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Village News

Issue 130/February 2022



Downley Festival
See centre spread
and back cover

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From Town to Country

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Editorial

So January is at last out of the way (never my favourite month) and spring is finally in the air with snowdrops and crocuses popping up all over the place! I know there's still time for some cold weather – and even snow – but somehow it never seems so bad when the days are longer. It certainly seems a long time since we lit the beacon on New Year's Eve, captured spectacularly on the front cover.

Later this year, of course, we have the excitement of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to look forward to, with a long Bank Holiday weekend at the beginning of June. The Parish Council has set aside a budget for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in the village and will be discussing how best to celebrate the event at upcoming meetings and in consultation with other village organisations. Any events will be publicised around the village, on the Council's website and through Facebook, and there will be an update in the next edition of Downley Village News.

As usual, we will be delighted to hear from any organisation in Downley (or the surrounding area) with news or information for the Summer edition, which will be out in mid-May. You can submit articles via the email address editor@downley.org. Copy deadline is Saturday 30 April.

Anne, Editor • editor@downley.org

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Sandpits Pond at Gosling Grove

Saturday 22nd January saw our first working party begin renovations on the Sandpits Pond at Gosling Grove. Many thanks to our volunteers who turned out on a grey, bleak day to start work on the pond, clearing the willows and weaving the cuttings into the duck island.



The team has made a big impact on the pond and the plan is to continue the work with volunteers meeting up on the first Saturday of each month. We have a great team of volunteers for this but are always happy to welcome more people and if you would like to join in, please contact me on: clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org

There are also lots of photos of the work on our Downley Parish Council Facebook page. Why not take a look and give our page a follow and a like 🍷 ?

Community Speedwatch

Another first earlier in January saw us trialling Downley Parish Council Community Speedwatch. We ran a session on Littleworth Road and were pleased with the response from motorists who all made sure that they kept within the 30mph limit. Again, this is planned to be a regular event and we've agreed several sites with the police for us to focus on. We are keen for more volunteers to join us for Speedwatch as the number of vehicles speeding through the village is a major concern for many. If you would like to help, please sign up by following the instructions below:

- Firstly type <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org> into a web browser.
- Click on the [Register] tab
- Then to the left click on [Join Existing Group]
- Choose [Thames Valley] from the pull down & click [Continue]
- Choose [Buckinghamshire] from the pull down & click [Continue]
- Now Choose [High Wycombe Downley Parish Speedwatch Group] from the pulldown and click [Continue]
- Finally, complete your details in the registration form and follow the emailed instructions

School Close Fencing

Finally, I wanted to update you regarding the low-level fencing surrounding the green at School Close. This has been repeatedly damaged over the years and needs replacing. The Parish Council had hoped to use the same type of birdsmouth fencing as is currently in place. However, Buckinghamshire Council no longer use this type of fencing and instead will be installing a grassed earth bund which, as well as being more environmentally friendly, will require little maintenance.


Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk



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Downley Common News

Happy New Year to all our DCPS members and everyone else as well and let's hope it's a better one.

Last November seems a long time ago now, but we spent most of that month clearing up the bonfire site. Fortunately there were less of the traditional non-combustibles than there have been in the past so well done everyone for recognising what burns and what doesn't. I don't think we had a single mattress to dispose of this year which is possibly a record!

While not strictly part of the Common, we take an interest in the Community Orchard which occupies a corner of Mannings Field next to the allotments. Over the past couple of years there have been a few occasions when some vandalism has taken place in what the perpetrators think is a secluded space where they won't be observed. To combat this, a work party by Wycombe Rangers took place to reduce the hedge height and open up the orchard area for greater visibility which you may have seen if walking along the track to Chilton Cottages. The fence that has been erected is to prevent late night car parking which we believe has also been an issue. We will see if these measures are effective.

December's work party concentrated on the footpath leading from south of Woodland View down to the crossroads known as Five Points, east of Well Cottage. In recent years the holly has flourished and has been starting to encroach on the footpath, so this has been cut back significantly. A long term aim might be to cut back the bordering trees still further to create a wider linear glade similar to where the same path continues towards Hughenden Manor. This would be a major project so would need careful planning and probably involve wider consultation.



January saw another attack on the rushes and sweetgrass in Mannings Pond and we managed to clear another small area. This is all part of a long term plan devised several years ago as part of a programme funded by Chiltern Conservation Board in 2014. It seems to be a slow job but it is important to try and remove the roots as well as the visible part or else the growth simply reappears the following year. If roots are removed, which in the deeper parts are floating rather than attached to the pond floor, then clear water will persist for multiple years.

The next work party will be on 6th March and we would encourage any members (or guests) to come along and spend a morning in the fresh air doing some "green gym". As one of our new members pointed out, it's a great excuse for avoiding those Sunday morning chores that you really don't want to do!

Bill Thompson, Secretary, DCPS.

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News from St James

Spring – a Time of Hope

Those who hope in the LORD Will renew their strength.” Isaiah 40:31



The spring always feels hopeful, seeing flowers start to appear, the days getting lighter, lifts our spirits. This year we are all so much in need of this. We did not have a lock down over Christmas, but so many families still had their plans disrupted by family members testing positive for covid and having to isolate.

As a community, a county and indeed a world – we all need hope right now. A sense that there are good things round the corner which we can look forward to.



Growing Hope High Wycombe is about to get underway with our new lead therapist and clinic manager starting in February. We are hoping to start free clinics for children with additional needs at St James' in the next few weeks. Initially these clinics will be for speech and language therapy and available for any children under

18 in the Wycombe area who are having difficulties with communication. Children can be referred through their schools or make self referrals on the website www.growinghope.org.uk

In the future we are planning to employ therapists from other disciplines, like occupational, physio etc.

For us there is a real sense of hope as we start a new chapter in the life of St James' hosting these clinics, which aim to help and support children with additional needs and their families across the Wycombe area.

The verse I quoted above goes on to say that when we put our hope in God we will soar on wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint. There have been so many times over the last couple of years when we have felt weary and faint, and yet even in the midst of this pandemic there have been so many signs of hope and love. My prayer is that each of you will have things that give you fresh hope in the weeks ahead.



Heather Graham, Vicar

Downley Community Centre

Newcomers might be interested to learn that the Centre is home to numerous clubs, associations and the local community library. It is situated in the centre of the village, a few minutes from the High Street.

The building comprises four function rooms and can host functions from 6 - 120 people. It offers full wheelchair access throughout with free, ample parking on-site.





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

Thames Valley Police have been invited to return to the Centre where its central location has proved invaluable in their Wycombe West patrol area. In the past the Centre has been a useful rest stop and has saved patrols having to return directly to the town centre police station. Final details will be published when confirmed.

Now COVID regulations have been relaxed, our hirers are resuming regular sessions – latest details can be found in the round-up of activities section near the back of this issue.

The baby and toddlers catch up group on Monday mornings during term-time would appreciate ideas and a helper or two to initiate suitable activities that involve both grown-ups and especially the little ones. This format has proven to work well in other groups so all offers should please be directed to: andrewmingard90@gmail.com.

There are provisional plans to refresh BEECH room in the coming weeks, but hirers can rest assured that every step will be taken to ensure that this is done with minimal inconvenience to regular schedules.

Regular hirers are invited to attend some of the monthly management committee meetings to hear about and discuss some of the issues that the Management Committee address to ensure smooth running of the Centre. It is hoped to issue a formal invitation in the spring but if you would like a heads-up sooner, please contact the chairman: david@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk.

Up Festival 2022 – Art Show

Once again the centre will be hosting the annual art show. The date for 2022 has just been announced: 2-9 July, so start creating your entries early!

For hall bookings and pricing information contact

bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk or call Cathy on 07580 953181.

DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE – Management Committee

Downley Evening WI



We've had some good times at the WI since the last Village News.

Our November meeting was again well attended for a hilarious and fascinating account of 'To the Fringe', when Ginny Davis told us all about her very varied life, eventually finding her niche as a writer and actor and appearing at the Edinburgh Fringe on three occasions. Our Christmas craft gift stall looked amazing and was well patronised in aid of charity.

December was also a fun evening with a fascinating insight into the work of a costumier/dresser at the BBC by one of our own members, and this was followed by Christmas songs performed by her husband, who then accompanied us as we sang a few carols. Mulled wine and mince pies had of course been enjoyed during the evening, which then ended with our traditional visit from Father Christmas.

However, Christmas and New Year soon fade into the past and we are now looking forward to our 59th birthday party in March (Covid allowing!) which will have a

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theme relevant to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year.

In the meantime, at our January meeting Keith Muras told us of the formation of the USSR; he bravely spent three years working there for the British Foreign Service through the height of the cold war. I don't think any of us envied him his time there!

We have had sad news of the passing of some of our long-standing members as well as a former member, all of whom are fondly remembered, but as always we are happy to welcome new members so if you think you may like to find out more about us then do contact Janet Durkin on 01494 535662.

Downley Pharmacy

10 years of health services in your community.

It hardly seems possible that we are due to celebrate our ten-year anniversary in June. Much has changed in pharmacy in that time with a changing focus from a perception of just medication supply to healthcare advice and health promotion. Our NHS services have evolved and most are now digitally managed, although paper is far from being a thing of the past! Online pharmacy services have grown significantly alongside the extended hours offered by pharmacies in town centres, but we hope we are able to maintain added value of personal service, as we want to continue to be Downley's healthcare centre and a real part of the community we love.

Our pioneering Medpoint 24-hour prescription collection point has been a great success and we encourage more to utilise this method of collection as it reduces wait times in the pharmacy.

As the NHS continues to struggle under increasing demands and various pressures we are being commissioned to provide more in the way of advice and care for minor ailments, which may be via referral after consultation with 111 and now GP triage. This service provides for rapid escalation to GP or further if deemed necessary by the pharmacist as well as freeing up appointments at the GP for those in most need. We can also offer follow up checks for prescribed new medication.

We are also promoting NHS weight management support services, hypertension diagnosis, asthma care, antimicrobial stewardship, patient understanding of anticoagulant medication and, of course, seasonal flu vaccination.

We are continually increasing our private services and can now offer some treatments previously requiring a visit to the GP. In the next month we will be launching a private health check service in conjunction with our partner Agilis Health. This includes BMI, blood pressure, ECG, cholesterol, blood glucose and potentially other specific blood tests such as Vitamin D, iron and female health. This service will incorporate an online lifestyle questionnaire alongside tests in the pharmacy that are fed back for a full report and follow up with a nurse practitioner from Agilis Health.

Here's to another busy year. Watch this space for news of our celebrations in June, although of course we do not want to overshadow another more significant jubilee!

Fiona and all the team.

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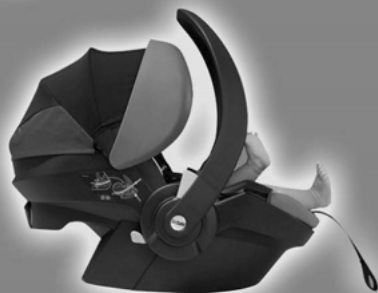
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A warm welcome from

Chiltern Wood School



Many of you will be aware that next to The Downley School is one of two sites of Chiltern Wood School. The school is an amalgamation of Maplewood and Chiltern Gate School which formed Chiltern Wood in 2016. It caters for a range of children from 3 to 19 who have special educational needs.

I have the privilege of being the new headteacher at the school and started in January this year, so at the time of writing this I have not yet been in post a month. A little bit about me is that, having moved from Kent at the age of 6, I have been fairly local to High Wycombe, attending Hamilton, Lady Verney, Wycombe High and John Hampden schools, (I completed two A' Levels at John Hampden as the girl's schools did not offer these subjects). I have taught in Aylesbury, but have spent most of my teaching career at Alfriston School in Beaconsfield. I also live locally in West Wycombe with my husband Dave and our 4 children who are nearly all out of secondary school, but all still live at home!

A big part of my role is to make our school part of the local community. Downley has been very welcoming and already I have met with County Councillor Paul Turner and Parish Councillors Moyra Lazenby and Wendy Steneskog. I have also met with Mrs Taylor from the Downley School where I had a wonderful tour, and we are planning on doing some more work together and sharing resources in the future. In mid-February we are also meeting with the Rev. Heather Graham and Jan Fishwick from St James church. I am blessed to have known Heather and her family for many years, so I am excited to introduce her to our amazing school.

The meetings that I have had so far have been very exciting and already I can see the potential for collaborative working in a range of activities.

As the biggest advocate for the pupils, I have been learning about what they get up to on a day-to-day basis. The range of activities and tasks they do are amazing. I have seen an art lesson based on the colour orange, where we used our senses to smell, feel and paint with the colour and fruit. Amy and DJ in Gemstones have shown me their amazing illustrations and stories based on a book they have read and Opal class created a treasure hunt for me which involved clues hidden around the school to help me find them. My office is filling up wonderfully with creative pieces from the classes. I was also lucky enough to spend some time in the pool watching some two-to-one sessions with the music, lights and a moving floor.

Our pupils have a wide range of needs, but have so much to give to the community. One of the Speech and Language Therapists shared this quote from one of our parents:

***“Just because a person isn't able to speak,
doesn't mean they have nothing to say.”***

PTO



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I look forward to writing a regular piece for the Village News and keeping everyone updated on what is happening at the school. If you would like to know more about the school, please have a look at our website or call the school office to come and have a visit.

Rachel Chapman

Downley Theatre Group

Nothing's changed, really. Despite the theatre world doing its very best to ensure performances go ahead, many have been cancelled – often at the last minute – due to lack of those fit and well enough to work on stage, behind the scenes, in wardrobe, make-up, back stage, lighting, sound and front of house.

Reluctantly, we've decided to wait a bit longer to see how things develop over the next few weeks with changes in mask wearing, isolation and testing being introduced.

We will, of course, keep in regular contact with members and are happy to add names to the mailing list for when we're sufficiently confident to organize trips.

Alan & Claire Baker
downleytheatregroup@gmail.com 01494 437552

Downley Gardening Society

In December, we had a lovely meeting in the Church, starting with a seasonal concert from Top Notes, who were excellent and made everyone feel Christmassy. DGS members particularly enjoyed the mixture of traditional and new songs.

We then had mulled wine and Alex's delicious mince pies, followed by a first-class quiz on Downley by Alan Baker. We all learnt something about our own village.

Our January meeting was held on Zoom with over 30 members taking part. We had a very entertaining and informative talk by Timothy Walker entitled "How to be a 21st Century Gardener". Timothy has spoken to us before both on Zoom and in person.

Our February talk by David Usher, entitled "Gertrude Jekyll, her plants and designs", will be on Zoom and we hope to be back in St James' hall from March, restrictions permitting. Our March talk is by Philip Aubury on the history of the Birmingham Botanical Garden.

If you would like to become a member of the Gardening Society and join our meetings please contact Alison on 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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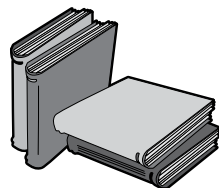
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- If we already have a copy of any of the books offered to us, we will keep them for sale on our Downley Day stall to enhance funds.



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Downley Albion FC

Your local Men's football team....


HAPPY NEW YEAR! Not a lot to report as we have only played 4 games since I last wrote – thanks to Covid, the weather and the Christmas break!

We continued our winning streak up to Christmas and sat at the top of the Division Three table at Christmas.

Unfortunately, our first game of 2022 was our first loss – our depleted team faced a very strong St John's Reserves team. However normal service was resumed the following week with a 6-0 victory over Tetsworth at home. Our final game of January was away at Hambleton where we played a very tough game, going a goal down in the first few minutes, but managed to end up winning 4-1.

The season is flying by and we actually only have one home game left to play! We are also awaiting confirmation of who we will play in the next round of the Cup (Ridgeway Royals First/FC Beaconsfield Res) both teams are in divisions above us.

We are still actively looking for any type of sponsorship or grants available to keep our Club in a healthy position financially. Please do get in touch if you can help

Sally Baker, Club Secretary • downleyalbionfc@gmail.com •  Downley Albion FC

Coffee Stop News



Happy New Year to all from Coffee Stop.

We had a lovely time at our last meeting before Christmas with two stalls and a Christmas raffle. There were plenty of prizes donated for the raffle and therefore plenty of winners! We raised £78 for charity.

Until Christmas, Coffee Stop had been opening on the first Monday of the month at St James Church Hall. However, with the rapid increase in covid infections over Christmas, it was decided not to open in January.

As we head towards February and the infection rate is decreasing, we have decided it is safe to reopen next month on Monday 7th February. We will continue to open once a month in February but plan to open twice a month after that, starting on March 7th and 21st.

With the Bank Holidays in April and May, Coffee Stop will open on 4th and 25th April, 9th and 23rd May and 6th and 20th June. Opening times 10am to 12 noon.

We are always looking for more helpers; many hands make light work!

Do come a long and join our happy customers. It is a good place to get out of the house and meet people for a chat. Help with lifts to St James Hall can be arranged if necessary.

Helen Bradley • helen@aspen.org.uk

Walking for Health and Charity



Back in October before the leaves fell from the trees, Colin Pollard started a series of solo walks aiming at a total 2000K. Apart from his own health and wellbeing, his purpose was to raise money for the Youth Enquiry Service (YES) based in Frogmoor in High Wycombe. One of his contributing walks was in our lovely

Downley woods – starting at the Le De Spencer Arms (and finishing up there too!) and walking about 8K accompanied by some of the YES team.

He had originally planned to finish before Christmas, but Covid struck and he had to take time out to recover. He has almost completed the 2000K and will do so in the next few weeks. Colin loved our woods and the great views we were able to show off and is planning some revisits later in the year to get more familiar with the footpaths. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to spend time in such lovely countryside, on our doorstep.

YES provides help and support for the youth of High Wycombe and district at the Drop In Centre in Frogmoor. Our main Service is Free Counselling. Colin has already raised almost £1000 for YES. If you would like to learn more about us please visit www.yeswycombe.org. If you would like to donate, there is a Donate button on the website.

Jeanne Steward

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

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

STREET LIGHTING

Please report all lighting repairs to the Parish Clerk

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Include the street name and the nearest house number, lights cannot be reported without this information.

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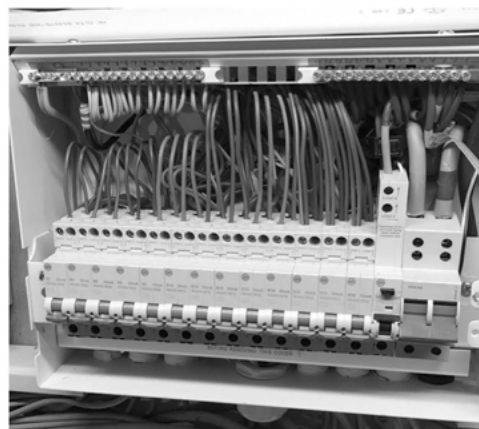
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Top Notes

‘Here we go, again!’

2022 has just begun and our **Summer Concert** venue is already booked! We hope you can join us at **All Saints Parish Church** in Wycombe town centre on **Saturday 25th June at 7:30pm**, for an evening of inspiring & uplifting music.

Looking back on last year, we were absolutely delighted to be able to go ahead with our first live concert in two years (December 6th) and even more delighted that we were able to raise a whopping £1000.00 for *Carers Bucks* in the process. Thank you to all who came along to support us, we hope you enjoyed it!

The Christmas Season also brought about our first experience in a recording studio, as we featured on the charity Christmas single; “*Christmas (Baby, Please Come Home)*” released by *Chris Miller & The Air Raid Shelter Cafe & Tea Room*. The single was released to raise awareness and funds for *Dementia UK* and made it to number 53 in the charts!



We also had great fun singing for *John Lewis & Partners* as part of their annual choir & bell ringing event for *Child Bereavement UK* as well as a special performance for the residents at *The Heights* - it was a busy end to the year!

Looking ahead we're excited to be performing at *The Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs* for the first time in March. As Louis Armstrong famously said, “Music is life itself” and to be able to share our music as well as sing together with other local groups will make for a truly wonderful evening.

Please follow us on our social media channels (*Instagram & Twitter: @topnoteschoir, Facebook - Top Notes*) to stay updated on what we're up to as well as future concert and ticket information. Or get in touch via topnotestunes@gmail.com for any general enquires.

Wishing everyone a joyous, happy & healthy year filled with music!

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Patrick

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Jill

Top Notes



DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

How Downley transformed West Wycombe, brick by brick.

If you have ever walked on Downley Common, passed the Le De Spencer Arms and gone into the woods, you will have seen the Dells. They look like bomb craters, or purpose-made challenges for bold cyclists. In fact, they are what remains of a seam of Reading Beds clay (far superior to the clay-with-flints usually associated with the Chilterns) that was dug up in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to make bricks and tiles. You need to imagine a different landscape— heath-like with no trees and certainly more ‘dells’ than one can now see (the biggest and deepest was where the cricket pitch now is).

Brick-making requires kilns and in 2006 an archaeological dig uncovered the probable location of Downley’s one which was under the road that now bends right above the cricket pitch. The 2006 dig followed up a single clue: the kiln drawn on the 1767 West Wycombe Manorial Map. This map was created at the request of Sir Francis Dashwood. One could reasonably deduce that the Dashwood family were behind the entire Downley brick-making enterprise. They were Lords of the Manor, which included Downley Common, from 1670. They invested heavily in West Wycombe, buying up houses and inns, including the George and Dragon, and eventually owning two-thirds of the village. Rents brought in £227 by 1771 (that’s over £38,000 in today’s money), but surely the real reason for upgrading and beautifying West Wycombe with all those Downley bricks was to make the village an irresistible stop for wealthy independent travellers on the London-Oxford turnpike road which opened in 1719. (Stagecoach travellers stopped off in High Wycombe.)

Downley’s bricks were probably taken on pack horses down the footpath behind St David’s that still connects the Common to West Wycombe, and they transformed that village into what you see today. Most houses on its High Street started life as timber-framed dwellings – the timber frames of Church Loft (c.1464) and the Apple Orchard (16th century) are still clearly visible. Before our bricks, gaps between the timbers were infilled with wattle and daub (a woven lattice of coppiced hazel plugged with a mud/dung/straw mixture). Wattle-and-daub infill should not be underestimated: its insulation qualities are brilliant, it moves with the timbers, and it can last hundreds of years. So why switch to using bricks? Because West Wycombe’s transformation went beyond just infilling the timber frames with brick ‘nogging’. Brick hearths and chimneys were added to most of the houses, while some (but not the Apple Orchard) had their overhangs infilled in order to expand ground floor space. 7- 9 High Street concealed their entire timber framework with brick. The grandest upgrade can be seen on the George and Dragon which from c.1720 added a storey and a redbrick front with a stuccoed ground floor, four giant stucco pilasters, and a fashionably flat roofline. After c.1700, perhaps because oak was in short supply, new buildings were made entirely of brick, or of brick and flint. All this transformation was made possible by Downley Common.

Because one could have fun with them, bricks were also fashionable and here one really sees the Dashwood landlord touch adding some glamour. The brick nogging on the gable-ended house at 25 High Street, for example, is a wonderfully eccentric mix of bonding patterns, including ‘tumbling-in’ courses of bricks, herringbone and mixed running-and-

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stack bonds. Chimney stacks could also be fun: 20 High Street and the Apple Orchard have brilliant decorative chimney stacks.

Even the humblest houses could use brick work to add distinction. For example, 2 High Street is embellished with a band of cut brick modillions at first floor level, while number 7 has a modillion brick cornice. Some houses played with colour. The



usual colour of Downley bricks was a warm red, but that could be altered to grey by adding bracken to the kiln fire, or 'vitrified' by adding salt and firing at a higher temperature, which produced a shiny blackened appearance. Polychromatic brickwork can be seen on the eighteenth-century fronts of Aston House, 58 High Street and 29 Crown Court, on each of which a chequered pattern was achieved by using red stretchers and burnt or glazed headers in Flemish bond. The grey and red brickwork of 43 Church Lane is rather more random, but the alternating grey and red bricks of the cambered arches added an original touch.

So, thanks to Downley, West Wycombe became a fashionable, up-market, halfway halt for wealthy travellers on the London-to-Oxford road. It didn't last, alas: railroads meant a decrease in passing traffic and a decline in the village's profitability. And what of Downley? The kiln didn't last long either – it is not on the 1849 tithe map. Chair-making and farm labouring became the new local employers. In the 1920s some dells may have been repurposed as bunkers on the Downley golf course. But there are still a few reminders of our short-lived brickie past: the Dells of course, and the Bricklayers Arms on the High Street (the original one, which was further down Downley High Street), and Kiln Pond Lane and Sandpits Pond (sand was essential in brickmaking: the wooden moulds in which each brick was formed had to be sanded to make sure the sticky clay brick came away clean). And it would be nice to think that the beautiful bricks of our oldest buildings were made locally. They include St. David's and Moor Cottage (both early 18th century), the Smithy overlooking the cricket pitch (late 18th century), Chapel Cottages (c.1800), Well Cottage (1813), and Downley Farmhouse (1819). When next you pass them, have a look.

A date for your diary - Saturday 5th March 2022

there will be a talk by Fritha Irwin of the National Trust on:

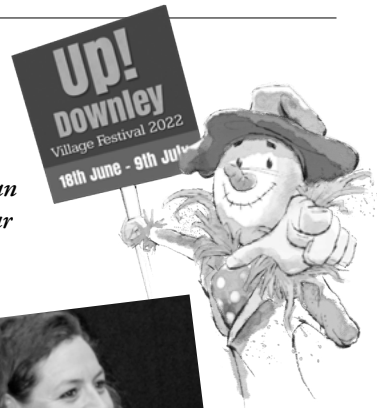
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Up Downley Festival 2022

Covid-19 brought about an enforced absence in 2020 but last year the Committee made the decision to push ahead and organise the Up! Downley Festival in late Summer, albeit on a smaller scale than previous years. This year we're proposing to return to a full calendar of events, held at the usual time of year, June/July.



One of the highlights of the Festival is always the **Comedy Night** which is planned for Wednesday 22nd June in the marquee. Look out for further announcements as and when the comedians are booked. There will be three, as usual, plus the compere.

We have already booked a **Mariachi Band** for a Mexican evening of fun and dancing (and the odd tequila!) in the marquee on Friday 24th June.



John and Helen Willson will be holding an **Open Art Studio** on the weekend of 24th–26th June at their Commonsides home.

The village **Art Show** begins with a Preview evening at the Community Centre on Friday 1st July and will run through to Friday 8th July.

There will be workshops throughout the week for people to try their hand at arts and crafts such as woodcarving and photography and the usual display of work from novices, children and experienced artists. The show is open to visitors during the weekday evenings.



Exhibits are welcome from all ages and ability. The Art Show is free to enter and we'll be giving it a big push this year so keep your eyes peeled for entry details.



Another free event is John Willson's **Downley History Walk**. This has been entered in the calendar for the evening of Tuesday 28th June. The walk is always a huge success, being both informative and educational, and delivered, as always, in John's inimitable style! The walk usually ends near the LeDe for some well-deserved refreshment and, if you haven't attended one of John's walks before, it's well worth giving it a go this year.

Open Gardens will be returning this year on Sunday 26th June, so start planting your seeds in readiness to show off your gardening skills as residents visit gardens around the village.



The **Downley Descants** will be demonstrating their singing skills on Saturday 25th June and we also hope to have a **Yoga event** and **5k Run**, as in previous years.

Finally, the **Scarecrow Competition** and **Sunflower Competition** will be returning this year for the youngsters to get involved.



These events do not organise themselves but rely on a small group of volunteers to "make it all happen". If you would like to join the Committee and bring fresh ideas or just give up a little spare time to assist with Up! Downley Festival 2022, please email Lea McDonald, our secretary, at leamcd@btinternet.com

Fran Lazenby, Festival Committee Chairman



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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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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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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

Spring 2022



Wal, a New Year eh! And a happy one I hopes. We could certainly do with one after orl that Covid business we orl seems to be a' talkin about. So you sees quite a lot in the papers and soon about simplifying your life – walkin, dreamin and getting your hands into the soil! Wal, sum of you has to go to work, but sum of us don't eh, lucky us – so we can just muck about and get in the way of our loved ones- (“he's certainly very good at getting in my way“ ses Mrs H). So wot about the gardin and the plot eh? Wal, you'll be a 'readin this cum Feb or March I hopes, because now's the time to really get out there and do summat! Let's ave a look at the garden first- wal now's the time to sort it out, you'll ave lots of orl the old flower heads on and the dead leaves and stems and so on, for your wildlife food and shelter through the winter but look out for them snowdrops and early daffs, you don't want to mess them up in a fit of enthusiasm! “Him and enthusiasm, wot!” ses Mrs H. Wal, then feed your plants, roses, perennials (those are the ones wot keeps a' goin year after year), fruit bushes and so on, put compost round 'em to keep the moisture in.

Then sowin- this counts for the garden and the plot- tommy toes sow middle of March, in the greenhouse, try about 6 sorts, big uns and little uns. If yor brave you can get sum courgettes goin too, maybe on the windersill. Broad beans, onion setts, direct sown or in seed boxes, leeks too. Then 'erbs, sow sum chives, coriander, origano and parsley. Give parsley a drop of warm water to help 'em along. Early lettuce too, arctic king is one I did well with, if you can get 'em, use a cold frame or on the bench in the greenhouse.

As for the plot itself, wal, green manure like clover can be dug in, with your luvly over wintered compost then get your spud bed composted and manured, and dig out the bean trench and chuck in more compost and put up the canes when you aves a bit of time. And wot about spuds? Get em chitted in empty seed boxes, in the light, to get em a' shootin, shoot best not more than a cm or so long, and remember that they are frost sensitive, so try to get yor timin right for plantin, late frosts in May can set 'em right back. Then there's runner and dwarf beans, courgettes and squashes to think about, 'ave a look to see wot your plot mates are doin too!

As for my French cousin Jean d' Artichoke, wal with Omni wotsit and Mr Marcron avin a go about jabs for all or into prison or summat, 'e's certainly not a happy lapin, e's bin hopin his home made linctus'll keep the bugs away, I've had sum, wal, I dropped a drop once and it melted a hole in my welly!

Ave a great Spring!

J. H. Sent from my iSpade

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It Seems Like The Longest Time For Downley Descants



In the last issue of Downley Village News we were all getting excited about our Christmas performances, we were looking forward to telling you how well they went, and that Downley Descants were firmly back on the scene. Since then, Covid reared its ugly head again and people were anxious about singing in enclosed spaces. Our performance at John Lewis did not go ahead as we thought singing in a store packed with Christmas shoppers was not a good idea. We made many changes to the organisation of our Christmas concert to enable us to go ahead despite the virus but in the end we felt we had no option other than to cancel this too. We felt it was the responsible thing to do, looking after the welfare of our members and audience.

Now we are in a new year, with restrictions being lifted and the majority of people now fully vaccinated, we feel a lot more optimistic and have started planning our performances for the year.

The first of these is the Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs in early March which will be good for the choir and will show just how far we have progressed. We will be singing alongside many renowned and accomplished choirs. The Festival is not a competition but allows local choirs the opportunity to join together in their love of singing. We are really looking forward to this and the boost it will give to

our members. Other events, in the planning stage at the moment, include the Up! Downley Festival and a possible joint performance with Wycombe Concert Band in the summer at Naphill.

At the time of writing we have returned to our rehearsals on a Thursday evening, but unfortunately have lost a few members due to their unease over the Covid situation and the tragic loss of a much loved and respected member of the bass section, Steve Robinson, who is sadly missed by us all.

We are on a recruitment drive to bring our numbers up to pre-pandemic levels so if you are interested in trying us out, please contact our chairman, Lyn, on 07974 026213 or by email grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk. We are a community choir for the residents of Downley and the surrounding areas and as such we do not insist on the ability to read music, nor do we have any auditions. The community aspect is of great importance to us with any surpluses made donated to charity. Since our start in 2012 this figure is in excess of £10,000.

Bob Cook - Bass



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Downley Parish Council, Community Centre
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Chameleon Singles Group



At our AGM in January, we started looking forward to organising more events this year where members can meet up both inside and outside. Cautiously we look forward to 2022 without the restrictions of the past due to the pandemic which have limited our activities. We are planning to re-start our days out over the spring and summer months as well as doing more of the events which members enjoy such as walks and meals out. A few days away on a short break is a possibility too!

We will continue to have a social evening via Zoom once a month for those who are unable or do not wish to go out at present. Our Friday Lunch Club has moved from the first to the second Friday of the month. This works better with the calendar where on one or two occasions the Pub Night held on the last Thursday of the month was on the day before the lunch event.

Our new programme for March and April is already beginning to fill up and we were able to add a few extra events to our February programme. This included an Elvis tribute night and a walk in West Wycombe Park to see the early season snowdrops. We are currently looking forward to taking part in a Quiz Night and early spring would not be the same without the annual pancake night held at a member's home. As always, our members put forward and host all events run by Chameleon which gives a variety of events to suit almost everyone in our bi-monthly programme.

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. Visit us on-line at www.chameleonsingles.org.uk for more information and our current programme or connect with us through Facebook.



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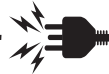
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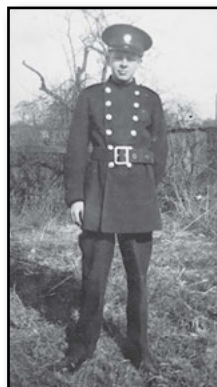
In North Africa, as 1942 wore on, the Allies started gaining the upper hand. Rommel's advance towards the Suez Canal was halted at El Alamein in the summer with the battle moving to and fro for several months until the Allies broke through in early November. By the end of the month they had advanced well into Libya. About the same time General Eisenhower, leading Operation Torch, has landed in Morocco and Algeria and was heading east.

It was similar news from the Pacific. The Japanese fleet, including four aircraft carriers, having been unable to locate US aircraft carriers, attacked sites on the island of Midway. Whilst the planes are being refuelled and rearmed US aircraft arrive and three of the four carriers are soon destroyed. Subsequent action leads to the sinking of USS Yorktown but the Battle of Midway is largely regarded as a turning point in the war.

Japanese advances continued in New Guinea and there were a series of battles in and around Guadalcanal throughout the rest of 1942. A submarine even shelled a residential area in Sidney.

Back at home, Downley suffered its first casualty, Percival Stephen Roy Carrington.

Roy lived in Merton Cottage, past the Le De, and at 34 Jubilee Road. He attended school first at Downley, then at Mill End and was a member of the Sunday school at Sunnybank Methodist Chapel in Moor Lane. He enlisted in the Air Training Corps (ATC), with dreams of enlisting in the RAF but unfortunately was not allowed to join the armed forces because he was asthmatic. Many years later his sister Eileen recounted that Roy, like many young men who were not permitted to fight, had to bear the cost at home, being branded a coward and sent white feathers.



At the beginning of 1940, Roy recorded in his diary the formation of the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) in Downley and the arrival of a trailer pump for the village. He saw the Downley AFS and Ambulance Party undertaking drills on Taylors Green. Men unable to join the armed forces were encouraged to enlist in the AFS and help fight the war at home. From a domestic point of view this meant that Roy would earn a salary, be eligible for a pension and be fed whilst on watch. As his father had died in 1935 having been wounded in WW1, he was the man of the house, and this would have made a big difference.

In August 1941 all the fire brigades of the United Kingdom, including the AFS, were merged to form the National Fire Service (NFS), bringing local authority, parish and private brigades under government control. This had come about due to the difficulties experienced when firemen and equipment from the Home Counties were moved

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into the Capital to support the London Fire Brigade during the Blitz. Much of the equipment was incompatible.

Initially posted to the fire station in Priory Road, in April 1942 Roy was posted to the London Road Fire Station on the site of the new Lidl supermarket. At 17 he was earning £1.3s.10d a week (about £1.19 but worth about £60 at today's prices). He had a motorcycle licence and became a despatch rider, relaying messages between the Station and any major fires. Contemporary accounts record men and equipment from Bucks being moved up to the Capital on a regular basis; they were also found as far West as Bristol and as far South as Southampton.

On 20th October 1942, whilst responding to a call, riding his motorbike in pouring rain and blackout conditions, he collided with a London and Country bus at the bottom of Treadaway Hill. Roy was taken to High Wycombe War Memorial Hospital, where he died, aged 18, on 21st October 1942 as a result of serious head injuries.

His coffin was carried to the funeral at All Saints Church aboard Priory Road's Leyland fire engine, the event being reported in the Bucks Free Press where the writer chose to use the word, 'hero'.

Thanks are due to Ed Fagin for much of the information on Roy Carrington who was his great uncle.

In the Bucks Free Press of 27th November, it was reported that Cecil Avery from Downley was a prisoner of war in Italian hands. He had earlier been reported missing on June 29th.

I will have more to say about Cecil next time.

Alan Baker • alanbaker49@btinternet.com • 07890 762527

Downley Cricket Club

As the long winter nights give way to the (occasional) brighter mornings, Downley cricketers – in common with many up and down the country – are beginning to stir. Some have been seen encircling the ground and pitch (with family and/or dogs) vividly imagining the thwack of willow on leather or cartwheeling stumps, or young Joe whistling the ball back from boundary-edge like a tracer-bullet, startled batters stranded in mid-pitch. No doubt many cricketers will be getting fitter with Christmas out of the way, and the Ashes debacle fading into oblivion.

Downley Cricket Club has had one of its best seasons in recent memory, with the Firsts finishing runners-up in the high-level Championship Division of the Berkshire, Chilterns and Mid Bucks League, led by the all-round skills of the charismatic Doc and his band of amazing multi-faceted cricketers.

The Seconds, meanwhile, under our all-action captain 'Big-Ben' Hughes, somehow





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fashioned a Division-winning performance, but everyone is aware that promotion to the Division above means harder matches. Plenty of awards were handed out at the Annual Dinner at the Le De Spencer Arms, including ones to scorer Mandy and umpire John, whose regular Saturday-after-Saturday devotion to the Club earned more points themselves than any player, enabling us to become Champions.

Also given commemorative tankards (see picture) were Colin 'Squeezer' Caesar and Graeme 'Aikers' Aitken, both of whom achieved the distinction of playing for the club for 40 years. Computer records do not go back very far but these show the pair closing in on 750 wickets for the club in recent years.



Squeezer's relentless left-hand angle accuracy combines perfectly with Aikers' ability to hoop the ball round corners, the pair driving the team to many famous victories.

The beauty of cricket is that players of all shapes and sizes can flourish, the vibrancy of the young mixing seamlessly with the older, more seasoned campaigners. There is plenty of fun and laughter on and off the pitch. It is hoped that run-machine Pete 'Ledge' Stone, big-hitting Spreckers, and other batters (despite absent youngsters at University) will put enough runs on the board to give our varied bowling attack (including Billy's mystery spin) a chance to shine.

No cricket would be possible, however, without the selfless and caring work done on the ground and pitch by the small team led by Den Cox and Martin Birkett ensuring it is an equal test for batters and bowlers. Nets will be starting soon, and if you would like to play or help in any way, please contact webmaster@downleycc.co.uk.

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Why not join your local Cycling UK member group this spring and summer for a ride in the Chilterns? If you do not wish to do a full ride then you are welcome to come part way or come along to one of our Sunday coffee pots at cafes local to our area.

Full details of all our group rides and coffee meets are on the website and there is sure to be something for everyone of all ages who wants to get out on their bike. For our coffee pots and easy paced rides virtually any bike will do. Just wear comfortable clothing, bring a drink and, if you have one, a spare inner tube just in case! Our friendly and helpful ride leaders will make sure you enjoy your first ride with the group and no one gets left behind, whatever your pace. Both pedal bikes and e-bikers welcome.

Other than rides we have a monthly Zoom Social on the 1st Thursday and a clubroom event at Little Kingshill, usually held on the 3rd Thursday of the month (except in July

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and August), with interesting speakers and slideshows. We also have a summer BBQ held at the end of June.

To find out more, visit our website below which also has details of our other South Buckinghamshire groups which ride midweek as well as Sunday's. More general information about Cycling UK and membership can be found at www.cyclinguk.org and on Bike Week which takes place from 6th to 12th June 2022 at www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek Our Bike week evening ride takes place on Tuesday 7th June at 7pm, meeting at the White Lion, Cryers Hill. Just turn up on the day.

Web: www.southbuckscycling.org.uk

Chiltern Hills Rides Secretary Cilla Gosnell 01494 863679

Downley Ancestors Part 15

George Turner - A mystery solved part 3

16th May 1945 - Missing.....continued from part 2.

Squadron Leader Turner, Flight Commander, damaged his Lysander in an attempt to pick up personnel at Ngapyawdaw, near Kinmun. Shortly after he had landed, the neighbourhood was compromised by Japanese forces and repair of the aircraft was impossible. Attempts to rescue Squadron Leader Turner were abortive until 10 days later when a rescue aircraft made a well-timed evacuation. In the meantime the flight commander stayed with Force 136 guerillas.



Burma, c. 1945. Members of Force 136, together with aircrew from No. 357 Special Duties (SD) Squadron RAF, pause while wading through a leech-infested stream on their way to a jungle village where a group of Japanese soldiers had been attacked a few days before by RAF fighter aircraft. The man on the extreme left is Captain Trofilov MC, commander of the local subunit of Force 136, while the man third from left is Squadron Leader George Turner DSO, CO of No. 357 Squadron. Force 136 was a guerrilla unit that reported on the movements of Japanese forces and harassed them whenever possible. The men of No. 357 Squadron have flown in two of the squadron's Westland Lysander IIA aircraft (not in view) to deliver supplies to Captain Trofilov and his men.

During August 1945 Operation Mastiff was undertaken with the Lysander aircraft. Following the Japanese surrender, operations began to repatriate the 130,000 Allied prisoners held by Japanese troops in POW camps across the region. The RAF parachuted in 136 teams to negotiate the release of prisoners. This operation also involved taking doctors into POW camps and taking POWs out.

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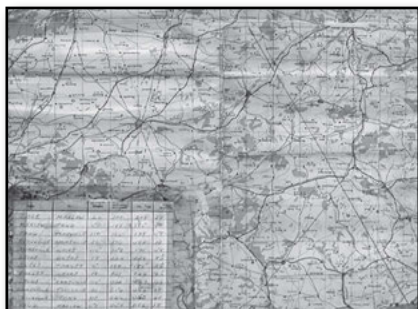


By November 1945 George was back at the RAF base in Calcutta, then in January 1946 he was in Bombay. He was awarded his DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) on 29th January 1946 and eventually arrived back in England in February. He was married on 3rd April 1946 and arrived at the Personnel Despatch Centre in Staffordshire (104 PDC) also in April. His last day of service is recorded as 28th June 1946. He officially relinquished his Commission as Squadron Leader on 1st July 1959. So, this story ends where it started. Following his RAF service, George rejoined the Metropolitan Police, hence the small photo in a local newspaper with his picture advertising for recruits. Little did I know when I started to investigate there would be so much to tell and discover. We will remember them.

Footnote: -

While researching this final chapter I came across a couple of other parts of George's life in the RAF which chronologically would have been in part 2, but nevertheless adds to the story.

On the night of 7/8 July 1944 (a month after D-Day), Lysander pick-up pilots Captain Per Hysing-Dahl and Flight Lieutenant George Turner were detailed to carry out Operation Palais, a double Lysander mission to carry agents into and out of a French farmer's field near Tours on the River Loire.



Flight Lieutenant G A Turner's map used on operation Palais, displayed in the SOE exhibition in the Museum at Tangmere Hall.

To avoid the D-Day bridgehead, the operation was conducted from their squadron's base, RAF Tempsford, near Bedford. Usually the squadron used RAF Tangmere for such operations. Turner set off for France ahead of Hysing-Dahl who had engine problems and had to transfer to a reserve aircraft. Turner routed via Trouville to avoid the bridgehead with its anti-aircraft guns and delivered his three agents and picked up three others with no difficulty.

The first record, too small to read on the reproduced picture, records base to Marlow and then Marlow to Tangmere - I assume this Marlow was what we now know as Booker airfield used as a waypoint, and therefore George probably flew over his parent's house on the way to France, and on the way back!

And in November 1944 the RAF film unit were making what was originally supposed to be an information film, but was not released until after the war under the title 'And now it can be told'. G A Turner is credited as 'himself' as the Lysander pilot in the story of agents being dropped into France. Still available to view on facebook.

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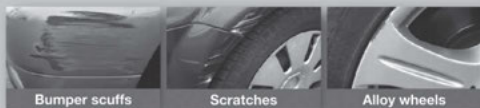
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From Westminster

Steve Baker - MP for Wycombe



Many people are concerned about the rise in inflation and the effect this has on the cost of living. In my last article for Downley Village News I spoke about measures in the autumn Budget to help those finding it hard to pay their bills. As part of the Government's recently announced Household Support Fund, Buckinghamshire Council have been awarded just under £2.4m to support those most in need with food and warmth, up to the end of March 2022. The fund requires 50% to be spent on families with children and up to 50% on those households experiencing or at risk of poverty.

In addition, the Council's Helping Hand service continues to help individuals and families in need, those on low incomes and those experiencing a financial crisis or emergency in Buckinghamshire. It can offer practical help with essentials such as food, water and energy bills, as well as providing emotional and wellbeing support.

Buckinghamshire Council will be distributing digital food vouchers to those eligible for free school meals, two-year-old funding or early years pupil premium support. These will be available during both the February half term and the Easter holidays and these will be distributed via schools and early years settings ahead of the holiday periods.

I know an issue of concern to Downley residents living in the more rural parts of the village is access to faster broadband. The Government has promised £5 billion to subsidise the roll-out of gigabit-broadband to the 'hardest to reach' premises in the country that will not be reached by private investment. The funding programme is called Project Gigabit, and is delivered by Building Digital UK (BDUK). The programme has broadly three main parts: a series of procurements subsidising the roll-out of gigabit-capable broadband in specific areas where broadband suppliers bid for contracts to build in each area; a voucher scheme for residents and businesses in eligible rural areas to subsidise the cost of a new gigabit-capable connection; funding to connect public sector buildings. BDUK states that premises with the lowest available broadband speeds will be prioritised where possible.

The scheme works in phases and Buckinghamshire is in Phase 2. The first stage, where there was an Open Market Review for commercial broadband providers, closed in September last year. The second stage allows the public to feed into the process identifying specific premises and postcodes of properties where broadband needs to be improved. My office is currently in touch with BDUK to find out exactly when the Buckinghamshire Public Review will open, which I expect to be soon. This will allow Downley people to feed into the project for faster broadband schemes to be brought to their area. I know how frustrating it is to have insufficient broadband speeds at home, and I want to assure people living locally this is something that is being looked at seriously.

I know some local residents have concerns about vehicles left on the highway for long periods of time, seemingly undriven, and sometimes causing an obstruction or eyesore. The issue usually centres on whether the vehicle has a valid MOT or road tax. Depending on various circumstances, the responsibility falls either to the local council or the police to remove the vehicle. I and my staff work with agencies to provide clarity when an abandoned vehicle is brought to my attention.

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Finally, at the time of writing, the report by Sue Gray into what happened in Downing Street has not been published. I understand people's anger over what occurred, and I have been clear that if the Prime Minister has broken the rules or misled Parliament then he must be held accountable.

If you would like to get in touch with me, please email: steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk. If you would like my help with a particular urgent issue, please phone my constituency office on 01494 448408

Buckinghamshire Council News



Could you be the change for a child waiting to be adopted this year?

Buckinghamshire Council is asking residents who may be thinking about adoption whether this could be the time they make the decision to be the change in a child's life. At any one time, Buckinghamshire has more than 25 children waiting to be adopted. Unfortunately, some children wait longer than others to be adopted. We are especially looking for adopters for: Older children (aged 5 and over); Children with more complex needs; Brothers and sisters; Children from Black & Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

For those thinking about adoption, finding out more about the process and your suitability couldn't be easier. Buckinghamshire's unique Adoption Readiness Checker gives practical advice and creates a personalised plan to prepare people to take the next step in their adoption journey. For people who are considering adoption but are unsure of where to start, the checker acts as a quick way to learn more about the process, find out how they can prepare, and provides links to practical next steps.

Find out more about the children who are looking for homes and how the process works. Just by picking up the phone or logging onto our website you are already making a change that could transform a child's life.

A new pattern of wards to be developed for Buckinghamshire Council.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and organisations think about their local area. A 12-week consultation on the proposals will run until 4 April 2022. The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing Buckinghamshire to make sure councillors represent about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements help the council work effectively. It wants to be sure that its proposals reflect community ties and identities. <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/29857>.

For more information and to keep up to date with the news from Buckinghamshire Council please see <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news> or as always, contact me – see below.

Paul

*Cllr Paul Turner: Buckinghamshire Councillor for Downley
paul.turner@buckinghamshire.gov.uk 07825 842292*

Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - SPRING 2022

Hall Bookings: 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
Bridge Club	Thursday	18.15 - 22.15	✓	paulf.goddard@icloud.com
Carers Bucks	4th Friday	13.00 - 15.00	✓	Sue.Connolly@carersbucks.org 0300 777 2722
Children's Dance Group.	Wednesday	16.45 - 18.30		Zoe.k.thompson@hotmail.com
Chipmunks Woodcarving	Wednesday	10.00 - 12.00	✓	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 & Latin)	Tuesday	19.00 & 20.00	✓	karen@comedancingwithme.co.uk
	Wednesday	19.30 & 20.30	✓	0787 353 8709
Downley Parish Council	2nd Tuesday	19.30	✓	clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org 01494 257711
Downley Toddlers	Monday Term-time	9.30 - 11.30	✓	andrewmingard90@gmail.com
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wednesday	20.00	✓	Nigel. N234838D@hotmail.co.uk
First Aid Training	ad hoc			Nick info@ndatraining.co.uk
First Class Learning	Saturday	10.00	✓	Himanshu 07949 590466
French Group	2nd Friday	19.30 - 22.30	✓	veroalla01@gmail.com
Hartbeeps	Wednesday	9.30 - 11.30		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
MOO Music	Friday Term-time	9.00 - 11.30	✓	elvan@moo-music.co.uk
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	Friday	10.00 - 11.30	✓	lotsototstwinclub@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	Monday	19.30 - 20.30	✓	Louise lerayogaaandtherapies@gmail.com 07894 050092

SUNNYBANK CHAPEL, MOOR LANE - SPRING 2022

Hall Bookings: margaretstagg75@gmail.com or call 01494 530736

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

GUIDE AND SCOUT CENTRE - SPRING 2022

Hall Bookings: margaretstagg75@gmail.com

Rainbows/Brownies	Monday	16.30 - 19.00		gill.lawrence@btinternet.com
Rainbows/Brownies	Tuesday	16.30 - 19.00		gill.lawrence@btinternet.com
Guides	Tuesday	19.00 - 20.30		margaretstagg75@gmail.com
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	Wednesday	18.00 - 21.00		ric.j.adams@gmail.com
Dog Training	Thursday	18.30 - 20.30		suzannebullworthy@hotmail.co.uk
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	Friday	18.00 - 21.30		paul@sw32ltd.co.uk
Dog Training	Sunday	10.00 - 12.00		lisa@shunty.co.uk
Woodlands Preschool	Daily	08.30 - 16.00		admin@thewoodlandspreschool.co.uk

ST JAMES CHURCH - SPRING 2022

Hall Bookings: hilmad1842@gmail.com

Downley Evening WI	2nd Tuesday	19.45		
St James Church Coffee Morning	Thursday	10.30 - 12.30		
Top Notes Choir	Monday	19.45 - 21.45		
Chepping Wycombe Trefoil Guild	2nd Thursday	19.45		

ST JAMES HALL - SPRING 2022

Hall Bookings: hilmad1842@gmail.com

Art Club	Thursday	09.30		
Coffee Stop	1st Monday	10.30		
Downley Gardening Society	3rd Monday	20.00		
Karen Pilates	Wednesday	09.30		
Natalie's Meditation Class	Wednesday	20.30 - 22.30		
Philatelic Club	Alternate Thursday	19.30		
Sing and Sign Baby and toddlers	Tuesday	10.00 - 13.00		
Sunaina Prolife Pilates	Saturday	08.00-09.00		
Tuneless Choir	1st and 3rd Tuesday	19.30 - 21.00		

DOWNLEY WAR MEMORIAL HALL - SPRING 2022

Hall Bookings: dwmh.bookings@gmail.com

Sunshine Montessori	Weekdays Term time	08.00 - 18.00		
Yoga	Tuesday	19.30		
Yoga	Thursday	19.30		
Yoga	Friday	10.30		

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

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Downley Village News

Editor: Anne at editor@downley.org

Advertising: Send advertising to adverts@downley.org

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

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Website: news@downley.org

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COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Paul Turner paul.turner@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Cllr. Maz Hussain maz.hussain@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Cllr. Melanie Smith Melanie.R.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk 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

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

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

Chairman: Bill Thompson; **Secretary:** Peter Loadman

Treasurer: Bob Cook; **Webmaster** Mark Starkey

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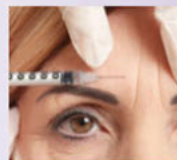
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Up! Downley 2022

Village Festival

18th June - 9th July

**A FULL PROGRAMME
IN THIS JUBILEE YEAR!**

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SCARECROWS
COMEDY NIGHT
YOGA IN THE MARQUEE
HISTORY WALK
5K RUN
ART SHOW
SUNFLOWERS
OPEN GARDENS
CONCERT ON THE COMMON**



FOR MORE DETAILS GO TO PAGE 26 & 27 INSIDE



DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY