

THE DIALS OF DOWNTON ABBEY

Many of us have been following the Primetime Emmy® Award winning series Downton Abbey on PBS. This British World War I period drama was filmed on location at Highclere Castle in Hampshire, which represents the fictional Downton Abbey. Many outdoor scenes were filmed in the village of Bampton in Oxfordshire. (See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downton_Abbey) As you follow the lives of the aristocrats and the servants in this acclaimed series, keep an eye out for sundials. Members have found three dials since NASS member Tom Kreyche first called it to our attention; we will be watching for more this Sunday as Season 2 continues. Full episodes are available on PBS.org.



Sundial #1 is a simple dial located above the far right window (below the cross). It is pictured here in the final episode of Season 1.



Sundial #2 is an armillary sphere set on a pedestal in front of the cottage where Matthew Crawley and his mother Isobel Crawley reside.



Sundial #2 is seen here in a close-up view.



Sundial #3 is an ornate vertical dial that can be found on the gable above these soldiers who are undergoing rehabilitation on the lawn when Lady Sybil Crawley arrives for nurse's training.



British Sundial Society member John Foad recognized dial #3 and sent this close-up photo that he took in 2002. John identified the location as the Great Hall at Sutton Hospital (Charterhouse) in Islington, London.