

FRA – AGM 2016
Chairman's Report

It is pleasing to report a year of slow but real growth and development during which your Trustees have continued efforts to facilitate and improve their dialogue with groups and individuals who are within the Abbey Family and seeking financial support.

The greatest workload however has been the revision of our Membership Database for which we owe a debt of gratitude to Roger Rowe, our Membership Secretary. The benefit of this will be very evident during the coming years as the administration of your organisation becomes smoother and more efficient.

A major task for everyone involved with The Abbey is to 'improve visitor experience' and this remains a focus point for us. An interesting aspect of this means we can now welcome visitors from – France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland, China, Japan and Russia and provide them with an Abbey Guide in their own language.

Membership:

Our membership now stands at 365 which is a small increase over last year and interestingly several of our new members have joined as a result of our Coffee Mornings and some from conversations with Abbey Stewards..... so Friends, do please continue with your recruitment efforts because projects requiring our support show no sign of diminishing in the coming years.

Projects:

The Projects Sub Committee, under the chairmanship of John Thompson Hall, has met four times during the year and continues to be the main channel through which those requiring financial support gain access to funds.

Events and Visits:

The Events Sub Committee under the chairmanship of Dick Hewett has organised a varied programme of visits and events and also carried out a complete revision of the booking procedure. We are now able to take advantage of Information technology developments whilst retaining a user friendly system for members without email

Thanks:

The continued success of your organisation is due to the dedicated commitment and hard work of your Trustees on the Main and various sub committees and also those who provide support behind the scenes. So, as last year, my grateful thanks must again go to: Lis Speck and her group of Coffee Morning helpers, also to John Compton for keeping our website updated and to Ria Skelton for producing our Newsletters.

John Twigg
Chairman