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Village News



Issue 122/February 2020

Up Downley 2020
See Back Cover & Page 29

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Editorial

A happy – and belated – New Year to one and all! I'm acting as guest editor for this issue of Downley Village News, as Simon Scott has now moved away from the area so the position is vacant. I'm sure the committee would want to record its thanks to Simon for all his work; it's never easy to find people willing to give their time to these jobs.

It's early February as I write this, and what a strange winter it has been so far, weather-wise. The snowdrops are full out, the crocuses nearly so, and I've even seen a few daffodils in flower. Maybe by the time you read this we will be under two foot of snow; you never can tell with the English weather. I will certainly be glad when the Common dries up a bit as it makes walking a very muddy and slippery affair!

I don't know whether I will be continuing in the editor role or not, but whoever is in the position will be delighted to hear from any organisation in Downley (or the surrounding area) with news and information to go into Downley Village News. You can submit articles via the email address editor@downley.org, or if you want to know copy deadlines contact the same address.

*Anne, Guest Editor
editor@downley.org*

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Downley Common News



The beacon turned into quite a social meeting point over Christmas and the New Year with Carols on the Common on 20th December and the New Year's Eve beacon lighting. A good crowd turned up for both events although sadly the weather didn't shine on the carol singers. These have turned into regular events so hopefully better weather next year.

January saw our annual splash-around in Mannings pond where we removed yet more rushes and grass from around the perimeter of the northern section as well as tidying up fallen branches in the southern section. Together with the work done by the Scouts in September, we are now three quarters of the way round. Soon we'll be back at the beginning ready to start again!



In December we did a final clear-up of the bonfire site for this year. There was quite a lot of rubble left this year, but the intention is to repurpose this into improving the surface of the bridle path leading to the north end of the Common. This will be a job for February.

The Scouts are planning to get involved again at the March work party (1st March) by planting some trees. This will take place in the coppicing area adjacent to the track to the old dairy where we have been gradually replanting a small area with whips. Coppicing consists of cutting and regrowing fast-growing tree species such as willow and hazel among others. This project has been going for about 15-20 years so we will also need to cut back some of the older plantings before they get too big. Due to smothering by bracken, not all of the previous plantings survive so there is a continuous programme of replacement.

Bill Thompson. DCPS



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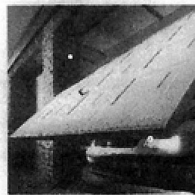
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Downley Community Centre News

Father Christmas Grotto

This event was again free and funded from surplus income. The visit by Father Christmas was popular with Downley families whose children especially appreciated their free present.

Acoustics Project - Phase 2

Following on the success and positive feedback from hirers using the OAK room since sound absorbing acoustic panels were fitted, it has been decided that the BEECH room should be fitted out the same way. BEECH room lacks the soft furnishings seen in OAK and features a different ceiling design so should bring even greater acoustic comfort for hirers.

This project is scheduled to take place at Easter and is funded entirely by the Community Centre out of hire income.



Welcome

to our new caretakers!

The management committee is delighted to welcome Emma and David as new caretakers who have taken over from Parry and Jenny who have now retired.

Since moving to Downley in 2018 both Emma and David have participated in several Downley events. Their most recent involvement was leading the carol singing around the village last Christmas. They are home-based professional musicians and live within easy walking distance of the Centre so do say 'hello' should you see them around.

Management Team – Downley Community Centre

Contact: bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Centre urgently needs a couple of volunteers to help with the accounts. This will include monthly billing routines, some on-line banking and occasional supplier payment. Attendance at monthly management committee meetings where convenient.

Some familiarity with Quickbooks or similar system would be an advantage. Laptop supplied.

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David Worsdall at davidworsdall@gmail.com**



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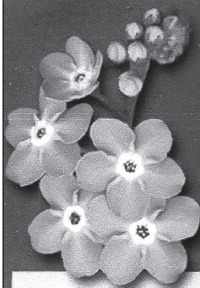
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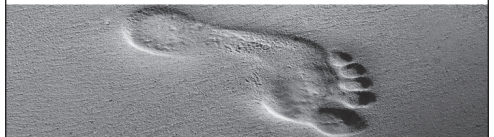
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Coffee Stop

Hello again everyone, welcome to a new year and a new decade, a time for reminiscences. Coffee Stop will reach its 18th birthday in October, quite a feat don't you think? I have been looking again at the booklet we produced in 2012 with the help of a legacy from our good friend and customer, Charles - I will bring my copy for you to see. Of the first photo in the gallery, the only "survivor" is me as all the others have now moved on - luckily more helpers have joined and are enjoying spending time with the team and the customers. We are very grateful to them and would, of course, welcome more! Next week we are having our annual get-together lunch which will no doubt be the usual lively affair.

We, the helpers, really enjoy finding things to tempt you with. At the moment, the favourites are tea cakes and soup, but you have fallen out of love with bacon butties. Cakes are always popular, and we try to keep the prices realistic. I noted the other day in a cafe that a simple scone was priced at £2.30, so I think you usually get a bargain! Please always tell us if there is something that you don't like or a suggestion for something different; we fully understand that it is easy for us to get jaded, and believe me it is sometimes baffling standing in a supermarket trying to predict what people will like on that

particular day!

Our gratitude is unbounded for the kind chaps who help putting



up and taking down tables and ferrying people around; they are very much part of the whole team - and one is also an excellent soup maker as well as looking after our money (take a bow, Andy).

Please come and join us, either as a helper or a customer. It really is fun, and a great way of finding out what is going on in the

village (hatches, matches and scratches) and meeting your neighbours. Our next event will be Easter, probably with a raffle but the rest isn't planned yet.

Best wishes to you all

*Ann Buxton,
pabuxton@hotmail.com*

COULD YOU BE A CHIPMUNK?



The Chipmunks are a small group of Woodcarvers who meet up once a week at the Downley Community Centre.

We would welcome new members, experienced or not, to our group. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 10.00-12.00 in the Oak Room at the Centre, just off School Close. Whilst not teachers we are happy to give advice and help.

Phone Margaret 01494 523 912

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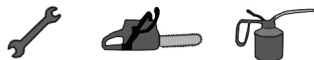


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Downley Theatre Group

We offer trips to West End shows, sometimes to Oxford theatres, and occasional day outings too. The inclusive price covers ticket, return coach travel and a tip for the driver at generally less than the face value of the seat.

Most members receive information by email but it's not a problem if you haven't got the technology: we ask that stamped addressed envelopes are provided and post the details to you instead.

Electronic communications are not 100% reliable! Should you not have heard from us for a while, do contact us just in case the gremlins have attacked; our last message was sent out in January.

Some people got in touch following the introduction of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) in May 2018 but we have yet to receive the necessary permission to hold their details on the database: does that sound like you? Please call so we can sort this out.

Lastly, new members are most welcome! Please ring or email on the contact details below.

Alan and Claire Baker

01494 437552

downleytheatregroup@gmail.com

DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Committee Volunteers Wanted



The management committee of the Centre needs new blood!

New committee members would be made very welcome and ideally reside in Downley with an existing interest in the local community.

Maybe you have skills in organising events, expertise on health and safety, book-keeping, can introduce contacts with 3rd party contractors, create publicity materials or enjoy liaising with current and potential new hirers and love to contribute to the committee's decision-making processes etc.

Attendance as convenient at the regular management committee meeting which takes place monthly. The committee thrives on a mix of diverse skills so if you are community minded and would love to contribute to our dynamic Centre please contact David Worsdall, Chairman for an informal chat.

davidworsdall@gmail.com for more information.

We would love to hear from you

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Downley Descants News

Beat the Winter Blues



January isn't very inspirational when it comes to writing articles, looking through the windows at the grey skies and the bare gardens. It is a time to look back at the busy time the choir has had over Christmas and a time to look forward to, hopefully, an exciting year to come.

You may have seen us at either the WI concert or our own Christmas concert, both at St James' Church, and we hope you enjoyed the singing and our little rendition of Cinderella, mostly in fancy dress! We were thrilled that these two concerts allowed us to donate £700 to two local charities, Wycombe Shopmobility and the South Bucks branch of the National Autistic Society. We are very proud that this brings our total charitable donations to over £10,000 since we started - a "double whammy" really, since in helping others we have an extremely good time ourselves. We have already started planning for 2020 and have some new pieces to learn. We are planning to hold a small informal concert in the Spring, then we take part in the Piddington Choir Festival, followed a week later by our usual appearance at Up!Downley.

We try to encourage one of our members to write about their thoughts on the choir for each edition of DVN. Many are reluctant to do this, but this time we are indebted to Kathy who stepped forward:-
"I joined Downley Descants when Lyn first decided to put together a Community Choir in September 2012. When I

found an audition was not required, I thought I would give it a try; I think this has encouraged more people to have a go as well. We were mostly beginners, but with Louise's expertise and a lot of rehearsals we have become a choir that has performed at many venues. Our repertoire is a variety of songs that can be sung throughout the year to suit different occasions, and all ranges of voices are covered so anyone can join in the choir. If you like singing and would like to have a go, please come along and try us out. We are a friendly group of men and women and everyone enjoys the weekly rehearsals which are held on Thursday evenings at Sunnybank Methodist church at 8 pm, where you would receive a very warm welcome."

Kathy N - Altos

**If you are interested
in joining the choir,
contact Lyn on 01494 436063
or Julian on 01494 440430
or check out our website
downleydescants.org.uk**

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Chameleon Singles Group



We have had a good variety of events once again over the winter months and for the few held outside the weather remained dry. November saw a Bonfire Night BBQ, then we were off bowling ahead of the traditional foodie events for the festive period. We started the New Year with a walk on 1st January, and while a little muddy in places the sun came out for what was a very pleasant day. We'll be doing our second walk of the year around West Wycombe Park as part of the Snowdrop Walks.

Our AGM and planning evening at the end of January always sees a number of ideas for future programmes. This year we already have planned a day trip to **Guernsey** and maybe a further trip to **St Malo in France** as part of a short mini-cruise. Days out to local attractions and a trip to the coast will feature high on the agenda for the summer months which seem to come along quicker than ever.

Food and 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. On offer are **Tea and Cakes, Fish & Chip suppers, Pizza, Indian, Chinese** and more. We have a visit to the **Rebellion Brewery**, an annual **Pancake Night** plus throughout the year we eat out at several restaurants catering for a variety of different tastes.

Some events run monthly, like the **Friday Lunch Club** at the Spindle & Thread, High Wycombe and our last-Thursday-of-the-month **Pub Night** at The Dolphin, Totteridge. 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.

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 or Trevor on 01494 529067, or e-mail: info@chameleonsingles.org.uk. Visit us on-line at www.chameleonsingles.org.uk for more information and our current programme or connect with us through Facebook.



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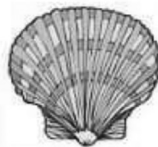


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Coffee Morning

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St James Voice

It was lovely to be part of the Downley Christmas celebrations.



Highlights for me were the Christingle services, with year 2 from the Downley school and the Montessori nursery, and our own nativity service; and hearing some of the great musical talent in Downley. I went to two Downley Descants concerts, which were great and we also had a very enjoyable time singing carols - not on the common, due to heavy rain! - but in the Memorial Hall where we greatly benefitted from input from Top Notes choir leader Emma.



As we step into 2020 we are aware of the political tensions in our world, of the sad effects of global warming that are so vividly seen in the terrible bush fires that Australia has been experiencing and in the famines and droughts across many parts of the world. This can make us anxious about what the future holds for us and for our children. It often feels like the big changes need to come from governments and leaders who we have no way to influence.

trypraying

The one thing we can all do, old and young, is to pray and to ask God to intervene in situations that, humanly speaking, seem too big for us.

In the bible the apostle Paul writes that God is “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20). So if you have never tried praying, why not try now.

Prayer is something you can do any time, any place, anywhere. If you would prefer some ideas on how to pray, at St James we have set up a prayer room in our chapel; you can always pop along and use this on a Thursday morning during our “pop in for a cuppa” (10.00 am -1.00 pm) or on a Sunday.

Some future events that you might like to come along to:

- **QUIZ NIGHT** Quiz on Friday 21st February, 7.00 pm at St James Church, tickets £12 from helen@aspeng.org.uk. Raffle proceeds to South Bucks Hospice, Butterfly House

EASTER SERVICES:

- **Thursday 9th April 7.00 pm:** Maundy Thursday service with foot washing followed by a light supper
- **Good Friday 10th April 11.00 am**
- **Easter Sunday 12th April 6.00 am:** dawn “churches together” service on Downley Common by the beacon, followed by breakfast at St James
- **Easter Sunday 12th April 11.00 am:** Family Communion



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Downley War Memorial Hall

News from 1940....



During July and August 1940 there was further news of the battle for Dunkirk with one report of the defensive action including "... the blood-curdling yell of the kilted Black Watch silhouetted against the flames of a burning farm as they charged the enemy with bayonets fixed."

However, every edition of the Bucks Free Press also had news of those killed, wounded or missing in action with many photos of the men concerned. Towards the end of July though there were increasing numbers of men reported as Prisoners of War, including W A Larkin of Downley. There were two local men named Larkin but neither had those initials. In addition, I cannot find any in the Army records so I suspect this is a printing error.

After France fell, on 22 June 1940, Britain faced the threat of invasion but with the Royal Navy controlling the Channel this was always going to be difficult.

In July, Germany began an air and sea blockade and started attacking ports and shipping in what was the start of the Battle of Britain. With the RAF holding firm, their airfields became the targets. Meanwhile, Hitler had given orders to prepare Operation Sea Lion, a potential invasion plan. However, by September RAF Bomber Command had commenced night raids on the German preparations for this and with Fighter Command continuing to hold off the enemy during daylight Germany switched to night bombing raids, which became known as the Blitz, and cancelled their invasion plans.

The Blitz lasted through to 11 May 1941 and almost every city, major industrial centre and port was heavily attacked. At the start, London suffered bombing raids on 56 out of 57 days and nights!

Back at home the Police had a new law to enforce. Any vehicles left unattended should be immobilised. It wasn't clear if locking them was sufficient but a Marlow lady who left her car with the keys in the ignition received a £10 fine and £5 costs for her mistake. That would be a total close to £1,000 today!

In November, Bucks WI announced that the County's Fruit Preservation Centres had received 30 tons of jam, with Hazlemere WI's total of 4,020 pounds (about 1,800kg) the largest contributor.

Also that month, sculptor and Speen resident Eric Gill died. Best known for pieces such as Ariel at BBC's Broadcasting House, alongside his sculpting he had trained in calligraphy and designed a number of type fonts with Gill Sans, in various styles, still available on MS Word.

**Eighty years on, the Committee are working on plans for this year's
Open Gardens - Sunday 27th June and renovating the front steps**

Do you love your garden? Then why not let others have a look at it. Nobody expects something straight out of the Chelsea Flower Show. If you are interested please give Hazel Parnham a call on 01494 437422.

Alan Baker alanbaker49@btinternet.com 07890 762527

Downley Parish Council are excited to announce the launch of

Downley Junior Parish Council

As a Parish Council, our goal is to represent the needs of our community as a whole. Since it is not just adults included in our village, it makes sense that younger residents of Downley get a chance to volunteer and speak up about matters that are important to them in the local area within Parish Council meetings of their own.

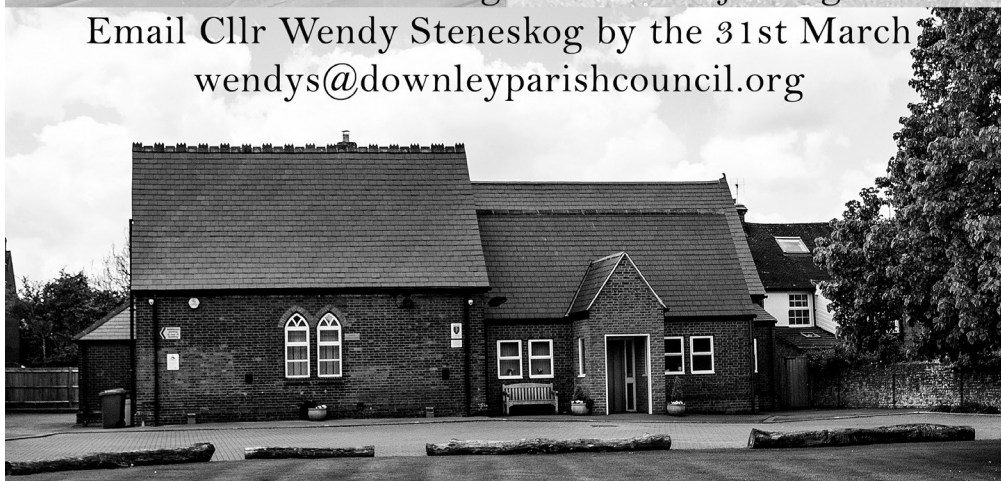
Are you interested in making new friends whilst building life-long and useful skills?

Are you between 8-16 years old?

Do you live in Downley?

Do you want your voice to be heard in your community?

Interested in hearing more about joining?
Email Cllr Wendy Steneskog by the 31st March
wendys@downleyparishcouncil.org



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E: enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk

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Mondays 10-12 noon

Thursdays 3-5 pm

Saturdays 10-12 noon

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If you have fairly modern books which you no longer need and others might be interested please bring them along to the library

 See what's new on the shelves



Simply Walk

Join us every week for walks in your local countryside.

A chance to meet new friends and feel good!

MONDAY

10am at The Community Centre for a 1½ hour or 2 hour walk

THURSDAY

11am at The Community Centre for a 1 hour walk

ALL WALKS HAVE A TRAINED LEADER WITH A BACK MARKER • Walk at your own pace

Barry Gay Memorial Walk Monday 23 March 10 am

Rogation Sunday Walk Sunday 17 May at 2 pm leaving the War Memorial Hall.

**Contact Simply Walk on 07802 260812,
email simplywalks@buckscc.gov.uk or visit
www.buckscc.gov.uk/simplywalk**

DOWNLEY WAR MEMORIAL HALL

In recognition of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day there will be an Afternoon Tea at the War Memorial Hall over the early Spring Bank Holiday weekend, Friday 8th to Sunday 10th May.

Final details are to be confirmed; please look out for further information on the Village Noticeboards, Downley.org and the Downley Facebook page.



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How Green is Downley Pharmacy?

We have all seen in recent months the coverage about plastics in our oceans, climate change protestors and the like. Pharmacy has a Green Cross as its recognised symbol as a provider of healthcare and advice but how green are we in the terms of the environment in which we live? Pharmacy and our customers can and do play a part in reduction of waste and the responsible disposal of waste.



The change of policy in 2018 whereby patients are responsible for assessing and ordering medication required, rather than relying on pharmacy ordering schemes, has hopefully achieved at least in part a stop to over-ordering medicines not needed or no longer in use. Medication regimes can change and it is all too easy to accrue extras. We would like to encourage patients to review stocks at home and also check items on collection to prevent inadvertent expense to the NHS and subsequent waste. We are not permitted to re-issue medicines once they have left the shop due to various reasons around quality assurance, but we can help and advise regarding storage and future order procedures.

What then to do with discontinued, out of date or unwanted medication?

This can be returned to the Pharmacy for safe destruction. Please do not be tempted to give it to friends or family for whom the medication may not be suitable. Once received, we sort for suitable destruction and recycling of packaging where possible.

Inhalers of all types, used or unused, are collected for a full recycling scheme that re-uses both the plastics of the canisters and the gas propellants. We would therefore encourage return of used and empty inhalers as well.

Within the retail environment, we are looking to stock where possible environmentally-friendly products such as reusable ear buds, cotton buds with non plastic parts and new methods for ladies sanitary needs. We are also mindful of plastic bag usage; although as a small company we are not subject to the 5p charge, it has been encouraging to see our customers bringing their own bag or only accepting a bag when the purchase is large. Prescriptions will continue to be handed out in paper bags which are, of course, recyclable via our paper recycling boxes.

Let's all work together for a healthy green lifestyle.

Bucks and Oxon First Aid, Safety, and Wellbeing Specialists

Downley based First Aid company has the following training sessions available at St James' Church Hall, HP13 5NB:

Fun with First Aid (ages 7 – 11)	Wednesday 8th April 2 - 4pm	£18pp
Emergency First Aid at Work (cert)	Friday 17th April	£75pp
Paediatric First Aid (cert) -2 days	Friday 15th and 22nd May	£110 pp

Create your own wounds...and heal them! A messy introduction to first aid for kids.

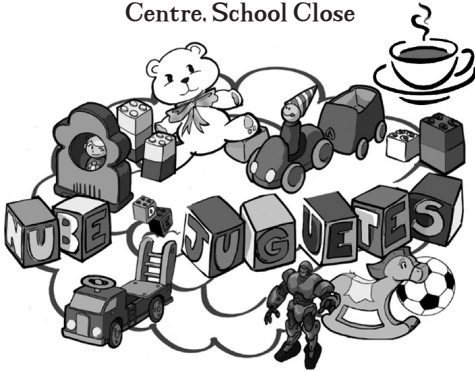
To make a booking email: bucksfirstaid@gmail.com

Downley Toddler Group

Come along for a cup of tea and a play.
visit the library for Story Time.

Ages 0-5

Mondays, 9.30am to 11.30am
at the Downley Community
Centre, School Close



Term time only

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Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

Downley Community Centre

Alzheimers Carers Support Group	4th Wednesday 10.30
Art Group	Monday and Tuesday 10.00 - 12.00 Term time
Bridge Group	Thursday 19.00
Brownies	Tuesday 17.45 Term time
Chipmunks Woodcarving	Wed 10.00
Community Library	Monday and Saturday 10.00 Thurs 15.00
Counselling	By appointment
Craft Group	1st Tuesday 09.30 - 12.30
Dance Classes (Ballroom and Latin)	Tuesday 19.30 and 20.30
Downley Toddler Group	Monday 09.30-11.30 Term time
Downley Village Evening WI	1st Tuesday 19.30
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wednesday 20.00
First Class Learning	Saturday 10.00
Flower Club	3rd Tuesday 19.30
French Circle	2nd Friday 19.30
Gong Baths	Various Sundays
Kingdom Dynamics Chapel	Sunday 10.00 - 12.00
Lace Making	Thursday 12.45 Term time
Line Dancing	Tuesday 12.45 and Friday 10.00
NCT - baby massage courses	Friday 10.30
Pilates	Monday 18.45, Wednesday 18.30, Thursday 19.30 Term time
Pilates gentle	Wednesday 09.30 Term time
Rainbows	Thurs 16.15 Term time
ReboundFit (new)	Wednesday 18:00
Relationship Counselling	By appointment
Russian Group	3rd Thursday 14.00
Simply Walk	Monday 10.00 and Thursday 11.00
Tai Chi – for health	Wednesday 10.30 Term time
U3A Ukulele	4th Thursday 10.00 - 12.00
Wargamers	Monday 18.45
Wycombe Spiritual Centre	1st and 3rd Friday 18.30
Yoga Class (new)	Saturday 10.30

Sunnybank Methodist Church Hall - margaretstagg75@gmail.com 01494 530736

Dance Classes for Young People	Monday 14.45 - 20.00; Tuesday 16.00 - 21.00; Friday 15.30 - 18.15
Downley Descants	Thursday 20.00
Moor Lane Playgroup	Weekday Mornings - Term time
Yoga	Saturday 10.00 - 11.30

St James Church

Downley Evening WI	2nd Tuesday 19.45
St James Church Coffee Morning	Thursday 10.00 - 12.30
Top Notes Choir	Monday 19.45 - 21.45
Chepping Wycombe Trefoil Guild	2nd Thursday 19.45

St James Church Hall

Art Club	Thursday 09.30
Assisted Scrabble	4th Friday 14.00 - 16.00
Coffee Stop	Monday 10.30
Downley and Disraeli Youth Club	2nd and 4th Monday
Downley Gardening Society	3rd Monday 20.00
Karen Pilates	Wednesday 09.30
Karate	Wednesday 19.00
Natailie's Meditation Class	Wednesday 20.30 - 22.30
Philatelic Club	Alternate Thursday 19.30
Weightwatchers	Thursday 17.30

Downley War Memorial Hall

Fencing Training	Wednesday and Friday 17.00
Sunshine Montessori	Weekdays 08.30 Term time
Yoga	Tuesday 09.15
Yoga	Tuesday 18.15
Yoga	Wednesday 09.45
Yoga	Friday 09.15 Term time
Pilates	Monday 18.45

Guide & Scout Centre

Rainbows.Brownies/Guides	Monday 16.30
Guides	Tuesday 19.15
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	Wednesday 18.00
Dog Training	Thursday 18.30
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	Friday 16.30
Dog Training	Sunday 09.30 - 12.00
Woodlands Preschool	Daily 08.00 - 16.00

Downley Parish Council

Meeting Dates

Meetings are on 2nd Tuesday of the month.

War Memorial Hall 7.45pm

January, March, May, July, September and November

Downley Community Centre, School Close 7.45pm

February, April, June, August, October and December

Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions.

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.

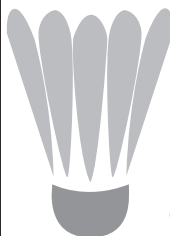
**The Clerk (Chettina Masters)
can be contacted on 01494 444683
Email at : downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk**

Do You Fancy Making Things Out of Old Wood?

Every year I see lovely bits of wood tossed onto the bonfire to be burned because they are no longer wanted. I also see possibilities for garden benches, bird/bat boxes, shelves etc. However, I need to find like-minded people with know-how, ideas and time to enjoy making it happen. I'm sure we could circumvent the trip to the bonfire and get local builders to donate wood. We could sell items made at Downley Day, or on Facebook for money to fund a few tools, perhaps even get a grant.

There was an item on Countryfile a few months ago where people converted an old barn as a workshop and did just this; it was very popular with retired people and artists, but anyone was welcomed. I thought - what a brilliant idea! Is there anyone else who thinks so? Please give me a ring and I can at least arrange a meeting if there is suitable interest.

Lynne Thompson 01494 520648



BADMINTON CLUB

Badminton players wanted to join a friendly club playing at Cressex School on Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm.

**Beginner to intermediate standard
all welcome.**

£6 per 2 hour session

Call Maggie Noakes on 07967 812964

Downley Parish Notice Boards

Notices for the Parish notice boards should be left at the Community Centre. Notices must be received one month in advance of the event. Notice boards are updated on the first Thursday of each month. Please post notices into the letterbox at the Community Centre clearly marked for the Clerks attention. Please notify the Clerk if you have posted a notice 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.**

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

Up & Coming - Please visit Downley.org for all the latest and up to date events and news.

29th Feb	Downley Common, it's Origin and Survival within the Manor of West Wycombe - War Memorial Hall	7.30pm
1st March	Downley Common Work Party - Old Bakehouse	10.00am
10th March	Parish Council Meeting - War Memorial Hall	7.45pm
23rd March	Barry Gay Memorial Walk - Community Centre	10.00am
5th April	Downley Common Work Party - Old Bakehouse	10.00am
9th April	Maundy Thursday service at St James Church	7.00pm
14th April	Parish Council Meeting - Community Centre	7.45pm
16th April	DCPS Open Meeting - All Welcome - Community Centre	8.00pm
3rd May	Downley Common Work Party - Old Bakehouse	10.00am
12th May	Parish Council Meeting - War Memorial Hall	7.45pm
7th May	The Buckinghamshire Council (Unitary Authority) Election	
16th May	Up Downley Box Office opens in Community Centre and online	
17th May	Rogation Walk around Downley - War Memorial Hall	2.00pm

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

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Up! Downley Festival 2020

The plans so far!

Well, here we are – 2020. I'm pleased to report that the Committee volunteers have already been busy organising this year's festival.

The Up! Downley Festival aims to raise awareness of the huge variety of activities that takes place in the village for families, children and people of all ages. Over the three weeks, kick started by Downley Day, we highlight the diverse life of the village and throw in some fun for good measure.

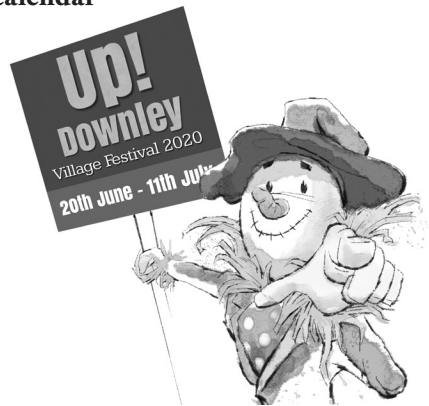
Groups, clubs and organisations that serve the Downley area are encouraged to organise events that the Festival committee will promote by including them in the Festival Programme, on the Festival website etc.

The committee itself organises some of the key Festival events and fundraisers. Money raised is donated to local causes or awarded to local groups as grants so effectively invested back into our community for the benefit of those who live here.

Last year's festival was another success and we were able to make two grants to Downley Parish Council: £2,500 for replacement posts around the Common and £2,000 for a new School Crossing sign outside the Scout & Guide Hut.

This year the following events are already in the calendar
(subject to change):

19th June	Family Disco
20th June	Downley Day
22nd June	Family Comedy Night <i>NEW</i>
24th June	Comedy Night
26th June	Disco through the decades
27th June	Downley Showcase
28th June	Downley 5k Run
28th June	Downley Open Gardens
3rd July	Downley Descants
6th-11th July	Art Show



It became apparent last year that some of you not online missed out on securing tickets for your favourite events. This year a box office will be open for ticket sales on Saturday 16th May and Monday 18th May at the Community Centre and simultaneously online. We will also be delivering programmes earlier for you to plan your festival. This has been possible due to the Downley Village News kindly agreeing to bring their Summer issue forward to include the programme, so many thanks to them.

Fran Lazenby, Festival Committee Chairman

Jill - Tutor



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- KS5 Biology.

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

To discuss your needs please text me;

Jill: 0773 860 99 44

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Jill - Tutor

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Community Project Fund

Recently the Village News published an article describing the various items of equipment that have been funded in the past by village organisation and which are available for use by local clubs. These are described on the village website, www.downley.org/community/community_assets.

Following this pooling of resources, it was decided that funds accumulated by local fundraising groups including the Community Centre, Downley Day, the Village News and the Up Festival could be made available for funding projects that might be larger than any one group can manage. The list that has been identified to date includes:

- Survey to support a zebra crossing leading to a Local Area Forum bid
- Replacement notice board at Gosling Grove
- Standing covers and sight screens for Cricket club
- Scout hut drive resurfacing
- Downley Common Bollard replacement phase 1
- Library equipment (laptop, books, bean bags)
- Children crossing sign by scout hut
- Roadside speed indicator

These currently come to a total of over £20,000. This represents the cumulative resources from several years and will not be sustained at this level but will continue based on the cumulative surplus made annually.

These projects represent a valuable addition to the village infrastructure without having to increase the Parish Council precept. As can be seen from the above, the type of project being considered are those that benefit the community as a whole.

Local organisations are encouraged to approach the Community Project Fund at info@downley.org if they have ideas for community projects that would benefit from this sort of funding. Normal rules apply; applicants must be not-for-profit and projects must be supported with evidence.

Hello again from Downley Evening WI...



2020 is a big year for us at Downley Evening WI. Indeed, it's a big year for all of the Buckinghamshire Women's Institute branches as it marks our centenary: 100 years of inspiring women in Bucks. It's a wonderful thing, really. How is it that the WI has such staying power, you might ask? Well, I believe there are several reasons. Life has obviously changed enormously over the last 100 years, particularly for women. Back in the day, a woman's options were limited. For the most part, her life centred round the home as wife, mother and homemaker (or indeed servant), so the original WI member may have found a creative and intellectual outlet outside the confines of the household. But women's role

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in society has evolved so that now it is the exception rather than the rule for a woman to be based solely in the home, and thus her options in life are much broader-based. Career, travel, financial and personal independence – all these are on the table now alongside the more traditional roles.

So the original WI member may have found something to fill a gap created by her constricting circumstances but the 21st century woman is a different creature. Or is she? Circumstances may have changed but a woman is still an intelligent, creative communicator and shaper of the social landscape. Women still like to get together, to learn, to laugh, to lean on each other, to contribute to society in a specifically feminine way. WI remains a unique pathway of opportunity, allowing women a voice both at local and national level. The reputation of the WI built up over the last century ensures that views supported by its members attract attention at the highest level. But it also functions at the most intimate level too. Friendships, opportunities to learn and challenge oneself, personal growth or just a bit of fun – all these elements come together in the WI. You can do as much or as little as you choose. And there is no ‘one size fits all’ WI. Every WI is as unique as each of its members. It’s really not just “Jam and Jerusalem” ...

Come along and see for yourself. We’ve been so happy to welcome some new members over the last year but there’s always room for more. 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 01494-535662. We hope to see you soon.

Oh – did I mention there’s cake?

Angela Taplin

Downley Gardening Society

We started the New Year off with our AGM and a fantastic talk by Timothy Walker entitled ‘Two for the price of one’ followed by cheese and wine and the best turn out ever! We have some wonderful speakers lined up for this year, so please do come along if you can.



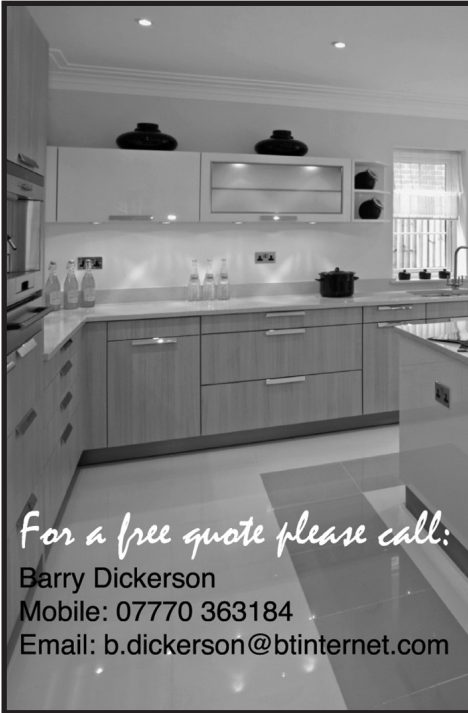
Forthcoming events

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Monday 16th March | talk by Richard Tennant-Eyles from the Woodland Trust ‘Standing up for Trees’ |
| Monday 20th April | talk by Jacqui Martin-Lof from Horatio’s garden |
| Monday 18th May | talk by John Tyler – ‘Natural Signals’ |
| Saturday 20th June | plants for sale at Downley Day |

All talks at St James’ church hall at 8pm. Members £1, Non-members, who are very welcome, £2 . Tea, coffee and biscuits served after the talk.

Happy Gardening

The Downley Gardening Club



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Canine Cutz

celebrating our 7th Year in 2020!

It's been a while since we reached out to the community of Downley with an update, and we thought now the dust has settled after Christmas this would be the ideal time.

Canine Cutz welcomed a new Stylist last year, Joe Howard. Joe is a qualified groomer who has always worked with animals, including teaching. He has a fantastic way with dogs and is a brilliantly skilled Stylist; we are so happy to have him as part of our family. Ami, one of our Stylist's Assistants, celebrated her second year with us last year. She is the backbone of our business and keeps everything running smoothly. Ami is the reason your dog will be sparkly clean, and she will probably be the person who greets you with a big smile and answers your call. Managing Stylist and Co-owner Steph will be taking more of a lead within the business, allowing Salon Owner Joanne to take a step back.

Joe, Ami and Steph recently competed at The Grooming Show in Coventry. This show pulls in large numbers of entries, including some of the biggest names in the business - and international competitors too! The trio were entered in separate classes, all of which had a huge number of entries. They received some brilliant feedback and our Ami did amazingly well. She was placed 4th in a massive Beginners class with the beautiful Miniature Poodle, Teddy – we're so proud of her! The trio will be competing around the country this year and we will keep you posted on their progress.... watch this space!



We offer many services, including 1:1 Coat Maintenance Lessons for those looking to better manage their dogs' coats at home, Hand Stripping and Spa Treatments (Facials, Mud Baths, Pawdicures). We have also introduced Ultrasound Teeth Cleaning, a non-invasive method of cleaning your dog's teeth and improving their mouth health. It doesn't require sedation as it doesn't vibrate and there is no sound (please note, this is not an alternative to veterinary treatment). Pictures shown are after just one treatment. You can find out more about any of our treatments on our website: www.canine-cutz.com

2020 is going to be an exciting year and we can't wait to see you all again soon. We'd like to thank you for your loyalty and recommendations – we couldn't do it without you (or your lovely doggies)!

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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

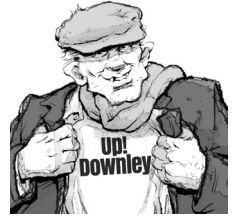
Spring 2020

Wal, it's 2020 greetings to orl my readers, wal, a new year eh! I'm a'writin this in January and it's like Spring, orl that lovely spring air and the birds a'singin', but wots the bettin that by the time you gets this you'll ave had a proper winter, that's wot we wants to kill orf orl them slugs a'waitin to eat up orl yor over wintrin stuff.

Anyways, one of my Christmas presents was, (and still is), an Almanac, and it's just fabulous for lookin up yor sunrise and sets, and moons the same, some people (not mentionin Napple), sows their stuff by the moon, wal, most of the time you can't see it because of the cloud and rain, so it's probably summat like March when yor a'readin this, so I'll get the Almanac out and see wot it ses " who's this Al Manac" ses Mrs H, she thinks it's sum one new up the plot, wal keep her in the dark eh! So wots "Al" on about for March and April? Let's ave a look. Wal on the 21st March it's the Spring equinox, wal, about time too—about time? Wal that's it eh! Ha Ha, get it, but not if yor from Napple eh! So it's action time, like wot that Yorkshire artist bloke Dave Ockney ses, evry thing needs a'doin. "Wal" ses Mrs H, "Get on with it", so I ses "I won't be druv", that's a good ole sayin from Sussex sum one told me, that's my motto I reckons.

Anyways you've just got to get orl them seeds a'goin or you'll miss the season, You'll orlreddy ave got yor tommy toes a'goin in the greenhouse, and Mrs H as got her sweet peas up from winter sowin.

Yor spuds will ave chitted reddy to go in, late broad beans and onion setts in, and early leeks wot you've orlreddy got a'goin, mind you



my leeks planted last year don't look too great, sum one ses it's allium moth wot causes it. "Wot" ses Mrs H, "Don't you know wot alliums are?" ses Mrs H, wal I dunno, of corse I knows, but keep calm I ses to myself, I avent had my supper yet....

Wal, wot about the hints, wal, just keep a'sowin and a'plantin when ever you can, time just keeps whizzing by, but don't forget the later frosts in May, so get yor sowin under cover if you can, and arden em orf a bit at a time. And don't forget to treat yourself sometimes, yor rhubarb will be just perfect now, so wot about a really luvly exotic crumble, make it with sum of them Italian ameretti biscuits orl crunched up. "Wot" ses Mrs H, "You don't know wot exotic is!" Wal that'd be summat eh?

So keep a'readin these informative and helpful lines.....

My french cousin Jean d'Artichoke is very quiet at the moment, now why might that be eh?

So cheerio and a'bientot

J.H. sent from my iSpade.

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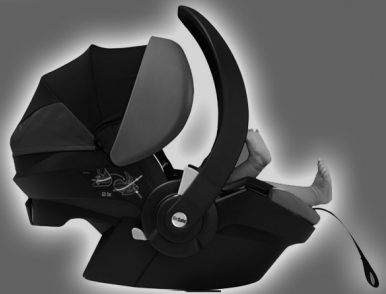


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Jill's Science for Fun

Meaty debate - Part 2

Last time I kept you hanging, promising to dispute some arguments which try to suggest that the whole of humanity should become vegetarian or vegan, cease eating meat, and consequently be healthier and save the World.

Let's start with the food chain/energy argument. This says that, as energy is lost at every level within the food chain, humans should omit the middle man, e.g. the cow, and just eat the plants rather than the meat. This looks great when we draw food pyramids, and can be written on a GCSE paper to gain marks. However, I am not keen on grass, nor do I know many vegetarians who eat it. Grass grows in many places where spinach and kale will not grow, so who is going to release the energy from the grass? Even if we did eat this grass, or plant our broccoli in its place, and find that it grows (seasonally for the broccoli, not an all year round covering like the grass), we really aren't going to be anything like as efficient as the herbivores at extracting goodness from the plants. Remember that short gut we have inherited from our ancestors, it isn't going to get all the goodness from those plants in anything like the way the cow can with its 4 stomachs and cellulose digesting bacteria. We will poo out the cellulose. Seems a waste. Fellow ruminants to the cows, such as sheep and goats, have a similar digestive system, plus the added advantage of being hardier and able to graze on hillsides where we would really struggle to plant/harvest our crops.

Along with this argument goes the "cows produce methane" argument. No argument there, they do. So would we, if we were eating grass 7 hours a day, and successfully digesting it to the level that cows do. Of course vegetarians don't do this generally, though we all produce our fair share of methane. Instead they tend to eat food that has already been processed, so their digestive system doesn't need to work so hard; that processing releases its own share of environmentally unfriendly gasses. And when we do poo out what we can't digest it is broken down by bacteria giving off, yes, you've guessed it, methane – hopefully this is captured at sewage plants and used as a power source, but similarly we can actually capture cow farts and use them in this way too, but the carbon capture that they can assist with is enough to compensate for this anyway.

As a biologist and human being I am very keen on conservation of our environment, and if a vegan throws this at me as a reason for the World living on vegetables I am bemused. I am puzzled as to how vast monocultures of soya for soya milk and tofu, or acres of grain fields unseparated by hedgerows, so that combine harvesters can crop them, can possibly portray itself as biodiverse, sustainable or conservation friendly. Plants for food should be grown in soil that is naturally fertilised, and that requires animals and reuse of waste plant matter.

Along with my criticism of big horticulture I must state that I am never going to argue in favour of the way in which many farmed animals are kept. I consider factory

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farming to be an abomination invented purely for money, and keeping animals inside and feeding them on antibiotics plus grain grown in the conditions described above is nonsensical, cruel, and bad for our health as well as their lives. However, animals living outside, able to move from place to place as a herd/flock, that is a whole different story. The animals must be either moved on or able to move themselves so the land is never overgrazed. Grazing animals improve the land and increase and maintain biodiversity. Their grazing helps to build the soil beneath our feet. Grazing animals feed on plants just enough to stimulate root growth in these plants, they trample the ground allowing solid earth to crumble, water to seep in, seeds to germinate, and they leave their dung and urine behind (organic matter/carbon) to be broken down by microorganisms and form part of the soil layer. Soil is where food begins and where waste decays. If soil is depleted of organic matter it water will run off it, as will any pesticides and fertilisers (pollutants), and any crops grown in it will be less nutrient rich – that loss of flavour in our food and those constant vitamin deficiencies we humans suffer from could be two consequences, the flooding we see is no doubt another. Rich, organic soil filters toxins, absorbs water, and can store enough carbon to make a difference to atmospheric carbon dioxide levels quickly.

Those cows, and other animals that I am sometimes told I must not eat, where would they go if we were not eating them? Are we going to just keep the ones we have, neutered so they breed no more then die out? Cull them because they are now a cost with no profit? Or let them roam freely with an order that they must not be killed? This latter one would be great for biodiversity, the soil, and the cows, sheep, chickens and pigs; less good for farmers who would lose all their crops, and for humankind who would not have that “energy efficient” food production often preached, and which makes such an easy answer to exam questions.

So should we eat meat? If we choose to we should, without guilt, but only if it is produced in a manner that allows the animals to graze (not overgraze) land, and is not kept inside and fed on processed grain and antibiotics. Or simply make your own choice on how your food is reared.

Should we eat vegetables? Only if they are grown on natural soil, in fields surrounded by hedgerows, and not grown in vast monocultures fertilised with chemicals made in that Harbour process (or any other energy consuming, non-sustainable way) that has been part of the GCSE syllabus for forever. Or simply make your own choice on how your food is grown.

We have to make choices for ourselves, and we should make them in an informed and thoughtful way.

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Downley Cricket Club was formed in 1873 and we are privileged to be carrying the baton forward for the club. In 2023 it will be the Club's 150th anniversary. We would like the community to be part of this landmark and we'll keep you updated with our plans.



For the 2020 season our first team has been promoted to the Championship Division of the combined BCMB League. The reserves play in the Mid Bucks League div 2.

We play on Saturday afternoons, and mid-week evenings in the knock-out Cup. Spectators and new players are always welcome.

**We would also be delighted to hear from you
if you can assist with either
umpiring or scoring (you will be paid!)
please contact us.**

Can you help us find the next Ben Stokes or Heather Knight?

Is there a future international cricketer playing on Downley Common or, even better, some future playing members of Downley Cricket Club?

We are looking for volunteers to help run a colts academy for under 16's through Downley Cricket Club. If you would like to support us and are able to assist with this fun, sporting activity in the evenings during the spring and summer (usually on a Wednesday), please contact us, initially by email to: **graeme_aitken@sky.com**, to register your interest.

We would love to hear from you!

Club information can be found on our website www.downleycc.co.uk



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From Westminster

Steve Baker - MP for Wycombe



May I begin by thanking everyone who voted in the General Election held last December. It is an honour to be your Member of Parliament, and I recommit myself to working in your interest during the coming months and years.

I have written in this column before about the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Our exit from the EU is the conclusion of a process for which I have worked for many years. I am pleased we have achieved something I think necessary and right, but I am reminded of Wellington:

“Believe me, nothing except a battle lost is half so melancholy as a battle won.”

I very much regret the division this country has faced and the costs of reaching this point. I know some of my constituents have genuine sorrow at leaving the EU; I recognise those of us who have won the argument now have a duty to be magnanimous and, together, we need to create a future we can all be proud of in this country.

The Government's post-Brexit programme will be shaped by the Prime Minister, and he has shown he is a centrist who is willing to intervene in the economy to create an open, liberal, tolerant and inclusive society. Both at home and abroad, we must respect those institutions which have been carefully built-up to pursue human flourishing through liberty under the rule of law, both nationally and internationally.

In Parliament I will continue to work on issues which are of concern to my constituents. I have discussed our local homelessness situation, celebrated Holocaust Memorial Day, led a debate on voter fraud, spoke to the Children's Commissioner to learn more about how to support children in care, met our local NHS leaders, the Chief Fire Officer for Bucks, and various ministers to raise issues brought to me by constituents.

As ever, if you like my assistance on a national Government issue please call the constituency office in the West Wycombe Road on 01494 448408 for an appointment.

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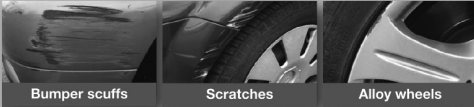
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News from the District

This will be my last update from Wycombe District Council as the Council will cease to exist on 31st March. The new unitary Buckinghamshire Council will replace the District and County Councils in Buckinghamshire as from 1st April. Details regarding the new council including webcasts of meetings, up-to-date news, and useful information for residents can be found at www.shadow.buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



There are also local press campaigns to advise residents of the changes. If you have any questions please contact me. I will continue to represent the local community in Downley as part of the new council in the intervening period up until the elections that will be taking place in May, and I will hopefully continue to represent you going forward from then.

In my role as Chairman of Wycombe District Council since May 2019 I have attended over 100 engagements representing residents of the District, including two royal visits; charity events; services commemorating loved ones lost through road deaths and recognising the huge amount of dedication many individuals and organisations give to our communities in many ways. It has been an honour and a privilege representing the area which you will know, from reading my 'Downley Ancestors' series in DVN, has been the home to my family for generations. (I must start thinking about what to write about in part 10 – although I'm not sure if I can top a murder – or was it?)

It has been a pleasure to serve the residents of Downley and Plomer Hill since 2011 as your local District Councillor. What the future will bring is uncertain, but I will hopefully be able to continue to represent my local communities in the best way I can and ensure that in the new authority our voices are heard.

WDC has not seen the last year as a winding down to oblivion, I have worked harder than ever in this transition phase to get the best deal possible for the residents of Wycombe District, our Parishes, and our local communities. The 'fly in the ointment' is that, in the structural change orders passed by Government, the County Council has had the majority on the Shadow Executive which has been taking the decisions, but I am hopeful that we can work together, that is what I have wanted – a fair and level playing field – BUT.... Time will tell. I would like the best practices of all the existing councils to be carried forward and there is much work to do and huge pressures on adult social care and children's services. It will be a challenging time ahead.

Downley is a fantastic community in which to live and there is so much going on, mostly carried out by volunteers to whom we all owe our thanks. There are far too many to name individually, but a glance down the diary section of this publication highlights the activities enjoyed by so many. Not forgetting the Downley Day and the Up Downley Festival committees whose events between them attract thousands of people. Also the Parish Council, they do so much for the village and surrounding area, and so it was a delight to be present when they received the Community Cup in the Best Kept Village competition in 2019. We have so much to be proud of, and we all do what we do because we care. A big thank you to everyone who makes Downley what it is.

Paul
Cllr Paul Turner, Wycombe District Councillor for Downley and Plomer Hill
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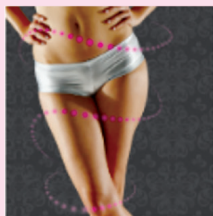
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