

Friends of Bolton Priory

PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST CUTHBERT
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Tel: 01756 710238 Website: <http://prioryfriends.org.uk>

Charity Number 701342

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 15 May 2016

Over 70 members gathered for the 27th Annual General Meeting. The village hall was bedecked in purple bunting (remains from a recent wedding reception), which contributed to the celebratory atmosphere of yet another excellent year for the Friends of Bolton Priory. Andrew Hartley our Chairman welcomed everyone and asked members to stand in silence and remember the eight members who had died during the past twelve months: *Jean Slaughter, Peter Hopkinson, Hilda Gilham, Pat Gladstone, John Rose, David Hellewell, Graham Dingle and Michael Grunwell.* Andrew then summarised the various events that had taken place throughout the year as well as announcing a number of events and lectures that have already been planned to take place between now and December.

Treasurer, Adrian Hendley, confirmed another successful year and that funds are in good order. He listed various purchases and donations that have been made to the Priory in response to PCC requests which had amounted to £1,124.00. Adrian reported that on 31 December 2015 assets stood at £40,937.00

Executive Committee for 2016-17

Chairman	Andrew Hartley
Membership Secretary	Keith Simpson
Hon Treasurer	Adrian Hendley
Newsletter Editor	Jean Crawford

Anna Hartley, Barbara Hopkinson, Jenny Laycock, Anne Lloyd, Keith Nightingale, Jill Riley, Amanda Wood

Ex-Officio: Rector – Revd Simon Cowling

PCC Representative: Barry Cody



Adrian Hendley, Andrew Hartley & Keith Simpson

Keith Simpson, Membership Secretary updated us on membership figures which currently stands at 269 (or 387 if Joint Members were counted separately).

John Sheard has stood down from the Executive Committee and Chris Dale is moving to Scotland. We are delighted that Amanda Wood and Keith Nightingale have been elected onto the Committee to fill those vacancies. Jill Riley has completed her three year term and as she was willing to stand again, was duly re-elected.

The Rector concluded the meeting by reading the Friends' Prayer.

Formalities were followed by a superb lunch and an amazing spread of desserts which had been made by members. Socialising in the company of friends, some of whom we hadn't seen for a while, whilst sharing a delicious meal: clearly, a good time was had by all. Many thanks to everyone involved in making the AGM so pleasurable

Please note that the full minutes of the AGM is available on the Friends of Bolton Priory website.

FRIENDS' SUMMER VISIT

BOWES MUSEUM & MARKENFIELD HALL

The Friends of Bolton Priory made their summer visit this year on 10 June, the joint destination being Bowes Museum near Barnard Castle followed by Markenfield Hall, near Ripon.

For once the weather forecast did not matter and our luxury coach with thirty one Friends and their friends aboard, sped through mist and rain to arrive at (and squeeze miraculously through) the superb wrought iron gateway to get our first view of Bowes Museum. The huge French Chateau, unique for this part of the world, always conveys an amazing wow factor whether or not it is your first visit.

After coffee, two volunteer guides divided the party for a detailed tour of the displays, bringing us up to date with the history of the place at the same time.



Hearing the History of Markenfield Hall

John, natural son of the 10th Earl of Strathmore (the Bowes Lyon family) was born in 1811, and his father within hours of his death married John's mother to legitimise his status and ensure his inheritance. This did not earn John the Earldom, but he acquired the huge land holdings of the North East, making him hugely wealthy.

His interest in all the arts took him to France where he met and married Josephine, a somewhat middling actress but a talented painter, also sharing John's interest in the whole spectrum of art. They conceived the plan to found a museum on John's beloved North East, and between 1862 and 1874 over 15,000 objets d'art were purchased.

The museum finally opened in 1892 too late for either John or Josephine to see it, but the Trustees made sure their wishes were carried out to the

letter. An hour and a half was barely enough to give us more than a lightning tour but after a brief lunch there was time to revisit personal highlights. Anna and I (and several others) fell in love with the "English Rose" exhibition celebrating feminine beauty from Van Dyck to Sargeant.

Finally we all convened on the top floor to watch the daily performance of the Silver Swan, an astonishing clockwork automaton constructed in 1773, and acquired by John after the Paris Exhibition of 1867.

Then it was back to the coach and down to Markington Hall which presented a total contrast. This is a delightful Medieval manor house, the current building dating from 1310 but with parts including the undercroft going back to 1230. The De Markenfield family prospered, partly by ensuring they always supported the "right" side for over two centuries until in 1536 as prominent Catholics they supported the Pilgrimage of Grace. By also joining the Rising of the North in 1569 the whole estate was forfeited to the Crown and was acquired by Thomas Egerton who used it purely as an investment. This continued even after Sir Richard Norton, took over in 1761. He became the 1st Lord Grantley but the house had to wait until the 7th Lord before serious restoration commenced and the owner at last became its occupier.

The result of this total lack of additions and "improvements" for four centuries but just enough care to keep it wind and watertight has provided a unique chance to visit a totally unspoilt Medieval home. Our guides treated us to an incredibly detailed two hour historical tour of this gem, from the moat and gatehouse, through the undercroft into the Great Hall and the Chapel.

Andrew Hartley

ADVENT SUNDAY SUPPER

27 NOVEMBER AFTER 4.30PM EVENSONG

As usual, the Advent Sunday Supper will be held in the Boyle Room after the 4.30pm Evensong on Advent Sunday 27 November.

Hopefully, this will be well attended as it's always a lovely social event in the company of friends.

**Tickets are priced at £7.00 each.
Please see attached Events Sheet or contact a member of the Executive Committee.**

FoBP Member - STEVE MANSFIELD

One of the many joys of editing the Friends' Newsletter is receiving correspondence from members who don't live locally but continue to support Bolton Priory through their prayers and membership subscriptions. It's a pleasure being allowed to share their recollections of visiting the Priory – whether this was a single visit or has become a regular outing over the years.

Steve Mansfield contacted recently and has agreed to me including a brief excerpt from our email exchanges in our Newsletter. Steve lives in Fotherby, Lincolnshire and attends St Giles Church in Grimsby. A retired teacher, he continues to be actively involved in his local community, the church and school.

"I do love to visit the Priory and in fact the whole area as often as I possibly can. It seems a long time ago now since my first visit when myself and four of my friends stayed in a caravan in the farmyard at Bolton Bridge and spent a glorious week walking everywhere. We went up Beamsley Beacon, drank fresh milk from a farm gate in Storiths, walked during an evening into Addingham for a bag of chips, daily walks into Skipton and Ilkley and I still see the other three lads even today. We were brought up to the caravan in an old Ford Anglia car by one of my friend's father and when he came to collect us, it was the Saturday England played Germany in the World Cup Final. Some of my visits have coincided with special events such as one day when we called, Freddie Truman's daughter was getting married...or was it his son? Never mind".

CASTLE HOWARD CHRISTMAS VISIT MONDAY 5 DECEMBER - departing 9am

A coach is booked for our visit to Castle Howard to coincide with the Annual Christmas Decorations throughout the house. This year the display will include a large model of the house in gingerbread as originally envisaged by Vanburgh, by famous culinary artists Bompas and Parr and there will also be a festive indoor market for seasonal shopping.

TICKET PRICE £40 PER PERSON

This includes coach, entry to the house, morning coffee on arrival, and soup and sandwich lunch.

Return to Bolton Abbey 6-6.30pm

**Please apply for your tickets A.S.A.P from
Andrew Hartley**

**We shall be throwing the event open to all
very soon to ensure all 49 seats are filled.**



Julian, Johnny & Steve in 1966, Fourth friend Phil took the photo



Steve Mansfield

SHINING A LIGHT ON THE PRIORY"

In September, about eighty of us enjoyed a memorable evening to celebrate the new lighting scheme that has been installed at the Priory.

Dr Malcolm Parsons gave a riveting and informative presentation about the dynastic genealogy of those linked with the Priory together with the architectural history of the building.

Jonathan then demonstrated the versatility of the various light settings designed to suit different occasions and time of year.

The evening concluded with everyone enjoying a drink in the tower which had been donated by the Friends

FRIENDS' LATE SUMMER VISIT

BURTON CONSTABLE HALL, NEAR HULL

On Thursday September 8th a coach load of thirty two Friends (and friends) set off for a visit to Burton Constable, near Hull, with a quick look at Beverley Minster on the way home.

Once we had escaped from the West Riding, the sun shone for the rest of the day. Burton Constable, now run by a Foundation Trust, is a huge originally Elizabethan house, although the family has had a house there since the 12th century. The current building has been added to over the centuries both inside and out and also boasts a superb 18th century Palladian stable block.

We were able to take our time around the interior which was just as well as there was so much to see, and some joined a brief lecture outside on "Capability" Brown who was responsible for designing the Park.

The Constable family remained Catholics after the Reformation and we saw the usual results of the family fortunes rising and falling throughout the centuries. This family managed in the main to keep their faith (more or less) but adopting a low profile, the results we saw were superb and very much in good heart.

The free-and-easy style of the day extended to Beverley Minster (without a hint of Capt. Mainwaring from our organiser) and we were able to wander around a virtually empty building as we pleased.

It is a huge church, bigger than a third of our cathedrals at 393 feet long, and has had the usual chequered career since its foundation in the 8th century. The superb nave and twin transepts, a beautifully carved and decorated wood choir, and some fabulous stained glass, all within total peace and tranquillity made it obvious why it was chosen to film interior scenes of "Westminster Abbey" for the current Victoria T.V. series.

We could have spent so much time there but sped off in order to return to Bolton Abbey by 6.45pm.

Our thanks to Keith Simpson for arranging the distribution of the newsletters and to Edward Nicholl for maintaining the Friends' website



Laurie Cordingley and Keith Simpson dwarfed by the lofty Beverley Minster interior

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

This year's theatre visit will be to see a production of "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" at Ilkley Playhouse on Wednesday 14 December. We will meet at 6pm for a drink before supper and a talk by a member of the Playhouse management prior to the show.

The play is an adaptation of C.S Lewis' classic children's story about four children evacuated from London during the Blitz to the home of a mysterious professor.

This promises to be an extremely enjoyable evening. Tickets cost £25.00

For tickets, please see the Events Sheet attached.

The Website for the Friends

www.prioryfriends.org.uk is open to all to read on the Internet. There you will find past Newsletters, stories, pictures of events and lots of information.

You can also use the link from the Priory website www.boltonpriory.church to the Friends' website. Do visit these sites and see what's there.

FRIENDS OF BOLTON PRIORY

EVENTS BOOKING FORM

ADVENT SUNDAY SUPPER

On Sunday 27 November 2016. In the Boyle Room immediately following the 4.30pm Evensong Service.

Name:
Address:
Telephone:
Number of tickets at £7.00 per person _____
Cheque: payable to <u>FRIENDS OF BOLTON PRIORY</u> enclosed for £ <i>Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope</i>
Please apply for tickets from : Andrew Hartley, Netherwood Farm, Skipton Road, Ilkley LS29 9RP Tel: 01943 600645

EVENTS BOOKING FORM

CASTLE HOWARD CHRISTMAS VISIT

**On Monday 5 December 2016. Departing from Bolton Abbey Car Park at 9am
With an expected return by 6.30pm**

Name:
Address:
Telephone:
Number of tickets at £40.00 per person (to cover everything) _____
Cheque: payable to <u>FRIENDS OF BOLTON PRIORY</u> enclosed for £ <i>Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope</i>
Please apply for tickets from : Andrew Hartley, Netherwood Farm, Skipton Road, Ilkley LS29 9RP Tel: 01943 600645

EVENTS BOOKING FORM

THEATRE VISIT TO ILKLEY PLAYHOUSE

“THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE”

**On Wednesday 14 December 2016. Meeting at Ilkley Playhouse at 6pm
For drinks, a buffet supper and a talk by a member of the Playhouse
management prior to the performance.**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Number of tickets at £25.00 per person _____

Cheque: payable to **FRIENDS OF BOLTON PRIORY** enclosed for £

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope

Please apply for tickets from : Andrew Hartley, Netherwood Farm, Skipton Road, Ilkley LS29 9RP
Tel: 01943 600645

Or from any member of the FoBP Executive Committee