

**FREE**

# Summer InDownton



## Addressing Cemetery Concerns

Following concerns raised on social media about the condition of Barford Lane Cemetery, Parish Council Chair and officers inspected the grounds and confirmed that they share the concerns about the current standard of maintenance.

The Grounds Maintenance Contractor, is due to carry out

maintenance on 8 June, as the newsletter goes to print. The contractor will trim around graves and remove weeds from the Cemetery paths. The Council will check afterwards to ensure the required standards have been met.

The Council has had to repeatedly challenge the contractor regarding the quality of its work. The contract is due to expire on 31 March 2027, and the Council will shortly begin a procurement process to seek quotations from alternative providers.

The Council is committed to securing a higher standard of service, but improved service levels may result in increased costs which would ultimately need to be funded by local taxpayers.

The Council acknowledge the valuable contribution made by its team of volunteers who help maintain and enhance the Cemetery. Their work includes: weeding the cremated remains area and quiet contemplation area, repairing and maintaining the standpipe, tree planting and ongoing tree care, and planting flowers and bulbs.

*Continued on page 2...*



### **In this issue...**

We celebrate the lives of two individual who have died recently and who had a large influence on the village. John Underhill OBE ran Docombe's transport company and there's a concert to celebrate his life in Salisbury Cathedral on 1 August. See page 2. Nikki Wilson was chair of The Downton Society, steering it through many challenges and initiatives. Find out more on page 3.

Our local gin distillery has been excelling itself. Read about its awards on page 4 and there's a code to get 11% off its range of spirits until 19 June, so be quick!

Do send us your summer photos and we'll print a selection in our next issue.

## NEW SALMON FARM STRUCTURE APPROVED

The plans to construct a large canopy structure over the former Trafalgar Fisheries off Barford Lane have been approved by Wiltshire Council. The conversion from trout to salmon farming did not need any further permission but the new operation includes a canopy with solar panels. The large canopy will cover over 3,000 square meters of the existing ponds to control light and water conditions in the farming of the Atlantic salmon. The planning application attracted over 1,000 objections. The new operations plans an initial annual output of 240 tonnes of salmon, sold directly to local consumers, with a reduced workforce and fewer lorry movements compared to previous operations.



## CATHEDRAL CONCERT FOR JOHN UNDERHILL

A memorial concert with the Central Band of the Royal British Legion is to be held at Salisbury Cathedral to celebrate the life of John Underhill OBE who died in April. John oversaw the expansion of his family’s firm, Doccombe Global Logistics, based on Downton industrial estate, for many years.



The company's road transport operations can be traced back to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the determination of the Underhill family to support the need for humanitarian aid in the under privileged nations of Albania, Croatia and Romania. Whilst the company expanded, it continued to support the Royal British Legion, raising hundreds of thousands of pounds, including organising scores of concerts in cathedrals across the UK and Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands.

Doccombe’s building and trucks have often been seen with the Royal British Legion’s red poppy of remembrance proudly displayed reflecting a lifetime of support.

Everyone is welcome to attend the free service on Saturday 1 August at 2pm. The celebration will be led by David Cole OBE who frequently collaborated with John.

Doors open at 1.15pm and the concert is due to finish at 3.30pm. There will be a retiring collection and drinks and nibbles available afterwards. It is asked that places are booked in advance to assist with seating arrangements. Bookings can be made by following the links on the Doccombe website at [doccombe.com/news](http://doccombe.com/news).

## SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE RON HART’S 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY

A service of thanksgiving for Downton’s Revd Ron Hart is taking place at St Laurence Church on Sunday 21 June at 10.30am. Ron’s 40 years of ministry coincides with his 80 birthday.

Ron has worked with all the churches in the area and the service will involve music from both the Parish Church choir and organist and DBC’s music group. The service is followed by a birthday buffet lunch at DBC at 12.15pm. All are welcome.

## ADDRESSING CEMETERY CONCERNS (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Anyone who would like to help care for this important space is encouraged to contact the Council's Administration Officer, Susan Parsons.

The Council has also reminded grave owners and relatives that responsibility for the upkeep of individual grave plots rests with the family or Exclusive Right of Burial holder. This includes keeping memorials, borders, and planted areas tidy and in a safe condition. It’s grateful for the continued support and understanding of residents as it works to ensure that Barford Lane Cemetery remains a peaceful, respectful, and well-maintained resting place for loved ones.

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## NIKKI WILSON, DOWNTON SOCIETY CHAIR



The Downton Society have announced that their chair, Nikki Wilson, passed away on 19 May. In a statement, it said, “Nikki bore her illness of many months with great courage and fortitude. As a society we have extended our heartfelt sympathy to her family at this very difficult time.”

Nikki contributed significantly to her many and varied interests both within Downton and outside. Following on from Sally Lacey she was chair, and the driving force, of the Downton Society for many years. She also contributed to many other important areas such as the writing of the Neighbourhood Plan and in supporting other groups and individuals within the village.

The statement from the society concludes that Nikki was, “a very talented person with wide ranging interests. She blended her efficiency and enthusiasm with genuine warmth, openness and engagement. Nikki is a great loss to Downton and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.”

Nikki was a great supporter of InDownton newsletter and its initiatives, and the editorial team will miss her input.

## ST LAURENCE EVENTS

Suite Jazz Trio (Paul Borrelli, Kate Edgar and Dave Mace) return to St Laurence Churchyard on 3 July at 7pm. The concert is in aid of church funds. Tickets cost £10 (£5 for under 18s) and are available on the door, or in advance from the Borough Cafe / courtney.spence7@gmail.com. You are invited to bring a savoury picnic - hot drinks and puddings will be on sale. You might also need a chair - and a woolly if the weather demands it. If it is wet, the performance will be in the church.

On 24 July, St Laurence Church presents “An Evening with.... Captain Barry Sadler” - a talk from Southampton Docks Pilot, Captain Barry Sadler. Expect to find out about the commercial Port of Southampton and its many and varied shipping types and cargoes - and the role that the pilotage service plays in the safe and efficient running of the port. The event is one of a series of “An evening with....”, generally starting at 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm) with tickets available on the door, or in advance from the Borough Cafe.

The Goose Fair will take place on 12 September - with the usual mix of stalls. More information nearer the time.



Last year's concert

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## THE GREAT CHURCH PICNIC

The Great Church Picnic is a free event to start the school holidays. It's for families with children of all ages and focused on thinking about the great abundance of God but note that children must be accompanied and supervised.

It starts at 10am on Friday 24 July in the Church Field with games, challenges, activities, crafts, stories, sports, music, gardening and more. Refreshments will be available throughout the morning and there will be a picnic from midday. The event concludes with a water fight (a tradition from Holiday Club) ending at 1pm.

Parking is available at the rear of the church (not The Goat car park) and everyone should bring sun screen or raincoats depending on the weather. This family event replaces holiday club this year.

There's no charge for the activities or food, although voluntary donations can be made for the Purple Community Fund work in the Philippines. Places can be booked on the church website at [downtonbaptist.org](http://downtonbaptist.org).



## DOWNTON DISTILLERY - DISCOUNT FOR READERS!

Downton Distillery has received four awards at the Gin Guide Awards. To celebrate - and to thank customers for their continued support - the distillery is offering InDownton readers an 11% discount across its entire range of spirits until 19 June - use the code 'INDOWN0126' when ordering.

Great Bustard Autumnal Gin secured Gold in the Flavoured Gin category, Best Gin in England, Best New Product 2026 and Best Brand. The gin was born from a challenge and an opportunity. Last November, founder Hugh Anderson was offered several boxes of surplus quince alongside a quantity of excess fresh apple juice from Cranborne Chase Cider with one condition. The produce had to be used within 48 hours before it spoiled. Inspired by the local harvest and seasons across Wiltshire, Hugh developed Great Bustard Autumnal Gin to capture the flavours of autumn. Fresh orchard fruit, warming spices and selected botanicals combine to create a gin that reflects the landscape - and wins awards! The distillery is committed to sustainability and circular production, so this project slotted in seamlessly, using ingredients that might otherwise go to waste and transforming them into a premium product.



*Hugh with the quinces*

The distillery's Bottle for Life initiative allows customers to refill their spirits using refill packs rather than purchasing new bottles. Customers can return any unwanted Downton Distillery bottles or branded glassware to the distillery for reuse, repurposing or recycling. It's all part of the distillery's commitment to proving that premium spirits can be enjoyed with a lighter environmental footprint.

The distillery runs regular tours and tasting experiences. The next Open Day takes place on 18 July, offering a chance to see the distillery and meet the people behind the spirits. Go to [downtondistillery.com](http://downtondistillery.com) for more information and to use the discount code.

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## SUMMER FAMILY FILM AT THE MEMORIAL CENTRE

In August there are two opportunities to see a new science fiction film for children which hasn't been released in the UK yet starring Griff Rhys Jones and Arran Kemp. *Future TX: Destiny is Calling*, is a fun and fast paced thriller for all the family. Two kids get their first mobile phones and both receive a call from someone who claims to be from the future. They assume it's a prank call, but the mystery caller proves he's genuine. They have to find a botnet before it becomes too powerful and destroys the future.



The film is PG rated and the suggested age range is 8 - 12 year olds. It's showing on the new big screen at the Memorial Hall on Monday 24 August at 2.30pm or Saturday 29 August at 10am. Children must be accompanied. Tickets £5 cash from the Borough Cafe after 1 August, or by BACS by texting 07760 415818. Refreshments including popcorn and ice cream will be available. Profits go towards the kitchen refurbishment. The film is from Film Expo South, a not for profit organisation that helps upcoming professionals in the film industry.

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## DOWNTON'S MACE & THE PAWNBROKER'S SHOP MYSTERY

The article on the Downton Mace in the last issue of InDownton provoked a reaction from a local resident, who wrote to tell us that the mace wasn't bought by the 6th Earl of Radnor from a pawnbroker's shop in Southampton. It was acquired by the grandfather of the 6th Earl who kept it at Longford Castle for about 50 years before it was decided to give it back. How the mace remained missing from the early 1830s, when the Reform Act meant that Downton was no longer a Borough with two MPs, to when it was found around 40 years later remains uncertain. The 6th Earl expressed the belief that his grandfather bought it because he liked it, but how did he discover that it was the Downton Mace? Our attention has been drawn to a letter to the Salisbury Times in July 1953 from Andrew R Woodford of Pitt House, Downton. He wrote that the mace was discovered in a pawn shop by Mr G Manning, a miller of Downton, who arranged for it to be purchased by Lord Radnor. We're always pleased to have feedback on any articles and we're delighted that the history of Downton still excites debate!



*The mace or ceremonial staff*

## DOWNTON BAND

Recent outings have seen all 3 sections of Downton Band performing at Cuckoo Fair on the Saturday, as well as playing at the Band's concert the following day. Having missed out last year, some of the band, joined by other local musicians, took part in the Whit Friday Marches on Saddleworth Moors - an event which sees a huge number of bands performing marches through village streets in front of huge crowds, before playing a judged march in various venues including village greens, parks, outside libraries and pubs.

The band is booked for the Downton Music Festival on Saturday 13 June at 7pm. Later in the summer it will return to the New Forest Show (28 - 30 July), and then take part in a contest at the White Horse, Stourpaine, on Sunday 9 August.



*Whit Friday Marches*

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\*excluding Bank Holidays



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## CABLING WORK ON THE BOROUGH

The high voltage cabling work being carried out along The Borough now has an end in sight. One of the biggest milestones went according to plan - the operation has crossed over 80 other utilities without incident. Completion date is currently set for 21 June, although the operation is still complex and involves many different departments and people. If you need to report any issues, contact Aureos Energy on 0300 880994, quoting reference PS003556.



## WOODFALLS TALKABOUT: JFK - THE SEQUEL

TalkAbout at Woodfalls Methodist Hall on 2 July is entitled "JFK - The Sequel", with speaker Richard Hutley. In this follow-up talk Richard examines the aftermath of President Kennedy's assassination, posing the question: "Was it random, or was there really a conspiracy?". 10am for 10:30am. Admission (£4) includes refreshments. More information from 07760 224990.



## TALK ABOUT UKRAINE APPEAL

The TalkAbout team will be collecting for Ukraine on Thursday 3 September. Donations can be brought to Woodfalls Methodist Church between 10:00am and Noon. There is a particular need for: food (canned, dried); off-the-shelf medication, dressings; medical equipment (monitors, mobility aids etc); toiletries, personal hygiene, wet wipes; candles and LED torches + batteries; sleeping bags; new underwear; heavy duty socks and boots; blankets and bed linen; pet products (cages, food, treatments); USB power banks; camping stoves (no gas canisters) and generators.

## GOOD COMPANIONS

Amongst the highlights coming up for Good Companions are Kate Edgar's sea shanty choir, Catch of the Day (pictured), which will be performing on 23 June. Nigel Revell is singing favourite songs on 28 July, and on 11 August, Carol Watson will be showing photos of her trip to Yellowstone. On 8 September, Mark Heighway is visiting with a talk entitled 'Hidden in Plain Sight: Reminders of WW2 in the New Forest'. During the Second World War the New Forest area saw a huge amount of activity. It was home to several airfields, training areas, D-Day camps and an embarkation point, a secret spy school, a POW camp, traps were set for invading armies, and it was also the scene of the biggest ever bomb dropped on UK soil. This presentation takes the form of a photo tour of familiar areas of the New Forest, showing things left over from the war and the stories behind them.



Good Companions meet in the Memorial Hall on Tuesdays, 2 - 4 pm, with a programme of games, quizzes and visitors. Regulars pay £2, visitors £2.50. Contact Julia Whitmarsh on 510601 for details.

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## 2026 CUCKOO FAIR

The team behind this year’s fair would like to acknowledge the generous sponsorship from local businesses Toomers Ltd, Batt Broadbent and Edwards Ford. The new “Party in the Park”, with fairground rides and entertainments in the Memorial Gardens went down well - alongside all the traditional features. The typically English weather “did its thing” around 3.15pm and, while this did not put everyone off, The Cuckoo Fair emptied steadily, officially closed a little early at 4pm, and the pack-up and tidy-up began to restore The Borough! The road re-opened by 6pm as planned. A spokesperson for the committee said, “The feedback from people encountered that day and the following morning was that it ‘looked like it had never happened’ which was all we could hope to achieve considering the vast numbers passing through the previous day!”



*Clockwise from left:  
Princess and attendants (picture: Mary Gray)  
Supervising car parking (picture: Mary Gray)  
Parade  
Watching the maypole dancing (picture: Mary Gray)  
Opposite from left:  
The band parading  
Supporting the RNLI (picture: Mary Gray)  
Downton community choir*

### MEET THE DOWNTON FREEMASONS

**About the Freemasons**

We are a members' organisation which has thrived for over 300 years.

We have no political connections, we have members of all ages, races, religions, cultures and backgrounds.

Freemasons have met in Downton for over 30 years and currently meet at the Downton Football Club.

[L9064@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk](mailto:L9064@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk)

[wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk](http://wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk)

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## THE GARDEN AT DBC

The Garden at DBC has been harvesting for weeks now, from an abundance of sweet peas, lettuce and radishes. Everything goes straight to the Larder to be given back to anyone in need in the Downton community.

The courgettes and leeks are coming on well. The potatoes are flowering and looking very leafy. It hasn't generally been a good year for green beans, but some have established. The new fruit trees have settled in well, but will need extra watering for their first year.

Record May temperatures meant the volunteers had to put together a daily regime of deep watering to keep everything alive in the raised beds. The veggies have survived, though, and the garden is soon set to hit its peak.

Visitors are welcome when the garden is open 2.30pm - 4.30pm on Sundays and Thursdays. Apparently, the kettle is always on!



## GREEN NETWORK

The Green Network's next project is to invite Fordingbridge's Green Gram store to hold a 'Green cleaning' workshop in Downton, where participants will be able to make their own eco friendly cleaning kit. If you have any empty spray bottles, small tubs or pump bottles, then contact the group as the workshop can be booked in once there are enough empties to fill. More information at [downtongreengroup.org.uk](http://downtongreengroup.org.uk)



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## REPAIR CAFE - 9,000 REPAIRS AND STILL GOING STRONG

The Repair Cafe volunteers have now completed their 9000th job. This year, money from donations has enabled the team to donate over £13000 to charity, as well as the repairs saving 5.332 tonnes of waste and reducing CO2 by 26.56 tonnes. As part of their commitment to a more sustainable way of living, a representative recently went to Parliament to encourage MPs to sign up to a Repair and Reuse Declaration. Pictured is the Repair Team at Seedy Sunday accepting yet another job.



The team is now offering one to one computer assistance, with places bookable via their website ([loverrepaircafe.org.uk](http://loverrepaircafe.org.uk)) for those who may need a bit of help getting technology to work for them.

The next visits to Downton are on Saturdays 4 July and 1 August, 10am - 12 noon, at the Baptist Church. If you can't get to one of these events, then the cafe is open at Redlynch village hall on Wednesday and Friday mornings, 10am - 12noon. More information [downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com).

## DOWNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The DPSA parents' committee recently arranged for Steel from Gladiators to join the children as part of their focus on keeping healthy. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and loved learning more about the importance of looking after themselves, particularly through exercise and staying active. Headteacher, Mrs Carlton, said, "It was a really positive and inspiring session, and a lovely way to remind the children that keeping healthy can also be great fun."




*Steel from Gladiators*

77 Downton pupils also recently took part in the Salisbury Mini Marathon, with many of their parents also taking part in the parent race. Despite being the smallest school in the large school category, the children achieved some outstanding results: 1st place in both the boys' race and the girls' race for Year 3/4, and 3rd place in both boys' and girls' races in Year 5/6.

## THE WARDROBE CLOTHING EXCHANGE

The next dates are 19 June and 17 July when group of volunteers helps sort mountains of donated good quality used clothing at the Baptist Church. Between 2pm and 3.30pm 80+ people come and choose items to try on at home, wear or return for next month. Donations can be left at the church between 9.30 and 12.30 Monday to Thursday and Sunday. Electrical goods, children's toys or bric-a-brac cannot be accepted. Any clothes taken are not for resale. There is no wardrobe in August.



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# SKY AT NIGHT BY MICHAEL F. BARRATT FRAS

June still sees some solar activity, so it is worth keeping a look out for the Northern Lights.

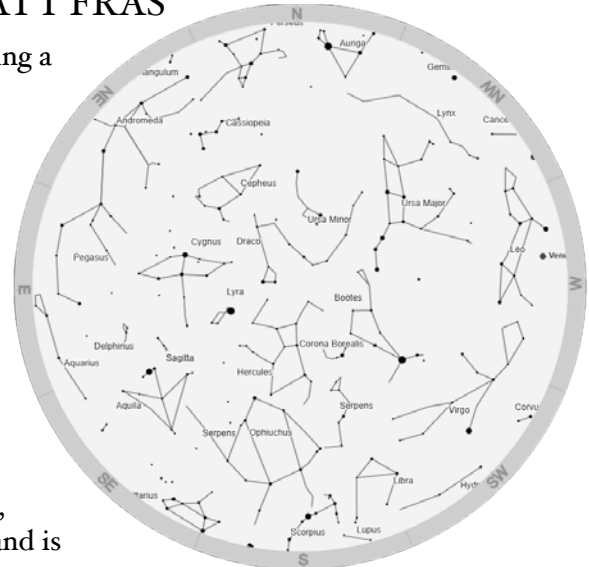
The full moons on 30 June and 29 July are known as a “Strawberry moon” and “Buck moon” respectively.

Despite the lighter night time skies, this is a good time to observe the Milky Way as it runs across the sky from northwest to southeast - from Cygnus (the Swan) towards its core in the constellation of Sagittarius (the Archer). It should be possible to also see Scorpius (the Scorpion). Panning across the sky with binoculars will reveal the millions of stars making up our galaxy.

On 9 June Venus and Jupiter appear to be almost touching, when seen with the naked eye. On 16 - 17 June, around 10:30pm, the moon passes Mercury and Jupiter and is very close to Venus. Mercury will be seen just below the very thin crescent moon. Throughout the summer, Venus remains as a bright “star” in the western twilight sky - the third brightest natural celestial object (after the Sun and the Moon).

On 9 July it passes directly over the star Regulus, in the constellation of Leo Majoris (the Great Lion) and will be just to the right of the thin crescent Moon on the evening of 17 July. Towards the end of June and into July, Mars can be seen in the early hours of the morning, near the Pleiades cluster in the constellation of Taurus (the Bull). In June, Jupiter will be found near Venus in the constellation of Gemini. Although dimmer than Venus, it will still be very bright. The twin stars of Gemini are quite different in colour - one (Castor) is a white double star and the other (Pollux) is a red giant. By July, Jupiter is fading. July sees Saturn rising in the east just after midnight - the first planet to rise after Venus has set. It shines a little brighter than Mars and can be found in the constellation of Pisces (the Twin Fishes). It will be close to the waning moon on 7/8 July. Uranus is not visible in June, but there is an opportunity to see it on the morning of 4 July, when it passes close to a much brighter Mars.

Towards the end of July you may see the first of the Perseids meteor showers - but moonlight may make it hard to spot.



Map of Sky at night-mid July at around 22.00 hours

## CHARLTON ALL SAINTS: AUCTION OF PROMISES

The Charlton-All-Saints Village BBQ and Auction of Promises will be held on Saturday 11 July from 5pm in the churchyard of All Saints' Church. Tickets cost £12 (£6 for children aged 5-14) and are available from [newsandnotes.net/event-list](http://newsandnotes.net/event-list).

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## CHARLTON'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

All Saints' Church, Charlton All Saints, marked the first 175 years of its service to the local community with a special service in April. The service was led by the Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury.

The church had recently undergone its annual spring clean, and floral arrangements created by local volunteers were displayed throughout the building. Some members of the congregation wore period-style bonnets and top hats in recognition of the church's Victorian origins.

Bishop Andrew led the Communion Service, assisted by the Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple, Team Rector. The lessons were read by John Glen and Col James Arkell, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire. Music was provided by organist Shelagh Lamb. One of the hymns ("For All Thy Saints Still Striving") was taken from a compilation called the Sarum Hymnal, written by Horatio, 3rd Earl Nelson, who was the principal benefactor of All Saints' Church.

The anniversary service was also the final diocesan service at which Bishop Andrew presided before taking up his new role as Bishop of St Albans. Following the service, he was presented with gifts of locally produced milk and honey from the Chalke Valley.

After the service, Bishop Andrew cut the birthday cake. Villagers and guests had a chance to view a display in the church, highlighting aspects of life in the Salisbury area in 1851 and outlining the history of the establishment of All Saints' Church.



## ANTHONY WOODWARD ART

If you are reading this in time, you might just be able to catch an Art Exhibition on Saturday 13 June (2 - 4pm) and Sunday 14 June (1 - 3pm) at Chalkhill House, Barford Lane. It features local artist Anthony Woodward. Describing his style as 'modern classical,' Anthony obtained a degree in Fine Art at Cambridge College of Art. His preferred medium is oils, although he also works in charcoal, pencil and watercolour. In the past, Anthony's work has been featured in The Times, BBC South Today, Vogue, Mayfair Times and BBC One. He also co-created the striking Jubilee mural underneath Salisbury's Milford Bridge, in 2012. Anthony was born in London, but is local to Downton, and has lived in the village for the last 20 years.

There will be affordable, signed, limited edition prints for sale as well as original artworks. Interest free payment plans are also available for most of Anthony's paintings.



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## AVON VALLEY PATH: SALISBURY - DOWNTON SECTION 1

The Avon Valley Path is a 34-mile, long-distance walking route from Salisbury to Christchurch Priory and the sea. The path opened in 1992 and runs from Wiltshire - through Downton - due south through Hampshire to finish in Dorset. During the winter months the route can become seriously waterlogged, but summer and early autumn is an ideal time to give it a go.

You could do section 1 either way - using the X3 bus for the outward - or return part of the journey. The route is clearly shown on Ordnance Survey maps of the locality (Explorer 130 Salisbury & Stonehenge and Explorer 22 New Forest)

The walk begins at the statue of The Walking Madonna by Elizabeth Frink, which stands in the cathedral close. Leave The Close by the South Gate (Harnham Gate) and cross the River Avon via Harnham Bridge, built in 1245. Then past The Rose and Crown Inn.

Continue along Bishop's Walk and up Harnham Hill and then over the open chalk downland of Homington Down towards Dogdean Farm, before dropping down to the River Ebble and the pretty village of Odstock. Stop for a break

at the renowned Yew Tree pub or visit St Mary's churchyard where the rose-covered grave of Joshua Scamp lies (find out more about the Odstock Curse by searching for it on wessexmuseums.org.uk). Then the Path takes you south of the village of Nunton. The Path winds around the foot of Clearbury Down from which you can clearly see Clearbury Ring, an Iron Age hill fort, past the curious octagonal Round House and through Charlton All Saints; it then runs alongside the water meadows where you get your first sight of the intricate irrigation system used to 'drown' the meadows. At the 17th century New Court Farm, turn left over the bridge and follow the causeway through the meadows and into Downton.

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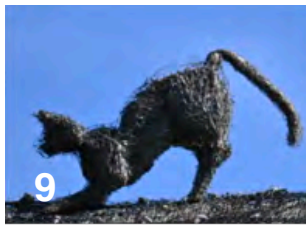
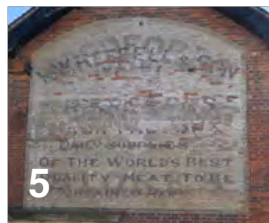
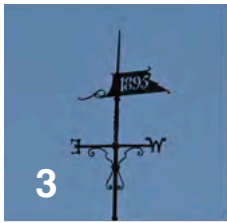


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MYSTERY PHOTOS

These photos were all taken in Downton recently. Those who visited the Discover Downton stall at the Cuckoo Fair were able to take a strip of pictures away to investigate. Can you locate where they were taken? (Answers in the autumn issue)



HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Autumn Show will be at 2pm in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 5 September. There is free admission to view the many exhibits: chrysanthemums, gladioli, dahlias, pot plants, vegetables and fruit, as well as the floral arrangements. This show also has a large Bake-Off section with prizes for the best carrot cake, cheese scones, cheese straws, flapjacks, shortbread, Victoria sponge, lemon drizzle cake, tray bake and fruit scones. The winner of the best Dundee cake will be awarded the President's Cup.

Everyone is very welcome to enter and entries will be returned at the end of the show. The Show Schedules contain all the details (including an entry form) and are available from any committee member including Chris Parry, 'Cymbeline', 51 The Borough (Tel: 514511) or message the Society on Facebook: facebook.com/DowntonHorticulturalSociety/. All you have to do then is to bring your entry along on the morning of the show - or the previous evening.



Autumn show entries

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## BOWLING CLUB

The 2026 season is now in full swing at Downton Bowling Club.

Their first competitive match was against Alderbury, which Downton lost by a single shot. The rest of the season so far has seen mixed results - with the Dragons team being the highest placed team in their division, where they are 3rd out of 10. One of the highlights was when both Division 4 teams played each other - ending with the Bustard team's narrow 26-25 victory over the Dragons.



The club holds weekly roll-ups every Monday from 2 - 4pm and Friday from 6 - 8pm (excluding bank holidays). These are open to experienced players or novices. All equipment, tuition, light refreshments and parking are provided free. For more information, contact Ivan on 07910 290735, email buib7@icloud.com, or visit the club's website at [downtonbc.co.uk](http://downtonbc.co.uk).

## HAMPTWORTH CROQUET OPEN AFTERNOON

Hamptworth Croquet Club (at Hamptworth Golf Club) is holding an open afternoon on Sunday 14 June, 2 - 4pm. It's a free event, open to anyone over 15. Those taking part should come prepared with flat soled shoes - but all other equipment is provided.

## REDLYNCH & HALE CRICKET CLUB

The cricket season is well underway, although it got off to a wet start, with three Saturday matches rained off in the first week of the season. However, all 3 sides managed wins in the second week. The Tanner brothers, Ian and Ewan are scoring well and there have been 50s for Ewan, Will Hewlett and James Taylor. The bowlers are making their mark too, with George Hayes and Sam McKie each taking five wickets in a single innings. Some of the juniors are also playing in the Saturday sides - Spike Goddard notably hit 44 on his debut in senior cricket.

## CHOIR FESTIVAL RAISES OVER £6,500

Kate Edgar's choir festival in April at St Thomas's Church Salisbury raised money through voluntary donations for the church and for Beyond Dementia (see page 16). Downton Community Choir (pictured) joined 18 choirs from across the area.

The community choir are in concert with Kate's Coffee Choir at Salisbury Methodist Church on Thursday 25 June at 7pm. Entry is £10 on the door including refreshments in aid of Silver Salisbury.



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## DOWNTON DOWNTIME: BEYOND DEMENTIA

Downton Downtime meets every Tuesday morning at Downton Baptist Church, bringing together members of the local community in a welcoming and relaxed environment. Originally established to support people living with dementia and their carers, the group has expanded to welcome anyone who may feel lonely or isolated, or who would like the opportunity to meet others and enjoy social interaction. Sessions begin at 10.15am with tea, cake, and time for conversation. A range of activities is offered throughout the year, including bingo, crafts, musical entertainment, sing-alongs, and other opportunities for social engagement. Music forms an important part of the programme, with regular performances and participatory activities designed to encourage wellbeing and shared enjoyment. The group provides a space where older adults, local residents, newcomers, and visitors can meet, take part in activities, and develop social connections within the community. Downton Downtime is open to everyone.



For further information, contact Beyond Dementia at [hello@beyonddementia.org.uk](mailto:hello@beyonddementia.org.uk) or telephone 01380 739055.

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Downton Library needs volunteers to run regular children's activities, including Rhyme Time and Brick Club. You would need to lead the sessions, engage with families and set up and pack away activities. Full training and resources will be provided. Rhyme Time runs on Friday mornings from 10 - 10:30am; Brick club runs one

Monday a month from 4:30 - 5:30pm. To find out more, ask at the library or email Darren Wells at [darren.wells@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:darren.wells@wiltshire.gov.uk)



## SWIFT WALK

If you are interested in wildlife conservation, then this is an opportunity to learn from the experts. Stroll through the village on a summer's evening to watch and learn more about swifts and how the Salisbury and Wilton Swifts group is working with the local community to create more nesting opportunities. Open to all, walkers should meet outside St Laurence Church at

7:30pm on Thursday 16 July. The walk will take an hour and a half. There is no cost, but a suggested donation of £5 will be collected on the day.

Photo by Walter Brunner on Unsplash



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<b>What, Where, When</b>				
<b>June</b>				
Friday	19	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe, Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 10
Friday	26	10am - 12 noon	"Fridays" Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	
<b>July</b>				
Thursday	2	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Friday	3	7pm	Suite Jazz concert, St Laurence Churchyard	Page 3
Saturday	11	5pm	Charlton:Village BBQ and Auction of Promises, All Saints Church	Page 11
Thursday	16	7:30 - 9pm	Swift walk, meet at St Laurence Church	Page 16
Friday	17	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe, Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 10
Friday	24	10am - 1pm	The Great Church Picnic, Downton Baptist Church	Page 4
Friday	24	7pm	An Evening with Barry Sadler, St Laurence Church	Page 3
Friday	31	7:30pm	"Fridays" Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	
<b>August</b>				
Thursday	6	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Monday	24	2:30 - 4pm	Film: 'TX: Destiny is calling', Memorial Hall	Page 5
Friday	28	7:30pm	"Fridays" Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	
Saturday	29	10 - 11:30am	Film: 'TX: Destiny is calling', Memorial Hall	Page 5
<b>September</b>				
Thursday	3	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Saturday	5	2pm	Horticultural Society Autumn Show, Memorial Hall	Page 14

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**DOWNTON DOWNTIME**

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**INDOWNTON NEWSLETTER**

Sponsored and supported by Downton Baptist Church

Autumn Issue: Deadline for contributions: 23 August  
Publication date: 5 September.

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For information about contributing or advertising, email:  
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Whilst we make every effort to avoid errors, we're human!  
We apologise for the mistakes we missed.

Production Team: Rosemary Leo, Paul Leo, Natalie Wright

**VILLAGE INFORMATION & REGULAR EVENTS**

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Melanie Camilleri  
 Telephone: 07798 698199  
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**DOWNTON BAPTIST CHURCH (DBC)**

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 Church Office open Monday - Thursday, 9am - 1pm 512971  
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**THE PLAYROOM (DBC)**

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