

July & August 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

Interim Treasurer: Mrs Sheila Latham companydragon@btinternet.com

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

Journeys!

The month of July is a typical time of undertaking a journey. Our schools are gearing up for the summer holidays, some of us are looking forward to our annual break, whether at home, in the U.K., or further afield. I wonder how many of you, like me enjoy journeys? Sometimes the journey itself is more enjoyable than staying at the destination! Walking or driving through our beautiful countryside for example, as we are lucky to do in our part of the world, despite the current high cost of fuel!



There are much bigger and wider journeys too, life journeys and spiritual journeys.

I hope you don't mind indulging me as I share something of my own journeys. I am very much a local person, Baptised, Confirmed and Married in our local churches. I have deep family roots in Downton as well.

My spiritual journey took on a surprising and unexpected path recently when after several weeks of formal training Veronica commissioned me to serve as a Lay Worship Leader. Commissioning really means the Bishop giving one permission to serve and work within a local area, the Forest and Avon Team in my case. This clearly is a new role for me, and the team! The role involves leading non-eucharistic services like Morning Worship, and Evensong within the team and working with other ministers and leaders in our six churches to plan and participate in services. With gentle encouragement and much support from our Team Rector I have spread my wings a bit and journeyed away from St Mary's at Redlynch and taken part or led services in most of the churches in the team. An opportunity for which I am thankful. Everyone has been so welcoming and meeting new people and sharing their worship with them has been a joy.

Back to journeys.

This summer, wherever your journey takes you, be it far or near, I hope you have a restful and refreshing time. As Psalm 121 quotes *"The Lord will watch over your coming and going"*.

Hopefully, our journeys may cross, and we will meet and even for a short time we can journey together.

With best wishes,

Ron Perry

Lay Worship Leader, Forest and Avon Team.
ronpforestandavon@outlook.com

Forest and Avon Team Services for July 2026

You are welcome to attend any of these local services.

Wednesday 1st July

10:45	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church
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Sunday 5th July

09:30	Communion Service	St Peter's Church, Bramshaw
10:00	Service	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10:30	Communion Service (Chancel)	St Laurence Church, Downton
10:30	Service	Landford Folk Festival
16:00	Forest Church	St Mary's Church, Redlynch

Sunday 12th July

09:30	Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Bramshaw
10:00	Communion Service	St Birinus Church, Morgans Vale
10:30	Morning Worship	St Laurence Church, Downton
10:30	The Gathering	Landford Methodist Hall

Wednesday 15th July

10:45	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church
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Sunday 19th July

09:30	Communion Service	St Peter's Church, Bramshaw
10:00	Café Church (breakfast from 09:45am)	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10:30	Communion Service	St Laurence Church, Downton
10:30	Service led by Christian Motorbike Association	Landford Methodist Hall
18:00	Evensong	St Mary's Church, Redlynch

Sunday 26th July

09:30	Silent Prayer	St Peter's Church, Bramshaw
10:00	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Redlynch
10:00	Communion Service	St Andrew's Church, Landford
10:30	Café Church	St Laurence Church, Downton
10:30	Methodist Style	Landford Methodist Church

Forest and Avon Team Services for August 2026

You are welcome to attend any of these local services.

Sunday 2nd August

09:30	Communion Service	St Peter's Church, Bramshaw
10:00	Service	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10:30	Communion Service (Chancel)	St Laurence Church, Downton
10:30	Methodist Service	Landford Methodist Chapel
16:00	Forest Church	St Mary's Church, Redlynch

Wednesday 5th August

10:45	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church
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Sunday 9th August

09:30	Morning Worship	St Peter's Church, Bramshaw
10:00	Communion Service	St Birinus Church, Morgans Vale
10:30	Morning Worship	St Laurence Church, Downton
10:30	Methodist Service	Landford Methodist Church

Sunday 16th August

09:30	Communion Service	St Peter's Church, Bramshaw
10:00	Café Church (breakfast from 9:45am)	Woodfalls Methodist Church
10:30	Communion Service	St Laurence Church, Downton
10:30	Methodist Service	Landford Methodist Chapel
18:00	Evensong	St Mary's Church, Redlynch

Wednesday 19th August

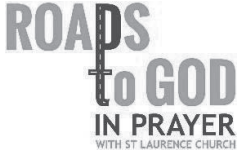
10:45	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church
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Sunday 23rd August

09:30	Silent Prayer	St Peter's Church, Bramshaw
10:00	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Redlynch
10:00	Morning Worship	St Andrew's Church, Landford
10:30	Café Church	St Laurence, Downton
10:30	Methodist Holy Communion	Landford Methodist Church

Sunday 30th August

10:30	Team Communion Service	St Peter's Church, Bramshaw
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In our cycle of prayer for all living and working in our community during **July** we will be offering prayers for Catherine Crescent, South Lane, Green Lane, Lode Hill, Slab Lane and Downlands Close.

During **August** we will be offering prayers for Gravel Close, Greenacres, Wheelwright Mews, Saxonhurst and Wick Lane.

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 **15th July** at **10.30am** in the Lady Chapel and will be led by Rev Ron Hart.



St Laurence Goose Fair 2026

The St Laurence Goose Fair will be returning on Saturday 12 September 2026, from 10am – 2pm. We are in the process of arranging stalls, and if you would be interested in having a stall (cost £20), please do contact Rose Bloomfield (downtongoosefair@gmail.com).

We will also be looking for people to help on the day with our various stalls, as well as for bakers to make some delicious homemade cakes for us to sell on the day on our refreshments stall. If you can help, please do email Rose at the address above, or fill out the sheets in the back of church from the start of August.

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 **16th July at 12.00 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

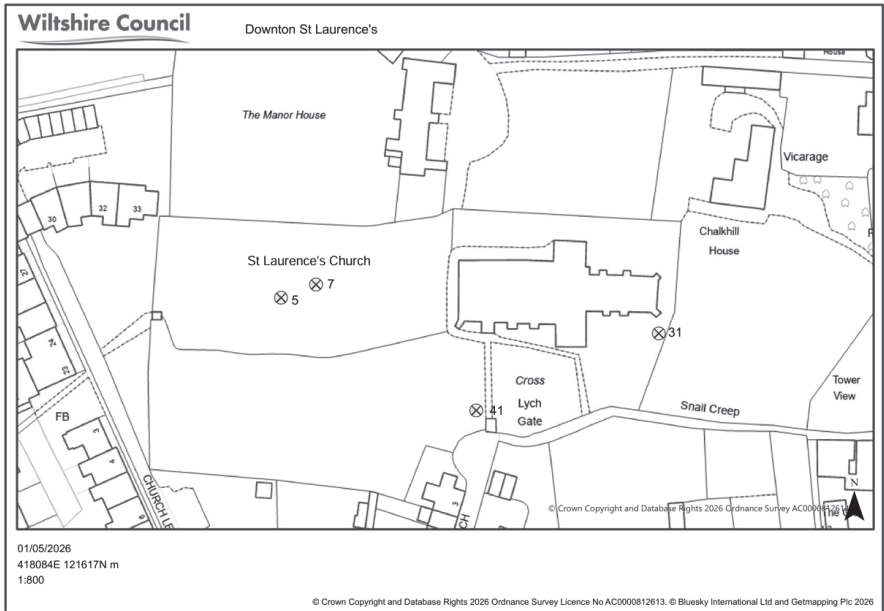
9.00 am to 10.00 am Every Wednesday (with refreshments)

Pastors: Rev Philip Rhoades and Rev Katy Ulliyatt

Tel: 07468 491143 or 07786 248880.

Box Tomb Ownership Enquiry

Wiltshire Council are due to schedule maintenance works to 4 box tombs in the churchyard at St Laurence's Church, Downton. The work is to ensure public safety. See below photographs with details of any visible inscriptions and tomb locations map:



Tomb DOW_5

Inscription name: James Ingram



Tomb DOW_7

Inscription Names: Mary Hooper,
George Hooper



Tomb DOW_31
No inscription



Tomb DOW_41
Inscription names: James Baily,
Elizabeth Baily



If you are aware of the legal owner of these box tombs, or have any related enquiries, please contact: Cemeteries and Burials Team, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN, cemeteries@wiltshire.gov.uk, 01225 770429



Downton Christmas Tree Festival

Please do save the date for the Downton Christmas Tree Festival, which will be taking place in St Laurence Church on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December.

Keep an eye out on the St Laurence Church social media pages over the coming months for more information, and please do consider entering a tree, wreath or exhibit this year.

For more information about the festival, please email
downtonchristmastreefest@gmail.com

2026 UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH

3rd July - Suite Jazz

Relax and enjoy your picnic along live Jazz in the beautiful churchyard setting

24th July - An Evening with.... Captain Barry Sadler

A fascinating talk from a Southampton Docks Pilot Captain Barry Sadler

12th September - Goose Fair

Peruse the stalls, enjoy coffee & cake and help support local entrepreneurs

2nd October - An Evening with.... Ron Burrows

Experience the highs of a RAF pilot from the Aden 'Emergency' to testing the Tornado

6th November - An Evening with.... Baroness Batters

An informal evening of discovery with Baroness Batter's recently published autobiography 'Harvest'

5th – 6th December - Christmas Tree Festival

See the beautiful individual Christmas trees decorated by local people.

Get your Christmas shopping in early with our famous gift stall.

Indulge in locally made cakes & Goodies and listen to a programme of music over two days

11th December - An Evening with.... Courtney Spence

Listen to the tales of the life of a West End actor and a rendition of A Christmas Carol

FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026 AT 7PM

SUITE JAZZ

Kate Edgar, Paul Borrelli & Dave Mace

ST LAURENCE CHURCHYARD

Bring a savoury picnic, chairs a woolly and your friends

Puddings and hot drinks will be on sale

Tickets £10 (under 18 £5) available on the door

or in advance from The Borough Cafe

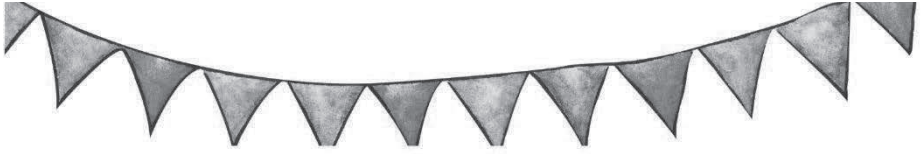
or from Courtney Spence at

courtney.spence7@gmail.com

All proceeds in aid of St Laurence Church

(If wet the performance will be in the church)





10am - 2pm
St Laurence Church, Downton

New Stalls for 2026!

**Craftwork, jewellery,
homemade & local produce
Refreshments, including light lunches**



CAPTAIN BARRY SADLER

Unrestricted First Class Marine Pilot

Concentrating on his 25 years at Southampton, Barry will describe his role in detail and set out some of the challenges posed by the ever increasing size of ships.

TALKING ABOUT THE ROLE OF A SHIP'S PILOT

- ✓ At sea transfers
- ✓ Pilot transfer issues
- ✓ Mechanical failures
- ✓ Heavy weather planning
- ✓ Ship handling in adverse conditions

24th July at 7pm,
St Laurence's Church, Downton

£5/ticket

Tickets on the door or email: forestandavonteame@gmail.com

Downton Parish Council News

Flaming June is certainly full of weather, amazing hot days and torrential thundery downpours! This kind of weather really makes the weeds grow – why not help out at our beautiful cemetery by doing an hour of weeding a month? Contact me on the number below.....And....



Why not make 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....OR 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! Please do contact me, many hands make a considerable difference

- DPC have had complaints from relatives about the state of the Barford Lane Cemetery – please be assured that we are working with our Contractor to ensure that the contract is being fulfilled correctly: To mow and strim every 2 weeks, hedging once a year and weeding the driveway once a year. DPC will be checking the Cemetery every fortnight to ensure compliance. That leaves weeding the cremated and reflective corners for volunteers so if you can spare an hour a month please let me know
- By the time you read this the snagging and Legionnaires testing will be complete on the newly refurbished public toilets – bright, modern, with baby changing in all 3 toilets plus a freshly designed accessible toilet which is also stoma friendly.
- Two new defibrillators will be making an appearance in Downton to replace the end-of-life ones at the GP surgery and the Downton Memorial Centre. The defib at the surgery will have a new cabinet as well.
- A new gate has been approved for the footpath side of the Memorial Gardens
- The high friction surface for the Wooden Spoon informal crossing is in hand with Wiltshire Council, but no date has been received as yet
- 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! Come and hear what your Parish Council is doing for you and your community**

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.



FUTURE TX - a new PG film not yet released in the UK!

Future TX is a fun and fast-paced sci-fi thriller for all the family.

Two kids, Dylan and Molly, get their first mobile phones when they both receive a call from someone who claims to be from the future. He needs their help if the world is going to survive.

Dylan and Molly agree to get involved. Their mission is to find a botnet that has initiated nearby in their area. They must disable the botnet in the present before it becomes too powerful and destroys the future.

Our brave heroes follow various clues (and dodge the bad guys) to try to find the elusive botnet.

But can they save the day and the world?

The Film is being shown during the summer holidays in Downton Memorial Hall:

Monday 24th August, 2.30pm

Saturday 29th August, 10am

Tickets £5, available at the Borough Cafe from 1 August (cash only), by texting 07760 415818 to pay by BACS or on the door.

Refreshments available. ***No unaccompanied children please.***

All profits will go to refurbishing the Memorial Hall kitchen.

Downton Bowling Club – 2026 Season Update

The 2026 season is now in full swing at Downton Bowling Club.

Our first competitive match was a Westbrook MTL Cup fixture on 29 April against Alderbury home & away, which we narrowly lost by a single shot. In the league we currently stand at **P2 W0 L2**, placing us 6th/7. Our NF teams record is **P5 W1 L4**, and we are currently 7th/8.

Both of our B&D teams played their first matches on Cuckoo Fayre Day, so both games were played away from home. Both teams are in Division 4 & the **Dragons** have a record of **P5 W3 L2**, placing them 2nd/10 while the **Bustards** stand at **P5 W3 L2**, currently 6th/10. The highlight of the season so far was the **Bustards'** narrow **26–25** victory over the **Dragons** in week two.

We hold **weekly roll-ups every Monday from 2.00pm–4.00pm and Friday from 6.00pm–8.00pm** (excluding bank holidays). Whether you're an experienced player or someone who would like to give bowls a try, why not pop down and have a go? All equipment, tuition, light refreshments and parking are provided **free of charge**, and we'd love to see you.

For more information, please contact **Ivan** on **07910 290735**, email **buib7@icloud.com**, or visit our website at www.downtonbc.co.uk.

Downton Bowling Club

We welcome new members, so why not join us on one of our Open Days (Sundays 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st May) or for a roll up at 2pm every Monday or 6pm every Friday throughout the season* from 20th April?

*All equipment & tuition is provided free of charge.
More details on our web site and Facebook page.*

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/

A warm welcome awaits you.

*excluding Bank Holidays



Downton Horticultural Society

Our recent Summer Show was considered a success although the number of entries was down on last year. We think this was mostly due to the recent sudden heatwave and then the really strong winds in the days leading up to the show. We were very pleased with the large number of people who braved the rain to come and see the exhibits and enjoy the home-made refreshments. Thanks also go to Downton Primary School for allowing us to exhibit colourful flowers and mini-beasts made by some of their youngest pupils from up-cycled materials.

Our Autumn Show will be held in the Memorial Hall at 2pm on Saturday 5th September. Admission is free, so please come and view the many exhibits of chrysanthemums, gladioli, dahlias, pot plants, vegetables and fruit, as well as the floral arrangements. This show also has a large Bake-Off section with prizes for the best carrot cake, shortbread, Victoria sponge, lemon drizzle cake, cheese straws, tray bake, cheese scones, flapjacks, chocolate sponge, and fruit scones. The winner of the best Dundee cake will be awarded the President's Cup. You do not have to be a member of the society to enter, and you do get your entry back afterwards so if you enjoy cooking why not give it a go? The Show Schedules contain all the details you need to know and an entry form, they are available from any committee member including Chris Parry, 'Cymbeline', 51 The Borough, Downton (opposite the Co-op) - 01725 514511. It costs 25p per entry and for most classes the first prize is £1 and the second prize 50p, there are also trophies for some classes. Entry forms must be submitted by 8pm on the Wednesday before the show and the exhibit brought along to the hall, either on the Friday evening or Saturday morning of the Show.

Gordon Bishop (01725 511475)



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



DOWN TON
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN
Flower
SHOW

SATURDAY
5TH SEPTEMBER

2PM - 4:30PM

DOWNTON
MEMORIAL HALL

REFRESHMENTS * SALES TABLE * RAFFLE

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'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.



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 for us.

7th July (Week One) – TBC
14th July (Week Two) – Games and Quiz
21st July (Week Three) – Games and Beetle Drive
28th July (Week Four) – Nigel Revell will be singing some of our favourite oldies

4th August (Week One) – Games
11th August (Week Two) – Carol Watson will be showing photos from her trip to Yellowstone
18th August (Week Three) – Games and Quiz
25th August (Week Four) – TBC

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



1st Downton Guides

The 1st Downton Guides welcome girls aged 10 – 14 to join them for exciting activities, making new friends, and creating unforgettable memories. From 21st April, the Guides will be moving to a new regular night, with meetings taking place on Tuesdays at Downton Baptist Church.

There are three groups, who all meet on a Tuesday night:

- Downton Rainbows (4–7-year-olds)
- Downton Brownies (7–10-year-olds)
- 1st Downton Guides (10–14-year-olds)



If you're interested or have any questions, please email
downtonguides1@gmail.com.

Alternatively, you can sign up or register your interest here:
<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

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 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.

Events at Woodfalls Methodist Church

Talkabout Thursday 2nd July - Coffee from 10.00am, talk starts at 10.30am. Speaker Richard Hutley will give a follow up talk 'JFK - The sequel' – he will examine the aftermath of President Kennedy's assassination. Was it random, or was there really a conspiracy? Come and find out! In Woodfalls Methodist Hall. All Welcome.

Social Saturday 11th July - Starting with a meal at 5.30pm Followed by a Beetle Drive. In Woodfalls Methodist Hall. All welcome. It would help with catering if you could let us know you plan to come -07816542204.

Save the Date for the Jigsaw Puzzle Festival – 25 – 27 September! Further details to follow.



Redlynch & District W.I

We were so sad to hear of Our Presidents passing and would like to thank Rosemary Pugh for all her years of Commitment, stoicism and enthusiasm to the WI. We will miss you.

Only a few seats left! Our outing to the City of Wells and Street Shopping village on 15th July 2026 is fast approaching. Only £26 per person. Wells has the wonderful Cathedral and Bishop's Palace Garden are beautiful; Street Shopping Village has bargains (Christmas only 5 months away!). To reserve a seat Call Sandra Pearce on 01725 512129.

At our May meeting we enjoyed a fascinating talk by one of our members about her expedition to the Alps: A walk in the mountains: spinning a yarn... telling a story. Exquisite needlework of many varieties told the story of this and other adventures! Inspiring Work.

Forthcoming Dates:

12th August – A talk about 'The History of Furzey Gardens'

9th September – Our 110th Celebrations – look out for additional information!

Information about the WI or if you are thinking of joining (you would be made very welcome), please contact Nora Barker on 01725 511982 of itsthebarkers@aol.com



St Mary's Church, Redlynch present

Tea and Tennis!

Sunday, 12th July

Watch the Gentlemen's Singles Finals
live on the big screen in Redlynch village
hall whilst enjoying a complimentary bowl
of strawberries and cream!

- Doors open from 3:45pm
- Unreserved seating
- Bar (including Pimms of course!)
- Raffle



Tickets, costing £12 are available from
tennis@stmarys-redlynch.org.uk

or phone:

Peter Bishop 01725 512779

A fundraising event for St Mary's, Redlynch





Redlynch Players Backstage News

Area Award Winners!

You may have seen us recently in the Salisbury Journal, celebrating the achievement award we won from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA). A few of us went to a very glamorous award ceremony in Exeter, mixing with the very best in amateur theatre in the South West to receive it:

'This award is for Redlynch Players' consistent high standard of performances throughout the year. With continuing sold out plays their standard of acting skills is exceptional and their dedication, commitment and hard work shows in all their productions. It brings the audiences back, time and time again. Well done!'



Jeni Colton, NODA SW Regional Representative District 12 wrote:

'These nominations are a terrific achievement in a region as big as the South West, and I congratulate you and all the company for your continued successes'.

This award and nominations were a fantastic recognition of all the hard work, support and dedication put into each performance by every single person, patron and audience member of our special group. Chosen from more than 200 drama groups in the South West area, this acknowledgment comes just as we enter our 70th year when we plan to celebrate in style and bring even more excellent drama to the local area. Watch this space!

Summer Break

Following the excitement of our sell out Spring Production - *"...Lloyd Perry directed a lovely evening's entertainment, with a full range of emotions and some fantastic acting on display."* SceneOne+

-and the NODA award ceremony, we will be taking a little break over the summer before beginning rehearsals once again in September for the Autumn. More details will be forthcoming soon!

2027 - Our Platinum Year!

As mentioned, next year we will be celebrating 70 years of Redlynch Players, and we are already planning some special events to mark the occasion. Yes, there will be cake!



To make this year even more special, we are looking for people who may like to be try out something new. It doesn't have to be acting as there are many other roles that are needed to bring a play to the stage. If you would like to come along for a chat and watch a rehearsal to see what goes on and find out if it's for you, please get in touch.

We can be contacted via email info@redlynchplayers.co.uk

Information about us, reviews, photos and awards may be found on our website: www.redlynchplayers.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Ali Silver, **Chair of Redlynch Players**



Swift Walk at St Laurence Church

Are you interested in wildlife conservation? Why not make the most of this opportunity to learn from the experts, and come along to a Swift Walk in Downton? The event is run by the Salisbury and Wilton Swifts Group, who are working with the local community to create more nesting opportunities.

During the walk, you will stroll through the village on a summer's evening to watch and learn more about swifts.



The event is open to all, and walkers should meet outside St Laurence Church at 7:30pm on Thursday 16 July. The walk will take approximately 90 minutes.

There is no cost, however, a suggested donation of £5 will be collected on the day.

Further details about this event, and how you can get involved with Salisbury and Wilton Swifts are available on their website - <https://www.salisburyandwiltonswifts.org/>

Lover Repair Café

WE HAVE JUST HAD ANOTHER MONTH OF SUPRISE JOBS IN FOR ATTENTION ALONG WITH STANDARD REPAIR WORKS. THEY ARE LOVELY OLD ITEMS REMINDING US OF TIMES GONE BY, THAT WE ARE PREPARED AND ABLE TO REFURBISH AND RESTORE JUST FOR YOU.



Still the very best, 'SINGER' sewing machines. This old family heirloom came in very distressed but due to the work of an engineer, a mechanic & wood-worker she will now take pride of place at home and may help youngsters learn the fine art of sewing and machining. 'Shiver me timbers' The Cutty Sark ahoy. Would you know how to re-rig this vessel? Well we know a man who can and we look forward to the time we can show you a picture of the completed restoration.



LATEST NEWS: -

1. We continue to be open every Wednesday and Friday morning at Redlynch Village Hall and every first Saturday morning of the month in Downton Baptist Church, we would encourage Downton Folks to make use of this (non working hours) service as usually 10 or 12 workers turn up to help or advise you on all sorts of domestic problems and repairs.
2. We are looking into the possibility of giving repair support to Salisbury Hospital Staff and maybe encouraging them to set up their very own repair service.

DONATED GIFTS AVAILABLE (The cost is whatever you wish to pay)

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We recently received this rare French Gilt & Porcelain Mantle Clock that with a little skill & tinkering will soon be in working order again. Offers are already coming in to purchase it.

I don't know about you but I remember going to Hotels where one of these Gongs would be hit to call us to Lunch or Dinner. Repairs to the base & basher are in hand.



We are here to help you by repairing furniture, ceramics, electrical goods, clothing, books & other 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 downtonrepaircafe@gmail.com or

Visit our Website <https://loverrepaircafe.org.uk>

Redlynch and Local District History Society Report

Our June meeting was a trip to the Boscombe Down Aviation Collection at Old Sarum; the meeting was designated a Lynn Morrell Memorial meeting by the committee and was subsidised by the bequest we had received from her estate.

The aviation collection was originally based at Boscombe Down and was not open to the public, however when Qinetiq took over the site they announced they wanted substantial annual payment for “rent” which prompted the museum custodians to find more viable premises. Fortunately, a Grade II listed hangar dating from WW1 at Old Sarum was available and the collection moved down the road; over the years a second adjoining hangar became available which the Collection has acquired.

We were provided with tea and biscuits and a presentation on the history of Boscombe Down and the collection. The trustees also maintain an interest in the history of RAF Old Sarum and local aviation. The collection houses a WW1 collection of memorabilia including actual uniforms, flying kit and artefacts from that period. Also present are a large number of excellent models depicting aircraft flying from Boscombe Down over the years since 1939; as every type of aircraft procured for the three services was tested at Boscombe, the list is huge.

During the second World War Boscombe tested airborne weapons on New Forest’s Ashley Walk range and during the Battle of Britain, Hurricane squadrons were based there, including 249 squadron whose Flight Lieutenant Nicolson was awarded the only VC during the battle.

Naturally the main event was the collection of aircraft almost all of which had flown at Boscombe; highlights were the Sea Harrier which had 4 aircraft victories over the Falklands, an immaculate Meteor, a Wasp helicopter and a BE2 biplane which had been constructed by volunteers at the museum. Another constructed exhibit is a complete forward fuselage of a Lancaster showing all the crew positions and equipment which you can enter. Unusually, most of the aircraft are set up so you can get into the cockpit or view them easily.

The volunteers were very knowledgeable and had a good number of stories when prompted. An interesting and enjoyable trip assisted by the fact the Dark Revolution Brewery Tap is next door.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday **1st** September at 7:30pm at Morgans Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall, entitled “Mary & Jane Hardy” by Jenny Head and Anne Johns. The sisters of Thomas Hardy were trail blazers in education and influenced their brothers writing.

Also please note we are holding our 30th anniversary exhibition at the above Hall on 10th October.

To advertise goods or services in this magazine:

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

Sending editorial copy:

Articles and notices of events for the **September** issue to be emailed to the Editor by **7th August**. 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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Get in touch

Contact Darren Hilton on
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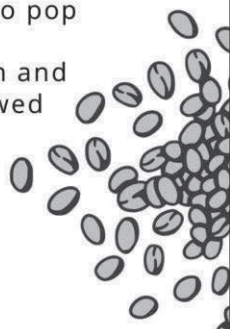


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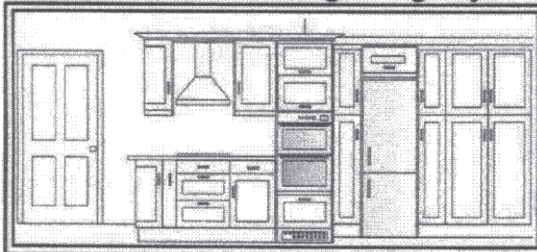
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