

December 2024

Hello, we are pleased to bring you our Autumn/Winter Newsletter to update you on a few items of interest connected to The Friends Group and the Priory. It also includes enclosure forms for our New Year Social, the Membership renewal form for 2025 will follow later



"Friends" News -

First of all here are some future dates for your diary:-

Friday 17th January -

The Friends New Year Social, in the Conservatory 7.15 for 7.30

Our usual format, buffet, soft drinks and some entertainment.

Book the date in your diary. Booking form enclosed (attached to email).

We look forward to seeing you there.

Thursday March 13th - Annual General Meeting 7.0pm for 7.15pm

The Membership Renewal Form for 2025 - Details to follow.

Projects

We are pleased to say that the tree planted by Friends in November 2022 the Priory grounds for the Queens' Canopy project is doing well. The hanging baskets on car park lamp posts which we fund as part of our commitment to Ware in Bloom have looked good.

Thanks to ground staff for watering.

Whilst on the subject of Friends funding projects here is an update - you will remember that in our Spring Newsletter we reported that the Committee had decided to replace the Priory History Board, (situated adjacent to the turning bay in front of the Priory) which had deteriorated and become difficult to read. Whilst doing this we took the opportunity to change the format and text. Many thanks to Friends' member, John Wing, for his help with taking this project forward. We are pleased to report that this project has now been completed with the new board installed and looking good.

We are pleased to advise you that the John Fletcher portrait in the Fletchers Lea building now has a framed information text located at the side of the portrait.

Another project which has been under discussion at our Committee meetings is a replacement metal bench situated on the circular paved area on the back lawn. The style of bench has now been agreed

and this should be installed within the next few weeks. It will commemorate our 30th Anniversary in May 2025.

Some time ago in 2020, in fact, we decided to have some prints made of old Gosselin photos of the Priory for display. Since then, they have been framed and a suitable location has been found, they will soon be displayed on the first floor of the Priory.

Ron Baber has reported that the Swift boxes installed on the Fletchers Lea building by Friends in 2020 were cleaned early this summer but were not used by Swifts again this year – however, some Blue Tits did decide to set up home in one of them.

Our fundraising stall at the Ware Week Fete day was quite successful despite the rainy weather, thanks to the volunteers who helped set up and run the stall. **We raised a total of £311.00p**

Ron Baber has reported that the Swift boxes installed on the Fletchers Lea building by Friends in 2020 were cleaned early this summer but were not used by Swifts again this year – however, a family of Blue Tits did set up home in one of them, as they have done for a few years now.

We have to announce that John Wing resigned from our Committee during the summer recess. We thank John for his work and support of The Friends over a number of years.

Please do visit our web-site friendsoftwarepriory.org.uk which Ron keeps updated for us.

Priory News –

The upgrade throughout the Priory building is still in progress but will soon be completed.

As many of you may know the Lido re-opened this summer and the total refurbishment has made it surely a place to be proud of. Further improvements are due to be made during the closed season to the toilets and some landscaping done. Cold water swimming is on offer and is proving very popular. The lido will be open for festive swims from Christmas Day to New Year's Day – NB the pool will be heated

A community Food Hub (Food Bank) is presently operating from the Garden Room, the areas previously used as a café.

Your committee sends best wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you at the New Year Social get together.

*Janet, Jay, Margaret, Sylvia, Dennis, Kate,
Rosemary, Christine and Vicki*