



Friends Of The Priaulx Library
September 2009 Newsletter

For those members who were unable to attend the annual general meeting we are pleased to offer you the Presidents report in this autumn newsletter.

Presidents Report for the 2009 AGM

In what is the 120th anniversary year of the Priaulx Library's opening, I am pleased to report that as The Friends approach our fifth anniversary we have made progress in meeting our founder, the late Deputy Mike Burbridge's objective of providing effective background support to The Council of the Priaulx Library - including its aim to broaden the 'free' library's appeal and improve access to it by the wider community.

In reflecting on our constitutional objectives, I am happy to say that we have played our part in helping to raise in excess of £100,000 towards the cost of our current principal project, namely the installation of the lift which will greatly assist many who presently would find it difficult, if not impossible to gain access to the wonderful collections on the upper floor. 'Lift off' should take place within a matter of weeks - thanks to the generosity of so many, particularly in such difficult economic times. We hope to be able to complete the wider recommendations of the 'access audit' review when finance permits.

Your committee has been pleased to assist the Council under the enthusiastic leadership of Jurat Claire Le Pelley and the excellent staff team headed by Amanda Bennett with background support for their events such as the recent highly successful millinery exhibition in the library. It has been a joy to personally witness so many people, often who have never or very rarely been to the library, saying that they are keen to visit regularly in future having had their appetites suitably whetted. It has also been good to help dispel any notions of the library being an elitist organisation in the process.

More specifically, we as The Friends have been involved in planning, organising and running specialist events such as the truly fascinating lecture by Dr Scott McKendrick, Head of Western Manuscripts at the British Library, on Flemish illuminated manuscripts following his review of the library's own items of special interest.

We are also at the advanced planning stage for an exhibition and lectures by The Royal Society featuring 'Local Heroes' with the first lecture being on 23 November later this year.

The mix of events appealing to both widespread and specialist interests has brought forth some encouraging responses for the whole Priaulx Library team - including personal offers of help to The Friends from the Lieutenant Governor and the Bailiff, such is the regard for our institution from so many quarters.

Whilst it is good to highlight the higher profile events, it would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to those Friends who 'do their bit' through practical scanning, book covering and the like, for I know that this important activity is much appreciated by all of us who are concerned about the library's well being.

May I add that, amongst the more routine Friends activities such as the production of leaflets, we produce the regular Newsletter which I hope you find useful and interesting; any proposed contributions to our communications with members are welcome so too offers of help - financial, practical or simply ideas for helping us to support the whole organisations efforts more effectively.

Finally, may I thank my colleagues on the committee for their support - and patience in helping me to understand some of the 'inner workings' of the library in my first year as your president, so too for the help from members of the Council and staff who all show such great commitment to our exceptional library.

Peter Walpole
President

web: www.friends.org.gg
email: info@friends.org.gg

OPEN DAY

The 11th July Open Day at the Library was a huge success with well over 300 persons recorded visiting. Many were saying they had passed by over the years and never thought of crossing the threshold. The staff had put on view many of the Library's treasures and these drew much interest and appreciation. All the staff were present to host the occasion and deserve medals, as do the Chief Librarian and Deputy Chief Librarian for the conducted tours they gave. Without a doubt the occasion must be repeated at least annually.

Lift Opening

The Prialx Library Council decided to hold a small ceremony to formally open the lift for use. All who contributed to the Friends fundraising project have been invited to attend together with the Committee of the Friends and other guests.

ROYAL VISIT

The Earl and Countess of Wessex paid a private visit to the Library and were shown the various rooms and the treasures displayed away from their home in the strongroom. They showed great interest and overstayed their allotted time. All the staff were presented together with the Trustees and Council of the Library and the President of the Friends. A nice touch was for the Architect and main sponsor of the Friends Lift Project to also be presented.

MORE MEMBERS

Is it possible for existing Members to make a positive effort in recruiting more people to become Friends? The annual subscription is no great drain on anyone's purse and it is helpful to have a large membership base to provide a good financial base to assist our activities in assisting the Library - there is so much more we could do given the wherewithal. If each of us looked to recruit five more members that would be superb. Please consider what you could do towards achieving that target - the web site of the Library priaulxlibrary.co.uk and that of the Friends will give you and prospective joiners all the information needed.



Friends Of The Priaulx Library

Quiz Evening

The Friends of the Priaulx Library will be holding an Autumn Quiz night on Wednesday 25th November at the Peninsula Hotel, starting at 7 p.m.

Teams of six can take part, but as we are restricted in numbers it is recommended that entries are received as soon as possible.

The cost is £10 per person, and food choices are;

Marinated Chicken Drumsticks, or
BBQ Spare Ribs, or
Battered Cod Goujons, or
Home-made Margarita Pizza Slices, or
Spring Rolls

All with French Fries

There will be a raffle on the night, with some fantastic prizes.

To ensure your team entry please forward a cheque, made payable to 'The Friends of the Priaulx Library', along with your team name and food choices, to;

Rob Grant
Lohengrin
Mont Arrive
St Peter Port
GY1 2AQ'

Entry Form

Team Name:

Contact Tel Number:

No	Name (Please Print)	Food Choice	eMail address
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			