

Rochester

CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



From the Dean's desk

Chairman on the move

For the past 11 years we have been privileged to have The Rt Hon The Lord Astor of Hever as Chairman of the Rochester Cathedral Trust. Lord Astor has been a tremendous support to

the Cathedral and has exercised his role as Chairman with dignity and aplomb. Now that he has been appointed Under Secretary of State for Defence within the new Government, he is no longer constitutionally allowed to continue as a Trustee and so he will step down with effect from the next meeting.

We are extremely grateful to Lord Astor for his contribution to the Cathedral. His personal and

professional support has been hugely appreciated, especially throughout the period of the recent fund raising campaign. We know that we will continue our friendship long into the future, and we wish him well as he takes up new and significant responsibilities in Government.

We hope to appoint a new Chairman soon.

Watch this space ...

Adrian Newman



The Rt Hon The Lord Astor of Hever

COLYER-FERGUSSON TRUST SUPPORTS CRYPT PROJECT WITH GENEROUS GRANT

We are very pleased to announce a grant of £657,000 from The Colyer-Fergusson Trust to help fund the extensive refurbishment project in the Crypt.

In awarding the grant Jonathan Monckton, Chairman of The Colyer-Fergusson Trust said:

"The Trustees of the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust are delighted to be able to support Rochester Cathedral at this time. The grant will enable redevelopment of parts of the Cathedral to allow for increased education facilities, improved access for disabled people and greater opportunities to serve the local community. Trustees wish the Dean and the Cathedral community every success in moving forward with this project and strengthening the role of the Cathedral at the heart life in Rochester."

The project, which has also attracted support from the Friends of Rochester Cathedral and the Henry Smith

Trust, will allow the Cathedral to move forward with major refurbishment and development work. The full extent of the project will depend on a cost analysis which is currently being carried out, but aspirations include: A new lift, tastefully designed to sit within the historic fabric, allowing disabled access to the Crypt and Quire levels; work to improve the South entrance and access into the Cloister Garth; new flooring, renewed electrics and lighting, the provision of a new glazed chapel, and the refurbishment of rooms for educational use by children and young people.

This project is the latest phase of a substantial conservation and development programme at Rochester Cathedral. Extensive fabric repairs have been carried out in the last few years, while major improvements have also been made – including the installation of new glazed entrances, a suite of imaginative interpretation materials to bring the history of the building to life, elegant new chairs in the nave, and refurbished toilets. The work on the Crypt and Cloister is expected to start in the Spring and be completed early the following year.

FUND RAISING TOTAL FOR THE YEAR TO DATE:

£56,695

PLEASE HELP US AND DONATE NOW By phoning 01634 810074 or go to: www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedral trust

Local Academy supports Cathedral Chair Project



On Friday 9 July, senior students from Strood Academy presented a cheque for £300 to Canon Philip Hesketh for two new chairs at Rochester Cathedral.

The money, which has been raised through non-uniform days at the school, was presented at the 6th form assembly on behalf of the academy students. Canon Philip Hesketh said a few words before the cheque was presented. Mr M Hancock of Strood Academy said, "It was a privilege to make this contribution to our community, and we are pleased that funds raised have provided something that will be used in our local community for many many years to come".



SUMMER CHEESE & WINE EVENT

We had a very successful summer event on 28th July in Kings Orchard hosted by our Trustee, John Spence.

We were delighted to have had the Balgores Folk Band once again as well as Steve O'Kane and Fiona Macbain to entertain us. A tasty cheese and pate buffet was provided along with wine and soft drinks.

We had raffle prize support from Francis Iles Gallery of Rochester High Street who donated a print by Graham Ward; Pips of Rochester, also of Rochester High Street donated a beautiful fruit basket, and Topps Hairdressing Salon in Maidstone Road, Rochester donated a manicure in their salon. Our thanks go to these local businesses for their support.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the helpers on the evening, Andrew Coulson and Frances Winter, Helen Bannister and Ray, Kay & Alex McDowell, the events team and Betty Trollope and Jean Callebaut. The evening raised £1,307 before costs, which will be put towards Cathedral development.

Quiz Night

The date of the Quiz Night has been fixed for 5th February 2011 and we look forward to welcoming you all back again following on from the very successful event we had in the Crypt last year.



As before, we will have tables of 6 so you can get your own team together or join someone else's if you prefer. Bring along your own drinks and refreshments and enjoy a fun evening. You can be as "over the top" as you like with your table!!

The set up of the evening will be a little different to last year so that the results can be generated quicker.

Tickets will be £5 each and are available from the Development Office 01634 810074 or email development@rochester-cathedral.org

Reserve your place now as space is limited!

Rochester Cathedral Annual Golf Day - Hever Castle Golf Club

Our annual Golf Day took place on Friday 3rd September 2010 at Hever Castle Golf Club hosted by The Very Rev'd Adrian Newman, and our Cathedral Trustee, The Hon. Mrs Clare Denison-Pender.

The 6 teams participating were The Chart Players; Team "Le Brock" Mark Beech; Gerald Lukehurst's; Clarabells Knights (this years team winners as in photograph to the right) and The Dean's Dynamo's.

The "Closest the Pin" prizes went to Lynne Rowan and Bill Shea.

We are very grateful to Leeds Castle for their raffle contribution of a 1 years Family visit ticket for 5 people at Leeds Castle.

We have made the booking at The Hever Castle Golf Club for next year in September and hope that enough interest has been generated by the event and we get a full play list. It is a lot of fun with a good day's golf, and this year with lots of sunshine!

LEEDS & CASTLE
KENT, ENGLAND



Ancient Stones – Untold Stories

Rochester Cathedral Interpretation Project



We are now two thirds of the way through our funding, and there is still one major piece of work outstanding - the training and development of Cathedral Guides. You may have heard that I am moving to the West Country to follow my new husband and therefore will be unable to see the full 3 years of the HLF project out- however, I will be returning to complete this element of it! The process kicks off in

January with a conference for all our existing guides, who have waited very patiently for their share of the HLF pot, and we hope to have the new trainees ready and raring to go by the summer. Interviews for my replacement will have taken place by now and you should look out in the next Beacon for news of their appointment. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here - and am sad to be leaving - however the Cathedral will always hold a special importance for me and I am honoured to have been a part of it's life for this short while.

Annie Lucas

PLEASE NOTE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IS 01634 810074

END TO END CHALLENGE

"Many years ago, when I was a young boy, my eldest brother and his wife gave up their jobs (in the days when you could step back into another at a later date fairly easily) and walked from Lands End to John O'Groats. Mike was a journalist, and wrote up his experiences afterwards. I read his account and was hooked – since that day I have always wanted to travel the route they call the Great British Adventure.

My sabbatical has given me the opportunity to realise this ambition, and I am extremely grateful to my family, to my colleagues at the Cathedral, and to those who have helped to fund this trip, for giving me the chance to follow a dream. It has, without doubt, been the hardest thing I've ever done. My 2 marathons pale into insignificance by comparison with this. Apart from the first day, which was short and blessed by good wind and weather, it's been one really long hard slog.

By the time I got to the end I was aching everywhere a body can ache, and was simply longing for it all to be over. A mile out of John O'Groats I stopped and gathered my thoughts, then swooped triumphantly down the hill... straight into the car park. Easily done, I now gather, but you need to go past the car park entrance and on to the famous signpost landmark.

Got it right second time around and collapsed wearily off my bike for a couple of photos and a phone call back to Gill. I registered my ride in the famous book, got my final stamp on my sheet, and made my entry alongside the millions of other people who have done this before me. It was quite reassuring to read in the entry almost next to mine: "Lands End to John O'Groats, 11 days, never again". That's exactly how I feel.



So, journey complete. 1007 miles – or thereabouts, I can't be completely sure after my mileometer stopped working in the rain on Day Six. 12 days – not quick by some standards, but a respectable pace averaging 90 miles a day over the last 9 days. And I think I've probably had worse conditions than many people experience".

I have written up an extended account of my journey – contact Lynne in the office if you would like the full story! Thank you for your interest and support, which often kept me going when I was tempted to give up.

We are delighted to let you all know that our total so far is £11,809.80 so we have made our target! Thank you so much to all the supporters.

Adrian Newman

Report Back Hyde Park Women's 5km Challenge

The weather was kind to us again this year when two bus loads of us went up to Hyde Park to take part in the annual challenge on 5th September. Beatrix Young was the star of the Rochester Cathedral team of 34, completing the course in just 20 minutes. 2nd was Rebecca Bramley in 30 minutes with 3rd place going to Cosima Richards in 32 minutes. Please check out the Development News & Events pages of the website to see more of the photographs.

It was lovely to have Sugina & Phil Hesketh with us together with the Sunday Club, but certainly not forgetting our "older" competitors, not least of whom is Win Lang at 92 completing the 5km course in 55 minutes.

Eileen Coleman and Marjorie Dench competed dressed as monks which all added to the atmosphere of the day. Sponsorship is up to £2000 already so a very big thank you to all our runners, supporters and sponsors, especially Catherine Price, Sharon Jones and Sugina Hesketh who set up Just Giving pages for their supporters.






A CANTERBURY TALE

We had a classic film screening in the Nave of the Cathedral in September when local film critic Nick Walker presented "A Canterbury Tale". For those that do not know the story a 'Land Girl', an American GI, and a British soldier find themselves together in a small Kent town on the road to Canterbury. The town is being plagued by a mysterious "glue-man", who pours glue on the hair of girls dating soldiers after dark. The three attempt to track him down, and begin to have suspicions of the local magistrate, an eccentric figure with a strange, mystical vision of the history of England in general and Canterbury in particular.

If there is an interest, we will screen another classic film next year, please do email or drop in with your comments or suggestions.

DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

09 November	Business Guild Reception in the Bridge Chamber – this is a really different evening to come along to. We will be hosting a canapé reception in the Bridge Chambers on the Rochester Esplanade and we are delighted to have Sue Threader from the Chamber and Bob Ratcliffe of the Rochester Society to give a co-ordinated presentation on the time lines of the Cathedral and Bridge. Entry is free to Cathedral Business Guild members, for non-members tickets cost £15 and are available from the Development Office.	
12 November	An Evening with Rochester Cathedral Choir – please join us for our "Remembering" Concert in the Cathedral Nave at 7.30pm on 12 November. Girls, boys and men will be singing for us during the evening and we will be serving interval drinks and canapés. Tickets cost £10 and are available from the Development Office. All monies raised from this event will go to support the Cathedral Music.	
05 February 2011	Quiz Night – Book your table of 6 or individual seat for £5 each for this event at 7pm in the Cathedral. Bring your own refreshments. Raffle prize donations will be appreciated.	

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our fund raising events. Please contact Lynne in the Development Office (01634 810074) if you have some spare time and would like to be involved.

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