

A Seasonal Message from your Chairman

As we approach Christmas once again, I have a major report to make regarding the constitution of “the Friends”.

While we all get older, almost imperceptibly, it comes as a bit of a shock when we realise that we cannot continue to do things the way we always seem to have done. So something needs to be done to make it easier in the long term to keep alive our above mission statement and make strenuous efforts to ensure the Castle’s repair and improvement.

The Committee took a long hard look at ways forward and came to the conclusion that “the Friends” needed a different constitution - indeed, a formal, legal one. We, therefore, put it to the members at a meeting in October to make a decision on the proposition to form a company limited by guarantee to convert the current membership into ‘guarantor’ of the new company. Those at that meeting voted in favour and on 4th November the new company was formed. The organisation is now known as ‘FRIENDS OF DUDLEY CASTLE LIMITED’.

Once we have the membership conversion process completed (and all existing members will be sent a new application form to complete to comply with this requirement) we plan to apply to the Charity Commission for registration as a charity. If successful that would put us in a stronger position to seek funding and assist the repair process for the Castle and future enhancement of the visitor experience. All of this will, of course, be done in conjunction with both the local authority and the Zoo.

In order for the first stages to happen, we have had to create a revised membership application form and this can now be found, to download, elsewhere on the ‘Friends’ page of this website.

This is a really exciting time for “the Friends” and we are hoping for further help from any potential new member that would like to come on this journey with us and assist in the definition of enhancements that could possibly be put in place within the Castle environs.

I would personally like to wish all our members and readers a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year for 2020 – our year of progress.

Graham Griffiths – Chairman, Friends of Dudley Castle Limited
December 2019