September 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

Pointers on Pausing

At home we have two rescue dogs: Otto, a German Wirehaired Pointer (GWP), and Henry, who's a GWP–English Pointer cross. You can expect more dog tales in future letters. Even though they're getting older, they retain that irresistible dog-sense of being in a hurry, especially when food or walks are involved.

Otto can clear his bowl in seconds, barely stopping for breath. We've had to buy one of those silicone slow-feeder inserts, otherwise he'd inhale his dinner like a furry vacuum cleaner. And on walks, both dogs seem convinced they must get back home as quickly as possible. They stride ahead, leads stretched tight, urging me to pick up the pace. Yet every so often they stop suddenly, caught by something interesting. Often, it's a robin or a squirrel, but now and then it's something more surprising — like a badger. Mostly, though, they pause to check and leave their own pee-mail.

Watching them, I'm reminded how similar we humans can be. We rush from one thing to the next, hardly noticing how quickly our days fill up. It's easy to hurry through life, always thinking about the next task, the next worry, the next place we need to be. But the Christian life gently invites us to pause.

Jesus often encouraged people to notice what was right in front of them. He pointed to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, not as decoration but as reminders of God's care. He paid attention to the small, the ordinary, the overlooked — showing that God's love is found not only in big moments but in quiet ones. When we pause, even briefly, we make room to notice God's presence: in creation around us, in the kindness of neighbours, and in the quiet stirrings of our own hearts.

So perhaps this month, as we walk the lanes, tend the garden, or sit with a cup of tea, we might take a moment to pause — to look, to listen, to breathe. Like Otto and Henry stopping to investigate a scent or watch a robin, we too can learn to slow down and pay attention. We might even spot an unexpected badger. These small pauses can become places where God speaks, reassures, and gently guides us. They remind us that we are loved, held, and accompanied by the God who walks with us.

Antony

Antony Sturmey, LLM, Forest and Avon Team

Forest and Avon Team Services for September 2026

You are welcome to attend any of these local services.

Wednesday 2nd September

10:45	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church

Sunday 6th September

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

Sunday 13th September

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

Wednesday 16th September

10:45	Informal Service followed by lunch	Woodfalls Methodist Church

Sunday 20th September

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	The Gathering	Landford Methodist Chapel
15:30	Harvest Service	St Peter's Church, Plaitford
18:00	Evensong	St Mary's Church, Redlynch

Sunday 27th September

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

In our cycle of prayer for all living and working in our community during **September** we will be offering prayers for High Street and The Borough.

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 **16th September** at **10.30am** in the Lady Chapel and will be led by Rev Ron Hart.

♦ ♦

An Evening with Barry Sadler

The evening talk in the church on 24th July by Captain Barry Sadler, a senior pilot at the Port of Southampton, was thoroughly enjoyed by the many who attended. Barry spoke of his career in the merchant navy, starting on cargo ships before captaining a cruise liner and finally becoming an Unrestricted First-Class Marine Pilot.

Barry described how the pilots have to be taken out on a fast pilot boat to meet the ships entering Southampton and then board them out in the English Channel some 4.5 miles south of the Nab Tower. Getting on board necessitates climbing up a rope ladder hung over the side of the ship which could be anything from a small cargo ship, to a large cruise liner, or a giant container ship (Southampton can handle even the largest of those). This can be particularly challenging when the sea is rough and the ship to be boarded is rolling in the swell. Once on board, the pilot has to quickly establish a rapport with the ship's captain as, although he must make use of the pilot's skill and knowledge, he retains overall command. The pilot then has to ensure the ship has a safe passage through Spithead, up Southampton Water and alongside the designated berth. It was a truly fascinating talk and stimulated many questions, and no, Barry has never had to be pulled out of the sea!

Barry also gives other talks, such as about the weather, and it is hoped we will be able to welcome him back on a future occasion.

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 **17th September 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://salisburycatholics.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 Ullyatt
Tel: 07468 491143 or 07786 248880.

St Laurence

The Goose Fair

Saturday 12 September

10am - 2pm
St Laurence Church, Downton

New Stalls for 2026!

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


St Laurence
DOWNTON CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
5 - 6 DECEMBER 2026



AN EVENING WITH

GROUP CAPTAIN RON BURROWS

COLD WAR TEST PILOT

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

DOORS OPEN 6.30 FOR 7 PM START

St Laurence Church, Downton

Tickets £5

Available to purchase from

The Borough Cafe / on the door

BAR

Cash & Card Bar Available

St Laurence

Downton Christmas Tree Festival

We're thrilled to announce that Downton Christmas Tree Festival will be taking place on 5 – 6 December 2026. The Festival will open with a concert on Friday 4 December, with local group Shantoosy. Please do save the date and look out for further details about the event over the coming months.

We will be looking for people to enter Christmas Trees for the festival – as well as volunteers to help make the event a success. If you'd be interested in volunteering, please email Rose Bloomfield (downtonchristmastreefest@gmail.com).

We will also be looking for volunteers to help bake cakes and treats for the event to help raise funds for the three organisations we're supporting this year – Downton Primary School, Trafalgar School at Downton, and St Laurence Church.

♦ ♦

2026 UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH

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

4th December – Shantoosy Concert
Join us as we open the Christmas Tree Festival with a concert by local group, Shantoosy.

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

St Laurence Goose Fair | 12 September, 10 – 2pm

The St Laurence Goose Fair returns on Saturday 12 September 2026. We are delighted to be welcoming several new stallholders this year. The fair is a key way in which St Laurence can fundraise to be able to pay for things like church upkeep, as well as contributing to the parish share, which covers things like clergy costs.

Light lunches and refreshments will be sold at the Fair. If you can help by baking a cake, or volunteering for an hour on the day, there are sign up sheets in the back of the church, or email Rose Bloomfield (downtongoosefair@gmail.com).

♦ ♦

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 Chris Carter
2nd Prize Ian & Lu Cook
3rd Prize Fiona Labdon

Many thanks. We hope to hear from you.

Downton Parish Council News

The temperature may have cooled a bit but there is still no rain forecast for our Parish, the grass is certainly crispy underfoot. If you can leave a dish of water out in your garden for the insects, birds and hedgehogs it will help our garden friends to survive.

Downton Parish Council
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

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

- The public toilets are now open and rather stylish – send an email to the admin officer with your thoughts! The refurbishment was funded entirely through Section 106 developer contributions – meaning the Downton Parish Council Precept wasn't used to fund this project.
- DPC has qualified for a couple of free Woodland Trust hedge packs, both wildlife friendly and colourful. These saplings will supplement the holes in the existing hedging in the cemetery. The saplings will arrive in November, so volunteers will be needed please! Look out for information on planting dates nearer the time.
- Thanks to a Local Footpath and Highways Improvement Grant, Downton has had some missing street signs replaced: Downlands Close, Avon Meadow, and Castle Meadow. Replacement bollards have also been fixed in the Tannery pinch point
- At residents request, the PC has submitted evidence from Wiltshire Council run traffic surveys plus a pedestrian survey carried out by Councillors and volunteers for a 20-mph limit in Downton. This will be assessed by the Traffic Engineering team at Wiltshire Council
- 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.

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Film: FUTURE TX - NEW DATE

Saturday 19th September, 10.30am
In Downton Memorial Hall

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?

Tickets £5, available at the Borough Cafe (cash only) or 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 two thirds through and our club comps are in full swing, with the finals to be played in early September.

In the Westbrook MTL we have P7, W2, Shot Difference -87, pts 20, 6th /7 with 5 matches left to play. This teams consists of novices & some experienced players.

The New Forest league has now finished; we our team came third in League Div 4 by just 0.5 points, frustratingly just missing out on promotion. Our record was P14, W8 L6, SD +104, pts 63.5, 3rd/10.

We have two teams in B&D League Div 4. The Dragons' record is P13, W7, SD 113, pts 4, 4th /10. The Bustards record is P13, W9, SD 128, pts 48, 3rd/10. Both teams have 5 matches remaining.

We hold weekly roll-ups every Monday from 2.00pm–4.00pm and Friday from 6.00pm–8.00pm (excluding bank holidays). Whether you are an experienced player or someone who would like to give bowls a try, why not pop down and have a go? You only have 8 weeks left!

All equipment, tuition, light refreshments and parking are provided free of charge, and we would 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.

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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

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 Edna Pike on 01725 511332 for details.

Joanne has arranged the following:

1st September - First Aid with Ben Murley
8th September - Marc Heighway - Hidden in plain sight. Reminders of WW2 in the New Forest.
15th September - Games and bring and buy
22nd September - Brian Pettit - Getting Close to Scottish Wildlife
29th September - Guess the Baby competition while playing some of your favourite music/songs. Please remember to bring in your old photos for Joanne to scan in before the day.

On 5th May, Alan Jones talk was "Cavemen caught colds too". Alan used humour to great effect, so there was lots of laughter as he took us through time with various remedies to the present day.

On 19th May, Carol and Ceri Hurford Jones with the aid of films, took us on their two-year journey around the United Kingdom in their yacht, heading first for Scotland; making friends along the way. They used fishing rods when they wanted a tasty fish meal. There was challenging weather at times. They went across to Ireland, where the sea was very choppy. They also went to France. They told their story with humour and laughter. When their two-year journey came to an end, they sold their boat and bought a small canal boat to be their home and have a new experience of travel.

The Good Companions need Volunteer helpers to put out tables and chairs on Tuesdays at 1.30 pm; and put them away at 4.00 pm. Helpers are welcome to stay, free of charge, and have a cup of tea and biscuits.

Downton Society

It is with considerable regret that after fifty years the Downton Society is closing. The society whose main aim is to stimulate interest in Downton, and to promote high standards in planning and architecture while aiming to preserve, develop and improve the village can sadly no longer continue.

As a society, we have always taken a very pragmatic and independent view about planning issues, and it has never been about preventing change. Where necessary we have opposed planning proposals if we felt they were inappropriate, but equally we have supported plans often against the views of planning officials. We would like to think that a collective village voice has counted where it matters.

In addition, we have supported organisations and campaigns within the village on a wide range of planning and environmental issues.

Unfortunately, with decreasing numbers of committee members and with no persons wishing to be actively involved the committee has felt there is no other choice but to wind the society up and steps are now underway to do this.

♦ ♦

Downton Horticultural Society

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 and the large Bake-Off section.

As usual there will be a raffle and refreshments, and we now have boxes so you can buy a slice or three of home-made cake to take home with you.

We always welcome new exhibitors so if you are tempted to enter something you have grown, flowers you have arranged or something you have cooked then please contact me for a show schedule, pick one up in Downton library or from Chris Parry who lives opposite the Co-op in Cymbeline. The show schedule contains an entry form and details of all the show classes.

Our summer garden party during July was held at the lovely walled Trafalgar Flower Garden and we are extremely grateful to Andy and Mary Gray for hosting us. It was a hot evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came along. Thanks go to Andy who told us all about the history of the garden and gave many hints and tips about flower growing.

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'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

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

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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.

Events at Woodfalls Methodist Church

3rd September – Talkabout - John Allison will give us an update on Ukraine. The courage of the Ukrainians is awe-inspiring. Come and hear how they are managing to resist and survive Russian aggression. They will be happy to receive donations - specifically instant food e.g. Noodles, soups, sweets. Toiletries, candles, batteries, LED torches, Summer clothing, new underwear, blankets, bed linen, sleeping bags, pet food, off the shelf medication camping stove (No cylinders) generators and power banks. Coffee from 10.00am, talk starts at 10.30. In Woodfalls Methodist Hall.

♦ ♦

Redlynch & District W.I

Our June meeting was our annual trip. This year members enjoyed a rather warm trip to Wells and Street. The heat didn't curtail the enthusiasm and the air-conditioned coach was welcomed relief. Thank you to Sandra Pearce for organising.

In September our members and invited guests will be celebrating our 110th Birthday with a talk from Minette Batters DL: an award winning British farmer and previous President of the NFU (2018 -2024). Her book entitled 'Harvest' will be on sale too!

A warm welcome awaits, please do come along.

For more information, please contact Nora Barker on 01725 511982
or itsthebarkers@aol.com

CELEBRATING

Folk music and stories concert

Woodfalls Methodist Church

Friday 18 September 3.00 - 5.00pm



3 highly talented folk musicians - Paul on accordion, John on fiddle and Matt on mandolin and clogs! With some folk yarns thrown in, this will be a lively, entertaining concert, where you might learn a thing or two about history & beautiful folk music instruments.

Tea and cake served after the concert.

This is a FREE event, but please book by calling 01380 735521

or emailing Rebecca.seymour@ageukwiltshire.org.uk

PARTNERS

WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE

Pound Arts

COMMUNITY FIRST

Wiltshire age UK

Wiltshire & Swindon HISTORY CENTRE

WILTSHIRE CREATIVE

Wiltshire Council

MAJOR FUNDERS

COMMUNITY FUND

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/CAW

You're invited to

THE FRIENDSHIP HUB

Occasional afternoon group for people to meet over refreshments & activities.

Tuesday 29th September 2pm

Our local friend Juan Phillimore will talk on her life in the local area.

Followed by a Cream Tea.

In Woodfalls Methodist Small Hall



A PLACE TO CHAT TO OLD FRIENDS AND MEET NEW ONES

ALL WELCOME

To help us know how many scones to buy it would be helpful if you could let us know if you are hoping to come this time. But don't worry if you forget we will allow for a few extras.

Future dates planned 3/11 and 8/12


Jigsaw
Puzzle Festival
25th-27th September
Friday 3-6. Saturday 10-4, Sunday 12-4
Woodfalls Methodist SP5 2LH
100's of Puzzles on an ever changing display to buy
Small puzzles to make up on the spot
Large puzzles to add to while you chat to friends
Some puzzles to admire & chat over
New puzzles to buy
Both Adults and Children Puzzles
Light lunches
cream teas
refreshments

Redlynch Players - Area Award Winners

An Epic Return!

For many, September marks a new beginning and an anticipation of autumn and all that this fruitful season brings. For us, it is a return to rehearsals after a period of rest, reflection and renewal. It's a time full of promise and excitement! Earlier this summer, I went to see the remarkable Christopher Nolan film of The Odyssey. I loved it and was struck not only by the incredible cinematography, but by the engaging retelling of such an epic tale. One of the earliest! It brought to life my annual holiday to the Greek island of Corfu in a new way – I have visited many times, but this year I was struck by the links to Odysseus' heroic journey. That bit doesn't feature in the film, but looking across the beautiful, azure blue, Ionian Sea, I could imagine this Greek hero on the final part of his voyage, yearning to return home after so many years away. What a brilliant story, still being told thousands of years on!

But what has this to do with Redlynch Players you may well ask? Well, at the heart of what we always do is to tell a great story. A script needs to speak in a powerful way. Over the years we have brought you tales of tragedy and sorrow, tales of excitement and adventure, ones that challenge and make you think, and ones that have brought joy and laughter. Our audience members often remind us of their favourite productions and why they have struck them in a particular way. It is why we do what we do. And so, as we embark on our new season and enter our 70th anniversary year, we will be doing our best to bring you more fantastic stories, told to the best of our abilities. I do hope you'll join us either in the audience, or as part of the group. Don't worry – we won't be staging the Odyssey anytime soon!

Next month, all the details of our upcoming Autumn production will be here, but for now, please note the dates of our performances – from Wednesday 25th November - Saturday 28th November at Redlynch Village Hall.

2027 - Our Platinum Year

Next year we will be celebrating 70 years of Redlynch Players and we are already planning some special events to mark the occasion. Of course, 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. We'd really like to grow our group. 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 do 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**

♦ ♦

Redlynch and District Local History Society

Firstly, a reminder that our September 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.

Secondly, our October meeting is on 6th October, venue as above, and features the very popular Jim Butt who will talking about his restoration work on local cathedrals and other historic buildings. We anticipate this will be well attended so be prompt to get your favourite seat.

This meeting starts with our AGM which we endeavour to make as swift as possible. This year there will be a motion to raise the visitor entry price to £5 and the annual membership to £12.50; this is in line with inflation since the last increase 5 years ago. We are also looking for new members to join the committee, including the positions of the long-standing Chair and Secretary. If you are interested in joining, please contact one of the committee members or email agatha_1@hotmail.co.uk.

Also please note we are holding our **30th anniversary exhibition** at the above Hall on 10th October. There will be displays, access to our files including maps and a local walk.

Lover Repair Café

WHAT A SWELTERING SUMMER WE HAVE HAD. IT HAS BEEN GOOD FOR US AS YOU HAVE PROVIDED US WITH SO MANY GARDEN ITEMS FOR REPAIR AND REVITALISING, SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH & HAPPY GARDENING.



On the left, meet Mr. Crumble, he came to us with a hole in his head & various parts of his body severely damaged or missing.
On investigation we found that this small hand-modelled terracotta figurine is a Pre-Columbian West Mexican shaft tomb artefact, dating from roroughly 300 BC to 300 AD.
Happily, he is no longer in pieces but fully restored, carrying his package over his shoulder.

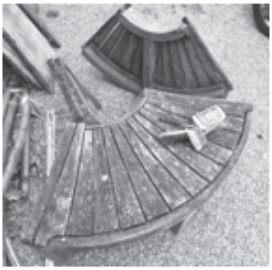


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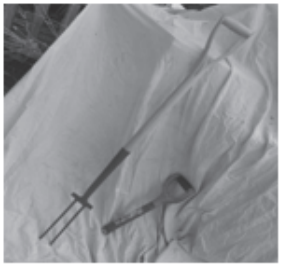
1. We are getting a little excited as we expect that during the month of September, with your help, **we will have raised over £60.000 in support of local charities**.
2. Sadly, last month, one of our well loved Helpers, Ola (the Viking), has left us to get more involved in charity work nearer his home in Fordingbridge. We wish him every success and look forward to finding another great electrical engineer to take his place.

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

Gents Dawes Bike	Grill Roaster good for caravan	B&D Cord Circular Saw	B&D Hedge Trimmer
22" LG Television	New External Light Fitting	Super Ser Gas Heater	Canon Pixma Printer
Singer Sewing Machine	Small Red Table Lamp	Janowing Sewing Machine	Soft Green Table Lamp
Mountfield Petrol Mower	Near New HP Printer	Delongi Coffee Maker	Outside Wall Lamp (New)



This old oak tree seat came to us on its very last legs with a desperate plea for restoration. Unfortunately we haven't a picture to show you but we can confirm that it is now back in pride of place and providing pleasant seating in a lovely garden.
There is no accounting for people's needs! We happily 'Do' Four Candles, but here we had a two fork handle to supply & fit 'handle'



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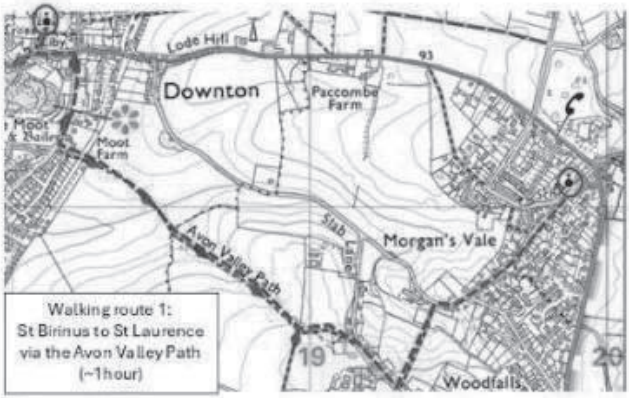
RIDE+STRIDE for Churches

12th SEPT 2026 — WILTSHIRE CHURCHES' OPEN DAY

Saturday 12th September is Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride & Stride day!

Our 3 local 'Redlynch churches' St Mary's Lover, St Birinus Morgan's Vale, Woodfalls Methodist Church will all be open on this day with 'self service refreshment stations', or people ready to welcome you.

St Laurence Downton also has its Goose fair on this day too (10am – 2pm) and there is last night of the proms in RVH 7:30pm as well – a busy day!



Walking route 1:
St Birinus to St Laurence via the Avon Valley Path (~1hour)

Why not 'Ride' or 'Stride' between our churches on 12th September or any other day in September?

Here are some lovely walking routes, and you can sponsor yourself or others on our Ride and Stride page – QR code or link below

If you would like to join a small group of walkers we will be meeting at St Birinus ~9am Saturday 12th Sept, and walking to the Goose Fair at St Laurence (route 1).

QR code, or link below, for donations via JustGiving:



Walking route 2:
WMC on the Ridge to St Mary's Church in Lover via Tinney's Firs (again ~ 1h)

Any money donated to the JustGiving page (QR code above, or https://www.justgiving.com/page/redlynch-churches) is split between our 3 local churches and Wiltshire Historic Churches, this Trust also gave a grant to St Mary's for their renovations this year. Text Ruth 07802 439743 for a colour / larger version of the routes if wished.

🧱 Update on St Birinus **'Sponsor a Brick'** crowdfunder appeal 🧱
- Helping to restore the St Birinus Wall -

Thank you so much for the generous support of so many of our community to support our 'wall appeal'. Many of you might have noticed that the wall at the front of St Birinus was in poor condition for some time until the recent renovations in the school summer break. Sadly, it also suffered additional damage in a 'hit-and-run' road incident earlier in the year.

The church building insurance covered some of the repair costs, but since additional work was badly needed to stabilise the wall, we still needed to raise funds for this restoration.

We have had a wonderful response to our online 'Crowdfunder' appeal, and also at a recent coffee morning in August, when we had a lovely social occasion on the front lawn.
However, if wished there is still time to 'sponsor a brick' or to donate towards other repair work: There will be some repairs still to the 'hopper' connecting the guttering to downpipes around the back of the church, and we are having a roofing survey with repair quotes conducted also.
If you would like to do this, please see below or contact one of the St Birinus Churchwardens for more details.

Would you like to Sponsor a Brick?
A sponsored brick could:
❤️ Celebrate a special occasion
🕊️ Remember a loved one
🎉 Mark a family milestone
🙏 Honour someone special
📖 Leave a lasting legacy for future generations

Scan the QR code to find out more
Crowdfunder

Those who support the appeal will be recorded in our list of benefactors, becoming part of the history of St Birinus. Every donation, however small, will make a difference.

👉 Donate via the QR code above or this link:
https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/help-re-build-our-boundary-wall

Thank you for your support and for helping us restore St Birinus for future generations. 🙏


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Sending editorial copy:

Articles and notices of events for the **October** issue to be emailed to the Editor by **7th September**. 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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"I was a bit lost about where I wanted to get to in life... now I've got something to refer to when things get difficult." **Max (21)**

"There isn't really any support system for lads our age... this gives you one." **Oscar (21)**

"I'm much more optimistic now. It's shifted my perspective on things." **Fin (21)**

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Get in touch
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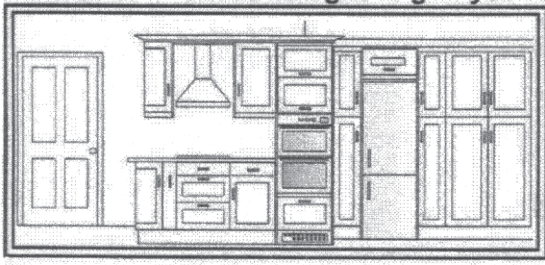
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