



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2016. Once again, through your subscriptions and donations, we were able to provide important support to the Cathedral in 2015. Choristerships, the Girls' Choir, stonework restoration, trees, flowers and more—all have benefitted through our regular grants.



Autumn saw much activity funded by the Friends in the Close. The stonemasons finished their restoration of the west face of the south transept. Quite stunning to look at, the cleaning work was funded by the Friends as

part of our grant to the stonemasons. The tree surgeons were also busy maintaining the trees in the Close, their essential work also forms part of the grant we give to the Cathedral each year.



In addition, of course, you have now donated more than £760,000 towards the window conservation work. Two and a half years after the Windows Appeal began, the work on the windows finally started in October last year. Holy Well Glass, a leading independent conservation studio, has been chosen to carry out the work. Holy Well's Director, Steve Clare, has talked to us before and will be coming back in April to explain more about the project to the Friends. Tickets can be booked on the accompanying booking sheet.



This mailing includes details of our Spring programme, plus other, special events we are holding or supporting. It also contains your new membership card for 2016.

With best wishes for the year ahead and thanks for your ongoing support.

Bruce Parker, Chairman, Board of Trustees

SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS PROGRAMME

Please return the enclosed booking form to secure your place where necessary.

Please note varying venues (PH = Priors Hall, PWS = Paul Woodhouse Suite)

Date	Details	Time
23 Feb	Bells and Bell-ringing at Winchester Cathedral (SOLD OUT)	2.30pm
19 Feb	Coffee and Cake. No ticket required. Undercroft.	10.30am
15 Mar	The Social History of the English Civil War Soldier, Alan Turton. PH	7.00 for 7.30pm
18 Mar	Coffee and Cake. No ticket required. Venue tbc	10.30am
15 Apr	Coffee and Cake. No ticket required. Venue tbc	10.30am
22 Apr	Saving the Cathedral's Glass, Steve Clare. PWS	7.00 for 7.30pm
2 May	Organ Festival, Inner and Outer Close	11.00am- 4.00pm
5 May	Historic Plant Collecting in Yunnan Province, Chris McDonald. PWS	7.00 for 7.30pm
20 May	Coffee and Cake, Priors Hall—no ticket required. Chapter Room	10.30am
7 Jun	The Story Behind a Brooch—on the trail of Andrew Cazalar, Margaret Braddock. PH	7.00 for 7.30pm
11 Jun	Friends' Street Party. Inner Close	12.30- 3.00pm
17 Jun	Coffee and Cake. No ticket required. PH	10.30am
22 Jun	An evening of music by Winchester Cathedral Girls' Choir.	7.30pm
15 Jul	Coffee and Cake. No ticket required. Undercroft	10.30am

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (booking form for these events will be sent out in June)

16 July	Friends Festival and AGM	All day
12 Oct	Annual Lecture with Bill Bryson	7.30pm

INFORMATION ON OUR SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

Alan Turton is a military historian, who specialises in the English Civil War and the period up to the mid-18th century. He is a historical adviser for the BBC and has appeared on programmes such as Digging for Britain and Timewatch. He will talk about the life of an ordinary Civil War soldier and bring along an array of objects to illustrate the lifestyle, uniform, diet and training of the time.

Steve Clare is the founder and director of Holy Well Glass, the leading glass conservation studio chosen to conserve the stained glass in the Cathedral. This is the work that the Friends have funded through the Windows Appeal. Steve will illustrate the work carried out so far and explain how the project will unfold over the next three years.

Chris Macdonald describes himself as ‘horticulturalist, garden writer, equipment tester, bee keeper, beard wearer and generally keen on plants’. He will tell us all about his recent travels searching for plants in Yunnan.

An inscription on the back of a piece of Georgian Jewellery has led to a fascinating trail, taking in London, Bath, regions of Europe and Queensland. Local historian **Margaret Braddock** talks about her ongoing quest.

Girls’ Choir Concert

The Friends provide all the funding for the Cathedral Girls’ Choir. To celebrate our close connection, the Choir have offered to perform at a special concert for the Friends, in the Cathedral on 22 June. Tickets can be booked using the enclosed form.



Organ Festival

The first May bank holiday (2nd May) will, once again, see the Inner and Outer Close filled with mechanical organs dating from 1878 to 2013. This year the organs will be joined by an additional display and demonstration of other mechanical instruments, including antique musical boxes. All the money raised during the day will be donated to the Windows Appeal.

Friends' Street Party



A unique opportunity to celebrate the 90th birthday of our Royal Patron, the Queen, and also to say goodbye to the Dean and Lorna on their retirement weekend. Please fill in the enclosed form to secure your place for this wonderful summer afternoon.

Membership cards

We are introducing annual membership cards from this January. The membership card enclosed should replace your existing card and is valid until 31 January 2017. We will send out cards each January to all members who have paid during the year. Your payment date doesn't need to change.

Direct debit

The easiest way to pay your subscription is by direct debit. If you have yet to change and would like to do so, please email lesley.bestwick@winchester-cathedral.org.uk for a form. The current annual subscription is £20 for an individual or £36 for a joint membership.

New Family Membership

We have created a new membership category for families with children. As well as all the usual benefits of being a Friend, there will be special children's activities and an annual children's newsletter. We think this is a wonderful way to involve families in the Cathedral and hope you will promote it to those who might be interested.

Welcome Membership

We are currently offering all Cathedral volunteers, Pilgrims' parents and parents of girl choristers a year's Welcome Membership. They must sign up by direct debit but then pay nothing until the start of their second year. We hope this will attract new members. Once again, please do let anyone know who you think might be interested.

Legacies

The Friends have, traditionally, provided much support to the Cathedral and Chapter through legacies received. As more charities promote the importance of legacies, we have seen the number we receive reduced. Leaving a legacy to the Friends can provide an enduring gift to the Cathedral. We will be sending more information on legacy giving later this year and hope you will consider leaving a gift to the Friends in your Will. Thank you.