

Winter InDownton

FREE

Ian's Big Night Out

Ian Dixon, Downton resident and Salisbury Museum volunteer, suffered a stroke in November 2023. He returned home before Christmas after a lengthy stay in residential rehabilitation to carry on the lengthy rehabilitation process. An enthusiastic member of the Downton Running Club, Ian retired from a career as a teacher and headteacher, as well as a sports coach and mentor. Many adaptations are required to enable Ian to live an independent life at home, so his partner, Elizabeth, has got together with some of Ian's old cricketing pals, to arrange a celebratory concert, raising funds for key changes to house and home. Elizabeth is a saxophone player with The Salisbury Big Band, who rehearse in Downton every week and they are all giving their time free to help out. His friend, Alan Heap, says "Ian's '2nd innings' is beginning in a wheelchair, but he is happy to be home with Elizabeth and Flintoff the dog. We'd love to see a packed Clubhouse for the concert, and it will continue the incredible generosity that the people of Downton have already shown to Ian and Elizabeth."



Ian and Elizabeth

The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 7 February at The Clubhouse, Wick Lane, Downton, and tickets are available through Eventbrite. Search for "Ian's Big Night Out" at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk). Anyone who can't make the concert, but would like to make a donation, can visit the JustGiving page by searching for "Alan Heap", where there are more details of the fundraising.

Comment

We're always keen to learn what you like best (or least) in the newsletter. This issue continues our occasional series about our village history, viewed through interesting objects. The more we delve into the history, the more there is to discover. On the back page there's an article about how Downton is linked to the famous portrait of Sir Walter Raleigh, and its royal connections. There's plenty more subjects to write about, if there's interest. Let us know by email to editor@indownton.org.uk.

The editors

SEEDY SUNDAY: 23 MARCH

As the gardening season gets under way, the Green Network is planning Seedy Sunday, on 23 March. It's a chance to bring spare seeds and plants to swap - or just pick up other people's spares in exchange for a donation. There will also be seeds for sale in small quantities and plenty of advice on hand for those who are new to gardening, or a bit less confident. Lots of other attractions are planned to promote sustainable living within the local community. More details nearer the event on Facebook / village noticeboards and the Green Network's website: downtongreengroup.org.uk.



PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

The school is proud of its eco Green Flag status - which needs to be renewed every year. In the past few months, the children have been weeding and planting shrubs in their Hedgehog Garden, as well as planting daffodil bulbs. They are grateful for the shrubs which have been donated, which they are hoping will encourage wildlife and increase biodiversity in the grounds. Always keen to reduce the amount of waste that is collected, the Eco Council organise an on-going competition to discover which class has produced the least. As well as standard recycling, the children collect used pens to be taken to a local recycling point.



Year 5 and 6 pupils recently visited the Harry Potter Studios and explored the iconic sets, costumes, and behind-the-scenes secrets of the beloved film series. The pupils were especially fascinated by the Great Hall, Diagon Alley, and learning about the special effects that bring the wizarding world to life. Headteacher Paula Carlton said, "This was a fantastic opportunity to inspire creativity and curiosity, and the children behaved wonderfully throughout the day, representing our school with pride."

ROUND THE BEND TOUR

Would you like to visit and see (and smell!) how your waste water is treated before being released into the River Avon? A tour of Downton Water Recycling Centre has been organised for Saturday 8 March from 10am - 12.30pm. Booking is essential - search "eventbrite downton water" for the link. For more information go to FLOW's website at loveofwater.org or wessexwater.co.uk.



ST JOHN SINGERS AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH

"A feast of choral music" is happening on Saturday 29 March at St Laurence Church at 7.30pm: a concert by Salisbury's St John Singers. The programme will comprise favourite anthems (by composers Stanford, Wesley, Franck and Fauré) in the first half, and Fauré's Requiem in the second half. The soloists in the latter will be Kerensa Houghton (soprano) and Robert Blakey (baritone), the organ accompanist will be Andrew Post, and the concert will be conducted by Stephen Abbott.



Tickets (£12.50) from The Borough Café, Kit & Caboodle (High Street, Salisbury), choir members, and on the door.

PETER COX
PAINTER & DECORATOR



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THE WARDROBE AT DBC

The Wardrobe is a simple concept. People donate clothes they don't need and/or can chose clothes they do need. It's attracting lots of donations and lots of visitors each month. It's run by local volunteers who deal with the mammoth task of sorting items in the morning and clearing away at the end.

When donating goods, the volunteers ask that bin bags are not overfilled which makes them difficult to handle. Using smaller bags with labels of contents (eg baby/children/ladies/gents etc.) helps a great deal. The Wardrobe can only handle good quality clothing (no rags or soiled items) and shoes/handbags. They can't accept electrical items or other items and they don't need clothes hangers since they have a mountain of these already!

The next Fridays when the Wardrobe is open between 2pm and 3.30pm are 28 February and 21 March. There is no Wardrobe in April.



Wardrobe volunteers

DOWNTON BAND

Downton Band would like to thank all the many people that supported and donated during the busy festive period, without whom the Band would not be viable. After all the concerts, Carol Service, and carolling around the village, the Band is now busy working on the test piece for March's regional contest in Torquay. They are also looking forward to the return of the Cuckoo Fair where all three Bands (Beginners, Training and Senior) will be performing throughout the day, ending the weekend with a concert on the Sunday. Details in the next issue.



DBC TEAM IN TRIP TO PHILIPPINES

In February eight members of Downton Baptist Church are heading off to the Philippines to support the work of the Purple Community Fund, which works to support families on the dumpsites of Manila. DBC has a long standing relationship with PCF and has witnessed the impact of this charity with the support of communities like ours around the world, making a lasting difference to the most vulnerable people, living on the forgotten margins.

The group will be helping with various initiatives, including the feeding programme, the livelihood projects supporting parents to find employment and with the families.

To learn more of the work of PCF, go to p-c-f.org.



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NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Wiltshire Council is continuing to clear gullies and deal with storm damage as it occurs. Some gullies are still to be cleared - any blocked drains/gullies can be reported via MyWilts on the Wiltshire Council or Parish Council websites, or email the admin officer, details below.

Wiltshire Council Highways have reviewed the signage in the Tannery Bridge pinch point, and the informal crossing opposite the Wooden Spoon - any developments arising from the review will be shared with residents.

A review of the Parish benches and other assets will start this month and the Council will arrange for volunteers to repair and paint items that look scruffy. If you have a favourite bench and would like to help, please contact the admin officer, details below.

The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of the month in the Bonvalot Room in the Downton Memorial Centre. Meetings start at 7pm. There is always a public question time at the beginning of the meeting, so do come along and have your say. Susan Barnhurst Davies is the Administrative Officer for the Parish Council. She can be contacted on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on 07483 344035 or email: admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Where appropriate, she may redirect queries to Councillors or the Parish Clerk.

TREE AND BULB PLANTING

The program of tree planting and bulb planting has seen volunteers active in planting trees and shrubs in the Memorial Gardens, on the Beacon (where apple and pear trees have been planted), in the Cemetery and in the playpark at Charlton All Saints. The council would like to thank the community for the generous bulb donations, which were all planted before Christmas. Chair of the Council, Jane Breantor says, "A big shout out to all the volunteers who planted bulbs and cleared the dead wood from the Cemetery, it was miserable weather!"



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CUCKOO FAIR GEARS UP FOR RETURN



**ROAD CLOSURE
FOR
DOWNTON CUCKOO FAIR
SATURDAY 3rd MAY 2025**

**ORDERS UNDER SECTION 21 OF THE
TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847**

Dear Resident

I wish to advise you that I have applied for a Road Closure Order under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 as detailed in the Schedule below:

SCHEDULE

STREETS	DATE	TIME
Downton – B3080 The Borough from The Headlands to Church Hatch including Gravel Close, South Lane and Green Lane	SATURDAY 3 rd MAY 2025	0830 – 1800 hrs

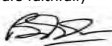
I attach a map showing the extent of the closure.

If you have any objections to this road closure request, please send them by 27th March, to:

By email trafficorders@wiltshire.gov.uk
 By post Traffic Orders Team, Sustainable Transport Group, Wiltshire Council, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Note: your objections must include your name and address or they cannot be considered. However, you have the right to request under the Data Protection Act 1998 that your name and address be withheld from public inspection or inclusion in any published report.

Yours faithfully



Bev Cornish
Company Secretary, Downton Cuckoo Fair Ltd

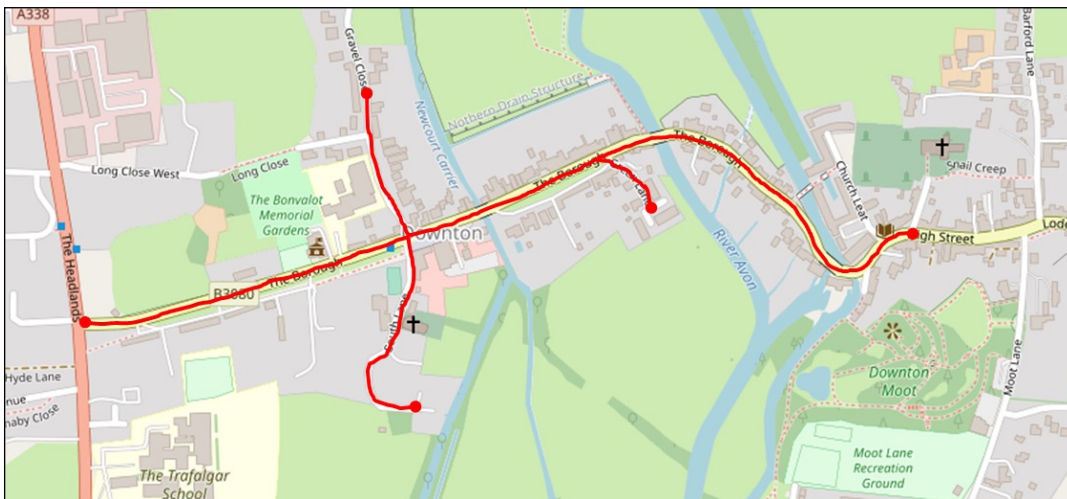
The team is continuing to plan in earnest for the Cuckoo Fair on Saturday 3 May 2025! (weather permitting). It's the largest free, non-profit event in Wiltshire, helping local organisations raise significant funds.

The Cuckoo Fair want to thank Toomers Ltd for their sponsorship of this year's fair, along with Batt Broadbent Solicitors who have sponsored the day Leaflet.

If you think you can help the fair in any way, including sponsorship, the team would be delighted to hear from you. If you're interested in joining the team or can offer a few hours of your time to help us (with the prospect of a delicious free cooked breakfast for volunteers on Fair day!), contact chair@cuckoofair.co.uk

Janet McGee from St Laurence Church says "the proceeds raised at The Cuckoo Fair

help us run our beautiful and ancient church, and it is one of the most significant fundraising events undertaken annually to raise funds to help keep our building open for the village to use and enjoy."





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The team want to hear from others who want to share what the Cuckoo Fair means to their organisation. Contact comms@cuckoofair.co.uk For the latest information on the Fair go to the website cuckoofair.co.uk or Facebook page facebook.com/DowntonCuckooFair

LOCALS FUND MOLDOVA GIFTS

On 28 December a team of TEECH Volunteers departed the UK for Moldova in two fully loaded lorries and a van. The lorries and van were loaded with 24 pallets of hand sanitiser, food parcels, over 1,000 Christmas gift shoeboxes, beds, blankets, clothing, toys, and other humanitarian aid. The target was to raise sponsorship for 20 Pallets of hand sanitiser and 24 pallets were delivered.

Andy Fitt from Downton organised local collections which raised £203.70 in a few weeks to sponsor a pallet of hand sanitiser, which was delivered to Raisa Razlog, at the village school in Marinesti on 2 January, a Christmas present since Christmas Day in Moldova is 7 January.



NEW SPARKS AT DBC

Sparks is a new weekly group at the baptist church for young people in year 1 - year 3 to have fun, play games and explore questions of faith. It's run in partnership with The Bridge Project Chaplain on Wednesdays during term time between 3.30 and 4.30pm. There's no charge. To register a child to attend the group, there's an online booking form at downtonbaptist.org.

SAVAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Kayleigh and Andy Savage's Christmas light fundraiser raised just short of £1200 for Salisbury District Hospital's Stars Appeal Charity and Seeds4Success.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The Christmas Tree Festival in December had nearly 600 visitors and raised £2,200 which was split evenly between Salisbury Women's Refuge and St Laurence Church. The costs of the festival were donated by villagers. This year's festival will be over the weekend of 6 and 7 December. It is hoped by being a week earlier more people will be able to give time to support the festival as the organisers need a greater number of volunteers. In 2024 the burden fell on a smaller group of people than in past years and unless more people want to get involved, the festival organisers say that they will run out of steam. Suggestions for a local charity involved with children and young people which the event can support are also invited. Any items which are suitable for regifting on the stall can be donated now and will be looked after until December. To help the festival in any way, contact Philippa or Mark Merrill on 512175.

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THE GARDEN AT DBC

In The Garden at DBC, planning is underway assessing what crops to grow this year which will work well for the larder. Everyone is welcome to come and join in on Sunday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

There are always tasks to do, or cups of tea to share! More information from the Baptist Church.



ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE TO RENT

Downton Allotments have a number of vacant plots to rent to grow your own healthy food, save money, and get fit. Plots are available initially to residents of Downton and Charlton All Saints. Plots are let at reasonable rents on a first come, first served basis. For more information, contact Chris Hall, email: cbwhall@outlook.com or phone 07436 267161.



MILLENNIUM GREEN

Downton Millennium Green Trust begins the new year with new Trustees, volunteers and a fresh burst of energy. The purpose of the charity is to make the Green able to be enjoyed by everyone, to be a place for leisure, exercise and community events, and to enable visitors and residents to enjoy nature and wildlife. This special place is tucked away off Moot Lane at Avondyke,



Downton, Salisbury SP5 3LW. Due to the wet weather, some of the Green is inaccessible without a pair of wellies, but part of what makes the Green special is that even when people can't enjoy all of it, nature is still flourishing. The Trustees would like to attract more people to the Green. If you have ideas for ways to engage families and children regularly, opportunities to learn from and interact with the Green, or if you'd like to join the band of volunteers who look after the Green get in touch. Anyone can help sustain the Green by becoming a member for £15 a year or make a one-off donation. To make a donation or get more information contact Adam Gent email adam.gent57@gmail.com.



Volunteers at work

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MEMORIAL HALL GETS NEW SCREEN

In January, a new drop down screen and projector were fitted in the memorial hall. This will be used for showing films and slideshows by many different organisations, enhancing a variety of events. It is the result of five years of fundraising by the memorial centre Trustees.

The memorial hall, and other rooms in the memorial centre, can be booked by going to the website, downtonmemorialcentre.co.uk or emailing bookingsecretary@downtonmemorialcentre.co.uk.



LEARN TO LOVE YOUR TECHNOLOGY THIS VALENTINE'S DAY!

Lover Repair Cafe, Redlynch Parish Council and Wiltshire Council have joined forces to run a 'digital inclusion' event at Redlynch Village Hall, Lover on Friday 14 February, 10am - 12pm. The event is for anyone who needs some help with using technology and will provide one-to-one tailored support free of charge - just bring

along your phone, laptop or tablet and help will be on hand. Refreshments will be provided. To book your session (45 - 60 minutes) contact Karlene Jammeh on 01722 434437.



"HELLO AGAIN" TO 'FRIDAYS' AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

In the last InDowntown there was an announcement that the Fridays community cafe in the Memorial Hall was to finish at the end of 2024. New volunteers have come forward and the cafe is returning on Friday 31 January, and continuing on the last Friday of each month

between 10am and 12pm. It's format is not changing for the time being, with tea and coffee and cakes in return for an optional donation. The new management is taking over from Stephanie Jalland and Adam Gent who started the cafe and ran it for three years.

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SKY AT NIGHT BY MICHAEL F. BARRATT FRAS

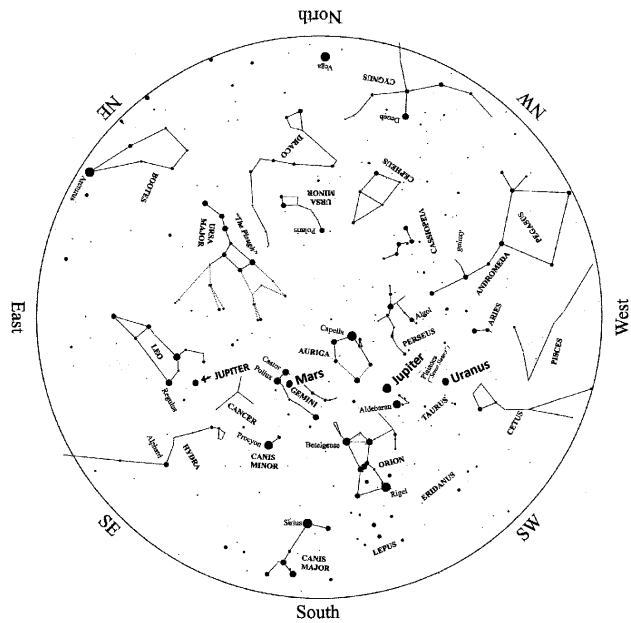
February's full moon (the "Snow Moon") is on the 12th. The full moon on 14 March (the "Worm Moon") coincides with a partial eclipse of the moon. There will be a partial eclipse of the Sun on Saturday 29 March. Here in southern England, about 30% of the sun will be covered. The eclipse begins at 10 a.m. reaching maximum coverage between 10.55 - 11.05 am.

During February, the planets are all visible in the evening sky. By March, some will be impossible to spot, whilst others will require binoculars. Mercury will appear low in the evening sky towards the end of February, setting about 7 pm. In March, binoculars will be needed to find it. Venus shines so brightly in the western evening sky in February that some people mistake it for a UFO. By March,

it starts to dim. In February, Mars, the red planet, will be found in the centre of Gemini, setting at around 4 am. It starts to fade towards the end of February, but can be seen close to the moon on the night of 8/9 March. Jupiter shines in Taurus, close to the bright star Aldebaran. It sets in the early hours, and is close to the moon on the night of 5/6 March. In February, Saturn sets around 8 pm and is lost to the Sun's glare in March. Using binoculars, Uranus can be found on the border of the constellations Aries and Taurus, setting around 1.30 am in February, earlier in March. In February, Neptune lies in Pisces and sets about 8.00 pm. By March it will be too close to the sun to see. The app "Stellarium" is a useful tool for locating planets (and other objects) in the night sky.

Using binoculars, it is possible to hunt out the red giant stars which appear so distinctly from the white blue of many other stars. Three very distinctive ones are Aldebaran (Taurus), Betelgeuse (Orion) and Arcturus (Bootes). March is a good month to look out for the Northern Lights so do keep looking out for a green glow in the northern sky. With much solar activity still occurring at the moment there is a good chance to see them.

You can follow Michael on Facebook at Moot Halt Observatory or email him at mootastro@yahoo.com with your own queries or observations.



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

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FANCY A BLIND DATE AT THE LIBRARY?

The local library has activities for all ages. For adults, the popular "Blind Date with a Book" display is back from Monday 10 February. If you have a library card, why not treat yourself to a surprise library book. A range of books are wrapped in brown paper, and so borrowers don't know what they might have picked up to read and can try a book they would never normally choose.

Families with little ones can join the friendly and free rhyme time for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. It runs every two weeks on Friday, 9.30-10.00am. The next dates are 14 and 28 February & 14 and 28 March. Booking is encouraged via Eventbrite (search "Downton Library") but drop-ins are also welcome. On Monday 17 February between 2 and 5pm families can drop in and build their own Supertato! And they can take part in the Pancake Hunt Trail running from Monday 17 February until early March.



A supertato (above) and blind date with a book (right)

BOWLING CLUB

Preparations for the new season (which starts at Easter) are well underway. Whether you are an experienced player, or new to the game, you can join a taster session. More details will follow in the Spring edition of this magazine. For more information, please phone Ivan Buss on 07910 290735; email buib7@icloud.com or visit the club's website: downtonbc.co.uk.

PARTY ON THE HOME FRONT

Downton locals enjoyed an evening of WWII nostalgia at the Trafalgar School in November. The event was organised by Malcolm Dean, and raised £912 to support the Millennium Green.

Guests enjoyed a display of WWII memorabilia, a quiz and music from the era by Hyde Band, Paul Borelli's band, and the Downton Community Choir. Everyone dressed up for the occasion, and many enjoyed a dance to finish off the special night.



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.

Our Principles
Integrity
Respect
Friendship
Service

L9064@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk
wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

REPAIR CAFE: LOVER AND DOWNTON

The Repair Cafe, based in Lover, is in Downton every 1st Saturday of the month, 10am - 1pm, at the Baptist Church - where you can take along items that need repair. The team will do what they can - they are very proud of their success rate. All they ask is that you cover the cost of any materials needed for the repair - and make a donation which will go to charity.

Most recently the team were able to present a check to Breamore Primary School to buy garden tools to support their new garden project. The children, with the help of staff and support from the PTA, are reclaiming a piece of water-logged scrub land, and developing some raised beds to plant out.

More information from downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com



Repaired gramophone

PARISH STEWARD AT WORK

Wiltshire Council Parish Steward Steve will be busy again this month - clearing debris from the Lode Hill footway and the Cemetery gateway amongst other jobs.

Steve can undertake various small jobs on his visits to the parish. He's next due on 12 & 13 of February and March.

If you see something that needs doing, email admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07483 344035.



NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Neighbourhood Police Constable, Marc Evans, has recently brought the mobile police station to Downton, and parked outside the Memorial Centre, where he has been available to meet with members of the public and listen to any concerns. This service will continue throughout 2025, with dates advertised in advance on Facebook.

There have been a few vehicles damaged on The Borough and in Charlton recently and Marc would like to ask that anyone spotting a suspicious vehicle should email him directly, as

he can quickly access details of the vehicle and therefore act on information speedily. Local police are working with neighbouring forces in Hampshire and Dorset to tackle the problem and target patrols where necessary.

Marc is also keeping tabs on speeding motorists - and will continue to monitor and carry out ad hoc speed checks. Since July 2024 over 100 speeding tickets have been issued.

You can contact Marc on marc.evans@wiltshire.police.uk.





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COMMUNITY CHOIR'S SPECIAL CONCERT

Last Christmas Downton Community Choir were thrilled to perform at the Italianate Church at Wilton with three other choirs including children from a school in the USA. It was a performance of Alexander L'Estrange's "Wassail! Carols of Comfort and Joy", conducted by the composer. The church was packed, and the evening raised over £2000 for cancer Research UK. This was an additional concert to the choir's usual events in the village.

The choir is rehearsing for their Spring programme, and working towards representing Downton at the Salisbury Festival of Choirs, at St Thomas's Church in Salisbury, on Saturday 26 April.

The choir is always happy to receive invites to sing at fundraising events in the village. It always welcomes new members (especially men to balance with women's voices). There's no audition and members have a wide range of musical ability, but a common love of having fun and expressing themselves through song. It rehearses from 7.30 - 9pm every Wednesday evening during term time at The Sherwood Room, in Wick lane. For more info, email Keedgar@aol.com or visit kateedgarmusic.com



Community Choir at Wilton Church (photo: Spencer Mulbolland Photography)

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TALK

The society's first event of 2024 will be an illustrated talk by Mike Read entitled 'A Look at Dorset Naturally'. It's in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 27 March. Mike is a freelance nature photographer specialising in birds, flowers, mammals and other wildlife as well as landscapes (www.mikeread.co.uk). Many of his photographs have featured in commercial publications. DHS events are open to everyone, donations are welcome from non-members. Annual membership of the society is £6. More details from Gordon Bishop 511475.



*Early spider orchid
© Mike Read, used by permission*

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TOFFEE, THE MEDICAL PROTECTION DOG, TO VISIT GOOD COMPANIONS

One of the highlights of the up-coming Good Companions' programme will be a visit from Juanita Rodrigues and her medical protection dog, Toffee. Juanita, who suffers from a variety of chronic conditions, rescued Toffee at a time when she had become housebound and was frightened to go out, never knowing if she would come into contact with something that would bring on a life-threatening allergic reaction. Toffee has totally transformed her life - and is now a fully accredited Medical Alert Assistance dog. He has an impressive variety of skills, which include understanding sign language and instructions in several languages. In his spare time he loves paddle-boarding. Toffee and Juanita are visiting on 11 March.

Further highlights include Andrew Law, talking about life on a submarine during the

Cold War years on 11 February and Kate Edgar and the Navy Larks on 25 February. Carol Watson will be talking about her long-distance walking in Scotland, sharing photos of the West Highland Way and the Great Glen Way on 25 March.

Good

Companions meet in the Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2 - 4 pm. Regulars pay £2 (visitors £2.50) - refreshments included. For more information, contact Julia Whitmarsh on 510601.



Toffee and Juanita

TALKABOUT AT WOODFALLS METHODIST CHURCH

February's TalkAbout at Woodfalls Methodist Church is on February 6, and is entitled "A Day in Iran as a Housewife". Sandra Simmonds, a young British bride who married into a very traditional Iranian family,

will give an account of what life was like for an Iranian housewife in the late seventies. The talk starts at 10:30am (doors open at 10am). Admission £4 - no need to book. Car parking available at the back of the church.

DOWNTON DOWNTIME

Downton Downtime is a dementia-inclusive group for people with dementia and their loved ones, or anyone who may feel socially isolated. The group meets on Tuesday mornings during term time, 10:15am-12pm at the Sherwood Suite, Wick Lane. This term they will be continuing

with Music and Movement and other creative activities, looking back over the decades from the 50's onwards. Help is available to signpost to other dementia & carers services in the area. For more information contact downtondowntime@gmail.com

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ELLA'S SALON BRINGS LIFE BACK TO EMPTY SHOP

Ellure Beauty opened late last year after refurbishing the former newsagent shop in the High Street. Owner, Ella Stretch, has been qualified in beauty therapy for almost 14 years. She studied at Wiltshire college and then worked for a makeup company specialising in brow tinting and shaping. After working in a number of salons in Salisbury and Shaftesbury she started her own business in Salisbury. Ella and husband Andy moved from Wilton to Woodfalls around four years ago and now have two little girls. Andy has a property development company which refurbished the Grade 2 listed building.

Ella says, "The vision was to create a relaxed, warm, inviting feel with a hint of the old rustic reclaimed details of the former shop to be seen. Everyone is invited to come and look at the finished result, especially if you have any pictures or stories of the history of the building which we would love to see. Since opening, the salon has welcomed new clients and regulars. Ladies, gents and children can come for hair treatments. There is a wide range of beauty treatments from waxing, nails, brow and lash treatments, massage, facials, pedicures etc using products that are sustainable, natural and vegan friendly. In the coming months we will be launching our new laser treatment services."



Ella and the team

NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE AND LOGO



The Parish Council has a new redesigned website which makes it easier to navigate to find local information. It has news about who is on the council and details of its plans. It includes the Council's new logo.

The Council is looking for more members and the next elections are on 1 May.



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MOBILE POST OFFICE REDUCED SERVICE

Following a stay in hospital, the mobile post office Friday driver, Peter, will be off sick for up to six months. Whilst he is expected to make a full recovery, it's not been possible to cover all the Friday stops. A relief driver is being sought.

In the meantime the post office will only be able to stop once in Downton at The Bull at 10.05am on Fridays, and not stop at The Moot.

The van will also not be in Downton at all on 7 February due to scheduled maintenance. Kevin



May from the Mobile Post Office wants to apologise for the interruption in the service.

ADMIN OFFICER OPPORTUNITY AT DOWNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Are you flexible, with the ability to prioritise a busy workload and work accurately with attention to detail? Due to the promotion of their current Administration Officer, Downton Primary School is looking for a personable and highly organised individual with excellent administrative and communication skills (including proficiency in Microsoft Office), to join the School Office team. Working 4 days a week, the main duties of the role include being

the first point of contact for parents and visitors, dealing with deliveries and post. Training will be provided. Visits to the school are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Mrs Paula Carlton, Headteacher 510556. Full details available on the website MyNewTerm, where you should apply electronically by Monday 10 February at 9am. Interviews will take place later that week.

HELP CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY AND EARN MONEY!

Downton Parish Council is offering an opportunity to work in the village as a litter picker between the months of April 2025 and October 2025. It involves working around High Street, Moot Lane and Moot Recreation Park areas.

The post is for 15 hours a month at a minimum of £7.55 per hour, or higher depending on age. The minimum age is 16 years old.

To find out more about this opportunity or for an application form, contact: Jane Brentor (Chair of the Council) on 079797 630588, email jane.brentor@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or Gareth Watts (Chair of the Amenities Committee) email

gareth.watts@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
The closing date is 14 February 2025.

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Information and contact details from:

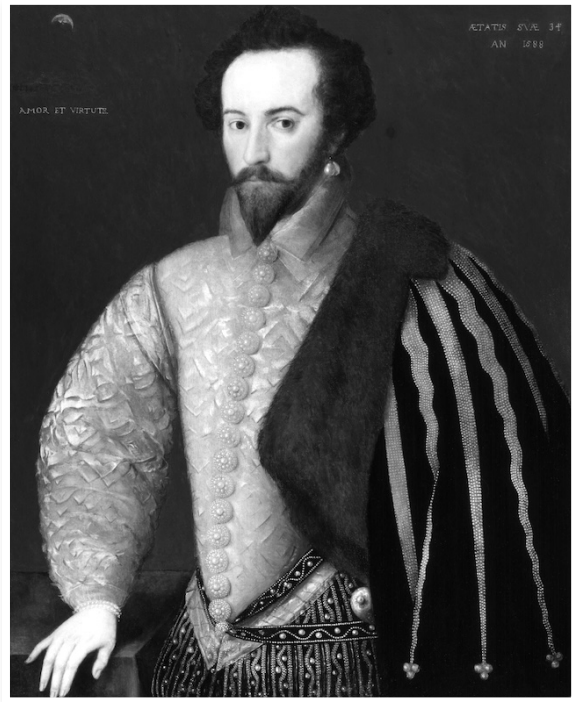
downtonbaptist.org

DOWNTON HISTORY: SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S PORTRAIT

The Manor House in Downton is said to be one of the longest inhabited houses in the south of England, known as Parsonage Manor, because it was once the vicar's residence. It is also the place where a now famous portrait of Sir Walter Raleigh was discovered, before being sold to the National Portrait Gallery - the first portrait the gallery ever purchased, as previously all portraits had been donated.

The lease of the house was acquired in the sixteenth century by Queen Elizabeth I, and assigned in 1601 to Sir Carew Raleigh, the younger brother of the famous Sir Walter, who was godfather to one of Carew's sons, and thus was probably a frequent visitor to Downton.

The portrait of Sir Walter was painted in 1588, when he was aged 34, and is one of only a few contemporary portraits. The crescent moon and waves in the upper-left corner are symbolic of his relationship with the Queen - with the Queen as the moon goddess Cynthia, controlling the water (Walter). Diarist John Aubrey visited Downton in 1669 and reports seeing the portrait of Sir Walter in the house. He wrote that it was 'a good piece of Sir Walter, in a white satin doublet, all embroidered with rich pearles'. Over



time, the portrait was taken down and stored, forgotten, behind some oak panelling in the parlour, until being re-discovered in the mid 18th century. The National Portrait Gallery bought it for 100 guineas in 1857.

BOOK FAIR

Woodfalls Methodist Church have a Book Fair on Friday 21 March 3 - 7pm and Saturday 22 March 10am - 5pm. As well as books, there will be DVDs, games and CDs to buy. Refreshments available.

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What, Where, When				
February				
Saturday	1	10am - 1pm	The Workshop, The Repair Cafe in Downton, Baptist Church	Page 11
Thursday	6	10am	TalkAbout: A day in Iran as a housewife, Woodfalls Methodist Church, The Ridge	Page 13
Thursday	6	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Friday	7	7:30pm	Big Band Concert: Ian's Big Night Out, The Clubhouse, Wick Lane	Front page
Friday	14	10am - 12 noon	Love Your Technology, Redlynch Village Hall, Lover	Page 8
Friday	21	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe, Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 3
Friday	28	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	Page 8
March				
Saturday	1	10am - 1pm	The Workshop, The Repair Cafe in Downton, Baptist Church	Page 11
Thursday	6	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Saturday	8	10am - 12:30pm	Tour of Downton Water Recycling Works, Moot Lane	Page 2
Friday	21	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe, Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 3
Friday	21	3 - 7pm	Book Fair, Methodist Church, Woodall's	Page 16
Saturday	22	10am - 5pm	Book Fair, Methodist Church, Woodall's	Page 16
Sunday	23	2 - 4pm	Seedy Sunday	Front page
	23		Deadline for contributions for Spring InDownton	
Thursday	27	7:30pm	Horticultural Society Talk, "A Look at Dorset Naturally", Memorial Hall	Page 12
Friday	28	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	Page 8
Saturday	29	7:30pm	Concert: St John Singers, St Laurence Church	Page 2
April				
Saturday	5		Spring InDownton published	

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

Spring Issue: Deadline for contributions: 23 March 2025
 Publication date: 5 April 2025

Distributed to every house in the village, 5 times a year.

For information about contributing or advertising, email:
 editor@indownton.org.uk or visit indownton.org.uk
 X: @indownton Facebook: facebook.com/InDownton
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Whilst we make every effort to avoid errors, we're human!
 We apologise for any mistakes we missed.

Production Team: Rosemary Leo, Paul Leo, Natalie Wright

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

Currently reduced service
 See page XX
 Fridays The Bull 10.05am - 11.05am

HIGH STREET PHARMACY

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6pm
 (closed for lunch 1-2pm)
 Saturday 9am - 12noon
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LIBRARY

01725 511003
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 Wednesday 2pm - 5pm*
 Thursday 10am - 1pm*
 Friday 10am - 5pm
 Saturday 10 - 1
 * volunteer operated sessions

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 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)
 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

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
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@salisburycatholics.org

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH (NLCC)

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 (NLCC)

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

SPARKS (DBC)

After school group for young people
 in years 1, 2 and 3
 Wednesdays term time 3.30pm -
 4.30pm

LINKS (DBC)

Youth group for young people in
 years 7 8 and 9
 Wednesdays term time 6pm - 7.30pm

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

Sundays 2.30 - 4.30pm

THURSDAYS (DBC)

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

THE WORKSHOP (DBC)

Lover Repair Cafe in Downton
 1st Saturday of each month
 10am - 1pm

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