



Friends of Launde Abbey Christmas Newsletter 2022



A message from our Chairman

Thank you for your continuing generous and committed support to the Friends of Launde Abbey.

Last year your subscriptions and donations amounted to £13,528. In August, over 80 people attended the Friends Cream Tea at Launde and we raised £420 after costs. Our next Cream tea is scheduled for Saturday 5th August 2023. So do come if you can and bring friends.

The Gala Evening at Noseley on 10th September coincided with the Queen's death but we decided to go ahead dedicating the Concert to her memory. One hundred and fifty tickets were sold and with a number of sponsorships covering the musicians' fees and other donations, a total of £6,247 was raised. We warmly thanked Robert and Sue Wilkinson for their generosity in providing the marquee and the small Working Party who did all donkey-work in organising the event.

Fundraising has assisted Launde Abbey with repair to the Chapel roof pinnacles, and the loop system. So do keep up your support so that we can continue to help Launde Abbey.

With all best wishes for Christmas.

Brian

Saying thank you and farewell:

To Claire Goode who joined the Ministry Team part time, during the pandemic, During that time she has led chapel services, been on hand to offer pastoral care to guests, staff and volunteers, and been a member of the on-call team.

To Ian Andrews, our long-time business manager who has worked at Launde since 2013 in building up the conference side of Launde Abbey's activities. Ian's last working day will be 21st December when trustees will join staff to say 'thank you and farewell at the staff Christmas dinner '.

Saying thank you but not farewell:

To Beverley Lott who has over the years been the editor of Launde Leaves which has been so widely enjoyed by all of us who looked forward to receiving it in the post. It is certainly no farewell by us as I am sure we will all continue to meet often with Beverley at Launde.

Digital Newsletters from 2023

Due to the rising costs of paper, printing and postage this is the first of our Newsletters which you will now in the future only receive digitally. Alison Collis has very kindly offered to take on this responsibility and we look forward to a full digital newsletter going forward.





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A message from Alison Myers

Throughout the year, I have been working with staff and trustees to articulate more clearly the character of Launde. We have settled on four main words: prayer, hospitality, community and sanctuary. When we ask ourselves whether a particular activity is 'in keeping' with Launde Abbey then we look first to these four words. Developing Launde as 'a place of community', means thinking about sustaining relationships with the wide variety of groups and individuals who see themselves as 'friends' (with a small 'f') of Launde.

We recently hosted Songs of Praise with Kate Bottley, for a programme on loss and bereavement to be screened on 15th January. Kate interviewed Abi May who will run our 'Living with Loss' retreats next year. More details of the 2023 Launde Programme are on the separate sheet.

We are grateful to the Friends for financial contributions towards a garden shredder, composting bays, new courtyard furniture and a conference facilities upgrade.

As we rebuild post-pandemic please give thanks for the good and talented people working at Launde and for a better-than-expected financial position at the end of 2022.

Friends of Launde Retreat 2022

Our retreat was led by Alison Myers and it was good for us all to gather earlier this month and share both time and fellowship together within the hospitality of Launde.



Friends of Launde Abbey
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