

March 2026

Downton Parish News



Loving St Laurence

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 look around 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 downtonparishnews@gmail.com

Look and See

In February, Bishop Andrew preached at St. Birinus Church, Morgans Vale and encouraged us to 'look again'. He reminded us that when we see things regularly we can become so familiar with them that we don't notice what's changing. How often do we take the time to stop and truly look in order to truly see?



Sometimes looking and seeing change can be easy. The snowdrops that appear on Hamptworth Road, for example. It's a pleasure to see their delicate flowers, a sign that spring and warmer days are on the way. An easy change to see and appreciate. Other times it can be difficult to really 'see' change. Particularly with people we see regularly, we can become so familiar with each other that we don't notice what's changing. Like with young children, who although are changing all the time, it can feel as if they suddenly become teenagers. Time passes and the children who once needed their parents' care are now looking after their parents!

This physical change was true of Jesus too. People watched and noticed as he grew from a baby, to a boy and then a man. But as well as his physical appearance, Jesus' true identity was also being revealed but many didn't see or recognise him for who he really was.

As we see the change around us in the changing seasons let us also truly see those around us and the changes that are occurring. Whether that's our children growing up, those around us needing more care or each other as we change our ways and habits. When God reveals something of his identity in each of us, do we notice? Let us also be mindful of the small changes we make that may not always be noticed but this does not make them any less important. Change can go unnoticed but like an individual snowdrop, if we stop to look, we may be surprised at what we see. So may we all look afresh at what and who is around us, see where God is, and where we might be able to help. May we also be ready to look at ourselves, and be open to change our ways as we grow too!

Veronica x

Revd Veronica Batchelor, Team Rector, Forest and Avon Team

Forest and Avon Team Services for March 2026

You are welcome to attend any of these local services.

Sunday 1st March

- 9.30am Communion Service at St. Peter's, Bramshaw
- 10.00am Communion Service at Woodfalls Methodist Church
- 10.30am Communion Service (chancel) at St. Laurence's, Downton
- 10.30am Worship for All at Landford Methodist Hall
- 4.00pm Forest Church at St. Mary's, Redlynch

Wednesday 4th March

- 10.45am Informal Service followed by lunch at Woodfalls Methodist Church

Sunday 8th March

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St. Peter's, Bramshaw
- 10.00am Communion Service at St. Birinus, Morgans Vale
- 10.30am Morning Worship at St. Laurence's, Downton
- 10.30am The Gathering at Landford Methodist Hall

Sunday 15th March

- 9.30am Communion Service at St. Peter's, Bramshaw
- 10.00am Café Church (breakfast from 9.45am) at Woodfalls Methodist Church
- 10.30am Communion Service at St. Laurence's, Downton
- 10.30am The Gathering at Landford Methodist Hall
- 6.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Redlynch

Wednesday 18th March

- 10.45am Informal Service followed by lunch at Woodfalls Methodist Church

Sunday 22nd March

- 9.30am Silent Prayer at St. Peter's, Bramshaw
- 10.00am Communion Service at St. Mary's, Redlynch
- 10.30am Café Church at St. Laurence's, Downton
- 10.30am Methodist Service at Landford Methodist Church

Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday

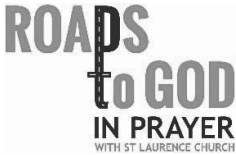
- 9.30am Communion Service at St. Peter's, Bramshaw
- 10.00am Palm Sunday at St. Andrew's, Landford
- 10.30am Communion Service at St. Laurence's, Downton
- 15.30pm Palm Sunday/Easter at St Peter's, Plaitford
- 16.00pm Forest Church at St. Mary's, Redlynch

Monday 30th March

7.00pm Compline at St. Mary’s, Redlynch

Tuesday 31st March

7.00pm Compline at St. Mary’s, Redlynch



In our cycle of prayer for all living and working in our community during **March** we will be offering prayers for:

Moot Gardens, Avondyke, Cranbury Close, Forest Edge, Charlotte Close

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 **18th March at 10.30am** in the Lady Chapel and will be led by Rev Ron Hart.



Celebration of Veronica’s New Ministry

This service held on the evening of 4th February at St Birinus Church was actually the Institution, Induction and Installation of Veronica as Team Rector of the Forest and Avon Team. The church was full of people from all the churches in the team. The service started with a welcome from the Rural Dean, Rev Peter Ostli-East, and then Bishop Andrew (Bishop of Ramsbury) introduced the service, and Veronica was formally introduced by the Archdeacon of Wilts (the Ven Louise Ellis). Various people from all of the team churches contributed to the service and at the end the official welcome invitation from the Bishop resulted in Veronica receiving rapturous applause.

After the service there was a social get together where wine, soft drinks and canapes were served. Thanks go to all who provided the refreshments.

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).



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 19th 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.

St Laurence Church to host inaugural Swift Fayre on 28 March

St Laurence Church will be holding the first-ever Swift Fayre on Saturday 28 March. The event, which is aimed at helping those with small businesses in the village and surrounding areas, will be held in the church from 10am – 2pm. Refreshments will be served throughout the event.

There will be a variety of stalls at the event, with goods on offer such as jewellery, 3D printed toys, handsewn gifts and much more. St Laurence will also be running a book and plant stall. If you would like a stall, please email Rose at downtonswiftfayre@gmail.com. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the refreshments and other St Laurence stalls, so please email Rose if you would be able and willing to help for a stint.



Downton Music Festival

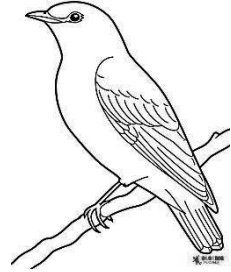
The Downton Music Festival will take place in St Laurence Church from Tuesday 9th – Saturday 13th June, with concerts every evening. The festival, which will be free to attend (although there will be a retiring collection), and will feature some of the best local musicians from the Downton and Salisbury areas.

Wider promotion of the event is planned to take place over the coming weeks, so please do keep an eye out for a flyer containing additional information about the event. The event aims to raise money for St Laurence Church, to help raise funds towards the ongoing church restoration fund.

We do hope that you will come and support the event – we will be welcoming several performers and groups from within the village community, including the Trafalgar School Choir, Suite Jazz, Downton Community Choir and the Downton Band.

Could you help St Laurence' Larder at Cuckoo Fair in 2026?

We are looking for willing, reliable, community minded people to help St Laurence' Church run their 'larder' in the Memorial Hall on 2nd May 2026.



All sorts of skills are needed:

- ✓ Loading & unloading equipment between church & hall on Friday 1st May. (ideally someone with a van or estate car.)
- ✓ Doing the same, in reverse, when The Borough re-opens on 2nd May.
- ✓ Making / selling Bacon butties your bag?
- ✓ Tea or coffee more your thing?
- ✓ Serving food, clearing tables or washing up?

You will meet some lovely people and have an enjoyable time! There is no need to be a church member and you will be not put under any pressure to be one. This is a major fund raising event for the church and our regular helpers are all getting older!!

For further information, please call Janet McGee on 01725 513869.



Could you capture the beauty of St Laurence Church?

Following the successful introduction of our new logo, we are now looking for some contemporary and creative photo images. Whether you're passionate about photography, have a creative eye or simply like taking photos why not visit St Laurence and see if you can capture the beauty of St Laurence Church? We're hoping to use some of the best photos (with the photographer's agreement) in our promotional material in the coming months. You can email your photos to lovestlaurence@gmail.com. Thank you for your support and we're looking forward to seeing your images.



Don't forget to follow our Facebook page for the latest news and events from St Laurence! Follow us - [@StLaurenceDownton](https://www.facebook.com/StLaurenceDownton).

Love,
St Laurence



St Laurence



The Swift Fayre

Saturday 28 March 2026

10am - 2pm

St Laurence Church, Downton

**Jewellery, 3D Printed Toys,
Hand-sewn items and much more!**

Tea, Coffee and Cakes sold throughout!



Downton Horticultural Society

Our first event of 2026 will be in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th March and will be an illustrated talk by Mike Read about the New Forest entitled 'Wildlife of a Working Forest'. Mike is a freelance nature photographer specialising in birds, flowers, mammals and other wildlife as well as landscapes (www.mikeread.co.uk). His photographs are simply stunning and many have featured in commercial publications. Mike will be bringing along greetings cards and fridge magnets that include his photographs to sell.

Then in April we are trying an afternoon meeting, again in the Memorial Hall, at 2.30pm on Wednesday 8th April. We will be proud to welcome Darren Everest, the Chelsea Gold Medallist, who will be giving an illustrated talk 'Growing Sweet Peas for Showing'. This promises to be very interesting and informative meeting for all who grow sweet peas regardless of whether they intend to show them. Additional parking will be available in the Primary School car park as the children will be on their Easter holiday.

As usual at our events there will be refreshments, a raffle and a sales table. We always welcome items for the sales table as it helps boost our funds.

Everybody is welcome to our events. We are grateful for donations from non-members who attend our evening talks although we hope they will become members. Annual membership of the society is only £6 and enables us to book more expert speakers and contributes to the Memorial Hall hire and the RHS insurance for our events.

Gordon Bishop



Downton Bowling Club

All the 2025 work on the green has now been completed and our green keeping volunteers are having a welcome rest. Work on the green/ground & planning for the new outdoor season which starts in April, will commence shortly.

Our annual presentation evening was held on Friday 23rd January, in the Sherwood Suite. The event was very well attended and was a lot of fun.

We are planning to hold a couple more coffee mornings in February & March. Details of these will be posted on our website shortly. Everyone including non-members, will be very welcome.

If you would like any information about the club or bowls in general, please kindly either phone Ivan on 07910 290735 or email him buib7@icloud.com or you can visit our website www.downtonbc.com



**Downton Horticultural
Society**

Forthcoming Events

19 March, 7:30pm - 'Wildlife of a Working Forest'

*An illustrated talk by Mike Read, Specialist Wildlife
Photographer*

8 April, 2:30pm - 'Growing Sweet Peas for Showing'

*An illustrated talk by Darren Everest, RHS Chelsea Gold
Medallist*

9 May, 2pm - Plant and Table Top Sale

6 June, 2pm - Summer Show

5 September, 2pm - Autumn Show

**22 October, 7:30pm - 'A Different Sort of Floral Art
Demonstration'**

Eileen Witt, NAFAS Member)

19 November, 7:30pm - AGM & Quiz

All events take place at Downton Memorial Hall



**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.



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. 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



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



Seedy Sunday, 22 March
Downton Memorial Hall, 2-4pm

The heart of Seedy Sunday is the Seed and Plant Swap. You can either bring along unwanted seeds and plants to swap or 'buy' for a donation. In addition, the event hosts several stalls from eco-conscious organisations and businesses. These include:

MoreVeg

Sell seeds in small quantities, meaning lower prices, and less waste. Seeds come with full organic certification (no use of synthetic chemicals/ fertilisers supporting soil health and bio-diversity).

William Wright Tool Sharpening

Bring your gardening tools along to keep them in tip-top condition, ready for the new season.

Local Gifts and Products

From Littleford Farm Flowers, A Tail of Yarn, Wire Garden Sculpture by Katie, Grow Your Own Cards and others.

Wildlife

Information about swifts and what you can do to encourage these birds to nest locally.

Keeping Bees

Information and advice from a local beekeeper.

Local Organisations and Charities

Including Downton Baptist Church community garden (produces food throughout the growing season which feeds into the Community Larder), Downton Primary School, Downton Moot and Downton Millennium Green.

Children's activities

Stone painting and seed planting.

And, of course, refreshments with homemade cakes.



Downton Green Network



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 Parish Council News

It's so easy to get fed up with the constant rain, especially with the flooding, road closures and general traffic inconvenience. By the time this is printed, let's hope that Nature has run her course and we will be basking in Spring sunshine!

Cheer yourself up by making 2026 the year of volunteering – footpath maintenance and lots of other jobs like sanding down and repairing our benches – the Parish always needs handy people to help keep it looking its best

Why not join the Parish Council as a Councillor? Help influence projects, get things done and make decisions for YOUR Parish: local democracy at its best

- Downton Parish is still without our dedicated Parish Steward Steve, due to other priorities in the County. Please do keep sending me jobs through via email, we hope to resume this service in March
- The cemetery in Barford Lane has had tree works to left of the entrance so the reflective corner is so much lighter. Plans are afoot to plant up the planter there. Grave levelling has nearly been completed – grass seeding and final tweaks have been delayed by the rain. A full report will be issued upon completion
- Obstructive parking in Downton continues to rear its ugly head, please do think about whether fire engines, ambulances and the police can safely access houses and businesses if you park anywhere in the Parish
- DPC bid successfully for a commemorative Oak to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2. Look out for further information on a planting ceremony led by the Cadets
- DPC Flood Wardens and Councillors continue to monitor the ground water and flooding, gel sacs have been delivered to Charlton, plus a gully visit was organised. Information on what to do if your household does flood can be found on social media and on the DPC website downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/emergency-plans-information/flood-plan
- If Parish residents are experiencing anti-social behaviour or any crime or disturbance, it is VITAL to report this to our local Police. **The Police do NOT respond to crimes reported on Facebook.**
In an emergency always dial 999 if: there is an immediate danger to life, someone is using violence or is threatening to be violent, a crime is happening right now, like a house burglary or a theft, the suspect is still at the scene
- If the problem is a non-emergency, then dial 101: if you are experiencing anti-social behaviour, door knocking etc.

Our local PC is Marc Evans, and our local police can be reached through dialling 101, or his mobile 07876 817927 which is active when PC Marc is on duty

The Parish Council meetings are held on the **second Monday of the month in the Bonvalot Room in the Downton Memorial Centre. Meetings usually 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 and Tree Warden 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 to the Parish Clerk.



Good Companions

We meet in the Downton Memorial Hall on Tuesdays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Regulars pay £2, visitors, who are always welcome, pay £2.50, cup of tea and biscuit included. Contact Julia Whitmarsh on 01725 510601 for details.

Joanne has arranged the following:

- 3rd March (week 1) - Games
- 10th March (week 2) - Salisbury Pluckers will be back!
- 17th March (week 3) - Games
- 24th March (week 4) - Carol Watson will be telling us all about her journey to Japan along with great photos.
- 31st March (week 5) - Games and Easter Hat competition (participation optional)

On the 3rd of February, we had a happy visit from Singer, Nigel Revill. He tuned his guitar and asked if the sound was at the right level for us. We were free to make requests of songs from when we were young, and he brought them alive for us with his musical singing. Some members got up to dance, and some of us sat and tapped our feet. It was a really "feel good" time.

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



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.

Interested in making a difference in your community – Become a School Governor at The Trafalgar School in Downton

The governors within Magna Learning Partnership come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the academies. We are currently seeking new governors and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- the ability to work well with others
- an open and enquiring mind
- the ability to look at issues objectively
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate
- a willingness to support and enhance the values and ethos of the school



Events at Woodfalls Methodist Church

Talkabout Thursday 5th March - Coffee from 10.00am. Talk starts at 10.30am Woodfalls Methodist Hall. "Great Finds in unlikely Places" Rare antiques can turn up in the most unusual places. Come and hear Jeremy Lamond of Woolley and Wallis share some of his personal experiences from a long career in the world of antiques.

Social Saturday 14th March - Starting with a meal at 5.30pm. Followed by Team - Classic British Comedies Game - watch a video clip and what can your team remember or answer some casual questions on Comedies. All welcome. It would be helpful if you could let us know on 07816542204 if you plan to come. In Woodfalls Methodist Hall.

Friendship Hub Tuesday 17th March - 2pm in Woodfalls Methodist Small Hall. An occasional group which meets for an activity and chat. This month we are playing dominoes and cards. All Welcome.

COME ALONG AND SUPPORT OUR...

QUIZ NIGHT!

Saturday 28th March

Doors open at 18:30

Quiz starts at 19:00



**Includes a meal of chili / beans /
cheese and baked potato *CASH BAR***

MORGAN'S VALE AND WOODFALLS VILLAGE HALL

**All proceeds go
towards Jessica's
conservation
volunteering trip to
Sri Lanka, where
she'll be helping the
conservation of
turtles and their
habitats.**

**£10 per person
up to 6 people per team**



**PLEASE CONTACT:
RUTH AT 07802 439743 TO BOOK A TABLE**

Redlynch Players Backstage News



Spring Production 2026

Bringing a touch of 70s nostalgia with the girls!

As spring progresses, our rehearsals are gathering the momentum of a proverbial Mad March Hare, and we are enjoying working on some cracking scripts for our next performances!

Our spring production this year consists of two one act plays set in the 1970s and performed by all female casts. The first, *Bus Stop* by Rae Shirley, is a comic take on a seemingly endless wait for the bus to arrive, when conversations revolve around village gossip, varicose veins and a portion of chips! You won't look at a bus queue in quite the same way again!



In the second, the wryly humorous, *People Like Us* by Cherry Vooght, three women take a seaside holiday in a caravan who face the increasingly looming topics of loneliness and independence as their years advance.

Both directed by Lloyd Perry, we hope you'll enjoy these two great stories set in simpler times, yet with themes that still resonate today. Details for tickets will be out soon so please watch our social media for those. In

the meantime, don't forget to put the week beginning the 11th May, 2026 in your diaries for our performances!

Find out more about us!

We are always looking for new friends to join us, whether that is performing on stage, doing something backstage such as costume or tech, helping seat the audience as front of house during performances, or by coming along to a performance itself.

If you have ever been tempted to get involved, please do get in touch with us via our website, email info@redlynchplayers.co.uk or message us on our Facebook or Instagram. Pages. We would love to have a chat with you!

Please see our website for recent reviews, how to buy tickets and past productions: www.redlynchplayers.co.uk

We post lots of regular updates, news and photos on our Redlynch Players Facebook and Instagram pages [@redlynchplayers](https://www.facebook.com/redlynchplayers). Why not follow us?

Ali Silver, Chair of Redlynch Players

Lover Repair Café

TIME MARCHES ON AND IT IS MARCH ALREADY, MAKE SURE YOU ENJOY EVERY MOMENT, AND THAT MAY WELL BE BY JOINING US AT ONE OF OUR 'CAFE'S' AND GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET THOSE ITEMS REPAIRED.



As you are probably aware by now, we love repairing historic items. As promised we have the finished Spinning Wheel on the left (To be fair we had trouble getting it back from our Fixer as his family really enjoyed using it.). On the right now, we have a 19th Century Swiss Cylinder Music Box, this allowed a veneer worker, a clock-work expert & mechanical engineers a chance to offer their skills. It sounds amazing.



LATEST NEWS: -

1. Sunday 22nd March: A date for your Diary, we shall be at Seedy Sunday in Downton Memorial Hall to offer you advise on practical & I.T. problems, from 2pm until 4pm..
2. We had a wonderful time a Lover Ladies and thank them for their generous donation to the Salisbury Hospice
3. 25th March: Our Repair Cafe has been invited to the Houses of Parliament to represent the Area as part of the Restart Project pushing for a Repair Reclaim Declaration from the government.

DONATED GIFTS AVAILABLE

Dawes Man's Bike	HW Coffee Table	Philips Mixing Wand	Bosch Leaf Blower
Delong Hairdryer	Dyson Vac Cleaner	Breville Steam Iron	Artisan Food Mixer



Sometimes it isn't a simple matter of repairs, on the left is a shoe-horn The plastic horn broke & rather than a 'bodgie' glue repair, a lovely new brass horn was created. Sticking with the 'Old Item Repairs' this month, we had this very unusual item brought in. It is an electro plated, Spirit Fuelled, Tilting Kettle common it seems in the early 1900 hundred. Strangely enough, only this morning a 21st Century version arrived with us for repair (I hope to show you this next month.)



We are here to help you by repairing furniture, ceramics, electrical goods, clothing, books & old treasures etc. So, please VISIT US at:
 REDLYNCH VILLAGE HALL – Every Wed. & Fri. Morning, 10am to midday, or
 DOWNTON BAPTIST CHURCH – On the 1st Saturday of each month, 10am to midday
 Contact: loverrepaircafe@gmail.com or downtonrepaorcafe@gmail.com or
 Visit our Website <https://loverrepaircafe.org.uk>

Redlynch and Local District History Society Report

Our February talk was by March Heighway on “Wings over the New Forest” covering the period from 1784 to 1960 but excluding the Second World War because it would require another talk in its own right.

In 1784 Jean Blanchard who flew his hot air balloon from Chelsea to Romsey; the event is depicted in a painting of Pyewell House, Lymington. This was the first recorded flight in our local area and over 100 years passed until the early 1900s when local inventors tried designing flying machines. These included Richard Balston who unsuccessfully focussed on Leonardo Da Vinci’s sketches, Charles Rolls who made over 200 balloon ascents, and Edwin Moon who built a kit aircraft for flying attempts at Ower Farm and Moonhills near Beaulieu.

Beaulieu (Bagshot Moor) became a private flying school (the second in the UK) before the First World War, run by Drexell and McCardle; they eventually went bankrupt due to other schools being started in more populous locations. The exposed nature of the site led to destruction of the expensive aircraft by high winds. The site was taken over by the RFC and aircraft such as Avro 504 and Sopwith Camels were used there. The site was dismantled in 1919 but the village Hall is actually the only remaining building and BEAULIEU can be seen in white letters on the ground. Preceding this, in 1913 the seaplane/flying boat station at Calshot was opened by the Royal Naval Air Service.

Lord Montague was a great proponent of aviation and realised the application to warfare; he was instrumental in warning of the threat of air raids and during WW1 small concrete plinths were laid during WW1 to mount height and range finding apparatus, with a built-in telephone to communicate the information to defences. These can still be seen in the forest.

During the evolution of British aviation, wealthy people and organisations often set targets with prizes if achieved: in the 1920s the Schneider trophy for the fastest seaplane was a prestigious competition. The government departments failed to see the potential of this for aircraft development so Lady Houston gave £100,000 to Supermarine based at Woolston to achieve a win and obviously develop the knowledge to build fast aircraft. That sum would be the equivalent of £7m in 2023 so this was no mean donation. The know how so attained enabled Supermarine to design and build the Spitfire, the mainstay of the RAF in 2WW and Britain’s most produced aircraft.

Our next talk is Romans in the Avon Valley by Salisbury Museum Director Adrian Green. The talk will be on Tuesday 3rd March at 7:30pm in the Morgans Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall. Visitors are welcome and entry for non-members is only £3.

There is a [change of talk](#) for the 7th April which will now be Helen Roberts talking about the Fovant Badges, with a particular interest in the Australian aspects.



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Sending editorial copy:

Articles and notices of events for the **April** issue to be emailed to the Editor by **7th March**. Please contact the Editor if you wish to submit a paper copy.

Articles will be shortened if space is limited and any received late may not be used. Please use black and white clipart rather than coloured items. Word documents are preferable to pdfs or jpegs. Email: downtonparishnews@gmail.com

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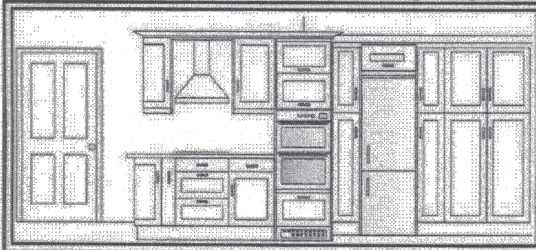
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