



# Friends of Launde

Charity No: 519042

## Summer Newsletter 2023



### **A message from our Chairman**



I am both organising and leading the Friends Retreat on the weekend 8th - 10th December. I have led many Retreats at Launde in past years so I do hope you will think about joining us. We will send out information about booking etc soon.

With love and best wishes to everyone.

*Brian*

With the work of Karen and Launde's many gardening volunteers. the grounds now reflect both their efforts and God's glory.

Launde are experimenting with some areas of meadow which is especially visible in the Quiet Garden where they have also lowered hedges and given the area some TLC.



And so carrying on the theme of the Quiet Garden there are now lanyards available to wear for those who wish to be silent .



Dear Friends,

I wrote this for the January Committee Meeting: *“Fundamental to the new vision for Launde, as outlined in the Warden’s paper, is about building up a new large and broad membership of people who will support the work of Launde in various ways. Launde urgently needs a strong and varied back-up organisation, to secure the future of Launde”*.

We are still trying to clarify what it means for the Friends, and how we can be part of the 'New Friends'.

I was hoping that we could have another Gala Evening at Noseley this year but Robert Wilkinson explained that immediately after his daughter's wedding on 22 July some major work will start on the Hall. However, Robert assures me that in a year or so, when the work is finished, we will once again be able to have a fund-raising Gala .

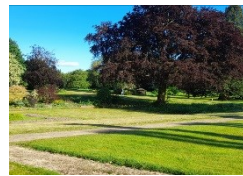
Thank you to all of you who continue to support Launde Abbey with your subscriptions and donations. It's because of your generosity that we have been able to fund the purchase of new Café Courtyard furniture to go with the chairs bought last year together with cycle racks.



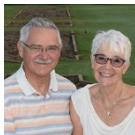
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### **A Farewell Message from Alan Humphrey**



It always strikes me as strange that the Church of England labels the time between Pentecost and Advent as 'Ordinary Time'! Nevertheless, here we are well into this period of 'Ordinary Time' when indeed it is far from what we would normally regard as ordinary. Here at Launde, God is clearly at work and that is so often an indication that change is afoot.

For me, personally and together with my wife Lesley, that change takes the form of us finally taking retirement from our ministry calling in Leicestershire. We shall be leaving the beautifully serene setting of our cottage at Launde and moving to live close to our daughter in Stoke-on-Trent. But the way in which Launde is embracing so many changes heralds the start of a truly exciting period in the life and evolution of Launde.

The recruitment of people to fill three new key positions does, I feel, generate a real sense of excitement within the community. A planned expansion of those serving the clergy team, coupled with the anticipated arrival of a Development Manager will see Launde firmly established as one of the country's leading Christian Retreat Houses for the coming years.

It is with mixed emotions that Lesley and I will be leaving Launde, but we feel privileged to have served at Launde and can confidently say that we will leave with the love and support of so many dear friends and colleagues, including many members of the Friends of Launde ... and we are sure it will be 'farewell' and not 'goodbye'.

May God bless you all and may Launde continue to thrive in all its future ventures.

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

The Committee of Friends are hosting this event.

Tickets £10 per person which includes a donation to Launde Abbey. Arrive from 3pm onwards to meet Friends and walk around the grounds. Cream Tea served from 4pm until 5.30pm.

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

All donations are gratefully received:  
The Friends of Launde  
Sort code: 40 28 06 Account: 21302132

**Membership Secretary:** [j.zientek12@btinternet.com](mailto:j.zientek12@btinternet.com)  
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