

# Autumn InDownton

**FREE**

## Downton Band's 150th Anniversary Commemorative issue

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the much-loved Downton Band. To celebrate this we have dedicated our centre pages to its vibrant history, the lives it has touched and the joy that it brings to our village and beyond. Thank you Downton Band and here's to the next 150 years!



*Roland Wright conducting at the reunion concert in The Moot*

In July, Downton Band held a celebratory reunion concert for its 150th anniversary at Downton Moot. The concert featured the Beginners Band, Training Band, Senior Band and a special Reunion Band made up of former members who returned to mark the occasion with bandmates old and new. The conductors were Roland Wright and John 'JR' Rayner. People flocked with picnics to enjoy an afternoon of music and memories.

**Comment**

This special issue marks the 150 years of the Downton Band, and celebrates their service to the village over the years. You should also find an advertising leaflet from Slimming World inserted in your newsletter. Advertising helps us to continue to expand, now with more colour pages.

Can you help us deliver the newsletter five times a year? We currently need new deliverers for the new estate off Wick Lane and for Moot Close. Please get in touch by email or phone 513191 if you can help make sure everyone gets a copy of each newsletter.

Do check our website for more news, updates and any corrections.

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Autumn Show was a great success and DHS members were pleased that so many people came. Andy Savage (pictured) won the Coronation Cup for the best exhibit, among other prizes. Also pictured is Jenny Shutler who won the Iris Sherman Memorial Trophy for the best exhibit of Floral Art. Revd Veronica Batchelor presented the prizes.

DHS has a virtual visit to the Isles of Scilly Thursday 26 October at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall when Ben Turner will be presenting "Inspiration from Tresco Abbey Gardens". The gardens are claimed to be one of the most beautiful places in the world, with tropical plants and flowers, towering palms, magnificent proteas, agave, and many, many other exotic plants. There will be refreshments, a sales table and raffle, and non-members are welcome. There will be a donation basket.



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Downton Parish Council is preparing its autumn schedule of works. Contractors will continue to trim verges and mow areas of public land. However, most shrubs and trees that spill out over roads and footpaths are the property of the owner of the adjacent field or garden. The PC urges people whose shrubs are encroaching on pavements or overhanging roads to trim back overgrowth to ensure safe access for passing pedestrians and motorists. To report problems with roads or footpaths managed by Wiltshire Council, anyone can go on to the “MyWilts” section of the Wiltshire Council website and report issues such as potholes, blocked road gullies or graffiti.

The PC has made significant progress in working with contractors to ensure that public bins are emptied each week going forward.

A defibrillator has been installed at the Charlton All Saints Telephone Box, and the defibrillator at the Brian Whitehead Sports Centre has been relocated to an external wall. Both are in working order, as are the defibrillators at the Memorial Hall and the Moot Lane GP surgery.



Progress is being made with respect to tidying up the Barford Lane Cemetery. There

is no Right of Way leading from the cemetery to the field behind. The fencing has been damaged, and the PC has stated that the police will be notified if anyone tries to break down the fencing that surrounds the cemetery. There are designated footpaths in Barford Lane, but none lead from the cemetery. The cemetery is a place of quiet reflection for those that have lost a loved one and residents are asked to respect it as such.

On Remembrance Sunday the normal road closure will take place from 10am to 11am on Sunday 12th November. The Borough will be closed to traffic from the Memorial Gardens to the Church Hatch junction with the High Street to facilitate the Remembrance Sunday procession to St Laurence church. Gravel Close, South Lane, Green Lane and Church Leat will be affected by the road closure.

## MOOT FUN DOG SHOW

The annual Dog Show will take place on Sunday 17 September, from 2:30 - 5pm at The Moot. There will be 6 show classes (including ‘prettiest bitch’ and ‘most handsome dog’) and it will cost £1 to enter a dog in each class, which can be done on the day from 2:30pm. The winners of each class will be entered into the “Best in Show”. An agility course will run all afternoon, and there will also be a dog handling demonstration. Refreshments will be available. Entrance will cost £2 for adults and £1 for children - the organisers are requesting that all children should be accompanied by an adult. Proceeds from the day will go to The Moot.



*One of last year's winners*

  
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## KEEPING THE CUCKOO FAIR RUNNING

Over the 40 years the Cuckoo Fair has been running, it is estimated that over £1 million has been raised for good causes. Sports clubs, churches, charities and local schools have benefitted. The Fair has been dependent on a dedicated organising Team, some of whom were involved from the beginning. Some members are retiring and the Fair has developed to such an extent that the team are finding it increasingly difficult to manage without more volunteers and Committee Members to help organise, prepare and run the Fair.

The Fair is seeking new members who can take up specific roles such as Assistant Booking Manager, Memorial Gardens Manager, High Risk Documents Reviewer, Website Manager and more. The fair also needs volunteers who can help the Build Team just prior to the Fair or help with putting up gazebos during the summer, which is an important source of income for the Fair.



Signage Team 2022

To raise awareness of the Fair's needs, the Committee is running an awareness and recruitment drive. Part of that drive will be outside the Co-op on Saturday 16 September from 10 am until 2.30 pm. It's an opportunity to talk to about the Fair in general and how to help with preparing and running the largest

un-ticketed event in Wiltshire.

The aim of the Downton Cuckoo fair is to enable local organisations and charities to raise much needed funds for their own needs. The absence of the Fair during the two Covid years was keenly felt by local clubs, charities, schools and churches. The Cuckoo Fair Committee now need to help to be able to put on the Fair for the benefit of everyone for the next 40 years.

For more information, the Cuckoo Fair Committee can be contacted at [produce@cuckoofair.co.uk](mailto:produce@cuckoofair.co.uk)



Event Control Team 2022



Information Tent Team 2022

## MOOT 1940S EVENING

There will be a 1940s evening at the Memorial Hall on Friday 10 November, raising funds for the upkeep of The Moot. A three course meal will be included and Suite Jazz (amongst others) will entertain. More information will be available nearer the time. Meanwhile start planning your 1940s look!



## What's so special about Tai Chi?

This Autumn, why not try some enjoyable exercise with Longwater Tai Chi? Expert teachers Jane & Patrick Foley have been based in the heart of Downton for nearly 2 decades, teaching locally and further afield. They have helped thousands of people to improve their health, balance, focus, breathing, energy and



flexibility through the calm, flowing movements of the ancient Chinese practices of tai chi, qigong & meditation.

Regular classes and workshops are held in Downton, Wilton and Ringwood. 1:1 and small group sessions are also available in Downton and are very popular.

Call Jane or Patrick for a friendly chat about what might suit you best.

For all new attendees

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## MUSICAL THEATRE CHOIR IN FORDINGBRIDGE

A new choir is starting in Fordingbridge for singers who love musical theatre. Local singing teacher, Olivia Sparkhall has over 20 years' experience as a choir conductor. It's a chance to work with a professional voice coach whilst enjoying "belting out showtunes together".

"The singers will learn to get the most from their voice. We will cover breathing, resonance, posture and range, and we are looking for people who are really enthusiastic about musicals!"

It starts on Tuesday 19 September at 7.30pm, at St Mary's Church with the choir rehearsing weekly for 90 minutes. "As soon as we've learned

some numbers there will be exciting performance opportunities. We'll also get together with other choirs, and West End Stars, to take part in big sings at prestigious venues such as Cadogan Hall in Sloane Square."

Each session will also be recorded and saved in a private members group. The termly fee is £125.40 for 12 sessions and members can pay 3 equal payments to spread the cost.

More details and how to sign up for the choir, at [singspacechoir.com/fordingbridge/](https://singspacechoir.com/fordingbridge/).



## D-DAY FILM & TALK: 'THEY WERE THE FIRST'

Malcolm Dean will be introducing a showing of the film 'They were the first' on Friday 6 October at the Sherwood Room, Wick Lane at 7.30pm. The film is about securing Pegasus Bridge in Normandy which was vital to the success of D-Day in 1944. It includes original footage and more recent interviews with surviving heroes about the preparations and operation carried out by the gliders of the

Airborne Division in the initial minutes of the Allied invasion.

The event is in aid of three charities relating to the D-Day Landings. Tickets are £5 or by donation and available from Malcom Dean on 07776 132775. A licensed bar will be available.



*Glider landing site*

## LIEUTENANT RICHARD CRISP: LOCAL D-DAY HERO

Richard Crisp's name is on the the Memorial Hall as one of those killed in the WWII He was born in Downton and lived at Radnor House while his father ran the garage next door (which existed as a garage until a few years ago). The story of his war time service with the SAS, his unit's action on D-Day behind enemy lines and his death, like so many others, involved personal courage and sacrifice. Nigel Walker has researched and written up Lieutenant Crisp's story, and it can be read on the newsletter website at [InDownton.org.uk](https://InDownton.org.uk).



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## DOWNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

A team of children from Downton Primary School recently participated in the Wiltshire School golfing finals, facing 17 other schools. The children struck gold, finishing in first place by a margin of over a hundred points. The school has recently achieved the prestigious Gold School Games Mark Award, highlighting their commitment to promoting physical education and providing exceptional sporting opportunities for the pupils. The school's PE leader Mr Howell guided the school through the process - with the help of the sports coaches, and the pupils themselves.



The school has also been giving children opportunities to explore the arts. The end of term performance was very well received. Headteacher, Paula Carlton said, "The children's performance touched hearts, evoked lots of laughter and transported their audience to the wonderful world of the 'Wind in the Willows.' These exceptional performances showed how the children have developed invaluable skills such as teamwork, resilience and self-expression." The annual musical soiree was followed by a recorder concert, where the children added some dance routines to entertain.

The school is very proud of the children who took their SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) in the summer, particularly with the excellent results achieved by the older pupils. They not only achieved above the average scores for Wiltshire schools, but also outperformed many schools nationally.

## DOWNTON GRILL OPENING SOON

Work is underway to create Downton's new takeaway in The Borough. The shop will relocate from Morgan's Vale to Downton under its new name, The Downton Grill, later in September. Business owner, Recep, is looking forward to

servicing customers and whilst he can't confirm the opening date yet, the telephone number will be the same so regulars can phone in their orders just as they used to.



## GOOSE FAIR

The Goose Fair will be held at St Laurence Church on Saturday 23 September, from 10am - 2pm. There will be a wide variety of craftwork,

home-made and home grown produce and a raffle and exhibitions. Refreshments - including light lunches- will be available.

## LYNN PURCELL

Lynn Purcell wishes to thank all the people who visited The Corn Mill during Hampshire Open Studios. She is grateful for their support and their donations to The Breast Care Unit at Salisbury Hospital. She would also like to thank those people who donated cakes and/or gave up their time to help with the refreshments.

Lynn's piece, Fired Breakfast, has been selected for The Royal West of England

Academy Open Exhibition in Bristol which runs from 9 September until 14 January. It will be viewable online at [rwa.org.uk](http://rwa.org.uk). Another piece has been selected for The Royal Society of Marine Artists Open Exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London. Medusae will be on display there from 21st September until 30th September and will also be online at [mallgalleries.org.uk](http://mallgalleries.org.uk).

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### A MESSAGE FROM PC HARRY MURPHY

“I am writing to you as the neighbourhood police officer for the village. I will hopefully be writing to you all on a more regular basis in this newsletter, in the hope that those who are interested can be better kept informed about what has been happening in Downton periodically throughout the year. I hope this helps from a neighbourhood watch perspective and you all find these articles from me useful going forward. Summer is a busy time of year, but I would still please encourage everyone to call 101/999 and not hesitate to do so if you believe something suspicious or a crime is occurring in our village. Take care as the holidays end, and take care of each other. If you see me in the village on my patrols then please say hello! I usually am very lucky to be able to drive our marked Ford Ranger police truck so you won't miss me! You may have also see me on foot patrol. In August I covered areas of The Moot and The Borough.”



More details of recent incidents can be found on the InDownton website [indownton.org.uk](http://indownton.org.uk).

### GOOD COMPANIONS: AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS

Up and coming highlights for Good Companions include a talk about fairgrounds during the war by Kay Townsend on 12 September. Kay's family have been involved with fairgrounds since 1876, when her great grandfather lost his job driving the mail coach between Radstock and Bath. He had nine mouths to feed, so he bought a small children's roundabout, which was powered by a horse - and could be packed away into a cart to be transported to the next destination. That little ride was the start of a family fairground

business. Kay's father was born in a showman's wagon parked by the water's edge in Weymouth.



*Kay Townsend*

On 26 September Robbie Spargue will give a talk, including poetry. 13 October is Bingo.

The club meets in the Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Regulars pay £2 and visitors pay £2.50 - the price includes refreshments. More information from Julia Whitmarsh on 510601.

### THE WARDROBE AT DOWNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

The Wardrobe clothing exchange has attracted over fifty visitors each time it has opened this year. The organisers are inspired by the enthusiasm attendees have for recycling previously loved clothes for the benefit of so many. Many bags of clothes are also passed on to Blandford Cares, to a charity which deals with refugees, and the Trussell Trust.

Wardrobe times are 2pm to 3.30pm Friday 15

September, 20 October, and 17 November.

Refreshments will be available. The volunteers wish to thank contributors for their kind and thoughtful clothing donations.



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## ASHLEY GRANGE NURSING HOME

The team at Ashley Grange have planned many events to involve the local community.

Every Thursday the recently launched Friendship Thursday group sessions is a free afternoon for older people, offering a variety of fun activities and entertainment from 1.45pm. There are live entertainers, craft sessions, dancing, and fancy dress, there is something for everyone. It's an opportunity to have fun with friends and enjoy tea and cake.

On 24 September the Mobile Museum, in collaboration with Silver Salisbury and Strange Old Things, will be coming to Ashley Grange. It's free to come along between 2pm and 4pm to see and handle a collection of items from the Second World War, the fifties, and the sixties. There will also be locally owned vintage cars on display.

Starting on Tuesday 26 September, Jiggy Wrigglers will be hosting their classes at Ashley Grange for little ones in the village to attend. There will be jigging, wriggling, dancing, and giggling every Tuesday from 1.30 pm.

All emergency workers, NHS staff and other

blue light team members are welcome to drop in for free hot and cold drinks and cake in our reception area every day and on the first Tuesday of every month between 9am and 11 am, they also offer a free brunch.

Ashley Grange is also a local drop-off point for the Larder, run by the Baptist Church. Anyone can drop off donated food items at reception for onward safe delivery to the church.

The home is looking for volunteers to help make a positive difference to residents. To become part of the Ashley Grange family, they would love to hear from you. Ashley Grange is also welcoming new residents; to arrange a visit to view the recently refurbished home or discuss any care needs for a loved one, visit or call on 512811 or follow them on Facebook: facebook.com/AshleyGrangeNursingHome.



## DOWNTON DOWNTIME

Downton Downtime sessions continue weekly every Tuesday 10am - 12 noon at the Sherwood Room in Wick Lane alternating between social meet ups from 12 September and Move and Make Music from 19 September. There's a no meeting on 24 October, and the

group will be at the Christmas Tree festival on 5 December. Although intended for people experiencing issues around memory, it is open to anyone in the vicinity who feels isolated and lonely. More information from Jane Ebel musicic@gmail.com or telephone 07515822479.

### Silver's Salisbury's Autumn Programme is now available

Silver Salisbury promotes activities where older people will get a warm welcome in and around Salisbury, Downton, Amesbury and Wilton. This year we have two leaflets:

- a Festival Fortnight of special events happening between 23rd September and 7th October
- a guide to regular clubs and activities happening right into the winter

The Festival Fortnight has everything from tea parties and history talks to singing and music. In Downton we're hosting a celebration of 75 years of the NHS and collaborating with Hartford Care to bring the Mobile Museum to Ashley Grange 2- 4 pm on Sunday 24 September. Everyone is welcome.

More info on our website [www.silversalisbury.co.uk](http://www.silversalisbury.co.uk) or pick up our paper programmes from Downton Library or the Baptist Church.

### SILVER SALISBURY 75 YEARS OF THE NHS



Lesley Self of Salisbury District Hospital's ArtCare takes us on a trip into the archives with photos, documents and objects that give us an insight into both social history and the development of the NHS.

Coffee and cake available. Please book your free place through

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/680846378847](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/680846378847)  
or 01722 336262 ext 5617

**Downton Memorial Hall (Bonvalot Room)  
Thurs 28 Sept 3 - 4 pm (Doors 2:30)**

## NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH STARTING SUNDAY SERVICES

New Life Community Church is launching a monthly ‘Worship and Word’ service in Downton. They will meet on the fourth Sunday of each month from September 24 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall, and invite everyone to join them to catch up over coffee and conversation.

The church describes itself as “one church that meets in multiple locations: Fordingbridge, Wimborne and Verwood.” It has “a lively, modern worship style with relevant, Bible based teaching”.

The church is planning to run more Christians Against Poverty life skills / money management courses in future, and is starting a free weekly term time post-natal group called

Little Buds. The sessions are for new parents and carers, who are looking after newborns and babies which are not yet on the move. They will be led by Alice Aston, an experienced infant feeding practitioner. Similar sessions have been successfully running for a few years in Fordingbridge, providing a place to meet other parents to share early days of parenting and to make new friends. The first session will be on Tuesday 12 September from 1 - 2:30pm at the Bonvalot Room in the Memorial Centre.



More information from [newlifecommunitychurch.co.uk](http://newlifecommunitychurch.co.uk)

## BLESSING OF PETS AND ANIMALS AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH

A service with a blessing for pets and other animals is on Sunday 8 October at 10.30am at St

Laurence Church. All ‘friendly’ animals are welcome!

## READ EASY: HELPING ADULTS LEARN TO READ

Read Easy South & West Wiltshire are looking for help - to spread the word about what they do, and to volunteer as supporters. Around 2.4 million adults in England can’t read mail that comes to the door, medicine instructions, bills, bus timetables, street names, newspapers or notices. The organisation wants all local adults to have the literacy skills they need to realise their potential and live life to the full. Anyone wanting to start their reading

journey just needs to ring 07942 382318 and leave a message, or contact can be made (with their permission) at [sewadmin@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:sewadmin@readeasy.org.uk).

The team has vacancies for a new Coordinator, supporting readers and coaches, a Safeguarding Champion, Venue Organiser and IT Supporter. Full training will be given. More information from [readeasy.org.uk/volunteer/roles/](http://readeasy.org.uk/volunteer/roles/) or [sewrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:sewrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk).

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## WORK TO REFURBISH PLAY PARKS STARTS

The £250,000 refurbishment of the Play Parks at Memorial Gardens, Moot Lane, and Charlton All Saints by the Parish Council is starting. Work commences at Memorial Gardens and Charlton All Saints in September and, depending on the weather, will be completed in around 3 weeks.

The designs for the Memorial Garden and Charlton All Saints Play Parks will be on display in the Memorial Centre on 19 September from 6:30 until 7:30pm. A member of the Parish Council will be available to answer questions.

The designs can also be viewed during September at the library, Primary School and The Trafalgar School. There will be a pop-up stand outside The Co-op and they will be on the Council’s website, [downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk).

The inclusive, nature-themed design of the Memorial Gardens Play Park was shaped with the help of feedback from local families. The

Parish Council wish to thank everyone who took part during the consultation phase of the project. The Council acknowledges play is a natural and fundamental aspect of children and young people’s lives that supports growth and development across a range of developmental areas. Children of all ages who live in the parish can enter a competition to design a Poster for the ‘Grand Opening’ of the Memorial Gardens Play Park. The winner (and runners-up) will receive a certificate, a goodie-bag, and be the very first to have a go on the new equipment.

Full details including how to enter will be available with the designs above.

The opening with ribbon-cutting ceremony and fun activities such as face-painting is being worked on and full details will follow.



## DOWNTON CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: ENTRIES WELCOME

The Downton Christmas Tree Festival will return to St Laurence church on the weekend of 2 and 3 December. It will have a wide variety of music, activities for children and refreshments to enjoy while soaking up the festive atmosphere.

Individuals and organisations are invited to submit decorated trees, Christmas scenes or wreaths. Entrants can let their creativity fly and have fun making something. Application forms are available from the library, Borough Café or the church, or online at [stlaurencedownton.co.uk](http://stlaurencedownton.co.uk) or [downtonvillage.co.uk](http://downtonvillage.co.uk). The deadline for entries is 24 November.

The festival organisers are intending for it to be a “feast for the senses” as it raises money for Wilton Riding for the Disabled Association and St Laurence Church. It will start on Friday 1 December with a choral evensong, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. The festival will then be open from 10am - 4pm on the Saturday and Sunday.



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### THE GARDEN AND THE LARDER AT DBC

The Garden at DBC is now producing a range of vegetables and flowers, and many of the vegetables are being harvested for distribution at The Larder. The Garden Sunday afternoon sessions between 2.30pm and 4.30pm are a chance to help out with gardening or simply sit and relax whilst enjoying a cup of tea. No experience is needed and just go along or contact the DBC office for more information.

The Larder is open twice a week with free food available. Donations of food or money to buy food are welcome, and any excess home grown fruit and vegetables are also welcome.

Nothing is wasted, and if any fresh produce is left over from the Larder, it is used as animal feed on a local farm.

More details about the Larder is on page 19 or on the DBC website.



### NEW INITIATIVES AT THE LIBRARY

The Summer Reading Challenge had over 100 children taking part which is a record number. Children have been creating and dressing cartoon "Me's" and moving along an obstacle course after they have read each book.

In September, the library is starting "Happy to Chat" sessions on Thursday mornings between 10am and 1pm. A friendly team of volunteers will be around to help anyone who wants to take a break or make a connection.

The last Monday of each month will be "Crafternoons" between 1pm and 1.45pm. It doesn't matter whether you like to knit, sew, do origami or macrame, it is a chance to meet other creative people. There's no need to book, anyone can just turn up.

Spurgeons are visiting on 14 September between 10.30am and 11.30am to run a scrapstore event with crafts for children under 5.

A series of Autumn Talks will commence with a repeat talk by Richard Nash, after his

success during Local History Month. It's "A Walk through Downton in Old Postcards" on Monday 18 September 1pm to 1.45pm. Spaces need to be booked by calling or popping into the library. The next talk on 20 November at 1pm is about Tinney's Firs near Woodfalls by Georgina Babey and Peter Roberts. Rhyme Time is continuing alternating Fridays between 9.30am and 10am. Rhymes, bouncing and clapping for babies, toddlers and children under 5. Lego Club is up and running. It will be monthly on selected Mondays. Pop into the library to find out more. Booking for both children's events is on Eventbrite.

The library can be contacted on 511003.



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## ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR LOVER REPAIR CAFÉ

The team at the Repair Cafe have completed their 5000th repair since opening in March 2019. Mandy, a 69 year old doll, was in a sorry state: she'd lost her voice, her head & legs weren't working, her eyelids were missing and she was naked! The team were able to fully restore Mandy - as well as dressing her in a new tailor-made frock - and return her to owner Sally.

The Lover Repair Cafe are finalists in BBC Radio Wiltshire's 'Make a Difference' competition in the Community Group category. The winners will be announced this month.

The team of repairers are able to repair all sorts of items including electrical items, small kitchen appliances, toys, furniture, tools, textiles, ceramics, clocks, watches and technical items (such as laptops and tablets). They have raised over £28,000 for local charities. They tackle around 90 items a month – and

successfully repair almost all of them. This means repaired items are being used for longer and don't have to be thrown away. By completing these 5,000 repairs the team have diverted an estimated 15 tonnes from landfill and saved over 160 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

The Café is open every Wednesday and Friday from 10am until 12pm at Redlynch Village Hall. Visitors can stay with the repairer to learn how to undertake repairs themselves, or enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while their repair is carried out. Lover Repair Café is part of the Repair Café Foundation.



Sally with her repaired doll

## LOVER CAFE IS SEEKING MORE REPAIRER VOLUNTEERS

**Electronics** - would suit a retired electronic engineer to undertake radio & general electronic repairs

**Rush/reed chairs** - someone skilled in rethreading chairs, maybe working from home.

**Doll/Teddy Bears** - someone who can repair repair dolls or bears or would like to learn.

**Mechanical clocks** - someone who has the skills or would like to learn.

**Computer skills** - a volunteer who can help others learn how to use the internet, laptops, mobile phones etc and maybe also carry out minor repairs to IT equipment.

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## A TIME TO SHINE WITH FOREST DANCE

Forest School of Dance performed a weekend of shows at the Memorial Hall in July, with performers aged from 2 years old up to 19. The event, "A Time to Shine", was sold out for all four performances. A lot of hard work and practice went into the show - and there was also a crew of backstage helpers and chaperones supporting over the weekend. The costumes were all hand-made. Downton Brewery supplied a refreshment bar for the audience.

Principal of the school, Naomi MacNicol, said "Congratulations to all involved. Every one of the performers danced their socks off, doing what they love - dancing and performing on stage. The backstage supporters worked so hard on keeping things behind the curtain completely smooth. "Auntie Trudie"s costumes looked fab up on stage under the stage lighting. Thanks to everyone involved who so generously gave up their time to help. I couldn't have been prouder - all down to dedication, determination and love of dance."

The school is an ISTD school with fully qualified teachers, who are first aid trained and love to share their passion of dance with others. They teach with enthusiasm, dedication, care and are fully inclusive. Adult classes are also available.

Enrolments are now taking place for the September term. Get in touch to be a part of what Naomi describes as "our wonderful, friendly dance 'family'". Call 07767 065540 or email [naomi@forestschooldance.co.uk](mailto:naomi@forestschooldance.co.uk)



## ORGAN CONCERT BY JOHN CHALLENGER

An organ recital by John Challenger at St Laurence Church at 3pm on Sunday 17 September will include works by Bach, Elgar, Lefebure-Wely, Vaughan Williams and Wesley. John has been Assistant Director of Music at Salisbury Cathedral since 2012. As a recitalist he is known for his ability to enthuse his audience with a wide range of musical styles. He is responsible for the organ "Proms" in the cathedral.

The concert will celebrate the renovation of the organ which started in 2018. All the components of the organ, originally installed in 1874, are in full working order. Tickets from the Borough Café and or at the door. Tickets from the postponed concert in May 2022 will be honoured. Further information from Mark Merrill on 512175 or [mark.merrill@gmx.co.uk](mailto:mark.merrill@gmx.co.uk)



John Challenger

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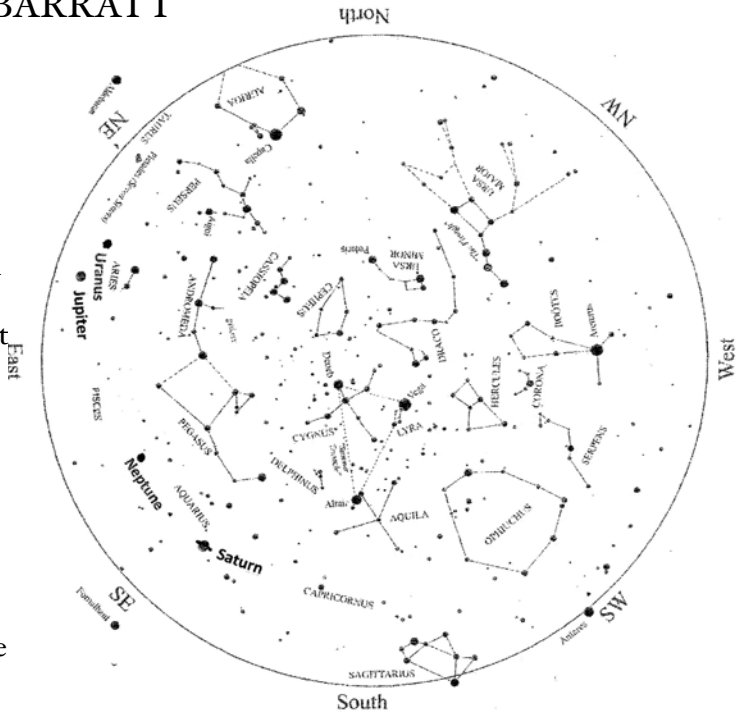
# SKY AT NIGHT BY MICHAEL BARRATT

Saturday 23 September is the official date of the Autumn Equinox this year - the point where nights start getting longer. On the plus side, those interested in astronomy don't have to wait up late to start observing the night sky!

On Friday 28th September the full moon is known as the "Harvest Moon" - traditionally when farmers would use its light to work in the fields for longer.

Mercury and Venus will be visible in the morning sky - for those that wish to observe against a really dark sky, they will be really bright at around 3am, possibly looking like UFOs. Apart from the Moon and Venus, Jupiter - shining all night - will be the brightest object in the night sky. Using even binoculars it is possible to make out the four largest moons of this planet as they orbit, and you can follow their celestial dance as they appear to change position in their orbits. Galileo studied this and realised that objects didn't all necessarily orbit the Earth, contradicting the common understanding of his time..

For the first time in several years, Saturn will rise far enough above the horizon to be



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

visible all night, to the lower left of Venus - although considerably less bright. Uranus and Neptune are now both visible in the evening sky but will require binoculars to locate them.

Contact Michael with queries and observations at [mootastro@yahoo.com](mailto:mootastro@yahoo.com).

## GOLDEN FLORAL DEMONSTRATION: BOOK EARLY

Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society is 50 years old this year - and will be celebrating its Golden Anniversary with an evening of floral demonstrations entitled "A Golden Christmas" on Monday 4 December at the Memorial Hall, at 7:30pm. The guest demonstrator, Michael

Bowyer MBE, is a past President of the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies and a national speaker, judge, demonstrator and teacher who lives in Salisbury. Tickets cost £15 from [ticketsource.co.uk/fefas](http://ticketsource.co.uk/fefas) or by contacting Julie on 514875, [forestedgeflower@gmail.com](mailto:forestedgeflower@gmail.com)



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## COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT

Two local organisations are collaborating to hold a fund-raising concert in October. Kate Edgar, who runs Downton’s Community Choir was looking for an opportunity to showcase the choir and its repertoire and has joined up with local charity Downton 4 Family to put on an event and raise some funds. Kate is enthusiastic about the work of the charity, who provide help and support for local families in difficult times. She says, “We all need a helping hand sometimes, and it’s good to know that Downton 4 Family is there to support families in need.” Helen Holgate, programme leader for the charity is also looking forward to the concert, saying, “We are delighted that the Community Choir is supporting us - extra funding allows us to support more families effectively.” Several local businesses have donated raffle prizes in the form of vouchers to raise extra funds - and there will be wine available during the interval. The concert is on Saturday 7 October at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall. As well as Downton Community Choir, it will feature Kate’s “All At Sea” choir, a ladies’ choir who sing sea shanties. Tickets are £12 or £5 for under 16s and available from The Borough Café or keedgar@aol.com.



Kate Edgar and Helen Holgate

The community choir meet every Wednesday, 7:30 - 9pm, at the Sherwood Room, Wick Lane. There are no auditions - and the first session is free. More information from [kateedgarmusic.com](http://kateedgarmusic.com)

## D4F REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Downton 4 Family are once again encouraging people to take part in their Reverse Advent Calendar collection. In the run up to Christmas, it’s a way to give something back to those who are struggling. Each day in November (or for 30 days before collection date), purchase an additional item to add to your stock and then deliver your collection to Downton 4 Family at the end of the month, so that it can be distributed to a family in need - the reverse of a normal Advent Calendar. This year DBC will be open for receiving collections between 9am - 12pm between 27 and 30 November. The charity has some suggestions as to what you might add each day.


1 Tinned vegetables	2 Tinned potatoes	3 Tinned tomatoes	4 Tinned fruit	5 Instant mash	6 Instant noodles	7 Instant coffee
8 Tinned rice	9 Tinned tuna	10 Biscuits	11 Long Life Juice	12 Tinned rice pudding	13 Instant mash	14 Festive biscuits
15 Advent Calendar	16 Tinned salmon	17 Jam	18 Tinned ham	19 Selection Box	20 Tinned potatoes	21 Toilet paper
22 Tinned fruit	23 Tinned meat	24 Tinned rice pudding	25 Tinned tomatoes	26 Instant noodles	27 Jam	28 Toiletries
29 Tea bags	30 Crackers					

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<b>What, Where, When</b>				
<b>September</b>				
Thursday	14	10:30 - 11:30am	Scrap-store crafts for under-5s, The Library	Page 12
Friday	15	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 6
Saturday	16	10am - 2:30pm	Cuckoo Fair Recruitment information, outside the Co-op	Page 3
Sunday	17	2:30 - 5pm	Fun Dog Show, The Moot	Page 2
	17	3pm	Organ Recital by John Challenger, St Laurence Church	Page 14
Monday	18	1 - 1:45pm	A Walk Through Downton in Old Postcards, The Library	Page 12
Saturday	23	10am - 2pm	Goose Fair, St Laurence Church	Page 5
Sunday	24	2 - 5pm	Mobile Museum, Ashley Grange	Page 7
Friday	29	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	
<b>October</b>				
Thursday	5	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Friday	6	7:30pm	D-Day film and talk, Sherwood Room, Wick Lane	Page 4
Saturday	7	7:30pm	Concert: Downton Community Choir & All At Sea, Memorial Hall	Page 16
Sunday	8	10:30am	Blessing service for pets, St Laurence Church	Page 8
Friday	20	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 6
Thursday	26	7:30pm	Horticultural Society: Inspiration from Tresco Abbey Gardens talk	Page 1
Friday	27	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	
<b>November</b>				
Thursday	9	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Friday	10	7pm	40s evening, fundraising for The Moot, The Memorial Hall	Page 4
Friday	17	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 6
Monday	20	1 - 1:45pm	Tinney's Firs talk, The Library	Page 12
Friday	24	10am - 12 noon	'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	

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## VILLAGE CALENDAR 2024 PHOTOS NEEDED

InDownton is planning the 2024 Downton Village Calendar and needs photographs that show off the village at its best throughout the year. Send large good quality images to editor@indownton.org.uk by 13 October. The calendar will once again cost £10 with at least £5 going to the Downton 4 Family charity. It will be available to purchase after 24 November, and copies can be reserved in advance using the same email.



## SUITE JAZZ AT ST LAURENCE: *REVIEW BY JOHN ELLIOTT*

It was a beautiful evening; not a cloud in the sky and just enough heat from the setting sun to keep everyone comfortable as they sat in the graveyard of St Laurence’s church to hear Suite Jazz perform.

Paul Borrelli, Kate Edgar and Dave Mace are well-known locally. They were accompanied by the young soprano Rosie, and her rendition of a piece from Les Misérables will live in memory for a very long time.

The concert was organised by the church to raise much needed funds. A medieval structure costs a lot to maintain so there is never enough money to do everything that needs to be done. The concert raised over £1,000, most from an admission charge, but also from the sale of some spectacular puddings. This was Downton at its very best; sharing a musical evening by local performers in a wonderful setting; and all in aid of a rather special local building. Whatever your religious beliefs, including if you have none at all, I am sure that most people in the village would hate to ever see St Laurence’s decline in any way. It is the centre of all the big village



Paul

events and architecturally by far the most important building in the village.

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Rosie



Dave

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## DOWNTON BOWLING CLUB LOSE VALUED MEMBER

Jenny Tanner, who died recently, was a much valued member of the Bowling Club. She and her husband, Bob, were members for about 30 years. As well as being a good bowls player, winning the Ladies' Champions on 3 occasions, she was also a staunch supporter. A club spokesperson said: "We know that many in the local community will be saddened by the passing of Jenny Tanner, but it is difficult to imagine a greater heartfelt loss than that from the Bowling

Club. She was a fantastic hard worker for the Club; she was generous; she brought a lot of fun as well. Most of all she was such a lovely person for us to be around, with her smile and character spreading such warmth. Thank you Jenny, we will miss you."



"Our Jenny"

Downton men came a creditable third in their League of the New Forest Bowls Association. Downton Ladies' team is likely to finish mid-table in the New Forest League. The season runs on into September, and at the time of going to press, Downton had made it to the final of The Ivor Fourmy Cup in the New Forest League, and were top of the Westbrook Mixed Triples League. Both the Downton Bustards and the Downton Dragons were third in their separate divisions of the Bournemouth & District League.

It's not all about leagues and cups - members continue to play in the club's own programme of

friendly competitions, or play socially. One of the club's sponsors is Eight Wealth Management, who contributed to the quiz evening in July. Two club members, Marie Clarke and Alan Waters, won the Eight Wealth Cup at Fordingbridge.

The Club Finals Day takes place on Sunday 10 September between 10am and 5pm, when the club's best players will be competing, spectators are welcome. Short mat bowls will run weekly, starting at 2:15pm, on Thursdays from October 12 until the Christmas break, starting again in the New Year. For more details contact Mike Hallam on 513539.

## UPS AND DOWNS OF CRICKET

The season is not yet over for Redlynch & Hale's Ladies' Softball side, who have secured their place in the semi-finals. In an exciting quarter final, the team just managed to squeeze past Twyford. They now play on the finals day at South Winchester Cricket Club, when the winning team will be decided.

The club's first XI just missed out on promotion, when their last two matches ended in defeat. It was better news for the second team, who finished with a win to retain their place, although the third XI lost their final match

Andy Church, the club's spokesman, said, "Although this has meant a disappointing end to the season for the men's teams, the cricket, as always, has been fun and the enthusiasm brilliant. We've seen new players join our ranks and really

importantly, several younger players getting experience in the adult game. These lads are a product of the Club's junior section which, as ever, is thriving".

Over the summer, the club ran sessions for juniors, with the emphasis on fun, not just winning. The under 9's group, run by coach Ian Dixon and a team of parent helpers, went on right through the school holidays.



Ladies Softball Team

*Dancing to the band at the postponed event in the Memorial Ground in July. Families enjoyed an afternoon and evening of music and dancing raising money for local charities.*

