



Friends of Launde

Charity No: 519042

Autumn Newsletter 2024



Our Friends of Launde Cream Tea

As always Launde came up trumps and so a huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers who battled with the elements of Storm Lilian and erected the marquees on Saturday, whilst we were all trying to think positively re our Cream Tea on the Sunday.



Thankfully the weather was kind to us and it was a really delightful Sunday afternoon. A sociable time for many of us Friends to catch up with one another and it was also good to meet a number of Companions who had also been invited.



Our glorious copper beech has always been such a visible presence as we look out from the Abbey or sit on one of our benches and reflect.



It was therefore sad that we saw the loss of such a considerable portion of this tree early in August.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming zoom AGM this coming Thursday 3rd October at 7pm.

We are also very keen to recruit 3 new trustees. If this is of interest to you please contact Patrick Rendall on: patrickandfrances@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary: j.zientek12@btinternet.com

Friends of Launde Newsletter: friendsoflaunde1@gmail.com

All donations are gratefully received:

The Friends of Launde : Sort code: 40 28 06 Account: 21302132



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The following is a précis of an article that John Twidell, one of our trustees, has written regarding his vision:

‘My first lectureship was at Khartoum University in 1964 with my bachelor cottage having no heated water and morning showers being therefore chilly, despite Khartoum's climate. So, I built myself a solar water heater which was the start of many years of commitment to renewable energy and am now a retired Professor of Renewable Energy of De Montfort University. When asked why I became a trustee of The Friends of Launde my response was I had a vision.



Arriving at Launde Abbey from the south you descend through open countryside to the present buildings, but with the ancient Abbey's outline in the field beyond. At its founding around 1125 the view would not have been very different. For most of its history the Abbey and its community was sustained entirely from the fields, ponds and woods around it.

Climate change and our reactions to tame it are in my mind as I look to the future, say 50 years from now, and what Launde Abbey could be like for future generations to come. My vision is that Launde could become more ecologically self-sufficient, not only for food and water, but for energy also.

So how can this be done if we look now at resources only, and not finances?

The large walled garden is the centre point for some fresh produce. Already staff and volunteers provide such resources, sufficient to support some fresh salad, fruit and vegetables for the meals of residents, attendees and the café public. The future could in principle see this production increase significantly.

Setting finances aside, land owned by the Abbey could be utilised for grain and other field crops, fuelwood, siting of wind turbines and solar panels. Sized correctly, these sites could export and sell excess power not utilised at the Abbey, whilst also hosting grazing animals, wildlife and crops. With such supplies, electric vehicles, tools and machines, lighting and cooking can be powered. The batteries of the vehicles and on-site batteries would store and modulate the electricity supply.

With detailed studies and local knowledge, there will be opportunities to show how using local resources can improve and support the natural environment as we pray ‘thy will be done in earth as in heaven’. Is it too much to hope that Launde can become a window into heaven?’

If you would like to read my full article you can contact me on:

amset.centre@gmail.com

John



Friends of Launde

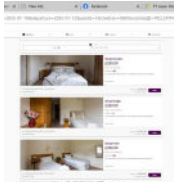
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Our Recent Grants to Launde Abbey

Part payment of the £4050 of the £5000 pledged for the development of the new Launde Abbey website enabling online booking.



£1540 towards the pledged £2500 for the supply and installation of the solar bollards to light the stables path.

Shopping Online?

We're now registered with 'easyfundraising' which means you can help us and therefore the Abbey.

Over 7000 brands which include John Lewis, Argos, Boots, Amazon and Sainsbury's or Tesco Groceries among so many others will donate to us when you use 'easyfundraising' to shop with them. It's easy and completely free. These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-launde>

Our Friends' Retreat: Wells of Salvation



There is still time to book for our Friends' Retreat led by Revd Rhona Knight who is one of Launde Abbey's College of Chaplains. Rhona is also a theological educator, pastoral supervisor, spiritual director and a regular leader of retreats at Launde Abbey.

Based upon the Launde Prayer we will reflect and pray with four main themes: drawing water; Jesus the living water; thankful hearts and stepping out. Approaching scripture through word, music, image and other creative approaches we will be encouraged to meet with God in the beauty of Launde Abbey, its community and its surroundings.

Arrival from 3pm Wednesday 6th November and finishing at noon after morning coffee, on Friday 8th.

Single Occupancy (full board) £230 per person.

Double Occupancy (full board) £180 per person.

Premium Room + £20 per person.

Day Rate: Thursday (9.30am – 4.30pm) inc. morning coffee, biscuits, lunch and tea with cake: £45

Thursday retreatant + services and evening meal @ £63

Booking required by 4 October: Contact: j.zientek12@btinternet.com