



FRIENDS OF ALTON ABBEY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 31st Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Alton Abbey
will take place at Alton Abbey on
Monday 11th July 2011 after lunch
in the Abbey Church

Nominations are invited for Office Bearers and Ordinary Members of Council. Nomination papers should be returned to the Hon. Secretary, Dr Jill Hurley, Greensleeves, Bentworth, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5JT, on or before **27th June**, using the enclosed form.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts
5. Chairman's Report
6. Abbot's Report
7. Election of Officers
8. Election of Ordinary Members of Council
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner
10. Forthcoming Events
11. Any Other Business

AOB should preferably be advised to the Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the AGM at the address above; ☎ 01420 562126; or email: foaa@hurley.greenbee.net

ARRANGEMENTS

The AGM continues to be held on St Benedict's Day. It is an ideal opportunity to meet other Friends and your Council.

We are very grateful to the Abbot and Community for this special "family" day which they host in their home every year for Oblates, Companions and the Friends of Alton Abbey.

The Abbot and Community will send you a personal invitation to attend the Conventual Mass and lunch, which precedes the AGM.

Friends of Alton Abbey, Alton Abbey, Abbey Road, Beech, Alton, Hants, GU34 4AP

**MINUTES OF THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE FRIENDS OF ALTON ABBEY HELD ON 10th JULY 2010 AT 2.30 PM**

Present: His Grace the Duke of Rutland Patron
Mr Christopher Pluck Chairman
Major Michael Isherwood Vice-Chairman
Mr Ian Munro Treasurer
Dr Jill Hurley Secretary
Council Members: Ms Margaret Kerlogue Mrs Lynne Rapson,
Mrs Audrey Sherren, Dr Sally Turner
The Rt. Revd Dom Giles Hill OSB Abbot
The Revd John Draper Oblates' Representative
and 12 Ordinary Members.

The Abbot started the meeting with prayer.

1. Apologies: Her Grace the Duchess of Rutland Vice-Patron
1 Council Member, and 25 Ordinary Members
 2. Minutes: The Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting, previously circulated, were confirmed and signed.
 3. Matters arising: None.
 4. Trustees' Report and accounts: The Treasurer spoke to the previously circulated accounts, explaining that we are a distributing charity, and our aim is to give the Community more than 90% of our recurring income each year, about £20,000. In the current year our reserves will be less, as income from investments is down, and we are currently giving £25,000 for necessary repairs, some of which will be drawn from reserves. Fund-raising will again be vital.
Adoption of these was proposed by Mr Chris Pluck, seconded by Major Isherwood. and accepted by the meeting.
 5. Chairman's Report had previously been circulated. He added that it had been a good year for fund-raising, and thanked everyone who had participated. The planned Quiz Night in April had been cancelled as insufficient tickets had been sold. This was a learning process, to discover what our supporters would like, and other options would be tried in future.
 6. Abbot's Report: In addition to his letter, previously circulated, the Abbot thanked the Friends for their much needed financial support, currently for refurbished bathrooms where a wall had rotted away, and a new boiler for the Bakery. With such a large house running expenses were high, heating (electricity and gas) costing £34,000 per year, which the Community managed to fund from income. They are not permitted to have large reserves, so emergency repairs caused major financial difficulties. Last winter the Abbey had been cut off for about 2 weeks in the snow, with a reduction in income from guests. They had been able to reduce the heating, and use the wood-burning stove, supplied by the Friends last year, with much benefit.
 7. Election of Officers: All Officers had agreed to stand again, and had been duly proposed and seconded, so were confirmed for a further year.
 8. Council Members: All Members had agreed to stand again, and were duly proposed and seconded, so with no other names submitted, they were confirmed unchanged.
The Secretary encouraged Members to consider standing next year as fresh ideas, and skills were always needed.
 9. Independent Examiner: The Treasurer explained that small charities did not need a full audit, but we are very fortunate in Mrs Jackson, who provides a very professional examination and is most generous with her time. Mr Colin Kinloch proposed and Mrs Lynne Rapson seconded the re-appointment of Mrs S J Jackson as Independent Examiner. This was agreed unanimously.
 10. Forthcoming events: The Chairman drew attention to the further events this year,
Col. Patrick Daniell's Open Garden at Itchen Abbas on Sunday 29th & Monday 30th August,
The Evening of Entertainment on 25th September, by members of the Community and friends.
8th Annual Abbey Lecture on Friday 8th October, to be given by Dom Anselm, which is bound to be very popular.
- The Building Fund-Raising Committee are holding a Concert on Friday 22nd October. Lynn Judge told us that this is a musical soiree with a musically 'illustrated' talk on Chopin followed by other light classical pieces performed by "Barbara Woods and Friends". Wine and canapés will be served in the interval. Tickets £15.00.
- 12 Any other Business: None
- The meeting closed with prayer.

FRIENDS OF ALTON ABBEY

Registered Charity No: 284876

Report of the Trustees for the year to March 31st 2011

The Council of the Friends of Alton Abbey, being the Trustees of the Charity, present their Report for the year ended 31st March 2011.

The members of the Council, elected at the AGM in July 2010, were

Chairman	Mr Christopher Pluck Obl. OSB
Vice-Chairman	Major Michael Isherwood
Treasurer	Mr Ian Munro
Secretary	Dr Jill Hurley
Ex Officio	The Rt. Revd Dom Giles Hill OSB
Council members:	Mrs Barbara Henry
	Ms Margaret Kerlogue
	Mrs Lynne Rapson
	Mrs Audrey Sherren
	Dr Sally Turner

Appointed by Abbot Giles OSB: Oblates' representative The Revd John Draper OSB

The Charity was established on 13th April 1982 and registered by the Charity Commission on 7th June 1982. The original Constitution was revised in 1988, 2001, and 2004. The Charity's address is Alton Abbey, Abbey Road, Beech, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4AP

The Object of the Charity is to support the charitable work of Alton Abbey by inviting and receiving funds in the form of subscriptions and donations. Funds are expended or transferred to Alton Abbey in response to specific requests and at the discretion of the Council. In the 12 months to March 2011 such funds amounted to £27,400.

Membership of the Friends of Alton Abbey is open to any person or group that supports the object of the Charity on payment of the subscription prescribed from time to time by the Council.

The current membership is as follows (2010 figures in brackets)

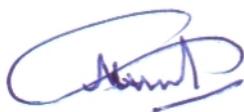
Life Members	124	(115)
Annual Members	186	(179)
Group Members	2	(2)
Total	312	(296)

The Charity's financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March. The attached financial statements show the income and expenditure for 2010/2011 and the balance as at 31st March 2011.

The Charity has accounts with National Westminster Bank plc, CAF Bank Ltd., and Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF).

The Honorary Independent Examiner is Mrs S. J. Jackson A.C.M.A.,
The Maize, Lower Stanton St. Quintin, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6BY

(signed)



On behalf of the Council
by the Chairman
Christopher Pluck

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2011

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2011	Total 2010
Income & Expenditure					
Income					
Subscriptions (Gift Aid/Covenant)	2	11499		11499	9371
Subscriptions (Other)		793		793	1170
Top up Gift Aid		0		0	0
Donations (Gift Aid)	3	658		658	485
Donations (Other)		349		349	110
Fundraising & Appeals	4	8028		8028	12633
Tax Refund		0		0	0
Deposit Interest		<u>124</u>		<u>124</u>	<u>101</u>
Total Income		<u>21451</u>		<u>21451</u>	<u>23870</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure					
Abbey Expenditure	5	<u>27400</u>		<u>27400</u>	<u>12770</u>
		<u>27400</u>		<u>27400</u>	<u>12770</u>
Other Expenditure					
Fund-raising Costs	4	1849		1849	1134
Administration Costs	6	<u>411</u>		<u>411</u>	<u>461</u>
		<u>2260</u>		<u>2260</u>	<u>1595</u>
Total expenditure		<u>29660</u>	0	<u>29660</u>	<u>14365</u>
Net Income for the year		-8209	0	-8209	9505
Fund balances brought forward		<u>37484</u>	0	<u>37484</u>	<u>27979</u>
Fund balances carried forward		<u>29275</u>	0	<u>29275</u>	<u>37484</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

		2011	2010
Current Assets			
Debtors (tax refund & events)	7	595	673
Balances at Bank - Nat West Current a/c		208	434
- CAF Deposit a/c		15722	6377
- COIF		<u>12750</u>	<u>30000</u>
TOTAL		<u>29275</u>	<u>37484</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accrual	8	0	0
Net Assets		<u>29275</u>	<u>37484</u>
represented by			
Unrestricted Income Funds		29275	37484
Restricted Income Funds		0	0
		<u>29275</u>	<u>37484</u>

FRIENDS OF ALTON ABBEY

Registered Charity No: 284876

Notes to the Accounts for the period ended 31 March 2011

1 Accounting Policies

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities.

2 Subscriptions	2011	2010
	£	£
Gift Aid	8930	7305
Rebate due including transitional relief (22/78)	2518	2060
Rebate per £180 previous year's subscriptions, late claim	51	6
	<u>11499</u>	<u>9371</u>

3 Donations	£	£
Gift Aided	501	378
Rebate due including transitional relief	141	107
Rebate per £56 previous year's subscriptions. Late claim	<u>16</u>	
	<u>658</u>	<u>485</u>

4 Fundraising & Appeals	Costs	Proceeds	Net	Net
	£	£	£	£
Christmas Cards	678	1238	560	272
Open Gardens	115	1990	1875	4038
Concert	0	0	0	1155
Abbey Lecture*	306	1684	1378	1725
Lightwood Dinner	0	0	0	4309
Abbey Entertainment*	337	1903	1566	0
Gilbert White*	164	1009	845	0
Quiz (cancelled)	249	204	-45	0
	<u>1849</u>	<u>8028</u>	<u>6179</u>	<u>11499</u>

* Abbey Lecture proceeds include £231 Gift Aid rebate on donations
 Concert proceeds include £167 Gift Aid rebate on donations
 Lightwood Dinner proceeds include £237 Gift Aid rebate on donations

5 Abbey Expenditure	£	£
Boilers	25000	
Bathroom expenses & net curtains	1100	
St Benedict's Day	500	
Dom Giles OSB Retirement holiday	750	
Garden Tap	50	
	<u>27400</u>	<u>12770</u>

6 Administration Costs	£	£
Postage & Stationery	246	251
AGM Expenses	0	0
Gift to Honorary Auditor & others	100	100
Gazebo	0	110
Notice Board	21	0
Table	44	0
	<u>411</u>	<u>461</u>

7 Movement of Debtors			£
Debtors as at 31/03/10			673
Less tax rebate received	Qtr to 31.03.10	573	
	Qtr to 30.06.10	534	
	Qtr to 30.09.10	1008	
	Qtr to 31.12.10	<u>1215</u>	
	Total		-3330
			-100
Plus			
Tax relief subscriptions/donations - current year			2659
Tax relief subscriptions/donations - late claims			67
Tax relief Abbey Entertainment			261
Tax relief Abbey Lecture			231
Tax relief Gilbert White			134
Debtors as at 31/03/11			<u>595</u>
Debtors List			
			£
Gift Aid Claim 1/91/11 to 31/03/11			595
Including transitional relief			
Total			<u>595</u>
8 Creditors as at 31/03/10			
Creditors as at 31/03/10			0
Creditors as at 31/03/11			<u>0</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF ALTON ABBEY

I report on the accounts of The Friends of Alton Abbey for the year ended 31 March 2011, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

24 05 2011

Mrs S J Jackson, A.C.M.A.
The Maize, Lower Stanton St Quintin,
Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6BY

FRIENDS OF ALTON ABBEY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010 – 2011

My Dear Friends

After such a long period of exceptionally warm and dry weather, it is certainly a relief to see rain at long last, more so as we shall be holding the first of two Open Garden weekends at the Abbey in a few days' time!

Again, I am delighted to report that we have been able to provide support to the Abbey and the Community through your continued kindness and very generous support during the past year.

Our programme of events commenced with Patrick Daniell's open garden at Itchen Abbas when the Friends provided teas and refreshments during the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of August. We are indebted to him for his kindness in allowing us to be present at this occasion and to enjoy the splendour of his multifaceted garden in all its richness and diversity. There then followed two events that were held in September and October. Firstly, 'An Evening of Entertainment at the Abbey' that provided a wide variety of performances from a very distinguished cast that included Fred Weatherly, Tinkerbell & Sweetpea, Les Trois Soeurs, Drew 'n Steve, The Frog and Bridie & Rita to name but a few. We are so grateful that members of the Community, Sally Turner, Brandon Mudditt and the Delaney family allowed these entertainers to be included in the programme that evening! Secondly, the following month, we held our 8th Annual Abbey Lecture that was entitled 'No One Has Ever Seen God'. This was presented by Dom Anselm who enthralled the audience with his infectious enthusiasm and deep knowledge during a detailed and richly illustrated lecture on the relationship between the visual arts and the Divine. Both of these events were followed by a delicious supper that was kindly produced by Jane Tucker to whom we are indebted.

As a result of the previous successes, the Friends again produced Christmas Cards and sold almost 2,500; we are very grateful to Yvonne Bell for her colourful design that was based on a Christmas Carol. This year Dom Anselm has kindly agreed to provide a design with the Holy Family as the theme and I very much hope that we shall be able to exceed last year's sales figures!

In early March, Louis Coulson and Ronnie Davidson-Houston, the latter wearing appropriate period costume, presented an evening talk entitled, 'The Unknown Gilbert White (of Selborne): Parson and Preacher'. This event provided an opportunity to share some of the recent researches undertaken into the hitherto unpublished sermons of Gilbert White as well as providing a fascinating insight into the culture and way of life in the 18th century.

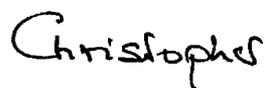
On Saturday 28th May, the Friends had a Quiet Day with Mass at 10.00am and two addresses that were kindly provided by Abbot Giles. Once again, we are very grateful to Abbot William and the Community for the valued opportunity to use and enjoy the peaceful and prayerful Abbey church and the tranquil gardens.

In conclusion, I should like to express my sincere thanks to our very hard-working council who labour tirelessly in ensuring the consistent success and enjoyment of all the events that we hold throughout the year, and also to the many additional friends and helpers that provide invaluable support. On a personal level, I should also wish to thank Ian Munro, our Treasurer, and Jill Hurley, our Secretary, who both provide exceptional dedication and commitment. Once again, it has been an honour and a privilege to be your Chairman this year. Please remember that the AGM provides an excellent opportunity to not only meet our Council but also to offer possible suggestions for fund-raising activities for our calendar.

With my very best wishes to you all

Yours sincerely

Christopher Pluck, Obl. OSB. Chairman



Abbey of Our Lady & Saint John

FROM: **The Right Reverend Dom William Hughes OSB**

Dear Friends of Alton Abbey,

As I look out of my study window I can see a pair of Buzzards in the clear blue sky above the abbey, gliding on the warm thermals. This beautiful sight reminds me of a news report on the T.V. that I viewed recently. Apparently there is a shortage of bird song in many gardens around the country. A number of factors are the cause for this and one among many is – the introduction of foreign species such as Parquets, initially kept as pets, but have escaped from their owners and formed colonies which are driving a number of indigenous birds away from natural feeding territories. I am glad to report that we do not seem to suffer from foreign invaders and our garden is aloud with the music of many different bird songs.

We also have a stray cat living in the abbey grounds; we have no idea where he or she has appeared from. But due to the fact that it has been around for some weeks now, the brethren have decided that perhaps we should adopt him or her. (But as we all know cats do the adopting not the other way round!) Well that is enough about the wild life around the abbey. What about the human lives that reside here.

I am glad to report that the brethren appear to be well and happy, immersed in serving God through the recitation of the Divine Office, the Mass and meeting the needs of those who come to the monastery.

I am glad to say that the guesthouse is a very busy place at the time of writing, with very few places left for new bookings. We have been very blessed with visits to the guesthouse by some very interesting groups.

One of our oblates, Kim Thinggard, brought a choir group from Denmark. They very kindly provided the singing for the Sunday Mass the weekend they were with us.

The fellowship of Contemplative Prayer stayed for a week with us recently. This group of like minded people meet together on a regular basis for times of quiet prayer and reflection. They engage their own prayer leader whom they call 'THE WITNESS'.

I had the privilege of attending the Bishop of Winchester's farewell service at the cathedral on 7th May. Bishop Michael has agreed to remain our Visitor until a new Bishop is appointed. We wish Bishop Michael and his wife Louise a very happy retirement.

I am very grateful to the Friends for the financial help I am receiving for Abbey education purposes in the formation of the noviciate and by the time I write the next news letter, we should have Paul and Mark clothed in the Benedictine Habit. The Noviciate may be growing in number during the latter end of the year and early part of 2012. We value your continued prayers in this matter, that God will encourage those with us now and others to seek his will in the monastic life.

May I end this news letter by thanking al the Friends of Alton Abbey for all your love, prayers and financial help, and the Friends Council for all the hard work and effort they put in to organise the various events that take place throughout the year.

With my love prayers and every blessing

+William Hughes O.S.B.
Abbot



From The Secretary:

There is now a new Abbey website, with a slightly different address: www.altonabbey.org
We are now registered with Mission Fish to benefit from donation of ebay sales, also with easyfundraising.org.uk, and have a search engine - <http://foaa.easysearch.org.uk>, so do use these to bolster our funds.

A Nomination Form for election to Council is, as always, included with this mailing. Please consider whether you, or a Friend you know of, would like to stand for election. A change of ideas and energy would not come amiss! If you would like to stand but do not know enough Friends to propose or second you, please contact me.

You will also find with this mailing, information about the Christmas Cards mentioned by Christopher. These will be available to see, and to buy, on St Benedict's Day. Also available that day will be tickets for future events, including the Evening of Magic and Music. An updated Events list is enclosed.

Do contact me by email, tel: 01420 562126, or by post, either to the Alton Abbey address, or my own (see page 1) about anything to do with the Friends.