

BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral

OCTOBER 2019

Summer in the Cathedral

What a busy summer the Cathedral has had!
Over 104,000 visitors so far this year

We teed-off with **Adventure Golf**, very kindly sponsored by The Rochester Bridge Trust and aimed at building bridges in the community as well as having fun.

Each hole was a replica model of a bridge with an interpretation board explaining the history. So lots was learnt too!

A staggering 44,000 people (including 2,500 schoolchildren) came to see it here at Rochester Cathedral over 28 days to visit the **Knife Angel** during September. We hope you found it as thought-provoking as we all did.

Let's make knife crime a thing of the past.



From the Dean's desk...

The Dean is on a Sabbatical until 9th December and is catching up on some much needed rest and writing.

We wish him well and look forward to seeing him soon.



Rochester
CATHEDRAL
Growing in Christ since AD604

Please note: You are receiving this newsletter because we think you have an interest in Rochester Cathedral and its events. If we have got this wrong please let us know by emailing development@rochestercathedral.org or telephone 01634 810074.

In order to process your kind donations, keep you updated with news and events, and carry out our work effectively, we will need to store and use the information you have provided to us. We are committed to treating your information with respect and in a transparent way. To find out more, please read our fundraising promise at <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/cathedral-trust/>

Pledges and gifts from 1st January to end September total **£259,543**

Dean Samuel Reynolds Hole celebrations



At the end of August there was a special exhibition celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Dean Reynolds Hole who not only was Dean of Rochester until his death in 1904, but was a founder member of the National Rose Society.

Rochester was then a busy industrial city with cement works along the River Medway and a naval dockyard at Chatham. The acrid smell of lime was inescapable and so work soon began on a new garden to 'perfume the air'.

His gardening friends admired and advised – most notably William Robinson, Gertrude Jekyll, William Paul, Canons Ellacombe and D'Ombrian.

The gardens at Rochester became famous and were painted by the noted English watercolourists, George Samuel Elgood and Arthur Rowe. The Dean of Rochester was on a mission!

At the age of 75 Reynolds Hole toured America in an attempt to raise money for the Cathedral. Received enthusiastically,

he was the guest of many horticulturists and botanists who knew of his fame.

Although disappointed that he had only raised £500, this money was nonetheless essential in urgent restoration work and, in particular, rebuilding of the spire. Sadly, Reynolds Hole did not live to see the spire completed and died aged 85 in the Deanery on 27th August 1904.

To celebrate this inspiring man a series of special events were held commencing with an evening in the cathedral where horticulturalist Marian Boswall very kindly gave a talk, guests were able to sample a special Dean Hole ale that had been produced by Nelson Brewery and listen to a very special piece of music composed by Philip Dodd.

Spotlight on Graffiti

At recent Garden Parties hosted by the Dean, The Very Reverend Dr Philip Hesketh at The Deanery, some exclusive tours were undertaken by the Chapter Clerk/Executive Officer Simon Lace, and Cathedral Researcher Jacob Scott, who has a vast amount of self taught knowledge of the Cathedral and particularly the ancient graffiti.



The photograph above shows what the original drawings on the pillars would have looked like. A fascinating subject that all visitors can follow up should they visit this magical place.

Finding out about events

You can keep up-to-date with all the news and events at Rochester Cathedral by visiting our [What's On](#) page at www.rochester-cathedral.org or by following us on

[f](#) /Rochester-Cathedral [t](#) @RochesterCathed

Did someone say Christmas?

Rochester Cathedral Trust Christmas cards are once again on sale in the Cathedral Shop in the Crypt. They cost £6 for a pack of 10. All profits go to support the Music Endowment.

We will again be printing a Community Christmas Card this year. The card will be distributed at the 10.30am Eucharist on Sunday 22nd December and if you wish to make a donation and have your name included on the card, please contact the Development Office on 01634 810074 or email lynne.bax@rochester-cathedral.org

Pinnacle Project Update

From Dean Hole's endeavours in 1895 until today, fundraising hasn't stopped. Recently completed is the work to the Pinnacle on the Cathedral roof that was so unstable it was very close to collapsing. Thankfully this project is now complete and a new Pinnacle erected.

In Memoriam



Jean Callebaut, an ex Trustee of Rochester Cathedral Trust, sadly passed away on Friday 20th September.

Jean's relationship with the Cathedral goes back many years and she was a great supporter of the Trusts work, particularly the music.

A funeral service will be at 11am on 16th October.

Our sincere condolences to the family.
Rest in peace Jean.

The next project

Our new priority is to tackle the three most urgent issues identified in the Quinquennial survey. All have health and safety implications as they involved unstable masonry at height. The first of these, the Southern Presbytery Elevation and Pinnacle is currently being dealt with. The next two concern repairs to the interior of the Quire and the ceiling and roof space above.

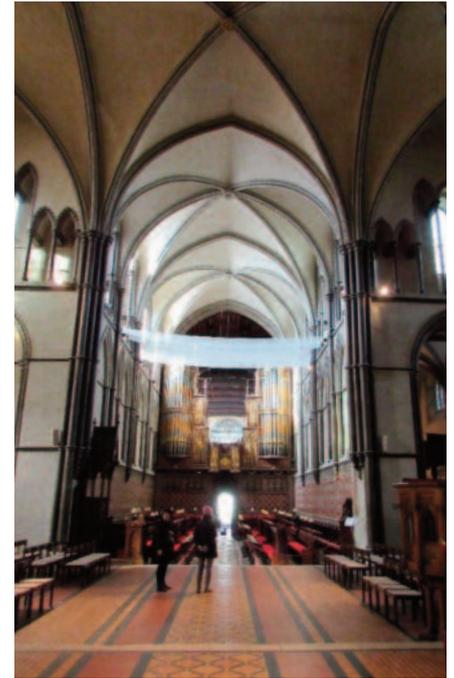
Repairing the loose masonry at the clerestory level in the Southern Quire is important as this is above an area of seating. Repairing the roof vault will enable the Quire ceiling to be repaired allowing the unsightly safety netting to be removed. We can tackle this issue now as the roof was repaired last summer and no longer leaks into the roof void. These total cost of both these projects is £175,000 excluding VAT.

Lighting and Sound

The 2018 Quinquennial Inspection highlighted the fact that the electrical installation within the majority of the Cathedral is of some age and has been

amended and extended on many occasions. The Hidden Treasures Fresh Expressions project completed in the Crypt has replaced the electrical systems in this area of the Cathedral, but the rest of the Cathedral electrical systems have not been significantly upgraded in many years. In recent years, electrical mains have had to be replaced due to failure and in 2018 for the first time, probably for over a decade, an electrical inspection was undertaken of the electrical systems. This highlighted a number of repair issues which need to be addressed, but the system was not considered dangerous. However, at high level throughout the clerestories there are large numbers of redundant cables and fittings and tracing much of the installation has been very difficult.

In addition, the electrical, sound and vision systems within the body of the Cathedral are considered completely inadequate. Lighting levels are generally very poor with some fittings falling apart, the sound system needs to be upgraded and there is no sensible vision provision within the Cathedral. All these systems



are considered inadequate and are seriously affecting the presentation of the building, worship, liturgy and mission.

The Cathedral has resolved that all these systems need to be upgraded and/or replaced if we are to safeguard the fabric of the Cathedral and allow the presentation and mission of the Cathedral to move forward.

International Moving Image and Contemporary Art Festival

51zero Festival launches its 4th edition at Rochester Cathedral's crypt on Friday the 25th October, with an evening of film screenings accompanied by live music, curated by Margherita Gramagna. The evening will feature leading UK musicians Gareth Lockrane on flute, Cecilia Bignall on cello and Jonathan Mansfield on vibraphone responding to a film programme presenting artists and filmmakers whose production is between contemporary art and cinema, operating on a local and international level. Peter Fillingham's edible artwork *The Rainbow Buns*, will complete the evening.



The event is followed by an exhibition from Saturday 26th October to Sunday 3rd November, which will feature sculpture and moving image by prominent artists working today.

This year's programme will take place in both Rochester and Canterbury. Exhibitions, screenings, workshops and events will take place across Rochester Cathedral, Restoration House, the Guildhall Museum, Huguenot Museum and Rochester High Street. In Canterbury, it will populate the University for the Creative Arts campus including the Herbert Read Gallery.

Free to attend, booking is essential. To reserve your place please contact office@51zero.org, with the subject line 'Rochester Launch Event' or call the Cathedral office.

Festival programme:

Rochester Friday 25 October – Sunday 3 November

Launch: Friday 25 October, Rochester Cathedral Crypt, 7–9pm

Exhibition: Saturday 26 October – Sunday 3 Nov, 10am – 4pm

Canterbury Friday 8 – Sunday 17 November

Launch Friday 8 November, Herbert Read Gallery, University for The Creative Arts, 7–9pm

For full programme please see www.51zero.org/festival/programme/

Diary of 2019 Events

The following are events that are firm in the Diary for the next few months, more to be added so please watch this space!

Friday 25th October

7pm – 9pm FREE ENTRY

Launch night of 51 Zero exhibition in the Crypt.

51zero Festival launches its 4th edition at Rochester Cathedral's crypt on Friday the 25th October, with an evening of film screenings accompanied by live music, curated by Margherita Gramegna.

See page 3 for details

Friday 1st November

“BeatleMania” Concert in Nave

Last year's tribute “Queen” concert was amazing! It will be hard to top it, but we know this year is going to be epic! Last few tickets remaining for BeatleMania on Friday 1st November, come along and join our musical extravaganza of Beatles classics, performed by Jamie Johnson, RockIt Choirs, and The Counterfeit Beatles.

www.events.ticketbooth.eu/event/night-at-the-cathedral-beatlemania-/pyos

An evening not to be missed.

15th & 16th November

Wine Festival

More info to follow

Friday 29th November

Advent Lunch at Aylesford Priory

Contact Friends of Rochester Cathedral for bookings
rochestercathedral.org/friends

Friday 6th December

Annual Carol Concert

Friday 10th January 2019

Quiz Night at The Cooling Castle Wedding Barn

Tables of 10 and tickets at £10 each. Ticket price includes a delicious Ploughmans Supper.

Raffle and cash bar. Contact Lynne Bax on 01634 810074 or email Lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org for tickets.

They usually sell out quickly so don't delay!

All of these events are open to all and for further information and tickets for any of these events, please contact Lynne Bax on 01634 810074 or email development@rochestercathedral.org