

THE DOWER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to The Dower House's November Newsletter.

This month we start the build up to Christmas with our first trip to Marks and Spencer for a spot of shopping. This will be followed by a visit from Winchester College boys. Our second trip this month is to Brambridge Garden Centre to have look at the Christmas decorations and finish the visit off with a cup of tea and mince pie.

Also, this month we will be observing Remembrance Day, we will be holding our Remembrance Day service on Saturday 10th November at 10.45am.

In addition, Martinmas is celebrated on 11th November.

Martinmas is.....

Better known since 1918 as Armistice Day, November 11th is also the Feast of St Martin or Martinmas, a Christian feast to commemorate the death and burial of the 4th century St Martin of Tours.

Famous for his generosity towards a drunken beggar, with whom he shared his cloak, St Martin is the patron saint of beggars, drunkards and the poor. As his feast day falls during the wine harvest in Europe, he is also the patron saint of wine growers and innkeepers.

During the middle ages Martinmas coincided with the gathering in of the harvest. This was a time for feasting, to celebrate the end of autumn and to start preparing for winter. Traditionally Martlemass beef, salted to preserve it for the winter, goose and beef were the meats of choice for the celebrations, along with foods such as black pudding and haggis.

Martinmas is also a Scottish term day. The Scottish legal year is divided into four term and quarter days: Candlemas, Whitsunday, Lammass and Martinmas. On these days' servants would be hired, rent would be due and contracts would begin or end. Hiring Fairs also took place on Martinmas agricultural labourers and farm hands would seek employment.

One of the most famous Martinmas fairs was in Nottingham, which used to run for 8 days with people coming from all over Europe to trade and meet.

Curiously, like St Swithin's Day, this day is also associated with weather predictions, many involving ducks or geese, one of the symbols of St Martin of Tours. According to legend, whilst trying to avoid being ordained as a bishop, St Martin hid in a goose pen. Unfortunately, he was betrayed by the squawking of the geese! In Europe, many people still celebrate Martinmas with roast goose dinners.

Folklore states that if the weather is warm on St Martin's Day, then a harsh winter will follow; conversely, if the weather at Martinmas is icy, then by Christmas it will be much warmer:

'If ducks do slide at Martinmas
At Christmas they will swim;
If ducks do swim at Martinmas
At Christmas they will slide'

'Ice before Martinmas,
Enough to bear a duck.
The rest of winter,
Is sure to be but muck!'

'If the geese at Martin's Day stand on ice, they will walk in mud at Christmas'

November Activities

Thursday, 1st November – Gemini Fashion will be bringing in a collection of clothing and shoe wear for you to have a look at and maybe purchase if something takes your fancy

Monday, 5th November - Knit & Natter Group will be meeting at 11.00am in the conservatory, anyone welcome

Tuesday, 6th November – Keep Fit in the drawing room with Lorraine at 11.00am

Tuesday, 6th November – Anytime Club will be showing The Crown at 2.45pm in the drawing room

Thursday, 8th November – Holy Communion will be taking place in the drawing room at 11.00

Thursday, 8th November – Anytime Club scrabble afternoon in the dining room at 2.45pm.

Saturday, 10th November – A Remembrance Service will be held in the drawing room at 10.45am by Rev Paul Brandish & Rev Andrew Maundrell

Monday, 12th November - Knit & Natter Group will be meeting at 11.00am in the conservatory, anyone welcome

Tuesday, 13th November - Keep Fit in the drawing room with Lorraine at 11.00am

Tuesday, 13th November – Anytime Club will be showing The Crown at 2.45pm

Wednesday, 14th November – We will be taking our first trip to Marks & Spencer for a spot of shopping

Thursday, 15th November – Anytime Club will be holding a keepsake afternoon in the dining room at 2.45pm

Monday, 19th November - Knit & Natter Group will be meeting at 11.00am in the conservatory, anyone welcome

Tuesday, 20th November – Keep Fit in the drawing room with Lorraine at 11.00am

Tuesday, 20th November – Anytime Club will be showing The Crown in the drawing room at 2.45pm

Monday, 26th November - Knit & Natter Group will be meeting at 11.00am in the conservatory, anyone welcome

Tuesday, 27th November - Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room at 11.00am

Tuesday, 27th November - Anytime Club will be showing The Crown in the drawing room at 2.45pm

Wednesday, 28th November – Winchester College Boys will be coming to perform in the drawing at **2.30pm**

Thursday, 29th November – We will be taking a trip to Brambridge Garden Centre to have a look at the Christmas decorations and maybe participate in a spot of Christmas shopping.

Please be aware that all trips are subject to availability and we are only able to take a maximum of four residents per outing. Places are offered on rotation, with priority to those who have not participated in a recent trip out.

This Month Films

We have now received the second season of The Crown.



This follows the political rivalries of Queen Elizabeth II's reign her romance and the events that shaped the second half of the 20th century.

November in the Garden

A century after providing seeds to the First World War internees the RHS is now supplying seeds to the Syrian refugees. Growing plants helps to give hope and connection with their previous life. Iain Henderson from Buckinghamshire started the ribbon of poppies, a living legacy to those who fought and died during the First World War. Since then hundreds of gardeners, scouts and guides have grown poppies on roadside verges and around towns.

As Autumn takes hold there are a number of trees, dogwoods and Acers that are transformed as their foliage changes to shades of russet, orange, crimson, gold and purple. These trees and shrubs under planted with Snowdrops, native Bluebells and Ferns bring us a carpet of colour from February to May.

Over the last month Terry and I have started to prep the garden for winter. We have started to cut back the herbaceous perennials and weed and edge the borders ready for mulching later in the winter. Some of the perennials have grown so large, we are dividing as we go and filling in any gaps in the borders around the grounds with these new plants. We have cut back the Iris border too, and dividing them to encourage new rizomes to form, creating new growth for next year. We will soon be thinking of pruning the climbing roses, planting up the pots with bulbs for the spring. When all the leaves are down and collected, we will be able to prune and shape the trees as necessary. In the spring we are going to replace all the Lavender and Santolina in the Physio borders. They have grown too woody and out of shape, so we will remove them and prepare the ground ready for the spring.



Over the next month we will continue with the borders and gather up the leaves. If it stays mild then I would think you will continue to see mark cutting the lawns until December. He has fed and scarified the lawns but with these warm afternoons the grass is still growing. Let's hope these warm afternoons stay with us a little longer.

Philippa Thompson
General Manager

November Quiz

1. Who had a hit song in the late 60s with Hazy Shade of Winter?
2. What is an Alberta Clipper?
3. Which Sir played Richard Lionheart in the prize winning 1968 film The Lion In Winter?
4. Which British animal is brown in summer and white in winter?
5. Which of these is the correct name of a Shakespeare play,
A Winter's tale,
The Winter's Tale,
A Winters Story,
Cold is the winter,
Its freezing outside?
6. What disease became an epidemic in the winter of 1937?
7. From which play does the line "Now is the winter of our discontent" come?
8. The Winter Palace can be visited in which city?
9. Which fruit has a variety called 'Winter Banana'?
10. Which winter sport is sometimes known as "the roaring game"?
11. What name has been given to the ancient army made from baked earth that was discovered in China?
12. If you were travelling on a bearing of 336.25°, to which of the main 16 points of the compass would you be heading? Clue: A Cary Grant & James Mason movie
13. Vodka is a diminutive of the Slavic word voda. What does Voda mean?
14. Which city is home to Michelangelo's masterpiece 'David'?
15. What are the four most populated cities in India?
16. In the late 19th century, the brothers William and Ernest Renshaw were the dominant figures in which sport?
17. Which European capital city was built on 14 islands?
18. As the winter draws ever closer, the skies are often filled with fascinating murmurations. What are murmurations?
19. The PINNA is the outer part of your what?
20. Which country was the first in the world to build motorways?

Answers

1. Simon and Garfunkel
2. An extremely cold, fast moving winter storm
3. Sir Anthony Hopkins
4. Stoat
5. The Winter's Tale
6. Typhoid
7. Richard the third
8. Saint Petersburg
9. Apple
10. Curling
11. The Terracotta Army
12. North by Northwest
13. Water
14. Florence
15. Mumbai (Bombay), Delhi, Kolkata (Calcutta) and Chennai (Madras)
16. Lawn tennis
17. Stockholm
18. The aerobatic displays of starlings
19. Ear (Pinna is Latin for 'feather')
20. Italy