

The Friends of Marrick Priory

Once again it has been a busy and active year for the Friends. As well as a substantial donation for waterproofs they have also very generously given money towards our Bursary Scheme. This is all made possible by the subs paid by Friends and the events they host throughout the year.



A delicious spread of strawberries, scones and cream.

2009 began with a fantastic Evening of Song which saw the Dalesfolk and Middleton Tyas school choir entertain us with some delightful singing. In the summer we welcomed the Friends and their families to a Strawberry Tea, a free event, with music provided by Reeth Brass Band, and the opportunity to try your hand at Archery or brave the Zip Wire. In case of bad weather the army had kindly erected two mess tents so that we would have

somewhere to shelter whilst enjoying the music and homemade scones. Fortunately, the weather was beautiful and thanks to the hard work of all those involved the day was a huge success.

The Friends are now planning Christmas at Marrick, Sunday 6th December at 7pm. This annual event is, for many people, the traditional start of their Christmas season and combines, good food, good music and good company. If you would like to attend tickets are on sale now (£7).

A Polite Reminder

Please could we remind group leaders to send their pink forms into the office no later than two weeks before your visit. The information on them is very important with regard to catering and programming.



Thank you.

Getting in touch

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PRIORY PRESS

The newsletter of Marrick Priory Outdoor Education and Residential Centre

Winter 2009

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from us all at Marrick Priory!!!

It hardly seems a year since we last wrote to you, yet here we are again with an update of all the happenings in and around the Priory from the last year. It's been a busy year with residential and day bookings, some new faces and plenty of old ones. So what's new, what's been going on and what can we look forward to in 2010? Read on and find out more.



A wintry picture of the Priory with Harkerside in the distance.

New Waterproofs



Sid shows off our new waterproofs.

Thanks to a £1200 donation from the Friends of Marrick Priory, we have been able to purchase some new waterproof tops and trousers to add to those currently in use.

Sid and Duncan spent a morning in the garage unwrapping, labelling and getting everything in the garage organised. It's all looking quite fantastic.

Thanks again to the Friends of Marrick Priory for their support.

Office Hours

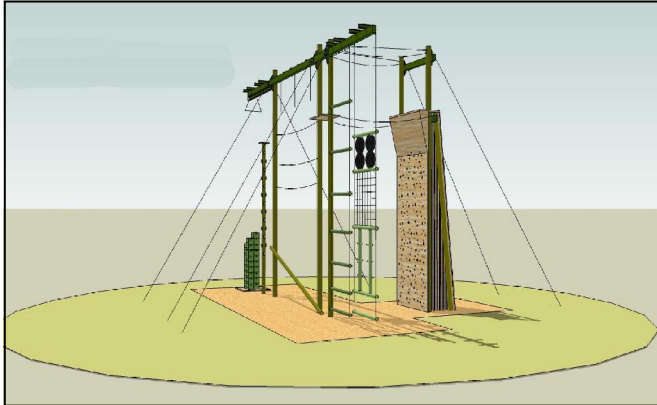
Do you need to contact the office? Sandra, our administrator, will be happy to help and is available **9am—1pm Monday to Wednesday and 9am—1pm on Fridays.**

Our website continues to grow, visit us at www.marrickpriory.co.uk

Future Plans

For a number of years we have been discussing plans to demolish the bungalow, remove the caravan and replace them with one building that is more suitable and in keeping with the existing Priory buildings. We are now in the final stages of the planning process and have had some very encouraging meetings with English Heritage and Yorkshire Dales National Park. Just to remind you the final building would incorporate improved kit storage, cloakroom, small dormitories and upgraded staff accommodation. We remain hopeful that planning permission will soon be approved and we can begin the process of finding a contractor and fundraising.

We are also at an exciting stage in our plans to build a High Ropes course at Marrick Priory. This would involve some major ground works at the archery site to make more useable space providing a much improved experience for groups, with climbing, high ropes, archery, zip wire and night line able to be run there. We had an encouraging meeting with the contractor and are looking at costs whilst applying for planning permission with an aim to get construction underway next year.



One suggested design for our high ropes course.

More immediate plans involve new carpets in the girls dorm and leaders bedrooms, which will be laid in January and also the Friends of Marrick Priory will be joining us for another Work Party Day. This is always such a huge help and gives us a great boost by helping to get a good deal of the walls, ceilings and woodwork painted, although after last years major effort there is far less to do.

Therefore with everything looking good indoors we will be heading outside to do some major tidying up down on the current ropes course, plans so far involve:

- rebuilding of walls
- a fence to keep livestock out
- replacing all the rope being used on the course
- improvements to obstacles near the tunnels
- changes to the boson's chair and wobbly bridge

Finally, we hope, weather and time permitting to get out and about in the Dales and Lakes to do some staff training with several of us needing to get caving and others preparing for training or assessment courses in climbing.

Your letters

Recently, two large brown envelopes arrived into the office and fearing that they contained something very official we opened them with some trepidation. Thankfully, we needn't have worried as they contained "Thank You" letters from schools in Doncaster and Leeds. There were also some stunning pictures of activities and people generally enjoying themselves and lots and lots of brilliant quotes, which may one day end up on our website. In the meantime, we've shared a few below and will be putting some of the best letters in pride of place on our Thank You display.

I enjoyed when you took us in the deep, dangerous dark to do nightline. It made me feel adventurous.

Sam aged 11

The meals were yummy. I was so full afterwards that I felt I couldn't handle any sweets from the tuck shop. I still ate some though.

Miles aged 8

I will never forget the place it was fantastic.

Bethany from Doncaster.

Staff News

It seems that people are constantly coming and going from the Priory. Sadly, that also sometimes includes staff members, so it was with a fond farewell that we bid goodbye to Ben (Scotland) and Sophie (Dorset) as they moved onto pastures new earlier this year.

However, it wasn't long before Katie and Johnathan arrived to begin instructing alongside Sid, James and Duncan. We also welcomed Ann and Caroline who joined our fantastic team of cooks and cleaners.



The happy couple—Ros and Phil—18th April 2009

For those of you who remember them, Ros and Phil were married at the Priory in April. The weather held and thanks to a magician, wonderful food, great company and a warm