

# Winter InDownton

## New Year Honour for Repair Cafe Founder

Local resident, Paul Bromage, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community, particularly during Covid.

Paul will be known to many of our readers as an active member of Downton Baptist Church and as a leading light in the formation and running of the popular Lover Repair Cafe.

His dedication to the Repair Cafe has meant that the work hasn't stopped over the pandemic.

During lockdowns people were still able to get items repaired throughout, by dropping them off at Paul's house - all with guidelines strictly adhered to. And as restrictions have eased, the cafe is back up and running again. Although there has never been a charge for the repair service, which is run by volunteers, donations have rolled in and the group has been able to give over £10,000 to the Salisbury District Hospital staffing fund.



*Paul Bromage: Baptist Church stalwart*

## NEVILLE JENNINGS DIES AT 94

Neville Jennings, who was the site manager at the Moot for 22 years up to 2015, died on 14 January. He has a special place for us at InDownton because he delivered the newsletter from the beginning in 2005 right up until two years ago. Neville was involved in many village organisations as well as the Moot. He was on the committee which got the funding and organised the building of the Leisure Centre in Wick Lane and was another stalwart of the Baptist Church (along with Paul Bromage above) for many decades. He was a successful businessman running toy shops including what became The Entertainer in Blue Boar Row.



*Neville Jennings receiving a Moot photo album from Charles Greville-Heygate in 2015*

## 'FRIDAYS' AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

To fill the hole left by the WI Country Market, a new regular event ('Fridays') is being launched at Downton Memorial Hall, on the last Friday of each month - starting from 28 January, from 10am - 12pm.

There will be tea, coffee, homemade cake and the opportunity to have a chat. There will also be a book share and as the year goes on it is intended that people can bring and share excess garden/allotment produce and flowers. All ages are welcome - pop in, pop out, or stay all morning. Bring your knitting, your neighbour, your friend, you! If you know anyone who would like to come but needs transportation please contact [stephaniejalland1@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniejalland1@gmail.com)

### Comment

We're covering more local people in the news, including Dave Taylor, who runs the leisure centre, and Graham Lloyd-Jones, who has been carrying out important research into reducing the impact of Covid-19.

We're also keen to have stories about others locally who have an interesting story to tell or are doing something new. Let us know if you know of someone whose story we should be telling the village about.

We felt that we couldn't ignore local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime, and so we've spoken to the police and included news from Richard Clewer. Downton is still relatively safe and if we look out for one another we can keep it that way. Recently we've had police walking the streets, which most residents will find a welcome site.

We hope you enjoy this latest issue, and if you know of any local news we're missing, get in contact.

The Editors

## ACTION TO TACKLE CRIME AND ASB

Residents have recently been suffering from higher than normal levels of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, particularly from the use of catapults. Wiltshire Councillor, Richard Clewer, has raised the issues with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable along with Inspector Tina Osborn, who heads up Salisbury's Community Policing Team.

PC Mark Douglas, is the dedicated PC for Downton, Wilton and Harnham. He has been a PC for over 5 years and has been on Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) for a year and a half. Matt Murray is the dedicated PCSO for Downton and has been in his role for over 4 years. They will be leading a series of community consultations over the next 12 weeks. The next ones will be outside the Co-op on Monday 7 February 6 - 7:30pm and the following one on Friday 11 February 3:30 - 5pm. If you want to discuss recent events with them, provide them with information or get a better understanding of what is going on and how everyone can help, you are urged to go along to one of those sessions. Further dates will be provided.



PC Mark Douglas with local ferret

PC Douglas writes: "Please be aware we are doing lots of community consultations over the next few months and will be more active on social media - please comment and engage with us. If there is something we need to be aware of please make sure this is reported either via the online crime reporting tool on Wiltshire Police website, 101 or 999 in an emergency. We also have an email address to reach us: SalisburyAreaCPT@wiltshire.police.uk"



PCSO Matt Murray

Richard Clewer says "I know that some of you have expressed concerns that sometimes reports are closed down due to lack of evidence. I have been assured that the police will always review all reports and if deemed part of a series or if they identify a possible line of investigation, the team will seek to carry that out."

Wiltshire Council is also working to create a Public Space Protection Order to prevent the carrying of catapults in public in Downton. This has been requested by the police and, providing the evidence threshold is met, will be put in place. Extra patrols have also been undertaken by police response teams before, during and after Christmas and these are continuing. There is other work underway with regard to a recent spate of burglaries from sheds and outbuildings.

Richard Clewer again: "In my view the only way that we are going to make headway over criminal damage and anti-social behaviour is to continue to report every incident, provide the police with any relevant CCTV and to make Downton a hostile environment to this sort of behaviour. If evidence is gathered then the police will be able to proceed with prosecutions."

InDownton Online is updated regularly

Latest news on village events, including more information on stories in this newsletter at:

[InDownton.org.uk](http://InDownton.org.uk)

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## LOCAL DOCTOR RESEARCHING WAYS TO REDUCE COVID IMPACT

### Could improving oral healthcare reduce severe Covid-19 infection?

As a result of the research of Downton resident, Dr Graham Lloyd-Jones, Consultant Radiologist, Salisbury Hospital has enhanced its treatment regime for those with Covid-19. Graham has been investigating the virus with several research groups and at the end of October his work was reported in Nature Outlook, a leading scientific publication.

The research highlights the link between gum disease and the severity of Covid-19 infection, and as a result a hospital-wide quality improvement project has been started at Salisbury, focusing on oral healthcare. Nursing staff are receiving additional training and Covid-19 patients all receive a supply of a specific type of mouthwash.

In Graham's words: "The measures we are putting in place are based on existing evidence that shows paying attention to oral healthcare for inpatients is beneficial, shortening hospital stay and even reducing death rate. The project

has gained the enthusiastic attention of those at the very top of dentistry, public health, infection control and medical research in the UK. As soon as we are up and running in Salisbury, we will be sharing our ideas and practices with as many other hospitals as possible."

Graham is extremely grateful for the generous gift of £350 which the League of Friends offered so that the first consignment of mouthwash could be bought to get the project underway. The hospital is now funding the project which was formally launched in November last year.

There is a fuller account of Graham's research, where he explains how his work began and what led him to make the links, on the InDownton website.



## DOWNTON'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Did you know that there is a small Roman Catholic church in Downton? It is called "The Church of the Good Shepherd and Our Lady Queen of Peace". Sadly there is no longer a priest to say Sunday Mass but a priest comes once a month on the third Thursday to say Mass at 6.30pm. In addition, a small group of Catholics meet every week on Tuesdays at 6.30pm on Zoom or in the church for a Service

of the Word. One of the members sings the psalm and plays the organ for these Masses and services. The Catholics in Downton would love to have more people join them so that the church can keep going and be a visible witness to the faith in the area. Contact Maria for more details: maricarmen@murraybrown.uk or on 0786 781 7213. They would love to see you!



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## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The Christmas Tree Festival returned to St Laurence Church this year, raising over £1600 altogether. £800 was donated to Wiltshire Family Counselling Trust (a local charity focussed on the mental health of children, young people and their families), with the remainder going to St Laurence building repair fund.

The organisers (Susan Tyler, Philippa Merrill and Wiz Gerschwiler) would like to thank all

exhibitors, volunteers and visitors - and also Mark Merrill who organised the entertainment and took the photo.



*Presenting the cheque*



## COMMUNITY CHOIR AT CHRISTMAS

The Community choir was delighted to return to 'in person' singing at last, and performed a set of songs and carols at the Christmas Tree Festival. They were also to be seen outside the Co-op just before Christmas.

The choir is a non-auditioned choir, with a wide range of musical ability, but a common love

of having fun and expressing themselves through song. It welcomes new members - if you are interested in joining, rehearsals are from 7.30 - 9pm every Wednesday evening during term time. For more info, please contact Kate Edgar on 512637, email [Keedgar@aol.com](mailto:Keedgar@aol.com) or visit [kateedgarmusic.com](http://kateedgarmusic.com)

## KINDNESS OFFENSIVE AT CHRISTMAS

Just before Christmas Stable & Wick teamed up with Emma Frampton (the co-founder of Help for Heroes) to host a charity toy give-away in collaboration with 'The Kindness Offensive'. Volunteers wrapped and distributed over 600 brand-new, high quality toys to distribute to charities in Wiltshire, Hampshire and Dorset, including to Downton's very own Downton4Family. The toys, worth £15 - £30 each were donated by Hasbro.

The Kindness Offensive was set up in 2008 by a group of friends who set out to have fun with performing random acts of kindness. To

date, the group has distributed well over £6 million worth of goods to deserving people all over the UK, from food for refugees and backpacks for schools to 26 tonnes of toiletries during Covid. Kindness Offensive core member James Light has helped co-ordinate the toy give-away in London for many years and has been yearning to do something in his local area for a while. Thanks to Louisa at Stable & Wick, the group was able to bring their festive cheer to Downton and the surrounding local areas.



**Clare Kaye Bookkeeping**  
*Bookkeeping, VAT and Tax Returns*

T<sup>3</sup> O<sup>1</sup> D<sup>3</sup> O<sup>1</sup>

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## MOOT BENEFITS FROM CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

Thanks to the Moot fundraising team, £3950 was raised from the sale of Christmas trees and wreaths held in December in the Borough on the old cricket pitch (belonging to Rob and Steph Greville-Heygate). The trees and materials for the wreaths were donated, allowing the charity to benefit from all the sales money.

This contribution will help towards the ever increasing costs of maintaining the historic gardens which are open to everyone in the community 365 days of the year for free.

The Moot Trust are always on the lookout for help: "We are so lucky to have this natural

space on our doorstep. You can help as a garden volunteer, or as a helper at fundraising events, or simply by making a regular donation (however small, even once a year)," said a spokesperson.

More information is on their website [downtonmoot.co.uk](http://downtonmoot.co.uk)

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be happening on Easter Monday in the Moot. Other fundraising events are currently being planned so watch the website for future dates.



## ART EXHIBITION CHARITY DONATION

The local artists' exhibition held in November resulted in the sale of 17 paintings and lots of crafts - raising £1300 for Home Start Hampshire. 20 artists took part.

The organisers are planning to hold the event again next year.



## CUCKOO FAIR 2022

The Cuckoo Fair Team understands that there will be concerns about holding the Cuckoo Fair this year. As a part of their usual planning, they will be consulting with representatives of village-based and local organisations to consider the options and their plans for operating in a Covid safe way, as well as listening to concerns. Given that the majority of the committee live in Downton and the surrounding villages, they are very mindful of the possible impact of Covid on the local residents. The FAQs on the front page of their website highlight this as one of the issues to consider, before making any decisions about holding the Fair. The committee say "We

would like to reassure everyone that we also have direct contact with Wiltshire Council's Event Safety Advisory Group and take account of Industry wide guidance on holding safe events. We have qualified and experienced health and safety people on the Cuckoo Fair team as well as people who are on the frontline of managing the impacts of Covid. So, we hope you'll agree that we are well placed to make an informed and measured decision about the Fair based on the latest information."

The team will keep everyone informed of decisions as the situation changes. Keep up-to-date by checking their website [cuckoofair.co.uk](http://cuckoofair.co.uk)



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### TOP FILMS AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Moviola starts again at the Memorial Hall in February. In selecting the films, the organisers have spent some time analysing responses to their recent questionnaire. Tickets will not be available at the Borough Cafe in advance as Moviola are no longer providing paper tickets. Entry to the films will be on a first come, first served basis on the night. Doors open at 7pm, and the film starts at 7:30pm. Entrance costs £7. Refreshments will be available.

On Saturday 19 February: "Pig". If you are looking for something a bit different, Pig is a lyrical and intimate look at love and loss. A truffle hunter who lives alone in the Oregonian wilderness must return to his past in Portland when his beloved foraging pig is kidnapped. Heading to Portland, he re-enters the world of haute cuisine and fancy restaurants of which he was once a part.

On Saturday 19 March "Stillwater". With more than a nod to the Meredith Kercher affair, Stillwater follows Bill Baker (Matt Damon), an

American oil-rig roughneck from Oklahoma who travels to Marseille to visit his estranged daughter (Abigail Breslin), in prison for a murder she claims she did not commit. Confronted with language barriers, cultural differences, and a complicated legal system, Bill builds a new life for himself in France as he makes it his personal mission to exonerate his daughter.

For further information call Sue and Lawrence on 07825 745 246.



Nicholas Cage in "Pig"



Matt Damon is Stillwater

### Are we missing your organisation's news?

Let us know by emailing us at [editor@indownton.org.uk](mailto:editor@indownton.org.uk). More information at:

[InDownton.org.uk](http://InDownton.org.uk)

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## DOWNTON 4 FAMILY ONLINE SHOP RETURNS

The Downton 4 Family Reverse Advent Calendars initiative resulted in several Christmas parcels going to local families. Christmas Treats (over 60 bags of goodies) were also distributed to local schools for onward distribution. And the charity was pleased to work with the Kindness Offensive to make sure that donated toys were delivered where they were needed. (See page 4)

The online shop is back - if you haven't had a chance to look yet, you will find a variety of

items on sale, which can be ordered online and delivered to one of three local distribution points - Downton Butchers, Stable & Wick and The Horse & Groom at Woodgreen. Certain goods - those from New Forest Aromatics - can now be delivered to anywhere in the UK. There is a good selection of gifts to order in time for Valentine's Day. The supplies are generously donating all profits from their sales to the charity.



## CALENDAR COMPETITION

Our calendar competition has got off to a good start with several good quality entries having been already submitted. Don't forget to send us your pictures of Christmas in Downton. It will soon be time for pictures of snowdrops in the Moot, and other early signs of spring.



*Photo by Paula Fleischmann*



*Photo by Charlotte Dooley*



*Photo by Natalie Wright*

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## SILENT DISCO FEVER AT GOOD COMPANIONS

Downton Good Companions started the year with their second Silent Disco event, organised by Sshh Silent Disco company and funded by the Wiltshire Council's Southern Wiltshire Area Board. There were tears, laughter, dancing, mocktails and a welcome chance to meet others for many who had spent the Christmas season alone. The biggest response: "When is the next one?". One participant said: "It's a very good time to get together and sing and dance. it gets us up for a good workout" Another, who also enjoyed the event added, "We had a lovely afternoon singing and dancing or just listening to the lovely music. Even if you can't dance, it's very good for the soul and makes you feel very happy with everyone else joining in - especially if you live on your own. The cocktails were lovely as well." Good companions would like to thank Stephanie Jalland for leading and facilitating the event.

The club meets in Downton Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2 - 4 pm. Regulars pay £1.50



Sarah Elves  
25 January



Tuesday afternoon fever

and visitors (who are always welcome) pay £2.00. Refreshments are included. Up and coming events include:

25th January 2022 - Sarah Delves, talking about antiques, and bringing some samples. Antiques have been part of Sarah's life from an early age and she has been in the antiques trade in some form from the early 1990's. She founded a company called Bags of Glamour in 2004 and hasn't looked back since

15th February 2022 - June Phillimore, fun exercises.

Contact Julia Whitmarsh 510601 for more information.

## CAN THE STOCKMAN & WOODLANDS TRUST HELP YOU?

The Trust helps people living in the parishes of Downton and Redlynch who are in need, hardship or distress. It can help by paying for items, services or facilities. Every year the Trustees distribute the charities' dividends with an emphasis on the young and old.

Recently the charity has given money towards the cost of a school residential trip, a child's music lessons and travel costs for patients and relatives making frequent hospital visits.

In 1626 William Stockman of Downton left

his property, Shadwell Farm in Whiteparish, in trust, directing that the rent should be distributed amongst the poor with children. The John Woodlands Charity was founded in 1881 when he left monies in his will for the benefit of 'old men' and 'spinsters and widows'. Together these charities now form the Stockman and Woodlands Trust.

If you know of someone who would benefit from the charity's help, contact (in confidence) the Secretary - Gillian Ely 510893/ 07899 952479.

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## MOVE AND MAKE MUSIC

Liv McLennan (Music for Wellbeing) and her team of musicians are running a series of Move and Make Music. The sessions are free of charge and are for people with memory concerns/issues and their families. They are held in the Sherwood Suite, Wick Lane on 25 January, 8 & 22 February. Refreshments are served from 10.30am with the music session running for 1 hour from 11am - 12noon.

There are well-known songs with words provided, and discussions about a variety of things, which are then set to music, with movement added for keeping warm and loosening up. Liv says, "You won't believe how impressive this sounds!"

Although the sessions are primarily for



people who have concerns about their memories (including Covid fog) and those who have felt isolated and lonely during the pandemic, everyone is welcome.

To come and try it out contact Jane Ebel on 07515822479 or [musicic@gmail.com](mailto:musicic@gmail.com).

## SILVER DOWNTON

This coming year, Silver Salisbury is planning to extend its activities to Downton. Each October, Silver Salisbury celebrates International Older People's Day with events to showcase clubs and organisations that welcome older people. It provides opportunities to meet new people and try new things.

Ahead of the main programme the organisers are keen to find out more about the interests and lifestyles of older people living in and around Downton and what, if anything, might encourage or attract them to take part in group activities. They are planning to consult with older people through focus groups and by sharing questionnaires, to be completed anonymously. They will also be contacting local

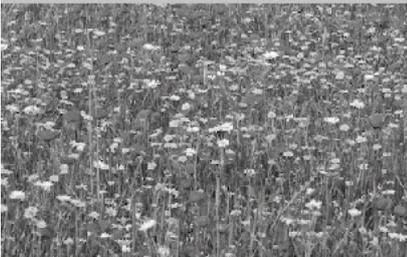
community groups with a view to running a mini 'Silver Downton' programme in spring. As part of this programme there will be a free afternoon tea for older people that are housebound. Anyone can nominate a friend, neighbour or community group to take part, just get in touch. Subject to availability, Silver Salisbury will provide a tea for you to collect from Downton and deliver to your elderly house-bound friend or relative.

To take part or if you are involved with a group that would like to know more, contact Moira Packer on 07932 004925 or e-mail [thesilverproject@outlook.com](mailto:thesilverproject@outlook.com).



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## LITTER PICK

Local student, Neve Mellodey, is hoping to achieve her Duke of Edinburgh bronze medal this year and has committed to spend one hour every week litter picking in the village for three months. Her first expedition was in the rain and wind, but she still managed to come back positive. Having picked litter from along the Borough and in the park, she commented that

there was less litter around that when she took part in the village litter pick last year.

The photos shows Neve out and about, helping to keep the village tidy.



*Neve out picking litter*

## CLOTHING EXCHANGE 2022

The clothing exchanges take place from 2 - 3:30pm at Downton Baptist Church. Donations of clothes, shoes, belts and handbags can be dropped off at the church, which is open Monday to Thursday from 9am - 1pm, where there is a large box for this purpose (in the first room from the reception). The church is also open on a Sunday morning from 10am - 12.15pm. Please bag the clean clothes in small carrier

bags, as this makes it easier for the volunteers. The church cannot accept other items - such as toys, bedding or furniture, and these should be taken directly to the Trussell Trust.

The next dates are: Friday 18 February and Friday 18 March. Refreshments have not been available during the pandemic, but the situation will be reviewed at the start of March. More information from Downton Baptist Church.

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY EVENTS

The first event of 2022 is on 24 February when Ron Taylor will be presenting an illustrated talk about the Dorset River Stour and its history, entitled 'Stourhead to Stanpit'. There will be refreshments and possibly a sales table.

On 24 March, photographer and nature-lover Mike Read, will give an illustrated talk on 'The Art of Wildlife Photography'. He promises to show an array of images from around the county, country, Europe and beyond. From gold finches in his garden, to coastal flowers, to bugs, butterflies and waders through to atmospheric misty mountain views.

Both talks take place at 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall and everybody is welcome, although non-members will be asked for a donation towards costs. Annual membership costs £6 and fees go towards booking speakers, the cost of hiring the Memorial Hall and RHS insurance for events.



*Photo Copyright Mike Read  
www.mikeread.co.uk*

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## DOWNTON GREEN NETWORK EVENTS

An evening event, planned for early in the New Year, about Oceans and climate change has had to be postponed until late April. Tess Hudson, a local marine biologist, has been invited to talk about her experiences by Downton Green Network. She will discuss the effect of human actions on the wildlife of Iceland - where she has worked for seven years - and on the Antarctic where she is heading in early February.

The Green Network will be holding its annual 'Seedy Sunday' event at the Memorial Hall this year, so long as regulations allow. The date has been set for 20 March and there will be the usual mix of seeds and plants to swap or buy, stalls providing help, advice and useful ideas for 'greener' gardening. Invites have been sent out to various organisations/stall-holders - so keep an eye on the Network's website for more detailed information:  
downtongreengroup.org.uk



*Tess Hudson, local marine biologist*

## GREEN NETWORK - KEEP ON RECYCLING PLASTIC

The Green Network, in conjunction with Plastic Free Downton, would like to remind you that you can now recycle just about all the plastic that you use - bottles, containers etc can

go into your blue lidded bin and the 'soft' plastic collection bin is back at the newly refurbished Co-op. More information on this and other 'eco' matters on [downtongreengroup.org.uk](http://downtongreengroup.org.uk)

## GREEN CHILDREN'S PARTYWARE

If you're planning a children's party, you now have no need to buy single use paper / plastic which will end up in landfill. Kate Outhwaite has purchased a set which you can rent in aid of Downton Primary School Association. There

are reusable cups, plates, jugs, cutlery and serving plates - the price paid depends on your willingness to wash up. Contact Kate on 07971 518975.



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## MEET DAVE TAYLOR - MANAGER OF DOWNTON LEISURE CENTRE

Dave Taylor signed up to take over Downton Leisure Centre in January 2020, before the pandemic. He said: "It was a bit of a shock to get the keys in June and walk into an empty leisure centre during lockdown!"

Dave and his team made the most of the enforced downtime. They rebuilt the gym and changing rooms, and redesigned a new layout for the leisure centre. As well as indoor tennis, basketball, pickleball, and badminton clubs, football, 5 a side, a gym, aerobics classes, table tennis, a coffee shop and sport shop there is now a sunbed, massage treatment room and dedicated spin studio. Dave has also brought a new ethos to the leisure centre to make it fun and accessible for all. He is proud of his friendly staff and wide range of members, ranging in age from 13 to 92. Dave said, "Our 92 year old member is fitter than most!"

Previously, Dave owned Gymies gym in Salisbury. He has worked in the fitness industry for 26 years, owning four clubs and working at others. Before that Dave was a farmer at Botleys Farm in Downton, before turning his gym hobby into a profession.

Dave currently lives in Salisbury with his wife. He has four children and has four grandchildren. He lived in Downton for several years in the 1980s. He loves the "friendly small-

town atmosphere" of Downton and said, "even though the leisure centre had to close our doors four times in the pandemic, we've had huge support for the refurb and and lots of compliments on the updates we've made."



Dave Taylor

All activities can be found at [downtonleisurecentre.co.uk](http://downtonleisurecentre.co.uk). The newest addition to the timetable is a children's tennis coaching programme on Wednesdays for all ages from 4 - 16 between 4.30pm and 7.30pm. To encourage new members to enjoy the refurbished facilities in 2022 Downton Leisure Centre is offering up to 20% off of its most popular memberships in the new year. Email [support@downtonleisurecentre.co.uk](mailto:support@downtonleisurecentre.co.uk) for details.

Dave's top tip for getting fit in the new year is to "start gradual, build up and be consistent".

If you are someone or know someone interesting in Downton you would like to feature in the InDownton newsletter's People section get in touch via [editor@indownton.org.uk](mailto:editor@indownton.org.uk).

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## REDLYNCH & HALE CRICKET CLUB

Although the 2022 season is still some months off, things are still happening behind the scenes. Following the success of the Ladies Softball cricket side, the club has entered a Ladies Hardball team in the Hampshire Ladies Leagues for the first time.

They are also in the process of finalising some indoor pre-season training events, which are planned to take place at Trafalgar School sports hall during late March and April - watch

this space for more news.

Another major project is in the very early stages of planning, but for now the club is tight-lipped, only saying that they are just hoping for a better year this year than last.

For more information on the club Contact club secretary, James Taylor (07762787041), or Youth Teams coordinator, Andy Church (07729355248).

## HAMPTWORTH CROQUET CLUB

Hamptworth Croquet Club have linked up with The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme group at The Trafalgar School, Downton. Students will be able to use the club's lawns and equipment to learn how to play the sport.

Some funding has been raised, although more will be needed to continue in following years. New junior mallets will be needed for some students, but otherwise the full croquet kit will be used. Club Chair, Steve Bennett, said, "The Club is going to give the students a first class introduction to the sport with a huge emphasis on enjoyment. We are really looking

forward to this exciting new project."

The Croquet Association, the sport's governing body, believes that this is the first link between a croquet club and the D of E award and will be watching the project with interest. If other croquet clubs in the UK join in, it might well lead to the formation of a Junior Section at the Croquet Club - perhaps even organised by a local young person working on their Silver or Gold Award.

More information about the Croquet Club can be found on their website: [croquet-websites.org.uk/hamptworth/](http://croquet-websites.org.uk/hamptworth/)

## DRY JANUARY? WE HAD DRY NOVEMBER!

Overall last year was fairly dry with 34.08 inches. November was the driest month in Mick Chaplin's 40 years of recording with only 0.70 inches whilst December had 3.28 inches .



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# PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Downton Primary School would like to thank everyone who attended their Christmas Extravaganza. With the support of the community, they raised an amazing £2,731 – which will benefit every child in the school.

Downton’s Year 6 children were lucky enough to experience a true Victorian Christmas on their recent visit to Beaulieu. They took a step back in time, and wearing traditional Victorian dress, visited Lord Henry and Lady Cecily at Palace House. It was a truly magical day being able to take a glimpse into the building which has been the Montagu family home since 1538.

Downton Primary had two nativity productions in December, with the Reception children performing “Nursery Rhyme Nativity” and the Key Stage One children performing “It’s a Miracle!”.



*Some of the children performing in a nativity play at DPS (above) and experiencing a Victorian Christmas at Beaulieu. (right).*



The performers worked hard learning all the lines and songs and a lot of time and effort went into their costumes. This year they were delighted to welcome back a live audience and perform in front of their parents.

# TRAFALGAR SCHOOL NEEDS NEW GOVERNORS

Trafalgar School is currently seeking new governors. The current governors have come to the school through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences. They are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the academy and are the link between the academy and the community it serves. They would be delighted to hear from anyone who has: an interest in the performance of the academy; a desire to contribute to and represent the community; an open and enquiring mind; the ability to look at issues objectively; the confidence to ask questions and join in debate; a willingness to

listen and make informed judgements; the ability to work well with others; time to spare.

The Trafalgar School Local Governing Body (LGB) is appointed by, and reports to, the Magna Learning Partnership Trust Board. Its role is to provide focused governance for the academy at a local level. It does this by supporting, challenging and encouraging its academy in two principal areas: Vision, ethos and strategic direction, and the educational performance of the academy (pupils and staff).

For more details, contact the school.



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What, Where, When				
January				
Tuesday	25	10:30am - 12 noon	Move and Make Music, Sherwood Suite, Wick Lane	Page 9
	25	2 - 4pm	Good Companions: Sarah Delves talks about antiques, Memorial Hall	Page 8
Thursday	27	7:30pm	Simon Blake's Startling Songs, Memorial Hall	
Friday	28	10am - 12noon	'Fridays' at the Memorial Hall	Front page
February				
Monday	7	6 - 7:30pm	Police Community Consultation Meeting, outside the Co-op	Page 2
Tuesday	8	10:30am - 12 noon	Move and Make Music, Sherwood Suite, Wick Lane	Page 9
Friday	11	3:30 - 5:30pm	Police Community Consultation Meeting, outside the Co-op	Page 2
Tuesday	15	2 - 4pm	Good Companions: Fun exercises, Memorial Hall	Page 8
Friday	18	2 - 3:30pm	Clothing Exchange, Downton Baptist Church	Page 10
Saturday	19	7 for 7:30pm	Moviola: Pig, Memorial Hall	Page 6
Tuesday	22	10:30am - 12 noon	Move and Make Music, Sherwood Suite, Wick Lane	Page 9
Thursday	24	7:30pm	Horticultural Society: 'From Stourhead to Sanpit'	Page 10
Friday	25	10am - 12noon	Fridays' at the Memorial Hall	Front page
March				
Sunday	13		Deadline for contributions to Spring InDownton	
Saturday	19	7 for 7:30pm	Moviola: Stillwater, Memorial Hall	Page 6
Sunday	20	To be confirmed	Green Network: Seed and plant swap, Memorial Hall	Page 11
Friday	18	2 - 3:30pm	Clothing Exchange, Downton Baptist Church	Page 10
Thursday	24	7:30pm	Horticultural Society: 'The Art of Wildlife Photography'	Page 10
Saturday	26		Spring InDownton published this weekend	



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## QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Veteran fund raiser Malcolm Dean is getting together a group of local people to organise a celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2 June. There will be a concert / show - possibly representing each of the 7 decades of the Queen's reign, co-ordinated by Jane Seden. If you are interested in appearing in the show - or helping in any way at all, then please contact Jane on 510122. The Community Choir are planning to take part. The village beacon is hoped to be lit for the occasion, and the day will finish with a black tie evening (complete with band and comedian).



### PARISH COUNCIL

Bev Cornish, Clerk to the Parish Council  
01725 513874  
10am - 3pm Monday - Friday  
clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk  
downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

### WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

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

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### LIBRARY

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\* volunteer operated sessions

### LEISURE CENTRE

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downtonleisurecentre.co.uk

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email: bookingsecretary@  
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### DOWNTON BAPTIST CHURCH (DBC)

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