

Friends of Bolton Priory

PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST CUTHBERT
Church Office, Bolton Abbey, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 6AL
Tel: 01756 710238 Website: <http://prioryfriends.org.uk>

Charity Number 701342

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Editor: Jean Crawford
jean_crawford@rocketmail.com

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Annual General Meeting: 31 May 2015

Sixty five members attended the 26th Annual General Meeting, chaired by Andrew Hartley. Apologies for absence had been received from a further fifteen members. Having thanked the Executive Committee for their contribution throughout the year, the chairman asked all those present to stand in silence in memory of the thirteen members who had died during the past year:

Bert Chandler, Mary Chandler, William Pickles, Claudia Armstrong, Grace Watkinson, Alan Hague, Harry Birkby, Elizabeth Birkby, Colin Sutcliffe, Chris Davidson, Fred Whyte, Bob Appleyard & Mrs JW Brooke.

The past year had been the most active yet, with eight Friends' events having taken place. The Stephanie Dingle Art Exhibition held at Bolton Abbey Village Hall in May was an outstanding success, producing a magnificent donation of £1,205.00 to Friends' funds.



Keith Simpson, Friends' Membership Secretary reported that membership now stood at 262 or 380 if joint members are counted separately.

Adrian Hedley, Friends' Treasurer, reported that at 31 December 2014 total assets had increased by £3,473.00 over the previous year. Friends

funding of Priory Church expenditure amounted to £1,728.00 during the year. The Chairman announced that Adrian has been "an utterly dependable Treasurer" for sixteen years which is a record and worthy of note.

The Chairman concluded the Annual General Meeting by reading The Friends' Prayer.



Members then enjoyed a magnificent lunch which had been once again superbly organised by Jill Riley and Jenny Laycock. Alas, having taken responsibility for the catering arrangements for all the Advent Sunday parties and AGMs in recent years, Jill and Jenny are now relinquishing this role. On behalf of the Friends, the Chairman thanked them for their contribution in achieving a consistently high standard throughout this time.

A Tribute to Colin Sutcliffe

At the AGM James Pearson paid a moving tribute to Colin Sutcliffe. We heard that Colin had served on the Executive Committee for ten years, having been Membership Secretary for nine. James had been Chairman during most of that time and recalls that Colin was a kind, thoughtful man who had worked tirelessly and had made a tremendous contribution to Bolton Priory and the Friends.

[Financial Facts From Our Treasurer](#)

You may all be interested to know that, towards the end of 2014, a milestone was reached in terms of funding provided by The Friends of Bolton Priory in support of the Priory Church.

Over the years, many requests for funding have been received from the Priory PCC. After ensuring that any expenditure meets the criteria in the Friends' Constitution, the total funding provided has now passed the £40,000 mark. (Taking into account the first seven months of 2015, this total has now reached approx. £42,500).

A wide variety of items have been funded over the years, individually ranging in value from around £100 upwards. There have been several items around the £1000 mark, with 4 instances of funding in excess of £3000. Recent items funded include an additional chalice, some Pew Bibles, eight gas candles for the sanctuary and the printing of new service booklets for the Sung Eucharist.

The current strength of the Friends' finances will enable the Friends' Trustees to consider suitable funding requests from the Priory Church in the years to come.

Adrian Hedley - Hon Treasurer



Sixteen years as the Friends' Treasurer - a record!

[Postage costs](#)

[Thank you](#) to all of you who have asked to be e-mailed when the next Newsletter is available on our website. If you want to be included too please let me know. Over 80 households now access the Newsletter in this way, what a saving!

[Our Friends Overseas](#)

When I took on the editorial responsibilities for the Friends' Newsletter I was amazed to discover that we have several Friends living abroad, most of whom have life membership.

Members in France, Portugal, Greece and the USA – the furthest being Hawaii!

It got me thinking.

How did they become involved in the Priory?

At one time did they live here?

Were they visitors passing through?

Did they get married here?

Do they still have family locally and return to visit from time to time?

I'd like to include some brief articles in forthcoming Newsletters so please get in touch and let me know so that we can share some of your news too.

[Summer Outing to Burton Agnes](#)

On June 4th a coach load of thirty Friends (and their friends) set off from the Village Car Park at 9am headed for Selby Abbey for a cup of coffee and a guided tour. Now be honest, Selby is not your first choice for part of a special day out, and yet the Abbey turned out to be one of the most interesting unsung sites in our area. Founded by the Benedictines in 1069 it became an ecclesiastical power house in the North of England and as a mark of its importance became a "mitred" abbey in 1256. In 1340 there was a disastrous fire but within the next eighty years the Abbey was fully restored and further embellished. A general decline in income and power soon however started and it was then surrendered under the Dissolution in 1539. It became Selby's parish church, then during the Commonwealth there was a great loss of stained glass and statues, and in 1690 the tower fell, destroying the south transept.

Within the prosperity of the 19th century the church was totalled overhauled and put completely back into use but then another fire in

1906 put the Abbey back to square one. Three years and £40,000 later the restoration was complete with new stained glass and a new Hill organ.

Our guides gave us a thorough tour of this most interesting and beautiful building, and we all agreed another visit was well worth it, even just for the truly amazing stained glass.

Then back on the bus we sped to Burton Agnes near Driffield where lunch was laid on, and once again a detailed tour of the house. The site has been occupied by the same family since 1173 and the present house was built by 1610 by Sir Henry Griffith using architect Robert Smithson (of Longleat, Wollaton and Hardwick). Alterations and additions have occurred in the Georgian, Regency and Victorian eras and the 20th century saw many paintings and other treasures added.

The building we saw well deserved Simon Jenkin's rating in his book "England's Thousand Best Houses" as one of the top twenty alongside Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and Chatsworth. Our guide was a totally bottomless pit of knowledge and our party happily wended its way home accompanied by a serious chunk of the garden centre by 6.45pm.

Andrew Hartley



Our thanks to Keith Simpson for arranging the distribution of newsletters; to James Pearson for his photography and Edward Nicholl for maintaining the Friends' website

Spring Lectures

Sixty people attended this year's Spring Lecture in April to hear The Rt Reverend Nick Baines' lecture "Shaping the Future – Getting from There to Here". The event coincided with the week of the first anniversary of the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales. Peppered with personal anecdotes about himself, his experiences and his family, Bishop Nick's talk was amusing but nonetheless thought-provoking about the challenges that we often face and the joy we share when successfully overcoming them.

After the lecture there was an opportunity to socialise over a glass of wine.

Next year's Spring Lecture will take place on **Friday 18 March 2016**. Our speaker will be Sir Harry Ognall who will speak to the title "My Life of Crime".

Advent Cheese & Wine Party

Advent Sunday falls on 29 November this year and as usual we will be holding our Cheese and Wine party in the Boyle Room, immediately following the 4.30pm Advent Service.

Tickets cost £7.00 per person

Please book your tickets early using the attached Booking Form

Theatre Visit to Ilkley Playhouse

Our theatre visit this year is to see a production of the comedy drama, **Steel Magnolias** at the Ilkley Playhouse on **Wednesday 9 December 2015**.

A true story written by Robert Harling following the loss of his beloved sister, *Steel Magnolias* is the quintessential story of friendship and trust. Set in a beauty salon, the audience listens in as six women share their secrets and fears about weddings and divorces; babies and funerals; new beginnings and happy endings. Gossipy and humorous, however when tragedy strikes it's the salon where the women find comfort and solace.

Prior to the performance we will meet at the Playhouse for supper at 6pm for 6.30pm.

Tickets for the performance, supper and wine are £24.00 per person.

[The Friends Autumn Outing to Wreay Church](#)

It was a misty morning on September 8th when thirty Friends (and their Friends) set out from Bolton Abbey towards Carlisle. By the time we reached the M6 the sky was clearing. Our initial stop was Wreay Village just south of Carlisle, where a church was built in 1842 by a unique single lady of 57 called Sarah Losh.

She was wealthy, very well educated and gifted and had done the Grand Tour with her sister in 1815. Her sister died in 1835 and partly as a memorial to her Sarah Losh arranged to replace the dilapidated old Wreay church with one of her own design, much of the work carried out and all supervised by her, and paid out of her own fortune. It cost £1088 10s. 4d., using only local craftsmen and her own talent, and the result was one of the most interesting and unusual buildings any of us has ever seen.

We were led through the story, the design and all the vast amount of symbolism by the Chairman of their Friends, a retired architect Raymond Whittaker who held us spellbound with his enthusiastic address.

We happily over ran our time there by a good forty minutes before setting off back south to Penrith and Hutton-in-the-Forest, an eccentric stately home, built originally as a Pele tower around 1350 and then extended through the centuries, all by the same Fletcher-Vane family, including a second Pele tower in the 19th century by Anthony Salvin.

First however we were welcomed with lunch in their Cloisters Tearoom, and because some opted for extra apple crumble and we were running late, it was decided that the non-crumblers would take the first tour and the crumblers would take the second.

The house was comfortable and amply filled with excellent furniture some of it from Chippendale and Gillows of Lancaster. The paintings tended towards a pictorial family tree, but also bore the stamp of succeeding family members, such as

Margaret, cousin of Gladstone, married to Sir Francis and very keen on Arts and Crafts. The family history was all around in photographs, invitations and the like, and the whole experience was emphatically low key, relaxed and friendly just like the welcome we had received on arrival.

Finally we toured the amazing gardens, laid down originally in 1745 and bounded by the house and seemingly miles of yew hedges, which were having their annual trim. By now the sun was strong enough to ensure we just sat and enjoyed the wonderful colour and scents which stretched away from us as far as the eye could see in every direction.

The happy band reluctantly rejoined the coach to travel contentedly home, and we only lost the sun as we left the M6, with a prompt return at 6.30pm.

Andrew Hartley

FUTURE DIARY DATES

ADVENT CHEESE & WINE PARTY –

Sunday 29 November 2015

In the Boyle Room immediately after the 4.30pm Advent Service

THEATRE VISIT to ILKLEY PLAYHOUSE –

Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 6pm

Steel Magnolias preceded by supper at the Playhouse.

SPRING LECTURE 2016 -

Friday 18 March 2016 at 7.30pm in Bolton Abbey Village Hall

Our Newsletter is prepared for you!

Have you some stories, memories, pictures or indeed issues, which you would like to be included? If so, please contact the editor at jean_crawford@rocketmail.com

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 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 CHEESE & WINE PARTY

Date & Time: Sunday 29 November 2015 in the Boyle Room after the 4.30pm Advent 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 : Barry Cody, Riverview Cottage, Bolton Abbey Road, Addingham, LS29 0RG Tel: 01756 710587

THEATRE VISIT TO ILKLEY PLAYHOUSE

SUPPER & "STEEL MAGNOLIAS"

Date & Time: Wednesday 9 December 2015 @ 6pm for 6.30pm

Name:
Address:
Telephone:
Number of tickets at £24.00 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 : Barry Cody, Riverview Cottage, Bolton Abbey Road, Addingham, LS29 0RG Tel: 01756 710587