



## NEW MEMBERS

I would like to welcome Mr & Mrs Michael Broom, Ann & Peter Dayton, Michael & Philippa Fisher, James Lambert & Morag McLaren, Chris Leeming, Simon Mack, Mrs Audrey Pine, Dr Christopher & Mrs Jean Purvis, Ronald & Helen Sims as members

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This years' Christmas Lunch was again held at Badgemore Park Golf Club and fifty two members enjoyed a delicious festive meal with the drawing of the raffle to follow. The sunny weather gave us an opportunity to enjoy the surrounding countryside from the dining room and our guest of honour John Howell MP gave a short humorous address. Our thanks should go to the Staff of Badgemore who go to great lengths to ensure that the lunch is a success.

In view of the complimentary remarks we received from Members a booking has been made for 8 December 2012 so please make a note of this in your diary.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### HOUSE OF LORDS 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH



To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Society a visit has been arranged to tour the House of Lords followed by a two course lunch in the Attlee Room. Lord Gilbert has kindly agreed to act as our Sponsor together with Baroness

Buscombe who is Vice President of the Society. The number of guests allowed are very limited and it is hoped that our Members will agree that this is a special occasion.

## HIGHCLERE CASTLE 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Visit to Highclere Castle which has been featured in several films but more recently has been used as the main setting for Downton Abbey. The country house set in a 1,000 acre estate is in the Jacobean Style with park designed by Capability Brown. Since 1679 it has been the home of the Carnarvon Family.

In addition to touring the House and Grounds we will also have the opportunity to visit the Egyptian Exhibition which was founded by the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl who along with his archaeological colleague, Howard Carter, discovered the tomb of the Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun in 1922.



We feel that we were very lucky in making a booking for this visit as we are informed that at the present time there is a waiting list of 50 groups. The Castle has very limited opening hours and we hope that Members

will find the visit very interesting.

It is hoped to arrange a second visit to the **Gardens of Highgrove** when booking commences mid February and priority will be given to those members who were on the waiting list for the 2011 visit.

### Message from the River Thames Society:

They have a lunch and talk at Maidenhead Rowing Club on Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Your members would be very welcome, should they wish to join us. The cost is £17.50 per person. The club and bar will be open from 12noon. with lunch at around 12.45pm. The title of the talk is 'Modern Piracy' and will be given by Ian Black, one of our members.

Anyone wishing to go should contact Colin Howard:

[colin\\_howard1@sky.com](mailto:colin_howard1@sky.com) or telephone 01895 230027 and send cheque to him at: 179A long Lane, Uxbridge, Middlesex. UB10 9JW. Payable to the River Thames Society.