

Dear Friends,

The New Year is a time to look forward so please forgive me if, for a moment, we remind ourselves of the previous exciting few months. Bill Bryson's talk was a sell-out and a fantastically entertaining Annual Lecture. Add to that a 'What's My Wine' evening, a talk by the Winchester auctioneer, Andrew Smith, a 'Thank You' tea for all our volunteers, a New Friends' Afternoon and the Christmas Soirée, it made for a busy autumn and winter.

The big news in the summer that we'd reached our Windows Appeal target of £800,000\* was followed by a magnificent day's outing to Holywell Glass Studio in Wells. Fifty Friends enjoyed a rare opportunity to see for themselves Holywell's restoration and conservation work and they were even allowed to handle some of our fabulous stained glass.

So, what of 2017? In the pipeline so far, we have a bumper selection of talks, a Jane Austen celebration plus a special concert from the Girl Choristers, all ahead of the July Festival and AGM.



I hope to see as many of you as possible in the coming months.

Meanwhile, every good wish for 2017.

Bruce Parker,  
Chairman, Board  
of Trustees.

\*Our Appeal target has been reached but it includes your pledges – so please don't cancel them!



*Clockwise from top left: Bill Bryson, 'What's my Wine' expert panel, 'Thank you' tea for volunteers, visit to Holywell glass (and middle picture), empty windows in the Clerestory.*

## Friends' talks: February to June 2017

### **Faith Moves – Revd Katie Lawrence. 16 Feb, 2.30pm, Paul Woodhouse Suite (PWS)**

Katie Lawrence was ordained Deacon at Winchester Cathedral in July this year. Katie will talk about her role as Curate to the Cathedral and the 20 years she has spent in Dance and the Arts.

### **Jane Austen's Naval Heroes – Jane Maxwell. 14 March, 2.30pm, PWS**

Jane Maxwell, a Jane Austen fan of gigantic proportions, and one of the founding members of the Jane Austen specialist team of Winchester Cathedral Guides, illuminates Jane Austen's connections with the Royal Navy.

### **A Little Light on the Dark Ages- A brief history of the Anglo-Saxons -**

#### **Mary Ford. 4 April, 7.00 for 7.30pm, PWS**

Mary Ford, in her seventh year as a Cathedral Guide, gives an introduction to the Anglo-Saxons and their special relevance to Winchester.

### **A Little Bit of England – Margaret Braddock. 17 May, 7.00 for 7.30pm, PWS**

Ruhleben—a civilian Internment Camp in Germany in the First World War—became a 'little bit of England', as the internees created social, sporting and educational activities from home. The talk will bring to life those times, based on contemporary accounts, research and personal artefacts.

### **Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English Churches – John Vigar. 22 June, 7.00 for 7.30pm, PWS**

John Vigar's specialist subject is the study of church architecture. He has written the guidebooks for several hundred churches and has visited over 13,000 of the 16,000 churches in England and Wales. This lecture will show a selection of images of murder and mayhem from across the country and explain both the stories behind them and their relevance to periods of history.

## **Coffee and Cake dates**

**All at 10.30am, locations vary, please check your monthly Friends' email newsletter or call the Office nearer the time.**

20 January  
17 February

17 March  
21 April

19 May  
16 June

21 July

## Other Events



### Organ Festival

The first May bank holiday (1st 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 Friends.

### Girls' Choir Concert

After the success of last year's Girls' Choir Concert, a similar event is being planned for the summer this year. Further details will follow in the May mailing, but please keep an eye on your emails—we will let you know the date once it is fixed. If you're not sure if we have your current email address, please call the office.



### Friends' Festival and AGM

Hold the Date! This year the Festival and AGM will take place on St Swithun's Day, 15th July. We are hoping to have an event the evening before as well, further details to follow in the May newsletter.

## Funding

Our most important role as Friends is the support we give to the Cathedral each year. We are currently working on the annual grants which will be made to the Cathedral in April 2017. Once again we will be funding:

- two boy choristers
- the full expenses of the Girls' Choir
- the creation of two grotesques by the stonemasons
- flowers throughout the year in the Cathedral
- improvement work on the Lime Walk and other tree work
- the Christmas tree

We often rely on legacies to fund projects over and above our regular annual grants to the Cathedral. We are grateful to those of you who have returned your Legacy Advice Forms and for your generosity in making provision for the Friends in your will.

## Cathedral Events

### Open Evening

This year's Open Evening is on Tuesday 31st January. This is a wonderful evening. With the chairs out of the Nave, the Cathedral showcases its many skills—stonemasonry, flower arranging, bell-ringing and much more. There is also an opportunity to recruit new Friends, so do bring along any of your friends who you think might be interested!

### Jane Austen

This year is the 200th anniversary of the death of Jane Austen. The Cathedral will be putting on a series of events and an exhibition of new work by Hampshire artists with a Jane Austen theme. The exhibition will run from 8th June to the end of September.

**Gift membership** is available on all our types of membership. We can provide a special Gift Package for you to give, so if you know anyone who would like a Family, Individual or Joint membership, do get in touch.

### **Direct debits**

Thank you to those of you who have switched to direct debit. Please check that you have cancelled your standing order and are not paying your subscription twice—we are currently having to write many refund cheques.

### **Standing orders**

For those of you who are still paying by standing order, PLEASE ensure you have increased the amount to the current subscription rate of £20 per member (£36 for joint membership).

### **Membership cards**

The membership card enclosed should replace your existing card and is valid until 31 January 2018. There should be one card per Friend in your household. Please pay your subscription at the same time as usual.