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SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER

# Village News

Issue 133/November 2022



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## Editorial

So, it's nearly Christmas and another year is almost over! As I write this, it still feels like summer but the leaves are falling and I am sure we will soon get some colder weather. At last we've had some rain, and it won't be long before we're complaining about the mud on the common instead of the hard paths and parched grass. Such are the joys of the British weather and our endless fascination with it!

This has been a momentous summer in many ways – the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, too swiftly followed by her passing and the state funeral, the unusual weather, and several changes of Prime Minister – but at least we seem to have got through the worst of Covid and hopefully we are well out the other side. I'm so thankful to have had another dose of Covid vaccine and, with my flu vaccine as well, I feel bulletproof to face winter!

We wrote about the proposal to erect a 5G mast and accompanying cabinets close to Jubilee Green in the last issue. I am pleased to note that the planning for this was refused, but we await the results of an appeal.

Have you heard about the new on-demand minibus service now running in our area? You can find details on their website which is [www.pickmeupwycombe.co.uk](http://www.pickmeupwycombe.co.uk).

Finally, I wish all our readers a very enjoyable festive season and a healthy and happy new year.

As usual, we will be delighted to hear from any organisation in Downley (or the surrounding area) with news or information for the Spring edition, which will be out in mid-February. You can submit articles via the email address [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org). Copy deadline is Sunday 29 January 2023.

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

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# Downley Common News

September's work party was devoted to attending to a broken branch on the Covid "Friendship" oak tree at the Coates Lane end of Commonsides. One of the lower branches has been showing signs of sagging for some time and this suddenly got a lot worse and fell over



the road, blocking several parking spaces and stretching some electrical and telephone wires. With the help of local residents this was made safe and the tension taken off the wires. However not long after the branch split completely and was subsequently removed by residents. Thank you to all concerned for helping out.

September saw the start of our annual tree cutting. For some years we have been gradually pushing back the encroaching woodland that borders the Common to the east of the bonfire site. The idea is to create a scrub-like habitat that is neither grassland nor woodland to encourage a different population of both plant-life and insects. This year we took down a couple of hawthorn trees that were obscuring a rather fine oak tree which is now displayed quite nicely.



By the time you read this, Bonfire Night will have come and gone but as usual most of October was spent piling up a big stack of pallets followed by a large quantity of waste wood mostly from old building projects and landscaping sources. Of course, local residents contribute their garden cuttings as well. A big thank you to all those who came along to help building and to those who volunteered to both make the torches and sell them on the night.

A large number of volunteers is important as we have to stack all the wood by hand. The few times we have attempted to use the tractor have invariably resulted in punctures due to screws and nails left in the wood. Fixing a tractor puncture cost over £100 which we are anxious to avoid!

And finally, following our AGM, we welcome a new Treasurer in the form of Sam Gay who is taking over from Mike Morgan. Thank you, Mike for all your efforts and we know that Sam will have to maintain your high standards!

*Bill Thompson, Hon Sec*

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# Downley Community Centre

## 20th Anniversary



Incredibly, this Autumn marks 20 years since the Old Victorian School building reopened as Downley Community Centre.

Key milestones along the way include:

- First use of the building: 2002
- DPC acquires the Freehold 2010
- New kitchen and cloakrooms 2012
- New roof and porch 2015
- Oak Room modernisation 2016
- Beech Room modernisation 2017
- Acoustic sound reduction panels fitted 2019
- Library refurbishment 2020

A small reception is planned in 2023 to thank volunteers who helped formulate the plans all those years ago together with our key supporters in recognition of their loyalty and hard work.

## Ukraine

As part of its community and charitable mandate, the Centre is now offering free use of the Maple Room on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for English classes for Ukrainians who are now living locally.

If you know of any local Ukrainian families that could use this service, please contact Melanie Ashton at: [ashtonsathome@virginmedia.com](mailto:ashtonsathome@virginmedia.com)



## Macmillan Cancer Support

Coffee and cake morning was another success!

After a COVID break this annual fund-raising event returned on 1st October, organised by 'Downley Wives'. They raised an amazing £270 on the day.

This was again matched by Downley Community Centre making a total donation to the charity of £540. Many thanks to all those who baked, donated and helped on the day.

## New Hirers

This autumn has seen three new hirers starting regular activities at the Centre:

**ACTIVE ADULTS** is a new project to help all Bucks residents lead happier, healthier lives.

The Active Bucks project will support more people to get more active, more often - with a particular focus on reducing the number of inactive people across the county.

Most importantly you don't need to take up a sport or join a gym; any activity which makes you breathe faster and feel warmer, even activities such as gardening and housework, make a great contribution to your daily activity levels. Courses run for 8 weeks

*continued on P9*



## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BEING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

Are you enthusiastic about education and supporting special needs?

Do you have some time to spare?

If so, you may be the person we need!

Chiltern Wood School is a special school for c.200 children and young people with a broad diversity of complex needs, from Profound and Multiple to Severe Speech, Language and Communication Needs and Complex Autistic Spectrum Conditions.

We are located on two sites in High Wycombe (Downley and Cressex) and cater for pupils aged 3 to 19. We have a strong leadership team and dedicated staff. Pupils enjoy school and receive an individual education.

We are looking to recruit co-opted governors to join a committed and enthusiastic team who challenge and support the school.

Being a governor can be challenging but also hugely rewarding. You can make a real difference while developing your skills.

We welcome anyone with an interest in school governance. We would particularly benefit from adding professional perspectives and skills including education, finance, HR, IT, property and estates management or organisational change.

### More information?

Please email [office@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk)

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**CROCHET** is a new craft group run by Gen Watkins. Named “Woollywonka’s Crochet Group”

it takes place every Tuesday 7-9pm. All abilities welcome. £6 per weekly session including refreshments.

**NATALIE JANE DANCE SCHOOL** is a well-established school offering professional dance training for children from the age of 2 through to adults.

Classes are taught through syllabus and free work, including Ballet, Tap, Modern, Acrobatics, Street Jazz and Contemporary.

Further details for the above new hirers are shown in the round-up schedule for Downley Community Centre at the end of this magazine

*DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE – Management Committee*

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## Chiltern Wood School Chat

We have had a positive start to the new school year and have had lots of exiting events that we have enjoyed.



We were lucky enough to have the Mayor of High Wycombe, Cllr Arif Hussain, visit the school at the start of September. The photograph shows Mr Mayor with Teddy and Billy from Sapphire Class.



You may have seen some of our pupils out and about walking to the local shops to buy ingredients for cooking. Snowdrop Class are developing lots of skills by selecting items, paying for them and cooking and cleaning up afterwards. I was able to join them recently on the trip out and got to eat a yummy cake they had made as a thank you. Other classes have been helping with the gardening at The Lady Ryder garden at St. Katharine’s, Parmoor, others have been sailing and going to the local gym at Booker.



We had parents evening just before half term and it was great to welcome both old and new parents and carers into the school. We have another event that we would like to make everyone aware of, our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 26th November from 2pm – 6pm. This will be held at our

Downley site and we would love to welcome the Downley community to come and attend. We are looking to hold more local community events, so if you have any ideas, please contact the school to let us know.

Finally, as we head toward the Christmas season, I would like to share one of my favourite Christmas quotes from Dr Seuss.

*Maybe Christmas doesn’t come from the store.*

*Maybe Christmas perhaps, means a little bit more.*

*Rachel Chapman, Headteacher*

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natalie jane

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# Downley Parish Council



The volunteers continue to do a great job on the Sandpits Pond at Gosling Grove. They generally meet once a month and have done a lot of work on building up the banks and clearing the pond where it has become choked and overgrown. We have a strong team already but are always happy to welcome new volunteers, so if helping out appeals to you then please contact me at: [clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org)

There has been talk recently of an increased level of anti-social behaviour in the village and this was discussed at the October Parish Council meeting. Following on from this we have a representative from Buckinghamshire Council's Community Safety Team attending our November meeting to talk about the role of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and how concerns can be reported to them. There are more details at: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/>

Finally, there has been some filming taking place in Downley recently with a film crew working at the Le De Spencer Arms. They have been working on a drama based on the story of the Sussex Martyrs. The Parish Council have made the car park at Mannings Field available to the production team and negotiated a fee for this. We have passed all of the monies on and we are pleased to have made donations to the Sports Association, Downley Guides and Scouts and to One Can Trust.

*Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk*

---

## DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

### How Downley bred strong women

In my ongoing efforts to interpret the late-nineteenth-century census returns for West Wycombe Enumeration District 10 (i.e. Downley, Plomer Hill, Plomer Green, and Littleworth), the one thing that has struck me – apart from the focus on chairs, chairs and more chairs – is just how strong Downley women must have been.

I wasn't expecting to find female bosses, for example, but they existed. Invariably widowed, they just took over their late husbands' businesses and ran with them. In the almost illegible 1871 census, Mary Collins, aged 47, has taken over her late husband's chair business: she is listed as head of the household with two lodgers (she and her late husband never had children), and a 'chairmaker's wife [widow] employing 20 men'. In the 1881 census, she is a 'chair polisher employing 27 hands' and living in Plomer Green. (Incidentally, Mary had an endearing habit of being rather vague about her age – she was probably 17 when she married but claimed to be 20, and then always subtracted a year or three off her age in later censuses.) Then there's Mary Ann Spriggs who ran Plomer Green Farm (84 acres) for thirteen years from 1887 until she died in 1900, employing two sons and two boys, and heading a household of eight.

The case of Susannah Bristow is a different essay in the strength of Downley women: making ends meet as a single mother. Her life cannot have been easy: she was twice married (to chairmakers) and twice widowed before she was 38. She raised two children, took in lodgers, and opened a grocery store on the Common, which she ran for 30 years. Another widow, Elizabeth Hopkins, ran one

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of the Downley pubs, while raising her two children and an orphaned nephew. Mary Austin, widowed in her 30s with two children, sewed shirts. Others became laundresses or made lace. Retirement was clearly not an option – Eliza King and Sarah West, both widows and heads of their respective households, were still taking in laundry when they were 69. Elisa Jones, a widow living alone on Downley Common, was making lace when she was 72.

Unsurprisingly, Downley women were far more likely to be self-employed than Downley men: working from home enabled the multi-tasking needed with keeping house or raising a family. On the latter subject, Eliza Avery of Littleworth wins the prize for the largest family: she raised eleven children in a house with four rooms and, presumably, an outside privy, no water on tap, and certainly no electricity or central heating. Her husband Harry was a farm labourer, which was not well paid. The challenges involved may explain why Eliza kept her eldest daughter at home, which introduces another category of equally strong – and equally invisible – Downley women (though girls in this case), the ones that we would now call ‘young carers’. In 1891, eleven local girls aged 11 to 17 were unusually in neither school nor employment. I suspect they looked after younger siblings, as Ann Avery (aged 16), Ada Collins (aged 13) and Lizzie Sherwin (aged 12) probably did, or even ran the house entirely as Annie Collins (aged 17) must have done for her widowed father and five younger siblings.

The absence from school of these girls is so noticeable because one really striking aspect of the 1891 census return is how many girls (29) as opposed to boys (10) were still in school after the leaving age, then 10. Downley girls, it would seem, were more educated than Downley boys. Mrs Ada McClean, aged 28 and lodging with the Martin family (who ran a pub on Downley Common, though which I do not know), was a school teacher, and Alice Hawes of Chapel Street, aged 15, was a pupil teacher. Alice B Mountjoy, aged 19 and living with her wealthy widowed aunt in Downley, was a ‘student at college’ and later became a teacher in London, like her mother. Four Downley girls (Clara Plumridge of Philips Cottage, Maria Gladys Martin of the Post Office, Clara Britnell of the Common, and Lily Ing of Plomer Hill) attended the newly established Wycombe High School (founded in 1901, and then the High School in Frogmore, costing two guineas a term, payable in advance). The High School then doubled as the Wycombe Pupil Teacher Centre, a training centre for elementary school teachers, and three of these four Downley girls became teachers.

Why all this emphasis on girls’ education compared to the boys? It would be nice to think that strong mothers demanded better for their daughters.

The answer, sadly, is probably more prosaic: apprenticeships in the chair industry were open to boys not girls. Still, the result was a positive one – educated girls become strong women.

And if anyone should doubt the strength of Downley women, think of this: the 1872 lockout of his caners by Henry Collins that went on to convulse High Wycombe’s chair factories in an industrial crisis must have involved Downley women demanding better pay and conditions. Thirty of the thirty-one caners in Downley in the 1871 census were women.



*The staff of Downley School, c. 1920, including Gladys Martin (front row). (SWOP photo RHW:94510, with thanks to Mr Hugh Boreham)*



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# Downley Evening WI

Hello again from your local WI. Well, summer is well and truly in the past as we rush headlong into winter.



We were, of course, all deeply saddened at the passing of Her Majesty who was a long-standing enthusiastic member of the WI.

We've had several more fascinating talks at our meetings; the one about early anaesthetics leading from alcohol, through ether to chloroform was particularly riveting. Also 'Ladies of the Grand Tour' was quite an eye opener with the shenanigans that went on!

Our October meeting was the AGM when the new committee was appointed for the year, comprising some existing members and some new additions. Janet Durkin, our President for the last four years, is now taking a well-earned break from WI commitments and we'd all like to thank her for her hard work and dedication during this time.

We are now looking forward to Christmas preparations as our Christmas craft stall will be on display in November and December raising money for Growing Hope, the charity we are supporting this year, and our December meeting has more of a party feel to it with songs and entertainment.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm at St James Church and as always new members will be made very welcome.

*Heather Read*

## One Can Trust

The One Can Trust food bank is a charity supporting over 800 people per week across South Bucks, twice as many as this time last year. As the cost of living crisis takes hold, particularly in the run up to Christmas, we fear that number rising further. We need more volunteers to help pack parcels and particularly to deliver food parcels – essential roles in the delivery of our much-needed service. Please get in touch if you can help. Fuel costs for volunteer drivers will be reimbursed.

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# News from St James



As we come towards the end of 2022 I am again reflecting on what an unusual and difficult year it has been for so many. This time last year we were full of hope that things would look up as the impact of Covid lessened with the increase in vaccinations, but then we had the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the cost of living crisis at a time when many people are still trying to recover emotionally from the toll of Covid or grieving for loved ones.



On 27 November at 3pm we will be holding our annual service of remembering with thanksgiving those whom we have lost in recent years. Everyone is welcome to come along; there will be an opportunity to light a candle and to remember them.



For many this Christmas will be one where people are less able to give such expensive presents as they might have done in the past, and perhaps cannot entertain in the same way. But perhaps this is a good time to remind ourselves of that first Christmas, where the baby who would grow up to be the Saviour of the World, was born into a stable to be cared for and brought up by a carpenter and his wife. Yes, the Wise men brought some expensive presents, but the other people that came to see Jesus didn't. I am reminded of the verse from the carol *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Christina Rossetti which says:

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.*

For each of us thinking about celebrating Christmas this year, the key thing we want to do is to celebrate with our hearts, showing love and kindness to those around us.

I am particularly mindful of the many Ukrainian refugees who will be with us for Christmas this year, far away from their homeland and their loved ones who are still there, especially all the men who are unable to leave. It has been great to see the warmth and welcome that they have been given in so many homes in this area.

## **We would love to invite you to our Christmas services:**

Carol Service Sunday 18 December 11am • Christmas Eve Nativity Service 4pm

Christmas Eve Communion 11pm • Christmas Day Communion 11am

**As churches together in Downley we will be joining together again for Carol singing followed by Mulled Wine and Mince pies on Tuesday 20 December, details overleaf.**

# Support your local voluntary Library



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School Close, Downley HP13 5TR

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**OPEN**

Monday 10 - 12noon

Thursday 3 - 5pm

Saturday 10 - 12 noon

We are looking for new volunteers to help in the Library on an adhoc basis. No experience is required, training will be given in all aspects of Library procedure.

## WHY NOT VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

SEARCH *Downley Community Library*



**Don't wait for Father Christmas.**  
You decide what you would like to read this Christmas.

The Last Library session before Christmas will be Thursday the 22nd December. We will reopen on Thursday 5th January '23.

**NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

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# Banquet Night

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## Carol Singing - Tuesday 20th December

- 6.00 Jubilee Green
- 6.15 Play area between Turners Field and School Close
- 6.30 The Beacon
- 7.00 Mulled Wine and Mince Pies in the Memorial Hall.



*Heather Graham, Vicar of St James' Downley*

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## Downley Wine and Beer Club

The club's monthly meetings resumed in September after our summer recess that included the annual members' barbeque and a summer social at the Le De Spencer's Arms. As usual Mark and Sarah and their staff did an excellent job of providing us with pub grub and a selection of beers and wines. Members also participated in the Downley Gardening Society's annual show with plenty of entries in the homemade wine and beer classes.

At the end of September a group of 22 members travelled to Cologne via Eurostar for a long weekend exploring the city and sampling some of the locally brewed Kölsch beer in the many brauereien in the old city. However, it wasn't all eating and drinking, with visits to the magnificent cathedral (Dom), the museums and churches, and a river cruise on the Rhine.



*The Cologne group in one of the historic churches rebuilt after WWII*

Our meetings in the Autumn continued the European theme with a tasting of lesser-known Eastern European wines from Bulgaria and Romania followed by Oktoberfest tasting German beer, wine and spirits accompanied by German cheese and sausages.

The year will conclude with our AGM in November with a seasonal drinks tasting and the Christmas Party which is being held at High Wycombe Cricket Club where we will be entertained by a Bluegrass Band.

Plans for our 2023 programme of meetings are well advanced and new members are always welcome. You don't have to be a wine buff or real ale drinker to join the club where our aim is to enjoy wine, beer and other beverage in an informal and social setting. So if you would like more information, please email [downleywinebeer@gmail.com](mailto:downleywinebeer@gmail.com) or follow us on Facebook <https://tinyurl.com/DownleyWBClub>

*Richard Armitage, DWBC Secretary*

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# Le De Spencers Arms

Make the Le De your local refreshment stop. Inside you will find a warm, friendly atmosphere with an open fire, low ceilings and rustic beams. Outside is a large attractive garden with a patio, prettily planted arbour and a safe children's play area. *Booking advisable at this time!*



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# Coffee Stop News



Coffee Stop celebrated its 20th birthday at our meeting at the beginning of October. We had lots of visitors and were pleased to welcome several of our retired volunteers as well as one of our younger guests aged 2.

We are now meeting regularly on the 1st and 3rd Monday mornings each month at St James Church Hall from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm serving tea/coffee and home-made cakes. We often have greetings cards, craft items, etc for sale with any profits made being donated to charity. We will be meeting on 7 and 21 November, 5 and 19 December and 16 January. There will be no meeting on 2 January as it is a Bank Holiday. At our meeting on 19 December we hope to have our usual raffle (any donations welcome) with lots of festive bakes for sale.

We have a contact list for our regular visitors should Coffee Stop be unable to open, for example when the pavements/car park are slippery or the heating is not working (let us hope we aren't faced with power cuts this winter). If you would like to be added to our list or are unsure on the day, please telephone Chrissie Styles on 01494 445766 or email [christinelstyles@hotmail.com](mailto:christinelstyles@hotmail.com).

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## Downley Gardening Society

Our autumn show on 3rd September was a happy, joyous occasion and we were so pleased with the number of entries which brightened the hall after such a dry summer. The judges were impressed with the standard of vegetables, flowers, floral arrangements and domestic produce. It was lovely to see so many people who came to view the displays and stay for the award ceremony.

46 eager gardeners were treated to a sunny day at RHS Wisley on 25th September. The gardens were looking wonderful, as always. It is only a one hour trip, so well worth a visit. The first talk of our season in the hall was by Nick Marriner from the Chiltern Conservation Board, who spoke on the Farmland Bird Project. 2 of our members are taking part in this project. Nick and his team support local farmers to implement strategies on their farms which improve biodiversity for farmland birds.

### **Dates for your diary:**

21/11 – talk in St James' Hall by Amy Moffett on Horatio's garden

12/12 – talk in St James' Hall by Steve Batchelor on honey tasting

If you would like to become a member of the Gardening Society and join our meetings, please contact Alison on [downleygardeningociety@gmail.com](mailto:downleygardeningociety@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 Cricket Club

After winning our Division last season and gaining promotion, we at Downley Cricket Club knew this season would be a tougher challenge all round. Against the odds, however, with contributions from virtually everyone, we won six matches, with two more going to the wire. The extra hot summer created havoc with pitch and ground preparation, meaning that using the roller and the outfield mower became rarely needed activities because the ground was so hard and the grass not growing. The square has now been “put to bed” for the winter but looks remarkably good considering the summer conditions. Other equipment has also been stored away.



Special thanks must go to both Mandy Aitken, our scorer, and John Hughes, our umpire, for giving up most of this unusually sunny Summer to serve Downley. Between them they make a significant contribution to our overall points total!

Inspired by positive, attacking, and winning cricket being played by the transformed England test team, several of the younger players like Joe Holmes (18 wickets and 265 runs) played brilliantly. Fast bowler Rehaan Vats claimed 20 wickets. Rajat ‘Virat Kohli’ Khator played the outstanding innings of the season, putting on a quite-breathtaking 181 runs with the more-experienced Billy ‘two helmets’ Powell in a match that had over 520 runs scored between Ballinger and Downley and the teams separated by 1 run. Sadly, Ballinger were the victors on this occasion.

Inspirational batting and fielding from Charlie King also won us games, while stalwart Pete ‘Ledge’ Stone topped the run charts, closely followed by our all-action captain Ben Hughes. Rob ‘Spreckers’ Spreckley scored fast as always, while club newcomer and genuine all-rounder Graham ‘Boycs’ Swales always seemed to be in the thick of the action, together with Graeme ‘Aikers’ Aitken, Downley’s wicket-taking machine.

A winning streak of 4 out of the last 5 games played, once the team had got used to this new level of opponents, points to an exciting season next year. If you would like to join the Club to play, umpire, score or help in any way please contact us on [webmaster@downleycc.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@downleycc.co.uk) You will find a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere, with plenty of fun and laughter. Many of our opponents enjoy the post-match drink and food and light-hearted analysis with us at the hospitable Mark and Sarah’s Le de Spencer Arms afterwards.

Over the August bank holiday, President’s Day was well-attended with good cricket mixed with a fun-filled family atmosphere, with more than half-a-dozen very young players enjoying themselves hugely as members of the various teams participating. Former Downley player Josh Pocock fielded a strong Lacey Green team, while whole-heartedly entering into the spirit of the occasion.

Pre-season nets are planned and you are most welcome to join us – please see website for details in due course.

## **DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of the month

**at Downley Community Centre, School Close 7.30pm**

*Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions*

Downley Parish Council, Community Centre School Close, Downley, HP13 5TR

**The Clerk can be contacted on 01494 25 77 11** (*office hrs 9am-1pm Monday – Friday*)

**E: [clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org) • [www.downleyparishcouncil.org](http://www.downleyparishcouncil.org)**

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# J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

## Winter 2022

Wal, hello to you orl as we gets ready for winter- Wot! Winter, wal that just can't be, especially arfter that summer we had eh? So wot did you get in yor gardin and up the plot? Not much I bet, unless you wos spendin hours every day waterin and waterin, just in time for the hosepipe ban eh! So one hint now is to get yor water savin ideas into action, up the plot I rekons a sheet of corrugated iron wedged up somehow above an old dustbin, to catch any rain that might be a'falling. A prize for the most creative erection, "Wal, wots the prize?" ses Mrs H, Wal I knows, I'll give one hour of my valuable time to show you how to turn Downley clay and flint into a Monty Don style seed bed, you duz the work, I stands by tellin you how to do it...Ha Ha. My uncle Syd up Stoken was a dab hand at it, his onions was orlways the biggest in the Stoken show.



Now winter is a'cummin, is it too late to get things a'goin? Wal youll orlreddy ave got yor perennial wild flower seeds a'goin on the winder sill, and some nice lettuces that'll go through the cold days in grow bags in the greenhouse or cold frame, them 'orl the year round' uns duz well I rekkuns. Then green manure sowed across the plot, like clover or even broad beans, you chops up the plants and digs em in.

Sum veg I finds difficult up the plot but not in my gardin is them carrots and parsnips, because stoness up there makes em fork orl over the place, you wants to work up a fine tilth like I ses earlier in this piece, - ov corse in the gardin you can spend sum time getting that done as a reason to keep out of the kitchen eh! "I dont want him getting in the way anyhow, the longer he's out there the better" ses Mrs H.

You've got to get yor spring bulbs in now or it'll be too late, I've just put in four dozen snowdrop bulbs, wot a treat to see em poppin up through the snow, or like little stars a'shinin on the grass, " Ere he gose agin" ses Mrs H, " he can get very irritatin!"

And wot about my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke? Wal, he's bothered about his

apple crop, not good this year he tells me, (Mine wos excellent), so his home made Calvados wont be quite so lethal as it sumtimes is!

So that's it for now, 'ave a good Christmas and keep warm eh!

Cheerio and a'bientot'

*J. H. Sent from my iSpade*

## Wycombe Concert Band

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# Cycling in South Buckinghamshire



## Join your local Cycling UK groups this summer

The local Chiltern Hills Cycling UK group offers both led rides and coffee pot meets every Sunday. With winter now here it's time enjoy the cooler days and warm coffee stops by bike, make new friends and enjoy riding in the great countryside that surrounds our local area. There is sure to be something for everyone of all ages who want to get out, with both pedal bikes and e-bikers welcome. If you do not wish to do a full ride then you are welcome to come part way. Cafes such as the Hughenden Valley Coffee Shop, Hildreths at Prestwood, The Potters Arms at Winchmore Hill and Costa in Great Missenden regularly feature in our rides list so you are never far from home.

To find out more visit our web site below for the latest news, contact details and rides.

**[www.southbuckscycling.org.uk](http://www.southbuckscycling.org.uk)**

More general information about Cycling UK and becoming a member can be found at our national site.

**[www.cyclinguk.org](http://www.cyclinguk.org)**

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## Simply Walk 'Signs of the times'

### A good year for fungi!

The Downley Simply Walkers have been experiencing a very pleasant patch of sunny, autumn weather and appreciating the glorious colours in the beechwoods. Not just the leaves which are beginning to turn, but also it seems to be a good year for fungi. There is an abundance of mushrooms and toadstools of all sorts of shapes and sizes, under foot, on the decaying branches, halfway up trees and hiding in all kinds of nooks and crannies. I find this surprising given the very dry summer we have had, but it just proves that the natural world is very tolerant and more adaptable than we human beings. I wish I could identify them all by name, but at least I know what to put on my Christmas list this year!

Earlier in the year we re-introduced the 2 hour walk that took place occasionally on Mondays. Unfortunately, it was not as popular as we thought it might be, and as we are rather short of volunteers to lead that longer walk we have decided to discontinue it. So if you would like to join us, we walk every Monday at 10.00 am for 90 minutes and every Thursday at 11.00 am for one hour. If you are not already registered, please go online and register, or turn up at the Community Centre and fill in a registration form with the leader of the day.



*Jeanne Steward*

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# Hillclimb Garage

## Multiple Award Winners, Christmas Markets & Winter Health Checks



Goodness, those long, hot summer days seem so far away as we find ourselves once again sitting by warm fires, drinking hot chocolate, and getting our hats and scarves down from the loft as the winter sets in.



As always, we have had so many exciting things happening here at Hillclimb in the last few months. You may remember we reached the finals of prestigious British Independent Garage of the year Awards 2022. We are beyond proud to announce that we brought home TWO awards to Downley, scooping

both the Customer Service and Independent Garage of the Year Awards! We couldn't have done this without our incredibly hard working and talented team, and the support of our amazing customers. Thank you so much to you all!

We are now officially on the countdown to putting up the Hillclimb Community Christmas Tree and that can only mean Littleworth Road Christmas Market is just around the corner. This year's market will again be held on the garage forecourt and consist of a fabulous variety of stalls where you will find lots of Christmas Gifts, Crafts and Goodies, plus Face Painting and a visit from Santa for the little ones, and Hot Chocolate, Mulled Wine and Festive Treats to keep you going. It promises to be the perfect start to the Christmas period, and it all takes place between 10:00am and 3:00pm on Sunday 27th November. See you there!



Are you and your vehicle ready for those cold and frosty winter mornings ahead of us? Why not book your vehicle in for a FREE Winter Check? We will inspect all the vitals for you, including your battery, tyres and anti-freeze, to ensure your pride and joy will get you safely through the winter months.

As we continue to grow, so our team is expanding too. We are delighted to welcome Emma to our service team, supporting Matt and Sophie on the front desk. We are also looking to strengthen our workshop team with an additional technician. Please do get in touch if you or anyone you know would be interested in joining our award-winning, friendly team.

Finally, thank you to everyone who continues to support us. As your local, independent garage we, in turn, are here to support you and maintain your vehicle to the highest standards. Whether it be petrol, diesel, hybrid or full electric, and whether you need a MOT, Service, Tyre, Repair or just a complimentary check over to ensure your tyres are safe and your oil is topped up, we remain 'At Your Service'

*The Hillclimb Team*

# MONDAY

## Minis

Wondays during term-time 9.30-11.15am

£2 per family (cash only)

Downley Community Centre,  
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- A chance for local parents and carers to meet and for babies and toddlers to make new friends!
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- Seasonal arts and crafts
- Reading corner
- Hot and cold refreshments and snacks for everyone
- Baby changing facilities
- Free car parking
- Drop-ins welcome

Follow our page on Facebook - search for "Monday Minis"

Contact Kintirelay & Carolus:  
downleymondayminis@gmail.com



### 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)

**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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## **I can hear you knocking, but you can't come in!**

Beware of Nottingham Knockers! If you come across them, let the police know as soon as possible.

Nottingham Knockers are a pretty unsavoury bunch. Whilst presenting outward appearances of respectability, they are unscrupulous and tend to target the elderly and the vulnerable.

They get their tag name because traditionally they travel to their target areas from the East Midlands by mini-bus or van, accompanied by a team leader. Usually, they go from door-to-door selling cleaning materials and small household goods.

Some of them are honest and earn a living doing this, but the real aim of most of them is to assess houses and householders in order to pass information back to their leader, targeting particular properties for burglaries at a later date. It is understood that whoever spots a property for a subsequent successful burglary earns a commission. There is often a recognisable track record of burglaries following their calls – usually within a few weeks of their visit.

So, what happens when you hear that knock on your door? First, the 'salesman' will usually be offering cleaning materials, but these will be expensive. The salesman may try to gain your sympathy by saying the goods were made by a charity. He may also tell you that he is only doing the job while he seeks something better, or that he has just come out of prison and is making a genuine effort to go straight via a probation scheme.

Legitimate door-to-door salesmen must have a Pedlar's Certificate signed by a senior police officer. Our man just wouldn't get one! He may produce some piece of dog-eared paper, but this will not be a Pedlar's Certificate or anything to do with his supposed probation course. Tell him that you would like to make a note of it prior to checking with the police. He will probably leave very quickly! They often use quite abusive language when you don't buy from them. Don't be worried by this.

Always report these visitors to the police by phoning 101 or by using the Thames Valley Police website. They will appreciate the significance of your call, especially as these guys may be wanted for crimes elsewhere.

Learn more in preventing this and other crimes by joining Neighbourhood Watch!

**[office@wdnhwatch.plus.com](mailto:office@wdnhwatch.plus.com)**



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# Christmas Greetings from Downley Descants



We started our new term in September, following an enjoyable picnic on the Common which is held every year just before we restart rehearsals as a social get-together. We used to play rounders quoits and giant snakes and ladders as well but I'm afraid we now concentrate on the food and wine (and the chat of course!). Anyway, our rehearsals started in earnest and we were straight into learning mode for our first event on 15th October.

This was a hugely successful concert in Flackwell Heath in aid of OASIS, a bereavement counselling charity, based at Christ Church. We were so pleased to receive all the positive comments from both the audience and our musical team. Comments include:-

*'A phenomenal performance, so very proud of you all – Louise our MD*

*'Downley Descants, a community choir with the heart of a lion' – Becky our accompanist*

*'What an improvement, you were all so focused and committed' – an audience member*

*'The best choir we've had at one of our events' - OASIS organiser*

We hopefully have helped raise a considerable amount of money for this charity and look forward to performing for them again. If you are involved in a charity and are thinking of holding a fund-raising concert please think of us; we enjoy performing and are very reasonable cost wise.

No time to rest on our laurels though so it's onward and upwards and now time to concentrate on Christmas once again; doesn't time fly? We are preparing for our annual Christmas Concert which will be at St James' Church, Plomer Hill, on Thursday 15th December and will be a charity event. Further details nearer the time. Please ask any choir member or contact our chairman (see below). If you remember, last year's concert was cancelled at the last minute because of Covid fears. We sincerely hope we can perform this one, our first Christmas Concert since 2019. This year we will follow the usual format with audience carols, a little bit of humour, special guests, readings and, of course, the choir. After the Christmas festivities we look forward to another performance at the Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs in March so we are quite a busy little group of people.

If you are interested in trying us out, please contact our chairman, Lyn, on 07974 026213 or by email [grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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 so come along and give us a try.

*Bob Cook (Bass)*

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# Chameleon Singles Group



In late summer we did a visit to see the sunflowers in Aylesbury and a bus trip to Watford, something a little different from the usual. The Hazlemere Fete at the end of August gave us the opportunity not only for a day out but to meet some new members too.

Our walks and coffee mornings are popular events and sometimes we combine the two with a morning walk and then stop for coffee/late breakfast. With the cooler and darker evenings now with us, over the next few months we'll be doing more indoors. This will include at home evenings such as our sharing suppers and take-away food nights.

While this year we did not do a trip to the coast, an early autumn visit to Fensham Ponds near Farnham in Surrey made for a great day out. Located between Farnham and Hindhead there are two lakes both with sandy beaches and a landscape which more usually would be found in coastal areas. We visited the Little Pond and enjoyed a walk of just under 2 miles followed by well earned tea and cake back at the café.

Our members are now looking forward our Christmas events. Over the winter months we will still include day trips out, coffee mornings, walks, meals out, theatre and cinema events. One such theatre trip recently was to see the Hazlemere Players perform "The Murder Room". Our Lunch Club on the second Friday and Pub Night on the last Thursday of each month are run on a regular basis. We also have a monthly Zoom social evening for those who are unable or do not wish to go out.

If you are single, 40-60's, looking for a great social life and new friends then why not give Chameleon Singles Group a try? There are no strangers at Chameleon, just new friends to be made. The group has several local people from Downley, West Wycombe, Sands, Cressex, Booker and the surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too. To find out more call Chameleon's membership secretaries Terrie on 01494 445816, Trevor on 01494 529067 or e-mail: [info@chameleonsingles.org.uk](mailto:info@chameleonsingles.org.uk). Visit the group on-line at [www.chameleonsingles.org](http://www.chameleonsingles.org). uk for more information and the current programme or connect with us through Facebook.

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## Sunnybank News

It's been a busy few months at the chapel.

We're delighted to be able to report that after much hard work in several areas, the new Montessori Nursery started up in September in the lower floor of the church building. We're very grateful to Virginia Roden and her team and to our project manager Martyn Baker and others who have brought this new venture into existence and given it a comfortable home. We look forward to working together and wish the new enterprise every success.

Our 'Free Cream Tea' initiative at the end of August was enjoyed by everyone who came. It was a 'no strings attached' event – the offer of a free cream tea simply to let people know where we are and to reach out and say 'thank you' for being our neighbours. With an attendance of around forty people, we judged it a real success and are planning to do something similar again.

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After quite a long gap, we were delighted to be the venue for the wedding of Tina and Richard in September, led by our own minister Vida supported by Rev. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson. It was a wonderful occasion as we welcomed Tina and Richard, their family and friends. It was so lovely to see such a happy gathering filling the whole of the church and we wish the new couple every happiness in their new life together.

Our Christmas Fair on 12 November may have already happened by the time you see this, but this year we are expanding our variety of offerings by welcoming craft people to come and take a table in exchange for a donation, rather than making a fixed charge for a space. We think there is so much craft talent in the village that it deserves to be seen more widely, so we're trying to provide more opportunities for that.

A note for your diaries - this year's joint Downley churches' Carols on the Common will be held on Tuesday 20 December starting at Jubilee Green (opposite the Co-op) at 6pm, before singing our way to the beacon on Commonsides for 6.30pm followed by seasonal refreshments in the Memorial Hall.

As usual there is no charge and everyone is welcome.

Although it seems very early to be writing about Christmas, may we all at Sunnybank take this opportunity to wish each one of you a very peaceful and blessed Christmas.

We pray for anyone for whom this time of year may not be easy but that they may discover and welcome the Christ child into their heart and their home, now and always. Amen.

*With love and every blessing, Rev. Vida Foday*

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## The Chiltern Society

**Wildlife journalist Val Bourne says her favourite season is winter.**

*"It allows you to wind down without feeling guilty. The low light shines through the garden and, with the leaves gone, the garden seems larger," she writes. "I can see further, across the fields, into the distance."*

Here in the Chilterns there are many of us who also have a fondness for winter. The crispness of the air, the squelching of the mud means that even familiar places like Downley Common take on a different aura compared to any other time of the year. And there is still plenty to spot on a winter walk in this area.

Winter is a tough time for birds and many different species flock together to improve their chances of finding food. By huddling together they conserve body heat during cold nights.

The RSPB says: "By sticking together birds improve their chance of survival. You may be lucky and find yourself surrounded by blue, great and coal tits, goldcrests and chaffinches, twittering and feeding hungrily in one small area. Treecreepers, long-tailed tits and wrens also regularly do this."

Of course, you can help by providing regular, high-energy food for our feathered friends in your garden.

Says the RSPB: "Birds will become dependent on the food you supply so it is important to make sure your feeders are kept topped up to prevent them from a wasted visit."



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## DOWNLEY BRIDGE CLUB

meet every Thursday  
at the Downley Community Centre  
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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.

email: [syme.pat@gmail.com](mailto:syme.pat@gmail.com)  
phone: 01494 530558  
[www.bridgewebs.com/downley](http://www.bridgewebs.com/downley)

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Providing a fresh, ice-free supply of water is another cold weather essential - drinking and bathing is a vital part of the daily routine of birds.”

Volunteers from the Chiltern Society will be wrapping up warm this winter and carrying out vital work maintaining paths, tending glades and protecting and preserving the woodlands and nature reserves that thousands of birds, bugs and beasts call home.

With official resources stretched for nature projects, the role of the charity and its volunteers is more critical than ever. Last year the charity’s volunteers gave over 75,000 hours of time to help protect the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

As development spirals, nature disappears and the impacts of climate change affect us all, the Chiltern Society relies on its members and volunteers to ensure it can tackle these challenges now - and for winters to come. Look at the society’s website if you would like to learn more.

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## Top Notes

“It’s beginning to look a lot like...”  
...Christmas!

*Top Notes*  
**Christmas Concert**  
Monday 5th December  
7:15pm (doors at 7:00pm)  
All Saints Parish Church  
8 Castle Street  
High Wycombe  
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We are so excited for our *Charity Christmas Concert* this year! We are also looking forward to entertaining the residents at *The Heights* this festive season as well as any other opportunities that may arise between now and New Year!

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. You can also see us in action via our *YouTube Channel* or get in touch via topnotestunes@gmail.com for any general enquires.



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# Downley War Memorial Hall



Next year will be the Centenary of the building of the War Memorial Hall and we are planning to mark this occasion with a celebratory tea alongside a presentation recording the history of the Hall. Further details will be announced nearer the time but if any of you have particular memories, I would love to hear about them. Perhaps you were taken to baby clinics or some other activity there. Maybe your parents held their wedding reception or an anniversary party in the Hall. Any recollection would be very welcome and help me put together an appropriate display. My contact details are below.

With the retirement of Hazel Parnham, which I mentioned last time, the Committee is down to seven, which is barely enough at the best of times. However, with next year's Centenary, and the fact that most of us are well over 70, we really do need some additional help, new blood, fresh faces, call it what you will. Please contact me if you think you can help.

At the beginning of 1944 General Eisenhower assumed command of the U.S. Forces, European Theatre of Operations. and started developing the plan for the invasion of France known as Operation Overlord.

By mid-May everything was set for 5 June, the final stages of preparation commenced and there was an increase in Allied bombing of targets in France. By the end of the month there were daily bombing raids of the Cherbourg peninsula and the Normandy area but the weather forecast had postponed the invasion for a day.

Since the beginning of the year the German Air Force had targeted southern England in an attempt to disrupt preparations for the impending invasion. It was their last strategic air offensive but achieved very little, losing some 329 aircraft during the five months of operations before it was abandoned. It had the additional disadvantage of wearing down the offensive power of the Luftwaffe to the extent that it could not mount any significant counterattacks when the invasion began on 6 June 1944.

Having been in the last group to be evacuated from Dunkirk four years earlier the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry were the first Allied unit to land in Normandy.

In southern Europe, the Allies began Operation Shingle, the landing at Anzio, Italy, hoping to break the stalemate in the south of the country, but they were unable to break out of the beachhead and the German line held until late May. Several ships were sunk and thousands of men lost, most notably Darby's Rangers (US Commandos) who were brought in to begin the breakout from the beachhead. One of the four battalions in the action returned with only 6 of 767 men, the rest killed, wounded but mostly captured. The venture was made into a Hollywood film in 1958.

Soon after pushing the German defences back the Allied forces linked up with those from the south and by 4 June had entered Rome. Over the coming months the German line is repeatedly forced back.

Further east, the year began with the end of the Siege of Leningrad, after 872 days, as Soviet forces finally forced the Germans to withdraw. Some 2 million died, mostly of starvation and disease.

The Red Army was advancing on several fronts and gradually reclaiming the Baltic states in the north and Ukraine in the south and "liberating" Romania and Belarus.

In the Pacific, The US Navy led the attack on the Marshall Islands which soon fell to the Allies. There followed a similar pattern through other island groups including New Guinea and the Philippines. The Allies were also advancing in Burma and had overcome an attempted invasion of India.

## Flying Officer Kenneth Mullett

FO Mullett was flying as the Navigator in a Short Sunderland flying boat of 95 Squadron based in Mauritania north west Africa. The Squadron's role was to escort convoys and seek and destroy U-boats. Soon after take-off on 5th January 1944 one of the engines caught fire and the aircraft filled with black smoke. The Pilot was blinded and the aircraft crashed into the sea. It was carrying depth charges (anti-submarine weapons) which exploded killing all but one member of the crew. FO Mullett was 23, his parents lived at Westwynd (No.127) Littleworth Road. In a letter from his CO Kenneth was described as a popular and

valuable member of the squadron. My thanks to his nephew Martin for help in compiling this information.

Mrs Harvey of "Common View" had received news of her husband, Corporal Frederick Harvey. A letter from his platoon officer explained that he had been wounded but is recovering well in hospital. The letter went on to praise Corporal Harvey for his devotion to duty.

Two sons of Mr and Mrs Tom Langley of 6 Littleworth Road had met in Italy. Donald was a Corporal in the REME and Dennis a Gunner in the Royal Artillery.

Percy Grant of 35 Jubilee Road has been promoted to Flight Sergeant. He was serving as an Air Gunner in Ceylon.

Ernest James, son of Mrs West of 12 Jubilee Road, had also been promoted to Flight Sergeant. He was based in the UK at the time. A keen sportsman, he had played both football and cricket for Downley.

Mr Frank Styles of Hillsborough Stores, Littleworth and Sarah Barlow of Downley Common had both died suddenly aged 66.

The death was also announced of Miss Eliza Harman. Probably not a familiar name, but during her 97 years Miss Harman gave generously to many worthy causes in the High Wycombe area including the Parish Church and War Memorial Hospital. In particular, she gave money to allow the purchase of "The Shrubbery" and the building of a maternity home on the site. There may be some readers who were born there!

A game of American Football was staged at Loakes Park, described in the Bucks Free Press as "a mixture of pushball, rugby tackling and committee meetings with a very meagre serving of football".

*Alan Baker, [alnbaker49@btinternet.com](mailto:alnbaker49@btinternet.com), 07890 762527*



*The photo shows FO Mullet on the left of the front row.*

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# Downley Pharmacy

## Environmental awareness at the pharmacy

At the pharmacy we are encouraged to promote good health and well-being as well as give advice and care during times of sickness. We therefore take thought and care around our role in caring for our environment. Waste is a huge concern with vast amounts of unused medication returned weekly. Returned medication cannot be re-issued for many reasons and is simply sent for safe destruction by incineration. Please be aware of what medication is being ordered by yourself and any relative on regular items; have a look in those cupboards and make the pharmacy or GP surgery aware if there is a surplus of any items not in use or that have accumulated for any reason. Only order what is needed; we are happy for you to check before leaving pharmacy and remove anything not required before your next regular supply.

At present there is a large review on the environmental impact of inhalers. The propellants in commonly used inhalers are powerful greenhouse gases. Even after the inhaler has been used, significant amounts of these environmentally damaging gases remain in the canister. Due to variation between inhaler types and brands you may notice a change in your usual inhaler to a different brand or style. Please ask for help if you are experiencing difficulty in using the new version and we will be happy to assist. NICE have produced a helpful patient guide that explains more; we can point you to this if required but in summary a change of brand can reduce carbon footprint by the equivalent of a 70 mile car journey for each inhaler swap of the blue reliever inhalers.

Landfill disposal of inhalers is harmful to the environment, due to the residual gas from canisters being released into the atmosphere. Inhalers returned to pharmacies for safe disposal can be disposed of with other medicines waste. This is then thermally treated to destroy the greenhouse gases. Some plants can also rescue the metals from this process although I do not know if this is done for us. We sort the returns so the plastic canisters and any cardboard outers go for recycling but are very grateful if this has already been done before return.

We will be speaking to patients and their representatives over the next months about this. Look out for posters in the pharmacy showing the differences between inhaler types!

We are also extremely aware of the waste in pharmaceutical packaging. We are monitoring schemes for recycling empty blister packs but at present are unable to offer this service from our pharmacy. We do endeavour to recycle as much of our paper, cardboard and other items as possible. Please help us by doing likewise, especially before returning unused medicines for destruction. Quick reminder - we are not able to accept the used sharps bins at pharmacy. Please contact the Environmental Health Department at the Council by phone or via the website for how to arrange collection. Help us to help the planet in a relatively small but still significant way.

# SYNERGY

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Patrick

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Jill

*Top Notes*



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# Downley Ancestors Part 16

## **A question I have often been asked is ‘how far back can you go?’**

The answer for me until recently was the late 17th Century with a marriage in Wooburn in 1712, the bride, my 6x Great Grandmother Maria van Eickle, was a Belgian Huguenot and her husband Jacob Beck was born in Wooburn to parents who married there in 1687; his parents seem to have appeared from somewhere unknown. My direct Turner line can be traced back to 1750 in West Wycombe, no definitive proof of a baptism for Edward Turner – several possibilities but which one? He married there in 1783 (bride and groom were ‘both of this parish’) and was buried in High Wycombe in 1824 aged 74. His wife, Elizabeth Beesley, was baptised at West Wycombe in 1761, both her parents are buried there, but then that line also goes cold (for now!).

Using census returns, parish registers, poor law records, wills, newspaper articles, and with a bit of luck and a family which didn’t move around too much (unusual names also help), most people follow a line back to the early 1800’s. Remembering that with every generation the number of lines of possibility doubles, dead ends will be found but with perseverance and time, more information can be uncovered.

And then...a stroke of luck. You may have seen the genealogical programmes on TV (“Who do you think you are?” for example), and celebrities who can trace their family history to royalty, or at least minor nobility, but I never thought it could happen to me. It has. Once a family line of ancestors is linked to nobility, the rest is already done. Burke’s peerage; histories of the noble families of England, it is all well documented and detailed.

I was putting some detail onto one of my family lines and came across an ordained minister in Sussex. He was the son of another ordained minister and between them they had been vicars of Ifield for decades. During the 16th Century and earlier, minor nobility either inherited the family wealth and titles, joined the army or entered the clergy, and so I started to look further and sure enough, a couple more generations back and I found Sir (there are disputes whether he was actually knighted) Roger Copley. He married Ann Hoo (a daughter of Baron Hoo) and then that opened up all my direct lines into Barons, Earls, Dukes and eventually several lines (lots of inter-family marriages) directly to Edward III King of England, William the Conqueror, Alfred the Great, Louis IX of France, the royal families of Kiev (ancestors of the Tsars of Russia), Kings of Ireland, and Princes of Wales, a couple of Canonised rulers, and....Duncan I King of Alba (mainly modern day Scotland).

At the very beginning of my family history journey of discovery I was looking for a Scottish ancestor – the family tale being that because my Grandad Turner had joined the Royal Scots in the 1st World War we therefore had Scottish connections – that turned out not to be true. Now, on the maternal side of my family, I have found my first Scottish ancestors, but who would have thought they would have included Duncan and Saint Margaret of Scotland.

*Paul Turner*

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# From Westminster

*Steve Baker - MP for Wycombe*



The last few weeks have certainly been turbulent for the Government. I am hopeful the appointment of Rishi Sunak as Prime Minister will now see a period of stability. The new Chancellor will be making announcements in the Autumn Statement, planned for 17 November, on the Government's spending priorities. We need to support people through these difficult times.

I know the most pressing issue for most households at the moment is the economy and rising costs. I can understand why. I have been concerned for a long time about inflation. The Bank of England has clearly failed in its 2% inflation targeting; last year the Bank said inflation would be transitory after coming out of lockdown. I made it clear both in Parliament and in the media the result of the Bank's quantitative easing programme, which had indirectly funded the Government response to Covid, could only mean inflation would rise and continue to rise. I knew it would have a harmful effect on ordinary households by making prices higher, eroding the value of savings, and distorting investment decisions.

Many people will be concerned about the projected rise in the energy caps which will now be reviewed every three months rather than six months, on top of the rise that has already happened. I have always been clear there can be an economically and politically viable path to Net Zero but we need a different approach, reducing emissions while being realistic about what can be engineered at reasonable cost to the British people. We need to think a little less about the targets, and much more about what people can actually afford.

You may have seen I have been appointed as the Minister of State in the Northern Ireland Office. I have a long-standing interest, and friendships, in Northern Ireland so I am delighted to have this opportunity to help promote peace, security and prosperity. My duties will require frequent travel to Belfast for official engagements but I will be principally based in Westminster, so I will continue to attend local events and represent the interests of Wycombe in Government. My constituency office will be open in West Wycombe Road and my staff are always happy to discuss any issues which constituents wish to bring to my attention.

I recently visited Tara's Stores in Brindley Avenue to present them with an award for raising £400,000 for good causes through the National Lottery. Congratulations should go to the Chandarana family for this amazing achievement and for all they do for the local community. The National Lottery director who was also present made a point of saying many of the grants it gives are in the £5,000 - £10,000 range so if you know of a local community project that could be supported by the National Lottery

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We now enter the season of remembrance. During the last week of October I launched the High Wycombe Poppy appeal, and will be attending the Remembrance Day service and parade at All Saints Church in the town centre. We will be remembering all those who have sacrificed their lives in service to their country: brave men and women whose lives were lost, and those whose lives have been changed irrevocably through war.

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

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## News from Buckinghamshire Council



*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. You can also view full Council, Cabinet and committee meetings as a webcast either live, or watch the recording in full on Buckinghamshire Council Website.*

### **Have your say on health and wellbeing in Buckinghamshire**

The Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board brings together partners from Buckinghamshire Council, NHS and voluntary and community sectors. Over the summer, partners refreshed the Buckinghamshire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, “Happier, Healthier Lives 2022 – 2025”. This Strategy will help the Board achieve their aim to:

- make a visible difference to health outcomes and reduce health inequalities across the county
- put residents at the heart of their work
- drive integration for health and wellbeing across Buckinghamshire

Angela Macpherson, Buckinghamshire Council’s Deputy Leader and Chair of the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, said: “Over the next three years we want to improve health outcomes and address health inequalities across the county. To do this, I am keen to make it easier for residents to comment on what we do. We welcome your views on how to help shape the future of health and social care in the county. To see how you can get involved in what we do, please visit the Health and Wellbeing Board website.”

*continued on P47*

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## Celebrating our care leavers

The Buckinghamshire Leaving Care Team is actively working with 260 young people, who have left care arrangements such as foster placements and community homes and are embarking on their independent adult lives. An additional 109 young people aged between 21 to 25 are supported by the team as and when needed. The team of personal advisors work closely with each young person, supporting them in everything from careers to relationships, to budgeting and health. Nearly three quarters of Bucks care leavers have successfully progressed in education, training and employment roles with careers ranging from paramedics to plumbers and business owners to beauticians. A total of 30 care leavers are currently attending university on undergraduate and masters courses in a range of subjects including accounting, medicine, events management, teaching, physics, performing arts and business. A number are also studying to be social workers and hoping to use their own experiences to forge future careers helping other young people in care.

## Buckinghamshire Council sees 70% reduction in carbon emissions since 1990

Buckinghamshire Council has released its first Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021 - 2022 Progress Report, which reveals a 70% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions compared to the year 1990. This puts the Council well on track to achieve its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

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

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## Downley Theatre Group

A select number enjoyed our jolly to see "The Drifters Girl", a proper trip down memory lane for those of a certain age with all The Drifters hits performed with panache and wonderful old school choreography.

We've found that musicals generate more interest than plays, but some newer members of the group have asked about going to a play - would you be tempted by that? Our prices including return coach travel from Cross Court and driver's tip are usually less than the face value of the ticket so represent good value and offer hassle-free transport.

Do get in touch to be added to the mailing list.

*Alan & Claire Baker, Downley Theatre Group  
downleytheatregroup@gmail.com 01494 437552*

# Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

## DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - WINTER 2022

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
Active Adults	Fridays	13.00 - 13.45	✓	Joe.barnard@aitc.org.uk
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	19.15 - 22.15	✓	paulf.goddard@icloud.com
Children's Dance Group.	Wednesday	16.45 - 18.30		Zoe.k.thompson@hotmail.com
Chipmunks Woodcarving	Wednesday	10.00 - 12.00	✓	downleychipmunks@outlook.com
Community Library	Monday	10.00	✓	enquiries@downleylibrary.org
	Thursday	15.00	✓	
	Saturday	10.00	✓	
Craft Group	1st Tuesday	9.30 - 12.30		Helen 01494 564414
Crochet Group	Tuesday	19.00 - 21.00	✓	woollywonkas@gmail.com 07833 910238
Dance Classes (Ballroom & Latin)	Tuesday	19.00 - 21.00	✓	karen@comedancingwithme.co.uk 0787 353 8709
	Wednesday	19.30 - 20.30	✓	
Downley Parish Council	2nd Tuesday	19.30	✓	clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org 01494 257711
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wednesday	20.00 - 22.00	✓	stevedavison200@icloud.com
First Class Learning	Saturday	10.00 - 12.00	✓	Himanshu 07949 590466
Kingdom Dynamics Chapel	Sunday	10.00 - 12.00		Sharon 07961 822347
Lace Making	Thursday	13.00 - 15.00		Frances 01494 524835
M00 Music	Friday Term-time	10.20/11.20/12.20	✓	elvan@moo-music.co.uk
Mondays Minis <i>formerly Toddlers/Bumps etc</i>	Monday Term-time	9.30 - 11.15	✓	downleymondayminis@gmail.com 07704279102
Musical Mayhem	Thursday	10.00 & 12.00		Monica info@musicalmayhem.co.uk
Natalie Jane Dance School	Monday	15.00 - 19.00	✓	natalie@njdance.co.uk
	Friday Term-time	15.30 - 19.30	✓	
Pilates	Thursday	18.30 & 19.30	✓	Emma@asenseofbalance.co.uk
Simply Walk	Monday	10.00	✓	Starts from the Community Centre simplywalks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
	Thursday	11.00	✓	
Twins & Multiples Club	Friday	10.00 - 11.30	✓	wendy@questcost.co.uk
Ukulele	4th Thursday	10.00 - 12.00		Sylvia sylvia.chadwick@me.com
Wycombe Spiritual Centre	1st & 3rd Friday	18.30		ashleydarkwood@gmail.com

## SUNNYBANK CHAPEL, MOOR LANE - WINTER 2022

Hall Bookings: margaretstagg75@gmail.com or call 01494 530 736

GROUP	DAY	TIME	NEW MEMBER WELCOME	CONTACT
Downley Descants	Thursday Term time	20.00 - 21.30	✓	grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk

## GUIDE AND SCOUT CENTRE - WINTER 2022

Hall Bookings: margaretstagg75@gmail.com

Rainbows/Brownies	Monday	16.30 - 19.00		gill.lawrence@btinternet.com
Rangers	Monday	19.30 - 21.15		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		gsl3rdDownley@gmail.com
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 - WINTER 2022

Hall Bookings: hilmad1842@gmail.com or call 07973 770 180

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 - WINTER 2022

Hall Bookings: hilmad1842@gmail.com

Art Club	Thursday	09.30		
Coffee Stop	1st and 3rd Monday	10.30 - 12.30		
Downley Gardening Society	3rd Monday	20.00		
Karen Pilates	Wednesday	09.30		
Natailie'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 - WINTER 2022

Hall Bookings: dwmh.bookings@gmail.com

Sunshine Montessori	Weekdays Term time	08.00 - 18.00		roden-sunshine@tiscali.co.uk 01494 442057
Pilates	Monday	19.00 - 20.00		karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567376
Yoga	Tuesday	19.20 - 20.45		07904 438411
Fencing 1 to 1	Wednesday	17.30 - 19.30		
Yoga	Thursday	19.15 - 20.45		07904 438411
Yoga	Friday	10.20 - 11.50		07904 438411
Fencing 1 to 1	Friday	17.30 - 19.30		

## 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](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

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### COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

**Editor:** Anne at [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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- \* Festive Games
- \* Teddy Igloo
- \* Bbq
- \* Tea & Cake
- \* Mulled Wine
- \* Tombolas & Raffle
- \* More to follow



The Downley School  
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