

FREE



Spring InDownton



Trafalgar is Wiltshire's 'happiest school'

A report by The Sunday Times has placed The Trafalgar School top for student happiness. The paper analysed Ofsted data to give schools a score which

represents the percentage of parents who said their child was happy at their school. Trafalgar School at Downton came out on top for Wiltshire with 97% of parents saying they felt their child was happy at school.

School pupils have recently been successful in a number of areas. Billy Dixon-Clarke won the Year 7 - 10 category in the Rotary Ringwood Interschool photographic competition and went on to win the overall Young Photographer of the Year. In Technology, the school competed in the Faraday Challenge held at Bournemouth University, an annual competition that introduces students to engineering, inspiring them to consider engineering as a career. 17 Key Stage 3 students travelled to the Lights theatre in Andover to perform as part of the Shakespeare Festival in Schools. A team from the school were Panatholon County Final Winners, an annual competition which provides an opportunity for young people with disabilities and special educational needs to take part in competitive sport.



Year 11 rugby team in high spirits after their last match

Comment

Welcome to our Spring issue. It's not many locals that can say their latest album follows in the line of a song he'd co-written twenty five years ago with Kylie Minogue. Carl Mann can say that. Read more about the album and the local couple behind it inside.

We have a new lifestyle column from our undercover reporter Miss Wiggledownton on page 14. If you'd like to have your local fitness, beauty or wellbeing business included in future, email: misswiggledownton@indownton.org.uk and invite her along - she needs all the help she can get!

We also have a new section which give an opportunity to thank anyone in the village who has been helpful, kind or generous. Do let us know of anyone you want us to include.

The editors

THE BEACON ORCHARD

The Beacon Orchard has now been completed with the addition of a 'monolith', celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. The Parish Council are grateful to Naomi Styles, Wiltshire Council Woodland Officer, and all the volunteers, young and not so young, who helped to plant trees in the four different locations in the parish. Now it is just a question of waiting for the fruit.



EASTER AND HOLY WEEK SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

Downton Churches welcome you to join their Easter celebrations

<i>PALM SUNDAY</i> <i>13 April</i>	<i>10.30 am</i> <i>10:30 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion in the Chancel</i> <i>Morning worship, all age.</i>	<i>St Laurence</i> <i>DBC</i>
<i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i> <i>17 April</i>	<i>11 am</i> <i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday service with communion</i> <i>Evening Service with simple Passover meal</i>	<i>DBC</i> <i>DBC</i>
<i>GOOD FRIDAY</i> <i>18 April</i>	<i>9.30 am - 11.30am</i> <i>1.15 pm - 2pm</i> <i>2 pm</i>	<i>Easter crafts for families</i> <i>Downton Churches Together Walk of Witness, starting at The Borough Cross outside The Goat, finishing at St Laurence.</i> <i>Downton Churches Together Good Friday Service</i>	<i>DBC</i> <i>St Laurence</i>
<i>EASTER EVE</i> <i>19 April</i>	<i>7pm - 8pm</i>	<i>Easter Vigil</i>	<i>DBC</i>
<i>EASTER SUNDAY</i> <i>20 April</i>	<i>8.30 am</i> <i>9.30 am</i> <i>10.30 am</i> <i>10:30 am</i>	<i>Easter Sunday Reflective Service</i> <i>Light Breakfast</i> <i>Family Easter Communion</i> <i>Easter Morning Family Celebration</i>	<i>DBC</i> <i>DBC</i> <i>St Laurence</i> <i>DBC</i>

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

GOOD FRIDAY CRAFT MORNING AT DBC

A craft morning for families at DBC on Good Friday from 9.30am will be a chance for children to spend a couple of hours using a range of materials. It includes a short Easter blessing.

It promises fun for all ages and there's no charge. It will be in the church garden if the weather permits.

More details at downtonbaptist.org or contact the church.



Last year's craft morning

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CUCKOO FAIR RETURNS

The Cuckoo Fair is back this year on Saturday 3 May, from 10am - 4:30pm. New volunteers have strengthened the team and everyone is excited to be back for 2025. Extra volunteers are always welcome to help on the day - get in touch via the contact form on the website at cuckoofair.co.uk/contact-us or contact Trafalgar School directly to help with parking.

The Borough will be closed to traffic, except emergency vehicles, from The Bull Hotel to The Tannery from 8.30am - 6pm on the day. Local residents will receive an information letter two weeks beforehand, with relevant details. Traffic cones will not be set out by the Cuckoo Fair Team this year due to damage and significant loss in previous years. To ensure the safety of all visitors, stall holders, and the general public, barriers will be in use at vehicular entry points to the fair. These will be manned, and are moveable in case of emergency.

The fair will be largely the same as before, with plenty of familiar and new stallholders, entertainment and activities for all the family. Food and drink will be offered at various outlets throughout the fair. Many children from Downton Primary School submitted a design for the Cuckoo Fair Day information leaflet resulting in a difficult decision for the team. The leaflets will be handed out at the car parks and be available at the information stall.

Parking will be available at Trafalgar School and off the A338 and there will be a park and ride service from the Barford lane car park.

The Cuckoo Fair committee would like to express their thanks to this year's generous sponsors; Toomers and Batt Broadbent Solicitors LLP.

More information from cuckoofair.co.uk or follow DowntonCuckooFair on Facebook for updates.



Cuckoo Fair 2023

MOOT EASTER EGG HUNT

Downton Moot is holding its usual Easter Egg Hunt on Monday 21 April. It's open to children aged 11 years and under (£3 entry per child), with all funds raised going to the Moot. Children taking part need to be accompanied by an adult. The gates open at 10:30am for an 11am start. Refreshments will be available. Visitors are asked to not bring dogs to this event.



Hunters at last year's event

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TEAM FROM DOWNTON VISIT PHILIPPINES

A team from Downton Baptist Church spent two weeks with communities that live in slum areas in the Philippines. The visit was part of a longstanding relationship between the Purple Community Fund (PCF) and DBC which goes back many years. PCF aims to provide sustainable opportunities to help poverty stricken families and communities transform their own lives through skills training, education, health and nutrition programmes.

The team members from DBC had experience in mental and physical health, education and pastoral support. They helped with craft work for seniors and sessions for children and learned more about what support can be most helpful to support families out of poverty in the face of the many challenges including floods, earthquakes and fires.

The team were keen to provide practical help and learn from those that live daily with the challenge of trying to stay healthy and provide better futures for children and you people.

There will be an opportunity to find out more about the trip and how to help the charity in its work with communities. At the Cuckoo Fair, DBC will be providing refreshments to support PCF and have information available on how the church works with families who scrape a living on the margins of society. Find out more from downtonbaptist.com, from p-c-f.org or from upskillfoundation.org.



Some of the team from DBC with PCF workers



Philip Rhoades visits a family as part of the Philippines trip

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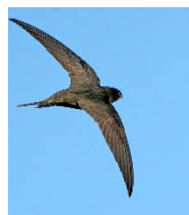
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MILLENNIUM GREEN SWIFTS TALK

The AGM of the Millennium Green Trust will be at the Memorial Hall, in the Bonvalot Room at 7pm on Thursday 10 April. Everyone is welcome. There will be a short amount of formal business, followed by a presentation from Richard Reed: "Downton Swifts: They're on their way".

The trustees would like to get people's thoughts and questions about the green, so do go along and have your say. There will be refreshments, and Trustees will be around at the end of the meeting if anyone wants a chat individually.



SUPPORT UKRAINE! MEMORIAL CENTRE EVENT

Svitlana Kondzelia is hosting a fundraising event at the Memorial Centre on Sunday 8 June with Ukrainian food, music and a raffle. Money raised will go towards providing a new kitchen for the main hall. Svitlana has been living and working in Downton with her son and father for a couple of years now. She has said how warmly Downtonians welcomed her and that she would like to help put something back for the community. She is currently working on the details with the Memorial Centre Trustees - look out for further information on Facebook and posters around the village. Дякую! (Thank you).



LIZ'S YARN & FIBRE ADVENTURE

Liz Tanner can be found at local craft and eco/sustainable events selling a selection of hand spun yarn, blended fibres, yarn craft kits and free-woven textiles. Liz says, "I love yarn, but I hate waste, so I blend locally sourced animal fibres with sustainable textile waste to spin squishy nature-inspired art yarns." She uses her yarns for Saori-style weaving on a rigid heddle loom, and for knitting and crochet; any fibres she doesn't spin are woven on a peg loom or felted to produce natural, earthy rugs and cushions.

Liz is also passionate about informing and inspiring others, so she creates spinning and weaving kits, and runs workshops and classes, where she promotes a mindful and sustainable way of life, "keeping traditional crafts alive in an ever-changing world". She runs a weekly 'Knit & natter / Crochet & chat' session at the Goat and a monthly session at Stable & Wick - details and on-line booking available from her website: atailofyarn.com.



A session at The Goat



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PARISH COUNCIL BULB PLANTING

The bulbs that were so generously donated by the community are peeping through the grass on the entrance to the cemetery, in the new reflection zone and on the Beacon green. The council has been working with volunteers and Eco Council pupils at Downton Primary School to plant hedging saplings amongst some of the gaps in the cemetery hedge. At least 6 bags of rubbish were removed. The council requests that people do not trespass on the adjacent Longford Estate field and then use the cemetery as a cut through, otherwise all the hard work of planting the saplings will be spoiled.



New reflection zone at the cemetery

PARISH STEWARD AT WORK

The Parish Steward, Steve, is working hard with jobs around the Parish. Contact the admin officer (details below) if you notice potholes, blocked gullies or drains. Wiltshire Council has 3 new jetting machines, and the dragon patcher will be out and about doing hot repairs on larger road areas. You can also report online. The MyWilts reporting system has been improved – users will find the reporting tool to be more robust. This is still the most efficient way to report any problems that you see. wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting.



NEW LITTER PICKERS

Look out for the two new Parish litter pickers who will start in the next couple of weeks, concentrating on Moot Lane, Moot Recreation field, Barford Lane, High Street, Memorial Gardens, The Borough and anywhere else that needs them. Litter is still a problem despite the bins situated everywhere.



VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Reconditioning work to the railings outside the Memorial Gardens is imminent, so when the signs are up, please be aware that there might be a bit of disruption, and don't get too close to the wet paint. Repairs are complete to the concrete pathway by the public toilets and to the shelter floor in the Memorial Gardens. Work has been carried out to replace the missing posts on the Borough Greens (this should stop any further churning up of the grass).



Memorial Gardens railings

So that Downton looks sprightly for Cuckoo Fair, volunteers will clean the railings on the pavement side of Tannery Bridge, and Moulds bridge railings by the Co-op. If you would like to help, contact the admin officer on 07483 344035 (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) or email admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

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NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Looking for something for children to do this Easter? Downton Library has lined up some Dinosaur and Dragon activities between Monday 7 April and Saturday 26 April. This will include an activity trail to find out who will win the "Battle of the Beasts". On Monday 14 April they are running Beasts Brick Play. Drop in anytime from 2 - 5pm to create a building to survive a beast attack, or a habitat for a beast.

For young children, Rhyme Time takes place every other Friday, 9:30am to 10am (older siblings welcome during school holidays). Booking encouraged (search "Downton Library" on Eventbrite) but drop ins are welcome! The next dates are 11 and 25 April, 9 and 23 May.

May is Local History Month at Wiltshire Libraries. To celebrate, Downton Library is hosting a talk "Fanny Nelson: The Forgotten Wife" by Christine Mason on Monday 19 May, 12:45 - 13:45pm. Booking is essential- call 511003 or ask at the library. Throughout the month there will be a "History of the Cuckoo Fair" display in the Children's Library.

The library will be holding a book sale on Cuckoo Fair Day (May 3), 10am to 1pm.

Dinosaurs vs Dragons at Downton Library

Monday 7 April to Saturday 26 April 2025



BOROUGH CAFE SUPPORTING UKRAINE

The Borough Café is gearing up for Cuckoo Fair. This year they will be raising money for Ukraine from the stall in front of the café selling Borscht with Pampushki (little breads topped with herbs and garlic) and Varenyky (Ukrainian dumplings) lovingly prepared by Svitlana who has been working at the café for the past two years. As well as this, there will be all-day bacon baps, hot dogs and home-made sausage rolls. Plus all the usual hot drinks inside the café. They look forward to seeing you there.



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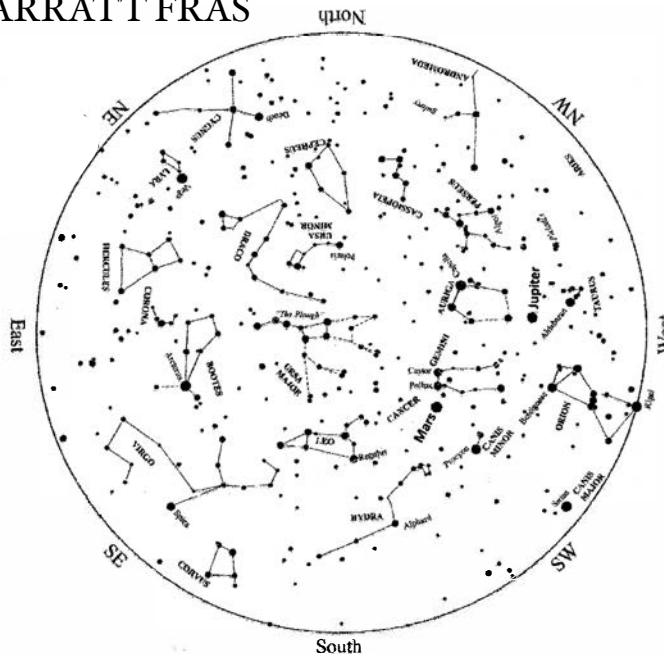
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SKY AT NIGHT BY MICHAEL F. BARRATT FRAS

April's full moon is known as a "Pink Moon" - named after the herb moss pink, or wild ground phlox.

There is a possibility that there will be another display of the Northern Lights during April. The timing is unpredictable but there are a number of good apps that provide aurora alerts, including AuroraWatchUK. Look northwards for a misty white sky with the odd greenish glow - the human eye does not always see the vivid colours which come out in photos.

The Lyrid meteor-shower is active during the 3rd week of April, probably peaking on the night of 22/ 23 April. This coincides with a waning crescent Moon and will be best observed before midnight. The meteors seem to radiate outwards from a point in the



Map of night sky in mid-April (around 2200 hours)

constellation of Lyra (the Lyre), close to the bright blue star Vega, which is high in the south-east. This shower is made up of debris left from comet Thatcher and often leaves glowing trails of dust.

For more information, contact Michael via his Facebook Page – Moot Halt Observatory. He can also be contacted at mootastro@yahoo.com.

WI

Since the WI in Downton closed its doors, the nearest group is Redlynch and District WI, which meets at Morgan's Vale Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:15. They describe themselves as "a friendly and welcoming group". The next meeting is on April 9, with speaker Nora Barker talking about building an eco house, and describing the experience of living there. The WI also organise trips - this year they are planning to visit Weymouth and go to Winchester's Christmas Market. Further information from Ann Kelly 514550 - annkelly33@gmail.

CHRISTIAN AID BIG BREAKFAST AT WOODFALLS METHODIST

Woodfalls Methodist Church are holding a Big Breakfast in aid of Christian Aid on Saturday 17 May, 8 - 11am. They will be serving a variety of breakfasts - from toast to a 'full English', including vegetarian and gluten free options - in return for a donation to the charity.

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PRIMARY SCHOOL SWITCH OFF DAY

Downton Primary School recently held a "Switch off" day when the electricity was turned off and children experienced a day without electric lights / heating / computers. The children are learning about sustainability and took part in activities based around looking after the oceans of the world. Practical sustainability was also to the forefront with a World Book Day costume exchange and litter picking. The school's eco-council met to evaluate how the day had gone, and were full of ideas on how to make the school even more sustainable - with some of them taking their learning home to have a switch-off day there too. One child explained, "We've only left my goldfish lights on." Some of the children wrote poems about the current state of the oceans - this is Oran's:

I am the ocean, sickly and poisoned.
I roar in anger, swallow the land.
My fury floods your world, unstoppable and furious.
Waves crash against the shore, A warning too loud to ignore.
I choke, and choke, and choke.
A long time ago, I was better, healthy
But now I am lonely, grey.
But I can stop,
If you listen.

Pictures show some of the ideas that the children had for looking after the planet.



FRIDAYS

'Fridays' regular monthly community cafe is in good shape, after the new management team took over at the beginning of the year. The team are keen to acknowledge the work put in by the previous organisers, Stephanie and Adam, who started the venture 3 years ago. The current team say, "We are very grateful for their legacy and long may it continue with the group of wonderful volunteers. We are still learning how best to do things each month - but we are getting there!". Each month there is a book and puzzle swap, and one of the tables is taken by a group who come to share knitting and crochet projects and tips. Home-made cakes continue to arrive - but the group could do with more volunteers, as well as volunteer bakers. The next 'Fridays' is on 25 April, following that on 30 May.



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

wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

Our Principles

- Integrity
- Respect
- Friendship
- Service

CHOIR FESTIVAL

Following on from the success of last year's event, Downton Choir Director Kate Edgar is again organising a choirs festival at St Thomas's Church in Salisbury this year on 25 April from 10am - 8pm where a wide range of different local choirs will be performing. Downton Community Choir will be taking part, singing at 12:30pm. Entry to the festival is free, and you can come and go as you please. Refreshments will be served all day, with wine available in the evening. Donations will be shared between St Thomas's Church and Salisbury Hospice Charity.



SEEDY SUNDAY

Downton Green Network's recent Seedy Sunday event attracted nearly 200 people who were able to swap seeds and plants - or take away the surplus from other gardeners - in preparation for the new gardening season. The group are planning to organise a pop-up stall outside the library at the end of May. More information about the Green Network on downtongreengroup.org.uk.

Amber planting nasturtium seeds



REPAIR CAFE

The team have recently been out and about, visiting Charlton All Saints Church, Seedy Sunday and the 1st Downton cubs - spreading their message about reusing and recycling where possible - and advertising the skills of the team, who will have a go at fixing just about anything. They are currently looking for a volunteer with the skills / enthusiasm to repair cane and rush furniture.



Bonzo before and after treatment



Among recent projects has been the repair of Bonzo, a dog with an interesting history. He belonged to a lady born in 1884 who, as governess to a White Russian General's family, took Bonzo to Russia just before the Revolution in 1917. Following a tortuous escape he was imprisoned in Cairo, finally settling in Paris. He came home to a village near Havant, but still did a lot of travelling to Spain & Italy before WW2. He has now retired to Bournemouth.

The Repair Cafe is in Downton on the first Saturday of every month, 10am - 12pm, at the Baptist Church - in addition to its twice weekly sessions at Redlynch Village Hall. Contact downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com for more information.

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SILVER SALISBURY LOCAL TALK

Silver Salisbury promotes activities where older people will get a warm welcome in and around Salisbury, Downton, Amesbury and Wilton. The Spring newsletter, which will be available from mid-April, is a small taster of their much larger Autumn programme. One of the local events is a talk at Downton Library on Monday 2 June, entitled "Breamore House: not just an old house". Sue Harris takes a virtual tour of the house with its history, furniture and paintings, and talks about the families who have lived there. The talk is from 11.15am - 12.30pm (doors 11am). It's free, but spaces are limited and must be booked. Tickets available from 14 April from Breamore.eventbrite.co.uk or 07842 865562.

More info from silversalisbury.co.uk or pick up a programme from the Library or DBC.



OPEN GARDENS

Downton Open Gardens is being planned for Sunday 29 June from 12 - 5pm. Several gardens on the Borough, High St and Barford lane will be open and the organisers are hoping to include the church yard and Baptist community vegetable garden. Money raised will go to Médecins sans Frontières and Salisbury Hospice. More information in the next issue - look out for yellow posters and balloons advertising the event nearer the time.



POLICE TACKLE NURSERY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Recently, the children at Giant Steps on the Borough thoroughly enjoyed visiting PC Marc at his mobile police van - an ideal opportunity for the children to find out how police officers help and support their local community. The children were very eager to ask lots of questions about PC Marc's uniform and police van. The highlight of the visit was when the children were able to try on real handcuffs! PC Evans brings the mobile van to the Memorial Centre on a regular basis - details of dates and timings are posted on Facebook beforehand.



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DBC COMMUNITY GARDEN

Already the team has planted leeks, the first row of potatoes and the first carrots. "We're trialling a new experiment this year," says Gwen, one of the more experienced gardeners. "I'm going to start the carrots off in sand because apparently you get better germination." Carrots are notoriously hard to get going, so watch this space to see whether the experiment works.

The garden grows a mix of fresh produce over the summer and autumn. This is given away to the local Downton community through the Larder foodbank which is held in the church building on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings.

Team member, David, is planning to give away dahlia plants this year. They are already sprouting and he will be taking cuttings over the next few weeks, which should be rooted by the end of March. They will be pinched out and potted on, ready to go in the ground by the end of May.

The back of the garden and edges of the field have recently been cleared and team member, Richard, has recycled western red cedar timbers to build benches, replacing the old plastic chairs, and so creating a welcoming area where people can come and sit.

Under the trees at the far end of the garden, Gwen has been planting snowdrops which have been lifted from another garden and divided. Planting them like this, 'in the green', is a much more successful way of propagating the supply than planting dry tubers in the autumn. Just dig up a well-established clump, split into three or four bunches (about the size of a bunch of spring onions you might get in a supermarket) and replant to create a snowdrop colony.

Next door to the raised bed area is the prayer garden which has been completely rejuvenated over the last two years by Jenny, a Downton local. It's looking gorgeous, with shoots appearing and new life everywhere. "When I first came, the focus was on building the raised beds," says Jenny. "I thought I could do up the prayer garden as I had a good supply of plants from my own garden." The area has been transformed into a lovely reflective space with comfortable seating for anyone who wishes to come and spend time there.

The team meets in the community garden at the back of Downton Baptist church on a Sunday and Thursday afternoon. All are welcome to help gardening, or just to sit and chat. Do come along. There may even be cake!



Above: the first leaves of rhubarb. Right: raised beds with cat barricades



Right: Katy Ulyat wearing Japanese weeding gloves. Below: Gwen and Pete planting primroses.



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HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The society's meeting on Thursday 24 April at 7.30pm is an illustrated talk, 'Making the most of a Small Greenhouse', from expert and lecturer, Wilf Simcox. There will be a raffle and refreshments - as well as a sales table (donations to this are welcome). The talk is open for everyone.

A Plant and Table-top sale is at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 10 May at 2pm. Tables are free for charities or £5 for non-charities. Contact Chris Parry on 514511 to reserve one. Donations of plants to sell will be gratefully received on the day of the sale - so if you have any spare plants, or are dividing established ones, then bring them along, rooted and labelled for prospective purchasers.

The Summer Show will be on Saturday 7 June at the Memorial Hall - more details in the next issue. The society needs more helpers, particularly for serving refreshments at their shows but also helping out in other ways, such as setting up for shows, helping with the raffle etc. For more information contact Gordon Bishop on 511475.



BUSY BEAVERS!

The young people of Downton 1st Beavers have enjoyed a range of exciting activities so far this year, including working together on science experiments, rock climbing, performing on stage, Jiu Jitsu and meeting some friendly reptiles!

Beavers is for all children aged 6 - 8 years old, and most Beavers continue through to Cubs and Scouts: safe but adventurous groups where friendships are made and life skills are learned.

Downton 1st Beavers can't run without local helpers and is currently looking for a new leader, assistant leaders and volunteers. If you and your family would like to become part of Downton's thriving Scouting community visit sswscouts.org.uk/groups/1st-downton.




Beavers on parade on Remembrance Day

GOOD COMPANIONS

Good Companions programme for April and May includes a talk from Alan Jones (Life! A Library of Memories) on 8 April, a visit from Wiltshire History Centre on 20 May and a talk about Downton in Roman times on 3 June.

The group meets in the Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2 - 4 pm. Regulars pay £2 and visitors pay £2.50, refreshments included. Contact Julia Whitmarsh 510601 for more information.

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GUIDES



Downton Girlguiding run groups for Rainbows (ages 4-7), Brownies (ages 7-10) and Guides (ages 10-14). These groups are advertised as “a great way for girls to have fun, work towards badges, have lots of new experiences and create memories together”. If your daughter is interested in finding out more, contact one of the emails listed below. The groups are also looking for new volunteers, so if you'd like to find out more, either visit their Cuckoo Fair stall or get in touch via emailing either downtonrainbows@gmail.com; downtonbrowniesnightowl@gmail.com; 1stdowntonguides@gmail.com.

NEW LIFE CAFE



The New Life Community church (which meets regularly at the Memorial Centre in Downton) has recently opened a community cafe (The Branch) on Fordingbridge High Street, with the aim of bringing people together to reduce isolation and loneliness. Alongside the normal cafe menu, there is an opportunity to pre-purchase and gift a cup of coffee or a piece of cake to someone facing difficulties. The cafe is open weekdays - more information from Jo Williams office@newlifecommunitychurch.co.uk or 07909711886.

REDLYNCH & HALE CRICKET CLUB

The season is getting under way, with the adult indoor practice nets proving popular. This year sees a change of Captains for the 1st and 2nd XI's with Ian and Ewan Tanner taking charge of those sides respectively. Andy Kennedy stays at the helm of the 3rd team. The club aims to enter a side in the Tuesday Border league. The Ladies team are hoping for a trophy in the W10 Softball league this year, after 3 consecutive appearances at finals day, without managing to lift the trophy.

Junior section training starts on Monday 28 April (6:30 - 8:00pm), with a few spaces available for new children to give cricket a try - particularly in the Under 9's group. Contact andy.church16@btopenworld.com if your child is interested.



Miss Wiggledownton's Lifestyle Column



Hello dear readers,

Welcome to my new column about keeping fit and healthy inside and out, in Downton. This column has come about after one-too-many exquisite meals at our superb local eateries - it's time to get in shape! I am taking it upon myself to go undercover and try out the numerous health and wellbeing businesses we are lucky enough to have nearby.

I began the year by signing up to Clubbercise with Penny at Downton Memorial Centre on Monday evenings from 7-8pm. It is for all shapes, fitness levels and ages. I count myself among a group of ladies who reminisce about dancing the night away, but are nowadays very happy to be fully pyjama-clad by 9pm. I took my two left feet along to Clubbercise with trepidation, and was greeted with a warm welcome, thrust two glowsticks (which I believe greatly improved my moves) and was swept away by the catchy tunes.

I am overjoyed to have found the perfect solution to my middle-aged fun vs sleep quandary. With Clubbercise, you get one hour of fun, endorphin-pumping dancing (which in my opinion is just the right amount). The steps give you a mind and body workout, and are easy to get the hang of - trust me, if I can do it, you can too. You can be in your PJs by 8.30, grinning from ear to ear with no hangover or dented bank balance the next day. And you improve your fitness - perfection! Penny also offers personal training 121 or in groups and other exercise classes.

Clubbercise is £7 for the hour or 5 for £31.50 myhhf.co.uk

Next time I wind down with Stretch & Flow Yoga with Polly, also at DMC and a sound bath with Forest Vibrations.

HAMPTWORTH CROQUET CLUB

Hamptworth Croquet Club is offering a free 'taster' session on Sunday 27 April (2 - 4:30pm) at Hamptworth Golf and Country Club, Hamptworth Road.

Everyone aged 15+ is welcome. You are invited to join Croquet Club members for a free hot drink and slice of cake after your introductory session. All equipment will be

provided - all you need to do is turn up wearing flat-soled shoes (e.g. trainers). Plenty of parking is available. For more information, contact Janet (07714 186585).



FUNDRAISING FOR YOUNG MINDS

Downton Football Club's nominated charity is "Young Minds", an organisation that works to make a difference to young people who need support for their mental health, and to help provide that support in a timely manner. Their vision is to see a world where no young person feels alone with their mental health.

The club is organising a programme of events to raise funds - the next one being a Veterans' Football match between Downton FC

and Redlynch FC on Sunday 13 April at The Nest, Wick Lane.

Later in the year, on 27 September, there will be a 'Summer Ball' to raise funds, with entertainment from local band Shantoosy, comedian Tank Sherman and the Forest School of Dance. This will be held at Trafalgar School, with tickets costing £20 per person. More information from Malcolm Dean on 07776132775.

YOUNG MINDS

BOWLING CLUB NEWS

On Saturday 19 April, Downton's bowling green reopens for the new season with a Members' Charity Fun Day. If you are interested in giving bowls a try, then come to this - or to one of the two taster sessions: Friday 25 April, 5:30 - 7:30pm or Wednesday 30 April, 2 - 4pm. The club will also be holding regular roll-up sessions on Mondays (except Bank holidays, 2 - 4pm) and Fridays (6 - 8pm) starting 28 April. All equipment, tuition & light refreshments will be provided free of charge. If none of these dates work for you, then contact the club (details below) to arrange a session to suit.

A spokesman for the club says, "Don't believe the stereotyping! Bowls is not just a game for older people. The world indoor bowls champion, Jason Banks, is only 28 years old! Bowls provides everyone, young & old, with an opportunity to get fitter and to make new friends, whilst having a lot of fun. We are actively looking for new members, so whether you are an experienced player, or a novice who fancies trying bowls for the first time, why not come along and see what it's all about?"



The club is delighted to announce that they will be taking part in Bowls England's Big Bowls Weekend. There will be further taster sessions on Friday 23 May, 6 - 8pm, Sunday 25 and Monday 26 May, 2 - 4pm. You can register for this event at www.bowlsbigweekend.com. For more details, please phone Ivan on 07910 290735, email buib7@iCloud.com or visit the club's website: www.downtonbc.co.uk

Downton Bowling Club

Why not join us for a roll up at 2pm every Monday or 6pm every Friday throughout the season* from 25th April?

All equipment & tuition provided free of charge.

Downton Bowling Club
Wick Lane, Downton, SP5 3NF

Contact: Ivan Buss - 07910 290735
email: buib7@icloud.com
web: downtonbc.co.uk
or: facebook.com/downtonbc/

A warm welcome awaits you.

* excluding Bank Holidays



THANK YOUS!

Do you have someone in the village that you would like to thank? Let us know and we will add them to a future list: editor@indownton.org.uk

Thank You
Thank you to those who support The Wardrobe at Downton Baptist Church, month by month. The help from so many within our community to deal with the mammoth task of sorting items in the morning and clearing away at the end is amazing.
The Community Wardrobe team

Thank You
To all our advertisers and those who send us articles and photos to publish. We couldn't do it without you!
The InDownton team

Thank You
Downton Library would like to thank our wonderful volunteers for their dedication, enthusiasm and support. With their help, Downton Library now opens six days a week and hosts more activities for adults and children than ever before. We are very grateful and lucky to have such friendly, helpful and welcoming volunteers who regularly give up their time for the library.
Thank you for all you do from Cara, Laura and Philip (staff at Downton Library).

Thank You
I would like to thank Paul Roberts in the Coop. He does so much for the community that he gets on with quietly.
Katy Ulliyatt, Downton Baptist Church

CHARITY CARS

As prom season arrives, Charity Cars would like to remind you that their special cars are available to hire so that you can arrive at your event in style. You can hire one of the cars in exchange for a donation - which goes directly to local charity Downton4Family. The cars have been restored by owner and chauffeur, Ray. Both Ray and the car will arrive to pick you up in

suitable style. Cars can be hired for any special occasion - weddings, anniversaries and birthdays are a speciality. More information from downton4family.org.uk/car-hire/.





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THE WARDROBE

The Wardrobe clothing exchange continues to be well attended each month. Donations of clothes can be brought to the church on Monday - Thursday 9am - 1pm or on Sunday mornings when someone will be there to stow them away in the right place. The organisers would respectfully ask that clothes are not left at other times when the church is closed because this is not fair on the wide variety of community groups that use the church at other times.

Bin bags of donated goods should not be overfilled, as these can be difficult to handle. Smaller bags are easier, and if possible should be labelled with contents – i.e. baby/children/ladies/gents etc. In addition: Only good quality clothing (no rags or soiled items please); only shoes/handbags etc. that are of good quality; no electrical items; no clothes hangers (they already have loads!); no bric-a-brac (china/mirrors/vases/etc. – they are unable to pass these on).

The Wardrobe takes place monthly at the Baptist Church, 2pm - 3.30pm. There is no Wardrobe in April. The next dates are Friday 16 May and Friday 20 June. More information: downtonbaptist.org.



“TECHIE TEA” PARTY AT LOVER REPAIR CAFE!

The Repair Cafe is hosting another “Techie Tea Party” digital inclusion event on Wednesday 7 May, 10am - 12pm, at Redlynch Village Hall. This is an opportunity for those who wish to

improve their skills with a tablet, laptop or mobile phone to benefit from some 1-1 tuition. Further details (and to book a session) call Karlene on 01722 434437.



PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Parish Council will be holding its Annual Parish Assembly on 28 April in the Bonvalot Room at 7pm. This will include a report of what the council has achieved, plus a couple of local speakers.

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in the Bonvalot Room in the Downton Memorial Centre. Meetings start at 7pm. Amongst its other duties, the council reviews and comments on all planning applications for the Parish from

Wiltshire Council at the monthly DPC meeting. To comment about a planning application, visit development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/. There is always a public question time at the beginning of the meeting. Susan Parsons is the Administrative Officer for the Parish Council. She can be contacted on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on 07483 344035 or at admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Where appropriate, she may redirect queries to Councillors or the Parish Clerk.

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NEW ALBUM FROM DOWNTON BASED MUSIC GROUP

Last month, Downton based group Ticking Haze released their record, Shapes Like People. The group is made up of local couple Carl and Kat Mann and the album is released through their own company, Jangleshop Records based in Downton. It was written, produced, mixed & mastered by Carl. Carl is originally from Maidstone, Kent, U.K. and Kat from Wellington, New Zealand.

Kat says, "we stumbled upon Downton by chance. We have good friends in Dorset and we'd fallen in love with the New Forest and surrounding coastal towns with frequent visits to see them and wanted to move down this way. Carl drove in one morning to view a house and called me immediately saying he'd found not only the right village, but the right house too... we've never looked back. We love it here - there's such a great sense of community, and we've got a wonderful circle of friends. 'A New Crown' on Ticking Haze was written about our move here."

Carl has been working in the industry since he was 18 - his first record deal took him to London and between his music and working as a session guitarist/touring as a live guitarist he's kept his hat in the ring for a couple of decades. Most recently he's released Daysdream (double LP and third album) with The Shop Window, and Ticking Haze with Shapes Like People. Kat adds, "we've been so chuffed with the response, and of course Carl is already working on the album! I, on the other hand have no music background at all - I sing in the car - but having dug myself a hole providing guide vocals it appears I'm now in the band! Must admit it has been one of the greatest things to do together, we've had so much fun. Now we just need to rope a few locals in for a live gig somewhere in the future!"

Jangleshop Records was originally set up for release of The Shop Window 'Daysdream' album, and is now a way for Carl to work with other people who might need a hand finishing their own material, or preparing tracks for release. The record is available at shapeslikepeople.bandcamp.com/album/ticking-haze or email jangleshoprecords@gmail.com.



Carl and Kat Mann

SELINA GRAY

Dr. Selina Gray is a GP with 18 years of experience in the NHS, and a certified Lifestyle Physician with the British Society of Lifestyle Medicine - an approach that focuses on making healthy lifestyle changes to not only prevent but also manage and even reverse chronic diseases. The goal is to promote overall wellbeing and improve quality of life by addressing the root causes of illness rather than just treating symptoms. It integrates scientific evidence with practical strategies to empower individuals to make sustainable changes for long-term health. Selina says, "Chronic diseases like diabetes, dementia, and cancer are among the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. What's startling is that studies show up to 80% of these conditions could be prevented through lifestyle changes." Selina is offering a reduction on health assessments with Hexagon Health - see her advert.



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Dr Selina Gray

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What, Where, When

April

Thursday	3	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Thursday	10	7pm	Millennium Green AGM & Swift talk, Bonvalot Room, Memorial Centre	Page 5
Friday	18	9:30 - 11:30am	Easter Crafts, Baptist Church	Page 2
Monday	21	11am	Easter Egg Hunt, The Moot	Page 3
Thursday	24	7:30pm	Horticultural Society: Making the most of a small greenhouse, Memorial Hall	Page 11
Friday	25	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	Page 9
Friday	25	5:50 - 7:30pm	Bowls club Open Day (also 30 April, 2 - 5pm), Wick Lane	Page 15
Saturday	26	10am - 8pm	Salisbury Choirs Festival, St Thomas's Church	Page 10
Sunday	27	2 - 4:30pm	Croquet Club Taster Day, Hamptworth Golf Club	Page 15
Monday	28	7pm	Parish Council Annual Assembly, Bonvalot Room, Memorial Centre	Page 17

May

Thursday	1	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Saturday	3	10am - 4:30pm	Cuckoo Fair	Page 3
Wednesday	7	10am - 12 noon	Love Your Technology, Redlynch Village Hall, Lover	Page 10
Saturday	10	2pm	Horticultural Society Table Top Plant Sale, Memorial Hall	Page 11
Friday	16	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe, Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 17
Monday	19	12:45 - 1:45pm	Talk: "Fanny Nelson, the forgotten wife", Downton Library	Page 7
Friday	23	6 - 8pm	Bowls club Open Day (also 25 & 26, 2 - 4pm) Wick Lane	Page 15
Friday	30	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	Page 9

June

Monday	2	11:15am	Talk: "Breamore House: not just an old house", Downton Library	Page 11
Sunday	8	7pm	Ukrainian evening, Downton Memorial Hall	Page 5

ASHLEY GRANGE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Free activities and entertainment for
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DOWNTON DOWNTIME

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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: 24 May 2025

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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 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

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Wiltshire Council & Parish Council

Thursday 1 May
 Register to vote by 11 April
 Go to gov.uk/register-to-vote

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 Wednesday 2pm - 5pm*
 Thursday 10am - 1pm*
 Friday 10am - 5pm
 Saturday 10 - 1

* volunteer operated sessions

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VILLAGE WEBSITE

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 Rev Katy Ulyatt: katy@downtonbaptist.org 07786 248880
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ST LAURENCE PARISH CHURCH

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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