

A Royal Occasion



The Earl and Countess of Wessex paid a private visit to the thousand years old Milton Abbey on Friday, 2nd May. The visit was attended by the Lord Lieutenant, the Chairman and Chief Executive of North Dorset District Council and a small group of invited guests. The visit started with a description by the eminent landscape historian, John Phibbs, pictured below, of the outstanding landscape park designed by Capability Brown, considered to be one of his best schemes in the whole country.



This was followed by an explanation of the history of the Abbey by the Archdeacon for Dorset, Stephen Waine. Milton Abbey is steeped in history reaching back to the very beginnings of the English Kingdom. Founded by King Athelstan, the first King of All England, in 933, it was initially a Benedictine monastery, until after the Reformation it passed into private hands for 400 years. In the 18th century it became part of a grand scheme of Lord Milton, including a lavish Gothic mansion and the Capability Brown park. Since 1932 it has been owned by the Diocese of Salisbury.

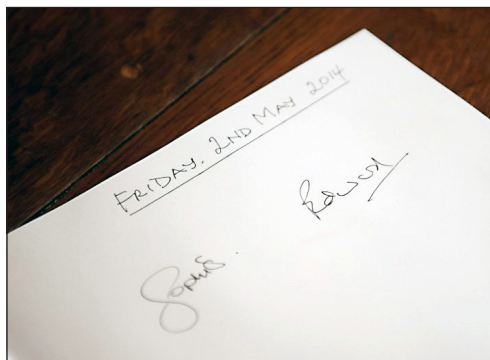




Architect Marcus Chantrey described the programme of works planned for the building.



Tom Roberts outlined plans for a range of future activities



This Summer will see a temporary Pugin exhibition and historical interpretation displays in July and August, in addition to the International Music Festival which will take place from 28th July to 3rd August. The Abbey is open daily from 9.30am to 5pm.

A new website has been created : miltonabbey.org

This Bulletin insert is sponsored by a private donor.

photography by Daniel Rushall, Antony Shearn & Peter Chafer