

BEACON

The regular newsletter of the
Rochester Cathedral Campaign
March 2008



HLF Gives Us The Thumbs Up!

On 13 March we had a phone call from the Heritage Lottery Fund to say that our bid for the Interpretation Plan has been successful, and that Rochester Cathedral has been awarded a grant of £931,000. This is wonderful news! It was a massive piece of work, preparing a bid that other organizations seem to have complete teams of people to put together. But somehow, ours got the nod over a number of other major projects in the South East of England.

In awarding the grant, HLF said: *"The Cathedral stands as a cultural, spiritual and architectural landmark in Rochester, attracting visitors from near and far. This exciting scheme takes a creative approach to unfolding the Cathedral's past and is designed to offer something for everyone."*

The award is a real affirmation from a very hard-nosed external funder, that they like the look of what is happening here. The development work for the Interpretation Plan will now begin in earnest, and will take nearly a year to complete. Watch this space.....

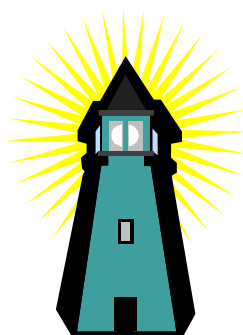
At the end of March we move into a new phase of fundraising for the cathedral. The Campaign Office will now become a Development Office, and take a broader approach to resourcing the work of the cathedral. Lynne, who has been working as the Campaign Assistant for the past 3 years, has taken a new post as Development Officer, and she will be responsible for working with a revitalized Rochester Cathedral Trust to raise ongoing funding for the cathedral.

To coincide with these changes, The Beacon will move to become a bi-monthly newsletter, possibly with a new name (any suggestions?). These moves have been planned for a while, but the timing couldn't be better, as we break through the £4million barrier with the tremendous news from HLF.

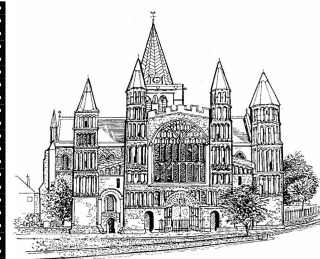
Adrian Newman

Development Office
Garth House
The Precinct
Rochester
ME1 1SX

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**CAMPAIGN
TOTAL TO DATE
£4,026,270.97**



Etching by Elizabeth Mallinson

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

We are very pleased to present a local actors group, United Players, who are coming to the cathedral to do two performances of "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde on the evenings of the 6th and 7th of June 2008. The United Players are based in Walderslade and have been performing for the past 27 years. Their last play, "Inspector Drake and the Perfekt Crime" won two awards in the Kent Drama Association Awards. One for Dave Bassett (who will play Dr Chasuable in Earnest) as Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Role; and the other to Colin and Alan Tolhurst as Best Director. Colin will also be directing in 'Earnest'. It is a three act play starting at 7.30 in the cathedral (doors close at 7.20pm) with a ticket cost of £10. A complimentary glass of wine or soft drink will be served during both intermissions. For more information on the actors and performance, please go to www.unitedplayers.co.uk
Booking Line — Lynne 01634 810074

SNOWBALL LUNCHES

We would like to run a 6 month Snowball Lunch campaign, starting in April. How it works is that during April you invite a minimum of 3 guests to your home for lunch, dinner, a game of scrabble or bridge or just for drinks, at the host's expense. Each guest pays the host £10 and in the following month those guests then hold their own luncheon or dinner. The following month, their guests hold their event and so on. By the time we come to September we will have had 6 rounds of events. Each host forwards a cheque for the Rochester Cathedral Trust to Garth House made up of the contributions collected from their guests. If each host or hostess has three guests, we could raise over £70,000 in six months. The Help For Hero's Charity is currently running this campaign on a larger scale, and they are starting off by inviting 7 people to each event. Their target is £447,000!!

You do not need any forms or paper work from the office, you can just go ahead and start in April with your first event.

Thank you so much for your support. Let us know how your event goes, we can even put your photos on the Campaign web page if you would like!

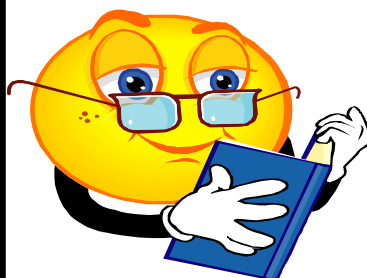
REPORT BACK

- We launched the Cathedral Business Guild at a dinner in the Crypt on 6 March attended by 80 people. If your company is interested in joining the Guild, please contact Lynne in the Development Office—see the enclosed leaflet for details.
- We ran the first of our Legacy Workshops this month. A small group met here in Garth House for an interesting session with information and legal implications explained. If you would like to attend the next one, please let us know. See the enclosed leaflet for details.
- Ralph and Ellen Godsall hosted "an Evening with the Godsalls" this month also. It was so well subscribed we had to find a larger venue! 90 people gathered to listen to their very interesting experiences. Thanks to Ralph and Ellen for providing us with an enjoyable evening. Special thanks also go to Andrew Coulson for arranging all the sound again!

ROCHESTER REMEMBERS...

A book is being compiled and edited by Anne Sears of stories from World War II as remembered by our community. The book will be printed and sold in aid of our fund raising campaign and we would love to have your contributions, (with pictures if you have them).

Anne is available to ghost write if necessary. Please phone her on 01634 409113.



SCRABBLE EVENING

Mary Woodfield is taking bookings for places at the next Scrabble Evening on 25th April. Almost £200 was raised from the last evening. Thank you to everyone that made this possible.

*****NEW CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER*****

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE
CAMPAIGN/DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IS 01634 810074**

