



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER

Village News

Issue 141/November 2024



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Editorial

The days are getting shorter and Christmas is only a few weeks away. It must be time for the winter edition of Downley Village News!

With so much trouble and strife in the world, I never cease to be thankful for how lucky we are, living where we do with the wonderful countryside all around us. Yes of course Downley is not perfect – idiotic drivers, careless parking, drug taking, all those empty gas canisters – but it's so much better than many other people have and I can't think of anywhere else I would rather live.

On page 5, we've compiled a list of Christmas events around the village. Hopefully we've picked up everything, but apologies if we've missed any. Please support these local community events if you can! Some are free but some have a small charge, so check in their individual editorial or adverts within the magazine or pop in to the pubs for more information on their events.

Our next edition will be the spring one, which will be out in mid-February. As usual, we will be delighted to hear from any organisation in Downley (or the surrounding area) with news or information. You can submit articles via the email address editor@downley.org. Copy deadline is midday on Sunday 26 January 2025 but please get your copy in as early as possible as space is limited.

Meanwhile, I wish all Downley residents (and other readers) a peaceful and happy holiday season and very best wishes for 2025.

Anne, Editor • editor@downley.org

Front Cover Photo: Neil Raulinson

National Trust
Hughenden



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.

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Christmas Events In Downley

For more information, please see individual contributors in the magazine, or contact them direct. Please note that some events are chargeable.

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 30

Christmas Bazaar

Chiltern Wood School 2.00 – 6.00 pm

Christmas Market

Bricklayers Arms 1.00 – 6.00 pm

Christmas Cafe & Grotto

Woodlands Pre-School 2.00 – 4.00 pm

DECEMBER

THURSDAY 12

Downley Descants' Christmas Concert

St James Church 7.00 pm

SATURDAY 14

Kids' Christmas Day

Bricklayers Arms

This, That & The Other

(live music)

Le De Spencers Arms 8 pm

SUNDAY 15

Christmas Market

Littleworth Road, Hillclimb Garage
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

MONDAY 16

Simply Walk Christmas Lunch

Community Centre 11.45 am

THURSDAY 19

Carols on the Common

Jubilee Green start 6.00 pm

Brass Band and Carols

Le De Spencers Arms 7.30 pm

FRIDAY 20

Christmas-themed Quiz

Bricklayers Arms 8.00 pm

SATURDAY 21

Beauty & The Beast Kids Panto

Community Centre 10.30am & 1.30 pm

SUNDAY 22

Carol Service

St James Church 11.00 am

TUESDAY 24

Nativity Service

St James Church 4.00 pm

Christmas-Eve Karaoke

Bricklayers Arms 8.00 pm

Communion Service

St James Church 11.00 pm

WEDNESDAY 25

Family Communion Service

St James Church 11.00 am

Celebration Service

Methodist Church 10.00 am

TUESDAY 31

Lighting of the Beacon

The Common 11.45 pm

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Downley Parish Council



It's taken a long time but the judges' comments from this year's best kept village competition have finally come through and there are a lot of positives within them. Having seen Downley Village News online, the judges commented on the strong evidence of community and activity within the village. They also mentioned that people were clearly proud of their private gardens. They were very positive about the green spaces in the Village such as Jubilee Green, School Close and the Community Centre. The judges liked the wildflowers that were in bloom in Faulkner Way too.

Overall, the village came out really well but there were some issues around litter and weeds which I'm sure won't surprise many.

Buckinghamshire Council have sent out a reminder about children starting school for the first time. If you have a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 you should apply online for a school place from 5th November 2024. To do this visit:

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/
The closing date for online applications is the 15th January 2025.

Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk
Clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org

Downley Parish Notice Boards

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

All notices must be for local non profit organisations.
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
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”

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

Julia

”

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

Patrick

Top Notes

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of Performing Arts



Downley Gardening Society

Summer Review

Our autumn show at the beginning of September was a happy occasion and we were pleasantly surprised by the number of entries after the wet and cold start to the year! It was lovely to see so many people who came to view the displays and stay for the award ceremony. Thank you to everyone who took the time to enter and congratulations to the winners.

We have been on lots of trips this year: Adwell gardens, RHS Wisley, Cambridge Botanical gardens and 2 local gardens.

October saw the Gardening Society back in St James' hall for a brilliant talk by Carole Petipher titled "Monet's Garden in Giverny" Carole talked about the history of Monet and how he came to own Giverny and how the French thought that only things that could be eaten

should be grown. She also told us how all the plants are removed at the end of the season and replanted; what a lot of work!

Dates for your diary:

November meeting in the hall - Monday, 18th November 2024 - Sandy Primrose will talk about "A Tale of Two Poppies"

December meeting in the Church - Monday, 9th December 2024 - Top Notes choir followed by a quiz with John Willson

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

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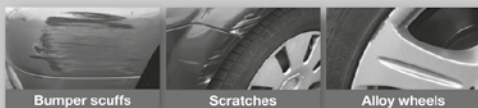
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Downley Community Centre



Events

New - A Pantomime in Downley!



The Centre is delighted to offer the community a pantomime performed by a professional touring theatre company. Two performances are booked for Saturday 21st December for a 75 minute show packed solid with comedy, songs, adventure and audience participation. You'll find the children cheering along to the comedy antics of Dusty & Beauty and booing the mischievous Ferero Rocher. For times and prices please see poster and separate advertisement. Places are limited so first come first served!

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning



The World's Biggest
Coffee Morning for
Macmillan Cancer

Support returned to the Centre in
September.

Many thanks for the large number of tasty cakes baked and donated. Once again 'Downley Wives' worked really hard with



the organisation and their efforts were much appreciated.

Another record breaking sum of £545 was raised which has been topped up to £1000 by a donation from the Centre.

Building Improvements

A new back door near the buggy shelter is being fitted this autumn.

A major project is expected to gain Council planning permission shortly. Part of the Centre's roof will be fitted with solar panels. This project has been ongoing for some time and on completion is expected to contain escalating energy costs.

The Centre will be closed for a few days over the Christmas period to allow for the installation of two new radiators in the toilets and redecoration of the foyer.

Reminders

All Hirers are politely reminded to turn the room heating down or off at least 20 minutes before the end of their sessions as the thick walls are excellent insulators. Energy costs this year have been the highest ever whilst hire costs for now are remaining unchanged.

Car parking spaces are maximised when vehicles park courteously between the white painted squares please. These are being repainted as a reminder. Extra car parking spaces are available at the rear of the building. Hirers are requested to ask their members not to block the side access.

Hirers - the list of regular hirers and groups at Downley Community Centre is in the round-up at the end of this magazine.

*Downley Old School Management Association
(DOSCA) committee*

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Saturday 10 - 12 noon

Library Christmas and New year closure.

We will be closed from Sunday the 22nd Dec.
and will re-open on Monday 6th Jan. 2025

BOOK DONATIONS

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

They should be less than 3 years old and in good condition.

A very happy Christmas and a peaceful
New Year to all our members and visitors.

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DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions

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

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

E: clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org

www.downleyparishcouncil.org

Downley Common News

Late summer seems a long time ago now
but that was when we started raking up



the grass in a couple of the glades in the
north end of the Common, The point of
this is to remove organic matter (ie cut
grass and bracken) from the ground so as
to reduce the amount of nutrients going
back into the soil. Low nutrient levels
favour wildflower species and reduce the
amount of coarse grasses and tall plants
that would otherwise crowd the smaller,
more delicate species. As the raking is
currently a purely manual process, it is
being trialled on a few small areas to start
with. This is likely to be a slow process
so it may be a number of years before we
notice much difference.



The Fireside event took place on 12th
October on Commonsides. The event
began with a warm-up by John Willson
who told the story of "When the
Doodlebug came to Downley" which
culminated in a very convincing bang and
a crash. The main event was performed

by Nikki and JD and Lost Dog Dance
and used a combination of song, dance
and acrobatics to tell a simple story
of monsters very loosely based on the
Beowulf saga. There was a good crowd
and the weather stayed fine.

By the time you read this, bonfire night
will have happened but, as of the time
of writing, we are still halfway through
building. Our annual tree-cutting
programme has continued with a couple
more hawthorns along the edge of the
woods to the south of the bonfire site.
This is all part of establishing more
scrub environments along the edge of
the woods as recommended in our latest
management plan which was formally
launched on Saturday 19th October
and can be seen on our website at
[https://www.downley.org/community/
downley-common-preservation-society/
management-plan-2024](https://www.downley.org/community/downley-common-preservation-society/management-plan-2024).

As autumn fades into winter, and at the
risk of being premature, we would like to
wish all our readers a merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.

Bill Thompson.

Downley Common Preservation Society.

Downley Community Centre are proud to host...



Saturday 21st December - 10.30am & 1.30pm
75 minute performance (no interval)
Suitable for 3-12 year olds

Children £7.50 Accompanying Adults £5

For ticket enquiries please email events@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk



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

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Healthcare News from the Pharmacy

We have had a few months of changes recently with more expected in coming months. Firstly we said good bye to Sonja at the end of August. Sonja stepped in temporarily six years ago but has now retired, although is working through her "to do" list. A big thank you to all who sent contributions for her retirement pot which was split between the Air Ambulance and Stokenchurch Dog Rescue according to her wishes. She was touched (and surprised) by the many good wishes received. Her position as delivery person is now being shared by Bindi and Phil who have settled well into the system and are starting to get to know folks on the round as they re-visit them.

Louise has returned to us from Canada although has not yet decided for how long as, other commitments permitting, she wants to return having had such a great time whilst away. Silunya, our student, will be coming to the end of her placement in December at which point we will need to decide if a permanent role can be sorted for her. We will also be using some different relief pharmacists as some of our current pool have moved on to other things.

Community pharmacy as a whole is continuing to struggle with funding from the NHS, drug availability and costs. Reimbursement by NHS does not always match the price we have to pay. Currently there is no proper funding agreement for service fees and the like in place as our five year contract has come to an end. The new one has hardly been discussed let alone an agreement reached.

Extra services for which we are paid a

service charge are vital to our business income. One such service is Pharmacy First where patients can either come to us directly or be referred to us by GPs and 111. Currently the seven conditions are acute sore throat, sinusitis, earache (for under 17s), simple UTI females 16-64, impetigo, shingles, and infected insect bites. Where treatment is inappropriate, advice is given with or without the sale of over the counter remedies, or the patient can be escalated for urgent care by GP or out of hours services.

Here is recent feedback received after one such consultation.

"I had been suffering from a painful and annoying rash around my waistline for a couple of days, and suddenly suspected that it could be a case of shingles which I knew needed prompt treatment. What do I do? I considered the options - a lengthy phone call to the GP to get an appointment (hopefully that same day) or a call to 111, and again wait for a recommendation of where to get treatment. The best option I decided was the short trip to Downley Pharmacy where I regularly collect my repeat medication. Within 20 minutes I had been given a positive diagnosis by Fiona, a prescription written, supplied and was on my way home with a week's supply of antiviral tablets. As an 82 year old I was very thankful that they worked well, stopped the virus from spreading more widely and helped speed up the recovery from discomfort and pain which I knew could persist for a long time if not treated correctly"

Praise indeed for prompt and effective help when needed, also freeing up GP time for more complex appointment

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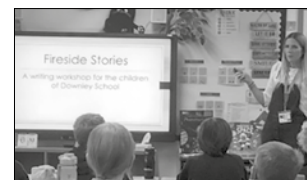


The Downley School

“Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together”



It's been a great first half term for this academic year. Our new teachers and reception children have settled in well and our school is going from strength to strength. Any visitors comment on how lovely the school is, how friendly staff are and how well behaved the children are.



One visitor we have had this half term was author Ruth Quayle for workshops

in creative writing. In the short time we had, a couple of our passionate writers came up with some inspiring poetry...

The school council also hand-delivered our One Can Trust



collections and learnt about what a big team of people it takes to support our community. We had a lot of great questions for the team and have left with a much better understanding of the importance of our school collections.

Christmas with best wishes for the New Year. Please allow good time for your GP and ourselves to process your medication requests in the lead up to the festive break. We will be open usual hours on all days except Sundays, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

Fiona and all the team

Open Days

for September 2025 Reception Intake

Open Days will be held on the following dates
from 0900-1030 hours:

Wednesday 6th November 2024

Tuesday 26th November 2024

Thursday 12th December 2024

Please call the School Office on
01494 527033 or email office@thedownleyschool.co.uk if you would like to attend.

This year we are focusing on improving outcomes in writing. We also maintain our drive on mental arithmetic and this year are part of the maths hub – mastering number project.

We value outdoor learning at TDS – all children have been enjoying autumn in a forest school classroom and we have started making changes to our lunchtime play.

Our school choir have a few exciting events lined up which we look forward to documenting in the next edition.



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Methodist Church

It was so good to see so many people at our 200th anniversary service in July, which included relatives of those who have memorial stones on the chapel walls, past ministers and villagers. Thoughts are now turning towards our last event in our anniversary year. On Saturday 23rd November we invite you to join us for a coffee concert between 10-12noon. This informal concert with an Autumnal theme will be performed by myself and local friends and will also include a chance for those present to join a singalong. Why not enjoy a hot drink whilst listening to music in the chapel.

Simply Walk

We are now regularly running three grades of walk. Level 1 on Thursdays at 11.00 am for 50 minutes around the village. avoiding the steep slopes and the rough terrain of the longer walks; Level 2 also on Thursdays at 11.00 am for one hour which includes some slopes and rough paths but no stiles; Level 3 on Mondays at 10.00 am which is 90 minutes and also includes slopes and paths and goes a bit further into the local countryside. All meet at the Community Centre and finish there for a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits! Plenty of room for everyone, so come and join us; just turn up 10 minutes before the start of the walk and speak to a leader in a yellow jacket.

We had a very successful Summer Lunch at the Le De Spencers Arms on Downley Common. it is an annual event and 25 of us walked and sat in the sunshine having a pre-ordered lunch and lots of chat accompanied by a few drinks. We were joined by a few past regular walkers and

The music will last about an hour, but you can come and go as you wish. Both refreshments and music are free but we welcome donations towards the valuable work that goes on at 'Growing Hope', a charity providing therapies for children that operates out of St James' church in Downley. We look forward to seeing you. On Saturday 7th December we will be carol singing in the Eden Centre. Join us outside Sketchers/Black Sheep Coffee between 1 and 4 pm and help us to raise money for Action for Children.

Our Christmas Day celebration service will be at 10.00 am. All are welcome!



very nice it was to see them! And thinking of festivities, Christmas is around the corner and we are just beginning to plan our annual Christmas Event. On Monday 16th December at 11.45 (after the Monday walk) we will be having a simple buffet lunch with wine and soft drinks, Christmassy music from a local music group and the opportunity to wish each other a very merry Christmas. It's still in the planning stage, so further details can be found on the notice boards nearer the time. So if you are a current walker or a past walker or just thinking about joining us, look out for the tickets which will be on sale early November.

In the mean time, we will be out walking in this variable autumn weather, kicking the leaves as we walk through the woods.....at least that's what we hope to be doing!

Jeanne Steward

Chiltern Wood School Chat

We have had a busy start to the school year and have had lots of visitors to our Downley site. In September we also opened a third site, which is currently a temporary measure to support the request for additional places for special schools. We have worked closely with the Local Authority to make the new site at the former Mary Towerton School in Studley Green suitable for our pupils. We currently have two classes there with the plan to increase to four classes over time.



Coral Department have been looking at 'people who help us' and the visitors to our site have included the police and fire brigade.

We all got to come and have a look at the fire truck and use the hose.

We finished the last day of the half term in October with a Pumpkin Competition. Each class entered a pumpkin and Una-Lynne (Deputy Head) judged them. She said it was incredibly difficult to decide, but eventually she selected Ruby Class pumpkin as the winner.



We are becoming regular visitors to Tesco with several classes heading there each week to buy items to use in recipes that they cook back in school. A huge thank you to all the staff who have been so supportive and helpful. We are also building a lovely link with The Heights; we will update you with more next issue.



Finally, we would like to invite the local community to our Christmas Bazaar which will be held on Saturday 30th November from 2 pm to 6pm.

*Rachel Chapman
Headteacher*

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Downley Evening Women's Institute

It's definitely feeling like autumn now and we're heading into Christmas so plans are being made for our various Christmas activities.

Before that though we've had some really good speakers at our monthly meetings, with Simon Cains telling us about the local North Family furniture, and Anna Conti about her life making stained glass items including windows for the great and the good. She also brought along some of her smaller items for us to admire and maybe purchase. Some of our members were so keen they are thinking of attending one of her workshops.

Our October meeting gave us some very useful information regarding preparing your car for winter, courtesy of Hillclimb Garage, and also Paul Turner provided an insight into the history and current use of Wycombe's Almshouses.

In between our monthly meetings we've also met for lunch and shopping at Haddenham Garden

Centre, as well as a walk around High Wycombe following the Heritage Trail leaflet.

The November meeting will be our AGM when a new committee will be formed to take us through the coming year. Our annual Christmas craft stall will also be at this meeting and in December we have our usual mulled wine and mince pies evening in aid of charity.

We meet every second Tuesday at 7.45pm at St James Church and are always happy to welcome new members, but if you would like to find out more about us first then do contact dewipresident@gmail.com.



Heather Read

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DOWNLEY BRIDGE CLUB

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

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

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Downley Descants



COME AND JOIN US (Downley Descants that is)

Here we are in Autumn 2024 when (given dark nights, wet weather and worrying world news) we might be feeling a little low.

In the words of one of our songs
'You raise me up'
*If you want to stand on mountains,
 To walk on stormy seas,
 You will be strong upon our shoulders,
 We'll raise you up to more than you can be.*

to your great local Downley and wider community.
 Just visit: <http://downleydescants.org.uk> and come along for a taster session.

However, it is the best time to think and act positively and healthily.

What better time to join an inspirational local choir? Not just any ordinary choir, (drum roll ...) but Downley Descants. A mixed male/female four voice part, inspirational community choir.

So while we get our Covid, Flu and RSV jabs, why not help your hearts, lungs and minds? Science proves beyond all reasonable doubt that singing, particularly with others, is physically and mentally beneficial.


Why? Well because it is: emotional, powerful, uplifting, shared, fun, evocative, friendly, supportive, bonding, surprising, beguiling, intriguing, sometimes tear jerking, empathetic, but always smile raising and fund raising for deserving local charitable causes. Oh yes! And you get to sing a fabulous all-inclusive repertoire of great songs from, for example: Les Miserables to the Muppets, Coldplay to Christina Perrie, Fields of Gold to the Holly and the Ivy.

So! Come on ladies and gentlemen. You don't need to read music but you will get unparalleled tuition and encouragement from our fantastic musical team and the chance to benefit from and give back

You will be made most welcome.

We have two upcoming performances. The first will be singing with residents of the **Heights Care Home on Monday 18th November** and then our wonderful festive and fun **Christmas Concert on Thursday 12th December at St James Church from 7 pm**. We look forward to seeing and singing for you.

Jonathan (Tenor)



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J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

Winter 2024

Wal, wot a funny ole year its bin eh? Arfter last year's heat wave, wal what a difference, rain and cold and dark, I'd forgotten wot sunshine looked like eh! Wal, wot about yor tommy toes? Mine woz orlright after my talkin to em, (I mentioned that in my larst JH). They then reddend up, in the greenhouse, but mates of mine reckons that theirs never did, at orl, but mine woz a bit warmer in the greenhouse. Victorian gardeners called greenhouses 'glass houses', wot do you call em? Anyway some good news, I had an awesum crop of Pumkins and Turks Turbans, and Black Beauty courgettes.



So how woz yor spuds? If you've not got the space try my black bag method, (see previous J.H.). Plant em in compost in black bags and if you gets yor timing right you'll get a crop at Christmas. Anyway mine woz excellent, the rain helped, 'Rattes' especially, little salad spuds, nothing like saying to yor luvved one "I've got sum luvly rattes for you" ha ha, hmmm, "Not funny" ses Mrs H, she's not one for that sort of joke!

Then wot about my bio-diversity re wildin narrer beds up the plot? Wal wot with orl that rain they've really gorn wild, teasels taller than me and them luvly mulleins too, but none of them catterpillers munchin em up, where have they gone, too wet and cold I reckons.

Christmas soon...Wot! By the time you gets these wise words it'll be nearly there.

"Wise words, wot!" ses Mrs H, "The only time he ses anything wise is when he offers to do the washing up". Wal wot to do in the gardin and up the plot? Get yor spring bulbs in, as you knows I likes them little daffy dills, 'Tete a Tete' you knows the ones, 'Head to Head', my French cousin tells me that's wot it means, wal that's about the only useful information he comes up with. Anyway buy a few packets and scatter them about, natural like, plant em an inch or so deep, they'll be luvly if the squirrels don't get em. Then how about sum of them luvly black tulips, plant close together in a big pot, in rich compost, Mrs H luvvs them, perhaps that'll get her in a better mood eh? Then a bit of tidying in the garden and plot, not too much, leave sum old leaves and stuff to shelter the plants and give them birds summat to do lookin for slugs and snails. And of corse I've had that luvly stove a'goin, nothing like it to philosophise in front of it, planning next years plantin, "Getting in the way as usual" ses Mrs H, "up the plot he's out of my way, roll on summer and I can have the house back". Wal' she does go on...

Then in France my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke will be force feedin his geese to get goose liver pate, his Christmas speciality. Wot does the French RSPB think of that eh?

I reckons I've filled up my DVN space so I'll wish you orl a great Christmas, and don't forget the Garden Club Christmas Quiz on December 9th for a bit of Christmas spirit, so...

Cheerio and a'bientot, see you in 2025. Wot, next year orl ready, makes you think eh!

J. H. Sent from my iSpade

Hillclimb Garage News

Four Time UK Garage of the Year Winners

Christmas is coming and Talking Automotive with Downley WI



Hillclimb Crowned UK Garage of the Year for 4th year running

Having gone through a rigorous entry and audit process earlier in the year and making it through to the finals of the



prestigious British Independent Garage of the Year Awards 2024 at the Birmingham Hilton in September, we were beyond thrilled to have won UK Large Independent Garage of the Year! These prestigious awards included many of the best garages across the UK and were judged by experts from the industry.

We are so proud of our amazing team, which has now won SIX awards, including UK Garage of the Year, four years running, Customer Service and Community Engagement winners.

Thank you to our lovely customers for your continued support and encouragement and, of course, to our incredible team for your tremendous commitment and the fantastic work you continue to provide, which has made these achievements possible.

Littleworth Road Christmas Market Sunday 15th December

It's back and it's bigger than ever! We are delighted to once again host the popular



Littleworth Road Christmas Market, which is being held on Sunday 15th December.

A fabulous array of Christmas Gifts, Arts,

Crafts and Goodies available, together with some yummy food and treats stalls. Santa has also promised that he will find time in his busy schedule to drop by with his Elves!

The Market will open 10:00am until 4:00pm and will be raising funds for the Wycombe Food Hub Charity, so do please come along and support this lovely community event, where there is sure to be something for everyone. See you there!

Hillclimb talks Automotive with WI

We were delighted to attend a recent evening meeting of Downley Women's Institute (WI). Our main topic of conversation was to provide advice on how to prepare your vehicle ahead of the winter months, including checking our tyres, wipers, screen wash, lights and coolant levels. We also talked about how Hillclimb can offer a full Winter Health Check, which includes a detailed video report on the health of your 12V battery.

Emma, from our customer service team and a director of Hillclimb, spoke about how women are now taking on more management and technical roles in the automotive industry and how we are encouraging more young females to look at the sector as a career choice.

Tom, our workshop manager and electric vehicle master technician, had an excellent discussion with the members around how electric vehicles need to be better promoted to women by the manufacturers and some of the benefits available with ownership of an electric or hybrid vehicle.

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.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Sunday 10th November at 3pm

Downley War Memorial Hall
High Street, Downley

ALL WELCOME

We will be collecting for The Poppy Appeal

Downley Wine and Beer Club



The club now has 50 members and meetings regularly attract 35+ which results in a convivial atmosphere, if sometimes we find ourselves a little cramped in the Beech Room at the community centre.

Our meetings in May and June before the summer recess featured country themed tastings of drinks from Cyprus

and from Mexico. The “Viva Mexico” evening was particularly memorable with many members entering into the spirit of the evening by wearing Mexican themed attire as shown on the photograph. We sampled Mexican beer and wine and learnt the difference between tequila and mescal whilst sampling Mexican food.

The annual summer barbeque at the

beginning of July was well attended and the weather was kind to us if a little chilly once the sun had set. Our summer recess also included a social evening at the Le De Spencers Arms. As usual Mark and Sarah and their staff did an excellent job of providing us with pub grub and a selection of beers and wines. Members also participated in the Downley Gardening Society’s annual show with plenty of entries in the homemade wine and beer classes.

The autumn programme commenced in September with a tasting of wines from Laithwaites and Majestic, that was very popular and well attended, and continued in October with a tasting of Portuguese wines that included crisp Vinho Verde from the North and fruity reds from the Lisbon region.

We have continued in our endeavours to

support local pubs with social evenings that included a return mini pub crawl to the three pubs in West Wycombe, and separate visits to the Dashwood Roadhouse and Bricklayers Arms.

The year will conclude with our AGM in November with a tasting of beverages produced by our neighbours in Berkshire and the Christmas Party which is being held again at High Wycombe Cricket Club.

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

Richard Armitage - DWBC Secretary



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Downley Churches Together wish you a very **Merry Christmas**

Come and join us this Christmas for **Carols on the Common**

Thursday 19 December 6.30pm
meet 6pm at Jubilee Green (opposite Co-Op)
going via School Close to the Common to sing at 6.30
Followed by mulled wine, mince pies etc at the Memorial Hall

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News from St James Church



Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about." Philippians 4:8

My Ukrainian friend Mira, who is 8, came round with her grandmother the other day. On her way she had collected some autumn leaves which she gave me, a bright bunch of different shades. I said how lovely the colours of Autumn are; she said "I love all the seasons" and we then talked about the beautiful aspects of all the different seasons.

I was reflecting on this afterwards and the ability that children have to see the good in every situation and to focus on the positives of the moment. Mira has been through some very difficult experiences in her young life and has not seen her father for two and a half years, but she has settled into life here really well, her English is now excellent and she enjoys school and engages in all that she does each day with joy.

Instead of focusing on the positive things around us, we worry about the cold and our heating bills. Of course, as adults, we are aware of the difficulties that some people are experiencing including whether to switch on their heating or feed their families. More widely, we are worried by those caught up in the trauma of conflict and war in the Ukraine and the Middle East. However, it is all too easy for those concerns to swamp our minds, so we lose the ability to gaze in wonder at the beauty of Autumn or to enjoy simple pleasures like a cup of tea and chat with a good friend.

As we move towards winter with its long dark nights it can make us feel low.

Developing an 'attitude of gratitude', consciously thinking each day about the things we can be thankful for, can really help to lift our mood and shift our focus.

At St James we have many different events and activities happening in the months ahead:



We have a quiz night on Friday 15th November, you can buy tickets at www.growinghope.org.uk/events



On Sunday 17th November at 3pm we have our annual service to remember those who we have lost in recent years. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Then as Christmas approaches we have Carols on the Common on Thursday 19th December, meeting at 6pm on Jubilee Green and finishing on the common with mulled wine and mince pies in the Memorial Hall. Our Carol service is 11am on Sunday 22nd December and we have a nativity service at 4pm on Christmas Eve, and a Communion service at 11pm, as well as a Family Communion at 11am on Christmas Day.



In the meantime we have our coffee pop-in every Thursday morning from 10.30-12.30 which is always a relaxing time for a chat and catch up with others from the Downley community. Do come along, we'd love to see you.

Heather Graham, Vicar of St James



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Downley Cricket Club

Thanks to huge support from our cricketers and friends, and especially High Wycombe CC who fielded a coaches' team and a Ladies' team, our Annual President's Day on the Sunday of the August Bank Holiday was a great success, with plenty of fun and laughter, a kids' bouncy castle, a bar and BBQ that did a roaring trade, interspersed with some good cricket. The weather too was good until the final with Charlie's Fine Legs beating Awais' Leg Side Legends quite comfortably in the encroaching gloom. Overall a fun day out for all the family and many thought it was the most enjoyable such event they could remember. A huge credit goes to the organisers for putting the event together.

Our association with HWCC has been a success this season, with them using Downley's pitch and facilities. During the week this has enabled some of their many junior teams to play matches and on the alternate Saturdays their adult social team to play occasional games. There has also been HWCC ladies using the ground for practice. All of this is great to see. HWCC had kindly extended a welcome to us to use their excellent net practice facilities – and refreshments at the bar - on the London Road, which many of us accepted, to sharpen up before the weekend's matches. With the League structure having been changed, Downley found ourselves in the very tough First Division of the league, with every match a challenging assignment. Through articles in DVN and word-of-mouth, we had several enthusiastic – and personable - players joining Downley, some returning to cricket after a few years' break. Despite this, we competed well, notching up some outstanding victories. Returning former-young-gun-

now-father Aaron made 62 against Lacey Green before a "mankad" dismissal by the opposing skipper, which wasn't popular. In the same game Rajat 'Virat Kohli' Khator made a classy 63 and James 'Melton' Beavis captured 5 wickets for only 30 runs. Graham 'Boycs' Swales took 3 catches to secure Downley's win, and finished the season with a magnificent haul of 30 wickets with his mesmerising flight and guile, on one occasion taking 6 wickets for 27 runs and two catches.

In the last league game against a determined Whitchurch attack, run-machine Pete 'Ledge' Stone put on 96 for the first wicket with Ben 'Medals' Alsop who accelerated on to record his first century (a quite magnificent 110 off 84 balls, smashing 18 fours and 4 sixes), almost taking us to victory in deteriorating light.

But there were also many losses; but keen to improve skills, several Downley players have taken up specialist coaching arranged through a HWCC contact.

Cricket on the Common would not be possible without the consistent hard-work of Den Cox maintaining the outfield and the enthusiastic groundsmen maintaining the wicket. Also our support team of Mandy Aitken scoring (often patiently guiding young opposition scorers), and John Hughes umpiring, week-after-week throughout the season, generously giving up countless Summer Saturday afternoons.

Downley also said a fond farewell to the outstanding and ever-popular Martin Birkett, batting superstar, cheerful club servant, and painstaking groundsmen, who with his wife Sarah has moved back to the North. They will be sorely missed, and we wish them the very best for the future.





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

Contact Sam: downleymondayminis@gmail.com



Top Notes

“There’s magic in the air this evening...”

Preparations are well under way for our *Charity Christmas Concert* this December and we already can’t wait! This season we are raising funds for the **Chiltern Music Academy** and specifically the **Trevor Steventon Memorial Fund** which helps disadvantaged children & young people to continue to learn their instruments. We hope you can join us at **St Andrew’s Church** on Monday 2nd December at 7:15pm - tickets are now available via Eventbrite website - search for *Top Notes Choir*.

We will once again be joined by the wonderful **High Wycombe Salvation**

Army Brass Band with carols for all to join in with and, of course, mulled wine and mince pies in the interval!

In case you can’t make it but would still like to see us perform, we will be performing in *John Lewis, High Wycombe* on Sunday 1st December from 3:00pm - 4:00pm as well as entertaining the residents at *The Heights* as usual and a couple of other private parties.

Please don’t hesitate to get in touch via our social media channels or email topnotestunes@gmail.com - we’d be happy to hear from you and we hope to see you soon!

we are **cycling** UK **Riding with Chiltern Cycling**

Join your local Cycling UK group this winter

Chiltern Cycling is the new name for the Chiltern Hills Cycling UK group. We continue to offer both led rides and coffee pots every Sunday with the focus on welcoming new members.

There are a variety of different length rides along with coffee stops all taking place on quiet routes in the countryside that surrounds our local area. Winter means we enjoy shorter rides with coffee stops offering warm inside space with most 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, and Costa or Matilda’s in Great Missenden regularly feature 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 Hall on the 3rd Thursday 8pm -10pm except July and August.

Hope you can join us!

For more Information:

Web: www.southbuckscycling.org.uk

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For general information about Cycling

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u3a High Wycombe & District u3a

Our membership year starts in September and we have many visits planned and a full programme of guest speakers for the monthly meetings. Already our June 2025 summer holiday to North Wales is nearly fully subscribed.

We have a new Hand Bells group which has started practising for the entertainment at our Christmas Coffee Morning on December 11th at Naphill Village Hall. We expect to have our usual contribution from the Ukulele group as well (but not at the same time!).



Our Publicity Team attended the Bucks Older People's Action Group (BOPAG) *Golden Years Activities and Information Day* at the Wycombe Library in late September where those with time to

Our visit to the RAF Cosford Museum in September brought back memories for many of our ex-military members. Appropriately, this was followed by our October 23rd speaker explaining *High Wycombe's Contribution to the Aviation Industry*. Do come along to Lacey Green Village Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm if you are interested. You will be very welcome.

Visits planned so far for November include a return to Oxford Brookes University, this time to see the cookery book collection, and especially the work of Jane Grigson (1928 – 1990). In addition, the Discovering Art group will be travelling by coach to the newly re-opened National Portrait Gallery in London.

There are many more Groups (25+ from Art to Walks), which meet monthly in and around our area. You can join as many groups as you wish. See what's available on our website, and what we have been up to on our Facebook page. Most of all we want everyone to have a good time.

spare learned about what is available to fill it. Our members also took advantage of the popular Silver Series of free events generously provided by the Eden Centre which included a **screening** at the cinema of *The Critic*, a **stretch lesson**, and a **sip** of coffee and cake at Muffin Break on 3 Mondays in October.

If you are looking for opportunities to socialise and maybe learn something new, do come and join us. Provided you are not in full-time employment, people of any age are eligible. A trial visit is free.

Judith (Secretary), 01494 562236
Or contact Paul (Groups Co-ordinator):
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Downley Community Orchard

The Downley Community Orchard is situated in Mannings Field adjacent to the allotments and was established as a millennium project when a number of Downley families each sponsored a fruit tree. The trees are mainly heritage varieties of eating apples as well as a couple of pear trees and a medlar.

As time progressed the initial enthusiasm for the orchard diminished; the original sponsoring families moved on and the trees became unmanaged, diseased and damaged by animals and carelessness.

However, over the last couple of seasons a small group of volunteers has been gradually improving the orchard by staking, pruning, mulching and protecting the trees from insect and animal attack by installing grease bands and trunk protection.

The initial impetus to renovate the orchard came from financial and practical support from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust that has been encouraging the development of community orchards in the region. This included arranging for members of our group to attend a day learning the correct time and methods for pruning trees to keep them in good condition, of manageable size and to encourage fruiting. More recently we have also received a grant from the Downley Day Committee that enabled us to purchase tools, grease bands, and mulch.

We also began to monitor the performance of the trees so each tree was tagged with a number and we've been noting the amount of blossom on

each and the fruit produced. To our consternation, someone took a fancy to these numbered tags and they vanished in September. We would very much appreciate the return of these number tags if anyone knows of their whereabouts! Last year's crop was minimal but this year we saw a significant improvement and three or four trees responded to the care given (maybe it was just luck!). We collected over 50 kg of apples (*photo*) and sent these for juicing and pasteurising. If you come along to the Littleworth Road



Christmas Fair on Sunday 15th December we hope to be selling festively decorated bottles of our 'Downley Delight' apple juice. They would make great Christmas presents and any profits will be used to fund next year's maintenance programme.

We hold regular work parties depending on what is required at the orchard. Our next tasks

involve weeding and mulching around the trees and, early next year, carrying out winter pruning to ensure the trees remain in good shape. Despite our care programme, some of the trees could be past saving and we will consider replacing these if funds are available. We're a friendly bunch of people so if you would like to help us care for the orchard send your details to Andrew Flint on 07788 135351. We'll let you know when we're holding work parties and provide training for the tasks involved.

We want everyone to see the orchard as a community asset and a tranquil place to sit and enjoy this particular corner of Downley whilst munching a fresh apple!



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CHAMELEON SINGLES GROUP

Our autumn outdoor events managed in large to dodge the wet weather. In September we enjoyed an afternoon out at the Thames Valley Police Open Day in Sulhampstead near Reading. There was lots to see and do with plenty of stalls and some well organised displays from all the emergency services. A police dog display showed just how valuable these can be in apprehending criminals in a variety of different situations, including vehicles.

Our recent day trip to Cheltenham was again met by one of those dry days. This trip was by heritage train run by Hastings Diesels which we joined at Reading. The town has lots to see including gardens, the local church and of course the famous Ladies College. Having looked around we then enjoyed lunch in a local café, a welcome refreshment break to watch the world go by. The journey itself allowed us to see some great local countryside as we travelled though Berkshire and Oxfordshire onto Swindon, Kemble and Gloucester before arriving at our destination.

We made another visit to the Rebellion Brewery in early September where there was a chance try out some of the latest beers. Rebellion now has a development brewery making small batches with beers that are both varied and sometimes international in flavour. Some of these will perhaps become regulars on the monthly roster.

Our walks and Quiz Nights continue on a regular basis along with some of the popular events such as Take-away evenings, Pub meals and the occasional trip to the Cinema and Theatre. With Christmas now not far away we are planning this year's December events. A night out with a meal and entertainment once again looks popular with several members already interested and booked in.

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.

YOUR COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!

The Downley Community Library will have been in operation for twenty years in 2025 with some of the committee members being involved from the start. **We are now looking for new library committee members who have an interest in books and in helping the library to carry on into the future.**

If you are interested in supporting this valuable community resource, we would love to hear from you. Please pop in to the library and speak to us or email enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk to learn more about how you can get involved.

We aim to encourage children to gain a love of books and enjoy reading. Our intent is to have a large and varied choice of material for readers of all ages.

DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

How Downley incurred the wrath of Lady Dashwood

The pheasants are out so I have stopped doing my favourite walk over to Cookshill Farm. My dog hunts 'with intent' (crucial words) and I'm nervous about meeting the gamekeeper.



The Gamekeepers attacking the Poachers', George Cruickshank. (Wikimedia Commons)

Folks did not have such scruples 150 years ago, when no love was lost between Lady Dashwood's gamekeepers and the locals. This enmity was widespread and included anyone living on or adjacent to West Wycombe Estate land, as well as

the chairmakers of Wycombe. The Game Laws lay behind it: anyone apprehended poaching, or trespassing 'with intent' to poach, was prosecuted, and the Dashwood gamekeepers were assiduous when it came to detecting poachers.

However, they were often thwarted in their prosecutions: people provided alibis and 'witnesses' denied seeing anything. The reason for this was probably twofold. Firstly, guilty verdicts incurred harsh punishments and no one wanted family or friends to suffer. In 1864, for example, a destitute Eliza Collins of Downley, aged 24 and with three children, applied for 'out-relief' because she had no means to feed her children: her husband Samuel was in gaol for two months for poaching. Secondly, Lady Dashwood's gamekeepers do rather come across in the press as mean, vindictive bullies, and capable of

being economical with the truth. (The 'mean' bit requires justifying. Two women who cut down a dead beech tree on West Wycombe Estate land were caught by a gamekeeper, found guilty and fined. It's not poaching, just an example of bloody mindedness, since picking up dead wood was a common right.)

The enmity between the locals and Lady Dashwood's gamekeepers reached a fever pitch just short of open warfare in 1874-77. Note, please, that with two, possibly three, exceptions – Samuel Collins, Amos Hawes & Benjamin Goodchild – Downley men were law-abiding and honest and not involved in any of this (unless they were just very good at poaching). In further defence of Downley, Samuel Collins was probably just trying to get a rabbit for the family pot to supplement his meagre income, Benjamin Goodchild was probably just walking his dog, and young Amos, aged about 10, was led astray by Naphill men. He was convicted of poaching in October 1874 along with John West, Jesse Bristow and Joseph Putman of Naphill, but received only a £1 fine, compared to the £5 fines of Bristow and Putnam, and the £2 fine of West. £5 was a massive fine and would have caused considerable bitterness.

One month later, in November 1874, the tension escalated. Two of Lady Dashwood's keepers – James and William Batson, father and son - appeared at the County Sessions held in Wycombe Town Hall to bear witness against an alleged poacher caught on the Common (which one is not specified, but Downley seems likely). The accused proved

he was elsewhere, and the case was dismissed with the Batsons accused of 'falsely, wickedly, wilfully, and corruptly [committing] wilful and corrupt perjury'. On leaving the Town Hall, William alleged his father was kicked to the ground by three chairmakers while he himself was assaulted by Avery, a hairdresser on White Hart Street, and two others, watched by a jeering crowd of three hundred.

The Batsons decided to prosecute their alleged assailants, using two policemen as their main witnesses. The latter claimed that Avery, Franklin, Westrup and Parker had hit the Batsons, drawing blood. However, the policemen's actions rather belied their words. They had arrived late (said everyone else), they had asked a third Dashwood gamekeeper present to confiscate Williams Batson's stick, implying that Batson had initiated the violence, and they had then gaoled Batson (for his own protection, they later claimed: "He was not loved; he was rather hated"). Meanwhile, the four accused all had solid alibis, and almost every other witness said William had provoked the crowd by waving his stick around, shouting that he'd 'hit the first **** chairman who came near over the **** head', and the policemen were lying about who had assaulted who. The case caused such rancour in Wycombe – the vicar was hissed in court, Lady Dashwood was effectively accused of defending the indefensible – that it was moved to Aylesbury.

Tensions then reached a crescendo in January 1875, when Avery, Westrup and Parker accused the Batsons and the two policemen of perjury. Wycombe chairmakers attended the trial 'in full force', alternately applauding and jeering

witnesses. The court dismissed the case against the policemen (unwisely, said a later judge) but decided to commit the Batsons for trial by jury on grounds of perjury. Incidentally, the Batsons returned from Aylesbury on the same train as Avery, Westrup and Parker: the latter, reported the press, 'were met by hundreds of their fellow-townsmen and a band of music at the station, while the unlucky gamekeepers, who prudently left the train at West Wycombe, narrowly escaped mobbing.'

The next eruption of ill will occurred in November 1876, when Lady Dashwood's (newest?) gamekeeper, James Abbott, accused five men - Thomas West, chairmaker of Naphill, John West, James [Jesse?] Bristow, John Putnam, and Robert Johnson - of assaulting him. Perhaps they did – at least three of these men had past poaching convictions, and why invent such a thing? – but the case was dismissed because of a lack of witnesses. No doubt all the defendants had wonderful alibis.

James Abbott engineered his revenge. In April 1877, he accused Thomas West of Naphill and Benjamin Goodchild of Downley of 'using a dog to take game' in Downley Field. It was an odd accusation. Benjamin was a respectable middle-aged chairmaker, neighbour to Henry Collins, the richest man in Downley, and might just have been accidentally trespassing while walking his dog, while Thomas was twenty years his junior and might well have not been present at all. At the trial, both Thomas and Benjamin did their best to sway the magistrates: they were 'respectably dressed' and Ann West, widowed mother of Thomas, swore her son was at home and in bed. Nevertheless, both were found guilty and

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each was fined 10s., plus 12s. 6d. costs. Thomas's lawyer promptly sued Abbott for malicious perjury, a case that was heard two weeks later and dismissed.

Abbott had won – but at what cost? The consequent waves of enmity must have affected his morale because a month later an advertisement appeared in the Field: – 'Gamekeeper of Downley seeks new position'. He was clearly on a very short fuse. In October he was found guilty of assaulting Thomas Mullett, chairmaker of West Wycombe, and fined £2 and 17s. 6d. costs.

It is entirely possible therefore that in two years, Lady Dashwood lost three gamekeepers at the hands of the locals, and her usual goodwill and generosity evaporated. Downley folk (Samuel & Amos excepted) were not to blame in all this – it was the men of Naphill and Wycombe doing the poaching - but Downley felt the impact of her wrath. In early 1878, locals petitioned Lady Dashwood to repair the path between Naphill and Downley, and she refused. They could pay for it themselves. They couldn't afford it, which is why there is no road between Downley and Naphill today.

News from Buckinghamshire Council



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

Buckinghamshire Council responds to Government consultation on planning proposals

Buckinghamshire Council has submitted its formal response to the Government's consultation on proposals to make changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), amidst significant concerns about the potential and far-reaching implications for the county should the proposals go ahead.

The main areas the council has raised concerns over are:

- The proposed changes to the way in which local housing need is to be calculated, which would lead to a 42% increase in the figure for Buckinghamshire

- The proposed changes to Green Belt policy, particularly a new definition of 'grey belt' land which has the potential to lead to large-scale sporadic developments across a wide area of the Buckinghamshire Green Belt



- The proposed changes to the requirements relating to maintaining a five year supply of housing land which are likely to lead to more speculative planning applications being granted permission, and
- The lack of a strategic approach to funding and providing essential local

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infrastructure when existing facilities are already overwhelmed

These proposed changes reintroduce mandatory housing targets and could lead to a total of 100,000 new homes in Buckinghamshire, yet there is no mention of infrastructure and community facilities to support this massive number of new homes and new residents. The new concept of a 'grey belt' - a political construct - would force the release of precious green belt land for development to any developer who purchases a pocket of land.

Buckinghamshire is not anti-housebuilding in Buckinghamshire; we are very much aware of the need particularly for more affordable homes, but this must happen in the right way. The Council has called on the government to truly consider its response when taking these proposals forward.

Could you get pension credit?

Following the government's decision to withdraw the winter fuel payment from most pensioners, Buckinghamshire Council is advising residents of pensionable age and their friends and families that it's vital they find out which government benefits they can claim to help them meet their living and fuel costs. The winter fuel payment is now limited to people over state pension age (currently 66) who are receiving pension credit or a limited number of other benefits. A significant concern is that a number of eligible pensioners are not currently claiming pension credit, so will miss out on a winter fuel payment when they are

eligible and in genuine need. Please do check if you or someone you know is eligible – it is critical that those eligible for these payments receive them. If you or your loved ones aren't eligible for pension credit, remember you can contact our Helping Hand team to discuss other potential support."

Council secures long-term future of major retailer in High Wycombe town centre

Buckinghamshire Council has reconfirmed its commitment to revitalising High Wycombe town centre by ensuring one of its biggest retailers is able to retain its presence in the town. The Council has agreed a renegotiated lease with Tesco, which will see Tesco downsizing into the ground floor of the building.

Tesco will carry out a full refit of the ground floor store, reorientating it towards a new glazed frontage to Denmark Street. Tesco have agreed a temporary relocation, creating an Express store within the Eden Centre while the improvement works to the existing store are carried out.

The upper floors in the building will be repurposed as a new site for the Buckinghamshire Archives which hold a variety of unique and significant records, historic maps and photographs spanning 800 years of Buckinghamshire history.

Paul Turner
Buckinghamshire Councillor for Downley
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From Westminster

Emma Reynolds - MP for Wycombe



It has been a busy first few months as your new MP. I have met with key local decision-makers, businesses and other pillars of the community. My first meeting was with the Chief Executive of Wycombe Hospital to discuss the vital investment needed in the hospital. I also met with the Buckinghamshire Council leader and Chief Executive to talk about how we can work together.

Wycombe has a proud industrial heritage, which is why I was so pleased to visit William Hands, the local furniture makers. The company started from William's house on Dashwood Avenue in 1906. It manufactured and crafted the chairs for the coronations of George VI and Elizabeth II.

I have also visited other businesses, charities, schools and community groups across the constituency. I have discussed with several business owners in High Wycombe their concerns about the high street. I have raised their concerns about retail crime with senior police officers.

Wearing waterproofs and wellies on a recent rainy day, I was given a wonderful tour of the local farms visiting a wide range of rural

businesses.

I have held both in-person and virtual surgeries and my team and I continue to help and support my constituents. If you would like to request an appointment please email emma.reynolds.mp@parliament.uk.

I have enjoyed meeting constituents in Wycombe and in Westminster. I look forward to welcoming the Downley Theatre Group to parliament in the new year.

I wish all the readers of Downley News a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Downley News

Christmas Concert

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Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - AUTUMN 2024

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

GROUP	DAY	TIME	CONTACT
Active Adults	Friday	13.00 - 14.00	katie.youngman@aitc.org.uk
Al-Anon Polish Group	Thursday	19.00 - 20.30	Maria 07749 068 420
Arabic Lessons (Maple Room)	Saturday	10.30 - 16.30	alhimah78@gmail.com
Art Group 2	Monday	10.00 - 12.00	alastair.pike@artsmartuk.com
Boxing	Thursday	17.00 - 18.00	Sam Azimi: 07594 305 407
	2nd & 4th Friday	20.00 - 22.00	
Bridge Club	Thursday	19.00 - 22.00	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
Mindstreams Education	Thursday	18.00 - 19.00	info@mindstreamseducation.co.uk
Mondays Minis Playgroup	Monday Term-time	9.30 - 11.15	downleymondaysminis@gmail.com 07724 385 895
MOO Music	Friday Term-time	10.50 & 12.00	elvan@moo-music.co.uk
MS Society - South West	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	16.00 - 19.00	
Painting for Pleasure	Tuesday Term-time	10.00 - 12.00	Sue 01494 443 393
	Friday Term-time	10.00 - 12.00	
Pilates	Thursday Term-time	18.30 - 19.30	Emma@asenseofbalance.co.uk
Pregnancy Yoga	Monday	19.45 - 21.00	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	
Scopum Tutoring	Saturday	10.00 - 12.00	scopumtutoring.com 07376 974 416
Taekwondo	Monday	18.30-19.30	mohzamtgd1@hotmail.com Tel 07870 219 746
	Thursday	19.45-20.45	
Twins & Multiples Club	Friday 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
Zumba Gold	Wednesday	10.30 - 11.15	jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com

SUNNYBANK CHAPEL, MOOR LANE - AUTUMN 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 - AUTUMN 2024

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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 - AUTUMN 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 - AUTUMN 2024

Hall Bookings: hilmad1842@gmail.com

Art Club	Thursday	09.30		
Coffee Stop	Monday	10.30 - 12.30	✓	christinelstyles@hotmail.com
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 karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567 376
	Wednesday	10.35	✓	
Natalie's Meditation Class	Wednesday	20.30 - 22.30		
Philatelic Club	Alternate Thursday	19.30		
Rebound Fit	Wednesday	19.00 - 20.00		
Sing and Sign Baby and Toddlers	Tuesday	10.00 - 13.00		
Sunaina Prolife Pilates	Saturday	08.00-09.00		
Tuneless Choir	1st and 3rd Tuesday	19.30 - 21.00		

DOWNLEY WAR MEMORIAL HALL - AUTUMN 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

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COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

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editor@downley.org

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Downley Village News

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

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

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

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Jose & Penelope - OCTOBER 2024



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