

SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER



**DOWNLEY
COMMUNITY**

Village News



Features

Local Events
Local Societies
Lifestyle
History
Poetry Corner
Letters
Downley Diary

Issue 88 / July 2011



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Credits

Editor

The Village News is currently edited by an editorial team drawn from the Downley Communications Forum. A volunteer is sought for the permanent position of Editor. Contact: info@downley.org

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Steering Committee

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

Chairman Bill Thompson

Secretary Peter Loadman

Treasurer Clive Beard

Web Admin Mark Starkey

Deadlines and Copy

The Village News is published quarterly in November, February, May and August. The deadline for adverts and copy for the next issue is 31 Oct 2011. Please send text in editable format such as *.txt, *.rtf, *.doc, .docx. Photographs to accompany the text should be sent in as high a resolution as possible in any common graphics format. Copy should be sent to news@downley.org. Any copy or photographs sent to this address may also be used on the downley.org website.

The Downley Village News originated in the 1970s at the old Brenchwood School. When that closed it was taken on by Jenny Langley and continued by her family, William and Jo Basterfield when she died in 2007. They have now decided to pass on the responsibility for editing the News, hence the new editorial team that appears at the front. William and Jo have put in a huge amount of effort over the years to keep the Village News going and Downley owes them a vote of thanks in appreciation of their work. Thank you both!

Downley Communications Forum - The Community Plan published last June identified communications as an area that needed improvement. The website needed updating and events were not well-publicised. To address these issues, a group of people from the Community Plan action group with representatives of other groups formed the Communications Forum to discuss the issues and agree a way forward.

Downley.org - First on the agenda was a new website to introduce some new features. Mark Starkey (a professional website designer living in Downley) volunteered to build and maintain the new site with design input from his firm, Turnbull Ripley. The existing website (www.downleypc.org) was quietly put to bed when the new version (downley.org - add the www if you like, it works both ways) was launched at Downley Day.

The design features a new logo for the Downley Community. What happened to “Downley Village”? I hear you ask? Well of course, Downley is still a village but we would like to try and emphasise the community aspect of good communications, to bring the community together more, not only the old-established residents but those more recently arrived who want to get involved but maybe don't know how.

News and eNews - Building on the last Village News which featured a colour cover, we are introducing the Downley Community logo. If this starts to look like some expensive corporate branding exercise, it's not meant to be. It is however trying to show that Downley is a single community, not a set of separate institutions pulling in different directions. The Village News is now supplemented by a regular Village eNews available by subscribing on the website - just enter your name and email address, and you will receive a regular news and events summary email direct to your inbox. Those who would normally just put a poster on the noticeboard to publicise their group events, should send it to news@downley.org and it will go on the website, the Village News, the eNews and on a regular calendar on the noticeboards. Commercial advertisers are still welcome. Please send your requests to adverts@downley.org where Clive Beard, the new Treasurer will look after you.

Volunteer Needed - The current editorial team is not permanent so the Village News needs a new Editor to build on the solid foundation left by William and Jo. Volunteers should contact anyone on the Communications Forum. If you are one of those people who would get pleasure from producing and developing an interesting and informative journal then we would like to hear from you.

Bill Thompson - Downley Communications Forum

Downley Day Dodges The Rain

In the run-up to this year's Downley Day on 18th June, it was the BBC weather map that attracted most attention, being scrutinised at almost hourly intervals. Was that big band of rain going to arrive for the Family Disco on Friday? What about those showers on the Saturday; would they join up or fizzle out?



In the event the Friday night disco got a thorough wetting but that didn't seem to stop the crowds filling up the marquee and forgetting about the weather. Everything ran according to plan, except for the Portaloos turning up late - apologies if you had to cross your legs for a while.

The Saturday morning dawned bright and clear and so it remained except for the occasional shower that didn't seem to last for more than a few minutes, certainly not enough to discourage a good crowd from attending.

The exhibitors were clearly taking no chances with a profusion of tents and gazebos covering Commonsides from end to end. The shiny tent from the Community Centre made its first appearance and the large gazebo fronting the arena housed the DJ was a change

from previous practice.

So what was new at Downley Day this year? It turned out to be a mix of old favourites and some new appearances. The Downley Queen is quite a tradition now and this year was represented by Aicelyn Barratt who declared the Day to be open. Another old favourite, The Downley School Country Dancers followed and performed their routines with enthusiasm to the cheers of encouraging parents.

New displays this year included Foli Drum and Dance, a group of performers on the African drums accompanied by a trio of energetic dancers. No need for amplification for this act. Rock Cafe from the Pastures Church presented the Cleaning Crew, a street-dance act performed and devised by the kids themselves.



A troupe of cheerleaders from the Club on Desborough Park Road also presented for the first time and showed that it's not all pom-poms and ra-ra skirts. This was some serious acrobatics from the older girls with lots of promise from the younger ones.

Not quite a regular but still familiar was Katy Kartwheel showing off her circus skills on the trapeze and the tightrope as well as teaching the children how it's done. The dog agility display also returned this year to demonstrate a level of dog training that most of us can only aspire to!

What else was new? The new Downley website was on display, encouraging people to visit and sign up for the electronic newsletter, the Village eNews.

Finally, towards the end of the afternoon, a Spitfire fighter plane appeared in the skies in the direction of Naphill. What did this mean? Was there a fleet of Wellingtons just over the horizon? Was Colonel Cody about to pay a return visit? No, apparently Naphill were having their



village fete on the same day as us and this was their response to the Red Arrows fly-past in Downley two years ago.

Next up for the summer season in Downley is the Concert on the Common on 16th July, featuring the Wedge, back by popular demand from last year. Other Colours will perform in the interval. This a free event and everyone is invited to come along to enjoy the evening, bring some friends, and a picnic and dance the night away.

Bill Thompson

Striding Out And Raising Funds

If you were up and about on the Common early morning Sunday 10th July you didn't have the place to yourself. Between 80 to 90 runners were covering the closing stages of a fund raising event for the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society, The event started and finished in Hughenden Park.

The pictures here were taken by Guenter Grimm whose wife Clare was taking part. Guenter who lives on Commonside is planning to raise funds himself during August for the NSPCC by cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats. More details at downley.org.



An Evening Of Music At The Downley School

A host of music enthusiasts assembled at the Downley School on the evening of Thursday 16th June to enjoy nearly 40 different performances from a whole range of abilities and styles of music.

The trumpet, guitar and piano were much in evidence influenced perhaps by the efforts of teachers from the High Wycombe Music Centre.

Andy Rogers started off conducting and accompanying the school band in a medley of tunes for flutes and trumpets and he spent the first session accompanying the rest of the brass and woodwind performers from the school. The first half produced notable performances from Thomas Bass who generated a very polished sound from his trumpet playing Jeremiah Clarke's Trumpet Voluntary while Ellie Johnson gave a jazzy rendition of Blues for Big Ears. Tony Ferrer was one of the few violins to perform with studies in G Major and C Major, while Lucy Howitt played a beautiful harp solo. The first half was completed by a very different sound from James Thompson's electric guitar solo of Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train"; a bad influence on all those classical guitarists. The school choir opened the second half with 2 songs from the West End musical "Wicked", namely "Popular" and "For Good". Sam Holwill is nurturing considerable interest in the classical guitar and accompanied 6 separate group performance as well as supporting several soloists, prominent among whom was Saumark Bhaumick who played a selection



arranged by John Whitworth, including Cavatina and Heart of Spain.

It was heartening to see the number of people proficient in more than one instrument such as Becky Howitt (voice, flute and piano), Gargi Agrey (piano and clarinet), Joshua Lancaster (guitar and clarinet) and Lucy Howitt (harp and piano). Special mention should perhaps go to Sara Lancaster as the only parent brave enough to accompany their child on stage, a marked reduction from last year. There's nothing more encouraging to the children than to see their parents taking part; let's see more volunteering next year!

The final virtuoso performance of Handel's "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" for two violins was given by Lucy and Zoe Twine, clearly a double act to look out for in the future.

The school Parents Association are to be congratulated on putting together a performance by so many and with such enthusiasm and we look forward to next year's event.

Bill Thompson



Links Luncheon Club

In early 1981 a Public Meeting was held to discuss the possibility of forming Links Luncheon Club for elderly housebound and lonely people of Downley.

The meeting was told of the success of similar ventures run by volunteers. The Church of St James at Downley offered their premises for the scheme and we had many individuals volunteer their time and efforts to cook, help in the kitchen and provide transport. Local groups such as Doctors, Social Services and other groups dealing with the elderly were contacted. Nowadays word of mouth suffices.

In May 1981 we started our once a week Friday lunches. The name Links Luncheon Club was chosen to signify the bringing together of the people of Downley. It provided, then as now, the opportunity for 2½ to 3 hours of companionship as well

as a two-course meal with tea and biscuits beforehand and a cup of tea afterwards. When St. James' new church hall was opened we were offered the use of this. At its peak we were providing perhaps 48 meals a week, including helpers, although recently the numbers have decreased to around 20 to 25 in total. For 30 years we have watched the older population of Downley come and go through failing health, moving away and, sadly, through death as they grow older.

The Links Luncheon Club meets on approximately 48 Fridays a year due to breaks at Christmas, Easter and sometimes in the summer holiday period when we get short of helpers. Above all else we are still having fun!



Ken & Janet Durkin

downley.org make it your community

The new website for Downley is now online. We want it to be informative, entertaining and engaging. But it needs you to make it those things so go to downley.org, sign up for the Village eNews and help build a village website you'll want to visit.



Downley Scouting

3rd High Wycombe Scout Group in Downley consists of a Beaver colony for 6-8 year olds, a Cub pack for 8-10 year olds, and a Scout troop for 10-14 year olds. We take boys and girls to all three sections.

We are a friendly, well run group, and are unfortunately the victims of our own success as our waiting lists are very long.

We have recently had to close our second Beaver and Cub sections due to lack of leaders, as a result our Beaver and Cub sections are full and our Scout troop has 42 children and is still growing!

Without more adult help we will have to

keep turning children away, depriving them of the fun activities we do and the valuable life skills that they learn. All of the leaders are volunteers who give up one evening a week to run a session, plus the occasional weekend for camps and other activities.

Although it can be hard work, we also have a lot of fun and it is a rewarding experience for everyone involved. If you think you can help us in any way, or for more information, please contact the Group Scout Leader, Mark Hewitson, on 07780 664129 or markhewitson@gmail.com



Girl Guiding in Downley

Guiding in Downley is very much a thriving community.

We recently opened another Rainbow unit (now 2) and many of the units are nearly full with more girls on the waiting lists. However we are always willing to take more girls and if demand indicated the need would be willing to open more units providing we could attract sufficient Leaders. All units rely on volunteers to run and help with activities and meetings.

At present there is a very dedicated team of Guiders who are friendly and always ready to welcome other volunteers who would like to join the team. If you are able to help either on a permanent basis or on a regular/rotational basis then please contact Carole Burslem for further information on either cburslem@talktalk.net or 01494 449215 or 07875694465.

There are two Rainbow Units (ages 5-7 years), two Brownies units (ages 7-10 years), two Guide units (ages 10-14/15 years) and one Ranger unit (14/15-20), meeting either at The Guide and Scout

Centre or Downley School on various nights of the week. Please contact Carole for further information.

The Centre at Coates Lane has been undergoing refurbishment but recently had a small fire which has resulted in a larger scale refurbishment than previously planned. One room is nearly complete but still outstanding is the toilets (cost approximately £15,000) and the Main Hall. We have been fund raising at Downley Day with more fund raising events planned, including a sponsored event.

We are hopeful of a donation from the Parish Council towards the cost of the toilets. But if you are a past member of either Guiding or Scouting in Downley with many happy memories of those past days at the Centre and can either offer practical help, goods or would like to make a donation, please contact either Carole Burslem, Margaret Stagg (Chair of Leaders Committee) or Mark Hewitson.

Coffee Stop News

The Coffee Stop is as busy as ever in its regular home in St. James Hall on a Monday from 11a.m. To 1p.m. We have a large number of 'regulars' but are always pleased to see new faces. If you are new to the village or newly retired please come along and have a cuppa with us and maybe decide to join our merry band of volunteers and friends.

Our Christmas event was well attended and we were delighted to have our regular guests The Fernie Fields Four to play seasonal music. There was also a visit from the Downley School children to sing some Carols - hardly a dry eye in the hall! Lyn organised a quiz to keep our brain cells in gear and Joan organised a raffle to end all raffles, almost literally. In fact Joan is no longer going to organise the raffles having raised over £3000 for our donations fund over the years she has been doing them. We and all the charities supported are truly grateful for her efforts. Lyn and Pauline stepped into her considerable sized shoes with great success at our Easter event!

We often have local people with things to sell visiting us who give us a small percentage of their takings to add to our donations fund. Charity stalls of course are free. So if you are interested in having some space made available please speak to any of our helpers. Recently Thomas, the grandson of one of our customers, raised £45 towards his RGS Global Challenge project.

Eight of us, together with others from the village, had a holiday in Malta in March, where the weather was kind, the food was good and the drinks flowed freely! It was a real treat to get away from the gloomy weather at home and enjoy each others company. We have come back with happy memories and loads of photographs. Thanks to all those who held the fort whilst we were away. I am

considering arranging a trip to Floriade and the gardens of Keukenhof in Holland next April so please let me know if you would be interested.

Thank you to everyone who supported us so generously on Downley Day. As always, your offers of help, driving, raffle prizes and cake donations were gratefully received.

Ann Buxton

ANTHEA WORDSALL

Downley Parish Council deeply regrets to announce the passing away of our colleague Anthea Wordsall, after losing her courageous battle against serious illness.

Anthea will be remembered for her calm and dignified approach to everything in her life and she will be sorely missed for her influence and legal knowledge by all members of the Parish Council, where she served as Chairman and Vice Chairman since May 2003.

On behalf of the Village we offer David and his family our sincere condolences.

Community Plan Update

June 2011

Laminated dog control notices have been posted on lamp-posts and notice boards around the village and the dog warden group from Slough, who empty our bins was present at Downley Day to hand out posters and talk to visitors.

Pharmacy

Assura are still looking for a suitable site in Downley to open a Pharmacy.

Bus Routes

The Transport group have been in discussion with Transport for Bucks and have proposed a couple of changes to the bus routes in order to accommodate residents living at the bottom of Plomer Hill. Watch this space.

Streetlights

Most of the existing street lamps in Downley will need to be replaced over the

next 5 to 10 years as parts will be obsolete due to a change in European regulations. To this end Southern Electric Contracting Ltd are expecting to do a presentation at the September Parish Council meeting. The possibility of reducing the duration of lighting to part-night use is under discussion. The first of 4 replacement lamps for the Common has been ordered; once this has been installed and assessed, a decision will be made regarding what type the other 3 replacement lamps should be.

Yellow Lines

While this is not strictly a topic within the Community Plan, it can be reported that the deadline for comments about the double yellow lines by Downley residents as advertised was 30th April. There are no plans to extend the yellow lines in Downley but the scheme review will not be announced till the end of the year.

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Inclusive
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Wasp Treatment

Includes all nests at one premises treated on one visit

WYCOMBE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Downley Gardening Society

Our next meeting in the Hall is not until Monday, 17th October 2011 at which Brian Fisher will present “Autumn Colour-Seasons of Mist and Mellow Fruitfulness”.



What an excellent evening at our May meeting. We had a very good crowd indeed enjoying Brian Clews presentation of “Birds in a Village-100 Years of Change” which was most interesting and enlightening. A very good speaker so we will see what else he has to offer for a future talk.

Downley Day was yet another success, and it is thanks to all of you who donated such a great array of plants, and to those helping on the day with setting up and clearing away afterwards Thank you also to Peter Buxton for the nice, strong carrier bags. It takes a bit of effort but the result makes it so worthwhile, so well done, everybody.

Sissinghurst. We had a full coach, 53 in all and the weather was kind to us and I think we all thoroughly enjoyed the day. A beautiful place indeed, with plenty to entertain, and some nice memories to

bring away with us. I am currently scanning the books for next year’s visit and there is plenty to choose from - it’s just a case of picking the right one.

Our Autumn Show is not too far away, Saturday 10th September 2011, so please keep it in mind. We did very well last year but we need to keep improving and I know you will all do your best to give the judge plenty to work on.

Our evening visit to Bradenham Manor was a great success in every sense of the word. The weather was kind to us and Len gave a very picturesque and informative tour. He is obviously a grafter with a very heavy workload and one could see he enjoys every minute of his job. A very nice man indeed and the National Trust should be proud of him. Thanks also to David for organising the lovely refreshments which brought to an end a most enjoyable couple of hours. We had the largest group for an evening visit that I can remember, 60 in all generating £300 which goes into the National Trust local fund, so well done everybody.

Ken Thompson



MILO, STILL MISSING SINCE 27th April 2011
PURE WHITE CAT • MICROCHIPPED
PINKY EARS/FACE • SHORT HAired • 12 MONTHS OLD

Thank you to all those who have been searching for Milo, any information is valuable.....please keep your eyes peeled as Milo is very loved and missed.

Thank you for your support.

Any information welcome.

Please contact: 01494 630179 or Altea 01494 528285 or mobiles 07949 836751/07917 807051



The Downley School Year 2010 - 2011

It's so hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the school year. In some ways, it feels like only weeks since I was privileged to take over the headship of The Downley School. In other ways, I feel as if I have been here for years. We have packed in so much since last September. Here are some of our highlights of the year...

The staff, children, parents and Governors worked together to create our vision statement. The Downley School — Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together. This has become embedded in everything we do as we have indeed been on a journey of discovery and learning throughout the year.

The children have been working extremely hard in school and outside of school. Everyone expressed a desire to make more of our amazing grounds and teachers are now frequently seen taking their classes out to explore different aspects of the curriculum through outdoor learning. We plan to develop this much more in the future and will be developing lots of initiatives throughout our grounds. We already have mini allotments and our pond area is looking

beautiful - thanks to some of our staff, their families and also some of our parent volunteers.

All year groups have been out and about on school visits throughout the year. Far too many to list all of them but they range from local visits to the common and other places of interest to a full week's residential adventure visit to the Frontier Centre. From churches and chapels to mosques and temples. From local theatres to the Royal Albert Hall (where our choir took part in Echoes 4 along with other schools from Bucks). Hughenden Manor has been visited several times by different year groups, including a magical visit planned as a surprise by teachers and Hughenden staff for Year 5 children who were reading 'The Secret Garden'.

Our pupils have taken to the stage on many occasions as well. Christmas saw them cheering the local community in churches around the village by singing and performing Christmas songs and plays. At school, the local nurseries and senior citizens were invited to celebrate Harvest and Christmas with us. Musical and theatrical events have been extremely popular and uncovered some amazingly talented stars.

Mrs S Webb Head Teacher



A Slurp On The Orient Express!

It was all aboard the Orient Express at the most recent gathering of the Downley Wine & Beer Society, with many of the members arriving dressed in their best 1920s outfits for the occasion.

This was a nostalgic reminder of the historic train route, which originally crossed Europe from Paris to Istanbul in Turkey, illustrated by a glass of white wine from each country en route. It was the perfect summer theme - especially for those of us who can only dream of taking a trip on the real thing.

The talk was accompanied by some little known facts about some of the wine growing areas of Europe specially chosen for their proximity to the train stops on the way. We started our journey with a wine from Turkey - a Sauvignon Blanc, sharp and refreshing, from the Gallipoli Peninsula, tricky to find as exporters to UK are not common so our host Steve managed to find a friend to bring it back with him from a business trip. We passed from there through Bulgaria (a low alcohol Chardonnay), to Romania (a white wine made from Feteasca Regala - an indigenous grape originating from Transylvania).

From there, it was on to Hungary with a Chardonnay described as a distinguished character wine - and no one who tasted it seemed to want to argue with that. Next stop was Austria with a wine produced and grown near the capital, Vienna - Hople, made from Gruner Veltliner, Austria's national grape - delicious, and available from Tesco's Finest range for the modest price of £6.64. A 2007 wine made from the Mueller Thurgau grape was next from Germany's only Bavarian wine region, followed by my favourite: from the Alsace region of France, a wine made from the



Gewurztraminer grape.

The final wine was produced in Paris and was so limited in its distribution that our host had had to ask a work colleague from Paris, who got his mother-in-law to go on a special mission to buy it in the Paris Tourist Information Office and import it personally on Eurostar! It was worth it though - the wine was delicious.

Everybody on board enjoyed the 'tour', and appreciated the effort taken to research the evening and source the wines. We are fortunate in the Club to have several members willing to research and present interesting drink-related topics. We also have occasional tastings from commercial suppliers and specialists, ensuring we have a varied, enjoyable programme.

So, if you feel stuck with the drink selection provided by Morrisons, Tesco, Sainsbury and all, as I hope you will see from the above, the Wine & Beer Society could be worth a visit. It isn't just for wine and beer buffs - the merely curious are also welcome: we meet at 8pm on the second Wednesday of every month (except July, August and December) at the Old School Community Centre.

Philippa Brewer

Downley Dynamos Junior Football Club

Downley Dynamos was established in 1994 and has grown into a Club which boasts around 300 boys and girls aged from 5 to 18.

We began playing football on the site of the old Downley Middle School, moved out of the village for a while, then returned to The Common & Mannings Field in 2006 where training takes place on Saturday mornings from September through to May.

The success of our Club is due to its good reputation within the local football community, attracting players from Downley and the surrounding area and we continue to promote the “football for all” ethos, of which we are very proud.

At present, we are working closely with the Downley Parish Council on a project to increase the size of the car park at Mannings Field. Subject to funding, we’re optimistic this work will be completed before the new season starts in September 2011 and hope it will go some way to alleviate the congestion encountered by the residents living around the Common on training and match days.

Fran Lazenby, Chairman



For more information and to join your local, friendly football club visit our website:

www.downleydynamos.co.uk

email:

enquiries@downleydynamos.com

STOP PRESS

All children's picture books can now be borrowed for free.

We have approximately 2500 children's books in stock. Why not bring your children into the library to enable them to pick up their holiday reading.

We also have activity packs available in the library for use during the school holidays. Why not come into the library to pick up your copy.



Downley Parish Council News

Parish Council elections

Elections were held in May. Welcome to our five new Members:

Carole Burslem: Carole has lived in Downley since 1983 and always in the same road. Until November 2010 she was employed in Local Government as a Local Area Co-ordinator. She is the Girl Guide Leader for the 1st Downley Guides and also helps at the 3rd Downley Brownies.

Moyra Lazenby: Moyra moved to Downley with her husband and three boys in 2002. She has held the role of Secretary to the Downley Dynamos Junior Football Club since 2004. Ironically, her preferred sport is rugby union, following London Wasps, Ireland & England. She is also on the Downley Community Forum steering group. She can often be seen (& heard!) walking Roxy, the family German Shorthaired Pointer in and around the woods of Downley.

Peter Loadman: Married to Tina, daughter Jenny and three grandchildren who keep him busy. He is a former Royal Mail policy manager and previous church warden elsewhere and became involved with Downley through helping put together the Community Plan and serving on subcommittees on community facilities and

on communications. His main Downley social activity is helping with “Simply Walk” on Mondays. His interests are History, Travel, Reading and Gardening

Brian O’Donoghue: Brian is happily married with two grown up children. Brian and his family love walking and visit North Devon on a frequent basis. He is now in his early fifties and has lived in the High Wycombe area all his life, including 30 years in Downley. He now manages a UK subsidiary of an Italian Food Packaging machinery manufacturer based in Swindon Wiltshire. He has always been interested in sports and played for Downley Albion Football Team in his younger years. He was also an active founder member of the very popular Downley Dynamos JFC.

Roy Bentham: Roy has recently retired to Downley after eleven years as Chief Executive of Lincoln Cathedral. Prior to that he worked in local government for thirty years, most recently as Chief Executive of North East Lincolnshire Council. Roy was a cornet player for the CWS Manchester band. He is married to Sylvia and they have a daughter and two grand-children living in Penn. They are keen walkers, so the Chilterns are providing wonderful opportunities.



Parish Noticeboards

Please note that the 8 Parish Council notice boards can be used to display notices for Downley based organisations provided that at least 4 weeks notice is given . Please drop off notices at the old Post Office in an envelope addressed to Downley Parish Council.

Please ensure that A5 size notices are supplied.

Street Lighting

If anyone wishes to report details of street light repairs needed in the following roads, they need to phone Ringway Jacobs (lighting contactors for Bucks County Council) on 0845 2302882.

Plomer Hill, Downs Park, Hillfield Close, (Hithercroft Road and Pastures from junction with Tinkers Wood Road up to Bellfields), Westover Road, Sunnycroft, South View, Woodcote Green, Pheasant Drive, Southfield Road, Middlebrook Road, White Close and Merry Down. There are no “scouts“ employed to do spot checks of lights that are not working in these areas, so the contractors have to rely on members of the public contacting them with details.

Downley Community Centre

Over the next few months, starting in August, there will be a major modernisation programme, both on the front and within the building to further improve and modernise the facilities on offer.

The existing boiler room at the rear of the building will be refurbished and a complete new kitchen facility installed with direct

access to both large meeting rooms. This will enable on-site food preparation to cater for large groups of up to 100 persons.

Modern toilet facilities will be installed for the first time, including full disabled access and there will be new storage space and an additional meeting room for small groups.

By modifying access through the foyer multiple user groups will be able to gain independent access to all the building facilities thus ensuring minimum disturbance to other users.

Drawings and artists impressions are available for viewing on the downley.org website and at the Community Centre.

Meetings

Parish Council meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday every month. In January, March, May, July, September and November at the War Memorial Hall and in February, April, June, August, October and December at the Community Centre, School Close starting at 7.45 p.m. Up to 30 minutes are allowed for public questions.

Copies of the Parish Council’s Minutes are available at the Downley Community Library for residents to read. They are also included on the Parish Council Website. Agendas are posted on the Parish Council notice boards at least 4 days in advance.

The Clerk (Chris Hamilton) can be contacted on 01494 462195 or by email at downley_pc@tiscali.co.uk



Disraeli Downley Youth Club

Your club meets at Saint James's Hall Downley

Monday evenings 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Age range 10 to 15 years

Membership is £1 first visit and 50p a session after that

Club outings

10 pin bowling, Ice skating, Longridge camp weekend, Longridge kayaking, Paintball, Wakeboarding, Barbecue and sports with other clubs

Club evenings at St James's Hall

Street dance, Pool, Table football, Table tennis, Cooking (popular with boys and girls!), Tuck shop, Manhunt, football and Open evenings

Club dates

BBQ open evening (new members welcome) 18th July. Club re-opens 5th September

See: <http://www.downley.org/disraeli-downley-youth-club> for full list.

If you want to try out a taster visit turn up any club night with parents or guardians to see what is on offer. Phone first to make sure we're not away on a club outing!

Club leader, Jo Slifi, welcomes new members and volunteers.

The club is fully supported by Disraeli Downley volunteers and management committee. Training is available for volunteers. If you can spare some time and want to see if volunteering or management work suits you, look us up.

Youth Club Leader - Johanna Slifi - 07968 008358

Disraeli Downley Youth Steering Group Chair

Patrick Crotty 07711 107975

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HELP!!!

Can you please help our Downley Village News Treasurer, he has received 2 amounts of £40.00, but does not have an invoice number or an advertiser to tie these up with.

17th March 2011 CASH IN AT HSBC BANK PLC
HIGH WYCOMBE DESBOROUGH AVE
28th June 2011 CASH IN AT HSBC BANK PLC
HIGH WYCOMBE CORN MARKET

If you can be of assistance please telephone Clive on 01494 438147 (answerphone)

Cheese Board

Hi, I'm Les Root, proprietor of Roots Delicatessen and I've been championing traditional and artisan cheese for seventeen years, during which time there has been a renaissance in the art of cheese making. At the last British Cheese awards over 700 entries from small, even tiny producers contested to be Britain's Champion cheese, most of which will never be found on the supermarket counter.



The resurgence of cheese making started to take off in the seventies with cheese makers such as Mary Quicke, James Aldridge and Randolph Hodgson of Neals Yard Dairy leading the way. These pioneers led us away from the post war block cheeses back to the traditional recipes. British cheeses are amongst the finest in the world, but with few exceptions they have little or no protection against mass-produced imitations. Caerphilly can be made in Cumbria, Lancashire in Lincolnshire, Cheddar in Canada without the pedigree or the unique flavour of the 'terroir'. Thus pale wet plastic shrouded processed milk can be passed off as the genuine article. Cheese is a unique combination of the craftsman's art, the local environment and of course the quality and type of milk.

We must protect its heritage; the French would say 'Non' to Cantal or Comte from Cambridge. Recently Stilton and West Country Farmhouse Cheddar have achieved PDO Status (product of designated origin) but we need to protect all our territorial cheeses.

It is not all tradition. There are some great new artisan cheeses like The Kings Favourite a rind washed truckle from Cranborne Chase; Isle of Avalon from

James Aldridge, another rind washed cheese but creamy and soft textured. The stunning ash coated Cerney goat from Gloucestershire, together with the fabled Lanark Blue from Ayrshire.

These are but a few of the countless modern British Cheeses.

This all sounds fine I hear you say, but I buy local and there is no local cheese. I accept that the Thames Valley is not renowned for its dairy herds but we have two amazing ladies producing world-class cheese. Sandy Rose at the Two Hoots Dairy with her Barkham Blue winning the British Championship in 2008 and in 2010 she gained the English Title with her ewes milk Loddon Blue. Anne Wigmore, who has just celebrated her 25th anniversary of cheesemaking, produces three fabulous cheeses Spenwood, Wigmore both made with ewes milk and Waterloo a chalky white buttery rind washed cheese at the Village Maid Dairy just south of Reading.

Why not call into our Crendon Street shop for a chat and a taste of real cheese. Follow us on Facebook for details of our charity cheese tasting in September at the Le De Spencers.

Les Root (Roots Deli)

Red Kites Over Downley

Red Kites are magnificent birds of prey with their distinctive forked tail, russet plumage and a five to six foot wing span. We see them in ever increasing numbers flying over Downley and marvel at the spectacle.

They were once common in Britain but suffered severe persecution between the 16th and 19th centuries. People mistakenly thought that they were a threat to game birds and livestock. By the end of the 19th century just a handful of these birds remained in Wales.

Between 1989 and 1994 the RSPB and English Nature led a programme to re-introduce red kites to the Chilterns. Paul Getty who owned the Wormsley Estate near Ibstone was a strong supporter and brought in five pairs himself. There are now over 130 breeding pairs and kites are once again a common and much loved feature of the area.

The best locations for seeing them are Watlington Hill (Oxfordshire), Cowleaze Wood (Oxfordshire), Stokenchurch, Aston Rowant Nature Reserve Chinnor, West Wycombe Hill and the Bradenham Estate.

Those of us living in Downley know that Sunday afternoons when the remains of roast chicken dinners are put out on garage roofs, there is no better place to see kites flocking down to our gardens! We have had a magnificent specimen, presumably the scout for the flock, descend on our lawn for a minute or two, checking out our leavings, before half a dozen more



descend,
diving and
swooping, just
missing each other

like a team of Red Arrows!

A recent report has described kites diving down to a school playground, snatching pupils' lunches at a school in Oxfordshire. The advice from the RSPB is that, spectacular as they are, it's time to stop feeding the kites. They say that birds of prey and people do not mix. There is ample food in the wild for them - they are essentially scavengers living on dead animals in woodland and road kill. By feeding the kites we are encouraging them to look to us for food - hence the playground incident - and they will become a nuisance.

By returning to their natural food sources their numbers will be kept in check. I am among those who take great delight in these wonderful birds, but sadly must acknowledge that the welfare of the kites must come first, and the RSPB are quite right to send out this message.

Christine Audcent

Dog Warden Services

On Downley Day you probably met the Dog Wardens who look after our area on behalf of Wycombe District Council. They deal with stray dogs, nuisance caused by dogs - including dog mess, and run education programmes to encourage responsible ownership of dogs. Here is a summary of their services and some useful advice, which is also available on the council website www.wycombe.gov.uk

Dog fouling

The law requires owners to clean up after their dogs in public places. Dog wardens enforce this under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. The council will fine or prosecute offenders where the incident is witnessed by a dog warden, or sufficient evidence is supplied by a member of the public. Fixed penalty fines of £50 can be issued, or the maximum fine following prosecution in the Magistrates Court is £1000, if you allow your dog to foul in a public place and you fail to clean it up straight away.

Stray dogs

If you find a stray you should look for any identification on its collar and if possible return it directly to its owner. If there is no identification you should call the council during office hours and a dog warden will come and collect it. Out of office hours the dog will be collected if you call the wardens direct.



Noisy dogs

Dog wardens can help if you have a problem with a noisy dog.

Education for dog owners

The wardens carry out an education programme to encourage responsible dog ownership.

Dangerous or illegal dogs

The police are responsible for dogs that are dangerously out of control or suspected to be illegal.

Lost Dog Advice

Losing a much-loved pet is distressing and every dog owner should recognise that even the most obedient and well-guarded dog can wander off occasionally so the wardens recommend the following action:

- * Identifying your dog. The law requires that all dogs must wear a collar with the owner's name and address inscribed on it, or on a disc. If your dog is micro-chipped this will further assist the dog warden.
- * Help prevent your dog from straying
- * Contact our dog wardens. Dogs found to be straying will often be picked up by wardens and taken to a holding kennels.
- * Look out for notices posted in your local area
- * Visit places where you usually walk your dog. Check building sites

DOGS CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: 01494 421734

Outside Office Hours: 01494 463890

Email: environmentalhealth@wycombe.gov.uk

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HP13 5TR

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Email: enquiries@downleylibrary.org.uk



Library Opening Times

Mondays 10-12 noon

Thursdays 3-5 pm

Saturdays 10-12 noon



Charges

There is a charge of 20p per book for up to three weeks loan. From 1 April 2011 a charge of 20p per week will be made for each overdue item up to a maximum of £3.00. The loan period may be extended by phoning the library when open.

Computer & Internet Facilities



The library has two computers for public use, both with Internet connection. This facility is free. We also have a copier/printer available, the charges are 10p for a monochrome and 25p for a colour print.

In addition we are also able to offer a lamination service for your prints, up to A4 size, for the very reasonable cost of 75p per sheet.

School Curriculum

The library has many non-fiction children's books that cover the present school curriculum. Why not come along and have a look at our selection. If we haven't got the book you need we will do our best to get it in.



Downley Day Competition Winner

This year we used 'Women in Love' by D H Lawrence for our word count competition. The Winner, Mr Joe Hill was closest with a guess 181,203, actual figure was 181,674. He wins a £10.00 book token.

The Golden Age for Children

This is an extract from 'My Story', a memoir written by Joe Bowler who has lived all his life in Downley

'For youngsters of Downley growing up in the thirties and early forties, it was a Golden Age. Surrounded by grass fields, corn fields and woodland that stretched for miles, we were able to wander for hours on end. We got to know every footpath and trail; every tree that we could climb or hang a swing from; where we could find the wild strawberries that only grew in a couple of places; the sweetest and biggest blackberries and the edible wild cherries; where we could find the biggest hazelnuts; and even where we could dig up what we called pig nuts. This was on the Common in a spot that we used to call The Glade, I'm not sure what they were but they did not seem to do us any harm.

The 'Dells' created lots of fun. These old clay diggings were spread over various parts of the Common, some quite deep, many of which have been filled in over the years. In fact, the cricket pitch is located on what was the deepest and most concentrated area of diggings. In some cases the dells formed ponds. The one I remember best was sited on the left hand side of the road that cuts across the Common from Blacksmith cottages. This had a great collection of newts, among which were the large black ones that had a frill running down the back and tail. We called them 'Jacks' and the smaller types 'Effs'. Sadly this pond was filled in years ago, and I suppose those creatures have been lost for good. Many of those ponds had names that still exist - Big Daisy, Little Daisy, Mannings (just a few yards on to the common from the top of Hunts Hill). I'm sure I saw a hole just at the side of this pond caused by an unexploded

bomb during the Second World War, I cannot remember it ever having been dug up or exploded by the military.(treasure hunters beware!). Another pond in the village was Sandpits, which may have got its name from the possibility that sand was dug from it at one time. I do know that there are several seams of sand in the area. Another pond in that area is Kiln Pond - was this connected in any way with the tile making that was carried out in the village? It was always said to us as children that we must not play around this pond as there was a very deep well in the middle of it. I do know that there was a wooden walkway out to the middle, and that women would collect buckets of water from there for domestic use, so perhaps the old story was correct. At one time within the memory of quite a few older villagers there was a pond where Jubilee Green is now. This used to have a tubular rail around the road side, just a nice height for youngsters to hang by the knees from. I remember finding two duck eggs on the edge of the pond one day when I was on my way to school. I know that when the council filled in this pond it caused the cellar at No.3 Plomer Green Lane to flood and it had to be filled in and capped off. '

The full script of the first section of Joe's memoir can be accessed on the Downley web site Downley.org



Did you know?

Some thirty years ago St James Church issued a newsletter containing Church and local news. It eventually expanded and became the Downley Village News magazine produced at Brenchwood School.

When the school closed production was taken on by Jenny Langley and her family and the Fleetwood Press on Downley Common. Some interesting research undertaken by Mark Harrison for the original newsletter has been rediscovered and makes interesting reading, especially for the new folk now coming into the village.

- The word 'Downley' comes from the words 'down' meaning hill and 'ley' meaning grassland. We are the grassland on the hill.
- In 1824 there were only 30 buildings in Downley.
- The first Downley bus was run in 1928 by Mr. Holland. It cost half an old penny to travel into Wycombe.
- Trains used to stop at West Wycombe station. It cost one old penny to get to High Wycombe.
- The first commercial transport in Downley was a motor cycle and side-car used by A E Mines and Jazet West.
- At the turn of the twentieth century children were admitted to school at the age of three and a half. Their first lesson was how to fray a piece of material.
- The Dells on Downley Common are only small reminders of the once vast pits used for mining clay.
- The original St James' - a tin hut on the corner of Narrow Lane - was dismantled and sent to London to replace a bombed church after the new church was partly built and never quite finished at the top of Plomer Hill. This was replaced at a later date by the present day building.
- The bell at St. James' today is the original bell from the tin hut.
- Diamond Cottage was the original Post Office.
- The Le De Spencer Arms on the Common was originally the bake house.
- For a Sunday School treat the children followed a brass band from Chapel Lane to a meadow (now the Downley Donkey) owned by Mr. Jackson the Schoolmaster.
- The children used to slide down Plomer Hill (which was all grass) on frying pans on the backs of chairs which could be bought for a penny halfpenny and so Plomer Hill was known as frying pan alley.
- In 1912 Colonel S F Cody crash landed one of the first aircraft seen in Britain on Mannings Field, Downley.

For the complete list, visit Downley.org

Poets Corner

Beware the Spell Checker!

Having received a letter recently from a Solicitor asking us to call in for ‘the singing of the documents’, the following verses from an anonymous writer send a cautionary note to all of us tempted to rely too heavily on the Spell Check facility on our computers!

Owed to a Spell Chequer

(Ode to a Spell Checker)

By *Christine Audcent*

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea.
It plane lea marks four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a quay and type a word
End weight four it to say
Weather eye am wrong or write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye kin put the arrow rite
It's rare lea ever wrong.

Eye halve run this poem threw it
Eye am shore your pleased two no
It's letter perfect awl the weigh
My spell chequer tolled me sew!

The Common Touch

By *Edna Bavister*

Sometimes life can get you down
But don't go running into town
Spending money on a shopping spree
Instead come along with me
To Downley Common
On the Common where the air is clean
It's worth a visit any time of year
In the spring the trees are dressed in green
Mother Nature has painted the scene
In the Summer see the children play
On the common it's Downley Day
In the Autumn when it's turning cold
The colours change from green to gold
November 5th torch and bonfire display
All the children love the day
Xmas time nature takes a hand
Snow and frost then cover the land
All too soon the 31st December
Friends and family gather to remember
All that everyone holds dear
As they welcome another year
On Downley Common



Letters

Dear Editor,

Home Workers of Downley Unite!!

Speaking as a 'work from home' designer, I spend most of my working week in my cosy little home studio - a phone, a pc, a comfy chair, filing cabinet - you get the picture, an effective, yet small business. Of course, I do get to go out when I meet clients, plus there's the network meetings held in and around Wycombe, but mostly I'm in my home working on my lonesome without much distraction or human contact. And therein lies the problem: the human contact that glues together the office dwellers' working life is absent for us home workers.

And that's how I thought it would continue until I heard of co working a few months ago. Co working is a set up which offers home workers the chance to meet up in an informal but work focused environment. What happens is, you meet up in a convenient location - maybe a room in a hall or community centre - on a regular basis. That way, you create a place where local business people can meet in informal surroundings, plug in a wi-fi laptop, make a phone call, get a coffee, get some useful work done and, the important bit - have the human contact that is so often absent from our working day! We can offer each other advice, support and forge some productive business contacts . Networking - it is not, sales pitches, no thanks. Relax, say hello, fire up the laptop, there's work to be done!

I'm thinking wouldn't it be great to set up a co-working group locally; they exist in other towns and cities around the country, so why not Downley? I'd be really interested to hear from any local small businesses who would like to give this idea a try. It needn't cost much, the numbers attending could be governed by the number of seats (and powerpoints) available, plus a good turnout should in theory bring any costs down and throw more variety into the gene pool. Maybe start off with one day per week and see how it goes. There are venues within a small radius distance of Downley village that might be suitable, so let me hear from you good people out there, I want your input and involvement! Mail me on info@vizonedesign.co.uk or call on 07973 172399.

Take a look at this www.uk-jelly.org.uk full of interesting ideas and news from co-workers around the country.

Let's unite, no matter what your business.

Peter Redman, Vizone Design

Update On An Old Friend In Somerset

National Mills day, this year on 14th to 15th May at Cowbridge Mill in Somerset owned by Owen and Angie Rush was a huge success.

More than 200 people, including archaeologists enjoyed being shown the restored mill and new two storey forge and museum. Owen's sister Myra, her husband Ian and Downley wood-turner Don Murray showed people around.

Over the years hard-working and dedicated owners Owen and Angie have been joined by Downley friends who have helped on various projects, the biggest of which was the installation of the wheel shaft made by Owen and Don which allowed the wheel to be turned (albeit by hand) for the first time in over 50 years.

In the future it is hoped to have the sawmill working and local master blacksmith Jim Horrobin working and teaching in the forge.

Owen and Angie send their regards to all their old friends and neighbours.

Lorna Murray

World Challenge Trip To Croatia

Over the first week of the Easter holiday, I visited Croatia and had a great time thanks in part to the support of the Coffee Stop at my Table Top Sale. I made £45, much more than I had previously expected.

Now, to the trip. We arrived at about 2a.m. Croatian time (I am here in the UK). It was freezing cold and pitch black whilst we put up our tents on the rocky ground..

Everyone was critical at the start, however it improved greatly with sea kayaking the first day and lots of walking for the next three. It was truly exhausting! The view at the top of the Black Peak was breathtaking, well worth the three hour climb with rucksacks. We reached the very peak which is taller than either Snowdon or Scafell Pike. The last two days were rafting where we went down a three metre waterfall and jumped from the top of a four metre waterfall before seeing a pair of golden eagles swoop around above us.



It was a truly fantastic experience, although I did miss my mum's cooking after a week of cereal for breakfast, sandwiches for lunch and pasta for dinner!

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Hello to all Downley News readers, I hope you find it as useful as I have for finding local people and catching up on news! I'm Jill, a fully qualified beauty therapist with over 20 years experience. For the last 18 years I have been working locally, providing a full range of beauty treatments. I am now able to offer my clients both new & present, the luxury of receiving beauty treatments in the comfort of their own home. I have a collection of treatments to calm, relax & harmonize your body and your soul, so you can feel refreshed & peaceful. Offering a wide range of treatments that gives that magical salon feeling, while relaxing at home.

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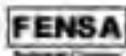
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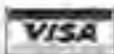
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Downley Diary

July

30th Downley Cricket Match vs Ley Hill away

August

6th Downley Cricket Match vs Monks Risborough at home

7th Downley Common Preservation Society Working party.

9th Parish Council meeting Community Centre

9th Downley Evening WI at the Pastures Church

10th Wine & Beer club meeting. Social at the Le De Spencers

13th Downley Cricket Match vs Potten End away

16th Downley Theatre Group. Tour of the Olympic building sites

20th Downley Cricket Match XI vs The Lee away

27th Downley Cricket Match vs Ballinger at home

28th Downley Cricket - President's Match

September

3rd Downley Cricket Match vs Cadmore End away

7th Start of school term

10th Downley Gardening Society, September Show. St James Church Hall.

10th Parish Council meeting War Memorial Hall

13th Downley Evening WI at the Pastures Church

14th Wine & Beer Club meeting. Port

25th Methodist Church Harvest Service

26th Methodist Church Harvest Supper

October

6th Open Meeting for DCPS members and guest at the War Memorial Hall

7th Downley Cricket Club Dinner Dance at High Wycombe Legion

11th Parish Council meeting Community Centre

11th Downley Evening WI at the Pastures Church

17th Gardening Society meeting, Brian Fisher will present "Autumn Colour"

21th End of school half term

24th Downley Coffee Stop - Harvest Lunch

29th West Wycombe Brass Band Concert at the Methodist Church

30th Bonfire building on the Common

31st Start of school half term

November

3rd Theatre Group Outing War Horse , New London Theatre, Drury Lane

5th Bonfire and torchlight procession

8th Parish Council Meeting - War Memorial Hall

8th Downley Evening WI at the Pastures Church

11th Wine & Beer Club meeting AGM followed by 'Call my Bluff' wine tasting

12th Methodist Church Winter Fair

13th Remembrance Day Service, War Memorial Hall.

Please visit Downley.org for all the latest and up to date events and news.