

BEACON

The regular newsletter of the
Rochester Cathedral Campaign
April /May 2007



FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

I was recently asked along to Oxford as one of 10 people consulted by the Heritage Lottery Fund about the future direction of HLF. It is becoming increasingly clear that heritage plays a significant part in helping to give a 'sense of place' to communities. It is about history, roots, and identity, and as such it's not only of interest to tourism departments but also to those of us who believe that social regeneration must go hand in hand with physical regeneration.

We will be putting together a major application to HLF over the next few months, based around the need for our wonderful cathedral to 'tell its story' better to those who visit it, as a result of a major Interpretation Plan which I have been trying to present to as many people as possible recently. The wheels of HLF turn slowly – we hope to have the application in by September, but the assessment process takes 6 months, so we won't hear anything until March of next year. I'll try to keep you informed about this important development as it takes shape.

Adrian Newman

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In Memoriam

The Campaign Office would like to offer their condolences on the passing of Ray Kitson and thank all those who made a contribution to our Music Campaign in his memory.



Etching by Elizabeth Mallinson

CAMPAIGN TOTAL TODATE
£ 2,330,391.02

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

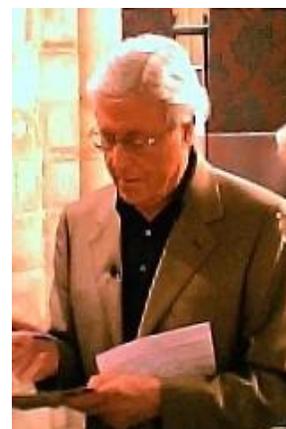


We were so fortunate that it was a beautiful day to stand in a queue! It stretched from the Great West Doors as far as Crow Lane at one time with a six and a half hour wait. Despite this I didn't hear any

complaining, and I think most people enjoyed the day.

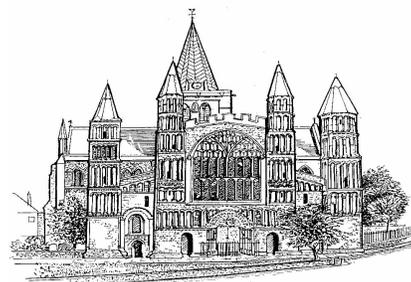
The BBC were very pleased with how the day went and we got some super coverage in the local papers and radio.

As far as discoveries were concerned A valuable teddy bear turned up and a painting by Munnings that was valued at between



£20,000 and £30,000.

It was a very long day with the last valuation being done at 8 o'clock that night. The experts did promise to see everyone, and they did. Thank you to all the stewards, volunteers and staff for all their help on the day. There were a lot of sore feet by home time!



A High-Level Thank You!

The **Friends** of Rochester Cathedral have dipped even further into their pockets to provide money for a 'cherry-picker' to allow the vergers to do some of the vital high-level maintenance in the cathedral more easily.

Colin Tolhurst has identified the best piece of kit for our needs, which is soon to be road-tested in the cathedral.

VISITOR AND EDUCATION FACILITIES

One primary aim of our fundraising has been to provide facilities worthy of the high quality of our education work, and to improve our facilities for visitors. We intend to provide the improvements for visitors through implementing the Interpretation Plan (see 'from the Dean's Desk') and we will be approaching the Heritage Lottery Fund to support this. The cathedral has also been pioneering a group that pulls together all the major heritage asset holders in Rochester – called the Rochester Heritage Interpretation Partnership, this group commissioned a wide-ranging report from consultants ABL, which makes some significant recommendations for all of us in Rochester. One option is to enhance the role of the present Visitor Information Centre to incorporate exhibition and educational facilities for visitors - this will be subject to the approval of the Council following further feasibility work, but it makes eminent sense to partner with others in this vital work, while still retaining the cathedral's distinctive contribution to Rochester, Medway and North Kent. Watch this space for more details. It's good to know that we're making progress towards our goal of providing top notch facilities for visitors and schools alike.

JOOLS HOLLAND CONCERT More news

What an amazing concert! A big thank you to Jools Holland for such fantastic music, for involving the cathedral choirs, for covering the costs of the concert and giving us £2,000 out of the ticket sales. Following the concert we have received further gifts of over £20,000. Some people have asked about a CD. I have been in touch with Jools Holland's management and have been advised that as Jools is already releasing a new CD this year, and production costs being so high, the "Best of Two Cathedrals" would only be put into production in 2008/2009. We will keep you informed.



WOMENS HYDRO ACTIVE HYDE PARK RUN/WALK

Entry forms for this sponsored walk/run are available from the Campaign Office at Garth House. If we get enough interest, perhaps we can hire a bus to transport us all instead of catching the train!!!

REPORT BACK....

Jill Lovell's sponsored swim has raised £3,300 to be divided between the Cathedral Disability Access project and Medway Council for specialised gym equipment. Fantastic achievement!

Mary Woodfield has reported that the Ramblers Society have raised over £800 from their walk in London.

On behalf of the Campaign team, thank you to all concerned for your generosity and hard work.

The Ramblers Society

THE CHEVENING ESTATE

Recently the Lord Lieutenant, Mr Allan Willett, and The Dean hosted a very exclusive evening at the Chevening Estate in Sevenoaks. A small group of people were invited to a very special dinner and Colonel Richard Brook conducted a very interesting tour of the house as part of our fund raising effort.

Feedback was very good at the event and we have several positive leads to follow up.



UPCOMING EVENT.....

Owen & Mary Woodfield are very kindly hosting a Scrabble and Supper Evening at their home in Rochester on the evening of Friday 22nd June.

There are only 40 places available so if you would like a ticket, please phone 01634 843127 to make sure you don't miss out!

www.rochestercathedral.org

Email: campaign@rochestercathedral.org

OLD ENGLAND XI CHARITY CRICKET MATCH

Please diarise the Old England XI Charity Cricket Match being hosted by the Old Roffensians at Kings School on Sunday 1st July. Players included in the line up will be: John Lever (captain) Neil Foster, Robin Hobbs, Martin McCague, Arnie Sidebottom, Neil Radford, Monte Lynch, Geoff Humpage, Jon Hardy, Paul Parker, Mark Illott and David Capel. For more information contact Michael Banner-Martin at Montague Place, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU.