

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF READING ABBEY
ANNUAL OUTING, WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2013
SAXON NUNNERIES IN HAMPSHIRE - ROMSEY AND WHERWELL**

This year's outing will be to two Benedictine nunneries in the Test Valley. Both are of Saxon foundation, and pre-date Reading Abbey. Romsey is still in use, as the parish church; Wherwell was comprehensively dissolved in the 16th century, and Wherwell Priory house has been built on the site. The house is in private ownership and not normally open to the public, but the Friends will be given a guided tour by the owner.

We will be making our own arrangements for transport. Drivers are encouraged to offer lifts to FORA members who cannot drive or do not have access to a car.

Price: £10 per person (including tea)

For further details and itinerary / to take part, please email Peter Durrant (peter.durrant@reading.gov.uk) and John Painter (j.g.painter@hotmail.co.uk), by Monday 7 October 2013. Payment by cheque (£10) to Peter Durrant c/o Berkshire Record Office, Coley Avenue, Reading RG1 6AF.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Members are reminded that the annual subscription falls due on 1 September and are encouraged to renew as soon as possible.

Subscription rates:

Individual: £ 5.00
Family: £ 7.50 (two members at the same address)
Life: £75.00
Society/institutional: £10.00

(There will be a proposal at the AGM to increase the individual rate to £7, family rate to £10, life rate to £105 and society rate to £15)

Several members are in arrears. The committee has agreed that anyone more than two years in arrears will be deemed to have resigned.

We Need More Members: If we are to be an effective voice in support of the Abbey we need to increase our membership. My challenge to all existing members is for each of us to recruit at least one new member during the coming year! *Peter Durrant*



**Friends
of
Reading
Abbey**

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2013

Patrons:

The Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Reading

The Right Reverend the Bishop of Reading

The MP for Reading East

The MP for Reading West

The Vice Chancellor, Reading University

President: *Brian Kemp* **Vice Presidents:** *Janet Bond* *Leslie Cram*

You are invited to the
Annual General Meeting
of the Friends of Reading Abbey

**Saturday 26th October 2013
at 2.30pm**

(doors open at 2pm)

to be held in the

Soane Space (Ground Floor)

of Reading Town Hall, Blagrove Street

(Please see the agenda within)

Following the AGM, a talk will be given by

Professor Brian Kemp

on the 14th century formulary of Reading Abbey,
recently purchased by the Berkshire Record Office.