

**PARISH CALENDAR November 2024**

Date and Event		Officiating	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
3rd	Trinity XXIII 11.15am Holy Com- munion	Rev. Anne Hardacre	Mrs P. McFall		Mrs A. Wallace
10th	Remembrance Day 10.50am Service	Rev. Chris Hegg	Mrs K. Her- ron		Mr & Mrs B. Lew- is
17th	Trinity XXV 11.15am Holy Com- munion	Rev. Anne Hardacre	Mr B. Lewis		Mr A. & Mrs K. Herron
24th	Sunday next before Advent 11.15am Matins	Rev. Chris Hegg	Miss A. Cross		Mr P. & Mrs M. ercer
<b>Early December 2024</b>					
1st Dec	Advent Sunday 11.15am Holy Com- munion	Rev. Anne Hardacre	Mrs A. Wallace		Mrs A. Chadwick & Mrs S. Travis
8th	Second Sunday in Advent 11.15am Matins	Rev. Chris Hegg	Mr A. Herron		Mr I. & Mrs L. Walton

**OUR CHURCH WARDENS**

The Hon Ralph Assheton (Safeguarding Officer) - Mrs Philippa McFall - 441484  
Mr Ian Walton—07979 598 057

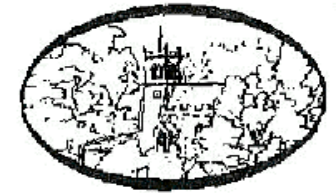
**VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Chairman** Mr Neil Wallace 441196  
**Hon. Secretary** Mrs Clare Ashworth—445112  
**Village Hall Bookings email** [info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk)  
**or phone** 0784546 796818

**PARISH OF ST. LEONARD**

**DOWNHAM & TWISTON**

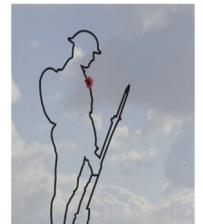
**Newsletter**



New email: [Downham@mail.com](mailto:Downham@mail.com)  
Website: [www.downhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.downhamvillage.org.uk)

**November 2024**

*Almighty and everlasting God,  
At this solemn time of remembrance,  
we, the Parishioners of Downham and Twiston,  
safely nestled in the shadow of Pendle Hill,  
give thanks for those who laid down their lives  
in the cause of freedom and peace.  
We remember with gratitude the men and women  
from our villages and beyond,  
who answered the call in the First and Second World Wars,  
and in conflicts since,  
whose bravery and sacrifice sustain us still.  
We pray for those who returned to us,  
bearing the wounds of battle, both seen and unseen.  
Grant them healing and peace in their hearts and minds,  
that they may find rest in Your eternal love.  
Strengthen us, O Lord,  
to honour their service and sacrifice,  
and may we, in our own lives,  
seek to build a world of justice, mercy, and hope,  
in their memory and for Your glory.  
Lest we forget,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*



*Almighty God,  
whose strength is made perfect in sacrifice,  
we give thanks for all who fought for peace and justice in the World Wars and in conflicts  
since.  
Grant them eternal rest, and may we honour their memory by striving for peace in our own  
time,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

## Some prominent Saint's Days for November:

- 1st November – All Saints' Day
- 2nd November – Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)
- 6th November – Leonard, Hermit, 6th century
- 7th November – Willibrord of York, Bishop, Apostle of Frisia, 739
- 8th November – Saints and Martyrs of England
- 16th November – Margaret, Queen of Scotland, 1093
- 22nd November – Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c. 230
- 30th November – Andrew the Apostle.



## Notable historical events for November:

- **330th Anniversary of the Glorious Revolution** – 5th November 1694 William landed with an Orange in England in 1688, leading to the overthrow of King James II and the establishment of a citrus-fruit led constitutional monarchy in Britain. 89 years earlier, the last man to enter Parliament with honest intent was found in a cellar surrounded by many barrels of gunpowder. However, this turned out to be a rather damp squid.
- **30th Anniversary of the Channel Tunnel Opening** – 6th November 1994 The Channel Tunnel (or “Chunnel”) opened for passenger service, providing a direct rail link between the UK and France. This enabled the Continent not to be cut off from civilisation at times of heavy sea fog.
- **105th Anniversary of the Opening of the First World War Cenotaph in Whitehall** – 11 November 1919 The Cenotaph in London became the primary national memorial for those who served in World War I, inaugurated on the first official Armistice Day.
- **400th Anniversary of the Pilgrims' Landing on Cape Cod** – 11 November 1624 Although the Mayflower Pilgrims left from Plymouth, England, in 1620, their voyage marked the start of British colonial expansion and has historical importance in British and American history. It also gave the name to a small post-war Triumph saloon car.

## Festival Bowland

Some of the events that are happening locally - for more information, please go to <https://www.forestofbowland.com/festival-bowland>



**Forest of  
Bowland  
National  
Landscape**

## Mind, Body, Nature Connection Walk

**Saturday 9th November, 9:30am to 1:00pm** - Barley

Join us for a lovely circular walk with Rewilding Outdoor Therapy. Along the route we'll experience forest bathing. Also known as 'Shinrin-yoku', this Japanese practice is the simple method of being calm and quiet amongst trees, observing nature, whilst engaging our senses. During the walk, participants will have the chance to explore how nature has impacted each and every one of us, how we have connected with the more-than-human world and how we hope to nurture this connection in the future.

This event is for participants of 18 years old and over. £10 per person.



## Jobs around the garden in November

### Planting and Transplanting:

**Plant bulbs:** Plant spring-flowering bulbs like daffodils, tulips, and crocuses if you haven't already. November is the last chance for this.

**Move shrubs:** If you need to transplant shrubs or trees, do this while they're dormant.

**Bare-root trees and shrubs:** November is a good time to plant bare-root hedging, fruit trees, and roses before the ground gets too hard.

### Vegetable Garden:

**Harvest winter vegetables:** Harvest crops like leeks, Brussels sprouts, and parsnips as needed. Protect plants like winter lettuce with cloches or fleece.

**Plant garlic and onions:** November is ideal for planting overwintering garlic and onions, as they need the cold to develop properly.

**Mulch empty beds:** Once you've cleared out the vegetable beds, cover them with compost or well-rotted manure to prepare the soil for next year.

### Protection Against Frost:

**Protect tender plants:** Move potted tender plants indoors or wrap them in fleece if they must stay outside. Mulch the base of shrubs to protect roots from frost.

**Lift and store tender bulbs:** Lift dahlias, gladioli, and begonias before the frost hits. Store them in a cool, dry place over winter.

### Wildlife Care:

**Feed birds:** Provide extra food and water for garden birds. Clean bird feeders regularly and set up feeding stations with seeds, nuts, and fat balls.

**Create shelter:** Leave some areas of the garden undisturbed or add leaf piles, log stacks, or bug hotels to provide habitats for wildlife over winter.



## The heavens above Downham this month...



**Taurid Meteor Shower** (peaks 11-12 November): Known for its slow, bright fireballs, the Taurid meteor shower may offer a spectacular sight. The Taurids are active all month, but peak in mid-November, best seen in the early hours when skies are darkest.

**Jupiter and Saturn:** Both planets will be prominent in the evening sky. Saturn will be visible in the southern sky just after sunset, while Jupiter will rise in the east and stay visible for most of the night.

**Uranus Opposition** 13th November: Uranus will be at its closest and brightest, located directly opposite the Sun from Earth's perspective. Though faint, it can be spotted with binoculars or a telescope in a clear, dark sky.

**"Full Beaver" Moon** 15th November: This full moon will illuminate the night sky and is called the "Beaver Moon" in the Northern Hemisphere, marking the time when beavers prepare for winter.

**Mars:** Though not as bright as in past years perhaps due to "shrinkflation" and competition from Aldi's Titan bar, Mars will be visible in the early morning hours. Look to the eastern sky before dawn to catch a glimpse of the Red Planet.

**Orion Constellation:** November evenings are a great time to view Orion, rising in the east. Its bright stars, Betelgeuse and Rigel, along with the Orion Nebula, make it one of the easiest and most rewarding constellations to observe.

**Leonid Meteor Shower** (peaks 17-18th November): This is one of the year's most famous meteor showers, producing fast, bright meteors, sometimes with bursts of hundreds per hour. This year's peak may see 10-15 meteors per hour, visible after midnight.

### Phases of the Moon for November:

**New Moon** – 1 November

**First Quarter** – 9 November

**Full Moon ("Beaver Moon")** – 15 November

**Last Quarter** – 23 November

**New Moon** – 30 November



### November - sunrise and sunset:

<b>1st</b>	Sunrise	07.10	Sunset	16.35
<b>15th</b>	Sunrise	07.37	Sunset	16.10
<b>30th</b>	Sunrise	07.37	Sunset	16.10



### Bins - [Ed. insert rubbish pun] - which Thursday?...

Red bin every week and...

7th November: **Blue**

14th November: **Green and paper**

21st November: **Blue**

28th November: **Green and paper**



**DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL**  
**BONFIRE & FIREWORKS**  
**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5TH**  
**5.15pm — 7.30pm**

Food & mulled wine available  
Tickets £7.50  
(Children under 12 Free)  
From  
<https://tinyurl.com/4fdhwy3u>

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A TICKET ONLY EVENT  
BONFIRE LIT 5.15PM, DISPLAY AROUND 5.45PM  
NO SPARKLERS OR PERSONAL FIREWORKS PERMITTED  
There is no parking on the Hall Car Park  
and take care when walking up to the Village Hall

## Edgerow 'Arry - Lest we forget.

Walking the timeless lanes and hedgerows above the hamlets and villages of our Parish, the landscape would be familiar to those men and boys returning from overseas after the Armistice of 1918.

The view our the gentle countryside, its dry stone walls and homesteads is still a welcome sight for those that are a little wary of the many changes our society has had thrust upon it over recent decades. Perhaps a significant milestone came with the passing of Queen Elizabeth, our nation's matriarch for 70 years. The epitome of duty and service. As a young Princess in uniform during the Second World War, there was a strong bond with generations of her loyal subjects whose family members had also served their country. The lines of people queuing to pay their respects whilst passing through Westminster Abbey was an emotional response these Isles may never see again. An incalculable loss.

The passing of an era may also be seen with the dwindling ranks of men aged over 90 who saw service in the 1939-45 conflict.

*"Lest We Forget"* - the poignant words, seen on countless war memorials and Cenotaphs, penned by Rudyard Kipling - a writer our youngest generation knows little of, if anything. Sadly 'cancelled' by some who seek attention or suggest they want change in this land.

But why may remembrance be so important?

From those who signed up willingly for the South African wars at the turn of last century, to the general conscription of men in the Great War and the Second World War, then National Service until the early 1960s, there was over 60 years in the 20th century when most British families had fathers, uncles and sons who served their country, in uniform. A national bond that every November united our country and Commonwealth in grief, thanks and remembrance. Now a dwindling line of the Greatest Generation are facing their Sunset and Last Post. As with the passing of Her Majesty, there is something historic about the slow retreat of such an important national connection.

Those who welcome change may suggest that volunteering, conscription or National Service is an old fashioned notion that has no place in a modern, global society. But there is danger in such thinking. It can neglect the past and the lessons of history.

Professional soldiers who took the King's Shilling were often seen as "The Other". It was quite a common occurrence for civilians to take to the high ground with a picnic to watch those distant, faceless soldiers annihilate each other.

After the Battle of Waterloo, the dead were mostly left on the field of battle. Sometime afterwards, the bone and blood soaked soil was sold off in industrial quantities for agricultural fertiliser. Forgotten bodies of our "others" who fell in a foreign field.

## Remembrance Day

Our service begins with the 11am act of Remembrance and Two Minutes Silence, so please arrive by 10.50 at the latest!

Corona Highway entrance improvements

The Highways Department have marginally improved the Chatburn end of the permitted bridleway by extending the pavement on the south side of the Downham to Chatburn Road at the A59 viaduct by a few yards. The inclusion of a drop curb should make life easier for prams and wheelchairs.

## Safeguarding

St Leonard's (along with the rest of the Church of England) is committed to ensuring that everyone in the Church community is kept safe, especially any who are vulnerable. Whilst this has always been the case in Downham, the PCC has been made aware that we are not currently following all the best practice measures that are mandated (principally record keeping and training).

The PCC are very grateful to Chris Hegg (our new Curate) for volunteering to help us.

## Rev Dr Judith Clarke

Sadly, Judith has been off work for a few weeks and is still very poorly. We pray for her speedy recovery. In the meantime, please channel any church related queries through the Wardens (contact details on the back cover).

## Eric Musson, 93, RIP

While not a Downham resident, Eric was well known by the longer term residents of the village as the husband of Anne, who lived at Chestnuts until her marriage to Eric in 1961. Anne's book "My Beloved Downham" recounts her childhood here. Eric's involvement with us was primarily through bell ringing. Though the long term Tower Captain at St Mary's, Eric often came to help ring here for weddings. His funeral is at St Mary's on Thursday 7 November at 11am

RCA

## A bit of a long shot...

I am currently trying to find more details about my late father's service history pre, post and during WWII. I got his service records from the army personnel records office in Glasgow and have tried the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers museums.

Some parts of his service are quite detailed and others sketchy. There is no mention of the time he spent near Chatburn in the field adjacent to Searchlight Wood. His unit was the 355 Searchlight Company Royal Engineers. (39 Anti-Aircraft Battalion) which later was re-regimented to the Royal Artillery and he moved from searchlights to Bofor guns. He evidently excelled at aircraft identification. The huts were sited under the trees along the roadside and the concrete plinths for the Lister generators are still there in the corner of the field. Three of the soldiers from that unit married three Downham girls.

If anyone has any information that may help, it would be greatly appreciated. (I had nearly thought of puns like 'illuminate' or 'throw light but thought better of it!)

Paul Mercer, Chatburn



## NEWS FOR November 2024

### Wall damage "over the tops"

A resident from the near Annel Cross would like to thank civic-minded neighbours and public-spirited passers-by who reported a vehicle after it had demolished a wall beside the highway. The photographs show the damage and the registration number of the vehicle before it mysteriously disappeared on the back of a low-loader of a Birmingham-based recovery company.

A warning for those wannabee rally drivers who think that the moorland roads above our parish are part of the Manx TT Circuit - The Hills Have Eyes! JA

### Garden Club

Our next meeting is at **7pm on Wednesday 11th December** when we will have a Christmas gathering in the Village Hall. This is a FREE event that everyone is very welcome to attend. There will be a Christmas buffet (please feel free to add to the festivities by bringing a small additional dish or small item for the table). It would be great to celebrate Christmas early together as a Parish - the more the merrier. Please contact Helen Addy via this newsletter's email address - [Downham@mail.com](mailto:Downham@mail.com) to help give an indication of approximate numbers. We hope to see you there! Many thanks. HA

### Pendle Road repairs

To the amusement of some, the LCC Highways Department have re-tarmacked a short section of the road immediately above Clayhouse. This was apparently classified as an "emergency repair" due to the spilled concrete on the road making it unsafe for braking. As the concrete has been there for a number of years it is not altogether clear why it was suddenly an emergency. The road surface is much improved. Let us hope that they sorted out the drainage at the same time as ice has long been a more serious winter drama on this section of road.

RCA

### St Leonard's Day Tidying

As is our custom, volunteers are sought to help tidy up the Church and Yard on Saturday 9th November, in advance of the Remembrance Service on Sunday. It is effectively a "drop in" session between 10am and Noon, with a pause at 11am, in order to place Poppy crosses on our War Graves. The work is principally to cut back twigs and foliage, collect any debris, check the grave stones for safety and damage, thus beautifying everything! There will also be the opportunity to tidy up some of the "behind the scenes" areas of the Church, which are beyond the remit of our regular cleaners. While some tools are provided, please bring your own protective equipment and any implements that you prefer to use. RCA



Over two centuries later, on the other side of Europe, young soldiers face their third year in trenches using Maxim guns and field telephones with wires strewn over cratered mud. But they are "the other" - young Ukrainian and Russian boys, girls, women and men. Censored and highly edited news reports are scrolled through by distant civilians on their tablets and phones. A 'digital picnic' observed from a safe distance, for a brief moment, before being distracted by some banal celebrity trivia.

Is history repeating itself? Precious little seems to be said about those who loyally served in Korea, Malaya, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistan. The apparent disinterest and contempt of many epitomised in the poem "Tommy" by Rudyard Kipling in 1890 may be relevant today. The first and final stanzas are particularly powerful and poignant when considering the Covenant once promised by politicians.

For all those that answered the Call of duty - for Crown, Country and Commonwealth - thank you for your service.

Lest We Forget all those who made the ultimate sacrifice and did not come home.

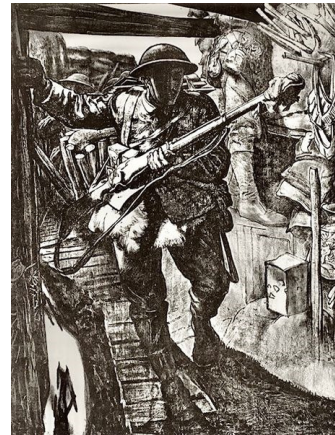
### "Tommy" by Rudyard Kipling

- first and final stanzas

(updated by Jonathan Richardson in 2022)

*I went into a public-house to get a pint of beer,  
The publican he up and says, "We serve no red coats here."  
The girls behind the bar they laughed and giggled fit to die,  
I outs into the street again and to myself says I:  
O it's Tommy this, and Tommy that, and "Tommy, go away";  
But it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins", when the band begins to play,  
The band begins to play, my boys, the band begins to play,  
O it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins", when the band begins to play...*

*... You talk of better food for us, and schools, and fires, and all:  
We'll wait for extra rations if you treat us rational.  
Don't mess about the cook-room slops, but prove it to our face  
The Widow's Uniform is not the soldier-man's disgrace.  
For it's Tommy this, and Tommy that, and "Chuck him out, the brute!"  
But it's "Saviour of his country" when the guns begin to shoot;  
And it's Tommy this, and Tommy that, and anything you please;  
And Tommy ain't a blooming fool — you bet that Tommy sees!*



## *More lovely childhood memories of Downham*

### *Di Braithwaite writes:*

After school, it was tea and homework. The children of the village would meet up on the bridge to play hide and seek, relieve, etc., or congregate in the derelict Methodist chapel if it was wet (now the village hall). In the winter, we went sledging on Top Green.

The double-decker bus from Blackburn to Downham came in every hour and turned around outside the post office. By the time it returned, five minutes later at 8:35 p.m., I had to be home, ready for supper and bed.

Evening classes were held in the school: country dancing, ballroom dancing, rehearsals for plays and pantomimes, etc. Choir practice was on Wednesday evenings in church, and we held three services at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6:30 p.m. on Sundays. We sang processional and recessional anthems, four hymns, canticles, and a full communion service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. I had singing and elocution lessons after school and riding lessons at weekends.

### **Downham Village Hall Daffodils**

Every spring, the borders of the Village Hall car park are a blaze of colour, when the daffodils bloom. Downham W.I. used the Village Hall for their monthly meetings, until they sadly disbanded after 100 years. One of the members, Mrs Chard, the widow of Rev. Eric Chard who was formerly the vicar of St. Leonards church, bequeathed the sum of £100 to Downham W.I. After deliberation, the club decided to spend this money on a large number of daffodil bulbs for the Village Hall. These were duly planted in the long border of the car park by the members of W.I. and each year after this they took on the responsibility of keeping the borders in tidy condition. Subsequently Mrs. Greta Capstick, one of the oldest members, bequeathed a further sum of money, to plant more daffodils down the other side of the car park.

For a number of years the tidying-up of these borders was done each autumn, around the time of Halloween. Members of W.I., and some husbands, were greeted on arrival at work with trays of hot coffee from the kitchen, made by Olive Awbery and Eileen Parker. When the job was complete, all retired to the Village Hall for Olive's hot soup and Halloween cake. As with so many other activities, Covid changed this enjoyable social occasion, but when the daffodils died down, the weeds still flourished! Luckily, my lovely husband, Dave Awbery, undertook to trim all the borders each autumn, allowing the flowers to delight us all every spring. This will continue as long as he is able!

**O. Awb.**

### **Coffee Club**

Hi everyone, we had a record turnout this month and welcomed a new friend, Dan Maclean, Tom's nephew, who's recently moved into Ings End with his wife Mel. Sadly she couldn't join us this time, but we hope to see her in the New Year or even earlier at our Christmas Party on Wednesday, 18th of December, more details to follow.

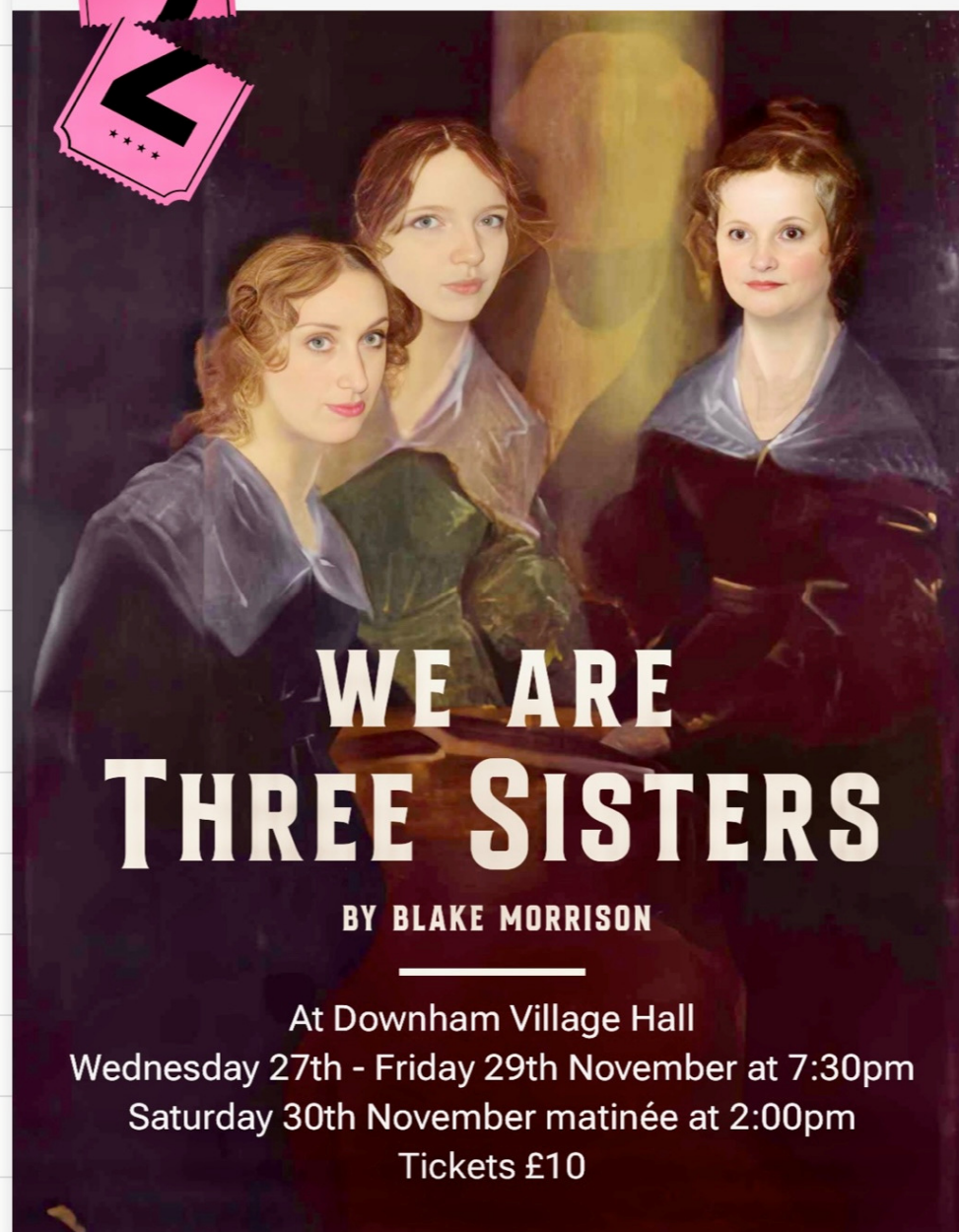
Di was back with us again, courtesy of her chauffeur, Anne and Molly travelled over the border from Yorkshire, to enjoy cake and a brew with her friends and lovely companion, Noreen.

As usual, we extend an invitation to any new residents. We meet next on **20th November** from 10.30, no official finish time, but Brian and I like to have our tea around 5pm!

Take care, Brian and Barbara



**STAGE TWO  
DOWNHAM**



To book tickets go to: [Stagetwodownham.com](http://Stagetwodownham.com)  
Or 'phone: 07845 926295