

A Rocha Partners in Action

Hilfield Friary is part of a wonderful programme with A Rocha UK called Partners in Action. A Rocha is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world, and committed to equipping Christians to restore and care for the natural world. Partners in Action are various charities who work with A Rocha. In mutual support we work to implement conservation practices and to teach others about conservation. Sometimes this results in visits among the partners, and in March a contingent of volunteers from Ashburnam Place, a Christian retreat and conference centre in Sussex, came to Hilfield to help us in our conservation work and land improvement. They worked incredibly hard. We are very grateful for their enthusiasm and friendship.

In May the Conference of Anglican Religious Orders Novice Conference was held at Hilfield.

There were four participants, three of them Franciscans. Br. Clark led them in conversations and reflections on our vows of Obedience, Poverty and Chastity as they relate to the current climate crisis: listening to others in an interested, non-judging way and listening to nature; living simply and in solidarity with the poor—people as much as the at-risk populations of many other species, and living and acting with love that is inclusive and active.



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Visit our website: <https://www.hilfieldfriary.org.uk>

and our Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/HilfieldFriary>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/709029506134847> (our Conservation Group)

Pax et Bonum

Hilfield FRIARY



Update

Number 37

July 2023

Br. Clark Berge writes: This is the last edition of the Hilfield Update for me as Guardian. On August 26 Br. John will become the new Guardian, and on September 24 I will leave Hilfield. Initially I will join former volunteers Tony and Lynn Fry walking the Camino de Santiago a Compostela, then to the USA in late October. I will be based at San Damiano Friary in San Francisco. My plans are to go there and “wait on the Lord.” I will not be taking up any particular role in the community, but enjoying the multi-faceted pleasures of friary life in a diverse and beautiful city. I will carry with me the many things I have learned about care for the environment and hope to be able to bring these commitments into the work of the brothers in San Francisco caring for the environment, the poor, and preaching and teaching in local parishes. Six years have flown by, and I have enjoyed my time in England and the ministry as Guardian. I will be very sad to leave as much as I look forward to new adventures.

Holy Week and Easter

A spectacular fire lit up the night as we celebrated the Resurrection of Our Lord. The new fire symbolizes the light of Christ that darkness cannot overcome.

During Holy Week we were joined by 22 guests, who shared in all our liturgies as well as providing kitchen help prepping vegetables and in the scullery.

On Easter morning more people came to the cemetery for the new fire, then processed to the Chapel for the rest of the celebration. Wind threatened the Paschal flame, but we managed to get to the Chapel with the candle still burning.



Volunteers

We are looking for young people aged 18—30 who might be interested in volunteering with us for a year. This a great opportunity to deepen your Christian commitment, enjoy life in community, and to learn many new life skills that working on the land and in conservation can foster. Community life will enrich any course of study or career path in the future. Living at the heart of a Franciscan community can inspire your spiritual life—and give a close up look at what religious life is like. More information can be obtained from our website.

Insulate Hilfield

As part of our ongoing strategies to reduce our carbon foot print and use less energy, we have begun an ambitious programme of insulating our buildings. The outside south wall of the chapel is now gleaming with new rendering covering hemp bricks which are a natural insulating material. Currently there are stacks of more hemp blocks outside the library Guest Common Room, which is the next building to be insulated.



**INSULATE
BRITAIN**

Shop Access

We have wheel chair accessibility to Refectory, Recreation Room, Chapel and some guest rooms, now we are very happy to have a ramp that provides easy access to the Reception and Shop. It was built by men with Community Service who come to the Friary every other Saturday.



Pray as you can, not as you can't!

Br. Clark led a weekend prayer retreat. With 16 participants, he led them in reflections on preparing to pray, intercessory prayer, using various “aids to devotion” with a close examination of Bellini’s St. Francis in Ecstasy, and some final reflections on how prayer and religion can bind us together.

Hilfield Events

From 21st to 23rd April the Friary hosted a Garden Weekend. Community member Mike Secker led the programme; participants learned about composting, Franciscan Spirituality and sustainable living! There were plenty of opportunities to get their hands in the soil!

Lindy Cameron has been hosting stone carving events—weekends and day events for people learning to carve stone. These have proved incredibly popular with many repeat participants.

In order to provide a place to work during inclement weather, Jonathan Herbert constructed a beautiful stone carving atelier outside the craft room. People can now carve stone out of the rain!



This Spring Suzi Herbert ran a Craft Week and monthly Craft Days on the last Wednesday of each month. All are welcome, contact Suzi if you are interested.

May Day 2023

On May Day 2023 Br. Hugh and volunteer Ellie Stephenson got up at the crack of dawn to attend the hilltop celebration of May Day. The Cerne Giant was in all his glory, and Morris Dancers led the dancing.



This Spring we have completed our tree planting project and planting and mulching our new hedge. You can see the new hedge bordering Hundred Oak field, Stenhouse and White Way fields. These initiatives are supported by Natural England, and are part of our work to provide biodiversity and encourage a thriving ecosystem.

