

Friends of Bolton Priory

PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST CUTHBERT
Church Office, Bolton Abbey, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 6AL
Tel: 01756 710238 www.prioryfriends.org.uk Charity No. 701342

Newsletter No.107, April 2023 Editor: Aurora Mercer - editor@prioryfriends.org.uk

Chairman's Update

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. It is lovely to have some Spring weather at last!

Spring Lecture

Sadly, as most of you are aware, because of the weather, it was necessary to postpone our Spring Lecture, which should have taken place in March. However, we are hoping to rearrange this for later in the year.

Committee News

It has been an honour and a privilege to have served as Chairman of the Friends of Bolton Priory for nearly seven years. However, I have now decided that the time has come to step aside and let someone else take over the reins. As most of you know, I have been trying to do this for a couple of years now but have been unable to persuade anyone to relieve me. Legally, we have to have a Chairman, so I am appealing to anyone out there who might feel willing and able to take my place and take the Friends into the future. The Committee has decided that from now on the position of Chairman should last no longer than 3 Years. Please contact me or the Church Office if you would like further information.

Jill Riley, Chairman.



Subs Update from the Membership Secretary

As of 12TH April 2023, we had **349** members:

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Honorary Life | 8 | 6 singles 1 couples |
| Ex Off | 2 | |
| Life | 171 | 67 singles 52 couples |
| Others | 168 | 62 singles 53 couples |

Due to the increase in costs for stationery, printing, web site, posting etc. the Executive Committee has had to increase subscriptions to try and help cover these increasing costs.

The new subscriptions will be effective from the AGM 2023 and are minimum rates. Subscriptions have only been increased twice before in the Friends' 34-year history.

New subscription costs:

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Individual | £15 |
| Joint | £25 |
| Individual Senior | £10 |
| Joint Senior | £20 |
| Life Individual | £150 |
| Life joint | £250 |

IMPORTANT

PLEASE would members who pay subscriptions by Banker's Order at the minimum rate give instructions to their bank to increase the annual amount as necessary

You can also help us to reduce costs further by:

- a) Signing up to receive your newsletter by e-mail. To do this please send an e-mail with the subject title 'FOBP e-mail sign up' to kayte@live.co.uk
or
- b) Sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope (for us to post your newsletter out to you) to: *Katherine Hague, FOBP, c/o 13 The Crescent, Adel, Leeds. LS16 6AA*

We thank you for your continued friendship and support.

Forthcoming AGM: 14th May

Our AGM this year will take place on Sunday 14th May, followed as ever by our wonderful lunch. Booking forms for this event are attached to this newsletter. For those of you who receive your newsletter by email but don't have a printer, forms are available from the Tower in the Priory Church, from the Church Office. The AGM is a great occasion to catch up with friends and also to hear all about the FOBP, and your support is much appreciated.



Update: Trip to RHS Bridgwater – Wednesday 7th June



We have been delighted with the response for this trip. Tickets have now sold out, and we are all looking forward to a great day.

If anyone would like to put their name on a waiting list (in case of any cancellations) please contact Carolyn Smith:

email: carolynsmith2750@gmail.com

phone 01756 752731/07977 440863.

Autumn Trip to Auckland Castle, Spanish Gallery & Garden



The Auckland Project is a regeneration charity with a difference, and has Auckland Castle as one of the best-preserved bishops' palaces in the whole of Europe, at its centre. It has recently undergone major conservation work which has transformed its state rooms, including the magnificent Throne Room, back to their original Georgian Gothic splendour, fit for the Prince Bishops, as designed by the architect James Wyatt. In the Long Dining Room there is also one of the largest collections of paintings by the Spanish artist Francisco de Zurbaran (1598–1664). In addition, you can visit St Peter's Chapel, one of the largest private chapels in Europe.

Within walking distance of the Castle is the new Spanish Gallery, which houses the UK's largest collection of 16th and 17th century Spanish artworks outside London including work by El Greco, Murillo and Velazquez. The inaugural exhibition includes El Greco's remarkable Christ on the Cross. The Gallery was formally opened earlier last year by HM Queen Letizia of Spain and, as he was then, HRH Charles Prince of Wales.

During the conservation work that has been carried out at both the Castle and the Spanish Gallery, access for the less abled has been considered, and lifts to the different floors are available if required. The Castle Gardens are another delightful attraction and provide a lovely setting to wander through or sit and relax.



Further details for this trip, which is likely to take place in early September, will follow, once arrangements have been finalised, but this promises to be an excellent day out. We do hope many of you will join us.