

Downe Village Club AGM
21 April 2026 19:00 Queen's Head, Downe

Committee attended Natasha Brooks, Abigail Rutherford, Paul Gubbay, Jane Wells and Kim Hyland.

Apologies were received from Kay Tremain.

Item	Comments	Action
Welcome from Chair	Natasha reported the 2025 Duck Race had been a financial success but the race itself had some difficulties. Paul reassured the meeting this should not occur again as the release method of the ducks from the pool would be carried out in a manner that would assist the racing. The Christmas lights were covered financially and the turn on was a successful event although there had been quite a few problems with the preparation. However for a small committee the 2 village events organised by us have a big impact for the community.	
Treasurer's Report	Abigail reported in the financial year to 31.01.2026 income was £10,312.53 and expenditure was £6,141,52. The bank balance is £6,841.33 of which £3,734 is restricted funds. This financial year the Club has donated £1000 to the Village Hall towards a new boiler. This also covers the hire charge for the hall for the Christmas Lights turn on for 2026.	
Downe Lottery	The Downe Residents Association have taken over the Downe Lottery and it is being run as a sub committee of the DRA.	
Litter Picking	The Downe Village Club insurance is also used for the litter picking sessions twice a year and Anwen Gibbs sent a message saying how grateful the litter picking organisers are for this.	

Duck Race	The 2026 Duck Race will be held on Sunday 5 July at 15:00 starting from Christmas Tree Farm. Natasha will organise the duck sales sheets for distribution by the end of May. Corporate Ducks to be offered again. The committee will meet at Abigail's on Friday 19 June at 18:00 to sort the ducks.	NB Committee
Downe Christmas Lights	The 2026 switch on will be Sunday 29 November. New electricians are required. Natasha has a few names. They must have public liability insurance for a minimum of £5 million. Paul thought some of the lights required replacing. A meeting will be arranged after the Duck Race to discuss arrangements/requirements.	
Retirement of Brian the Postman	Natasha had sent out an email via Downe Mailing regarding the retirement of our postman Brian, who has been a postman for 49 years and serving Downe for 40+ years. She had hoped to follow this up with a reminder regarding the collection and the photo request from villagers but due to the interpretation of new GDPR she was experiencing difficulties in having the message sent out. She has received donations and some photographs.	
Committee	Natasha agreed to remain as Chairman and Abigail as Treasurer. Jane volunteered to be Secretary and Paul and Kay remain on the committee. Natasha welcomed Kim as a new committee member.	
Date of next meeting	Tuesday 26th May at 7pm at the Queens Head.	