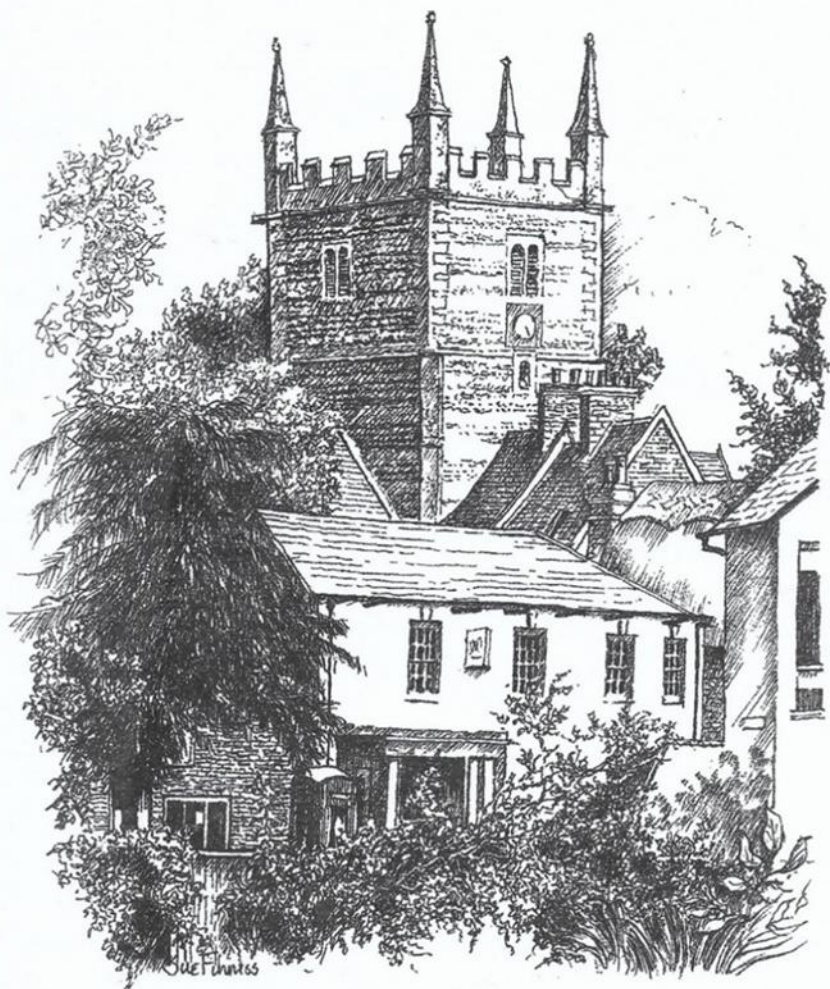


Downton

May 2025

Parish News



St. Laurence Church

50p

St Laurence Church Downton

Enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals,
or requests for pastoral visits, should be made to
the team vicar Revd Veronica Batchelor.

Tel. 01725 513878

Email: veronicaforestandavon@gmail.com

Director of Music: Mrs Elaine Hicks-Arnold 01722 710341

Sunday School: Dr Janet McGee 01725 513869

Church Flowers: Mrs C. Parry 01725 514511

Church website: www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk



www.facebook.com/stlaurencedownton

Anyone is welcome to come and look round this
beautiful, ancient church or just take time to reflect
and pray in peaceful surroundings. The church will
usually be open daily from 9.30 am till 4.30pm



*"St Laurence Church explores & builds the Kingdom of God
through prayer, learning together & serving the local community."*

St Laurence is part of the Forest and Avon Team of Churches,
together with St Birinus, Morgans Vale; St Mary, Redlynch;
St Andrew, Landford; St Peter, Bramshaw; St Peter, Plaitford.

Downton Parish News is published 10 times a year and is also currently
online. Information for contributors and advertisers is at the back of
the magazine. If you would like to have the magazine delivered to you,
please contact Angela Jones (01725 512204).

Dear Friends

May is one of my favourite months of the year, notwithstanding it is my birth month, and I am most definitely a Spring baby, and this is when we really begin to see a blossoming and a blooming all around us, and lighter and (hopefully!) warmer days ahead. It always brings an anticipation of balmy, hot summer months ahead (I am a bit of a dreamer!) but I am also ever hopeful that this summer will be like the summers of my childhood – less cluttered and responsibility light!

We are now in Easter Season, a time of hope, of new life and renewal, a time where we rejoice in Jesus' resurrection and bask in His glory and victory over sin and death as we await the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

As we now step into the blossoming month of May, we see these themes of hope, new life and renewal echoed in God's creation as it teems with life all around us. We do not need to go far or look too hard. You can hear it early in the morning when the first vestiges of light start to seep through, the blackbirds start to awake and sing their hymn of praise to the new day dawning.

Spring has well and truly abundantly budded, and the promise of summer is on the horizon. The flora and fauna are displaying their fecundity. It truly feels like a mini-Eden, an abundant blessing of God's generosity and rich provision, a re-creation of His handiwork. It is new life from out of the tomb of the cold, dank earth as it springs a quickening that has been gestating in the Creator's womb.

During this glorious month of May let us enjoy and delight in the new signs of life around us, not just in the nature we see but also in the creation of who we are as children of God. His love and delight for us has no boundaries, as Jesus called the disciples to follow Him, let us follow Him and place our feet in His footsteps. As He leads us in the dance of hope, new life, and renewal, may we take His hand and glorify in how He is building our faith, growing His church and what He is nurturing and tending in the garden of our lives as He builds His Kingdom on earth as He builds in heaven. Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

With my prayers and best wishes,

Alan Jeans.

Associate Priest and Archdeacon.



Sundays Services in the Forest and Avon Team – May 2025

You are welcome to attend any of these local services.

Sunday 4th May

9.30am	Communion Service at Bramshaw
10am	Morning Worship at Woodfalls
10.30am	Cuckoo Fair Service at Downton Memorial Hall
10.30am	The Gathering at Landford (Methodist Hall)
4pm	Forest Church at Redlynch

Sunday 11th May

9.30am	Morning Worship at Bramshaw
10am	Special Service at St. Birinus Morgans Vale
10.30am	Communion Service at Downton (Chancel) + APCM**
10.30am	The Gathering at Landford (Methodist Hall)

Wednesday 14th May

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) at Redlynch
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Sunday 18th May

9.30am	Communion Service at Bramshaw
10am	Café Church at Woodfalls + APCM**
10.30am	Communion Service at Downton
10.30am	The Gathering (Communion) at Landford (Methodist Hall)
4pm	Rogation Service at Plaitford
6pm	Evensong at Redlynch

Wednesday 21st May

10.45am	Café Service at Woodfalls followed by lunch
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Sunday 25th May

9.30am	Silent Prayer to 10am at Bramshaw
10am	Communion Service at Redlynch
10.30am	Café-Style Service at Downton
10.30am	Sunday Worship at Landford (Methodist Church)
11am	Communion Service at Landford (St Andrew's)

Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

Every Parish must hold an Annual Meeting. This is where the Annual Report and Accounts are examined, and elections take place for Churchwardens and lay Members of the Church Council (PCC). This is also an opportunity for questions to be raised.

- Bramshaw – held 13th April
- Landford – held 27th April
- Plaitford – held Monday 28th April
- Downton – 11th May at 11.45am in church
- Redlynch & Morgans Vale – 18th May 11.15am at Woodfalls



Other local Church Services

Woodfalls Methodist Church

The Ridge, Woodfalls, SP5 2LH

Service details listed on p.2.

All enquiries to Graham Tanner (01725 512648).
email



Roman Catholic Services

Church of the Good Shepherd. Barford Lane, Downton, SP5 3QA

The Catholic chapel is now available for private prayer.

At 6.30 pm on Tuesdays the congregation hold a
Service of the Word by Zoom.

There is a Mass in the chapel on the third Thursday of the month.

The next Mass will be on 20th March at 6.30 pm.

If you would like to join the Zoom services or use the chapel for private prayer,
please contact John Elliott on 07980 921558.

St Osmund's Church TV system

can be accessed at: <https://salisbury Catholics.org/church-tv>

Downton Baptist Church
South Lane, Downton, SP5 3NA Tel: 01725 512971
www.downtonbaptist.org | office@downtonbaptist.org

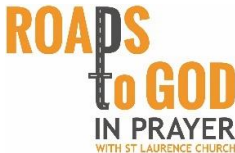
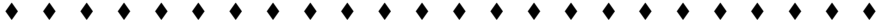
Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 am:
including groups for young people.
Services can be found on the DBC Church website.

Thursday Morning Worship at 10.30 am:
Followed by a two-course community lunch
every 2nd/4th Thursday of the month.

The PLAYROOM: Wednesday Morning at 9.00 am:
Free Toddler Church playgroup and their adults: from birth to Pre-School.

The LARDER: Food for the Community.
6.00 pm to 7.00 pm Every Monday
9.00 am to 10.00 am Every Wednesday (with refreshments)

Pastors: Rev Philip Rhoades and Rev Katy Ulliyatt
Tel: 07468 491143 or 07786 248880.



In our cycle of prayer for all living and working in our
community during **May** we will be offering prayers for:
The whole village!

Requests for particular prayers can be made by telephoning
Reverend Ron Hart on 01725 514772 or emailing info@stlaurencedownton.co.uk.
Any such requests will be kept confidential. You can request prayers at any time –
not just when your road is on the monthly list. For more information, please see the
Roads to God page on our website: www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk

Roads to God Prayer Group

The next Roads to God Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday **21st May** at **10.30am** in
the Lady Chapel and will be led by Rev Ron Hart.

St Laurence Bells Restoration Fund

We have some good news on the fund raising front – the local bell ringing charity has agreed to give us a grant of £16500! A wonderful boost to our efforts. Please consider ways you could help us raise the remaining amount. Some ideas to get you thinking:

If you let your property out – add £1 per night to your fee and pay the extra to the fund.

Instead of a sweet treat donate the money to the fund.

Buy one of our fund raising mugs – call Pat Purkis on 07385 816509 to arrange a time to see what is available.



Make a donation on our Just Giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/downton-bells-restoration-fund?utm_term=gqxNmPNPm&utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

All contributions are very much appreciated.



Join the Friends of St Laurence 100 Club

The 100 Club was set up many years ago as a fund raiser to help contribute to the large maintenance expenses of our Grade 1 listed building. There are 4 draws a year with 3 prizes of £50, £35 and £25. The balance of monies is passed on to the church.

If you would like to help St. Laurence by becoming a member of the 100 club, please contact Ken or Jo Parsons on 01725 512738. It only costs £12 per year.

A big thankyou to all those of you who have recently joined. It is much appreciated.

The results of the last draw

1st prize – Tim Stewart

2nd prize – Margaret Nunn

3rd prize – Miranda Bentinck

Many thanks. We hope to hear from you.

Events at Woodfalls Methodist Church

Talkabout Thursday 1st May James Porter speaking on "Napoleon – Soldier and Lover". Coffee served from 10.00am and the talk starts at 10.30am in Woodfalls Methodist Hall (SP5 2LH) Our Car Park is accessed down the side of Woodfalls Band Hall. Everyone welcome.



**JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST
SATURDAY 17th MAY
8-11AM**

Woodfalls Methodist SP5 2LH



**EVERYTHING FROM
TOAST TO A FULL
ENGLISH FOR A
DONATION**

Including Vegetarian & gluten free

All profits to Christian Aid.



Downton Horticultural Society

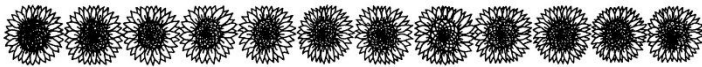
We are holding our Plant and Table-top sale in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th May at 2pm. A wide range of plants will be on sale. Refreshments will also be available. There is still time for anyone to book a table-top, these being free for charities or £5 for non-charities. Please contact Chris Parry (514511) to reserve one.

We will be pleased to receive plants to sell on the day of the sale from 12pm, so if you have any spare plants or are dividing established plants etc then please bear us in mind. All that we ask is that they are both rooted and labelled so we know what they are.

Our March event, the illustrated talk by Mike Read entitled 'A Look at Dorset Naturally' was excellent and included pictures of a wide range of birds and other creatures in the various nature reserves in Dorset.

The society needs more helpers, particularly for serving refreshments at our shows but also helping out in other ways, such as setting up for shows, helping with the raffle etc. We are a friendly bunch and if you could offer any help we would be very grateful. Either give me a ring or make yourself known at any of our events.

Gordon Bishop (01725 511475)



Why not buy a Downton Cuckoo Fair bag or tea towel?

Good value, and unique to our village

Contact Edna Pike on 01725 511332

Jute Shopping bags

£4 each

Tea towels

£2.50 each



Downton Open Gardens Sunday 29th June. 12-5pm

Charities Médecins sans frontières / Salisbury Hospice

Do join us on 29th when several gardens on The Borough, High St, South Lane, and Barford Lane will be open. The Baptist community garden in South Lane grows vegetables for The Larder and will be of particular interest.

St Laurence church and churchyard will be open for the purchase of delicious teas, which can be enjoyed on the lovely lawn of Chalkhill House, just behind the church.

Look out for yellow posters nearer the time and balloons on the day !
Looking forward to seeing you for a fun afternoon! *Cash preferred *

Any queries Rosie and Mylene 07767418473



Redlynch W.I

Our last meeting turned out to be even better than we expected. Alison (who is one of our members) together with her friend Janet presented cookery delights from the 1970's. Do you remember Melon Boats and Banoffee Pie, both prepared before our very eyes, together with delicious cheese biscuits? All the goodies were eaten with gusto and hardly a crumb left! Our Institute is very fortunate to have such talented women among us as at our April meeting, another member will be telling us all about building and living in an Eco-House. Nora Barker and her husband Martin will take us on their journey from the beginning of the project until its completion.

Next month (May) will be our A.G.M. Which is members only

From June back to normal with an afternoon discussion 'who do you think I am' when we hope to share parts of our past with everyone.

July.....Demonstration by The Farmer's Butcher

August.....Our annual outing by coach this year is to Weymouth. A few tickets still available @ £25.00

September.....'Life as a Parish Vicar' with Rev. Veronica Batchelor

Redlynch & District W.I. Meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.15 in Morgan's Vale & District Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome to join us for the meeting, followed by tea and cake, for which we ask for a nominal donation of £5.

If you would like any more information, email annkelly33@gmail.com or tel.01725514550

TWO RACES,
ONE AMAZING
IMPACT

COLOUR DASH ¹

JOIN THE RACE TO END HOMELESSNESS

Fun. Loud. Family-friendly.
One mad lap of the race circuit filled with colour, music and foam.

PRICES FROM
CHILD £5
ADULT £22
All ages welcome

BOOK NOW



RUN THE

10K SPEEDWAY ²

Alternatively, lace-up your running shoes and get ready to achieve your P.B. on the fastest motor racing circuit in the UK, the perfect running ground for beginners and experienced runners alike! Prices start from £20. Minimum age 15+.

**EARLY BIRD
TICKETS
AVAILABLE**

As a charity, Alabaré has been helping people who are homeless for over 30 years by providing a warm, safe home, and support to rebuild their lives. By taking part, you could support a vulnerable person take the first steps towards building a new life.

13 SEPTEMBER 2025

THRUXTON RACE CIRCUIT

#LETSENDHOMELESSNESS

Alabaré



Alabaré is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England No 2659011 Registered Charity No 1054054
Riverside House, 2 West Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP3 7UD



Downton Bowling Club

Our new season starts on 19th April, so, as we head in to May, our programme of league matches begins. This season, all matches played will consist of mixed triples.

- On Wednesday afternoons we play in the Westbrook MTL. This is primarily aimed at players with less than two year's experience.
- On Thursday evenings we play in New Forest league division 4. This is a bit more serious, but is still good fun.
- On Saturday mornings we play in the Bournemouth & District triples section 4, where we all just have a good laugh.

If you don't want to play league bowls, you can always come along to our club roll up sessions, which we hold every Monday 2-4pm & Friday evenings 6-8pm (except BH). All equipment, coaching & refreshments are provided free of charge.

May also includes the Bowls England **Big Bowls Weekend**. We are running three taster sessions for this weekend on Friday 23rd 6-8pm, Sunday 25th 2-4pm and on Monday 26th 2-4pm. For more details & to register, please kindly visit **www.bowlsbigweekend.com** and search for Downton as you sign up. We would love you to come & see us and give bowls a try. A warm welcome awaits you.

For more information on any of the above, please ring Ivan on 07910 290735 or email him on buib7@icloud.com or visit our website www.downtonbc.com

Downton Bowling Club

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

All equipment & tuition provided free of charge.

Downton Bowling Club
Wick Lane, Downton, SP5 3NF

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



LAWN BOWLS
Give it a Try!

A warm welcome awaits you.

*excluding Bank Holidays



Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society



Our April meeting was a competition night, themed 'Springtime splendour'. A total of 14 arrangements were entered and exhibited fabulous spring displays. Well done to those who entered - all were awarded with certificates!

Judge's choice 🏆 Janet

People's choice 🏆 Heather

Congratulations 🎉

All the arrangements at the competition night can be viewed from the following web album link: <http://zwmk.2.vu/FEFAScomp25>

Our next meeting is scheduled for 5th May and will be a practical evening to be led by Heather. We shall be creating a floral design with a hardboard and test tubes. Do contact us for further information of what materials to bring. Refreshments from 7 pm, followed by a practical session at 7.30 pm. Do join us and bring your friend(s)! Non-members are welcome (£8 door fee including refreshments).

All meetings/events are held at Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall, Redlynch (SP5 2LD). A full programme for 2025/26 is available from the weblink <https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2025> and on the notice board in the hall, and on our facebook group. We look forward to welcoming you!

Contact: Miyuki Griffin 07990 868351, forestedgeflower@gmail.com

Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/forestedgeflower

View full programme for 2025/26: <https://tinyurl.com/FEFAS2025>

Upcoming meetings:

5 May - Workshop led by Heather - 7.30 pm (7 pm staging only)

2 June - Demonstration 'Toy Stories' - 7.30 pm (7 pm refreshments)

7 July - Cream Tea & Talk 'Aspects of Jane Austen' – 7.30 pm (doors open at 7 pm)



Downton's Mobile Post Office

Every Friday Morning

Moot Lane (near to Recreation Ground): 9.00 am - 10.00 am.

The Bull car park: 10.05 am till 11.05 am.

Lover Repair Café

'MAY' IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN EVERYTHING STARTS TO BLOSSOM AND ALSO THE TIME WHEN REPAIRS COME TO LIGHT.



We do not normally agree to repair Dolls without a name, so when this collection of parts arrived we named her BIT-ZIE. Following major surgery by our Dr Peter, the naked truth was revealed & she made a full recover



PRE-LOVED ITEMS AVAILABLE THIS MONTH

This is the latest List of Items available, have a look and see if there is something you can provide with a new life. The only cost is for any material used & a suggested small donation.

NOTE:- Lover Garage Sale 28th June, many other items will be available at Repair Cafe Stall.

'Annabelle' Girls Bike £10	23" Panasonic Television £10	32" Samsung Television £20
Bear Valley Mountain Bike £20	Becken Electric Handmixer £2	Qualcast 30" Push Mower £3
'George' Sandwich Maker £3	Mahogany Side Table £5	Challenge 420W Jig Saw £5
Mahogany Corner Table £5	As new 'Beur' Heating Pad £3	Larkspur Bike £12
Power Devil Elect Planer £3	Logic Sound Bar & Woofer £3	Ziggy Stability Walking Stick £2



Dressed with due modesty and decorum, our Bitt-zie was dressed by our seamstress Marianne ready to go home.

We are always here to help you by repairing furniture, ceramics, electrical goods, clothing item or old treasures. Simply contact us or drop in to see us at:-

Redlynch Village Hall.

Wed and Fri mornings - 10am - 12pm

or

1st Sat. month at Downton Baptist Church from 10am - Midday

CONTACT US:

Email:

loverrepaircafe@gmail.com
downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com

Tel: (If essential) 01725 510753



Auntie Carol was overjoyed to call in and pick up Bitt-zie following her wonderful recovery and we wish her well in the future.

Downton Parish Council News



The sun continues to shine on us, with beautiful star filled clear nights. Aren't we lucky! We might still get a sneaky frost so watch those tender plants.

- The railings outside the Memorial Gardens are being refurbished at the moment, please watch out for any obstructions whilst work continues
- Our two new Parish litter pickers are working hard to keep Downton litter free; remember litter is deadly for wildlife and horrible for humans to look at
- With a successful clean-up of Tannery Bridge, volunteers and members of the Parish Council and Downton Society will be cleaning Moulds Bridge next. If you want to get involved with future volunteering, please contact me on the email address below. You can volunteer for as much or as little as you like, with an assortment of different tasks
- Our Parish Steward Steve continues with his jobs around the Parish. Don't forget, if you see something then report it to MyWilts www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting or contact me on the email address below

The Parish Council meetings are held on the **second Monday of the month in the Bonvalot Room in the Downton Memorial Centre. Meetings start at 7pm.** There is always a public question time at the beginning of the meeting, so do come along and have your say. **It is YOUR Parish after all!**

Susan Parsons is the Administrative Officer for the Parish Council. She can be contacted on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** 07483 344035 admin@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Where appropriate, she may redirect queries to Councillors or the Parish Clerk.

Redlynch & Local History Society

In April Alan Brindle gave an illustrated talk on the Magic Lantern; slide shows which were the forerunner of moving pictures. Besides still images the Victorians developed rotating slides, slip slide and comic series. These allowed before and after sequences, the appearance of movement and what in our day were called kaleidoscopes. The small pictures were all hand painted and latterly chromolithographic transfers were used. They were professionally produced and were cutting edge technology of the time. Projection was onto a white wall or sometimes a smoke cloud, the latter producing movement albeit uncontrolled! The illumination was initially by acetylene lamp, but latterly light bulbs were substituted and Alan now has LED bulbs in his authentic projector.

Magic Lantern slides appeared in the 1830s and provided entertainment long before the cinema. The slides were accompanied by a commentary plus sound effects from the projectionist. The shows were quickly overtaken by moving pictures but slides were still shown in the intervals, particularly for national commercial and local advertising, these disappearing in the 1950s. Alan showed an advert for a Marty Wilde show.

Alan showed us a number of comedic slides which to modern eyes were suitable for under ten year olds, such as animal stealing wigs, transposition of heads and what appears to have been a peculiar of that period, people's noses being attacked. It was a good insight into the paucity of material in Victorian times to what we now take for granted in the sophistication of drama and humour which moving pictures with sound have achieved.

Our next talk is "Lesser Known Bournemouth" by Steve Roberts at 7:30pm Tuesday 6th May in Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall. He will talk about Bournemouth's hidden treasures, and history.



Goldies Sing-Along Social Group at Downton Memorial Hall

Goldies takes place upstairs at Downton Memorial Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 10.00 am, led by Carole Still. The next session is on 28th May. Walk down the side of the Hall and enter through the door on the left.

At Goldies we chat and laugh with friends, whilst singing along to the hits of the 50's onwards, with artists such as Sir Cliff Richard, Tom Jones, Elvis, Dusty Springfield, Petula Clark and many more. Goldies is not a choir, you don't have to be able to sing to join, just love music and socialising.

Goldies Sing & Smile sessions are open to everyone, but particularly aim to reduce isolation with older adults. We ask for a £3 donation to attend.

For further information go to the website: www.golden-oldies.org.uk

Or ring Carole Still on 01722 337880

Good Companions

We meet in the Downton Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Regulars pay £2 and visitors, who are always welcome, pay £2.50. Cup of tea and biscuit included. For more information contact Julia Whitmarsh on 01725 510601.

On the 11th March we had a very interesting and moving talk and film about medical detection dogs. The dogs can smell an element in the early stages of a disease, and this saved his owner's life when he would not get out of the car, but kept tapping her chest. Seeking medical help it was found she had early stage treatable breast cancer. Over the years dogs with the right temperament have been trained to detect different diseases. The cost of training and housing the dogs is hugely expensive. The members of the Good Companions, collectively were able to donate £250, with an additional £50 from the Good Companion funds.

On the 25th March Carol Watson, using her very scenic slides took us on a 170 mile two week walking journey from Glasgow to Inverness following the West Highland Way with her husband, who was born in Scotland, and her little 39 year old teddy bear, wearing the Watson tartan, travelling on the outside of her rucksack. They walked 15 to 17 miles a day in all weathers to their nightly accommodation, treating themselves en route to a coffee and tasty slice of cake. Carol's joyful commentary; amazing pictures of snowcapped mountains, waterways and flowers were a joy to see; and the hour passed all too quickly.

Joanne has arranged the following for May:

- 6th May (week 1) - Ron Taylor's talk Trick or treat, subtitled Do you know what you eat.
- 13th May (week 2) - Games
- 20th May (week 3) - "I should have taken the medicine" Talk from Wiltshire History Centre.
- 27th May (week 4) - Games and Quiz

Week numbers are for the refreshment rota. If you would like to help with the making of drinks; taking out the trays of doing the dishes please speak to Edna.

The LARDER for our community



Everyone is welcome to come and share from **The LARDER**, situated in Downton Baptist Church. You will find a wide variety of food donated by our local community, including the Co-op and Bidfood. Our hope is that **The LARDER** will reduce food waste and make food available to everyone who would like it. It is absolutely **FREE**, and anyone can come and access one bag of food per week.

We welcome donations from individuals as well, of items of unopened food, cleaning and hygiene products. We also welcome fresh food. Any financial donations received will go to purchasing more food.

There continue to be many locations where food can be taken. The Collection points are: The Co-op; Ashley Grange; The Cedars at Landford; the Primary School and The Trafalgar School in Downton. You can also bring fresh food and any other items to the church during Larder open times or church office hours. (9.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Thursday),

Please see Downton Baptist Church website for further information.
www.downtonbaptist.org/Groups/384889/The_Larder.aspx

The LARDER is open each week on Monday Evenings from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, and Wednesday Mornings from 9.00 am to 10.00 am.



Hearing Aid Clinic

Downton Baptist Church, South Lane

First Thursday of the month from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm. Drop in and get your hearing aids retubed and cleaned and obtain new batteries.

We will only be able to let a maximum number of clients into the room at any one time. Please respect social distancing measures. This service is for NHS Salisbury hearing aid users. Please bring your battery issue card.



We are RNID and together, we'll make life fully inclusive for deaf people and those with hearing loss or tinnitus.

Contact: Gill Drayson 01722 580014 or 07570 670 643

gillian.drayson@rnid.org.uk

Redlynch Players

Backstage News

Spring Production 2025 -

Deckchairs by Jean McConnell



It's almost show time! We have loved rehearsing these mini plays for you that, we hope, will give you a fun evening's entertainment on the promenade!

Each evening, will be taking a little trip to the British seaside to perform a selection of short plays from Jean McConnell's popular *Deckchairs* series. These 'twist in the tale' playlets are, by turn, both funny and poignant. Presenting a variety of scenarios, each playlet has been crafted for two women and explore the relationships between them – often with a humorous surprise! Ranging from a couple of shopaholics out for a jaunt, a reunion at a wedding reception, bickering actresses, and more, Jean McConnell's scripts sparkle with wit and empathy, and are just the tonic for a spring evening. In our true style, the evening will be seaside themed from start to finish. And, of course, refreshments will available!



We will be performing in Redlynch Village Hall from **Tuesday, 13th May through to Friday, 16th May.**

Please note we will not be performing on the Saturday!

Tickets, priced just £12 are on sale now! But hurry, there are only a few left!

Please email tickets@redlynchplayers.co.uk to place your orders!

For other information, please see our fliers, posters, our website, or our social media pages on Facebook or Instagram.

Save the date! Tea with Jane – 21st and 22nd June

We're excited to be joining with St Mary's church, Redlynch to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth with afternoon tea and extracts from her famous works. Do look out on our social media for times and ticket details!

What a lovely way to spend a summers' afternoon!

Find out more about us!

To be included on our emailing list to hear our latest news, email:

info@redlynchplayers.co.uk

Alternatively, see our website for recent reviews and past productions:

www.redlynchplayers.co.uk

We also post regularly on our Redlynch Players Facebook or Instagram pages. Why not follow us?

Ali Silver

Chair of Redlynch Players

Downton Primary School

It has been both busy and exciting leading up to Easter.

The Year 3 and 4 pupils have given a truly moving performance — an adaptation of “The Girl, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse” by Charlie Mackesy. Held in school, the play was a beautiful reflection on friendship, courage, kindness, and the importance of simply being there for one another — these being values that are held dear as a School. A huge thank you goes to the staff for their guidance and encouragement, and to the children’s families for all their support behind the scenes and to Mrs Sims for adapting the play and supporting the singing. A huge thank you also goes to the families for helping at home and cheering from the audience. The school was incredibly proud of the young performers — their maturity, empathy, and teamwork were clear for all to see.

The Year 1 and Year 2 pupils had a wonderful time on their visit to Hillier Gardens! The visits were filled with exploration, discovery, and plenty of fresh air as the children wandered through beautiful woodlands, colourful flower beds, and winding garden paths. They took part in hands-on activities, learned about different plants and wildlife, and enjoyed the chance to experience nature up close. The pond dipping activity was particularly popular. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect classroom learning with the natural world — and the children returned full of excitement (if a little bit muddy!). One child summed it up perfectly: “It was like going on an adventure — I saw a tree bigger than my house!”

Two teams of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils entered the Tag Rugby festival at Bishop Wordsworth's School. Both teams performed superbly, representing the school by showing great competitive spirit, resilience and the highest level of sportsmanship and teamwork. Team 2 fought really hard in a very difficult group while Team 1 were very unlucky not to finish in the top three teams after ending the day undefeated. Well done to all who participated and special thanks goes to the staff and parents who accompanied the teams.

Downton Clubs and Societies

Allotments Association	Susan Barnhurst-Davies	01725 512963
Barford Day Centre.....	Jeremy Parsons.....	01725 512963
BWSC Association Chairman	Mr Simon Bromilow	07785 265019
Downton Bowling Club	Mr Mike Hallam.....	01725 513359
Cuckoo Fair Committee	Mr T Pike	01725 511332
DCT Links Youth Group: School years 7/8/9+.....	Mr P Rhoades	01725 514792
Downton Band Secretary	Danie Williams	07535 994164
Downton Community Choir	Kate Edgar	01725 512635
Downton Community Pre-School	Naomi Hawker	01725 511178
Downton Football Club	Dan Newman	07900 370600
Downton Green Group	Jane Brentor	01725 510504
Downton History Group	Mr Dave Webber	01725 513759
Downton Horticultural Society	Mr Tony Ashford	01725 510656
Downton Lace Group	Mrs Judi Brown	01725 511649
Downton Leisure Centre	Dave Taylor	01725 557268
Downton Link	Co-ordinator	01725 513807
Downton Millennium Green Trust	Sue Larkin	01725 511209
Downton Parish Council Clerk	clerk@downtonparishcouncil	
Downton Society	Susan Barnhurst-Davies	01725 512963
Downton Society Footpath Group	Susan Barnhurst-Davies	01725 512963
Downton Tennis Centre	Dave Taylor.....	01725 557268
Forest Edge Flower Arranging Society	Miyuki Griffin.....	07990 868351
Gallipoli (D) Company, Wilts, Army Cadet Force.....	SSI J Burton	07788 975846
Goldies Sing & Smile	Carole Still	01722 337880
Good Companions	Mrs Julia Whitmarsh	01725 510601
Guides: Rainbows	Sam Bennie	07866 318497
First Downton Brownies	Kirstie Penton	07824 898611
First Downton Guides	Liz Jennings	
	lstdowntonguides@gmail.com	
Guild of Ringers (Church Bells)	Mr R Plaskett	01725 511258
Longwater Tai Chi	Jane Launchbury	01725 514546
Memorial Hall Bookings	Mrs Hilary Mace	07760 415818
Parochial Church Council	Mrs Jo Parsons	01725 512738
Royal British Legion	Mr Paul Hammond	07710 425983
Scouts: Beavers	Jon Edwards	downtonbeavers@gmail.com
Cubs	Jonathan Borwell	downtoncubs@gmail.com
Scouts	Kevin Hill	downtonscouts@gmail.com
St Laurence Sunday School	Dr J McGee	01725 513869
The Moot – Friends of the Moot	Mrs J Greville-Heygate	01725 511755
The Moot Preservation Trust: Secretary	Mr Hamish Dunlop.....	01725 512514

Please notify the Editor of any changes, additions or deletions

(Amended April 2025)

Community Café in the Memorial Hall



This regular event takes place at Downton Memorial Hall on the last Friday of each month, from 10.00 am - 12 noon.

Tea, coffee and homemade cake - plus the opportunity to chat to old friends and make new ones. There is a book share, and it is hoped that people will bring and share excess garden produce and flowers.

Everyone is welcome – pop in for a few minutes or stay all morning.

There is no charge but leave a donation if you wish.

If you know anyone who would like to come but needs a lift please contact stephaniejalland1@gmail.com.

To advertise goods or services in this magazine:

Block advertisements: Details from Gordon Bishop
(01725 511475) Email: g.bishop551@btinternet.com

**All box and line advertisements in this magazine
are accepted in good faith**

Sending editorial copy

Articles and notices of events for the **June** issue to be emailed to the Editor by **9th May**.

Please contact the Editor if you wish to submit a paper copy.

Articles will be shortened if space is limited; any received late may not be used. Please use black and white clipart rather than coloured items. Word documents are preferable to pdfs or jpgs.

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