

## PRESS RELEASE

### “Looks, Books and the Real Downton Abbey”

#### An exclusive event featuring speakers The Countess of Carnarvon and writer and historian Rosemary Hill

Sussex Barn, Burnham Market, Norfolk - Thursday 4 April 2019#

This forthcoming event, to be held at the stunning location of Sussex Barn, Burnham Market (in conjunction with The White House, a beautifully refurbished and stylish Georgian country house\*) will bring together two contrasting yet complementary speakers for an occasion not to be missed.

With production of a new fictional feature film just completing, **Lady Carnarvon** will provide an insight into the alluring world of Highclere Castle – the real Downton Abbey.

**Rosemary Hill**, renowned writer and historian will present her illustrated lecture “What does she think she looks like?: The Dress in Your Head” first given at the British Museum in March 2018. A fascinating exploration of why women wear the clothes they do and how they write about them.



Lady Carnarvon



Rosemary Hill

*In 1838, the 3rd Earl of Carnarvon employed Sir Charles Barry (architect of the Houses of Parliament) to transform his classical Georgian mansion into a grand country house. Rebuilding works were completed in 1878 and from then on, throughout the late Victorian era, the house which viewers of the iconic ITV series Downton Abbey will instantly recognise, became a centre of political life. The family name of Carnarvon is perhaps most well known for being associated with the excavation of the Valley of the Kings in the 1920s. The 5th Earl, together with Howard Carter, was the first to enter the tomb of Tutankhamun. The Earls' premature death gave rise to the so-called “Curse of Tutankhamun”.*

*But what of the women of the Carnarvon family? Guests will be enthralled to hear from Lady Carnarvon, about the lives, loves and backgrounds of the beautiful, fascinating, strong and influential women of Highclere and the part they have played in the history of the Castle.*

*Rosemary Hill has published widely on 19th and 20th century social history. Her highly acclaimed biography of Augustus Pugin: “God’s Architect” won four major literary awards. She is a contributing editor of the London Review of Books, a Quondam Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford and was, for many years, a trustee of the Victorian Society. Her next book will be “The Antiquary in the Age of Romanticism”.*

The talks will be preceded by coffee on arrival, followed by an aperitif, canapés and two course luncheon, created by chefs Adam Baker and Jack Forman of North Norfolk Catering Company. Wine or a non-alcoholic alternative will be served during the meal. After the talks there will be an opportunity to meet the speakers over book signings and enjoy a refreshing cup of tea with a gâteau or pastry.

Norfolk Concierge is honoured to welcome both guest speakers to North Norfolk.

#### INFORMATION:

**Ticket price: £125 per person** - All Profits will be shared by **West Norfolk Mind** (registered charity 1137086), **Helen Bamber Foundation** (charity number 1149652) and **St Michael and All Angels Church, Highclere**. The event is being generously sponsored by **Kathryn Gigg**, Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton; and **Continuum**, award winning financial advisers.

\* The White House will be offering a special rate B&B on a limited number of rooms for the night of 3 April, for guests also attending the event.

**For tickets or more information, contact Alexandra Ware: email: alex@norfolkconciierge.co.uk; call 01485 540245 or 07803 047311. Arrival: 11.00 a.m. Close: 5.00 p.m. approx.**