

# Spring InDownton

## Downton Businesses Win Awards

The Goat is one of the best three pubs in Wiltshire, as judged by the magazine Wiltshire Life. Karolina and Darren who run The Goat collected their 3rd place award at a recent ceremony in Devizes. They said, "We are very proud and honoured to be among the best pubs in Wiltshire and we couldn't be happier. We took the pub on a month before the first lockdown and we opened in the middle of the pandemic. It's been the hardest 3 years any business could ever imagine, but also the most rewarding at the same time. We would like to say a massive thank you to our amazing team and the best customers every pub could wish for. We wouldn't have done it without them."



*Darren and Karolina of The Goat*

Downton Distillery won two awards including coming first in the Green Business Award of the Year. The Distillery is Green Small Business Certified, having converted to green energy in 2021. The new vodka and Eau de Vie bottles range use 100% recycled glass and cork. They are working with Plantlife to re-wild juniper in the county and have also introduced bottle for life and refill initiatives. The distillery also came third in the independent food /drinks producer category.

### Comment

Have you visited our website [indownton.org.uk](http://indownton.org.uk)? As well as online copies of the printed newsletter, there's updates on events that take place between issues as well as any corrections when events have to change or we (believe it or not!) make an error.

There's also a constantly updating version of our calendar of local events. We developed this during lockdown and have continued to update it.

Spring means we can look forward to Cuckoo Fair. There are more details inside. Our photographers will be out and about identified by their reflective jackets. Do say 'hello'. We always value feedback from our readers.

*The editors.*

## VILLAGE CORONATION CELEBRATION

There will be a Coronation Celebration on Monday 8 May in the Memorial Gardens. Billed as a "family event, with something for everyone", proceedings start with a children's disco from 3 - 3:45pm. Downton Band will be performing between 3:45pm and 4pm. Next up will be a concert from 4 - 6pm, with Jane Seden directing and Liz Weager as Musical Director. The concert - a light hearted look at the life of King Charles - is being written by Peter Seden and will be produced by Malcolm Dean. The Band will then entertain for half an hour, and the event will close with a ceilidh from 6:30 - 8pm.

A pizza van has been booked, but people are asked to bring their own drinks / alternative refreshments. At the time of going to press, ticket prices were not yet decided - but it has been agreed that any profits from the event will go to local charities.

If you are interested in being part of the concert, contact Jane on 511018 or 07727 101191 - rehearsals are planned for Sunday or Friday evenings and have already started.



## ST LAURENCE' LARDER AT CUCKOO FAIR

St Laurence church members will be providing homemade food and a warm welcome inside the Memorial Hall to sit down and enjoy refreshments all day from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be a range of savoury and sweet options, meals and snacks, and hot and cold drinks.

Bacon rolls and hot drinks will be available in front of the Memorial Hall from 7.30 am.

To help the Larder in any way, email [janet6656@aol.com](mailto:janet6656@aol.com).

The team are looking forward to seeing you on the day!

## DBC OFFERS QUIET CORNER AT CUCKOO FAIR

DBC is aiming to provide a quiet place to rest during the busy Cuckoo Fair. Refreshments will be available outside the church, with donations in aid of PCF, the church's link charity in the Philippines.

## CUCKOO FAIR CHURCH SERVICE

The Cuckoo Fair church service will be on Sunday 30 April at 10.30 in the Memorial Hall. The joint Downton Churches Together service will be led by the Right Reverend Dr Andrew Rumsey, the Bishop of Ramsbury, with Downton Band.

## PRE-SCHOOL: READY FOR CUCKOO FAIR

The Pre-School's famous Duck Race is once again returning for Cuckoo Fair - and will be held at the iron bridge near the Co-op at 3pm on Cuckoo Fair Saturday. Ducks are £2 each and there will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Ducks can be purchased from several local community businesses who have stepped in to support the venture: The Co-op, Downton Leisure Centre, The Goat, Skinner and Osment, The Bull, Downton Tyre and Autocare Ltd, Hair Art, Hair Design, Carter's Barber Shop, Downton Community Pre-school, and Downton Football Club.

A new initiative is being planned this year: the group is going to run a Toddler Quiet Zone, which will be available throughout Cuckoo Fair Saturday. Families can enter via the gate in the Memorial gardens where their children (under 5

and siblings) can enjoy some quiet time away from the crowds. The cost will be £2 per child for a 20 minute session - children will remain the responsibility of their adults throughout. Tea, coffee and cake will also be available to purchase.

The Pre-School still has spaces for children to join from September. They accept children from 2 until they go to school. Sessions: Monday- Friday 8:00am - 5:30pm, term time.

Call 511178 for more information or to book a visit.



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# DOWNTON CUCKOO FAIR 2023



The Cuckoo Fair will return to Downton on Saturday 29 April with 250 stalls offering a mix of creative, crafty and delicious items. There will be new bands and entertainers joining the celebration this year, as well as some familiar faces.

This year there are 55 new stalls and a drop-in Toddler Quiet Zone at the Downton Community Pre-School, accessed via the Memorial Gardens.

The traditional crowning of the Cuckoo Fair Princess outside The Goat at 10am and the parade to the Maypole signals the start of the festivities to celebrate Spring and hopefully the return of the cuckoos to Downton and the surrounding countryside.

The Co-op car park will be closed on the Friday evening before the Fair in preparation for the set-up of the Produce Market. Vehicles should therefore be removed from the car park before 6pm on Friday 28 April. The charge for the car parks has risen to £7 per car – this was last changed over 8 years ago.

It is estimated that since 1980 the Fair has helped raise in excess of £1 million for local organisations. The Fair is run entirely by a team of volunteers and relies on the income generated to cover the costs. Any money raised over and above running costs is offered back into the local community, including covering the costs of a Christmas tree which is gifted to the village - and running the Fair the following year.

The Fair relies on a team of volunteers to organise and manage it. If you'd like more information, or to get involved and help, contact [chair@cuckoofair.co.uk](mailto:chair@cuckoofair.co.uk)

To see more pictures from last year's Cuckoo Fair, visit [indownton.org.uk](http://indownton.org.uk)



Last year's Cuckoo Fair

**Annual Duck Race**

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## EASTER AND HOLY WEEK SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

Downton Churches welcome you to join their Easter celebrations

PALM SUNDAY 2nd April	10.30 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion with Passion Reading and blessing of palm crosses Morning worship, all age.	St Laurence DBC
MAUNDY THURSDAY 6th April	11 am 7 pm	Service, followed by Community Lunch Maundy Thursday service and meal	DBC DBC
GOOD FRIDAY 7th April	9:30 am - 11.30am 10am - 11.30am 1 pm - 2pm  2 pm	Easter crafts for families Children's activities: Easter story and crafts. See below. Downton Churches Together Walk of Witness, starting at The Borough Cross, finishing at St Laurence. Downton Churches Together Good Friday Service	DBC St Laurence  St Laurence
EASTER EVE 8th April	8pm	Service of Light	St Laurence
EASTER SUNDAY 9th April	9 am 9:45 am 10.30 am 10:30 am	Easter Sunday Reflective Service (in the Church Field if fine) Simple Breakfast All-Age Worship (with Holy Communion) Easter Morning Worship	DBC DBC St Laurence DBC

For details of Roman Catholic Services, call 01722 333581 or go to [salisburycatholicdeanery.org](http://salisburycatholicdeanery.org)

### GOOD FRIDAY EASTER CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN

Both DBC and St Laurence have craft activities for children on Good Friday morning.

At St Laurence, children will be making the Easter Garden, hearing the Easter story and taking part in other crafts from 10am. Parents can return at 11am for refreshments. Those planning to attend are asked to email [janet6656@aol.com](mailto:janet6656@aol.com) to make sure that there are enough hot cross buns to go around!

The craft morning at DBC starts at 9.30am and will have a range of activities linked to the Easter story.



*Easter crafts at St Laurence in 2019*

### THE LARDER

The Larder at DBC continues to support the local community by providing food and household items and sharing produce that would have otherwise been wasted. Food can be donated at one of the many collection points, including the Co-op, local schools and care

homes. You could also consider growing a few extra vegetables in your garden to donate when they are harvested. The Larder is open Monday and Thursday 6pm to 7pm and Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 10am. Everyone is welcome to go along.



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## MOOT EASTER EGG HUNT

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt takes place at the Moot on Easter Monday 10 April when there will be 4000 eggs to find. The hunt is for children aged 11 or under and gates open at 10:30am for an 11am start. Entry is £3 per child - accompanying adults will not be charged. Don't forget to bring a basket or bag for the eggs. The organisers request no dogs or unaccompanied children and would like those with allergies to note that the eggs may contain traces of nuts. Refreshments will be available - and if possible you are asked to bring your own mug, to cut down on the use of single-use plastic. All proceeds will go to Downton Moot Preservation Trust.

If it is wet on the day, the reserve date is



*Previous Easter Egg Hunts*

Thursday 13 April - check the Downton Facebook sites for details ( Now and Then / Families)

## DOWNTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Downton Horticultural Society's next event will be a master class in making hanging baskets, and is on Thursday 20 April at 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall - new members and visitors are welcome. The talk is entitled a 'Practical Demonstration on the Process and Pitfalls of Hanging Basket Creations', and draws on the expertise of David Bassil, who judges the Society's flower competitions. David is chairman of 'Poole in Bloom' and show manager of 'Bournemouth in Bloom'. The hanging baskets he creates will be auctioned off at the

end of the evening.

Bookings are currently being taken for the society's Plant and Table-top sale in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 13 May at 2pm. Tables are free for charities or £5 for non-charities. Contact Chris Parry 514511 to reserve one. Plants can be dropped off to sell on the day of the sale, so if you have any spare plants then do consider taking them along. All that the Society ask is that they are both rooted and labelled.



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## EVENTS AT ASHLEY GRANGE NURSING HOME

### Water Challenge Event To Raise Money for Village Food Charities

Ashley Grange Nursing Home are holding a 'Water challenge' event on Monday 17 April to raise money to support the The Larder and the Foodbank at Downton Baptist Church. They are hoping that local businesses and organisations will step up to join them. The challenge is a 'Backwards blindfolded water challenge' and involves a bucket of water being passed from one team member to another; the word 'challenge' describes it well. Three teams of 6 people are already signed up. Residents will be there to watch how things develop, but will also be assisted to take part in a less demanding challenge, should they wish to; no blindfolds and buckets of confetti.

### Bake A Difference

There will be an afternoon of entertainment (followed by tea and cake) at Ashley Grange Nursing Home on Thursday 30 March from 2- 4:30pm. Mike Sidaway, a popular entertainer at the home, will be singing and encouraging participation from residents and visitors alike. The residents love to have visitors, so everyone who can attend is warmly invited to come along. The event is free, but donations are welcome and will go towards Dementia Support. Staff members will be busy baking a selection of cakes, and donations of home-baking are always well received (although, faking it with a pre-purchased cake is totally acceptable too). Please let the home know if you are planning to attend (or bake a cake) as it will help those organising to plan ahead.



### Contact details:

To enter a team to take on the water challenge, bake a cake for or attend the "Bake a Difference" event, or if you want to find out more about other ways you can offer support, email [lynn.kinsey@hartfordcare.co.uk](mailto:lynn.kinsey@hartfordcare.co.uk) or call Ashley Grange on 512811. Follow Ashley Grange Nursing Home on FaceBook for up-to-date details and pictures.



## TREE TO COMMEMORATE LATE QUEEN

The Parish Council will plant an apple tree on the Beacon green, Moot Lane in memory of Queen Elizabeth II, on the 16th April at midday. All are welcome to attend.

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## NEW SHOP OFFERS CHANCE TO REPAIR, NOT REPLACE

A new shop has recently opened in the High Street, taking over the burnt out premises of the old grocery store. It's run by Mat and Alice Trim, who are offering a range of services, as well as the opportunity to buy / order items that have been repaired / recycled.



Mat moved to Downton from Ferndown when he bought his first house here eight years ago and Alice moved shortly after from Nomansland.

Alice says: "We both absolutely love Downton and the friendly nature of its residents. With the beautiful surrounding farmland and rivers there is no place we would rather be!" The Trims' first baby is due at the end of April - opening the shop has given them the opportunity to work together, sharing responsibilities and having flexibility to deal with baby related day to day activities.

The business focuses on good quality items and repairing rather than replacing, which is better for both the environment and in the long term is more cost effective: pieces of furniture that will stay in homes forever, re-soling quality shoes that can last a lifetime as well as sharpening knives, garden tools, scissors and axes instead of buying new ones.

They sell a selection of handmade and unique items from coffee tables to mirrors along with a variety of second hand goodyear welted leather shoes that have been repaired or rebuilt. Within the village their focus is on the following services:

- knife sharpening
- scissor sharpening
- chisel, axe, and garden tool sharpening
- bespoke carpentry
- leather repairs
- shoe repairs & restoration

Their most interesting requests since opening has been to sharpen some ice skates!



*Mat and Alice Trim*

Due to the variety of services, every day is very different.

Generally carpentry and shoe repairs take up the majority of time and every day ends with sharpening.


Alice and Mat would like to be able to offer more to the village further down the line including some fun, light hearted educational sessions so people can see how things are made and what materials go into them. Alice says: "A lot of the services we offer have died out but with a greener future becoming the public's main focus we believe there will be less of the 'throw away society' and people will start to invest in things that will last."

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### THE WARDROBE (CLOTHING EXCHANGE)

The most recent Wardrobe event, held at DBC, attracted at least 75 people, including many new faces. The volunteers would like to thank those who spread the word and those who have generously donated quality clothing.

The Wardrobe takes place at Downton Baptist Church from 2 - 3:30pm. There is no

Wardrobe in April, but it returns on Friday 19 May.



### MILLENNIUM GREEN: ADVANCED NOTICE

A 20th birthday celebration (delayed from 2020) will be held at the Millennium Green on Sunday 9 July from 2 - 4pm. All are invited to celebrate this beautiful, natural water meadow.

Anyone can come and learn what wildlife lives here, how to take care of it and keep it safe for future generations. This will be a chance to explore the green, the sights and sounds of birds, trees, different grasses and flowers on a summer afternoon.



### TALKABOUT AT WOODFALLS METHODIST CHURCH

The next 'Talkabout' features Ron Burrows, who will be talking about "Flying Fast Jets 1960-1990". In his 30-year career with the RAF, Ron flew fast military jets both operationally and then as a test pilot. Surviving two emergency ejections and a couple of crash landings, this is one man's story of what it takes to ensure our air force has the right 'tools to do the job'.

There is no need to book. The talk is on Thursday April 6, 10 for 10:30am, at Woodfalls

Methodist Church, The Ridge, where there is a car park at rear. Admission is £4, including refreshments.



Ron Burrows

### LOVER GARAGE SALE

Lover Garage Sale is on 22 April from 8:30am - 12 noon. The sale takes place over up to 50 locations in and around Lover - on the green, in the old school and on people's drives. The Village Hall will be open for bacon butties and other refreshments. The event is free - people are asked to park sensibly to avoid inconveniencing others.

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## LOVER REPAIR CAFE

The Repair Cafe have been going for some time now - and some interesting statistics have been produced, with help from Farnham Repair Cafe and the University for Creative Arts, Farnham. From the cafe's 453 sessions, 3,606 jobs have been completed satisfactorily - which equates to an 88% success rate. Approximately 13.5 tonnes of landfill has been diverted and CO2 emissions have been reduced by 105 tonnes. This all amounts to a potential saving of £250,000 by the community. All involved are extremely pleased to know what a difference they are making to the environment, in addition to the substantial donations to charity. Recently they have been able to send £1,000 to UK DEC in aid of the Turkey & Syrian Earthquake Appeal.

Look out for the team at Seedy Sunday on 26 March. You will be able to chat to them about your repair needs, drop off your damaged goods - and there will be a chance to buy some recently refurbished, but no longer required, items. With the gardening season in full swing, you could consider entrusting them with your tools to be sharpened / refurbished.

Recent repairs include an 1870 plaque used by the "Independent Order of Oddfellows" which was found badly damaged in a roof space in Wellow. It was refurbished, retaining its original patina.

The team has recently welcomed new members: Ben McIntosh (clocks), Gary Hawke (electronics / electricians) and Robert Houseman (chair caning / weaving). There are still vacancies for a book repairer & general recyclers.

The cafe (a Warm Space) is open every Wednesday & Friday Morning from 10am - 12 noon at Redlynch Village Hall.



1870 Plaque

## ORGAN RECITAL POSTPONED

The organ recital by John Challenger, planned at St Laurence Church for March has had to be postponed because the work on restoring the organ is still not completed. The task was due to be finished some time ago, but various problems have intervened - the organisers are hoping to rearrange later in the year.



## CALLING ALL KNITTERS

Could you or would you be willing to knit a bobble hat(s) to to sell in the autumn to raise funds for The Brain Tumour Charity?

Julia Whitmarsh is looking for people to take on the challenge and donate any hats that they make to her daughter Rachel, in memory of

Rachel's daughter, Zoe who passed away last November aged 29 years. For more information, call Julia on 510601 or Rachel Noble on 07960767598.



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## DOWNTON BAND 150TH ANNIVERSARY

This year sees Downton Band celebrate their 150th Anniversary and they are celebrating in style with a number of concerts and trips around the UK. The band are also hoping to use their centenary year to discover more of their history. At present they only have a few historic photographs of the band and are asking if anyone in the village has any more pictures or artefacts, with which they can fill the walls of the bandroom. They would be more than happy to borrow, copy and return your pictures.

During the Cuckoo Fair weekend all bands (Senior, Training and Beginners) will be performing all day outside the Memorial Hall on the Saturday. On the afternoon of Sunday 30 April the band will give a Cuckoo Fair concert entitled 'Circus, Celebrations and Festivities', full of suitable celebratory music. The band will also be performing as part of the village's Coronation Celebrations on Monday 8th May.

Further ahead a joint concert is planned



*Downton band in the 1980s*

with nearby neighbours The Woodfalls Band at St Thomas Church in Salisbury on Saturday 17 June. A special 150th Birthday Concert will be held in the village on Sunday 9 July. This concert will also feature an All Stars Reunion Band conducted by Roland Wright and the band is asking for any former players to get in touch - spare instruments are available.

To register an interest in being a part of the All Stars Reunion - or to share old photos of the band, contact [paul@downtonband.org.uk](mailto:paul@downtonband.org.uk)

## CHARITY CARS

A reminder from Downton 4 Family that you can book a car for your special occasion - and the fee will go directly to the charity. Charity Cars have two cars available to hire for special occasion such as weddings, proms, anniversaries and birthdays. The cars are lovingly restored by owner and chauffeur Ray. Monty (the Rolls Royce) and Daisy (the vintage Austin) are at your service! Weddings include travel from your house to the ceremony and then to the



reception. Based on travel with Hampshire and South Wiltshire, the suggested donation for weddings is £250, and £75 for proms and anniversary meals. Go to [downton4family.org.uk](http://downton4family.org.uk)

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## PROFILE: DOWNTON'S NEW TENNIS COACH, LEE MAHONY

InDownton recently caught up with the new Tennis Coach at the Leisure Centre:

### What got you into tennis?

I started playing tennis at 13 after a group lesson in Dorchester with a friend. I woke up the next morning and instantly knew that tennis was what I wanted to do.

### How long have you been a tennis coach?

I have been coaching for 25 years. After being a tennis professional player, achieving an ITF junior ranking of 496, and enjoying a successful playing career, I moved into coaching aged 23.

### Why did you choose to work at Downton Leisure Centre?

I knew the centre and the people well and felt that it would be a great to build up the tennis centre and give the people in the area a coaching team they could be proud of. Also, having indoor courts over the winter is a bonus! I have always had a connection with Downton through clients, coaches and players. I live in Nunton and two of my children go to Burgate school.

### Why is tennis good for you?

This is a very open question but in short, tennis teaches you so much about yourself, it is great for developing coordination skills, and brilliant for cardio. Tennis also connects you to so many people and is a very social sport; it is incredible how many people play tennis in the area.

### Who can play tennis at Downton?

Anyone can play tennis at Downton from age 3 to 103 as a member or non-member.

### What is on offer at the leisure centre for those interested in tennis?

The Leisure Centre has two indoor courts, three outdoor courts, mini tennis courts and a practice wall. We offer individual and group coaching for adults and juniors.

For beginner and intermediate adults, you can join a Tennis Xpress 6-week course to learn and develop your basic shots or drop into a Cardio Tennis session, which is a fun, sociable group fitness class with a tennis twist, open to anyone of all ages and abilities.

There are some advanced adult coaching sessions and workshops too, for more competitive players as well as Club sessions offering more social tennis. For juniors (age 4-18 years) we run coaching for all standards as well as more performance-focused coaching for players who are looking to play competitively. We have county, regional and national players in our programme. We have term-time tennis throughout the week as well as school holiday tennis camps such as our Easter Camp in April.

We hope there is something for everyone at Downton now in terms of tennis - whether you are looking to get fit, are a complete beginner, or a highly competitive player. Our goal is to support all players to achieve their potential in tennis. To find out more go to [mahonytennis.com](http://mahonytennis.com) and [downtonleisurecentre.co.uk](http://downtonleisurecentre.co.uk)



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## DOWNTON BOWLING CLUB - A GREEN OF THEIR OWN

The Bowling Club is celebrating 40 years at its current Wick Lane site. At the recent AGM, a founder member, Bob Dymott, spoke about the club's history.



*Bowling at the Primary School*

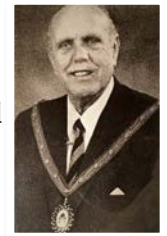
Prior to 1983, people played bowls on part of the primary school playing field. They would meet and set up the boundaries to a 'green' using lengths of guttering and bits of string. Although many participants were not knowledgeable about the sport, one was: established bowls player and administrator Ralph Bentley. Ralph had been a previous President of The English Bowling Association and he became Captain of the Club in 1980 for three seasons. Mr Lunt of the Downton Tannery was the President.

Club members did occasionally play on the club green at Alderbury, and under Ralph's captaincy in 1982/3 an opportunity arose to build a green at what was to become the Brian Whitehead Sports and Social Club in Wick

Lane. The football club was establishing the upper part of the land. Many Bowling Club members helped to erect the original facilities.

When a building was needed, Bob Dymott and Les Cousins moved a redundant village hall from the Broad Chalke area piece by piece. This construction is what you see as the bar area in the Social Club today. Others helped with the roofing, including Jim and Dave Galpin. Vic Bryant, Don and Ron Moody were involved as was Ralph's son-in-law, Mike Hallam. Ralph organised contractors to produce a bowling Green to the required standard. Stubby Sherwood also devoted a lot of time and resources to this project.

Downton Bowling Club will never forget Ralph Bentley as his portrait hangs in the Clubhouse and an annual competition is played in his honour. He and many others worked hard to establish Club, but unfortunately, he died without actually playing on the new Green. Bob Dymott took over as Club Captain and Vic Bryant was the first Greenkeeper.



*Ralph Bentley*

If you have any stories or pictures from the early days of the club, let the club know.

The new season starts on 15 April. There is an anniversary offer of a free session and free coaching, either at one of the club's Open Days in May ( 13, 14, 26, 28) when you can just turn up - or at other times by arrangement. Or contact Mike Hallam on 513359, Alan Waters, 512531, email [downtonbowls@gmail.com](mailto:downtonbowls@gmail.com) or go to [downtonbc.co.uk](http://downtonbc.co.uk).



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## WORLD CHAMPION CROQUET PLAYER

Hamptworth Croquet Club's Aston Wade has added a new title to his collection: Under 21 Croquet World Champion. He has already been the British Open Croquet Champion and European Croquet Champion

Aston joined the club at the age of 15. He had already played a version of croquet, but on joining the club, he learned to play an alternative, which he obviously took to and excelled at. While he has gained most of his successes with the newer version of the game, it should not be overlooked that he is an England international player in both forms of croquet.

As Aston himself said, in a recent televised interview, his remaining challenge is to become the full World Champion. At his age, he has plenty of time to achieve this, but nobody would be surprised if it happened sooner rather than later.



Aston Wade

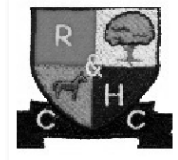
For details of how to play croquet at Hamptworth go to the the club's website: [croquet-websites.org.uk/Hamptworth/](http://croquet-websites.org.uk/Hamptworth/)

## REDLYNCH AND HALE CRICKET CLUB

Weather and light permitting, the junior teams (groups for under 13s, under 11s, under 9s) and ladies' softball team will be practising on Monday evenings, from 1 May at Redlynch playing fields, from 6:30 - 8:30pm.

Girls Dynamos (for 8 - 11 years) and All stars cricket (for 5 - 8 years) practices will be on Wednesdays. More information on these sessions for younger children can be found on the ECB website, where you can sign your child(ren) up and see all the perks of a Nationwide program.

In addition, the club is again running three Saturday Senior teams, Ladies hardball, and Sunday Friendlies.



The club is always keen to introduce new members to cricket, whether adult or junior, and would welcome enquiries from prospective players or officials.

For more details call Andy Church 512701 or Iain Soutar 512949. (mobile)07971 571608. Details of practice net sessions are on their Facebook and website: [rhcc.play-cricket.com](http://rhcc.play-cricket.com).

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## INDOWNTON CALENDAR STILL AVAILABLE HALF PRICE

There are still copies of the InDownton calendar available packed with local photographs by local people. It's now half price, with half the money still going to support the Downton4Family charity. You can still enjoy nine months of local images for £5, with free delivery within village. Go to [InDownton.org.uk](http://InDownton.org.uk) or call 513191 to secure your copy.



We're looking for new local photos for a 2024 calendar. The recent snow will have brought out our local talented photos and the cuckoo fair is always a good subject. If we have enough photos submitted we'll produce another calendar for 2024. Send your photos in as large a format as possible to [photos@indownton.org.uk](mailto:photos@indownton.org.uk).

## UKRAINIAN FUND RAISING EVENING TOPS £3,000

A fund raising event to buy special bandages to send to military hospitals in Ukraine, has raised over £3000. The Ukrainian evening was the idea of Svitlana Kondzelia, who has been living in the village for the past 9 months, and Effie Grand, Consultant Haematologist at Salisbury Hospital.



*Svitlana and Effie*

Svitlana and her husband, both lawyers, were living in Bucha, in the Kiev Region of Ukraine. During the first weeks of the invasion, Bucha was occupied by Russian troops. Last April, Svitlana managed to escape with her 8 year old son and they are now living in Downton. In her words 'We managed to leave this territory literally by a miracle. At home, we left not only our home and such a familiar and happy way of life, but also our loved ones - my husband (Ivan's dad), my father (who has been in the UK since December last year), my sister and her family. My husband now works as a volunteer, cooperating with charitable foundations, traveling to eastern Ukraine to the front line with humanitarian assistance. It became clear that there is an urgent need for hemostatic drugs, which are very expensive. Svitlana and Effie have managed to source CELOX bandages for half the cost of those on the Ukrainian Market, from UK manufacturer CELOX.



The Baptist Church was absolutely full for the evening. Svitlana and the team made Ukrainian borscht and dumplings, and provided drinks and desserts. There was also entertainment - Ukrainian music and songs, performed by Svitlana and her father.

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- 10:30-11:15am - Toddler Tales (ages 1-2)
- 11:30am-12:15pm - Story Stars (ages 2-3)
- 12:30pm - 1:15pm - Reading Recruits (ages 3-5)
- Coming soon - Get Set for School classes

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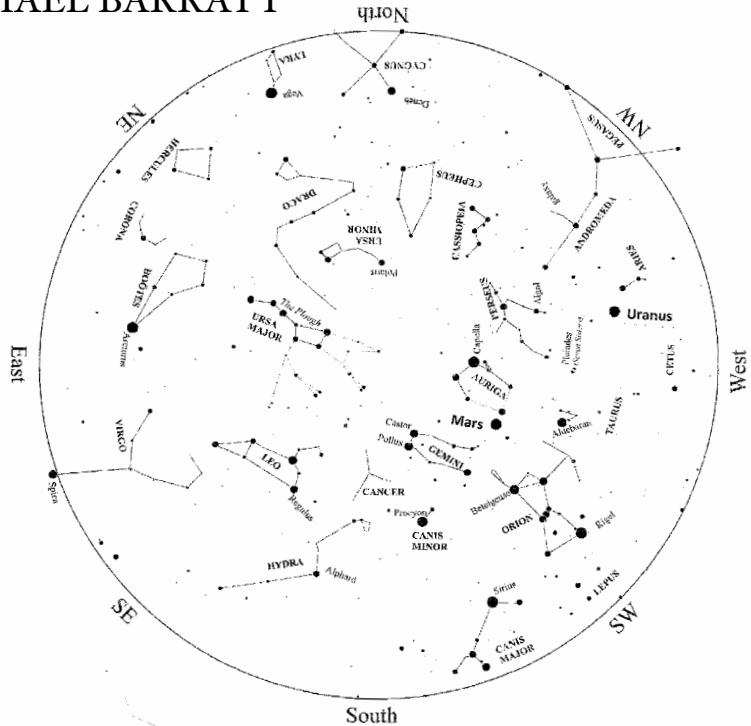
Mondays 6 & 7:15pm - Quidhampton Village Hall  
Tuesdays 6pm - Downton Memorial Hall

## THE SKY AT NIGHT BY MICHAEL BARRATT

Keep looking out for Venus - a dazzlingly brilliant object in the evening sky in the west setting at 11 p.m. at the end of March. It is unmistakable being the brightest natural celestial object after the Sun and the Moon.

The Spring Equinox, when the Sun moves from the southern to the northern celestial hemisphere with day and night of equal length, this year fell on Monday 20th March. On this date the Sun rose at around 6.10 a.m. and set at around 6.10 p.m. This marked the official end to winter!

Contact Michael at mootastro@yahoo.com with your observations and queries.



MAP OF NIGHT SKY IN MID-MARCH 2023 (AROUND 2100 Hours)

## THE GARDEN AT DBC

Every Thursday and Sunday, from 2:30pm - 4:30pm, gardeners are busy behind DBC, and the garden is beginning to take shape - with the carrot seeds in already. Everyone is welcome to join in with the sowing, planting, and tea

drinking. The harvest will be shared with The Larder, although it is likely that gardeners



themselves will be first in the queue. There is no charge for taking part and no prior experience is necessary. Under 18's must be supervised by their parent/guardian. Plant and seed donations are welcome during opening times. More information at [downtonbaptist.org](http://downtonbaptist.org).



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### PLAY AREA PROGRESS?

The Parish Council can at last report progress with the plans to refurbish the play areas in the Memorial Gardens and Moot Lane. There has been a considerable delay in obtaining the loan from the Public Works Loan Board for the funding. The project plan is now being developed and a tender document is about to go to equipment providers. The Council still hope that some work will start on at least the Moot Lane recreation ground and possibly on the Memorial Gardens this year. More updates soon as we know more!



### READING FAIRY CLASSES

Lucy Riley is running Reading Fairy classes at Downton Baptist Church on Monday mornings. Created by early reading experts, classes are for babies, toddlers and pre-school children with the aim of laying the foundation for learning to read and loving books for life. The classes encourage learning through play and include phonics and word games, sensory and performance storytelling, interactive songs and nursery rhymes, speaking and listening activities and picture book time.

Lucy explains: "Reading Fairy is divided into four stages linked to your child's age and development from Stage 1: Book Babies to Stage

4: Reading Recruits. Each Reading Fairy stage uses the latest research and best early years practice. Reading Fairy's gentle progression grows with your child as they build core literacy skills and nurture a love of reading."

When InDownton visited, Ernie was having fun with bubbles, and playing with Phonic Fox.



### BIG BAND GIG RAISES £1,000 FOR CHARITY

Salisbury Big Band played a charity gig at the Sherwood Suite (where they rehearse weekly) at the start of March. The concert raised over £1000 for Salisbury Samaritans and the Director of the branch was there to explain to the audience the work that Samaritans do.

A spokesperson for the Big Band said: "We were absolutely thrilled with the amount we raised and would like to thank everyone for such generosity. The gig was a fun and lively event

with many people commenting on how good the music and the mood were during the evening. The band continue to be grateful to the management of the Sherwood suite for providing a great rehearsal space."

More information about the band can be found at [Salisburybigband.co.uk](http://Salisburybigband.co.uk).





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<b>What, Where, When</b>				
<b>March</b>				
Sunday	26	2 - 4pm	Seedy Sunday, Memorial Hall	
Thursday	30	2 - 4:30pm	Bake a Difference, Ashley Grange	Page 6
Friday	31	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	
<b>April</b>				
Thursday	6	10am	TalkAbout: Flying jets, Woodfalls Methodist Church, The Ridge. SP5 2LH	Page 8
Thursday	6	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Churh	
Sunday	9		Easter Sunday Church services	Page 4
Monday	10	10:30 for 11am	Moot Easter Egg Hunt, The Moot	Page 5
Sunday	16	12 noon	Commemorative tree planting, Beacon Green, Lode Hill	Page 6
Monday	17		Team Water Challenge, Ashley Grange	Page 6
Thursday	20	7:30pm	Hanging Baskets Master Class, Memorial Hall	Page 5
Saturday	22	8:-12 noon	Lover Garage Sale	Page 8
Friday	28	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	
Saturday	29	10am - 4pm	Cuckoo Fair	Page 2-3
Sunday	30		Band Concert: Circus, Celebrations & Festivities, Memorial Hall	Page 10
<b>May</b>				
Thursday	4	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Churh	
Monday	8	3 - 8pm	Coronation Celebration, Memorial Gardens	Page 1
Saturday	13	2pm	Horticultural Society Plant and Table top sale, Memorial Hall	Page 5
Saturday	13		Bowling Club Open Day, Wick Lane	Page 12
Sunday	14		Bowling Club Open Day, Wick Lane	Page 12
Friday	19	2 - 3:30pm	Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 8



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## DOWNTON DOWNTIME

Downton Downtime programme continues to have alternating sessions of 'Move and Make Music', interspersed with social events and now has a strong and vibrant group attending. The sessions are for anyone who is living with memory issues, or feeling isolated and regular attendance is encouraged to get the best out of the sessions. They take place weekly during term time at the Sherwood Room, Wick Lane, from 10am - 12 noon. The optional price is £5 per session. The dates are online at [indownton.org.uk](http://indownton.org.uk).

More information from Jane Ebel, [musicic@gmail.com](mailto:musicic@gmail.com) or 07515 822479.

### PARISH COUNCIL

Telephone: 01725 510504

Office Hours: Monday - Friday

10am - 3.30pm

[clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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Rev Katy Ulyatt: [katy@downtonbaptist.org](mailto:katy@downtonbaptist.org) 07786 248880

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### VILLAGE WEBSITE:

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