

# Friends of the Briery

The Briery Retreat Centre, 38 Victoria Avenue, Ilkley, LS29 9BW

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## From the Chair

Welcome to the second edition of the Friends of the Briery newsletter.

I am pleased to say that we are a growing band of friends, so a special welcome to our new members and a big thank you for joining us. To those of you who may have signed up with an annual subscription, I hope you will be happy to renew it and stay with us.

Since our launch nearly one year ago, we have already raised enough to buy a new microphone which is improving the quality of the sound in the Chapel, new bedding giving us the much easier to use fitted sheets, and given a new coat of paint to the Bolton Room.

In little ways we are helping to make this lovely place a little lovelier for those who visit and those who work here.

*God Bless, Amanda*

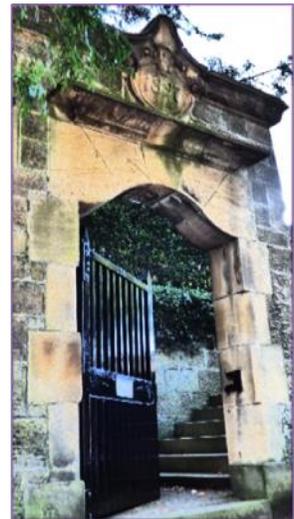
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## Prayer Column

Some of you may already know but we have established a Friends of the Briery prayer request page on the Briery website. Please take a look at [www.briery.org.uk](http://www.briery.org.uk) If you have any prayer requests please email them to [briery@btconnect.com](mailto:briery@btconnect.com) and they will be included in the page.

## Gift Aid

Did you know that if you **Gift Aid** your Friends of the Briery donation, the Friends charity will receive an extra 25p for every £1 donated? If you require any more information about Gift Aid or a Gift Aid form please contact [www.briery.org.uk](http://www.briery.org.uk) .



## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September

#### Garden Party, 2-4pm

Location: Hopefully the garden (if raining, the house)

There will be a raffle, tombola, craft stall, cake stall and entertainment, and, of course, prosecco and strawberries and delicious home-made scones with jam and cream.

Please join us for another lovely afternoon in the Briery garden hopefully with parasols not umbrellas! No ticket required. Just call the office and put your name down on the list and remember to bring a friend!

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## The Friends' Committee

Chair: Amanda Labbett

Committee: Jennie Connor, Anne Procter, Rosalia Roberts

Contact: c/o Admin Team @ the Briery – numbers above

## Quiz Night – Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May

On Thursday evening, 4<sup>th</sup> May, the Friends held their first Quiz Night. Six teams went head-to-head with a table top quiz and a range of varied questions challenging all ages and a whole gamut of general knowledge. Our excellent Quiz Master, Vince Gibbons, supervised the evening with humour and flair! We raised over £200 for the Friends. A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support this event.

So many who came along have asked when the next Quiz Night will be... so watch this space for a date... start brushing up on your general knowledge... the Friends Committee have agreed the Quiz Night will be an annual event!



## A quick look back at last year's Garden Party... and a plea for this year!

We were blessed with a beautiful day last year on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July when we held a garden party to launch the Friends. Everyone who came along had a lovely day enjoying the friendship and entertainment in our lovely garden.



Young singers from 'That-Sing-Thing' impressed us with their four-part harmonies, the Buttercross Belles thrilled us with traditional Morris Dancing and the De Souza family of young musicians delighted us with their music.



Our entertainment this year is sure to be a joy! The De Souza family ensemble will once again welcome everyone with their music. We are also being joined by the Chevin Hand Bell Ringers who will be ringing out their melodies across the garden. And the Ilkley Amateur Operatic Society will be thrilling us with a sneak preview of their songs from their forthcoming production of Les Misérable. I'm sure you will agree, it should be a lovely afternoon. Please bring your family and friends!

This year we hope to have more stalls! We will be having a Raffle (beautiful gifts and vouchers donated by our suppliers and local businesses), a Tombola, games, craft stall and cake stall. If any of our Friends have any unwanted gifts they would like to donate to the Tombola please bring them to the Briery a week or two before the Garden Party. And, if you are a Mary Berry in the kitchen, we would be grateful of any homemade cakes and biscuits for our cake stall. Please bring these on the day and clearly label the ingredients in your home baking due to allergies. With very many thanks!

The 2017 Briery Brochure is available. Contact the Admin Team for a copy.

## With a little help from our Friends...

Last time we reported the money raised from our Friends has enabled the Briery to purchase fitted sheets and duvet covers for our bedrooms. More recently we have bought a goose neck mic for the Chapel and a media cabinet for the Fountains Conference Room. The latter has enabled the technical equipment to be stored neatly whilst also protecting the equipment and the loose wires. The Bolton Room has also had a coat of paint and looks very bright and smart!



## Wish List

Looking ahead, the table mats in the dining room are wearing and starting to look shabby. We also hope to renew the Fountains Conference Rooms chairs. The current chairs are starting to wear thin and are extremely heavy and cumbersome to move and stack. The Friends hope to help to purchase these items in the months ahead.

## A Brief History of the Briery

The Briery was built by Mr Sydney Kellet in 1897. He lived here until 1906 when he bought Myddleton Lodge. The Sisters of the Cross and Passion bought the property in February 1952 from a retired Bradford wool merchant. At the request of John Carmel Heenan, Bishop of Leeds, the Sisters set about turning resident into a retreat house for Girls and Women thus complementing the Passionist Retreat House at Myddleton Lodge for Boys and Men.

The year 1952 was particularly significant for the Sisters since it was the centenary of the founding of the Congregation. Mother Madeleine McHenry, previously headmistress of St Mary's School in Bradford, was appointed to look after the Briery. Money was scarce and the Chapel was a converted garage, the reception room doubled as dining room and there was little heating to warm the rooms. The retreatants slept in dormitory style rooms. However, despite these basic amenities, the Briery was well used by Girls and Women from Lancashire and Yorkshire.

As the numbers increased Mother Madeleine made a request for a new chapel, dining room and single bedrooms. Plans were agreed in 1966 and building work began in 1967 and Bishop Gordon Wheeler (then Bishop of Leeds) consecrated the Chapel in May 1969 and blessed the new building.

The following year Mother Madeleine died. After her death, one retreatant wrote in a Yorkshire newspaper, "To many of us she was that bright dependable star of a grey childhood."

Sisters Macartan and Kilian then led the Briery until 1994 when they both retired.

Women still come on retreat to the Briery but so do men. In response to the Second Vatican Council, the retreat ministry has broadened its facilities to the wider ecumenical community. The Briery has received great support from Methodist and Anglican brethren and hope in future to respond more fully to the needs of the inter faith community.

There have been a number of improvements over the last five years with en-suite facilities and rooms suitable for less able-bodied guests including a fully equipped disabled room.

The Community, together with the Briery team, also give parish retreats and a programme of preached retreats, guided retreats and spiritual direction. Schools and educational groups are also welcome to the Briery. Many self-programming groups come on day or residential visits to the Briery and use its facilities. The Briery remains a place of spiritual renewal and offers prayers and grateful thanks to everyone who has supported and continues to support its future.

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