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# Village News

Issue 127/June 2021



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# Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	3	<b>Jill's Maths for Fun</b>	27
<b>Dickie Gray the Donkey Man</b>	5	<b>Downley Evening WI</b>	29
<b>Downley Community Centre News</b>	7	<b>Jill's Maths for Fun Answers</b>	30
<b>Downley Common News</b>	9	<b>News from the Pharmacy</b>	31
<b>Downley Day</b>	9	<b>J Heartycough's Horticultural Hints</b>	32
<b>Downley Covid-19 Action Group</b>	11	<b>Downley War Memorial</b>	33
<b>Downley School PTA</b>	11	<b>Chameleon Singles Group</b>	35
<b>Downley Parish Council &amp; Election Results</b>	13	<b>Top Notes Choir</b>	37
<b>One Can Trust</b>	15	<b>News from Hillclimb Garage</b>	39
<b>Downley Descants</b>	17	<b>Jill's Science for Fun</b>	41
<b>Downley Theatre Group</b>	17	<b>Coffee Stop</b>	43
<b>Downley Cricket Club</b>	19	<b>From Westminster</b>	45
<b>News from St James</b>	21	<b>News from Buckinghamshire Council</b>	47
<b>Downley Gardening Society</b>	23	<b>DOSCA Community Library</b>	48
<b>Simply Walk</b>	25	<b>Downley Diary</b>	49
<b>Five great places in Downley to photograph</b>	26	<b>Useful Contacts and Advertisers</b>	50

## Editorial

At last, thanks to all our efforts and, of course, the vaccines, we can look forward to some freedom from the Covid restrictions. As I write this, there is concern about the Indian variant of the virus, so it may not be quite the summer we were all hoping for, but at least for now some of the restrictions are easing. Personally, I am going to find it very strange being able to visit restaurants, cinemas, theatres and museums again, but I'm sure I'll soon get used to it! Here's hoping that this time we really have seen the last of lockdowns.

As usual at this time of year, the woods are looking glorious with bluebells and the first green leaves on the trees. Walking there can't fail to lift your spirits, and if there's a chance to stop off at the pub on the way back, so much the better! I have really missed the spontaneity of being able to "drop in" to a pub or restaurant, but hopefully we are slowly edging back to those days.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer, and hopefully we have Downley Day to look forward to towards the end of it (read more about this on pages 9 and 52)

The next issue is our Autumn one and, as usual, we will be delighted to hear from any organisation in Downley (or the surrounding area) with news and information. You can submit articles via the email address [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org) (copy deadline 31 July).

*Anne, Editor • [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org)*

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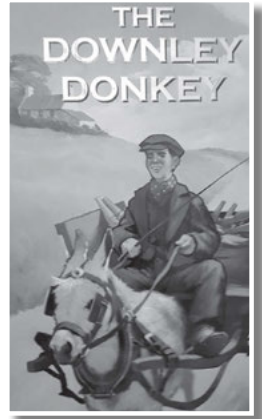
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# Dickie Gray The Donkey Man

Following the refurbishment of the Downley Library, the trustees of Downley Community Centre are delighted that the Downley Co-op Store has allowed them to display the old “Downley Donkey” pub sign for which they currently have no use.

As some residents may remember, when the pub was built the brewery invited the villagers to choose a name and the “Downley Donkey” was suggested in recognition of the popular Victorian resident – Dickie Gray the Donkey Man.

Not long before the pub closed the brewery decided to replace the old “Donkey” sign but Parish Councillor Barry Gay was dismayed to learn that, not being aware of the history of Downley, they were planning to commission a painting of a NODDING DONKEY PUMP.



As my grandfather had been born in Downley in 1883 and knew Dickie Gray, I decided to carry out some research in order to support an objection.

Richard (Dickie) Gray, son of Thomas and Ann (nee Biggs) was born in 1840 in the parish of Hughenden. In 1851 Dickie, aged 11, was living with his parents and siblings at Naphill. His father, Thomas, and two elder brothers, George and Frederick, were working as chair turners and his sisters, Rebecca and Sarah, were lacemakers.

By 1861 Thomas and Ann Gray had moved to Downley Common. George, Frederick and Rebecca were no longer living with their parents. Dickie, who was then 21, and his father were working as chair turners. His mother and sister Sarah were lacemakers: two very common occupations for Buckinghamshire people.

At that time, the Chiltern Bodgers, as the chair turners later became known, were not all itinerant workers living in the woods but many lived with their families very close to their place of work. In particular, the turners often worked on their pole lathes alone or in groups in wooden sheds adjacent to their homes. It is likely that Dickie Gray and his father worked in this way.

Ten years later Dickie had become a “coal merchant”. An article by Noreen Talbot in the Village News (July 1992/Issue 19) states that “coal was brought from West Wycombe station by a two-horse cart. A heavy farm horse was needed to help them up Plomer Hill”. Subsequent census returns described Dickie Gray as a “carrier” but there is no information regarding the type of goods which he carried. He would have been a familiar site travelling round the lanes of Downley and surrounding area with his donkey cart.

Dickie Gray never married but continued to live with his parents for many years. However, when the land survey took place in 1910 and the population census the following year, he was living alone at 2, Tilbury Cottages, Moor Lane and was described as a donkey dealer. His donkeys would have grazed on the common.

Dickie Gray passed away in 1916 at the age of 75. Since then, many people have recounted their memories of this popular Downley character. One interviewee for



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the book “Downley in Times Past” (published in 1983 and compiled by the last head teacher of Downley Middle School, Tony Rousell) recalled the old fashioned “Donkey Man” who wore a cap with ear-flaps and a “sacking apron tied round the middle with a piece of string”. This book is available in the Community Library.

I am glad that the brewery agreed to reflect the history of Downley with their replacement sign so when I visit the library it will give me far more pleasure to see Dickie Gray’s jovial face smiling down from the wall than to gaze upon a nodding donkey pump - but then I’m not an engineer!

*Jeannette Gay*

---

## Downley Community Centre

Most regular hirers have returned following the relaxation of Covid regulations, the schedule, with the inclusion for the first time of contact details, is at the back of this edition. The refurbished Community Library is now open with some minor works due for completion by the summer.

Casual bookings have already returned to pre-pandemic levels with, for example, children’s party bookings already being accepted way into 2022.

The highly successful Musical Theatre Summer Workshop led by Emma Barr is being repeated this year on Mon 2nd – Fri 6th August, 10am – 4pm.

The Up Festival Art Show in the Community Centre is following the same format as before in the Oak Room and will be open every evening from Monday 27th September until Friday 1st October and Saturday 2nd October 10am – 12pm.

**Downley Donkey:** Some sharp-eyed residents will have seen the reappearance of the last pub sign before its closure of the Downley Donkey. Now relocated inside the library on the wall, the sign has been generously loaned indefinitely from the freehold owners of the Co-op food store. The Centre’s management committee is very grateful to Downley artist Ray Styles for undertaking some minor restoration work to the sign and the wall fittings which have been provided by local blacksmith Chris Sheppard.

The story of Dickie Gray the Donkey Man, depicted on the sign, is above with copies of the history, dating back almost 200 years available from the library counter.

**Calling all Parents with Toddlers:** On Monday mornings during term-time between 9.30 - 11.30 Downley Community Centre offers a free session for you to get together. The Community Centre management is now looking for someone to take over the practical running of the group.

The Centre makes one large room available (up to 10 adults while government restrictions are in place) with numerous toys kept in our outside store. An adult is needed to supervise setting up and clearing away at the end.

**Please email: [enquiries@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk) or call Cathy on: 07580 953181 if you would like to be involved or can help to get this going.**

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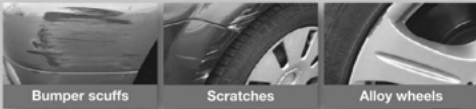
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# Downley Common News

We've managed two work parties since the rule of six allowed us to meet again, the first being on Easter Sunday when we carried out some slightly belated tree planting in the coppice area alongside the track to the old dairy near Downley Lodge. They say that the definition of insanity is to do the same failed activity again and again with the expectation of getting different results. Well, judging by the number of times we have attempted to replant this area, we must have a bit of a screw loose! Nevertheless, we tried again, full of good intentions to remove the bracken from around the young saplings which we believe is the main culprit and why they have failed to grow in previous years. So far, about a month later, the bracken is quite slow to get going and the saplings are still alive!

May's work party was devoted to opening up the bridleway leading to Naphill Common that had been blocked by a fallen dead tree. A good turn-out meant that it was shifted in sufficient time to allow a more general litter pick around the common.

Plans for June's work party include removing bracken around new trees (see above) and starting the summer flailing programme to keep bracken and brambles under control. Anyone wanting to learn to drive the tractor and operate the flail are welcome to come along. You have to join the DCPS to be included on the insurance but we're very good value.

Look forward to seeing you next month.



*Bill Thompson, Hon Sec. DCPS*

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## Downley Day

So far the Government's roadmap has held up surprisingly well which gives us more confidence that we will be able to run Downley Day on Saturday 18th September.

Due to the time of year and the sun going down at about 7pm we have decided not to run the family disco or Concert on the Common due to the difficulty of keeping track of children in the dark.



Downley Day will feature the old favourites of the Dog Show and local group performances. In addition the headline act will be by the acrobatic troupe "The Black Eagles" not to be confused with the Republic of Korea Aerobatic team. They were originally booked for last year and have now been rebooked for 2022.

Downley Day will mark the start of a reduced Up Downley Festival. See the back cover for more details.

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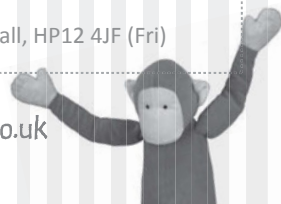
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# DPC Covid Action Group



17th May marked the latest stage of the relaxation of Covid restrictions with the following changes for England:

- Social contact outdoors: relaxed to meet up to 30 people. Hugging is allowed but beware of the risks.
- Social contact indoors: the Rule of 6 or 2 households.
- Shops and businesses: all open with Covid-secure measures remaining in place
- Hospitality: pubs/restaurants open indoors. Customers must order, eat and drink while seated.
- Entertainment: cinemas and children's play areas are now open.
- Accommodation: hotels, hostels and B&Bs are open.
- Sports: indoor adult group sports and exercise classes are open.
- Events: weddings, receptions and funerals will allow up to 30 people to attend.
- Events (sports/performance) indoors: - up to 1000 or half full (whichever is lower).
- Events (sports /performance) outdoors: up to 4000 or half full (whichever is lower), and more for very large venues.

The next review step is planned for 21st June when hopefully most remaining restrictions will be lifted although this is dependant on latest situation with the 'Indian' variant, or any others which may arise. More details about the current restrictions are available at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Clubs and Societies in the village are starting to re-open so check with your local group to find out the latest news. Contact details are available at <https://www.downley.org/services/societies/8/93>.

The DCAG would like to thank all those street reps, pharmacy reps, mask makers and village volunteers who have worked hard to support the village and keep us all safe.

---

## Happy Circus comes to Downley!



The Downley School Parents Association are organising a Happy Circus event 16th July 2021 on Mannings Field, Downley. There will be two shows; 5pm and 7pm.

For more information, please do look at their website:- <https://www.happycircus.co.uk> It really is a fantastic family event, which is great fun for all ages!

Tickets are £10 per person, with a discount for group bookings. Tickets are being sold initially to The Downley School pupils but will be on general sale to the Downley Community from 21st June 2021. For tickets, please email [thedownleyschoolpa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thedownleyschoolpa@hotmail.co.uk) with the number required and show you wish to attend. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do email us on the address above.

We hope to see some of you there. Many thanks for your support.

*The Downley School Parents Association*



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**All notices must be for local non profit organisations.  
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# Downley Parish Council



Following the Local Elections on 6th May and subject to declaration of acceptance of office, we are pleased to confirm that the following people have been elected as Parish Councillors:

- Khalil Ahmed
- Pamela Brooks
- Adrian Lenard
- Trevor Snaith
- Steven Biggs
- Kishor Chandarana
- Alwen Mann
- Wendy Steneskog
- Richard Bowden
- Moyra Lazenby
- Wendy Monroe-West

The new Council returns to face-to face meetings from Tuesday 18th May and looks forwards to working together and updating you on our progress throughout the year.

*Giles Tandy, Clerk to the Parish Council*

## Council Election Results for Downley/Disraeli Ward – 6th May 2021



Election Candidate	Party	Votes	%	
<b>Paul Richard Turner</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>1602</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Maz Hussain</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>1520</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Melanie Ruth Smith</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>1390</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>Elected</b>
Khalil Ahmed	Labour	1362	14%	Not elected
Duncan Rayner Smith	Conservative	1283	13%	Not elected
Trevor Snaith	Labour	1127	12%	Not elected
Matthew Stuart Brown	Liberal Democrat	250	3%	Not elected
Alison May Harmsworth	Liberal Democrat	226	2%	Not elected
Victoria Reid	Wycombe Independent	190	2%	Not elected
Tony Mealing	Wycombe Independent	149	2%	Not elected
Gerald Harmsworth	Liberal Democrat	141	1%	Not elected
Mohammad Fogir Uddin	Wycombe Independent	99	1%	Not elected
Adrian John Oliver	Freedom Alliance	97	1%	Not elected
Marcin Blaszczyk	Freedom Alliance	79	1%	Not elected
Vijay Singh Srao	UKIP	58	1%	Not elected

### Downley Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are on 2nd Tuesday of the month • *Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions*

**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

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 can be contacted on 01494 25 77 11 E: [clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org)**



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# Thank You Downley from the One Can Trust



The incredible work of volunteers is quite rightly being recognised this June (1-7) during National Volunteer week and I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight the amount of time generously given by the Downley community in support of the One Can Trust Foodbank.

Sadly, an extremely high number of local vulnerable families, including some right here in Downley, continue to need our support. Although we've seen a reduction recently, we are still providing around 90% more parcels than before the pandemic. That's around 400 people who need our help to put food on the table every week, and around half of those are children.

Our clients come to us for a range of reasons including domestic abuse, mental health issues, addiction and, in the last year, many have lost work as a result of the pandemic. Anyone can be thrown into tough times but not everyone has the support network they need to get through them.

The One Can Trust is a lifeline to many and this is only made possible because of our brilliant army of volunteers, some of whom live here in Downley. Led by a small and lovely team of staff, which includes Jo Belshaw and Kim Starkey (two names you may recognise!), they sort and deliver food from our warehouse near Wycombe Station. Our Street Heroes (the lovely residents with the yellow boards and collection boxes outside their houses) collect a huge amount of the food that goes into our parcels.

A big thank you to everyone who has given their time over the last year and continues to do so, as well as those of you who generously donate to our collections. There's not space to name everyone individually but I'd like to give a special mention to Bruce Bradley, a long-standing volunteer who also helps with food drives and printing, Linda

Colby who donated the proceeds from her masks, Emma Barr who has helped raise awareness through Top Notes Choir, Becky Howitt who was a warehouse volunteer and Street Hero before going back to uni and Archie Mcdougall-Hutchins, a year 9 Sir William Ramsay student and one of our newest Street Heroes.



With furlough and the uplift to Universal Credit due to end in the next few months, we fear there may still be another spike in demand on the horizon. It seems our volunteers are likely to be as essential as ever and thank goodness for them!

Finally, a quick mention that we're keen to hear from those with skills, such as design, HR, admin, social media, research and IT who may be able to support with projects on an ad hoc basis. If you've been inspired, please email [jo.belshaw@onecantrust.org.uk](mailto:jo.belshaw@onecantrust.org.uk) or visit our website [onecantrust.org.uk](http://onecantrust.org.uk) for more information.

*Kate Brewster, Trustee*

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# DOWNLEY DESCANTS

## WHEREVER YOU ARE



Another DVN comes along and still we can't sing together as a choir. Lockdown is gradually being eased but there is no guarantee that all restrictions will be eased by the latter end of June. Realistically it looks as though September might be an option but again we'll have to wait and see. It's very frustrating only being able to meet up virtually and many members are not happy with "zoom" so seem to have lost touch. Some members will not be able to continue through illness and some have moved away but the majority are still around the area so wherever you are please look out for e-mails from the choir giving any news as to when we might meet again. One thought the committee had was that a get-together on the common in early July would be a good idea, we might even try an acapella version of one of our favourites! Wherever You Are as I'm sure you will recall was made famous by The Military Wives Choir set up by Gareth Malone. It is based on letters and texts sent between members of the armed forces abroad and their wives and partners left behind in this country. It is a very good example of how music and song can bring out the emotions of difficult situations and perhaps make them easier to deal with.

Another choir set up by Gareth Malone was the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust Choir who appeared at the recent BRIT awards. Whilst Downley Descants wasn't set up by Gareth Malone it's formation was inspired by him, so that puts us in illustrious company. We haven't risen to the heights of performing at the Royal Albert Hall or the O2 but we did take part in a choral competition at the Dashwood Arms in Piddington once! Our community choir isn't about achieving perfection, it's about meeting together, having a good time and performing to the best of our abilities. Let's hope that it is not too long now.

*Bob Cook (Bass)*

---

## Downley Theatre Group

It's looking good for live theatre! Performances were scheduled to start from 17 May with limited audience numbers. It is hoped that capacity restrictions for auditoriums and coaches will be lifted 21 June – fingers are firmly crossed in the Baker household.

The ticket agency we use is advertising group rates for several West End shows. We will be watching closely and will book something when we're confident an outing can go ahead safely.

Members will receive information in the usual way when there is something to communicate, hopefully quite soon. Meanwhile, do get in touch with any questions or to be included on the mailing list.

*Alan & Claire Baker, [downleytheatregroup@gmail.com](mailto:downleytheatregroup@gmail.com) 01494 437552*

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# Downley Cricket Club



What a delight it has been to resume a full programme of League cricket after an understandably truncated season last year. With restrictions being gradually lifted, Downley cricketers have taken to the field with gusto. New kit emblazoned with local sponsors' names is being worn. Old acquaintances have been re-established with team-members and opposition players, with plenty of fun and laughter on and off the field. For the time being guidelines mean no communal teas, nor use of the pavilion, and we have got used to the ball being sanitised frequently, etc.

The six-hitting machine Big Ben, our ebullient 2nds captain, has led from the front hitting nine sixes in the first weekend, winning at Lacey Green and, in the company of Martin's elegant stroke-play, almost pulling off an unlikely win at Hambleden. The youngsters seem to have grown stronger and taller, blending perfectly with the older, more experienced team-members. It was great to see, at the first match of the season, three sets of Downley fathers and sons on the field of play. The teams are always looking for new players who are assured of a genuinely warm welcome. Cricketers come in all shapes and sizes – and ages - and that is one of the fascinations of the game.

Evening net practices are held in Manning's Field, where skills are honed, batting and bowling creativity is encouraged in readiness for the next game. Of note, this is where our treasurer Billy bamboozles his team-mates with his googlies and Graeme sharpens his lethal wicket-taking outswinger. If you are interested in joining the Club, coming along to a net practice is a great way to get to know the players, and to see whether you fit into the 1sts or the 2nds. For more details contact [webmaster@downleycc.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@downleycc.co.uk).

The Firsts, under our all-action captain Doc, have also been winning in the much higher Championship Division of the combined BCMB League. They practise more frequently during the week, though the weather has sometimes intervened.

The pitch and ground on the Common are under constant care and attention from tireless club volunteers preparing for Saturday League games. If you could spare any time to help with ground preparation, scoring, or umpiring, we would be pleased to hear from you. On Sunday 5 September we plan to hold our end-of-season President's Day, when an assortment of players will be on view, including players from other clubs and some of a more footballing persuasion. President's Day is always a fun occasion for the whole family with a barbeque and bar. Please see [www.downleycc.co.uk](http://www.downleycc.co.uk) for more information about this and other events.

*Francis Braganza, President*



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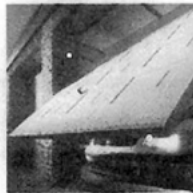
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# News from St James



It was really good to be able to celebrate Easter together, even though our activities were online. We had many entries to our Easter Garden competition. These are a couple of the winners.

We had good feedback from the families who took part in the Easter Egg hunt organised by the churches in Downley, and it was encouraging to have such a good response. We are grateful to the schools for helping us in sending out the details and for the donations towards eggs that we received.



It has been lovely to see all the spring flowers out in recent weeks, and to be able to enjoy sitting with friends and family in our gardens to appreciate them. In the bible there are many references to creation and the world around us including these

verses from Song of Songs 2:11-12 “See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”

As we step further into the easing of restrictions - coinciding with moving from winter into spring and now looking at summer – there is a real resonance with what we as a country are going through. There are signs of things coming back to life after a long winter. Sadly, as I write “the season of singing” in church has not yet come, but hopefully it will very soon! We are however back in our building for services on Thursday mornings at 10am and Sundays at 11am.



As we emerge from restrictions it is also important to keep hold of some of the lessons that we have learned over the last year. Psalm 46:10 says “Be still and know that I am God”. With the cessation of so many activities in the last year, there has been more time for stillness. So many more of us now go on daily walks around our beautiful countryside. Taking time to be outside in creation not only gives us exercise that keeps us physically healthy, it also helps us emotionally and spiritually. Looking at the grand scale of the trees and the minute detail of flowers and insects helps to put other aspects of life in perspective and I know that many people, myself included, feel closer to God when we are outside in creation.

I hope and pray that as restrictions are lifted we will still make space to be still, to admire and appreciate the creation around us and to take time to care for and preserve the beautiful world that we have been given.

We have now restarted our Thursday morning pop-in, 10.30 – 12.00, outside next to the church hall. Do come by for a socially distanced cup of tea or coffee and a chat. We would love to see you.

**Also we will be having a community BBQ on 25th July to celebrate St James' Day. 1pm at St James, everyone welcome.**

*Heather Graham, Vicar*

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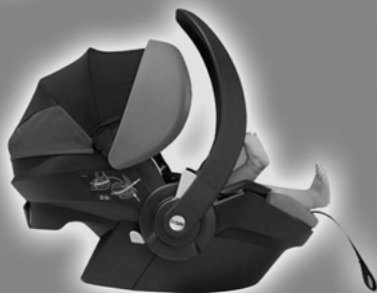
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# Downley Gardening Society

We have continued to embrace technology with our Zoom monthly talks.

We had a very informative talk from Timothy Walker which was enjoyed by everyone from the lovely comments we received. Timothy's talk "Spring in the Garden" ticked all the boxes! His consideration of when spring starts and finishes was interesting; astronomically from the spring equinox but the meteorological dates are 1st March to 31st May or when spring "starts barren and ends fully clothed"!!

We then enjoyed Sorcha Herbert's Easter flower arranging virtual demonstration. This was Sorcha's first foray into a live Zoom tutorial, and she explained clearly what foliage and flowers she had chosen, how to condition them prior to arranging them in a beautiful display for an Easter table. We all found her floral advice invaluable.

Our next meeting was a bit of a coup for the DGS; we were entertained by Bob Flowerdew from Gardener's Question Time. He is a passionate advocate for organic gardening and he imparted his knowledge of Companion Planting. Bob explained the reasons behind grouping certain plants together, for example for biodynamic purposes when plants help each other indirectly or to protect seedlings eg by growing lettuces in between rows of peas as they develop at different rates.

He recommended pairings such as French beans with summer cabbages as this will discourage flies, but avoid growing French beans near onions as they are enemies!

Bob kindly donated one of his books to DGS which was given to a new member, Sam, when her number was chosen by him in our free draw. It was lovely that someone who is just developing an interest in gardening was the lucky recipient.



## Future events:

**Monday 17th May** - Trevor Wiltshire will be speaking about the Rock Garden at Wisley. Although now retired, Trevor was the superintendent of the rock garden at Wisley for many years and this will be the main subject of his talk. Trevor has a beautiful garden in Wadebridge, Cornwall and he will no doubt include a trip to Pencarn in his talk.

We are also organising wildlife walks for our members with John Tyler.

Due to uncertain restrictions in September we have decided not to hold our annual Horticultural show but we are hoping to have an afternoon tea and plant stall for our members on 4th September; details to follow.

We will also have our plant stall at Downley Day, again restrictions permitting.

We are keeping in touch with our members with an email newsletter with chat and pictures about our own gardens and helpful tips.

If you would like to become a member of the Gardening Society and join our Zoom meetings please contact Alison on [downleyveales67@gmail.com](mailto:downleyveales67@gmail.com) or Julia on 01494 447323. Membership costs just £5 single and £8 family per year.

Please keep safe, enjoy your gardens, and we hope to see members and non-members, who are always very welcome, at one of our events.

## 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

## 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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## DOWNLEY BRIDGE CLUB

meet every Thursday  
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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.

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# Simply Walk Downley

## We're on our way again!

Most of you will have heard of or taken part in our walks, which have been going for some years now. You may also be aware that we had to cease walking during the recent pandemic lockdowns for the safety of ourselves and others. We are pleased to announce that we are now back walking again, albeit with some limitations in order to keep safe.

The walks now start on the Common, near the bus shelter and the Information Notice Board, for the time being, where we can still keep the required distance in the open air. We are currently operating two walks: every Monday at 10.00 am (90 minutes) and every Thursday at 11.00 am (one hour). We hope to increase these walks in the near future when the Covid situation becomes freer and we are back to full strength of leaders.

Would you like to join us? If you are not already registered you will need to go to the website ([buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk)) and register; you will find a list of walks including ours at Downley and will need to book a place. This is because we are limited to 30 walkers on any one outing. Hopefully this will also increase once our lives get back to 'normal'.

Getting out and about in the countryside in a safe and sociable way gives us lots of benefits: exercise, fresh air, beautiful Downley countryside, companionable chat and a sense of achievement...all for free! Simply Walk has trained our leaders and we now also have specific Covid practices to follow. If you need more information please go to the website given above. If you join us and enjoy it, you may also like to get trained as a leader or back-marker; you would be very welcome. Here is a photo of some of our current leaders on the first walk back after the recent lockdown. As you can see, we visited the daffodils in Hughenden Park but we have a variety of walks which we alternate.



## Simply Walk

**Join us every week for walks in your local countryside.**

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# Five great places in Downley to take photographs and some tips to help get great shots

With a little planning and a few tips all of us - whether using a mobile phone or the latest digital camera - can take great photographs.

## **The steps, Branch Wood**

After many years living in Downley, I still don't know why the steps are there. However, they make for a unique photo opportunity. Try using them as the backdrop for a portrait shot, with your subject(s) sat or stood on the steps. This is best on a fairly bright day, as it gets pretty gloomy down there.

## **Disraeli Monument**

Pretty much unrivalled local views. If you want to take a landscape shot, use the bench located there to provide some foreground interest. Without this kind of detail, landscapes can end up looking dull.

The monument itself is also worth attention. Arriving there shortly after dawn or before dusk on a sunny day is best - you'll get dramatic shadows cast onto the monument, as well as some lovely golden light.

## **Pond on Gosling Grove**

Also a lovely little highlight in our village. If the sky is blue, a great option is to capture the reflections of a tree or two in the pond. Get someone to drop a pebble into the pond just before you take your picture to add some ripples to your shot.

## **The Beacon**

A great focal point, but make sure the surrounding trees and houses don't detract attention from it. Get in close to the beacon and crouch down fairly low, preferably with the line of houses on Commonsides to the right of your viewfinder. This will emphasise the beacon's size and also provide a pleasant backdrop.

## **Entrance to Commonsides, close to Starlight Stores**

If you get the correct angle, you can get a great image with the Commonsides sign, the beacon and the map of the common all in one shot. Get down quite low and line things up so the road sign leads the eye into the common.

*Find the downley\_photographer on Instagram for more great pictures of our local area!*



# Jill's Maths for Fun

No calculators of any sort (other than pen and paper and brain cells) allowed for Q1, but you can use one for Q2.

1. A village shop is selling local honey. There are two different types, and you are unable to make up your mind which to buy. You decide to choose the one you get most of per penny spent on it. Which will you buy based on this?

	Grs per jar	Cost per jar
Local clover and wildflowers honey	540	£4.80
Local rape seed honey	360	£2.52

2. In 1968 various red kite population reducers such as egg collection, taxidermy, reduction in rabbit population (due to myxomatosis), and low breeding (probably in part due to organochlorine pesticides), resulted in there being just 20 breeding pairs of red kites remaining in the UK, all in mid Wales.

By the mid-1990s there were around 100 breeding pairs in the UK, increasing to around 400 breeding pairs by 2003. By 2020 there were around 10,000 red kites in the UK.

If the population continued to rise at the 2003 to 2020 average rate per year, for the following ten years, how many red kites would there be by 2030?

*Tutor-Jill 0773 860 99 44*

**See Jill's article on page 41  
and for the answers go to page 30.**



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# Downley Evening WI

## Greetings to you all again from Downley Evening WI.

Last time I wrote to you, I was celebrating the end of the very cold weather we'd been enduring and the first signs of spring. Somehow, the season doesn't quite seem to have taken off yet though, does it? Sharp frosts and chilly daytime temperatures have made everything rather late this year, but not to worry because we are now, finally, looking forward to emerging from our year-long pandemic hibernation. In a few days' time, we will have official permission to hug. What a strange sentence that is to write. But then, what a strange world we have inhabited for over a year now. Our perceptions of what is safe and what is not have been severely challenged and there may be many among us who still don't feel quite ready to hug. And that is OK. We must each take our time now, baby steps if need be, as we ease forward towards re-establishing interaction with each other which is both comfortable as well as safe.

Safety is at the heart of this year's proposed WI Resolution which will be debated during the AGM in June. The Resolution is: **A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer.** Ovarian cancer accounts for 4,100 deaths each year, just over half the number of new cases diagnosed, and it affects mostly post-menopausal women, though not exclusively. The problem with ovarian cancer is that it is a silent killer, whose symptoms are difficult to spot as they are easily camouflaged, often more readily associated with other diseases, such as IBS. Yet it is a curable cancer. Sadly, however, most cases tend to be diagnosed when the disease has already taken hold and spread because the sufferers and the medical professionals are not sufficiently aware of how to recognise it. This year's Resolution proposes to address that issue.

Downley Evening WI continues to meet in the virtual world, via Zoom, and this has had unexpected perks, such as having access to speakers who live at a distance, who would never normally be able to come to us. This month's talk about Ernest Shackleton and the Antarctic was excellent. Whilst our usual programme of summer events will not happen this year (though our President Janet Durkin will still be welcoming us to her lovely garden for cups of tea and friendly chat), some County events postponed from last summer will proceed. Last year should have been a bumper year of celebrations for the centenary of the Bucks Federation of WIs but everything had to be cancelled. However, on July 6th the BFWI will go ahead this year with a garden party in the grounds of Waddesdon Manor for our 101st birthday instead. Let's hope for fine weather. Remember you can always contact Janet Durkin on 01494 535662 for any further information or if you would like to join one of our Zoom meetings.

So here's to the future – to being well and safe and reunited with friends and loved ones, to being able to relax and enjoy each other's company, to being able to laugh and sing, to being able to do all the things we haven't been able to do and have missed. Keep smiling through, dear Downley friends.

*Angela Taplin*

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## Jill's Maths for Fun – Answers

From page 27

1. Divide grammes by cost in pence to give cost per gramme.  $540g \div 480p$

Rather than do whole sum at once you could first simplify by dividing both sides by a common factor, e.g. 12 ( $540/12 = 45$ ,  $480/12 = 40p$ )

So, you now have  $45/40 = 1^5/40 = 1^1/8 = 1.125$

$360g \div 252p =$  (divide both sides by 12 again)

$^30/21 = ^{10}/7 = 1^3/10 = 1.3$

So, the Rapeseed Honey is cheaper.

(Classic maths question though I doubt anyone would truly choose on such a small grammes per penny price difference. You are more likely to be swayed by appearance, allergy issues or, if concerned by price you would simply buy the smaller, less expensive jar for the immediate outlay)

2. Where y is population rate increase for previous 13 years:

$$y^{13} \times 800 = 10000$$

$$y^{13} = 10000 \div 800$$

$$y = \sqrt[13]{10000/8}$$

$$y = 1.2144$$

Continuing this increase for 10 more years:

$$1.2144^{10} \times 10000 = 69,761 \text{ red kites by 2030.}$$

*Tutor Jill 0773 860 9944*

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# Testing Times

## News from Downley Pharmacy

As we are now moving out of the times of lockdown we are being encouraged and required to test for Coronavirus for many different reasons. Anyone with symptoms should immediately self-isolate and book a free PCR test via 119.

Lateral flow tests provide an easy and quick assessment as to the likelihood of being a carrier for the Coronavirus even though no symptoms are present. Packs of 7 of these tests are available free of charge from the pharmacy for any that are required to test for specific purposes. Testing would usually be twice weekly and results reported to the government websites. In the case of a positive result this should be followed by a PCR test as above which may also be used to identify which variant is present.

These tests do not, however, fit the criteria for those who need tests to enable foreign travel, that is usually the PCR test (some countries do allow an antigen test). These are performed in defined laboratories and are described in different ways according to when the test is scheduled.

Fit to Fly is the common name given to the pre departure test required usually 48-72 hours before departure depending on country of destination. A test is currently also required in the foreign country before return travel. Travel by any other mode of transport also requires this test.

Day 2 and 8 tests (PCR, as per Fit to Fly) are compulsory from any countries in the red and amber lists and need to be pre-booked before arrival home. At present those countries on the green list only require a test on day 2. There is an optional additional test that can be done on day 5 after return home which if negative allows shortening of the quarantine period, if required.

We can provide all of these either in the pharmacy or by directing you to our provider who can book tests for you. Please check the advice current for your particular date and destination as all criteria are subject to change at any time.

Vaccinations continue at a good pace both via the local centres (Victoria and Marlow) bookable on the government website and the clinics being held at Adams Park and the Town hall. We wait for news of how any booster vaccine will be provided but we are hopeful this may be similar to the flu jab available via the pharmacy. We will be offering flu jabs by appointment from mid-September.

We hope to be able to introduce more services via a payable system within the next few weeks enabling the supply of prescription-only medication for defined purposes and also offering tests for allergies and other conditions alongside aftercare advice and supply.

In the meantime, we hope everyone can enjoy a safe and healthy summer.

*Fiona and the team at Downley Pharmacy*

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# J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

## Summer 2021

Wal, hello to orl you gardeners and plot a'diggers, walcome to summer! Wot about that virus eh? Wal, wot with the jabs in yor arm and the bonny smoke up the plot I reckons we've got it sorted! But I wish it would be that simple to get rid of a new visitor up the plot and in yor gardins.. "And wot might that be?" ses Mrs H, tryin to catch me out agin. Wal wot it is is this.. 'Leek Moth' or for you technical types 'Allium Moth', wal this moth cumin from 'Yurrup' as ex U.S.President George W called it, lays its eggs on leeks and other oniony plants, then the grubs hatch out and eats into 'em, and you don't get nice plants but ones full of holes. Wal! What a business this is, just when things were getting better! So you've got to net yor alliums, you can read about it on the inter web.



Wal, ow is the gardin doin? It's been a bit of a funny Spring wot with the frorsts not helpin little seedlins, and the tulips hangin their heads, after minus 7C in the gardin. Wal I'm into centigrade now, "About time" ses Mrs H, "Its only takin him 20 years!". Then roses, its amazin wot they'll stand, ours gets beaten about with that cold easterly wind a'blowin accross the village, but them early shoots survives, but don't forget to feed em, and keep the black spot and greenfly orf em. Then tommytoes, mine are up in the greenhouse, unheated, and I'll be putting em into small pots, one in each, then when their up about 3 inches (wal that's about 8cm) I puts em into big pots for the greenhouse or outside in a sunny place, with canes to old em up, I've got 5 varieties on the go, one called 'Valencia', I thought I'd try it, I liked the name! I likes to get sum erbs a'goin for Mrs H, near the back door so she don't get lost. Ha Ha. I'm on the lookout for new plants, I lorst some in the frorsts, maybe the Gardin Club will ave sum for sale, I wants thyme especially. Now get ready for yor Summer arvest, "That's a big word for not much" ses you know who, but we gets up the plot for peace and quiet, no radios goin orl the time, just them birds a'singin and the flappin of pidgeons wings as they flies up from pekkin my stuff... But you knows I loves my spuds, nothing like the pleasure of digging that first root of the season, kids loves it if you can get em orf their devices, its real, not virtual eh? If yor onions ave survived the moth get em up and dry em orf, maybe ang em up in the shed or somewhere sheltered from the rain, you could try stringin em, and you'll ave yor first harvest of the year.

My French cousin Jean d'Artichoke is all in a muddle over which jab to ave, every day they changes it he ses, "Le jab et un problem formidable" he ses as e settles down to his second glass of red for breakfast...

So that's orl I can offer you now because there's no more room left on my page in yor magnificent DVN, so cheerio now, and a'bientot.

*J. H. Sent from my iSpade*

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# Downley War Memorial Hall

## we need YOU!



Although High Wycombe library is open there are no plans beyond “as soon as we can do so safely” in respect of opening the Local History section. Meanwhile, I continue to get as much information as I can about the Downley men who died during the Second World War from other sources.

Back in 1914 it was Lord Kitchener, then Secretary of State for War, who wanted Britons to Join Up.

### **Today, my plea is more local and much lower key.**

The current Trustees at the War Memorial Hall have served for many years and, over the past decade or so, have overseen numerous improvements and renovations to the Hall.

Now though, with only one of us under 70, we are looking for fresh blood to safeguard the Hall and ensure that future generations can honour the Downley men who fought and died for their country.

The role is not too onerous and fund-raising, uncommon for a charity, is not a major issue as there is a tenant and several regular hirers. We meet once a month for about one hour.

For those of you new to Downley, the Hall was built by the inhabitants of Downley, then a small village, on a site donated by Sir John Dashwood. Work began in April 1923 with the laying of the stone by 85-year-old Mr George Giles, a Chapel Street resident who lost two sons in the Great War. There followed the laying of bricks by residents and visitors with each person contributing towards the building fund.

The Hall is managed by a committee of Trustees on behalf of the Village. My hope is that we can recruit a number of new members early enough to help with plans for the Hall's Centenary in 2023.

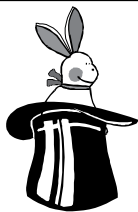
### **So, will YOU join us?**

Please contact me for further information.

Finally, in other news, Downley Parish Council has kindly offered to replace the existing noticeboard at the Hall and that should happen in the near future.



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# Chameleon Singles Group



As restrictions have begun to ease, we have started to organise some limited outside events where our members once again have been able to meet up. The colder than usual spring weather has meant that evening events have remained on Zoom where we have been meeting most weeks.

The first of our meet up events was our “Castle walk” on 30th March where, under the rule of 6, we enjoyed an early evening walk around Hazlemere and Tylers Green to see the new castle which has been built in Manor Road. Our April walk took us across Widmer Fields and finished with drinks at the Three Horseshoes in Hazlemere. The pub garden has recently been re-furbished with some impressive open cabins with heating, lighting and even a TV to make the cooler evenings a bit more pleasant.

We are looking forward to summer when hopefully Covid-19 restrictions will have eased even further. Currently we are busy planning events such as days out, a concert evening and a couple of BBQs. The latter are hosted at our members homes which unfortunately we were not able to do last year. Our Pub Nights are also returning on the last Thursday of the month along with the Friday Lunch Club on the 1st Friday, although at the moment these are limited in numbers that can attend.

Social media such as What’s App and Facebook have further helped us keep in touch with comments, videos and a very good icon music quiz that got us all thinking. We are still welcoming new members to our group even though some of our newer members have currently only met on-line.

**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 both through our Zoom meet-ups and at regular events where these are possible. We have several local people from Downley, West Wycombe, Sands, Cressex, Booker and surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too. To find out more call our membership secretaries Terrie on 01494 445816, Trevor on 01494 529067 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.**

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# Top Notes

## “There’s light at the end of the tunnel...”

Boris’s roadmap is steadily progressing as planned. Therefore, socially distanced, COVID-19 secure rehearsals are in the planning again and we can’t wait!

It’s been a tough few months of lockdown 3.0 for everyone but the end is now in sight. Top Notes decided not to rehearse on Zoom this time around but instead created another virtual vocal project and had a creative performance evening instead where members were invited to share songs, poetry - anything they liked, which was really lovely and enjoyed by all.

Our final virtual project, “We Stand Together”, (which is available to view on our YouTube channel) is a new arrangement of the popular and famous melody “Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity” from “The Planets” by Gustav Holst. The beautiful melody is of course also widely known as, “I Vow to Thee, My Country” and the “World in Union”. Our version has original lyrics from our very own mezzo, Viv McMillan, and a new arrangement from our MD, Emma Barr.

The project was born last year when Viv discovered that it was the centenary of the first public performance of “The Planets”. This led her to think of the “World in Union” song and how the sentiment of those lyrics felt very pertinent to the times in which we were (and still are) living. She wondered if Top Notes might perform it and Emma, open to the idea, suggested that we might write our own words - an idea was born! The aim of the piece is to draw people together to support each other - strangers and friends/family alike - and inspire hope. We hope you enjoy it.

We cannot wait to be in the same room and sing together again. We’ve already got a few hopeful performance dates in the diary, which is very exciting! You’ll be able to see and hear us at Downley Day on September 18th and we’ve booked a venue for our Christmas Concert too - put December 6th in your diaries now!

Please feel free to follow us on our social media channels or get in touch via [topnotestunes@gmail.com](mailto:topnotestunes@gmail.com) to keep track of what we’re up to, future concert & ticket information or any general enquires.

Top Notes continues to be determined to create something which has joy & meaning for each person involved and is also committed to making positive contributions in the local community.

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# News from Hillclimb Garage

## News, advice and tips

Spring is over for another year and it's so lovely to look forward to a much more positive summer 2021! Even in spring though we saw some lovely community activity Who found the easter eggs hiding in our showroom windows? We teamed up with **The Woodland Pre-School** for a very exciting easter egg hunt and it was great seeing so many of you taking part.

At the beginning of May we were delighted to host the **Littleworth Spring Market**. There were some lovely stalls with all manner of crafts, treats and spring gifts. The market was blessed with good weather and well attended. Congratulations to everybody involved in organising the event, with all funds raised, around £250, going to the **Wycombe Food Hub**.

At Hillclimb we LOVE it when you bring your doggies to see us! We have water and treats ready for your pawsome dogs! (and we have drinks and treats for their humans too). Because we love doggies so much, we have sponsored a gorgeous puppy called Charlie, who is being trained by **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** to be a hearing dog. To celebrate our sponsorship, we ran a **children's colouring competition** throughout May to draw pictures of Charlie. All the entries are displayed in our showroom windows. Why not pop up and take a look and check for regular 'pupdates' on how Charlie is doing on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Even with all this excitement, we must remember to give our vehicles a bit of TLC. Whether you've been on the road throughout lockdown or your vehicle has had a vacation off the road, it's important to get it checked over. We are currently offering a **FREE 'Post Lockdown' Safety Check and Video Report** on your car to ensure its vital organs are all fit and healthy and ready to take you on that long awaited awayday or staycation!

With summer upon us you can protect yourself in your car by ensuring your **Air Conditioning System** is serviced to keep you cool and your Pollen Filter replaced (every 2 years to ensure maximum protection).

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**See you at Downley Day in September!**

*The Hillclimb Team*

# Jill - Tutor



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# Jill's Science for Fun

## Succession Succeeding in the Chilterns

When I first moved to this area over 20 years ago, I was fascinated by the M40 cutting between the Stokenchurch and Princes Risborough turn offs; I now know this is called the Aston Rowant/Aston Hill Cutting or the Stokenchurch Gap. I'm no geologist, but the bareness of the chalk clearly exposed a rich history of our Earth going back tens of millions of years, and, being chalk, I knew it had to be fossil rich. Over the years I have been fascinated to watch the change in that bare rock face as organisms have gradually taken a hold. First lichen, then small plants. Nowadays some saplings are taking root. Nature's succession is inevitable, breaking down the rock surface then holding it in place with the plant roots. Nature knows the next step. Nature keeps things in balance, so organisms thrive and grow, without interference from humans.



I now know that this was also one of the sites where red kites were reintroduced into the wild from captivity. These red kites were a novel sight to see around here at that time, I lifted out a bird book to identify my first sighting of one over my new garden. They were released around the area of the cutting in 1989, and successfully mated and populated the area. They scavenged from the land, spreading out from their feeding stations at their release site. They were successful in populating further and further afield. A few years on I clearly recall noticing that the regular gull gatherings in skies around certain communal bin areas were replaced by red kite gatherings. It was, and still is, fascinating to see this succession of the natural world, with one species outcompeting another for a limited resource. Nature taking its natural course, albeit to clear up human rubbish.

Nowadays though those kites are less likely to spread out in search of resources further afield. Their populations are no longer limited by the natural food source, or by the food source of our bins. The concentrated population has expanded to exceptionally large numbers due to feeding of the kites. These animals were extremely successful without having food thrown to them on shed roofs, without them waiting for their next human supplied feast to bulge their numbers and hold them in an area in overpopulated sizes that would be unsustainable without well meaning feeders, enjoying their garden visits each day.

Is there any harm in this? There is when the numbers cannot be sustained naturally. There is when these birds do not know the difference between food provided for them, and food in a human hand waiting to be eaten. How can they know the difference? They are large, strong birds with talons that rip flesh. A swoop and grab from them has already hurt young children, and would undoubtedly traumatise many people; just the feel of the breeze from their wings as they drop down for a look is scary enough. Their

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mewing as they circle our gardens is amazing to hear, but when tens of them circle at once awaiting their expected Sunday dinner from a neighbour then it is no longer advisable to eat lunch outside, or have friends round for tea and cake in the garden.

In the 15th Century red kites were valued as scavengers, keeping our streets clean; conviction for killing a red kite carried a sentence of death. Their numbers swelled. In the 16th Century red kites were killed as vermin and they had a bounty placed on their head. Their numbers dwindled, they became a rare prize for egg collectors and taxidermists. In the 1870s they became extinct in the UK, apart from an area of mid-Wales with a low human population. They survived without human intervention, with nature dictating their population size. It is the interference of man which resulted in their downfall in the past. Nowadays we have the feeders risking their survival for a spectacular garden show and some easy photographs. If people continue to feed them, to attract them into gardens for food, to tame them, then the culling will be inevitable.

**Please don't feed the kites. Let nature be natural, so it can live.**

*Tutor-Jill 0773 860 99 44*

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## Coffee Stop

Coffee Stop usually meets every Monday morning (except Bank Holidays) in St James Church Hall. It began in 2002 and provides tea, coffee, home-made cakes, and light lunches. Each year we have been able to donate between £500 and £1000 to local good causes but fundraising is secondary to providing a cheerful place to meet old friends and make new ones. We cover a wide age range from one to one hundred. Congratulations to Nellie, one of our regulars, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

The Coffee Stop year is punctuated with special events – Easter, Harvest Lunch and Christmas celebrations. From time to time there are visiting stallholders.

Coffee Stop is run entirely by volunteers. Ann Buxton, the remaining one of the original helpers has finally decided to retire – we thank her for all her help over the years, as a driver, server in the kitchen, shopper and our contributor to Downley Village News. Several of our volunteers have also decided to step back so we are keen to welcome new helpers, whether to put up and take down tables, help in the kitchen, or drive some of our regulars to and from St James Church Hall. We have a rota so you can help out as often as convenient.

At the moment we do not know when Coffee Stop will reopen. We will need a few practice runs to ensure we can keep all our helpers and visitors safe. If you would like us to contact you when we reopen please email [christinelstyles@hotmail.com](mailto:christinelstyles@hotmail.com) or phone Chrissie Styles on 01494 445766.

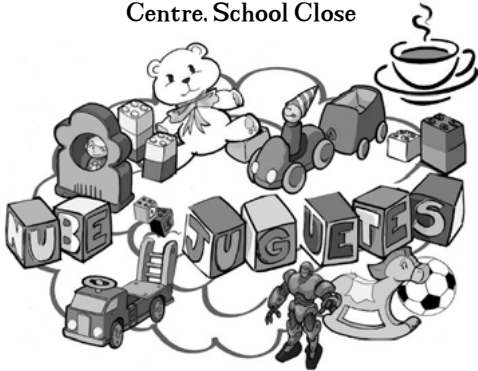


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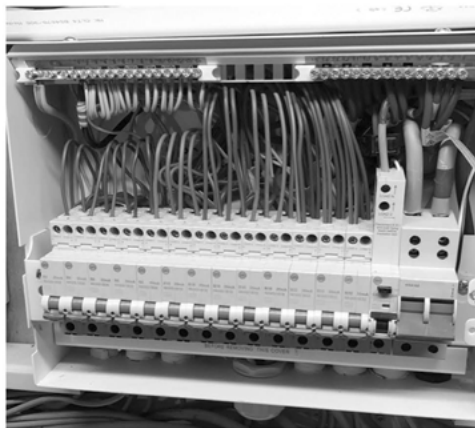
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# From Westminster

*Steve Baker - MP for Wycombe*



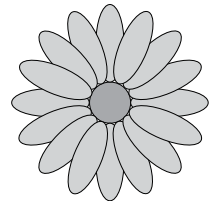
One of the most important dates in the parliamentary calendar is the Queen's Speech, which this year took place in the middle of May. The Queen's Speech lays out the Government's legislative programme for the next session of Parliament. New Bills were announced including those on crime and policing, education, and the Armed Forces.

The Government has made it clear the virus remains its number one priority. It will follow the steps of the roadmap out of lockdown, pressing on with the vaccination programme and plans for a booster campaign in the autumn. The pandemic and our response to it has hit the country hard. Millions remain on furlough and too many businesses have closed their doors for good. That's why I have worked hard with MPs to promote our collective recovery from this disease. One of the people I have spoken to about the economic impact of the virus is a Downley business owner. We agreed the vaccination programme should allow people to begin earning a living again and enjoying life. I urge everyone to make the most of the freedoms the vaccination gives.

As the economy begins to recover, I recall a promise I made at the 2019 General Election count. Environmental issues were dominant in the campaign, and I promised to pay close attention to climate change policy.

It is hard to overstate the scale of the transformation ministers intend to deliver. The more I study, the more concerned I become about the implications for homeowners. The bill for decarbonising the economy is estimated to be over £100,000 per household and I think that is more than most people can afford. We need scrutiny and a sober debate about our options, including the engineering challenges.

In the meantime, you can help play a part in supporting biodiversity. The Council's Wycombe Environment group is giving away free wildflower seeds to help bees and other pollinating insects.



If you would like to get involved you can get information from <https://climateactionnow.uk/groups/wycombe/wycombe-ecology/bees/ive-planted-wild-flowers/>


**If you would like to get in touch with me please email: [steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk). If you despair of bureaucracy and would like my help with a particular issue, please phone my constituency office on 01494 448408.**



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# News from Buckinghamshire Council



## Thank you!

Thank you for electing me to serve as your local Councillor on Buckinghamshire Council. I will always put the residents I represent first and will continue to work for our community with pride and humility.

As I write this update, it has not yet been confirmed which committees have been allocated to whom, but I will automatically continue as a representative for Downley on the North West Chilterns Community Board. Following the ward changes I also now represent the old WDC 'Disraeli' ward in High Wycombe and therefore will also be on the Wycombe Community Board, The High Wycombe Town Committee and I will also have the honour of being a Charter Trustee of the Town of High Wycombe (see [www.mayorofwycombe.com](http://www.mayorofwycombe.com) for the history of this ancient tradition).

Buckinghamshire Council is still a Conservative Council with 113 seats out of 147. In addition, there are 15 Liberal Democrats, 14 various independents, four Labour and one Green Party Councillor.

With two Conservative Councillors, myself and Cllr Maz Hussain, representing Downley, you will have a strong voice at the heart of decision making, and we will do our best for you and put our community first.

Downley is a great place to live; it is really community focused. It couldn't work without the tireless enthusiasm and hard work of hundreds of unsung volunteers. So another thank you to all of you. I am just one small cog in the machinery of what makes Downley great and, as always, I am happy to play my part.

Looking ahead, as we take small steps out of the pandemic situation and the restrictions that we have lived with for over a year, I look forward to meeting many of you as events start up again. The vaccination programme has been a huge success so hopefully, with care, we can continue to return to whatever normal is going to look like.

If you would like to receive automatic regular news updates directly to your inbox from Buckinghamshire Council, please go to <https://enews.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/p/5438-3WI/signup>.

Best wishes and keep safe.

Paul

*Cllr Paul Turner: Buckinghamshire Councillor for Downley  
[paul.turner@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.turner@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) 07825 842292*

# Support your local voluntary Library



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!

# WE ARE OPEN

## Usual days usual times!

However please note the entrance to the library is via the rear door for the period of the pandemic rules. You will also need to either sign in or use the Government phone app. In addition you will need to wear a mask. Access to the library is limited to two adults in the paper back area and two family groups in the children's area so you may be asked to wait before entering.

# Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

## DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Hall Bookings: [bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk) or call Cathy on 07580 953 181

GROUP	DAY	TIME	NEW MEMBER WELCOME	CONTACT
Alzheimers Carers Support Group	4th Wednesday	10.30		Angela 07889 604704 Alzheimers.org.uk Alzheimers.org.uk
Art Group 1	Tues <i>term-time</i>	10.00 - 12.00		Sue. 01494 443393
Art Group 2	Monday	10.00 - 12.00		alastair.pike@artsmartuk.com
Bridge Club	Thursday <i>from mid July</i>	19.00 - 22.15	✓	Paul.goddard@icloud.com
Bouncefit	Wednesday			Rosina. Rosi@reboundfit.co.uk
Children's Dance Group	Wednesday	16.15 - 18.30		Zoe.k.thompson@hotmail.com
Chipmunks Woodcarving	Wednesday	10.00 - 12.00	✓	Margaret 01494 523912
Community Library	Monday Thursday Saturday	10.00 - 12.00 15.00 - 17.00 10.00 - 12.00		
Counselling	by appointment			Chris Jefferies. Bucksounselling@hotmail.com
Craft Group	1st Tuesday	09.30 - 12.30		Helen 01494 564414
Dance Classes (ballroom and Latin)	Tuesday Tuesday	19.30 20.30		karen@comedancingwithme. 0787 353 8709
Downley Toddler Group	Monday <i>term time</i>	09.30 - 11.30		
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wed <i>from September</i>	20.00		Nigel. N234838D@hotmail.co.uk
First Aid Training				Nick. info@ndatraining.co.uk
First Class Learning	Saturday	10.00		Himanshu 07949 590466
Flower Club	3rd Tuesday <i>from September</i>	19.30		Isabelle.foley@sky.com
French Circle	2nd Friday <i>from September</i>	19.30		Claire.atkinson10@outlook.com 01628 484833
Hartbeeps	Wednesday	11.00 - 15.15		hannah.dixon@hartbeeps.com 07745 861615
Kingdom Dynamics Chapel	Sunday	10.00 - 12.00		Sharon. 07961 822347
Lace Making	Thursday <i>term time</i>	12.45		Frances 01494 524835
Musical Mayhem	Tuesday Thursday	09.15 - 12.15 09.15 - 12.15		Monica. Info@musicalmayhem.co.uk
Pilates	Thursday	19.00		Emma@asenseofbalance.co.uk
Russian group (Sept)	3rd Thursday <i>from September</i>	14.00		Nadia. info@gorussianclub.co.uk
Simply Walk	Monday Thursday	10.00 - 11.30 11.00 - 12.00	✓	starts from the Common
U3A Ukulele (Sept)	4th Thursday	10.00 - 12.00		Sylvia. Sylvia.chadwick@me.com
Wargamers	Monday	18.00		Chris. 07837 976387
Wycombe Spiritual Centre	1st & 3rd Friday	18.30		ashleydarkwood@gmail.com

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Life threatening or critical situations only

**Telephone: 999**  
and ask for relevant service  
**AMBULANCE • FIRE • POLICE**

### HEALTH

NHS Direct 111  
Downley Pharmacy 01494 513 060

### POLICE - NON EMERGENCY

Report 101 or [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

### List Of Advertisers

Academy GB Doors	20
Altea Beauty and Holistic Treatments	40
Applicant Mortgage Brokers	34
Arnold Funeral Directors	18
Bucks Relationship Counselling	30
Canine Cutz Dog Grooming	18
Clean and Tidy Decorators	30
D Aurcci Plastering Services	30
DJ Coles Property Services	38
Dog Walker	12
Downley Pharmacy	6 & 20
Downley Toddler Group	44
First Class Learning	4
Hammond Construction	46
Hammond Electrical	44
Hartbeeps Toddler Classes	12
Hillclimb Garage	34
Home Care Gurus	42
Jill Burrell Tutor	40
JR Travel. Private Hire	46
Le De Spencers Arms	12
MA Hunt Painting & Decorating	6
Magic Touch Ironing Service	34
Mark Braisher Mortgages	16
Mark Evans Plumbing & Heating Engineers	28

### Credits

**Editor:** Anne at [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org)

**Advertising:** Send advertising to [adverts@downley.org](mailto:adverts@downley.org)

**Distribution:** Coordinated by Sarah Bass. Volunteers to deliver locally are always needed. If interested contact Sarah on: [sarah.bass001@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.bass001@gmail.com) or 01494 462873

**Rates:** Half Page £30 | Quarter Page £20 | Eighth Page £15

**Deadlines:** The Village News is published quarterly in November, February, May and August. The deadline for adverts and copy for the next issue is 31st July 2021.

**Website:** [news@downley.org](http://news@downley.org)

Printed by: Turville Printing Services 01494 520322

### COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Paul Turner [paul.turner@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.turner@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)  
Cllr. Maz Hussain [maz.hussain@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:maz.hussain@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)  
Cllr. Melanie Smith

### DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk [clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org)

**Further suggestions of what should be listed here to the editor**  
[editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org)

Mark Gonsalves Kitchen & Bathroom Specialist	22
M.D. Garden Services	36
Monkey Music	10
The Barr Academy of Performing Arts	4
Optionz Hair & Beauty	51
Personalised Learning Tuition	14
Pilates with Pamela	36
P K Stroy, Builder	8
Plugs Electrical Services	28
Pushchairs and Car Seats	22
Revive Car Bodywork	8
RMG Plumbing & Heating	14
Robertsons Estate Agency	14
St. James' Church	42
Suttons' Property Maintenance	10
Singing Lessons with Emma Barr	38
Skyline Electrical Services	34
The Grange Restaurant & Gift Shop	42
The Mortgage Store	44
The Mowchak	10
The Professional Chimney Sweep Company	18
The Wye Partnership	2
TLC 4 You	16
Top Marks 11+ Tuition	38
Wycombe Mobile Tyres	4

**Copy:** Please send text in editable format and photographs as separate files in high resolution. Copy should be sent to [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org).

Any copy or photographs sent to this address may also be used on the [downley.org](http://downley.org) website and facebook page: [facebook.com/Downley.Community](https://facebook.com/Downley.Community)

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

**Chairman:** Bill Thompson; **Secretary:** Peter Loadman  
**Treasurer:** Bob Cook; **Webmaster:** Mark Starkey

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# Up! Downley 2021

Village Festival

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**COMEDY NIGHT 22 SEPT**

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**ART SHOW**  
**SUNFLOWERS**  
**OPEN GARDENS**  
**HISTORY WALK**



DOWNLEY  
COMMUNITY