



**THE FRIENDS OF ANNE OF CLEVES' HOUSE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017**

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your support for Anne of Cleves' House over the past year.

It is time now to renew your membership so it would be helpful if you could complete the enclosed form as soon as possible and return it to Mike Piller at Anne of Cleves House. If you would like to pay by standing order, please fill out the little section on the form. Your membership is very greatly valued and helps to support this important and delightful property.

If you are able to add Gift Aid to your subscription (which adds an extra 25% from HMRC) please could you complete the declaration for this, even if you have already signed up in the past, so that we can keep our records up to date.

**Thank you to the Committee and Members**

I have just completed my third year as Chairman of the Friends and cannot thank everyone enough for their support. My good friends on the Committee have been particularly helpful.

Our Hon Treasurer, Jane Rimmington has, once again, kept impeccable records despite being very busy with the day job.

Mike Piller continues to be a superb Membership Secretary and a great support with publicity for the Friends - and he looks forward to receiving your subscription for the coming year.

Peter Fellows has, as ever, contributed a great deal, helping with the maintenance at the house, assisting at events and generally coming up with good ideas. Lin Pilfold's help on Committee has been much appreciated and Peter Dehn has, of course, continued to run the bar with his usual commitment and enthusiasm.

Sue Hamilton has, once again, worked very hard all year keeping the garden looking beautiful and supporting the Friends at our events.

Huge thanks also to Brian Cramp who has very kindly audited our accounts, to all the other volunteers who quietly help behind the scenes all year round and, of course, to Isobel Roberts, Martin Pett and their colleagues at Sussex Past who have been so helpful to us - way beyond the call of duty.

**Events and fundraising**

We have enjoyed some particularly successful fundraising events this year - from fascinating history talks to musical evenings - many of them attended by the Mayor

of Lewes. Several of these events were sold out as we are, unfortunately, limited in the number of people we can accommodate.

With your help therefore, we have now be able to transfer significant funds over to Sussex Past for major projects to benefit Anne of Cleves' House as well as the usual day-to-day purchases such as firewood.

### **Visits to other Friends' groups**

In May, at the invitation of the Friends of Michelham Priory, several members of the Committee attended an annual lunch in the Great Barn and a tour of the lovely gardens with the Head Gardener. I was a beautiful day and we learned a great deal about the sustainable development of the grounds as well as enjoying a lovely lunch in excellent company. Michelham Priory is a lovely property and well worth repeated visits.

Anne of Cleves' House committee extends an ongoing reciprocal invitation to friends of other organisations to visit our lovely house and museum.

### **Sad News**

In May this year we lost two long standing members of the Friends: Christine Gray who, though not having been able to attend recently, was a member of the Friends in past years. Another valued member, Audrey Mardon, also sadly died after a short illness.

I am also very sad indeed to report the death in August of Averil Garritt, a long-standing Committee member and wonderful past Treasurer. Many of you will have known Averil well and appreciated her hard work, attention to detail, her charm and her wonderful sense of humour. We will miss Averil, Christine and Audrey very much indeed.

With warmest thanks again to our esteemed Patron Lord Renton for his continued support, and to all the other Friends for their help and friendship over the past year I look forward to welcoming you to future events at Anne of Cleves' House.

With very best wishes,

Anna Crabtree