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Village News

Issue 136/August 2023



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Editorial

It's good to be able to feature one of our local sports teams on the front cover of this issue of Downley Village News. Downley Cricket Club have been having an excellent season (let's hope that being on the front cover of DVN doesn't put the mockers on that!) and it's great to be able to wander up to the cricket pitch on a sunny Saturday afternoon to enjoy the entertainment.

Of course, we have several other sports clubs running in Downley and we always try to include articles from them when submitted. I would like to call out to any other Downley sports team organisers to send in their news and contact details so that we can include them in future issues (see details below on how to submit copy).

Talking of sunny Saturdays, we don't seem to have had many of them in July and the forecast for the first couple of weeks of August doesn't look much better. I am extremely thankful that we are not suffering the heat which is affecting much of southern Europe, but I do hope we get a bit more summery weather before autumn kicks in.

On that note, our next edition will be the Winter one, which will be out in mid-November. As usual, we will be delighted to hear from any organisation in Downley (or the surrounding area) with news or information. Remember to include details of any Christmas events please! You can submit articles via the email address editor@downley.org. Copy deadline is Sunday 29 October 2023 but please get your copy in as early as possible as space is limited.

Anne, Editor • editor@downley.org

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Downley Parish Council



You've maybe noticed through the village some spools of wire attached to telegraph poles, left behind by City Fibre from their recent cabling work. I've been in touch with City Fibre who tell me that the spools are just a temporary fix and will be cleared when they eventually return to Downley to complete their work. In the meanwhile, they will send an engineer out to tidy any spools that have become loose.

Over the Summer I've received a fair bit of correspondence about grass cutting in Downley with the Common in particular proving an emotive issue. The Downley Common Preservation Society and the Parish Council work together to maintain the Common and collaborated to produce a mowing regime which has run since 2020. The plan divides the Common into various zones and sets standards for the frequency and height of cuts within those zones. The essence of the plan is to balance the disparate needs of different groups, to provide areas with wildflowers and other areas with short grass for children to play on and people to walk their dogs.

Which leads into the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition. We've just had the results of the judging in. Downley was entered into the category for rural populations up to 3000 which this year was won by Chalfont St Giles with Downley qualifying for a certificate of merit. The judges made some very favourable comments about Downley, describing it as a well-kept and presentable village and a credit to its residents.

Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk - clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org

Downley Parish Notice Boards

Notices for the Parish notice boards should be left at the Community Centre. Notices must be received one month in advance of the event. Notice boards are updated on the first Thursday of each month. Please post notices into the letterbox at the Community Centre clearly marked for the Clerks attention. Please notify the Clerk if you have posted a notice at the centre by emailing to clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org

**All notices must be for local non profit organisations.
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**Include the street name and the
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DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of the month

at Downley Community Centre, School Close 7.30pm

Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions

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

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

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Conkers Sleepover 20th May 2023

As promised in the last issue of DVN, here is an update on the Conkers Activity Centre sleepover. We set off at 8 am on a Saturday morning, and the Cubs were all very excited. It has been a while since our last camp, and this one was looking to be a bit special. Bucks County Commissioner James Williamson and Assistant County Commissioner Emma King had organised the trip and, being James's first as the new CC, he wanted it to be special.

The coach left from Totteridge; we headed off for a 1hr 45-minute journey just north of Birmingham. We arrived on time and ready to start the adventure. After a short orientation and to get the timings for the group activities, we set off on our first excursion to the Barefoot Walk. It was exactly what it was advertised to be; the Cubs loved it and many of them did the walk twice. There was mud, water, cobbles, gravel, leaves and sand, and amazingly we had only one slip and tumble in the water. All was well, and the Cub got up and carried on.

"I really liked the Barefoot Walk, I could have stayed there longer, the feeling of the mud in my toes made me shiver". • Noah, aged 9.

On the train, we took a short ride to the next part of our adventure. The dense woodland and winding paths gave the Cubs the impression that they were the only ones there, which was no mean feat considering 150 other Cubs were wandering around activities. The Cubs had many more adventures in the maze, the obstacle course, the rabbit warren (my favourite) and the campfire singsong.

So that was the day, but what of the evening? After dinner, we took the Cubs to the 4D cinema for a 4D adventure with pandas. The Cubs loved it!

"My favourite activity at Conkers was the 4D cinema. There was wind and water, and it felt so realistic. I also made some new friends, so I can't wait for the next trip/camp". • Chloe, aged 10.

After the 4D cinema, James and the team booked a clown to entertain the Cubs, with hands-on juggling, plate-spinning, diabolo, and balance-boards. Singing and dancing completed the evening, and the Cubs were ready to bed down, as were the leaders and young leaders. It had been a long day.

Cubs woke up at the crack of dawn as expected, which is one effective alarm clock. After breakfast, it was time to pack up the kit and get ready to leave at 9:30 am. With some scrabbling around and the usual lost property retrieval, we were ready to head off home for a well-earned rest.

We would like to again thank: Downley Parish Council, Downley Old School Community Association, Downley Day Committee and Downley Communications Forum.

Without the help of these local groups and societies, we would have found this trip harder to accommodate. Also, thank you to Sam, Kirsty and the Leaders who came along and to the Bucks Scouts Association for organising a great adventure for the Cubs.

Mark Starkey, (Akela, 3rd HW Downley)



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Downley Common News

In 1998, the DCPS adopted a management plan to provide guidance on how to manage the common according to good environmental practice. It was to last 10 years and, after that time, the committee reviewed it and decided it was still relevant and so simply continued following it. However, we have now come to the conclusion that there were a number of elements which may no longer be applicable, or indeed practicable, such as the regime of complete grass cutting and removal which has been found to be very difficult to maintain. There are other issues which have emerged that are not covered, such as the emergence of “ant hill city” below the cricket pitch. The original flora and fauna survey may also be out of date. As a result, 25 years later, we will be commissioning a new management plan, based on a re-survey of the common and a reconsideration of what is both practicable and effective. We would be happy to receive input from local residents (and especially DCPS members) concerning your thoughts on how the Common should be maintained. There will inevitably be conflicting views and if you feel strongly enough about them then feel free to put yourself forward for the committee to make your voice heard.

At the May work party, we tackled a fallen cherry tree in the glade just to the north of the cricket pitch. It was cut up and at the June work party was moved out of the way of the path and into the tree line to allow the glade to be flailed.

In June and July we began our annual flailing programme to control the bracken and brambles that threaten to overtake the Common. It is unfortunate that the rather attractive Rosebay Willowherb (better known as fireweed) tends to co-mingle with brambles meaning the fireweed tends to suffer collateral damage in places. In the main grassland area we spent time uprooting saplings; trees are nice but not in the wrong place. This area of acid grassland is a habitat that needs to be retained rather than allow it to turn into another wood.

As part of a litter-pick in July, a sweep of the Dells collected 16 large empty nitrous oxide (N₂O) cylinders which seems to be the latest popular product being retailed at the tank crossing. While using N₂O is not illegal, littering is, and so is driving a vehicle while under the influence. Anyone considering driving up to the Common for a sniff should be warned that the police are aware.



DCPS was at Downley Day running the traditional dog poo game – this year with fake dog poo!

The friendship tree at the end of Commonsides has been collecting a rather unwelcome infestation of shoes recently. DCPS were requested to remove five pairs of shoes from the tree (they weren't ours!) which we did. We would appreciate it if we don't have to do it again, thanks.

Our AGM will be held on 21st September at 8pm in the Community Centre (to be confirmed). All are welcome but only members can vote. Members are reminded that subs are due on 1st October and a flat rate of £10 now applies.

Downley Community Centre Management Committee

Jill - Tutor



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Downley Community Centre



Centre Refurbishment

At the end of May, the whole building was deep cleaned including windows, window and door frames and loose acoustic panels reinstalled.

The floor in Beech has been restored to almost new by sanding off the worn layer and treating with several coats of sealant and polish.

The wooden benches by the front entrance and on the lawn and notice board by the outside gates have also been extensively refurbished so please check the latest notices here when passing by.

Up! Downley Festival Art Show - Downley School Visit

The centre was delighted to host a visit for 60 children from the junior years of Downley School. Of particular interest was the large Year 3 exhibit as they all had a hand in making it.

The children also met the regular lace making group who were demonstrating their skills, together with wood carving and turning using a mini lathe all set up in the Beech room.

Chairman

Our first and only Chairman since the centre was founded in 2002, David Worsdall, will stand down in early 2024.

Applications are invited for his successor; a voluntary post whose main duties are to chair the management committee meetings (normally monthly on Tuesday evenings) and to oversee all aspects of the centre's projects. The chairman also represents the centre to the local community, liaising with local government and numerous other organisations.

Interested candidates should please contact in confidence: davidworsdall@gmail.com

Mike Carter - remembered

The committee and trustees were deeply saddened by the recent death of Mike Carter.

Mike joined the committee in 2005 and played a pivotal role in the project management of the extension in 2011. Mike was involved with a number of charities but we always appreciated the exceptional skills he brought to DOSCA.

His unique contributions in committee meetings were often an outside-the-box approach which proved both refreshing and invaluable.



Macmillan Cancer Support

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support will return to the Centre on Saturday morning, 9 September. Previously several hundred pounds has been raised each time so please mark the date in your diary now and remember to participate if possible.



Downley Old School Management Association (DOSCA) committee.

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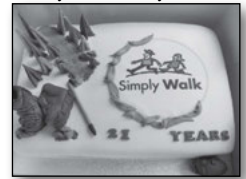


Simply Walk



The last months have brought two celebrations for Simply Walk. On 15th June, after our Thursday walk through the woods and fields, we had our annual Summer Lunch at the Le De Spencers Arms. It was a lovely sunny, dry day and we enjoyed our sit in the garden, with lunch and the odd glass of wine, with our fellow walkers. A lovely summer activity.

In contrast, on 14th July the leaders and back-markers, the volunteers who manage our weekly walks, were invited to the 21st birthday celebration of Simply Walk at Hughenden Park. There were two walks – one of one hour led by Fiona Broadbent (Simply Walk Officer) and a two hour walk led by Margaret and Patrick Crotty, both Downley leaders. After the walks, we were treated to a picnic of sandwiches and fruit, a lovely birthday cake and a hot drink, to the sound of a group of bell-ringers. The Chair of Bucks Council, Patricia Birchley, cut the cake and wished us all well. Oh, and did I mention the weather? It was the wettest walk you could imagine; it rained all the time we were walking and all the time through the speeches, the cake cutting, the eating, drinking



and bell-ringing. Fortunately, the gazebos protected us most of the time and it didn't spoil the bonhomie. We all got very wet in spite of our walkers' waterproofs (even my watchstrap was soaked). But were we down-hearted? Certainly not! Just pleased to go home afterwards and have a hot bath and a change of clothes.

It's not always wet, so why not come and join us on Mondays at 10.00 am (one and a half hour walk) or Thursdays at 11.00 am (one hour walk). We meet at the Downley Old School Community Centre. Register first at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk or turn up on the day 15 minutes before to register with the leader of the day.

Jeanne Steward

Downley Theatre Group

Our evening at "Aspects of Love" was greatly enjoyed by all and the occasion was made more special by spotting Andrew Lloyd-Webber in the audience! Unfortunately, four other suggested outings were abandoned due to lack of support. We have a couple of trips in the pipe-line; due to time constraints, they aren't advertised here: if you'd like to know what's going on, please contact us to be added to the mailing list.

Thought you were a member but not heard from us in a while? Our last message was sent 13 July, could it be in your SPAM box? Maybe your email address has changed and you haven't notified us. Perhaps you didn't notice our requests to let us know if you wish to remain on the mailing list and your details have been deleted. Returning and new members welcome, do contact us with any questions.

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

Come and Join Us

(Downley Descants, that is)



Well, here we are, well into August and Downley Descants are half-way through their summer break.

We are all missing our little piece of fun on a Thursday evening and looking forward to September 14th when we start again. If you enjoy singing, come along and give us a try. We meet at Sunnybank Church in Moor Lane every Thursday during school term time starting at 8pm, or a little before if you want to socialise before the rehearsal begins. Just give our chair, Lyn, a call for more details on 01494 436063 or 07974026213. There is no requirement to read music and there are no auditions. The first two sessions are free then you decide if the choir is for you. If you'd like to join, subscriptions are payable in September, January and April and are set at a very competitive rate compared with other choirs in the area. My favourite comparison is to a coffee and cake in Costa or a pint of beer in a pub; our subs are well below this when calculated on a weekly basis!!

Many of you may have come along to our joint concert at Chiltern Wood School during the Up! Downley Festival which was a sell-out. We had so many positive comments from the audience which goes to prove that our hard work and the encouragement of our highly talented musical team, Louise and Becky, have worked wonders, and improved our performances no end. We now sing with 'light and shade' which adds emotion and meaning to the piece in question. This followed our performance as part of Words, the Marlow Literary Festival at St Peters Church, with a local ladies' choir, Harmony Belles. We were well-received and, this is just a personal opinion, didn't we do well!

When we start back in September it will only be 13 weeks until Christmas and we must start working towards our concert at St James' Church on 14th December which will include both seasonal music and pieces from our existing repertoire, with one or two new additions, some special guests and our usual 'five minute' pantomime. (Oh no it isn't!). We will be dusting off our wigs and fairy wands after a glass of something to calm our nerves. It will be fun though, so hopefully the concert will be another sell-out and we can raise lots of money for our chosen charity.

Bob Cook (Bass)



Cycling with the Chiltern Hills Group

Join your local Cycling UK group this autumn

Chiltern Hills Cycling UK group offers both led rides and "coffee pots" every Sunday. Now autumn is here it's time enjoy the slightly cooler days, coffee stops and making new friends with bike rides in the countryside that surrounds our local area. We have a Zoom social on the 1st Thursday of each month from 8pm and a meet up at Little Kingshill Baptist Church on the 3rd Thursday from 8 – 10pm (Except July & August).

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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

Autumn 2023



Wal, hello to orl you lovely gardeners eh! Another growin season well underway, and a bit of a peculiar wun too I reckons? Early on loads of rain, just bukketin down, then so dry in June you wunders if it would ever rain agin, dryin up so even the cricket field was a'crakkin up, my spuds a'wiltin, as for my spinach, lettuces, chard and beetroot orl goin to seed before they'd done anything much. But then into July and back to proper English weather, rain and sun, not too hot and things gettin back to normal, like it was before Brexit and Covid, wal not exactly.. "Wots that got to do with it?" ses Mrs H.

Anyway, how are yor tommy toes and marrers, yor luvly corgettes and pumkins, yor runner beans, onions and spuds? Wal, my courgettes are doin wal, really wal, thow, "Rhymes with crow" ses Mrs H, (she luvs correctin me) you has to protect em up the plot to keep our resident muntjac off em. I luvs them butternut squashes putting out their feelers, you can orlmost see em a'growin, I've given up cutting the grass paths by em as they insists on goin along there, but that'll catch up later on. I've got three pyramids up, wun for a thornless blackberry a kind plot lady neighbour give me, and two beans, one my old favourite 'scarlet emperor' and the other for 'enorma', we shall see. We're eatin new spuds now, you knows I luvs em, the first wuns called 'rocket'. I had to water em a lot to fatten em up. Charlotte and Desiree not doin much but maybe they'll do better now we've had some rain.

But sum news from the council, not my favourite at the moment, from now no bonnies allowed up the plot on account of pollution.. wot! Ow does most diggers get to the plots eh? In their cars of course, they pollutes, ave they been banned up there eh? And wot about orl them people flyin orl over the place eh? Wal another bit of officialdom stopping a bit of pleasure, and wot is goin to happen to the stuff wot was goin to be burnt? "Wal he does get goin sometimes don't he, but I reckons he's got a point, he'll bring back orl that old wood and mess up the gardin before squashin it into the stove" ses Mrs H. And... wait for it, wot about the Guy Forks night bonny on the common, if they wants to stop that there'll be a revolution!

Wal, season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, Autumn soon, I can't believe it eh! But it will happen, as usual, so get yor plans for next year sorted, turn over the compost and spread it on your plot if it's in good condition, sow sum green manure on land you don't need over winter, clover and field beans are good, keep on dead heddin orl yor luvly flowers in the gardin, and sow sum luvly little lettuces in cells in the greenhouse or winder sill for autumn salad, 'Little gem', 'Orl the year round' and 'winter density are good uns.

As for my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke, he's bin busy pruning his grape bunches, he's got little scissors he uses, spendin hours snippin orf any little berries not up the scratch, and as for his tobacco, he ses the best yet, and we talks a lot about pollution, when he gets a'smokin his stuff you can't get near him without choking!

Wal I reckons that's about it for now, so cheerio and a'bientot,

J. H. Sent from my iSpade

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Downley Evening Women's Institute



We've been having a busy time at our WI with some interesting talks at our meetings. June was by a canal boat owner, giving us a great insight into the history of our canals and boats, and several of us are planning a trip on her boat in September. Our July talk – things that can go wrong with royal marriages over hundreds of years – was very enlightening and amusing.

8 members had a fun afternoon at the bowling alley in June with varying degrees of success, and this was closely followed by a visit to an open garden in Cholesbury with tea and cake as a bonus addition. Also in June, our team of quizzers – Ann Buxton, Pat Gatcum and Pamela Salinas - proved to be real stars coming second by only 2 points in the final of the WI Inter County Quiz.

Downley Day was once again very successful for us with lots of interest being taken in our stall and lots of fun being had.

July is the time for our annual garden party hosted by Janet Durkin in aid of Young Deaf Activities, which is our chosen charity for this year. Thankfully the rain stayed away and we all had a lovely sociable afternoon with Pimms, tea, sandwiches and cake.

Looking forward, our August speaker will be telling us about working with the most dangerous men in England, and September is about the Amazon, before our AGM in October. Also in September we have plans for a trip on the Watlington Fryer for another quiz plus fish and chips. And in October Kwik Fit will be giving some of us advice on getting our cars ready for winter.

Heather Read

The Woodland Preschool

“Learning with love and laughter” is the motto of The Woodland Preschool, and is at the heart of everything we do here at ‘Woodlands’. The Summer term is our busiest and there have been lots of opportunities for the children to learn and laugh. We hatched some chicken eggs and the children learnt how to hold them gently and how to look after them. There were visits from Jo from First Yoga and Gemma from Stage Plus, who teach the children yoga and dance and drama. Mostly the weather has been kind to us so we made good use of our lovely outside area and enjoyed playing in the sandpit, having water fights, making mud pies and using our imaginations as we ran around.

We don't just learn with love and laughter in the safety of our setting and like to make the most of things on offer in our lovely village. We enjoyed our Bluebell Walks in May, walking from where we are located at the Guide and Scout Hut down through the woods, stopping to look for and compare the sizes of various sticks, stones and leaves, through Echo Valley, where we love to investigate making echoes, down towards Hughenden Manor, where the ground is carpeted in shades of blues, lilacs and violets. We also visited the Village Library which is based in the Community Centre, which helps to foster a love of books and reading in the children. We also entered some pieces of art work into the village Art Show which helped encourage the children's emerging mark making and drawing. When we go on 'outings' we usually walk crocodile style,



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with adults holding hands with a child on each side. So if you see a long line of adults and children it could well be us; give us a wave and we'll wave back!

It's been 5 years since we changed our hours to meet the needs of the increasing number of local families with two working parents. We started a breakfast club from 8-9 as so many parents needed to start work before the traditional 9am start and extended 4 of our days to 3.30pm so those parents doing the school run could pick up older siblings from school first and then pick up from Woodlands. It's been 4 years since I took over the role of Leader from Julia and for at least 2 of those, Covid had to be taken into account with everything we did. Covid has also had a huge impact on the children's life experiences and we are now seeing the impact this has had on their development too.

Our first cohort of Covid Babies have more difficulties with communicating with others as well as sharing and turn taking compared with previous cohorts. This could be because they had less opportunities to interact with other children due to lockdown constraints, plus masks being worn by people they did interact with made it harder to learn how to use their tongues, lips and mouths correctly to pronounce words.

To help them overcome this, we have redeveloped our Summer House from an outside play house into a Language Shed. This has enabled staff to take small groups to play games focusing on turn taking, listening and attention and targeting the pronunciation of specific speech sounds as well as using it as a quiet area for reading and making up stories. The children and staff alike have enjoyed spending time in the Language Shed and visiting Bucks Early Years Advisors have also commented on how beneficial it is for improving the children's communication skills and vocabulary.

Covid has also had an impact on the way people work with lots more of our parents being able to work from home so it is now coming up for a year since we extended our hours of funded childcare from 27 hours to 29. Friday is still our quietest day, possibly because many of our parents working part-time like to spend Fridays with their pre-schooler, so there hasn't been enough need to offer the full 30 hours, but I wonder how soon that will change. It is also just over a year since Ofsted visited and rated us as Good so we have quite a while before they come back for another visit. I'm sure the time will fly by; it usually does when you are having fun dressing up and role playing being a SCUBA diver, witch, Queen, Red Riding Hood, wolf and all the other characters I've enjoyed being so far at Woodlands.

We currently have a few spaces for September 2023 onwards. If you would like to find out more about The Woodland Preschool please check out our website www.thewoodlandpreschool.co.uk, give us a call on 01494 521953 or email us at admin@thewoodlandpreschool.co.uk to book a visit to come and have a look round!

Katy White, 'Woodlands' Leader

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.

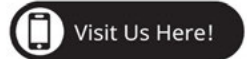
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Top Notes



“You fill up my senses...”

So sang John Denver in his beautiful “Annie’s Song” in 1974 – just one of the pieces performed by Top Notes Choir to its special audiences this summer.

This year, instead of a one-off performance at a charity concert, Top Notes Choir decided, for the first time since 2016, to go “on tour”.

We started by visiting *Cliveden Manor* care home in Marlow, singing for a small but very appreciative audience. Next stop, the following week, was *Ryevie Manor Care Home* in High Wycombe where the audience was much larger - and the staff seemed to enjoy the singing as much as the residents. It was truly moving to see some members of our audience displaying such emotion in response to the music we were offering. On 19th June, we diverted for an appearance at the *Downley Day* celebrations, performing a selection repertoire for the community and residents of Downley. It was an absolute pleasure to perform here again for our “home crowd”. After a small break (and a little refreshment!) we marched our way over to *The Heights Care Home*. We were so happy to return to sing for the friendly and welcoming audience there – we always particularly enjoy the level of participation – people singing, dancing and joining in throughout the performance. Just the way Top Notes likes it! The final stop on the tour was *Ridley Manor Care Home* in Lane End. As befitting a “closing night”, the audience came dressed up for the final performance adorned with glasses of prosecco; they were ready to party, and seemingly had a ball.

Performing for residents in care homes presents a wonderful opportunity for choir members to connect with an audience in a different and more intense way than the larger concerts. The tour was a massively rewarding experience for all those who took part.

This tour really did “fill up our senses” – we hope it had the same effect on our lovely audiences - *Viv McMillan - Mezzo*

Looking ahead, our *Charity Christmas Concert* is already booked! We hope you can join us at **All Saints Parish Church** on **Monday 4th December at 7:15pm**, for an evening of Christmas favourites. Tickets will be available shortly via the **Eventbrite** website - search for Top Notes Choir.

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 enquiries.

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Healthcare News from the Pharmacy

We are in challenging times with medicine supplies continuing to be variable, both in actual availability due to shortages of many items and the price we pay against the re-imburement price given by the NHS (this can be considerable either for a single item or just the volume of supply of a single item). We continue to do our utmost to promptly source items and/or offer an alternative via a new prescription and thank you for your understanding regarding delays.

We are now needing to perform more services to maintain the same level of income from the NHS and remain viable.

These include -

- Checking for hypertension in those over 40 via a quick clinic blood pressure check.
- Calls to check how you are getting on with new medication prescribed for ongoing conditions such as hypertension and heart disease and other circulatory conditions, diabetes, respiratory conditions, gout, glaucoma and urinary problems, amongst others.
- Repeat supply of the contraceptive pill: no need for a GP or Practice nurse check-up, we can now provide this and issue your preferred pill within the Pharmacy. This will usually be by appointment as it can only be offered by Fiona.
- Flu vaccines: we will again be offering flu vaccines to those eligible via the NHS and also privately. The NHS cohort has reverted to pre-covid groups of those over 65 (not 50) and clinical groups at risk - diabetes, respiratory, immunosuppressed and their household contacts, pregnancy, BMI > 40, and other long term health conditions. We will once again be working on an appointment system which will be bookable in store and online via links according to your eligibility. Please look out for promotion of these links on our Facebook page and share to your friends.
- Ear wax removal: this is a private service available by appointment and can include a hearing screen test. Ears are checked for the presence of wax and their general health. Any wax found can then be removed by micro suction. Syringing is no longer the recommended method of removal as it can lead to perforation of the ear drum and infection. If we detect any issues, we can refer to our supporting audiologists for advice using photos and videos taken of the ear canal during the appointment.
- Sore throat strep a test and treat: a private service whereby we take a throat swab to test for bacterial infection and supply antibiotic if needed.

We hope more will be on offer soon, as and when the government launch more in the pharmacy sector. In the meantime, we will continue to offer over the counter advice and products where appropriate – no appointment needed!

All the team at Downley Pharmacy

Downley Day News

Following the successful Downley Day this year, grants of the order of a few hundred pounds are available to non-profit making organisations either in the village or which benefit the village. Contact info@downley.org with details of what you need it for and roughly how much.

Decisions on successful applicants will be revealed at the Downley Day AGM on 9th November at the Community Centre.

Next year's dates will be:

- 15th June 2024 – Downley Day
- 6th July 2024 – Concert on the Common

We welcome any suggestions for new arena events or other attractions that will contribute to making Downley Day better.

As always, the Downley Day committee would like to attract new blood onto the committee so as to keep the ideas and enthusiasm going, so if you are interested in getting involved please contact us on info@downley.org or come along to our AGM.

Bill Thompson, Downley Day Committee

Concert on The Common



Photos courtesy of Saul Pope, @the_downley_photographer

Hillclimb Garage

Downley Day Review, Award Nominations and the World's Best-Selling Car



Summer has well and truly arrived and we are seeing many of you popping along to the garage to get the car travel-ready before you set off on your day trips and summer holidays. We will give your car the thorough check-over it deserves before you set off, but do please remember to check the Vitals at least once a week whilst you are away, including Engine Oil, Coolant, Windscreen Washer and Tyre Pressures, including the spare. Remember to also check tread depth and any damage that may have been caused by one of those pesky potholes..! If you are in any doubt, book in and we will check these Vitals for free.



We were so happy that the sun shone down for Downley Day in June! What a fabulous time we all had enjoying the many stalls and attractions that made the event so much fun. It was lovely seeing so many familiar faces and friends of the garage and meeting lots of new people too. Thank you to everyone who entered our 'Doggie Biscuits in the Jar' competition, which raised over £130 for Hearing Dogs, and Congratulations to Stephen Button who was closest to guessing that there were 249 Biscuits in the Jar! Stephen won a £100 Amazon Gift Voucher, Car Valeting Set, Hearing Dogs Goodie Box and a FREE MOT! Thank you also to

everybody involved in making the day a success and, in particular, to those who helped on the Hillclimb Stand or who kindly donated their fabulous cars to show for the day.

We are thrilled to announce we have made it to the Finals of the British Independent Garage Awards 2023 and are very proud that we have been nominated in five categories; Garage of the Year, Customer Service, Training & Development, Community Engagement and Digital Engagement. Reaching the Finals of these prestigious awards is fantastic recognition of the hard work from our amazing team



and the tremendous support of our fabulous customers! The Awards Ceremony is in September and we will be very much hoping to bring back more silverware to Downley, for the 3rd year running!

We will be reporting again on the Rise of the Electric Vehicle in the next issue but thought it worthy of mentioning in this issue that the **World's Best-Selling Car in Q1 2023 was the Tesla Model Y!** These EV's just might be starting to catch on...?

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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Downley Cricket Club

This year is our 150th Anniversary and, sporting our newly-designed commemorative kit designed by all-action all-rounder Graham 'Boycs' Swales, we have had a successful cricket season (so far), sitting at the top of the Second Division of the Berkshire, Chiltern and Mid Bucks League as I write.



How long this slender lead will last is difficult to predict, with 13 teams in our Division, but Downley are enjoying winning frequently, sometimes with huge totals to chase down. Our ebullient captain Ben Hughes leads from the front with plenty of wickets and most runs, including a huge unbeaten century. He ensures everyone gets opportunities to succeed in every game they play in, especially if they are new to the team and finding their feet, Ali Q, young Mahier Souman and Liam Baker among them. He has also coined some well-received nicknames, and team-spirit is very good, and whether we win or lose there's plenty of fun and laughter. Pete 'Ledge' Stone scored a brilliant century of his own, nearly matched by young Rajat 'Virat' Khator's selfless 96 not out, in the famous win over traditional rivals Lacey Green, playing to make sure Downley won, rather than reaching his personal milestone. Mehul 'Whiskers' Khemani, in what feels like his breakthrough season, scored an accomplished half-century on which the others built. The bowlers, too, have been dismissing batters often through determination and skill and some startlingly good catches from fielders.

In early June we were all very saddened by Downley cricket (and football) legend Rod 'Herbie' Hermon passing away, one of the most-liked stalwarts of the Club. Shortly after, the team posted what is believed to be a record 345 for 3, almost as a tribute to the great man, who would have toasted the performance with a brandy, no doubt, at the Le De Spencer Arms, where Mark and Sarah continue to extend the team, family, and supporters warm hospitality.

Towards the end of the season, on Sunday 27 August of the Bank Holiday weekend, we have our President's Day with a barbecue and bar. Current plans are to play a fun 6-a-side tournament, where regular cricketers, some from other clubs, footballers, and several youngsters, cheered on by family and friends, mingle to make it an enjoyable day for all. Everyone is warmly invited.

Downley cricket would not be possible at all without hundreds of hours of work on the square done by Den Cox, Martin Birkett and their small team of helpers, despite the vagaries of the weather. Also special credit must go to Mandy Aitken for scoring and John Hughes for umpiring, giving up Summer Saturdays week-after-week. All of us are very grateful to them for giving their time so generously.



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Be protected, be connected, be part of Neighbourhood Watch!

In today's fast-paced world, where technology has made it easier to connect with people across the globe, it is paradoxically becoming increasingly common for individuals to feel disconnected from those who live closest to them—their neighbours. While online resources on crime prevention exist, nothing can replace the value of knowing your neighbours and actively working together to create a safe and supportive environment.

In this article, we will explore the advantages of setting up a NW scheme and how it can positively impact both individuals and the community as a whole.

A NW scheme is proven to reduce crimes such as burglaries, vandalism, cons & scams, and car crime. So, if there is no scheme in your road, why not volunteer to be a NW Coordinator and help to protect your home and community? It might take just a couple of hours per month, but it could make a real difference to you and your neighbours.

What does a scheme Coordinator do?

- Distribute (usually by email) the Thames Valley Alert messages – these email bulletins from the police report on crimes, crime threats, forewarn of known scams, and they are an invaluable way of keeping abreast of issues. By establishing a communication network among neighbours, it becomes easier to share information about suspicious activities, warn others of potential dangers and engage in open dialogue with the neighbourhood policing teams regarding any specific concerns that you and your neighbours may have.
- Advise households on simple security measures such as property markings, how to deal with cybercrime, car crime, bogus callers, and rogue traders – NW and Thames Valley Police website have lots of information on all of this.
- Encourage neighbours to report any suspicious activity to the police, either by calling 999 if a crime is taking place or 101 for non-emergency calls. You can also report online on TVP website www.thamesvalley.police.uk
- Help reduce loneliness and isolation. These emotions can leave vulnerable individuals, especially the elderly, more susceptible to falling victim to scams. The prospect of making conversation with another person can make them more willing to open the door to a stranger, or engage in a phone conversation with an unknown caller, or respond to emails or letters.

Neighbours by chance. Working together by choice. We make this a better place to live. Together.

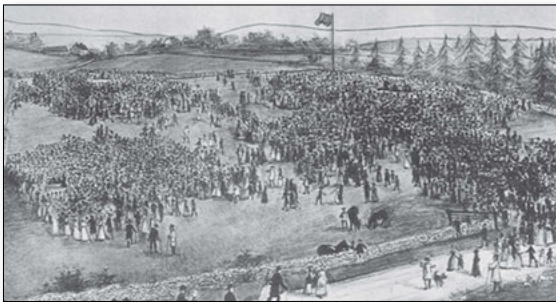
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DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

How Downley embraced the Prims (Part I)

There is a curious memorial stone embedded in a wall in The Chapel of Chapel Street, Downley. It's partly obscured ('... emorial ston ... as laid by ...larke Esq.'). and heavily overpainted, but the date is clear: 'May 31 1887'.

It almost certainly commemorates the 80th anniversary of a very important event in the history of Primitive Methodism: the Mow Cop Camp Meeting of Sunday 31 May 1807, when a 'great multitude' gathered on steep hill six miles outside Stoke-on-Trent for a fourteen-hour-long service of prayer and preaching. Hugh Bourne, local wheelwright and the key preacher present, left an account: he wrote of thousands attending, 'the preachers seemed to be fired with uncommon zeal, ... tears were flowing and sinners trembling on every side.' There was 'a weighty burning of joy and love' and many were 'born again'.



*First camp meeting on Mow Cop, 1807
(www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk)*

Mainstream Wesleyan Methodists disapproved. Such meetings were 'highly improper in England and likely to be productive of considerable mischief'; we disclaim all connexion with them'. Disciplined, orderly services were what was needed to keep the authorities happy, not this sort of impromptu open-air preaching and emotional outpouring. (The political context is important here: Britain was at war with revolutionary France and any hint of popular lawlessness was quashed.) Bourne was expelled; three years later, he

established the Primitive Methodist Connexion – the 'Prims'.

The Prims made very little impact in Downley at first. Mainstream Wesleyan Methodism took root and the Sunnybank Chapel on Moor Lane opened in 1824. It met a real need. Downley had a fast-growing population what with brick and chair making, but it had no church. The devout had to walk to St Lawrence's on the hill of West Wycombe for Sunday services and their baptisms, weddings and funerals. It's a beautiful walk but challenging for the infirm and miserable in poor weather. Walking to Hughenden Church was an alternative, but that was out of parish. Furthermore, both were Anglican churches – then considered the 'Tory Party at Prayer' – which may not have enthused the local labouring poor.

Small wonder, therefore, that something of a DIY approach to Christianity took hold in Downley. The stirring words of John Wesley, who preached in High Wycombe over forty times between 1739 and 1789, inspired the foundation of the Sunnybank Chapel. Even so, Sunnybank's services were just too orderly, too establishment, for some.

In 1835, a Primitive Methodist preacher, the Reverend James Pole of Hounslow, arrived in High Wycombe on a six-month mission to heal the area's 'shattered bulwarks of Zion' and end its reputation for drunken depravity (which had been much in evidence during the Paper Riots of 1831). Someone – possibly William Tomkins the Younger, a wheelwright – invited him to preach up in Downley. According to Rev Pole's journal, his messages of repentance and salvation were warmly received:

Friday 10 April I preached at Dounly [Downley], a new place. A friend who had heard of my coming, had prepared a wheelwright's shop and it was crowded with people of all classes. Here seemed a good opening.

Saturday 11 April *Visiting and praying with the people. Dounly is an obscure village; but it has a chair manufactory, which employs near forty hands.*

Tuesday 14 April *At Dounly; visited several families. At dinner time held a prayer meeting in the open air: there were more than a hundred people, and God was working. At night the wheelwright's shop was crammed, and many could not get in. Several wept, and some found peace with God.*

Wednesday 15 April *Visited at Dounly, and at noon held an open-air prayer meeting; and much interest was excited.*

Sunday 19 April *P. Meeting at Dounly, and then class, the first ever held by the P. Methodists in this county. Eight joined and may be said to be a foundation stone of P. Methodism in this vicinity. I pray God it may rise to a glorious structure.*

Monday 20 April *It being Easter Monday we held a meeting on Dounly Common. Several lately converted engaged in prayer; this made a move, and stimulated others to prayer. The scene was both delightful and affecting: some praising God for deliverance and praying him to keep them in future – others crying for mercy.*

Tuesday 28 April *At Dounly in the open-air. A large Congregation, a mighty influence prevailed and a powerful conversion took place.*

Monday 4 May *At night preached at Dounly. In the P. meeting after, several were crying for mercy, and some were brought into liberty.*

The 'considerable mischief' anticipated by the Wesleyans did not materialise. On the contrary, the local constable was much impressed. *He dined with Rev Pole on Tuesday 21 April and observed that, 'He had not before witnessed such an Easter, for every Easter since he had been constable, he had been called out to keep the peace, but this time there was no need of it, for most of the people were praying and at worship on the Common.'*

However, Downley's enthusiasm for Pole's evangelical Primitive Methodist approach was far from steadfast. William Tomkins the Younger took out a licence to use his house as a meeting place on 4 November 1835, but he must have moved elsewhere since he is not in the 1841 census. In late September 1840, Rev John Guy from the Reading Primitive Methodist circuit reported that, *'A Camp meeting being held at Downley, the preachers and members rose into mighty faith and looked for better days. Persecution soon rose and through this we were at a loss for a place for evening services.'* Another preacher, Brother Joseph Ives, wrote that his *'soul was much oppressed on account of the low state of religion in this neighbourhood.'* (Naphill was included in that comment).

In 1841 the fortunes of the Downley Primitive Methodists were revitalised by Brother S. Folly who *'stirred (Downley) up to diligence': 'each member began to pray and believe for a revival'*. He organised joint Naphill-Downley Easter week meetings that year which were clearly a success. *'On Easter Sunday the services were well attended; believers were strengthened, and sinners appeared to be greatly concerned.'* *On Easter Monday he organised, 'A little Camp meeting. Brothers Roberts and Watson, and Sister Gray spoke with power; and there was great power in prayer. Several were in tears during the afternoon. In the evening we had a band or fellowship meeting and one soul found the Lord.'*

Unfortunately, there is then a twenty-three-year gap – a vacuum in the records – between those early Downley Prim meetings, and the building of The Chapel on Chapel Street in 1864. It is possible that meetings were held in a private house during that time, or that open air camp meetings continued, or that folk walked to High Wycombe's two Primitive Methodist Chapels, which opened in 1843 and 1848, or (more likely) to Naphill's Chapel which opened in 1851, and which had over 200 attendees by 1854.

In the 1851 religious census, 11% of High Wycombe were Primitive Methodists. If that proportion was reflected in Downley, then about fifty Downley folk may have embraced the Prims by the 1860s which, as it happens, was exactly the capacity of The Chapel on Chapel Street, about which more in Part II.



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News from St James



“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” Genesis 1:1



In the creation accounts in Genesis there is a repeated refrain; “And God saw that it was good.” When the world was first made, it was all very good. Everything worked as it was designed to work. Whatever your view of how exactly creation happened, it is clear that there was an order and pattern to it. Every part of our eco system was designed with a purpose, from the smallest ant or tiniest flower to the largest sea mammals.

In Genesis 2 we read that “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” Genesis 2:15. Sadly, we know that man has rather failed in this task of caring for the earth. As I write, parts of the world are experiencing unprecedented heatwaves and other parts of the world are facing flooding.

It is very easy to feel overwhelmed by what we see going on in our world – or just to switch off because we are fortunate enough to live in a country that is not experiencing the devastating affects of climate change in such a severe way. But we know that is not the answer. The worst thing we can do is nothing. If all of us play our small part it can make a difference to our environment.

At St James we are encouraging one another in these small things like using less water, recycling and reusing things as much as possible, trying to drive less and shopping wisely. I believe that if we continue to challenge each other to play our part, then genuine changes can be made.

News from St James:



In July we were excited to be able to hold a Civic service for the new Mayor of High Wycombe, Councillor Paul Turner, who is a member of St James, and to welcome local dignitaries including Deputy Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire Naomi Riches MBE.



Messy Church starting 24th September 4-5.30pm

We will be running Messy Church at St James on the last Sunday of each month. All are welcome, there will be free crafts, games, and food for all the family. Please come along and try it.

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



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Interest Group News

From Naphill to the Khyber Pass. Stories of local Bayley families

In July our Local History Group heard the fascinating story of how Victor Bayley built the Khyber Pass Railway and how other Bayley 's from Naphill contributed in so many ways to village life.

By the time you read this issue this Group will have visited Olney Museum (home of Amazing Grace) and enjoyed a second visit to Haddenham Museum. Our Geology Group had a most informative visit to the Natural History Museum in Oxford and our Bird Watching Group enjoyed trips to various Nature Reserves. Our Psychology Group will have debated how they 'make decisions' as we look forward to the official start of this new Group in September. That's just a few insights into activities you may have missed this summer.

Current and Future Events

We enjoyed our visit to the Wycombe Museum on June 29th with an informal picnic and guided tour in perfect weather. Members checked on the progress of our cherry tree which was dedicated by Jay Blades in December. The Museum is a quiet haven hidden in the centre of town with a tranquil garden, and it's always worth a visit.

We continue to showcase our interest Groups' activities in the Wycombe Library display cases on the second floor. You will also find us at the Flower Festival in St Michael & All Angels Church in Hughenden Valley over the August Bank Holiday weekend. This is a free event and all are welcome.

The u3a is an ideal way of making new friends and developing old or new interests.

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

Downley War Memorial Hall

A big thank you to all those who joined us for Tea in the Memorial Hall on 18 June to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of its construction. It was good to see so many people taking the time to look at the display showing some of the Hall's history. I, for one, learned quite a bit about the early years. Thanks also to those who helped make it such a success.

Over that weekend I spoke to several villagers about the possibility of joining our committee to help see the Hall through the next few years. If you were one of them and are still thinking about it, please feel free to contact me.

Our next project is to refurbish the front steps. These are made from granite so require specialist craftsmen and it might be some time before it is completed.

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Chiltern Wood School Chat

We had a very busy end to the school year with lots of exciting events taking place. The main one was ChilFest, a festival style event for Chiltern Wood School pupils and their families on the Downley site to have fun and raise money for our Memorial Garden. Adults decorated the Hall, Sensory Room and Library to create a Main Stage Area, Zen Zone and a Creative Area. The learners had an opportunity to have glitter, tattoos, face paint and massage as well as dance the day away. We were lucky



enough to have Mr. Mayor, Paul Turner, open the event for us and spend most of the afternoon joining in with a wide range of activities. We managed to raise over £400, which is fantastic.

Another first for the school, was a group of pupils experiencing opera for the first time as part of the Garsington Opera education programme. We had a workshop in school to explain the story and familiarise the pupils with the music. Then a group of about 20 pupils and staff went to see *The Bartered Bride* at the wonderful Getty Estate. A fantastic experience for all involved.



It was wonderful to be able to do the tea and coffee refreshments on Downley Day in June. We had a super time getting to know more local people and be part of the Downley community. We are looking forward to being out and about next academic year and are keen to build on the relationships we have made.

A huge thank you for all the local support we receive.

Rachel Chapman, Headteacher

Downley Gardening Society

Downley Day

A big thank you to all who donated such good quality plants this year and to those who came back and bought a lot of them! It was a very warm day and a very busy one too. We raised £333.20 for DGS funds.

John Tyler's Wildflower Walk

We had a great afternoon at Grangelands walking with John. We saw 5 different types of orchid - pyramidal, common spotted, fragrant, bee and twayblade. We were a little late to see the white helleborine in flower but will know where to look next year! We also saw marbled white, brimstone and small heath butterflies. The scent of the wild

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confidence in my singing.

Jill

Top Notes



thyme and marjoram were beautiful. John showed us galls on the beech leaves, which seem to be increasing every year.

We are hoping that John will lead a fungus walk for us in the autumn – details to follow.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday, 2nd September 2023	DGS Autumn Show
Sunday, 17th September 2023	Trip to Kew Gardens
Monday 16th October 7.30pm	Living Rooftop Gardens by Dusty Gedge
Monday 20th November 7.30pm	Frankincense, Myrrh and the Incense Trail by Sandy Primrose
Monday 11th December 7.30pm	Christmas Quiz and festive refreshments

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. Website - www.downleygardeningociety.com

Please keep safe, enjoy your gardens and hope to see members and non-members, who are always very welcome, at one of our events.

From Westminster

Steve Baker - MP for Wycombe

The Government has recently published its NHS England Long Term Workforce Plan. Before I say anything about this, I wanted to take the opportunity of thanking everyone who works in the NHS and gives care to constituents.



The Plan sets out long term projections for future NHS workforce supply and demand. It identifies the need to train more staff so that we have the right number of doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, pharmacy staff, healthcare scientists, dental professionals and others to meet the health needs of the population. It also talks about measures to retain our dedicated NHS workforce by allowing greater flexibility and improving culture, leadership and wellbeing as well as other reforms so healthcare staff have the right multidisciplinary skills and can harness digital and technological innovations, allowing them to focus on patient care.

I know some people living in the constituency may have found it difficult at times to obtain an appointment with their GP or receive hospital care for long term conditions. The NHS is clear the Government will double the number of undergraduate medical school training places by 2031 to 15,000, with more medical school places in areas with the greatest shortages. A higher proportion of new medical students will carry out their postgraduate training in services such as primary care, mental health and cancer. It will also increase the number of GP training places by 50% to 6,000 by 2031, nearly

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double the number of adult nurse training places by 2031, with more than 24,000 more nurse and midwife training places a year by 2031, and expand dentistry places by 40%, reaching 300 more training places for dentists and dental care practitioners by 2031. As a result of these domestic training expansions, the reliance on agency staff and international recruitment will reduce.

Another issue I know is of concern is the rise in the cost of living. Often when we hear about how the British economy is performing it is hard to gauge how well we are doing compared to other countries. Is Britain doing better or worse than our neighbours in Europe for example? It's not always easy to make comparisons but recently the Chancellor has made a number of statements about inflation, food prices and mortgage rates.

He started by acknowledging how high inflation hurts families and businesses. He mentioned the supply chain shock arising from the pandemic followed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine is a key exporter of wheat, which caused the price to spike. The UK is a high user of gas, and the war also led to record gas prices driving up costs for food production, storage and transport. Because the price of gas and agricultural products, such as wheat, are agreed in advance there's a delay when wholesale gas prices drop before lower prices reach consumers. So, is this just being felt in the UK? According to Oxford Economics, UK food costs are about 7% below the EU average, and core inflation is higher in 14 EU countries.

High inflation leads to high interest rates. This is why the Chancellor thinks the best policy intervention to help shoppers and mortgage holders at the moment is to halve inflation, and then return to a 2% target. The Government has held down bills through the Energy Price Guarantee, which helped to reduce peak inflation; this was partly funded by a windfall tax on energy company profits. From this month, the average energy bill will drop by £500 a year. The Government is also working with food producers, supermarkets and the competition regulator to work out what can be done to bring food prices down.

However, the single most important thing any government can do is be responsible with public spending. Unnecessary borrowing fuels inflation, putting pressure on the Bank of England to hike interest rates further. Sadly, it would be self-defeating if it gave short-term mortgage support as this would mean inflation stayed higher for longer. To help those struggling with mortgage repayments the Government agreed a package with the Financial Conduct Authority and lenders last year and set out ways mortgage lenders can help customers. If you look at what's happening in other countries, you can see that rises in interest rates do bring down inflation over time and this will happen here. 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.

**As ever, if you would like to get in touch with me,
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News from Buckinghamshire Council



For more information and to keep up to date with 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. The following is a selection taken from cabinet reports for the Full Council Meeting held on 12th July.

Summer Reading Challenge

This summer, children aged 4-11 years can visit Buckinghamshire Libraries to join a superstar team and their marvellous mascots and get involved in a Summer Reading Challenge themed around the power of play, sport, games and physical activity. Through taking part in the Challenge, with free materials from Buckinghamshire Libraries and online via the Challenge website, children will be encouraged to keep their minds and bodies active over the summer break. The characters – brought to life by children’s author and illustrator Loretta Schauer – navigate a fictional summer obstacle course and track their reading as they go, rewarded by free incentives including stickers.

Through activity challenge cards from the Youth Sport Trust, and an exciting, themed book collection, the Summer Reading Challenge aims to keep imaginations moving over the school holiday. By participating in the challenge at Buckinghamshire Libraries, young people will have the opportunity to explore new reading material, develop skills, and discover new interests. For more information, please visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/campaign/summer-reading-challenge

Enforcement Update

The team’s no-nonsense approach to dealing with breaches of planning control should act as a deterrent to others and act as a warning that Buckinghamshire is not the place to come if you intend to breach planning control. When we seek resolutions, whilst we will treat perpetrators in a firm, fair and reasonable way, we will not hesitate to use all the tools available to us to ensure harmful breaches are remedied.

Regeneration

In High Wycombe, the White Hart Street public realm enhancement scheme in the heart of High Wycombe is designed to improve the area and support business growth. Visitors to the area will benefit from a much better environment. The scheme is being managed internally, with a delivery consultant to be commissioned this summer. Detailed design is due to complete in Autumn and, following a public consultation, construction delivery is due to begin at the end of the year.

Future High Streets Fund activity continues with progress on 16 Church Street (now nearing practical completion), The Guildhall, Little Market House, 22 Queen’s Sq. The repurposing of House of Fraser is due to complete by November 2023. The option

to purchase has now been signed with the Liberal Club and DLUCH has agreed to add 22 Church Street (repurposing a long-term vacant ground floor unit) to the programme. Internal sign-off has been received to progress with the Tesco Newlands project, subject to agreement from DLUCH.

Autism Strategy Consultation

The council is developing an all-age autism strategy which will be going out to consultation later in July or early August – we know that the summer is not a good time for public consultation and so it will last 12 weeks to take it into the autumn.

Helping Hand

The Helping Hand team continues to provide much needed support to those residents who are experiencing significant financial difficulties, utilising funds from the fourth tranche of the Household Support Fund (April 2023 – March 2024), provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. The team provides both direct support through the application based Helping Hand scheme and through other key initiatives and schemes led by both the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

During April and May 2023:

- Over 14,600 digital food vouchers have been issued to eligible families to provide support during May Half Term.
- Over 1,600 applications for support have been managed by the team with over 2,492 provisions of support delivered including white goods, essential furniture and emergency food and fuel support.
- Funding has been provided to support over 22 Voluntary and Community Sector initiatives/schemes for residents across Buckinghamshire.

Buckinghamshire Highways

With one of the most damaging winters for our roads on record, our priority for the first quarter of 2023/24 has been dealing with these impacts. We now have 15 pothole crews, plus three jet patching crews and a Pothole Pro Machine on the network and when combined these have resulted in almost 10,000 defects being repaired by mid-June. Pothole crews are working seven days a week and defect numbers will reduce significantly with the delivery of our summer capital works programmes.

Housing and Domestic

The Housing and Domestic team is continuing to take enforcement action against unscrupulous landlords operating within the county. In March, a High Wycombe landlord was found guilty of five offences including operating an unlicensed House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and putting tenants at risk. The owner was fined £5,000, ordered to pay costs of £6,878.96, and a victim surcharge of £190, totalling £12,068.96.

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

CHAMELEON SINGLES GROUP



Over the summer many of our events moved to the great outdoors! We recently went to an outdoor film screening and in June went on a day trip to Guernsey. A trip to Salisbury is also being planned plus, later in the summer, a day out to the coast. The warmer days also marked the start of the BBQ season and the group's members have enjoyed two so far in members gardens. Both managed to avoid the rain and were well attended!

Our walks took to an early start on 21st June with our sunrise walk to mark the longest day of the year. This was followed by a well-deserved breakfast at Park Parade in Hazlemere. Future walks will perhaps not have the 4:30am start but at least the sun did shine through eventually.

At-home evenings, take-away food nights and occasional Quiz Nights also feature in our bi-monthly events programme. The Pub Night on the last Thursday of the month has currently moved to The Crown at Hazlemere due to refurbishment at The Dolphin, now The Dolphin Eye. Along with the Lunch Club on the second Friday these events are ideal if you are a newcomer giving a chance to meet others in an informal atmosphere.

If you are single, 40-60's, looking for a great social life and new friends why not give Chameleon Singles Group a try? There are no strangers, just new friends to be made. The group has several local people from Downley, West Wycombe, Sands and the surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too. To find out more call contact Terrie on 01494 445816, Trevor on 01494 529067 or e-mail: info@chameleonsingles.org.uk. Visit the group on-line at www.chameleonsingles.org.uk or search Facebook.

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Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - AUTUMN 2023

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GROUP	DAY	TIME	NEW MEMBER WELCOME	CONTACT
Painting for Pleasure	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 - AUTUMN 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 - AUTUMN 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 - AUTUMN 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 - AUTUMN 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 - AUTUMN 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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Downley Village News

Editor: Anne at editor@downley.org

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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

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Website: news@downley.org

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COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

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

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

DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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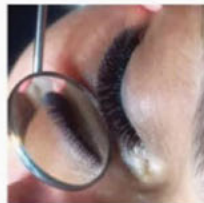
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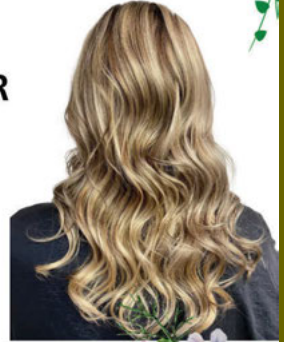
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