

Newsletter July 2023

FRIENDS OF
BRIDE'S MOUND



c/o The Old Clinic, 10 St. John's Square, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9LJ
Email: friendsofbridesnew@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you well, we all send warm wishes from Glastonbury, and hope you enjoy this latest news from Bride's Mound. First of all we have some wonderful news to share...

Land purchase loan paid off! But our work together continues...

Thanks to the generosity of our many Friends we have now paid back the bank loan which enabled us to buy the Friends of Bride's Mound fields adjacent to the Bride's Mound Chapel field (which is owned by Somerset County Council). We bought the land 18 years ago for £82,000 so this is a real achievement: thank you so much to everyone who has helped to make this happen!



Thank you also to all the wonderful Glastonbury Festival stewards whose work over many years has also made a big contribution to paying off the loan, as well as to everyone who has been involved in the sales of the Richard Whiting booklets, the Swan Circle books, and thanks also to Adam Stout for giving us copies of his The Glastonbury Holy Thorn book to sell.

Our work, of course, continues. Our wonderful and tireless Land Manager, Miranda, continues to look after the land, increasingly focusing on our original goal of a nature reserve, and the entire committee works hard to keep the local community and visitors aware of, and connected with, this sacred site that we all love so much.

We invite you to continue, or to begin, your Friendship of Bride's Mound (find out more on our website) firstly so we can repay the kind people who made a relatively modest interest free loan to pay off the last of the bank loan, saving us from escalating interest payments. And also to enable us to continue to manage the land with work such as essential hedge and tree maintenance, and also other essential costs of looking after land such as insurance.

As well as your financial help, the steady support of the many people who have remained Friends over the years is wonderful evidence of the love that both locals and visitors have for Bride's Mound. The number of Friends is just the sort of statistic that councils and other such organisations take into account when deciding whether or not to support our work.

The Friends of Bride's Mound is, and will always remain, a not for profit organisation (it is legally constituted that way) so you can be sure that all Friendship fees go to looking after the land, and nothing else.

Friendships

If you haven't already done so this year, we warmly invite you to renew your friendship now (if you don't already pay your contribution with a standing order).

To renew your friendship via Paypal, or to download a membership form to renew by post, please visit our website here: <https://www.friendsofbridesmound.com/friends.html>

If you set up a new standing order can you please e-mail us (friendsofbridesnew@yahoo.co.uk) so that we know your details and can send you newsletters.



Joanne, Friendship Secretary

Town Deal Fund - Brides Mound Centre

We have both some good news, and some somewhat frustrating news, about the Bride's Mound Roundhouse building plans.



The good news is that we are working with a not-for-profit social enterprise who have offered to take on the management of the roundhouse once it is built: this was a key requirement of the Town Deal Fund. They are the “Power of Doing” CIC, and are local people who help run the Glastonbury Experience and the Goddess Hall. We have been assured by them that our non-denominational attitude, which welcomes all people of whatever faith, belief, religion or sect, will be maintained.

Our less positive news is that we are still waiting for the grant money from the Town Deal Fund to buy the small portion of land just south of the orchard and Brides Mound chapel field for the roundhouse construction. We signed the contract and Grant funding Agreement in March, but partly owing to the formation of the Unitary Somerset Council we are still waiting for the money. The plans for the roundhouse are now more or less in their final form ready to be sent in for planning application. There have been a host of surveys such as Flood Risk assessment, Land Contamination survey, etc etc that are required for planning approval. The bureaucracy is never-ending and there seems to be no end to the fees and charges demanded by the countless professionals involved.

Hopefully, by the next newsletter this blockage re the land purchase will have been overcome and there will be good news to report re planning application, tenders for a company to build the roundhouse, and other positive action.

Serena, Secretary

Land Management update

It will be a while before there is much progress with regards to the wilding of the land. But then time moves so quickly these days and part of the wilding will be to just leave certain areas alone and nature has a way of taking over pretty quickly.



I had a productive meeting with Simon Clarke, head of nature recovery with the Wildlife Trust. Really to get to know each other better and to establish that we are on the same page in terms of how the relationship with the Wildlife Trust and FOBM will progress.

They will be very helpful in an advisory role. I can see that as we draw up the plans for the future there will be many questions about the feasibility and appropriateness of ideas, how to carry them out and how to maintain them in the future and their experience will be very appreciated. They will also assist us in creating volunteer opportunities.

We will still be relying on your Friendship contributions and fundraising to finance any major initial outlays. I hope you find this next step as inspiring and exciting as we do.

Miranda, Land Manager

