

Friends of Bolton Priory

PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST CUTHBERT
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2017

Sixty one members gathered at Bolton Abbey Village Hall on Sunday 7 May for the Friends of Bolton Priory Annual General Meeting, followed as usual by a delicious lunch in convivial company.

During the meeting Andrew Hartley, the Chairman referred to the Friends' objectives which are to raise funds to support the ministry of the Priory Church but in doing so, to have lots of fun. He recalled the social events, day trips and lectures that had featured in the Friends' calendar during the past twelve months. He also noted that during the last year the Friends had made donations to the Priory Church in response to requests from PCC to fund the purchase of new gas-filled altar candles and new altar cloths. In addition the Friends had made a donation of £3,000 to the new lighting scheme.

Friends were asked to stand in memory of the nine members who had died during the year: Alistair Kennedy-Young, Peter Laycock, Neville Gladstone, Shirley Davidson, Clive Lane, Hazel Rishworth, Marie Walker Last, Paul Robertshaw, Jean Walker.



Andrew Hartley explained that he has been the Chairman of the Friends for six happy years but felt that the time has come for him to move on. He proposed that Jill Riley, a long-serving member of the Executive Committee who had done such valuable work for the Friends over many years, should be elected Chairman. This proposal was passed unanimously.



Andrew Hartley and Jill Riley

Treasurer Adrian Hendley had tabled copies of the Friends accounts for the year to 31 December 2016 and commented that total assets now stood at a little over £40,000, a slight reduction on the previous year. As to income, there had been benefit from donations and a well-attended Spring Lecture; members' subscriptions were in line with previous years but the low level of interest rates had not been helpful. On expenditure, postage costs had been contained due to the number of members now accessing the Friends' Newsletter via the website.

FoBP OUTING on 4 JULY 2017

With 33 passengers on board we departed from Bolton Abbey car park on a grey, miserable morning more-or-less on time, just after 9.00am.

Barry and Margaret Cody had arranged a wonderful day for us at Ampleforth Abbey. We arrived at about 10.45 and were immediately shown into the tea room, situated in the impressive reception area. After tea/coffee and delicious homemade biscuits we gathered in the central area and were greeted by Father Matthew, a monk at Ampleforth for 53 years. He talked about the history of the Abbey and how it was founded all those centuries ago. We followed him to the monks' refectory, a surprisingly modern room with a high glass vaulted ceiling. He explained that at mealtimes someone reads aloud from a book, not necessarily from the bible or a religious work, could be anything...Interesting!



Jen admiring the Roses at Ampleforth

Then on into the church itself. He told us about the history of the Benedictine Order and the process of becoming a Benedictine monk. The huge ornate altar which is central to the church is quite awe-inspiring. After taking us to see the small Lady chapel where there was a lovely vase of beautiful roses which one of the monks had carried all the way back from Africa the previous week, we sat in the wonderful 'Mouseman' choir stalls where each monk has his own personal seat. Father Matthew told us about the services and prayers that take place there and then invited

us to join him in saying the Lord's Prayer - a lovely gesture.

After a delicious lunch of soup and sarnies we went back into the church and attended the 1 o'clock prayer service which takes place for fifteen minutes throughout the day. Twenty-three monks attended, all deeply genuflecting before the altar. I was quite worried for some of them as most were quite elderly and I was afraid they wouldn't be able to get up again.! The service is what is known as a Plainsong Service, almost chanted rather than sung, very moving. After that we had an hour to spend in the shop and visitor centre. It's a vast complex comprising many huge buildings and acres of farmland and sports fields. The school is the oldest Roman Catholic school in the country with approximately 600 pupils, both girls and boys. Sadly, the weather was so inclement it was difficult to fully appreciate the magnificent setting.

A few miles down the road we arrived at Nunnington Hall. What a contrast! This beautiful Yorkshire manor set in idyllic surrounding on the banks of the River Rye is a true gem. The earliest existing part date from around 1580. It has a long rather complicated history involving family ownership and absentee landlords and is now under National Trust ownership. We had an informal talk from a guide in the central hall and were then left to wander through the various rooms. Each room was staffed by very well-informed volunteer guides who were happy to explain the points of interest in each room. We all ventured up to the third floor attics to marvel at the well renowned miniature rooms on display, each quite fascinating and beautifully crafted. Again, sadly the weather prevented us from exploring the well-known gardens, which looked to be beautifully laid out and tended with lots of interesting plants and trees.

We arrived home absolutely on time, 6.30pm, as scheduled, happily with all 33 passengers on board. I counted them all out and I counted them all back!! Again, huge thanks to the Cody's and to the Friends and visitors who joined us.

A wonderful day out.

Report & Photography by Jill Riley

ADVENT SUNDAY SUPPER
3 DECEMBER 2017 AFTER THE 4.30PM
ADVENT SERVICE

As usual, the Advent Sunday Supper will be held in the Boyle Room after the 4.30pm Advent Service on Sunday 3 December.

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

THE SUMMER PARISH PARTY

On Sunday 18 June, Bolton Priory hosted the Annual Parish Party. We were blessed with a gloriously sunny day and the gathering proved to be yet another successful social occasion. The event was particularly special as it marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of Revd Simon Cowling's ordination. Congratulations Simon.



Revd Simon Cowling

The delicious spread was once again expertly co-ordinated by the late Anne Lloyd. Very sadly, Anne died at the end of August after a short illness. Anne was a faithful and committed member of the Friends of Bolton Priory Executive Committee. Although she was always very modest and played down her role at such events, Anne could be relied upon to take the lead in organising Parish parties, Harvest Suppers, the parties following the Advent Sunday Service and the FoBP AGM lunches. Similarly, this year, for several weeks prior to the party we have fond memories of Anne in the tower armed with her

clip board, ensuring that contributions provided an acceptable balance between savoury and sweet so that we were neither deluged with an abundance of sausage rolls nor chocolate brownies. We are fortunate to have known and loved Anne as a friend and loyal member of our Executive Committee and someone who contributed to the work of the Priory in so many ways.



The Late Anne Lloyd

MURDER, MARGARET AND ME

This year's theatre visit to Ilkley Playhouse will be on Friday 10 November to see a production of "Murder, Margaret and Me". We will meet at 6pm for a drink before supper. **Cost per person £25.00**

Philip Meeks' comedy thriller explores the relationship between two of the mid-20th century's most popular female artists: Agatha Christie and Margaret Rutherford; the one specialising in solving mysteries and the other with a shameful family secret that she was determined to hide.

During his researches, Meeks unearthed evidence that the couple's association went far deeper and, although his depiction of Christie's helping Rutherford to overcome her childhood trauma is inevitably speculative, his portrait of their burgeoning friendship is not.

To Book – Please see Events Sheet Attached.



VISIT TO BRODSWORTH HALL & WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL

On 20 September 30 Friends' members and guests boarded a coach at Bolton Abbey car park for a day out visiting Brodsworth Hall & Gardens and Wakefield Cathedral.

Brodsworth Hall & Gardens are situated just north of Doncaster close to the A1 road. On arrival the party was welcomed by a representative of English Heritage and taken for coffee. English Heritage came into ownership of the property in 1990 after the death of Mrs Silvia Grant-Dalton and the decision of her daughter Pamela to gift it to English Heritage. The Hall had been built in the 1860's to replace a 16th century structure. As the Grant-Dalton family fortunes declined from the 1920's, the Hall had been neglected for lack of essential maintenance and was in a greatly dilapidated state by the time English Heritage took over. At the end of her life, Mrs Grant-Dalton lived in the house alone with one member of staff occupying little more than the kitchen.



Brodsworth Hall

After coffee, the party divided into two groups for guided tours of the Hall. Evidence of neglect was immediately apparent, as was the care with which English Heritage had set about preserving the place. The rooms visited were beautifully proportioned and it was easy to see how grand Brodsworth Hall would have been when first created.

After lunch the party was free to visit the gardens which were found to be delightfully laid out, beautifully maintained and planted in Victorian horticultural fashion.

Mid-afternoon we were back on the coach for the short journey to Wakefield and its Cathedral. As the coach drew to a stop we were met by Richard York, one of the Cathedral guides who gave us a warm welcome and then a two-hour guided tour with the most interesting commentary on the history and development over nine-hundred years from parish church to Cathedral. With Richard as guide we visited the Cathedral tower, the newly renovated nave without pews, the lady chapel, the quire and viewed the rood screen. Richard then took us to the recently refurbished crypt to see the clergy robing room with a wonderful array of vestments.



Our Executive Committee colleague Anne Lloyd had made initial arrangements for these visits but as previously reported had died. There were poignant moments during the day for those of us close to Anne. The Wakefield visit was drawn to a close by the Cathedral Precentor, the Reverend Canon Leah Vasey-Saunders leading us in prayers including the mention of Anne's name.

Report by Keith Simpson:

Photography by Ann Simpson & Jill Riley

Our grateful thanks to Keith Simpson for arranging the distribution of the newsletters, Emma Padgett at Hartleys Auctioneers for maintaining the Friends' website and to Margaret Cody for co-ordinating the ticket sales for FoBP events.