

FREE



Christmas InDownton



Downton Society at 50

The Downton Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year with three events: a summer party in the gardens of early eighteenth century Moot House; an autumn AGM which featured a talk by the team of nurses who ran a project in rural Kenya (see InDownton, Summer 2024); and finally a community event in November



Baroness Minette Batters

when Baroness Minette Batters, (local farmer and two term president of the NFU) spoke about the challenges facing farmers.

These events highlight the range of Society interests – from respect for architectural heritage and village history to enhancement of the environment to support for local groups. In November the Society also made its annual presentation of the Wrightson cup (dating from the Downton rail disaster in 1884, featured in InDownton, Summer 2024) to a student of Trafalgar School. Another recent project has been to provide new signs for some of the old village by-ways, such as Doctor’s Alley.

Looking forward, the Society will take part in the Christmas Tree Festival and work with the parish council and volunteers on footpath clearance (a new “South Lane loop” is an ongoing project).

Society chair, Nikki Wilson, says, “Society membership numbers are healthy, but a new generation of supporters will be needed to continue its work and bring fresh ideas. So, if you care about Downton, the character of the village, & its environment – and also enjoy some of the good things our community can offer – from well kept footpaths and floral displays to talks and wine tastings, just check-out the website (thedowntonsociety.org) to see what is being planned for the new year and how you might help.”

Note from the editors:

Our Christmas issue is once again packed with news of events that are happening over the festive period. We’ve got news from many local businesses of their festive opening times and events as well as the opportunities to remember the meaning of Christmas with local churches.

We’re grateful for all the support that is given to InDownton throughout the year.

On behalf of all who help run InDownton and all our contributors, we wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

NEW ZEBRA CROSSING BEING INVESTIGATED

Wiltshire Council are advising the Parish Council on the viability of a zebra crossing by the Wooden Spoon. The county council is also set to review the signage on the Pinch Point by Tannery Bridge and their Rights of Way Team will be reviewing the Parish’s request to supply new fingerposts for a walk in South Lane - more details on this project will be available soon.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The village Christmas Tree Lights will be switched on at 6:30pm on Friday 6 December on the Maypole Green. Festivities start at 6:15pm. There will be free refreshments and a festive sing along.



Special Christmas Events at Downton's Churches

Wednesday 4th	9.30am - 11am Farm animals visiting The Playroom, Baptist Church Field
Thursday 12th	10.30am Christmas Service followed by Christmas Lunch, Baptist Church
Friday 13th	7pm Evensong to open Christmas Tree Festival, The Halcyon Singers, St Laurence
Sunday 15th	10.30am Christmas Service led by and for young people & Families, Baptist Church 6pm Churches Together Village Carol Service with Downton Band, St Laurence
Thursday 19th	10.30am Traditional carols and readings, Baptist Church 6.30pm Mass and Carol Service, Church of the Good Shepherd (Roman Catholic)
Sunday 22nd	6pm Christmas Concert with Downton Band & Community Choir, St Laurence 6pm Carols & Festive Treats, New Life Community Church, Memorial Hall 6.30pm DBC Candlelit Carol Service followed by refreshments
Christmas Eve 24th	4pm Crib Service for families, Baptist Church 5pm Christingle Service for families supporting The Children's Society, St Laurence 11.30pm Candlelight Midnight Communion, St Laurence
Christmas Day 25th	9.15am Christmas Morning Communion, St Laurence 10.30am Christmas Celebration, children invited to bring a gift to show, DBC
Monday 30th	6pm The Larder Christmas Meal. Book on DBC website

For details of other Roman Catholic Services at Christmas go to salisburycatholic.org (Salisbury) or avonstour.co.uk/parishes/fordingbridge/ (Fordingbridge)

POST EARLY TO HELP THE GUIDES

There's a local postal service for Christmas cards which costs only 40p to send a Christmas card - and by using it you are donating to a good cause, as well as keeping your own costs down. For several years now the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have been running the "Scout" Christmas post - which delivers cards posted in Downton to a wide local area - including Downton, Charlton, Redlynch, Lover and Morgans Vale, as well as a number of other villages and towns local to Salisbury. The full list can be found at sswscouts.org.uk/christmas-post/. 'Scout stamps' and postboxes are available at The Chemist, The Borough Cafe, Hair Design, Downton Baptist Church and St Laurence Church. Last posting date is Wednesday 4 December. Please be aware that cards have to go into the designated boxes - and not into Royal Mail boxes! A small proportion of the cost of the stamps goes to the Scouts' Campsite Quest, with the rest helping to support the village guide groups.

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A (MERRY) CHRISTMAS CAROL

On Friday 10 January The Travelling Players (Forest Forge, Bumblefly and Mischievous Theatres) present “A (Merry) Christmas Carol” at the Memorial Centre. The company promises to have “their suitcases bursting with merriment, mayhem and humbug!” The performance is billed as “the haunting tale of a mean and miserly old man; the tight-fisted curmudgeon, Ebenezer Scrooge.” Through their unique brand of quirky storytelling, music, a puppet or two, some ghostly flights of fancy and a clanking of chains, the Travelling Players bring this Yuletide classic to life.



The performance starts at 6.30pm, doors opening at 6pm. A bar and refreshments are available. Tickets £10 for adults and £5 for children, available from 2 December from the Borough Cafe (cash only) or text 07760415818 giving details of the tickets requires (payment by BACS).

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Downton Christmas Tree festival is on the weekend of Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December, between 10am and 4pm, at St Laurence Church. Musical entertainment will include performances by Downton Community Choir, Downton Band, All at Sea, DADA, Fordingbridge Handbell Ringers and Trafalgar school, as well as other local choirs and instrumentalists. There will be Christmas gifts to buy, a raffle and a Mouse Hunt for children, as well as refreshments. All proceeds will be shared between St Laurence Church and Salisbury Women’s Refuge.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Spread kindness and love in the community this Christmas.

The Reverse Advent Calendar works differently to a traditional one by using the days in November to collect items (suggestions below) in a bag or box to give to a local family in need this Christmas. There is no expectation to collect every day of the month. We are so grateful for any contribution, no matter how small!

Drop Off
Please drop off your collections at **Downton Baptist Church** from **Mon 25th November - Friday 29th November, between 9am - 1pm.**

On the Friday of collection week, we will be sorting the deliveries into boxes to share with families and any surplus food and goods collected will be donated to The Larder at Downton Baptist Church.

If you have any questions please email katedrennan84@hotmail.com

A Christmas dessert	Mince Pies	Stuffing	Hand soap	Pasta or rice
Shampoo	Christmas Crackers	Chocolate Orange	Crackers for cheese	Snacks
Bubble Bath	Quality Streets	Long life fruit juice	Tinned soup	Chocolate coins
Sharing crisps	Tinned tomatoes	Wrapping Paper	Pancake Mix	Maple Syrup
Labels & bows	Pasta sauce	Coffee	Tinned custard	Gravy

INTERESTED IN PERFORMING?

DADA (Downton Academy of Dramatic Arts!) are performing at the Christmas Tree Festival on Sunday 15 December. If anyone would like to join in, contact Jane Seden on 511018.

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SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES THIS CHRISTMAS

We asked local businesses to let us know their plans for Christmas. This is what we learned:

Co-op is open normal hours except for Christmas Eve 6am - 7pm, closed on Christmas Day and open Boxing Day 10am - 7pm, New Year's Eve 6am - 7pm, New Year's Day 10am - 7pm. Normal hours from 2 January.

Stable and Wick is closed from 24 December and reopens on 3 January.

Asda Longford Express Service Station is open 24 hours a day, including over the Christmas period.

The **Pharmacy** and **Bass Opticians** are both open normal hours except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day when they are closed.

Carter's Barbers is open 8am - 2pm on Christmas Eve. It reopens after Christmas on Saturday 28 December as normal. It's open New Year's Eve 8am - 4pm, then normal hours from 2 January.

Downton Grill and Kebab is open as normal Monday - Saturday 1.30pm - 9.30pm except for closing on Christmas Day, so if you don't fancy cooking on Boxing Day, there are other options.

The Goat has live music every Sunday 4pm - 6pm. On Friday 6 December there's live music with Georgie Budd and an evening fundraising towards Georgie's rehabilitation.

On Saturday 21 December Santa Paws involves a Santa Grotto for dogs with a photo opportunity and a goodie bag included in the ticket price. Check The Goat's website for more details.

The kitchen is closing at 9pm on Christmas Eve and the bar is open as normal until 11pm. On Christmas Day the bar is open for drinks between 12 noon and 3pm. On Boxing Day there will be food available until 6pm and the bar will close at 8pm. On New Year's Eve there will be food until 8.30pm and the bar will close at 10pm. On New Year's Day there will be food available until 8pm and the bar will close at 10pm.

The **Wooden Spoon** is open as usual except for Christmas Day drinks (no food) 12noon - 4pm.

Downton Brewery has a **Christmas Market at the Tap Bar** with festive food, beer and lots of stalls on Saturday 30 November from 11am - 3pm followed by 'Steve and Niels Cheesy Eve': a retro DJ evening at the Tap Bar from 6pm - 11pm.

On Friday 20 December it's Festive Friday at the tap bar between 4pm and 9pm with Christmas jumpers optional and plenty of food available.

The tap bar is open on 27 December 12pm - 7pm with drinks and nibbles.

Local deliveries from the brewery need to be ordered by 16 December and collection orders by 20 December. The shop will be open on 24 December and New Year's Eve 8am - 12pm. It's closed on the public holidays but open as normal hours on other days.

Downton Tyre and Autocare closes for the Christmas and New Year holidays at 11am on Saturday 21 December and reopens again on Tuesday 2 January at 8.30am.

Downton Leisure Centre closes early on Christmas Eve at 5pm. It's closed on 25, 26 and 27 December and open for reduced hours on 28 December and 29 December 6.30am - 1pm. It closes early at 5pm on New Year's Eve and is open on New Year's Day from 9am - 9pm.

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DENTAL PRACTICE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Having had to close their books to new patients in 2023, The Borough Dental Practice has recently installed a fourth surgery to create more capacity. Local dentist, Richard Budworth, has joined the team and so the Practice is now welcoming new patients again.

Richard says, "I am so delighted to be moving to The Borough to work alongside such a lovely and experienced team of clinicians and support staff. My new surgery is fantastic and so well-equipped with the latest technology to help me provide great dental care to my patients. But it is the little touches, like the screen on the ceiling for patients to watch nature programmes during longer treatments, that really enhances the patient experience. I couldn't be happier!"

Enclosed with this newsletter is a £30 Credit voucher towards future treatment with Richard Budworth or the hygienist, if a New Patient Examination is booked before Christmas and completed before Easter 2025. Call 510303 or visit theboroughdentalpractice.co.uk.

This year the Borough Dental Practice marked its 10th anniversary. To celebrate, the practice has worked in partnership with InDownton newsletter, and is offering to match-



Community Choir at the tea party

fund the money-raising activities of ten village organisations (up to £1,000 each).

Organisations including Downton Band, The Moot, Downton Primary School and Downton Cub Scouts have already benefitted, but there is still the opportunity for a few more village charities and voluntary organisations to profit before the end of 2024. For more details, contact editor@indownton.org.uk.

The 10th anniversary was also celebrated with a tea party for nearly 200 patients and guests. The weather was wet, so the planned garden party moved indoors to the Memorial Hall for cream teas and entertainment from both the Downton Band and the Downton Community Choir. Over £300 was raised on the day for the Band.

DPSA CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Downton Primary School Association's Christmas Extravaganza takes place on Friday 6 December at the school from 4 - 6pm. Entry (via Gravel Close) costs £1, but is free for children. There will be hot food, mulled wine and hot chocolate with stalls selling crafts, tombolas, games and a raffle to be drawn at 5:30pm. Downton Band will be on hand to provide some Christmas music.



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DOWNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER
4PM - 6PM

HOT FOOD - MULLED WINE
HOT CHOCOLATE - TOMBOLAS
DOWNTON BAND - CRAFTS
STALLS - GAMES
PRIZE RAFFLE (DRAWN AT 5:30PM)

£1 entry - Kids go free - Entry via Gravel Close

COMMUNITY CHOIR IN SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

In addition to their usual events in the village, Downton Community Choir will be performing Alexander L'Estrange's "Wassail! Carols of Comfort and Joy", conducted by the composer. It's at the Italianate Church at Wilton on Monday 9 December at 7.30pm. Kate Edgar, musical director, says, "It's going to be an amazing evening, so please do come and support your village choir at this exciting event. All proceeds go to Cancer Research UK."

The choir will be at the Christmas Tree festival on Saturday 14 December; at the village carol service on Sunday 15; at the Good Companions Christmas party at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 17 December; and joining Downton band for their concert at St Laurence on Sunday 22 December. They will also be singing outside The Goat on Christmas Eve.

If any one in the village is organising any fund raising events, and would like the choir to sing, get in touch with Kate, as the choir always welcome the opportunity to 'step out and sing'.

New members are welcome, especially men. The choir is non-auditioned, with a wide range of musical ability - but a common love of having fun and expressing themselves through song. They rehearse from 7:30 - 9pm every Wednesday evening during term time, at The Sherwood Room, Downton Football Club, Wick lane. More info: email Keedgar@aol.com or visit kateedgarmusic.com.



DBC WARDROBE

There will be no Wardrobe (Clothing Exchange) in December. Confirmed dates for 2025 are Fridays 17 January and 21 March - no decision yet on a Wardrobe in February. The Church is open for donations Monday to Thursday, 9am - 1pm. There is a large box for collections in the first room from the reception. The church is also open on a Sunday morning, 10am - 12.15pm. Clothing items to donate can also be brought on the day.



ANDY'S CHALLENGE TO SUPPORT SCHOOL IN MOLDOVA

Local volunteer, Andy Fitt, is looking for support to raise enough money to sponsor the delivery of a pallet of hand sanitiser to a school in Moldova over the Christmas period.

Andy has travelled to Moldova several times as a volunteer with TEECH, an independent charity which aims to improve the lives of those living in Eastern Europe. This summer, Andy travelled to two villages to help install toilet and washing facilities in the schools. Less than a third of schools in Moldova have these facilities.

The Moldova Health Ministry has recently required all schools to provide hand sanitiser for staff and pupils - no doubt an important step in preventing health problems - but has not provided extra money to make this possible. One of the schools which Andy visited has just £200 to cover soap, toilet paper and cleaning supplies for a whole year, so adding in the costs of hand sanitiser is a huge challenge.

TEECH has secured twenty pallets of hand sanitiser (donated by Rentokil) and is raising money to finance getting those pallets to Moldova. Costs include the ferry, road tolls, customs paperwork, and diesel. Each pallet costs £200 to transport. There is a collection jar for donations at Woodfalls Post Office. If enough is raised to finance a pallet it will be labelled 'a gift from Downton'.

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CHURCH BELLS NEED SUPPORT

The autumn issue of InDownton carried an article about the church bells, and a picture of the oldest bell, dating from 1350. The frame in which the bells are housed was installed in 1908 and it is thought that this is the last time any serious work was done on the bells, apart from when the two smallest bells were installed in 1946.

Time has taken its toll and some substantial work now needs to be done to ensure that the bells remain ringable for future generations. This will involve taking all the bells out and providing them with new fittings, as well as strengthening the frame so that it does not flex quite so much when the bells are rung. The cost of the work is estimated in the region of £80,000.

The bell ringers are therefore starting a fundraising campaign and are hoping that local villagers will support their endeavours. Leaflets with more information will be available at the Christmas Tree festival. More information from the Tower Captain, Rhoda, on 511627.



CHORAL EVENSONG

The Halcyon Singers will be singing a Choral Evensong at St Laurence Church to open the Christmas Tree Festival on Friday 13 December at 7pm. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available after the service.

SAVAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Kayleigh and Andy Savage are once again switching on their Christmas lights at Catherine Crescent in aid of charity - this year for Big T's cancer, the Stars Appeal (Salisbury District Hospital's Charity) and Seeds4Success. Last year over £1,800 was raised for charity. The grand opening event is on December 1st at 6pm, and will include a short firework show. Kayleigh says, "We would encourage everyone to spread the word about the fireworks, as we want to ensure everyone is prepared and aware." The lights will then be on every day until 31 December, from 4:30 - 9pm.

LIBRARY FESTIVE TRAIL

Downton Library has a children's Festive Trail running throughout December, which will involve scouring the library for hidden items. On Monday 16 December there will be some themed brick building - no booking required. December Rhyme Times (every other Friday, 9:30 - 10am) will have a festive twist with jingly bells and new families are always welcome. You can book your free place via Eventbrite, search 'Downton Library'. If you don't already have a library membership please sign yourself and your child up before you book at wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries where you can find more information. You can also call 511003 or call in at the library to find out more.



ASHLEY GRANGE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Free activities and entertainment for older people
Thursdays 1.45pm
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DOWNTON DOWNTIME

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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
Winter Issue: Deadline for contributions: 19 January 2025
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Distributed to every house in the village, 5 times a year.

For information about contributing or advertising, email:
editor@indownton.org.uk or visit indownton.org.uk
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Telephone: 01725 513191

Production Team: Rosemary Leo, Paul Leo, Natalie Wright

DOWNTON CUBS NEED NEW VOLUNTEERS

1st Downton cubs are looking for volunteers to join their team. There are opportunities to get involved in anything from skateboarding to science experiments, photography to astronomy, fishing to gardening, as well as all the traditional scouting activities. They are hoping to recruit people who will bring their skills, knowledge and passions to share - and those who would like to learn new skills. Help is needed to organise and take part in a variety of exciting, challenging and thought provoking activities.



The current team say that they would love prospective helpers to get in touch: "This is an exciting opportunity to join an enthusiastic and friendly team. You really could make a difference for just an hour or so of your time, especially behind the scenes (or computer). This is the chance to become more involved in the community, and to get to know an incredible bunch of young people - as well as trying your hand at the huge variety of experiences that we offer - including our favourite activity of making campfires and eating smores!"

Get in touch at cubs@downtonscouts.org.uk.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

At the society's Floral Art evening during October, Janet Newman, with help from her colleague Sarah, created 6 different arrangements, including ones suitable for Halloween and Christmas. A spokesperson for the society said, "Janet is an amusing speaker

and raised quite a few laughs, especially when responding to heckling from her husband Ian who was in the audience."

The society is planning to display a garland over the west door of St Laurence Church at the Christmas Tree Festival.

GOODBYE TO 'FRIDAYS' AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

'Fridays' 29th November 10am - 12noon at Downton Memorial Hall will be the last 'Fridays' community cafe. Organisers Stephanie and Adam have enjoyed running the cafe for the last 3 years. They say, "Thank you to everyone who has come to 'Fridays' over the past 3 years. We enjoyed meeting you and sharing conversation, books, flowers, home grown produce and company." They are planning to organise a few events spread out over the new year, so keep a lookout for those events, when they will look forward to meeting up with cafe goers again.

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REGISTERED MEMBER

SKY AT NIGHT BY MICHAEL F. BARRATT FRAS

In November, Uranus is close to Jupiter in Aries (the Ram) and is the best placed of all the planets. Also this month, Neptune remains visible through binoculars in the evening sky on the borders of Aquarius and Pisces (the Twin Fishes).

During December, Venus is unmistakable in the evening sky. On the evening of 4/5 December it can be seen close to a waxing crescent Moon and by the end of the month, it shines brilliantly in the west and remains above the horizon until about 2000 hours.

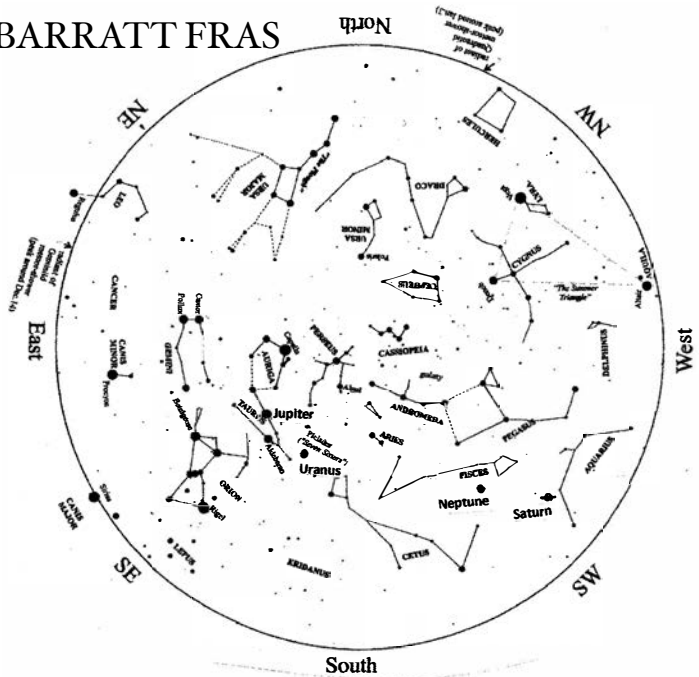
Mercury will be found during the second half of December in the morning sky before dawn. It rises at around 0615 hours. The Moon will be found close by on the 29th.

Mars, in the constellation of Cancer (the Crab), more than doubles in brightness during December. It rises at around 1900 hours, with the Moon very close by on the night of 17/18.

Jupiter was at its brightest at the beginning of November. During December it lies in the constellation of Taurus (the "Bull") shining brightly and easy to spot. On December 8 it is due south at midnight and visible throughout the night. If you use binoculars or a telescope you can see the celestial dance of the four largest Galilean moons as they orbit this gas giant.

The full moon on 15 December is known as the "Cold Moon".

The Andromedids meteor shower, on the night of 2/3 December, should be good this year when the Earth "smashes" into the debris left by Biela's Comet which broke up in 1649. It might be possible to observe a "shooting star" every minute during that night. The Geminids are due to reach maximum on the night of 13/14 December - however with the Moon being full at around this time the display is likely to be poor. Contact Michael at mootastro@yahoo.com or follow him on Facebook.



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

WOODFALLS NATIVITY FESTIVAL

Woodfalls Methodist Church is holding a nativity festival in the church from 6 - 8 December, with over 130 nativities on show.

There will be activities for children. Refreshments are available all weekend including lunches and cream teas. Entry is free.

Woodfalls Methodist SP5 2LH
150th Anniversary Year

Nativity Festival

December 6-8th

FREE
ENTRY



OVER 130
NATIVITIES
TO SEE

Friday 6th December Open 3.00pm – 7pm
 Saturday 7th December Open 10am - 6pm
 Sunday 8th December Open 11.30am - 5pm

Cake and drinks available all weekend.
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Plus children's activities

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NATIVITY WITH FARM ANIMALS

The Farm, complete with Nativity animals, is visiting The 'Playroom' Toddler Church at Downton Baptist Church on Wednesday 4 December, 9:30 - 11 am. There will be animals and activities, refreshments and toys. Katy, minister at the Baptist Church, says, "Above all there will be a friendly and loving welcome. We are wanting to share this time of fun, learn about Jesus and the birth of Jesus too!"

Arrival time from 9:15am - wellies are advised, and parents will be asked to supervise their children.



CHRISTMAS TREE SALE FOR THE MOOT

Locally grown Nordmann Fir Christmas trees will be on sale on Friday 6 December, from 3 - 6pm, at Long Close Park (the old cricket ground), The Borough. Prices start from £45. Refreshments will include mince pies and hot chocolate. All proceeds go to The Moot.



ASHLEY GRANGE

Ashley Grange resident Joan recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Thanks to the generosity of the Downton community and others, her room was filled with over 400 hand-crafted flowers on the day. The home would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making Joan's day so memorable.

On 2 December at 6:30pm, the home will be holding its annual Christmas Light "Big Switch-On" event, with special guests The Robins from Downton Football Club. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy festive nibbles and drinks.

The residents are getting into the holiday spirit by creating Christmas cards, which will be available for purchase from 1 December at the reception desk. All proceeds from the card sales will go to a children's charity chosen by the residents. They are also supporting the Downton 4 Family's "reverse advent calendar" initiative (see page 3) and are acting as a drop-off point for donations.



Some of Joan's flowers

Both village churches visit regularly. DBC will hold a service there on 4 December at 2:30 pm, while the Church of England will join residents on 18 December at 2pm. There is an open invitation to attend these services.

The Thursday Friendship Group continues in December from 1:45 - 3:30 pm, featuring:
28 November - Retro Rita
5 December - Goodnight Sweetheart
13 December - Mike Sidaway
19 December - Dave D

Ashley Grange Nursing Home offers a full range of services, including dementia care, residential care, respite breaks, nursing care, and end-of-life care. To arrange a visit or discuss care needs for a loved one, visit or call 512811.

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2003-2023

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2024



For the third year wreaths laid included one in memory of those who have died in the war in Ukraine. The band led the procession to St Lawrence Church.

SCOUT BONFIRE LIGHTS UP THE SKY



Drone photo of the bonfire by Steve Kynaston



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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 20 years and currently meet at the Downton Football Club.

L9064@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

Our Principles

- ◉ Integrity
- ◉ Respect
- ◉ Friendship
- ◉ Service

CUCKOO FAIR TO RETURN IN 2025

In case you missed the announcement, the Cuckoo Fair committee has confirmed that the fair will be happening next year on Saturday 3 May. Having taken into account feedback from the community and stallholders, and looked into what can feasibly be changed, the format will be broadly similar to recent fairs, but with some small adjustments to make the fair more manageable. Invitations have already been sent to stall-holders who attended the 2023 fair, with a deadline of December 15 for the return of applications. After that, the committee will start contacting those on the waiting list. New volunteers have come forward to help, but there is still room for more. If you think you can help the fair in any way, with the planning, on the day, or with sponsorship, then contact the committee via the website: cuckoofair.co.uk



REPAIR CAFE IN DOWNTON AND LOVER

The Repair Cafe is open in Downton on every 1st Saturday of the month at the Baptist Church Hall between 10 and 1pm, as well as on every Wednesday & Friday morning in Redlynch Village Hall between 10 and 12pm. Sometimes the repair can be completed on the day, and sometimes it takes a bit longer, in which case contact is made when the repair is complete. The only cost is any material used, plus a voluntary donation.

The team also holds a stock of repaired items for sale. They currently have three Grandfather clocks, fully working and available to take away in return for a donation.


A recent visitor to the Downton cafe contacted InDownton to say, "I called in at the repair café at the Baptist Church last Saturday

and was met by a wonderful room full of welcoming faces all ready to mend anything I had taken along plus welcome refreshments. Not many customers were there. Please spread the word or we'll lose this brilliant opportunity!"



Repairing Christmas items

The team is currently looking to recruit volunteers with weaving and needle-work skills. For more information email downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com.



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DOWNTON BAND DECEMBER SCHEDULE

The Band is playing carols in December at Charlton-All-Saints Church on Tuesday 10 at 7:30pm, Downton Brewery on Friday 20 at 7pm and at St Laurence Church on Sunday 22 at 6.30pm (This concert is in conjunction with Downton Community Choir). Look out for the band at Tesco's on Southampton Road on Saturday 21. They will also be playing at the village Carol Service on Sunday 15 and outside the Co-op on Christmas Eve from 10am - 2pm.

The training band is playing at the Primary School's Christmas Extravaganza (see page 5) between 4:30 and 5:30pm and at the Christmas Tree Festival on the Saturday (see page 3), when Beginners' Brass will also be playing.

The band will be playing carols (with collection buckets) from 7 - 9pm in December;

Monday 2: Moot Gardens, Avondyke, Squarey Close, Moot Lane (south), Downlands Close, Twynham Close

Thursday 5: Saxonhurst, Moot Lane (north), Moot Close, Roman Meadow, Avon Meadow, Saxon Meadow

Monday 9: Hamilton Park, The Sidings, Lode Hill, Barford Lane, High Street, Church Hatch



Thursday 12: Charlotte Close, Marie Ave, Catherine Cres, Joanna Close, Elizabeth Close, Greenacres, Headlands

Monday 16: Batchelor Way, Bundy Grove, Moody Drive, Wick Lane, Mesh Pond, Weeke Close

Wednesday 18: Gravel Close, Long Close, Wick Lane, West Wick, Clearbury View

Thursday 19: High Street, Church Leat, High Street, The Borough, Green Lane, The Borough

Friday 20: Morgan Close and Downton Brewery

And of course, as tradition dictates, the band will be out carolling around the village from 4am on Christmas morning.

'THE LARDER' CHRISTMAS MEAL

The 'Larder', run by volunteers from Downton Baptist Church and the wider community, has become a village fixture, opening on Mondays (9 - 10am) and Wednesdays (6 - 7pm) for anyone who would like to collect 10 items of food for free. The final 'Larder' of the year is being marked with a traditional Christmas meal, followed by entertainment, on Monday 30 December from 6 - 8pm. To book a place for the meal, to donate food items, or to volunteer to help, visit downtonbaptist.org



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

InDownton is delivered to every house in Downton and Charlton All Saints villages. Adverts can be for a single issue or a year's run of 5 issues in black and white or in colour, including changing the advert each time to advertise seasonal offers. More details at indownton.org.uk

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PARISH COUNCIL REMINDER - ARE YOU FISHING LEGALLY?

The Council know how popular fishing is in Downton. The message on their website is clear: “What with Mortimer, Whitehouse and Ted the dog, plus Downton’s beautiful waterways, it is a peaceful and lovely pursuit.”

However, the council want to remind people of the Environment Agency’s rules, to ensure that all who fishing do so legally.

You must have a rod fishing licence for England and Wales if you’re fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, smelt or eel with a rod and line in England. A rod licence is required when fishing on privately owned land, including lakes or stretches of river controlled by an angling club or association. As well as being in possession of a rod licence, you must have permission from the land or fishery owner to fish in the area. You can get a fine of up to £2,500 if you’re fishing in these areas and cannot show a valid rod fishing licence.

Licences are required from the age of 13, licences for children aged between 13 and 16 are free. From 17 onwards, anglers need to pay for a rod licence. To get a rod licence, follow the instructions on gov.uk/fishing-licences/buy-a-fishing-licence



It is illegal to take fish from any waterbody without the landowner’s permission. Taking fish without permission is classed as theft.

Coarse fishing has a closed season from 15 March until 15 June on rivers and some lakes, fishing for coarse fish during this time is illegal. The closed season exists to allow coarse fish species to go through their spawning period without disturbance from angling.

The message is enjoy fishing, but do it legally.


LINKS IS BACK!

Downton Baptist Church, working with the Bridge Project, has relaunched LINKS, the youth club for secondary school year groups 7, 8 and 9. The aim is to create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where students can come together and link with others from different secondary schools and backgrounds. It will include games, friendship and the ever popular

tuck shop!

LINKS takes place on Wednesday evenings at Downton Baptist Church at 6 pm - all students in qualifying year groups are welcome. Harry Mensah, chaplain, says: “Our aim is to help the young people to grow in wisdom and gain some life skills that will help them both spiritually, and physically and build resilience.”

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LINKS is back!

We are pleased to let you know that **LINKS**, an after school group for young people is starting again at **DOWNTON BAPTIST CHURCH**. Join us for fun, games, friendship and the all important tuck shop!

LINKS is open to everyone on Wednesday evenings from 6pm to 7.30pm, in years 7,8 and 9

**Starting:
Wed 6th Nov**



www.downtonbaptist.org

Downton Baptist Church
South Lane, Downton
run in partnership with the
Bridge Youth Project



GOVERNORS WANTED FOR TRAFALGAR SCHOOL

Could you be a governor? Trafalgar School has vacancies on the governing body for those with some local expertise. The governing committee’s role is to provide focussed governance for the school at a local level. It does this by supporting, challenging and encouraging in two principal areas: vision, ethos and strategic direction and educational performance. The role is to work with the other governors, using professional or community expertise, to benefit the school and enhance the experience and



opportunities for pupils.

If you are interested, please contact governance@magnalearningpartnership.org.uk.

THURSDAYS AT DBC CHRISTMAS MEAL

Every Thursday, Downton Baptist Church holds a short service at 11.00am, preceded by morning coffee and cake from 10.30am. Every 2nd and 4th week of the month the service is followed by a two-course lunch at midday, for which there is no charge.

On Thursday 12 December the meal will be a Christmas lunch. Katy, minister at the Baptist

Church says, “Don't think for a moment that the young people have the monopoly on fun! This is a wonderful way to enjoy a traditional service, meet new people and share the company of friends over a good meal. What could be better?”



GOOD COMPANIONS

Good Companions is hosting antiques specialist Sarah Delves on 26 November - she will be talking about fashion and sustainability. From then on Christmas celebrations go into full swing with games and a quiz. The last meeting of the year (on 17 December) is the Christmas party, where the Community Choir will be providing the entertainment. The club restarts on 7 January 2025 with a games afternoon. Good Companions meets in the Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2 - 4pm. Regulars pay £2 and visitors £2.50, refreshments included. More information from Julia Whitmarsh on 510601.

CROQUET CLUB AT HAMPTWORTH

The croquet club at Hamptworth is thriving. If you are interested in playing croquet, contact Steve on 07912 608733.



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HARRY SET TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN DOWNTON

Downton schools have a new recruit, chaplain Harry Mensah from the Bridge Project, who will be spending Thursdays at Trafalgar School and Tuesdays at Downton Primary School. Harry will also be spending one day a week at Downton Baptist Church, supporting the community and helping to set up after-school and youth groups. Harry has had a diverse career, having previously served in the British Army as a Desert Hawk 3 drone pilot. He has gained valuable experience in various roles, including driving HGVs and buses (Salisbury Reds), working as a chef, and providing care for individuals of all ages with health challenges.

He says, "Each position has enriched my skill set and deepened my understanding of different sectors. I'm excited to share that I've lived in Wiltshire for over 10 years. I first discovered the charming Downton village when I worked for Salisbury Reds, driving the 44 bus and the school run for The Trafalgar School. I am truly excited about the opportunity to connect with you and your children and be a supportive presence, providing faith, hope, and love. Caring



Harry as graduate, soldier and bus driver

for people and bringing hope into situations has always been my life passion. It's been quite the journey. My years of experience and my chaplaincy training have shaped my character and philosophy, which guide how I will help your children, school staff and the village at large."

Harry fully believes in the old African proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child" and aims to work widely within the village to help provide the best environment possible for children to grow up in.

FRIENDSHIP BENCHES AT DOWNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Downton Primary School has some newly refurbished friendship benches, courtesy of new chaplain Harry Mensah and his wife (see above). These are places the children can go to if they feel lonely and want to speak to someone.

At the time of writing, Harry was hoping that the children would be able to add their own stamp to the benches, by contributing their own writing and paintings.



CAN YOU DELIVER INDOWNTON TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS?

InDownton is looking to expand its delivery team and would especially like to hear from people in the Batchelor Way estate, Morgans Close and Catherine Crescent who can spare an hour or two, five times a year, to deliver the newsletter. The team would also be happy to hear from volunteers who could occasionally take over a delivery round if one of our regular team is unable to do so. For more details, contact Paul on 513191 or email: editor@indownton.org.uk.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Open Evening for volunteers

The Parish Council is holding an Open Evening for everyone interested in volunteering on Thursday 28 November in the Memorial Hall at 7pm. You will be able to meet existing volunteers, enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles and hear about opportunities to join in and engage with a variety of different community activities and projects.

Clearing and patching for winter

In preparation for winter, the Parish Council has been planning for resilience - ensuring that gullies and drains are clear, and that emergency supplies are topped up. Wiltshire Council's "Dragon Patcher" has been at work in The Sidings, filling a huge pothole in Moot Lane, and working in Wick Lane. November's list for Steve, the Parish Steward, includes clearing ivy that is obscuring the bus stop on Lode Hill, brambles from the footpath behind the football field from Weeke Close and the scrub by 2 Moot Gardens. The Parish Council is awaiting a date for the Environment Agency to clear the bunnies by the primary school and South Lane.

Planting bulbs

Following an appeal for surplus bulbs, Downton villagers have responded well and the first set of donated bulbs will be planted in the Downton Cemetery entrance. The Green Network have plans to plant bulbs in Memorial Gardens - and more sites will be planted up over the next few months.

Parish Council meetings - have your say!

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in the Bonvalot Room in the Downton Memorial Centre at 7pm. There is a public question time at the beginning of the meeting, and anyone can come along and have their say. Susan Barnhurst Davies, Administrative Officer for the Parish Council, can be contacted on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on 07483 44035 or email: admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk She may redirect queries to Councillors or the Parish Clerk.



TALKABOUT AT WOODFALLS METHODIST CHURCH

TalkAbout at Woodfalls Methodist Church, on Thursday 5 December 5th, is entitled "Cosmic Sparkle!" Professional singer, Robyn, will be singing from her repertoire of vintage, swing, jazz and songs from the shows. Doors open at 10 for a 10:30am start. Admission £4 - no need to book.

TABLE TOP SALE FOR THE MEMORIAL HALL KITCHEN

A table top bring and buy sale at the Memorial Hall on Sunday 1 December will raise money for a new kitchen for the hall. It's from 10am - 1pm and tables cost £15. They can be reserved by contacting Susan on 07875 036879 or susankirsten@btinternet.com. Entry will cost £1 and refreshments will be available.



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DOWNTON BOWLS SUCCESS

The club celebrated some notable successes at their recent presentation evening. Downton finished the season as Champions of the Westbrook Mixed Triples League and the New Forest Men’s League team were runners-up in the knockout Ivor Fourmy Trophy. As reported in the last issue, Downton Bustards triples team won fourteen of their matches to finish second in their section and so earn promotion in the Bournemouth League. Trophies were presented by life member, Patrick Hunter. Club members presented with awards were:

Mens Singles – Alan Waters; Ladies Singles – Jane Smith; Novice Champion – Janet Barnes; Champion of Champions – Alan Waters; Sets – Alan Waters; Two Woods – Ivan Buss; Aussie Pairs – Martin Davies and Paul Bromage; Mens Pairs – Paul Bromage and Lewis Ambler; Ladies Pairs – Muriel Amey and Jane Smith; Triples Champions – Muriel Amey, Paul Bromage and Alan Waters; Greenkeeper’s Trophy – Charles Burrows; The Ralph Bentley Cup – Geoff Warr

To round off the season, the club hosted Downton Football Club supporters and friends and played a match which was fairly evenly scored.

During the winter the Clubhouse is open every Wednesday for short mat bowling. There are also coffee mornings every fortnight, the next being Wednesday 27 November, 10am. More information from Ivan Buss(07910 290735), email info@downtonbc.co.uk or go to facebook.com/DowntonBC.



Westbrook Mixed Triples Champions

NEW ART CLASSES FROM JANUARY

Downton resident, Cami Schinkel, is starting a series of art classes on Mondays in the Memorial Hall in January. Her mission is to make learning art accessible and fun for everyone, no matter their skill or ability.

Cami has lived in Downton for around 4 years, and her 7 year old son goes to school in the village. They moved here from Eastleigh because they love the village community atmosphere, having got to know the village

when Cami’s parents moved to Downton several years ago.

Cami studied at Foundation level in Fine Art, followed by a BA Degree in Fine Art. She says, “For the past decade or so I have been working in local pubs with my dad Jason, but around a year ago he took his business venture out of area – providing me with the opportunity to dive into my own aspirations of getting back to my creative roots! This new chapter in my life will hopefully nurture an environment in which I can get back into painting consistently alongside the art classes. The art classes are an amazingly friendly, warm, welcoming and inspiring environment.”

Cami works with an experienced art teacher. She says, “This way the students have two knowledgeable and experienced brains to pick throughout the course, and that I’m always free to make sure everyone has everything they need.”

She is planning to expand her business as interest grows, and is hoping to introduce an evening class in the near future. She is currently looking for a suitable venue in the area. For more information call 01628 676979 or email: cami@colourwheelartclass.co.uk



What, Where, When				
November				
Thursday	28	7pm	Parish Council Open Evening for volunteers, Memorial Hall	Page 17
Friday	29	10am - 12 noon	The last 'Fridays' Community Cafe, Memorial Hall	Page 8
December				
Sunday	1	10am - 1pm	Table top bring and buy sale, Memorial Hall	Page 17
Sunday	1	6pm	Savage Christmas Lights switch on, Catherine Crescent	Page 7
Wednesday	4	9:30 - 11am	Farm Nativity, Downton Baptist Church Field	Page 10
Wednesday	4		Last date for Christmas Scout Post	Page 2
Thursday	5	10am	TalkAbout: Cosmic Sparkle, Methodist Church, Woodall's	Page 17
Thursday	5	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Friday	6	3 - 6pm	Christmas Tree Sale, Long Close Park, The Borough	Page 10
Friday	6	4 - 6pm	Primary School Christmas Extravaganza	Page 5
Friday	6	6:15 for 6:30pm	Village Christmas Tree light up, Maypole Green, The Borough	Front page
Saturday	7	10am - 1pm	Repair Cafe in Downton, Downton Baptist Church	Page 12
Monday	9	7pm	Community Choir sings "Wassail!", Wilton Italianate Church	Page 6
Friday	13	7pm	Choral Evensong with the Halcyon Singers, St Laurence Church	Page 7
Saturday	14	10am - 4pm	Christmas Tree Festival, St Laurence Church	Page 3
Sunday	15	10am - 4pm	Christmas Tree Festival, St Laurence Church	Page 3
Sunday	15	6pm	Village Carol Service, St Laurence Church	Page 2
Sunday	22	6pm	New Life Community Church Carol Service, Memorial Hall	Page 2
Sunday	22	6:30pm	Downton Baptist Church Carol Service	Page 2
Sunday	22	6:30pm	Downton Band / Community Choir concert, St Laurence Church	Page 2
Tuesday	24	4pm	Crib Service, Downton Baptist Church	Page 2
Tuesday	24	5pm	Christingle Service, St Laurence Church	Page 2
January				
Thursday	2	10am - 12 noon	Hearing Aid Clinic, Downton Baptist Church	
Friday	10	6:30pm	A (Merry) Christmas Carol	Page 3
Friday	17	2 - 3:30pm	The Wardrobe, Clothing Exchange, Baptist Church	Page 6
Sunday	19		Deadline for contributions to Winter InDownton	
February				
Saturday	2		Winter InDownton publication date	

VILLAGE INFORMATION & REGULAR EVENTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Melanie Camilleri
 Telephone: 07798 698199
 Office Hours: Monday - Friday
 10am - 3pm
 clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
 downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

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

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LOVER REPAIR CAFE

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MEMORIAL CENTRE

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 contact Hilary Mace 07760 415818
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 downtonmemorialcentre.co.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

downtonvillage.co.uk

DOWNTON BAPTIST CHURCH (DBC)

South Lane, Downton SP5 3NA
 Sunday Service: 10.30 am (check website for latest details)
 Ministers:
 Rev Philip Rhoades: philip@downtonbaptist.org 07468 491143
 Rev Katy Ulyatt: katy@downtonbaptist.org 07786 248880
 Church Office open Monday - Thursday, 9am - 1pm 512971
 Email: office@downtonbaptist.org Web: downtonbaptist.org

ST LAURENCE PARISH CHURCH

Church Hatch, Downton SP5 3PU
 Sunday Service: 10.30 am (check website for latest details)
 Cafe Church 2nd Sunday 10.30 - 11.30am
 Team Vicar: Revd Veronica Batchelor 01725 513878;
 veronicaforestandavon@gmail.com
 stlaurencedownton.co.uk

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

(ROMAN CATHOLIC)

Barford Lane, Downton SP5 3QA
 Mass 3rd Thursday of the month 6.30pm
 Service of the word Tuesdays 6.30pm (via zoom on weeks when no mass on
 Thursdays). To join, contact John Elliott 07980 921558
 Telephone: 01722 333581; office@salisbury Catholics.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

THE LARDER (DBC)

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 Monday 6 - 7pm
 Wednesday 9 - 10am

THE GARDEN (DBC)

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 the garden
 Thursdays after school 3.15 - 4.15pm
 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