

THE FRIENDS OF DORCHESTER ABBEY

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017



from: Ingrid Lunt
c/o The Rectory
10 Manor Farm Road
Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HZ

Registered Charity No. 275819

President: The Bishop of Dorchester

Vice-President: Mr Christopher Gibbs

Abbey Website: www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Email for list of concerts and events:
events@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Membership enquiries:
Honor Juniper 01865 343228
friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Meeting of the Trustees of the Friends of Dorchester Abbey

The Trustees met on February 20th. Nick Jenkins has taken over as Treasurer and was warmly welcomed to the role. Warm thanks and appreciation were given to Christine Dawson who steps down from the role of Treasurer but has agreed to continue as a Trustee. Christine has provided excellent support to the Trustees and the Friends over many years.

The Trustees have agreed to pay £7850 to upgrade the present sound system in the

Current Trustees (all honorary)

Richard Dick (Chairman)
John Taylor (Vice Chairman)
Hilary Warburton (Secretary)
Nick Jenkins (Treasurer)
Hugo Brunner
Christine Dawson
Stephanie Forman
Tanya Hawley
Christian Hoyer Millar
Honor Juniper
Ingrid Lunt
Judy Macfadyen
David Parker
Mary Saunders

Ex officio trustee

The Revd Sue Booy's Rector

Churchwardens

Gerry Wells
Rebecca Hind

Abbey; work has started and should be finished by Holy Week. This will mean significant improvements in sound quality for everyone, Abbey events, and local and visiting lectures, music and other performances. There was also discussion about enhancements to the new lighting system, in particular to provide for visiting choirs and performers when standing on the chancel steps. The Trustees agreed to defer decision about this until their next meeting in May.

Progress on the Guesthouse was discussed. Sue Booy's thanked the Trustees for providing the new carpet in the Guesthouse.

Friends Visit to Salisbury, Monday May 15, 2017

This year's outing will take place on Monday May 15 with a visit to Salisbury, including a guided tour of the Cathedral at 2.30 p.m.



The Cathedral has the tallest spire, the largest Close and Cloisters and its Quire stalls are the largest and earliest complete set in Britain. It also has the best preserved of only 4 surviving original copies of Magna Carta and the world's oldest working mechanical clock.



Some historical background to the Cathedral

The first Salisbury Cathedral was completed at Old Sarum in 1092 under Osmund, the first Bishop of Salisbury. Following the move to the site of the modern town, the foundation stones of the new cathedral were laid on April 28, 1220, and the main body of the building completed by the time of the consecration on September 29, 1258; the West Front, the Cloisters, the Chapter House, and the (now demolished) detached Bell Tower were probably completed by 1266. The building of the new cathedral was greatly helped by the

energy of the bishop and the patronage of powerful people, including King Henry III, who donated trees from Ireland and estates in Wiltshire for the roof timbers and doors, and Alice Brewer who gave marble for 12 years from her Purbeck quarry, thus providing capitals, shafts, columns and bases. Substantial donations were also made by the Bishop, the Dean and 52 Canons.

While the Cathedral dominates, the town itself is full of interesting and attractive features, and a long history. So much so that in 2009 the Salisbury Civic Society produced a volume *Salisbury in Detail* which provides scores of photographs of Salisbury's historic past and its modern development.



Some historical background to the town of Salisbury

The story of Salisbury began about 2,500 years ago when an iron age fort was built on Salisbury Hill about two miles north of the modern town centre; Saxons, Celts and Vikings in their turn all fought battles at this site which is now an English heritage site and open to the public. The modern town of Salisbury began about 1217 when the Bishop decided to move his seat to land owned by the church south of the hill. While the town at Old Sarum continued, the new town of Salisbury was given a charter in 1227. The town flourished, with a thriving industry making wool cloth and by the 15th century had grown to be one of the largest towns in England. Since that time it has remained a market town whose population is now around 40,000.



stay for supper, please return the attached reply slip to Yvonne Lawden by Friday May 26.

The Dorchester Lecture, September 28

What are the challenges facing the National Trust in the 21st century?

This year's lecture will be held on Thursday September 28th by Dame Helen Ghosh, Director-General of the National Trust.

In her lecture Helen will explore some of the challenges facing the Trust and explain how it responds to economic, environmental and social change while remaining true to its ambition to look after properties for ever, for everyone. The Trust was founded in 1895; continuing threats and challenges of a changing climate and the expectations of a fast-moving world mean that heritage and nature are under

The Visit

The coach will leave from the Bridge End car park in Dorchester at 9.00 a.m. and we should arrive in Salisbury about 10.30 a.m.

There will be a Guided tour of Salisbury Cathedral at 2.30pm.

The coach will leave Salisbury at 5.00 p.m. Traffic permitting, we should arrive back in Dorchester by 6.30pm.

There is a cafe/restaurant and a shop.

Cost:

£25.00 per person for Friends of the Abbey, which includes the coach travel and guided tour of Salisbury Cathedral.

£27.00 per person for non-Friends of the Abbey

Further information will be sent to participants before the visit.

Please complete the booking form which is attached to the end of this Newsletter and return this to Mrs Yvonne Lawden by Friday April 14.

The Friends 2017 AGM, June 15

The AGM this year will take place on Thursday June 15 at 6.30 pm in the Shrine Chapel. The meeting will be followed by supper provided by the White Hart in the back of the Abbey (£26.00 including wine). All members of the Friends and the Beauforest Society are welcome to attend the meeting. If you plan to



greater threat than ever before.

Dame Helen joined the National Trust in 2012 after a long and successful career in the civil service, including seven years as permanent Secretary in two departments, DEFRA and the Home Office. Helen worked on multiple social policy issues, including child poverty, asylum and immigration, and local community regeneration. She also worked on key environmental policies, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the protection of habitat for endangered species. She lives in Oxford, and we are looking forward to an interesting and stimulating lecture. Save the date!

Dorchester Festival, 28 April – 7 May

The Festival includes over 50 events packed into just 10 days, raising money for Dorchester Abbey and Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice, an inspirational local charity.

There is a great range of entertainment including:

- Grand Opening and Tower Abseil
- Concert by the Tallis Scholars
- Jazz supper with Cate Cody
- Science Oxford Science Shows
- Dorchester Duck Race
- May Morning Brekfast
- Historic Houses talk by Professor Malcolm Airs
- Festival Chrity Fun Run
- Family Dog Show

And much more!

For more details, see the website:
www.dorchesterfestival.com

To buy tickets:

Buy on-line on the website (above)
Call 0333 666 3366 9am-7pm Monday-Friday
and 9am-5pm Saturday (small booking fee)

General enquiries:

festival@dorchester-abbey-org.uk

Dates for the diary

Saturday March 25

7.30pm Benson Choral Society
Bach St John Passion

April 28-May 7

Dorchester Festival

May 15

Friends Annual Outing

Saturday June 10

7.30pm Benson Choral Society
Beethoven Mass in C

Thursday June 15

Friends AGM

Thursday September 28

Dorchester Lecture
to be given by Dame Helen Ghosh

Sunday November 19

Beauforest Members Evensong

The Herb Garden

The spring tidy up will be held on Saturday April 8 at 9.30am. Volunteers are welcome to join the team. Refreshments will be provided.

Beauforest Society

We are all aware that Dorchester Abbey is an ageing building, built for the most part in the 14th century and is therefore continually in need of maintenance and repair. A central role for the Friends is to support the PCC with funds (and on occasion expertise and effort) for restoration and maintenance projects. The Beauforest Society was established to provide additional support to initiatives to preserve the fabric of this wonderful building.

The subscription for membership of the Beauforest Society is £100 a year for four years.

Beauforest members receive the Friends of Dorchester Abbey Newsletter. This year's annual Beauforest event took place on Sunday November 27, 2016 with a special Evensong. The 2017 event will take place on Sunday November 19th: further details in next Newsletter.

Many thanks to all those who have signed up for Beauforest membership, and who have enabled the Friends to support the PCC in important projects. This is a great way to support Dorchester Abbey. Additional Beauforest members are always welcome: please contact the Chairman Richard Dick or the Membership Secretary Honor Juniper for further details.

**Booking form for the trip to Salisbury
on Monday 14th May 2017 leaving at 9.00am**

I would like to book places for the visit to Salisbury

£25.00 for Friends £27.00 for non Friends for coach travel and Cathedral guided tour.

I enclose a cheque made out to 'The Friends of Dorchester Abbey' for £.....

Your name

Your phone number Email address:

**Please return this booking form with your cheque to:
Mrs Yvonne Lawden, 9 Queens Close, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7LR
by Friday 14th April.** [Please note: you will not be sent tickets or a receipt, if you have any queries
please phone Yvonne Lawden on 01865 340465 or email: y.m.lawden@gmail.com]

**Booking form for the AGM of the Friends of Dorchester Abbey, followed by supper and a glass
of wine on Thursday 15th June 2017.**

I would like to book places for the AGM, and supper and enclose a cheque made out to 'The
Friends of Dorchester Abbey' for £..... (£26.00pp)

Your name

Your phone number Email address:

**Please return this booking form with your cheque to:
Mrs Yvonne Lawden, 9 Queens Close, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7LR
by Friday 26th May.** [Please note: you will not be sent tickets or a receipt, if you have any queries
please phone Yvonne Lawden on 01865 340465 or email: y.m.lawden@gmail.com]