

THE DOWER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to The Dower House's February's Newsletter.

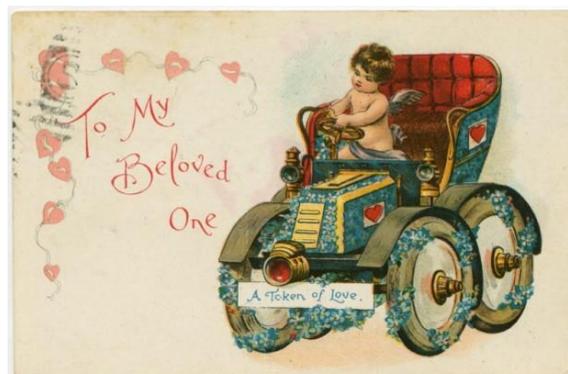
This month we have a visit from Princess Mead Choir, piano recitals from Maya and Matteo and a Valentines themed Cheese and Wine evening to look forward to. Which bring us nicely to how Valentines card started:

The first Valentine's cards

The first Valentine's cards were sent in the 18th century. Initially these were handmade efforts, as pre-made cards were not yet available. Lovers would decorate paper with romantic symbols including flowers and love knots, often including puzzles and lines of poetry. Those who were less inspired could buy volumes that offered guidance on selecting the appropriate words and images to woo their lover. These cards were then slipped secretly under a door, or tied to a door-knocker.

It was in Georgian Britain that pre-printed cards first began to appear, though these were not yet as popular as they were eventually to become. Perhaps the oldest surviving example dates from 1797: this card, held at York Castle Museum, was sent by one Catherine Mossday to a Mr Brown of London. It is decorated with flowers and images of Cupid, with a verse printed around the border reading:

Since on this ever happy day
All nature's full of love and play
Yet harmless still is my design
'Tis but to be your valentine



(Image isn't of the first card)

February Activities

Wednesday, 1st February – Piano recital with Maya in the drawing room

Thursday, 2nd February – Anytime Club Quiz with Carol in the dining room

Tuesday, 7th February - Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

Tuesday, 7th February – Piano recital in the drawing room with Matteo

Wednesday, 8th February – Anytime Club will be showing The Iron Lady

Thursday, 9th February – Holy Communion with Rev. Tim Selwood

Tuesday, 14th February – Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

Wednesday, 15th February – Piano recital with Maya in the drawing room

Thursday, 16th February – Valentines themed Cheese & Wine evening

Thursday, 21st February – Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

Princess Mead Choir Date to be confirmed.

This month Film:



An elderly [Margaret Thatcher](#) talks to the imagined presence of her recently deceased husband as she struggles to come to terms with his death while scenes from her past life, from girlhood to British prime minister, intervene.

February in the garden



This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. The earliest spring bulbs to flower are the snowdrops 'Galanthus nivalis'. The first to flower this year are by the cornus next to the pond, right of the path.

Around the grounds there are about ten robins, they are always following Terry and me around, especially when Terry is tidying up the compost bins with the tractor, they like to use the bucket as a perch to spy on their prey.



Over the last month, Terry and I have finished mulching the borders and shaping the trees to let more light through. Terry has started jet washing the patios starting with the Physio patio to remove the algae. I have begun to put rabbit wire around plants producing new growth to keep the rabbits at bay.

Over the next month we will be pruning the roses and crab apple trees and starting the project of planting up the stream bank with periwinkle to create a dense blanket of cover.

Editor's notes

Some new books have been donated to the library, we will be displaying them on a tray in the library for residents to be able to read, we will change the books on a weekly basis.

If anyone would like to contribute any articles to the monthly newsletter I would be delighted to receive them.

Philippa Thompson
General Manager

**Below are listed a number of well-known sayings. Only problem is, we have removed all the vowels, spaces and punctuation
Can you help?**

- 1. LKBFRYLP**
- 2. WHTSWRTHDNGSWRTHDNGWLL**
- 3. MRHSTLSSSPD**
- 4. PTNCSVRT**
- 5. VRYTHNGCMSTTHSWHWT**
- 6. FTFRSTYDNTSCCSTRYTRYGN**
- 7. STTCHNTMSVSNN**
- 8. MNYHNDSMKLGHTWRK**
- 9. TMNYCKSSPLTHBRTH**
- 10. RLLNGSTNGTHRSNMSS**
- 11. BRDNTHHNSWRTHHTWNTHBSH**
- 12. LLTHTGLSTRSSNTGLD**
- 13. NCBTTNTWC SHY**
- 14. TWHDSRBTTRTHNN**
- 15. BSNCMKSTHHRTGRWFNDR**
- 16. NNPLDYKPSTHDCTRWY**
- 17. NFRPNNYNFRPND**
- 18. MSSSSGDSML**
- 19. STLLWTRSRNDP**
- 20. NWBRMSWPSCLN**
- 21. THRSNSMKWTHTFR**
- 22. MPTYVSSL SMKTHMSTSND**
- 23. WHRTHRSWLLTHRSWY**
- 24. YCNTMKSLKFRMSWSR**
- 25. FLNDHSMNYRSNPRTD**

Well known sayings – Answers

1. Look before you leap
2. What's worth doing is worth doing well
3. More haste less speed
4. Patience is a virtue
5. Everything comes to those who wait
6. Is at first you don't succeed, try, try again
7. A stitch in time saves nine
8. Many hands make light work
9. Too many cooks spoil the broth
10. A rolling stone gathers no moss
11. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
12. All that glisters is not gold
13. Once bitten twice shy
14. Two hands are better than one
15. Absence makes the heart grow fonder
16. An apple a day keeps the doctor away
17. In for a penny in for a pound
18. A miss is as good as a mile
19. Still waters run deep
20. A new broom seeps clean
21. There's no smoke without fire
22. Empty Vessels make the most sound
23. Where there's a will there's a way
24. You can't make silk from a sow's ear
25. A fool and his money are soon parted