

February 2011

Dear members

2010 was another successful year for the Downton Society and I would like to warmly welcome any new members who have joined recently.

The committee and I were delighted to see so many of you at the Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Evening in the White Horse and hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did.

Looking back over 2010, the Downton Society has been able to help various causes in the village such as the Downton Band, the Scouts and the Day Centre. The Moviola film showings are still popular but always need your support; the Downton Society only makes a profit of £1 per seat after fifty tickets have been sold (and if fewer than that are sold we actually make a loss). Any profit is used to buy flowers and bulbs for the village tubs on the greens, which I hope everybody is enjoying, the spring bulbs should soon be making an appearance. Any offers of help for summer watering and maintenance will be greatly appreciated.

The ever popular Wine Tasting Evening will be held on Friday 18th March, a tear off slip is included with this newsletter.

The 2011 A.G.M. will be held in the White Horse Stables room on Thursday 14th April at 8 pm. Please put this date in your diary as the evening promises to be interesting; after a short business meeting, Mr. Mark Hatt-Cook will be joining us and speaking about "The Future of Wild Deer in the British Isles". Do try to come and bring any non members who would be interested. Feel free to contact the Secretary Susan Barnhurst-Davies if you require any further information on 01725 510035.

The 2011 Summer Party will be held at Witherington Farm by kind invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Fergie-Woods on Friday 8th July. The evening will consist of a hog roast, music from the Downton Band and a stroll around the beautiful garden. An invitation will be sent out nearer the time.

Future trips in 2011 include Highclere Castle probably in the late summer; also a theatre trip maybe to Bath or Chichester, is being discussed.

Committee member and First World War Battlefield guide Liz Hutchinson is arranging a trip possibly in the autumn of 2011 or spring/autumn 2012 centred in Ypres, visiting the memorials, cemeteries and museums of the Ypres Salient and the Somme. The trip will focus on the men who are commemorated on the Downton war memorial. Travel would be with a British coach and driver for two nights, staying in a mid priced hotel on a bed and breakfast basis. The estimated price would be £250 per person based on 25 people which would include coach and ferry travel, the services of Liz as a tour guide and two nights B&B. Extras would include personal travel insurance, entrance fees and additional meals. Liz is taking expressions of interest so please contact her directly for further details on 01725 510617 or email liz.hutch@hotmail.co.uk

During the year some of the committee have been attending various meetings and presentations to do with planning issues, Wiltshire Council matters and many others, working on the Society's behalf to keep a close eye on planning and preservation matters.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all well in 2011 and I hope to see you at the Wine Tasting.

Best wishes

Sally Lacey
Chairman

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