

Friends of Bolton Priory

PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST CUTHBERT
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The Christmas-time visit to Castle Howard

In December, a party of 44 Friends and their guests visited Castle Howard for a tour of the stately home and to view the Christmas decorations.

This was a really enjoyable trip brilliantly organised by Chairman Andrew Hartley and his wife Anna. As usual on these Friends visits, approximately 15 minutes prior to arrival Andrew took the microphone and gave the party a detailed description of the design and building of the house and gardens which had been under the direction first of the playwright Sir John Vanburgh (he had never before designed a house) and later under supervision of the architect Nicholas Hawksmoor. He also gave an account of the lives of the more interesting members of the Carlisle branch of the Howard family who had lived at Castle Howard since completion of the first part of the building early in the 18th century. He reminded us also of the television programme *Brideshead Revisited* which had been made at Castle Howard.

It was a cold but bright day and upon arrival the Friends party were served a welcome cup of coffee along with mince pies.



The group then went on a tour of the house to view not only the public rooms but also the very fine and tasteful Christmas decorations, with open log fires in many of the rooms. Of particular interest was the gingerbread creation of Castle Howard in miniature.

Lunch was served in the Grecian Hall which had been reserved for the Friends as a private party. We learned from the staff that there had been a celebratory party in the house during the summer to mark the 35th anniversary of the first broadcast of *Brideshead Revisited* which had been filmed at Castle Howard. Anthony Andrews, Jeremy Irons and other members of the cast had attended.

After lunch we were free to revisit the house or call at the boutique shops and garden centre. There were many purchases made from the range of Christmas goods on offer.

The party returned safely to Bolton Abbey Village Hall car park at 5.15pm after a memorable and rewarding day at Castle Howard.

Report by Keith Simpson Photography by Judy Allen

FRIENDS OF BOLTON PRIORY **WEBSITE**

The Friends of Bolton Priory would like to convey a special "Thank You" to Edward Nicholl who has regularly updated the Friends' Website with photographs, outings and events, items of interest and of course, the inclusion of the Newsletter three times each year. I found Edward's loyalty and efficiency to be particularly reassuring when I took over as the Newsletter editor.

Edward first got involved with both the Priory website and the Friends website over 14 years ago, and ran the two websites for the next 12 and 14 years respectively.

"Thank You" also to James Pearson who for many years provided a selection of high quality photographs for both the website and the Newsletter, capturing a pictorial record of Friends attending lectures, on outings or at social events.

Both Edward and James worked well as a team over the years and we are very grateful for their support. We send our best wishes to Edward, James and their families.

Fortunately, the gap of maintaining the future of the website has been filled by members of Andrew Hartley's family – principally, his daughter and grandson. Thank you both for stepping in

Have you had a chance to look at the Friends' website recently?

If not, please spend a few minutes or so visiting www.prioryfriends.org.uk

This is your website so please send any photographs, memories or items of interest to me with a view to having them included on the site. Share your pictures and ideas with others.

Remember, if you ever have difficulty opening your Newsletter this too can be accessed on the website.

Please send any comments and feedback to me.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIENDS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2017

This year the Friends' Annual General Meeting will take place at Bolton Abbey Village Hall on Sunday 7 May immediately following the 10.30am Eucharist Service.

The meeting will be followed by a lunch.

Tickets cost £ 12.00 per head.

Please see the attached Events Sheet

and agreeing to help us.

ADVENT SUPPER

As ever the late afternoon Sunday service at the end of November to mark the start of Advent was well attended. Three of our members, Andrew Hartley, Ann Simpson and Jill Riley each read a lesson. This year the occasion was enhanced further, courtesy of the newly installed lighting system, ably operated by Curate Jonathan Cain.

After the service, fifty members gathered to exchange stories and news and to catch up with friends whilst enjoying the delicious buffet that had been prepared by the committee.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to ensure that the event was successful.



We then progressed into the world of Narnia where we witnessed the struggle between good and evil, as experienced through the eyes of four children evacuated from London during the Blitz. The audience was transported into another world of adventure by an exceptionally young cast of enthusiastic performers.

“Thank you” to Barry and Margaret Cody for having organised an enchanting evening of pure (Turkish) delight.



VISIT TO ILKLEY PLAYHOUSE

Shortly before Christmas 38 Friends enjoyed their annual visit to Ilkley Playhouse, this time to see the latest adaptation of C.S. Lewis’ children’s book “The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe”.

Always a popular event in the Friends’ calendar, prior to the performance we enjoyed a delicious, substantial supper in congenial company, resulting in yet another enjoyable social occasion.

Graham Smith, chairman of Ilkley Playhouse welcomed our group and spoke briefly about the Playhouse and its proposed expansion plans for the future.



Our thanks to Keith Simpson for arranging the postal distribution of the newsletters.

WANTED!

An Events/Outings co-ordinator

We are looking for someone to take on the role of organising and co-ordinating the Friends' outings in the future. These have become popular social events in the Friends' calendar and are generally well supported.

What Would This Involve?

Ideally, you would identify suitable places to visit and enquire about the timings and costings of guided tours, refreshments and transport so that suitable prices for tickets could be set. You would therefore plan the schedule for the day.

How Many Trips Each Year Are There?

Usually two or three. Arrangements are flexible but there is usually an outing in early June and another in September. However, trips to Chatsworth and Castle Howard at Christmas time have also proved to be popular.

What Type Of Places Do The Friends Like To Visit?

Generally, trips for the Friends are to historic buildings and gardens, together with cathedrals local to the place visited to include cathedral evensong. However, new ideas would be welcomed.

Please see the extensive list below:

- 1990 Durham Cathedral
- 1992 Chester Cathedral
- 1993 Lanercost Priory/Carlisle Cathedral
- 1994 Beverley Minster/St Mary's Church
- 1996 Ripley Castle, Bishopthorpe Palace and York Minster
- 1997 Temple Sowerby, Appleby Castle with Evensong in the Parish Church
- 1998 Liverpool Cathedrals
- 1999 Chatsworth, Southwell Minster and Newstead Abbey

SPRING LECTURE

Friday 24 March 2017

As usual the Spring Lecture this year will take place at Bolton Abbey Village Hall.

Our speaker will be Paxton Dewar OBE whose presentation is entitled "**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Theatre: Recollections of a Different Surgical Career**". The lecture will apparently be illustrated and we look forward to hearing what promises to be an entertaining and enjoyable evening.

Arrive at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

Before the start of the lecture you will be invited to join us with a glass of wine or soft drink.

Our Spring Lectures are always popular so please be sure to purchase your ticket early.

Tickets are available at £5.00 per person.

Please see the Events Sheet attached.

- 2000 Auckland Castle and Durham Cathedral
- 2001 Chester Cathedral
- 2002 Holker Hall

- 2002 Black Sheep Brewery, Masham, Masham and Ripon Cathedral**
- 2003 Beverley Minster and St. Mary's Church**
- 2004 Eden Camp**
- 2004 Selby Abbey, Benningbrough Hall**
- 2005 Coxwold**
- 2005 Wakefield Cathedral, Nostell Priory**
- 2006 Carlisle Cathedral and Castle**
- 2007 Liverpool Cathedrals**
- 2008 Cartmel Priory and Holker Hall**
- 2009 River Ouse Cruise and York Minster**
- 2010 Chatsworth**
- 2011 Newby Hall**
- 2012 Sledmere House and Evensong at York Minster**
- 2013 Raby Castle and Durham Cathedral**
- 2013 RHS Tatton Park Flower Show**
- 2014 Lady Lever Art Gallery and Liverpool Cathedral**
- 2014 Holker Hall and Gardens**
- 2014 Chatsworth House Christmas Exhibition**
- 2015 Selby Abbey and Burton Agnes**
- 2015 Wreay Church and Hutton-in-the-Forest**
- 2016 Bowes Museum and Markenfield Hall**
- 2016 Burton Constable Hall**
- 2016 Castle Howard Christmas Exhibition**

If you feel that you would be able to take on this role and to help organise days out for the Friends or would like to find out more of what would be involved including the level of support you could expect from the Executive Committee please contact either:

Keith Simpson: kandas1rl@btinternet.com

Jean Crawford: jean_crawford@rocketmail.com