

The Friends 2018 Summer Newsletter

Projects

Janet Wallace, the Church Warden, now attends our Project meetings where we decide what grants to make to the Abbey. We have been accumulating funds for these grants faster than we budgeted for: requests have been slow in arriving, as the work load on the PCC has grown with the interregnum (no Vicar!). Janet is now actively chasing the PCC groups that normally contribute ideas for Projects to make sure we are ready for the arrival of the new Vicar.

Grants we have made recently are for continued part funding of Rhiannon's post, for new Microphones, and for a better software and hardware configuration on which the Abbey can livestream Abbey Services to people's homes and the Nursing Homes.

Events

Our Coffee mornings continue to be very popular. The May meeting took in £233.50 and was much enjoyed by the members and non-members who attended. Our thanks to Lis Speck and her team. Tim Rogerson's Friends outing to Hampton Court was a success. And we had a most enjoyable AGM on June 7 – perhaps aided by some wine. Spaces are still available for all the events still to come:

- 7 August - Weald and Downland Museum (Singleton) led by John and Jill Thompson Hall.
- 13 September - The Vyne and Sandham Memorial Chapel led by Dick Hewett.
- 21 September – Coffee Morning.
- 2 October - Annual Dinner led by John Twigg and Ken Gibson.
- 16 November – Coffee Morning.
- 1 December – Christmas Fair and Tombola (Abbey).
- 8 December - The Mill at Sonning led by Colin and Rosemary Davis.
- 19 December - Nine Lessons and Carols (provisional date).

We now pool much of the Administration and publicity for our events with the Abbey's new Social Committee.

Membership

Our membership continues to grow, if rather slowly. We hope to exceed 400 individual members before the Membership Year finishes on March 31, 2019. Following the departure of HSBC from the town we have been trying to move all members who pay by Standing Order to make their Standing Order pay into our TSB Account around December 31. By now, everyone should have received the explanation and the form needed to set this up. If you need help please contact Roger Rowe or any Committee Member.

Administration

The five trustees are rather overloaded – more volunteer workers and committee members would really make a difference to how much the Friends can achieve. Again, please talk to a Trustee (Dick Hewett, Jill Thompson-Hall, John Thompson-Hall, Tim Rogerson, and me) if you can make us an offer!

Bequest to The Friends

We are receiving news of a bequest directly to The Friends from a member who died earlier this year. We don't yet know the exact sum we will receive but it will be "a substantial five figure amount".

The Future

We look forward to the arrival in September of Revd Thomas Wharton, our new Vicar, who will become our President.

Roger Rowe, Chairman.