

Project Update - July 2015

Building Works

Library - The library roof timber and connection repairs is nearing completion but the excavation of the Pigeon Parlour is still waiting the removal of the scaffolding to the library. This delay has been down to issues with one of the structural steelwork sub contractors with sub standard work. The roof had to be restriped and work had to start again. Although the problem is now resolved this has caused delays to a number of areas of work. Once the scaffolding is removed, archaeological diggings will commence. It is hoped that there will be no more unexpected finds! Completion date for the building works is end September following which the exhibition fit out will begin.

Crypt – Good progress is being made in the crypt. The main part of the crypt is nearing completion following some changes to the trench duct and vents. The changes were necessary as the original diffuser frames were found to be not suitable for the revised floor build up over the trench. Stone cleaning and repointing to various areas including the Vestry and lift lobby are nearly complete as is the Norman Arch presentation new stone reveals and brick arch.

Exhibition Fit Out – A sample show case has now been in situ for 3 weeks. It has generally been well received and environmental testing is continuing. Construction drawing for the exhibition fit out continues to progress with an installation date of end September. The Design of object layouts has also begun and the object list has been agreed and set. The Activity Table is also progressing and some of the proposed activities for inclusion in the Activity Table are brass rubbings, jigsaw and twist blocks (symbols and heraldry). The launch of the first exhibition remains as January 2016.

Activity Plan - 6 tours of the Archaeological finds in the crypt were undertaken before work progressed. Using Eventbrite the initial 5 tours got booked up within 12 hours. An additional 4 tours were arranged for the Cathedral Congregation and Volunteers; these too were quickly booked up. One tour was arranged especially for our major donors. In all 124 people participated in these tours over 3 days.

Plans for the Cathedral to host the Favershamhe Magna Carta are now finalised and a high specification case has been designed to house the Textus Roffensis so it can be on display at the same time. There will be a family friendly launch of this on the afternoon of the 10th October. The exhibition will run for 10 weeks.

Following the loss of the Library Development Officer, and delays in the Capital works, a review of the Activity plan has led to a slight restructuring of activities. The Education Officers are now planning a series of new activities all of which will focus on engaging and encouraging the target audiences to participate. This includes two six week Story Trails for preschool children. One Story trail took place 23 April and a further one is planned to commence 30 July. The story of Noah is being used as the baseline.

Cataloguing of the library collection by the University of Kent has commenced following a formal agreement. This will provide for a full catalogue of our collection for the very first time.

Gilly Wilford and Edwina Bell
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