

## Head-lines

### Happy New Year!

Welcome to another issue of Priory Press, which you should have received with our updated pricing structure for April 2007 onwards. 2006 was another busy and successful year for us and it was wonderful to welcome back some familiar faces as well as having the opportunity to meet some new ones.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO 2007** we remain constantly thankful for all your support and the coming year promises to be another exciting one. As always we have not been idle over the winter months so look out for changes to our Environmental Studies program, Orienteering sessions and the Day Walk. In addition we can now provide worksheets to accompany all of our walks which can be used as a reminder of your stay or as part of a class project. There are also a selection of new displays in the small common room and we now have a more suitable area to show off all your thank you letters.

**LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD** we have plans to develop the archery site which will involve levelling the site and using plastic matting. We would also like to redevelop and improve staff accommodation which will be a major project but will allow us to extend and relocate the equipment store and possibly expand accommodation in the main building.

## Staff News



Staff paddling trip on the River Tees.

## The Friends of Marrick Priory

The Friends of Marrick Priory raise the profile of Marrick Priory organise fundraising and contribute to the Bursary Fund. Thanks to their efforts we have improved the condition of the accommodation purchased new equipment and the Bursary Fund has allowed hundreds of children to enjoy a trip to the Priory that may otherwise have found it financially difficult.

Much of what has been achieved by the Friends in recent years was made possible due to the leadership of its chairman, Trevor Brooks. Unfortunately for us Trevor has decided to retire as chair having done a fantastic job over the years. We continue to be grateful for his help and support and wish him a restful and rewarding retirement.

The Friends are an important part of the work we do at Marrick Priory and organise fundraising events annually. If you would like to learn more about becoming a Friend or would like to attend one of their events please contact the office.

During the first half of the year Ros moved to Scotland, Jake left to pursue a career in teaching and Tom joined us from Cumbria. September saw the arrival of Sarah, who some of you may have met already. Sarah joins us from the Christian Mountain Centre in Wales.

During December we bid farewell to Andy and Shirley. Shirley had worked at the Priory for 8 years as our Housekeeper and Andy had been Deputy Head for the last 2 and a half years. Winn will be our new housekeeper we hope to welcome Andy's replacement, Mark, in the next few weeks.

We have also recently appointed a further instructor, Kathryn, which now brings the number of instructors up to four.

## Building Developments

During the winter months we always take time to prepare for the coming year. This winter has been no exception and we have been feverishly decorating ready for the first groups in January.

As you can imagine, it is a big job, demanding a lot of time and energy so we were incredibly fortunate to be joined for a day by volunteers from the Richmond Rotary Club and the Friends of Marrick Priory. Thanks to their help all of the main group spaces were painted leaving a only a few smaller rooms for the Priory staff to finish. We also received a donation from the Rotary Club members which will be used for the bursary fund.

The transformation was incredible and we are keen to make this a regular event with perhaps an additional date for outside work when the weather is warmer. So if you are able to help either with expert knowledge or as an extra set of hands please check the diary dates below and see if you are available.



## Marrick Priory In The News

Middelton Tyas CE Primary School recently enjoyed their best yet residential trip to the Priory along with pupils and staff from Hunton and Arathorne Primary School. This was the first time either school had been caving and along with good weather, it made for a very memorable trip. In fact they were so thrilled that they got in touch with local press!

John Ridley, headmaster for Middelton Tyas said, "This was one of the very best visits to Marrick Priory and the school staff enjoyed the visit as much as the children. It was so good, in fact, that we've already booked for the next two years."

The article also featured a picture which showed the group exploring Crackpot Cave with Jim and Tom.

It is wonderful to know that even groups who have visited the Priory many times can still find something new to enjoy here.

## Diary Dates

2007 promises to be a busy year with groups but we are also looking forward to the following events.

Reeth Show—Wednesday 29th August, 2007

Friends events

- Northallerton Male Voice Choir, March 10th, 2007
- Friends Open Day, July 22nd 2007
- Christmas At Marrick, TBA

If you would like more information regarding any of these dates please contact the office by email or telephone.

## Turkey and Team Building.

We are always pleased to welcome new visitors to the Priory and this year has been no exception.

In December we hosted training days for Richmond District Council and Your Move Estate Agents. The day involved team-building challenges which culminated in building a sleigh and getting Father Christmas up the climbing tower to deliver presents.



Despite terrible weather everyone had a fantastic time made all the more special by a delicious Christmas Lunch prepared on-site by our catering staff.

If you have a similar event in mind or if we can help you with a team building challenge please get in touch.

## Catering

Please feel free to phone our housekeeper, Win, to discuss any specific dietary requirements such as nut allergies, gluten free diets etc.

### Birthdays

If a member of your group is celebrating their birthday during your stay at the Priory, we are happy to provide a 'surprise' birthday cake. A little prior notice of this would be much appreciated.



## 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

Our address: Marrick Priory  
Richmond  
N. Yorkshire  
DL11 7LD

Tel & Fax: 01748 884434

Email: [office@marrickpriory.co.uk](mailto:office@marrickpriory.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.marrickpriory.co.uk>

