

NEWSLETTER

Summer/Autumn 2018

'Need for help never greater' says Chairman Ron Eyley

Seldom, if ever, in the long history of the Friends of St Edmund's - we shall be 20 next year - has our work been so important in terms of safeguarding the future of our much-loved church.

Two serious thefts of lead from the south transept roof have left the church authorities with a £30,000 repair bill.

An appeal is already under way and the Friends have pledged their on-going support for the repair project.

Three recent mishaps by members of the congregation on the steps from the crossing into the main body of the church have spotlighted the need for urgent action to improve safety.

One answer may well be to level the area with a special mobile wooden flooring system. It will be costly but there will be long-term benefits by enabling greater use to be made of the area for concerts and public performances.

A suggestion will be put to the Church Council at its next meeting together with an offer by the Friends to fund most, if not all, of the necessary work.

Plans are also in hand to start work on repointing exterior stonework - another expensive repair.

Fortunately, we have received a lot of support from well-wishers in and around the town and are in a position to help meet costs but our balances will be severely depleted and on-going fund-raising will be essential.

The need for help has never been greater and your on-going support will be vital if we are to preserve the church for the generations to come. Thank you for all you have done so far. **RE**



'Foolish tales' link to skeletons mystery

The mystery of the shrouded brass skeletons now hanging on the north aisle wall of St Edmund's Church may have been solved – at least in part.

Recent investigation of an old filing cabinet in the vestry uncovered a document which identifies the skeletons - one male and one female - as brasses of the Hoton family of Hardwick whose remains were interred in the north transept (along with those of the Freville family) when it was the chantry of St Catherine.

'Not uncommon'

A history of the Parish of Sedgefield published in 1823 maintains that "representations of this nature are by no means uncommon" and adds: "The least degree of reflection would have shown that the figure alluded to which has created an unnecessary perplexity with several curious persons and given rise to foolish tales of vergers and sextons was nothing more than a striking exemplification of the change of condition made by death". Churchwarden Brian Mutch, who discovered the brass history reference, said this week: "It would be most interesting to hear what these foolish tales involving vergers and sextons were all about."



Catching up . . .

Since our last newsletter there has been a lot of good news stories and one not so good news story.

Starting with the not so good news: the lead on the North Transept roof was partially stolen in December leaving the church with a colossal replacement bill of around £30,000.

Obviously, the Friends have to help the church council overcome this problem, so we agreed in the first instance to fund the architect's fees to the value of £2500-£3000 so that work could commence in deciding what was to be put back on the roof as a replacement for the lead.

Pie and peas

In March, we held our always popular quiz, with pies and peas, making the tickets a little more expensive than usual, in order to contribute to the Church Roof Appeal. It was a great success and we were delighted to be able to contribute a further £500 to the 'Raise the Roof' fund.

It is always the aim of the Friends to arrange a programme that combines fund-raising with social activities and this year has been no exception.

Kiplin Hall

In July, we paid a visit to Kiplin Hall near Catterick, a delightful Jacobean hall with beautiful gardens. We were treated to refreshments on arrival, a private and comprehensive tour of the house and then a delicious lunch.

Continued overleaf

GDPR and The Friends – all you need to know

By Nigel Clegg

Members of the Friends cannot have helped but notice the recent furore about the new General Data Protection Regulation Act or GDPR as it is better known. Put simply, the GDPR harmonises data protection legislation across Europe, and despite the hype it actually contains some sensible rules to protect our data and identity.

Despite being a small organisation, the Friends of St Edmund's group is nevertheless bound by the provisions of the Act. More importantly, the Friends must have a clear data protection policy and must abide by it. In the interests of clarity this is set out below.

1. The Friends must appoint a Data Protection Manager to whom all queries concerning personal data should be directed. Our Data Protection Manager is Mr Brian Mutch, who is also our Membership Secretary (01740 622302)
2. The Friends will only collect and store such personal information as is reasonably required for the purposes of running the charity. This includes names and addresses needed to reclaim tax on Gift Aided donations and bank account details to set up Standing Orders. The Friends will only collect data provided by members. We do not and will not collect data from outside organisations or credit agencies.
3. The Friends will not share personal information with any other organisation or individual.
4. Email communications such as newsletters will be sent in such a way that members do not see other members' email addresses (using the Blind Carbon Copy or BCC function).
5. All member data must be held securely. Computer data must be password-protected and where possible encrypted.
6. Personal data relating to lapsed and deceased members will be deleted within a reasonable period once any outstanding Gift Aid claims have been completed.
7. All personal data with the exception of financial transaction records will be deleted within twenty-one (21) days of a written request being received to delete it.
8. Data Subject Access Request (DSAR): By law, members may request copies of all data held on their accounts including details of membership payments. Such data will be provided in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Please note that payments for Friends' merchandise are not usually recorded individually. **NC**

Your officers

Chairman: Ron Eyley
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Secretary: Alison Hodgson
(01740 620912)

Treasurer: Nigel Clegg
(01740 629030)

Membership Secretary and Data Protection Manager:
Brian Mutch (01740 622302)

Web manager:
Christine Mutch (01740 622302)

Committee:
Anne Eyley, Trevor Terry,
Jimmy Seymour, Jonathan
Clegg and Kevan Stevens

More information about the work of the Friends is available on our website at friendsofstedmunds.org

Catching up contd: Our next trip is to Chillingham Castle in Northumberland on September 18th. The price of £45 covers coach travel, refreshments on arrival, a guided tour of the Castle, a cooked lunch, time in the gardens and then a minibus trip to see the famous Chillingham White Cattle. At the time of writing there are still a few places left and anyone interested should contact either Alison Hodgson (620912) or Brian Mutch (622302).

We are now in the process of planning two more trips for 2019, which, incidentally, will be our twentieth year as a group. Celebrations in recognition of this achievement will be held in November 2019

The Friends have always excelled with their merchandise and this year is no exception. We started the year with the sale of our 2017 Christmas cards which did exceedingly well.

We are now in the process of choosing our card for this year. Our range of "Pickled Parson" merchandise has been expanded to include items such as mugs, key rings, fridge magnets, a mug with coaster showing the church in all its glory, with accompanying key rings, fridge magnets and note pads, Our full range can be seen on the Friends' website, along with all our activities at friendsofstedmunds.org

At this year's Sedgefield Show we had, for the first time, a stall to promote our range of merchandise and a new venture – the design and printing of a Sedgefield calendar featuring scenes of the area taken by local photographers. Copies can be obtained from any committee member.

Alison Hodgson and Brian Mutch