

Summer InDownton

FREE

Citizen Science Monitoring on the River Avon

Concerns about the quality of water in the River Avon have led to the formation of For the Love of Water (FLOW) CIC - a not-for-profit Community Interest Company based in Downton, dedicated to improving the health of the River Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). By acting as a community hub, individuals and organisations with a shared passion for the River Avon can help to build a picture of river health and target improvements. In partnership with the Wessex Rivers Trust they have setup their own water quality and ecology monitoring on the river to build on data already collected by the Environment Agency. Their small but growing network of 'Citizen Scientists' regularly collect samples, with all data displayed in real time on their website. They are also collating, sharing and linking to lots of information and data about the river.

Adam Ellis, the founder of FLOW admits to having been obsessed with rivers and lakes since he was young. He moved to the Avon Valley in 2012 and now lives a short walk away from the river in Downton. He founded FLOW CIC to encourage community buy-in to the Salisbury Avon catchment, building on the work already being done and embracing the flourishing citizen science movement.

He says: "Our River Avon is a fantastic local resource, a focal point for communities living along its valley and a globally rare 'Chalk River' habitat. Regrettably it is classed as being in 'Unfavourable Condition' by Natural England, and only 'Moderate Ecological Status' by the Environment Agency. From talking to local land managers, anglers and residents, there is a perception of decline in river health. You will have seen lots in the press recently about sewage pollution, but this is just one of many factors impacting our river fitting into three key categories - Water Quality, Water Quantity, and Habitat."

You can get involved by subscribing to their newsletter and social media, and sharing this with friends and also by getting in touch to help collect water samples or monitoring river invertebrate. You might have skills to help in other ways, such as marketing, fundraising, web design.

FLOW is keen to receive any stories or historic photos of the river, which could be hosted on the website, as FLOW is potentially interested in any records of historic management of the river.

If you run a local business, they are looking for companies to sponsor the kit that volunteers use.

Adam said: "It's a great local way to boost your environmental credentials. Without support we are severely limited in our reach." More details at loveofwater.org or email info@loveofwater.org.



Adam's daughter Ivy helping water sampling at the Millennium Green

Comment

Earlier this month a survey by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), found that volunteering is at a historic low in England, which is a long term effect of the pandemic. The Big Help Out during the coronation weekend aimed to inspire the next generation of volunteers. In Downton, we're blessed with lots of volunteers and each newsletter is packed with news of the great work they do. The Garden and monitoring the river quality are just two examples covered in this issue but there are many more.

Volunteering brings so many benefits for individuals and community. The newsletter relies on volunteers to deliver copies five times a year. We currently need someone to deliver in the Greenacres area. If you can help, please get in touch.

The editors.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council has, at last, received confirmation of a loan from the Public Works Loan Board of £180,000 to refurbish the Moot Lane Recreation Ground and the Memorial Grounds Play areas.

Also, a grant of £5,000 has been awarded to Downton to fund a project to improve the retail environment.

Naomi Defriend is the new Administrative Officer for the Parish Council and she will be managing correspondence, redirecting to the

Parish Clerk or Councillors if necessary. She can be contacted on 07907 041915 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm or by email on admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Memorial Ground play area

TREE PLANTED TO COMMEMORATE QUEEN

On Sunday 16th April Downton Parish Council and village residents planted a red eating apple tree on the Beacon mound to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II. Councillors Matthew Randall (on left) and Gareth Watts (right) assisted Downton girls Florence Randall and Arabella Turner. The Council provided the tree and brass plaque and Malcolm Dean made and donated the oak plinth.



NEW MANAGEMENT AT THE BULL

New Landlords Mike and Emily took the reins at The Bull Hotel in March and have been busy! The couple have a strong hospitality background and Ringwood-born Mike also owns

Moody Rum distillery and the Moody Cow farm shop in Ringwood.

Mike's farm shop and experience as a chef has helped him create a new menu, with pub classics and regular specials with a range of gluten free and vegan options. Mike will also be offering a meat delivery service to Downton residents via the pub, now there is no longer a butchery in the village.

They will bring back the Sunday carvery soon, and have also struck a deal to carry a new line of beers, not just those from Marston's Brewery.

The couple plan to bring in more regular music events and will host a 'pub golf' evening in the summer. They have revamped the three hotel rooms and annexe. Tables and rooms can be booked on 510374.



Bella, new dog at The Bull!



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The Gardeners Guild
REGISTERED MEMBER

AN AFTERNOON AT THE GARDEN

InDownton visited The Garden at DBC recently to find out more about what happens on Sunday and Thursday afternoons. It's a new initiative which is open for anyone to take part. There was weeding, watering and seed planting going on as well as lots of chat. The youngest gardener was one year old Rupert and the oldest was 81 year old Brian who produced the vegetable planting plan.



The garden has a series of raised beds constructed under the supervision of Richard Walker. Lots of neatly planted vegetables including potatoes, broad beans, radishes, onions and sweetcorn were growing. Squash, pumpkins and courgettes and were being grown off site ready to be transplanted in.

Carrots, leeks and dwarf french bean seeds will be sown over the next few weeks. The produce from the garden is destined to be available for distribution in The Larder.



Updating the 'To Do' List

Heather was planting flowers which will be used to decorate the church. She has also planted raspberries and strawberries.

During the afternoon, Duke of Edinburgh Award students arrived to help out and learn gardening skills. The Garden 'after school' on Thursdays between 3.15pm and 4.30pm is a time when there are activities for children.

The various volunteers in the garden were there to share experience, to learn new skills, to help out or just to chat with cakes and drinks available. There are lots of ways to help.

The peaceful setting with the sounds of talking and soil being dug made the whole process relaxing and therapeutic. The different ages working and chatting together and the range of experience makes it an unusual if not unique setting. Everyone is welcome and more details on how to take part is available on the church website or by calling the church office.



Katy and Sam weeding



Rupert helping out



Brian, Michaela and Toby reviewing the radish crop

Reading Fairy

Action packed classes featuring sensory stories, nursery rhymes, language games, story time, early phonics and lots and lots of fun!

Classes run at Downton Baptist Church every Monday in term time

Free tasters available for all new families - contact me to book on 07501 192761 or online at www.readingfairy.com/salisbury

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



www.readingfairy.com

LITTLE CLUB BECOMES THE PLAYROOM

Little Club at DBC has changed its name to "The PLAYROOM". The Toddler Church continues to run through to the end of the summer term running in the garden when the weather allows.



DOWNTON DOWNTIME

Since September 2022, Downton Downtime sessions have run weekly from 10am - 12 noon every Tuesday at the Sherwood Suite in Wick Lane. They alternate between a social meet up with coffee, cake, conversation and optional arts and crafts round the table, and Move and Make Music, run by Liv McLennan and Kevin Plummer of Sounds Better CIC. Although intended for people experiencing issues around memory, it is open to anyone in the vicinity who feels isolated and lonely.

Holding the sessions regularly means that people have it in their diaries and remember to come! The group has been steadily growing and typically there are 20 people in a circle, creating and sharing songs and movements.

It's not clear who enjoys the sessions most but the photographs give an idea of the fun had



both running them and participating.

The sessions go through to June 27th before taking a Summer break. Watch out for dates from September

For more information contact Jane Ebel on musicic@gmail.com or liv@soundsbettercic.org or telephone 07515822479 or 07446 902118.

CONSULTATION: DOES DEMENTIA AFFECT YOU?

Are you affected by dementia, or interested in how we can best support those living with dementia? Downton Downtime is holding an open consultation about how Downton can become more dementia-friendly, and are inviting all members of the community to participate. It's an opportunity to share your experiences and

perspectives, and to help shape the future of dementia-friendly Downton.

Share in music-making with the group on 20 June from 10am-12pm, followed by refreshments and consultation until 2pm. Sherwood Suite, Wick Lane. Contact Liv McLennan liv@soundsbettercic.org or 07746 902118.

CHARITY CARS

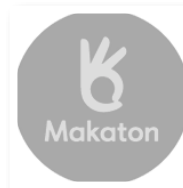
Charity Cars is a way to book a chauffeur driven classic car and help the local charity, Downton 4 Family, at the same time. The Rolls Royce, Monty, and the vintage Austin, Daisy, are available for weddings, proms and any other events. Based on travel within Hampshire and

South Wiltshire, the suggested donation for weddings is £250, and £75 for proms and anniversary meals. Go to downton4family.org.uk



INTRODUCTION TO MAKATON AT MEMORIAL HALL

Makaton is a language programme that uses signs and symbols to support communication with people who find verbal communication challenging. A one-off introductory course is taking place at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 25 May between 9.30am and 4pm. On the course you will learn signs and symbols for everyday concepts and learn how to put it into action in your home or setting. The training is described as providing “a fun, supportive environment to start your Makaton journey.” If there is a good level of interest, further training may be organised. For more information or to reserve a place, contact Sonia Sansom on 07817 160793 or email soniasansom@hotmail.com.



SILVER SALISBURY

The Silver Salisbury Spring Newsletter is now available with information about groups, events and places where older people will get a warm welcome - and includes a section on Downton. There are also activities further afield such as ArtCare’s Culture Club at the Hospital, free Park Yoga in Elizabeth Gardens and Café Scientifique at Salisbury Rugby Club. Silver Salisbury advertise it as “an ideal way to make the most of the summer by getting out with old friends or making new ones.” Paper copies can be picked up from the library or download it at silversalisbury.co.uk. The organisation is developing its volunteering programme. To help, either as a volunteer or for some paid hours, go to the website or contact Irene Kohler at silver.salisbury@outlook.com, putting Volunteering as the subject.



GET WILTSHIRE WALKING

There is a free weekly led walk, lasting 60 - 90 minutes, starting from outside The Borough Café every Wednesday at 10am. These walks are led by trained volunteers and finish with a well-deserved coffee. The walks are billed as "friendly and fun, a great opportunity to get fit, meet new people and get to know your local area". Everyone is welcome, with the proviso that you are independently mobile and able to meet the physical demands of the walk. No dogs, other than sensory dogs.



For more information visit wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure-cycling-walking-and-running or contact walk coordinator Natalie Parker on 07917 599964, email natalie.parker@wiltshire.gov.uk.

LIBRARY NEWS

There’s lots happening at Downton Library in the next few months. A new Rhyme Time has started every other Friday morning.



Rhymes, bouncing and clapping for the under 5s. The session is free but booking required via Eventbrite.

There’s a Local History Talk by Richard Nash on Monday 22 May at 1pm, exploring the history of Downton in old postcards. Booking available in the library. Also watch out for Lego Club coming soon! As well as the launch of the Summer Reading Challenge starting mid-July. Are Downton’s children “Ready and Set” to read?

The library opening hours have changed recently and are on the back page.

Rhyme Time at Downton Library

Every Other Friday
09:30am – 10:00am

Rhymes, bouncing and clapping for babies, toddlers and children under 5.



Book via: www.eventbrite.co.uk and search “Downton Library”.



Or scan the QR code.

Parents are responsible for their children’s supervision. Children aged 8 and under must never be left unsupervised in the library.



JAZZ IN THE CHURCHYARD

On Friday 7 July, Suite Jazz are performing a concert in St Laurence Churchyard, starting at 7pm. Tickets costing £10 (£5 for under 18s) are available at the gate, or in advance from the Borough Cafe, with the money raised going to St Laurence. Puddings and hot drinks will be on sale, so you can bring a savoury picnic. You will also need chairs - and possibly something warm to wear, depending on the weather. Suite Jazz comprises local musicians Kate Edgar (keyboard), Paul Borelli (saxophone), and Dave Mace (bass). Tickets are also available from Jo Parsons (512738) or Sue Humby (511402).



GOOD COMPANIONS: SPINNING YARNS

The regular Tuesday afternoon programme of speakers and activities includes a painting session on 23 May, Dave Dawson's guitar music on 27 June - and a visit from Elizabeth Tanner on 6 June. Liz's talk is entitled 'Sheep to Shawl' and she will bring a spinning wheel to demonstrate her craft. Liz blends locally sourced animal fibres with sustainable textile waste to spin nature-inspired art yarns, which she then uses for weaving, knitting and crochet. Any fibres left are woven on a peg loom or felted to produce rugs and cushions. She creates spinning and weaving kits, and runs workshops at her base: A Tail of Yarn Studio, Home Farm,

Whiteshoot Hill, Redlynch SP5 2PR.

One of September's highlights will be on 12th, when author Kay Townsend will talk about "Fairground at War".

Good Companions meets in the Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. There is a small charge, reduced for regulars. Contact Julia Whitmarsh on 510601 for details.



Liz Tanner at the spinning wheel

GREEN NETWORK PLANT AND SEED SWAP

By the time you read this, the Green Network will have held their second plant and seed swap event of the season - a pop-up stall outside the library on Saturday 20 May. If there is enough demand, further events will be planned, where those with surplus plants can bring them along to be matched with new growers - and those who are looking for some

extra plants (and possibly some gardening tips) can go along and see what's available for them to take away. It is hoped that those with surplus produce can bring that along too. If you would like to take part - or offer some plants for future stalls, then please contact the Green Network on 513191.

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THE WARDROBE (CLOTHING EXCHANGE)

The generous quality clothing donations have continued meaning that the volunteers have the largest ever amount to sort for the up and coming Wardrobes. The warmer weather means that some of the tables can be outside. Everyone is welcome to browse and find clothes for their family and share free refreshments. Clothing to

donate can be brought to DBC on Mondays to Thursdays between 9am and 1pm.

The next dates for the Wardrobe are Fridays 16 June and 14 July between 2pm - 3.30pm. There is no wardrobe in August.



FRIDAYS AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

There is no Friday cafe on 26 May, but the community cafe will be back on 30 June between 10 am and 12 noon when there will be

drinks and cakes and chat at the Memorial Hall. Come and go as you please.



TALKABOUT AT WOODFALLS METHODIST CHURCH

On Thursday 1 June Ron Perry will be talking about his time treading the boards with The Redlynch Players, a group he has been with as a juvenile actor to becoming an award winning playwright.

Ridge from 10am for a 10.30am start. The £4 admission includes a hot drink and biscuits. Booking is not required, just turn up.

It's at Woodfalls Methodist Church on The



Ron Perry

PRAYER FAIR

The children of Downton Baptist Church are organising a Prayer Fair to take place on the afternoon of Sunday 28 May from 1:30 - 4:30pm. They are planning a variety of stalls to explore different ways of praying. It is billed as a chance to discover "lots of exciting and creative ways to pray for friends, family, community and for the wonderful world we live in." The event closes with a time of group prayer between 4.30 and 5.30 pm.

GOOSE FAIR AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH: SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Goose Fair will be on Saturday 23 September between 10am and 2pm with lots of crafts, home made cakes and garden produce.

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DOWNTON BAND AT 150

This year's band performances over the Cuckoo Fair weekend took on an added poignancy and significance as the Band celebrate their 150th Anniversary. All three Downton Bands - Beginners Brass, the Downton Training Band and the senior Downton Band - played throughout the Saturday, with a theme running through the performances of "Circuses, Celebrations and Festivities". This theme continued at the Memorial Hall Sunday where the bands played to a full hall.

The Band's schedule is particularly busy in their Anniversary year. A joint concert with the Woodfalls Band at St Thomas Church, Salisbury is on Saturday 17 June, and a landmark 150th Anniversary Concert will be held in the Moot on 9 July. This will feature an "All Stars Reunion Band", conducted by long-time Musical Director, Roland Wright. Past band players are welcome, so get in touch and share some special memories with brass playing friends of the past.

In early June the Band will be making a pilgrimage to the Lancashire/Yorkshire Moors to take part in the annual "Whit Marches", often billed as "the greatest free show on earth"! More than 100 bands from all over the UK - and some from Europe - descend on towns and villages



Band members at the Cuckoo Fair

around Saddleworth to compete in as many individual moors village contests as possible in one summer's afternoon and evening.

Later in the summer the band will be performing at The New Forest Show on 25, 26 and 27 July.

The band are keen to hear from ex-players and past associates with historic photographs, memorabilia and artefacts available to display at some their forthcoming concerts.

InDownton will have a special Downton Band centre spread feature in the Autumn issue. To register interest in being a part of the All Stars Reunion on 9 July, or to share old photo/memorabilia of the Band, contact paul@downton.org.uk.



1959 uniform issued to Bill Bromley

CALLING ALL KNITTERS

There's still time to knit a bobble hat(s) to sell in the autumn to raise funds for The Brain Tumour Charity. Julia Whitmarsh is looking for people to take on the challenge and donate any hats that they make to her daughter Rachel, in

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





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THE SUN SHINES ON THE CUCKOO FAIR

The 42nd Cuckoo Fair saw around 18,000 people visit which makes it the biggest volunteer organised event in Wiltshire. There were over 250 separate stallholders including 60 new stalls.

The Fair had a day of sunshine after some very wet weather in the days before.

“I have a fantastic team of people and without them the Fair wouldn’t happen.” said Cuckoo Fair Chair, Tony Pike. “They were determined that the Fair would go ahead despite the forecast weather. We were glad the sun shone and it was a great success!”

The Fair’s main purpose is to support the local community and organisations by facilitating fundraising at the Fair. Joanna Ramsay Horbury, one of the Village Liaison Team said “Many of our community groups rely on the Fair as their biggest source of fundraising, so we all felt it was really important that the Fair went ahead. As people tot up what they raised on the day we are already delighted to hear that 1st Downton Scouts made £4,600 net profit. Not a bad amount for one day of flipping burgers!” We estimate that since 1980 the Fair has helped raise in excess of £1 million for local

organisations.

This year’s Fair cost around £36,000 to put on which included marquee hire, security, ambulance cover, PA system, insurance and entertainment. The Fair relies on the income from stall holders, advertising and contributions from car parking. Donations from the local fundraisers and village businesses, which benefit from the income they generate during the Fair, also help. Any money over and above running costs is ploughed back into the Fair for the following year or into the village for example, covering the cost of the village Christmas tree.

The committee want to offer their thanks to the organisations and businesses which continue to support the Fair and most of all to long suffering family members of the committee. Any skills or time you can offer in planning for or running the Fair would be welcomed. Contact village-liaison@cuckoofair.co.uk.



Crowded Fair: Picture by Paul Prince

ST LAURENCE LARDER AT THE CUCKOO FAIR



The organisers want to thank everyone who played a part in this year’s St Laurence’ Larder; a happy day of Christian fellowship. There were more compliments this year about the quality of the food, its value for money and the service with a smile! It was a team effort and they are grateful for all the help received. The money raised will be put towards the upkeep of the parish church, and of course the usual donation to the Cuckoo Fair.



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DOWNTON CUCKOO FAIR PHOTOS



Kate Edgar leads the Community Choir



Cuckoo Fair Princess and Attendants



Focussed maypole dancer



Tabatha splats the rat at the Primary School



Chaz and Chloe from Downton Brewery

There are more photos of this year's fair on the InDownton website. They focus on the local organisations and businesses. The photos are available to download and use elsewhere, but just please acknowledge InDownton as the source.


MOTHER & DAUGHTER'S HALF MARATHON

Mother and daughter, Jen and Lucy Brewin took to a treadmill at Cuckoo Fair to raise money for MacMillan. They are both running the Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike half marathon this month, and Jen is continuing on to complete a full marathon. They were exercising all day in the heat and collecting money. If you want to contribute, they have a fund raising page at [justgiving.com/fundraising/norfolk-wanderers](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/norfolk-wanderers).



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ASHLEY GRANGE WATER BUCKET CHALLENGE

Ashley Grange Nursing Home recently held a 'Water challenge' event to raise money to support the The Larder and Foodbank at Downton Baptist Church. Two teams took part, with members of Downton Baptist Church, staff from Salisbury Foodbank and a representative from Downton's local Co Op store making up the 'community' team and Ashley Grange staff competing as the 'home' team.

The challenge was a 'Backwards blindfolded water challenge' and involved a bucket of water being passed from one team member to another..... so the word 'challenge' describes it well. Residents were there to watch how things developed and some took part, using confetti instead of water. After a tie-break following the first round, the second round was won by the community team.

Lynn Kinsey, Activities Coordinator at the



The challenge in full 'flow'

care home, who organised the challenge, commented: "It was fun to do something a little different to raise money for our local foodbank and it was lovely that our wonderful residents could join in without getting themselves soaked! We're very pleased to have supported the Larder, and I hope that the donations continue to roll in for this great cause."

To donate: gofund.me/ea4bb8f3

MOOT EASTER EGG HUNT

Despite a last minute delay because of earlier heavy rain, this year's hunt had fine weather with plenty of hunters to ensure all eggs were discovered and eaten.



Rabbit ears and lots of eggs!




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MILLENNIUM GREEN

Everyone is invited to a delayed 20th birthday celebration of Downton Millennium Green on Sunday 9 July from 2-4pm.

This natural water meadow is managed and maintained by volunteers on behalf of the village. This is an opportunity to spend a summer afternoon finding out about the sights and sounds of nature on the green: the birds, the trees, the flowers. Learn what wildlife lives here, how to take care of it and keep it safe for future generations. Willow grows in abundance on the green, and local willow weaver Alison Pritt will be there to share her skills - and also display and sell some of her structures. More activities are planned - look out for details. Members of the Millennium Green Committee will be on hand to answer questions and share information on how you can support their endeavours.

Bring a picnic, chairs or rugs - and family, friends and neighbours. Well behaved dogs are welcome too. Toilet facilities will be available.



DOWNTON SOCIETY UPDATE

At the March public meeting to discuss flood risk management, held with representatives of Wiltshire Council, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency, Wessex Water announced plans to survey the condition of the sewers and from this, will plan to address the problems that they discover.

Nikki Wilson from the Downton Society comments: "From recent publicity, we all know about the widespread problem of river pollution. In the Downton area, it is caused partially by surface run-off but also by ground water entering sewage pipes. The system, including the treatment plant at Moot Lane, becomes overloaded and polluted water is discharged into the River Avon."

The Society is supporting member Adam Ellis and is considering lending financial support to FLOW(CIC) by funding test kits to collect data about the state of the river. (See front page article)

In a plea for more people to get involved, Nikki Wilson says: "Sometimes the best thing to do is join a group that can provide information, co-ordinate action and pool the resources and skills of members. Societies need fresh ideas and new members to thrive; and although most people are busy with work and family commitments, volunteering doesn't have to involve endless formal meetings or serving on committees. Engagement is about being informed, expressing support for issues you care about and working together to make a positive impact on the community in which we live. It can be fun as well as very satisfying." The Downton Society focuses mainly on Conservation and planning, but has also been involved in campaigning for the Flood Defences and the HGV ban, and against over-development on the flood plain. It helps maintain footpaths and stiles as part of a Parish Council working group and funds & plants-up flower tubs on the Borough Greens. Members have engaged in bridge cleaning, litter picks, InBloom, and the planting of daffodils at Beacon corner.

For more information from thedowntonsociety.org or contact Nikki Wilson at: nrpfw@aol.com



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MICHAEL TURNER BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER

Michael John Turner of Saxonhurst, died at Salisbury Hospital on 20 March. Michael, or 'Gramps' to his seven grandchildren, provided guidance and leadership as the head of our family. He has left a lasting legacy not only to our family but to many.

A broker for the Stock Exchange for over forty years, Michael moved with his family to the new development of Saxonhurst in 1981, to direct his family's business, H.V Vintners. He managed the group of off-licences and a post-office-greengrocery shop in the New Forest area, before returning as an Investment Trust specialist to the Stock Exchange in 1985.

Michael and his late wife Pauline, were soon involved with village life. He organised flower shows, workshops, plant sales, trips, and newsletters for the Downton Horticultural Society over three decades; becoming president

for Fordingbridge Rotary Society in 2006 when he coordinated the annual fireworks display, attended by two thousand local families.

Always accommodating, Michael and Pauline delighted friends and family from around the world with their sensational garden. Together, they travelled widely - they were best of friends. Michael continued to devote himself to his family after Pauline's death. His determination and integrity influenced all the family.

Spirited, generous and witty, Michael was a credit to his family; he will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

Written by Georgia Brown



Michael Turner

BRYN PARRY

Bryn Parry, who died last month, was best known for founding Hope for Heroes with his wife, Emma in 2007. However, many in the village will know him for his artwork, created in his studio in the village. He used to have a shop in the premises which now house OHJ Bathrooms, and gifts with his cartoons were

often generously gifted as valued prizes in village raffles. He was a national figure and friend to royalty but he was also well known locally as a resident and friend to many in Downton.



*Bryn and Emma Parry
(Photo: brynparrystudios.com)*

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FROM NEWSPAPER DELIVERY TO MOLDOVA AID PROJECT

Later this summer, village paperboy Andy Fitt (age 64), will once again be joining a team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers from the charity TEECH. TEECH will be returning to Moldova, Europe's poorest country, to deliver humanitarian aid, medical supplies, and to undertake projects to install new bathrooms at two schools in the villages of Mindresti Noi and Sloveanca, both in the Singerei District.

Neither school has indoor toilets. They currently use an outhouse - a small brick building - which has a concrete floor, and then holes over a pit.

At each school the team will turn one room into a bathroom for the girls and one for the boys, which not only provides them with indoor

toilets for the first time, but privacy and hygienic conditions.

The team will also tile, paint and anything else they may have time for in the eight days in Moldova.

For more information about TEECH, this year's projects and the recent trip to Ukraine go to teechorg.weebly.com

Andy has a fundraising page at wonderful.org/fundraisers/Nxd4N



Andy at work in Moldova

HERITAGE TRAIL CURIOSITIES

As the work to refresh the village heritage trail continues, InDownton will be high lighting some of the less well known historic sites in the village. There are three buildings which were previously schools at one time and now have other uses. These include the British Girls School at the end of The Borough on the path through to Headlands. The area was known as 'School Rails'. The school building is now a private house, having previously been a chapel and a car workshop (Headlands Garage). The only visible evidence that it was a school are incision marks on the bricks where pupils sharpened their styluses for writing on slates. You need to look carefully to see them.



Can you see the marks made by past pupils?

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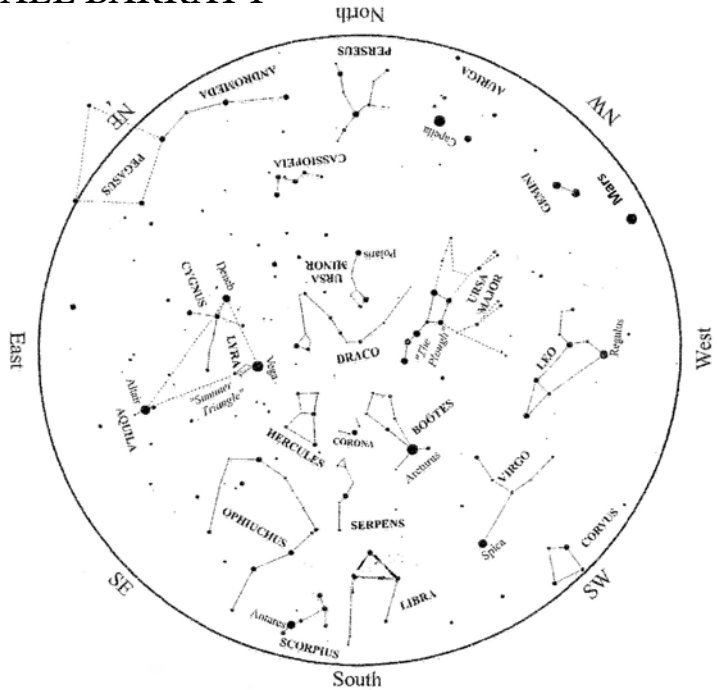
Based in Downton

JUNE SKY AT NIGHT BY MICHAEL BARRATT

The Sun is in the constellation of Taurus (the Bull) at the start of June. It moves into Gemini (the Twins) on Tuesday 21 June, the day of the Summer Solstice. Even in the middle of the night the Sun never gets far enough below the horizon for the sky to get properly dark and the fainter stars shown on the accompanying map will be hard to see. At this time of year we see perpetual twilight throughout the night. This year, in particular we are seeing a lot of solar activity (already some remarkable aurorae in the northern hemisphere) with many sunspots speckled across the Sun's surface.

June is a good time to start observing the Milky Way as it extends across the sky from Cygnus (the Swan) down towards its core in the constellation of Sagittarius (the Archer). Sweeping along the line of our own Galaxy with binoculars will reveal a myriad of stars far too many to count. A beautiful and awe-inspiring sight just requiring a pair of binoculars to appreciate the wonder which is our home Galaxy.

Venus continues to dominate the north-western sky in the early evenings shining brightly. The "Evening Star", as it is known when in the west, begins this month near the



Map of night sky in mid-June (around 2300 hours)

Note: the fainter stars won't be easy to see as the sky never really gets dark in June

Gemini (the Twins) first magnitude stars of Castor and Pollux and can be seen appearing to head northwards towards the planet Mars.

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



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REPAIR CAFE

Lover Repair Cafe is joining 78 other UK Repair Cafes taking part in The Big Fix 2023 which aims to fix and breathe new life into as many broken things as possible during the month of May. You can support the Big Fix by bringing broken items to Lover Repair Cafe on a Wednesday or Friday morning between 10am and 12 noon.

Lover Repair Cafe has raised over £25,000 for local charities and carried out nearly 5,000 jobs. The cafe email is loverrepaircafe@gmail.com.



20th Century Westminster Chime before (above) and after (right) restoration



HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

The society's Summer Show is on Saturday 10 June at the Memorial Hall at 2pm. Admission is free to view the many exhibits of sweet peas, roses, pot plants etc, as well as the floral arrangements. The show also has an art section for paintings and photographs in which the two classes are 'Local View' and 'Wildlife'. The society is grateful to Downton Primary School for exhibiting things made out of recycled materials as part of their Eco-schools initiative. There are refreshments, a sales table and a raffle. Prize giving is at 4.15pm.

Details of all the classes and entry forms are in the Show Schedules, available from committee members including Chris Parry, 'Cymbeline', 51 The Borough, Downton (opposite the Co-op) - 5145511. New exhibitors are welcome. The Downton Vase can be won by entering a vase containing between 5 and 10 fresh flowering stems from a minimum of two kinds of home-grown plants (not shrubs). The

front view will be judged. It costs 25p per entry and for most classes the first prize is £1 and the second prize 50p. There are also trophies for some classes. Entry forms must be in by 8pm on the Wednesday before the show and the exhibit brought along to the hall, either on the Friday evening or Saturday morning.

The Autumn Show is at 2pm on Saturday 2 September. Admission is also free to view the exhibits of chrysanthemums, gladioli, dahlias, pot plants, vegetables and fruit, as well as the floral arrangements. This show has a Bake-Off section with prizes for the best fruit pie, cheese scones, flapjacks, soda bread, shortbread, chocolate sponge, lemon drizzle cake, tray bake and fruit scones. The winner of the best Dundee cake will be awarded the President's Cup. You do not have to be a member of the society to enter.



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DOWNTON BOWLING CLUB BIG BOWLS WEEKEND

The Big Bowls Weekend is a chance for everyone of all ages to try bowls. It is on Friday 26 May from 6 to 8pm and Sunday 28 May from 2-4pm. Equipment and refreshments are supplied free of charge.

The Club has started the season some very good victories in the Men's New Forest League, and the Bournemouth and District League despite weather interruptions.

Rain meant that the playing surface was too soft for the annual match against Downton Football Club so a game of skittles was organised instead. Honours were even.

It's the club's 40th year at Wick Lane and to join them, contact Mike on 513359 or email: downtonbowls@gmail.com.

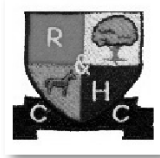


REDLYNCH AND HALE CRICKET CLUB

The First XI won the first round of the National Village Knock Out Cup. They now have the second round against old friends Goatacre and the start of the league campaign.

The playing fields have been full of children training hard on Monday evening as the juniors began outdoor practice, already having benefitted from "bonus" indoor sessions at Trafalgar School. The Ladies softball side also had a good turnout as training got underway.

The junior league teams are also starting their season. There are spaces available in their junior squads, so if your child is Under 9, 11 or 13 and wants to give cricket along, come to the playing fields at Woodfalls on a Monday evening and have a chat. The Ladies team is also keen to welcome any new players who want a go at the Softball version of the game.



HULA HOOPING AT DOWNTON LEISURE CENTRE

Downton Leisure Centre has launched an exercise class with a twist – hula hoop lessons.

"It's great fun," says centre manager Dave Taylor, who joined in the first session. "It's low impact, and has many health benefits."

Hula hooping, which is popular with stars like Catherine Zeta-Jones and Beyonce, tones the stomach, strengthens the lower back,

improves flexibility, and burns calories. It proved very popular with visitors to the Leisure Centre's Cuckoo Fair stand.

"It's easier than you think," said Dave. "To be honest, if I can do it, anybody can do it."

Downton Leisure Centre is offering hula hoop lessons every Thursday from 11 - 11.45am. For more information, phone 557268.





Joanna Bell

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KEEP SENDING US YOUR VILLAGE PICTURES!

After our popular 2023 village calendar, we're considering producing a 2024 version if we have enough local photos. We've received some but we will need more high resolution photos to produce another calendar.



HOLIDAY CLUB

The Holiday Club at DBC is this year is called Treasure Hunters. It's on Wednesday 26, Thursday 27 and Friday 28 July from 9.45am to 12.45pm. Holiday Club is for primary school aged children and is free. Secondary school children are invited to be young leaders. This year will involve being stranded on a desert island and getting ready for all sorts of pirate fun hunting



for treasure, and discovering the rich treasures of the love of God. There are games, songs, activities and crafts.

Register online on the church website, downtonbaptist.org, or collect a form from the church office.



Fun at last year's holiday club

CORONATION CONCERT DEFIES THE WEATHER

The village coronation concert went indoors at the Memorial Hall to escape the rain.



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What, Where, When

May

Monday	22	1pm	History of Downton in postcards, Library	Page 5
Thursday	25	9:30am - 4pm	Makaton Introductory Course, Memorial Hall	Page 5
Friday	26		'Fridays' Community Cafe CANCELLED	Page 7
Friday	26	6 - 8pm	Big Bowls weekend, Downton Bowling Club, Wick Lane	Page 17
Saturday	27	7pm	Downton Band / Woodfalls Band at St. Thomas Church, Salisbury	Page 8
Sunday	28	1:30 - 4:30pm	Prayer Fair, Downton Baptist Church	Page 7
Sunday	28	2 - 4pm	Big Bowls weekend, Downton Bowling Club, Wick Lane	Page 17

June

Thursday	1	10am	TalkAbout: Ron Perry, Redlynch players, Woodfalls Methodist Church	Page 7
Thursday	1	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Saturday	10	2pm	Horticultural Society Summer Show, Memorial Hall	Page 16
Friday	16	2 - 3:30pm	Wardrobe (Clothing Exchange), Baptist Church	Page 7
Friday	30	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	

July

Thursday	6	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Friday	7	7pm	Jazz in the churchyard, St Laurence Church	Page 6
Sunday	9	2 - 4pm	Millennium Green Birthday Celebration, Millennium Green	Page 12
Sunday	9	7pm	Downton Band 150th Anniversary Concert, The Moot	Page 8
Friday	14	2 - 3:30pm	Wardrobe (Clothing Exchange), Baptist Church	Page 7
Wed - Fri	26-28	9:45am - 12:45pm	Holiday Club, Baptist Church	Page 18
Fri	28	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	Page 7

August

Thursday	3	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Fri	25	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	Page 7

September

Saturday	2	2pm	Horticultural Society Autumn Show, Memorial Hall	Page 16
Thursday	5	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	

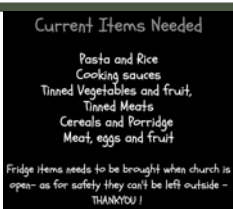
LEISURE CENTRE COFFEE MORNINGS

Downton Leisure Centre are running coffee mornings every Friday from 11am - 1pm, raising money from the Stars Appeal at Salisbury

District Hospital. Everyone is welcome. More information from downtonleisure.co.uk or call 557268

THE LARDER

The Larder opens at DBC on Mondays and Thursdays from 6 - 7pm and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 - 10 am offering free food to the community. Each person can take up to 10 items once a week. Food donations can be left either at the church (see back page for office hours), the Co-op, Ashley Grange, or one of the village schools. The church's website has a list of what food is particularly in demand, which you can access by clicking the link at the top of their 'larder' page. If you would like to contribute towards the larder financially then contact the church office. The church is also a foodbank distribution point.



PARISH COUNCIL
 Telephone: 01725 510504
 Office Hours: Monday - Friday
 10am - 3.30pm
 clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
 downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL
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VILLAGE WEBSITE:
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