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COMMUNITY**

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# Village News

Issue 145/November2025



**Christmas Events Diary P27**

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Front Cover Photo: Bonfire Night on Downley Common courtesy of Saul Pope, @the\_downley\_photographer

## Editorial

What wonderful summer weather we had! So much sunshine, so many barbecues! Not enough rain, of course, but somehow we have all had bumper crops of fruit. Nature finds a way.... And now it's getting colder and the clocks have gone back, so it will soon be time for twinkly lights and festive celebrations. I'm sure it's true that time goes quicker the older you get; it certainly does for me.

I've been asked to pass on to you a request for applications for grants from Downley Village News from local societies and clubs. We usually make a small profit, which we want to put to good use for the benefit of the community, so we welcome enquiries from organisations who may need some help with specific projects. Please apply in the first instance to news@downley.org and we will get back to you.

And just a reminder about Wycombe Pulse which is a great free resource for those of us living in the High Wycombe area. It calls itself "your weekly guide to everything local", and it is certainly useful. You can subscribe for their free weekly newsletter at <https://wycombepulse.co.uk>. It's definitely worth a look!

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 25 January 2026** 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 2026.

Anne, Editor • editor@downley.org

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## Downley Parish Council



Downley Parish Council has received around £50,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy. This is a charge on development that came into force in 2010 to provide money to help support local infrastructure.

CIL money can't be used for everyday expenditure but has to be spent on the development of the local area through:

- The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
- Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area

**Here are some examples of how other Town and Parish Councils have used CIL money:**

- Supporting a Town Bus Service (Henley on Thames Town Council)

- Ultrafast fibre Broadband (Waterstock Parish Council)
- Installing village gates on a main road verge to slow down traffic (Bix and Assendon Parish Council)

We want your ideas of how this money should best be used and if you want to make your views clear, then please contact the Parish Council either by email ([clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org)) or in writing to:

Downley Parish Council  
The Community Centre  
School Close, Downley  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire  
HP13 5TR

*Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk*

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org)

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

### 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](mailto:clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org) • [www.downleyparishcouncil.org](http://www.downleyparishcouncil.org)**



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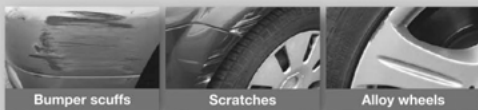
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## Downley Common News

By the time you read this, Bonfire will have come and gone so we hope you all enjoyed it and that the weather was kind to us. Most of October was devoted to preparing for the event and we had a good turnout for the main bonfire building day on Sunday the 19th. I must say that we get a lot less unacceptable materials being delivered than we used to. Time was when kitchen sinks, toilets and even beer kegs would be delivered in the fond hope that they might burn if the fire was hot enough! So well done to all our contributors for being so environmentally responsible. We also did not cut down any trees on the common this year but restricted ourselves to pulling out the various broken branches and already fallen trees that had accumulated over the last few months.

The August work party continued our project of removing cut grass from the glade opposite Golf Link Villas with the aim of reducing nutrients going back into the soil. This will hopefully promote the growth of wildflowers at the expense of

coarser species such as nettles and bracken. This may take a number of years to see any results so we will need to be patient. As this is currently achieved by manual raking and barrowing, it is considered a good workout for "Green Gym" enthusiasts, so the more people that turn up the better. Put a reminder in your calendar for next August.

September's work party attacked the docks that have colonised the banks above Moor Lane. This area is mowed less than others so the docks can get a bit out of control.

One event we will be putting on in the near future will be a Geology walk around the Common. This will be a joint event by DCPS and Bucks Geology Group led by a local geologist with knowledge on the geology, topography and archaeology of the area. Numbers will be limited so please let us know at (downleycommon@gmail.com) if you wish to come – first come, first served.

*Bill Thompson.*

*Downley Common Preservation Society*

## Downley Day News

There are two significant Downley Day events coming up before Christmas.

1. **Downley Day AGM** at the Community Centre on 24th November at 8pm. We will be announcing grants that will be awarded to local applicants. If you wish to apply for a grant then please contact info@downley.org stating how much you want and what it is to be used for. Applicants need to be local voluntary organisations who provide a benefit for Downley residents. Grants must be for specific projects, not running costs. Please apply before the AGM; we cannot consider applications at the meeting.

2. **Christmas Tree decorating event.** Local residents are invited to come and help decorate the Downley Christmas Tree at Jubilee Green (opposite the Co-op) on Sunday 14th December at 2pm. There will be mince pies and mulled wine and festive decorations to hang on the tree. Feel free to bring your own decorations as well. As the Littleworth Road Christmas Market is being held around the corner in the morning you can round it off with some seasonal tree decorating afterwards.



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## Downley Wine and Beer Club

Meetings before the summer recess included sampling of some lesser-known wine varieties as alternatives to the standard popular selections such as

Sauvignon Blanc or Merlot, followed by the June meeting when we revisited the techniques to employ when sampling wine so that we were able to appreciate all of a wine's characteristics.

During the summer we held a number of events including the annual barbeque in July (which was cool and a little breezy) and our Summer Social evening at the Le De Spencers where we enjoyed food and drinks on the patio thanks to Mark and Sarah. A large group of beer enthusiasts also attended the Great British Beer Festival, travelling by train to the NEC in Birmingham. 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 an evening of pairing foods with different wines to complement each other. This threw up some interesting combinations such as full-bodied white wines are often a better companion for cheese than reds as the lack of tannin does not overpower the cheese. We had a brandy themed evening for the October meeting and learnt about brandy production with tasting of brandies from various countries and sampling some brandy-based cocktails.

For our annual continental trip this year



we visited Charleroi in Belgium where we sampled traditional moules and frites and sampled some of the local beers (photo). Charleroi is an industrial city that

was very prosperous during the first half of the 20th century and we were lucky enough to be allowed access to the town hall to see the magnificent hardwood floors that were sourced from Belgium's African colonies. We also learnt about the 1956 mine disaster that killed over 250 mainly Italian migrant miners who had been encouraged to work in Belgium after the second world war.

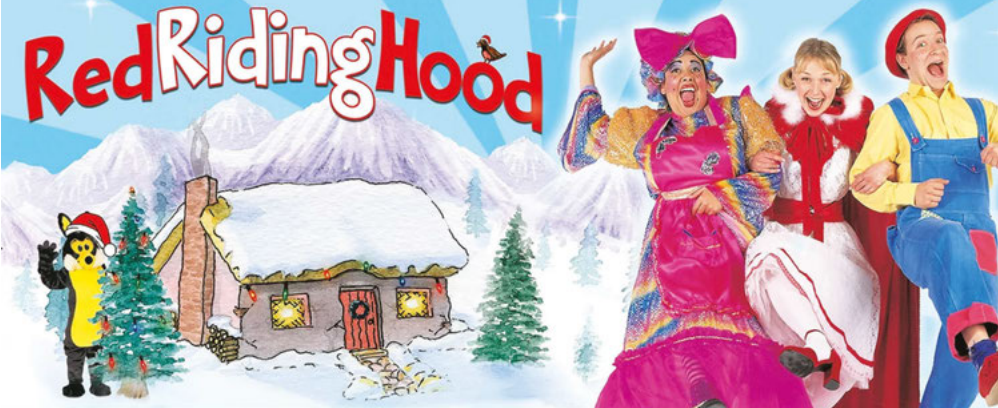
We will complete the year's activities with our AGM and blind wine tasting in November and our Christmas Dinner at High Wycombe Cricket Club in December.

In addition to the regular monthly meetings, we have continued in our endeavours to support local pubs with social evenings at the Hour Glass, the Rose and Crown in High Wycombe (CAMRA's local area pub of the year) and Brazenor's Brews the new microbrewery and tap room at Cressex.

**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](mailto:downleywinebeer@gmail.com) or follow us on Facebook <https://tinyurl.com/DownleyWBClub>**

# DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT

## Red Riding Hood



**Saturday 20th December - 10.30am & 1.30pm**

*75 minute performance suitable for 3-12 year olds*

**Children £7.50    Accompanying Adults £5**

**Ticket enquiries please email [events@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:events@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk)**

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## Downley Community Centre



### Pantomime – “Red Riding Hood”

Following the success of last year’s show, the centre is delighted to once again offer the community a pantomime. Two shows of “Red Riding Hood” will be performed at the centre on Saturday 20th December. Packed solid with comedy, songs, adventure and audience participation, it promises to be another fun, festive outing for all the family. For times and prices please see the advertisement in this issue or email [events@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:events@downleycommunitycentre.org.uk).

**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 delicious and large number of cakes baked and donated. Once again ‘Downley Wives’ worked really hard with the organisation and their efforts were much appreciated. A total sum of £400 was raised which has been matched by the Downley Community Centre, making a total donation to MacMillan of £800 for a very worthy cause.



### Building

Following what seemed like a very lengthy planning process, the Community Centre has now gone solar with the installation of 16 panels over the October half-term

week. These can be seen on the roof above Oak Room. The aim was to invest in renewables to significantly reduce our ever rising energy costs and secure a comfortable environment for all our visitors to the Centre now and into the future.

After 2 years of wear and tear, we also had the floor in Beech re-sanded and varnished. All in all, a very busy week of maintenance and upgrades!

### Grants

The Trustees and Management Committee for the Centre are committed to giving back to the local community and as such we were delighted to approve a donation to Shop Mobility High Wycombe for an IT upgrade to enable them to continue to support the many residents of Downley who benefit and rely upon their services.

If you have a cause, club, small project or service that would benefit the residents of Downley and is in need of a small grant of up to £500, please visit our website and click GRANTS under the CONTACT tab to view our grant application procedure.

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

**[downleycommunitycentre.org.uk](http://downleycommunitycentre.org.uk)**

*Downley Old School Management Association (DOSCA) committee.*

# Local Christmas Lights Service

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## Support your local voluntary Library



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T: 01494 528133

E: johnmorris4@ntlworld.com

Follow us, link through 'groups'  
See what's new on our shelves

### OPEN

Monday 10 - 12 noon

Thursday 3 - 5pm

Saturday 10 - 12 noon

### Christmas

Our last library session for Christmas will be on the 20th December and we will reopen on the 3rd January 2026.

**Kids!** Watch out for our Christmas books which will be back on the shelves in mid November.

**Please remember,** we have a good selection of Non Fiction books, which can help children research their projects for school.

**WHY NOT VISIT  
OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

SEARCH Downley Community Library



**NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

## Simply Walk, Downley



Autumn is late this year. On our walks, in autumn, Simply Walkers are used to damp, soggy piles of leaves and the beginnings of the winter mud; but this time we are scrunching through a mass of acorns and bright red haws. Hopefully this will continue for a while longer.

The reason for Simply Walk (now in its 23rd year) is to encourage people to look after their health and well-being by getting out into the fresh air and walk. We all know that the right kind of exercise is good for us, but there is now also more emphasis on the social benefits of walking and talking. After each walk we meet at the Community Centre for coffee or tea, biscuits and occasionally cake! This encourages our members to carry on the discussions that started on the walk, catching up with each other's holiday trips, reminding each other that it's flu jab and Covid booster time, swapping stories of the week, passing on tips or just having a moan about dustbins or parking! The range and variety of topics always amazes me. The emphasis on 'Aging Better' for our community is a worthy target and I know that among our Downley walkers we have several in their 8th decade. Simply Walk in

Buckinghamshire also has some ninety-year-olds, still actively involved whether by leading walks or joining in with a mobility scooter or just choosing to attend the social events to keep up with fellow walkers for the social contact. I just hope that Simply Walk exists when I reach 90!

There is a growing band of 'Simply Talkers' who can no longer participate so come along for the social contact after the walk to take part in the gossip. If you are an ex-walker at Downley and want to keep in contact, but are unable to walk the distances, come along and join the talkers!

### A reminder of our programme:

Monday 10.00 – 11.30 (Level 3)

Thursday 11.00 – 12.00 (Level 2)

Thursday 11.00 – 11.50 (Level 1)

From the Community Centre

Full list of local walks visit website:  
[Buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk](http://Buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk)

*Jeanne Steward*



## Le De Spencers Arms

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



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## u3a learn, laugh, live High Wycombe & District u3a

We hope you all had a great summer; maybe you saw our arts and crafts display in the North Hall at Hughenden Church Flower Festival on the August Bank Holiday weekend? This included paintings, embroidery, photography, quilts, a floral display and our paper flower collage. In addition, we provided the *Holiday in Provence* fresh flower display by the pulpit (see pictures).



to visit the Art Gallery and Library. See our Facebook page for recent events and activities.

The speaker on 26 November for our Monthly Meeting (2pm at Lacey Green Village Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month) will be Dr Jane Sellwood. The talk is topical: *Water: How we use it and abuse it.*

Do join us for a free first visit if you want to find out more.

We are delighted to report that a record number of new members joined us in September and more members means that we can start new Groups. The first meeting of our Chess Group took place in September, and we are actively looking at starting other Groups later in the year. Details of all our Groups can be found on our website ([highwycombe.u3asite.uk](http://highwycombe.u3asite.uk)).

We have over 30 interest Groups which meet monthly in and around our area during the daytime in homes and halls.

There is no age stipulation, and you can attend as many groups as you wish for your annual subscription. You will be welcome to drop in as a visitor for a taster session free of charge.

*Judith (Secretary),*  
[hwu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hwu3asecretary@gmail.com)  
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In September, the Local History Group made a very special private visit to Dorchester Abbey

where we enjoyed a guided talk, afternoon tea and an organ recital performed by the son of one of our members. Do visit the Abbey website to see what you may have missed! This Group is continuing with presentations by members on their experiences of living and working in the area. We shall be again at St Michael and All Angels Church in November to hear about its special place in our community. These visits to local churches have been

very successful as they are often sources of local history unknown to many of us.

Our interest groups all have busy winter schedules. For example, the Discovering Art Group will be travelling to Birmingham in December

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## Downley Voices You Raise Me Up

Have you ever thought about the benefits of singing and belonging to a choir?

They both have highly beneficial effects, physical, psychological and social. Singing helps with your breathing and improves your posture. It is also a natural anti-depressant and can lower stress-levels.

Belonging to a choir boosts your confidence, widens your circle of friends and broadens communication skills. Only today on the news there was an item extolling the virtues of singing in a group to combat post-natal depression. If you think you could benefit from the advantages of singing in a choir, why not try Downley Voices where you will receive a warm welcome (you don't have to be a new mother or, indeed, be pregnant!). Have a look at our website [downleyvoices.org](http://downleyvoices.org), then if you are interested send an email to [Downleyvoices@gmail.com](mailto:Downleyvoices@gmail.com). Don't forget, being a community choir, there are no auditions nor is there a requirement to read music, just contact us and come along for a couple of sessions before making the decision whether to join the choir (or not).

We have recently held our AGM, which was well attended and the membership raised

some very good points which will promote the choir, look for new members and advertise future events. Our new MD, Becky, was extremely enthusiastic about our progress and will be bringing in new pieces to enhance our repertoire.

Since starting rehearsals after our summer break we have been concentrating on Christmas and are working towards our concert on December 11th at St James Church; further details can be found on the website together with a link to enable tickets to be purchased, all nearer the time. Becky explained how much better you can sing without having your head 'stuck in a copy' and it works!

Your head is held high which helps with the breathing and you are not slouched which helps with the posture. We have already learned two pieces which will be performed without using sheet music, together with traditional carols, Christmas pieces and a very funny version of a song you will all know. No spoilers here! We are really looking forward to our Christmas concert and the opportunity to raise money for good causes, often local. In the last year we raised £ 500 each for Wycombe Homeless Connection and Alzheimer's Society UK.

*Bob Cook (Bass)*

## Sunnybank Methodist Church

*'To everything, turn, turn, turn*

*There is a season, turn, turn, turn'*

(Peter Seeger/Ecclesiastes 3:1)

I write this on a beautiful autumn morning; the sky is clear and the sun still has some warmth to it. The trees are showing off their autumn colours and the wind of the last couple of days has brought the first significant drop of leaves.

The season is turning and the nights are drawing in. But even as the leaves drop, there is the promise of what is to come; the old leaves leave behind buds that promise that new life will come in the spring.

By the time you read this, I am sure that we will all be heading towards Christmas with some pace even though it doesn't seem very long since celebrating last year. Our days



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## Downley Brownies and Guides would welcome new members

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**For more information or to Register please visit**  
<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

**Or contact**

Margaret Stagg / Janet Smith  
[jansmith1611@gmail.com](mailto:jansmith1611@gmail.com) • [margaretstagg75@gmail.com](mailto:margaretstagg75@gmail.com)

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become shorter and the nights longer, and we try to dispel the gloom with twinkly lights on our houses. Downley always looks so pretty at Christmas. As Christians, we at Sunnybank Methodist believe that into the darkness comes the promise of the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

And so we invite you to explore this gift of light in our forthcoming Christmas activities.

- **Christmas Nativity trail:** a free family activity taking place around the village throughout December. Suitable for families. Keep an eye out for more details via posters and social media.
- **Wednesday 10th December 2pm: Christmas film afternoon.** It has been good to welcome so many of you to our

previous showings. This film will be followed by seasonal refreshments and some carol singing.

- **Sunday 14th December 3:30pm: Carol service.** Join us to hear the Christmas story through carols and readings. There may even be some chocolate!

A warm welcome awaits. Remember that however dark it may feel, Jesus is the 'light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5).

**Please note there is no service on Christmas Day this year.**

*With every blessing*  
*Rev. Rachael Prince (01494 562491)*



## Cycling in South Buckinghamshire

**Join your local Cycling UK groups this autumn**

Cycling UK has a number of local groups in South Buckinghamshire:

South Bucks Midweek group offers a selection of rides every Wednesday from easy paced, moderate to rides that are faster and longer. Most rides meet at 09:30am from local start points including Wendover, Great Kingshill, Cholesbury and Beaconsfield. A stop is included for elevenses at a local café or garden centre followed by lunch before returning home. There are also Coffee Pots at local venues on Friday mornings and these include Princes Risborough, Chiltern Velo Café, West Wycombe and Bulbourne.

Chiltern Cycling offers led rides and Coffee Pots on Sundays with the focus on welcoming new members. Rides take place on quiet routes in the countryside and include a coffee stop with most rides returning to the start point. There is a Zoom social on the 1st Thursday and Clubroom at Little Kingshill on the 3rd Thursday each month 8pm to 10pm.

Thames Valley Cycling group offers led rides in the southern tip of the county and into Berkshire. There are led rides on both Wednesday and Sunday from local start points in Marlow, Bourne End, Maidenhead and Holtspur.

There is something for everyone of all ages and abilities with both pedal bikes and e-bikers welcome. Occasionally there is also a chance to do some off-road riding. Hope you can join us; you would be very welcome!

**For more Information:**

**E-mail:** [publicity@southbuckscycling.org.uk](mailto:publicity@southbuckscycling.org.uk)  
**Web:** [www.southbucksmidweekcycling.org](http://www.southbucksmidweekcycling.org) (Midweek Group)

**Web:** [www.southbuckscycling.org.uk](http://www.southbuckscycling.org.uk) (Chiltern & Thames Valley Groups)

**For general information about Cycling UK visit:** [www.cyclinguk.org](http://www.cyclinguk.org) dosage frequency



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## The Heights Care Home

### Making the News More Accessible for Everyone

The team at The Heights Care Home is always looking for new and meaningful ways to make life as inclusive as possible for residents. One of their latest initiatives is the introduction of the South Bucks Talking Newspaper, an audio version of local news designed for individuals who are visually impaired or have difficulty reading or holding a newspaper.

The Talking Newspaper is produced weekly by a team of editors and volunteers, bringing local life to listeners through three sections:

- News, with stories from the Buckinghamshire area
- Quiz, with fun questions that spark conversation
- Magazine, featuring short stories, poems, and articles from groups like the RNIB and Macular Society.

What makes this different is its focus on local stories and familiar places. The Talking Newspaper highlights community stories from around Buckinghamshire, names, landmarks, and topics that spark conversation and memories.

The news recordings



have become a regular part of well-being visits at the home. During these visits, team members bring along a small portable speaker and sit with residents to listen to the latest edition, giving

residents the chance to keep up with local news and stories that matter to them and enjoy fun quizzes.

Each visit is shaped by personal interests; some residents enjoy catching up on sports, while others prefer local updates or politics. Listening together makes space for easy conversation and genuine connection.

*"It's lovely because everyone has different interests,"* said Queen, Activities Organiser at The Heights "Some residents like to talk about sport, some want to talk politics, and it always gets a good conversation going."

For those who can no longer read a printed newspaper, these visits make it easier to stay informed and involved in everyday life, strengthening relationships



between residents and staff, as stories naturally lead to shared memories and discussions about familiar places and events.



## Local carers for your loved ones

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## J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

### Winter 2025

Wal, a very good greeting to you orl I ses, I'm a'writing this on a lovely sunny day in October, and mentioning sunny days, wal sometimes it lifts the spirits I reckons, and wot with the Parish Council lifting the ban on bonnies up the plot, and leaving the use of pesticides and herbicides to the good judgement of plot holders instead of a dictatorial ban on em, wal, that's orl good eh, we have enough rules and regulations in our lives anyway, so good for the Council! So I can still ave a bit of pleasure avin a chat round my bonny in the winter, a bit of socialising, keepin warm, getting rid of weeds and producing potash, we wins orl round I reckons! "I aven't seen him as jolly as this for years, he's almost a pleasure to live with!" Ses Mrs H.



Now what to do through the winter, in the gardin and the plot? Wal now's the time to get some lovely compost spread around, in the gardin, you can use the stuff you had yor tommy toes in, plus a sprinkle of summat like growmore to put back the vital ingredients that compost doesn't have - it's worth sayin that home produced stuff usually needs summat a bit extra, compost adds texture, breaks down the clay in the soil, gives roots summat to hold on to, but it isn't farmyard manure, though use that if you can get it - some Downley Diggers have secret sources of that, good for them eh! I've got one of my three compost heaps needs spreadin, avin reaches summat like perfection. A lovely job on a cold frosty day, keeps you warm, and an hour or two well spent getting ready for next year.

Thinkin of next year, meanin 2026, I thinks.. "He spends a lot of time wot he calls thinkin, in front of the stove, planning next year, though I have to wake him up when its meal times, and then he does revert to bein the grump of the house sayin I've disturbed his creative thought processes - I can't win!" ses you knows who, buttin in.... so carryin on, in the gardin leave any seed heads for the birds, Ivy best through the winter, don't tidy up too much, leave some old leaves on yor plants for the slugs and snails so birds can get summat to keep em going, and plant more bulbs, the gardin centres are full of em, though squirrels loves em too! Then get your seed orders in, but I buys em from the gardin centres, I can speak to wot I thinks is a real person there, wot is a'goin on in the world? It's gone completely barmy with AI wot! How about AI spuds or a luvly steamin AI Shepherds Pie, yum yum hmmm.

Anyway, wot a year its bin for soft fruit and apples and pears? Wal like everybody we've got piles of em, the wild apple trees on the common are covered with em, so get picken em up and get makin crumbles, I luv's the seasons, wot a daft world it is when you can buy South African apples for real money when at the same time you can pick em up for nothing eh! Then my squash bed did well, especially a sort of pumkin called 'goosebumps', they've got little bumps orl over em, but they looks great, bigger that footballs too. The only real failure for me this year as bin the traditional runner beans,, maybe I got the timin wrong, a mate up the plot had some fabulous ones, but all in all its bin a great gardining year. But my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke is still moanin that even his tobacco plants was a failure and his grapes didn't fatten up but just dried on the vine, wal that's a change for him, he's usually crowin about his wonderful terroir...

But we can't win em orl when it's the earth we're a'dealin with, but I'm concluding this time with very best wishes for Christmas and 2026, just keep you on a'diggin!

Cheerio and a'bientot,

*J. Heartycough. Sent from my iSpade.*

## Downley Evening WI

Hello, everyone. How are you all? Where has this year gone to? It seems to have disappeared all too quickly and here we are revving up towards Christmas again! Ah well.

I have to say that this autumn has been spectacular so far – the colours are sumptuous and the trees have managed to hang on to their leaves really well which is always a bonus. My garden is particularly attractive in the autumn and I relish looking at it, from the berries on the holly to the changing hues of the shrubs and the delightful pops of colour from the cyclamen. Look at me getting all poetic! Downley Evening WI has its own way of marking the seasons in its regular programme of events – for example, in Spring, there's our birthday party; in Summer, one of our members hosts a garden party; in December, another member hosts a mulled wine evening. These annual get-togethers over and above our monthly meetings are a lovely, relaxed

way to enjoy each other's company and usually support a good cause because they're aimed at raising funds for our chosen local charity.

We've been delighted to welcome some new members this year and they are bringing their own unique contribution to the life of our group. We meet, as always, on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in St James Church, Plomer Hill. If you would like more information, check out our website [www.downleyeveningwi.weebly.com](http://www.downleyeveningwi.weebly.com) or you can email [dewipresident@gmail.com](mailto:dewipresident@gmail.com).

So dear ladies, what are you waiting for? There's a warm welcome waiting for you at Downley Evening WI. Come along as a visitor and see for yourself. Our December 9th meeting will feature the Kensal Duo to entertain us in music and song. And I've even heard a rumour that the Big Man in Red may make an appearance ... Hope to see you there!

*Angela Taplin*

## THE DOWNLEY SCHOOL "Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together"

It's been a great start to the academic year. Our new teachers and reception children have settled in well and our school is going from strength to strength. Over the summer, work was completed on our new 5 a side astro pitch which has increased our play area and helped to further improve our play and outdoor learning provision at TDS. Our Pupil Leadership Team, School council, Eco council and Prefects have

been busy identifying future projects to further improve our school. To increase pupil leadership opportunities, we have introduced fund raising and community projects for each half term. Year 1/2 children have already organised a cake sale and raised over £700 for Macmillan and Year 6 have taken the lead on harvest festival this year, arranging collection of food for those requiring support. Once the food has been



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

Several volunteers  
have retired recently so  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

collected the children will deliver this to the One Can Trust. We are recruiting for governors to join our Governing Board.



*The 2025/26 teaching team at TDS enjoying an 'Out of this world' day*

We would be interested in appointing someone that has Health and Safety or a finance background to complement the existing strengths of the board. Please email [chairofgovernors@dn1.odbst.org](mailto:chairofgovernors@dn1.odbst.org) for more information.

TDS has had an interesting history but we feel (and are told) that we are a much different, happier place. Our visitors comment on how lovely the school is, how friendly staff are and how well behaved the children are. We are excited for the year ahead!

## OPEN DAYS for September 2026 Reception Intake

Open Days will be held on the following dates from 09:30-11:00 hours:

Wednesday 5th November 2025 - FULL

Tuesday 25th November 2025 – FEW SPACES

Thursday 11th December 2025

Thursday 8th January 2026

**Please call the School Office on 01494 527033 or email [office@dn1.odbst.org](mailto:office@dn1.odbst.org) if you would like to attend.**

## CHAMELEON SINGLES GROUP

As the cooler days come around our focus is now towards Christmas and our winter events. This means a move to more indoor activities although we'll continue our walks followed by coffee or a light lunch. Going forward we are looking at doing more accessible events so more members can take part in activities such as the walks where hills and terrain can be an issue. Distances are always kept short and at a pace of the slowest, meaning events are for everyone.

Autumn has seen Chameleon members enjoy a number of social events including

an "at home" supper, a visit to the Rebellion Brewery, coffee and cake at a member's home as well as the regular Lunch Club on the second Friday and Pub Night on the last Thursday of the month. These regular events are a great place to meet other people and for new members to find out more about the group.

For those who want to join us from home, especially useful during those cold or wet days, we have a Zoom social where we catch up for 40 minutes once a month. This is particularly useful for those who cannot easily get out and is also a place to swop

ideas for future events and plan any travel. 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](mailto:info@chameleonsingles.org.uk). Visit the group on-line at [www.chameleonsingles.org.uk](http://www.chameleonsingles.org.uk) or search for us on Facebook and Nextdoor.**

## December Festive Events in Downley

### Christmas Wreathmaking

Bricklayers Arms • 7.00 pm

THURSDAY  
4

SATURDAY  
6

### Christmas Market

Bricklayers Arms • 12.00 noon

### Christmas Film Afternoon

Sunnybank Methodist • 2.00 pm

WEDNESDAY  
10

THURSDAY  
11

### Downley Voices Christmas Concert

St James Church

### Littleworth Road Christmas Market

Hillclimb Garage  
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

SUNDAY  
14

SUNDAY  
14

### Christmas Tree Decorating

Jubilee Green • 2.00 pm

### Carol Service

Sunnybank Methodist • 3.30pm

SUNDAY  
14

MONDAY  
15

### Simply Walk Christmas Lunch

Community Centre • 11.45am  
(after walk)

### Brass Band and Carols

Le De Spencers Arms • 7.30 pm

THURSDAY  
18

SATURDAY  
20

### Red Riding Hood Panto

Community Centre  
10.30 am & 1.30 pm

### Carol service

St James Church • 11.00 am

SUNDAY  
21

MONDAY  
22

### Carols on the Common

Jubilee Green • 6.00 pm

### Nativity Service

St James Church • 4.00 pm

WEDNESDAY  
24

WEDNESDAY  
24

### Communion Service

St James Church • 11.00 pm

### Family Communion Service

St James Church • 11.00 am

THURSDAY  
25

TUESDAY  
31

### Lighting of the Beacon

The Common • 11.45 pm

For more information, please see individual contributors in the magazine, or contact them direct.

**Please note that some events are chargeable.**

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## News from St James' Church



*"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel (which means "God with us")" Matthew 1:23*



As we prepare to celebrate Christmas once again there is a real mix of emotions for me, as this is the last

Christmas I will be taking services at St James because I am retiring on 4th January to spend more time helping to look after my grandchildren. I have really enjoyed the last six and a half years being part of the Downley community and getting to know so many people through the many events that take place in the village, such as Downley Day, the Memorial Hall Remembrance Day service, the Parish Council meetings and Carols on the Common. I have also enjoyed getting to know many of you personally through services I have taken for the Heights Care Home, The Downley School, and of course funeral services for local families.

What I have loved most is the real sense of community in this village and the sense of support for all the things that go on locally. People are really committed to things that are put on in the village like quiz nights or concerts and to supporting local charities such as Growing Hope High Wycombe which runs through the week at St James Church. I have seen at first hand the numbers of people who volunteer in so many different ways to serve the people of this community.

At Christmas we celebrate Jesus coming into the world as a small baby to be Emmanuel – God with us. We are made to relate to one another. When we think of the nativity story we see that as soon as Jesus is born, his arrival is shared with and celebrated by the local shepherds, amongst the poorest of the community, and a while later by some visiting wealthy wise men. Jesus came for everyone – rich and poor, young and old, and he gave his life for them all. The range of activities and groups and events that happen in Downley similarly offer that support and opportunity to relate with people of all ages and backgrounds.

**I would love to invite you to join us for our annual Carols on the Common on Monday 22nd December starting at Jubilee Green at 6pm and finishing with mulled wine and mince pies in the Memorial Hall.**

**If you enjoy carol singing, please come to our Carol Service at 11am on Sunday 21st December, or to some of our Christmas services:**

- Christmas Eve 4pm Nativity service
- Christmas Eve 11pm Communion service
- Christmas Day 11am Family Communion

I pray that as you celebrate Christmas and look forward to 2026 you will know God's peace and his presence, whatever is happening in your life right now.

*Rev Heather Graham  
Heather Graham, Vicar of St James'*

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## Top Notes "Oh, what a night!"

On Sunday 28 September, we celebrated our 10th anniversary through a special night of music and fundraising at the newly renovated St Andrews Church. The Church was packed with audience members laughing, crying and celebrating together with us.

MP for Wycombe Emma Reynolds wrote: 'Events like these are part of what makes High Wycombe such a vibrant and caring community. Each member of the choir should feel immensely proud, not only of your musical achievements but of the positive impact you've had through your fundraising efforts over the years.'

### Feedback from audience members includes:

*Such an uplifting evening with fabulous song choices. Couldn't get the singing out of my head. Loved all the combinations of duets, solos and groups, but the opening number was my favourite, all those fabulous hits in one song! Thank you. - Kate Kay*

*Each member's passion for music truly shines through, creating an atmosphere that's both uplifting and inspiring. Their choice of repertoire showed impressive range, from classic choral pieces to more contemporary*



*favourites, all performed with heart and precision. What stands out most is the sense of community and joy this choir brings to*

*their singing. It's clear that this is not just about music — it's about connection and bringing people together. - Kimberley Reed*

*A totally unforgettable night, glorious from beginning to end. Thank you tip top Top Notes you were all utterly fabulous. The standing ovation was richly deserved. - Jill Mowforth*

Not only were we celebrating ten years of being together, but



we were also raising money for a truly important local charity, Thames Valley Air Ambulance - a service which any one of us could need at any moment. Local businesses donated gifts and vouchers for an online auction ahead of the concert and many people have been moved to donate through the JustGiving page.

At the time of writing, the total raised is £5500. The most we have ever raised through any previous individual concert is £2100, so this is an incredible achievement and testimony to the

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Call **0333 222 0418** Visit [osjct.co.uk/theheights](http://osjct.co.uk/theheights)  
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generous support of our loyal audience and supporters. Thank you!

We have not quite finished our fundraising efforts however! So if there is anyone who would like to support us in trying to reach £10k for Thames Valley Air Ambulance, you can do so via our Just Giving page - [www.justgiving.com/page/top-notes-3](http://www.justgiving.com/page/top-notes-3) or by reaching out to us on [topnotestunes@gmail.com](mailto:topnotestunes@gmail.com)

As always, we also invite you to follow us on our social media channels (Instagram: [@topnoteschoir](https://www.instagram.com/topnoteschoir) & Facebook: Top Notes) to stay updated on what we're up to as well as future concerts and ticket information. You can also see us in action via our YouTube Channel or get in touch via [topnotestunes@gmail.com](mailto:topnotestunes@gmail.com) for any general enquires.

## Downley Community Orchard Celebrating a bumper harvest!

If you own an apple tree you've probably been delighted with your crop this year. It's been a great year for apples and at the Community Orchard we've had one of the best crops since the orchard was planted some 24 years ago. We send our apples for juicing which proved a little problematic this year as all the local juicing plants have been inundated. Fortunately, we secured a spot in the queue and will be selling our bottles of the delicious and crisp 'Downley Delight' at the Littleworth Christmas Fair on Sunday, 14th December. While we are not formally certified as organic, we only use organic methods in the orchard, so our apple juice is beautifully pure. All the proceeds from the sale will go towards funding the ongoing care and maintenance of the orchard, so please bring your cash and help a great local cause!

### We have two votes of thanks to make:

Firstly, we are most grateful to the Downley Garden Society for a £100 donation to our funds. We have used this money to purchase some bird boxes which we are about to place in

surrounding trees. We want to enlist the help of our local blue tits to eat the caterpillars that love munching the young leaves on the trees!

Secondly, a massive thanks to Katharine Harper who has provided us with plans and details of the trees we have in the orchard. This information has been lost for years. We knew what trees were in the orchard but we had no idea which was which. Katharine had co-ordinated a display about the orchard soon after it was planted for a Downley Day exhibition and this contained the all-important planting plan. Our team of volunteers were delighted to find out the variety of each tree at long last.

We are about to embark on our programme of winter maintenance for the trees and we're always on the lookout for more volunteers. If you'd like to spend a few hours learning about fruit tree maintenance with a friendly band of people, do send an email to Andrew Flint at [trhaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:trhaeditor@gmail.com). You'll be sure of a warm welcome.

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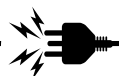
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## Downley Gardening Society

### April meeting

Jonathan Hogarth from Hogarth Hostas had us all laughing with his tales about exhibiting hostas at the various RHS shows he attends. Starting out with just one hosta, Jonathan soon became entranced by the small and miniature varieties. Almost by accident, his increasing number of varieties led to him being awarded the status of National Collection Holder from Plant Heritage. Several members left with quality hostas after our meeting and a recipe for a foolproof Garlic Spray which will keep slugs and snails away from hostas and other plants.

### May meeting

Geoff Hodge gave an enlightening talk about Bugs and Plagues at our last meeting in the hall before summer. He described how our attitude to pests over the last 3 years has shifted and they are now recognised as being part of the food-chain in our garden.

**June** – plant stall at Downley Day – lots of lovely plants found new homes.

**July** – coach trip to Wakehurst Place. Andy is planning our trips for 2026.

### Autumn show

Our autumn show was a happy occasion, as always, and it was lovely to see so many people come along in the afternoon to view the exhibits and enjoy a slice of Alex's delicious cakes.

**October** – fungus walk with John Tyler

### Dates for your diary:

**November meeting** - Monday, 17th November - Carole Petipher will talk about Flowers in Folklore

**December meeting** - Monday, 8th December – Michael Holland will talk about the 12 plants of Christmas, Wreaths, Raisins and Roasties

All our meetings are held in St James' Church Hall, Plomer Hill, Downley and start at 7.30pm

If you would like to become a member of the Gardening Society and join our meetings please contact Alison on [downleygardeningociety@gmail.com](mailto:downleygardeningociety@gmail.com) or Julia on 01494 447323. Membership costs just £5 single and £8 family per year. Website - [www.downleygardeningociety.com](http://www.downleygardeningociety.com)

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

## DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

### How Street Lights Came to Downley

We take it for granted that if we go out after sunset there will be electric street lights to light our way, but this has not always been the case: until mains electricity came to Downley there could not be any electric street or footway lights.

You may not be aware that not all street/footway lighting in the current civil parish of Downley is maintained by

the Parish Council. How did this all come about you may wonder. In order to understand why this is the case, we need a bit of a history lesson as to how Downley Parish came into existence. Before the 1890s, the inhabitants of rural areas were looked after by the 'sanitary authorities' who also administer the 'Poor Laws'. Then in the 1890s rural civil parishes were created by the Local Government

# Jill - Tutor



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Fridays at Downley Community Centre (Term Time only)

Act of 1894. Downley hamlet, along with the hamlets of Littleworth and Plomer Green, were included in the West Wycombe Parish.

This was an extremely large rural parish with the village of West Wycombe at its centre. It included Sands, Castlefield and Booker, which were very rural areas at that time, and its area ran from the eastern boundary of the urban borough of Chepping Wycombe to Bradenham village in the west and from the north-east boundary of Hughenden parish to Lane End village in the south-west.

In the early 1930s a large part of the West Wycombe Parish, which included the village of West Wycombe, was incorporated into the borough of Chepping Wycombe. This left the remaining two rural areas of the parish detached from each other. As a result, these two areas became a new parish called West Wycombe Rural Detached Parish which was made up of two wards: the Downley ward which contained the hamlets of Downley, Littleworth and Plomer Green; and the ward containing the hamlets of Piddington and Wheeler End. It was not until late 1930s with the building of houses along Commonsides, Littleworth Road and Plomer Green Lane that the three hamlets of Downley, Littleworth and Plomer Green merged to become known as Downley Village.

At the same time as the splitting of the original West Wycombe parish, mains water and mains electricity came to the Downley ward. Mains water cost £3 per household and each household had three light fittings and two power points installed free of charge, while extra lights cost 15 shillings each. But there was still no street/footway lighting.

It was not until the 1950s that the councillors of the two respective wards of the West Wycombe Rural Detached Parish discussed the merits or otherwise of becoming a lighting authority at their monthly meetings. Downley councillors were in favour of installing lighting in their area as Plomer Green Lane, Littleworth Road and Commonsides did not have any footways so pedestrians had to walk in the road, although there were not many motorised vehicles about then. Installing bracket lights on the electric supply poles was the easier and cheaper option for providing street/footway lighting, but not all electric supply poles had bracket lights fitted.

When The Pastures, Hithercroft Road and Old Farm Way were developed in the early 1960s, fibreglass lighting columns were installed by the developers. This caused a bit of confusion among the residents of the estate, as the total development area covered part of the Downley ward of the West Wycombe Rural Detached Parish, as well as

part of the Borough of Chepping Wycombe which had been renamed High Wycombe Borough Council in 1946. Which authority should they contact to report a defective footway light in their road? Other fibre glass columns were also installed in other roads within the Downley ward area at this time.

Sometime later the councillors in the Downley ward decided that, as the fibre glass columns were getting to end of their life, they would replace them with steel ones and at the same time get these new lighting columns painted 'Ransome Green', so residents could easily identify who was responsible for which lighting column, as well as giving added protection to the columns against the weather. So, if there was a defective light and the column was painted green it should be reported to the West Wycombe Rural Detached Parish Council clerk.

When the Downley Heights Estate (Grays Lane, Gosling Grove etc.) and the old Allotments off Narrow Lane (Selwood Way and Ford Way) were developed in the late 1960s/early 1970s additional lighting columns were installed in these roads by the developers. These were also painted green, which had been adopted as the standard for the Downley Ward lighting columns.

So, we now had column street/footway lighting in Downley village but no Downley Parish Council. That did not happen until 1987, when a Statutory Instrument (SI) 1987 No: 621 Part 1 was enacted to create the two new parishes of Downley and Piddington & Wheeler End from the wards of the West Wycombe Rural Detached Parish. The Downley ward became the original area of Downley Parish, with the boundary being slightly realigned to stop it going through the middle of properties in Old Farm Way and Grays Lane.

There is a copy of a map created in 2000 on display in the foyer of the Community Centre, School Close, which shows the original Downley Parish Council area. It is the coloured area and that is the area that contains the street/footway lighting that the current Downley Parish Council is responsible for. There is, however, a possible exception which is the area in the middle of the village where the lighting columns may not be owned or maintained by the Parish Council and that is the School Close area developed on the old Downley School playing field. At the time of writing I have requested an up-to-date lighting asset list from the Parish Council to confirm this.

When the Downley Parish boundary was expanded in 2008 to take in the Plomer Hill area, the Parish Council did not take over the street/footway lighting of the extended area,



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so there is the possibility that the confusion of the 1960s as to who is responsible for which lighting column may well surface again.

As of January 2021, Downley Parish Council started the process of giving each street/footway light a unique identifying number and converting them all to LED. This has now been completed within the original 1987 Downley Parish area.

## Downley Cricket Club

Our 2025 season, under the enthusiastic leadership of all-rounder Graham 'Boys' Swales (with vice-captain Rehaan Vats chipping in with his first 50 for the club), saw some spirited performances with bat and ball, notably by Ali Q who excelled as an all-rounder with 243 runs at a scarcely believable strike-rate of 107, to go with his outstanding haul of 22 wickets. An early front-runner for highest score of the season was Imran Hossain's 90 v Hawridge, only to be overtaken late-season by Abhi Kurup's 97 v Winchmore Hill. Ben 'Medals' Alsop continued providing fluent and important runs.

On the bowling front, another late-season sensation was Abu Faheem's 7 wickets for 8 runs v Lacey Green, figures not achieved by a Downley bowler for many a year. Club chairman and metronomic opening bowler Graeme 'County' Aitken grabbed 4 wickets against Wendover followed by 5 wickets against Winchmore Hill, and 3 more against Wing. He went on to open the bowling mid-week for a strong Bucks Seniors County team, with consistent success.

Three emphatic wins in succession closed the 2025 season, leaving us in good heart for the 2026 season. After plenty of discussion, Downley Cricket Club have joined the Thames Valley League, the Mid-Bucks League having ended after many decades.

Our continuing arrangement with High Wycombe Cricket Club means Downley cricketers can use John Hampden School

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

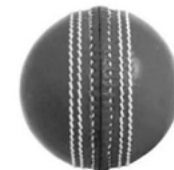
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### 'FURTHER TALES OF OLD DOWNLEY'

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for indoor winter nets (last winter under the supervision of Obi, HWCC's popular coach) and during the summer use HWCC's excellent outdoor nets and bar facilities. It is likely that Downley will be asked to provide an occasional Saturday wicket for HWCC's junior, ladies or social team, with HWCC juniors continuing to use one wicket during the week.

At season's end we held another well-attended President's Day on the Sunday of the August Bank Holiday, with HWCC fielding a Ladies team, as well as a Coaches team, and Phoenix, a team made up of rugby players who provided many laughs with their rugby outfits and antics on the pitch. Also in contention were teams from Great Kingshill, James Beavis' Le de Spenders, Rehaan's Asian Rangers and others. Several youngsters had a chance to display their cricketing skills too. Food provided by local restaurant The Mowchak was very popular, with top batter Imran Hossain organising it. Many drinks were enjoyed at the temporary bar, with DCC's coffers benefitting in advance of next season.

No cricket can be played at DCC without the hard work on the pitch and outfield put in by Den Cox and his willing band of helpers, scorer Mandy Aitken and umpire John Hughes, to all of whom we extend our sincere thanks.

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## Pharmacy First - Local: use it or lose it!

Thank you to all that chose to visit Downley Pharmacy for their vaccination(s) this year. We were again booked to capacity and apologise that we were not able to fit all of you in at the time you may have preferred, Systems change constantly and following the success of the system this year the hope is to be able to make more appointments available next year.

It is nearly two years since the Pharmacy First service was launched and it has recently been extended to enable better communication for GPs and other NHS services to show when self care has already been tried as an option. We currently are able to offer advice and, where appropriate, treat with antibiotics or other prescription medication the following seven conditions

- Acute sore throat
- Sinusitis
- Ear infection, 16 and under
- UTI- women aged 18-65
- Impetigo
- Shingles
- Infected insect Bites

Oral Contraception- ongoing and newly introduced emergency "morning after"

This service is available without appointment. Many like to call first but if you just turn up you will be seen as soon as possible by the pharmacist within the private consultation area. We then discuss the duration and severity of the symptoms and agree a course of action as appropriate. This may be onwards referral to a GP or 111, an over the counter remedy, or the issue of a prescription by the pharmacist. I hope you agree a simpler way of accessing healthcare, and we are on your doorstep. Please make use of these services as they are a vital income stream for us in challenging times and also they are designed to alleviate pressure on GP,

A&E and the Minor Injuries Centre.

We have also extended our Private services so can offer treatment for adults with outer ear infection, period delay, and weight loss alongside, as always, the helpful over the counter remedies which come with advice as to when and where and how to seek further help if needed. Even a GP appointment can be obtained with the correct and appropriate information supplied to reception staff.

### Christmas and New Year opening times

We will be closed on  
**Christmas Day - Thursday 25th December**  
**Boxing Day Friday 26th December**  
**Saturday 27th December**  
**Sunday 28th December**  
**Thursday 1st January**  
This mirrors GP closures!

All other days we will open our usual hours, 9-6 weekdays and 9-1 on Saturday 20th December

Please order repeat medication in good time, but only if you will run out over the Christmas Holiday season. The suggestion from the GP surgeries will be week commencing 15th December but please allow us time to process as well. If you do find you have run out of medication at anytime contacting 111 or going online to request an urgent supply will generate a message to the nearest available pharmacies to where you are to provide for you. If you are at home and we are open Downley Pharmacy will be one of the options. This message does not however specify the item required and so contact to discuss appropriate availability is advised.

As always we thank you for your continued support and wish you all a Happy Christmas and Good Wishes for the New Year

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## Hillclimb Garage News

A Christmas Market Anniversary  
and Two National Awards in 2025



### Littleworth Road Christmas Market



December 2025 marks the 6th anniversary of being proud hosts of the Littleworth Road Christmas Market, Sunday 14th December..! It seems hard to believe that 6 years ago, on a damp and dreary October morning, Shirley and Jenny met with Mark at the garage and came up with the idea of a Christmas Market that would help bring the community together at such a special time of the year, albeit from 2 meters! We also agreed it would be lovely to have a community Christmas Tree on the forecourt, where families could visit and place a decoration on the tree as another way of trying to bring some sort of normality to the lockdown and social distancing we were all going through due to COVID-19.

Through healthier times, the market has flourished and grown in size and popularity each year. From just half a

dozen stalls back in 2020, this year the market is predicted to have well over 20 stalls with a wide variety of Christmas Crafts, Gifts and Goodies to suit all tastes and budgets. Of course, there will also be plenty of yummy hot food and drink to enjoy and Santa and his Elves have promised to find time to stop by and say hello! Every stall makes a charitable donation for their pitch and this year the Market will, once again, be supporting the fantastic work of the Wycombe Food Hub. We can't wait to see you there on Sunday 14th December, between 10am and 4pm.

### Our Second National Award in 4 months

We reported in last month's news that we were extremely proud to have won another national award, recognising our work in the community. In addition to this award, we are thrilled to announce we won the Training & Development Award at this year's British Independent Garage of the Year Awards in September! Organised and hosted by the Independent Garage Association, these prestigious awards

include many of the best garages from across the UK and are judged by experts from the automotive industry.

The Training & Development Award is a very special one for us as we have been finalists in this

category for the past three years so to come away with the win this year, against some incredible other garages, means so much to us all. The award provides recognition of our ongoing investment in our people and the commitment we have to ensuring we have the skills and knowledge required as vehicles become ever more complex to maintain and repair.

A special mention must go to our young rising stars, Adam T, Sam, Jess and Adam N, who are all studying or have completed



their apprenticeships with us. We are so proud of you all.

We were also Finalists on the night for Large Garage of the Year and Best Marketing Strategy. Incredibly, this is the NINTH award we have won across

the last five years and we just cannot thank our amazing team enough for all the hard work, dedication and love they have put in at Hillclimb that has made this possible. We are truly grateful and so proud of every single one of you!

And, of course, a BIG thank you to our lovely customers, many of whom live in the wonderful Downley community within which we work. Your continued support and encouragement really does make a difference and means the world to us all. **We remain At your SERVICE.**

## Downley Theatre Group

With the trip to see “The Lion King” in September and a Christmas Concert on the horizon in December, the year has been a busy one with eight jollies enjoyed by members. We’re already looking towards 2026 with trips to see “les Miserables” in January and our third outing to “ABBA Voyage” in June – both sorted, with no spare seats.

We continue to welcome new members living in Downley; our numbers are such that we cannot accept non-residents at present. We use a booking agent which

“holds” an allocation of seats for about three weeks, this time scale means news of trips cannot be advertised in the Village News and is circulated to those on the mailing list.

There is no membership fee or obligation to go on any of the outings. Please contact us to be added to the mailing list and receive details of future events.

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

## Buckinghamshire Council Update



Hope you all had a great summer – as usual it’s gone too fast! The usual and justified worries around speeding, parking, and anti-social behaviour are still at the front of the daily list I work through. But community spirit is great. We had a litter pick in September where residents (including some gloriously enthused children) turned up and helped tidy up the common. It was wonderful village teamwork, although I was sad to see how much rubbish was collected (at least 12 bags of waste). A word to litter offenders – there are always good honest souls we don’t see who are desperate to keep our village clean and do regular, physically demanding clean-ups because it’s seemingly too hard for people to carry a bit of waste to the right place. Too much effort? No.

Next, I would like to thank the many that park reasonably and considerately in the village, but urge those who regularly park way too close to a road junction, or leave their cars on the pavements, to think harder about their own neighbours’ safety. Can others see safely round a bend? Can a parent with pushchair get past without going into the road? A little more care and consideration for others in our parking really goes a very long way to improve life here in Downley. And don’t forget, as

the police keep rightly saying – call 101 with any anti-social behaviour/speed and crime incidents. It’s the way they prioritise and they really do log reports to see the bigger picture and respond more appropriately.

I’ve now set up the first 3 dates for my regular Councillor surgeries – where you can raise concerns or ask advice from me, in my capacity as your Ward Councillor. I’ll be at the Downley Community Centre, in the Ash room, on 15th November, 20th December and 17th January, between 2pm and 4pm. No booking required. Just turn up! I can’t wait to meet more of you and get to know you better. Happy to help however I can.

Have a great Christmas and New Year and thanks for continuing to make Downley a great place to live. To all those that work here, providing services or clubs for residents and their families, your contribution to enrich the lives of us all is invaluable and much appreciated. I shall raise a glass to you all on New Year’s Eve and look forward to a fresh year ahead full of fresh opportunities, in the area we all love.

*Hazel Arthur-Hewitt*  
*Hazel.arthur-hewitt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk*  
*Mobile: 07985 468154*

### COULD YOU HELP DELIVER DOWNLEY VILLAGE NEWS?

We need additional volunteers to help deliver Downley News four times a year. We have some regular rounds to cover and also need some cover for holidays etc.

To find out more please email [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org).

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## From Westminster

*Emma Reynolds - MP for Wycombe*

It was a pleasure to return to the Bucks County Show this year to engage directly with rural constituents and local businesses, and to hear first-hand about the challenges they are facing. These conversations offered valuable insights as I begin my new role as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Like many Downley residents, I am frustrated at the state of our rivers, lakes and seas. This is an issue I'm determined to address. We're introducing automatic penalties – similar to speeding tickets – so companies face swift consequences when they break the rules.

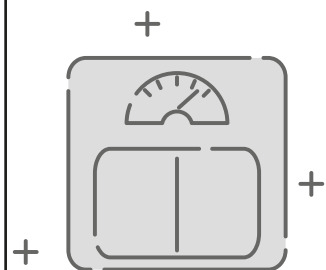
While my responsibilities in Westminster have grown, Wycombe remains at the heart of everything I do. Whether it's supporting local campaigns, visiting local businesses or supporting constituents with their concerns I am committed to continue representing our community with energy and integrity. It's been great to work with your local Downley councillor, Hazel Arthur-Hewitt, on the issues that matter to you including access to local bus services. I recently visited Carousel Buses and raised the concerns of Downley parents about school transport. Throughout my election campaign and my first year as the MP for Wycombe, I have been clear that we must not lose any services from Wycombe Hospital. I welcome the announcement from Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust regarding their submission of plans for a landmark new building at the Wycombe



Hospital site. I look forward to working with the new CEO, Raghuv Bhasin, and I will provide updates when I am able.

I was pleased to host my first Meet Your MP event last month, where I welcomed constituents currently receiving casework support. I look forward to holding more of these sessions in the future, alongside my regular constituency support surgeries. If you would like to request an appointment please email [emma.reynolds.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:emma.reynolds.mp@parliament.uk).

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# Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

## DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - WINTER 2025

Hall Bookings: [www.downleycommunitycentre.org.uk](http://www.downleycommunitycentre.org.uk)

| 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                                   | Agatka 07935 789 041<br>sagata75@gmail.com                             |
| Art Group 2                                 | Monday                               | 10.00 - 12.00                                   | alastair.pike@artsmartuk.com   |
| Children's Dance Group.                     | Wednesday                            | 16.45 - 18.30                                   | Zoe.k.thompson@hotmail.com   |
| Chipmunks Woodcarving                       | Wednesday                            | 10.00 - 12.00                                   | downleychipmunks@outlook.com   |
| Community Library                           | Monday<br>Thursday<br>Saturday       | 10.00 - 12.00<br>15.00 - 17.00<br>10.00 - 12.00 | enquiries@downleylibrary.org   |
| 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<br>Wednesday                 | 19.00 - 21.00<br>18.30 - 20.30                  | karen@comedancingwithme.co.uk<br>07873 53 8709                         |
| Downley Parish Council                      | 2nd Tuesday                          | 19.30   | clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org<br>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  |
| Indian Dance Classes for ladies of all ages | Saturday                             | 08.30 - 10.00                                   | Sesha 07840 288 292  |
| 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                             |
| M00 Music                                   | Friday Term-time                     | 10.50 - 12.40                                   | elvan@moo-music.co.uk  |
| Natalie Jane Dance School                   | Monday Term-time<br>Friday Term-time | 15.00 - 19.00<br>16.00 - 19.00                  | natalie@njdance.co.uk  |
| Painting for Pleasure                       | Tuesday Term-time                    | 10.00 - 12.00                                   | Sue 01494 443 393 Sue 01494 443 393<br>dianacrabbe@btinternet.com      |
| 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<br>Thursday                   | 10.00 - 11.30 approx<br>11.00 - 12.00 approx    | Starts from the Community Centre<br>simplywalks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk |
| Tai chi Shibashi                            | Monday ad hoc                        | 13.00 - 14.00                                   | sheila 07737 581 664 44spag@gmail.com                                  |
| 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 - WINTER 2025

Hall Bookings: [margaretstagg75@gmail.com](mailto:margaretstagg75@gmail.com) or call 01494 530 736

| GROUP                     | DAY      | TIME          | NEW MEMBERS | CONTACT  |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------|--|
| Chiltern Hills Montessori | Weekdays | 08.00 - 18.00 | ✓           | admin@chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk<br>01494 514 544 |

## GUIDE AND SCOUT CENTRE - WINTER 2025

Hall Bookings: [margaretstagg75@gmail.com](mailto: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      |
| Rainbows            | Tuesday   | 17.30 - 18.45 | ✓ | jansmith1611@gmail.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 - WINTER 2025

Hall Bookings: [hilmad1842@gmail.com](mailto:hilmad1842@gmail.com) or call 07973 770 180

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

## ST JAMES HALL - WINTER 2025

Hall Bookings: [hilmad1842@gmail.com](mailto:hilmad1842@gmail.com)

|                                 |                        |                |        |  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------|--|
| Art Club                        | Thursday               | 09.30          |        |  |
| Coffee Stop                     | Monday                 | 10.30 - 12.30  | ✓      | christinestyles@hotmail.com  |
| Downley Gardening Society       | 3rd Monday             | 19.30          | ✓      |  |
| Downley Voices                  | Thursday Term time     | 20.00 - 21.30  | ✓      | grannyandbobby@tiscali.co.uk   |
| Dr Sue's Pilates                | Monday                 | 18.00 - 19.00  |        |  |
| Karen Pilates                   | Wednesday<br>Wednesday | 09.30<br>10.35 | ✓<br>✓ | karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567 376<br>karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567 376 |
| Nataillie's Meditation Class    | Wednesday              | 20.30 - 22.30  |        |  |
| Philatelic Club                 | Alternate Thursday     | 19.30          |        |  |
| Sing and Sign Baby and Toddlers | Tuesday                | 10.00 - 13.00  |        |  |
| Sunaina Prolife Pilates         | Saturday               | 08.00-09.00    |        |  |
| Tuneless Choir                  | 1st and 3rd Tuesday    | 19.30 - 21.00  |        |  |

## DOWNLEY WAR MEMORIAL HALL - WINTER 2025

Hall Bookings: [dwmh.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:dwmh.bookings@gmail.com)

|                           |           |               |   |  |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|---|--|
| Chiltern Hills Montessori | Weekdays  | 08.00 - 18.00 | ✓ | admin@chilternhillsmontessori.co.uk<br>01494 531 565 |
| Pilates                   | Monday    | 19.00 - 20.00 | ✓ | karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567 376          |
| Yoga with Jenny           | Tuesday   | 18:15 - 19:20 |   | 07904 438 411  |
| Yoga with Jenny           | Tuesday   | 19.30 - 20.40 |   | 07904 438 411  |
| Fencing 1 to 1            | Wednesday | 17.30 - 19.30 |   |  |
| Yoga with Jenny           | Thursday  | 19.30 - 20.40 |   | 07904 438 411  |
| Yoga with Jenny           | Friday    | 10.20 - 11.30 |   | 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  
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### HEALTH

NHS Direct 111  
Downley Pharmacy 01494 513 060

### POLICE - NON EMERGENCY

Report 101 or [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

### List Of Advertisers

|  |    |
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| Altea Beauty and Holistic Treatments         | 20 |
| All Round Property Care Ltd                  | 47 |
| Applicant Mortgage Brokers                   | 52 |
| Arnold Funeral Directors                     | 46 |
| Biology Tutor                                | 16 |
| Canine Cutz Dog Grooming                     | 16 |
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| Come Dancing With Me                         | 10 |
| David Nicholas Estates                       | 8  |
| DJ Coles Property Services                   | 38 |
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| Downley Voices                               | 34 |
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| GSL Property Maintenance                     | 8  |
| Hillclimb Garage                             | 28 |
| Hunts Decor                                  | 6  |
| Independent Mortgage Solutions               | 28 |
| HouseShaw Estate Agent                       | 52 |
| Jill Burrell Tutor                           | 36 |
| Le De Spencers Arms                          | 14 |
| Mark Evans Plumbing & Heating Engineers      | 30 |
| Mark Gonsalves Kitchen & Bathroom Specialist | 4  |
| M.D. Garden Services                         | 40 |
| MDLX   | 12 |

### Downley Village News

**Editor:** Anne at [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org)

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### COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Hazel Arthur-Hewitt  
[Hazel.Arthur-Hewitt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Hazel.Arthur-Hewitt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

### DOWNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk [clerk@downleyparishcouncil.org](mailto: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](mailto:editor@downley.org)

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Monday Minis                        | 38      |
| Moo Music                           | 36      |
| Muted Whispers                      | 4       |
| Natalie Jane Dance School           | 20      |
| National Trust, Hughenden           | 22      |
| Nest and Nature                     | 8       |
| Optionz Hair & Beauty               | 51      |
| Personalised Learning Tuition       | 46      |
| P K Stroy, Builder                  | 28      |
| Plugs Electrical Services           | 40      |
| Poseidon Heating                    | 32      |
| Revive Car Bodywork                 | 6       |
| Simply Walk                         | 18      |
| Skyline Electrical Services         | 34      |
| Slimming World                      | 38      |
| Spirit Hair Co.                     | 25      |
| St James' Church Hall Hire          | 18      |
| St James Coffee Stop                | 25 & 30 |
| Suttons' Property Maintenance       | 34      |
| The Barr Academy of Performing Arts | 14      |
| The Downley Garage                  | 42      |
| The Grange Restaurant & Gift Shop   | 4       |
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| The Mortgage Store                  | 38      |
| The Window Doctor                   | 42      |
| The Wye Partnership                 | 2       |
| TLC 4 You                           | 20      |
| Tom Coles Pest Guard                | 16      |
| Wycombe Concert Band                | 18      |

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

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

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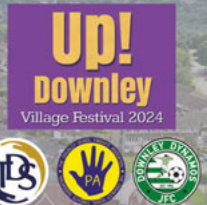
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