

Quarr Abbey Chronicle

Recent events in the life of the abbey

Sept. 10-15. Br. Duncan held an exhibition of his paintings and drawings in Quarr Abbey Art Gallery this week.



He shared the venue with John Bateson-Hill, a regular visitor to the Guesthouse and a fine pastel painter and watercolourist. 750 visitors passed through the Gallery in the course of the week and both artists were pleased with the sales they made- a number of paintings sold and the cards flew from the rack. But, perhaps even more gratifying was the interest shown in their work by appreciative visitors. Many noted the differences between the strong and vibrant colours of John's flower pieces and interiors, and Br. Duncan's much more muted palette chosen for landscape studies. Examples of the work of both artists can be seen online at www.quarrabbey.co.uk under the tab views of quarr and at www.johnbatesonpaintings.co.uk

Sept19-20 This weekend the community hosted an **international seminar on the life and work of Jacques and Raissa Maritain.**Fr. Luke gives a full presentation of the talks on pages 3-4.

Our singing teacher, **Linda Filby-Borrett**, has recorded and released a new C.D. of Christmas music, sung by her choir, *Voices of the Isle of Wight* together with a number of the community. Two recording sessions were held in the Abbey Church and the results combined with the best tracks of C.D.s Linda had recorded in the past. "An Island Christmas", featuring *The Voices of the Isle of Wight* is now on sale for £10 from the monastery shop and from the teashop at Quarr.

As well as traditional carols, the C.D. presents late medieval Christmas songs such as "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" and "Gaudete", classical works by Handel and Mozart, romantic arrangements such as "O Holy Night" by Adolphe Adam and "The Three Kings" by Peter Cornelius, as well as modern carols from John Rutter, Margaret Rizza and others. The C.D. stands out, not only for its good choral singing, but also for the excellence of some very fine soloists, some of whom have just started a professional career as singers. This is an excellent Christmas gift and any C.D. bought at the monastery will contribute to supporting the Abbey at Quarr.

Oct. 9-10. This weekend we received a visit from “Les Fauristes” chamber choir, the French Choir of London which sings regularly at the French Church in Leicester Square. Under their musical director Blandine de Raulins they gave a concert of sacred music in the Abbey Church on the Saturday evening. The first half of the concert was devoted to French motets by the nineteenth century composers, Saint-Saens, Franck, and Fauré, while the second half was given over to the main piece of the evening, Faure’s *Requiem*. Judith Charron was the soprano soloist for the *Requiem* and she sang a moving and memorable “Pie Iesu”. It was all sensitively accompanied on the digital organ by our good friend and our titular organist Hamish Dustagheer. The Church was packed full and the prolonged applause at the end was testimony to the talents of this fine choir. On the Sunday the choir joined the community for Mass and sang the “Ave Verum” by Saint-Saens for a Communion Chant .We much look forward to a second visit from “Les Fauristes” in the not too distant future.

Oct.31. Today the community was delighted to welcome Kevin into our novitiate for the start of his postulancy. This lasts one year and- if all goes well- leads into the novitiate proper which lasts a further twelve months. The postulant and the novice lives with the community and shares in the full round of daily prayer, reading and work which makes up the monastic life. He receives regular instruction on the Rule, on the Liturgy, on monastic history and in monastic studies generally. Please pray for Kevin and for further vocations for our monastery.

Awards

The abbey and those associated with it have recently won a number of awards. The Abbey was delighted to receive a **Certificate of Merit** from the Isle of Wight Society . This was given for the conservation work done on the walls of the medieval abbey and on the old barn built from the ruins of the west wing of the monastery. The architect, Oxley Conservation and the builders Stoneham Construction were given credit for the work. The National Farmers Union presented it with its **Conservation Award** (2015). The Abbey Gardens were ‘highly commended’ by ‘Ryde in Bloom’. The bee-master and apiarists won two second-place awards for the quality of Quarr honey. And Andrew Williams, apprentice in the Gardens and Grounds department at Quarr Abbey, has won an award for 'Outstanding Achievements.' [DS]

THE FRIENDS OF QUARR.

The Friends of Quarr have now raised £17,500 towards *The Walled Garden Project*. Calendars of "Quarr through the Seasons" (£10 each), continue to sell well and can be bought from the monastery shop and Teashop. We would like to thank all the people that have supported the Friends this year by attending our events and donating so generously to our current project in the Abbey.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year .

Please contact the chairman: Dr Rebecca Ashton, for any information regarding the Friends: chair.friends@quarr.org. or telephone 01988 882420 ext 209. [RA]