

March 2024

March Coffee Morning

What a surprise! A blanket of snow covering Downend and the surrounding area this morning. Here are the brave ones who turned out despite the inclement weather to find a warm church and good company. After a slow start we ended the morning with a profit of £46.00.

The sharp eyed among you will notice Gwen at the back, attending her final Coffee Morning with us before moving off to Norfolk to live with her Grandson and his family. Our Club has a lot to thank Gwen for, with the support she gave husband Norman, who many will remember as a good ambassador for Kingswood with his worldwide contacts and attendance at many Conventions over the years; her absence from our gatherings will not go unnoticed. Should anyone like to have Gwen's new address and 'phone number, please ask Wally who will be pleased to supply them. We wish her well at her new home.



Dates for your Diary

21 st March	Dinner Night: Speaker – Richard Bentham, Freewheelers (Blood Bikes)
6 th April	Coffee Morning – Staple Hill Methodist Church, 10a.m start but earlier help welcome.
13 th April	Jazz Night with Stuart Potter and The Strollers at The Tynings School
18 th April	Dinner Night: Speaker(s) – Scouts we sponsored to Korean Jamboree
26 th October	Quiz Night at The Tynings - Just note the date in your diaries for now!

February Time of Fast Dinner Night

The Time of Fast evening was organised by Sam and Jerry and it proved to be very successful. The food, supplied by members, was delicious, although not quite in the spirit of Time of Fast. The table top games were great fun and appeared to be enjoyed by all. I especially liked the curling. Many thanks for a fun evening.

Ann Burgess.

Time of Fast evening



Jazz Night	A man walks into a pub with a toad and a frog. The toad starts to play the piano – and the barman is astonished. Then the frog starts
Coming up very soon – see diary dates above!	to sing along, accompanied by the toad. 'That's amazing,' says the barman. 'I tell you what. I'll pay you £100 for the singing frog.' 'Forget it,' says the
If you haven't tickets yet, or need more, speak to Wally – he just might be able to help you out!	<pre>woull loo for the singing frog. Forget it, suys the man. 'It isn't worth that much.' 'Why on earth did you turn down £100 for a singing frog?' says the barman. 'It's worth a lot more.' 'No, it isn't – the frog's useless,' says the man. 'The toad's a ventriloquist'</pre>

Trip to the Mountbatten Festival of Music at The Royal Albert Hall

Oh what a lovely day we had the day we went to Bangor! Oops, sorry, I meant London!

Our group of 10 met up outside the Bendrey house at 8 am on the 9th of March only to see our coach waiting in Bromley Heath Road; it only took a few minutes before they realised they were in the wrong place and came back to pick us up. We proceeded to Chipping Sodbury, via Yate and Coalpit Heath, to pick up the rest of the party then to the M4 to London stopping at Reading for a comfort break. After negotiating the London traffic we were able to park near the Royal Albert Hall at approx at 12 noon

The concert, not starting until 2 pm gave us plenty of time to eat our packed lunches and as the weather was kind, some of us sat on the steps of The Albert Memorial. We did manage to get a cup of coffee at the Albert Hall before the concert

This Festival of Music and was made up of three different bands of the Royal Marines: Plymouth, Portsmouth and Scotland. There were over

hundred musicians on the stage together with drummers, trumpeters, singers, Scottish Dancers and bagpipes.

It was an excellent concert and we were treated to not only traditional military music but also music from the movies with tributes to the RNLI, celebrating their 200th anniversary and the Invictus Games, some of whose participants and their families appeared on the stage. The highlight of the show was the appearance of the drummer from Iron Maiden; with his drum kit at the front of the stage, he performed one of his well known numbers being ably backed by the marine bands. A truly memorable moment.

The concert finished at about 4.45 and as the coach had been able to stay where we had left it we were soon on our way home, once again stopping at Reading. The M4 was closed at the Swindon so we were diverted through the town which delayed us. Dropping off the other passengers at Chipping Sodbury, we arrived back at Downend at about 8.45.

Truly, a very good day out and I would like to thank Glenda the organiser, Paul our driver and Chauffeur Hire for a clean and comfortable coach.



Race Night – Feb 24th 2024

Successful evening although only about 58 tickets sold with a profit of £916. Not a bad financial reward but just think what it could be with the sale of more tickets.



Finances

Members will have received a copy of the latest BoG Minutes which listed the organisations we have helped with our latest distribution from charity funds. After fulfilling our financial obligations to Y's Men International and staying with our policy of small amounts spread wider, we have paid out a total of £1300 to seven local charities and £400 between The Alzheimer Society and Prostate Cancer Research.

'Nuff said.....

Generally, I don't agree with child labour but sometimes they're the only ones who can sort out my mobile for me!