

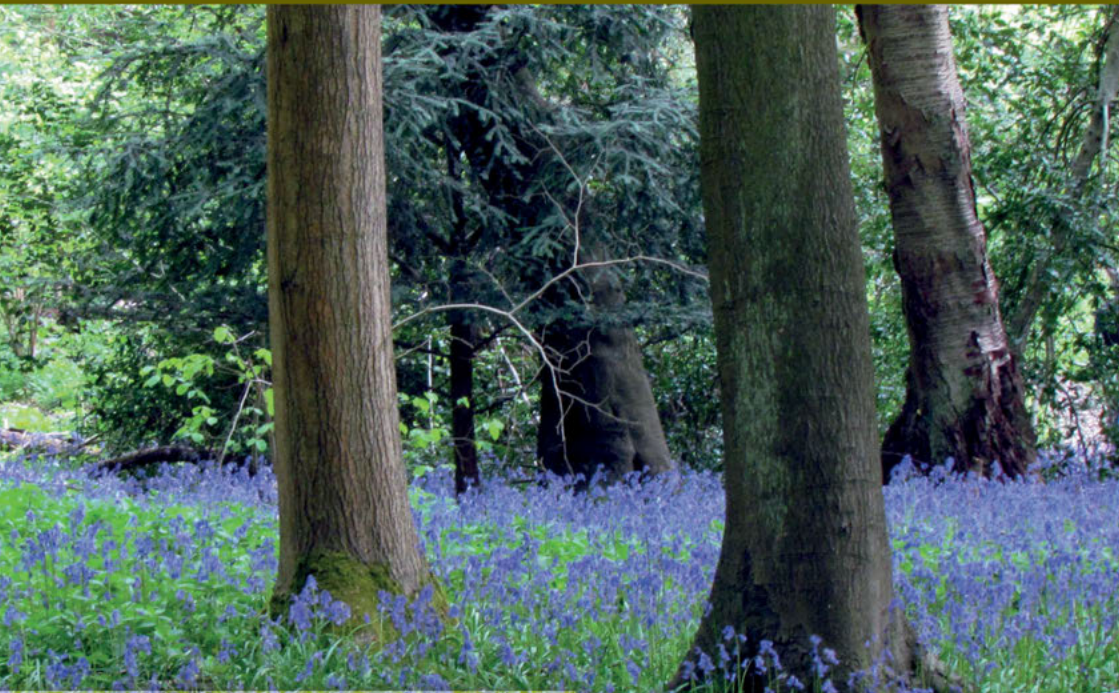
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**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

Village News

Issue 135/May 2023



**SUNDAY
14
MAY**

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ALONG**

join in the traditional

**DOWNLEY
ROGATION WALK**

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SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

Up!
Downley
Village Festival
CENTRE & BACK COVER



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From Town to Country

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SUNDAY 14 MAY 2023 - 2.00pm

The Downley Parish Family Walk on Rogation Day

Residents of Downley and their friends are invited to join in the annual Parish Walk on Sunday 14th May which will start at the War Memorial Hall at 2.00pm.

This is a walk for all the family around part of our historic parish boundary. It will take about an hour and a half and will finish at Le De Spencer's Arms on the Common at about 3.30 pm. The team at the pub will be on hand to provide free tea or orange squash for all walkers.

The walk will be led and back-marked by trained walk leaders. A description of the walk and a map will be handed out for those who like to know where they are going!

No need to book, just turn up on the day with your friends and family and join in a fun walk in our beautiful woods and rolling Chiltern Hills. This walk commemorates a local tradition of marking the boundary of our parish. In 'the old days' it used to involve tipping up small boys and using them to 'beat' the boundary markers we won't be doing any of that but we hope it will still be enjoyable.

Jeanne Steward

Potholes Update

Downley Councillors recently had a meeting with Buckinghamshire Council's Highways team where we discussed the roads in the ward, and the latest developments within the Council in how they are addressing everyone's favourite gripe - the potholes!

I will not begin to draw comparisons of Wycombe roads to other parts of the country as I am not in an informed position; however I can talk to you about the plans for Downley and the county generally.

Firstly, in relation to the County operation, they have recently engaged with a new contractor, Balfour Beatty, from 1 April, who will not only maintain the highways for maintenance and repair, but will also look after gully cleaning, street lighting and winter gritting. The Council claim this will help them 'take back greater control and increase accountability to effectively maintain the network'.

Whilst this is a welcome development, residents may wish to question how the Council lost control of the previous contractor, as I am sure you have noted the more recent repairs to the potholes were below standard, and many are already coming apart at the seams. Just who exactly was managing the service levels with the previous contractor I wonder?

That said, I've seen the work that Balfour Beatty have begun, and I am pleasantly impressed, all done to a very high standard, perfectly square and flat repairs which look like they will last some time.

Moving on to Downley in particular, the councillors flagged to the team the areas that the residents had raised as most troublesome which are as follows;

- Hughenden Avenue
- The Pastures, Downley - this has been escalated as a priority site for inclusion in the patch and plane programme
- Telford Road junction
- Coates Lane top and bottom
- Plomer Green Avenue at the junction with Grays Lane outside the shopping centre
- New Road (whilst not in the ward, is an important road for many of us)

I also asked about issues being raised on Fix My Street which were prematurely closed. The team explained this was caused by jobs scheduled to be resolved which then weren't actioned. Hopefully they have been reopened and/or completed now, specifically;

- Potholes in road-113-115 Littleworth Road
- Pothole 80-85 Littleworth Road
- Deep pothole Narrow Lane
- Deep pothole Coates Lane

We have been assured that the new contractor will be working seven days a week to catch up on the backlog of repairs and I have begun to see some movement on this. It has been pleasing to see that reported potholes have been marked up with white paint to be attended to - let's hope they are repaired in the very near future!

In the meantime, please do continue to report new issues using www.FixMyStreet.com. You can also report abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, fly tipping, graffiti, street cleaning needs, street lighting and lots of other issues there.

Should you need to contact any of your Councillors, our details are on page 50.

Councillor Melanie Smith

Downley Parish Council



I'm pleased to say that we can at last look forward to the Summer, and the volunteers at Gosling Grove have continued with their efforts to renovate the pond. The North West Chilterns Community Board have donated a bench to commemorate and thank our NHS and Carers for their dedication during Covid 19. After consultation with residents, this has been installed looking out across the pond.

I've carried out some work on the Parish Council website recently and put in place a new page which covers any Planning applications that the Parish Council are looking to comment on at their monthly Planning Meeting. This links directly with the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal and allows you to see the plans and other documents relating to these developments. It also allows you to comment on those applications.

At our February meeting the Parish Council were pleased to agree a grant to help finance a camping trip to Derbyshire for Downley Cubs which is scheduled to run in May.

On 23rd May we have the Annual Downley Parish meeting in which we hear from many of the clubs, societies, schools and churches which serve Downley and the local Community and we hope to see as many people as possible there. We're also looking forward to the Rogation Sunday walk and are pleased to see this tradition back in play.

Finally, I wanted to mention the Big Help Out campaign which runs from 8th May. It sets out to commemorate the King's Coronation and gives people the opportunity to volunteer and help their local communities. There are details of the project and how to get involved on the Events page of our website.

Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk - clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org

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Downley Common News

Spring is good time to be out on the Common and to enjoy the wealth of spring flowers. Of particular note were the many patches of snowdrops to be seen just past the Le De Spencers and on the sledging slope on Sunnybank. Daffodils, which are probably from garden waste originally, have nonetheless spread into substantial colonies alongside the track to the old dairy. Cowslips are just coming out in the glade over the road from the cricket pitch and bluebells are in patches here and there, although not as spectacular as around Hughenden Manor. Further up the bridlepath to the north you'll see forget-me-nots with comfrey out in bloom around the corner towards Hunts Hill Lane. In the same area you'll find plenty of both cherry and blackthorn in flower as well. It's probably a bit late now but it would be good to get a more comprehensive photographic record next year – any volunteers?



The Society received a plea for help from the Downley Community Centre regarding the logs that were placed around the edge of the grass. Apparently, they had rotted and were no longer providing any meaningful barrier to cars attempting to park on the grass. So DCPS stepped up to the mark at our March work party and assembled an impressive pile of logs taken from trees that had fallen on the common over the winter. They are now gracing the grass and daring

any cars to drive over them.

The poor old friendship tree has been in the wars again. Yet another large branch developed an alarming crack and needed to be removed before it fell on someone's head. This tree seems to be weakening so could we ask local residents to keep an eye on it and let us know if any branches look like they're about to fall? We would like to try and keep the tree intact for as long as possible but not at the cost of hurting someone.



Bill Thompson DCPS - bill.thompson@downleycommon.org.uk



Downley Celebrates 20 years of Community Spirit

Downley Old School Community Association (DOSCA) has celebrated its 20th anniversary. Over the past 20 years, the original Victorian school, built 150 years ago, has been transformed into a 7 days a week, thriving community centre.

With over 30 regular hirers a week and 16,000 visitors per year, the



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centre hosts various activities ranging from toddler groups, art classes, dance lessons to the ever popular beer and wine club and is home to the community library that which boasts a large collection of fiction, non-fiction and educational books.

Being a non-profit charity, DOSCA has donated over the past 12 years more than £5000 to local clubs and activities without increasing general hire rates

DOSCA's dedicated voluntary committee and trustees hosted a celebration in February 2023 to recognise and thank those who were instrumental in establishing the Charity and for the development and ongoing maintenance of the building and its offerings.

The celebration welcomed over 50 members of the local area who have all played essential roles within the Centre, from past and present hirers, former pupils, caretakers to local councillors. A delicious buffet was provided by local caterer Rachel's Event Catering and Downley Co-op generously donated drinks for the evening. Guests enjoyed a presentation showing the changing building throughout the years and were able to catch up and reminisce with old friends.



The DOSCA committee recognised David Worsdall (Chairman) and Paul Homer (Marketing & Purchasing), who have been active members in the committee for the entire 20 years, having dedicated endless hours to ensure a smooth running of the building which has always had community at the forefront of its purpose.

For Downley Community Centre's most up to date weekly schedule of events and latest news, please be sure to find and follow the Facebook page or visit <https://www.downley.org/services/venue/4/downley-community-centre/93>

Other news:

Car Parking - the solid white squares painted on the kerb are being refreshed. Parking between these squares maximises the available parking spaces at the front, especially during busy times. We would be grateful if hirers would ask their visitors to park whenever possible between these squares.

Thanks to Downley Common Preservation Society, redundant tree trunks have been relocated to the Centre's lawn to prevent motorised incursions. These have replaced the original tree trunks which have naturally decayed.

The Centre has donated £500 to the 3rd High Wycombe (Downley) Scout Group for a special "Conkers" event later this year. Similar donations have been made by other Downley organisations.

Downley Community Centre Management Committee

COULD YOU HELP DELIVER DOWNLEY VILLAGE NEWS?

We need additional volunteers to help deliver Downley News four times a year. We need some regular rounds covered and also some cover for holidays etc. To find out more please email editor@downley.org.

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PickMeUp - High Wycombe

Carousel Buses' PickMeUp service goes from strength to strength



PickMeUp is an innovative ride sharing service which enables its users to request rides from 'virtual bus stops' to travel to a destination of their choice.

The service operates via the free, user-friendly PickMeUp app available on Google Play and the App store. PickMeUp is also available as a telephone service for those who do not use smartphones.

Carousel Buses launched the market leading on-demand service in High Wycombe in September 2022. It follows a successful pilot scheme in Oxford carried out by Carousel Buses' sister operator, the Oxford Bus Company.

It is designed to promote active modes of transport to travel and provide public transport coverage in areas not served by Carousel Buses' main bus network.

The High Wycombe PickMeUp service is supported by Buckinghamshire County Council via the Government's Rural Mobility fund. The popularity of the service so far has exceeded initial expectations. Since its launch last autumn the app has received well over 5,000 sign-ups. With journey numbers already in the tens of thousands, Carousel Buses has plans to expand the service, with an announcement expected in May.

Luke Marion, Carousel Buses Managing Director, said: "We've had a fantastic response to our demand responsive service in High Wycombe. PickMeUp has benefited thousands of residents so far, providing them with an efficient, low-carbon, on-demand mode of transport.

"The success of PickMeUp in High Wycombe further demonstrates the role that demand-responsive transport plays in improving air quality and traffic congestion in the UK. In addition, while our existing main bus network covers much of High Wycombe, PickMeUp helps ensure connectivity in those areas where bus routes are not able to operate due to location, demand and vehicle size.

"Thanks to the continuing popularity of the service, we will be adding more vehicles to the fleet in the coming months and will provide details on our plans to expand the service in Buckinghamshire in due course."

PickMeUp currently operates from Monday to Friday in High Wycombe (including Downley) between 6am and 7pm. In line with Carousel Buses main network, PickMeUp riders benefit from the Government's £2 bus fare cap which has been extended to the end of June. Concessionary bus passes are also accepted.

The service runs on ultra-low emission Euro 6 minibuses, complete with Wi-Fi, USB charging points, wheelchair access and comfortable high-back seating.

Carousel Buses, a subsidiary of the Go-Ahead Group, employs around 80 people and operates around 45 buses in High Wycombe and the wider Buckinghamshire area. It also serves locations including Slough in Berkshire, Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire and Uxbridge.

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3rd High Wycombe Scouts



A big thank you from the Cubs at 3rd High Wycombe Scout Group

In May this year, both our Cubs packs have been invited to attend the annual sleepover at Conkers Activity Centre in Derbyshire, a great opportunity to experience this great activity centre, meet other Cubs and get involved with skills-based learning and lots of fun.

With the current financial situation, our leaders were concerned as to whether or not we should offer our young people this opportunity due to other camps and excursions already planned for this year. Given that all the events we try to attend are designed to help the Cubs grow and develop with a set of 'Skills for Life', we felt that this event at Conkers was a key part of that journey and wanted to offer it to the Cubs, but how do we do that and not place a greater financial burden on parents / guardians? So as leaders we challenged ourselves with finding a way the group could fund this opportunity without asking our parents / guardians.

We decided to contact some of the groups in the parish that offer grants to worthy causes, along with Downley Parish Council, to see if they would be willing to help fund this event and allow the Cubs who wanted to attend the opportunity to do so, as the group didn't have any budget for this extra event.

We are so pleased to be able to announce that we have received the total funding of £2,000 required to cover all the associated costs for the Conkers Sleepover in May, which will enable us to take 26 Cubs, 3 Young Leaders (these are Explorer Scouts aged between 14 and 18 who help out as part of their development) and 10 leaders.

So, it is with much appreciation and gratitude that everyone involved with the 3rd High Wycombe (Downley) Cubs, we say Thank you to:

Downley Parish Council

Downley Old School Community Association

Downley Day Committee

Downley Communications Forum.

The Cubs and leaders are all very excited by this opportunity and can't wait for the event, where they will have the best of times at Conkers. Please keep an eye out for how we got on in the next edition of the Village News where we hopefully share some of the highlights from the event's activities, including some feedback from the Cubs.

Once again, a huge thank you to all the local groups that have made this possible.

Mark Starkey (Akela), 3rd High Wycombe (Downley) Cubs

Downley Theatre Group

Many things have changed in Theatre Land since the pandemic hit, not least the increase in ticket prices, and coach hire costs have escalated. To add to the mix, some production companies have introduced "dynamic pricing", akin to budget airline cost structures: tickets may start off at a low price, increase with demand then reduce nearer

the performance to sell any left over. Others are giving the same group rate price for several price “bands” of tickets, ie Bands A, B, C and D all at the same cost. Confused? We certainly are...

This makes looking for the best bargains tricky; we'll do our best and hope to carry on organizing trips. To receive details of what's on offer, please contact us to be added to the mailing list. Glitches happen: should your email not be responded to, do telephone in case Gremlins have been at work. We look forward to welcoming new members!

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

DOWNLEY DESCANTS



YOU RAISE ME UP

The news these days is full of gloom and doom. Is the prospect of another year as bad, or even worse than the last making you feel depressed? Downley Descants might have the answer and be able to lift your spirits...Come and have a sing!

Research has shown that group singing can improve physical and mental health. Singing has been shown to improve one's sense of happiness and well-being. There is also some evidence to suggest that music can play a role in sustaining a healthy immune system (and we could all do with that these days!). It is cognitively stimulating and helps the memory song is a powerful therapy indeed!

If you feel inspired having read some of the benefits, why not come along to a Downley Descants rehearsal on a Thursday evening at Sunnybank Church, Moor Lane. We are a cheerful, friendly bunch and you don't even have to read music.

We are a community choir, formed in 2012 serving Downley and the surrounding area and since then have gone from strength to strength, being led by our very talented musical team, Louise, our Musical Director and Becky, our Accompanist. A huge variety of music is performed, and we are in the very lucky position of having a well-balanced variety of voices. We even have a goodly number of men which, these days, is almost unheard of in a mixed choir.

We perform a number of concerts through the year which are always extremely well attended with proceeds being donated to local charities. Since our inauguration, we have been able to pass on over £13,000 with our 2022 Christmas concert raising £1,000 for the One Can Trust. The latest big event in our diary was the Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs in March and we have several concerts planned for the rest of the year. We'll be performing as usual at our Summer Concert during the Up Downley Festival and have been asked to appear at the Marlow Literary Festival.

Many members have been with us from the start, so we must be doing something right! Come along and try it for yourself and keep an eye out for information about our next concert. For more details contact our chairperson Lyn Cook on 07974 026213.

Hilary Ashton (Soprano)

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CHAMELEON SINGLES GROUP



Our AGM in January offered the chance to discuss new ideas and events for 2023. The group has now started to include some of these in the programme and with summer ahead will be doing more in the great outdoors.

In May the group will be going on a day trip to Guernsey. A trip to Salisbury is also planned plus, for the summer, a trip to the coast. As the warmer days come along the group's BBQs are always popular events. This year we hope again to be able to run two both early and late summer in our members' gardens.

Our walks and coffee mornings continue to be popular and sometimes the two are combined. A "Summer Solstice" sunrise walk & breakfast is planned this year so an early start to the day on 21st June!

At home evenings, sharing suppers, take-away food nights and the occasional themed evening will also feature in our bi-monthly events programme. We'll be doing the Summer Quiz too up at the Hazlemere Community Centre. Regular events each month are the Pub Night on the last Thursday and Lunch Club on the second Friday. Both events are ideal if you are a newcomer, giving a chance to meet others and find out more in an informal atmosphere.

If you are single, 40-60's, looking for a great social life and new friends then why not give Chameleon Singles Group a try? There are no strangers at Chameleon, just new friends to be made. The group has several local members from Downley, West Wycombe, Bledlow Ridge, Sands and the surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too.

**To find out more contact Terrie on 01494 445816, Trevor on 01494 529067
or e-mail: info@chameleonsingles.org.uk.**

Visit the group at www.chameleonsingles.org.uk or search for us on Facebook.

Coffee Stop News

Good news! In future Coffee Stop will be opening every Monday (except Bank holidays) – May meetings will be on 15th and 22nd May. We meet at St James Church Hall from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm.



Consequently, we are keen to welcome new Volunteers, whether to put up and take down tables or assist in the kitchen. We have a rota so you can help out as often as convenient. If you would like to join us please contact Chrissie Styles on 01494 445766 or christinelstyles@hotmail.com.

Coffee Stop provides tea/coffee and home-made cakes/scones. It is a good 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. We look forward to seeing you.

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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

Summer 2023

Wal, here we gose agen eh- lovely long evenins, just right to get up the plot and get orl them jobs a'goin, and wots the most important? I rekons its get that hoe a'workin away, it's been pretty wet, I think you knows that, so them weeds luvv it- so get yor hoe sharpened up to cut them weeds orf. Blunt hoes just pushes em over, then they grows back eh! Then net up everything you can, them pidgins sits up on the trees just waitin for you to go home for yor tea. They then flaps down and pecks up yor luvly brassicas, and that can be a bit annoying eh? "I knows when that's happened to his cabbages, he's even more grumpy than normal and that's sayin sumthing eh!" Ses Mrs H. But she didn't grow em from seed and tend them for 2 months before plantin em out eh!



Gilbert White.. 1792 May 21st. "Grass grows very fast, honeysuckles very fragrant, columbines make a figure, my white thorn which hangs over the earth house is now one sheet of bloom".

Other jobs, wal there's so many of em, you'll ave yor runner and climbin beans up in seed boxes, reddy to plant em out in them luvly artistic bean pyramids you gets so pleased with. "Him artistic, that's the best yet I rekons" ses Mrs H. Wal, I dunno, she's really havin a go, I wonders why, maybe she thinks I spends too much time up there, but you've got to take advantage of these luvly long days, you can get the house jobs done in the winter eh! Another job is getting the tommy toes well potted on, potting is the thing I thinks, they don't take up much room, ave the pots in a line in the greenhouse or up agin a sunny wall, take out the side shoots, and keep on a'feedin em, that makes em even sweeter!

Then the gardin, wal, its just bin luvly this Spring, we've had daffs out from the end of February and still flowerin when you gets this DVN I bets, the tulips keeps on and the clematis armandii is the best yet. My french cousin, Jean d'Artichoke, don't do flowers, wal only ones he can eat, wal, he even fries them courgette flowers, wot! That's a bit much I reckons, though that's wot they dus over there, wal I dunno!

So I'm just off to the plot to make sure its orl hunky dory, and ave a bit of philosophising with my mates up there,

Keep that hoes a'goin.

Cheerio and a'bientot

J. H. Sent from my iSpade

Downley Wine and Beer Club

2022 concluded with our Christmas Party that was held at the Wycombe Cricket Club. We enjoyed an excellent 3 course meal with wine (of course) and were entertained by the Hemley Hillbillies, a bluegrass band that perform to raise money for Parkinson's research. Nigel Deane stood down as club chairman and Steve Davison has now taken

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over the role. We are very grateful to Nigel who led the club for 5 years and kept things ticking over during the lockdown years when we were not able to hold actual meetings and resorted to Zoom!

Monthly meetings this year commenced in January when we compared non-alcoholic beverages with their alcoholic equivalent in a half-hearted attempt at dry January. We then enjoyed a cocktail evening with various members presenting their favourite cocktails which was concluded with a lethal concoction of Long Island Iced Tea. In March we had an excellent Swedish themed evening with beers, wines (yes, they do grow grapes in Sweden!) and schnapps accompanied by Swedish snacks. Most recently Simon Lloyd from Lloyd's Wines came along and presented a tasting of six very nice wines from his extensive stock. Lloyd's Wines is an independent wine merchant based at Upper Warren Farm in Hughenden Valley that specialises in importing French, Italian and Alpine wines from small producers.

The programme of meetings for the rest of the year includes a cider tasting and a tasting of English sparkling wines that are now rated to be as good as champagne. We will also be tasting wines at the September meeting and sampling the top 6 beers from the Great British Beer Festival in October.

In addition to the regular monthly meetings, we have also arranged pub evenings that included visiting all three pubs in West Wycombe that all have their own quirky characteristics, and a bus trip to the Kings Arms in Aylesbury that stocks the whole range of Chiltern Brewery beers.

Our annual weekend away to the continent is planned for early September when we will be visiting Amsterdam on Eurostar.

You don't have to be a wine buff or real ale drinker to join the club where our aim is to enjoy wine, beer and other beverage in an informal and social setting. So if you would like more information, please email downleywinebeer@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook <https://tinyurl.com/DownleyWBClub>

Richard Armitage, DWBC Secretary

Top Notes

“The hills are alive with the sound of music!”

We were delighted to be part of the ever popular Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs again this March, featuring in the fourth and final concert of the day. Comprised of seven local groups - including our neighbours, the Downley Descants - it was a wonderful evening of song, culminating with a group performance of a new work “You Are Welcome Here” composed and conducted by Timothy Allen.





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Since then we've been busy learning a new concert programme for our Care Home Tour this June. We have four local homes booked in and are looking forward to multiple performances in such intimate and special performance spaces. Our programme includes the Beatles, the Supremes and the Chiffons to name but a few, plus some musical favourites from Les Miserables and The Sound of Music. Songs we're really hoping the residents will enjoy and can join in with.

You can also catch us in the main arena at Downley Day this year (Saturday 17th June) around 1:40pm. Please do come and say hello - we hope to see you there!

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 & ticket information.

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

Downley Evening WI



Our February meeting was highly entertaining, with Ann Tennant telling us of some of her escapades since becoming a local caterer. Some of the things that go wrong and how she overcomes them are eye opening. During the meeting we also voted to support Young Deaf Activities as our local charity for this year. March brought us to our 60th birthday party. We met at the High Wycombe Cricket Club and had a lovely evening with good food and an impressive magician/ventriloquist who caused us much laughter. I was also amazed to discover that three of our members have been with our WI for 50 years this year!

This was followed a couple of days later by a trip to the Wycombe Swan when 13 of us thoroughly enjoyed seeing the King & I, which starred Helen George of Call the Midwife fame.

March was a busy time as we also had a team enter the Inter County Quiz and I think they surprised themselves by winning! Well done girls.

We've now just had our April meeting when we heard from Izzy Foley about her exploits as a dresser for the BBC during her many years there. She has certainly met some interesting people and been to many interesting places.

Our monthly Literary Lunch is always very popular and not nearly as stuffy as it sounds! Our May meeting (always the second Tuesday of the month at St James Church) will feature a talk about Bandstands, and this comes just after the King's coronation, so I'm sure there will also be much talk of that.

In June we are planning a visit to a garden in Cholesbury so there is always a lot to look forward to.

If you think you may be interested in finding out more about us you are very welcome to come along as a visitor to see what you think, or check our website <https://downleyeveningwi.weebly.com> or you can always email us at dewipresident@gmail.com.

Heather Read



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Downley Day News

Here is an update on plans for the Downley Day celebrations.

The family disco (Friday 16th June) this year will include a barbeque to be run as a combined effort by Downley Day committee and the Downley School Parents Association. There will also be a bar running as usual. Don't forget to clear up rubbish and take it home with you please.

Downley Day itself on Saturday 17th June will be featuring Angie Mack playing hula hoop, ably supported by our regulars such as LEAP, the Dog Show, Natalie Jane Dance and Top Notes, all opened by the Downley King and Queen. If you want to apply to be the King or Queen (or maybe even both – who knows these days?) please contact info@downley.org.

The Concert on the Common (Sat 8th July) will feature Beyond Paradise, who debuted last year, and will be headlined by These Certain People. There will be a charity collection so please bring some cash. Card machines will also be available so there's no escape!

Let's all look forward to a great summer festival!

Bill Thompson, Downley Day Committee



Up! Downley

Art Studio, Open Garden & Sale

Downley painters Helen Willson and Pauline James have joined forces to build on last year's Commonsideside open art studio event.

Both are members of local art groups and have been exhibiting in art shows across the Chilterns. There will be plenty of variety for you to see – watercolour and acrylic / mixed media.....as well as greetings cards and craft items.

Stitched items by Desbox crafter Heather Jackson of Kiss Studio Crafts will also be on display.

You are welcome to visit the cottage garden.

Open over the weekend of July 1st & 2nd 11am – 5pm

Free, with donations towards the Downley Common Preservation Society welcomed.

Art galore - make it a double visit - the Village Art Show is just around the corner at the **Old School Community Centre in School Close. Open that weekend 11am – 4pm**



Up! Downley Festival 2023

As long as most of us can remember, Downley Day has been at the heart of the village summer and it kicks off your festival on Saturday 17 June with another great family day.

A more recent addition to our social calendar is 'A Bit on the Commonsides' Comedy Night on Wednesday 21 June in the marquee. We really must give Ben McDougall-Hutchins a big shout out here as his professional know how and personally selected lineups have taken the event to another level. It can't be easy to persuade performers of the virtues of a night in tent on Downley Common! This year our headliner is Andy Parsons, a longtime stalwart of 'Mock the Week'. The attached programme will introduce the rest of the line up, excluding Catherine Bohart, who was too late an addition



to make the programme. Her credits also include; 'Mock the Week' as well as; Live at the Apollo, 'Richard Osman's Celebrity House of Games', '8 Out of 10 Cats' and many more.

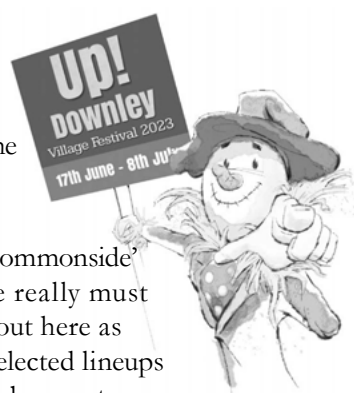


Music appears in a number of flavours this year. The Family Disco on the evening of Friday 16 June has its own brand of dance music for Mums, Dads and kids to throw shapes to. The following Friday, in concert format, the exquisite Moonrakers will perform a programme of traditional and contemporary folk with their roots firmly in the islands of the UK. The Downley Descants and Wycombe Concert Band join forces once more on Thursday 29 June with popular songs sung and tunes played from musicals and the light classics. To close, we have that heady mix of air guitar, head banging and picnics that is Concert on the Common on Saturday 8 July.



In the middle of all of the above you will find; tea and cake in the Memorial Hall on its centenary, relax and be soothed by Family Restorative Yoga and Gong Bath in the Marquee and discover more about beech, banks and bricks, legs, saws and pits on a History Walk. For all things 'visual arts' see the page opposite.

These events do not organise themselves but rely on a small group of volunteers to "make it all happen". If you would like to join the Committee and bring fresh ideas, or just give up a little spare time to assist with Up! Downley Festival 2024, please email Lea McDonald, our secretary, at leamcd@btinternet.com



Village Art Show 2023

Whether you are one of our many regular exhibitors or plan to show for the first time, you will need to know that the entry

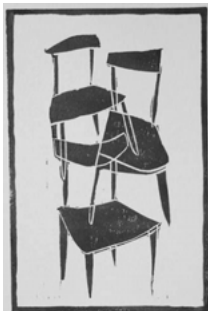


deadline for the village Art Show is Friday 23 June. Handing in will be Thursday 29 June with the show opening on Saturday 1 July through to Friday 7 July. Entry forms and guidelines (containing all you need to know to take part) will be available online at Downley.org and in hardcopy in the Downley Community Centre.



The exhibition as ever, represents a complete cross section of Downley Village creativity; from young, old, beginner and experienced. Whilst the Show is not sales driven, plenty of the work is available to buy. As introduced last year, there will be artists and crafts people demonstrating their skills and sharing their knowledge alongside the exhibition.

In addition to the show will be four arts related events. Two of these will be presented by local artist Jane Peacock. Jane is an accomplished lino print maker and she has put together a workshop providing an introduction and hands on opportunity to try this traditional print making process (Friday 23 June 10.30am - 12.00pm at St James Church).



The second of Jane's events is simply a hour and half of walking and sketching. A chance to share with others the basis of all visual arts in and around our local woodlands (Wednesday 5 July 10.30am - 12.00noon meeting outside Le De Spencers Arms).



The third event is the Open Arts Studio of Helen and John Willson. Their work will be on display at their home at 9 Commonside (the pink house) between 11.00am - 5.00pm on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 July. Visitors are also invited to explore their garden, making this an ideal way spend an hour or two on any summer's day.

Finally, Mark Page, local photographer will be at Downley Community Centre, Mon 3 July 7.30pm-9.00pm, explaining how he began his project inspired by a conversation with his father about the common experience of recognizing familiar faces without knowing their names or identities. Mark photographs "ordinary people" on the streets of the UK and has produced a book, featuring 'Faces of Wycombe'.

You will find a listing of all of the above festival events in the programme attached with this issue of the Downley Village News.

For more information & online bookings: festival.downley.org

Post feedback: [facebook.com/UpDownleyFestival](https://www.facebook.com/UpDownleyFestival)

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Downley Cricket Club



The sun is at last beginning to shine, banishing incessant rain, and what expectations we at Downley Cricket Club have for the coming season! It is our 150th Anniversary, and already celebratory kit is being designed by Graham 'Boycs' Swales our new Club Captain, the long-serving Colin 'Squeezer' Caesar having just stepped down from the role, though he will still knock stumps over with his left-arm seam bowling and unrelenting accuracy, in the company of wicket-taking machine Graeme 'Aikers' Aitken.

An enthusiastic work-party turned up on a sunny Saturday with assorted tools and ladders and varying levels of practical skills to clean the net area in Mannings Field and put up the nets. Thereafter, having been joined by a few of the younger down-from-university-brigade – including classy-batter Rajat Khator, our only centurion from last season, and the fast-bowling Rehaan Vats - a vigorous net-practice session was enjoyed by all who stayed. These net sessions will be held every Tuesday or Wednesday, from 6pm. If you would like to join, just come along to nets, or contact us on webmaster@downleycc.co.uk. Alternatively, if you would like to occasionally umpire or score you will be given a warm welcome, especially by Mandy Aitken, our long-established scorer, and John Hughes, our umpire, both of whom give a huge amount of time to the club.

We field one team, a mix of players of all shapes and sizes, and ages, led by charismatic all-action captain Ben Hughes. There was plenty of mirth and good-natured ribaldry when submitting our sizes request for the new range of kit, spanning small to XXL. Meanwhile, Martin Birkett, Den Cox, 'Tubby', and other dedicated folks are working hard on the square and outfield, killing the moss, and scarifying. As I write, many, many hours of scarifying have been done, and the hope is it doesn't dry out, so there is a need for some rain, before it is rolled. Huge amounts of repair and renewals work is being done on the rollers and mowers, at not inconsiderable cost and time. Meticulous work is done several times a week on the playing area by Martin, Den and their small team, without which there would be no Downley cricket club.

If this summer is anything like the last, there will be plenty of runs and wickets, very keen and competitive games against long-standing rivals in the Berkshire, Chiltern and mid-Bucks league. We play on Saturday afternoons, with many families from the village coming to watch and hurl vocal advice and encouragement to performers on the field. We welcome all new players and you can be assured of plenty of laughs and enjoyable cricket. Afterwards we mostly head off to the hospitable Mark and Sarah's Le de Spencer Arms where the chat and laughter continues. Having beaten keen rivals Ballinger, Lacey Green and Widmer End in succession towards the end of last season, there are huge expectations for the impending battles.

Hopefully Spreckers will resume his six-hitting, Ledge will churn out big runs, Boycs will mesmerise with his flighty bowling and young Joe will bowl like the wind. The season will start with our first match, at home vs Aylesbury Town 2nd, on 6th May. **Further details of matches during the season can be found at www.downley.play-cricket.com**

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Everyone needs a holiday, but we want you to come home and find everything as you left it. Almost half of all burglaries happen when a home is left empty. By following the tips set out below you can help to make your home more secure while you are away. Why not tick them off before you go?

- Make sure your home looks occupied. Ideally, ask a trusted neighbour or friend to look after it and to check for post and parcels on the doorstep or left protruding from the letterbox. Let them have a spare set of keys, but don't put your name or address on them.
- Don't leave your curtains closed during the daytime, as this shows the house is empty.
- Use automatic timer-switches to turn your lights on at dusk.
- Cancel any regular deliveries such as newspapers and milk.
- Cut the lawn before you go and trim back any plants that burglars could hide behind.
- Uncollected mail is a sign that you're away. The Royal Mail's 'Keepsafe' service will keep your mail for up to two months while you're away.
- Avoid putting your home address on your luggage when you are travelling to your holiday destination. Put this only on the inside of your cases.
- Make sure that you have up-to-date contents and buildings insurance.
- Keep tools and ladders that can be used to break in locked away.
- If you aren't leaving your car at home, why not ask a neighbour or a friend to park their car on your drive?
- Don't publish your absence on social media. Status updates, comments and photos can all give away that your home is empty.
- Is there a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme where you live? Visit www.ourwatch.org.uk and enter your postcode to check to see if there are any schemes set up in your area, or alternatively speak with us via our email address.
- Finally, don't forget to lock all external doors and windows. If you've got a burglar alarm, make sure it is set.

And just before you set off, it's worth spending a couple minutes checking you've done all you had to do and taken everything you need with you. Don't forget your passport and tickets!

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Memory Partners – Tai Chi Cafe

**BREATHE BETTER; FEEL WELL; IMPROVE YOUR MEMORY;
COME AND LEARN TAI CHI!**

In April 2017 an Australian research paper suggested that tai chi was good for memory. Having shared the news with my tai chi group at the community centre, we shared it

with the Alzheimer's information meeting that happened to be in the next room. The result was that over the summer months, my students and I volunteered to teach some tai chi to people from the community who were living with dementia. Each individual was supported by a friend or family member. The project gained ethical approval from Bucks New University and the Downley Old School Community Centre supported us with a small discount in rent.

The successful outcome, reported by the Bucks Older People's Action Group (BOPAG), led to an approach from a care home in Lane End where we led a longer project with residents and their relatives. We set up as a charity, Memory Partners. A third project took place at The Heights, Downley. We made arrangements to train volunteers as tai chi instructors. Then Covid struck!

Anyone who has listened to Michael Mosley's 'Just one thing' on Radio 4 or as a podcast knows that there are many health benefits to tai chi – balance, breathing and sleeping better, general wellbeing. Our current project, the tai chi café, has just enjoyed its first anniversary. Covid obliged us to move out of Downley in search of a bigger room, so we now meet at the Totteridge Community Centre on Thursday mornings at 10.45. All comers are welcome. We ask for a donation of £5 per individual or per pair coming together. This covers the cost of rent, tea/coffee, cake, chat, followed by tai chi.

Downley is quite close to Totteridge providing that you can drive. We have now accumulated a small fund from our donations and, aware of our roots, we would like to extend the offer of a taxi service to anyone who would like to join us. Please contact Sue 01494 532088 sastuart@globalnet.co.uk

we are
cycling **Cycling with the Chiltern Hills Group**
The cyclists' champion UK

Join your local Cycling UK group this summer

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

Chiltern Hills Cycling UK have a regular Zoom social on the 1st Thursday of each month from 8pm and a meet up in the clubroom at Little Kingshill Baptist Church on the 3rd Thursday from 8 – 10pm (Except July & August).

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

www.cyclinguk.org

Downley Gardening Society

Our February meeting was a brand new speaker to DGS. Talking via Zoom from his home in Cirencester, Joff Elphick entertained us with a variety of stories, gardening ideas and some interesting sightings he had come across during his time as a professional gardener. Joff has worked at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons and Barnsley House and is the gardener for Pam Ayres who lives near to him. He played a clip of her reciting her very poignant poem "The Last Hedgehog" which we recommend you read and share with your family. Joff encouraged anyone who likes fritillaries to visit the National Nature Reserve at North Meadow, Cricklade which has 85% of the UK population of these delightful flowers. If you are interested in finding out more about him, please visit his website <https://joffelphick.co.uk> where you will find details of his podcasts which he has recorded with gardening professionals from around the country.

Our March meeting was by John Tyler, who once again entertained us with a very interesting talk. His topic was the River Thames which starts near Aylesbury at Cheddington, most famous for the Great Train Robbery of 1963, and flows to Dorchester on Thames, a journey of 26 miles as the crow flies but actually covers 100 miles of river.

John's knowledge of flora and fauna is huge so we learnt about the trees that live by the river - alders loved by siskins and redpolls, the rare 120ft black poplar and crack willows which are often pollarded to produce branches for basket work. All these trees need wet ground but can withstand having their roots flooded in winter. John went on to include plants like the Norfolk reed and insects such as the 4 eyed banded demoiselle which is a damsel fly that needs flowing water to complete its lifecycle. He rounded off a very informative talk by telling us about an annual tug of war across the river between the residents (ie regulars at the pubs) of Ickford and Tiddington in Oxfordshire on the first Friday in August. If you fancy going along you are welcome but don't expect to see either side being pulled into the river (health & safety). Jumping in of their own volition is acceptable though!

Dates for your diary:

May meeting in the hall – Monday 15th May – **Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens** by Franzi Cheeseman.

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

Plant stall at **Downley Day** Saturday 17th June

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.

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News from St James



"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"
Galatians 5:22-3



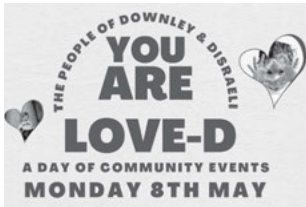
With cost of living increases and also the desire to be more environmentally friendly, many people are trying to grow more of their own fruit and vegetables. Gardening is not my favourite hobby but I do like cooking, so I enjoy growing fruit and veg, the process of planting a small seed or tiny plant and seeing it grow and flower then produce food that I can transform into meals.

Growing things is not always easy; it takes time and the right conditions.

In Paul's letter to the Galatian church, he writes to them about the fruit that they can expect to see as the Holy Spirit transforms their lives. These are qualities which I think we would all love to show more, but ones that are not always easy, especially when we are struggling in other areas in our lives. When things are difficult at home or at work, when money is tight or relationships are strained, it is hard to show patience and kindness, it is not easy to be self-controlled, but when we show those qualities they transform the lives of those around us in such a positive way.



Each week I hear stories of people being encouraged by acts of kindness shown to them by others, big and small things which bring a smile to their face in difficult times.



It has been so great to celebrate the King's Coronation with another LoveD day, where the churches in Downley have joined together for a second year doing projects in the community and providing breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea, with activities for the whole family. I hope you were able to come along to some or all of the day. If not, please look out for our Love Downley and Disraeli day next year!

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

Downley Pharmacy News

As I have written in previous editions of the Downley Village, pharmacy funding is in a state of crisis which is only getting worse. We as a profession have taken up a lot of the slack from GPs and are now having extra demands put on us with no extra monies being made available. Community pharmacies across the country are closing and many will be reducing opening hours in the coming months. Many medicines continue to cost us more than the amount we are re-imbursed for supply, and the time spent sourcing items in short supply or a suitable alternative continues to grow. We at Downley, along with the other pharmacies in Buckinghamshire, are refusing to sign up to the new contraceptive service which would be ideal for us to offer and for patients to make use of, freeing up GP practice time for other matters. We are simply not going to be paid for it as all funding is within the amount pharmacy receives at present, so other payments will be cut to make up the difference.



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We are asking if you could support us by writing to our MP. We can offer a template letter and link or simply scan the QR code on posters at the pharmacy for links to information. #saveourpharmacies will be featuring quite a bit in the next few weeks within our social media and also on posters and bag stuffers. Please support us as we fight for suitable funding for the service we provide.

A quick reminder, we are now able to offer an ear wax removal service which includes a clinically supported ear health check, competitively priced compared to other local providers. Louise, who is in the main person providing this, is getting fantastic feedback from all her clients. Contact us for an appointment.

Spring is here and with it for some has come the torment of hayfever. April has seen high levels of tree pollens, grass and other pollens are due to peak in May and June. Symptoms vary; for some problems are mild and come and go, others can be severely affected with symptoms throughout the season. Help is available for both and we can advise what is the best for your personal needs, either to purchase or when a visit to the GP is needed. Much of the medication is available as an unbranded form at a very reasonable price.

A 'top tip' for hayfever sufferers is that treatments work best as preventative medication which may take up to a week to start working properly. It is therefore best to be prepared before the peak grass season in June. Also, when pollen counts are high, try to stay indoors with doors and windows closed. Keep car windows closed when driving, especially on motorways, and when you venture out wear sunglasses. It may help to shower and change when you return indoors, especially after that evening barbeque on hot days. Pollen levels are often highest in the evening as temperatures cool.



High Wycombe & District u3a

Plans for 2023

We will be holding our annual social event – an informal picnic in the Wycombe Museum garden - on June 29th where members can check on the progress of our commemorative cherry tree which was dedicated by Jay Blades in December. The Museum is a quiet haven with a tranquil garden, it's always worth a visit.

We are looking forward to taking our publicity stand to two new venues in High Wycombe this year. The first will be the Pann Mill Open Day on the Rye on May 14th (free entry), followed by the Armed Forces Day in the High Street on June 24th. Do come along and see us there to find out more about u3a.

Wycombe Library Display

We have publicised information about our u3a in the exhibition area on the first floor of the town library. Please call in to see it, especially if you are interested in joining us

If you are no longer in full-time employment and are interested in becoming a member, you can contact us via our website. The latest news of our activities is 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, as well as special events and trips for a subscription of less than £30 a year.

Judith (Secretary), 01494 562236

Jill - Tutor



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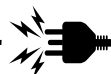
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Downley War Memorial Hall



Harold Percy Thomas Stratford

Flight Sergeant Stratford was part of the seven-man crew flying a Handley Page Halifax in July 1945 when the aircraft crashed in the Pyrenees.

Formed in February 1944 to provide support for Operation Overlord (D-Day), 644 Squadron was also involved in two further major airborne operations (Market Garden and Varsity) dropping paratroopers and towing gliders. The gliders would carry troops or heavy equipment.

After VE Day their role changed to transporting supplies out to the Allied forces and returning with wounded soldiers and freed prisoners of war. It was on one of these missions, described as a cross-country flight, that Flight Sergeant Stratford died. He is buried in Marseille with his six crewmates.

Harold had enlisted in 1942 and was 22 when he died. His parents, Francis and Lizzie Stratford, lived at Hill View, Downley.

By March 1945 it was clear that Germany was being attacked on all sides. The Red Army had taken Danzig (now Gdansk) and entered Austria. Further north, Operation Varsity, the largest airborne operation ever, saw Allied forces capture a number of bridges across the Rhine allowing their advance into central Germany. The final offensive in the south started early in April with the Allies advancing through the Lombard Plain and into the foothills of the Dolomites before the German army surrendered later that month.

With the Red Army entering Berlin, formal negotiations begin for Germany's surrender which are completed on 7 May with ceasefire effective from one minute after midnight.

In the Pacific, aircraft from the Allies continue their attacks, reducing the effectiveness of Japanese forces and allow a steady advance through south-east Asia. In response, they introduced the kamikaze (suicide) bombers to try to stop their enemy. However, this had limited effect.

On Saturday 12 May VE parties were held throughout the country, including several in Downley. In Jubilee Road nearly 100 children were entertained and treated to jellies, trifles, cakes, ice cream and lemonade. Grace was said by Councillor J Bowler and afterwards Mr and Mrs Peppiatt of Plomer Hill gave every child a shilling (about £3 today) and an orange. In the evening it was the turn of the adults to enjoy singing and dancing, with music from a "powerful radiogram" (ask your parents what that was). A collection on the evening raised £7 (£400) for the POW fund. A similar event was held for residents of Plomer Green Lane and Chapel Street.

The same edition of the BFP included results of a cricket match between Downley and Booker. As well as a player called Avery, who top-scored with 19 then took nine wickets, there were several other names that may still be found in the Village today including Styles, Langley, Chiltern and West.

The Paper's next edition recorded the return of three Downley POWs, Tom Larkin, Fred Humphrey (both captured at the time of Dunkirk) and Arthur Ray who had spent 8 months as a prisoner in Italy.

Finally, the Centenary Tea that I mentioned in my last article will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 18th June in the War Memorial Hall. There will be posters around the Village soon, if not already. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

I am still waiting to hear more stories of the various uses made of the Hall over the years.

Alan Baker, alanbaker49@btinternet.com, 07890 762527

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Top Notes



DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Room for 8 standing (or 1 horse) - a memory by Peter Wilks

In the mid-1970s, our son was keen on horse riding and, I have to say, was very good at it. At that time we lived at Downley Common, near the terminal of the occasional journeys on the erstwhile Thames Valley Service 35, and were able to keep a pony for him (Sunshine) outside the house on the Common. He had lessons at the riding school at Radnage (not far from the terminus of Service 40!), using one of their horses. But during the school summer holidays, the riding school organised a week-long event for which it was necessary to use your own pony, who would be accommodated there overnight.

We thought about how to get Sunshine to Radnage. She might be able to be walked over if we started early enough and there were bridle paths and by-roads that we could use rather than the main roads. But then with a busy day to follow, that might be too much for her. Further thought followed.



Whilst we did not aspire to a horsebox, we did have our Bristol KSW6B which we had not long before bought for her preservation with a group of friends. Why not try Sunshine on the platform? We did; she fitted on easily with her head just inside the lower saloon, and seemed quite happy (she was an accommodating sort of pony). We had an uneventful trip round the village and decided that we would give it a go.

So on the big day, we led her onto the platform, tethered her to a hand rail, spread some hay and set off through the village and very gently went down the precipitous Plomer Hill (aka Downley Pitch, 1 in 5!), and then along the old A40 through West Wycombe and up Dashwood Hill. I received no frantic bell signals in the cab and arrived safely at Radnage amongst all the posh cars and horseboxes - a nice bit of inverted snobbery I thought. Sunshine then reversed neatly off the platform to be saddled up by my wife and son.

During the week, someone with a two-horse box offered us a lift home on the Saturday, so that, somewhat to my disappointment, the return journey by bus was not needed.

A date for your diary

Tuesday 27th June 2023

History Walk on the Common and Woods System

led by John Wilson

of the Downley Local History Group

Meet at the Beacon at 7:00 pm.

This is a free event but donations to the DLHG are welcome.

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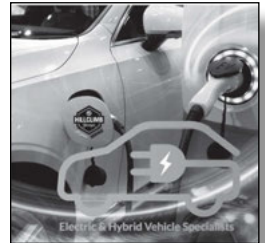
The beautiful season of Spring is finally here and we are all dreaming of those lovely, hot summer days that are (hopefully) just around the corner! We hope you have some lovely trips and holidays planned for the summer months. If you are going away in your car, make sure you and your occupants stay cool and safe by booking in for an Air Conditioning Service and complimentary 'Vitals Health Check' before you set off on your road trip.



Talking of Summer, Downley Day is fast approaching and we can't wait to meet you all at one of the highlights of the year! We will, once again, be proud Headline Sponsors of this fabulous event on Saturday 17th June and will have more competitions to enter and prizes to give away than ever! There are so many activities, shows and stalls to enjoy that this year promises to be as brilliant as ever! In addition to our competitions and prizes at our stall, we will have another

fabulous collection of Motor Vehicles for you to drool over and our gorgeous Garage Mascot Labrador, Lexi, will have her very own competition for you to enter! It's going to be a fun day for all the family. See you there..!

As part of our regular update on how the Motor Vehicle continues to evolve, we thought it would be interesting to share some of the statistics around the rise of the Electric and Hybrid Vehicle in recent years. There are mixed reports on how well the UK's infrastructure can cope with the growing number of EV's on our roads, but the facts speak for themselves, there are now over 1.22Million plug in cars registered in the UK, with more than 60% of those being full battery electric vehicles (BEV). Over 365,000 Electric or Hybrid Vehicles were sold in the UK last year and in the first quarter of this year they made up more than 50% market share of all new cars sold. In March 2023 the bestselling car in the UK was the Tesla Model Y. Source SMMT March 2023



Electric and Hybrid vehicle repairs now account for almost 15% of our business and we expect this to rise to over 35% in the next 3 years. In the next newsletter we will be exploring the different variations of Electric Vehicles and what to consider if you are thinking of moving to Electric or Hybrid for your next car.

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 are 'At Your Service'

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From Westminster

Steve Baker - MP for Wycombe



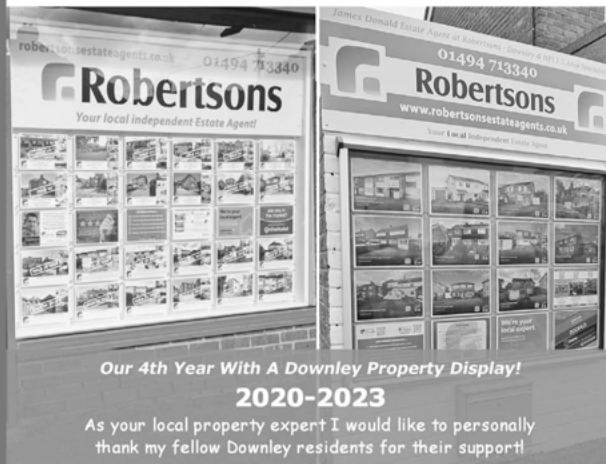
The late Queen was Britain's longest reigning monarch, and many people will not remember a time when she was not our Head of State. This means the coronation of King Charles on 6th May is particularly special. I am honoured to have been invited to the service in Westminster Abbey and I feel privileged to represent Wycombe at the Coronation. I will also be going to a special civic service in All Saints Church, High Wycombe, on the Sunday to commemorate the coronation along with other people from our town. Not many people will know the coronation cake was made in High Wycombe by pladis, the owner of McVities, a Royal Warrant holder. I was invited to see the finishing touches being made to the cake which will be gifted by pladis to Their Majesties and enjoyed by their guests at Windsor Castle during the Coronation Concert. I hope you have a wonderful time with your friends and family however you are spending the coronation weekend.

There is no doubt the country could do with a little cheering-up. These are difficult times, and as our economy recovers we must take action to fix the problems families are facing, whilst 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. And with a stronger economy we will be able to strengthen communities and level up left behind areas, seize the opportunities of Brexit, protect Britain's long-term interests and restore pride in our country.

The Prime Minister has recently spoken about his five immediate priorities: halve inflation; grow the economy; reduce debt; cut NHS waiting lists; and stop small boats in the Channel. The Prime Minister's career and economic experience means he is well placed to deliver economic recovery. He intends to do what's right, not just what's popular, setting out clear promises you can hold him to account on. By working hard today and taking the difficult decisions to deliver on these priorities, we can build the foundations for a prosperous United Kingdom and a better future for our children and grandchildren.

As ever, 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 telephone my constituency office on 01494 448408.

Robertsons



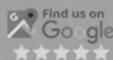
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News from Buckinghamshire Council



For more information and to keep up to date with the news from Buckinghamshire Council please see <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news> or, as always, contact me – see below. You can also view full Council, Cabinet and committee meetings as a webcast either live, or watch the recording in full on Buckinghamshire Council Website.

New early bird trial gives free bus pass holders even more freedom

Older and disabled residents in Buckinghamshire who qualify for a free bus pass, can now benefit from even more freedom following the introduction of a new early bird trial which allows them to use the bus before 9am for a reduced fare. Holders of an older person's bus pass or a disabled bus pass in Buckinghamshire are allowed free travel on buses. Previously this was only after 9am on Monday to Friday. In a pilot arrangement with local bus companies, Buckinghamshire Council has arranged for new, extended benefits to free bus pass holders to travel on a bus before 9am on weekdays by paying a fixed £1 fare. These additional benefits will be in place until 31 August 2023. The reduced fare applies to all journeys starting in Buckinghamshire with the exception of Carousel Buses' 102 journeys beyond Uxbridge (to Heathrow Airport) and Arriva's service number 724.

Have your say on the vision and objectives for development and transport in Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire Council wants to hear your views on its draft vision and objectives to guide future development in Buckinghamshire. The council is creating two long-term plans for what Buckinghamshire should be like in 2040 and how this can be achieved: The Local Plan for Buckinghamshire – to shape and manage future development across Buckinghamshire - and the Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP 5) – to set out the priorities for all types of transport across Buckinghamshire.

To have your say on the plans:

- Complete the online survey
- Complete and return a printed version of the survey (can be downloaded from the online survey page)
- Email: planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Write to: Vision and objectives consultation, Planning Policy, Buckinghamshire Council, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BB

Submissions need to be received by midnight on Sunday 4 June 2023.

Council has a new tool in the fight against potholes

As part of its new contract, which started on 1 April, Buckinghamshire Highways has taken delivery of a different type of vehicle to help in the fight against potholes. Used by many councils across the country, the Pothole Pro is a time-saving, three-in-one vehicle designed to make pothole repairs faster. First it cuts into the road surface where a pothole has appeared, it crops the perimeter of the hole neatly to allow a watertight repair, and then it brushes away and collects the debris afterwards.

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

Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - SUMMER 2023

Hall Bookings: bookings@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk or call Cathy on 07580 953 181

GROUP	DAY	TIME	NEW MEMBER WELCOME	CONTACT
Art Group 1	Tuesday Term-time	10.00 - 12.00		Sue 01494 443393
Art Group 2	Monday	10.00 - 12.00		alastair.pike@artsmartuk.com
Better Balance	Friday	13.00 - 14.00	✓	Joe.barnard@aitc.org.uk
Bridge Club	Thursday	19.00 - 22.00	✓	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
	Wednesday	19.30 - 20.30	✓	0787 353 8709
Downley Parish Council	2nd Tuesday	19.30	✓	clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org 01494 257711
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wednesday	20.00 - 22.00	✓	stevedavison200@icloud.com
First Class Learning	Saturday	10.00 - 12.00	✓	Himanshu 07949 590466
Kingdom Dynamics Chapel	Sunday	10.00 - 12.00		Sharon 07961 822347
Lace Making	Thursday	13.00 - 15.00	✓	Frances 01494 524835
M00 Music	Friday Term-time	10.20 & 11.20	✓	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	9.00 & 11.00		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	Thursday	10.30 - 12.30	✓	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 - SUMMER 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 - SUMMER 2023

Hall Bookings: margaretstagg75@gmail.com

Rainbows/Brownies	Monday	16.15 - 19.15		gill.lawrence@btinternet.com
Rangers	Monday	19.30 - 21.15		gill.lawrence@btinternet.com
Rainbows/Brownies	Tuesday	16.15 - 19.00		gill.lawrence@btinternet.com
Guides	Tuesday	19.00 - 20.30		margaretstagg75@gmail.com
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	Wednesday	18.00 - 21.15		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 - SUMMER 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 - SUMMER 2023

Hall Bookings: hilmad1842@gmail.com

Art Club	Thursday	09.30		
Coffee Stop	Monday	10.30 - 12.30		
Downley Gardening Society	3rd Monday	19.30		
Dr Sue's Pilates	Monday	18.00 - 19.00		
Karen Pilates	Wednesday	09.30		
Natailie's Meditation Class	Wednesday	20.30 - 22.30		
Philatelic Club	Alternate Thursday	19.30		
Rebound Fit	Wednesday	19.00 - 20.00		
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 - SUMMER 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

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COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Paul Turner paul.turner@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Cllr. Maz Hussain maz.hussain@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Cllr. Melanie Smith Melanie.R.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org
01494 257711 (office hrs 9am-1pm Monday – Friday)

Further suggestions of what should be listed here to the editor
editor@downley.org

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Downley Village News

Editor: Anne at editor@downley.org

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

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

Steering Committee: The Downley Communications Forum set up as part of the Community Plan, provides oversight to the Village News, the Village enews and the downley.org website.

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

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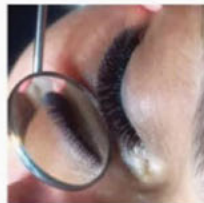
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Up! Downley 2023

Village Festival 17th June - 8th July



THIS YEAR'S LINE-UP!

FAMILY DISCO

DOWNLEY DAY

MEMORIAL HALL'S CENTENARY TEA

FAMILY RESTORATIVE YOGA & GONG BATH

COMEDY NIGHT

LINO PRINTING WORKSHOP

MOONRAKERS FOLK CONCERT

HISTORY WALK

DOWNLEY DESCANTS & WYCOMBE CONCERT BAND

OPEN ART STUDIO SALE & GARDEN VIEWING

ART SHOW

MARK PAGE WYCOMBE PHOTOGRAPHER'S TALK

SKETCH & WALK

CONCERT ON THE COMMON

FOR MORE DETAILS FIND YOUR PROGRAMME INSIDE

AND GO TO CENTRE SPREAD

