

THE DOWER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Annual Summer Party



Last month was our annual summer party in the garden, the weather was so good to us, and it was lovely to see so many residents and their families and friends having a wonderful time.

I thought it would be nice to include some photos from the day for us all to enjoy and would also like to say thank you to everybody that helped to make the day a huge success and to Meryl and her team for the delicious afternoon tea, which so many people commented on.

We raised £300 on the day from the raffle and entrance donations, which is a wonderful amount, and I am sure the charities that the NGS support will be so grateful.



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

Wednesday 1st September – Art afternoon with Doreen in the dining room.

Thursday 2nd September – Keep fit with Lorraine in the drawing room at **11.00am.**

Thursday 3rd September – Anytime club will be showing a film in the drawing room.

Monday 6th September - Knit and Natter in the conservatory at **11.00am.**

Tuesday 7th September - Keep fit with Lorraine in drawing room at **11.00am.**

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

Wednesday 8th September – Scramble afternoon in the dining room.

Thursday 9th September – Keep fit with Lorraine in the drawing room at **11.00am.**

Thursday 9th September – Matrons Afternoon Tea will be held in the dining room at **3.00pm** then followed by a Zoom call with families at **5.00pm** in the drawing room.



Monday 13th September – Knit and Natter in the conservatory at **11.00am.**

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

Tuesday 14th September – Anytime Club will be showing a film in the drawing room.

Wednesday 15th September – There will be a violin recital in the drawing room with Jackie

Thursday 16th September – Anytime Club will be holding a Quiz in the dining room

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

Tuesday 21st September - Keep fit with Lorraine in the drawing room at **11.00am.**

Tuesday 21st September - Anytime Club will be showing a film in the drawing room.

Wednesday 22nd September – Shelly Lozano will be returning with a talk on “The Golden Age of Hollywood” in the drawing room.

Thursday 23rd September – Anytime Club will be showing a film in the drawing room.

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

Tuesday 28th September– Anytime Club will be showing a film in the drawing room.

Wednesday 29th September – Holy Communion will be taking place in the drawing room at **11.00am** with Rev. Lis Chase

Wednesday 29th September – We will be holding our annual Harvest Festival in the dining room at **6.00pm**. The evening will start with a few words from Rev. Lis Chase, followed by a glass of wine and a harvest supper.

Thursday 30th September – Anytime club will be showing a film in the drawing 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 to ensure your safety and wellbeing as our top priority.

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

Autumn Poem

As autumn leaves
fall all round.
They make a blanket
on the ground.
When winter winds
begin to blow.

The roots are safe
from freezing snow.

THIS MONTH'S FILMS

Tuesday Films

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a musical comedy with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The story is based on the "coat of many colours" story of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis.

Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?



What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? is a 1962 American psychological horror-thriller film directed and produced by Robert Aldrich, from a screenplay by Lukas Heller, based on the 1960 novel of the same name by Henry Farrell.

The Davinci Code



A murder inside the Louvre, and clues in Da Vinci paintings, lead to the discovery of a religious mystery protected by a secret society for two thousand years, which could shake the foundations of Christianity.

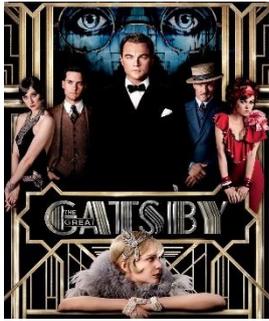
Ophelia



As a rebellious and motherless child, Ophelia is taken into Elsinore Castle by Queen Gertrude as one of her most trusted ladies-in-waiting. Soon enough, Ophelia captures the affections of the young Prince Hamlet. A passionate romance secretly kindles between the two as the kingdom is on the brink of war amidst its own political intrigue and betrayal.

Thursday Films

The Great Gatsby



Midwest native Nick Carraway (Tobey Maguire) arrives in 1922 New York in search of the American dream. Nick, a would-be writer, moves in next-door to millionaire Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio) and across the bay from his cousin Daisy (Carey Mulligan) and her philandering husband, Tom (Joel Edgerton). Thus, Nick becomes drawn into the captivating world of the wealthy and -- as he bears witness to their illusions and deceits -- pens a tale of impossible love, dreams, and tragedy.

The Sound of Music



A tuneful, heart-warming story, it is based on the real-life story of the Von Trapp Family singers, one of the world's best-known concert groups in the era immediately preceding World War II. Julie Andrews plays the role of Maria, the tomboyish postulant at an Austrian abbey who becomes a governess in the home of a widowed naval captain with seven children and brings a new love of life and music into the home.

The Duchess



Following the tumultuous life of the 18th-century Duchess of Devonshire, a bright, popular aristocrat who is trapped in a failed marriage and has to face personal conflicts - including living with her husband's mistress and falling passionately in love with a young politician. Based on Amanda Foreman's bestselling novel 'Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire'.

GARDENING NEWS



The weather has certainly made gardening a challenge this year, we had frost into late April and a lot of rain since then has made everything grow tall, and the borders are still packed with summer flowers although we are now in September.



The sort of wildlife we have is a true testament to the diversity of the garden. The woodland area, flower borders, pond and patios all make this happen and improves the soil and turn makes the garden richer for us all to enjoy.

Over the last month Terry and I have been working through the borders and gardens trying to get on top of the weeding so that in early September we can start cutting the boundary hedge and shaping the shrubs on our way around. The weeds, grass and shrubs have been growing so fast this summer, even Mark, who cuts our lawns has had trouble keeping on top of them, the rain always seem to come on a Wednesday afternoon, he says, but he has got the grass under control now and Terry and I are getting through the borders so we will win and soon be cutting and shaping all our Yew hedging.

Once we get cutting it takes us about three weeks to do a complete lap of the five and a half acres, we have here at The Dower House, most of the hedges are made up of yew and conifer and a small amount of hawthorne, all are in good shape, so they are nice to cut, and the finish is great with nice flat tops and crisp lines.

We are hoping that the weather will be kind to us over the next month, whilst cutting the hedges. Although we can cut, rain or shine but gardening is always best with the sun on your back and a beautiful blue sky, so fingers crossed.

NEWS FROM BATH

Life has been greatly enhanced by the latest arrival, at Sion Hill.



Kipper comes to work with my gardener, and brings me great pleasure, as I love having dogs in this house. Although we have many visiting dogs, it is wonderful to have Kipper here every week.



Writing from Bath, we are going to tell you how the weather has affected the growth in the garden this year. Both the vegetables and the plants this year have been badly affected by the extremes of the new weather change. April being very wet and very cold, with snow on some days, followed by an unprecedented period of extreme heat and no rain. So, although we watered thoroughly, the vegetables have suffered. The runner beans were forming their seeds before they were ready to eat. The beetroot and marrow were dry and fibrous. They had a reasonable flavour but were quite different. Not the usual delicious and moist beetroot. The photograph below shows the first WI garden gathering we have had in over a year. Starting on the allotment... the photo shows clematis Prince Charles and the sweet peas on the allotment, growing up metal arches and frames.



In the garden the white cosmos has fared well, but the pink cosmos has failed to flower until late. Whilst they grew in height, they did grow few, underdeveloped flowers. We have two lovely copper pots, made from old boilers, which have turned a lovely shade of blue. We have decided to take out the pink cosmos, and instead plant diascia 'Emma', a perennial, which grows tall, deep-pink, spires of 30cm tall, and spreads 30 cm too. These will be well established for next year, and as the pots are a key feature, the colours of the pots and the flowers should look lovely together. These will be interspersed, with a deep maroon of a pansy/viola. This is a comparatively new plant; I have never come across it before.

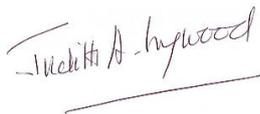
It has the good attributes of a pansy, crossed with toughness, neatness and versatility of the viola. I am told that when it reaches a certain height it tends to trail. I think they will look beautiful planted in the copper urns, with the strong pink diascia, with these, trailing marron down the sides.

Ben as usual is working his wonders in the garden. The herbaceous bed is a constant challenge with ground elder and weeds, he has been keeping it in check. The old shrubs that we cut down to base level, are revitalised and are doing well.

This Autumn, we are going to move the hypericum, as the yellow is rather harsh, and it tends to look slightly common in the bed. We are replacing it with the yellow lonicera. We shall have a group of them, and Ben will treat them to his 'special miracle topiary touch'. They are a lovely softer yellow splash of colour, against the purple leaved sambuca elder and the dark yew hedge, at the back of the herbaceous border.

As you know, we are one of the few homes in Hampshire which have had no Covid, due to the vigilance and hard work of our staff. We have lost some old friends from our staffing team, due to pure exhaustion from the demands of Covid. But by now you will have met the new carers and sisters, who we welcome to The Dower House. I think most of the residents will have met Helen our new general manager and Sharon our new matron. It is lovely to welcome new faces.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mrs J A Lywood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mrs J A Lywood

EDITOR'S NEWS

History of Harvest Festival



Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1 August and was called **Lammas**, meaning '**Loaf Mass**'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the new wheat crop and gave them to their local church. They were then used as the **Communion bread** during a special mass thanking God for the harvest. The custom ended when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church, and nowadays we have harvest festivals at the end of the season.

At the start of the harvest, communities would appoint a strong and respected man of the village as their '**Lord of the Harvest**'. He would be responsible for negotiating the harvest wages and organising the fieldworkers.

The end of the harvest was celebrated with a big meal called a **Harvest Supper**, eaten on Michaelmas Day. The '**Lord of the Harvest**' sat at the head of the table. A goose stuffed with apples was eaten along with a variety of vegetables. Goose Fairs were and still are held in English towns at this time of year.

Corn dollies also played a big part of the Harvest ritual and goes back many thousands of years. It was a Pagan custom and evolved from the beliefs of the corn growing people who believed in the **Corn Spirit**.

Corn dollies were made at Harvest time from the last sheaf of corn cut. The Corn Spirit was supposed to live or be reborn in the plaited straw ornament or corn doll and was kept until the following spring to ensure a good harvest. The corn dolly often had a place of honour at the harvest banquet table.



The tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches as we know it today began in **1843**, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service for the harvest at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

Harvest Festival reminds Christians of all the good things God gives them. This makes them want to share with others who are not so fortunate. In schools and in Churches, people bring food from home to a Harvest Festival Service. After the service, the food that has been put on display is usually made into parcels and given to people in need.

On other news, we are sad to advise you all that Sue has decided to leave The Dower House having been here for over five years in the administration team. Friday 27th August was her last day, we will miss her, but wish her well for the future.

General Manager
Helen Chapman

SEPTEMBER QUIZ

1. What geometric shape is generally used for stop signs?
2. Which animal can be seen on the Porsche logo?
3. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (in 1903)?
4. Demolition of the Berlin wall separating East and West Germany began in what year?
5. Who was the first woman pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic?
6. What is the name given to Indian food cooked over charcoal in a clay oven?
7. From which country does Gouda cheese originate?
8. Who was the first gymnast to score a perfect 10 score?
9. What is fifteen percent of two thousand?
10. 'Bright Eyes' by Art Garfunkel was used in the soundtrack to which 1978 animated film?
11. According to the idiom, what do 'birds of a feather' do?
12. In which English county is Blenheim Palace?
13. Which countryside animal would the French refer to as 'un hérisson'?
14. How many days are there in the second six months of the year, from the beginning of July to the end of December?
15. If someone uses the letters MRCVS after their name, which profession do they have?
16. Which is the largest island in the Inner Hebrides?
17. The letters of the word 'restrain' can be rearranged to form four other words. Can you list three of them?
18. The internal angles of a triangle will always total how many degrees?
19. In rugby union, a bonus point is awarded to a team that scores at least how many tries in a match?
20. Who wrote the 1886 gothic novella 'Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'?

ANSWERS

1. Octagon
2. Horse
3. Marie Curie
4. 1989
5. Amelia Earhart
6. Tandoori
7. Netherlands
8. Nadia Comaneci
9. 300
10. Watership down
11. Flock together
12. Oxfordshire
13. A hedgehog
14. 184 (31 in July, 31 in August, 30 in September, 31 in October, 30 in November and 31 in December)
15. Vet (Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)
16. Skye
17. retrains, strainer, terrains, and trainers
18. 180°
19. Four
20. Robert Louis Stevenson