



Friends of Launde

Charity No: 519042

Easter Newsletter 2023



A message from our Chairman

The Warden and Launde Abbey Trustees have a wonderful, imaginative vision for the future of Launde Abbey which includes forming a wide, all-embracing community. I think it is fundamental to the new vision for Launde that there will be built up a large and broad membership of people who are committed to support the work of Launde in various ways. Launde urgently needs a strong and varied backup organization to secure its future.

We need to see how the Friends will fit into this new vision. I want to emphasise that the Friends were set up originally to raise funds for Launde Abbey (Quotation from the Friends Constitution: 'The Friends is established to provide financial assistance, to make grants and donations to and to provide equipment and apparatus for the furtherance of the objects of the Launde Abbey Trust').

Therefore I hope that in the future there will be a growing number of Friends who will continue to generously fundraise for Launde. Thank you to all our Friends who regularly pay their subscriptions and often add a donation too!

We have recently paid in the region of £10,000 for a large shredder for the garden and at our last committee meeting we agreed to fund: twelve rectangular tables, two 3m square cantilevered parasols and two cycle racks for the courtyard.

With my best wishes.

Brian



Membership Secretary Contact Details:
j.zientek12@btinternet.com

We are always extremely grateful for any donation, however small, as these together with your membership subscriptions and our fundraising enable us to fund what we can for Launde Abbey.

If you would like to make a donation our bank account details are:

The Friends of Launde
Sort code: 40 28 06 Account No: 21302132



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A message from Chris Webb

Easter, with its resonances of fresh beginnings and new life, will be a welcome celebration this year. We've begun to live as though the pandemic is mostly over. But as the dark days of lockdown fade into memory, we're faced with cost of living rises, strikes, war in Europe and an earthquake in Turkey and Syria. We're always living somewhere between Friday and Sunday, between cross and resurrection.

When insects cocoon themselves they also exist partway between death and life; metamorphosis is a messy process which melts down the original larva and reforms it into a magnificent new creature. It's costly but also beautiful, like the journey of Christ through the cross and tomb. And that's what it means to live a Holy Saturday life, a life of slow and costly transformation into beautiful Christlikeness.

We need places of sanctuary - cocoons, if you like - where we can safely open ourselves up to God's transforming work. Places of stillness, space and prayer. Retreat houses like Launde aim to be among those safe spaces, places where people can be held and supported through renewal and growth. The Friends share this ministry with us, and it makes a difference every day. We're deeply grateful for all your support.

In our Christmas Newsletter Alison Myers wrote about having been working with both staff and trustees to articulate more clearly the character of Launde. As you will see below, Launde Abbey now has a new logo strengthening the image of Launde as a place of prayer and spirituality, a place of hospitality and welcome, a place of and for communities, and a place of sanctuary – safe and sacred, for human beings and for nature.



Social Event for the Friends of Launde **CREAM TEA AT LAUNDE ABBEY** **Saturday 5th August 2023**

The Committee of Friends are hosting this event and looking forward to meeting many of you on the day. Tickets will be £10 per person which includes a donation to Launde Abbey. Please arrive from 3pm onwards to meet Friends and walk around the grounds. Cream Tea to be served from 4pm until 5.30pm.

Please notify Patrick Rendall that you wish to attend by Monday 24th July: patrickandfrances@btinternet.com or 016644 24240 (leave a message if necessary). Pay Patrick when you arrive either by cheque made out to The Friends of Launde or cash.

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