



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER

Village News

Issue 139/May 2024



The **wye** Partnership



It's our business so we care.

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

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

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

wyeres.co.uk

Hazlemere
01494 711 284
hazlemere@wyeres.co.uk

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

Prestwood
01494 868 000
prestwood@wyecountry.co.uk

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

Naphill
01494 565 555
naphill@wyecountry.co.uk

Stokenchurch
01494 509 377
stokenchurch@wyeres.co.uk

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

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

Associated
Park Lane Office
0203 368 8472



From Town to Country

Contents

Editorial	3	Downley Theatre Group	27
Downley Parish Council	5	Top Notes Summer Concert	27
Deaths Veiled Agenda	5	News from St James Church	29
Chris Hamilton	7	The Village Art Show 2024	30
Coffee Stop	7	Downley Cricket Club	31
Up! Downley Festival 2024	9	Downley Descants	33
Riding with Chiltern Cycling	9	Chameleon Singles Group	33
Downley Day News	11	High Wycombe & District u3a	35
Downley Community Centre	13	J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints	37
Downley Common News	15	Hillclimb Garage News	39
Downley Pharmacy News	17	Downley History Group	41
Simply Walk	19	Neighbourhood Watch	43
Commonside Open Art Show	19	Wycombe Environment Centre	45
Downley Wine and Beer Club	21	From Westminster	47
Downley Memorial Hall	21	Downley Evening WI	47
Downley Gardening Society	23	Downley Diary	48
The Downley School	26	Useful Contacts and Advertisers	50

Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of Downley Village News! As I write there is very little sign of spring, never mind summer! We've had a few warmer days but now seem to have gone back to winter and, even though the gardens are bursting with life, it feels too early to be planting out anything in the least bit tender (and anyway, I don't want to be in the garden when it's this chilly!). I'm sure it will warm up soon, and all that mud in the woods will at last dry up and we will be desperate for rain!!

On the bright side, all the rain we've had must be why the "new green" is looking particularly glorious everywhere and the bluebells are out early and, as usual, are a treat. Summer means the Up! Downley Festival and Downley Day, so there's plenty to look forward to, and aren't we lucky to have people still willing to keep these village events going when some local events are falling by the wayside. Please keep supporting as many of these events as you can otherwise next year we may not be so fortunate!

Our next edition will be the Autumn one, which will be out in mid-August. 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 midday on Sunday 28 July 2024 but please get your copy in as early as possible as space is limited.

Anne, Editor • editor@downley.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 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.**



**Quality Service, Quality
Carers, Choice and
Great Value**

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

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

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

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

LEARN MORE

www.careandcompanions.co.uk



or talk to one of the team

01494 578127



Do you have pests causing damage
or sleepless nights?

Rats, Glis Glis, Mice, Wasps,
Moles, Fleas, Moths,
Pigeons, Insects, etc.

Domestic, commercial,
one off treatments
and service contracts.

07889 624647

Tomcolespestguard@gmail.com

Downley Parish Council



We are sorry to report that Chris Hamilton, the former Clerk to Downley Parish Council, sadly died after a long illness on Monday 29th January. Chris fulfilled the role of Clerk from 1994 through to November 2014 giving 20 years exceptional service to the community.

Chris coordinated all the work on the Downley Village Design Statement in 1999. During its production, monthly meetings and progress displays were held. Downley won an award for producing an exemplary version which could be used by others as an example to follow.

Following a Parish-wide survey into the views of residents, Chris was fully involved with and committed to the creation of the Downley Community Plan which was published in June 2010. Between 2002 and 2015, together with DOSCA (the Downley Old School Community Association), Chris supported and coordinated the development of the old Victorian school building into the Downley Old School Community Centre. As primary liaison with Wycombe District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council, he

worked hard to introduce DOSCA to contacts with local Government who brought both the resource and specialist expertise required in the early days.

Chris liaised between both the County Council and the building developer as the Parish Council sought to acquire the freehold of the building and DOSCA negotiated for the concessions from the company who would be building on the old school site. He oversaw the negotiation of the lease agreement and facilitated all submissions for funding applications for building improvements and, in September 2003, the old school project won an award in the High Wycombe Community Partnership Awards Scheme.

During the Clerk of the Year competition, the Society of Local Council Clerks, the professional body for Town and Parish Clerks, recognised Chris's involvement with the restoration of the Downley Community Centre and awarded him a "highly commended" certificate.

*Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk
Clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org*

Young Downley Actors Embarking on their Second London Show

Following the success of the company's first play, Leave it to the Maid, the KO Company proudly presents a thrilling new murder mystery, Death's Veiled Agenda.

Cast members and creatives met at Downley's LEAP School of Performing Arts and are excited to be together at London's pub theatre, the Drayton Arms, from 13th-18th August.

Death's Veiled Agenda welcomes you to Thornfield Manor, "where whispers of the past echo louder than the present, and every shadow holds a secret, waiting to be unveiled." Amidst a murder mystery party, a real tragedy unfolds, plunging guests into a deadly game where truth is the ultimate prize. As past and present collide, clues are uncovered along with dark secrets that should have remained buried. Our show is appropriate for ages 12 and over, with all trigger warnings on the Drayton Arms Theatre's website.

<https://www.thedraytonarmstheatre.co.uk/deaths-veiled-agenda>

If you're looking for a thrilling evening out in London this summer, tickets for Death's Veiled Agenda are available now.



MOO MUSIC™



Bring your baby, toddler or pre-schooler along to Moo Music. Join Elvan (and Maggie Moo) for weekly multi-sensory musical fun. We sing, we dance and we play using instruments, props, puppets, lights and everyone's favourite... bubbles!

Contact Elvan: 07360 745 264
elvan@moo-music.co.uk • moo-music.co.uk/hwmb

Friday mornings at Downley Community Centre
(Term time only)



ALL GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKS CARRIED OUT

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

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

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

Tel: 01494 638953

Mobile: 07754 948743

Email: suttonsproperty@aol.com

Chris Hamilton

Chris Hamilton was the Clerk to Downley Parish Council from 1994-2014.

He sadly passed away on 29th January 2024. On the day of his funeral, 20th February, his family were pleased to see many of the local community come along to follow him along Commonsides on his farewell to Downley.

The family were grateful to have been all together to celebrate his 80th birthday in late December.

He will be missed by everyone who was lucky to have known him.

Thank you to all for the many condolence cards and kind thoughts. They are much appreciated by Janet and the whole family.



Welcome to

C  **FFEE**
  **STOP**

Every Monday Morning

except Bank Holidays

10.30am - 12.30pm

@ St James Church Hall, Downley

**All are
welcome
Young
and Old
for coffee,
tea, cake
and a chat!!**



Le De Spencers Arms

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



01494 535317

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

Keep up with what's on and download our menu on our website.
Plus share chat and photos on our facebook page *LeDeSpencersArms*



MUSICAL THEATRE

3 - 5 yrs	Tiny Tots MT	9:20am - 10:05am	£68
6 - 9 yrs	Junior MT	10:15am - 11:15am	£82
10 - 13 yrs	Intermediate MT	11:25am - 12:25pm	£82
14 - 18 yrs	Senior MT	12:35pm - 13:35pm	£82



SUNDAYS

Longburrow Hall
Park Lane
Stokenchurch
HP14 3TQ



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

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

★
**ACT
SING
DANCE**



Led by WEST END Professional, *Emma Barr*

Up! Downley Festival 2024

By the time you read this article, this year's Festival will only be a month away! It all kicks off at 7pm on Thursday 13th June in the marquee on Commons side with a brand-new event, Disco Bingo! There will be a licensed bar and cash prizes to be won. Tickets will be available online mid-May. 20% of the ticket price will go to the Sparkles charity who support children with Down's Syndrome (sparkles.org.uk).

Back in the marquee at 7pm on Wednesday 19th June, we have the must-see Comedy Night, "A Bit on the Commons side". Our headliner this year is Mark Simmons who, together with Shaparak Khorsandi, Carl Donnelly and Hasan Al-Habib, will have you crying with laughter. Get your tickets online from mid-May.

The popular History Walk takes place on Tuesday 25th June. Meet at the Beacon on Commons side at 7pm. Hilary Brash will lead the hour-and-a-half walk this year, which is always both informative and entertaining.

The Downley Descants will be performing on Thursday 27th June, 7pm at St James' Church. Go along to hear their rendition of popular classics together with songs from film and musicals.

Get Planting... Sunflower seeds have been provided to our local schools and nurseries

and a limited surplus will be available at the Le De Spencers Arms. We'd love to see your sunflowers blooming throughout the village in time for the Festival. Post your pics to our Facebook page.

Get Creative... Scarecrows are back! Show us your creations on any theme you like and place them wherever they'll be noticed. Post your pics to our Facebook page. The winning scarecrow will be announced at Concert on the Common on Saturday 6th July.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members and volunteers who work so hard throughout the year to bring Up! Downley Festival to the whole community and make it the success it is. A special thank you to Wendy Steneskog who very kindly produced the Festival Programme of Events.

Full details, pricing and online booking links can be found on the back page of the Programme.

For all things Up! Downley Festival visit our Facebook page at: [facebook.com/UpDownleyFestival](https://www.facebook.com/UpDownleyFestival)

*Fran Lazenby
Up! Downley Festival Committee Chairman*

**we are
cycling**
The cyclists' champion
UK

Riding with Chiltern Cycling

Join your local Cycling UK group this summer

Chiltern Cycling is the new name for the Chiltern Hills Cycling UK group. We will continue to offer both led rides and coffee

pots every Sunday with the focus on welcoming new members now the warmer days are hopefully with us.



Support your local voluntary Library



Downley Community Centre
School Close, Downley HP13 5TR

T: 01494 528133

 follow us
see what's new on the shelves

OPEN

Monday 10 - 12 noon

Thursday 3 - 5pm

Saturday 10 - 12 noon

Please come and visit us at
Downley day on the 15th June
from 1.00pm in the main Marquee.
Lots of books available for purchase
or why not fill a bag for £2.

**Application forms will be available
should you wish to become a member
of the library.**

**WHY NOT VISIT
OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

SEARCH *Downley Community Library*



NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Biology Tutor

A level & GCSE

Experienced female tutor

PhD in Biology

13 years teaching experience

*Excellent track record of
improving students grades*

Contact

*Organise a free, no obligation,
get to know you session*

Nel Ridgway Tutoring

Nel.Ridgway1@gmail.com

Looking for 11 Plus
Tuition for
September 2024?

Look no further..



Book your **FREE TRIAL LESSON NOW!**

inspire11.co.uk



**WHY CHOOSE INSPIRE
11 PLUS COACHING?**

- Local family run business.
- Taught by fully qualified teachers.
- Tried and tested programme.
- High success rates.
- Resource pack included.
- Small class sizes.
- Straightforward payment plan.



info@inspire11.co.uk
07484 171465

There are a variety of rides along with coffee stops all taking place on quiet routes in the countryside that surrounds our local area. Summer means we can go a bit further with most Sunday morning rides returning to the start point.

There is something for everyone of all ages and abilities who wants to get out with both pedal bikes and e-bikers welcome. Cafes such as Hughenden Valley Coffee Shop, Hildreths at Prestwood, The Potters Arms at Winchmore Hill and Costa or Matilda's in Great Missenden regularly featuring in the rides list so you are never far from home.

While most rides are easy paced and

suitable for all, the group does have some moderate and slightly longer rides too. Occasionally there is also a chance to do some off-road riding.

Chiltern Cycling have a Zoom social on the 1st Thursday of each month at 8pm and a meet up clubroom at Little Kingshill Baptist Church on the 3rd Thursday 8pm -10pm except July and August. In June our clubroom is a week later with a Bar-B-Que.

Hope you can join us!

For more Information:

Web: www.southbuckscycling.org.uk

E-mail: publicity@southbuckscycling.org.uk

General information: www.cyclinguk.org

DOWNLEY DAY NEWS

Downley Day events this year will be held on:

- 14th June** 7:00 - 9:00pm Family Disco - Hosted by DJ Dave Wallace
Barbecue operated by The Downley School PA
- 15th June** 1:00 - 5:00pm Downley Day

Provisional Programme:

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 1.00pm | Opening by the Downley King & Queen | 3.00pm | High Wycombe Music Centre |
| 1.10pm | LEAP | 3.30pm | Downley Descants Choir |
| 1.30pm | Black Eagles Acrobatic Display | 4.00pm | Black Eagles Acrobatic Display |
| 2.15pm | Dog show. | 4.30pm | Raffle |

Local organisations may apply for a pitch using the application form at <https://www.downley.org/community/downley-day>.

- 23rd June** 10:30am Downley 5K Run
Register at the Bricklayers Arms
See <http://downley5.co.uk/> for details
- 6th July** 6:30 - 10:30pm Concert on the Common

Programme includes:

Beyond Paradise; Crazy Donkey; Hustler; Fawesome

To contact the Committee please send an email to info@downley.org or call 07989 748654



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

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

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

Late evenings available

01494 528285

HIGH STREET • DOWNLEY

HIGH WYCOMBE • BUCKS HP13 5XJ

www.alteadownley.com • info@alteadownley.com

natalie jane

NATALIE JANE DANCE SCHOOL

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

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

www.njdance.co.uk

07855 296242



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

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

Contact us on

01494 443445

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

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



INSTALLATION • SERVICING • REPAIR

Visit our website www.tlc4you.biz



Gas Safe Registration No: 563265

Downley Community Centre



Donations

From surplus funds, the Centre has donated £500 to High Wycombe's MAYOR'S APPEAL CHARITIES 2023 - 2024. The current Mayor, our local Bucks Councillor Paul Turner, has chosen to support two charities, Chiltern Wood School and the High Wycombe Breast Cancer Unit within Wycombe Hospital. Chiltern Wood School is a special school for over 200 children and young people who have a wide range of additional needs.

A further £500 has been donated again to One Can Trust.

Downley Community Centre offers a formal grant funding scheme to support local community projects. Any Downley area club or association may apply if they are looking for financial support for a local, non-profit activity or initiative that directly benefits the local community.

In the first instance please email grants@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk and a link will be supplied detailing the grants policy guidelines.

Buggy Park - located at rear of Centre

After extensive research and the review of new buggy park costs, the current shelter, comprising a metal frame and polycarbonate screens, has been extensively refurbished and looks almost new again.

Up! Downley Festival & Art Show – 2024

Downley Community Centre will again be participating in the Festival and will host the popular Art Show which will be staged from 29 June - 5 July in the Oak room.

We appreciate that this will displace some of our regular customers during that time so, where practical, regular hirers are being offered the use of our marquee which will be set up on the Centre's lawn. Our apologies to those hirers for whom this alternative is unsuitable during this period.

New Hirers!

This quarter has seen the Centre welcome a record number of new hirers which include: Downley Wives; Arabic language lessons; The South West MS Society for sufferers and their family members and carers, and a Polish speaking Family Al-Anon group for anyone whose life is or has been affected by someone else's drinking.

Full details of all our activities and points of contact can be found in the Downley Diary Round up of Regular Activities at the back of this magazine.

Downley Community Centre - Management Committee

Downley Common News



The power of social media was demonstrated early in February when the Le De Spencers Arms put out a distress call on WhatsApp to say that a fallen tree was blocking the track to the pub and was preventing

delivery of supplies. While an intrepid deliveryman managed to struggle through with some soft drinks, the situation was

clearly serious as the Brewer's dray would be along shortly. The SOS was answered by Downley's fourth emergency service, the Common Preservation Society.

Armed with an appropriate chainsaw and a long-handled chainsaw and ably supported by local volunteers, short work was made of the offending tree, the way was cleared and the Le De was reconnected to the rest of the village, much to everyone's relief.

It must be the season for falling trees as another, quite large, beech subsequently came down in the dells, blocking the path through to Naphill, creating our very own "Dexit". Needless to say, the DCPS were also able to remove the obstacle and open the route to the outside world.

One of the objectives in our new Management Plan is to identify specimen trees on the Common that deserve to be preserved either because of their age or because they are of some other significant interest. Once identified, the intention is to "halo" these trees by clearing competing plant growth (commonly hollies) away from the near vicinity of the tree to create a "halo" around them



in which they can flourish. DCPS will be performing a survey of the Common to identify those trees which should go on the list. If anyone has a particularly favourite tree, please let us know.

Contact details are on our website (<https://www.downley.org/community/downley-common-preservation-society>).

*Bill Thompson,
Downley Common Preservation Society*

HEY MAMA

RESTORE YOUR
CORE STRENGTH
AND FUNCTION

- Reconnect with your body postpartum
- Learn proper core engagement in exercise
- Feel stronger and more supported through daily activities
- Lay the foundations to become problem and pain free
- In a fun and supportive atmosphere with like-minded mums

Taking bookings now for classes commencing **14th March**

Find out further information and secure your spot here:



Postnatal Fitness Class

Mum and Baby Friendly

Thursdays 9.30am @
Downley Community
Centre HP13 5TR

www.empoweredwomenscollective.co.uk
vivaempoweredwomenscollective.co.uk



ARNOLD FUNERAL SERVICE
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
SIX GENERATIONS OF SERVICE

Head Office

Flackwell Heath
24 White Pit Lane
Tel: 01494 952288

High Wycombe
891 London Road
Tel: 01494 472572

Beaconsfield
32 Gregories Road
Tel: 01494 685000

Marlow
21-23 Little Marlow Road
Tel: 01628 898866

Gerrards Cross
38 Oak End Way
Tel: 01753 891892

Farnham Common
4 The Broadway
Tel: 01753 535556

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



24 Hour Service

www.arnold-funerals.co.uk



Professional, reliable plumbing & heating services

- Boiler Installations
- Full System Installs
- Vaillant Specialist
- Kamco 90 Powerflush
- Gas Work & Certification Vented
- Unvented Specialist Servicing
- Qualified & Insured

Call us: 07557802907 / 07534340244

info@poseidonheating.co.uk

www.poseidonheating.co.uk



Checkatrade.com

Now offering finance in partnership with

kandoo

Vaillant
ADVANCE INSTALLER

INTERGAS
BOLERS

gas safe
REGISTER

Downley Pharmacy News

We have had a busy time in recent months with new challenges to take on board. The new Pharmacy First scheme launched on January 31st and we have been able to help many who have either walked into the pharmacy with relevant symptoms for the seven indicated conditions or who have been referred following an initial call to their GP or 111. We hope we can continue to provide the quick and easy help needed. In situations where a referral has been made to us and we feel intervention by ourselves is inappropriate the system allows for escalation back to GP or the urgent care centres as we have in effect triaged the symptoms.

As we approach summer hay fever season is beginning. This is something that can generally be treated with over the counter remedies and self help. These are generally best used regularly as a preventative measure rather than ad hoc on the occasional day when symptoms are observed.

Please ask for help and advice as to which product or combination of products might be best for your particular needs and symptoms.

Insect bites and stings also increase in frequency as we get out and about more. These can also be treated via the pharmacy and are included in the seven conditions under which pharmacies can issue antibiotics if needed, so please call in if you are affected, no need to wait in a queue on the GP phone line. We are generally able to assist within a few minutes of arrival at the pharmacy, no appointment needed.

As we have increased the amount of

services we offer we have also been reviewing our general day to day activities and have decided to reduce the frequency that we visit each of the surgeries to deliver prescription requests and collect items for ourselves. We would encourage you to make use of online systems such as Patient Access for requesting medication as the preferred method of request rather than the paper slips. Always allow 5 working days - one week from the point where a surgery will receive the request for it to arrive at the pharmacy. We then will turn around as soon as possible but usually within 48 hours as we may need to order some stock in. Please check the notice in the pharmacy as to which surgeries are visited on which day for guidance. We do not chase or mediate on your behalf with GP although we can advise as to how best to approach when items are not received as expected.

As I write this article we are commencing the spring Covid booster campaign for the over 75's and immunocompromised invitees. Appointments can be made online or by calling 119. We cannot offer walk ins or schedule appointments at the pharmacy. This is due to the way vaccines are allocated to us. The campaign runs until the end of June and appointments are uploaded by ourselves in 2-3 week blocks. We are also not currently planning to provide private Covid jabs alongside the private flu jabs unless we find there is a high demand; the price could be in the region of £85-£95 and we will need to consider clinic day availability to maximise use of vaccine supply.

Canine Cutz

Bespoke Dog Groomers & Spa

Bespoke Styling & Grooming • Puppy College
Spa Treatments & Packages • Nail Clipping
Teeth Cleaning • Natural Products
Paw Naturel Stockists

Grooming by Appointment Only

01494 44 33 49

www.canine-cutz.com



Downley
Pharmacy

24/7 Service
How it Works



Order

You can order your prescription in the usual way.



No waiting

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



Day or night

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

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

info@downleypharmacy.com

Cross Court, Plomer Green Ave, Downley HP13 5UW

Simply Walk



Recent walks around Downley with the Simply Walkers have revealed the onset of Spring. Apart from March Winds and April Showers, we've seen banks of primroses, the aconites are thriving, bright gold among soggy grass and already there is evidence of lots of bluebells in the woods, ready for a good show in May.



One highlight was our Anniversary Walk on 25th March when we celebrated 17 years of Simply Walking in Downley; 30 of us walked to Hughenden Park to view the amazing display of daffodils fully open for once. In previous years we have marked the day in the same way but

often the seasonal weather confounds us and the daffodils have barely budded or they have gone over and are very brown and sad.....but this year we got it just right! We finished the walk back at the Community Centre for coffee and some very yummy cakes provided by some of the walkers themselves.

We are considering re-starting the shorter 'round the village' walk which will avoid the steep slopes and rougher terrain of some of the woodland walks we do. These walks will be 50-60 minutes and are aimed at those who are currently looking for a less testing walk with no hurry and plenty of chat or those wanting to return to walking after a break – a chance to build up stamina before joining the longer walks. We would hope to be operational by the end of May – please look out for information on the Parish Noticeboards and at the Community Centre.

Jeanne Steward

Commonside Open Art Studio Show

Two local artists are showing their work again during the Up! Downley Festival this summer.

Over the last weekend in June, you are invited to 9 Commonside, to enjoy a wide variety of framed and unframed work. There'll be lots of mediums, colour and textures, together with greetings cards and special sale prices on older work. Pauline and Helen are both experienced painters who exhibit regularly in the Chilterns. The cottage garden is open – weather permitting - for you to wander round.

29th and 30th June 2024 'The Pink House' Commonside HP13 5XG 11am -5pm

This free informal exhibition runs concurrently with the start of the festival's friendly Open Art Show, which will be open just round the corner at the Community Centre in School Close, so you can feast your eyes on super art and craft by local artists and craftspeople.



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

A chance to meet new friends and feel good!

MONDAY

10am for a 1½ hour walk

THURSDAY

11am for a 1 hour walk

meet at the Community Centre

ALL WALKS HAVE A TRAINED LEADER

WITH A BACK MARKER • Walk at your own pace

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

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

**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

WOOD CARVING

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

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

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

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

For further details
downleychipmunks@outlook.com

**Wycombe
Concert
Band**



Has vacancies
for all players of brass
and woodwind instrument.

Any standard welcome

Subscription £40 per term

**Call/text Bill Thompson on
07989 748654**

Downley Wine and Beer Club

The club continues to grow in strength with several new members joining during the Spring bringing total numbers up to 50 – the highest it has ever been.

Our meetings in 2023 concluded with our Christmas Party that was held again at the Wycombe Cricket Club. We enjoyed an excellent 3 course meal with wine (of course) and were entertained by Amanda Hague who sang a variety of favourites from the 1970s to the present day.

Monthly meetings this year commenced in January when we tasted a variety of aperitifs that are drunk before a meal to whet the appetite and prepare the palate and stomach for food. They should ideally be low in volume, dry or aromatic and not too alcoholic. We tasted dry sherry and pastis to more exotic cocktails such as Negroni (gin, vermouth, and Campari) and FABIOLA (Grand Marnier, brandy, and sweet vermouth). February was all about South African drinks with a selection of wines, beer, and a South African whisky to taste. The consensus was that South Africa was probably best sticking to wine production!

March and April meetings have both been wine tastings. Firstly, we tasted wines from classic French wine producing areas of the Loire, the Rhone and Bordeaux. For each region we tasted a budget priced wine and an expensive wine of the same type to see if we could “taste the difference.” In April we sampled wines

that are produced from vines grown in volcanic soils. These wines have a varied and complex flavour profile due to high concentrations of trace elements, but are also low yielding mainly due to the harsh growing conditions which tends to make them relatively expensive.

The meetings for the next couple of months feature country-themed tastings of drinks from Cyprus and from Mexico before we break for our summer recess which will include a barbecue provided that it stops raining!

In addition to the regular monthly meetings, we have also arranged pub evenings that included visiting all three pubs in West Wycombe that all have their own quirky characteristics, and a trip to the General Havelock in Kingsmead Road.

Finally, if you make homemade beer, wine, or liqueurs from either kits or basic ingredients, please consider entering a bottle or two in the Downley Gardening Club show on 7th September.

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

Downley War Memorial Hall

The hall commemorates those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the First and Second World Wars and was built on land donated by Sir John Dashwood of West Wycombe. The £1200 cost, equivalent to about £100,000 today, was raised by

residents of the Village.

I am very grateful to Avril Fagan and Lea McDonald who joined the War Memorial Hall Committee after my last request a couple of years ago but we are still looking to recruit new members.





**Homecare
Gurus**
because we care

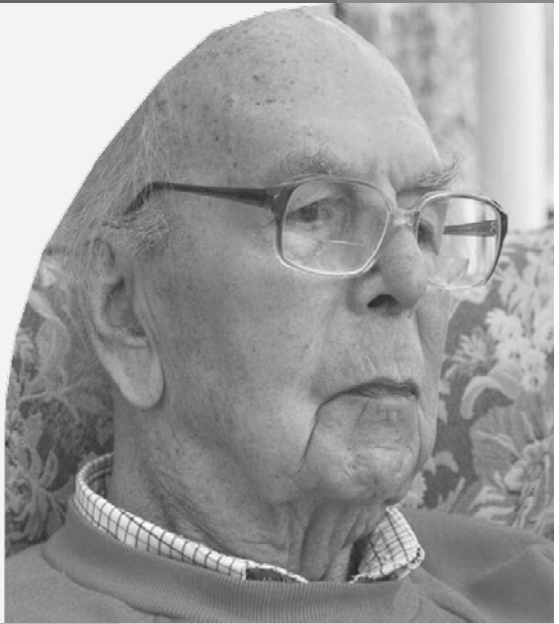
*A trusted local family business
dedicated to delivering exceptional
care to our clients*

We are dedicated to giving the best care, ensuring our clients feel safe, heard and valued. Choose us for a helping hand with everyday jobs and general support.

Tel: 01494 211729


Mbl: 07503 575885

**Homecare Gurus Ltd,
High Wycombe**



www.homecaregurus.co.uk

#becausewecare

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

 info@thedownleygarage.co.uk

 01494 521924



Honest, Competitive and Professional workmanship.

WWW.THEDOWNLEYGARAGE.CO.UK



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

AIR CONDITIONING ❄️

CAMBELTS 🛠️

CLUTCHES 🚗

DIAGNOSTICS 📊

EXHAUSTS 🛠️

MOT'S 🚗

SERVICING ✂️

TYRES 🛞



The role is not too onerous and fund-raising, uncommon for a charity, is not a major issue as there is a tenant and several regular hirers. We meet once a month for about an hour.

As well as the monthly meetings, and the AGM, volunteers would be expected to assist, as appropriate, with issues such as reviewing hire charges, the annual Service of Remembrance and generally ensuring the future viability of the Hall, both financially and structurally.

The current Committee structure is: Chair,

Vice Chair (vacant), Secretary, Treasurer, Bookings Secretary and one other.

We employ a cleaner and a gardener.

The rent from Chiltern Hills Nursery and regular hirers of the main hall constitutes the bulk of the income largely eliminating the need for regular Fundraising events.

Please think about joining the Committee to continue expressing Downley's gratitude to those who did not come home.

Alan Baker, Chairman

07890 762527 - alanbaker49@btinternet.com

Downley Gardening Society

February meeting review

Geoff Hodge, a freelance gardening journalist and online editor for the RHS, gave an amusing and informative talk about the care of houseplants. He called it "the cruellest form of gardening", as all our houseplants are actually outdoor plants in their native countries. By bringing them inside we need to mimic their natural environments to keep them healthy. Geoff reflected on our houseplants of choice in the 1980s - the African violet and the rubber plant. Fast forward to today and our favourites are orchids and palms. What happened to all the African violets?

Geoff's tips included:

1. Buy plants with good root systems, check for pests by looking at the underside of the leaves and always put your chosen plant in a plastic sleeve when bringing it home to avoid the shock caused by changes in the environment.
2. Only water when a plant needs it - hold the pot up and "waft" it in the air to gauge if it is very light and needs

water or heavy and therefore can wait, but check on a regular basis. Another way to tell is to push your index finger into the top of the pot - allow the top 2 cm to dry out.

3. Use tepid water and do not be too generous - most house plants are killed by over watering. If they wilt do not reach for the watering can as the roots may be waterlogged and more moisture will hasten their demise!
4. Feed house plants during the growing season, April to September. They can be fed with a slow release fertiliser put into the soil at the start of the season or a water soluble feed every couple of weeks.
5. Only re-pot if your houseplant is pot bound and then into a pot one size larger.
6. Water orchids every 2 to 3 weeks in summer by dunking the whole pot in tepid water for 25 seconds and then leave it to drain before returning it to its growing position. Mist regularly with a hand sprayer - you can put orchid feed in the misting water.
7. Do not cut phalaenopsis (moth)

orchids down to their base. Cut above a shield shape scar which will then produce a side shoot. Brown roots are dead and should be cut off, silver roots mean the plant is too dry but green roots = a healthy plant!

March meeting review

Very few of the members who attended the March meeting had heard of the Adwell Estate until Colin Roberts told us about it at our first meeting in the hall this year. Adwell House is a family home situated in the hamlet of Adwell in Oxfordshire, close to Thame. The house has been lived in since 1730 and the grounds, containing eight spring-fed lakes, are open to the public on certain days of the year. The owners also cater for weddings and special events including the making of films and television dramas there. Colin explained that clay from the estate was used to help with the construction of the M40 leaving an area which was turned into a lake. It is regularly stocked with brown and rainbow trout for fishing. There are several named gardens which in winter are brought to life with thousands of snowdrops and crocuses, followed by 35,000 daffodils!

Each spring the gardens are opened for Daffodil Day. The woodland garden has had many leylandii trees replaced, as their only purpose was to hide the bonfire area! Three island beds have been constructed not far from the waterfall which is surrounded by primulas, shuttlecock ferns, marsh marigolds, acers and hostas. The fountain garden has a beautiful well-established wisteria and the lawn is maintained in the old fashioned way with stripy grass! There are four large urns but little planting here as the aim is to offer a place of tranquillity.

Around the gardens there are many pots with 70 different varieties of salvia as well as petunias and lobelia. In the summer flag irises surrounding the lakes give shelter to the resident swans, ducks and Canada geese.

Many of the plants at Adwell are propagated by the two gardeners. The salvia cuttings are inserted into foam discs that just sit above the water in a hydro pod. The roots are regularly misted with warm water to encourage their growth. Once the roots are established the young plants are weaned into a conventional soil based propagator.

Dates for your diary:

Monday, 20th May 2024 - John Tyler will talk about “natural signals”

Saturday, 15th June 2024 - Downley Day 2024 plant stall

Saturday, 7th September 2024 - Autumn Show 2024

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.

New Players & Beginners
Always Welcome!



Mens Walking
Football
Tuesdays
6.15pm - 7.15pm



Ladies Football
Thursdays
6.30pm - 7.30pm



Scan above for more information!



Downley
High Wycombe
HP13 5AL

- We are open 51 weeks 8am - 6am
- For babies (3 months) to 5 year olds
- We cherish children and families

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

30 hours free education per week for eligible 3-4 year olds
Forest school sessions included

We look forward to hearing from you



01494 531565

www.chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk
admin@chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk

DO YOU NEED TO REMORTGAGE IN THE NEXT 6 MONTHS?

We are based in Downley and offer free residential mortgage advice as well as virtual, telephone or face to face appointments in the comfort of your own home.

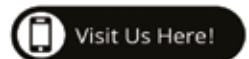
Call us today on 01494 211194.




**Applicant
Mortgage
Brokers**



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





We were so proud to have our children's work included in the Hughenden Manor Easter trail. Local High Wycombe artist Dan Wilson, also known as Decreate, spray-painted one of our mythical creatures entries – Polar Wolf. Several others were included as puzzle pieces within the trail too and lots of design entries were displayed across the site.



Our PSHE curriculum actively promotes inclusion. Our topic Celebrating Difference was the inspiration and reason for 'Inclusion' being identified as one of TDS 6 values. All year groups are included in the celebration displays as can be seen in the photos below.



We are really pleased to be working closely with our parents. The parents have always been supportive of the school and we feel that the rebranding of the parent association to a Parent Teacher Association with staff representation on the board is a really positive step for TDS. The new logo was designed by a pupil and they won a mufti day for their class.

This year we chose a dog themed book week to celebrate World Book Day and encouraged all children to be dogs and staff to dress as dog catchers. Parents were thankful of the ease of costume and all children felt included as it was easy to participate in the theme. It's proof that the team at TDS are all barking mad!

We are entering our final term of 23/24 and it looks like it's set to be a busy one! In May TDS will be hosting the Trust's annual eco-event which will be focusing on sustainability. All year groups have exciting trips or activities planned to enrich our curriculum offer and the choir will be performing at the Royal Albert Hall. The PTA have some fun events lined up (including a colour run!) and improvements to the site will begin as we head towards the summer holidays.

Downley Theatre Group

March this year saw the number of trips we've completed reach the 150 mark – nobody could be more surprised than us! There have been day-trips to the seaside; visits to Highgrove House, Buckingham Palace and Highclere Castle; lots of West End musicals and a few plays; occasional outings to Oxford for live theatre and 17 festive Christmas concerts. There have been some flops, too, where interest wasn't enough to cover costs resulting in trips being abandoned plus the three arranged during lock down which were cancelled.

The Theatre Group offers members trips to West End musical block-busters, occasional plays and day trips. The advertised cost covers return coach travel, admission or ticket price and driver's gratuity. As a "not for profit" outfit, we make refunds if

interest exceeds our expectations.

There are currently 208 members, there's no joining fee or obligation to go on any of the outings. New members are welcome, please contact us to be added to the mailing list.



This photograph was taken on a recent visit to the High Wycombe Mayor's Parlour. The Mayor, Paul Turner, is seated on the weighing scales. Standing from left to right: Yvonne Luke, Peter Miller, Claire Baker, Glynis Miller and Ann Carter

Highlights for us would be seeing Maggie Smith in a one woman show "A German Life"; Glenda Jackson as King Lear; the Tower of London when the moat was covered in poppies to represent the huge loss of life in the centenary memorial of the First World War; "The History Boys"; "War Horse", which we had four full coaches for at different times.

*Alan & Claire Baker,
Downley Theatre Group - Established 2001
downleytheatregroup@gmail.com
01494 437552*

Poster for Top Notes Summer Concert, Sunday 30th June, 6:00pm (doors at 5:45pm), Wycombe Arts Centre, Desborough Road, High Wycombe HP11 2PU. Tickets via eventbrite. Adults £12.00 / Concessions £8.00. Email: topnotestunes@gmail.com. In aid of: Princes Trust Community Fringe.

UK GARAGE OF THE YEAR WINNERS – 2023, 2022 & 2021
Your Award Winning – Friendly – Independent Garage in Downley

50% Off Your MOT*

*Normal MOT Price £54.85

When booked with any Service



**ALL VEHICLES WASHED
& SANITISED**

**We will Collect &
Deliver Your Car**



**VIDEO EVIDENCE OF
ALL WORK**

**Complimentary
Courtesy Cars**

MOT | Service | Electric & Hybrid | Tyres | Repairs



DVN24/25

THIS ADVERT IS YOUR VOUCHER

17 Littleworth Road, Downley, HP13 5XF

01494 444481

www.hillclimbgarage.co.uk
servicemanager@hillclimbgarage.co.uk

ins
**Your Local
Mortgage
Experts**

Ivona Lord

Sarah Lister

Eilish Crowther

Contact Us ☎ 01494 414777 🌐 www.mortgages.co.uk

13 Chapel St, Downley HP13 5XH

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up payments on your mortgage.



**P.K. STROY
QUALITY BUILDER**

T: 07876 254 131

E: peter.stroy@btinternet.com

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

www.peterstroy.co.uk

News from St James Church



*"With your help
I can advance
against a troop;
with my God I can
scale a wall."
Psalm 18:29*

This verse reminds us that, with God's help, we can overcome any obstacle.

Whilst not many of us are regularly trying to climb actual walls, across our community, our country and our world there are seemingly insurmountable walls to scale. We long for peace in the many war torn countries where innocent people are facing death from rockets and missiles or from starvation through lack of food supplies. In our own nation many people are still struggling to put food on the table for their families and many are facing losing their homes because they can't pay their bills. I don't know what walls you are facing in your lives right now – perhaps exams, work challenges, health challenges, loss or bereavement. In our own strength we feel powerless to bring about change, but with God's help we can 'scale a wall', we can climb a mountain. We can do this when we all play our part – we can do this by making small donations to charities that are helping others or volunteering our time, we can do this by praying for those in need, and we can do this by offering our love and support to those around us. Whatever walls you are faced with or thinking about today, talk to God about

them, ask him to show you what one small thing you can do to make a difference.

We are edging towards the summer now, and all the events that take place around Downley. I would encourage you to come out to as many as possible and get involved wherever you are able to. There are so many clubs and societies you can read about in this magazine and so many amazing charities working in this area like One Can Trust, Wycombe Homeless Connection, and Growing Hope High Wycombe. All of these would love your support.



Activities at St James:

- Do come along for a cup of tea or coffee and homemade cake – every Thursday morning 10.30-12.30.
- If you or your children enjoy crafts and food – why not try our Messy Church 4-5.30 on the last Sunday of each month
- St James Day BBQ Sunday 21st July 1pm – everyone welcome.



Heather Graham, Vicar of St James

The Village Art Show 2024

The annual opportunity for local artists to present their skills and creativity to the village will this year run from Saturday 29th June until Friday 5th July at the Downley Community Centre. It has been the faithful host for the Art Show for its 12 year existence. Over the opening weekend doors will be open from 11am to 4pm and during the follow weekdays 6.30pm to 9pm. It has always been pleasing to welcome consistently high numbers of visitors to the show which is represented by a diversity of talents with a wide range of experience and ages. The show is perhaps unusual in just how young some of our exhibitors are. We have enjoyed recognising this by hosting group visits from local school and preschool groups.

To enter your artwork you will be able to pick up an entry form (together with the guidelines) from 1st June at the Community

Centre where there will also be a box to return them to. An online form and guidelines will be posted at artshow.downley.org from the same date. The deadline for entries is Wednesday 19th June. We look forward to seeing your work.

This year the Village Art Show is providing an opportunity for artists (of all abilities) to come together on Monday 17th June at 6.30pm in the Marquee on Commonsideside to join in a new event - 'Art within Tent'. Opportunities will be provided for adults to try their hand at life drawing, still life or landscape, take your pick. There will be support and guidance and, if needed, materials on hand (at a cost of £5) or bring your own.

For more information visit
artshow.downley.org

Feedback and questions to:
artshow@downley.org

Personalised Learning Tuition Services

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

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

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

Phone: 07765248736

highwycombetutor@gmail.com
www.highwycombetutor.com



WALK WITH US

Looking to get outdoors, meet new people and improve your health and wellbeing? Join one of our free, friendly walks and discover more of the beautiful Chilterns countryside.

Pick up a leaflet or scan this QR code to see the programme and find the walks that are right for you.



Our walks, led by trained volunteers, take place on 1st Friday & 3rd Wednesday each month at various locations across the Chilterns.

To book a place, email or phone: walkwithus@nationaltrust.org.uk 01494 755 565 If you don't have access to transport give us a call.

Supported by:
Community Board
North West
Chilterns



Downley Cricket Club



The rain has, at least for a time, relented and a few warmer days herald the (slow) arrival of Summer... and the cricket season. Here at Downley Cricket Club, hard work on the pitch and ground preparation is being done by a few willing volunteers - Den Cox, Martin Birkett, Ben and Graeme to the fore - whilst pre-season indoor nets at the RGS have been in full swing. Last week there were three nets in use simultaneously. Many on their Easter break from University have prioritised sharpening their skills in readiness for the coming season. It is encouraging that several players, of all abilities, have turned up after reading these pieces in DVN.

Cricket is partly a running game, and the vigour and athleticism on display augurs well for the season ahead. Despite finishing 3rd last season, due to a restructuring of the league we have now been promoted to Division 1 of the Berkshire, Chilterns and Mid-Bucks League, presenting a challenge to all at the Club. Several players have welcomed the opportunity to test their skills against these higher-level teams.

If you would like to join us, either at outdoor nets in Mannings Field, starting soon, or in matches during the season, or would like to help with scoring, umpiring or pitch and ground maintenance, please contact us on webmaster@downleycc.co.uk, and you will be made most welcome. Win or lose, we enjoy each-other's company and, young and old, fit and not-so-fit, we try our best. In a few games last season the age gap between our youngest and oldest players on the field was as much as 50 years, a rarity in competitive sport.

Our all-action on-field captain and outstanding batter/fielder Ben Hughes ensures everyone has a chance to contribute in games, and motivates the younger players with unusual nicknames, to everyone's amusement. Club Captain Graham 'Boycs' Swales hopes to get plenty of first-division wickets with his mesmerising flighted deliveries, while the two Downley wicket-taking legends Graeme 'Aikers' Aitken and Colin 'Squeezer' Caesar, and big fast-bowler Rehaan 'R-Dog' Vats intend to carry on where they left-off last season. Meanwhile stylish wicketkeeper-batter Ben 'Medals' Alsop has been polishing his varied skills in the nets.

On the batting front Pete 'Ledge' Stone somehow churns out big runs every week against all opposition together with the classy stroke play of Rajat 'Virat Kohli' Khator. Bala, our lively all-rounder, has clearly been working-out in the gym, and seems to be bowling much faster and hitting ferociously hard in the indoor nets in the company of Mehul 'Whiskers' Khemani, Anurag, new-find Suresh, Richard, and others.

Around the August Bank Holiday we have our President's Day, with plenty of fun and laughter, cricket played by some trying out the sport, and food and drink, after which we repair to Mark and Sarah's Le de Spencer, where warmth and hospitality always awaits us throughout the season. We hope you will join us.

MARK EVANS PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEERS

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

T. 01494 718 661 M. 07779 013 565



*Come and join us
for a chat over a
relaxing cup of coffee
and some biscuits!*

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

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



Downley Descants

Never Can Say Goodbye

It was quite a shock and we were saddened that, for various personal reasons, a few of our members advised they would not be available for the summer term although most have said they will return in the autumn when they will be welcomed back with open arms. One member feels she will not be able to rejoin due to difficulties in getting to rehearsals following emigrating across the Common to Naphill. Saying that, she says she will support us by attending concerts etc. so it's not really goodbye! I thought I would share her thoughts on her time with the choir:-
"I worked out that I have been singing with the Downley Descants for over 10 years and I have loved every moment. Although I don't read music and have no musical background, I have learned a lot about music and the joy of singing, but more than that I have loved the friendship and community that the choir offers. You started something truly wonderful when you set this choir up and I hope it will continue for many more years. You should all feel very proud of what you and the choir have achieved and how it has progressed. When I think that on my first night, we were singing a Beatles medley and now we have progressed to Seal Lullaby, Ave Verum

Corpus and so much more."

We were pleased to have seen what an impact being a choir member has had on her.

If you think you would like to experience the advantages of singing together as a group, then why not give us a try. We meet every Thursday evening during school term times at Sunnybank Church in Moor Lane from 8pm but most people arrive a little early for a catch up and chat. We will always welcome new members so if you would like more details please contact our chairman, Lyn, on 07974026213 or grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk.

We are currently practising hard for our performances in June. Firstly, we are singing at Christ Church, Flackwell Heath on 8th, in support of the OASIS charity, then on Thursday 27th, as part of the Up!Downley Festival we are performing at St James' Church in Downley. The concert starts at 7pm and tickets, priced at £12, are available from any choir member or using the contact details above.

Bob Cook - Bass



CHAMELEON SINGLES GROUP

The winter months seem to have been extended this year though to April! However, we did manage to get out on one walk in early February from Old Amersham up to the new town on one of the few dry and mild days. We crossed the railway at the only level crossing on

the London Underground, saw the model train in the new town and the Martyrs Memorial on the way back down the hill. Other events since the start of the year have all been indoors. These have included our regular Lunch Club on the second Friday of the month at The Spindle & Thread and the Pub Night held at



BANQUET NIGHT

£14.95

2 STARTER, 2 MAIN, 1 SIDE, 1 RICE & 1 NAN

Finish With Coffee / Tea / Ice Cream

Minimum 2 person required

King prawn or house special dishes extra £3



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

**FIND US AT
VIBE CHURCH
EVERY TUESDAY**

9.30am

5.30 & 7pm

Contact Caroline
07841 644 120

Contact Kerry
07887 567264

#SWtastethefreedom
f t i slimmingworld.co.uk



M O N D A Y

Minis

playgroup

Mondays during term-time 9.30-11.15am

£2 per family (cash and card accepted)

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

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

Follow our page on Facebook – search for “Monday Minis”
Or Instagram – search for “Downley Monday Minis”

Contact Sam: downleymondayminis@gmail.com



The Crown in Hazlemere on the last Thursday. For those preferring to stay at home or not able to get out we have a monthly Zoom social.

Other early events for 2024 have included Coffee Mornings in Princes Risborough, Hazlemere Golf Club and also the Air Raid Café in High Wycombe. Pancake Night on Shove Tuesday is always popular and we are very grateful to our "Chefs" who worked hard in the kitchen so we could enjoy this traditional start to Lent. Of the less usual events, we went to the Wycombe Rifle and Pistol Club to try out target shooting on one of their open days. The club really does have a wide variety of events throughout the year, all suggested and run by our members. We are planning once again this year for some day trips out including one to the coast

and to Guernsey. Our walks will continue on a regular basis along with some of the more popular events such as Quiz Nights, Take-away evenings, and the occasional trip to the Cinema and Theatre. Summer of course will see us take to a member's garden for a BBQ or perhaps two.

If you are single, 40-60's, looking for new friends and a great social life why not give Chameleon Singles Group a try? There are no strangers at Chameleon, just new friends to be made. The group has several local people from Downley, West Wycombe, Sands, Bledlow Ridge and the surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too. To find out more call Terrie on 01494 445816, Trevor on 07879 332975 or e-mail: info@chameleonsingles.org.uk. Visit the group on-line at www.chameleonsingles.org.uk or search Facebook.



High Wycombe & District u3a

The spring is always a busy time at our u3a. The monthly short and long walks have continued; the Computer Group had especially useful information on using the full potential of OneDrive for both securely saving files and making your files (e.g. photos) available to your friends anywhere they have access to the internet; the ever-popular Discovering Art Group had a visit to The Wallace Collection in London; attendees increased at our monthly Quiz at Naphill Village Hall; and the new Rummikub Group meeting at the adjacent Bel Ami café. For information on all our Groups, take a look at our website, and see what's happening on our Facebook page.

We are certainly planning more visits to various local events and places. We are repeating our visit (provisionally in

July) to the archaeological site and John Lewis Heritage Centre, Cookham. Sadly, you will have missed our private visit to the beautiful Bisham Church on the banks of the river Thames. Of course, we have many more interest Groups (25+) operating in our area. Just email Paul at gilliamph@aol.com for details.

One not to miss is our Monthly General Meeting on May 22nd from 2pm at Lacey Green Memorial Hall, when Dr Helen Fry is scheduled to talk on M19: The British Secret Service for Escape and Evasion. There is no charge for your first visit - we will be pleased to welcome you. Here's to a warmer and drier summer.

Contact Judith (Secretary): 01494 562236,
or email Paul (Groups Co-ordinator):
gilliamph@aol.com • Registered Charity.1065069

The Grange Restaurant & Gift Shop



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

OPENING HOURS
Every day 09:00 - 16:00
01844 348100



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

Raising Funds for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People & Hearing Link
Registered charity in England and Wales no. 293358 and Scotland no. SC040486

www.thegrangesaunderton.org.uk

SAFE EAR WAX REMOVAL SERVICE

Microsuction and Irrigation methods used
UK Microsuction Ltd Certified



**Booking Arrangements
are very flexible
made to fit your needs.**

Safe and comfortable
consulting space.

£45 for two ears.

Contact Sue by phone, text, Whatsapp or Email
T: 07585 800 980

E: sue.mutedwhispers@gmail.com

f Muted Whispers Nextdoor App Susan Trevena

Mark Gonsalves Kitchen and Bathroom Specialist



Institute of Kitchen, Bedroom & Bathroom Installers

Membership Number F1305-0016

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

Plumbing - taps, radiators, leaks, pumps etc.

Carpentry - doors, skirting boards, shelving, partition walls

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

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

Free no obligation quotations and advise

Tel: 01494 474449 Mob: 07905 214823

Email: mgbuildingservices@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

Summer 2024

Wal hello agin, to orl you wonderful gardeners and plot a' diggers! Now we're right in the middle of Spring, the best time of the year, them luvly beech trees orl leafin up, like bein under water eh, and them bluebells down in the woods, just paradise! And the garden, how many flowers ave you got out by now? Wal, we had over two months of daffs of different sorts, just goin over now I reckons, I'm never sure whether to ded head em or not, wot duz Monty Wotsit say? Wal in nature no-one cums along to do that and they keeps a'flowerin year arfter year! I've got sum up the plot, late wuns, with a luvly scent, even Mrs H. was impressed when I brort sum home "Wal" ses Mrs H "I must say he's right there, makes a change eh!"



I've bin busy up the plot, got the spuds in, I got given sum special wuns from a neighbour, 'Ratte', a small waxy spud, I ses to someone up the plot I'm just plantin Rattes, wal he thought he'd better ring the council, J.H.s gone barmy! But wot with global warmin and tropical rain, the plots just a mud bath, and where's the bees and insects eh? Ave you noticed there's hardly any of em. On the common there's an amazin pear tree near the beacon, and its bin covered with blossom, but no bees, and the same with a plum and apple in the garden. Is it because its too cold for bees, but wot about the blossom? Has nature got itself in a muddle or is it them farmers and sum gardeners sprayin too much stuff to kill orf the bugs eh? "He's getting a bit too clever I thinks, wot duz he know about it , not much I rekons" ses Mrs H. Anyway there's not a lot of pollynatin goin on, so will we get any apples and pears, plums and cherries eh! But I must say orl that blossom out, before everything leafs up wal, thats a treat arfter orl that winter gloom and damp, and then the hawthorn will blossom up, 'action week' ses David Hockney the artist, he just luvs this time of year.

Wal, wot about sowin and plantin? I'm in the risk business now, wal, I ses in the last 'Hints' that the grandkids gives me a packet of various squash seeds, so I planted sum in pots in the greenhouse, in the middle of March and...sum cums up! But like spuds and nastershallums and geraniums they can get frorsted so make sure you protects em or yule lose the lot!

Now to finish, my French cousin, Jean d'Artichoke, normally not the most helpful person, gives me a packet of lettuce seeds, 'Brune d'Hiver' wot is summat like 'winter brown wuns', they cum up in a seed box in February, now planted out in an open cold frame up the plot, wal, that's early up there, the most exposed bit of land in Downley! It's a luvly time of year, enjoy it eh!

Cheerio and a'bientot

J. H. Sent from my iSpade

SYNERGY PILATES



DOWNLEY CLASSES

MONDAYS

The Memorial Hall
7.00pm • General Class

WEDNESDAYS

St James Church Hall
9.30am • General Class
10.35am • Beginners Class

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

karenorhard11@gmail.com

D J Coles Property Services

Professional High Standard

Established in 1999

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

Free Estimates • Competitive Rates

M: 07747 783015

E: djcolespropmain@yahoo.com



VOCAL COACHING WITH EMMA BARR

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

Home Studio in DOWNLEY & AVAILABLE ONLINE

£45.00 per hour / £23.00 per half hour

SESSIONS INCLUDE...

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

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

07779537755

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

”

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

Patrick

”

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

Jill

Top Notes



Hillclimb Garage News

Pothole Repair Funding, Apprenticeships and Careers Fairs



Pothole Repair Funding – As proud members of the TyreSafe Charity, we were delighted to read their latest news article welcoming the announcement from the Department for Transport (DfT) that it was to allocate £8.3 billion of reallocated HS2 funds for funding of a nationwide programme of pothole repairs and road resurfacing projects. Pothole damage to vehicles cost a staggering £474 million in the past year, according to new figures released by the AA in January. The AA says it dealt with 631,852 pothole-related incidents in 2023, the highest for five years, with tyre, wheel, steering, and suspension damaged by poor road surfaces. This was an eye watering 16% increase on the previous year! The DfT has already begun rollout of funds for this initiative, with quarterly reports set to commence from June 2024 tracking progress of road maintenance. We hope we soon see some of this funding in Downley, High Wycombe and the surrounding areas where the condition and safety of some of our roads has deteriorated dramatically over recent years. Read the full report and find out more about TyreSafe at www.tyresafe.org.



Apprenticeships – It was wonderful to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week in February and give a huge shout out to

our three amazing apprentices at Hillclimb Garage, Jess, Adam and Sam! Jess is in her first year studying Level 3 Business Administration and Adam and Sam are both in their third year of studying for their Level 3 Motor Vehicle Technician qualifications. All are excelling in their studies and we couldn't be more proud of them! Since February, Adam has completed his apprenticeship and qualified with a Distinction in all aspects of his studies! Huge congratulations to Adam on this fantastic achievement!

Careers Fairs - To further support our commitment to developing young people through Hillclimb, we were delighted to attend the Careers Fair at The Misbourne School last month. It was our pleasure to represent the Automotive Industry and discuss the many career opportunities available to young people, especially in the Independent Garage Sector. We were incredibly impressed with the quality of students that visited our stand and the enthusiasm shown, with several showing genuine interest in the apprenticeships we offer. Investing in young people is crucial to our continued success and offers many exciting opportunities as we embrace alternative fuel technologies in the future. Please contact us if you would like to discuss work experience or apprenticeship opportunities at Hillclimb Garage.

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 the reason, we are here for you:
SERVICE – REPAIR
SUPPORT - ADVICE



DAVID NICHOLAS
ESTATES



Unlock your property's full potential with our expert lettings service.

Property Management built by Landlords, for Landlords.

To find out more please get in touch:



www.DNestates.co.uk



Info@DNestates.co.uk



Pregnancy yoga

at Downley Community Centre
Mondays 7.45 to 9pm

Yoga to balance and strengthen your body & help you feel calm and prepared for labour, birth and beyond. Suitable from 14 weeks of pregnancy - no yoga experience needed!



For more info & to book visit
www.nestandnurture.net/yoga



Kitchens

Plastering

Laminate Flooring

Wood Fencing

Bathrooms

Interior & Exterior Painting

Tiling

Gates

Bespoke Garden Rooms

House Refurbishment

Carpentry

Guttering

Decking

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES, CONTACT US TODAY!

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

DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

How Downley hosted Wycombe's first golf course

If you walk towards the Le De Spencers you will pass Golf Link Cottages and Golf Link Villas, built in 1897. They are the only remaining hint that Downley Common was once, a hundred years ago, a golf course. In fact, it was the first golf course in High Wycombe and the second in Buckinghamshire - Burnham Beeches golf course predated it by just two years. The existence of Downley's golf course reflected two important facts: the Dashwoods owned (and own) the Common, and it was once without the tree cover it now has.

The golf course was established in 1893 by Sir Edwin Dashwood, the 8th Baronet, but it is possible that he never played on it. He had been living in New Zealand when he inherited the estate and title in 1882 and may have been less than enthusiastic when he heard the news. He only returned to England seven years later with his New Zealand wife; the couple had a daughter the following year. Sir Edwin found a bankrupt estate and raised money by re-mortgaging it.

Quite why he thought a golf course would be a money spinner is a mystery. Anyway he, or rather his friend Lt Col Lambart Henry Bowens, wrote an advertisement for the new 'Wycombe Ho Golf Club' in late March 1893: it would be open to all who could pay the annual subscription of £1 for gentlemen and 10/- for ladies. To put that in perspective, £1 in 1893 would be about £160 today. That is quite cheap as golf courses go – full membership of a course can now cost over £1500 pa – but for Downley's labouring poor, £1 meant two months' rent. In other words, the

Colonel, who lived in Fingest Grove with his wife, two children and six servants, set the bar high enough to keep out the local riff raff.

Everything about the birth of Downley's golf course was rather rushed. The advertisement only appeared on 1 April 1893, and it was proposed to have the first medal day on the Tuesday of Easter Week, provided the golf course could be laid out in time. Easter Day was April 2; the Tuesday was 4 April; and Sir Edwin unfortunately died on Friday 7 April. We will never know if he enjoyed a round on his creation, or if the effort to open it on time was the death of him.

We know something of what the course looked like owing to a sketch made in 1958 by John Blanchard. It had nine holes and was played the full length and breadth of the Common. The second drive was huge, from outside Sunnybank to a green beyond the entrance to Narrow Lane. Living in Vale Cottage and Well Cottage might have been risky since the third drive went by them, and the eighth and ninth holes were really exciting challenges given the depth and height of the 'bunkers', all old dells (or clay pits), that one had to avoid.

A date for your diary

Tuesday 25 June 2024

A GUIDED HISTORY WALK OF DOWNLEY COMMON

Start: The Beacon on Commonsides at 7 pm

This walk is totally free, but we will happily accept any donations!

Jill - Tutor



11 + Tutoring and Mock Tests

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

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

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

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

To discuss your needs please text me;

Jill: 0773 860 99 44

Hall for Hire in Downley

St James Church Hall, Plomer Hill HP13 5NB

For regular bookings or special occasions

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

For more details please see the website at

www.stjamesdownley.org.uk

or contact Hilary Perowne

at hilmad1842@gmail.com

or Telephone – 07973 770180

SKYLINE
Electrical Services

Reliable, local electrician with
15 years experience.

All domestic / commercial
works undertaken.

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

Ryan Stockton

E: ryan@skylineelectrical.co.uk

Tel: 07805 926329





Downley Common looking south in c.1890: the 'bunkers' of the ninth and eighth holes (A SWOP photograph - Copyright managed by HW Library)

Interestingly the best spot for a drink was either after the first hole, at the Golf Links pub at the end of Chapel Street (it closed in 1935), or after the eighth hole at the Le De Spencers Arms. Perhaps members visited neither, for the Golf Club had its own club house, presumably somewhere near the ninth hole.

Who played? For its first decade, probably just the members of the club, of whom there were twenty by 1904. We know who they are, actually. Exactly six months after Sir Edwin's death, perhaps in his memory, and after renaming the club the West Wycombe Golf Club, the first 18-hole competition was held on Monday 9 October 1893. It was reported in the Bucks Herald. The ten players included six women and four men, including Sir Francis Dashwood, Edwin's brother and heir and now the 9th baronet. The following month another competition was held and again reported in the press.

Those present were presumably the social circle of the Dashwoods, including the Blagdens (related to the vicar of Hughenden), the Halls, and the Hicks-Graves (John Hicks-Grave lived in Plomer Hill House and was the son of Rev John Graves, who lived in Bradenham Manor).

In 1897, according to another press report, the club was in excellent financial health. Nevertheless, in 1904 or thereabouts the twenty West Wycombe Golf Club members transferred to the newly-opened Wycombe and Bourne End (now Flackwell Heath) Golf Club. That left Downley's golf course free for the use of the locals, and they maintained it for the next thirty-five years. The green keeper was Francis 'Mowey' Blanchard, who was presumably related to the John Blanchard who drew the sketch map, and the C Blanchard who was the club professional in the 1890s. The only Blanchard family in Downley at the time lived in one of the Golf Link Cottages: it would be nice if it was them, but the first names are different in the census.

Downley Common's forty-seven years as a golf course came to an abrupt end in 1940: the Common was taken over by the MOD for the testing of Churchill tanks, made and repaired at Broom & Wade, and these ploughed their way across the Common day in and day out, destroying the golf course.

Do you live in an Easy Street?

Burglars are often opportunistic thieves who prey on houses and flats. They seek out any opening that they can take advantage of, specifically doors and windows that are left open or unlocked or are easy to force.

- Point of entry is gained by burglars using ladders, garden furniture or drainpipes to get on top of flat roofs.
- They will then enter through a bedroom window to gain access to the upstairs of



Keep This Number Handy You May Need It To Contact

YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICIAN

All Works Undertaken - Large and Small

- Fault Finding & Repairs
- Extra Lights & Sockets
- Fuse Board Upgrades
- EV Chargepoints
- Landlord Inspections
- Homebuyer Inspections
- Outbuilding Supplies
- Qualified Electrician
- Fully Insured
- Reliable Service
- Tidy Work
- Free Quotations
- Warranty Backed
- Quick Response

Satisfaction Guaranteed



Call Tony on
07944 162 958



M.D. Garden Services



Gardener

Pruning • Shrubs and Flower Borders

Fruit and Vegetable Pots • Hedges

Lawn Care • Indoor Plants



Horticultural Engineer

SERVICE • REPAIR • SHARPENING

Lawn Mowers • Garden Tractors

Strimmers • Blowers • Shears • Chainsaws



NO OBLIGATION QUOTES

M. L. Dunn

Home: 01494 865834

Mobile: 07795 158292

PIEDS SUR TERRE



CHRISTINE ASHCROFT
REFLEXOLOGIST

Reflexology to relieve stress, promote
relaxation and well-being

Gift cards available

ITEC level 3 qualified, based in
Downley

Tel: 07798 612 993

Email: piedssurterre@icloud.com

Web: piedssurterre.co.uk

the property.

- Jewellery seems to be the main target; however all valuables are at risk, especially if easy to grab and go.

The best advice is to take preventative measures to minimise the chances of becoming a victim.

- Lower fences at the front around one-metre high are preferable to high fences as they allow for a clear view over the top and don't provide cover for anyone wishing to hide.
- At the rear and sides, taller fencing is recommended to prevent easy access.
- Trellis, thorny plants, or a suitable anti-climb topping such as plastic spikes make it difficult for anyone climbing over a fence or gate.
- Gravel driveways and paths will make sure you hear anyone approach.

DISTRACTION BURGLARY:

Distraction burglars will pretend to be someone they are not, so it's important you are aware of the common methods they will use to get you to let them into your property.

- Pretending to be from a care agency, the council or a utility company investigating a gas or water leak.
- Seeking help to leave a note for a neighbour or even asking for a drink of water, claiming to be thirsty or unwell.
- Claiming to be in a hurry or emergency and needing to get into your home quickly.
- Working in teams, with one person distracting you while the other searches your home.

If you open the door put the chain on first, always ask for ID and check it with the company before letting somebody into your home; use the phone number advertised in the phone book or online, as the number on their identity card could be fake. For a utility company, call the customer service department. Close the door while you do this.

If you feel threatened or in danger by the presence of the caller, call 999.

Email: office@wdnhwatch.plus.com

Facebook: [@wycombenhw](https://www.facebook.com/wycombenhw)

Instagram: [@wycombenhw](https://www.instagram.com/wycombenhw)

Wycombe Environment Centre

Refresh
THE MARKETPLACE

Wycombe Environment Centre, a local charity in High Wycombe, is enabling communities to make a difference to the environment through innovative projects such as our upcycling shop named "Refresh" in the Chilterns Centre in High Wycombe. Here you can find a vast array of fantastic fabrics, textiles, haberdashery items, cards, papers, foils, and shelves full of materials for our visitors, who range from crafters and model makers to teachers and artists, all ready to give our stock a second life and save it from going to landfill.

How can you help?

- **Shop!** Come and visit us at the shop and

see for yourself. Open Wednesday 1:30pm - 4:30pm and Saturdays 10am - 4pm, Unit 8 Chiltern Shopping Centre, right in the heart of High Wycombe.

- **Mend!** Bring your items needing repair to the Repair Cafe, usually the 2nd Saturday of the month, All Saints Church in the centre of High Wycombe from 10am - 1pm. No charge but donations invited.
- **Donate!**
- **Volunteer!**

Facebook: [@refreshwycombe/wycomberepaircafe](https://www.facebook.com/refreshwycombe/wycomberepaircafe)

Instagram: [@refreshthemarketplace](https://www.instagram.com/refreshthemarketplace)

Email: info@refreshwycombe.org

From Westminster

Steve Baker - MP for Wycombe

Over the last few weeks I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to speak to a number of Downley residents about issues which concern them. It was useful to hear their comments and I thought it may be of interest to others to be updated on some of the issues we discussed.

One constituent raised the issue of fly-tipping and discarded nitrous oxide gas canisters particularly in The Pastures and Hithercroft Road areas. This is an issue I have been interested in for some time. In 2020, I was glad to intervene in an **Adjournment debate on the Misuse of Nitrous Oxide** to bring to the Government's attention the piles of canisters that often appear on the roadside in Wycombe.

Both the police and the public have repeatedly reported links between the use of the drug and nuisance or anti-social behaviour. While there are legitimate uses for nitrous oxide, such as in medicine, dentistry and as a propellant for whipped cream canisters, the drug is now the third most used recreational drug among 16 to 24-year-olds in England. As part of the Government's new zero-tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour, nitrous oxide has now been classified a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The Council is responsible for removing rubbish that has been fly-tipped or left along public highways. The Council has asked me to tell constituents they should report any items which need to be collected by the Fix My Street portal.

Another Downley constituent spoke to me about various reservations he had with



Government policy and direction.

I was able to

reassure him that

I know the last few years have not been easy. We have faced the legacy of Covid, and global instability with war in Ukraine and the Middle East. These challenges have made life tough for people in Britain with higher inflation, backlogs in our key public services, and additional pressures caused by illegal channel crossings. But I was also happy to discuss with the constituent where there was progress on the issues which mattered to him.

Most importantly the Chancellor cutting taxes for working people – already bringing National Insurance Contributions down from 12 per cent to 8 per cent. That makes a real, tangible difference and puts £900 back in the pocket of the average worker on £35,400. The average earner now has the lowest effective personal tax rate since 1975 and I am immensely proud of that. The Government has also seen inflation fall from 11.1 % to 3.4 %; the economy has performed better than forecast and is expected to grow faster than our European neighbours; and debt is on track to fall. Energy bills will come down by hundreds of pounds this month, and the energy price cap for the typical household is down by over £2,500 since its peak, further easing the pressures on household budgets. Business taxes have been permanently cut by £11 billion a year, delivering the biggest long-term business tax cut in modern British history and we have cut rates to support small businesses. As a result, we have the most

attractive investment tax regime of any large European or G7 country.

More people are being encouraged back into work by tightening up the welfare system. The Government has delivered the most significant expansion of childcare in a decade with 30 free hours a week from 9 months all the way up to starting school, worth around £6,500 for parents. By keeping the Triple Lock in place and increasing cost of living payments for pensioners we have eased pressures on older people. This government has introduced the toughest measures ever to tackle both legal and illegal immigration. 24,000 illegal migrants have been deported and 100 asylum hotels have been closed. The difficult but right decisions on Net Zero have been taken to deliver it in a more proportionate way, reducing the costs on people. The country's long-term energy security is being expanded by safeguarding North Sea oil and gas and, at the same time, we're a world leader on renewables, boasting the world's first,

second, third, fourth and fifth largest offshore windfarms, helping the UK to become the first major economy to halve our carbon emissions since 1990.

The NHS is now receiving record funding, meaning there are more doctors, more nurses, more scans, more operations and more appointments. The pension tax on Senior NHS Consultants helps to keep highly experienced doctors in the NHS.

On a more personal note, I was delighted Paul Goodman, who was my predecessor as Wycombe's MP, and who has a home in Downley, was recently appointed to the House of Lords. He has taken the title Lord Goodman of Wycombe. I wish Paul the very best in the Upper Chamber and look forward to working with him on matters of interest to constituents.

If you would like to get in touch with me about local or national issues 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.

Downley Evening Women's Institute

As usual we've had a variety of things going on at the WI including a fascinating visit to the Mayor's Parlour, where we learned a lot about the regalia and many varied duties of the town mayor. We also celebrated our birthday with a lovely three course meal courtesy of Ann Tennant, followed by entertainment from a ukelele band.

We have also just held a Beetle Drive which was well attended and great fun for all, and we're now looking forward to the coffee morning to be held in May to raise funds for our chosen charity this year, the Florence Nightingale Hospice. In June we will have our usual stall at Downley Day so preparations are currently under way.

Do come and say hello during that afternoon, especially if you are interested in finding out more about us. You may find you'd like to join our friendly bunch of women. Many of our members joined in their 20s and 30s and are still with us years later so we must be doing something right!

Of course we also have our monthly meetings at St James Church on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm, where our next speakers are talking about Bacon and Bagels in May and Coaches and Coach Horns in June, always followed of course with tea, coffee, savoury snacks and cake. Visitors are always very welcome.

Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - SUMMER 2024

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

GROUP	DAY	TIME	NEW MEMBER WELCOME	CONTACT
Active Adults (New)	Friday	13.00 - 14.00	✓	katie.youngman@aitc.org.uk
Al-Anon Polish Group (New)	Thursday	19.00 - 20.30	✓	Maria 07749 068 420
Arabic Lessons (Maple Room) (New)	Saturday	10.00 - 14.00	✓	sofaianebouabdallah78@gmail.com
Art Group 2	Monday	10.00 - 12.00		alastair.pike@artsmartuk.com
Boxing (New)	Monday	20.30 - 21.30	✓	Sam Azimi: 07594 305 407
	Wednesday	20.30 - 21.30	✓	
	Thursday	17.00 - 18.45	✓	
Bridge Club	Thursday	19.00 - 22.15	✓	syme.pat@gmail.com 01494 530 558
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 - 12.00	✓	enquiries@downleylibrary.org
	Thursday	15.00 - 17.00	✓	
	Saturday	10.00 - 12.00	✓	
Craft Group	1st Tuesday	9.30 - 12.30		Helen 01494 564 414
Crochet Group	Tuesday	19.00 - 21.00	✓	woollywonkas@gmail.com 07833 910 238
Dance Classes (Ballroom & Latin)	Tuesday	19.00 - 21.00	✓	karen@comedancingwithme.co.uk 07873 53 8709
	Wednesday	18.30 - 20.30	✓	
Downley Parish Council	2nd Tuesday	19.30	✓	clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org 01494 257 711
Downley Wives	2nd Monday	14.00 - 16.00	✓	cathyprice18@hotmail.co.uk
Downley Wine & Beer Club	2nd Wednesday	20.00 - 22.00	✓	downleywinebeer@gmail.com
Kingdom Dynamics Chapel	Sunday	10.00 - 12.00		Sharon 07961 822 347
Lace Making	Thursday	13.00 - 15.00	✓	Frances 01494 524 835
Mondays Minis Playgroup	Monday Term-time	9.30 - 11.15	✓	downleymondayminis@gmail.com 07724 385 895
MOO Music	Friday Term-time	9.50 & 12.10	✓	elvan@moo-music.co.uk
MS Society - South West (New)	Last Thursday alternate months	13.45 - 16.15	✓	sylvia.parker@groups.mssociety.org.uk
Natalie Jane Dance School	Monday Term-time	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 443 393
Pilates	Thursday Term-time	18.30 & 19.30	✓	Emma@asenseofbalance.co.uk
Pre & Post Natal Classes (New)	Thursday	9.30 - 10.30	✓	viv@empoweredwomenscollective.co.uk
Pregnancy Yoga	Monday	19.30 - 21.15	✓	steph@nestandnurture.net
Simply Walk (free)	Monday	10.00 - 11.30 approx	✓	Starts from the Community Centre simplywalks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
	Thursday	11.00 - 12.00 approx	✓	
Taekwondo	Monday	18.30-19.30	✓	mohzamtkd1@hotmail.com Tel 07870 219 746
	Thursday	19.45-20.45	✓	
Twins & Multiples Club	Thursday Term-time	10.30 - 12.30	✓	wendy@questcost.co.uk
Ukulele	4th Thursday	10.00 - 12.00		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 892 708
Zumba Gold	Wednesday	10.30 - 11.15	✓	jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com

SUNNYBANK CHAPEL, MOOR LANE - SUMMER 2024

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

GROUP	DAY	TIME	NEW MEMBERS	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 514 544
Bible Study	2nd & 4th Wednesdays		10.00 - 12.00	✓

GUIDE AND SCOUT CENTRE - SUMMER 2024

Hall Bookings: margaretstagg75@gmail.com

Rainbows	Monday		16.45 - 17.45	✓ downley2ndrainbows@outlook.com
Brownies	Monday		17.45 - 19.00	✓ downley3rdbrownies@outlook.com
Guides	Monday		19.00 - 20.30	✓ downleygg@gmail.com
Rangers	Monday		19.30 - 21.15	✓ gill.lawrence@btinternet.com
Brownies	Tuesday		17.30 - 18.45	✓ jansmith1611@gmail.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		16.30 - 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 - SUMMER 2024

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

Downley Evening WI	2nd Tuesday		19.45	✓
St James Church Coffee Morning	Thursday		10.30 - 12.30	✓
Top Notes Choir	Monday		19.45 - 21.45	
Chepping Wycombe Trefoil Guild	2nd Thursday		19.45	

ST JAMES HALL - SUMMER 2024

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	✓ karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567 376
	Wednesday		10.35	✓ karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567 376
	Wednesday		19.00	✓ karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567 376
Natailie's Meditation Class	Wednesday		20.30 - 22.30	
Philatelic Club	Alternate Thursday		19.30	
Rebound Fit	Wednesday		19.00 - 20.00	
Sing and Sign Baby and Toddlers	Tuesday		10.00 - 13.00	
Sunaina Prolife Pilates	Saturday		08.00 - 09.00	
Tuneless Choir	1st and 3rd Tuesday		19.30 - 21.00	

DOWNLEY WAR MEMORIAL HALL - SUMMER 2024

Hall Bookings: dwmh.bookings@gmail.com

Chiltern Hills Montessori	Weekdays		08.00 - 18.00	✓ admin@chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk 01494 531 565
Pilates	Monday		19.00 - 20.00	✓ karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567 376
Yoga with Jenny	Tuesday		19.20 - 20.45	07904 438 411
Fencing 1 to 1	Wednesday		17.30 - 19.30	
Yoga with Jenny	Thursday		19.15 - 20.45	07904 438 411
Yoga with Jenny	Friday		10.20 - 11.50	07904 438 411
Fencing 1 to 1	Friday		17.30 - 20.00	

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Life threatening or critical situations only

Telephone: 999
and ask for relevant service
AMBULANCE • FIRE • POLICE

HEALTH

NHS Direct 111
Downley Pharmacy 01494 513 060

POLICE - NON EMERGENCY

Report 101 or www.thamesvalley.police.uk

List Of Advertisers

Altea Beauty and Holistic Treatments	12
Applicant Mortgage Brokers	25
Arnold Funeral Directors	16
Biology Tutor	10
Canine Cutz Dog Grooming	18
Care & Companions	4
Chiltern Hills Montessori Nursery	25
Clubs and Societies	20
David Nicholas Estates	40
DJ Coles Property Services	38
Downley Community Library	10
Downley Parish Council	4
Downley Pharmacy	18
GSL Property Maintenance	40
Hillclimb Garage	28
Homecare Gurus	22
Independent Mortgage Solutions	28
Inspire 11 Plus Coaching	10
James Donald Estate Agent	52
Jill Burrell Tutor	42
Le De Spencers Arms	8
M A Hunt Painting & Decorating	14
Mark Evans Plumbing & Heating Engineers	32
Mark Gonsalves Kitchen & Bathroom Specialist	36
M.D. Garden Services	44
Monday Minis	34
Moo Music	6
Muted Whispers	36

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

National Trust Walk With Us	30
Natalie Jane Dance School	12
Nest and Nature	40
Optionz Hair & Beauty	51
Personalised Learning Tuition	30
Pieds Sur Terre - Reflexology	44
P K Stroy, Builder	28
Plugs Electrical Services	44
Poseidon Heating	16
Postnatal Fitness Class	16
Revive Car Bodywork	14
Singing Lessons with Emma Barr	38
Skyline Electrical Services	42
Slimming World	34
Spirit Hair Co.	52
St James' Church Hall Hire	42
St James Coffee Stop	7 & 32
Suttons' Property Maintenance	6
Synergy Pilates	38
The Barr Academy of Performing Arts	8
The Downley Garage	22
The Grange Restaurant & Gift Shop	36
The Mowchak	34
The Wye Partnership	2
TLC 4 You	12
Tom Coles Pest Guard	4
Top Notes Summer Concert	27
Wycombe Concert Band	20
Xtra Time Football & Futsal Coaching	25

Downley Village News

Editor: Anne at editor@downley.org

Advertising: Send advertising to adverts@downley.org

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

Rates: Mono Half Page £40 | Quarter Page £30 | Eighth Page £20, colour adverts are Half Page £75 | Quarter £50.

Deadlines: Published quarterly in Feb, May, Aug and Nov. Deadline for the next issue is 28th July 2024.

Website: news@downley.org

Printed by: Turville Printing Services 01494 520322

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

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

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

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

Optionz Beauty EST. 2000

HAIR-BEAUTY LASHES-NAILS-LASER

ENHANCE YOUR NATURAL BEAUTY

BOOK ONLINE

OPTIONZBEAUTYSALON.BOOKSY.COM

- LADIES & GENTS HAIR
- BEAUTY TREATMENTS
- MANICURE & PEDICURE
- LASER HAIR REMOVAL
- BODY PIERCING
- TANNING



0798 364 5857

3 Crosscourts, Plomer Green Ave, Downley
www.optionzhairbeautylaser.co.uk



SPIRIT HAIR COMPANY

We are an Award Winning Luxury Hair Salon established since 1990 in Downley High Street

- We are a fully employed team of Highly Professional Hairdressers that specialise in Colour and Premium Hairdressing .
- Our Pricing Structure is Gender Neutral and we currently have 4 levels to suit all budgets.
- We are Eco Friendly and partnered with The Green Salon Collective to maintain sustainability.
- There is free and easy parking and we are open 3 late nights until 9pm.
- There is a wonderful ambience in the salon that ensures comfort and relaxation to all our clients



Scan QR code for website



£10.00

Gift Voucher

can only be used towards
Young Stylist Services
over £40.00

T&C's apply/ Valid until End June 2024



01494 440132



HouseShaw

SALES, LETTINGS & INVESTMENTS

www.houseshaw.co.uk



Proud to Sponsor!

Up!

Downley

Village Festival 2024



Your Local Independent Estate Agent

Work personally with James Donald, our Partner & Head of Sales

jamesdonald@houseshaw.co.uk - 07949 890190 - Your Area Specialist for Downley & HP13 5