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Newsletter - Autumn 2019

In This Issue:	Page		Page
Welcome	1	Visit to Bletchley Park	3
2019 Annual General Meeting	1	Christobel Mattingley	3
Membership update	2	Grace Impesi	4
Friends' Christmas Card 2019	2	Forthcoming events	4

Welcome to this autumn edition of our Friends' newsletter. It has again been an active year for our organisation. Although most events have taken place as usual, the programme for the next few months has had to be curtailed, due to the ongoing uncertainty into our use of the Cathedral Centre. At our last Council Meeting we were told that the original decision to close the centre is now under review, and there is the potential for it to be rented out for the next two years, with the opportunity for organisations such as ours to continue using it. This year, regrettably, we shall not be celebrating St Hugh's feast with a meal, and an alternative venue for the teatime talks has yet to be arranged.



Building work on the development of the Cathedral's new facilities continues and we look forward to using these in due course. There will be a progress report from Lincoln Cathedral Connected in the spring newsletter. Although the Cathedral's West Front and the Parvis are still undergoing extensive restoration, an impressively restored Exchequergate Arch, complete with a new carving, shows what is being achieved. There has been a suggestion that the outside of our office could also do with some restoration!

2019 Annual General Meeting On Saturday 22nd June 68 members attended the AGM, with 57 apologies received. The most prominent of these was from our Patron, The Rt Hon Baroness Willoughby de Eresby, who has now stepped down from this role. The Friends' Council is in the process of recruiting a suitable replacement. The meeting was chaired by the SubDean, Canon John Patrick, who has very kindly stepped in as temporary Chairman. Our Vice Treasurer, Len Curtis, (seen on the right with his daughter) has also retired, and at the end of the meeting received a presentation from the Friends in appreciation for all his work over the years. He writes:

*I would like to thank all the Friends for the most generous Retirement Gift of a Panel of Adopted Glass in the **Joseph Window** of the Cathedral. (The Easterly window on the South Wall of the Nave) I have already shown many of my family and friends the Panel which, being at the bottom of the window, can be easily seen from floor level. It represents Joseph asleep, dreaming of the sheaves of corn of his brothers bowing down to his sheaf. I am very grateful for this wonderful gift, which will remind me of the enjoyable times I have spent with the other members of our team during the last 19 years (working, not sleeping). I also thank you for the Booklet, based on the notes of my friend Linda Tilbury, detailing the travels of the Lincoln Copy of the Magna Carta (now on display at Lincoln Castle). **Len Curtis***

Before sitting down to tea, members were able to choose go on guided roof tours, either to the east end of the Cathedral or the Chapter House, kindly arranged by Jean Ducker. Many members also attended Evensong.



Membership

Paul Pinchbeck, our Friends' membership secretary writes:

As of 26th September 2019, there are 1237 members in total, of whom 588 are life members.

The cost of membership of the Friends hasn't changed for a number of years. Since then, running costs have gone up (notably postage), while members' benefits have improved in the shape of free entry to the Cathedral.

Our subscription rates are now substantially lower than those of most other cathedrals, particularly the larger medieval ones. We looked at the subscriptions of Friends' Associations at 36 English cathedrals, and found an average annual rate of about £20. About one third of these Associations don't offer life membership at all, but of those that do the average was £248; only five charge less than our current rate of £150 (for those over 60), while Canterbury and Southwell charge £500!

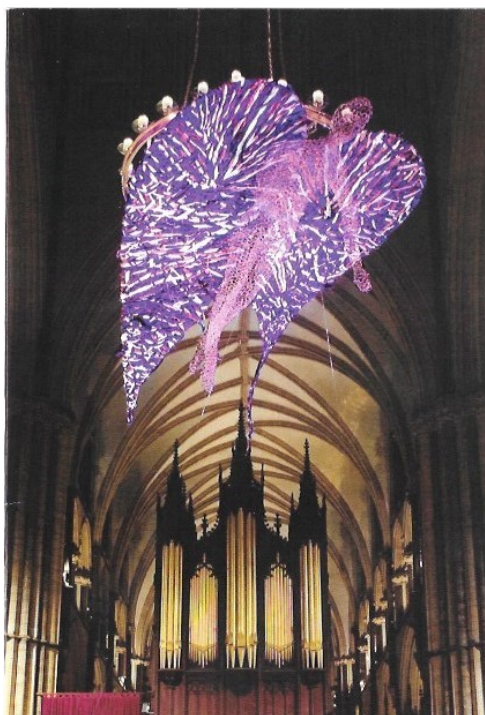
We want membership to continue to be a worthwhile experience, and to offer good value, so having secured the approval of the AGM, individual annual membership will increase from £15 to £20, with a new joint annual membership for couples of £35. Life membership for those over 60 will increase from £150 to £200, while remaining at £250 for under-60s. Life membership brings the added benefit of a 10% discount in the Minster Shop and Coffee Shop. These new rates will apply from 1st January 2020.

If you pay income tax, and are able to Gift Aid, your subscriptions go even further. We value all members' subscriptions, and we are grateful that some members give more than these minimum rates. The Association has also been remembered in a number of legacies and we have been pleased to accept donations of varying sizes, for which we are most grateful.

We would ask annual members to kindly amend their bankers' orders accordingly, to continue to enjoy all the benefits of membership, including free entry to the Cathedral.

Friends' Christmas card for 2019

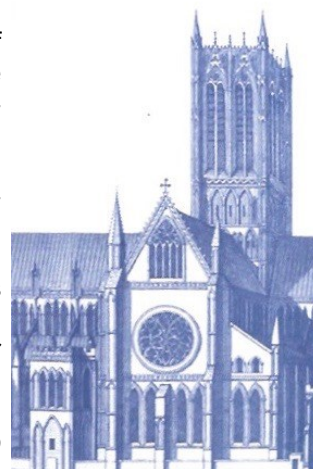
Last year, in a break with tradition, decorations were put up inside the Cathedral over the Christmas season, including this large mobile of an angel, which we have chosen for this year's Friends' Christmas Card. It is unusual to use an image of the interior of the Cathedral, and we hope that members who prefer a wintery exterior will not be too disappointed! As usual, the cards are available in two sizes and orders can be made using the enclosed order form, or bought directly from the Friends' office or the cathedral shop. Prices remain the same and early purchase is recommended.



Christmas Greetings



The Association of Friends of Lincoln Cathedral
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Friends' Visit to Bletchley Park

On Tuesday 21st May a coachful of Friends made the journey to visit Bletchley Park, home of the codebreaking operations during World War Two and the birthplace of modern computing. This turned out to be such a popular choice that a larger coach had to be hired and over fifty members enjoyed a wonderful day out. Those of us who



were familiar with the film 'The Imitation Game' were able to recognise where different scenes had taken place and the wealth of information on offer would suggest a return visit - fortunately included in the price of the ticket. Standing in Alan Turing's office was thought provoking, in the light of his later



life and death, as was the fact that so many people who had worked at Bletchley Park kept their roles secret, even from their closest family members, into old age.

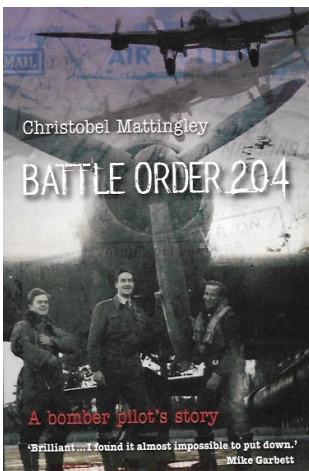
Departed 'Friends'

Each year, as part of his report for the AGM, our membership secretary includes the names of members who have passed away - this year there were thirty seven. Although some may have been more well known than others, our association has been proud to have had each of them as members. Keith Jones has kindly written about the late Christobel Mattingley.



It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Christobel Mattingley in June. She was a Life Member and a generous benefactor to the Association.

She was born in Brighton, a suburb of South Australia in 1931. Her father's career as an engineer took her to Sydney and subsequently to Tasmania where she went to University. She gained a first-class honours degree in German and from there took a job assisting refugees displaced from Europe by the Second World War. In 1951 she became a librarian and in the 1970s became a full time writer. She wrote more than fifty books many of which have been translated into other languages. In 1990 she received the Advance Australia Award for services to literature, and in 1996 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to Literature, particularly children's literature, and for community service through her commitment to social and cultural issues.



In 1953 she married David Mattingley, a teacher, who had been a Lancaster Pilot in the war. He was based at Kelstern during the war and when he was able he worshipped in the Cathedral. He remembered the welcome sight of the Cathedral on the horizon when he returned from Missions. His experiences and his logbook formed the basis of "Battle Order 204 ..."

the story of an ordinary young Australian whose ambition to fly took him halfway round the globe.....and the fateful mission when his plane was hit three times and "though severely wounded himself brought his plane and crew safely back". The UK edition of "Battle Order 204" was launched in a ceremony, organised by the Association of Friends in the Cathedral, by the whilom Australian High Commissioner. As a thank offering Christobel donated all the royalties from the book to the Association of Friends. It is still in print, is a best seller, and available from the Friends' Office and the Cathedral shop.

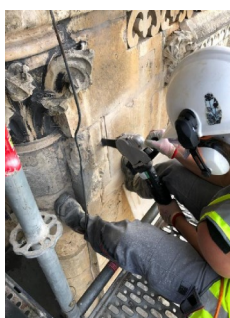
Keith Jones

The Friends' Stonemason Apprentice

Grace Impesi was introduced to us last year at a council meeting. She has now completed a year's apprenticeship and has written about everything she has done.

Dear Friends of Lincoln Cathedral,

This past year working at the cathedral has gone by so quickly. I have finished my first academic year at York College where I have been learning both how to mason basic roman mouldings and how to set them out following geometrical principals. I am now starting my second level 2 year at college where I will be moving on to more complex stones to work. The teachers at York College have been very attentive and patient; and they have been kind enough to allow me to do a bit of carving practice during school time as long as I finish my coursework. I managed to find a place for the first practice piece I made (an unfinished sleepy face) on a wall I helped rebuild at the entrance of the stonemasonry workshop.



A lot of the practice was in order to prepare myself for the European Stone Carving festival that happened last June in Trondheim Norway. Being able to carve stone among so many masons from all over Europe in such a beautiful setting was exceptionally motivating. I was very lucky to be able to stay an extra two weeks and work with the Nidaros works department. I spent my days working alongside the stonemasons and learning how to work soapstone with an axe. Before leaving Trondheim the blacksmiths that work for the cathedral made an axe for me to take back to Lincoln, which I have been using regularly on our Lincoln lime stone.



In terms of tools in general, I applied and, after a selection process, was successfully awarded £1000 from 'The IWHM Bernard Butler Trust Fund' to spend on buying the basic tools that I would need. So during my summer holidays whilst back home in Italy I visited Carrara (the home of white marble, Michelangelo, stonemasons etc) where I spent most of my allowance buying as many tools as I could carry back.



When I am not in college or travelling about, I am at the Cathedral here in Lincoln doing a variety of different jobs. I would say that the first half of the year I was mostly labouring around different sites in and around the cathedral. Since returning from Norway I had asked to be assigned a specific mentor to train me and follow my progress. Adam Wilcockson (former Friends of Lincoln apprentice) is now my mentor and since working together, I have been removing and fixing stones on the west front and on the internal cloister wall. I have also learned how to make hot lime mixes, how to point and clean stonework, and worked a few basic stones to be fitted near the cloister wall and on the west front. I think we make a good team and I am trying my best to learn as much as I can. I am very much enjoying working for Lincoln Cathedral as a building. I find there is more and more to discover and learn the more I get involved. I would like to kindly thank you for all your support, for which I am always very grateful. I have attached some photos of the first stones I fixed!



Many Thanks Grace Impesi

Forthcoming events: (further information will be found in forthcoming Chapter Letters)

Tuesday	5th November:	3.30 pm	Teatime talk. by Margaret Crompton venue TBC
Tuesday	9th November.	3.30 pm	Teatime talk, speaker and venue TBC
Wednesday	18th December.	7.30 pm	Friends' 'Carols by Candlelight' in the Cathedral Nave
Tuesday	4th February. 2020	3.30 pm	Teatime talk by Judi Jones, venue TBC
Tuesday	18th February. 2020	3.30 pm	Teatime talk, speaker and venue TBC
Saturday	16th May 2020	2.00 pm	Welcome to New Members venue TBC
May 2020	19th May 2020		Possible visit to Kings Lynn and Sandringham
Saturday	19th June. 2020	2.00 pm	Annual General Meeting, venue TBC
	9th-14th July 2020		Proposed visit to Bruges in support of the cathedral choir