

# News for Friends of Delapre Abbey (FoDA) Members

## September 2015



### A note from the Chair!

It's time for an update on what the new FoDA trustees have been doing since our General Meeting in June!

We've had a range of tasks: getting FoDA Ltd internal business in order, as well as refreshing all our communications systems – phew!



Financial controls are stable now after the big changes of last spring. Welcome funds came from 2 events – stands at Northampton Carnival and the Rec Festival - which also helped publicise the Abbey restoration project.

Volunteers began the long job of making personal contact with all life members to update our records. Thanks to all who have helped in so many ways.

We've invited some members to work with FoDA Ltd trustees on a working group to research appropriate alternative forms of constitution for us. We will report back to all members at our AGM (Annual General Meeting) on 9 November 2015 (Rec. Centre, Far Cotton)..

Our communications systems have been updated. Now FoDA is active on our website ([www.friendsdelapreabbey.org.uk](http://www.friendsdelapreabbey.org.uk) – includes Minutes of meetings and biographies of trustees), Facebook (Delapre FoDA Abbey) and Twitter (@FriendsDelapre1) again.

As your new Chairman I have met the Leader of Northampton Borough Council (NBC), Cllr Mary Markham. Her welcome was cordial and discussions were wide-reaching. Mary reaffirmed the Council's commitment to partnership working and gave warm appreciation for all the achievements of FoDA in its campaigning to safeguard the future of the Abbey.

My meeting with NBC's Director of Regeneration, Steve Boyes also clarified our role as key partners in the future Activities Programme at the Abbey. NBC made us a remittance on the FoDA donation towards restoration of the third greenhouse. This really helps us stabilise our finances as we reorganise for the future.

We were delighted to meet Rachael Boyd, the newly appointed Operations Director for Delapre Abbey. She is experienced and so enthusiastic about the potential ahead of us all. She has loads of ideas but is waiting to get ours too. She sends a 'getting to know you' message and has fixed a regular time to meet us all – 2pm to 3pm on Thursdays – do go along and say hello if you can.

We are ready for the autumn. There are events at the Abbey run by DAPT too. Come along. Keep in touch!

Very best wishes,

**Jean**

Jean Hawkins Chairman FoDA Ltd

## Dates for your Diaries



**12 Sept 2015 Heritage Fair** 10.30am – 4pm Church Rooms Holy Sepulchre Church Sheep St. FoDA Ltd has a stall. Public car park in Church Lane

**12 and 13 Sept 2015 Heritage Open Days at Delapre Abbey** free entry to see the building works led by Woodhead Contractors 11am to 4pm. FoDA selling postcards.

**22 Oct. 2015 7pm Curry Night** at the Royal Bengal Bridge Street. £15 per person payable to FoDA Ltd in advance. Booking essential – all welcome! Contact Mick Ford. Mob: 0784 214 4368 or email [mickj.ford@btinternet.com](mailto:mickj.ford@btinternet.com).

**9 Nov 2015 7pm FoDA LTD AGM:** Rec Centre Towcester Rd. Meet Rachael Boyd and join in our future planning for Activities at the Abbey [Members only]



**22 Nov FoDA Christmas Craft Fair** –at Far Cotton Working men's Club 10.30am – 4.30pm. Some car parking available at Delapre School Annexe in Main Road, Far Cotton. Free entry. Please contact Mick Ford if you can help mob: 0784 214 4368 or email [mickj.ford@btinternet.com](mailto:mickj.ford@btinternet.com).

If you can come and help at any of these events just let us know!

## Personal message to Members, Volunteers and Supporters from Rachael:

Hello, my name is Rachael Boyd and I'm the newly appointed Operations Director at DAPT.

I'd like to meet and get to know as many of you as possible but, before we meet, let me tell you a bit about me.

I have a museums and heritage background having worked for regional museum services as a Curator and Collections Registrar and then latterly, at the National Trust managing the fantastic house and collection at Upton House and Gardens in Warwickshire.

I also have a young family - a 7 year old, 5 year old and 2 year old - so, as you might imagine, they keep me on my toes! My three girls are so excited to come to Delapre to see where mummy will be working.

As I settle into my new role and start to better understand the history of the Abbey, I'm also just as keen that we all start to shape its' future together. With that in mind, if you have thoughts, ideas or you just want to come over to Abbey Cottage for a cup of tea, you'll always find me here and at my desk between 2PM and 3PM on Thursdays.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

With best wishes,

Rachael

**Rachael Boyd**

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