

NEW LIFE!



From Brother Clark, Hilfield Guardian:

Spring is in full flower, and it is a good time to celebrate all that is new in our life here at Hilfield. We are delighted to have new volunteers, a wonderful group of people who make the Friary shine with joy and enthusiasm.

Living in Dorset we are much aware of the rhythms of country life. Spring is a time for planting the garden, attacking burgeoning weeds, savouring rhubarb, radishes and a tantalizing array of lettuces. We continue our conservation work, and celebrate when we hear the ever-rarer call of the cuckoo.

The real challenge to our Easter faith is the call to sing Alleluia at the grave of our friends, and this Spring we have farewelled Br. Kentigern. His battle with cancer is over, but our hearts heavy. May he rest in peace.

This update will reflect these themes in words and photos — starting with the lighting of the New Fire very early in the morning on Easter Day:



The Hilfield Community

Continuing the Franciscan witness, long-established at the Friary, the Community consists of both vowed Franciscan Brothers of the Anglican Society of St Francis and also lay community members who seek to nurture and share the Franciscan values of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Inspired by St Francis of Assisi, the Community offers hospitality to people of different faiths and no acknowledged faith and works for a more gentle and respectful care for the earth.

News of the Land



From Ali Templeton: “We are delighted that the **High Stoy Conservation Cluster** has been awarded a grant of £3k by the Dorset AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). This was a competitive process so we are really pleased. It means we can employ ecology consultants to do an assessment of the whole land area of our six-partner Cluster. Then they will make recommendations about what we can do to improve the biodiversity of the area, what grants might be available, and how we can make the best use of working in partnership together.”

Very many thanks to Ali for putting together the application for the Cluster.



On 21st May you might have seen members of the Cluster searching for evidence of the endangered **Duke of Burgundy** butterfly, led by Rachel Jones from Butterfly Conservation. We've cut back scrub along the Cluster land, creating habitat along the escarpment edge. *(Photos Russell Goff / Richard Thornbury)*

Tony is now leading our vegetable garden team, keeping to the rotation pattern of previous years, but initiating new practices such as hot composting (photo: Deborah and Tony demonstrating the process to a visitor). Basically it's a fast composting method using the copious grass cuttings mixed with carbon material (leaves, paper) 30:70. Ask him!



Two ways of being involved, and donating to our work ...

- **Adopt a sewing machine!** Our sewing machines in the Craft Room are heavily used, which is great, but their upkeep is costly—their annual service costs around £70 a year. Donations to cover this cost would be hugely appreciated, and would enable us to buy more materials etc to sew with.
- **Donate a book to the Library** Br Chris Martin (who now looks after the library) would like to add to the range of books in the library, and has created an Amazon wish list which lists the titles, and from which people can buy books to donate to the library. See: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1C7O2TEJN4LW7?ref_=wl_share

Brother Kentigern's funeral Monday 13th May

On a warm spring afternoon the Hilfield community, together with brothers from other houses and friends of Br Kentigern gathered to give thanks for his life, and to bury his body in the Friary graveyard. It was a profound and moving occasion ... the service itself ... the wide range of people present .. the welcome and hospitality ... the brilliant food and drink ... and the careful, loving, gentle, beautiful and deeply respectful way we honoured Kentigern and blessed God for who he was.

Br Benedict presided at the Funeral Mass, Br Sam and Kentigern's friend Mark, spoke about his life, and Br Clark presided at the burial. After the Mass his wickerwork coffin made by Jonathan was slowly carried from the chapel down the avenue with his Franciscan brothers following behind. After the coffin was gently lowered into the earth, the whole community helped fill in the grave. The occasion was suffused with sadness that we had lost a beloved brother



so young, but also with gratitude for the man we had known and loved, for whom The Society of St Francis was truly his home and family.

Up-coming events for the summer

A printed Programme is available in Reception, and is also on our website, and includes booking details. Some snippets for the next few months:

14th—16th June 'Dismantling notions of Otherness' Jonathan Herbert leads a weekend to find ways of challenging xenophobia and prejudice.

Sat 20th July Wild Flower Walk. Richard Thornbury guides us round the wild-flower meadows.

6th—8th Sept 'Science and the Care of Creation' led by Sir Ghillean Prance, a reflection on the science and theology behind taking better care of creation.

The Families Camp (27th July—4th Aug) and the Youth Camp 10th—18th August) both welcome new members; details and contacts on the Programme.

Comings and goings

A brief introduction to a lot of new faces in the Community! A huge welcome to all.

Lynn and Tony spent 3 years in Papua New Guinea before joining us this winter as community members. Lynn is a priest, Tony a horticulturalist.



Hee (full name Hong Kyung-hee) has returned as a full volunteer after a short visit home (South Korea) before Christmas.



Deborah had been a regular visitor before she joined us earlier this year.

Joseph is part of the St Anselm Community in Lambeth and is with us on a month's retreat. He will return to his home in Zambia in June to consider ordination.



Florin, from Switzerland, is with us as a working volunteer for a few months.

And a very big thank you to Alistair Dennis, who has now 'retired' after running Hilfield Library since 2007. He re-ordered and re-labelled the 14,000 books, put a catalogue on-line, and each week in his humble, wise and self-effacing way, patiently oversaw the borrowing system. His wife Caroline finally finished as a shop volunteer last year, after previously co-managing it with Jo for some 20 years.

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