

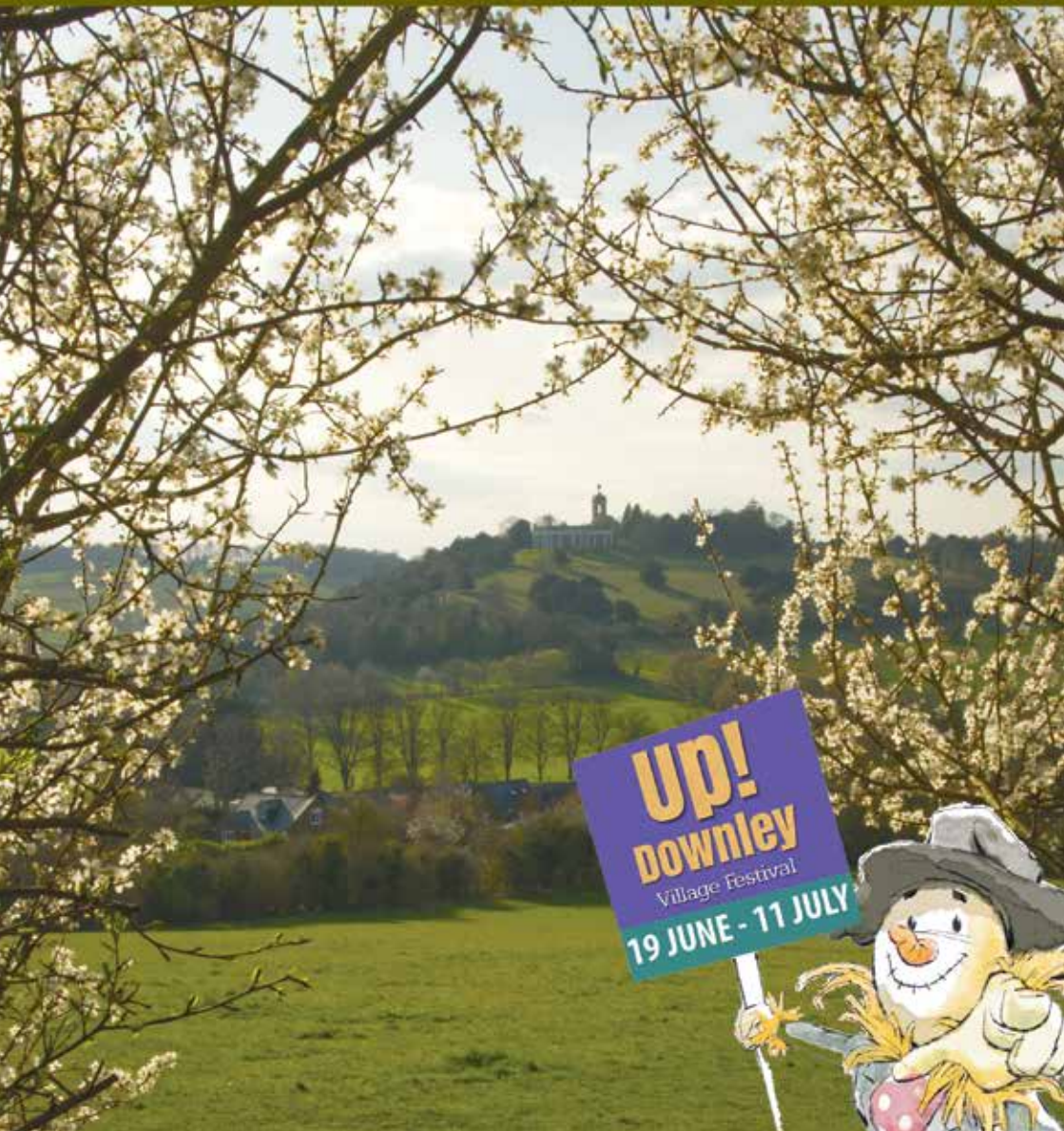


**DOWNLEY  
COMMUNITY**

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER

# Village News

Issue 147/May 2026



**Up!**  
**Downley**  
Village Festival  
19 JUNE - 11 JULY



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## Editorial

My favourite time of year! Despite the chilly winds, we've had some glorious sunshine too, and the blossom is full out along with the bluebells and the trees with their "new" green coming through. I love it!

However, there is some sad news. Our wonderful landlord and landlady at the Le De Spencer Arms, Mark and Sarah, are moving to pastures new in May. We will miss them hugely (as will many others, I know, as the pub always seems to be busy) and we wish them well. We look forward to welcoming Darren and Lucy Richardson who are taking over from them – please support them and help them to take the pub from strength to strength.

The Up! Downley festival will soon be here again, and you can see details of Downley Day and associated events, along with arts and crafts in Downley, in this issue. You'll also find a full programme of the festival as a loose insert. Hopefully the weather will be kind again this year and we can all enjoy the wonderful community spirit which Downley has. Thanks again to the army of volunteers who make sure these events are such a success.

Our next edition will be the autumn one, which will be out in mid-August. As usual, we will be delighted to hear from any organisation in Downley (or the surrounding area) with news or information. You can submit articles via the email address [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org). **Copy deadline is midday on Sunday 26 July 2026** but please get your copy in as early as possible as space is limited.

Anne, Editor • [editor@downley.org](mailto:editor@downley.org)

# Downley Parish Council

We have had several antisocial behaviour incidents reported in recent weeks. There have also been reports of theft and of drug taking.

If you become aware of an incident, report it to the police. If someone is in immediate danger or if the situation could become violent then report it using 999. If it's not an emergency, you can use 101. Non-emergencies can also be reported online at:

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reportonline](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reportonline)

On a similar note, we are still seeing nitrous oxide canisters littered through the village. These shouldn't go in general waste or recycling and need to be disposed separately, so please leave them where they are and request removal through Fixmystreet. If you take a photo and load it with your report, this often helps speed the process up.

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

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## Downley Day News

Downley Day events this year will be held on:

**19th June at 7pm:**  
Family Disco and Barbecue on Commons side

**20th June at 12pm:**  
(note the earlier start time!) – Downley Day on Commons side. Pitch application form

available at <https://www.downley.org/uploads/documents/info/Downley Day - Application Form 2026.docx>

The Donkey Derby will be returning as a headline event at Downley Day by popular request. We would like to invite local groups to enter a team of 4 individuals to take part in a 4 lap race riding a wooden donkey. We anticipate there being 2-3 heats of 3-6 teams culminating in a final race for the



Downley Common Challenge Stakes. Those interested in entering a team should contact [info@downley.org](mailto:info@downley.org). There will be a small entry charge of £12 to demonstrate commitment and to cover expenses.

This year there will also be a children's donkey derby using special reduced scale donkeys. This is expected to be suitable for children aged 8 to 14 but this depends on their ability to reach the stirrups!

28th June at 10.30am: Downley 5K run starting on Commons side. Entry forms available shortly at <http://downley5.co.uk/>

11th July at 6:30pm: Concert on the Common. Acts to be announced



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

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



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## Up! Downley Festival 2026

Up! Downley Festival is only a month away and you'll find all the details you need in the enclosed Programme of Events.

Two calendar favourites return: Disco Bingo on Thursday 18th June, sponsored by A & M Refurbishment, and the Comedy Night on Wednesday 24th June, sponsored by ABK Ltd.

Two new events this year are a free to attend family art workshop run by Fractured Land Collective as part of their Truth or Folly exhibition programme and The Harbour Buoys, a Brixham sea shanty folk band.

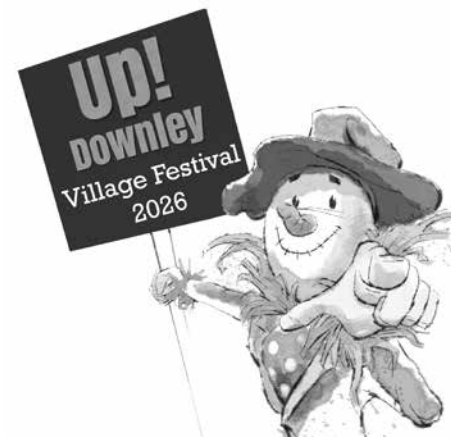


Finding ourselves with surplus funds, the Festival Committee decided to nominate One Can Trust ([www.onecantrust.org.uk](http://www.onecantrust.org.uk)) as our "charity of the year", awarding them £100 per month plus 20% of the takings from the Disco Bingo event. Jo Belshaw, Operations Manager said:

"Everyone at One Can Trust was delighted with the news that we have been chosen as the Up! Downley Festival's nominated charity for this year and to benefit also from the Festival's Disco Bingo evening. As a charity, we rely on donations from grants, businesses and the local community to ensure our services are maintained. Currently, we're supporting an average of 440 people per week across South Bucks with food parcels but these days, we are more than

just a food bank. Our clothes bank is a lifeline to many as well as our toddler groups and community café, Hills Café, in Micklefield. It costs £25 to support one client for a week so every penny counts. Thank you for supporting One Can Trust and enabling us to make a difference to the lives of local people who are in need."

This year we have distributed wildflower seeds to the Downley schools and playgroups and we look forward to seeing the "Wonderfully Wild" results around the village.



Finally, we are encouraging villagers to create their version of our mascot, the Scarecrow, in advance of the Festival. With the Football World Cup this Summer, it might be a good theme for the scarecrows but the choice is up to you.

**We hope everyone enjoys  
Up! Downley 2026!**

**[www.festival.downley.org](http://www.festival.downley.org)**

*Fran Lazenby  
Festival Committee Chairman*

## Do you enjoy singing?

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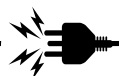
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## Downley Common News

Spring has now definitely sprung and the flowers are in full bloom. Of particular note are the bluebells and while there are not many to be seen on the common, a short excursion to Bradenham Beeches is recommended. The glade opposite Golf Link Villas where we have been cutting and raking seems to be bearing fruit. Last year, we reported a single additional cowslip which has now grown ten-fold and the original patch has expanded greatly to form a cowslip meadow.

February saw the annual attack on Mannings Pond in which we attempt to stop the reed mace from completely covering the surface. As can be seen in the photo, it's good "immersive therapy". The reeds in fact form a floating blanket on the pond surface and once detached (using a saw) from the surrounding reeds, can be floated to the bank and removed. This exercise is a bit like painting the Forth bridge – as soon as we get to one end, it has all grown back at the other end, providing many years of enjoyment.

In March there were several fallen trees blocking pathways which needed to be cleared.



Previous surveys have identified the need to remove ivy from healthy trees. Ivy does not always need to be removed from trees, but it should be controlled if it

becomes too heavy, smothers the canopy, or poses a hazard. While it provides vital winter habitat for wildlife, excessive ivy can cause "sail effect" wind damage, hide tree disease, and compete for light. In addition, the management plan identifies "haloing" around landmark trees. Haloing or "halo-thinning" is a woodland management technique that involves clearing vegetation, saplings, and shrubs from around a specific tree, typically a veteran or ancient specimen. It increases light, reduces competition for resources, and protects the tree's root system, allowing the old tree to survive. In our case this primarily involves removing holly. So in April, a work party concentrated on

both ivy-removal and haloing, mainly just north of the cricket pitch.

*Bill Thompson.  
Downley Common  
Preservation Society*



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# Downley Evening WI



Hello again from your friendly neighbourhood WI.

I hope you're all well and enjoying the new season. We've had an interesting time, as always, with talks about conservation of wildlife in Africa (February) and more recently about sleep. Dr Lindsay Browning, a sleep expert you may have seen on TV, was most informative on the subject and we learnt a lot about what constitutes good sleep as opposed to poor sleep. It's not necessarily what you think. In fact, she gave us a lot of reassurance. You can find out some of it for yourself on her website: [troublesleeping.co.uk](http://troublesleeping.co.uk).

Our birthday party in March was fun -we turned 63! – and we enjoyed a delicious 3 course meal provided by the wonderful Ann Tennant, and were entertained by

Emily Yarrow, whose background in musical theatre made her rendition of her varied programme something above the ordinary. Next month, we will welcome Robert Smith to speak to us about London's Windmills and Watermills. There's always something new to learn.

Ladies, we invite you to come along and visit us and sample the Women's Institute for yourselves. We're always happy to see new faces and there's cake at refreshment time...! We meet 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). We hope to see you soon.

*Angela Taplin*

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## CHAMELEON SINGLES GROUP

Early spring events have gone well with food events being particularly popular. These included a fish and chip supper and we also attended the Hazlemere Quiz evening with our team finishing in a respectable place. Our planned Rebellion Brewery trip has moved to April as the weather was more favourable. Regular events continue including Lunch Club, Pub Night and a monthly Zoom social where you can take part without even leaving home. Weekday coffee meets have proved popular at Wycombe Museum. All of these events are great places to meet other members and offer a special welcome to those new to the group. For spring and summer, we are planning some more trips out both in our local area and further afield too. This is planned to include a day out to the coast once again. Chameleon is looking at doing some accessible walks this year. Aware

that sometimes the terrain can be a bit difficult, we will be finding some routes that follow paved pathways which are better for those who are perhaps a little less mobile. Distances for these walks will be kept short and at the pace of the slowest walker.

Over the last few months Chameleon members have enjoyed a number of social events and we are always looking to include a greater variety. Our events are as broad as our members choose. If you are single, 40-60's, looking for new friends and a great social life why not give Chameleon Singles Group a try? 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 us on-line at [www.chameleonsingles.org.uk](http://www.chameleonsingles.org.uk) or search for us on Facebook and Nextdoor.

## Downley Voices **The Power of Music Through The Ages**

*“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and charm to life.”*

*Plato*

Singing in a choir in my mind is even more than Plato’s quote. It is belonging, a shared effort that is more than the sum of its parts, and a blend of joy, humour and dedication. It is a group of diverse people coming together and creating beauty. Let’s face it, it’s healthier than drinking, much more fun than working out, and a great deal cheaper than therapy!

I have been lucky enough to be the musical director of Downley Voices for the past 8 months, and it is quite simply one of the highlights of my week. As a professional musician who has toured the world, performed in places as different as Carnegie Hall and the Peruvian jungle and recorded with everyone from Sir John Rutter to Sir Ian McKellen, there is simply nothing like being part of a team.

The richness of the basses, the warmth of the inner tenor and alto parts, and what can we say about the melodious sopranos...as long as they have the tune they are very happy! All parts blend to make a mixed choir particularly wonderful. We rehearse every Thursday in St James’ Church Downley, and you

don’t need to read music as there are tailor made backing tracks for every song and there is always a buddy in your voice part to befriend.

This coming term’s music is for our Summer concert on July 2nd “From page to stage” featuring music from books that have been made into musicals / songs. There is something for everyone to know, discover and love, from Sweeney Todd, Beauty and the Beast and Lord of the Rings to name a few.

If you are reading this and thinking “That all sounds great but I was told I couldn’t sing at school” ignore that memory as it is NEVER true. We can all sing and we can all derive joy, and wellbeing from singing, especially together.

“Screw your courage to the sticking place” (although no-one’s made a musical of Macbeth yet!) and come and join us. The weekly subs are less than a yoga class, just as good for you, more convivial and you get to raise money for charity. As the man who wrote the lyrics for The Wizard of Oz said...

*“Words make you think. Music makes you feel. A song makes you feel a thought.”*

*Becky Holt – Musical Director*

## News from St James

### Services

Sundays 11am

Thursdays 10am

followed by community coffee

Contact: [admin@stjamesdownley.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjamesdownley.org.uk)  
/ [www.stjamesdownley.org.uk](http://www.stjamesdownley.org.uk)

*Look, the winter is past, and the rains are over and gone. The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come, and the cooing of turtledoves fills the air. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)*



I hope you are enjoying the spring flowers, the new leaves, the birdsong, and all the varieties of weather as much as I am. Spring is my favourite season, not just because it includes both my birthday and my wedding anniversary, but because I love the lengthening days, the extra light and warmth, and the new life that comes with these things.

It might seem a little late, but I’d like to wish you a Happy Easter! Commercially, of course, the world has moved on, with mini eggs disappearing from the supermarket shelves as early as Easter Day, to be replaced by cleaning

products and barbecue utensils. I remember something someone said several years ago, for which I then didn’t have an answer. That person was saying that we make a lot of fuss about a single day which is over so quickly. They were referring to Christmas, but they might as easily have been thinking of Easter.



As a culture, we’re constantly driven by the lure of the new,

whether that’s wanting to be the first to know the latest news or investing in the latest fashions, diets, gadgets or cars. But while the new can stimulate and refresh, pursuing new things relentlessly can leave us feeling drained, bored and dissatisfied.

Christianity offers a different approach. Easter is the season following Easter Day and it lasts for six weeks. Before Easter, when all the eggs were in the shops, Christians were observing Lent, a time traditionally associated with fasting, giving up certain things (such as chocolate, alcohol or social media), and giving to charity as ways of drawing closer to God. After Easter, Christians are encouraged to consider what it means to live “a risen life” that reflects the joy and hope that the resurrection of Jesus brings.



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**Events coming up**

**31 May, 28 June**

Messy Church. Crafts, food and 15 minutes of story, song and prayer for families.



**20 June** is Downley Day. Come and visit our Churches Together stall for Caribbean food and an opportunity to

explore the work of our charity partner, Growing Hope High Wycombe.



**26 July** is St James' Day. BBQ and Messy Church crafts on site from 1pm; all welcome.

*Rowena Harrison, Licensed Lay Minister, on behalf of St James, Downley*

**Welcome to our u3a**



In March we held a very successful welcome day for New Members. High Wycombe and District u3a has over 30 interest groups which meet monthly in members' homes or local halls. In addition, we arrange outings and an annual holiday.

**For more details, please visit our website**  
<https://highwycombe.u3asite.uk>

We supported the Easter Trail at Lacey Green on Palm Sunday, and the Faces of Eden project in March. The Wycombe Eden Centre continues its Silver Series of free events open to all retired residents in and around the town. They occur on the second Monday of each month at 11 am and you can book a place by contacting [hello@atomicbee.co.uk](mailto:hello@atomicbee.co.uk). In May (11th) there is a coffee social and in June (8th) a cinema showing.

**Here are some examples of our locations and groups:**

**Antiques and Collectibles group** meets in Hughenden Village Hall and has regular outings to places of interest.

At Naphill Village Hall the following

groups meet: **Rummikub, Computer, Whist, Quiz, Art, Discovering Art** (with a trip to Blenheim Palace planned for June).

At Hazlemere Memorial Hall you can attend: **Geology, Discovering Science, Local History** (upcoming talk on Wycombe's famous scientists planned), **Photography, Psychology, The World We Live In** (our professor on Taiwan's history will return by request in May).

Lacey Green Memorial Hall is the home of our Monthly General Meeting Speakers (4th Wednesday of the month from 2pm). In May we have a talk on *The Life and Times of a Film Extra*.

All our groups have equally interesting programmes. These talks are for those with limited or more extensive knowledge to share and discuss over a cup of coffee. We know how important meetings such as these are for making and maintaining friendships.

**For further information, please contact**  
**Paul gilliamph@aol.com**  
**or Judith hwu3asecretary@gmail.com**



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

*A chance to meet new friends and feel good!*

**MONDAY** 10am for a 1½ hour walk

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**Downley Brownies and Guides would welcome new members**

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Guide aged Girls from 10 years from 7pm until 8.30pm

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**For more information or to Register please visit**  
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**Or contact**

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## Top Notes

By chance and by luck on one mid-summer's day, I was charmed and enthralled by some singing. Those ladies, all bright in demeanour and dress, made me think "oh! what joy they are bringing!"

My mission: audition, and join this fine group - it was one of my best ever choices. A privileged place I've been honoured to gain, to enjoy and blend in with those voices.

We're all brought together to sing and to learn (Though I still don't know quaver from crotchet!) Much guidance and grace is extended to all, even on the occasions we botch it!

A rainbow of songs: every colour and hue; every depth, tone and voice represented. A decade, so far, bringing concerts to all, where you're sure to adore what's presented.

So come and enjoy, while our charity gains from these harmonies sounding exquisite. Our concert this summer is June 28th and we'd love it so much if you'd visit!

*Nina Holland - Alto*

### AUDITIONS

Monday 1st June - please email [topnotestunes@gmail.com](mailto:topnotestunes@gmail.com)

### SUMMER CONCERT TICKETS

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 'Top Notes Summer Concert 2026'



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## J. Heartycough's Horticultural Hints

### Summer 2026

Wal, it's Summer, wal, can it be really? I reckons it is, and wot a Spring eh! Arfter orl that so called Winter of munths of grey and gloom, no snow and just a few days of frorst, so wot has appened to our seasons? – But now, wal, don't a bit of sunshine make a difference to how you feels, if it wasn't for the rabbits or rats or mice wots pullin out my broad bean plants as quick as I plants em, I'd feel a bit of joy as I walks acrorst the common. “ He loves that walk you knows, chattin with his mates, he's out of the house and I can get on without listenen to him goin on about his pidgins and rabbits and mice and orl them other pests wot he keeps on and on and on about em”, ses Mrs H.



Anyway, I do loves it up there, and guess wot,-- I had my first bonny after the council lifted the ban on em, that was a joy, so orl that luvly potash left over helpin my little plants a'growin, that is if them pests have left any. Wal, I hopes you'll have got yor seeds sown, I've said before that its easy to lose a season just like that if you delays that vital occupation. My tommy toes are nicely up, ready for pottin in their permanent pots in the greenhouse, beetroot, chard and I'm avvin a go with kohl rabi, in seed trays, them are funny lookin things, but really tasty as long as they're not too old. And now you should ave got yor squashes showin their little heads in pots on yor winder sill or greenhouse, ready for plantin out. Mind you, still be careful about old Jack Frorst, he can still be about, “ Look out, look out, Jack Frorst is about” as my gramp used to say, sometimes I've had my early spuds touched by frorst, even in May! And as you knows I likes to get my spuds a'goin, this year its 'Swift', very early they ses, then 'Charlotte', every ones favourite, luvly salad spuds they are, then 'Desiree', red skins main crop, and, because of the world situation I'm expandin my spud growin. Why? You might ask? Wal, they're easy to grow up the plot, and they keeps, so when the supermarket shelves is empty I'll ave sacks of spuds in the shed. “ He does get a'goin sometimes, Wot does he know about the world situation, he don't even know wots goin on in Wycombe” ses you knows who. Anyway, I bought another pack of seed potatoes, 'Picasso', wal, wot a name for spuds, could be fun, I wonders wot they'll look like, Cubism spuds, first ever up the plot eh!

Now you'll be wonderin wots appened to my French cousin Jean d'Artichoke, wal he and I ave been talkin about French and English names for plants, like dandelion, which you knows is a corruption of 'dents de lion', or 'lions teeth', on account of the shape of the leaves, another French word for dandelion is 'Pis en lit', or 'pee in the bed', which it means it's a diuretic or summat like that, so be careful if you're usin fresh leaves in a trendy country salad!

Wal, enough of this, its not rainin so I'm orf into the gardin to sow some annuals, and get my sunflowers a'growin,

Cheerio for now, and a'bientot,

*J. Heartycough. Sent from my iSpade.*



# Cycling in South Buckinghamshire

Cycling UK has a number of local groups in South Buckinghamshire

**South Bucks Midweek:** Rides every Wednesday from easy paced, moderate to those faster and longer. Most meet at 09:30am from points including Wendover, Great Kingshill, Cholesbury and Beaconsfield. Stops for elevenses at a local café or garden centre followed by lunch before returning home. Also coffee pots on Friday mornings.

**Chiltern Cycling:** Rides and coffee pots on Sundays with the focus on welcoming new members. Rides take place on quiet routes 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:** Led rides in the

south of the county and into Berkshire 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.

You would be very welcome to join us!

**For more Information:**

**E:** [publicity@southbuckscycling.org.uk](mailto:publicity@southbuckscycling.org.uk)

**W:** [www.southbucksmidweekcycling.org](http://www.southbucksmidweekcycling.org)  
(Midweek Group)

**W:** [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)



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# Celebrating Art and Craft in Downley

If you enjoy creating art and crafts or viewing what others have created, then these two FREE events are sure to inspire.

## ART WITHIN TENT

**Monday 22nd June 2026 at 6.30pm • Marquee on Commonside**

- A free arty midsummer event for everyone – beginner or experienced, adult or accompanied child - who enjoys art and crafting.
- You can try drawing or painting a still life, a landscape taken from our beautiful surroundings on the Common or even portrait drawing... the choice is yours.
- Bring your own materials if you have them or, if you haven't painted before, use those provided at the venue. There will be simple arty activities on offer for children.
- Join us in the marquee for a fun evening of creativity and chat.

## DOWNLEY ART & CRAFT SHOW

**Saturday 4th – Friday 10th July 2026**

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

Created in 2012, the Downley Village Art Show, part of the Up! Downley Festival, has been rebranded in 2026 as the Downley Art & Craft Show.

Showcasing all things arty AND crafty by presenting a complete cross section of Downley Village creativity, we have added new categories, covering more genres of art and craft.

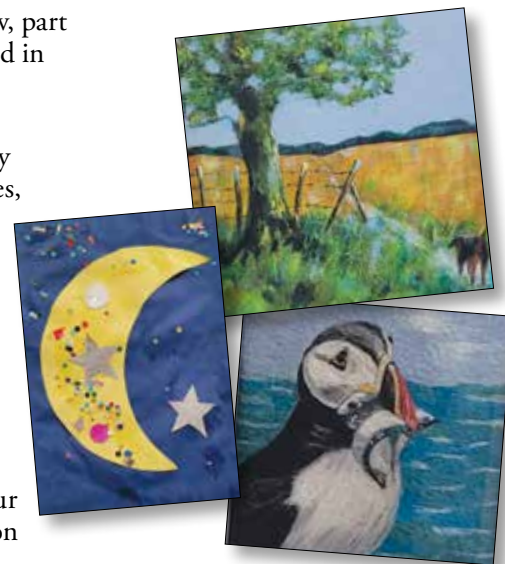
So, if you paint, draw, photograph, knit, crochet, lacemake, sculpt, model make or anything else, we invite you to exhibit your creations at this year's show.

We hope this creates a show that feels accessible, fresh and entertaining to exhibitors and visitors alike.

Full details and entry forms are available on our website (details below) or pick up an application form at the Community Centre foyer.

**W:** [downleyartandcraftshow.downley.org](http://downleyartandcraftshow.downley.org) • **Email:** [downleyartshow@outlook.com](mailto:downleyartshow@outlook.com)

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Florence  
Nightingale  
HOSPICE CHARITY

**Come together this  
summer to support  
local hospice care**

Local residents are being warmly invited to come together, have fun and support a vital local cause as Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity launches a vibrant programme of summer events.

The events are a celebration of community spirit, with every pound raised helping to provide compassionate care for patients and their families at Florence Nightingale Hospice in Aylesbury, Butterfly House in High Wycombe, and in people's homes across Buckinghamshire and its borders.



Then, on Sunday 2nd August, the community will take centre stage at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre with a special production of Fame. Featuring more than 100 talented local children, the show promises to be a joyful and inspiring highlight of the summer, with both matinee and evening performances available.

Together, these events offer a fantastic opportunity for local people to connect, celebrate and make a real difference—supporting hospice care that touches so many lives across Buckinghamshire and its borders.



The summer kicks off with the much-loved Midnight Walk on Saturday 20th June at Roman Park Hall, Aylesbury. Set against the backdrop of the summer solstice, this uplifting event invites participants to walk five or ten miles in celebration of life and in memory of loved ones. Friends, families and neighbours are all encouraged to take part, with the evening beginning with a calming "Solstice Unwind" session to set the tone for the walk.

### For more information

about the  
**Midnight Walk**  
and to sign up, visit  
<https://fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk>

Tickets for Fame  
can be booked by visiting  
<https://atgtickets.com/aylesbury>



Children's Mental Health Week helped us to focus on belonging through the theme of "This Is My Place." The school reflected on how, when we feel we belong, we feel happy, safe and ready to learn. TDS has a strong sense of belonging and each class team made a mosaic which demonstrates how they feel connected and valued.

We also participated in Safer Internet day. Children completed activities to help explore the theme of "Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI". Our lower school children learned the importance of making age appropriate decisions when using smart technology. Our upper school took part in BBC live assembly exploring how AI works, how information online is not always trustworthy, and how children can make responsible digital choices.

We continue to work on our

curriculum and providing children with memorable experiences. Y5 spent 2 days at Ufton Court furthering their understanding of Tudor life. Activities completed helped them to appreciate the effects of religious tensions in Tudor times and offered the experience of culture and life in the Tudor period. As their first school residential, it also provided them the chance to build independence. The banquet and dawn raid were the highlights of the trip.

We held a Shakespeare themed week (*photo over page*) to celebrate world book day. Each class had a Shakespeare workshop where they were introduced to a key Shakespearean text through a fun and experiential approach. Our children were able to bring Shakespeare's characters to life through gesture and voice. In addition everyone also enjoyed a virtual session with Simon Mole a poet we worked with last year.

To support our PSHE theme 'Healthy Me' we once again teamed up with Veg Power and participated in 'Eat them to defeat them' campaign. This campaign



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encourages children to eat vegetables to destroy the 'vegiverse'. The lunch team have never seen so many vegetables consumed!



We also have been learning about how exercise helps us to stay healthy and all participated in a physical challenge with Lesley Owusu, an international 400m sprinter. Everyone took part in a sponsored fitness circuit followed by a motivational assembly and a Q&A session. The event raised money for



new sports equipment and activities within the school which we are looking to benefit from in our Sports Day later this term.

We continue to work hard at TDS and all of us are looking forward to seeing what the summer term brings!

**We have vacancies in September 2026 for Reception - Year 3 and would welcome the opportunity to share our school with you. Those who visit always comment on how independent and well behaved our children are and how fortunate they are to have such amazing facilities.**

**Please enquire about a visit by emailing [office@dnl.odbst.org](mailto:office@dnl.odbst.org)**

## Hillclimb Garage News

### Downley Day - Inspiring the Next Generation - China tops UK car sales in March 2026



#### Downley Day 2026



The warmer weather has finally arrived and we are all looking forward to enjoying long, summer days, BBQ's and attending Downley Day on 20th June...! This year's event commences at 12:00pm and includes even more fun, stalls and entertainment than ever, including the return of the Donkey Derby! After last year's epic inaugural race, the Derby returns and the Hillclimb Team will be battling again this year to go one better and win the race!

We are proud to, once again, be headline sponsors of Downley Day and look forward to seeing many of you there. Do pop over and say hello where we will have some cool cars on display and lots of chances to win prizes and goodies. See you there!

#### Hillclimb striving to inspire the Next Generation

Inspiring young people to join the Automotive Industry is very close to our hearts at Hillclimb, so it was fantastic to return to The Misbourne School Careers Fair recently, where we highlighted the wide range of career opportunities



within our industry, especially in the independent garage sector.

We were incredibly impressed by the students who stopped by our stand. Their curiosity, enthusiasm, and passion for learning and future career paths was truly impressive. Several expressed a real interest in our apprenticeship programmes, spending time with our own current and qualified apprentices to find out more about the opportunities available, in both the mechanical and administrative side of the industry.



Investing in the next generation is key to driving our industry forward and we are looking forward to attending more events throughout the year.

#### China tops car sales in March 2026

We reported in the last issue how Electric Vehicles continued to increase their market share in the new car market

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throughout 2025 and by March this year, new EV registrations had their best month ever. Overall, new car sales were 6.6% up in March 2026, with Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) taking almost 23% of the share. Plug in Hybrid (PHEV) and Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV) accounted for 13% and 15.8% of the market respectively. Electric vehicle sales continue to grow and collectively accounted for over 50% of market share in March. Albeit, the BEV share is still well behind the mandated target of 33% for the year.

The top selling model for March was the Jaecoo 7, the Chinese PHEV

SUV, with sales in excess of 10,000 units. The Ford Puma was second and Nissan Qashqai third, with the Tesla Y slipping to ninth place.

The government's Electric Car Grants and further investment in charging infrastructure has encouraged more consumers to look at the EV market, but with the current global unrest, it will be interesting to see how markets fare over the coming months. Source: SMMT  
Finally a BIG thank you to our lovely customers for your continued support and encouragement of Hillclimb Garage. It really does mean the world to us all and we remain **'At your SERVICE'**

## Downley Theatre Group

Since the last edition of the Village News, we've been to the Empress Museum for "Come Alive! – the Greatest Showman Circus Spectacular" which was, as advertised, spectacular: tight-rope walkers, tumblers, trapeze artists and fantastic vocalists singing songs from "The Greatest Showman" film. Brilliant.

All fully booked with no spare seats are "Kinky Boots" and our third trip to "ABBA Voyage", both in June. We were bowled over by the interest in the advertised outings to "Paddington" (September) and "The Phantom of the Opera" (October) which sold out in four and three days respectively, quite amazing.

We don't operate a waiting list for cancellations, join the mailing list to be notified of last-minute availability due to plans changing and full details of future jollies. The price - which covers return travel, group rate ticket and drivers tip – is generally less than the standard ticket price. For example, we costed "Kinky Boots" at the inclusive rate of £65 for face value tickets of £80.

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

### 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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Fridays at Downley Community Centre (Term Time only)



# Help Build the Future of Scouting in Downley



For over 60 years, 3rd Downley Scout Group has been part of village life, helping young people build confidence, learn practical skills, and enjoy outdoor adventures.

Today, we support Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from across Downley and the surrounding area. Many of you will have seen us at events like Downley Day, where we run the barbecue and activities, or helping with litter picking the morning after Concert on the Common.

However, our current scout hut is now reaching the end of its life.

Built in the 1960s, the building faces ongoing issues with damp and

maintenance, and the space limits what we can offer to young people and the wider community.

We now have an opportunity to create something much better; a new, modern, and sustainable community building that can support scouting and be used more widely by local groups.

To make this happen, we need to raise significant funds, and support from within the village is crucial. When applying for larger grants, funders look for clear evidence of local backing. Every contribution helps us demonstrate that support.

**If you would like to get behind the project, we'll shortly be launching simple ways to support, both online and at local events. Please keep an eye out for more details.**

**You'll also see us at Downley Day and other local events; please do come and say hello.**

Together, we can build something lasting for Downley.



## Simply Walk, Downley

The annual Anniversary Walk was held on 30th March, on a lovely sunny day with 30 walkers



in Hughenden Park among the daffodils. The group was joined by other walkers back at the Community Centre for tea and coffee and cake. Another good year of walking in and

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and a chat!!**

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

around the Downley countryside, and after a very wet, windy and muddy season it was great to see the improvement in weather conditions. There have been lots of primroses around, and now the bluebells are beginning to show too. We are continuing walks on Mondays (90 minutes Level 3 walk) and on Thursdays both Level 1 (50 minutes avoiding difficult walking) and Level 2 (one hour). Please come and join us for the exercise, the social contact and the pleasure of the Chilterns in the Spring. We meet at the Community Centre – 10 o'clock on Mondays and 11 o'clock on Thursdays.

**The Annual Village Walk  
Rogation Sunday – 10th May**  
Depending on the delivery of Downley Village News the Annual Village Walk may well have passed by the time you are reading this but just in case -

**Sunday 10th May at 2.00pm  
meet on the Common  
near the Memorial Hall**  
to take part in the tradition of Beating the Boundaries – walking as a group (recently 50-75 walkers) with all ages and dogs on leads welcome.

*Jeanne Steward*

## News from Sunnybank

**Spring's Promise and the Message of Easter** - a few words from Downley Methodist Church

As the first hesitant green shoots push through the warming soil, and the trees are full of blossom and the woodland is painted with bluebells, it is hard not to feel a shift in our own spirits. There is a profound, rhythmic reassurance in the arrival of spring; after the quiet dormancy of winter, life demands to be noticed once again. Bulbs and seeds have waited in the darkness, trees have stood bare waiting for the sap to rise and for their leaves to bud and burst forth in vibrant shades of green. We can see this renewal everywhere: in the sudden burst of tulips, the return of birdsong at dawn, and the lengthening shadows of our evenings. It is a season that asks us to look outward and upward, reminding us that no winter is permanent. This seasonal awakening serves as a beautiful backdrop to the meaning of Easter. At its heart, Easter is the ultimate celebration of hope—a testament to the idea that life, in all its resilience, possesses a capacity to overcome even the darkest of endings. Just as the garden

transforms, the message of the season invites us to consider our own capacity for new beginnings. Just as a bulb remains dormant in the dark until the time is ready for growth, Jesus was laid in the darkness of a tomb and burst forth when the time was right.

There is much that feels dark and uncertain in the world right now. If you would like a quiet space to escape the noise of life, why not pop into the church for some stillness or to pray – the building is open most Mondays between 10-12noon. Requests for prayer can also be left.

Whether you observed the Easter holiday through quiet reflection, faith, nature, or simply by enjoying the company of family and neighbours, may this time bring you a sense of renewal. Let us carry the light of these spring days forward, finding inspiration in the simple, persistent miracle of life beginning anew.

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

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Jill

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Patrick

Top Notes

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# Downley Gardening Society

## January meeting review

Doug Stewart gave a very informative and entertaining talk on the Secret Gardens of Yorkshire at our January meeting on Zoom. He started with the Yorkshire Arboretum which is next to Castle Howard. Covering 50 hectares, there are 6000 trees from around the world there and it is home to the first tree health centre investigating pests and diseases. Doug gave a tip when looking at tree plant labels - the first 4 numbers indicate the year the tree was planted which could be useful when considering whether you might want that particular type of tree for your own garden i.e. has it grown a lot in the years since it was planted, how wide it is, etc.

## February meeting review

Billy Stott gave an information-packed talk with super photos of plants to fill our gardens with colour in late summer and autumn. He included trees such as the crab apple and recommended Red Sentinel for its glossy fruits. Hydrangeas, euonymus, asters, helianthus lemon queen, gaura and diascia Emma were all mentioned and are plants he stocks at his nursery. Several of us went home with plants in their "pots of soil" stage as he called them!

## March meeting review

Rob Potterton gave an entertaining talk on how to grow alpiners and woodland plants at our March meeting. It was interesting to learn that the alpine zone is the area between the permanent snow line and the tree line. Alpiners thrive where there is good ventilation, abundant light with nothing overhanging them and a well-drained soil. He recommended using John Innes no 2 compost as it is slightly alkaline and to surround the

individual plants with 5-10mm of gravel. Rob's advice can be found in "A guide to growing Alpines, Dwarf Bulbs and Woodland Plants" which is available to read by searching <https://www.rareplantfair.co.uk>

## April meeting and AGM Monday, 20th April 2026

Our speaker for April was Jonathan Hogarth who talked to us last year about growing and exhibiting hostas. This time he spoke about aeroponic growing in relation to hostas and other plants.

## Dates for your diary

### May meeting - Monday, 18th

Dr Jill Eyres will talk about a Journey through the Chilterns

### Sunday, 14th June

Trip to RHS Hyde Hall

### Downley Day - Saturday, 20th June

#### Autumn Show

### Saturday, 5th September

### November meeting - Monday, 16th

Dr Sandy Primrose will talk about Orchids and Ice Cream

### Wednesday, 25th November

Trip to RHS Wisley Glow

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.

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## Downley Cricket Club



After a winter of mostly well-attended indoor nets at John Hampden Grammar School, Downley cricketers, led by Club Chairman and wicket-taking machine Graeme 'County' Aitken, and others, are looking forward enthusiastically to a season of sunshine and success in the Thames Valley League. Our personable coach Obi from High Wycombe Cricket Club, who himself has played at a very high level, has helped oversee and encourage us as a group, and in 1:1 sessions. Before long we will be practising outdoors at HWCC's excellent nets on the London Road, and partaking of refreshments in their bar afterwards, if so inclined. If you would like to join the club as player, scorer or umpire please contact us at [webmaster@downleycc.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@downleycc.co.uk)

Downley CC has been playing cricket for more than 150 years and welcomes players of all abilities, ages, shapes and sizes. We try hard, but there's plenty of fun and laughter on the field, with faithful spectators on a sunny day throwing in lively comments and critical evaluation from the sidelines, mostly by way of encouragement. Long-serving treasurer and leg-spinning all-rounder Billy '2 helmets' Powell has ordered balls and paid all league fees in readiness for the eagerly-anticipated season.

At the recent AGM former speedster but now aspiring spin bowler (and recent maiden half-century scorer for the club) Rehaan Vats has taken over as Captain. The vastly-experienced and all rounder Graham 'Boycs' Swales will

be vice-captain. Wicket preparation on Downley Common has started, and a work party is currently scheduled. As enthusiastic Secretary Fionn Napier says, 'It's something that needs doing before the start of each season. We get out the massive tape measures, mark out the wickets, drill some holes in for the stumps, etc. The more people that know how to do it the better, so come along if you are free'. 'Volunteer groundsman work is a way of earning guaranteed game time', Fionn adds.

We are awaiting a replacement roller to be delivered, which is essential for Downley and HWCC to be able to use the square. The dedicated Den Cox and his band of helpers are keen to get going. The pavilion had a leak over the winter and will require some refurbishment, for which a work party is being arranged. We are a small club, and without any full-time paid staff, members need to roll up their sleeves and join in. It is always satisfying to work alongside others, often with greater skills than oneself, to get these pre-season jobs done.

An important day in our calendar is President's Day which this year will be held on Sunday 30 August. It is a fun day for all the family, with food and drink available, and judging from the last two years a hugely well-supported event by the village with teams entering from local clubs like Great Kingshill, and including HWCC coaches and ladies teams.

## Support your local voluntary Library



### Downley Day 20th of June

Please come along and support the Downley Community Library at Downley Day. As usual there will be a large selection of books on sale at bargain prices. You may purchase Individual books or grab a bag full for £2.

We can be found in the large marquee.

Downley Community Centre  
School Close, Downley HP13 5TR

T: 01494 528133

E: johnmorris4@ntlworld.com

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## DOWNLEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

### How Downley Promoted Global Democracy

That is a rather grand title, but it is deserved and it's pertinent given the current global melt down. It relates to some chairs made at Mines and West in the 1960s.

A bit of background sets the scene. Mines and West was founded in 1918, and by the late 1960s was employing 150 Downley men and women. It was clearly a happy place to work because many people stayed there for their entire careers. At its peak, the company was making about 1000 chairs a week. By the 1960s most of these were mass-produced polystyrene and polypropylene chairs, which were exported all over Britain, Europe, the Commonwealth and America. Over 900 such chairs furnished the cabins of Cunard's QE2. One can just imagine the lorries coming and going.

However, in addition to those, Mines and West craftsmen also produced high-end expensive chairs, beautifully carved and luxuriously upholstered, often with leather. Sometimes these chairs were reproductions, sometimes they were new designs. They were destined for classy hotels like the Grosvenor, Mayfair or the London Hilton on Park Lane, and for buildings like Marlborough House on Pall Mall when it became the Commonwealth Secretariat, and British embassies including those in Moscow and Washington. The company even made chairs for the judges in the Old Bailey. Perhaps there is a bit of Downley in all these places still.

In other words, Mines and West had a

reputation. This would explain why the company was commissioned by the House of Commons to make Speaker's Chairs to give to colonies of the Empire as they became independent countries.

The British Empire was wound up with remarkable speed largely in the 1960s -1980s. Indeed, by then not much of it was left anyway, since dominions like Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa had achieved self-governance decades earlier, and India, Sri Lanka & Pakistan achieved independence in 1947. What remained were forty or so colonies largely in Africa and the Caribbean that achieved independence between 1957-1982, over a 25-year period.

There were some lengthy debates about what to give each of these countries. It was eventually agreed that there would be three official presents – one from the Queen, one from the House of Commons and one from the Government. The Commons' gifts were to cost £800 or less compared to the Government which spent £3,000. (The Queen was silent about the value of her gifts.)

The Commons' gifts varied: five countries were given a Speaker's Mace; five others got gavels; some got tables; eleven got clocks etc. But fifteen of the forty were given Speaker's Chairs. This chair idea, incidentally, had already been used with Canada, Australia, Ceylon and New Zealand. Both the latter were made by Roland Fabian of Glenister's in High Wycombe in 1949 and 1951. (Australia

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had returned the compliment by making the current Speaker's Chair in the House of Commons.)

In the 1960s at least five of these Speaker's Chairs made for newly emerging Commonwealth countries – a third of the total – were made in Downley at Mines and West, usually about two years after the country concerned got independence. So Nigeria got independence in 1960 but got its chair in 1962. The reason for the delay was simple. The Ministry of Public Building and Works was responsible for commissioning the chairs, but the design was the product of a discussion with the country that was going to have the chair. It had to match their new parliamentary chamber, so to speak, and often the wood used came from the country. When the chair was finally made, it was displayed in Parliament, then packed up and a small visiting delegation of MPs visited the country concerned and handed it over. Mines and West made the Speaker's Chairs for Nigeria (1962), Malaysia (1963), Jamaica (1964), Gambia (1965) and Zambia (1967) and may have made more in the 1970s. Unfortunately, until

the archives of the Commons reopen, we won't have images, nor know about the chairs made in the 1970s. The Company won an award – a Certificate of Merit from the Furniture Makers' Guild - for the Nigerian chair, which was made of oak and elm and painted with a coat of arms. The maker was Harold Ford (d. 1986, aged 89) who incidentally played the organ in Sunnybank chapel for sixty-six years, and after whom Ford Way is named. I can't find a picture of it and don't think it is currently used. However, the chair of Malaysia is now in a museum rather than just vanishing (although the one concerned may be that given them in 1957, rather than 1963) and the Zambian Assembly may still be using the same chair.

Anyway, since all these five countries are currently democracies (albeit with flaws as have all democracies, and ignoring hiccups, authoritarian blips, military coups etc in their pasts) then I think it is fair to say that Downley has played a role in promoting global democracy. After all, the Speaker is one of the most important figures in any Parliamentary system, and he or she needs to sit on a chair of quality.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!**

## 'THE DOWNLEY HISTORY WALK'

**7.00 pm - 8.15 pm • Tuesday 30th June**

A two-mile walk exploring the Common's rich history, including brick making, bodging, preaching, celebrities, tanks & golf. We start at the Beacon at 7:00 pm and we finish at the Le De Spencer Arms at 8:15 pm.

**This walk is FREE, though donations for the DLHG are always welcome**

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## Downley Community Centre



### Montessori Nursery visit by fire brigade (by appointment!)



Arrangements were made in February for a large fire engine to make a special visit to meet the children

from the Montessori Nursery.

At the agreed time the children walked round and were lined up outside our front door. The Brigade then arrived right on cue complete with crew who immediately played out a long hose and started the pumps. One dressed up in full firefighting gear.

The children were invited to climb into the cab, meet the crew members and take it in turns to spray our lawn!

The children had the opportunity to sit in the cab and have a go spraying the hose (with the help of a firefighter)

They watched a firefighter dress in his protective clothing, helmet and boots and were given the opportunity to try on a jacket. A lovely afternoon was had by all.

### New Boilers

When we took over the building in late 2002 we inherited the old school boiler system and the even older Victorian plumbing that went with it. Brunel would have recognised the machinery!

A twin boiler system was finally installed in 2007 together with a major renewal of the plumbing which saw the old Victorian 3" pipework finally removed.

Following a serious fault recently in one of the units, now, 19 years later, it was decided to replace both units.

We are now the proud owners of two brand new energy efficient boilers giving a combined output of 60kW which will serve us all well for many years to come.

Thank you for your patience for those two cold days in March whilst the work was being carried out.

### Craft Fair

A huge thank you to DCC organisers Kimberley Reed and Emma Barr and all of our wonderful stallholders who joined us at the March Craft Fair in Downley Community Centre. Beautiful handmade items, creativity and hard work helped make the day such a lovely event.

We'd also like to thank everyone who came along to support the fair. It was great to see so many people in the community centre browsing the stalls, chatting with the makers and supporting local crafts.

The event was managed on a non-profit making basis so your support really means a lot to us and helps keep community events like this going. We hope all visitors enjoyed the day as much as the voluntary organisers did!

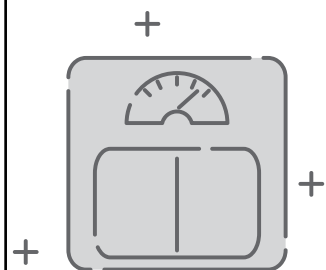


*Photo shows local resident Madalyn Baskerville with her ceramics display.*

All 16 stall holders wrote thank you letters and immediately requested a date for the next craft fair so hopefully this

will be repeated in the autumn.

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Interested? Contact: Joy: joykay1944@gmail.com (01494815209) or

Jackie: cooerjac@hotmail.co.uk (01494488468).

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### OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS IN 2006

**May 13th** Seated pilates Phil Simmons  
 Phil S (Freedom Fitness) <[phil@freedom-fitness.co.uk](mailto:phil@freedom-fitness.co.uk)>

**June 10th** AGM +tea & Beetle Drive

**July 8th** Blood Bikers Kamran Irani  
 chairman@serv-obn.org.uk

**Aug 12th** Outing/visit TBA

**Sept 9th** The development of an Arts and Crafts  
 small country house and garden in Buckinghamshire  
 Katharine Woods MA  
 teabreakgardener@gmail.com

**Oct 14th** Quiz + tea & cake

**Nov 11th** Commonwealth war Graves  
 + remembrance tea & cake  
 Chris Leach  
 Public engagement coordinator • [will.reid@cwgc.org](mailto:will.reid@cwgc.org)

**Dec** Christmas meal TBA

### Hirers

The Crochet Group has added a second evening, Monday to the schedule.

Pilates has added a second session to their Monday schedule

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.*

## Buckinghamshire Council Update



What a great time of year. We've had some glorious Spring weather, and Summer is just round the corner, which means the wonderful events of Downley Up! Festival are soon to commence! I'll be making the most of enjoying our enviable countryside and joining in community events, and look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months.

Work has started on fixing some of our roads – Partridge Way and Kestrel Close have had their preparatory work done before they are fully fixed in the summer. Littleworth Road will have been resurfaced by the time this has arrived through your letterbox. As always, if you've got any potholes along your road that need attention, please report them to FixMyStreet and contact me with a reference number if they need chasing up.

If you have a child at Sir William Ramsay, Carousel buses are advertising the proposed 605 direct bus service from September, based on the old No. 5 route that goes past the Royal Grammar School. It will need at least 76 sign ups by 29th May to run it. After this year's difficulties with the overcrowded public 2-bus option, I hope we can get this bus running. If you're interested, do book asap. Deposits returnable if it doesn't run.

More info here: <https://www.carouselbuses.co.uk/schools>

Finally, regarding speeding in Downley - I have regularly informed Parish Council of my keenness to see speeding data collected and join in any Downley Speedwatch sessions they might wish to organise. I'm happy to log any and all concerns you have about speeding to take to Bucks Council, but asking for data locally to support any case for measures being taken, will require you to go directly to Parish Council. You can email the Parish Clerk, or attend parish meetings to speak in the public section. Do drop me a line if I can help in advance of that.

**PCSO Ted Napier is attending my next Councillor surgery on Saturday 16th May (2-4pm)** in the library room at the Community Centre. I normally hold my surgeries on the 3rd Saturday of every month (except June's which is on 13th due to Downley Day on 20th). No appointment required, just come along. Please get in touch if there's anything I can do as your Councillor to assist you.

*Cllr Hazel Arthur-Hewitt  
[hazel.arthur-hewitt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:hazel.arthur-hewitt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)  
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## From Westminster

*Emma Reynolds - MP for Wycombe*

When I stood to be your MP, I made a clear commitment to protect and strengthen our vital local services. Last month we saw that commitment in action as we broke ground on the new building at Wycombe Hospital. This major investment will deliver state of the art facilities, improving care for local people and transforming patient experiences.

I continue to support the local NHS trust in their work to enhance services, and I'm pleased that the purchase of the council building on Queen Victoria Road is now complete. This step will bring more healthcare into the community and help ensure that support reaches those who need it most.

Last month I brought together local families and education specialists to hear their feedback directly about the government's proposed SEND reforms.

Families shared their experiences, concerns and hopes for the future of SEND

provision, and I will be passing their insights to the Education Secretary as part of the consultation. These proposals aim to build a more effective and inclusive system, ensuring children can access high quality support locally and as soon as their needs arise. I also visited Chiltern Wood Special School where I discussed the impact of the government's SEND reforms and how I can continue to support the school.

I've enjoyed supporting the Chairboys and meeting constituents in Wycombe and Westminster, including the Wycombe Repair Café team, who joined over 100 repair groups in Parliament to champion stronger national repair and reuse policies.



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

### 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 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.**

# Downley Diary | Round-up of Regular Activities

## DOWNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - SUMMER 2026

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	Wednesday	19.00 - 20.30	Agata 07935 789 041 hwradosc@gmail.com
Artsmart	Monday	10.00 - 12.00	alastair.pike@artsmartuk.com
Chipmunks Woodcarving	Wednesday	10.00 - 12.00	downleychipmunks@outlook.com
Community Library	Monday Thursday Saturday	10.00 - 12.00 15.00 - 17.00 10.00 - 12.00	enquiries@downleylibrary.org
C'lor Surgery - Downley Ward	3rd Saturday	14:00 - 16:00	hazel.arthur-hewitt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk 07966 159 791
Craft Group	1st Tuesday	9.30 - 12.30	Helen 01494 564 414
Crochet Group	Monday Tuesday	19.00 - 21.00 19.00 - 21.00	woollywonkas@gmail.com 07833 910 238
Dance Classes (Ballroom & Latin)	Tuesday Wednesday	19.00 - 21.00 18.30 - 20.30	karen@comedancingwithme.co.uk 07873 53 8709
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
Indian Dance Classes for ladies of all ages	Saturday	09.30 - 10.30	Ananya 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	downleymondaminis@gmail.com 07724 385 895
MOO Music	Friday Term-time	10.50 - 12.40	elvan@moo-music.co.uk
Natalie Jane Dance School	Monday Term-time Friday Term-time	15.00 - 19.00 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 dianacrabbe@btinternet.com
Pilates	Monday Monday Thursday	18:30 - 19:30 19:30 - 20:30 09:30 - 10:30	Joseph 07983 159 678
Simply Walk (free)	Monday Thursday	10.00 - 11.30 approx 11.00 - 12.00 approx	Starts from the Community Centre simplywalks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Soft Mobility Fitness	Tuesday	18:00 - 19:00	Kseniia 07710 000 256
Tai chi Shibashi	Monday ad hoc	18.00 - 19.00	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
ZKT Childrens Dance Academy	Wednesday	16.45 - 18.30	zktdanceacademy@gmail.com
Zumba Gold	Wednesday	10.30 - 11.15	jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com

## SUNNYBANK CHAPEL, MOOR LANE - SUMMER 2026

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 01494 514 544

## GUIDE AND SCOUT CENTRE - SUMMER 2026

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 - SUMMER 2026

Hall Bookings: [admin@stjamesdownley.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjamesdownley.org.uk)

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

## ST JAMES HALL - SUMMER 2026

Hall Bookings: [admin@stjamesdownley.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjamesdownley.org.uk)

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 Wednesday	09.30 10.35	✓ ✓	karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567 376 karensynergypilates@gmail.com 07786 567 376
Natailie'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 - SUMMER 2026

Hall Bookings: [dwmh.bookings@gmail.com](mailto: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	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  
**AMBULANCE • FIRE • POLICE**

### HEALTH

NHS Direct 111  
Downley Pharmacy 01494 513 060

### POLICE - NON EMERGENCY

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

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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  
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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](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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