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# Village News

Issue 129/November 2021



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## Editorial

Well, it's been rather a wet and windy end to summer and early autumn, but at least most of us are back to some sort of normality, albeit with Covid restrictions still in mind. I just hope we can get through this winter without a major upsurge in cases and restrictions being re-introduced; having just got used to going out again I would be very averse to being back stuck indoors! Having said that, I am mindful that there are some in our community who may still not feel safe to venture out much, particularly those who are vulnerable with underlying health conditions. Let's hope that the booster jabs many of us are now being offered will get this wretched virus under control at last so that all of us can feel safer come spring. If you can, please do consider getting the Covid vaccine booster if offered – or the initial vaccines if you haven't yet had them – as every one of us who has been vaccinated is helping the wider community as well as ourselves.

I hope you are able to enjoy the festive season with family and other loved ones and that 2022 brings us all an even greater return to “normality” – whatever that means to you.

It won't be long before winter is behind us and the next issue is our Spring one. 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 30 January).

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



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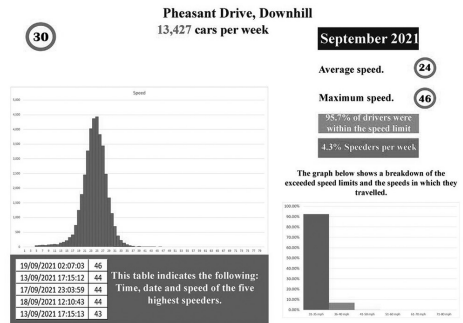
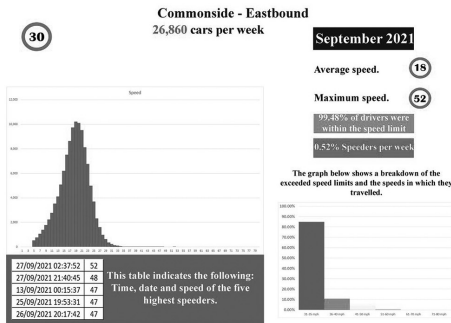
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# Downley Parish Council



I have a few things to cover this month, the first being that now we are outside of nesting season, hedge cutting can take place. I've received several complaints from residents where householders have allowed hedges and trees on their property to grow and block the pavement. I would like to remind everyone to cut back hedges and make sure that pavements are kept clear for pedestrians to use.

Judging from my inbox, one of the key concerns of Downley residents is the amount of traffic speeding through the village. Throughout September, our Speed Indicator Devices were located on Commonside and Pheasant Drive and below are the graphs showing the data captured during the month:



It's worth mentioning that due to a problem with the unit on Pheasant Drive, the graph shows data for three weeks rather than the full month. Both units are now fully working and have been re-sited on Plomer Hill and Littleworth Road.

DPC have taken notice of the vast number of comments on local Facebook pages regarding speeding in and around the village and, wanting to do more than just collect and publish data, it was agreed at our September meeting to launch a Community Speedwatch Group – Downley Parish Council Community Speedwatch. We recruited a number of volunteers on Downley Day but do need more people to come on board. There's some simple online training to complete before our teams hit the streets of Downley, using a radar gun to assess the speed of passing cars. Where drivers are found to be speeding, their details are passed on to the Police who then contact the offenders. Our aim is to recruit volunteers from every street in the Parish – see below for details on how to join us in our bid to combat speeding issues.



On the subject of volunteers, the Parish Council is keen to resume work on Sandpits Pond at Gosling Grove. The pond has become very congested with plants and needs opening up and restoring. We've put together a small team of volunteers and have taken advice from Berks Bucks

& Oxon Wildlife Trust. If you would like to help with the pond restoration project, please drop me an email to [clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org)

*Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk*



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# Downley Day



September 18th saw the first post-pandemic Downley Day and it was possibly the best-attended Downley Day of modern times. The sheer number of people that turned up to enjoy the afternoon surprised both organisers and the stall holders.

The Black Eagles acrobatic team was very well received (particularly the limbo dancing!) and they will certainly be on the list for a future appearance, LEAP gave their usual polished performance and both the ZKT and the Natalie Jane dance groups were great. Many thanks to the High Wycombe Music Centre and the Top Notes choir for the musical entertainments. Lastly the dog show gave an opportunity for the local canine population to show themselves off. A Festival report will appear in the Spring edition of Downley News.



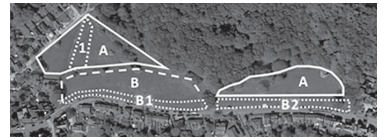
The Downley Day committee will put up the Christmas tree in December with a Christmas Tree decorating event on 4th December at 3pm when everyone is invited to come along and decorate the tree. Community Carol singing will combine with the Downley Churches carol singing this year which starts at the Co-op on 21st December at 5.30pm, proceeding to the beacon on the Common and then to the Memorial Hall for mulled wine and mince pies.

*Bill Thompson, Downley Day Chairman*

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## Downley Common News

Grass cutting regime. There has been ongoing discussion with the Parish Council about how the grass on Commonsides should be maintained. There has been concern in the past that the grass was being cut too short and too frequently to the extent that bare patches were starting to appear and were not recovering. Since then the cutting length has been increased to not less than 3 inches and the frequency reduced to four times a year and only once in certain areas. Since then, the plan has been reviewed as some areas were becoming overgrown.



The most used area (B) will be cut four times a year from March to October with possibly more or less depending on the weather. B1 and B2 may need 2 extra cuts. The lesser used areas will only have two cuts a year to allow growth of wildflowers but with area A1 possibly needing more if the docks get overgrown.

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**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 [clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org)

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## Mannings Pond



The pond weed has grown enormously over the last year so we have been forced to start again at the beginning. There was a good turnout in September and we were able to remove a large amount of sweet grass and more reed mace.

## Preparation for bonfire

By the time you read this, the bonfire will have come and gone and everyone will have had a good time we hope. The bonfire building days were held on the 24th, 30th and 31st October. Many thanks to those who came along to help; it was good to see a few new faces there.



**Finally, don't forget the lighting of the Beacon on Downley Common at midnight on New Year's Eve. Take a quick break from your New Year party, grab a glass of bubbly and come and drink a toast to 2022 in the hope that it's a better year than the previous two years.**

*Bill Thompson, Secretary, DCPS.*

---

## Coffee Stop News

This is the second article since Coffee Stop re-started. Once again, I have to begin with sad news:



Lovely Nellie Brown passed away this month (October) after a spell in hospital. She had reached the grand age of 100. Nellie had been a Coffee Stop customer for a long time and was well liked by everyone.

Coffee Stop has been well supported since it resumed in September and it has seen many new customers too. Although the selection of food has been reduced (we now offer three types of cake as well as scones and teacakes) this hasn't deterred people from coming. Our takings have been quite good, even though we no longer provide lunches, and people have been really generous regarding our Donations box too. We'd also like to thank St James' Church for their help. Everyone enjoys getting together with friends we might not have seen for some time and also having the chance to meet new people. We have several new volunteers too which is beneficial to the workload, although when we eventually get back to weekly meetings, we will need more help.

Regarding our December Coffee Stop, we will be serving festive fare although, sadly, there will be no Christmas entertainment this year. Having said that, we hope you all have a pleasant Christmas. At least there will be no Covid restrictions this year (we hope!).

Our first meeting in January will be on Monday 10th as the first Monday in the month is a Bank Holiday.

*Lyn Cook*

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# Downley Community Centre



The Centre welcomes two new regular hirers who have started weekly sessions. YOGA is back on Monday evenings and a new contact and support group on Friday mornings for parents of twins and multiple births – TWINS & MULTIPLES CLUB. Details can be found in the round-up of activities section near the back of this issue.

The starting place for the NHS initiative SIMPLY WALK has now reverted back to the lawn at the Centre. See advert on page 28.

As part of the Centre's commitment to award grants to local community based organisations who demonstrate a genuine need for hardship funds, the trustees awarded the long established Downley Albion Football Club £500. This sum was matched by Downley Parish Council and Downley Communications Forum (publishers of the web site and Downley Village News etc.). See separate article in this issue.

A prior pledge towards a road safety feasibility study with additional funding from the same two contributors as above will soon learn the results from Bucks Council.

Since its inception nearly 20 years ago, the Centre has successfully completed several capital projects including building an extension with a new roof, new toilets and a front porch, major refurbishment of the library and decoration of both Oak and Beech rooms – more recently supplemented with acoustic sound ceiling panels.

For the first time in many years the management committee is now in need of new volunteer committee members, especially those with young families who can relate to many of the activities held in the Centre. Another exciting development is under consideration but currently needs one or more new committee members to drive forward. With over 30 regular hirers now back and most casual bookings derived from personal recommendations, it is vital to the Centre's continuing success for both current and future developments that the committee reflects a broad and diverse section of the community. No special skills are required, just enthusiasm and a passion to improve the Centre for the Downley community. If you feel you may be able to contribute, please contact the Centre's chairman at: davidworsdall@gmail.com.

*DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE – Management Committee*



## **ANNUAL DOWNLEY CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

This year our normal two carol singing event in Downley are combining as **Carols on the Common on Tuesday 21st December**, by the Beacon. Meeting at **5.30pm** outside the Co-Op, singing as we move along to the Beacon for **6.00pm**. You are welcome to join at either point or en route! Afterwards mulled wine and mince pies can be enjoyed in the memorial hall.

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# News from Downley Pharmacy

Winter is traditionally the season for coughs, colds and the like. Already we have seen more incidence than last year but, with increased awareness of the flu vaccine and Covid vaccination, hopefully severe illness will be kept to a minimum. Please contact us to make an appointment for a flu vaccine, private or NHS. Covid booster vaccines should be booked by calling 119 or via the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Healthcare services are always busier in winter months, so for regular repeat medication please allow seven days for prescriptions to be ready after the request has been submitted. Items ordered on Tuesday will probably not be ready for collection on Friday!

When sent prescriptions we identify those for acute conditions and prioritise these. If your problem was dealt with by a nurse or paramedic it is possible the prescription will only be sent once a GP has signed it so please allow for this, after 2pm is the general rule for morning consultations and after 4pm or later/overnight for afternoon clinics.

Regular repeat medication is prepared in turn. If for some reason you are extremely short of medication (less than 2 days worth or not enough for a weekend) please contact us and we will do our best to issue the items as quickly as possible. However, the general rule is it could be 48hrs from receipt of electronic prescription.

As always the Christmas break provides a challenge. We and the GP surgeries will close on Friday 24th December at 6pm and will not open until Wednesday 29th, closing again for the New Year break Friday 31st December, re-opening on Tuesday 4th January. Please order prescriptions in good time for the break but not before Christmas if you do not need until the New Year!

In the coming months we will be carrying out some catch up reviews for those who have been prescribed new medication since the start of the pandemic and also completing some audits around anticoagulants, asthma and promoting healthier lifestyles and better weight management. We will be grateful to all those willing to spare a few minutes to complete these extra tasks set by the government.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

*Fiona and the team at Downley Pharmacy*

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## Chameleon Singles Group

With the easing of Coronavirus restrictions Chameleon Singles Group is now able to run a much fuller programme of events.

We are, of course, still having to meet with an air of caution and in the hope that further restrictions will not need to be put in place over the winter months.

This year we are once again planning two Christmas events after having to miss these celebrations at the end of 2020. Our first event will be an evening buffet and disco dance at Hazlemere Golf Club. This is a venue we have used before and has been a



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great evening out. The table buffet this year will be something different but I'm sure we will have an equally great evening celebrating the festive season. Our second event will be the Christmas lunch club at the Spindle & Thread, a lighter event with food choices from both the usual and festive menus available.

While we are continuing to have our zoom meetings once a month, the focus is now very much on getting back to meet up events. The regular pub nights on the last Thursday of the month are still one of our most popular events and a good opportunity to meet with other members, especially for those new to the group. Our Lunch Club has now moved to the second Friday of the month to avoid a clash when the calendar makes it appear on the same week as the pub night. A daytime event, this has proved popular with those who are not at work during the day.

Our new programme for November and December includes more indoor events as the cooler days and darker nights are now with us. We have a take-away evening at a member's house and a day trip the Christmas Market in Birmingham to mention just a couple of things going on in the next couple of months. Our regular walks will also take place too, giving members a variety of different things to do as the year draws to a close and we look forward to 2022.

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, 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.

---

## Downley Theatre Group

We had so hoped to have organized an outing by now, but, after much deliberation, have decided to wait until the winter months are behind us.

Hopefully once we're into 2022, the situation surrounding social distancing, proof of vaccination and the wearing of face coverings as requested by theatres will be a lot clearer, meaning we can book with confidence.

We've had some enquiries from residents about joining the Group (all are welcome) and have sent out a form for completion, giving us permission to hold personal details, but not heard back. If this sounds like you, please get in touch again.

We will be updating members in due course. Do get in touch with any questions or suggestions and we hope to see you soon.

*Alan & Claire Baker*  
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# News from St James



I don't know if you feel you have been in a slimy pit or not – it has definitely been a dark place, slippery with ever changing rules and regulations, but with the help of the vaccination programme and our amazing NHS across the country there is sense of new beginnings, our feet are finding firmer places to stand and there is a sense we can start to look forward again. We have definitely felt that at St James.

It is great to see regular groups happening again:

Toddlers is running weekly at the Pastures,

Thursday 9.30-11.30 and Coffee Poppin at St

James Thursday 10.30-12 has a lovely group of people who come regularly. It's also great to see the Coffee Stop back on the first Monday of each month.

**Psalm 40: 2-3 says:**

“He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
out of the mud and mire;  
he set my feet on a rock  
and gave me a firm place to stand.  
3 He put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn of praise to our God.



We also really want to celebrate new things that are springing up. At St James we are preparing to launch **Growing Hope High Wycombe** which will be employing a therapist who will give free therapy to children and young people with additional needs. We are excited to partner with Growing Hope in their vision to bring hope to children and their families. You can find out more about this venture on our website [www.stjamesdownley.org.uk](http://www.stjamesdownley.org.uk) We hope that the clinics will start in the new year.

**Christmas is coming**, and I know that we will all be looking forward to a more normal one this year, celebrating with our friends and families.

We would love to invite you to join the churches in Downley for our annual **Carols on the Common on Tuesday 21st December**, by the Beacon. We will meet at **5.30pm** outside the Co-Op and sing our way along to the Beacon for **6.00pm**, you can join us at either point or en route! Afterwards we will enjoy mulled wine and mince pies in the memorial hall.

**You are also very welcome at all our services detailed below**

## Christmas Services at St James:

Carol Service Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 11am

Christmas Eve Nativity Service 4pm

Christmas Eve Communion 11pm

Christmas Day Communion 11am




*Heather Graham, Vicar*



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# Sunnybank Methodist Church

Whenever I look at the beautiful colours of the leaves on the trees, it reminds me of God's creation of the seasons, and how fortunate we are to be in the world created by Him, who saw it to be good. As lovely as those leaves look on the trees, most of them will eventually end up on the ground, shed for the winter season.

In November, those who lost their lives in past conflicts are honoured all over the world in an act of remembrance. At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we pause to honour those of past generations.

While many stirring recollections flood our minds, we realise that the time will come when each of us will become a memory. We see on so many war memorials the names of the fallen beneath the words of Jesus, **'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'** (John 15:13), and we come face-to-face with the hope that somehow, apparently pointless suffering can be given meaning by associating it with the purposeful suffering of Jesus.

Those who died in the service of their country and the record of their lives of faith and obedience still inspire us today. Few of us will be recorded in history books after we leave this world, but we will leave behind memories with our families and friends. I wonder what others will remember of our words and deeds when they think of us...

At Sunnybank, like many others during the pandemic, we have suffered the loss of several members and dear friends and their memories are very precious to us. We have faced some great challenges. We were sad to see the closure of the playgroup, as Cathy Piercy, who ran it for 36 years, has now retired. We are most grateful to Cathy for all that she did and has been to us and to many Downley families.

The time of adversity, however, brought us some wonderful support and encouragement. We found ourselves working even more closely with our friends at The Pastures and St James's and in conjunction with them, we are delighted to be able to restart monthly services at the Heights care home, including a residents' Carol service on 16 December, along with some of our other regular events.

Thanks to funding from the Methodist 'God for All' initiative, the chapel now has wifi letting us share worship with other churches remotely and open up new opportunities. We're now holding a fortnightly Bible study on Wednesdays from 1000 – 1200 (everyone welcome of course), and this has provided great opportunities for sharing different perceptions and thoughts.

Often, Christians are urged to "walk the talk": We should not let our behaviour contradict our belief, rather we should rely on the gift of grace to help us on life's journey. Let us determine by the Grace of God to live for Him and give ourselves to the needs of others. Then our lives and our testimonies will become a blessing and inspiration to all who follow in our steps.

**I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the true spirit of Christmas shine in our hearts and light our paths during the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ - the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

*With love and every blessing. Rev. Vida Foday, Minister, Downley Methodist Church*



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# Care and Companions - Downley

In January of this year, three Downley women, all from healthcare backgrounds, having personally and professionally experienced a variety of issues in care services, decided they wanted to re-write the concept of homecare, for both Clients and Carers. Over the following months, with much blood, sweat, tears and an occasional glass of something, Care and Companions was born.

## So, what makes Care and Companions different?

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- Our Carers are NOT rushing from house to house, spending ages sitting in traffic, having no time to spare to have a chat with a client who may not see anyone else until the next carer visits. We aim to find local carers, who really get to know each client and we try to match up those with similar interests and hobbies.
- We provide continuity, so both the person being cared for and the carer(s), know each other's routines, preferences, interests and foibles!
- We ensure that our Carers are paid a wage which reflects their hard work, and our clients are paying less than through other care agencies.

If you have some time and would like to do something rewarding, providing help and support to enable people to stay living in their own homes as independently as possible is priceless in terms of satisfaction.

Whether you are looking for care, or are interested in joining our first-class team, please contact us to find out more. Phone: 01494 578127 and speak to Mandy or Clare, Email: [info@careandcompanions.co.uk](mailto:info@careandcompanions.co.uk) or visit <https://careandcompanions.co.uk/seeking-work-as-a-carer/> for more information.

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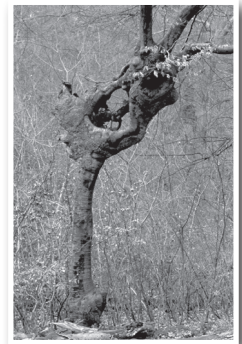
## Downley Gardening Society

We had our first 'in person' meeting in St James' hall on 18th October with our covid policy in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. Around 40 members enjoyed a fabulous talk from John Tyler entitled 'The Beech Tree – Queen of the Forest'. We learned lots of things about the beech tree including that they 'talk' to each other underground and how they survive even when the inside of the trunk becomes rotten – see the ballerina tree picture in Burnham Beches.

Our stall at Downley Day was very successful selling plants donated by our members and we even gained 3 new members.

Our members also enjoyed a day trip to RHS Wisley on 16th October.

**Future meetings at 7.30pm at St James' Hall**, covid restrictions permitting, or Zoom:  
**Monday 18th November talk by George Lockwood**, 'Perennials in a Royal Garden

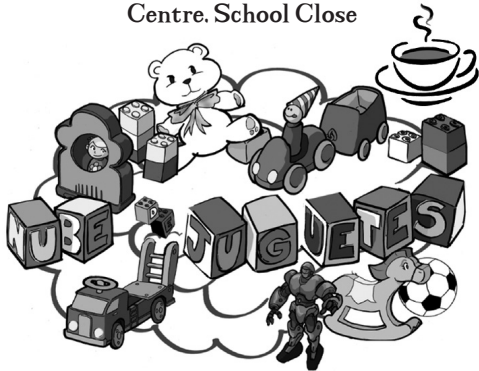


## Downley Toddler Group

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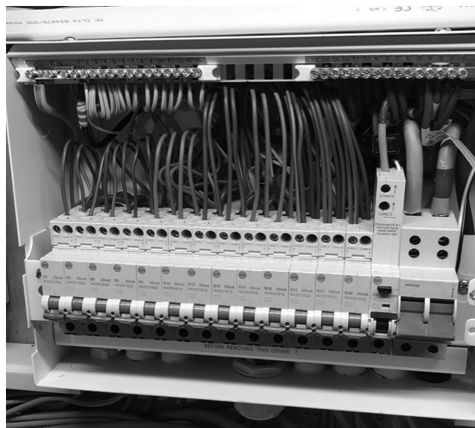
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**Monday 15th December – quiz about Downley** with John Wilson and music by the Top Notes choir, along with mulled wine or fruit juice and Alex's wonderful mince pies. We will be holding zoom meetings in January and February 2022.

If you would like to become a member of the Gardening Society and join our 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.

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## Downley Evening WI

Hello I'm Heather and I've just taken over from Angela to let you know what we've been up to at the WI, so first of all a big thank you to Angela for all her past reports.

September brought exciting times as we held our first 'real' meeting for eighteen months! Everyone was so pleased to be able to at least begin to get back to normal times, albeit with the necessary Covid precautions, and it was lovely to see at least the top half of everyone's face! Our speaker gave us an absolutely fascinating insight into the history of the London Underground, involving many new feats of engineering, many of which have since been copied in other countries.

October was our AGM when we were pleased that Janet Durkin agreed to carry on another year as our President. One or two changes were made to the rest of the committee and we are now looking forward to moving on. The children's charity PACE gave us an introduction to the amazing work they do as they are one of the charities we are supporting this year.



Our November meeting, with a talk entitled 'Beyond the Fringe', will also include a Christmas stall selling items made by our craft group. December will, of course, be Christmassy, with entertainment by Izzy Foley followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

We are always pleased to welcome new members so if you think you may be interested then do contact Janet Durkin on 01494 535662 and we'll look forward to 2022 together.

*Heather Read*

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## Downley War Memorial Hall

From Autumn 1940 through to the following summer WW2 was largely fought in three main areas: Russia, North Africa and the Pacific.

The central part of the three-pronged German invasion of Russia had been so successful that it had to be delayed to avoid them becoming vulnerable from the flanks. This allowed the Russian army to strengthen Moscow's defences in preparation for a renewed assault. When it came there was significant early progress but a series of counter-attacks and the first winter snows bogged down the invaders. For



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weeks the front line moved back and forth and by the end of November German tanks were on the outskirts of the capital, but the Russians pushed back and eventually gained up to 100 miles before everything ground to a halt. Much of these gains were lost to fresh attacks in the spring.

North Africa saw similar toing and froing during this period and there remained a great deal of focus on Malta. The RAF and the Royal Navy based on the island attacked both the enemy forces in Africa and their supply route across the Mediterranean as well as supplying the Allied forces. These successes attracted a quick response with U-boats deployed from the Atlantic to attack the convoys bringing supplies from the UK. In addition, Luftwaffe squadrons were moved to Sicily to defend the ships. By March 1942 Malta had been largely neutralised and plans were drawn up for an invasion. Fortunately, these were put on hold as Rommel's forces gained the upper hand in Libya and the capture of the Suez Canal was considered more important. In April, King George VI awarded the George Cross to the Island of Malta for "Heroism and Devotion"

In the Pacific, however, it was all one-way traffic. Following the 7 December Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour their forces spread quickly throughout South-East Asia. By the end of the month they had reached the Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Burma, Thailand, Singapore and Borneo. In February they moved further south towards New Guinea and launched an aerial attack on Darwin. In April they spread west with the Japanese Navy attacking Colombo (Sri Lanka).

Elsewhere, conscription in the United Kingdom now includes all men between 18 and 50. Women will serve in fire brigades and in women's auxiliary groups. Electricity, coal, and gas are now rationed and the clothing ration is reduced.

On 1 January 1942 twenty-six Allied countries signed the Declaration by United Nations during the Arcadia Conference. More nations were added over the following days. The declaration became the basis for the current UN.

Locally, the focus was on raising funds for weapons, with Downley contributing £350 from a concert, fancy dress parade and numerous other ventures towards the district total of £750,000!

Mrs Soden from Desborough Avenue had heard from her son, a POW, who had met an old schoolfriend in the camp. This was Fred Humphrey from Downley who is shown in a photo at the Memorial Hall.

Mrs Green of Plomer Green Lane had been notified that her husband was reported missing.

Flight Lieutenant L Ercolani had been awarded the DSO. Flying back from an aborted mission intended to drop incendiary bombs in Germany his plane had been hit. A fire started but he continued flying for three hours until the engines failed soon after crossing the enemy coast. The plane then crashed into the sea and he went down with it. Fortunately, it returned to the surface and he was able to escape and join his crewmates in a raft. Although injured, he took charge and inspired his crew until they were washed ashore on the Isle of Wight 57 hours later!

Another airman from a well-known local family was also in the news. Flying Officer H Winter-Taylor was forced down 500 miles from land whilst operating over the Atlantic. After drifting in a dinghy for several hours he and fellow crew members were rescued by a U-boat and subsequently taken to a POW camp. A photo of the rescue was published in a French newspaper and a copy was given to the crew which appeared in the Bucks Free Press.

Finally, the death was announced of George Menday at the age of 75. A local butcher, poultry breeder and former Chairman of the Parish Council. He left a widow and two sons. Two other sons died in WW1.

*Alan Baker alanbaker49@btinternet.com 07890 762527*



here we come!

Well! It's said that time flies faster when you get older and it's right! That's where I find myself with another year having flown by so quickly, as a Downley Street rep for Littleworth Road along with Jenny Douglas & Rayne Hillcoat-Williams!

Gradually and happily over this year, we have resumed a more normal state of affairs. We now approach Christmas celebrations still with an air of caution but also hopeful positivity. With care we can still enjoy ourselves, as we proved last year with our 'December Advent of Events', a full month of activities and resident participation, distanced as it was.

Now! ...Following popular demand, we have organised another '**Littleworth Christmas Street Market!**', bigger and better (some old, some new)! We will run stalls for Wycombe Food Hub funds, other stalls for their businesses, and other charities, such as Iain Rennie Grove and PAWS. There will be space to follow any guidance or restrictions, and we ask people respectfully to keep a reasonable distance. The 'Market' will be held on **Sunday 28th Nov from 10am – 15.30pm** (everyone welcome!) with kind permission of Mark Darvill of Hillclimb Garage who has given over his forecourt and part of his showroom! Smitesh Patel of Downley News has also kindly offered to assist again with wine for our 'Mulled Wine' stall, which will form part of the food and drinks part of our market along with soft drinks, 'Waffles Stall' and other foods, including Littleworth's 'Downley Bakers' and Udhayan's 'Coffee on the Common – delicious Street Food'. There will be more local crafters joining us this year and something for the children too... with a special visitor!



Although we may not be so 'full on' with this year's residents' entertainment, as things are less restricted so families are able to meet up, we will be organising a schedule of fun for our road's residents, dotted throughout December, such as:- '**Littleworth Community Tree**', with the support and sponsorship of Mark Darvill - residents will again be invited to make and hang decorations to add to those from last year; our '**Quiz Sheet Competition**', will keep brains ticking over during the Christmas Holidays; residents' participation in **Christmas Carols parade** along the road and around the Christmas Tree; The Woodlands Pre-School will again display their wonderful Art Work in Hillclimb's Window; residents **Light Up Littleworth!**; and hopefully a **Nativity Parade** if we have enough willing participants! Other activities are planned, and dates will be circulated to residents very soon...so we hope that 'Littleworth Christmas 2021!' will be another Christmas full of happy memories for children and adults alike!



*Street Rep Shirley Ellis*

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# DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

## Ivor Novello & Downley

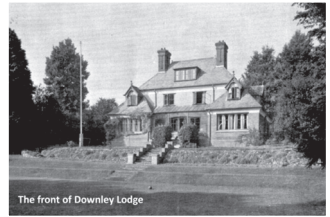
The Songwriter's Guild of Great Britain was originally founded in 1947 to promote and protect the interests of British songwriters. After a number of name amalgamations and name changes it is now known as the Ivors Academy. Each year the Academy presents awards within a variety of sectors including Best Album, Best Contemporary Song, and Most Performed Work ('Winner' by Harry Styles and others). Described by the Guild as "a unique event in the history of popular music and it is fitting that they should bear the name of Ivor Novello, who was not only the outstanding composer of his generation but also an active member of the distinguished group who were responsible for the foundation of the Songwriters Guild and the renaissance of British popular music after the last war."



Ivor Novello was born in 1893 in Cardiff. In 1913 he moved to London but had a country home at Downley (Downley Lodge). In 1914 he became famous for his war-time song 'Keep the Home Fires Burning'. Amongst many other songs he later wrote, probably his best known piece is 'We'll Gather Lilacs'. As well as being a songwriter, he was

an actor in plays and films, many of which were his own work.

In 1917 he leased Downley Lodge from Mr Daniel Clarke of Totteridge Road, High Wycombe for three years. Little is known of his accomplishments whilst living in Downley. However the Bucks Herald of August 1918 reports, in that month's County Petty Sessions, a dispute between Ivor Novello and a Mr Bailey who was living in Downley Cottage, which formed part of the property. As yet we have not been able to research the outcome of the court case.



An interesting aside is that in the report of the Petty Sessions, what is now known as Downley Lodge was then referred to as Downley House, and the Cottage as being the Lodge to the main premises. However in the 1957 Abstract of the Title of William Edwin Randall to Freehold Property, there is reference to the premises being called Downley Lodge in 1920.

**Finally, a date for your diary. On March 5th 2022 there will be a talk by Fritha Irwin of the National Trust on 'Hillside, Hughenden Manor's Secret WW2 Bomber Command Mapping Project' at Downley Memorial Hall, commencing 8.00pm. Further information relating to cost of tickets and booking arrangements will be advertised in the February edition of the Downley Village News and on the website (downleyhistory.uk).**



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## 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

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We are a small friendly club and all standards of players are welcome with or without a partner. Our club would be ideal for those who play bridge but are hesitant in taking the next step and joining a club.

For anyone wanting to learn bridge no previous knowledge of bridge is necessary. Lessons every week at 6pm

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# J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

## Winter 2021

Wal wal wal, wots 'appenin now eh? If its not that virus its no fuel, nothin much in the shops, no lorry drivers, global warmin and Christmas a'cummin! Wot a mess eh! But do I care, wal, only a bit—Ive got two bags of spuds in the shed, green stuff up the plot under the nettin to keep them pidgins orf, and lots of stuff in the freezer wot Mrs H has been stashin away



like she orlways duz. And wot about keepin warm? Wal we've got a luvly wood burner with a nice stack of wood so why get worried eh? Its amazin wot wood sum people chucks away, when you gets yor eye in when wanderin round Downley and the woods then theres just lots of lovely burnable stuff around! Some people ses I've got lots of burnable stuff at the plot too, but most of it is vital technical stuff, its not piles of junk that some people ses (Mrs H. for example..?), they just don't know wot allotments is orl about!

So wot to do in the winter eh? Wal you can sit by the stove with a drop of warm cider and plan yor plot campaign for 2022, or you can get out there and do summat! Mrs H supports that idea, not quite sure why? Ha ha! Wal, like I ses in the Autumn edition, you ave to get ready for the year wots a'cummin. These gloomy cold and wet days wont larst for ever, and a bit of exercise as got to be good for you so they ses.

Anyway, its not too late to get sum broad beans planted, either straight in the ground, or at home in seed boxes. The wuns I used to plant direct up the plot gave the mice a nice little meal when theres not much else about. Aquadulce is the best winter variety. Then theres over wintrin onion setts and shallots, and yor garlic, wal you knows wot I thinks of that! And wot about flowers? Its amazin wot flowers luv the winter, and Spring of corse, and whos going to spot the first snowdrops and crocuses peepin up at you through the snow? And did you remember where you had daffs when you tidied up the flower beds? I orlways rekons its good to ave sum poppin up to brighten up the late winter gloom. Plants wot weve bin avin a bit of fun with this year is 'aeoniums'... they're a sort of succulent, very statuesque, 'Wal, that a sophisticated word for you' ses Mrs H, it just shows she still don't know my hidden depths.. anyway, ave a look at the interweb. They're easy to propagate, just snap orf one of them little side shoots, trim orf the bottom leaves and pop the stalk into a pot of compost, keep it damp and out of the frorst, and you'll ave a wonderful plant next year. And look out for them luvly frorst patterns on a misty day, a'coatin orl them luvly seed heads you left in yor wild life and flower patch. Art in the gardin eh! 'Wor' ses Mrs H, 'Him and art, wot a joke!'

Now to my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke, he's still on about French spuds, (see larst DVN) and sent sum froggy spud names... wal there's Belle de Fontenay (you can get that over here), and Ile de Re, Bea de Roussilon, and believe it or not 'Mona Lisa' wot! Ave you ever seen a spud with an enigmatic smile!?

Wal, ave a great Christmas, see wots in yor flower gardin then,

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*J. H. Sent from my iSpade*

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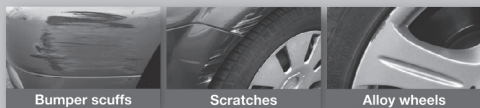


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# Living with and Surmounting Covid



Did you know that the UK has long lost its crown as leader in the fight against Covid with our early vaccine rollout? Most of us are nervous about rising case numbers this winter and would like to make sure that the government has access to the most useful data - and acts on it.

## However....

A positive lateral flow test (LFD) is only recorded as “a new case” in the National Statistics if it is confirmed by a positive PCR test and not negated by a negative PCR. (The PCR test is the one you mail away to a laboratory to be analysed.)

Delta variant virus infection in the double-jabbed gives symptoms not unlike a cold/flu in otherwise healthy people and, of course, the virus is still being passed on to others and giving rise to new mutations. Requesting and processing a PCR at home is quite a demanding process in itself. So, if you have already reported a positive LFD, the temptation to ignore the Test and Trace demands for a follow-up PCR are high, and by then you're self-isolating anyway (and feeling rough!). Bad news: your unconfirmed case will only add to the official statistics for new cases in the event of testing centres and laboratories being overwhelmed - when the requirement for PCR confirmation was last dropped.

There is a simple way you can help correct the data that is being collected and recorded: by downloading the Zoe Covid app\* to your smartphone and returning a brief summary of how you are feeling each day. It takes a maximum of 15 seconds if you are well! 4m people currently contribute their data via the Zoe app, which is analysed by a Kings College London/Guys/St Thomas' Hospital research team. And if you're not well? They will send you an invitation to apply for a PCR using their tick-box on the government webpages, even if your symptoms do not match the government's criteria (which are the strong symptoms associated with the old Alpha variant in the un-jabbed). The Zoe team are always appealing for new subscribers - especially across all age groups - so this is how you really can help all of us record every new case and so help us to adapt to living with this disease.

*\*from App stores for Google or Apple. All your questions answered at: <https://covid.joinzoe.com/faq>*

*Sarah Lewis*

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## Downley Cricket Club

It has been a wonderful season for Downley cricket team. The Firsts finished a creditable 2nd in the high-level Championship Division of the BCMB league, led by the charismatic Doc. The Seconds topped the table in their division, a precious and almost never-before-experienced feeling for the cricketers playing.



The win was a magnificent team effort by supporters and players, with our scorer Mandy and umpire John scoring points by turning out virtually every Saturday, more than probably any of the players. In the final reckoning this dedication (with the

---

support of some other local residents, in particular Martin Betts, who stepped in to score, umpire and play when needed) was what secured the title. I should also mention the dedication of the small team, led by Martin Birkett and Den Cox, who maintain both the wicket and outfield. Without the support the people who volunteer their time there would not be any cricket played on the Common.

The crucial end-of-season game for the reserves was at home against close-rivals Bradenham who fielded a very strong team. They put us under huge pressure with outstanding bowling from their fast-bowler Sid who ran through six of our top seven batters. But they couldn't dislodge Rajat, at 18 playing a season-defining innings, along with our two tailenders chasing a further 70 runs to overhaul the Bradenham score. First, Colin Caesar aka Squeezer, better known for his bowling, defended staunchly and hit hard when he could. Then, Graeme Aitken (Aikers), brimming with confidence from a season's-best bowling performance, refused to give up, stroking the ball to all parts. It was pulsating cricket, roared on by many spectators and former cricketers from the village, while most of the team could scarcely bear to look at the impossible unfolding before their eyes.

In the absence of our captain Ben, the team was ably led by teenage captain and developing bowler Rehaan. We have welcomed many young players into the side and they have immediately felt at home and blended in with the more established players. Win or lose, there's always plenty of fun and laughter.

Squeezer's and Aikers' service to Downley cricket over the last 40 years was acknowledged at a fun-filled annual dinner and prize-giving at the Le De Spencer Arms, with the usual hospitality of Mark and Sarah and their friendly staff.

**If you would like to join the fun as player, scorer or umpire please visit [webmaster@downleycc.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@downleycc.co.uk)**

Finally, we have been playing cricket as a club since 1873 (and it feels like some of us have been there for all 148 years!!). Some of our machinery is almost as old and needs to be replaced, like the roller – without which we cannot prepare a wicket. To fund a replacement, we are starting a Century Club, which is a licensed lottery. Entry is £5 per month (or more if you wish) and a lucky dip draw will take place each month, with half of the proceeds given in prizes for first, second and third place. We hope to get at least 100 entrants which will make the prizes £150, £75 and £25. Please support this wonderful village club by emailing our Treasurer, Bill Powell at [powellw73@gmail.com](mailto:powellw73@gmail.com) for details of how to become a Downley Cricket Club Century Club member. The first draw will be made in December in time for Christmas.

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## **Do We Know It's Christmas Seasons Greetings From Downley Descants**



Well, another year is drawing to a close and we all hope that this year Christmas will be better than last now we've all been 'jabbed' twice or even three times. Christmases are very different now to the traditional view. Owing to climate change we are not likely to see one horse open sleighs dashing through the snow, we won't be able to burn a yule log on an open fire because of the emissions

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and we're not supposed to go into the woods to cut down boughs of holly to deck the halls. This isn't meant to be negative, and times move on from traditional to modern with the real Christmas story staying the same, so I hope you'll all have a very Happy Christmas.

What better way to start your festivities than to come to our **Christmas Concert on Thursday 16th December** at St James' Church, Plomer Hill. Tickets will be £8 and will be available shortly. Please contact Lyn on 07974 026213 if you are interested. There will, of course, be the usual mulled wine and mince pies and probably a few surprises as well. We have been working hard for this since September to give the best possible performance. We now have Becky, our new accompanist who, together with Louise our MD, have been knocking us into shape and smoothing off most of the rough edges. They form a wonderful partnership and, considering we had 18 months without singing prior to our start back, we have really progressed well. We have been asked to sing at John Lewis (High Wycombe) again this year in support of Child Bereavement UK so it will be the final dress rehearsal for us before the main event on the following Thursday. This is a worthy cause so if you are doing your Christmas shopping on December 11th during the afternoon (2.45-3.45) come along and listen. We have a singing strength of 40 at the moment and are always looking for new members, particularly sopranos, surprisingly. There are no auditions; the only requirement is that you love singing and enjoy a light-hearted, convivial atmosphere. We meet on Thursday evenings at Sunnybank Church, Moor Lane between 8pm and 9.30, why not come along for two weeks trial to see if the choir is for you. Again, the contact is Lyn on 07974 026213.

*Bob Cook (Bass)*

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## **Downley Wine and Beer Club**

### **Wines and Spirits from the Moselle**

The Downley Wine and Beer Club had a real meeting for the first time in eighteen months. After many Zoom meetings the club met again on September 8th, and what a meeting it was.

After we were greeted and seated the evening began with a toast in memory of Ray Keating one of our long standing members who died in August this year.

The subject was Wines and Spirits from the Moselle; winemakers Heinrich & Thomas Basten in Ellenz, showcased five excellent wines and two other alcoholic drinks.

Karl was thanked for all his hard work for sourcing the wines in Germany and compiling the presentation before returning home to Germany for work commitments.

The evening was presented by Heike, because she speaks perfect German and English and was able to pronounce the wine names and elaborate on the label explanations.

In order to enhance our enjoyment of the evening even more, Heike arrived wearing the German National Costume, which gave an authentic touch to the presentation.

The first wine we tasted was a dry Rivaner, known in English as a Muller Thurgau. It had a floral bouquet, a fruity well balanced acidity and was a lovely example of this type of grape.



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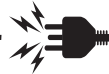
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Second came a Dornfelder which is a cross-bred German red grape with good colour, early ripening and fruity characteristics. It was light in body and very drinkable. Then a Grauer Burgunder or as we know it a Pinot Grigio, another beautiful white wine with an apple and melon nose and was fruity, dry and juicy on the palate. After these three excellent wines came a dry Riesling, grown on steep, high altitude hills with a slate rich soil, thus giving the wine a strong characteristic minerality. A lovely wine to finish the first half of the meeting.

Whilst tasting these wines we saw slides showing the area where they grew and the general area of Moselle. A lovely area to visit if you have never been.

We then tasted another Riesling but this was a sparkler, elegant on the palate with hints of peach and citrus, a lovely light sparkling wine.

Our penultimate tasting was a peach liqueur made from small red vineyard peaches. It had an attractive fruity nose of ripe peaches and a very fruity taste. It would be a hit at Christmas. Sadly our evening had to end and our final tasting was a Grappa. This spirit at 38% has a very forward alcoholic presence with a fruity top note. It is a lovely drink to finish a meal or indeed an evening.

I think we all went home happy after a very excellent evening.

*Dusty Miller*

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## *Top Notes*

### **'We need a little Christmas!'**

Christmas is fast approaching and we hope you all have our Christmas Concert in your diaries - Monday 6, December, 7:15pm at Wycombe Arts Centre, Desborough Road, HP11 2PU. This season we are raising money for Carers Bucks who support unpaid carers and young carers in Buckinghamshire, aged 5 – 95+, and we would love your support. The concert will include a mixture of Christmas classics and carols as well as some musical theatre and pop, with numbers from the choir as well as smaller groups and solos too! Tickets are available online now via Eventbrite and links can be found on all our social media channels too.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/top-notes-christmas-concert-raising-money-for-carers-bucks-tickets-178164664307>

On a separate note, we really enjoyed performing for the first time at Downley Day this year - it was a fantastic day all round, a wonderful and happy event for the village. It was a first performance for some of our members too and we really hope you enjoyed the mix of music if you saw us!

**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, for concert and ticket information or any general enquires. We hope to see you in December!**



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# Downley Ancestors Part 14

George Turner - A mystery solved part 2 *(Continued from DVN March 2021).*



Rangoon, Burma, c. 1945. Informal outdoors portrait of Squadron Leader George Turner DFC (right), CO of No. 357 Special Duties (SD) Squadron RAF, and another unidentified member of the unit leaning on a wheel of the squadron's Westland Lysander IIIA aircraft V9303 at Mingaladon airfield.



Having received George Turner's RAF service records from the Ministry of Defence, I can now be certain that the information I had been accumulating when trying to piece together a life story for George was indeed about him and I now had the evidence to prove it. The official records contain far more information than I could ever have imagined and also further leads to explore. Here is the start of the story.....

He joined the RAFVR on 7th May 1941 as an Aircraftman 2nd Class. George was in a reserved occupation as he was a serving policeman in the Metropolitan police. This explains why he was already 26 when he joined up. When Bomber Command was taking such high casualties that they were having difficulty replacing lost crews, policemen were permitted to enlist but it had to be as aircrew and his service record confirms on enlistment that he was recommended for aircrew as a Pilot Officer. His papers have a very abruptly worded stamp 'Not to be employed other than as a pilot or observer without reference to Air Ministry'. In June he was at the initial training wing, and by October was at the flying training unit. He was discharged from training in February the following year having finished his basic training and was immediately given a temporary commission as a Pilot Officer and the following day started at the advanced flying unit and in March 1942 was at the operational training school.

On 13th July 1942 George joined his first operational unit as a pilot, 151 squadron, which was a night fighter squadron flying De Havilland Mosquito NF Mk IIs over Europe. In May 1943, 151 squadron carried out an intruder sortie to Eindhoven. This was a support sortie for the raid led by W/Cdr Guy Gibson on the Moehne and Eide dams. (As many night fighter crews had passed through O.T.U. at Cranfield during 1942, where W/Cdr Gibson was an instructor, there was some "togetherness" about the Dam Busting raid). One year after joining 151 squadron he headed back to operational training school but this time as an instructor until February 1944 when he was confirmed as a Flt. Lieut. and joined 161 Squadron based at Tempsford. 161 (Special Duties) Squadron was a highly secretive unit of the Royal Air Force, performing missions as part of the Royal Air Force Special Duties Service. It was tasked with missions of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) and the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). Their primary role was to drop and collect secret agents and equipment into and from Nazi-occupied Europe. Between 1942-45 it is estimated that over 1,000 agents, 20,000 containers and 10,000 packages were dropped for the Resistance with over 5,600 sorties to France alone. On 5th April 1944, Violette Szabo was dropped into France after having taken off from Tempsford on her first mission and was picked up to return to England by a Lysander (nicknamed 'Tempsford Taxis') from 161 Squadron on 20th April. She left for France



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again on her second mission in June and never returned. Her life story was made into a film 'Carve Her Name with Pride' which was based on the book of the same name. At the end of 1944 George was again at the Personnel Despatch Centre, and on the 13th December 1944 he joined 357 Squadron, the Special Operations Squadron, as a Lysander pilot (Westland Lysander, Mk.IIIa) in the Far East under the jurisdiction of the South East Asia Air Command. No. 357 Squadron was involved in supplying allied ground forces operating behind enemy lines in the South-East Asian theatre working with Force 136, a guerilla fighter unit. On the 29th January 1945 George was promoted to Acting Squadron Leader.

I have found this personal account by a fellow officer who served with and knew George. 'As the phasing out of the operational role of 161 (SD) Squadron at Tempsford in England progressed, three officers, F/Lts GA Turner, P Arkell and JEM Williams were posted to 357 Squadron in Bengal India to form the nucleus of a Lysander flight for operations in Burma. These three officers arrived at Jessore the base HQ of 357 Squadron on the 18th January 1945'.

His fellow officer Brian Scott goes on to say, 'I was a pilot with "C" Flight, 357 Special Duties Squadron RAF, flying Lysander aircraft and operating exclusively with Force 136. Members of this force were dropped into various areas of the jungle between the Mawchi Road south to the Moulmain area, east of the Salween River to the Siamese border.

After much preparatory work organising the assembly and test flying ten Lysander aircraft which had been transported by sea from the UK, F/Lt Turner assumed command of "C" flight 357 SD Squadron which was commanded by Wing Commander Lewis Hodges. They then commenced training newly arrived officer and Snr NCO pilots, one of whom was a F/O Varanand who was a Prince of the Siamese Royal House and whose presence would be highly valuable in any Lysander activities which might be planned for the Siamese zone.'

The next entry in George Turner's RAF service records is dated 16th May 1945. Eight days after VE Day. Eight days after a national holiday was declared in Britain following Germany's surrender.

The entry simply reads 'Missing'.....

.....Part 3 to follow.

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## Downley Albion FC

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This year, the committee had to make a very hard decision as to whether the Club could still run. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the Club was running at a loss and being self funded by 2 Club members. Our main source of income is a couple of fundraisers each year, one being a very successful Race Night - something we have been unable to hold. Thankfully, after generous grants from The Parish Council, Village Communications Forum and DOSCA we were able to start this season with a near zero balance. We would like to publicly thank these 3 organisations for their support.

Last season was obviously very stop start, due to various lockdowns, but finished with a mini league running from April to May. It was lovely to be back on the pitch, and we

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were rewarded with winning our mini league. An end of season get together was able to be held in June, which was thoroughly enjoyed and well attended by all players. Thanks to the Le De Spencer for hosting us.

The 2021/22 season started at the beginning of September and we have made a brilliant start, currently sat top of Division 3, 7 games unbeaten! We have welcomed quite a few new players to our squad, including some newcomers to the village too. They have bonded well with the existing players and have added strength to what was a small squad. We have a variety of ages, ranging from 17 to 49+. Some players are local, others are from surrounding areas. Some have been involved for years and often their parents or older siblings have been also involved.

We play out home games at Mannings Field on a Sunday mornings with a 10.30am kick off and then can be found frequenting the Le De Spencer for a well-earned drink after the game. Away games are across the High Wycombe/Aylesbury district.

We welcome support at our games, new players are welcome and this year we are looking for any kind of sponsorship/fundraising so that we can secure the future of this Club. Please do get in touch if you think you or your company could help us out in any way. We are planning a Race Night in February and would love the wider community to be involved – watch out for more information.

*Sally Baker, Club Secretary. [downleyalbionfc@gmail.com](mailto:downleyalbionfc@gmail.com) Facebook – Downley Albion FC*

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## National Trust Ash dieback tree felling in the Chilterns



As the leaves start to fall, there's dramatic evidence of the ash dieback disease having a devastating impact on historic trees and beautiful woodlands around the Chilterns.

We have to fell a record number due to the impact on trees in our care and our rangers have already begun the maintenance work to ensure the safety of visitors at our properties. This fungal disease turns healthy trees into dead brittle wood inside, at serious risk of falling, and some 6,000 trees have been affected in National Trust woods in the Chilterns. Trees that pose a risk to public safety we're felling, others deep in the woods are left to decay to create homes for wildlife.

Our first schedule of work took place earlier this year to remove diseased trees at Aston Wood, Juniper Bank, Pulpit Hill and Bradenham. The rangers then worked at West Wycombe in September, clearing the trees that are close to the footpaths on the hill. Using a specially modified 32 tonne excavator with a 40" grapple saw attachment; this is the safest way to deal with trees that are too hazardous to fell by hand.

At Hughenden, the severe storms in 1990 uprooted hundreds of large beech trees and fast-growing ash trees quickly filled the gaps. It's these trees that have been affected the most as older ash trees seem to be more resilient to the disease. We're expecting to remove around 1,400 trees here in November, at a cost of more than £100,000, most of which will be along the entrance driveway and walkway to the property from the car park. What was a lovely wooded glade walk will become bare and open.

The rangers will leave the ground to see what shoots up naturally in the cleared spaces and replace some with a range of native species in the coming years to restore the

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habitats. Across the portfolio we are planning to replant 10 hectares of woodland over the next six months to deal with the loss of tree cover across the Chilterns.

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*Central Chilterns National Trust, October 2021*

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## Hillclimb Garage

### Awards, Community and Electric Cars



What an amazing few months we have had here at Hillclimb Garage in Littleworth Road. We had a fantastic time at Downley Day back in September. It was lovely to see so many people back out together and enjoying themselves on a beautiful summer's day. Our Competition, 'Guess the number of balloons in the E-Type Jaguar', raised over £100 for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Thank you so much to everyone who

entered and huge congratulations to our Winner, who won £100 off their next Service and MOT and a fabulous Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Goody Box!

As you may have heard, we were finalists in the 'Aftermarket UK Top Garage of the year 2021' competition and are now proud to announce that we were crowned winners at the awards ceremony last month! Less than a week later we also won 'Best New Member 2021' in the ServiceSure Autocentre of the Year Awards. Thank you so much to our amazing team for working so hard and to our lovely customers for supporting us and making this national recognition possible.



Not long now until Christmas, when we will be sitting around the fire with the family, tree lights a-twinkling and Michael Bubl  crooning through the radio. The Hillclimb Christmas Tree will once again take pride of place on our forecourt and we are delighted to again host the Littleworth Road Christmas Fayre, which this year is being held on Sunday 28th November. Please pop along for all your local Christmas Gifts & Treats and maybe a Mince Pie, or two. See you there!

As the demand for Electric and Hybrid vehicles continues to grow, we are pleased to confirm that our technicians have been busy throughout this year attending advanced training courses and are now fully qualified to support you if you have begun the journey in moving to a Full Electric or Plug in Hybrid car. We are also installing a charge point for when your electric vehicle is with us for maintenance and repair.

We remain 'At your service' and wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

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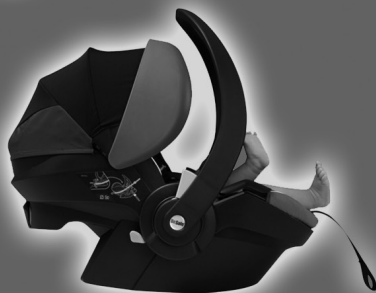
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# From Westminster

*Steve Baker - MP for Wycombe*



I know the cost of living is the most pressing issue today in Wycombe and many of my constituents would have watched the recent Budget hoping measures aimed at easing it would be announced.

I was pleased to see certain measures I have campaigned for to tackle the cost of living were announced in the Budget. I had called for the Government to take action to support those on Universal Credit, and was pleased the Universal Credit taper rate will be cut from 63 to 55 pence. It is vital the Government works to ensure that lower income families have more money in their pockets. This would not be possible without the economic stability successive Conservative Governments have brought.

There were several other measures announced that will support those struggling with the cost of living: freezing fuel duty, ending the public sector pay freeze and raising the minimum wage will provide individuals and families with greater financial comfort as our economy recovers from the impact of Covid-19, lockdowns, and restrictions. Similarly, I very much welcome the reforms to alcohol duty that will result in cheaper pints than otherwise for all of us who enjoy a visit to the pub.

The Budget will increase total departmental spending over this Parliament by £150 billion. Capital spending on health will increase by £4.26 billion to help clear the test, scans and surgery backlogs; £500 million will be spent supporting children and families with a focus on mental health and new local Family Hubs; spending on skills will increase by 25% including funding for free courses and new traineeships. The Budget shows that if we're to fund public services, we cannot ever return to Covid-19 restrictions as our ability to increase funding on public services would be severely hampered.

Turning to more local matters I recently attended a meeting at St Lawrence Church, West Wycombe (the one with the golden ball). The parochial church council is facing large costs to keep the church open and is looking for people to come forward to form a working party on how best to preserve the church for the future. The church is a local icon, and I know this is an issue for people living in Downley as a number of past residents are buried in the churchyard.

We are now in the season on Remembrance. I attended the launch of this year's Poppy Appeal and spoke about the good work the Royal British Legion has done over the 100 years since it was formed. I will also be attending Remembrance Sunday at All Saints church in the town centre in mid-November.

As there will not be another edition of Downley News before next year, I would like to take this opportunity to send Seasons Greetings to you all.

**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 would like my help with a particular urgent issue, please phone my constituency office on 01494 448408**

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# Buckinghamshire Council News



Since the last edition, Downley has enjoyed the Up! Downley Festival and Downley Day. Many thanks to all involved in putting on these fantastic events which were enjoyed by so many.

A public consultation on a new Early Help Partnership Strategy was launched on 1st November (closing date 12 December). The existing strategy expires in March 2022 and it is now time to produce a new strategy, a plan for the next three years on how improvements can be made in supporting families.

Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership want to make sure that children, young people, and their families get the support they need, when they need it, to deal with any problems they may be facing. The support is provided by lots of different services across Buckinghamshire including the Council, health services, education and voluntary and community sector organisations. The consultation can be found on the Buckinghamshire Council website.

Children and families across Buckinghamshire were continued to be helped during the recent half-term as part of its ongoing Helping Hand service. The government recently announced its Household Support Fund to help councils to provide assistance to those most in need in their local area. Buckinghamshire has received £2.4m which will be used to support people to feed themselves and their families, provide everyday essentials and ensure they can heat their homes this winter. Work is currently going on to identify those who are most in need of the support within the County, and how best to provide the help. This is not just a short-term fix; Buckinghamshire Council will, where possible, provide the longer-term help and support needed to empower people to take control of their own situation and help them access the variety of services and support on offer. Anyone in need of support can contact the Helping Hand team on 01296 531151. Residents can also visit the Buckinghamshire Online Directory to find out what support is available.

Two of our local parks have retained their prestigious 'Green Flag' awards. Hughenden Park and The Rye have both kept this internationally recognised quality marker.

Lastly may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, with a reminder that the High Wycombe Christmas lights switch on is on 18th November, and there will be a Christmas market in Wycombe High Street on 28th November (for more information please visit [www.mywycombe.com](http://www.mywycombe.com)).

*Paul*

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

## **DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of the month **at Downley Community Centre 7.30pm**

*Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions*

01494 25 77 11 [clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org) [www.downleyparishcouncil.org](http://www.downleyparishcouncil.org)

# Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

**DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - WINTER 2021**  
 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
Art Group 1	Tuesday Term-time	10.00 - 12.00		Sue 01494 443393
Art Group 2	Monday	10.00 - 12.00		alastair.pike@artsmartuk.com
Baby and Toddlers Group	Monday Term-time	9.30 - 11.30	✓	andrewmingard90@gmail.com
Bridge Club	Thursday	18.30 - 22.00	✓	paulf.goddard@icloud.com
Carers Bucks - NEW Jan 22	4th Friday	13.00 - 15.00	✓	Sue.Connolly@carersbucks.org 0300 777 2722
Children's Dance Group.	Wednesday	16.15 - 18.30		Zoe.k.thompson@hotmail.com
Chipmunks Woodcarving	Wednesday	10.00	✓	Margaret 01494 523912
Community Library	Monday	10.00	✓	enquiries@downleylibrary.org
	Thursday	15.00	✓	
	Saturday	10.00	✓	
Counselling - NEW!		by appointment	✓	greg.headstuff.therapy@gmail.com
Craft Group	1st Tuesday	9.30 - 12.30		Helen 01494 564414
Dance Classes (Ballroom and Latin)	Tuesday	19.00 and 20.00	✓	karen@comedancingwithme 0787 353 8709
Downley Parish Council	2nd Tuesday	19.30	✓	clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org 01494 257711
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wednesday	20.00	✓	Nigel. N234838D@hotmail.co.uk
First Aid Training	to be advised			Nick info@ndatraining.co.uk
First Class Learning	Saturday	10.00	✓	Himanshu 07949 590466
Hartbeeps	Wednesday	10.00 - 13.00		hannah.dixon@hartbeeps.com 07745 861615
Kingdom Dynamics Chapel	Sunday	10.00 - 12.00		Sharon 07961 822347
Lace Making	Thursday	12.45 - 14.45		Frances 01494 524835
Musical Mayhem	Thursday	9.15 - 12.15		Monica info@musicalmayhem.co.uk
Pilates	Thursday	18.30 - 19.30	✓	Emma@asenseofbalance.co.uk
Relationship Counselling	by appointment		✓	Chris.Jefferies@bucksrelationshipcounselling.co.uk 07549 103298
Russian Group	3rd Thursday	14.00		Nadia. info@gorussianclub.co.uk
Simply Walk	Monday	10.00	✓	Starts from the Community Centre
	Thursday	11.00	✓	simplywalks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Twins & Multiples Club - NEW!	Friday	10.00 - 11.30	✓	lotsotofstwinclub@gmail.com
Ukulele	4th Thursday	10.00 - 12.00		Sylvia sylvia.chadwick@me.com
Wycombe Spiritual Centre	1st & 3rd Friday	18.30		ashleydarkwood@gmail.com
YOGA - NEW!	Monday	18.30 - 19.30	✓	Louise lerayogaandtherapies@gmail.com 07894 050092

## SUNNYBANK CHAPEL, MOOR LANE - WINTER 2021

Hall Bookings: [margaretstagg75@gmail.com](mailto:margaretstagg75@gmail.com) or call 01494 530736

GROUP	DAY	TIME	NEW MEMBER WELCOME	CONTACT
Downley Descants	Thursday Term time	20.00 - 21.30	✓	<a href="mailto:grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk">grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Natalie Jane Dance Class	Monday Term time	14.45 - 21.00	✓	<a href="mailto:natalie@njdance.co.uk">natalie@njdance.co.uk</a>
Natalie Jane Dance Class	Tuesday Term time	17.00 - 20.30	✓	<a href="mailto:natalie@njdance.co.uk">natalie@njdance.co.uk</a>
Natalie Jane Dance Class	Friday Term time	15.30 - 19.00	✓	<a href="mailto:natalie@njdance.co.uk">natalie@njdance.co.uk</a>



The Elves are causing mischief round the village again this Christmas, for a small fee of £2 per family, you will receive clues to help you work out where the elves are hiding, unscramble the secret word to win a prize! All entries will then be entered into the grand prize draw on the 21<sup>st</sup> December!

### Join the Great Elf Hunt between 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December

**If you have a child at the Downley School:**

Tickets for the Great Elf Hunt will be available from the 1<sup>st</sup> December. To purchase your ticket, go to <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/Downley>. You will receive a pdf of the clues to either print or view on your phone as you search for the elves!

**For all other entries:**

Tickets for the Great Elf Hunt will be available from the 1<sup>st</sup> December. To purchase your ticket, email [thedownleyschoolpa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thedownleyschoolpa@hotmail.co.uk) to receive your clue sheet!



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### POLICE - NON EMERGENCY

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

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### Downley Village News

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

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

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### COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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Cllr. Maz Hussain [maz.hussain@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:maz.hussain@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Cllr. Melanie Smith [Melanie.R.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Melanie.R.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

### DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

01494 257711 (office hrs 9am-1pm Monday – Friday)

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

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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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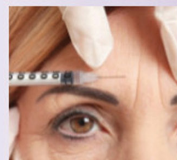
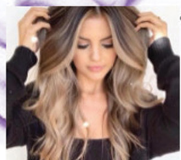
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# Downley Day 2021

