**FRIENDS OF DELAPRE ABBEY**

**MEMBERS LETTER September 2016**

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to be able to tell you that a new Constitution was agreed at the recent EGM on 5 May 2016. All admin steps have been completed to allow us to run as a small charity. There is no longer any political link with Northampton Borough Council. We do of course still function as a partner in the Restoration Project and have a representative at the Joint Project Board with NBC and the Preservation Trust Board invites us to send a representative to their meetings as observer.

Please will you amend your draft of the Constitution to show it is now accepted and make one change to read: ‘**’4. Objectives:** To create and implement other objectives arising from the development of Mission Statement.’’

This will save us considerable time and expense in sending out further copies immediately.

Some members have already sent us details of changes to contact details. We do ask if any member wishing to have their name removed from the Membership List to contact us.

Adrian Bell our Vice Chairman is steadily making personal contact with people who do not use IT. An accurate list is essential if Members are to receive benefits when the abbey facilities open to the public. Rachael, DAPT director, has told us that such incentives are currently being discussed. She attended our last Friends committee when we were able to talk to her about such things. She assured us of a FoDA members’ discount in the Shop.

Our plans to have a fundraising stall at the Town Show in July had to be cancelled owing to lack of help with transport. However Frances Peacock organised a successful stall with tombola and book sales at the Kettering carnival. Despite wind and rain she did splendid publicity for the Abbey and raised some cash too – THANK YOU Frances.

Building work at the Abbey site progresses with the opening of the restaurant facility in the Billiard room /Conservatory scheduled for 1st Nov.

DAPT staffs have started to acquire items to furnish the Library so that it presents to visitors as seen in the 1860’s watercolour. There is a request for sponsorship of books to furnish the shelves. Do you have any leather bound volumes to donate? DAPT invites donations of £50 to sponsor a book. If you can make a smaller donation then The Friends will add it to our existing fund already held and so sponsor some major items. E.g. £ 65 has just been raised by sale of tables from the former tea room. Please also ask around for donations amongst your families and friends. Every little counts! The newly decorated room glows with warm apricot colours and sleek oak grained woodwork – a transformation. At last we can all make some small contribution to the reality of the restored rooms.

Friends’ donations can be sent: c/o FoDA, 40 Lumbertubs Lane, NN3 6AH.

Volunteer recruitment organised by DAPT is well under way. Do have a look at the website for future induction sessions or contact staff direct at the Abbey Cottage.

The FoDA committee welcomes any offers of help too, so do get in touch if you have a bit of time to help organise Friends’ things.

With very best wishes

Jean Hawkins Chairman

**FIND US** : **mail** to 40 Lumbertubs Lane NN3 6AH **Tel** 07522792392

**Website:** [www.friendsofdelapreabbey.org](http://www.friendsofdelapreabbey.org) **email**: [Delapre-friends@hotmail.com](mailto:Delapre-friends@hotmail.com)

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**DATES for your DIARIES**

**Heritage Open Days Sept 2016** The program for Northampton is on the NBC website and in Libraries.

**Please Note open days at Delapre Abbey have been cancelled because of the building works.**

**Sun 11th Sept. FoDA has been able to arrange a stall to sell History books and prints at the Guildhall 12 noon – 3.30pm.** Thanks to Cllr Anna King for making this possible when while tours are run by NBC Youth Forum. Our stall is in the Great Hall. Do come and enjoy this alternative venue and explore other parts of the town centre too!

**Restoration Talks at the**

Tues. 27 September 7pm Tues. 25 October 7pm

Find out more about the restoration project and hear from the Trust and the contractors Robert Woodhead about the work so far. **Contact DAPT** staff at the Abbey Cottage to book a space: **Tel. 01604 760817**