



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER

Village News

Issue 134/February 2023



The **wye** Partnership



It's our business so we care.

The Wye Partnership gained their knowledge and developed their expertise within the most successful estate agents in High Wycombe. On witnessing the take over of these long established companies by nationwide chains we recognised the need for the retention of a local and independent service. Our recent merger makes the enlarged Partnership the strongest Independent in South Bucks and The Chilterns!

All the partners have invested their own money into the Wye Residential Partnership and all truly believe that our business will be built on delivering excellent service to our clients. This means you can be confident that we will deliver on all aspects of Estate Agency in an honest, open and transparent way.

If you are looking to buy, sell or let in High Wycombe or the surrounding Chiltern villages then contact an estate agency that is motivated by your success and talk to The Wye Partnership.

wyeres.co.uk

Hazlemere
01494 711 284
hazlemere@wyeres.co.uk

High Wycombe
01494 451 300
wycombe@wyeres.co.uk

Prestwood
01494 868 000
prestwood@wyecountry.co.uk

Great Missenden
01494 868 000
missenden@wyecountry.co.uk

Naphill
01494 565 555
naphill@wyecountry.co.uk

Stokenchurch
01494 509 377
stokenchurch@wyeres.co.uk

Lettings High Wycombe
01494 358 358
lettings@wyeres.co.uk

Lettings Great Missenden
01494 864 225
lettings@wyecountry.co.uk

Associated
Park Lane Office
0203 368 8472



From Town to Country

Contents

Editorial	3	Up! Downley Festival 2023	26
Downley Parish Council	5	Downley Day News	26
Ukraine to Downley	5	Downley Albion	27
Downley Common News	7	Downley Cricket Club	27
Downley Community Orchard	7	Sunnybank Methodist News	29
Downley Community Centre	9	Neighbourhood Watch	31
Chiltern Wood School Chat	11	Chiltern Hills Montessori Nursery	32
Downley Guide and Scout Centre	11	Hillclimb Garage	33
Scouting in Downley	13	News from St James	35
Coffee Stop	15	Simply Walk	37
High Wycombe & District U3A	15	Downley War Memorial Hall	39
Downley Descants	17	Top Notes Choir	41
Downley Pharmacy	19	Downley Local History Group	43
Downley Evening WI	21	From Westminster	45
Downley Gardening Society	21	News from Buckinghamshire Council	47
Downley Library, Books, Books, Books	23	Downley Diary	48
J Heartycough's Horticultural Hints	25	Useful Contacts and Advertisers	50

Editorial

May I wish all our readers a very happy New Year. Let's hope that 2023 heralds the beginning of the end of at least some of the current difficulties, both at home and abroad. As I write this, the sun is out and I am sure there is a hint of spring in the air, although my snowdrops are still not up. And of course there's still plenty of time for another cold spell and even snow, so I'd better not get ahead of myself!

I want to use the editorial section of this issue to mark the passing of Des Ryan, who died last October, aged 87. He and his wife Teresa had a pivotal role in the success of Downley Village News, managing the sorting and distribution for many years until Sarah took over around 5 years ago. Teresa is still involved, delivering some of the magazines. On behalf of the Communications Group, I would like to thank both Des and Teresa for all their work and support over the years, and our sincere condolences and best wishes go to Teresa and all the family.

You can read more about Des and another long-time Downley resident, David Copcutt, who also died recently, in the editorial from St James on page 35.

It feels a long way off at the moment, but our next edition will be the Summer one, which will be out in mid-May. As usual, we will be delighted to hear from any organisation in Downley (or the surrounding area) with news or information. You can submit articles via the email address editor@downley.org. Copy deadline is Sunday 30 April 2023.

Anne, Editor • editor@downley.org

Jill - Tutor



11 + Tutoring and Mock Tests

Students learn topics and skills they will need whatever school they move on to following the selection exam, and they maximise their academic potential both in exams and in school work.

Mock tests give students a chance to acclimatise to exam taking and to learn that exams are to be enjoyed and not dreaded.

- Literacy and numeracy help for all ages.
- KS3/4 Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths.
- KS5 Biology.

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

To discuss your needs please text me;

Jill: 0773 860 99 44

Hall for Hire in Downley

St James Church Hall, Plomer Hill HP13 5NB

For regular bookings or special occasions

- Catering Kitchen
- Modern building in a quiet, convenient location behind St James Church.
- Can accommodate up to 100 persons
- A large on-site car park
- 3 toilets, including one that is wheelchair accessible

For more details please see the website at
www.stjamesdownley.org.uk
or contact Hilary Perowne
at hilmad1842@gmail.com
or Telephone – 07973 770180



CAN YOU HELP US?

We need friendly people, first & third Thursday of the month, 2-4 pm, to help our BucksVision social group in Hazlemere, for blind and partially sighted people.

Full support and training.

01296 487 556
www.bucksvision.co.uk

Downley Parish Council



The Parish Council continue to work with volunteers to restore and maintain the Sandpits Pond at Gosling Grove. The work has really had an impact now, with the pond looking much better than it did 12 months ago. We've set out a schedule of dates for work to take place throughout the year and have sessions planned for the following Saturdays:

• **4th February** • **1st April** • **1st July** • **7th October**

Work starts at 10:00 a.m. on each of these dates and if you'd like to help out, then please email me so that I've got an idea of numbers.

Community Speedwatch is the other area where we are always keen to gain new volunteers. Here we are looking to reduce speeding traffic through the village and we are always keen to find people to help with our roadside patrols. Again, if you can see yourself helping out, please email me and I can provide more information.

At our December meeting, the Parish Council resolved to make grants available to assist local causes. £100 was provided to the Community Library to help them buy a new computer and £500 went to the Downley War Memorial to help with specialist restoration of the War Memorial plaque.

Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk - clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org

Ukraine to Downley

Hello everyone, my name is Yuliia. We are a family from Ukraine, temporarily living in England with a sponsor family, for the 7th month already. We are from the Western part of Ukraine, in which it would seem safe, but only two days after we crossed the border, rockets flew into our city.

Getting to know our sponsors was very exciting for both parties, but we easily established good and friendly relations. They were sincerely happy about our small progress in language learning, helped us find free English lessons, for which we are very grateful to them, and also we are infinitely grateful to our teachers Clara and Fran, who agreed to help us.

The first months of stay here seemed very difficult, mostly emotionally, also in terms of overcoming the language barrier, looking for a job... But with the great support and help of our sponsors, each subsequent week seemed easier for us. We spent time together and visited many interesting and beautiful places. Later, my mother and I found a job, met many wonderful people, and found friends. But still, waking up every morning, reading the news, we return to the present terrible reality.

We are sincerely grateful to Melanie and Andy, who were not afraid to take us in, people who were completely strangers at the time, and who helped us settle in here and feel safe.

We are sincerely grateful to the defenders who continuously defend our land from the enemy.

We know that eventually we will return to our native home, to our native Ukraine, where there will be no sirens or rockets in the sky.

GLORY TO UKRAINE ! GLORY TO HEROES!

Would you like your child to be a **FIRST CLASS** learner?

- ✓ Individualised modular study programme
- ✓ Improves school performance
- ✓ Small groups
- ✓ Regular assessments and feedback
- ✓ Excellent results

***Numeracy *Literacy *11+
ALL AGES & ALL ABILITY LEVELS**

**Mr. Vora
First Class Learning**

0205732919 / 07949590466

eden@firstclasslearning.co.uk



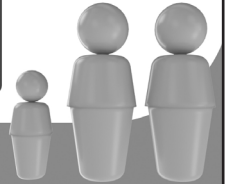
FREE, UNBIASED & INDEPENDENT LIFE INSURANCE ADVICE

We will make sure that you get the perfect tailored life insurance cover to suit your situation. We will keep in the parts you need and take out the parts that you don't.

- ▷ We compare from multiple sources
- ▷ Unique tailor-made cover to suit your needs
- ▷ We work within your budget
- ▷ You make all of the decisions
- ▷ We do all of the hard work
Placed in trust at no cost


Free Cover Check

Contact us for a free check on your current cover. You could be paying too much!



01494 952515
Independent-insurance.solutions.com

We will not charge you a fee for our services relating to insurance but we will receive commission from the product provider. The commission will be calculated as a proportion of the premiums paid for the insurance product.

 The Dairy, Downley Common, Downley,
High Wycombe, HP13 5YN

 info@thedownleygarage.co.uk

 01494 521924



Honest, Competitive and Professional workmanship.

WWW.THEDOWNLEYGARAGE.CO.UK



**Collection and Delivery.
Courtesy cars available.**

AIR CONDITIONING ❄️

CAMBELTS 🛠️

CLUTCHES 🛠️

DIAGNOSTICS 🚗

EXHAUSTS 🛠️

MOT'S 🚗


SERVICING 🛠️

TYRES 🛞



Downley Common News

DCPS joins Facebook

 We now have our own Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086524593437>) which allows us to be a bit more interactive online with news and events. We will attempt to give notice of our forthcoming work parties and what activities we are expecting to carry out. If our members have any suggestions for things you would like to see, please message us through the Facebook page and we will consider it, especially if you are volunteering!

Beacon

So another year begins and as is traditional (since 2000) it was ushered in by the lighting of the beacon on Commonside. While the inclement weather may have discouraged a number of residents from attending, there was still a good turnout of about 80 people there on the night.



DCPS would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year with best wishes for 2023.

Tree cutting



A recent winter storm over the Christmas break was responsible for bringing down quite a large beech tree on the edge of the dells which blocked one of the footpaths leading to the meadow next to Hunts Hill Lane.

The latest DCPS work party in January swung into action and sawed through the offending sections to reopen the path access. As you can see in the photo this was an opportunity for a bit of “green gym” – you can work up quite a sweat with a two-handed saw! Anyone wishing to burn off some of that excess

accumulated over the Christmas break should join us at our work parties on the first Sunday in the month – see our Facebook page for details of the next work party.

We will be utilising the large sections of trunk as access barriers in other parts of the common so please do not treat these as free firewood.

Bill Thompson DCPS Downley Community Orchard needs your help

Downley Community Orchard

Needs your help

There are over 1,000 community orchards in the UK and we are lucky to have our own orchard in Downley. This year is Downley Community Orchard’s 20th anniversary. Back in 2003, inspired by the Community Orchard Initiative being promoted by the Government and local nature projects, John Willson, Kristina Frydberg and a team of volunteers





Active in the Community

Physical Activity Classes for Over 50s

Forever Cycling

Travel the world from the comfort of you local community centre! Pedal as you watch a virtual tour of a famous world location.

Thursdays at Downley Community Centre,
1-2pm. £4.



Better Balance

Improve your strength, balance and flexibility through a range of seated and standing exercises.

Fridays at Downley Community Centre,
1-1:45pm. £5.

Contact us to book:

joe.barnard@aitc.org.uk or 07399748803



www.aitc.org.uk

JR-Travel Private Hire

**We can take you in comfort
to almost any destination
you require including;
airports, seaports, theatre trips
and any special occasions**



Fully licensed drivers • Family run business based in Downley

For a competitive quote please give us a call

T: 01494 63 95 63 • M: 07762 886208

Email: enquires@jr-travel.co.uk

obtained a grant and set about creating the orchard. Over 20 apple trees, pear trees and a medlar were planted. Trees were selected from heritage varieties no longer commercially grown, helping ensure these would not be lost to future generations.

The orchard is in the far corner of Mannings Field and it can also be accessed via the track off the top of Plomer Green Lane, just past the allotments. Some benches have been installed and it's a lovely spot for moments of contemplation and communing with nature. Fruit trees are great for the environment and wildlife of all types.

Twenty years on and the orchard needs some TLC to ensure the trees remain healthy and viable. When they were first planted, a number of Downley families got involved by adopting a tree and helping with its maintenance, but the passage of time means this support has fallen away. So we're seeking to expand the team of volunteers who help manage the orchard. John and Kristina are still involved but have passed the day-to-day running of the orchard to Andrew Flint. If you would like to increase your knowledge and skills of looking after fruit trees with a friendly team and can spare a few mornings each year, then we'd love to hear from you. To find out more please call Andrew Flint on 07788 135351.

Downley Community Centre



After a short Christmas break for everyone involved, the centre starts the year with a number of hirers bringing new activities to Downley for 2023. More details are below, and for our most up-to-date weekly schedule of events and our latest news, please be sure to find and follow our Facebook page. This information can also be found on downley.org/venues/downleycommunitycentre and the calendar pages at the back of this edition of Downley Village News.

Zumba Gold: Wednesday mornings. 10.30-11.30 - Zumba Gold is a lower-intensity version of the typical Zumba class designed to meet the needs of seniors. Contact: Jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com

Forever Cycling: Thursday afternoons. 13.00-14.00 until 13th April. - A virtual cycling class for older adults to socialise while exercising. Contact: Joe.barnard@aitc.org.uk

Better Balance: Fridays 13.00-14.00 - Older adults exercise class. Contact: Joe.barnard@aitc.org.uk

Taekwondo: Coming soon. Watch this space!

Our term-time baby and toddler group Monday Minis is continuing to be popular, with a growing number of regulars attending each week. Since taking over the group in February 2022, Kimberley and Caroline are planning a special Monday Minis 1st Birthday Party on 6th February. More details will be posted on their social media accounts, so be sure to keep your eyes peeled!

Downley Community Centre Management Committee and Trustees

THE PROFESSIONAL CHIMNEY SWEEP COMPANY



OPEN FIRES
LOG BURNERS
MULTI-FUEL STOVES



CALL US

0788 3095 166

BERKSHIRE, OXFORDSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
www.chimneysweephighwycombe.co.uk
ROBERT.GIBBS28@NTLWORLD.COM

natalie jane
DANCE SCHOOL

NATALIE JANE DANCE SCHOOL

Welcoming children aged 2-18 to a well established dance school.

CLASSES AVAILABLE IN DOWNLEY, CHINNOR, LACEY GREEN AND MONKS RISBOROUGH

www.njdance.co.uk

07855 296242



FOR YOUR ENTIRE DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING AND GAS NEEDS, FROM REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE TO COMPLETE INSTALLATION.

- Additional socket outlets
- Fuse board upgrades
- Full electrical installations & rewires
- Electrical installation condition reports (EICR) formerly known as "periodic inspection report"
- Gas boilers, cookers & fires
- Plumbing & Heating installation & repairs
- Full Bathroom suites
- Kitchen installations
- Fully qualified & compliant to 18th Edition IEE regs.
- Part P approved for domestic installation & repair work

Contact us on
01494 443445

"We're a small company with a big heart"

44 The Pastures, Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP13 5LY

TLC4 YOU LIMITED
ELECTRICAL, GAS & PLUMBING SERVICES

INSTALLATION • SERVICING • REPAIR

Visit our website www.tlc4you.biz



Gas Safe Registration No: 563265

Chiltern Wood School Chat

The staff at Chiltern Wood had a productive start to the spring term with an enjoyable INSET day, with staff from both sites joining together to do training and also take part in a team-building quiz. The rounds covered everything from film quotes to guess the baby and 'cheese or disease' to emoji film titles. The round that most people seemed to find the hardest was the round I did on art and the best was local birds created by Una-Lynne, our Deputy Head at the Downley site. The winning team can be seen below and consisted of a mixture of staff and a local governor, Janet, who had unfortunately left by the time this photograph was taken.



The winning quiz team



Ann and Murtaza

Snowdrop Class continues with their regular shopping trips to Tesco and recently made some delicious jam tarts. Ann, our Chair of Governors, had come in for a visit, so Murtaza delivered some tarts for us to enjoy.

As you can imagine, no two days are the same at Chiltern Wood School. If you would be interested in working at our unique setting as either a permanent or casual teaching assistant we would love you to get in touch for a visit.

Finally, a thank you to The Downley School who came to our rescue before the Christmas holidays when our fire alarm would not turn off and we all had to decamp in their buildings. Many of our children struggle to regulate and found the unpredictable day challenging, so it was wonderful to be welcomed by some of the staff and pupils.

*Best wishes,
Rachel Chapman*

Downley Guide and Scout Centre Fundraising

These past few years have been a mixed bag of ups and downs for the Centre, with high winds causing damage, including fallen trees, and COVID impacting our ability to use the centre and raise much-needed income. However, in a true scouting ethos, we have made the best of the situation and continued to offer a venue that has proven to be a great asset to the village over the years, in particular to the Scouts and Guides and Woodlands Preschool.

From the records we have, the centre has been open for scouting and guiding for over 70 years. The current building was originally situated at the bus depot in town as the canteen and was painstakingly dismantled, transported to the current location, and reconstructed. It was only supposed to be a temporary solution, with a 25-year life expectancy, and has exceeded everyone's expectations. With the construction of the extension known as The Graham Lee room and a new roof, the Centre has been patched

UK GARAGE OF THE YEAR WINNERS 2022, 2021 & 2018

Your Award Winning – Local – Independent Garage in Downley

50% OFF YOUR MOT WHEN BOOKED WITH A SERVICE
THIS ADVERT IS YOUR DISCOUNT VOUCHER

**ALL VEHICLES WASHED
& SANITISED**

**We will Collect &
Deliver Your Car**



**VIDEO EVIDENCE OF
ALL WORK**

**Complimentary
Courtesy Cars**

MOT | Service | Electric & Hybrid | Tyres | Repairs



17 Littleworth Road, Downley, HP13 5XF

01494 444481

servicemanager@hillclimbgarage.co.uk

www.hillclimbgarage.co.uk



**Downley
Pharmacy**

**24/7 Service
How it Works**



Order

You can order your prescription in the usual way.



No waiting

We'll notify you when your prescription is ready to collect.



Day or night

Your prescriptions are available 24/7 – you can collect when it suits you.

To sign-up visit downleypharmacy.com/medpoint
or phone **01494 513 060**

info@downleypharmacy.com

Cross Court, Plomer Green Ave, Downley HP13 5UW

and painted to prolong its life; it has also been repaired after nearly burning down. Due to its age and construction, primarily wood, we have decided that the time has come to stop putting money into trying to maintain the structure and, instead, focus our efforts on a new facility which will add benefits not just to the current users but the village as well.

Currently, all our fundraising has been on a local scale and has had to be channelled into the repair and refurbishment of the current structure. **This is where you could be a huge benefit to the project, as we are looking to form a fundraising committee** to expand and generate ideas and events that would bring in the required funds to replace the current centre with a new, modern building with greater accessibility, halls, meeting rooms and other facilities which will offer more options for wider community use.

Ideally, the Committee would consist of residents who share our vision of a new and exciting building which would not dominate but enhance the setting we all love, nestled within our glorious woodland surroundings.

If you are looking for a challenge and want to get involved in this exciting chapter of Downley's history, please contact:

Mark Starkey and Paul Baker (downleygsc@gmail.com) - REF: DGSC Fundraising

Scouting in Downley

SCOUTS⁺

In September 2022 the 3rd High Wycombe (Downley) Scout Group which has been in Downley for many many years became a whole lot bigger by taking under their wing the 9th High Wycombe Scout Group who had been in the village for a short time.

The 9th Group started out at The Pastures Church and in recent years had moved to share our facilities at the Scout and Guide Centre on Coates Lane.

After a turbulent year following Covid, the 9th Group struggled for an Executive Committee and section leadership.

After long discussions with our District and County Representatives, it was agreed that the 2 groups would merge and continue to run under the 3rd High Wycombe banner. This was to facilitate as much Scouting for young people as possible in the village and surrounding areas. We are now one of the biggest groups in the District with around 150 young people.

In the last year Scouting in the High Wycombe District has seen a growth of 34% in Young People wishing to attend but unfortunately a 12% decrease in volunteer leaders!

We now are able to offer Beavers, Cubs and Scout sessions on a Wednesday and Friday in Downley. Unfortunately both Beaver groups do have long waiting lists – so get in early to avoid disappointment! We run exciting programmes each term, consisting of badgework, hikes, outdoor activities, camps and much, much more.

Due to merger of the 2 Groups we are currently looking to buy a trailer so that we can go on camps without having to hire vans and fill our cars to the max! This will be our main fundraising goal for 2023. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers so do get in touch if you think this would interest you.

*Paul Baker, Group Scout Leader
3rd High Wycombe (Downley) Scout Group - gsl3rddownley@gmail.com*



YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENT!

**DOWNLEY HIGH STREET
DOWNLEY
HP13 5XJ**

BOOK YOUR FREE VALUATION NOW!

01494 713340

**james@robertsonsestateagents.co.uk
robertsonsestateagents.co.uk**

**Ms Beagles (former Downley resident)
February 2022**

“ James Donald of Robertsons Estate Agents is exceptional and extremely honest in all dealings. I felt nervous of a move having lived in a house I have loved for 24 years (34 years a Downley resident), but James has been 100% committed and he cares that I am informed and feeling OK throughout every single step. If you are thinking of selling/buying speak to James Donald - I cannot recommend him highly enough. He is very much a people person and a true community hero!! ”



**Kitchens
Plastering
Laminate Flooring
Wood Fencing**

**Bathrooms
Interior & Exterior Painting
Tiling
Gates
Rubber Roofs**

**House Refurbishment
Carpentry
Guttering
Decking**

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES, CONTACT US TODAY!

E: gary@gslpropertyservices.co.uk • T: 07932473502

Coffee Stop News



We meet 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 and cheese scones priced at only £1 per item! Coffee Stop is a good warm place to meet up with old friends or make new ones. We often have greetings cards, craft items etc for sale with any profits going to charity.

Our Christmas meeting was well attended - thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes, and thank you to the members of the Descants Choir who came to entertain us and lead our carol singing.

Sadly, two of our regular Volunteers are no longer able to help out due to work and family commitments. We are always keen to welcome new helpers whether to put up and take down tables, help in the kitchen, wait at tables or drive some of our regulars to and from St James Church Hall. We have a rota so you can help out as often as convenient.

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. 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.

High Wycombe & District U3A



Jay Blades (from the Repair Shop) receives an enthusiastic welcome at our tree planting ceremony

The final event to commemorate U3A's 40th Anniversary on 9th December we welcomed Jay Blades (Chancellor of Bucks New University) to dedicate our tree in the grounds of Wycombe Museum. Jay spent over an hour talking individually to those present, while we enjoyed refreshments in the Museum café. It

was a memorable day thanks to the help of the Museum staff, at a beautiful location.

This followed our tombola stand at the Christmas Lights ceremony in High Wycombe.

New visits planned for our Local History Group

After a successful visit to Haddenham Museum in November, it was agreed to repeat the visit in April or May extending the walking tour of Haddenham. In February we visit High Wycombe Magistrates Court with a visit to another local attraction in March.

Exciting Plans for 2023 discussed

At our annual Discussion Forum we introduced ideas for new groups and reviewed the progress made, introducing Facebook and a new administration system. We are doing our best to help everyone make new friends, share knowledge and expertise, and have fun.

If you are no longer in full-time employment and are interested in joining us you can contact us via our website. News of our activities is updated regularly on our Facebook page. We offer a programme of 30 interest groups which meet every month in local Halls and homes, a Guest Speaker at monthly general meetings (at Lacey Green Millennium Hall), as well as special events and trips for a subscription of less than £30 a year.

Judith Elliott (Secretary)

Personalised Learning Tuition Services

Currently offering private tuition and home schooling for KS1 and KS2 pupils of all abilities and needs.

Based in Downley, I am an experienced: Head Teacher, Deputy Head and SENCO.

Please contact me to discuss how I can best support you in meeting your child's needs.

Phone: 07765248736

highwycombetutor@gmail.com

www.highwycombetutor.com



ALTEA
BEAUTY ROOMS

For all beauty and holistic treatments in a relaxing and friendly environment

Facials • Massage • Reflexology
• Manicures • Pedicures
Gel nails • Waxing • Tinting
• Spray tans

Spend £40 or over and get £5 off with this advert.

Late evenings available

01494 528285

HIGH STREET • DOWNLEY

HIGH WYCOMBE • BUCKS HP13 5XJ

www.alteadownley.com • info@alteadownley.com

M.D. Garden Services



Gardener

Pruning • Shrubs and Flower Borders

Fruit and Vegetable Pots • Hedges

Lawn Care • Indoor Plants



Horticultural Engineer

SERVICE • REPAIR • SHARPENING

Lawn Mowers • Garden Tractors

Strimmers • Blowers • Shears • Chainsaws



NO OBLIGATION QUOTES

M. L. Dunn

Home: 01494 865834

Mobile: 07795 158292

PIEDS SUR TERRE



CHRISTINE ASHCROFT
REFLEXOLOGIST

Reflexology to relieve stress, promote relaxation and well-being

Gift cards available

ITEC level 3 qualified, based in Downley

Tel: 07798 612 993

Email: piedssurterre@icloud.com

Web: piedssurterre.co.uk

DOWNLEY DESCANTS



LOOKING IN AND LOOKING FORWARD

As a relatively new member of the Choir, I wanted to share my thoughts and feelings about it and what makes it so special and stand out from the several other choirs I have been a member of. As background, I am a songwriter, published author and have a Tenor voice.

Firstly, the Choir's repertoire of songs is very broadly based, including great musical theatre, films, anthems, rock and pop classics. So, something for everyone both in the Choir and for our audiences.

Secondly, is how very strong these songs are lyrically. Most have powerful and memorable lyrics where the words are just as important as the music, the singing, or the melody. The combination can be incredibly moving and emotional. I know that I am not alone in having to rehearse pieces several times privately, before singing them publicly. We know that if we feel moved in our performances our audiences will be also.

Thirdly, we have a great musical team of Louise and Becky who share this passion, and we all live and breathe the need to bring out the emotional power in our phrasing and changes in volume and intensity. All choirs can sing loudly but great choirs can also sing quietly to great effect as well.

This is why Downley Descants has been selected to Headline at the Marlow Literary Festival. The festival is called WORDS and unlike other Literary Festivals it will celebrate words in all forms, including choirs and theatrical performances in addition to performances and interviews with song writers and many published authors. WORDS is in Marlow on 17th June 2023, (Downley Day) so please make a note to come along and hear the Choir on that evening.

We rehearse in Sunnybank Church in Moor Lane which has the 'What3Words' location of 'sands-lung-keep'. This is extremely pertinent and very good advice to all singers to keep sand out of their lungs! However, I sum up my experience and enjoyment of Downley Descants in the following three words: Friendly, Passionate and Fun.

Jonathan (Tenor)

We are pleased to take part in ever more prestigious events but we still remain your community choir for Downley. There is no necessity to read music, neither do we hold auditions. If you feel the choir may be for you, please come along and give us a try. Contact our chairman Lyn on 07974 026213 for more details.



SPiRiT
HAIR CO

- WE ARE AN AWARD WINNING ECO SALON CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS IN DOWNLEY HIGH STREET
- OUR STYLISTS ARE EXPERTS IN COLOUR AND CUTTING AND WE HAVE SPECIALISTS AND CONSULTANTS IN BALAYAGE AND KERATIN STRAIGHTENING.
- WE OFFER FREE CONSULTATIONS WHERE WE WILL ANALYSE YOUR HAIR STRUCTURE, FACE SHAPE, PERFORM STRAND TESTS AND THOROUGHLY DISCUSS YOUR TARGET COLOUR AND STYLE

NEW FOR 2023

- YOUNG STYLIST COLOUR MENU PRICES
- NEW CLIENT PACKAGE SCHEMES WITH MASSIVE SAVINGS
- FANTASTIC NEW LOYALTY SCHEME FOR OUR REGULAR CLIENTS
- PAY WITH KLARNA AND SPREAD YOUR COST 
- PARTNERED WITH 



Mark Gonsalves Kitchen and Bathroom Specialist



Institute of Kitchen, Bedroom & Bathroom Installers

Membership Number F1305-0016

Kitchen's supplied at trade prices - Howdens, Magnets, Benchmarx.

Plumbing - taps, radiators, leaks, pumps etc.

Carpentry - doors, skirting boards, shelving, partition walls

Floor and wall tiling - ceramics, porcelain, natural stone, glass

Flooring - solid, engineered, laminate, 'Amtico' vinyl.

Free no obligation quotations and advise

Tel: 01494 474449 Mob: 07905 214823

Email: mgbuildingservices@yahoo.co.uk

Address: 61 Kingshill Crescent, High Wycombe, HP13 5NF

You can view pictures of my work and independent feedback from clients @
www.mybuilder.com/profile/view/mgbuildservices

Tough Times for the NHS including your local pharmacy!

We have all seen, heard and experienced the issues within the NHS from phone line queues to make an appointment with the GP to strikes by Nurses and Paramedics. We at the pharmacy are also struggling with pressures of workload and our NHS funding method. Community pharmacies have had their funding cut by some 30% over the past seven years and are facing more extreme pressures than ever before. The current push is towards a service driven model, with health awareness and advice rather than simply payment for supply. We are also offering more private services such as Strep A test and treat and a new ear wax removal service. To facilitate this and cut queues in the pharmacy, we will be asking many more of you to make use of the Medpoint when collecting your medication.

We are suffering with rising drug prices and availability issues on a daily basis. One factor that most of the general public are not aware of, and comes as a complete surprise, is that our current purchase price is above the level we will be re-imbursed by the government as stated in the monthly tariff. Reviews to the tariff of item rates occur as the month goes on and over the last few months the number of items granted a concessionary price above standard has increased from what was 10-20 mostly uncommon lines per month to, in December, a record 198 lines including many everyday items such as antibiotics, anti-epileptics, medication for heart conditions and high blood pressure, pain killers and gastric protection. The price difference can be 50p to £50 + per pack of medication. Searches and checks with all suppliers before making a purchase all takes much more time than the regular automatic restocking process. Once the new month starts the whole thing starts again with tariff prices back at lower levels. This has led to a reduction of stock holding of many lines. We are also struggling with many items becoming unavailable altogether for short or long periods of time but at Downley Pharmacy we do make an effort to be aware of who locally may have stock or enable an alternative supply as soon as possible.

A national campaign #saveourpharmacies, to be launched in March, will focus on highlighting both the pressures that pharmacies are under and the huge untapped potential of the sector, including to offer a Pharmacy First service as in Scotland, which bypasses the GP for minor ailments.

We hope appropriate resourcing is made available. Please support us and this campaign. Government have reached a fork in the road: they can continue to degrade pharmacy funding and let patients suffer the inevitable consequences of a reduction in services and pharmacies; or they can invest in this popular, cost-effective, entrepreneurial sector and empower pharmacies to help to meet the many challenges facing our health service.

Wycombe Concert Band

Has vacancies for all players
of brass and woodwind instrument.

Any standard welcome

Subscription £40 per term

Call/text Bill Thompson on 07989 748654





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

A chance to meet new friends and feel good!

MONDAY

10am for a 1½ hour walk

THURSDAY

11am for a 1 hour walk

meet at the Community Centre

ALL WALKS HAVE A TRAINED LEADER

WITH A BACK MARKER • Walk at your own pace

**NEW WALKERS MUST COMPLETE
AN ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM**

Contact Simply Walk on 07802 260812,
email simplywalks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
or visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk

WOOD CARVING

**Come and join our small
group of wood carvers
and try something new!**

- We are not teachers but can help you learn the skills you need.
- We have some tools and materials to help get you started.

**WEDNESDAY 10 - 12
COMMUNITY CENTRE
£3 A SESSION**

*come and give it a go,
we would love to see you*

For further details
downleychipmunks@outlook.com



BADMINTON

Players of any standard are invited to join a small, friendly and informal club meeting at Handycross Sports Centre on Wednesdays at 6.30pm during term time

£6.50 per 2 hour session

**Call Bill Thompson
on 07989 748654**

DOWNLEY BRIDGE CLUB

meet every Thursday
at the Downley Community Centre
from 7-10 15pm.

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

email: syme.pat@gmail.com
phone: 01494 530558
www.bridgewebs.com/downley

Downley Evening WI



Christmas came and went so, as the days draw out, we are all looking ahead to spring with its promise of renewal and hope for the year ahead.

During December one of our members hosted her annual mulled wine evening, raising a surprising amount for charity, and this was followed by our December meeting – a week late because of the snow – which was a happy occasion when several of our menfolk joined us for an entertaining recital by our own Delectable Selection for their final appearance, plus more mulled wine, Christmas songs and an appearance from Father Christmas!

Our January speaker was Andy Ford from the One Can Trust telling us about its origins and how it all works. Many members brought donations for the Trust and a lot of interest was shown.

We are now planning a lunch out at the Le De Spencer and several members have booked a visit to the Swan to see *The King and I* in March. We're also looking forward to our 60th birthday party in March. 60 years and still going strong! And our February speaker will be Ann Tennant, a local caterer, who has provided a delicious meal for us on many of our previous birthday parties.

As always, we welcome any new visitors who may be interested in joining us. Have a look at our website <https://downleyeveningwi.weebly.com> or email dewipresident@gmail.com for more information.

Heather Read

Downley Gardening Society

It was lovely to be back in the hall in October and meet face to face again. Our speaker was Nick Marriner, the Landowner Engagement Officer for the Chilterns Conservation Board. Nick introduced us to the Farmland Bird Project which implements strategies on local farms to improve biodiversity for wildlife. The talk overran, mainly because there were so many questions put to Nick at the end; a positive outcome!

Our meeting in November was with Amy Moffett, the head gardener of Horatio's Garden at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, to tell us about it and give us a virtual tour.

Our December meeting was very well attended considering the icy and frosty conditions. Steve Batchelor gave a short re-cap about honeybees before inviting us to taste and comment on ten different honeys. Most people were surprised at the variety of colours, textures and flavours although Steve had included a syrup which proved to be the favourite! Once it was pointed out to us that it was, in fact, a syrup concoction from maple and agave and not honey, it seemed obvious that it was sickly sweet and not nearly as pleasant as we had originally thought. Once again, Steve advised us of the health benefits of eating local honey although his own supply had run out! Alex's home-made mince pies were delicious and accompanied by hot mulled wine to round off our festive evening.

Our January meeting was held on Zoom. Our speaker was Catherine Cutler from The Eden Project. She started with a very informative talk on the beginnings and development of the Eden project and followed up with gardening in the light of climate change.

BOOK YOUR FREE CLASS TODAY!



Award winning music classes for babies & young children

Aylesbury & High Wycombe
 E: aylesbury@monkeymusic.co.uk
 T: 01494 819138

Aston Clinton
 Fairford Leys, Aylesbury
 Haddenham
 High Wycombe
 Princes Risborough
 Tring
 Wendover

Sharing precious time together www.monkeymusic.co.uk



C&C

Care and Companions

Quality Service, Quality Carers, Choice and Great Value

Looking for care or companionship at home for yourself, a friend or relative. Either for respite or regular visits?

A few hours per day or per week? Live-in care?

We help you choose your Carer, matching your requirements and preferences to one of our top quality, thoroughly screened, trained and insured Carers.

Examples of support include: Personal care, housekeeping, trips out, shopping, cooking, pet care, companionship...

LEARN MORE
www.careandcompanions.co.uk



or talk to one of the team
 01494 578127




R M G

Plumbing & Heating

CONCERNED ABOUT GAS PRICES?
 IS YOUR BOILER RUNNING EFFICIENTLY?

Why not book your boiler in for a service.

Contact: RMG Plumbing & Heating
Tel: 07765 461323
Email: rodgillett@hotmail.com



587705

Dates for your diary:

February by Zoom - Monday, 13th February 7.30pm – Crayfish on the Lawn and other gardening stories by Joff Elphick

March in the Hall - Monday, 20th March 7.30pm – The Forgotten River by John Tyler

April in the Hall - Monday, 17th April – AGM followed by Wildlife in the Chilterns by Jon Mason, The Early Birder

Trip to RHS Hyde Hall - Saturday, 20th May 2023

Horatio's Garden Open Day - Saturday, 24th June 2023 (not a DGS organised trip – date for your information)

DGS Autumn Show - Saturday, 2nd September 2023

Trip to Kew Gardens - Sunday, 17th September 2023

If you would like to become a member of the Gardening Society and join our meetings please contact Alison on 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.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

If you enjoy books why not visit your Downley Library, located in the Old School Community Centre? With almost 5000 books of which 60% are for children, a mixture of fiction and non-fiction for the older age group and a selection of board and picture books for younger ones. We also have some Easy Readers for children who need a little extra help. Our wish is that the library will encourage children to read and enjoy books. With all the electronic gadgets that attract children's interest these days, we hope an early introduction to books and reading will stay with them through life.

When the library first opened in 2005 we had many willing helpers who helped prepare the books and install them onto our first computer database and then pack them on the shelves; it was an exciting time. We still have some of the early volunteers involved in the library plus new ones have joined us along the way.

We survive on limited funds to purchase new books made primarily from the small charge for the loan of books, so we are always grateful to receive donations of books. We prefer the books to be no more than two to three years old and in good condition; unfortunately we are unable to accept adult non-fiction books due to lack of space. If we have any of the donated books in stock we keep them to sell on Downley Day to boost our funds. If an author or book title cannot be found in our stock we are happy to source it providing the cost is not too great. We try to keep the stock as up to date as possible.

We enjoy visits from the nursery and playgroups in the village bringing groups of children and helpers to look at the books. We provide a drink and a biscuit while they listen to a story from one of our collection. It is lovely to see the children in the library, Why not visit us? We are sure you will find a book that will take your interest.

Sandra Morris



ADMIN SUPPORT FOR THE TRADES

**Struggling to keep on top of
your endless stream of business admin tasks?**

Just some of the services we offer are:

- Scheduling & Diary Management
- CRM Management
- Prepare Quotes, Estimates & Invoices
- Chase Payments
- Communication to Clients & Suppliers
- Ordering Parts
- Prepare & Amend Contracts / Agreements
- General Admin

**E: tanyadickinsonva@outlook.com
T: 07920 478 556**



ARNOLD FUNERAL SERVICE
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
SIX GENERATIONS OF SERVICE

High Wycombe
891 London Road
Tel: 01494 472572

Slough
273 Farnham Road
Tel: 01753 535556

Marlow
21-23 Little Marlow Road
Tel: 01628 898866

Gerrards Cross
38 Oak End Way
Tel: 01753 891892

Beaconsfield
32 Gregories Road
Tel: 01494 685000

Traditional, Alternative & Green Funerals
Pre-Payment Plans ~ Stonemasonry ~ Floristry

24 Hour Service
www.arnold-funerals.co.uk



MARK BRAISHER MORTGAGES

**Residential Mortgages
Buy To Let Mortgages
Critical Illness
Income Protection
Life Insurance
Buildings & Contents Insurance**



48 WESTOVER ROAD, HIGH WYCOMBE, HP13 5HX

w. www.markbraishermortgages.co.uk

e. info@markbraishermortgages.co.uk

t. 01494 442719

m. 07891 688525

J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

Spring 2023



Wal, Happy New Year to you orl I rekons, eh, wal wot a year for weather 2022 was. Summer hot and dry, actually very hot and very dry, more like the Kalahari I thinks, then rain and more rain, gettin over an inch, (25mm that is eh!), in an hour—then just when us up the plot was a'thinkin we could settle down and bodge along nice and steady it gets cold, and wot I means it gets really cold eh! We had minus 7C wotsits for 5 days runnin, everything frozen solid- wal wot did that do? Wal it completely did for my lovely aeonium collection, I put em in the greenhouse like larst year, when they wos orlright, but this time aaagh! They wos frozen solid and with the thaw they just collapsed, like a couple of pumkins I had up the gardin, they looked just like a couple of punctured footballs! But nil desperandum or summat like.. “He don't know wot that means, but he ses it when summat gose wrong for im, and that's pretty often“ ses Mrs H.

So who's goin to get the first snowdrops in the gardin, and them lovely aconites, luvly little things, great for spring ground cover, there's a wonderful show of em in Ibstone churchyard, do ave a look - Spring is a wonderful time for us and yor plants, just a hint of warmth and the sap a'risin, catkins hangin from the trees, and even things starts happenin up the plot which must be the coldest and windiest place in the Chilterns, and the stoniest. Mind you, the soil is great for them ellibors, we've got some beauties, so why not get sum a'goin for next year, ours self seeds if you lets them seeds lie.

When you gets this it'll be in February I thinks, and them garden centres will be full of orl sorts of stuff for the year ahead, like spuds, wal you knows I luvs em, some gardin centres has them seed spuds loose in bins, so you can help yorsalf, so owe about gettin a couple of each variety, and ave a big experiment, that could be fun eh? “Wal he calls that fun, wot! That's the end I rekons” Ses Mrs H, but she just don't get it eh! Anyway ave a go or use the black bag method, I'll let you into that secret another time—ha ha!

Now an extract from Gilbert white's diary. February 1769.

“Helleborus viridis” “Planted in my orchard, begins to spring- it rises from the earth with its flower buds forward and differs from “Helliborus Foetidus” (stinking Hellibore), in that it dies down to the ground in Autumn, while that maintains a large handsome plant all the winter” Wal that's from 250 years ago, Do ave a read of Gilbert White, I guess you can get sum on the interweb.

Then wots my French cousin, Jean d'Artichoke doin? Wal, believe it or not e's still upset about the football, with the French bein knocked out of the world cup final by them Argentinians, - Wal, wots that got to do with gardenin? They ses you've got to be relaxed and calm when you duz gardenin and growin things, so I don't rekon he'll be doin much this year, you can ardlly see him through clouds of home grown tobacco smoke, he needs to get out there, put out his cigarettes and do a hard days a'digging, wal, he's never done that before, lets wait and see wot he can grow this year eh?

So that's it for now, enjoy the longer days,

Cheerio and a'bientot

J. H. Sent from my iSpade

Up! Downley Festival 2023



Following the success of last year's Up! Downley Festival, it's now time to focus on this year. We've already held a couple of committee meetings and were delighted to welcome two new members to the committee at our AGM.

We're always open to fresh ideas and help with organising the events so please get in touch if you can contribute in any way. We generally meet on the first Monday of the month at the Le De Spencer's Arms and the meeting normally lasts no longer than an hour.

The ever popular Comedy Night, 'A Bit on The Commonsides', will make a welcome and hilarious return on Wednesday 21st June. Andy Parsons of 'Mock the Week' fame is provisionally signed up as this year's headliner. However, this is always subject to change.

There will also be the usual events such as the Art Show, the History Walk and the Open Studios. There are other events in their development stage, so watch this space.

Although some of our organised events are free of charge, the Up! Downley Festival does raise money each year. The philosophy of the committee is that funds raised should be put back into the community. If you are an organisation in the village that would benefit from a grant from us, then please ask for an application form.

Should you be interested in joining the committee or are applying for a grant, then please contact the secretary, Lea McDonald, at leamcd@btinternet.com

For all things Up! Downley Festival, including many photos, visit our Facebook community page at: facebook.com/UpDownleyFestival

Fran Lazenby, Festival Committee Chairman

Downley Day News

2023 is now upon us and planning has started for this year's Downley Day and associated events. Dates for these will be as follows:

- 16th June at 7pm: Family Disco.
- 17th June at 1pm: Downley Day
- 8th July at approx. 6.30pm: Concert on the Common

We would like to improve attendance at the family disco and encourage more children to participate in the marquee. Any ideas that you might have will be gratefully received – please contact info@downley.org.

Downley Day will feature the usual favourites of Downley King and Queen, dog show, and dancing displays. This year's headline performance will be Angie Mack Hula Hooper (<https://www.hulahooper.com/>). Application forms for pitches will be available shortly on our website page (see below).

There will also be the usual BBQ and teas stalls for which we would like to ask for applications from local (non-profit) village organisations to run. These stalls can be

good fund-raisers for those who run them so we like to spread the opportunities around the village as much as we can.

Concert on the Common will be headlined by “These Certain People” (<http://thesecertainpeople.co.uk/>) who performed at last year’s Platinum Party. We have yet to confirm other performances so hope to announce them in the next issue of the Village News. Also, keep an eye on our page on the Downley Community website (<https://www.downley.org/community/downley-day>).

Downley Albion FC

your local men’s football team - WE NEED YOU!



Our 2022/23 season kicked off in September and we have had mixed results. Some great wins and some awful losses!

At the time of writing, we have currently played 11 games and sit 2nd in Division 2.

We currently have a squad of about 30 players, including 4 ex Downley Dynamos players who joined in the summer. However, not everyone is available every week, and some weeks we have to turn out with only 1 sub!

Our goal for the remainder of the season is to try and recruit more players to secure our future for the 2023/24 season, as Downley Dynamos unfortunately don’t have an U18 team to recruit from coming through this summer.

So if you are a keen footballer (age 16 plus) who would like to play for your village team, please get in contact. All age ranges and abilities welcome. We are a well-organised Club with a friendly bunch of lads who enjoy playing football and socialising. Home games are played on Mannings Field in Downley and away games are around the Wycombe area.

For the latest results and fixtures take a look at our Facebook page - **Downley Albion FC**

Sally Baker, Club Secretary - downleyalbionfc@gmail.com

Downley Cricket Club

The cold days of Winter are cautiously giving way to more sunlight and the joys of Spring. Inspired by England’s cricketers winning the World T20 Cup and thus becoming double World Champions, being current holders of the ODI World Cup, cricketers at Downley cannot wait to hit the nets and run on to the Common, match-ready, eager to enjoy another season. It is also an Ashes year, with England’s fearless Test team showing club cricketing enthusiasts up and down the country how far a positive and attacking style can take you.

Our Captain Ben (Hughes) allows everyone free rein to express themselves, leading by example. It is an exhilarating sight to see young Joe Holmes bat, bowl and field so athletically. Rob ‘Spreckers’ Spreckley provides regular entertainment dealing exclusively in boundaries, while Rajat Khator plays pedigree strokes and Pete ‘Ledge’ Stone strikes the ball to all corners of the ground. Charlie King bats and fields with exuberance.



MONDAY

Minis

Mondays during term-time 9.30-11.15am

£2 per family (cash and card accepted)

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

- A chance for local parents and carers to meet and for babies and toddlers to make new friends!
- 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 Kimberley & Caroline:
downleymondayminis@gmail.com



Wellness & Mindfulness

Helping You To Overcome Anxiety, Worry,
Fear, Overwhelm and Regain
Control of Your Life

So You Can Live in Peace & Happiness

1 2 1 Coaching • Mindfulness Meditation
Wellness Coaching • Group Workshops

Paul Wakefield
has been a certified life & wellness coach
and a meditation teacher since 2006

Book a FREE Call with Paul Today

Mobile 07817 821190 | Office 01494 506206
www.peacewithpaul.com | paul@peacewithpaul.com

SUTTONS

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

ALL GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKS CARRIED OUT

No Job Too Small From A Dripping Tap To a Full Size Patio

PATIO SPECIALISTS
WALL & FLOOR TILING
PAINTING & DECORATING
PLUMBING
FENCING
BLOCKED DRAINS / GUTTERS CLEARED

Call Trevor For Free No Obligation Estimate - No Call Out Fee

Tel: 01494 638953

Mobile: 07754 948743

Email: suttonsproperty@aol.com

It is, of course, Downley cricket club's 150th Anniversary this year, and all connected to the club, players and supporters alike, are planning to celebrate this milestone, on and off the field. Meanwhile hard work on the square and outfield begins in earnest by the incredibly dedicated band led by Den Cox, Martin Birkett and their small team. The roller has been taken away for a big service. Outdoor nets on Mannings Field are planned for the start of April, and if you would like to join as a player, you are most welcome to come along, usually from about 6pm. There will be plenty of fun and laughter. If, instead, you would like to umpire or score, you will be warmly received. Please contact us at webmaster@downleycc.co.uk.

After many years, a decision was made at the start of last season to only run one team, something that has rejuvenated interest and brought back a few players. We are a mixture of seasoned 'older' players (like wicket-taking machines Graeme 'Aikers' Aitken and Colin 'Squeezer' Caesar, and the unusual, but mightily-effective Graham 'Boycs' Swales), and gifted and talented youngsters, several returning from university mid-season, like dashing wicket-keeper batter Ben Priestley and fast-bowler Rehaan Vats. We play our best on the pitch, always in good spirit, very often against opposing clubs that know us well. Hard-fought victories (and defeats) in the past have brought a certain mutual respect.

We play in the Berkshire, Chiltern and mid-Bucks league, on Saturday afternoons, with very occasional Sunday away games. There is plentiful spectator support, with lots of vocal advice and encouragement. Families regularly attend; at a match in high summer last season there were four generations of the Cox family cheering the team on!

Hard work is being done to raise funds, an example being Billy "two helmets" Powell running the Century Club. This is a licensed monthly prize draw open to all (£5 per entry per month). If you are interested in taking part to help raise funds for the club whilst having a chance to be bowled over by bumper prizes, please contact Billy on powellw73@gmail.com. It could be you!

Sunnybank Methodist News

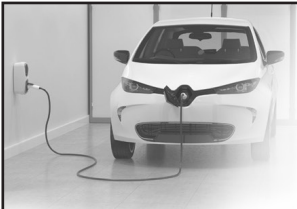
A message from the Reverend Vida Foday.

Herb Caen wrote the following in an article: "Every morning in Africa a gazelle wakes up, and it knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up, and it knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve. Both the lion and the gazelle know they'd better be running when the sun comes up".

Every believer in Christ is involved in spiritual challenges every day. We cannot therefore afford to move into any new day without being aware of our need for the Lord. Life without God can be like being on a treadmill. Generations come and go and the sun rises and sets day after day, year after year. Rivers flow into the sea, but it is never full. So, life is always moving but never arriving.

How different for those who know God! They too sometimes experience routine, monotony, and difficulty, but they are on a journey.

Whatever may be going on about us, we can always know that God is the same, day in and day out. He can be depended on.



plugs

Electrical



**Domestic & Commercial
Installation & Maintenance
Inspection, Testing & Fault Finding
Grant Funded Electric Vehicle Charging Points
Garden Lighting & Outbuilding Supplies
Fuse Board Upgrades**

Call Tony on 07944 162958
email tony@plugs.me.uk
visit www.plugs.me.uk



MARK EVANS PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEERS

- Gas Safe registered no. 118353
- Full Liability Insurance
- 30 year's experience
- Competitive rates
- Complete bathroom installation
- Boiler servicing and repairs
- New boilers and unvented hot water systems
- Central heating systems
- Solar panels
- Small work also undertaken
- Local and reliable
- Free quotes/No call out charge

T. 01494 718 661 M. 07779 013 565

As Christians what we have is fellowship with each other, the light of Christ to guide us through the storms of life, and the hope and strength to draw others to the light of Christ. Our Christian story is about the redemption of the world. Our story is about God who became human, one of us – a real gift from God. Christmas has come and gone, and our prayer is that we keep the gift of Jesus in our hearts forever.

We have entered into a New Year, a new season of hope. We pray that the New Year will be a year of happiness and blessing and may the joy of redemption shine in us all.

With love and blessings



Get your garden safe for the Spring!

Your garden, as well as your house, has valued possessions that thieves would love to steal. It also has equipment that could help them break into your house. Most burglars are looking for easy ways of getting into a house or garden. By taking a few simple precautions you can reduce the risk of being burgled and make your house and garden more secure.

Gravel paths and drives are an ideal way of cheaply and unobtrusively discouraging thieves from your garden. The gravel makes a loud noise underfoot which carries well at night, when any thief relies on moving around silently. For this reason, it is also worthwhile putting gravel near house windows or doors, as the noise of any movement on it may wake the owners or any dog.

Garden sheds are a prime target for intruders. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you regularly keep on top of the security of your shed, to ensure that the contents inside are as protected as possible at all times. Consider the use of a strong lockable box or cage within the shed in which you can store not only your garden tools but also insecticides, weed killers or other items which may be harmful to health or plants if improperly used.

Don't make a burglar's life any easier by leaving garden tools available to act as the perfect tool with which to force his entry. Always lock them away securely after use. Likewise, do not leave ladders to provide easy access to otherwise inaccessible parts of your house. They should be chained and padlocked to a strong post or wall.

Garages are frequently used for storing not only cars, motor bikes and cycles, but also property similar to that found in garden sheds, as well as DIY power tools and sporting equipment. Considering the value of the property contained therein, security precautions are often found to be wanting, and for this reason they are identified by burglars as easy targets.

If you already have a burglar alarm system, why not extend it to the garage? Consider the benefits of alarmed padlocks and property-marking pens; these and other security items are sold on our website. Security marking can deter thieves by making the items harder to sell on.

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

office@wdnhwatch.plus.com

Chiltern Hills Montessori Nursery, Downley

It's 'all change for the better' for our day care nurseries in Downley!

For 25 years during term times we have happily taught and cared for 2-4 year old children from Downley and further afield under our Sunshine Montessori name.

We have now changed our name to Chiltern Hills Montessori, and in addition to our nurseries in the Memorial Hall and on the Downley school site, we have a brand new baby unit on Downley Common, snuggled into the Sunnybank Methodist church hall.

We are delighted to be able to offer care and education for children from 6 months to 4 years, 8am-6pm all year round. Even better news: we are the same tried and trusted team of educators doing all we can to make each day fun and exciting for every child.

And here's how you can help. We love to tap into the learning opportunities of our environment and its residents. If you have some occasional or regular spare time on your hands we would welcome some more volunteers - story readers, adults to help our children 'make and create' with glue, paint and sticky tape, those who can play an instrument or could join us on our walks. Or maybe you have a skill, hobby or interest to share. Do pop in or give us a call – look out for our new signage around the village. We are a place where fun and laughter abound. Come and join the fun!

Mrs Virginia Roden

www.chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk - 01494 531565
principal@chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk

Chiltern Hills Montessori Nursery Downley, High Wycombe HP13 5AL

- We are open **51 weeks 8am - 6am**
- For babies (3 months) to 5 year olds
- We cherish children and families - we look forward to hearing from you

Tel: 01494 531565



15 hours free education per week for all 3 and 4 yr olds
& some 2 yr olds

30 hours free education per week for eligible 3-4 year olds

**Forest school
sessions included**

www.chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk

admin@chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk

Hillclimb Garage



Christmas Fun, Colouring Competitions and Dreaming of Warmer Days to Come...!

And, Just like that, we are packing up the baubles, fairy lights and mince pies and getting ready for lighter evenings and the smell of freshly cut grass. However, the warm days we crave are not quite here yet and with wet and cold weather still around you can still book in for a FREE Winter Health Check, during which we will inspect all your vehicle's vitals, including Tyres, Battery, Anti-freeze and Wipers, giving you peace of mind while you're travelling during the dark nights.

We were very proud to once again host the Littleworth Road Christmas Market in November. The event just gets better and better each year, with more stalls than ever selling a wonderful variety of products, from yummy treats to homemade candles and knitwear. The kids (and some Dad's) had their faces painted and we even got to see Santa! Thank you to the amazing organisers and to everyone who attended and contributed, helping to raise funds for the Wycombe Food Hub.

In addition to the Market, we had lots of other activities going on at the garage throughout the Christmas holiday period. The Woodland Preschool had another fab display in our showroom window and, like the Market, this just gets better each year, they even had twinkling lights in this year's display...! Great job kids (with maybe just a little help)!



Our Community Christmas Tree on the forecourt was as popular as ever and we held a Charity Christmas Competition to find the best colouring in of Santa and Rudolph sat on the roof of the Garage! We received so many amazing entries and we hope you had a chance to look at some of them proudly displayed in our showroom window. For every entry received, Hillclimb donated to the Stokenchurch Dog Rescue Centre, raising over £50! Thank you to all the Children who

entered and a huge well done to Liliana (age 5) and Esme (age 10), our competition winners. We hope you enjoyed your prizes, which included a cuddly toy version of Lexi, our lovely Labrador Garage Mascot.

After our Double Award Winning Year in 2022, we are looking forward to another year of progress and development at the garage, embracing new technologies in motor vehicles and working with customers to help them understand how they too can move forward with change, especially in Hybrid and Electric Vehicles.

As always, we finish with a huge 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. Whatever you drive, Whatever you need, We remain: 'At Your Service'

Canine Cutz

Bespoke Dog Groomers & Spa

Bespoke Styling & Grooming • Puppy College

Spa Treatments & Packages • Nail Clipping

Teeth Cleaning • Natural Products

Paw Naturel Stockists

Grooming by Appointment Only

01494 44 33 49

www.canine-cutz.com



P.K. STROY QUALITY BUILDER

T. 01494 442886 or 01296 612788

M. 07876 254131

E. peter@peterstroy.co.uk

**EXTENSIONS • BRICKWORK • REFURBISHMENTS • BATHROOMS
PATIOS • KITCHENS • DRIVEWAYS • PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

www.peterstroy.co.uk

News from St James

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6



As we start 2023 there are a lot of things we might be anxious about – in particular the financial situation in our country, the huge rise in the cost of living and the many different strikes happening as a result of this.

This verse from Paul's letter to the Philippians gives us the advice to talk to God about all the things that we are feeling anxious about. We know that God cares for us, and he cares about us. He is interested in the things that worry us, and he promises many times in the bible that he will not leave us, that he will walk with us through all the challenges of life.

Over the years, I have prayed for and with many people in different situations. I have not seen all my prayers answered in the way that those I am praying for would like, but I have many times seen God bring people peace and comfort in the midst of their worries, and I have seen some amazing answers to prayer, like the one we saw at Growing Hope just before Christmas. We heard of a parent who had been in hospital and unable to do any Christmas shopping. One of our volunteers set about gathering some gifts for the family. She went into town and met a lady she knew who said to her that she had been praying that morning and felt that God wanted her to buy some gifts for a family who had none! So they were able to work together to make this family's Christmas special.

So whatever you are feeling anxious about right now, whether it be money, health, relationships, I would encourage you to pray, to talk to God. If you would like one of our team at St James' to pray for you or with you, then do get in touch, or pop in on a Sunday morning or a Thursday morning.

Sad News: In October two long standing members of St James' passed away, David Copcutt and Desmond Ryan.

David Copcutt, who was a very well-known figure in Downley, died on 22nd October 2022, aged 94. He had lived in Downley since the 1950s and been involved with many activities and societies in the area including the scouts and the Downley Horticultural Society.

He is deeply missed by everyone at St James which he had first attended in 1958 and where he had been a key member of the committee to rebuild the church in 1975 and later the church hall.



Another member of the building committee for St James', **Des Ryan** also sadly died 21st October 2022. Des and Teresa were key members of the Catholic congregation at St James, which shared the church with the Anglicans. His wife Teresa remembers that they were going to be charged for delivering the floor tiles for the church to High Wycombe but were happy to deliver them for free to where Des worked in London, so he used to bring them home in his car a batch at a time for several weeks!



3dom Accountants

Accountancy, Tax & Payroll Services

We offer bespoke **accountancy**, **tax** and **payroll** solutions for businesses and individuals

- Limited Company Services
- Sole Trader Accounts and Returns
- Self-Assessment Tax Returns
- Payroll Services
- Bookkeeping Services
- VAT Services
- Business Start-up Services

Call us now to discuss your individual or business needs on **01295 258125**

Email us at sayhello@3domacc.co.uk

For more details visit:
www.3domacc.co.uk

SKYLINE

Electrical Services

Reliable, local electrician with 15 years experience.

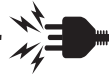
All domestic / commercial works undertaken.

- ⚡ Complete rewires
- ⚡ Consumer units / fuseboard upgrade
- ⚡ Small works / fault finding
- ⚡ Outdoor lighting
- ⚡ New build 1st & 2nd fix

Ryan Stockton

E: ryan@skylineelectrical.co.uk

Tel: 07805 926329



Contact your local Slimming World Consultant and join a warm and friendly group today!

**FIND US AT
THE PASTURES CHURCH
EVERY TUESDAY**

9.30am

5.30 & 7pm

Contact Marion
07887 607987

Contact Kerry
07887 567264

Slimming
WORLD

touching hearts, changing lives

#SWtastethefreedom
[f](https://www.facebook.com/slimmingworld) [i](https://www.instagram.com/slimmingworld) [slimmingworld.co.uk](https://www.slimmingworld.co.uk)

**DO YOU NEED TO
REMORTGAGE IN 2023 ?**

Call us today on 01494 211194
to discuss your options.

**Applicant
Mortgage
Brokers**



YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT
KEEP UP TO DATE WITH REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE
OR OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT.

Other News and Events

Growing Hope High Wycombe: We now have a music therapist, Louise, working with children on Tuesdays and a new Clinic manager and Speech and Language therapist, Rosalyn, who has just started and will be seeing children in the coming weeks.



We have our **Gala Dinner** on Saturday 20th May at St Andrew's Church, Hatters Lane. If you enjoy a chance to dress up, eat delicious food, have a dance and support a local charity – then do come along. To buy tickets please visit <https://growinghope.org.uk/events-2/>



Easter: As in previous years the churches in Downley will be holding a service on the Common by the beacon at 6am Easter morning (April 9th), followed by breakfast at Grace Baptist – all are welcome.

Heather Graham (Vicar of St James'), www.stjamesdownley.org.uk



Mince pies, followed by Mud Pies!

In December we managed to dodge the latest strain of Covid to get our annual Christmas Celebration; after the Monday walk we had a buffet lunch, a glass of wine or two, some Christmas Carols and a chaotic round of 'On the first day of Christmas...' courtesy of Pat Greggor and her quartet. As is traditional, after the event we were

able to donate to three different charities: Thames Valley Air Ambulance, The Downley Old School Community Centre (DOSCA), and Simply Walk, which is part funded by Buckinghamshire Council but still needs support in order to maintain it as a free service to our local walkers. All our leaders and back-markers are volunteers, trained by Fiona Broadbent, our local Bucks co-ordinator.



This winter quarter is always the most difficult with the weather doing its best to put us off. We have had a very wet and windy time of it recently so the quantity of mud has been increasing. The recent hard frosts and low temperatures helped a little by hardening it all off but not for long. But mud is good! Healthy

mud or 'wet soil' is rich in minerals and other nutrients, alive with worms, fungi and bacteria and all of their by-products. Birds use mud to make their nests comfortable and safe, and people use it on their face, hair and feet to make them beautiful or cure various ailments. And I'm sure most of us remember making mud-pies in the back garden when we were kids; lovely dollops of mud decorated with daisies and stones for a Teddy Bear's picnic?

Come and walk with us on Mondays (10.00 am) or Thursdays (11.00 am) and we'll do our best to avoid at least some of the mud! For more information, please go to www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk.

Jeanne Steward



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!*



01494 535317

sarah@ledespencersarms.co.uk | www.ledespencersarms.co.uk

Keep up with what's on and download our menu on our website.
Plus share chat and photos on our facebook page [LeDeSpencersArms](#)



the barr
academy
of Performing Arts

MUSICAL THEATRE

3 - 5 yrs	Tiny Tots MT	9:20am - 10:05am	£65
6 - 9 yrs	Junior MT	10:15am - 11:15am	£78
10 - 13 yrs	Intermediate MT	11:25am - 12:25pm	£78
14 - 18 yrs	Senior MT	12:35pm - 1:35pm	£78

SUNDAYS

Longburrow Hall
Park Lane
Stokenchurch
HP14 3TQ



Led by WEST END
Professional, Emma Barr

For more information or to book your
TRIAL CLASS today...

www.thebarracademy.co.uk
info@thebarracademy.co.uk
07583 942447

★
ACT
SING
DANCE



Downley War Memorial Hall



Cecil Avery

In one of my earlier articles, I mentioned Cecil Avery. In August 1942 he was reported missing following action in North Africa at the end of June. In the middle of 1943, his wife received news that he had been a prisoner of war in Italian hands for several months. However, in April 1944 came word that he was presumed to have died whilst a prisoner, sometime in November 1942.

Throughout the second half of 1944 more and more US troops arrived in Europe as the Allies advanced through northern France and into Belgium. In mid-August a second front had been opened with landings on the Cote d'Azur and the German army, weakened by having battalions moved north in response to the Normandy landings, was driven back to the Vosges Mountains within a month.

In the east, the Red Army has reached the German border and, with help from local partisans, has moved into Yugoslavia and Hungary. By the end of January 1945, it was within 50 miles of Berlin.

To the south, British forces, likewise with local fighters, had liberated Greece and Albania.

The war in the Pacific continued with the US forces slowly pushing the Japanese army back, sometimes at great cost. By November they had reached the Mariana Islands from where bombers could reach Tokyo. It is from here that two B-29 Superfortress bombers departed in August 1945 to drop Atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On 23 February 1945 the island of Iwo Jimo was liberated and the famous photograph of US Marines raising the American flag was taken. A few days later a Philippine government was formed.

In Washington DC, representatives of the USA, UK, USSR and China met to begin discussions about the establishment of an "International organisation", which was to become the United Nations.

Early in 1943 the parents of WO Donald Coleman, of Berwyn, Plomers Green Lane, were informed that he had been reported missing following an RAF mission over enemy territory. Subsequently, news had arrived that he was a prisoner of war and in October 1944 he was repatriated. Donald was able to pass on news of Jack Bailey, a fellow POW whose family lived in the same road. He also spoke highly of the assistance received from Dutch citizens when seriously injured after his plane crashed.

Guardsman Walter Dean of Lyndhurst Close had been killed in action in Italy. It seems that wasn't part of Downley at the time as his death is not recorded on our Memorial.

Arthur Ray of 5 Jubilee Road was missing but believed to be a prisoner of war in Italy.

On a happier note, Madeline Maunder of Graylene, Downley had got married at the church of St Lawrence in West Wycombe. It's possible that she was related to Leonard Maunder, the Village's first casualty of WW1.

A Whist Drive had been held at the Memorial Hall raising just over £3 for the Red Cross POW Games fund. Together with the proceeds of previous similar events this brought the total to almost £55, equivalent to over £3000 at today's prices!

SYNERGY PILATES



DOWNLEY CLASSES

MONDAYS

7.00 • The Memorial Hall

WEDNESDAYS

9.45am St. James Church Hall

ZOOM CLASSES

Mon & Thurs 9.30am / Wed 6pm

To book your place or find out more
please contact Karen 07786 567 376

karensynergypilates@gmail.com

D J Coles Property Services

Professional High Standard

Established in 1999

- Interior & Exterior Decorating
- Paper Hanging
- Coving
- Carpentry & Kitchen Installations
- Laminate Flooring
- Door Hanging
- General Property Maintenance & Improvements

Free Estimates • Competitive Rates

M: 07747 783015

E: djcolespropmain@yahoo.com



VOCAL COACHING WITH EMMA BARR

*Professional WEST END performer with
extensive industry & teaching experience.*

Home Studio in DOWNLEY & AVAILABLE ONLINE
£40.00 per hour / £20.00 per half hour

SESSIONS INCLUDE...

- Posture & Breath Control
- Warming Up / Cooling Down
- Stretching & Strengthening Exercises
- Musical Theatre / Pop / Light Classical

"Whether you want to concentrate on technique, add to your repertoire, prepare for auditions, work towards vocal exams or just gain some more vocal confidence, I can provide you with fun & rewarding singing lessons."

07779537755

info@thebarracademy.co.uk
www.thebarracademy.co.uk

”

Emma is always cheerful and positive, encouraging me by highlighting each little improvement, especially when my voice is not behaving as it should!

Patrick

”

Emma's teaching style is confident, engaging and openly honest, and has enabled me to gain renewed joy and confidence in my singing.

Jill

Top Notes



Finally, the Centenary Tea which I mentioned in my last article will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 18th June in the War Memorial Hall. Final details will be announced later.

I am still waiting to hear more stories of the various uses made of the Hall over the years. We were recently asked by the makers of the Netflix series “The Crown” if they could use it as a Polling Station. Unfortunately, we were unable to accommodate their request. Do you remember it being used as one in real life?

Alan Baker, alanbaker49@btinternet.com, 07890 762527

Top Notes “Do you hear the people sing?”

Rehearsals have started with a bang and we’re all very excited for the musical year ahead.

We’re currently preparing for a performance at *The Beaconsfield Festival of Chors* in March. It will be our second year at the festival and we’re looking forward to joining other local choirs to celebrate music and local talent, in an evening of song.

We had a fantastic end to 2022 with a wonderful *Charity Christmas Concert* in aid of **Thames Valley Adventure Playground** at All Saints Parish Church. We were joined by members of the Salvation Army Band, which meant that audience carols were enjoyed by all. Profits from both our *2022 Summer* and *Christmas Concerts* meant that we were able to donate a massive **£2075.00** to the charity, which we know they were delighted with. Some audience comments; “*Perfect start to the festive period*”, “*You were absolutely amazing!*” “*Most uplifting*” & “*Brilliant concert - it began the festive season very nicely*”. Thanks to everyone who came and donated to such a wonderful cause - we couldn’t do it without you.

Instead of a summer concert this year, we are embarking on a *Care Home Tour!* As a community choir, it’s so important to us to be able to share our voices as widely as possible and we all know and appreciate the therapeutic benefits music has on our elderly community. We regularly sing for the residents at *The Heights* and are anticipating some really special and memorable care home concerts this summer.

As ever, you can 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.

Here’s to a brilliant year!



The Grange

Restaurant & Gift Shop



Based in the beautiful Chiltern Hills, The Grange welcomes you for breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea.

OPENING HOURS
Every day 09:00 - 16:00

01844 348100



FINDING THE GRANGE
Haw Lane, Saunderton,
Princes Risborough
HP27 9NS

Raising Funds for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People & Hearing Link

Registered charity in England and Wales no. 293358 and Scotland no. SC040486

www.thegrangesaunderton.org.uk



Mens Walking Football

Tuesdays 6.15pm -7.15pm

Ladies Football

Thursdays 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Mens Football

Fridays 8pm - 9pm

All sessions held on astroturf in Walters Ash and Flackwell Heath.

Visit www.xtffc.com to book a place or call 07966 455549 for more information.

Come and join us for a
chat over a relaxing
cup of coffee

Every Thursday morning at
St James' Church, Downley
From 10.30 to 12.00.
Feel free to bring a friend

We observe current rules on social distancing.
Please wear a mask if appropriate.

Plomer Hill, Downley, High Wycombe, HP13 5NB
Tel: 01494 534 315 www.stjamesdownley.org.uk



ST JAMES CHURCH

DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

A Return Visit by a World War 2 Evacuee



*Pamela Allars
remembering her time
at the old Victorian
Downley School.*

A very interesting and special lady visited Downley on 8th June 2022, accompanied by her daughter, Jane MacDonald.

Pamela Anne Degan, nee Allars, was born in 1931. She was an evacuee, staying in Downley during 1940-42, Downley being a rather safer place than many others in that period.

The Downley Local History Group hosted Pamela and Jane's visit, with a tour of Pamela's memorable places. Starting point was Commonsides, then along and round the common, back along Littleworth Road, and then into Jubilee Road, and round the corner to School Close and to the 'Old School'. The school, now of course the Community Centre, was a particular highlight, where Pamela stood in the same room, then a classroom, where she studied as an 11 and 12 year old. Her teacher was a Miss Meadows and the Headmaster was a Mr Avery.

She spoke very warmly of her time in Downley, describing her stay as the happiest time of her childhood. She stayed in the home of Gwen Hollingsworth, in Jubilee Road. Gwen had a baby boy called John, and Pamela remembered pushing John in a pram downhill while wearing roller skates, with both surviving somehow! She also remembered being taken to a local chairmaker when it snowed. He made her a sledge from chair legs and she had a great time sledding on the common. Another memory was of a lorry or waggon driver who transported logs and would let the children hop up and take the reins with strict instructions to pull hard to stop the horse and waggon getting out of control while going down the hill....!?

Pamela was a delightful lady, and it was a privilege for two members of Downley Local History Group to guide her and her daughter Jane MacDonald around the Downley of today, and relive the days of 80 years ago.

A date for your diary – Saturday 25th March 2023

There will be a talk by Stuart King, craftsman, artist & woodturner on:

Downley & the Windsor Chair

Downley War Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm. Tickets £4.00 payable at the door

but can be reserved in advance

through Mike G Morgan, 01494 514252 or mikegmorgan65@gmail.com

M A HUNT

painting & decorating

FREE ESTIMATES

FRIENDLY SERVICE

01494 564998

07775626752

hunt.m6@sky.com

27 saunderton vale high wycombe bucks HP14 4LJ

Even the finest of
bodies need a little
paintwork



Winner
Franchisor
of the year 2010
HSBC Franchisee Support

Revive! repairs those unpleasant bumper scuffs, eye-sore damage to your wheels, and those small annoying scratches on your vehicle. But with Revive! you get more than a paint touch-up. You get a lifetime guarantee* on the work we do, a quality professional service and a pristine looking vehicle.

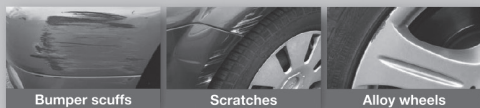


*Our lifetime guarantee is applicable while the vehicle repaired is still under the customers ownership.

So call Byron today free on:
0800 316 6027

Mobile:
07779 325201

or visit our website:
www.revive-uk.com



Bumper scuffs

Scratches

Alloy wheels

REVIVE!
setting new standards in mobile car care

From Westminster

Steve Baker - MP for Wycombe



May I begin by sending my best wishes for 2023. I appreciate these are not easy times with Britain's economy shocked by Coronavirus and then impacted by the war in Ukraine. As our economy recovers we must take immediate action to fix the problems families are facing, while putting in place the long-term solutions to build a stronger and more innovative economy that will guarantee a better future for the next generation. A recovering economy will mean reduced inflation and lower mortgage rates, more affordable food and energy, and support for the NHS so people get the care they need more quickly.

There have been a number of Bills going through Parliament recently. In mid-January there was an announcement on amendments to the Public Order Bill to tackle disruptive protests. The Government is broadening the legal definition of 'serious disruption' to clarify when police should intervene to stop tactics such as blocking roads. The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill also passed through the Commons. It is regrettable many unions have decided to strike leading to operations being cancelled, ambulances not arriving and trains not running. This is why the Government has taken responsibility to keep the public safe with minimum levels of service on strike days. People need to know access to emergency services will be protected and their livelihoods defended.

I know many people are concerned about the cost of living. Many schemes to support people, such as the Energy Price Guarantee, were introduced in the autumn. The Energy Price Guarantee will continue to support everyone and will save the typical family £500 this year. What people may not know is that Cold Weather Payments have also been triggered in both December and January meaning those in receipt of certain benefits have been given additional payments to meet their heating costs. Every pensioner household in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment will also get a £300 cost of living payment and those in receipt of disability benefits will get £150. From April the National Living Wage will increase by 9.7% giving an average of £1,600 extra for low-paid workers. There is also additional funding for the Household Support Fund enabling the Council to support people who need a little extra help.

I am looking forward to coming to the Pastures Church in early February to join the community celebration for the launch of the new name and vision for the church, which will now be called Vibe Church. The church has many plans for groups and activities for the wider area and I am sure this will be a force for good in the local community.

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

Support your local voluntary Library



Downley Community Centre
School Close, Downley HP13 5TR

T: 01494 528133

 follow us
see what's new on the shelves

OPEN

Monday 10 - 12noon

Thursday 3 - 5pm

Saturday 10 - 12 noon

If you haven't visited your community library yet, why not pop in to see us.

We are sure will be pleasantly surprised. Free to join for all the family, with a fantastic selection of adult and children's books.

You can browse at your leisure, or ask at the desk if you are looking for a particular book.

**WHY NOT VISIT
OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

SEARCH *Downley Community Library*



NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

The Mowchak

Special

Banquet Night

Sunday & Wednesday

**Popadoms & Chutneys - Starter - Main Course
Side Dish - Rice Or Nan**

£12.95 PER PERSON

Extra Charge for King Prawn & Fish : £3

Free delivery

or **10% discount** on collection.
(On orders over **£15**)



Banquet Meals valid for dine in only. Not valid with any other offers or promotions. Please mention Banquet Night when placing order.

You are welcome to bring your own Alcoholic Drinks



call or order online
01494 533379
www.themowchak.co.uk



7, Cross Court, Plomer
Green Ave, Downley,
High Wycombe HP13 5UW



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.

Severe Weather Emergency Provision

As the weather is exceptionally cold, if you find yourself sleeping rough or you see anyone sleeping out on the streets of Buckinghamshire, contact StreetLink online or call 0300 500 0914. They will notify our dedicated Outreach workers.

If you see anyone you believe to be under the age of 18 and/or are concerned about the health or welfare of anyone that you see sleeping rough call 999.

Council secures £397k in government funding to support active travel

We have been awarded £397k in funding from the Active Travel Capability and Ambition Fund – that supports planning active travel infrastructure, develop expertise and deliver behaviour change activities.

This will be used to support: Development of a Buckinghamshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) that will identify priorities for future investment in the active travel network; Resources to encourage school-aged children and young people to walk, cycle and scoot to and from school; Feasibility work for future active travel schemes; Promotion and monitoring of recently constructed active travel routes, alongside wider activities to encourage behaviour change; Training for officers and councillors on active travel infrastructure design.

The one-year funding reflects the Council being assessed by government as having strong leadership and support for active travel, with plans and an emerging network.

HAF programme spreads a little festive cheer to hundreds of families

Buckinghamshire Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has helped put a smile on the faces of hundreds of children across the county this Christmas holiday. The programme offered more than 5,000 activity club places and hot meals to children and young people in receipt of benefits-related free school meals throughout the Christmas holiday period. The council worked with 26 providers of activity clubs at 42 venues across the county. Activities on offer included family pantomime events, visiting farms, cooking, beatbox workshops, football, street dance, rugby and much more. A hot nutritious meal was also available at each club.

The HAF programme is funded with money from the Department for Education and coordinated by the council for Buckinghamshire. It aims to provide a range of free, high-quality activities and experiences for children in Buckinghamshire who receive benefits-related free school meals.

*Paul, Buckinghamshire Councillor for Downley
paul.turner@buckinghamshire.gov.uk 07825 842292*

Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - SPRING 2023

Hall Bookings: 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
Better Balance	Friday	13.00 - 14.00	✓	Joe.barnard@aitc.org.uk
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
Forever Cycling	Thursday	13.00 - 14.00	✓	Joe.barnard@aitc.org.uk
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	✓	
Taekwondo - NEW	Monday	18.30-19.30	✓	banthony@ax-uk.com Tel 07870219746
	Thursday	19.45-20.45	✓	
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
Zumba Gold	Wednesday	10.30 - 11.15	✓	jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com

SUNNYBANK CHAPEL, MOOR LANE - SPRING 2023

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
Chiltern Hills Montessori	Weekdays	08.00 - 18.00		admin@chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk 01494 514544

GUIDE AND SCOUT CENTRE - SPRING 2023

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	gsl3rddownley@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 - SPRING 2023

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 - SPRING 2023

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	
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 2023

Hall Bookings: dwmh.bookings@gmail.com

Chiltern Hills Montessori	Weekdays	08.00 - 18.00	admin@chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk 01494 514544
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

List Of Advertisers

3dom Accountants	36
Active in the Community	8
Admin Support for Trades	24
Altea Beauty and Holistic Treatments	16
Applicant Mortgage Brokers	36
Arnold Funeral Directors	24
Bucks Vision	4
Canine Cutz Dog Grooming	34
Care & Companions	22
Chiltern Hills Montessori Nursery	32
Clubs and Societies	20
DJ Coles Property Services	40
Downley Community Library	46
Downley Pharmacy	12
First Class Learning	6
GSL Property Maintenance	14
Hillclimb Garage	12
Independent Insurance Solutions	6
Jill Burrell Tutor	4
JR Travel. Private Hire	8
Le De Spencers Arms	38
M A Hunt Painting & Decorating	44
Mark Braisher Mortgages	24
Mark Evans Plumbing & Heating Engineers	30
Mark Gonsalves Kitchen & Bathroom Specialist	18
M.D. Garden Services	16
Monday Minis	28
Monkey Music	22

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

Natalie Jane Dance School	10
Optionz Hair & Beauty	51
Personalised Learning Tuition	16
Pieds Sur Terre - Reflexology	16
P K Stroy, Builder	34
Plugs Electrical Services	30
Revive Car Bodywork	44
RMG Plumbing & Heating	22
Robertsons Estate Agency	14
Singing Lessons with Emma Barr	40
Skyline Electrical Services	36
Slimming World	36
Spirit Hair Co.	18
St. James' Church	42
St James' Church Hall Hire	4
Suttons' Property Maintenance	28
Synergy Pilates	40
The Barr Academy of Performing Arts	38
The Downley Garage	6
The Grange Restaurant & Gift Shop	42
The Mowchak	46
The Professional Chimney Sweep Company	10
The Wye Partnership	2
TLC 4 You	10
Top Notes Christmas Concert	35
Wellness & Mindfulness	28
Wycombe Concert Band	19
Xtra Time Girls and Ladies Football	42

Downley Village News

Editor: Anne at editor@downley.org

Advertising: Send advertising to adverts@downley.org

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

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

Deadlines: The Village News is published quarterly in November, February, May and August. The deadline for adverts and copy for the next issue is 30th April 2023.

Website: news@downley.org

Printed by: Turville Printing Services 01494 520322

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 news and the downley.org website.

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

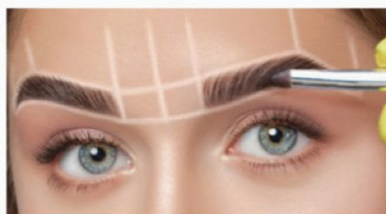
Optionz Beauty EST. 2000

HAIR-BEAUTY LASHES-NAILS-LASER

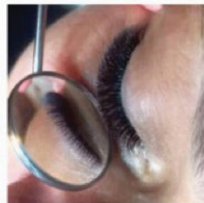
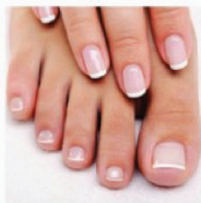
3 Cross Court, Plomer Green Ave, Downley, HP13 5UW

0798 3645857

www.optionzhairbeautylaser.co.uk



Enhance your natural beauty at Optionz...



Hair | Beauty | Laser | Nails | Lashes | Massage



Open 7 Days a Week

Book online:

optionzbeautysalon.booksy.com





DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY



An open letter – Post Box Toppers

To whom it may concern,

Over the past year and post-lockdown and Covid, we have all had to deal with a range of circumstances that are out of our control - new cases of Covid and rises in the cost of living and energy have all been, well, a bit much to be honest. I am writing this letter to the person responsible for the ray of light that shines daily in our lives and has brought great joy and smiles to all who witness them. I am referring to the Post Box Seasonal Crochets on the junction of Plomer Green Avenue and Plomer Green Lane. They started in Spring last year, if I remember correctly, and have been replaced as if by magic for each season that followed. The intricate design and attention to detail are mesmerising.

I can only imagine the time and effort given to each creation, which must be 100+ hours. They are sometimes emblazoned with working fairy lights and characters that would not look out of place in a Julia Donaldson book - foxes, sealife, snowmen, trees and Santa. As of writing this, the 2023 new year celebration crochet is in pride of place atop the Post Box.

So, thank you Crochet Wizard with all my heart for your selfless and much-appreciated talent. The toppers are a beacon of hope and joy for our community and I for one will always smile when I see them while out on a walk; they make my day!

Yours truly,

Mark Starkey

