

# THE DOWER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to The Dower House's November Newsletter.

This month we welcome Johanna and her dog Benno from Pets as Therapy, which is a national charity founded in 1983 by Lesley Scott-Ordish. They enhance health and wellbeing in the community through the visits of trusted volunteers with their behaviourally assessed animals. They provide a visiting service in hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes, special needs schools and a variety of other venues all across the UK.

Also, this month we will be commemorating Remembrance Day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am in the drawing room with Rev Paul Brandish & Colonel John Sweeting. With this in mind I decided to have a look into why the poppy is associated with remembrance and found out the following information:

During the First World War (1914–1918) much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. Previously beautiful countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over, again and again. The landscape swiftly turned to fields of mud: bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow.

Bright red Flanders poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*) however, were delicate but resilient flowers and grew in their thousands, flourishing even in the middle of chaos and destruction. In early May 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lt Col John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies to write a now famous poem called '**In Flanders Fields**' below:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago,  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

By John McCrae, May 1915

McCrae's poem inspired an American academic, Moina Michael, to make and sell red silk poppies which were brought to England by a French woman, Anna Guérin. The (Royal) British Legion, formed in 1921, ordered 9 million of these poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and that first ever 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000; a considerable amount of money at the time. This was used to help WW1 veterans with employment and housing.

The following year, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-Servicemen. Today, the factory and the Legion's warehouse in Aylesford produces millions of poppies each year.

The demand for poppies in England was so high that few were reaching Scotland. Earl Haig's wife established the 'Lady Haig Poppy Factory' in Edinburgh in 1926 to produce poppies exclusively for Scotland. Over 5 million Scottish poppies (which have four petals and no leaf unlike poppies in the rest of the UK) are still made by hand by disabled ex-Servicemen at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory each year and distributed by our sister charity Poppyscotland.

Poppies can be purchased from the Admin Office.



## November Activities

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November** – Terri from Pedlars & Petticoats will be returning and will be reminiscing about wartime Christmas

**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – Coffee Morning in the Conservatory

**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – Anytime Club Quiz with Carol & Hannah in the dining room

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November** – Johanna from Pets as Therapy will be bringing her dog Benno into to The Dower House to meet residents.

**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November** – Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November** – Anytime Club film. Film to be confirmed

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> November** – Holy communion with Rev. Tim Selwood

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> November** – Games afternoon in the dining room

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November** – A Remembrance Service will be held in the drawing room at 10.45am by Rev Paul Brandish & Colonel John Sweeting

**Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> November** – Johanna and Benno from Pets as Therapy will be returning, please see notice board of where we will be meeting

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November** – Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November** – For this month Trip we will be going to Marks & Spencer's for a spot of Christmas shopping.

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November** – Anytime Club Quiz with Carol & Hannah in the dining room

**Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November** – Johanna and Benno from Pets as Therapy, please see notice board for where we will be meeting.

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November** - Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

**Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November** – Anytime Club will be showing a film in the drawing room

**Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November** – Johanna and Benno from Pets as Therapy, please see notice board for where we will be meeting

**Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November** –Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November** – Winchester College Boys will be coming into entertain us in the drawing room.

## This Month Film's

### Placido Domingo in Concert



Placido Domingo in concert with the Placido Grandissimo (National Symphonic Orchestra of Spain)

Featuring music from:

Carmen  
Porgy ad Bess  
Tosca  
La Rondine

We will be also showing Broadway Melody of 1940 with Fred Astaire:



In New York City, the dance team of Johnny Brett (Fred Astaire) and King Shaw (George Murphy) are at the bottom of the heap, and barely scraping by in dance halls. When a producer, Bob Casey (Frank Morgan), catches sight of Brett's moves, he wants to cast him as the dance partner of the Broadway star Clare Bennett (Eleanor Powell). However, after some misdirection and confusion, Shaw becomes Bennett's partner instead, but Brett still has some dancing to do when Shaw fails to perform.

## November in the Garden

On misty mornings the spectacular fiery colours of turning leaves on trees signifies the slow creep of the garden heading towards its cosy winter slumber. There is still plenty to enjoy in the garden with the crab apple tree full of fruit and the Cotoneasters covered in small red berries. The blackbirds and robins are busy feasting in preparation for winter and, with the colourful branches of the cornus in the warmth of the afternoon sun, really make the garden shine.



Over the last month Terry and I have started collecting leaves, a fun seasonal job, they all go in to in to our compost bins and help make the finest mulch for our boarders.

We have also been planting up all the pots, the wild flower border and the topiary garden with blubs for the spring. Starting with the pots, rooms 10,11,12,13,32,33,34 have a Paeony tulip mix, shades of pink, purple and white and all topped with blue to white Violas. Rooms 14,15,16,18,19, have Orange Emperor tulips topped with blue Violas and rooms 1,22,23,24,25,26,27, have a mix of tulips, Ille de France, Negrita and Tom Pouce topped with mauve to blue Violas.

In the wild flower boarder, we have planted 250 perennial Apeldoorn, Tulips, they are bright red tulip and as they are perennial they will stay in the border once finished and we will sow wild flower seed over the top. We have also planted 50 perennial tulips, Spring green, white to green in colour in the back two borders of the clover leaf in the topiary garden and 60 Paeony tulip mix in each of the front two borders and in the spring we will top with forget-me-nots. We have added Gladiator Allium bulbs to the shrubbery and Anemone blanda and Camassia Blue melody to the old orchard and 50 large flowering superior mix Crocus under the bird bath opposite the dining room so come the spring we should have a colourful garden for all to enjoy.

Over the next month we will continue gathering leaves and tidying through the borders and enjoying and some, hopefully sunny but fresh days.

## Editor's notes

### **Feeding Birds versus Pest Control**

We have recently had increased activity from vermin within the grounds. At this stage, it seems to be under control, however we have been advised by our Pest Control Contractor to be vigilant and aware of how this could become problematic very quickly due to breeding cycles.

He has advised us in the strongest possible terms to disallow residents from feeding the birds and we feel we have no option but, sadly, to take his advice. We will have to remove all the bird feeders. They can be stored in the barn or the families can look after them until such time as we can re-instate them. Please don't think we are trying to discourage any residents from their enjoyment of the array of wonderful birds that we are lucky to have either living in or visiting our grounds, so to this end we are looking at the possibility of putting up additional bird boxes to attract more birds to our garden whilst dissuading the opportunistic rodent.

### **Change of Sort Code - Preparation for 'Ring Fencing'**

You may have read in the press that major banks are being forced to separate their retail and corporate banking arms, a process known as 'ring-fencing'. This means that the banking activities for The Dower House will change shortly, and as a result you may receive communication from your bank explaining that the sort code for The Dower House has changed.

At this stage you do not need to take any immediate action – your standing order payments for room fees and any electronic payments for extras will automatically be re-directed to our bank for up to 36 months. We will of course change our details at the bottom of our invoices when we have 'gone live', but have decided to leave all standing orders unchanged until our annual fee review early next year.

Should you or your family have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact a member of the Accounts Department in the usual manner for assistance.

**Philippa Thompson**  
**General Manager**

# Trivia Quiz

1. In 1940 which world leader made the speeches “we shall fight them on the Beaches”...and “Never in the field of human conflict was so much...”?
2. In what year did Bikinis go on sale for first time in Paris?
3. What company began production of Italian sports cars in 1947?
4. What were ‘oxford bags’?
5. What famous dance of the 1920’s shared its name with a city in the Southern United States?
6. Who was Ginger Rogers famous dancing partner in musicals such as Top Hat?
7. What famous Skyscraper with 102 stories was built in New York 1931?
8. Which Royal became head of state in 1953?
9. In 1957, Britain tested its first hydrogen bomb on what Island?
10. In 1954, which British Athlete broke the four-minute mile?
11. If you have ‘Tinnitus’ what would you be suffering from?
12. From which City does Coleman’s mustard originate?
13. In cockney rhyming slang, what does apple & pears mean?
14. What is the emblem of Ireland?
15. What kind of animal is Beatrix Potter’s character Mrs Tiggywinkle?

# ***ANSWERS***

- 1. Winston Churchill**
- 2. 1946**
- 3. Ferrari**
- 4. Wide legged trousers**
- 5. The Charleston**
- 6. Fred Astaire**
- 7. Empire State Building**
- 8. Queen Elizabeth II**
- 9. Christmas Island**
- 10. Roger Bannister**
- 11. A ringing in the ears**
- 12. Norwich**
- 13. Stairs**
- 14. Shamrock**
- 15. A hedgehog**