

Head-lines

A Belated and Happy New Year!

Welcome to another issue of Priority Press, which you should have received with our updated pricing structure for April 2008 onwards.

The last 12 months have been incredibly busy and for the first time that anyone can remember we had several groups stay with us during December and January. As well as that we had the usual winter painting and decorating to complete which had to be fitted around our commitment to provide instruction and hospitality to our visitors. Thankfully, we were able to achieve all of this due, in no small part, to the assistance of the Friends of Marrick Priory who organised another successful work party. This is becoming a regular event and one we are extremely grateful for the boost this provides in getting the building ready for the coming year.

As you may remember our last newsletter mentioned developments to the archery site, which were completed in time to be used by groups last year. This was a huge improvement and once the grass has recovered from another very wet winter we are looking forward to more sunbathed archery sessions down by the river. In addition we have also taken the next steps towards our dream of replacing the prefabricated bungalow that has been home to a succession of wardens. A fund raiser has been appointed and architects have drawn up plans that we feel will make a valuable addition to the Priory and its work.

Staff News



Welcome to James and Duncan.

The Friends of Marrick Priory

The Friends of Marrick Priory play an important role by helping to fundraise and promote the work of the staff at the Priory. Thanks to their efforts the thousands of young people who have visited the Priory over the years have benefitted from improvements to the accommodation and new equipment.

The Bursary Fund is maintained by the Friends and offers financial support to individuals or groups, in order that they can visit the Priory and enjoy the activities we offer. Due to this work many young people have been able to enjoy a trip to the Priory that they may not otherwise have had.

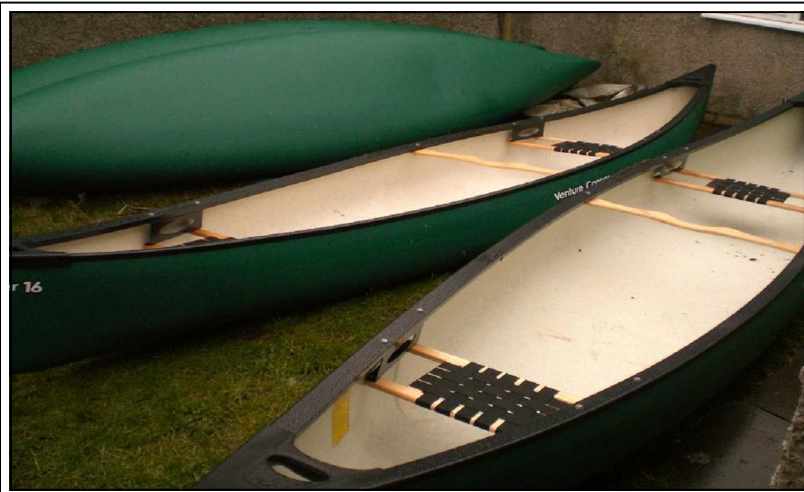
If, as a group leader, you feel that your group or individuals in your group may require help from the bursary fund please contact us for the necessary paperwork. Unfortunately we can not accept requests directly from individual parents or carers, so would ask that group leaders contact our administrator, Sandra, on their behalf.

No doubt you will be interested to know about our two new instructors, Duncan and James, who joined us at the beginning of the year.

Duncan hails from Northampton but has spent the last few years working at YMCA Lakeside in the Lake District. He enjoys rock climbing and is already making plans to climb as many of the gritstone routes in the area as the summer weather will allow.

James, comes from Leeds and has been working for Northamptonshire LEA at one of their Outdoor Activity Centres. Currently he is recovering from appendicitis but is on the mend and looking forward to exploring Yorkshire's vast network of caves and mines.

New Canoes!!!



Just prior to going to press we received a shipment of new open canoes. Dave from Endless Rivers arrived with 4 Nova Craft Rangers in tow. These are a versatile canoe, ideal for beginners and more advanced paddles. Our plan is to offer trips on the Swale, to groups of 6. This is a real opportunity to advance your canoeing skills if you have canoed on a lake or sheltered water and is a prerequisite for the several of the British Canoe Union Star Tests. We are very excited about this new development and would encourage anyone who is interested in offering your group a new challenge to get in touch with the office.

Friends of Marrick Priory—Events

Last year was a very successful year for the Friends and we welcomed them with open arms to two work days. During the warmer weather (what little there was of it) we were able to get out into the Priory garden and tidy up the flower beds, pots and hanging baskets. Nic Sheppard, the Diocescan Youth Adviser also led a small team clearing out a walled corner that we are now using as a quiet area. Also in the summer the Friends hosted a very successful open day, with plenty of refreshments available along with archery, zip wire and indoor climbing. During the winter we once again welcomed a work party of Friends to assist with the painting and decorating and for our annual social event “Christmas at Marrick “ many hardy souls braved freezing wind and rain to join us in singing carols. We really appreciate all the efforts of the Friends this year and in the past and keenly look forward to the coming year and the events they are already planning in the coming months.

Office Matters

You may have received a pink form with this copy of Priory Press. These are used by our housekeeper when planning menus. This year we have attempted to make some changes to the form to ensure that everyone who is planning to eat at the Priory during your visit receives a meal. You will now see that there is a space for you to order any additional meals that you may require for day visitors your party may have during your stay.

Office Hours

Should you need to contact the office, you may find it helpful to know that Sandra, our administrator, will be able to help you between **9am—1pm Monday to Wednesday and 9am—1pm on Fridays.**

Website Wonders

It seems that the advance of technology will never end, and no doubt like a lot of you, we are working hard to keep up. As a result we have given our website an overhaul which we hope will provide you with some useful information when planning your visit to us.

We've listened to feedback we received about our old site and have now included a downloads area, which includes copies of the majority of paperwork we frequently email out to people. We hope that this will be a help and time saver for those of you who have found it difficult to contact the office prior to your visit.

Additional sections include job vacancies a history of the Priory, and picture gallery showing the interior and groups enjoying our wide range of activities.

There is still some work to do, however, and we plan to add extra information on the activity pages as well as a more detailed history. Any suggestions welcome.

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.



Pink Forms

It would be greatly appreciated if these could be returned to the office two weeks before your stay. If after we receive the form numbers change or you discover that one of your group has a specific dietary requirement you can always contact Win via the office.

Getting in touch

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