



# The Friends of Launde

Charity No: 519042

## Newsletter May 2026



Dear Friends,

Firstly on behalf of the trustees - a huge thank you to everyone who supports us and therefore Launde Abbey.

Over the last six months our trustees have been busy discussing how we can move forward and reach out to not just our own members but also others in the surrounding communities who may be interested in some of our fundraising activities or becoming members of Friends.

Madeleine has led on this and spent a considerable amount of time in discussions with both our trustees and a number of website designers. We needed to look at the most economic way to portray ourselves so that our website, using similar colours, can sit alongside Launde Abbey's but with our own logo and obviously not having two competing themes.

All our Trustees feel strongly that our own website and logo will be a very positive step for us going forward.

Alison Collis - *Trustee & Treasurer*

### **We currently have a trustee vacancy**

We hold 2 x Zoom meetings a year and 2 in person during spring & summer.

If this is something that possibly could interest you please email:

[madeleine.v.wang@gmail.com](mailto:madeleine.v.wang@gmail.com)

Please scroll down this newsletter as it includes details of the many ways both we and you can together support Launde Abbey in 2026 and going forward .

**Our Yearly Friends' Retreat**  
**A time for both**  
**Reflection and Fellowship**  
**Hosted by Launde Abbey**  
**13 - 15 July**

**The Friends of Launde**  
**raising funds for**  
**THE SOUND PROJECT 2026**

**Cream Tea at Launde Abbey**  
**hosted by**  
**The Friends of Launde**  
**Sunday 16 August**

**The Friends of Launde**  
**BRIDGE DAY**  
**Tilton Village Hall**  
**Friday 9 October**  
**Includes Lunch**



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### **Our Friends' Retreat 2026**

A time for both Reflection and Fellowship 13 - 15 July

Led by Jo de Graath and supported by Revd Catherine Wright

### **“Living life in the joy and promise of Psalm 23”**

Psalm 23 is probably the most well-known and well-loved Psalm in the Bible. Its joy and vibrancy are as undiminished now as they were when it was first written and there is much for us to learn in its six verses.

Many people find this psalm to be comforting and yet there is so much more to it than that! During this retreat we will explore the extraordinary claims made in Psalm 23 and how our lives and our relationship with God can be transformed by living in the truth of these claims: how God's abundant generosity and the beauty of his presence can lead us to a life of peace and freedom from worry.

Jo is one of Launde's volunteer chaplains and a spiritual director. A number of years ago Jo felt God prompting and calling her to some form of ministry. Jo believes her ministry is to bring people into God's Kingdom through love; using contemplative spirituality, hospitality and service of all kinds to help people feel a sense of wholeness within the love of God.

As part of the retreat, Jo will lead us on a Soul Filled Meandering: a slow, gentle, contemplative walk around the grounds at Launde Abbey, where we can really notice God's beautiful creation all around us and His presence within it. This is suitable for everyone and will help us to experience some of the things the Psalmist talks about in this psalm.

**“When we bless the ordinary with the gift of our full attention, it brims over with holy light” (Mirabai Starr).**

**There is still time to book:  
either as a resident or full-day retreatant.**

**For further information please contact  
friendsoflaunde1@gmail.com**



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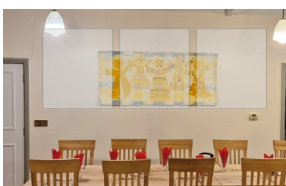
### The Sound Project

We know that many of you will be aware that the acoustics in the Dining Room are not ideal and sometimes we struggle to hear and/or find the volume is too loud or distorted.

With this in mind Launde Abbey have been in discussions with various audio specialist companies and we felt that this would be something we could hopefully fund going forward in its entirety.

At our last Committee Meeting we therefore agreed to fund the cost of £5750 for Phase 1 in the hope that donations towards this project will be forthcoming over the coming months.

This will include the Jacquie Parkinson banner which is entitled Light of the World on the wall above the balcony. Plus,  9 fabric covered specialist acoustic panels to go on the long side walls of the Dining Room, including the printing of a photo on each of the 3 central wall panels. There will then be a further 5 panels on the low sloping ceiling



*Mock-up of the panels superimposed on the servery wall.*

**To donate by card please visit**  
[tinyurl.com/thesoundproject](https://tinyurl.com/thesoundproject)  
Or use this QR code



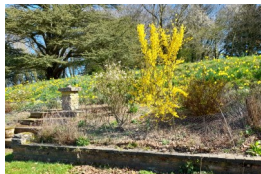
**To donate by bank transfer**  
The Friends of Launde  
Sort code: 40 28 06 Account: 21302132  
Please use the reference Sound

**To donate by cheque**  
please make out to  
The Friends of Launde  
and send to our treasurer:

Alison Collis  
37 Coppice Mead  
Stotfold  
Herts  
SG5 4JY

Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest in this project.

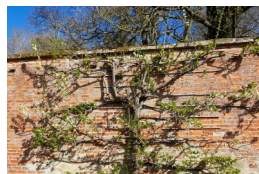
There is a planned Phase 2  
*New thermally lined curtains,  
poles and rails  
and Phase 3  
re-decoration of the Dining Room.*  
Neither of these have yet been costed.



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### **Special Rates for Topping or Tailing Residential Stays for our Upcoming Friends Events at Launde Abbey**

#### **After our Friends Retreat:**

Additional nights stays at the special rate of £126.60 for 1 night (£98.35 per person double occupancy) or to extend to 2 nights or more then they are offering £100 per night. (£74.50 per person double occupancy)

#### **Prior to our Friends Cream Tea:**

The DBB price offered to the Friends is: £109.10.

To book these offers you need to contact Mhairi direct on 01572 717254 or email [bookings@launde.org.uk](mailto:bookings@launde.org.uk) stating the offer. You cannot book online or with reception.

**For further information please contact  
[friendsoflaunde1@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflaunde1@gmail.com)**

## **Cream Tea hosted by The Friends of Launde Sunday 16 August at Launde Abbey**

Arrival from 2.30pm to meet with Friends  
and walk around the grounds prior to our Cream Tea  
being served from 3.30pm until 4.30pm in the dining room

Tickets £10 per person (payment on the day) and please notify  
Patrick Rendall that you wish to attend by Saturday 8 August

[patrickandfrances@btinternet.com](mailto:patrickandfrances@btinternet.com)  
or 016644 24240 (leave a message if necessary)

or

Madeleine Wang : [madeleine.v.wang@gmail.com](mailto:madeleine.v.wang@gmail.com)

**Numbers are limited due to available space in the dining room**



# The Friends of Launde

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## The Friends of Launde are hosting a Bridge Day at Tilton Village Hall, LE7 9DB

**Friday 9 October: 10 for 10.30am to approx. 3.30pm**

Are you interested in having a relaxed day playing Bridge  
with 3 friends and a good lunch at Tilton Village Hall?

**If so we would be delighted for you to join us.**

Tables of 4 players – if there are 3, 2 or 1 players interested  
we may be able to make up a table  
so please contact Mary whose details are below.

### **£25 per head**

- Coffee with Home Made Biscuits
- Tables of 4, NON PROGRESSIVE
- Lunch with Wine : there will be a vegetarian and a soft drink option
  - Home Made Puddings
  - Raffle with excellent Prizes
  - Prizes for highest Bridge Score

Tickets from Mary Weston

<https://form.jotform.com/261174687698072>

email : [mary@bankart.co.uk](mailto:mary@bankart.co.uk)

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

**Friends of Launde Newsletter:** [friendsoflaunde1@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflaunde1@gmail.com)