

THE DOWER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER ISSUE

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a *Merry Christmas*.



ACTIVITIES

All activities will start at 2.45pm if the time is not mentioned below.

Wednesday 1st December – **Cancelled**

Thursday 2nd December – Anytime club will be showing a film in the drawing room.

Monday 6th December – Knit and Natter in the conservatory at **11.00am**.

Tuesday 7th December – Keep fit with Lorraine in the drawing room at **11.00am**.

Tuesday 7th December - Anytime Club will be showing a film in the drawing room at.

Wednesday 8th December – Art afternoon with Doreen in the dining room.

Thursday 9th December – Matrons Afternoon Tea will be held in the dining room at **3.00pm**



Monday 13th December - Knit and Natter in the conservatory at **11.00am**.

Tuesday 14th December - Keep fit with Lorraine in the drawing room at **11.00am**.

Tuesday 14th December - Anytime Club will be showing a film in the drawing room.

Wednesday 15th December – Jenny will be playing her electric piano in the drawing room.

Thursday 16th December – Games afternoon in the dining room.

Monday 20th December - Knit and Natter in the conservatory at **11.00am**.

Tuesday 21st December– A Carol Concert from the staff will be taking place in the dining room at 2.45pm.

Wednesday 22nd December – Holy Communion will be taking place in the drawing room at **11.00am** with Rev. Lis Chase

Wednesday 22nd December – This evening we will be holding the annual Christmas Party. The evening will commence at **5.45pm** in the dining room where we will be serving wine and canapes.

Thursday 23rd December – Anytime Club will be holding a Christmas in the dining room.



Monday 27th December - Knit and Natter in the conservatory at **11.00am**.

Tuesday 28th December - Anytime club will be showing a film in the wing room.

Thursday 30th December – Scrabble afternoon the in the dining room

Activities are subject to change at short notice.

Due to the current situation activities this month may be cancelled or amended at very short notice. We will aim to minimise this where possible (as we do not like to do this), but sometimes it is necessary as your safety and wellbeing are our top priority.

Also, numbers will be smaller than normal at each activity to achieve social distancing. Please see the notice board for any updates.



THIS MONTH'S FILMS

Tuesday Films

Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square



An embittered scrooge of a women plans to sell her small town, regardless of the consequences to the people who live there. However, a kind-hearted angel arrives and show her what would happen, before she mends her ways and redeems herself.

A Christmas Carol



Ebenezer Scrooge, a spiteful and miserly man, encounters three spirits on Christmas Eve who show him the folly of his ways.

White Christmas



After helping the Haynes sisters escape from their landlord, singers Bob Wallace and Phil Davis ask them to perform in a joint Christmas show to put their old commander's failing inn back in business.

Love Actually



Follows the lives of eight very different couples in dealing with their love lives in various loosely interrelated tales all set during a frantic month before Christmas in London, England.



GARDENING NEWS

Granted our beds and borders may not be as full of blooms as they are in May and June, but this means we can cherish the witch hazels lemon yellow or amber spidery blooms. The first snowdrop spears through the soggy lawn. The fragrant blushing viburnum flowers opening on bare twigs, all these things will make us smile on these wintery days.

Over the last month Terry and I have finished all the hedge and shrub cutting. We have gathered up lots and lots of leaves, we are now set to get on with the border work. We are going to start up at the top of the grounds by the car park by cutting back, weeding, and edging and dividing any large perennials. Once we have done a lap of the grounds we will turn to mulching and by the time the garden is all neat and tidy and put to bed there will be signs of spring bulbs bursting through the borders.

The festive season is upon us, my favourite time of year, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

"Frosty days and ice-still nights,
Fir trees trimmed with tiny lights,
Sound of sleigh bells in the snow,
That was Christmas long ago.

Tykes on sleds and shouts of glee,
Icy-window filigree,
Sugarplums and candle glow,
Part of Christmas long ago.

Footsteps stealthy on the stair,
Sweet-voiced carols in the air,
Stocking hanging in a row,
Tell of Christmas long ago.

Starry nights so still and blue,
Good friends calling out to you,
Life, so fact, will always slow...
For dreams of Christmas long ago."
- Jo Geis, *Christmas Long Ago*





NEWS FROM BATH



Despite our first frost, our Dahlias and Begonias, in this pot are still exceptionally colourful. Although we are having to take great care to protect our staff and residents from Covid, and the rules and restriction can change daily.

In the past, The Dower House was very lively, with visitors, grandchildren and dogs. But unfortunately, the number of visitors has had to be curtailed because of covid. This makes it so difficult to maintain the particularly lovely atmosphere at The Dower House that we all used to enjoy. Something that the newer visitors have yet to experience.

In the past we have had numerous visits to gardens, country houses, Marks and Spencer's in Eastleigh, nurseries to purchase plants and Christmas presents.

We had the local schools and nursery schools visiting. We are looking forward to reintroducing these things when we are allowed too again.

As you know we are recruiting and have got some very good people on board. We have had some changes at The Dower House, this is with The Dower House's best interest in mind.

The cooks are busy preparing the most delicious Christmas cakes, Mince pies, and Christmas puddings. Christmas lunch here is always very special. Hannah and Sonya always do the most wonderful decorations in the dining room.

We look forward to better time! I shall be visiting The Dower House on a more regular basis.

With best wishes to all of you and looking forward to a better future.

Mrs J A Lywood



The History of the Advent Calander



On the first of December, children all around the world will be opening the first door of their Christmas Advent Calendars, eager to see what picture, chocolate, or mini gift is hiding inside.

The word “advent” comes from the Latin phrase “coming toward”. For Christians, the period of Advent marks “coming toward” the most important date in their year, the birth of Christ.

The idea of physically marking Advent has its roots in late 19th century Germany, when the Lutherans made chalk marks on doors from December 1st until the 24th.

There are two contenders for the very first Advent Calendars. According to the Landesmuseum in Austria, the first one was produced in Hamburg in 1902 by a protestant bookshop owner. Other claim that the first hand made calendar was made in Germany in the late 19th century for a child names Gerhard Lang.

Lang’s mother stuck 24 tiny sweets to a square of cardboard, for her son to eat over the Advent period. This simple idea stayed with Lang and when, as an adult, he went into partnership with his friend Reichhold, they opened a printing office. In 1908 they produced what is though to be the first-ever printed Advent Calendar.

This earliest calendar set the mould for those we see today, with small pictures, one marking every day between 1st and 24th December. A few years later, Lang introduced the concept of 24 little doors – giving each new picture an element of surprise.

Lang’s business came to an end in the 1930’s, but the idea had taken hold, and others, such as the Sankt Johannis Printing Company, started producing religious Advent Calendars, often with Biblical verses instead of pictures behind the doors.

The First World War bought rationing, and a temporary halt to the manufacture of calendars. In 1946 however, when rationing began to ease after the end of the Second World War, a printer named Richard Sellmer reintroduced the Advent Calendars into the lives of children all over the western world, and soon they became as much of a Christmas tradition as trees, cards and gifts.

General Manager
Philippa Thompson



DECEMBER QUIZ

1. *The Snowman* was shown on TV for the first time on Boxing Day of which year?
2. Which British monarch delivered the first ever Christmas message?
3. According to 1946's Christmas classic *It's Wonderful Life*, what happens every time a bell rings?
4. In what classic novel does the protagonist set sail for a sea voyage on a cold Christmas day?
5. Which character declares "Merry Christmas, one and all!" in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*?
6. In which children's classic is it 'always winter but never Christmas'?
7. In which classic play does a man dressed as a woman fall in love with a woman dressed as a man at Christmas?
8. Cliff Richard had his 12th number one hit with his sing-along Christmas classic *Mistletoe* and what?
9. How many gifts in were given in *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, Christmas carol?
10. What is the best-selling Christmas song of all time?
11. Who is widely considered the King of Christmas?
12. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
13. Which country did eggnog originate?
14. How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?
15. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas Pudding?



ANSWERS

1. 1982
2. George V in 1932
3. An Angel gets its wings
4. Moby Dick
5. Tiny Tim
6. CS Lewis' The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe
7. Twelfth Night
8. Wine
9. 364
10. White Christmas by Bing Crosby
11. Michael Bauble
12. Four: former business partner Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas
Past, Present and Future.
13. Britain
14. Three – Dancer, Dasher, Donner
15. A Coin