

The one and only Maxine

The weather forecast is good and we can expect temperatures of over 20° this weekend, the Easter weekend. People are walking around in shorts. It is lovely to feel the heat of the sun finally. Our goldfish, who had disappeared from our pond outside, suddenly reappeared this morning and were swimming around in fine fettle. I think they did a little hibernation. Anyway, they seem none the worse for wear and they were spotted sunbathing in a shallow area of the pond.



After a reasonable amount of weeding work in the allotments (I do hate mare's tail with a passion) we decided to go for an evening snack at the one and only [Old Down Inn](#). BA3 4SA will get you there. Yes, there is good parking. The landlady, Maxine, is the sort of person who if she did not exist someone would have to invent her. She is the heart and soul of the establishment and has been so for the last 11 years.

To say she is expressive is an understatement. Someone had the temerity to complain about the lack of staff and she told him in no uncertain terms that if he didn't like it she would

throw him out. Everyone laughed in a good-natured way. I remember one lunchtime asking for some chips at 2:02 PM and I was told in no uncertain terms that the kitchen was closed. That's it. No apology. Everyone loves her so much that we really don't mind. She is one of the local characters that are too thin on the ground.

I bought along a copy of "The Week". This is a delightful summary of the news of the past week though I see that the burning of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris was missed this time. I normally read out to Francoise the column entitled "it must be true, I read it in the tabloids" They are so incredible you can hardly believe them.

. Here is one from China.

"A new service in China allows people to go online and hire others to eat their favourite food for them. Clients – motivated either by boredom or by cravings they can't indulge because they're on a diet – specify the dish they want to consume, and pay a fee ranging from 20 p to 1 pound, plus the cost of the food. The eaters are required to post video evidence of their meals with a commentary on the tastes they experience"