her aunt and uncle, George and Leah Anne Munday, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Their sons John and Joseph had both been killed during WW1.

In February it was announced that road accidents in Bucks had almost doubled following the Black Out and RGS was closed for a week as there was no fuel for heating. There was also a report of the death of HC Mines just two weeks after his older brother Arthur. Another brother, Ralph, was Secretary of the Memorial Hall from its inception in 1923 until he retired in 1941.

Rationing of ham, bacon, butter and sugar had been introduced in January and March saw this extended to cover meat. The number of evacuees in the area had increased to over 1000 although there were rumours of some children returning home.

Reports of football matches gave way to cricket scores, the Downley WI organized a coach trip to Brighton and the Volunteer Defence Force had been created. Nicknamed the Parashots, as their main purpose was to spot and report German Paratroops, 4000 had enrolled in Buckinghamshire in the first two days!

The War entered its next phase on 10 May 1940 when Winston Churchill replaced Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister and Germany invaded Belgium, Holland and France. The BEF had been defending the northern part of the French border but moved into Belgium and were dug in along the Dyle river in Leuven by the time the Germans arrived there on the 15th. Unfortunately, the enemy had broken through further south by crossing the Meuse. Concerned about the BEF being cut-off if the Germans turned north it was ordered to pull back to France the following day.

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This meant marching for three days and nights to get to Tournai, about 50 miles west, with the roads congested and under attack from German aircraft. From there it was another 50 miles to Cassel, which was reached on the 24th. There the two Buckinghamshire regiments, along with several others, set up defensive lines to protect the roads to Calais and Dunkirk. The Germans attacked on the 28th and that evening the men were told that it was every man for himself. Officers took small groups or complete units north towards the coast under cover of darkness but most were captured early the following morning. After a couple of nights back in Cassel they were marched off to Trier in Germany, about 240 miles away! From there they were taken by rail in cattle trucks to POW camps in Poland arriving around 6th July.

Reports of casualties from the withdrawal and the defence of Dunkirk started to appear in the Bucks Free Press around the end of May and by early June it was recording stories from some of the men who had been evacuated back to Britain. It also carried silhouettes of German troop-carrying aircraft to make identification easier for the public.

*Alan Baker*  
*alanbaker49@btinternet.com*  
*07890 762527*

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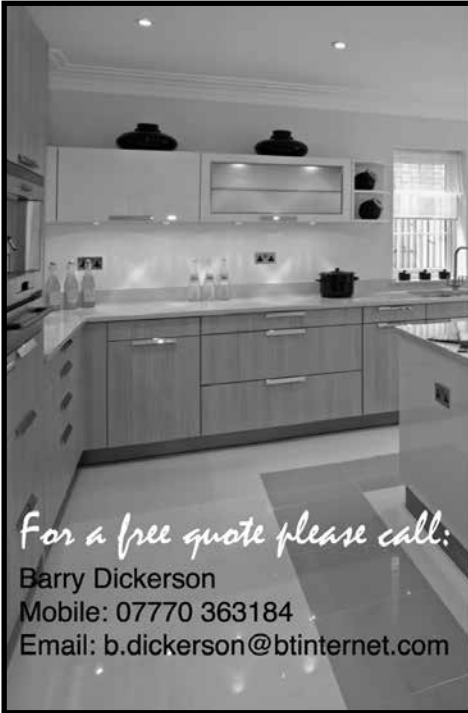
## Downley Gardening Society



Hi, we are your local gardening club. From October through to May we meet in St James' hall at 8.00pm on the third Monday of the month. Every meeting we have a different speaker to give us an hours talk on something garden related. Then we have tea or coffee with biccys and a chat to old friends. Yearly membership is just £5 for individuals or £8 per household. As well as the above-mentioned talks, members receive a monthly newsletter via email or hand delivered if you prefer (and you're local). We have a yearly garden trip plus an evening garden visit; a coach outing to RHS Wisley and an Autumn Show. So, why not come along and try something different; you will be most welcome. For 2020 we have a full programme with two of our booked speakers already featured on Gardeners World, so not only does membership offer great value but we are on trend as well!

Hope to see you soon.

*The Downley Gardening Club*



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# News from Hillclimb Garage

As the outgoing Garage Of The Year UK winners, our Service Manager Paul gave a great keynote speech at the national finals to the great and glorious in the Automotive Industry back in June. We have really brought new ideas to how an Independent Garage can serve its local community, and this is what drives us forward. We were then Commended in two categories (we were told this has never happened before!) Technological Innovation and Outstanding Achievement.

As the main sponsors for the Soapbox Challenge at Kop Hill Climb we were joined by Fuzz Townshend (Car SOS) to help the teams of kids keep their Soapboxes rolling. Such amazing spirit! We really hope to support the Downley Scout Group next year and have held them a spot in the competition in advance!

We are extremely proud to launch our new Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Repair and Servicing Department. With one of the very first Level 4 Master Techs in the country, we have really pulled off an amazing feat! We are the first garage in Buckinghamshire – registered with HEVRA (Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Repair Association) and with the specialist training and equipment we have invested in, we believe our customers now for the first time, have real choice about how to look after their EV and Hybrid Vehicles. Open now for servicing, repairs, advice and diagnostics. One stop shop and of course it will not affect your warranty (by law) to use an Independent Garage. Watch out for next Downley News as we will have even more news by then!

We are now open for our Free Winter Checks – check our website or look us up on Facebook for details.

Lastly, we would like to thank all of our customers both in Downley and the surrounding areas – we continue to greet an additional 70 new customers or so each month, mostly through recommendation. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*The Team @ Hillclimb Garage*



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# J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

*Winter 2019*

Wal, it's hello agin to orl me ole mates and sum wot might not be egsactly in that bracket eh! So wots that mean eh? Wal there's this Brexit thing, Ive never seen so many people git so uptight about summat eh? Worse than argufying about which turnips are best, or whether its good neyberly up the plot to ave yor bonny a'goin when the wind is in the west, or north or south or east, wal I dunno, a bonny is a must in the winter I reckons, it gets rid of orl the rubbish wot wont compost, and kills them grubs, and adds sum nice ash to yor soil, and of corse, ses Mrs H, "Keeps you a warmin yourself when avin a bit of a break from yor labours". Anyway, back to Brexit, wot has been a'goin on eh? How can you plan for next years gardin or plot eh? Wot about them fancy squashes and lettuces, cumin from forrin parts eh? My French cussin Jean s'Artichoke dussent know wots its orl about, he's more boverred about them burrocrats getting rid of that Bordo mixture copper spray that gits rid of evry sort of mould you can think of. Ive said about that before, I tends to think the same, did yor tommy toes and spuds get the blite this year, wal mates that blue powder certinly used to do the job eh!

Anyway, its time to git yor seed orders in, future planning is the key. Its not too late to git yor spring cabbage plants in, yor over wintrin onions in and of corse yor bulbs in, them almost black tulips in

Mrs H's favourit, but we've had a squirrel diggin em up, "Oh" ses Mrs H, "theres that luvly little squirrel in the gardin agin", she don't know that's why she puts ten bulbs in and only three cums up eh! Then how about yor muck eap, wal nows the time to spread it on yor beds , fork it in a bit, theres nuthin like getting yor soil in good nick reddy for the new seasons.

Oh, summat else I likes a'doin, and thata good with the kids, is plant yor conkers and acorns in pots, and other seeds you finds, reddy to plant out and help carbon capture, wot ever that is. We've got sum orl reddy in pots, and they'll stay in pots, Mrs H. reckons on doin em the Jap way, wots it called, Bonseye or summat like, anyway they looks good if you're a bit limited in space, and the kids usually likes doin it too. One we're a bit proud of is an avvakardo, Mrs H likes eaten em for some reason, I finds the nuts a bit hard! Ha Ha.

I reckons that's it for now, our neighbour just gives us a bottle of their fresh apple juice, so I'm a'goin to git the stove a'goin, and av a glass of it, with sum honey, maybe warmed up with a hot poker, just brilliant eh!

Enjoy the dark evenins, and look forward to the Spring!

Cheerio and a'bientot.

*J.H. sent from my iSpade.*

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# Jill's Science for Fun

## *Meaty debate - Part 1*

**Writing this piece at the last minute as usual, and looking around for inspiration, I am going to select a controversial topic – no, don't worry, not Brexit, though almost as divisive. (I wrote this sentence before I read our editor's email requesting articles on Brexit – my goodness, this is going to be a controversial edition of The Downley Village News).**

What we eat is a matter of choice, sort of, if you put aside sugar and additive addictions for another day. Some choose to eat meat, some choose to be vegetarians, and others go the whole hog (irony?) and become vegans. This is a personal choice, usually made for what the individual considers to be valid emotional or logical reasons. I have no argument with the former, but many of those “logical reasons” are misinformed, misled, and sometimes just wrong. I will run through a few later. First, we should discuss why we eat meat.

Early man, say 2.5 million years ago (Hominins have actually been around for towards 7 million years, but we will go for around the time of Australopithecus) would probably have been rather happy to have all the food they needed growing on the trees around them, in the leafy plants beneath these trees, or in easy to dig up roots in the ground. However, the need to have a more energy rich nutrient source was innate within them, and perhaps had not changed much since their evolution from their common ancestor with monkeys, then other apes. We did not evolve bodies that could survive and thrive without meat, unlike gorillas, who evolved a longer digestive tract (or ours shortened from originally being of this relative length) allowing them (or more precisely, mostly the bacteria in their gut) to digest plant material more efficiently; mind you, even gorillas like a few termites and their larvae to supplement their nutrient dense, calorie sparse diets. I have no doubt that early humans ate a good sampling of insects back in the day too. Hunting for meat would have taken up calories in the doing, but the gain in calories it provided made it a worthwhile exercise (in every way). The exercise of hunting itself probably contributed to our bipedal stance. Then we had the breakthrough and started to process this meat, using tools to cut meat off the bone, pounding it with prehistoric mortar and pestles (rocks on rocks), and then we started to cook it. This cooking is likely to be the single most important thing we ever did as humans. The consequences were that we ate a greater meat:plant ratio, digested the meat more easily, developed larger

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brains, and had more time for “hobbies” rather than grazing all day. Meat could be available all year round, either hunted at the time, or caught in advance and kept tethered/penned for slaughter when needed – no freezers in those days, but early farming started with this.

So that is then. Nowadays processing food has a whole new meaning, turning it into something which could be responsible for the end of our species, or at least a massive cutting back of our population – but that is a side track I will not go down today.

So, can man live without meat? Of course, we can nowadays. It is easy to access enough vegetables to live on, and today’s modern fruit, far more sugary than anything around for our ancestors, will give us more calories than they could access. Plus we massively process grain and seeds to supply us with highly calorific flour and engine oil – sorry, I meant to type edible vegetable oils! However calories are not the whole story. There is no such thing as an essential carbohydrate, we can live without these if we eat enough fat and protein. There are essential proteins and essential fats; essential, in this context, means our bodies cannot make them, we have to eat them. These can be found in plant sources, along with essential minerals and vitamins, but they are FAR more easily consumed when eating meat inclusive diets.

So we are back to that choice, and those arguments for vegetarianism which I consider spurious, but I have gone on too long, so I will submit them for printing in the next edition. It’s good to keep your audience waiting.

*Tutor-Jill*  
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I am a qualified primary school teacher but after nearly 15 years of teaching decided I needed a new challenge. I started at the Woodland pre-school as the deputy leader but after Julia Rouse's retirement earlier this year took up the mantle of Leader.

2019 is a big year for the pre-school as it celebrates its 40th birthday. There have of course been many changes at Woodlands since 1979. The former playgroup run by parents is now a pre-school providing fun, stimulating activities to fully support the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) curriculum as well as some extra-curricular activities such as yoga, rugby and dance sessions. The staff have a wealth of knowledge and many years of experience and at the heart of everything they do is encouraging the children to become independent and caring individuals. The pre-school offers term time childcare to 2½, 3 and 4 year olds between the hours of 8am and 3.30pm. However, despite these and many other changes, which have happened over the years, the ethos of the pre-school remains unchanged, 'learning with love and laughter'.

If you have a child approaching pre-school age or know anyone who does and would like to find out a little more about the Woodland experience why not contact us and come and look around. Email [admin@thewoodlandspreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@thewoodlandspreschool.co.uk) or phone 01494 521953 between 8am and 3.30pm during term time.

Finally, the pre-school has recently become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and we are now looking for volunteer Trustees to join our management team, This is not a role that requires you to be at Woodlands very often, but will entail evening meetings every term. If you, or someone you know, has skills you think would benefit us, financial, HR or childcare experience we'd love to hear from you.



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# Jill's Maths for Fun

1. A rectangle and an isosceles triangle have the same base and height measurement as each other. The area of the triangle is  $36\text{cm}^2$ , what is the area of the rectangle?
2. What is the maximum whole number of degrees in one internal angle of a triangle?


*Tutor-Jill*  
0773 860 9944

## Answers below

*Tutor-Jill 0773 860 9944*

1. Area of a rectangle = base x height  
Area of a triangle =  $(\text{base} \times \text{height}) \div 2$   
Base and height (when we refer to height it is always perpendicular height, not side length of the triangle).  
So area of the rectangle is double that of the triangle,  $36 \times 2 = 72\text{cm}^2$
2. There are a total of  $180^\circ$  internally in any triangle. Therefore the largest whole number angle is  $179^\circ$ . A ridiculous triangle, the other angle would be  $0.5^\circ$  each is isosceles, drawing this without specialist equipment would simply produce what looks like a messy straight line. Even if drawn with specialist equipment I suspect my eyes would not be able to resolve it to see it as a triangle.

## Jill's Maths For Fun - Answers



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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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