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COMMUNITY**

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER

Village News

Issue 137/November 2023



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From Town to Country

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Editorial

Autumn days are drawing in and the trees are finally starting to turn and leaves to fall. It won't be long before the festive season is upon us yet again. Can it really be a year since the last one?

One thing I am missing from last year is our wonderful postbox toppers which used to appear and change like magic on the postbox near the Co-op. The last one I saw was in the summer, and I have heard a rumour that it was stolen. I don't know whether that's true, but, if so, what a sad indictment of our society! I remember visiting Henley earlier in the year and noticing that some of their "toppers" had CCTV cameras overlooking them and even padlocks to keep them in place. At the time I felt rather smug that we didn't need that sort of security in Downley but now I'm not so sure. Whatever the reason for the toppers' demise, I do miss them.

I wish you all the very best of festive seasons and good health and happiness for 2024.

Our next edition will be the Spring one, which will be out in mid-February. As usual, we will be delighted to hear from any organisation in Downley (or the surrounding area) with news or information. You can submit articles via the email address editor@downley.org. **Copy deadline is Sunday 28 January 2024** but please get your copy in as early as possible as space is limited.

Anne, Editor • editor@downley.org

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OPEN

Monday 10 - 12 noon

Thursday 3 - 5pm

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Christmas and New year closures.

The Library will be closed
from Saturday 23rd December
re-opening on Thursday 4th January 2024.

Book donations

If you are having a pre Christmas clear out of books
please remember we are always very grateful
for any book donations.

*The Library Committee would like to wish all our members
and visitors a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.*

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Downley Parish Council



Traffic speeding through Downley remains a constant concern for residents. The Parish Council maintains two Speed Indicator Devices through the Parish which alert motorists to their speed and can remind them to slow down. These units are rotated across various locations throughout the village and are moved monthly. One of these units developed a fault recently and had to be taken down but we hope that we have a simple fix for that issue and that the unit will be back in action shortly.



PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY

The Parish Council has bought a small supply of 30 mph Wheelie Bin Stickers and are making these available on a first come first served basis. If you would like a free sticker for your wheelie bin, please collect one from the Community Centre while stocks last. We've placed a supply in the lobby there. The Community Centre is generally open weekdays between 09:00 and 15:00 and frequently outside of those times too.

Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk
clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org

DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of the month
at **Downley Community Centre**, School Close 7.30pm

Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions

Downley Parish Council, Community Centre School Close, Downley, HP13 5TR
The Clerk can be contacted on 01494 25 77 11 (office hrs 9am-1pm Monday – Friday)
E: clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org • www.downleyparishcouncil.org

**DOWNLEY CHURCHES TOGETHER
WISH YOU A VERY**

Merry Christmas

COME AND JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS!

CAROLS ON THE COMMON

Wednesday 20th December

Meet at 6pm at Jubilee Green (opposite the Co op)
then on via School Close to the Common for 6.30pm,
followed by mulled wine and other yummy treats
at the Memorial Hall



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Downley Common News

The exciting news this month is that the rubbish bins on the Common have been replaced by Bucks Council with new ones that have integral tops to prevent wildlife from rummaging inside and spreading rubbish over the surrounding area.



Our September work party was spent attacking the bracken that has been encroaching onto the sledging slope adjacent to Moor Lane. The resulting piles of dead bracken will be removed shortly. Hopefully the area will be added to routine mowing that is done on Commonsides by a local contractor.



DCPS has continued its annual programme of pushing back the edge of the woods between Woodland View and Vale Cottage by taking out another couple of hawthorn trees and allowing a large oak tree both to be more visible and to have room to grow. A margin is now starting to develop between the woods and the open grass that is a lower scrub area consisting of bushes, bramble and bracken which provides a different habitat for wildlife.

Our ideas for a new management plan are starting to develop and we have appointed an experienced ecology consultant recommended by the Chiltern Conservation Board. A useful morning was spent on a guided tour of the Common pointing out the features of interest and areas where management currently happens. Some ideas that were discussed include:

- Grazing by cattle that are restrained by geolocating tags. Unfortunately, we cannot geotag the dogs that might attack them.
- Promotion of wildflower areas by grass-cutting and removal. This has been attempted unsuccessfully in the past but it might be re-attempted in small areas.
- Participating in a “newt offsetting” scheme, a form of biodiversity offsetting that has been trialled by Natural England recently. This might enable us to improve the environment at Mannings Pond.
- Pollarding a few young trees as an alternative to the longstanding coppicing project.

We are hoping to publish the new management plan shortly.

Bill Thompson, Secretary, DCPS

COULD YOU HELP DELIVER DOWNLEY VILLAGE NEWS?

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



Le De Spencers Arms

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



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Downley Community Centre

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**Macmillan Cancer Support
coffee and cake morning
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This established annual fund-raising event returned during the September heatwave, organised again by 'Downley Wives'. The ladies worked tirelessly in a very hot and crowded room and really appreciated the many cakes donated. Last year's total was smashed, helped by post event donations.

As in 2022, the total raised was topped up by Downley Community Centre making a total donation to the charity of £600. Many thanks to all those who baked, donated and helped on the day.

Christmas Event

The Centre's Baby & Toddler group Monday Minis is hosting its Christmas Party on 11th December, 9.30am - 11.15am. Santa will be visiting with gifts for the children, and there will be a buffet and mulled wine for the grown-ups. If you would like to come please contact Caroline via Monday Minis Facebook or Instagram page to be added to the guest list, as there are limited spaces available.

New Activities

Two new yoga based groups are now welcoming new members:

- 1) Monday evenings: 19.30-21.15 Pregnancy & Yoga.
Contact: steph@nestandnurture.net
- 2) Friday mornings: 08.00-09.00 Qigong Yoga exercise.
Contact : Claudia 07540 892708

Free Wifi

Thanks to the Downley Parish Council free WI-FI has now been extended to the whole of the Community Centre building

Just go to Manage your wi-fi settings and select BT Guest Wi-Fi under available networks.

New Committee member

DOSCA is delighted to welcome Richard Armitage onto the committee. Richard brings valuable skills and expertise to the team. Richard is a true Downleyite having lived in Downley for over 30 years and is an active member of several local groups and organisations. He is a retired Civil Engineer and Project Manager and brings us a broad experience that will benefit the team with all future work necessary to maintain the building and operation of the community centre.

Details of all our current activities are shown in the round-up schedule for Downley Community Centre at the end of this magazine

Downley Old School Management Association (DOSCA) committee.

Jill - Tutor



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The Downley After School Club



The Downley After School Club was first set up in 2003 by a group of parents who identified a need for wrap-around care for children based at The Downley School. Originally it was housed in the Community Centre so the children walked from school to the Centre.

Our current Club Manager, Denia, joined in 2004 and has run a very successful club for the last 20 years – without her the Club just wouldn't be the same! In February 2011, the After School Club relocated to a new building on the site of The Downley School, which they currently share with Chiltern Hills Montessori Nursery.

Today the Club continues to be run by Denia and her excellent and dedicated team, backed up by a fantastic voluntary Management Committee. The demand is still very much evident for the service, and the After School Club has become an integral part of the community. It currently offers Breakfast Club, After School Club and Holiday Clubs.

We celebrated 20 years of The Downley After School Club back in June by running a week of fun, including visits from entertainers, a circus workshop, discos, face painting and a visit from the ice-cream van!

We have spaces available at the Breakfast Club and for Holiday Club. For more information please visit

www.thedownleyafterschoolclub.com

Coffee Stop

Monday morning blues? Want to get out of the house after being at home all weekend? WFH and need a break? Just retired or new to the Village and want to meet more people? Need somewhere local to meet a friend for a chat? Why not start the week with a visit to Coffee Stop?. We meet at St James Church Hall and are open every Monday except Bank Holidays from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. We provide tea/coffee and home-made cakes/scones at reasonable prices. All ages welcome.

On Monday 18th December we will celebrate Christmas with carol singing, a raffle and some festive bakes.

Chrissie Styles 01494 445766



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PA

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Chiltern Wood School Chat

The staff and pupils at Chiltern Wood have, at the time of writing, just come to the end of the half term and all are looking forward to a rest. Lots of exciting activities have taken place including a trip on the train and having some of the year 6 leaders come and visit from The Downley School. We are keen to build links with our school neighbours.

The second half of term always has lots of exciting activities. Some of our pupils are looking forward to pantomime which has been funded by Happy Days and, for those pupils who cannot get out to the theatre in big groups, the panto will be coming to school to entertain them.

We are very lucky that Father Christmas has been in touch and promised to visit the school again this year. We would like to thank Bucks Badgers for putting us in touch with him. We are very grateful for their ongoing support.

Lots of the staff and parents are now busy planning for the Christmas Bazaar on 2nd December from 2 pm until 6pm. Do please come and join us.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed and special Christmas.



Rachel Chapman, Headteacher

Become a Friend of Downley Community Orchard

Our small but trusty team of volunteers has been hard at work over the past few months. We have regular working parties for a few hours most months. At our September meeting we welcomed visitors from other local community orchards along with fruit tree expert, Sally Wileman, who works with our local wildlife trust. Sally's help and advice is proving invaluable in planning our regular tree maintenance work. Our team found it a really interesting and informative session.

We have now re-staked many of the trees to provide them with better support. Following intensive attacks from caterpillars, we have protected trees with grease bands this autumn in an attempt to lessen the ravages of the little critters this coming spring. Our next work is to mulch and undertake winter pruning of the trees to ensure they are healthy and in good shape. We're hoping this will lead to a bountiful harvest in 2024.

We would welcome more people to join our friendly team of volunteers. You'll have an opportunity to learn about growing tree fruit and hone your own skills in how best to look after the trees. Look out for details of our next two-hour work parties in January, February and March when we can show you how to winter prune trees, with the opportunity for lots of practice! You'll find details on the notice board in the orchard or call Andrew Flint on 07788 135351. Just bring along some sharp secateurs and a pruning saw if you have one. Do join the team and become a friend of Downley Community Orchard.

J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

Winter 2023

Wal, how are you orl eh? Now it's dark, evenins only good for a'staying in, getting in the way. "Wal he certainly duz that!" ses Mrs H. Wal, wot I wants to do, now the stove is lit, is settin deyn and werkin out wot I wants to do in the gardin and up the plot in the year to kum- I've orlreddy got sum seeds sortid out, reddy to go in seed boxes in the old greenhouse, but I busted a pane the other day when a prop for the clothes line slipped, and there wos them nasty little clips a'flyin everywhere, why duz they make it so difficult to pop a new one in, in the old days you could make do with a bit of a baked bean tin, no wonder the country is a'goin to pot eh! "He has got the grumps now, he hates bein in, its only that stove that keeps him sane". Ses you know who.



Anyway, I've taken down orl the tommy toes and their pots, and put trays full of old compost with a sprinkle of growmore, on the benches, reddy for the big experiment, second year runnin, plantin hardy lettuce, spinach, rocket and so on to get summat for the winter. The seedlins just showin now, you've got to be optimistic in gardenin I reckons.

So wot was good this year? Wal, the tommy toes was just fabulous, we was pikkin em from late July to the end of September, no blight, just awesum! "He learnt that from the grandkids, they wos just kiddin him of course, but he didn't catch on" ses Mrs H. Anyway do you know what the old word for tommy toes woz? Yes, its 'love apples', now that would be a good garden quiz question eh? Wal, wot else wos good? Its got to be my pumkins. (No second 'p' in pumkin spellin in Downley. J.H.). I had an awesum collection of em, bright orange, green and red stripes, yeller ones, sum wantin to climb up the bean pyramids, others putting out tendrils along my paths so I couldn't mow the grass, but it was just awesum to see em grow. "I shall go mad if he ses that agin" ses Mrs H. Every week they'd put on another couple of feet, it reminded me of that film about Triffids, them plants wot wandered about terrorisin evry one, mind you, mine wos quite friendly eh! "He's off agin, orl he talks about at the moment is his pumkins." Wal, she don't understand... but to get you a'goin here's the list of sum of them I grew.. 'Franchi' seeds... Zucca Red d'Etampes, Zucca Americana Tonda, Patty Pan, Tahiti melon. They wos orl aw....

Anyway, wot about the gardin.. now its Autumn into Winter, don't go tidyin up too much, you needs to let sum light in of course, but some dead stems and leaves protects the plants and gives cover for the wildlife, seed heads you leaves of course for the birds and for yor missus for decoratin, but you needs to open out the centre of woody plants, like hydrangeas, just keep that wine glass shape as a guide, - wal, that's wot Monty wots his name ses, so it must be right eh? Then be brave and cut back yor clematis, prune roses for the winter, and how about takin geranium cuttins, that'll save you sum money next year, but do keep em out of the frorst, I lost most of mine larst year but even in the greenhouse we had -7C for 5 days, and did for my Aeoniums too.

Wal, I reckons I'm almost out of space, but wot about my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke? Wal he tells me he's arvested his grapes, and got 50 litres of wine bubblin away, and he's crushin his special apples to juice and run it into his home made still, producing his own Calvados, just don't light a match nearby when he's producing, the local Pompiers will be on high alert.

Wal, that's it for 2023, so a'bientot and cheerio, keep you on a'diggin and see you up the plot in 2024.

J. H. Sent from my iSpade

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Have Yourself A Merry Little Descants Christmas



Christmas is nearly with us again, and we at Downley Descants wish you all a very happy and peaceful time. Coming to the end of another year it is time to look back over the last twelve months and in doing so we realise just how much we have all enjoyed being in the choir and particularly our performances in Beaconsfield, Marlow, and of course Downley. Who knows where we might end up next year! Our mission, as always, is to be the best we can be in entertaining our audiences whilst having fun and raising money for charity. We are well on the way to achieving this with our highly professional musical team who, between them, are 'knocking us into shape'.

This is our twelfth year of singing and as usual at this time of year we are concentrating on rehearsing for our Christmas Concert at St James' Church, Plomer Hill on Thursday 7th December, starting at 7pm with music and, maybe, a little bit of festive fun provided by the 'Descants Players'.

You might have guessed it will be a mini pantomime, but definitely not Cinderella this year. We have added a couple of new items to our repertoire, one, a seasonal piece by Eric Whitacre and the other, bringing us right up to date, a piece made famous by Christina Perri. We hope to include both in the concert along with other pieces that we haven't sung for many years.

We are always looking for more members, both men and women, so why not come along on a Thursday evening at 8pm to Sunnybank Church, Moor Lane and see if the choir might be for you.

Prospective new members can have two free evenings before deciding whether to join. For more information on joining the choir please contact our Chairman, Lyn, on 07974 026213.

Bob Cook (Bass)

Downley Theatre Group

Established in 2001, the Theatre Group offers members trips to West End musical blockbusters, occasional plays and day trips – close to 150 outings to date. The advertised cost covers return coach travel, admission or ticket price and driver's gratuity – the inclusive "group rate" price has always been lower than the face value of the tickets. For example, our jolly to see "Crazy for You" cost £57.50 for £79.50 seats. As a "not for profit" set up, a pro rata refund is given should the excursion prove more popular than our guess at the break-even figure.

The coach has one pick up and drop off point at Cross Court, Plomer Green Avenue; this means, once we set off, it's not a stop/start journey – except for any traffic holdups, of course.

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There's no joining fee and no obligation to come on any of the trips. We look out for the best value offers to keep prices as low as possible and are open to suggestions and requests. The company we use to book tickets holds an allocation for a short time meaning it is not possible to advertise trips in the Downley Village News. Members are sent information about future excursions by email or provide us with stamped addressed envelopes should they not have access to a computer.

New members are most welcome; please contact us to be added to the mailing list.

Alan & Claire Baker

Downley Theatre Group, downleytheatregroup@gmail.com, 01494 437552

Simply Walk Downley



Simply **Walk**

Christmas is coming.....

At the time of writing, the Downley Simply Walkers are wondering when the Autumn will start; there is very little evidence of the trees turning to their usual dazzling kaleidoscope of colour. We'll have to be patient and hope November will produce an autumn worth waiting for.

Downley Walkers are a group of (mainly) retired people who like to walk and talk in the company of others, guided through our lovely countryside by trained leaders and back-markers. We come in all shapes and sizes, we do it for the exercise, to keep active, but also to enjoy a natter with other like-minded people. The only rule is 'stay behind the leader' and all you need is a pair of suitable walking shoes and a stick if you use one, and it's free! We are a friendly, interesting group of people who live in and around Downley and we are always pleased to see new walkers alongside the stalwarts who have been walking with us for years.



One thing that is definitely going to happen is Christmas, and we will be celebrating it in our usual way at our Christmas Lunch on 18th December at 11.45 after the Monday walk. It will take its usual format: a light lunch, a few glasses of wine or juice, and music provided by The Hybrids (a saxophone quartet) who will give us some Christmas songs and a few carols to get us in the spirit.

The annual challenge is to get us all singing the Twelve Days of Christmas with gusto but not much musicality! The Downley Choir we are not. So, if you are current walkers, past walkers who have got out of the habit (Covid again!) or potential new walkers who would like to suss us out, please come and buy your ticket and join us in celebrating the Christmas season.

Tickets are £12 each and will be on sale at the beginning of each walk from 9 November to early December. First come, first served. That's Monday at 10.00 am and Thursday at 11.00 am; we meet at the Downley Community Centre. Please come 10 minutes before the walk sets off. If you need more information ring Jeanne Steward on 01494 527004.



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THURSDAY

11am for a 1 hour walk

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DOWNLEY BRIDGE CLUB

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

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

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

Downley Evening Women's Institute



It's been a busy time again at the WI with two separate canal trips for several of us at a time in September, and an evening talk about Estate Planning and how best to keep what we have for those we want to have it after our demise. This was very useful, so several members have followed up on it. And, of course, we've had our usual monthly meetings and monthly literary lunch, which is much more light-hearted than it sounds!

October was our AGM with all the usual reports and one or two changes to the committee. This was followed a week later by the retiring committee having our annual lunch out. We're still very happy to welcome new members, so just a reminder that we meet every second Tuesday of the month at St James Church a 7.45pm. See our website downleyeveningwi.weebly.com or contact dewipresident@gmail.com.

As I write, we are looking forward to a quiz evening with fish & chip supper in a few days' time, and our craft group is busy making items for our Christmas charity stall which will be at our November and December meetings. We're also hoping that our usual mulled wine and mince pies evening will go ahead in December. Before we know it, Christmas will have been and gone and we'll be looking forward to all our next year's activities.

Heather Read

Please Try to be Better Neighbours

All of my working life I looked forward to retirement, relaxing, doing what I wanted to when I wanted to. Unfortunately it is proving to be a very different scenario.

I felt that Downley was a lovely old traditional village, one that I could be happy living in, with pleasant, like-minded neighbours.

However, there is a home with a dog near to where I live. The dog barks constantly when it is in the garden which is most of the day and sometimes at night. It is a constant loud yapping, I have to turn my TV volume up to be able to hear it and I cannot have my windows open during the hot weather as the noise is unbearable.

In addition, there are the people throwing noisy parties and the speeding drivers with loud exhausts who love to race around the village putting lives at risk as well as infuriating everyone else.

These issues are raising my blood pressure and stress levels, and I am sure that of other residents of the village. They can also affect people's sleep patterns, especially those of young children and night workers. This is another health hazard.

Remember, sound does not stop at your property's boundary. It travels a long way and in areas where housing is dense this can affect hundreds of other people. You chose to have a dog but your neighbours did not! I understand that a dog will bark when it is let into the garden to see which other dogs are out, and to let its owners know about human visitors, but it is comparatively easy to train a dog not to bark constantly; it just needs a little patience to make the dog understand who is the boss.

Please could we all try a little bit harder to consider others in our everyday lives. It takes so little but gives so much.

A Downley resident

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Top Notes



“Santa Claus is comin’ to town!”

Our term started as it always does with tea and cake after rehearsal and we also welcomed a new Mezzo into the Top Notes family.

Who doesn't like singing Christmas songs and carols in September? Preparations are well underway for our *Charity Christmas*

Concert this year and we already can't wait! We're delighted to be joined once again by the wonderful **High Wycombe Salvation Army Band** - there will be carols for all to join in with as well as some Christmas classics and favourites from the choir and, of course, mulled wine and mince pies in the interval!

We hope you can join us at **All Saints Parish Church on Monday 4th December at 7:15pm** to help raise funds for **Growing Hope - High Wycombe**. Tickets are available via **Eventbrite** website - *search for Top Notes Choir*.

In case you can't make it but would still like to see us perform, we will be performing as part of the *Mayor's Festival of Carols* this year at **All Saints Parish Church on Sunday 10th December** as well as entertaining the residents at *The Heights* as usual.

Best wishes to all for the festive season ahead - may it be filled with music for you all!

National Trust Supporters Groups



Wycombe Centre

Have you ever wondered about the origin of expressions like “to go off with a bang” or considered when crop circles first appeared? I find trivia fascinating and I found the answers to these at meetings of the local National Trust Supporters Group. Are you even aware that such groups exist? It's one of the Trust's best kept secrets but they are nationwide and there's one in Wycombe.

We meet at Hazlemere Community Centre in Rose Avenue on the fourth Friday of each month at 2.15pm.

In addition to a guest speaker each month, the centre organises coffee mornings, day trips out, holidays and occasional theatre trips. Some members have recently returned from a holiday in Yorkshire where they had an interesting and varied itinerary of visits.

So why do these centres exist? Well first and foremost for the benefit of members but through the profits generated in the events during the year, the National Trust benefits too. Members get to enjoy themselves, build friendships and widen their horizons whilst the National Trust gains additional income to help in its work preserving the country's rich and diverse heritage.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Wycombe Centre, why not come

along to one of the meetings or email our Membership Secretary at ntwcmembership@protonmail.com

And the answers; To go off with a bang refers back to the time when the relatives of people burned at the stake bribed the guards to place bags of gunpowder around the victim's waist, which reduced their suffering. Crop circles were first drawn and written about as early as the late 15th century, when unsurprisingly, they were thought to be the work of the devil.

Janet Saul

Downley Pharmacy News

I am writing this as we have progressed through a very busy time of vaccination clinics. After many changes by the government to the flu vaccination programme and who and how the COVID booster programme was to be delivered this autumn, we have been providing both. This has been a challenge as we have needed to incorporate new appointment systems, our own and the National Booking service; we will be reviewing how this worked in due course, so we are better prepared for future campaigns. If you are eligible and have still not received either flu or COVID vaccinations this season, please do get in touch or pop in and we can either help immediately or advise when to return. Private flu jabs are also available on request. COVID vaccination cannot be provided on a private basis.

Whilst we have been vaccinating, our ear wax removal service has taken a back seat but now vaccination demands are less we have more appointment slots available, so if you think you have problems please call in and we can advise the best solution for you in time to hear all those conversations over your Christmas dinner.

Speaking of Christmas, here is my usual plea to order the medication you will need over the Christmas period in plenty of time. Surgeries will be asking for requests week commencing 11th December but please remember it can take 3-5 working days for the prescription to be received by ourselves and we need 2 or maybe 3 days to fulfil, especially when items need ordering. Messages are sent when the item is ready for collection; if you have not heard anything 1 week after placing an order, please get in touch then, but not before. Constant phone calls only slow the process down.

Pressure around availabilities and cost of medication continue with no end to these problems in sight. Please be assured we always do our best to source as soon as we are able to or obtain an alternative. With remuneration being cut across the board, we need to provide more services to maintain profitability. As such, we will be asking if you have had recent blood pressure checks, offering follow up calls when new medication is started and other services.

The only thing left to say is thank you to all the community for being so supportive to us and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

Please note we will close at 1pm on Saturday 23rd December and reopen Wednesday 27th December. We are closed on New Years Day.

All the team at Downley Pharmacy

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News from St James

God “is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us” Ephesians 3:20



November is when we have Remembrance Day services and events, thinking about the two world wars and conflicts that our armed forces have served in since. Sadly today our news is again filled with images of war and destruction. Children and families fleeing for their lives, buildings destroyed by rockets. It is so hard to comprehend the depth of hatred and hurt that allows human beings to do this to others. It is so distressing to see and I know that it brings up a whole range of emotions in me – a deep sadness for the pain, the fear, the danger and the loss, and also an anger at our inhumanity towards each other. There is also a sense of powerlessness. What can I do to help?

We know that often the situations are very complex going back hundreds of years, as is the conflict in the Middle East. With both sides having known persecution and oppression through their history finding peaceful solutions is hugely difficult.



People often ask me where is God in all this? I believe that he is with all those who are hurting, those who are wounded or homeless or grieving for loved ones. He is weeping with those who weep. The commandments that God gave us are about loving one

another. The bible says: “you shall not kill”. God definitely does not want this to happen, but he has entrusted his world to our care as humans, and given us freedom to make our own choices, and as the history of our world shows we don’t always make good choices. However, God doesn’t leave us alone in our choices, even when things go wrong he is always with us and he can answer prayer in surprising ways as this verse from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians reminds us. So when we see wars erupting like this one in the Middle East or the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine – we can **always pray** and we can keep asking God to send people of wisdom, skill and integrity who can negotiate peaceful outcomes for these war torn countries.

At St James we pray every week, as individuals and in our services, for the situation in the world and for those we know are struggling at this time. If you would like us to pray for you, do pop in on a Thursday morning or on a Sunday or put a note in our letterbox outside the gate and we will pray for you.



As Christmas approaches
do come and join us at one of our services

Sunday 17th Dec 11am	Carol Service
Sunday 24th Dec 11am	Communion Service
Sunday 24th Dec 4pm	Crib service
Sunday 24th Dec 11pm	Christmas Communion
Monday 25th December 11am	Christmas Day Communion Service

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



The Downley School

'Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together'



Back: Rob Halls, (ODBST School challenge partner),
Jan Martin (ODBST Director of Education),
Sulina Piesse (CEO ODBST)
Leanne Dandridge (Interim Headteacher)
Front: Pupil Leadership Team

What a successful start to a new academic year it has been at The Downley School! We successfully converted to an academy on 1st September. Joining the Oxford

Diocesan Board of Schools Trust (ODBST) will be so beneficial for TDS as the school community will benefit from a wide range of support and expertise to help support our school on its school improvement journey. Although TDS is now part of a faith trust we, like some other schools in the trust, remain a non-faith school.

Since my appointment in April I have seen the strength of community and relationships here. TDS is a diverse school with a big heart. The staff are amazing and all work incredibly hard to give children the best opportunities available. We have successfully appointed a new SENDCo and a few new teachers have brought new energy to the school.

TDS is fortunate to have such a hard-working Parent Association and we are pleased to be working closely with them and staff representatives are keen to support their efforts: they have many exciting events planned for the year ahead starting with a Pumpkin Party!

Our Pupil Leadership Team, School Council, Eco Council and Prefects have been busy identifying future projects and

they assisted parents and staff in deciding on our new school values – Teamwork, Inclusion, Resilience, Responsibility, Respect and Inclusion. These values will thread through all that we do at TDS.

Last half term was busy – parents engaged in phonics workshops, forums on special needs and our open classroom event was exceptionally well attended. Children enjoyed Bikeability, Dress like a pirate day, Stone-age day, Ashmolean museum and they supported One-Can trust in their latest harvest campaign. Our teaching team furthered their expertise of teaching reading and writing with high quality training from Julie Sergeant.

We know that TDS has experienced some turbulent times but we feel (and are told) that we are a much different, happier place...I certainly am enjoying being here and feel that it's a magical place to be. We are excited for the year ahead!

Interested in sending your child to TDS? Come and see us in action at one of our open mornings: Tuesdays 28th November and 5th December at 9.15am



The 2023/24 teaching team at TDS enjoying
'Dress like a pirate' day

Leanne Dandridge - Interim Headteacher

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The COVID lockdown days saw few positives but for the One Can Trust food bank the incredible support from our local community was one. The plight of individuals and families, unable to work and make ends meet, was brought to the forefront of people's minds by national and local news and we gratefully saw a huge rise in donations as demand on our service increased three-fold. Many local residents, particularly children, became Street Heroes and collected food from friends and neighbours before dropping the donations to our warehouse in Duke Street, behind the train station. To this day, our incredible Street Heroes, identified by the yellow boards outside their homes, generate 15% of our donated food and for their continued efforts we are eternally grateful.

Along with all the team at One Can, I'd hoped and expected demand to reduce following the pandemic but with the cost-of-living crisis, sadly the numbers of supported families and individuals has remained alarmingly high – over 600 a week, 45% of which are children. We currently spend, on average, £20K a month on food to bridge the gap between donations and demand; the money is received from Bucks Council, local grant funders, businesses and individual donations. As you can see, community support is as vital as ever – we simply couldn't manage without it and neither would the families we support, many of whom are often at breaking point.

Another incredibly important source of food is generated from our weekend supermarket food drives where you might see our volunteers, proudly wearing their

yellow branded One Can Trust T shirts, encouraging customer donations. Food drives, for me, are extremely humbling and my favourite volunteering role.

I am so very proud of our charity and how it has grown to support people in their hour of need. From the volunteer calls made by our Community Support team, reaching out to clients and signposting to extra help, to the children's clothes bank held at the Wesley Church in High Wycombe and the cookery classes at Hills Café in Micklefield, none of this would be possible if it was not for our amazing and



selfless volunteer team; they really are the charity's lifeline.

If you could spare an hour or two to help with our much-needed supermarket food drives or packing and

delivering food parcels to clients, please do get in touch. Perhaps you work for an organisation that is looking to address a social responsibility objective and volunteer in the local community or maybe collect food donations in the office? If so, we'd love to hear from you. If you could help us to reach more people by sharing our social media posts, we'd be hugely grateful. Thank you for reading today and for your ongoing support. If you'd like more information or are in need of food support yourself, please get in touch:

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Jo Belshaw, Operations Manager

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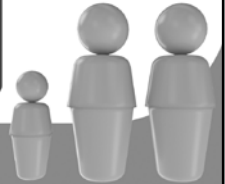
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Protect Your Festive Online Shopping from Scammers with These Tips!

The festive season is undoubtedly a time of joy and celebration, marked by the exchange of gifts and the spirit of giving. However, it's essential to be aware of the lurking pitfalls when it comes to online shopping during this time of year. As the demand for online purchases grows, so does the risk of falling victim to scams.

Cybercriminals become increasingly active by employing a variety of tactics, including fake websites, fraudulent emails or social media, enticing offers that appear too good to be true; they often pose as sellers of high-value items such as cars, tech products and event tickets.

Fake emails or texts you receive about amazing offers may contain links to fake websites, designed to steal your money and personal details. Not all links are bad, but if you are unsure don't use the link, go separately to the website.

If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first and, if you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases. Some other payment methods do provide good consumer protection, but they aren't obliged to provide the same protection as a credit card provider. Check their Terms and Conditions for exact details.

Regularly update your devices with the latest software and app versions. These often include crucial security enhancements guarding against fraud and identity theft. Even better, just turn on automatic updates so your device will update itself in future.

To give any online account additional protection, where possible you should turn on two-factor authentication for the service you're using to double check that you really are the person you claim to be, when logging in.

Remember, falling victim to fraud is never your fault. Scammers are skilled at manipulation, and anyone can become a target. Staying informed and taking proactive steps can keep both your financial and emotional wellbeing safe.

The New Year is a time to set new goals and positive lifestyle changes; what about starting 2024 by joining our Neighbourhood Watch community?

We send you all our Seasons Greetings and best wishes for a happy, safe, and healthy Christmas & New Year, from the Committee of Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association.

E: office@wdnhwatch.plus.com • [f: @wycombenhw](https://www.facebook.com/wycombenhw) • [IG: @wycombenhw](https://www.instagram.com/wycombenhw)

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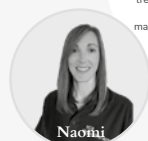
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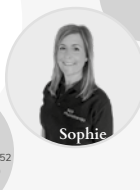
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Downley Parish Notice Boards

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

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

STREET LIGHTING

Please report all lighting repairs to the Parish Clerk

01494 25 77 11

email clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org

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

DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Downley History 1960 to Today

In the 1960s Downley grew from being the little village on the hill above High Wycombe to becoming, if the villagers allowed, another relatively unremarkable part of the enlarging market town. The building of several housing estates filled the farmland: to the east, the Pastures estate; to the west, the 'Dashwood Village', Pheasant Drive and associated roads; to the northwest, the Heights estate, Gray's Lane and associated roads; and in the middle of Downley, the Narrow Lane estate. These housing developments more than doubled Downley's population and probably quadrupled the built-up area of the village. To underline these changes the Narrow Lane development, on the then existing traditional allotments in the centre of the village, resulted in necessary exchange land for allotments and sports facilities at Mannings Field, taking land from the still viable Downley farm. The farm ceased operating in 1984, the last farm to go in the village.

Downley people then decided that Downley must be given a stronger, firmer identity, to emphasise the strength of the community, to feel part of Downley as a living, vibrant and forward-thinking village, separate from the town in the valley. Moves were made to provide the village with its own Parish Council (up to then Downley was part of West Wycombe Parish Council), which was achieved in 1987. This became the foundation stone of many community projects and associations, and perhaps the beating heart of the community was the establishment for the village of the Downley Community Centre, in the old Victorian Board School. This now provides accommodation for many local groups, and even a village library, all run by volunteers. The Memorial Hall, now greatly improved, also provides community accommodation. The use of the Downley name is seen in Downley Albion Football Club, Downley Dynamos Junior Football Club, Downley Descants Choir, Downley Diggers, Downley Debaters and many more interest groups. The Downley Common Preservation Society works with the Parish Council to care for the 22 hectares of Downley Common, a traditional common of medieval origins, itself part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Downley Community Orchard, established in 2005 provides a peaceful resting place for tired Downley Diggers

The annual Downley Day Fete, coupled with the Downley Festival brings the whole community together to celebrate the summer, and the lighting of the beacon on the common celebrates the turning of the year and other special days including, for example, in 2022 the Queen's Platinum Anniversary, of course a very special day.

This then is Downley in 2023, a vibrant, creative and energetic community for everyone to enjoy.



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Downley Wine and Beer Club

Meetings before the summer recess included a cider tasting followed the next month by a tasting of sparkling wines when we compared well known continental varieties with English sparklers that are now rated to be as good as (or better than) champagne. Unfortunately, the annual summer barbeque at the beginning of July had to be cancelled twice due to strong winds and rain that would have made the event miserable, but we did have a warm and enjoyable summer social at the Le De Spencer's in August.

Laithwaites Wines from Beaconsfield presented a tasting of French wines in September that was very popular and well attended. We hope to include more commercial tastings in the 2024 programme, but persuading suppliers to present to us is not easy. Several members attended the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia in August and some of the award-winning beers were sampled at our meeting in October.

For our annual continental trip this year we visited Amsterdam using the direct Eurostar service. Our hotel was in the busy part of the old town with congested streets and small canals. We were lucky with the weather and, as well as visiting museums and art galleries, managed to fit in tastings of wines, local beers, and the famous Jenevers from the Bols Distillery. We also sampled both Dutch and Far East cuisines.



We have continued in our endeavours to support local pubs with social evenings at the Rose and Crown in High Wycombe, The Bounty at Bourne End, The Wheel at Naphill, and the Beech Tree at Terriers. It's a hard job but someone has to do it!

The year will conclude with our AGM in November with a tasting of winter warmers and the Christmas Party which is being held again at High Wycombe Cricket Club, where we will be entertained by a fabulous lady vocalist.

The club continues to thrive with several new members joining over the last few months.

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 beverages 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



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Or Instagram – search for “Downley Monday Minis”

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Contact Caroline: downleymondayminis@gmail.com



Autumn has been a busy time for us. Our Italian Conversation and Rummicub Groups are now up and running and our Psychology Group is well established. The first topic of the season (Who am I?) attracted eighteen members. Our Convenor has put together a challenging and thought provoking programme.



Following on from the visit to The Archaeology Monastery site and John Lewis Heritage Centre at Cookham (see picture), our Local History Group heard from one of our members tracing the fascinating history of Piddington Village. In 1902 there was nothing there, just fields and farms. But Benjamin North, a furniture manufacturer and devout Wesleyan Minister,

changed all that! The Group is moving on to understanding What Remains of Roman London and is looking forward to a presentation on The History of The London Docks.

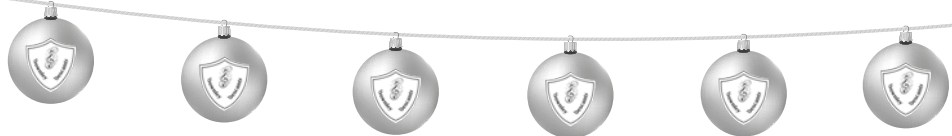
Our Creative Crafts (see picture), Art and Photography Groups participated in the brilliantly organised Flower Festival at St Michael and All Angels Church in Hughenden on the August Bank Holiday weekend. The church flower arrangements were stunning and many visitors enjoyed the afternoon teas provided. The flower displays can be viewed on the church website.

The Eden Centre generously invited us to attend the Silver Sunday event in October. Twenty members enjoyed the complementary afternoon tea and film show.

We will be at the Wycombe Christmas Festival (November 18 in the High Street) with our tombola stand and having our Christmas Coffee Morning at Naphill Village Hall on 13 December. Come and see us there.

This just gives a snapshot of our activities. You can find more information in our displays at the Wycombe Library on the second floor. Or you can ring Paul on 01494 562843 or contact me. We also have a website and Facebook page (facebook.com/hwdu3a2022).

Judith, hwu3asecretary@gmail.com



Downley Descants Christmas Concert
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News from Sunnybank Chapel

We're delighted to announce the arrival of our new minister – Rev Rachael Prince who joined us on 1st September. It's lovely to have her on board and we're looking forward to a fruitful time working with her.

Details of the village's Christmas services and events at the chapel are available as a flyer, but I would just draw your attention to a couple of events at Sunnybank:-

A free, live performance of “**A Christmas Carol**”, suitable for all ages, at 7.00pm on **Saturday 2nd December** at the chapel. A few of us saw this at Tylers Green and were very impressed. The same cast have agreed to do it again in aid of One Can Trust and Action for Children.

Our Christmas Carol Service will be on the afternoon of Sunday 10th December, led by our minister, Rachael. Afternoon tea will be served from 3.00pm onwards with the service starting at 4.00pm. **There will be no 10.00am service that day.**

On Christmas Day, we will be having a celebration service at the usual time of 10.00am. We would love you to join us for any or all of these events.

In the meantime, may we wish you all a very blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Clive Knapman, Steward, Downley Methodist Church, Moor Lane

New minister at Sunnybank Chapel (Downley Methodist Church)



Since starting as minister at the chapel on 1st September I have been made to feel very welcome. Although I have not moved far (from Witney, Oxfordshire), this was an area that I didn't know, and I am enjoying discovering the area, especially the walks, with my husband, Ian. Sunnybank Chapel, if you are new to the area like me, is a hidden treasure nestled at the end of Moor Lane, just at the point that you think you might be driving up on to the common! It is the oldest Methodist Chapel in the High Wycombe Circuit and will be celebrating its 200th Birthday next summer, so look out for special celebratory events.

We are a welcoming, inclusive fellowship who meet regularly on a Sunday morning at 10am. As I have four churches, services are shared between myself and local lay preachers, but you would always be very welcome to join us for worship and then coffee afterwards. Baptisms, weddings, and funerals can also be arranged by contacting me (*see details below*).

We are always looking for new ways in which we can serve the community, and if there is any way that we can help, do get in touch.

Information about our Christmas services are listed above, so I hope that we can welcome you to Sunnybank at some point in the festive season.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas

Rev. Rachael Prince, 01494 562491, revrprince@gmail.com

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Top Notes



Hillclimb Garage News



Double Award Winners, 2030 ICE Targets and Christmas around the corner!

Double Award Winners - We are beyond proud to announce we have won Garage of the Year - Overall at the British Independent Garage of the Year Awards! Additionally, we are thrilled to have also won the Community Engagement Award and were Highly Commended in the Customer Service and Training & Development Awards!



We were especially pleased to have been recognised for our work with the community and the many fantastic organisations we support within it. From schools to youth football and craft fairs to animal charities, we salute you all and are proud to have brought this award home to Downley and its brilliant community.

Organised by the Independent Garage Association, these prestigious awards included many of the best garages from across the UK and were judged by industry experts.

This is the third year running we have won UK Garage of the Year, with this year being our most successful yet! We are lucky to have so many lovely customers who support us and are at the heart of all we do and, of course, a HUGE THANK YOU goes to our amazing team for their hard work and dedication that has made winning these awards possible.

2030 ICE Targets - It was widely reported recently that the Government has moved the banning of Petrol & Diesel Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) back 5 years to 2035. This political move will not derail the continued rise of the Electric and Hybrid Car, but it will delay the targets. However, it is worth noting that by 2030 vehicle manufacturers will still be required to ensure that 80% of all cars manufactured have ZERO Emissions, increasing to 100% by 2035.



Christmas around the corner - We are proud to once again be hosting the Littleworth Road Christmas Market at Hillclimb Garage. This year's Market will be held on Sunday 10th December and promises to have an even bigger range of fabulous, local Christmas Arts, Crafts, Treats and Goodies, all wrapped up with a visit from Santa! Look out for further details on noticeboards and social media as the date draws nearer.

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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Hughenden Manor Christmas Events



The 12 Days of Christmas at Hughenden

20 November – 1 January, 10:00-16:00

Free event, normal admission applies.

Whisk your family away from the everyday and escape into a Christmas fairytale on your doorstep. This year, enchanting scenes from the 12 days of Christmas are brought to life in the garden, stable-yard and manor at Hughenden.

12 Presents of Hughenden – Family trail

20 November – 1 January, 10:00-16:00

Free event, normal admission applies.

Uncover a dozen delightful surprises as you roam through the Hughenden Gardens on our free family Christmas trail.

Christmas Storytelling

2, 3, 21 & 22 December, 10:30-11:00

£4 per child, pre-booking essential.

Join our storytellers for a magical Christmas story time in our cosy second-hand bookshop, complete with steaming cups of hot chocolate and delicious shortbread!

Musical Saturdays

26 November, 2, 9 & 16 December, 11:00-15:00.

Free event, normal admission applies.

Soak up the festive atmosphere as you listen to Christmas carols being sung. Why not become a leaping lord or a dancing lady by dancing to the festive music?

Cracker of a day- Christmas Crafts

10 & 17 December, 13:00-15:00

Free event, normal admission applies.

Join us for a festive Christmas craft session filled with joy and laughter for families! Enjoy a day of crafting colourful paper crackers and sharing delightful surprises with loved ones, making cherished memories that will sparkle throughout the holiday season.

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Downley Cricket Club

This has been a special season for Downley Cricket Club as we celebrated our 150th year. All of us are very grateful for the privilege of representing such a long-established club, and are mindful of all the great stalwarts of the past.



Cricket matches would not be possible without the dedicated work done on the square and outfield, in current times by Den Cox, Martin Birkett, Graeme Aitken, Ben Hughes, Billy Powell, Graham 'Boycs' Swales, and a few others, who find time in their busy lives to ensure the ground, the nets in Mannings Field, and the clubhouse are in good working order.

Virtually every week throughout the summer Mandy Aitken scores and John Hughes umpires, giving up precious – often sunny - Saturdays for Downley Cricket Club. Indeed, when the League awarded points for having a scorer and umpire for each game, we garnered an astonishing 84 points, allowing us to finish third (out of 13 teams) in the Mid-Bucks 2nd Division. So big thanks go to the two of them.

Also we are all grateful to Club Captain Graham 'Boycs' Swales for designing – and delivering - our new 150th-year commemorative club kit, commented on by many on the field, and in the Le De Spencers Arms, where Sarah and Mark Shayler continue to extend warm hospitality to players and opponents alike.

We only have one team now, Downley Firsts, and our on-field captain Ben Hughes galvanised the team, leading by example, scoring (almost) 500 rapid runs, taking 14 wickets and 10 catches, followed by unusual-style bowler Graham 'Boycs' Swales bamboozling opposition batters with 29 wickets (nearly twice as many as anyone else), scoring consistent runs, and taking some scarcely-believable catches. Everyone seemed to contribute throughout the season, with plenty of fun and laughter, whether we win or lose. We even tried out an engaging new format of the game with several guest-players playing at Downley for the first time, when the opposition could not field a team.

We also managed to attract new local players, probably foremost among whom was all-rounder Ali Q, who played a whirlwind innings against traditional rivals Bradenham, smiting 6 fours and 4 massive sixes, hobbling off injured on 55 not out. Jocular team-mate comments of 'Jug-avoidance' and 'improving his average' by being not-out, were quickly replaced by concern when we found out the extent of his foot injury, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

President's Day on the August Bank Holiday weekend was well-contested, despite the less-than-perfect weather, with some local residents 'trying out playing cricket', planning to join net practice and possibly turning out for the club next year. Pizzas and drinks were enjoyed by players and spectators, individual winners' trophies going to Rehaan Vats' strong team, with the Beavis team (featuring Steve, Andy, James and Conor Beavis, plus mates) finishing worthy runners-up, cheered on wildly by family and friends.

If you would like to join us at pre-season nets, score, umpire, or help with ground-preparation, etc please contact us on webmaster@downleycc.co.uk and you will be made most welcome.

From Westminster

Steve Baker - MP for Wycombe



The State Opening of Parliament takes place on 7th November. This marks the beginning of the new parliamentary session. Its main purpose is for the Monarch to formally open Parliament and, in the King's Speech, outline the Government's proposed legislation for the coming parliamentary session. This is the first speech from the throne in the House of Lords that King Charles III will deliver as Monarch.

I am not given early sight of what might be included in the King's Speech but I expect some bills will be carried over from the last session of Parliament. These are likely to include The Data Protection and Digital Information Bill, and the Victims and Prisoners Bill. Other potential subjects for legislation are criminal justice measures concerning knife crime and sentencing; raising the age of sale of tobacco products; implementing legislation for UK accession to the Trans-Pacific Partnership; changing the Habitats Regulations to 'scrap nutrient neutrality' and, something which I know is of particular concern to constituents at the moment, leasehold and commonhold reform. Altogether, I expect this to be another busy parliamentary session.

For the last 30 years there has been too much short-term political decision making, taking the easy way out rather than fixing the underlying problems. The Prime Minister is determined to change this. That is why he has taken a series of long-term decisions over the last year to deliver the change this country needs, including: tackling the costs of Net Zero; securing the Windsor Framework; reinvesting HS2 funding in local transport projects; and implementing the NHS's first ever long-term workforce plan.

As we head into winter, work across government departments to support those most in need continues. The Department for Work and Pensions recently allocated £4.8m from the Household Support Fund (HSF) to Buckinghamshire Council. This money will be spent on a wide range of measures for residents including providing grants to local welfare organisations to help those struggling with cost-of-living pressures.

The money from the Department also goes towards funding the Council's Helping Hand service which assesses applications for financial help and navigates residents to the most appropriate support. Since April this year, the Household Support Fund has assisted the Council's Helping Hand service to help thousands of people through this scheme. Minister Mims Davies recently came to High Wycombe to see the Council's work in action. She said: "Without this important funding from the Government and the hard work of the council and local community, the over 234,000 awards of support already made to the most vulnerable would not have been possible. I encourage anyone struggling with the cost of living to speak to the council to find out what support is available for them."

If you need help paying for food, bills, or other essentials, or debt advice, you can find out more from www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand. You can also visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living for cost-of-living support and advice.

**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.**

Although I know it is very early, it only remains for me to send season's greetings and to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Downley Gardening Society

Autumn Show

We had a fantastic and busy show which was well supported. We received the highest number of entries for years – 248 entries over fruit, vegetables, flower, handicraft and home-produced wine and beer, bread etc.

Trip to Kew Gardens

We had a lovely coach trip to Kew gardens on Sunday 17th September. There is so much to see at Kew; the superb glasshouses, the tree canopy walk, the herbaceous borders, and the kitchen garden. One of our members spotted a sign in the kitchen garden which read: Future Foods – Root Crops. Traditionally main crop potatoes are dug up in the autumn and stored for winter. With increasingly warm, humid summers potatoes are suffering more attacks from the disease called blight. Kew are trialling other root vegetables which could be stored over winter to produce a starchy meal. These include Campanula, Dahlia, Canna and Chinese Artichokes. Also worth a visit were the art galleries, especially the Marianne North Gallery, which houses a permanent exhibition of over 800 19th century botanical art paintings from around the world.

Future events:

We are back in St James' Hall for our October, November and December talks and via zoom for January and February.

Dates for your diary

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.

Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - WINTER 2023

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

GROUP	DAY	TIME	NEW MEMBER WELCOME	CONTACT
Art Group	Monday	10.00 - 12.00		alastair.pike@artsmartuk.com
Better Balance	Friday	13.00 - 14.00	✓	katie.youngman@aitc.org
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 0787 353 8709
	Wednesday	19.30 - 20.30	✓	
Downley Parish Council	2nd Tuesday	19.30	✓	clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org 01494 257711
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wednesday	20.00 - 22.00	✓	stevedavison200@icloud.com
First Class Learning	Saturday	10.00 - 12.00	✓	Himanshu 07949 590466
Kingdom Dynamics Chapel	Sunday	10.00 - 12.00		Sharon 07961 822347
Lace Making	Thursday	13.00 - 15.00	✓	Frances 01494 524835
M00 Music	Friday Term-time	9.500 & 12.10	✓	elvan@moo-music.co.uk
Mondays Minis <i>formerly Toddlers/Bumps etc</i>	Monday Term-time	9.30 - 11.15	✓	downleymondayminis@gmail.com 07704279102
Natalie Jane Dance School	Monday	15.00 - 19.00	✓	natalie@njdance.co.uk
	Friday Term-time	15.30 - 19.30	✓	
Painting for Pleasure	Tuesday Term-time	10.00 - 12.00		Sue 01494 443393
Pilates	Thursday	18.30 & 19.30	✓	Emma@asenseofbalance.co.uk
Pregnancy Yoga	Monday	19.30 - 21.15	✓	steph@nestandnurture.net
Simply Walk (free)	Monday	10.00	✓	Starts from the Community Centre simplywalks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
	Thursday	11.00	✓	
Taekwondo - NEW	Monday	18.30-19.30	✓	mohzamtkd1@hotmail.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
Yoga Qigong Exercise	Friday	8.00 - 9.00	✓	Claudia 07540 892708
Zumba Gold	Wednesday	10.30 - 11.15	✓	jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com

SUNNYBANK CHAPEL, MOOR LANE - WINTER 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 - WINTER 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	08.00 - 15.30	✓	admin@thewoodlandspreschool.co.uk

ST JAMES CHURCH - WINTER 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 - WINTER 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 - WINTER 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)

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editor@downley.org

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Downley Village News

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

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

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

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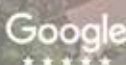
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