

April 2009

BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral

BUSINESS GUILD DINNER REPORT

On 19th February we held our second Business Guild networking dinner in the Crypt, hosted by our Patron, The Rt Hon the Lord Astor of Hever, the Chairman, John A Spence OBE DL, and the Dean, the Very Rev'd Adrian Newman. We were delighted that the Bishop of Rochester, The Rt Rev'd Michael Nazir-Ali was able to join us and delivered a very interesting, and appropriate to the times, after dinner speech.

The objective of the Business Guild, apart from fund raising, is to facilitate networking between local businesses and we have received very positive feedback from some of the guests at the dinner that successful business contacts were made. This will be an annual event along with various other networking gatherings during the year. If you would like to have more information on the Business Guild please contact the Development Office.






The Rt Rev'd Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you would like to be involved in planning and running events we would be thrilled to have your help. Please contact the development office for more information.

DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

18th April 2009 7.00pm	QUIZ NIGHT: Our Trustee, Diana Paul is arranging a Quiz night at the Kippington Hall in Severnoaks at 7pm on Saturday 18 April 2009. If you would like to go along or can organise a team of 8, please call her on 01959 563617 for further details.	
16th May 2009 7.30pm	Kent Police Male Voice Choir in Concert with Dan Soper (Organ): We are delighted to host a performance of this choir in the Cathedral Nave at 7.30pm. Further details to follow.	
4th November 2009	Felicity Lott Masterclass & Concert: We are very proud to present a concert of the renowned Felicity Lott who will present a recital and a Masterclass which will give 4 very lucky scholars from the Diocese the opportunity to sing with her on stage. Local schools will be invited to nominate their candidates during the Summer. Tickets will be available to attend the concert with intermission drinks, plus there will be an opportunity to buy tickets to a Silver Service Dinner in the Crypt with Felicity Lott after the performance. More information to follow.	

Other events being planned are another Marquee event in Kings Orchard in the Summer; a second Rochester Remembers book signing event in the cathedral, a celebrity guest has been approached to join us – more news soon.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our fund raising events. Please contact Lynne in the Development Office (01634 810074) if you have some spare time and would like to be involved.

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NEWSLETTER DESIGN: Our sincere thanks go to Billie Woolton of innov8 graphic design for the very generous offer of her expertise with the Beacon layout. For your design needs, please visit www.innov8ed.com



Flower Fest 2010



We are looking into the feasibility of holding a major fund raising event by way of a Flower Festival in the Cathedral in Spring 2010. This would be as part of the Sweeps Festival celebrations and done in partnership with Medway Council. If we can confirm enough sponsorship, we will be thrilled to go forward with this event.

CRUNCH

Despite the gloomy economic outlook, over the coming months we will see various projects emerging into the light of day at the Cathedral. The new glass doors at the West and North entrances will arrive, along with a new Reception Desk, audio guides, guidebooks, and leaflets. New volunteers will be around to help (we currently have 24 new people who will be joining the team of Welcomers as the new arrangements for visitors get under way). With a fair wind we should begin the repairs to the Treasury Roof in the Summer, and preparatory work will be progressing on the refurbishment of the Cathedral toilets, including the provision of a disabled toilet. In the next edition of the Beacon I hope to be able to confirm that we will move ahead with the replacement of the chairs in the Nave over August. And then there is the provision of disabled access to the Crypt and the Garth, which is now programmed to follow behind all of the other work in 2010.

The fact that all of this is happening against the background of financial crisis and economic recession, is remarkable. It is due in no small part to the momentum that so many individuals and groups within the Cathedral have generated through their continued support.

As the recession bites and the value of investments for Truss and Foundations falls, many charities are finding it harder and harder to raise the funds necessary to carry out their work. Rochester Cathedral is no different, but thanks to your efforts we will continue to see a lot of activity over the next year. Please continue to support us – you are achieving remarkable results!

Adrian Newman

Jools Holland CD news



It won't be long now before we receive the stock of the 10 track CD recorded at the Jools Holland concert held here and at Wells Cathedral during 2007.

It will retail at £12.99 per CD and we hope to receive stock by the Summer. More news to follow.

FUND RAISING TOTAL THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE:

£187,384.40

PLEASE HELP US AND DONATE NOW

By phoning 01634 810074 or go to: www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust

GOLF DAY REPORT BACK

Rochester Cathedral held its first Charity Golf Day at Hever Castle Golf Club on 21st March.

Lord Astor of Hever joined us to see everybody off on the first tee after delicious bacon rolls and coffee! We were very pleased to have Mr Sandy Call CBE heading up one of our teams. Our thanks go also to our brilliant local supporters, mhs homes, Lyons Electrical, Ward Security, GEP Safety Consultants, The Brice family, Nigel Wheeler and his High Sheriff team, and our Trustee, the Hon Mrs Clare Denison-Pender and her teams. Our congratulations to the Kentish Cavaliers on winning the day!

We received £6,500 in entry fees and donations for the day.

Special thanks to P & O Ferries, one of our raffle prize sponsors who very kindly donated a 5 day Channel crossing. This prize was facilitated by the KM Community Chest scheme.



Adrian Newman, Lord Astor of Hever (Chairman) and Nigel Wheeler (High Sheriff's team)



Sandy Gall, Lord Astor, Tony Montuui

MURDER MYSTERY

We all had a great night recently exercising our sleuthing skills, and were entertained by some of Chapter and Cathedral staff while they took part in Helen Bradshaw's "First Lesson – Murder!" Our grateful thanks go to Helen for very generously giving us her script and time for this event.



From left: Scott Farrell, Liz Simmons (seated) Catherine Staziker, Jean Kerr

Full cast from left: Colin Tolhurst; Catherine Staziker; John Bradshaw; Liz Simmons; Jean Kerr; Scott Farrell; Adrian Newman

Thank you so much to Helen Bannister for supplying all the food for the evening. We raised £668 in ticket and raffle sales. Special thanks to Derek and Tina Clark for their "Forensic " greeting at the door!

Ancient Stones Untold Stories

Rochester Cathedral Interpretation Project

Interpretation Project Update



We are now well and truly into the developmental phase of the project as each of the individual strands come in. We are aiming for a 'soft' launch in early June so that our Welcomers can become familiar with the new technology and so that we can hone and refine the fine detail of the plan in practice! We would then aim for a bigger launch in the autumn.

Graphic Design

Once the new words for the leaflets and Guide book were seen and approved by Chapter, the Steering Committee and our groups of consultant Guides went to the Graphic Designer. New photographs were taken earlier in the year and now the first draft layouts for each page have arrived and are being commented on by Chapter. So far it is looking to be a beautifully lively and engaging guidebook which really brings the Cathedral to life for the reader.

We have had a sample Interpretation Panel put together and experimented with it at various parts of the Cathedral at different times of day. The glass design cleverly conveys information without intruding on the peace of the building.

Tests have been taken to account for the varying light levels and the effect this may have on the visibility of the text. Each panel will carry an image to illustrate its text.

Audio Guide and Audio Visual

We are delighted that Jools Holland agreed to give us some of his time to narrate our general tour. This has been recorded and the first cut has been reviewed by Chapter, consultant guides, and members of Cathedral staff. All comments were collated and fed back and a second version is due later this month.

There will be opportunities for Cathedral Volunteers to review the audio guide before the soft launch – details to follow.

The Family Tour script has been signed off and is in production. We are hoping for a first cut to be available for Chapter review later in April.

Scripts for the Audio Visuals have been reviewed by Chapter. These proposals are now being refined by the writer and it is hoped that production can begin after Easter.

Glazed Porches

You may have seen the scaffolding at both doors which will tell you that work has begun! The contractor is a firm called Barwicks and we hope that the doors will be in place by the time of our soft launch in June.

Reception Desk

The final tender drawings are being put together and will be presented to the Fabric Advisory Committee. The work will go to tender and we are hoping that the reception desk will be in by the end of May so that the new equipment can be installed.

Volunteering

The Open Day in February attracted a good number of people, from within the local area but also more widely within the Diocese. People were enthusiastic about becoming a part of the Volunteering team and interviews have been held. We are hoping to have at least twenty new people start when the project is soft launched in June.

These new recruits will need a more structured induction. To this end Focus group sessions were held in early April with the current Welcomers and Guides. These sessions have provided incredibly valuable information regarding what Welcoming is about, what makes a good Welcomer and what the new Welcomers may need in terms of induction. We learnt what the challenges of Welcoming are and looked at what life skills and attributes make a good Welcomer or guide which was all very helpful for the recruitment process! My thanks go to all who attended for giving up your time and for the individual contributions you made to the sessions.

Annie Harvey – Interpretation Manager

PLEASE NOTE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IS 01634 810074