

FREE

Spring InDownton

Downton Riverfest 2024

The Downton Riverfest will be a series of events throughout 2024 to enable local businesses, charities and groups to work together to raise the funds they would usually



make during the Downton Cuckoo Fair, which isn't happening this year. The Riverfest is simply a platform to bring groups together to collaborate, avoid date clashes, and publicise the events to increase footfall. Local groups need to organise the events themselves. After an enthusiastic first meeting with more than 50 attendees on 1 February, the community came together for the second Riverfest meeting on 29 February to discuss different groups' ideas for events and demonstrate how to add events to the Riverfest calendar. Groups with ideas for events shared details, and others looking for events to join to raise funds were able to discuss how they could help. Downton Riverfest now has a logo and a calendar showing the different events that will happen throughout the year. Visit www.indownton.org.uk and click the new River Festival tab to view events, add your own event to the calendar or find out who is involved and how you can contact them to collaborate.

...continued on page 4

Although the river is at high levels, there are signs of spring everywhere in the village and despite the lack of a Cuckoo Fair this year, there's still plenty going on.

The newsletter tries to cover as much of the news in the village as possible, thanks to the financial support from Downton Baptist Church and advertisers. When an advertiser stops using the newsletter, the most frequent reason is due to not needing any further customers. If you know a local business that needs more customers, put them in contact with us. Advertising helps keep the newsletter going!

MOOT LANE PLAY PARK REFURBISHMENT

Despite the weather, good progress has been made and the work will be completed very soon. The Grand Opening event will be on Tuesday 26 March from 4-5pm. After the ribbon is cut by special guest, Malcolm Dean, the new equipment will be available to try. This includes TeqBall (billed as 'the world's fastest growing sport'), the Double Zip Wire, Time Trial Trail, Fitness Station (which will be demonstrated by a personal trainer from Downton Leisure Centre) and new football goals. Other attractions at the ceremony include Fat Sam's Ice Cream Van and free face painting by Tanya Renner Face & Body Art. The ground is likely to be muddy still, so come with suitable footwear.

Some of the new equipment that has been installed



PARISH COUNCIL TAX INCREASE

The Parish Council reports looking back on some real positives of the 2023/24 financial year, such as the completion of the play parks and repairs to the Memorial Centre. At the same time, the council is planning for the next financial year. The money comes from the local element of the Council Tax (called the precept) and this is set by the Parish Council to manage local services. Council chair, Jane Brentor, says: "After some very difficult decision making over three separate Council meetings, Downton Parish Council has reluctantly found it necessary to increase the precept. The Parish Council is committed to delivering services and not making cuts but there has been a significant increase in cost to deliver public services."



Opening of the Memorial Gardens play area last year

The precept budget has increased by £55,450, an increase of £3.33 per month for the average household. The additional costs (detailed below) have been partially offset by savings.

£20,817 (38% of the increase) Loan repayments for the three Play Park refurbishments which resulted from agreement by public consultation.

£3,000 Increase in annual insurance premium.

£4,100.14 Increase in cost to deliver public services.

£5,000 Cemetery Refurb Project Phase 2

£1,000 Community Xmas Tree

£5,532.86 increase in staff remuneration due to nationally negotiated pay rises

£16,000 Financial security - reserves have to be held to run the Council in unforeseen circumstances.

A more detailed account of Parish Council finances can be found on the InDownton website or the Parish Council website. Parish Council meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in the Bonvalot Room in the Downton Memorial Centre, starting at 7pm. There meeting always starts with a public question time. In a plea for more community involvement, Jane says, "Do come along and have your say. It is YOUR village. Even more could be achieved if the Council had its full contingent of Councillors (we have only 8 out of the allocation of 15) so if you would like to be part of local decision making, including deciding on how the budget is set, then please do contact us."

HEDGE PLANTING



Parish Councillors and volunteers have planted a hedge on the boundary of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground - and would like to thank all who helped.

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MOOT EASTER EGG HUNT

The annual egg hunt takes place at The Moot on Easter Monday, 1 April. Gates open at 10:30am for an 11am start, when there will be over 4,000 eggs to find. The cost is £3 per child (under 11s only) and each child will need to have at least one supporting adult, who will be admitted free of charge. Refreshments will be available. Dogs are not allowed at this event.



Last year's hunt

SEEDY SUNDAY

The Green Network's Seedy Sunday event is on Sunday 24 March at the Memorial Hall.

It's an opportunity to bring along spare seeds and plants and swap them for someone else's spares. Swapping is not essential - you can just see what you would like from what's on offer (for a small donation). In addition you will be able to buy small quantities of packeted seeds from supplier "More Veg" and take advantage of a mobile tool sharpening service. The local allotments association will be there to advise - as will a volunteer or two from The Garden at Downton Baptist Church. For those who would like to get planting straight away you will be able to plant your own nasturtium seeds.



There will be more than just seeds, including practical ideas and suggestions for living more sustainably. Lover Repair Cafe will be there, and there will be representatives from a local bike repair service. Jim Butt will have advice on keeping chickens. The Fordingbridge refill shop, The Green Gram, will be giving tips on how to shop 'plastic-free' and Downton Co-op will have information about their steps towards sustainability. There will be a chance to find out more about For Love of Water and their river sampling programme. There will be stalls selling wood turned items, willow weaving - and local firm Bees and Botanicals are bringing some of their products.

The Green Network is supporting Downton's River Festival. More information about the River Festival - and future events - will be available on the day.



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DOWNTON DISTILLERY

The distillery was founded in the village in one of the former homes (Parsonage Manor) of Sir Walter Raleigh. In 2021 they relocated to Wick Down. There, they are in the process of rewilding juniper back onto the downs, whilst growing their own botanicals in the distillery garden. The garden provides herbs and supports an abundance of wildlife. The salvias and bergamots host a kaleidoscope of butterflies and hawk moths during the summer before they migrate back to warmer climates in the Autumn.



The business has an active sustainability programme - it sells refill packs for spirits which can be sent back free of charge or customers can refill empty bottles at one of the refill points. These are located at Downton Brewery, Dark Revolution (Old Sarum) and Regent Tailoring in Salisbury.

The distillery has recently launched Great Bustard Gin, in partnership with the Great Bustard conservation charity. The gin is distilled using 12 botanicals, including wild rocket, alfalfa (lucerne), red clover and yarrow, all found on the Wiltshire Downs and Salisbury Plain - and part of the diet of this critically endangered species. £10 from each sale goes to the charity and to date £1900 has been raised.

The company has a variety of partners, including the Antarctic Fire angels who were the first rescue team to reach Antarctica taking 52 days to cover their 1,200km trek. They have been interviewed by the BBC and were on the morning show with Loraine Kelly.

To book a tour of the distillery, details can be found at downtondistillery.com under 'events'.

RIVERFEST 2024 ...continued from front page

Ideas for the Riverfest include: adding more activities to the Easter Egg Hunt at The Moot on Monday 1 April, or joining a larger event there in the Summer; running joint events at the Memorial Hall, Millennium Green or The Bull Hotel; asking Downton Band, DADA, Forest School of Dance, or local Bell Ringers to add entertainment; asking The Scouts or local PTAs to provide refreshments; running guided walks, movie nights, craft fairs or car boot sales. Find all contact details at indownton.org.uk/team-3

The Riverfest will have a stall at Seedy Sunday,

2pm - 4pm on 24 March at The Memorial Hall, where they will share more information.

Interested groups are asked to add their events to the calendar so they can be communicated to the community and local media.

Email editor@indownton.org.uk with questions and suggestions.





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CHARITY CARS

Charity Cars now has more choice of transport available for special occasions after taking delivery of a new sporty number, an MGB V8 Roadster. This new addition joins Monty (the Rolls Royce) and Daisy (the vintage Austin). The cars are carefully restored by owner / chauffeur Ray - car and driver will both be dressed up for the occasion. You can hire any of the cars for a special event - weddings, proms, anniversaries, birthdays etc. The suggested donation goes towards supporting the work of local charity Downton 4 Family who work with families having difficult times. Call 07393 933145 to book.



Monty,
Daisy and
the MGB
V8



'WILD NEW FOREST' TALK

A presentation from Marcus Ward, director of Wild New Forest follows the Downton Millennium Green's AGM at The Bonvalot Room, Downton Memorial Centre on Thursday 25 April at 7.30pm. Wild New Forest is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) based in the New Forest National Park. Their mission is to deliver high-quality wildlife survey and monitoring data to support wildlife

conservation and management, and to inform, involve and inspire people about the wealth of wildlife in the New Forest, with a focus on guided wildlife tours.



Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CONCERT

John Underhill, managing director of local firm Doccombe Global Logistics is producing a "Concert to celebrate St George's Day" on Tuesday 23 April in Salisbury Cathedral. The concert starts at 7:30pm and proceeds will go to the Royal British legion. The concert will feature The Band of the Coldstream Guards (under Director of Music Major Justin Teggarty), Louise

Innes (Mezzo Soprano) and The Salisbury Plain Military Wives Choir. Tickets from the Cathedral's website or box office (01722 656555) and are priced between £15 and £45. Children under 18 go free.



Coldstream Guards Band

TALKABOUT

James Porter is the speaker at April's event, entitled 'The Mulberry Harbours of D-Day'. It takes place on Thursday 4 at Woodfalls Methodist Church. Mulberry Harbours were created in secret and towed to France to meet the huge challenge of landing 133,000 troops on a hostile and well-defended coast. Admission is £4, including refreshments. There is no need to book - come from 10am for a 10:30am start. There is a car park at the rear of the church.

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FIVE GO TO KENYA

Sheri Start, Sally Sutcliffe, Linda Sutcliffe, Marie-Therese Tiernan and Lynn Walworth are heading out to rural Kenya on 16 April, where they will be volunteering for 2 weeks at the Matumaini Rehabilitation Centre (MRC). The team have known each other for a long time - Sheri, Linda and Lynn worked together as district nurses. Marie-Therese has been a nurse and worked as a matron at Milford House. Sally worked at Exeter House and has "incredible sewing skills" which will be put to good use. As nurses and special needs providers with a combined working age of 193 years, they have an opportunity to visit and work alongside both staff and children at MRC. The centre cares for children and young adults who are disabled and/or orphaned. Stigma surrounding disability is particularly prevalent in rural African communities and there is little education available to change this narrative. Alongside supporting the lives of these disadvantaged children, the team hopes to create a 'centre of excellence' where nursing skills can be passed on

to combine knowledge and optimise care. They will offer refresher training to those from isolated communities who lack support and mentoring.



Matumaini Rehabilitation Centre

Funds are needed to provide training equipment, resources and transport for attendees from remote areas. They could help modernise parts of the centre and establish a sensory room to enhance the lives of the people they will be working with - and to make them know that they matter.

The team can be sponsored by visiting: [justgiving.com/campaign/five-go-to-kenya](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/five-go-to-kenya). They are also collecting donations of crayons and pencils to take with them - contact Linda on 07712932513 for more information.

WARDROBE CLOTHING EXCHANGE

The next Wardrobe Clothing Exchange is at Downton Baptist Church from 2 - 3:30pm on 22 March and 17 May - there will be no Wardrobe in April. Donations of clothes, shoes, belts and handbags (but not toys, bedding or furniture) can be taken to the church, which is open Monday to Thursday from 9am until 1pm and also on a Sunday morning from 10am until 12.15pm. There is a large box for collections in

the first room from the reception. Please bag clean clothes in small carrier bags, as this makes it easier for the volunteers to carry them. Items are welcome on the day. All excess clothing is donated to other charities, for sale in their shops or recycling. As the clothes are donated freely, to be given away, the church asks that clothes are not taken to be resold on selling sites.

LENT GROUPS

On Tuesdays, 11.30am at St Laurence's, The Lent series is reflecting on the Lord's Prayer. Donations for the shared lunch are being donated towards helping people in financial crises.

At DBC, The 'Inner Room' is running on Sundays in Lent, 7 - 8pm, exploring and contemplating through prayer and conversation. The last two take place on 17 and 24 March.

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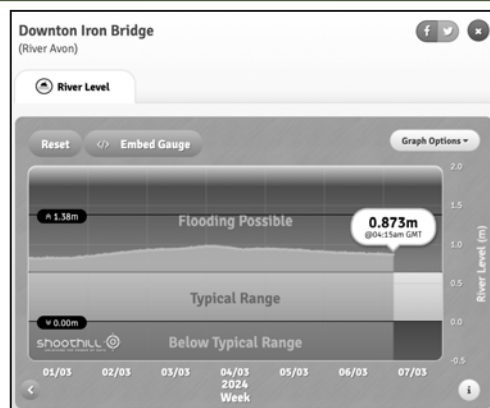
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FLOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Parish Council has updated its Flood Plan. In view of the recent spell of very wet weather, residents might like to know that there is a newly launched web site, gaugemap.co.uk, where you can check the level of the water at Iron Bridge and other sites. When we looked it was higher than normal, but not in the 'danger of flooding' zone. More information on what the Flood Plan involves and how to keep yourself informed is on the Parish Council's website.



Recent reading from the gaugemap.com website

KEEPING DOWNTON CLEAN

The Parish Steward and Gully Clearing Service have been asked to clear gullies along the Borough, mend potholes in various locations and improve the steps up to the defibrillator in Charlton All Saints. Problems can be reported via the MyWilts reporting page on the Wiltshire website my.wiltshire.gov.uk, or by contacting the Council's Admin Officer. The council is taking a zero-tolerance approach to graffiti: if it comes off, they will get it off!

Susan Barnhurst Davies is the Admin Officer and can be contacted on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays Tel: 07483 344035 Email: admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



FOREST EDGE FLOWER ARRANGING

Following on from the success of its Christmas event, the society is organising a beginner's floral workshop on Saturday 20 April at Morgans Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall. There will be two sessions, from 9am - 12pm and from 1 - 4pm, costing £35 per session with a discount for students. Participants will create and take home two floral designs. No experience is needed - and all supplies and refreshments are included. Further information from forestedgeflower@gmail.com or ring Janet on 513924.



A space for every occasion

Downton Baptist Church has a hall / kitchen / field for hire with a large car park available

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MORE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Speed Indicator Device

Downton Parish Council is working with Redlynch Parish Council to ensure drivers adhere to speed limits, making our community safe for all. The two councils are sharing a Speed Indicator Device (SID) which monitors the speed of oncoming traffic and if the vehicle speed exceeds 30mph the sign illuminates to remind the driver of the 30mph limit.



Now, the council is looking for volunteers to assist with removing the device and putting it in a different location in the village, once every month or two. Training will be provided.

The council would like to thank those who have signed up already.

Do you know how to use a defibrillator?

Would you know what to do in a medical emergency when a defibrillator is needed? There are four defibrillators locally – positioned outside the GP surgery, the Downton Memorial Hall, the Sherwood Suite Wick Lane, and behind the telephone box at Charlton All Saints. The Parish Council (which monitors the defibrillators) has organised a training session to demonstrate how the equipment works - and its benefits to the community in saving precious minutes in the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest. Everyone is welcome to attend - the more people who know how to use it, the better. The seminar is on 16 April in the Bonvalot Room at the Downton Memorial Centre at 6pm, so if you would like to be put on the list, please inform the Council's Admin Officer: admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



GO YELLOW

Last year those that attended Café Church at St.Laurence's planted sunflowers in the church grounds to give a sunny welcome to visitors and also provided something for the bees to enjoy too! In November, Café Church planted daffodils at the front of the main church door and around the bench where many come and sit quietly to reflect. On Friday 22 March, St.Laurence will be hosting a 'go yellow' morning from 10am to 12noon. Come for a coffee and

cake and go away with a daffodil made by the children. All proceeds will be split 50/50 between Marie Curie Cancer Care and St.Laurence's. Wearing a touch of yellow is optional! Café Church happens every 2nd Sunday of the month 10.30am to 11.30am, and all are welcome.



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 REGISTERED MEMBER

VOLUNTEERING EVENT

Have you got some time to volunteer, but are unsure where to start? Wiltshire Council is holding a Volunteering Event on Monday 29 April from 1 - 7pm at the Memorial Hall. It's a chance to meet with community groups and charity leaders to find out what's happening locally. Aimed at people who would like to give

some of their time to help others, there will be information about a variety of volunteering opportunities. Karen Linaker, Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager for the council says, "Even half an hour a month would be an enormous help". More information from karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk.

GREEN NETWORK SEEKING LOCAL SIGNS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Green Network are offering an opportunity to get involved with identifying changes in our local flora and fauna. The larger picture of climate change is often seen through reports of flooding, bad storms and drought, but the network is interested in what is happening on a smaller local scale. How are garden vegetables and flowers coping? Are there new pests and how is local wild life coping? By observing from season to season, month by month the changes can be observed and useful information shared with local people and also

included in national data bases. The network is asking local residents to keep and share a climate diary, noting such things as how well seeds germinated; when blossom or flowers first appeared; comparison of home grown veg crop yields; the first swallow / house martin / swift sighting of the year; the insects which have made garden bug hotels their home. Observations can be shared via downtongreengroup.org.uk or on Facebook to help build up a picture of how the changing climate is affecting this part of Wiltshire.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Steve Oakes, local ornithologist and secretary of the South Wiltshire Group of the RSPB, is presenting a talk on the 'Magic of Bird Migration' on Thursday 18 April at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Steve is billed as "an excellent speaker" - a large audience attended his previous visit. The event is hosted by the horticultural society and there will be refreshments, a sales table and a raffle. Donations to the sales table are always welcome and the society is happy to welcome new members and visitors.

Table bookings are being accepted for the society's Plant and Table-top Sale in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 18 May at 2pm. Tables are free for charities or £5 for non-charities. Contact Chris Parry (514511) to reserve one. Donations of plants to sell on the day of the sale will be welcome, provided that they are rooted and labelled.



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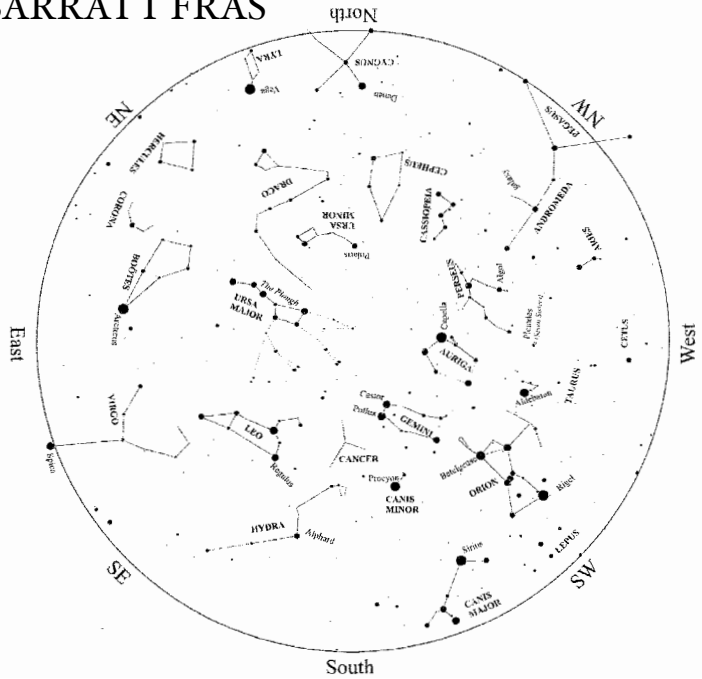
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SKY AT NIGHT BY MICHAEL F. BARRATT FRAS

As this newsletter is published, the skies are dark for observations from about 7:30 pm until 5:00 am so this is a good time to see the constellations such as Leo (the Lion) and Virgo (the Virgin). For those with larger telescopes, there are many galaxies on display. The major planets are all disappearing into the Sun's glow. Mercury will be at its most visible for the whole year this month, low down in the western evening sky below and to the right of sinking Jupiter. However, Mercury too steadily fades as the month progresses. There is likely to be a sight of a brightish comet (Pons-Brooks), which travels around the sun every 71 years. This year the comet will track from the constellations Andromeda to Aries and should be visible with binoculars - the best time to see it is in the west, as soon after dark as possible, but the twilight might make it tricky. Citizen scientists can track and report observations and sightings to Michael.



Map of night sky in mid-March (around 2100 hours)

The full moon on Monday 25 March, is called a “Worm Moon”. The name references the reappearing of earthworms and their casts, as the snow melts and the ground softens.

March is a good month to look out for the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights - a green glow in the northern sky. With much solar activity occurring there is a better chance than this time last year.

Follow Michael on Facebook at Moot Halt Observatory or go to The Society for Popular Astronomy for updates. Email him at mootastro@yahoo.com with your queries or observations.

GOOD COMPANIONS

The club meets in the Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2 - 4 pm. Regulars pay £2 and visitors £2.50. Refreshments are included. Events to look forward to include: 9 April Funny Poetry Recital; 16 April Salisbury Pluckers - Salisbury's own ukulele band, who perform “upbeat music from a decade near you”; 30 April

Fordingbridge Bell Ringers.

More information from Julia Whitmarsh on 510601.



Salisbury Pluckers



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DOWNTON BANDS

Downton Band came 7th at the west of England regional final of The National Brass Band Championships in Torquay on 9 & 10 March. They played the test piece Corineus, written by Christopher Bond. The composer visited them in February and rehearsed with the band over a weekend. The next Band engagement will be a free concert on Saturday 4

May at the Memorial Hall at 3pm. The Band's annual pilgrimage to the Yorkshire and Lancashire Moors "Whit Marches" competitions at the end of May, when they will join over a hundred other bands to play marches in the moorland villages. You can keep in touch with all the latest news and the Band's upcoming engagements on their Facebook page.

BAND SEEKS NEW FOREST SHOW SPONSOR

Downton Band have been a fixture at the New Forest Show for over 40 years - most Band members tend to book the Show into their diaries before planning their summer holidays. Many Band members camp at the Showgrounds for the 3 nights.

The show committee and the band have an excellent relationship - and the show has been one of the Band's regular annual sources of income, enjoyment and opportunity to play to a public audience of all age groups.

This year, the Band will be providing the only musical entertainment - playing for 4 hours each day - and it is making no charge for its services, a significant gesture of thanks to the organisers and Committee. Mr Gordon Romley, the Traders and Contractors Secretary of the

Show, said "For several decades now Downton Band has brought its unique blend of vibrant brass music to the Show Grounds. We are very thankful to the Band for



Playing in the rain at the show



2023 New Forest Show: credit Abi Chadwick Photography

their kind gesture towards the 2024 Show, and we look forward to welcoming them playing to packed crowds at the Village Green for many years to come."

The Band are hoping that local Downton businesses will step forward to sponsor their performances. Any surplus funds will go towards new instruments, helping to ensure that the sound of brass playing remains a constant in future years. The Band will also be making a banner to put up at their show marquee on which they will showcase the names and logos of their sponsors. The New Forest Show is on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 July, and Thursday 1 August. Website: downtonband.org.uk



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* excluding Bank Holidays

HERITAGE TRAIL

The Heritage Trail leaflet (sponsored by the Parish Council and the Downton Society) has been updated and will soon be available. Initially set up in 2006, the trail is a circular walk through the history of the village. As the new leaflet points out, following the trail “you will be walking in the footsteps of Iron Age man, Romans, Normans, bishops, corrupt politicians, noblemen and humble millers, tanners and farmers. Their time has now passed but they have all left an indelible and fascinating mark”.

There is a choice of starting points for the trail, one of which is The Goat - previously The White Horse. The building goes back to the 13th century, when it was a residence of the Bishop of Winchester. It has been an inn since at least 1599. In days gone by, elections for



The new leaflet

Downton’s two Members of Parliament were held outside and the winner was declared from the balcony.

More information from downtonheritagetrail.org.uk and the downtonvillage.co.uk (Downton village tab).

DOWNTON SOCIETY MONTHLY WALKS

The Downton Society is re-starting their monthly social walks, with the first one on March 30. This will take in the pine trees along Rhinefield Ornamental drive and a visit to the Blackwater Arboretum. Walkers should meet in Brock Hill Car park at 10am. (Turn left off the A36 onto Rhinefield Drive and then the first car park on the right). A recommended option to eat or drink after is The Oak Inn at Bank a couple of miles from the car park.

The April walk will be The Lymington Marshes walk, from the Lymington Town Quay Car park on Saturday 27 April. More details in early April from the Downton Society’s website.

The walks are on the last Saturday of every month, starting at 10am and are generally

between 3 and 5 miles, taking between one and a half and 2 hours. They normally start at a car park, and finish

somewhere near a pub, for those who would like a drink or something to eat. The aim is to have a variety of walks. Well-behaved dogs are welcome.

David Gillet has planned the first three walks, but would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in planning and leading a walk later in the year. Contact him at

david.gillett@davg.co.uk and he will draw up a programme in the coming months. Website: thedowntonsociety.org



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BOWLING CLUB OPEN DAYS

Bowling starts again on April 13. The Downton Club plays in league competitions, but also enjoys bowling as a relaxing, social activity. The club plays on Monday afternoons and Friday evenings, but members can play any time they wish, for free. The club is holding Open Days on 11, 12 & 26 May from 2-4pm for those who would like to give the sport a go.

Club member, Alan Waters, is a keen advocate of the sport. He says, "Lawn Bowls is enjoyable, social, rewarding, healthy and satisfying. A great way to exercise. In a session of bowls you are stretching, walking, bending, using upper body and leg muscles, all performed in a gentle manner."

New members are welcome. Alan again:

"The most important aspect is that everyone enjoys themselves and plays with integrity, good grace and good humour. The friendship and assistance, advice and tips extended to novices and newcomers is exceptional, enhanced by social events all year round. We have our own coaches and equipment is supplied. Contact us anytime to arrange to have a go, or turn up at an Open Day."

More information from Alan Waters on 512531, or info@downtonbc.co.uk or downtonbc.co.uk.



REDLYNCH AND HALE CRICKET CLUB

To set the scene for the up-coming season, the club have a pre-season dinner and award presentations for last year. Re-elected 1st XI Captain, Andy Soutar has organised 'practice nets' during April. Sadly, one of the most popular junior coaches will not be well enough for this season, but arrangements are in place to continue with all age groups, including a newly formed under-15s team, whose players it is hoped will feed into the three Saturday Adult teams.

All players will be welcomed back to their respective teams, including the Ladies Softball side. Andy Church says, "There's some cricket on offer, whatever your age or ability. There are limited places for new Juniors wishing to start at the club, so keep your eyes open for further news of start date confirmations and contact us to check availability of places."

Call 07762787041 or go to randhcc.com for more information.

DOWNTON DOWNTIME

As part of the Downton Downtime project, some live 45 minute dementia-friendly music performances are planned at the Sherwood Rooms, Wick Lane. The first one will be on Tuesday 30 April at the Sherwood Room and will feature opera. On Tuesday June 4, the concert will be clarinet and piano and there will be a further concert in September featuring musicals. There are limited places available - you can register by emailing downtondowntime@gmail.com with your name and how many places you would like. It won't be possible to just turn up on the morning. A financial contribution of £5 made on the day is suggested.

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EASTER AND HOLY WEEK SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

Downton Churches welcome you to join their Easter celebrations

PALM SUNDAY 24 March	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 28 March	10.30 am	Maundy Thursday service followed by lunch	DBC
GOOD FRIDAY 29 March	9:30 am - 11.30am 1 pm - 2pm	Easter crafts for families (in the church garden depending on weather) Downton Churches Together Walk of Witness, starting at The Beacon on Moot Lane/Lode Hill junction, finishing at DBC.	DBC
	2 pm	Downton Churches Together Good Friday Service	DBC
EASTER EVE 30 March	8pm	Service of Light: Begins with fire at west door, entering church in darkness	St Laurence
EASTER SUNDAY 31 March	9 am	Easter Sunday Reflective Service	DBC
	9:30 am	Simple Breakfast	DBC
	10.30 am	Celebration of Light	St Laurence
	10:30 am	Easter Morning Worship	DBC

For details of Roman Catholic Services, call 01722 333581 or go to salisburycatholicdeanery.org

LOVER REPAIR CAFE

Although now generally well staffed, the team is looking to recruit a recently retired electronics engineer and a woodworker. The Donation Shop sells items that have been repaired and checked and currently has a variety of items for sale, including a radio alarm clock, a toaster, 2 bikes. It is open at the same time as the cafe (10am - 12pm on Mondays and Wednesdays at Redlynch Village Hall). The team repair furniture, ceramics, electrical goods, clothing items or old treasures in exchange for a small donation to charity. Contact them on



510753, email loverrepaircafe@gmail.com or drop in to the cafe during opening times.

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VILLAGE INFORMATION & REGULAR EVENTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Melanie Camilleri
 Telephone: 07798 698199
 Office Hours: Monday - Friday
 10am - 3pm
 clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
 downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Clr Richard Clewer
 53 Highlands Avenue, Whiteparish,
 Salisbury SP5 2SZ
 01794 884550
 richard.clewer@wiltshire.gov.uk

MOBILE POST OFFICE

Fridays
 Moot Lane 9am - 10am
 The Bull 10.05am - 11.05am

HIGH STREET PHARMACY

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6pm
 (closed for lunch 1-2pm)
 Saturday 9am - 12noon
 Tel: 01725 510388

LIBRARY

01725 511003
 Opening Hours
 Monday 2pm - 7pm
 Tuesday 2pm - 5pm*
 Wednesday 2pm - 5pm*
 Thursday 10am - 1pm*
 Friday 10am - 5pm
 Saturday 10 - 1

* volunteer operated sessions

LEISURE CENTRE

Mon - Fri 6.30am - 10pm
 Sat & Sun 9am - 5pm
 01725 557268
 downtonleisurecentre.co.uk

LOVER REPAIR CAFE

Wednesdays / Fridays 10am - 12pm
 Fixing household items
 Redlynch Village Hall SP5 2PG

MEMORIAL CENTRE

To book hall or meeting rooms
 contact Hilary Mace 07760 415818
 email: bookingsecretary@
 downtonmemorialcentre.co.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

downtonvillage.co.uk

DOWNTON BAPTIST CHURCH (DBC)

South Lane, Downton SP5 3NA
 Sunday Service: 10.30 am (check website for latest details)
 Ministers:
 Rev Philip Rhoades: philip@downtonbaptist.org 07468 491143
 Rev Katy Ulyatt: katy@downtonbaptist.org 07786 248880
 Church Office open Monday - Thursday, 9am - 1pm 512971
 Email: office@downtonbaptist.org Web: downtonbaptist.org

ST LAURENCE PARISH CHURCH (STL)

Church Hatch, Downton SP5 3PU
 Sunday Service: 10.30 am (check website for latest details)
 Cafe Church 2nd Sunday 10.30 - 11.30am
 Team Vicar: Revd Veronica Batchelor 01725 513878;
 veronicaforestandavon@gmail.com
 Parish Administrator, Jo Parsons 01725 512738
 stlaurencedownton.co.uk

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

(ROMAN CATHOLIC)

Barford Lane, Downton SP5 3QA
 Mass 3rd Thursday of the month 6.30pm
 Service of the word Tuesdays 6.30pm (via zoom on weeks when no mass on
 Thursdays). To join, contact John Elliott 07980 921558
 Telephone: 01722 333581; office@salisbury Catholics.org

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH (NLC)

4th Sunday of the month Word & Worship Service: 7pm
 Bonvalot Room, Memorial Centre, The Borough, Downton SP5 3NB
 Life Group Wednesday evenings (contact office for details)
 office@newlifecommunitychurch.co.uk

THE PLAYROOM (DBC)

Toddler Church
 Toys, stories, singing.
 Wednesdays term time 9 - 11am

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP @ DBC

Wednesdays 11am - 12.30pm
 Wiltshire Breastfeeding Support

LITTLE BUDS (NLC)

Free postnatal group
 Tuesdays term time 1 - 2.30pm
 Bonvalot Room, Memorial Centre

HEARING AID CLINIC @ DBC

1st Thursdays 10am - 12pm
 Hearing aids cleaned and new
 batteries supplied for NHS users

THE WARDROBE (DBC)

Free Clothing Exchange
 Usually 3rd Friday 2 - 3.30pm
 See article to confirm dates

THE LARDER (DBC)

Free food, every week.
 Open for donations and collections
 Monday 6 - 7pm
 Wednesday 9 - 10am

THE GARDEN (DBC)

A garden for everyone to grow food
 and flowers for The Larder
 Open for gardening or to share tea in
 the garden
 Thursdays after school 3.15 - 4.15pm
 Sundays 2.30 - 4.30pm

THURSDAYS (DBC)

10.30am coffee/cake
 11am short church service
 2nd & 4th Thursdays lunch @ 12pm

What, Where, When				
March				
Friday	22	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe, Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 6
Sunday	24	2 - 4pm	Seedy Sunday	Page 3
Tuesday	26	4 - 5pm	Moot Lane Play park opening	Front page
Thursday	28	7:30pm	Horticultural Society Talk, "Cherry Tree Nursery", Memorial Hall	
Friday	29	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	
Saturday	30	10am	Downton Society Walk: Rhinefield Ornamental Drive	Page 12
April				
Monday	1	11am	Moot Easter Egg Hunt	Page 3
Tuesday	16	6 - 7:30pm	Defibrillator Seminar, The Bonvalot Room, Memorial Centre	Page 8
Thursday	18	7.30pm	Horticultural Society Talk, "Magic of Bird Migration" Memorial Hall	Page 9
Thursday	25	7:30pm	Millennium Green AGM, The Bonvalot Room, Memorial Centre	Page 5
Friday	26	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	
Saturday	27	10am	Downton Society Walk: Lymington marshes	Page 12
Monday	29	1 - 7pm	Volunteer Fayre, Memorial Centre	Page 9
May				
Saturday	4	3pm	Downton Band Concert, Memorial Hall	Page 11
Sat & Sun	11 & 12	2 - 4pm	Bowling Club Open Day, Wick Lane	Page 13
Friday	17	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe, Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 6
Saturday	18	2pm	Horticultural Society Plant and Table Top Sale, Memorial Hall	Page 9
Sunday	26	2 - 4pm	Bowling Club Open Day, Wick Lane	Page 13
Friday	31	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	

ASHLEY GRANGE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Free activities and entertainment for older people
 Thursdays 1.45pm
 Ashley Grange, Lode Hill, SP5 3PP

DOWNTON DOWNTIME

Activities for anyone with memory problems or who feels isolated
 Tuesdays 10.15am - 12pm Free
 Sherwood Suite, Wick Lane SP5 3NF
 Jane Abel musecic@gmail.com

GOOD COMPANIONS

Activities for older people
 Tuesdays 2pm - 4pm £2.50 fee
 Memorial Hall

INDOWNTON NEWSLETTER

Sponsored and supported by Downton Baptist Church
 Summer Issue: Deadline for contributions: 19 May 2024
 Publication date: 1 June 2024
 Distributed to every house in the village, 5 times a year.
 For information about contributing or advertising, email:
 editor@indownton.org.uk or visit the website.
 Website: indownton.org.uk
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 Production Team: Rosemary Leo, Paul Leo and Natalie Wright

We are expanding our information on regular events and village facilities. Contact us to ask for more events to be added or to let us know of any corrections and updates.