



FRIENDS OF GRACE DIEU PRIORY TRUST

c/o North West Leicestershire District Council, Community
Services,
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“Newsletter - Autumn 2006”

Opening Day

Well we did it! The Priory is open to the public and the opening weekend was a fantastic success. We have estimated that over 600 people attended on the Saturday. The event commenced at Grace Dieu Manor School with a procession through the woods to the Priory where the Chairmen of the County Council and North West Leicester District Council jointly carried out the official opening. After the formal ceremony the crowd was entertained, despite the heat of the day, by over 60 children from Belton and Newcroft Shepshed Primary schools to music, dance and song. There were also demonstrations of woodturning, spinning, falconry, model helicopter flying and other attractions. On the Sunday again the sun was shining and an Ecumenical service was held. The Abbot from Mount St. Bernard's Abbey and the Vicar from Belton Church officiated and a congregation of over 60 attended.

There were many helpers and sponsors during the weekend and without their support we could not have made the event the success that it was, our sincere thanks go to all of them.

After 10 years work and the success of the opening the following Monday was a little bit strange for no longer was “the day when we open on the horizon” it was history. Now we have started to look forward again and in some respects the more mundane tasks are a reality, for example we have to develop a plan of action to keep the Priory and its surroundings neat and tidy, and when you have walked around the Priory you realise there is a huge amount of grass to be mowed. To address this we are trying to find the most cost effective way, it may be that we will purchase our own machine but of course this needs money.

The archaeologist has produced a dis-

cussion document for phase 2 of the investigations into the Priory's past, this would encompass more digging of pits. However before any further work can be done we must get English Heritage approval and again raise further funding. This work of course comes under the umbrella of the Trust, but as in the previous fieldwork, if it goes ahead hopefully the Friends would play a leading role. Also to be addressed are the ponds and again there may be scope for the Friends to be involved depending on whether approval is given to the Trust to proceed with work on them.



Introducing the Street Environment Manager for Coalville

Many thanks to the Friends of Grace Dieu Priory Trust for allowing me some space in their newsletter. My name is Claire MacRory and I am Street Environment Manager for Coalville and surrounding villages. I am keen to be in touch with local community groups and people from the area to work together, developing an action plan to tackle “enviro-crime”.

We have all experienced taking a nice relaxing stroll around some of our beautiful country lanes and footpaths, only to be confronted at various locations by fly-tips, litter or dog fouling. These things are clearly an affront and whilst there always has to be an element of

live and let live in any community some things can and should be stopped.

I would be very keen to hear from people who have any ideas or solutions for local areas and also from anyone who is aware of a regular, existing problem that could benefit from monitoring and surveillance. Please email me: claire.macrory@nwleicestershire.gov.uk or if you would like to report a grot spot, please call NWLDC on 01530 454545 and ask for Street Scene. We look forward to hearing from you.

Miss Claire MacRory
Street Environment Manager

Annual General Meeting

The Friends will be holding their first AGM on the 23rd of October at the Rangers Supporters Club in Thringstone and the agenda will be circulated, but an indication of whether you will be attending would be appreciated (Tel: 01530 454603/601). A light buffet can also be provided at a modest cost and again your indication would be appreciated if you wish to partake. (Please note voting rights on second page).

Past and Present

Saturday evening and all the visitors and stall holders had gone, Grace Dieu Priory returned to a silent tranquil ruin. Or was it?

The Leicestershire Paranormal Association requested a vigil on the Saturday night, where they would attempt a scientifically based experiment to try and find out if there was any paranormal activity around the Priory.

Splitting the night into vigils of approximately one hour duration with a twenty minute break, they visited various areas around the ruins including the field containing the standing stone. To summarise their findings or shall we say their experiences, here is a list of

