











DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

29th June	Open House Art Exhibition (free entry): paintings and drawings by Ron Hoile MS, FRCS. All are invited to come and have a glass of wine in the garden, view the paintings, buy a painting or sketch, or simply put a donation in the box. Christmas cards and correspondence will also be available. Venue: 6 Water Meadow Close, Hempstead, Gillingham, ME7 3QF Time: 11am – 6pm For further info: ron.hoile@tiscali.com	
21st July	A Summer Cheese & Wine Entertainment in Kings Orchard. We would love to have you join us in the Marquee in Kings Orchard in the Precinct from 7.30pm. Music will be provided by the Balgores Band. Wine, soft drinks and snacks will be available at an inclusive ticket price of £12. Tickets are available from Garth House 01634 810074.	
7th September	Adidas 5km Women's Challenge: Please join 25,000 ladies in walking or running just 3 miles, in Hyde Park on 7th September. It is a fun day out for the whole family, why not bring a picnic for after the race? All sponsorship collected from our participants goes to our fund raising here at the cathedral. Registration costs just £15 (£5 goes to the cathedral) and every finisher gets a "Goodie Bag". Entry forms are available from Garth House 01634 810074 or Anne Sears on 01634 409113. If you would like to sponsor the team as a whole, please go to www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust	 
13th September	Kent Bike Ride: Ride your bicycle or take a relaxed walk around some of the beautiful churches of Kent. Anne Sears and Jill Armitage are organising the walk and Anne can be contacted on 01634 409113. Should you wish to join the cyclists, please contact John Sears at the same number.	
September	Evening with the Sandons: Look out for news of an exciting evening with Henry Sandon and family. Henry will share stories from his eventful life on and off the television screen. He will be joined by sons John and David for an entertaining evening in the cathedral not to be missed. Your ticket price is £15 and will also include intermission drinks in the Cathedral Transept. Tickets available from Garth House 01634 810074. Date to be confirmed.	
19th September	Wine and Wisdom Evening in the Community Hall at St Mary's Island. £10 per person including a Fish 'n Chip supper. Tickets available from Garth House 01634 810074	
17th October	Murder Mystery. Come and enjoy an hilarious adaptation of a play written by Helen Bradshaw and performed by members of Chapter!! A fun evening with a Ploughman's supper and a 'Who Dunnit quiz'. Bring your own drinks. Tickets £10 and are available from Garth House 01634 810074. Venue to be confirmed.	
1st November	Barn Dance in Kings School Hall. Peter Curry will be on hand as caller together with his band comprising an accordion, fiddle and guitar. Hot dogs will be supplied, all you need to do is bring a cool bag with your own drinks! Make it a fun family evening out. Tickets £10 each for adults with 25% discount for under 13's. Raffle prizes.	
15th November	We are holding an Auction at the Kings School Hall and have already started our search for interesting lots to sell. If you have suitable items or have a service pledge, please let David Sandon know on 07931 572907 or call the Development Office on 01634 810074.	



BEACON

The regular newsletter of the Rochester Cathedral Campaign

June 2008

From the Dean's desk



Welcome to the new look Beacon, which will now be distributed every 2 months to keep you up to date with the progress of the Campaign. It's been great to look back and see what has been achieved over the course of the last year - in particular, the restoration and conservation work on the Lady Chapel and South Transept, which looks terrific. But it's also fascinating - and extremely encouraging - to look forward, because a lot is going to be happening over the next couple of years. 3 things in particular stand out:

1. The grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund means that we will spend the next year implementing the Interpretation Project 'Ancient Stones, Untold Stories' and re-telling the story of the cathedral to visitors in a very exciting way. An article summarising this project is in this edition, which I hope will be of interest. I am extremely pleased to announce the appointment of Anne Fletcher as the Project Manager for 'Ancient Stones, Untold Stories'. Anne has been responsible for delivering some of the best church-based interpretation in the country - in particular, Lambeth Palace and the recently-completed work at St Martin in the Fields in London. She begins work with us almost immediately, and will be responsible for drawing all the different strands of the project together in a coherent way.
2. The grants from the Friends, and the Henry Smiths Charity, will finally allow us to provide very expensive but absolutely vital disabled access into the Crypt and the Garth. This will follow hard on the heels of the Interpretation Project, starting some time in the first half of 2009.
3. With the support of an English Heritage grant, we will complete a digital survey of the cathedral within the coming year, which will provide a vital foundation for the Cathedral Architect to plan all outstanding work on the building for many years into the future.

Meanwhile, the Rochester Cathedral Trust enters a new phase of its life, supporting the new Development Office in Garth House in raising revenue funding for the Cathedral. Sub committees of the Trust will focus on Charitable Trusts, Legacies, a Business Guild, Landfill Tax, and Events.

The Beacon will continue to keep you in touch with what is happening as we enter this new phase of fund-raising and project development. Thank you all for your support - it's a very humbling fact that 1,084 people and organisations have now supported Rochester Cathedral's campaign. That is a wonderful testimony to the impact that the Cathedral has had on people's lives - long may it continue!

Adrian Newman

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CAMPAIGN TOTAL TO DATE: £4,105,309.03

DONATE NOW

by phoning 01634 810074 or go to www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust

BUILDING WORKS COMPLETED

Work finished this year on repairs to the stone work around the Lady Chapel and South Transept. It wasn't until the scaffolding was removed that we could for the first time appreciate the full scope of works and the way in which it has brightened up that side of the Cathedral. In addition to piecing in new stones, new flint was added to the walls and the path was re-laid with brick. Work was carried out on the internal plaster on the west wall of the South Transept; the plaster in this area was showing significant signs of decay caused by seeping rain water as a result of the old cast iron down pipe on the outside of the wall. The down pipe was replaced last year as part of the high level works. Over the course of the year the wall has been allowed to dry out and this has enabled the work to the plaster to happen. The completion of this latest stage of the ongoing schedule of repairs and maintenance helps to ensure the Cathedral's future as it continues its work in the community.

Before

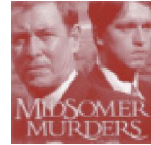


After



THANK YOU

Eileen Coleman would like to say thank you to all the people who supported her afternoon tea on 18th April in support of the Cathedral Fund Raising. They raised £65.



A DAY OF THE SET OF MIDSOMER MURDERS...

At the Auction we had last September in Sevenoaks, Bob and Margaret Ratcliffe purchased a day on the set of Midsomer Murders. They had their visit in April and have written an account of their day for us to share.

"A Day in the Woods"

We found ourselves beside a track in the middle of a deep beech wood. The mists of the dawn were still drifting among the trees as if in hiding from the winter sun that was endeavouring to burn them away. The forest was silent, though the occasional movement of a leaf by our feet showed the presence of armies of red ants actively reorganising the forest floor. As we gazed through the trees we became aware of the noise of horses' hooves and the approach of distant voices – voices in panic and terror. Along the track and out of the mist came in disarray a bank of medieval monks, fleeing in terror from a posse of pursuing soldiers, five of whom were mounted on fine horses. The galloping pursuers rapidly overtook the fleeing monks and we watched in horror as the soldiers, wearing the uniform of King Henry's time, drew their swords and struck the defenceless band that fell before their blows and thrusts. Cries changed to screams and moans as the monks lay wounded and dying while the military men sheathed their blood stained weapons and rode off into the mist, leaving one of the brethren, less wounded than the others, kneeling in prayer over a mortally wounded brother.

From near at hand came the shout of "Cut". The monks stood up and were brushed down and offered cakes and tea (in polystyrene cups) by the film crew while the horsemen trotted back into view and the men controlling the smoke machines allowed the forest to regain the clarity of an April afternoon. There was a further discussion among the crew: "Great", "Super" "We'll do it again". The monks and the horsemen disappeared back down the track and the smoke machines were relit. "Stand by for a take", "Quiet please", "Everybody quiet!", "Action – take two" And in this way another 30 seconds of an edition of 'Midsomer Murders' was 'in the can'.

Our day on set in Burnham Woods was the result of an enthusiastic bid at last years Auction, and was a most interesting day out, though we could have done without the red ants!

Margaret and Bob Ratcliffe

NEW CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER:

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

WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO WITH THE HLF GRANT!

Ancient Stones Untold Stories

Rochester Cathedral Interpretation Project

A project summary

The cathedral was delighted to hear that it had been awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for an interpretation project. Here is a very brief summary of the work that will be involved.

For more information contact Dr Edwina E Bell
administrator@rochestercathedral.org

There are three areas of work:

Interpretation
Telling the story

Participation
Getting people involved

Access
Opening it up

Interpretation

We will tell the cathedral's 'story' in a variety of ways to a complex array of audiences using different forms of media.

Leaflets

Free visitor leaflets are important and a new range (general, family, pilgrimage) will be developed explaining the architectural, symbolic and heritage significance of the many features of the Cathedral.

Guide book

The guide book will be rewritten and will give extensive and detailed information about the cathedral, for the visitor who wants to learn and understand more about the architecture, history and heritage than can be gleaned from the leaflets.

Audio-guides and audio-visual

The three audio tours (general, family, pilgrimage) would encourage visitors to explore the heritage of the cathedral in an imaginative and enjoyable way, making full use of recent advances in technology.

Linked with the audio-tours will be audio-visual elements designed to restore public access to 'lost' elements of the heritage, for example, recreating the faded medieval wall frescoes in the South transept and completing the wheel of fortune.

Interpretation panels

A number of 'light touch', free standing, interpretation panels will be sited at key features providing supplementary information and encouraging interaction and engagement.

Reception

A new (moveable) reception area will be created in the North transept and the furniture will accommodate the new audio-guides, guidebooks, leaflets and postcards.

Welcomers

The Reception desk will be the primary orientation point for visitors to the cathedral and will be staffed by 2 volunteer welcomers. The project will recruit more welcomers and improve their training. Apart from welcome, explanation and orientation, the welcomers will staff those interpretative elements that require payment – the guide books and audio tours – and give technical assistance to people requiring downloads.

Guides

It is essential to offer high quality guided tours for those who want them. We will increase recruitment of volunteer tour guides, improve their training, and move towards full Level 2 Institute of Tour Guides Accreditation for all our guides. We aim to offer un-booked guided tours at 2 set times in the day as well as marketing a full pre-booked service.

Website

The project will make significant improvements to the website, including uploading and re-writing the interpretative information about the cathedral to incorporate the information from the new leaflets and guide book.

External signage

As well as all the work inside the Cathedral there will be improved external signs to encourage people into the building and provide basic information.

Participation

Interpretation Manager

This post will be responsible for broadening the visitor base, improving participation and inclusion; front-of-house arrangements for visitors; recruiting and training volunteers; and developing schemes to empower 'users' to evaluate and contribute to the effectiveness of the interpretation.

Education Development Officer

The Education Development Officer is responsible for developing and delivering new programmes and resources, in liaison with the Education Officers, to attract new audiences. This will include creating and testing new activities, trails and resources.

Access

West doors: A glazed inner lobby will be created to allow the doors to be left open so people can see into and enter the Nave easily.

North door: A glazed inner lobby will be created to improve the disabled access and reduce the wind-tunnel effect.

Facilities: A disabled toilet will be installed in the Cathedral and the Chequers yard toilets improved.

Stair lift: The stair lift will be upgraded to take newer electric wheelchairs.