

**Friends of
Rochester Cathedral
Report 2014/2015**

*Incorporating
The Building Stones of
Rochester Cathedral
Part 2 - The Interior*

Officers and Council of the Friends

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HRH The Duchess of Kent, GCVO

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The Lord Bishop of Rochester

President

The Dean of Rochester

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*Terry Wood

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Mrs Eileen Coleman
*Colin Hoad
Robert Ratcliffe

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Markham Chesterfield
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Front Cover: The South Front by Bob Ratcliffe

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EDITORIAL ... Bob Ratcliffe

The Council has decided to change the Friends' financial year of April to March to January to December to bring it into line with that of the Cathedral. Consequently this Report will be the last edition of a report covering two years and my successor next year will only have to report on 2015.

Insofar as this edition is concerned, the absence of a President means that our Vice- President has been called upon for a report and I thank Philip Hesketh for finding time in a very busy life for this offering. Discoveries in the Crypt have resulted in a separate Archaeologist's Report by Graham Keevill. David Carder continues with a further detachable booklet on the internal stonework of the Cathedral and Mary Woodfield gives her final report on the activities of the Social Committee, her role now taken over by Markham Chesterfield.

I thank all these contributors for these offerings and in particular David Carder and Angela Watson for assisting in the production of this report. I trust you enjoy the result.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ... Terry Wood

Early Days

Reading the first issue of *Annales Amicorum Cathedralis Roffensis* I discovered that:

- The Friends of Rochester Cathedral was effectively formed on 8 February 1935 when the letter, replicated below, was published in THE TIMES, following which 622 Friends had enrolled themselves by the end of the year.
- HRH the Duke of Kent had consented to become Patron; the first President was the Bishop*, Dr Martin Linton Smith; the Vice President* was Marquis Camden, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent; and the Dean* was the first Chairman. The Hon Secretary and Treasurer was Miss Sandford, Head Mistress of Rochester Girls' Grammar School, and the Hon Auditor was Mr Hubert King of Barclays Bank, Rochester. The Constitution stipulated that Council should consist of no more than thirty members plus the ex-officio members, marked by an asterisk. Appointees to Council included the Mayors of Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham, the Admiral C-in-C the Nore and the General Officer commanding Chatham Area. Amongst the corporate members were the Corps of Royal Engineers and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent.
- Early works to be funded by the Friends were repairs to the coping and parapets at the west ends of the Nave and Aisles and the opening up of the doorway between the old Chapter House and the Cloisters, for all of which it was hoped that £500 would become available. Descriptive notices for visitor information were funded plus £25 towards organ repairs.
- To encourage membership and publicise activities the Chairman and Secretary presented lantern lectures around the Diocese. (Does anybody know what happened to the lantern slides, many of which were presented by Messrs Raphael Tuck and Sons?) The Chairman also exhorted each member to recruit a new Friend to bring membership to well over 1,000! The inaugural Friends Festival was held on 2 November 1935 with subsequent meetings being in June each year.

And Now

So, what has changed during the intervening years? Our current patron is the late Duke of Kent's daughter-in-law, HRH Katharine, Duchess of Kent. The Bishop is now the Visitor, the Dean is the President, the Vice-President is nominated from the Residentiary Canons and the Chairman is elected annually from the Council by the members at the AGM. The list of officers no longer includes an Hon Secretary but a part-time administrator is employed. We no longer boast bishops, mayors, admirals or generals on Council, which, in addition to the President and Vice-President, now consists of an appointee from each of the three archdeaonries and twelve elected members, including the Chairman. Despite constant enrolment our membership still remains below the magic 1,000. Much of our income now comes from the capital and dividends of donations and legacies as well as subscriptions. Grants over the years have funded small and major repairs and improvements and provided the various Cathedral community groups with equipment to ease their burdens. Instead of lantern slides we are able to give PowerPoint presentations

- contact the office if you are interested - and social events for members have tended to concentrate on group visits around the country and occasionally to France or Belgium. Chairmen, myself included, continue to exhort members to encourage friends and family to become Friends! Elsewhere within this report you can see how successful this has been in the past year and I welcome all our new members and hope to meet them soon. But also, sadly, Friends do pass away and to their families and friends we offer our condolences.

Your Council

I wrote in the Autumn Newsletter about changes to the Constitution and the resulting retirements of long-standing Council members. This year none of the four retiring members is eligible for re-election so we shall be looking and hoping for new blood on Council. Jean Callebaut is a long-serving member who for many years with her late husband, John, organised Friends' visits and holidays. Eileen Coleman retires after six years having been an active member of the Social Committee. Colin Hoad is a former Chairman and key member of the Finance Committee. Another former Chairman, Bob Ratcliffe, has been able to offer his expert architectural advice for many years and keenly served variously on each committee. We shall all miss their wisdom and experience and I thank them for their support. I repeat my plea to members generally: If you have, or know those who have, suitable experience and positivity to help to support us, please let us know and talk to me or another member of Council, or call Christine Tucker in our office. Recently retired professional or business people may find this a useful way to continue to utilise their expertise. Being involved in the running of the Friends as a member of Council is a worthwhile way of actively helping to maintain and support your Cathedral.

Sadly, after the departure from the Cathedral of the Dean, Mark Beach, we are without a President. I should like to thank Mark for being very supportive of the Friends and to wish him well in his new post as Director of Blackfriars Settlement. We also send Annabel and Ellie our very best wishes. Our Vice-President, Philip Hesketh, is once again Acting Dean and I thank him for his continued support and for assuming the presidency until a Dean is appointed.

On your behalf I offer thanks to the committee chairmen and members for their hard work for us: to your Social Committee which continues to arrange such interesting visits, as Mary Woodfield and Markham Chesterfield have reported on elsewhere: to Julian Shales and the Publicity Committee for striving to keep us up to date with events and for updating our pages on the Cathedral web site: to Bob Ratcliffe for editing this Annual Report: to our Treasurer, John Dalley, who maintains a close watch over our finances along with his committee and to Chris Bostock, our Vice-Chairman, who is continuing the task of reviewing the future development of the Friends. Especial thanks go to our administrator, Christine Tucker, for keeping me in line and for all the considerable support and assistance she gives to all of us.

Cathedral Grants

Some eight years ago the Friends proposed to Chapter to provide funds for installing a lift to give wheelchair access from Quire to Nave and Crypt levels. This in due course became expanded to revamping the Crypt, Library and Garth, including some major essential refurbishment in those areas, also funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other major funders. Last autumn the builders eventually started to prepare the site of the new

lift beneath the Kent steps and discovered a previously unknown Norman wall and steps, which turned out to be of national significance and could not be removed, resulting in a major rethink of provision of disabled access to the Crypt. A possible external lift alongside the south door proved not to be practical and no other lift site is available. Our funding is now being put towards a new chairlift running up the Kent steps between the Nave and Quire levels with Nave access to the Crypt through the south door and along a covered walkway. We are all looking forward to the successful completion of the current round of building work so that the Cathedral can return to some sort of normality and we can all enjoy the new facilities in the Library and the exhibition space in the Crypt.

We continue with our annual grant towards upkeep of the Garth and projects are in hand for organ maintenance and repairs, which have been brought forward while the organ is switched off to avoid damage during the building works, and investigation into the necessity to upgrade and enhance the sound system, all of which the Friends have agreed to support. Projects announced in earlier years, such as the List of Bishops and List of Vergers, will be completed once space is made available after the major works have been completed. As a departure from previous grants, but within our aims, the Cathedral is offering training to its young volunteers, including encouraging them to take NVQs, and we are pleased to be able to participate in this by covering some examination costs.

Into the Future

Your ongoing support is important to us and the Cathedral and I thank you for your membership. On our part we are endeavouring to improve our communications as part of offering more information and benefits for you. I look forward with confidence to the future of the Friends. Your Council is enthusiastic, the finances are in good shape and we aim to continue providing help to Rochester Cathedral for many years to come.



For the record 1: The Library, before work commenced

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The Revd Canon Dr Philip Hesketh, Acting Dean

Dear Friends

At fifty years Robert Stevens was the longest serving Dean of Rochester. He was succeeded by Thomas Dale who tragically was the briefest, surviving only four weeks in post. Both Deans died in the Deanery. With the resignation of Mark Beach as Dean I now find myself in the unique position of having been appointed Acting Dean for a record third time. Fortunately, however, I am unlikely to die in the Deanery as it's now the Tea Rooms!

I am informed that a new Dean is likely to be appointed next year and so, until then, it is an unexpected privilege to be invited to take on this role again and, despite the many challenges which face the Cathedral, I feel extremely blessed in being so well supported by staff, congregation and the wider community of Medway and Kent.

One area of colossal concern, and of particular interest to the Friends, has been the progress, or lack of it, on the capital side of the Hidden Treasures Fresh Expression Project. From the outset we have unfortunately been dogged with problems, culminating in the discovery of nationally significant archaeology under the Kent steps, precisely in the planned location of the new lift into the Crypt. From an historical point of view this discovery has been a bonus but, financially and from the perspective of improving access into the Crypt, it has not been. Nevertheless, the project team has worked tirelessly to resolve this situation and the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funders such as Colyer-Fergusson and the Friends have been exceptionally understanding and generous in their continuing support.

It is now hoped that the building works will be completed in the autumn and that disabled access to the Crypt will be via the south side of the Cathedral Garth. This has meant rethinking and redesigning this route in order that it is fit for purpose. Although not ideal, it remains a temporary solution until an alternative one can be found. Watch this space!

On the activity side of the Project there has been good progress and amazing flexibility as we adapt to the shifting timetable for a completed exhibition space in the Crypt. The *Textus Roffensis*, alongside the interesting but less well known, *Custumale Roffense*, is now available online and the Cathedral Library is in the process of being catalogued by the University of Kent. Due to the building-work delays our first planned exhibition, *The Mystery Book*, has been postponed and instead in October we shall be hosting the Faversham *Magna Carta* as part of the 800th anniversary celebrations. This exhibition will be unique in that it will be the only place where *Magna Carta* will be displayed alongside its precursor *Textus Roffensis*. Don't miss this exceptional opportunity!

The Friends continue to be an invaluable support to the mission and conservation of the Cathedral, although inevitably last year some of the intended projects were placed on hold due to the present building works. It is hoped that very soon we shall be able to complete some of the outstanding projects including the long-awaited list of the Bishops of Rochester, which will be located opposite that of the Deans near the High Altar.

I am delighted that the Friends have also agreed to finance the creation of a list of the

Cathedral Vergers. I was unable to trace their line back as far as the Bishops but it has gone some way to acknowledging the work of the Vergers down the centuries who have tirelessly and at times ingeniously gone about their labours. In the 19th century two-thirds of the seating in the Quire was reserved for Cathedral personnel, family and guests. This enabled the enterprising vergers to quietly rent those pews they thought available until an indignant canon's wife found someone sitting in her place. Such practices, of course, would never happen today and it goes without saying that canons' wives are never indignant.

My thanks then to the Friends, the vergers and indeed all who make this Cathedral such an inspiring and welcoming place and so furthering God's Kingdom.



Works in progress on the Chapter House

MEMBERSHIP REPORT ... Mrs Christine Tucker

Our total membership is now 970 composed as follows:

406 Life Members	17 Schools and Colleges
402 Ordinary Members	3 Companies
5 Families	26 Associations
111 PCCs	

During the year 1 January 2014–31 December 2014 we have welcomed 56 new members, 28 Ordinary, 1 Family, 1 Corporate and 26 Life Members. Two members have transferred to Life Membership.

It is with sadness that we record the death of 16 members; 13 members have either resigned or, despite our best efforts to trace them, have not renewed their membership.

It would be a great help if subscriptions could be paid by Banker's Order. This saves the need for a reminder letter and the resulting postage. A Gift Aid Declaration by those eligible to pay tax provides additional funds for the Friends of the Cathedral.

New Members

Affinity Integrated Wealth Management	Mrs R J Jelley	Ms A Smith
R Ashlin	S Lace	M Snoswell
Mrs J Ashlin	Dr P Lawson	J Thornewell
Miss D Bransgrove	Mrs P Lawson	Mrs V C Thornewell
Mrs A Chambers	T Lewis	M J Tottman
J G Copplestone	S J McCarthy	Mrs M J Tottman
Mrs J H Dotse	Ms B McHale	H Watchorn
Mrs S Edwards	R Maisey	M Whitebread
Dr G Fargher	Mrs E M Maisey	Mrs J Whitebread
Thornewell	N Montagu	R E Wild
Ms B Fisher	Ms K Nosarzewska	Dr J Woodfield
R Flood	J Portman	Mrs K Woodfield
Mrs R Flood	Mrs S Portman	
N Flux	Abbott Redwood	
Mrs B Flux	P Sandford	
S Gray	Mrs R Sandford	
J Gray and family	J Shales	
Dr M Harwin	Mrs M Shales	
Mrs H Harwin	B Sherlock	
The Revd R A Hearn	Mrs G Sherlock	
Mrs C Huddleston	Dr and Mr C J Shimmins	
P Isaac	N B S Wilder	
B W Jelley	C M Skinner	

Deaths

Sir John Best-Shaw BT	Mrs E A Gedge	Mrs A Loftus
H Blease	D N Goodwin	The Revd J M Prior
Mrs J Blease	Mrs M J Grieveson	The Revd J M Stanton
Mrs K E Burchill	D C Hebron	Mrs M Taylor
Dame Peggy Fenner DBE	R W Kerridge	G A Tunaley

These lists refer to the year 1 January to 31 December 2014. Our membership list follows the pattern of the Financial Year.

TEXTUS ROFFENSIS ... Bob Ratcliffe

The imminent return of *Textus Roffensis* to its original home within our Cathedral will no doubt encourage the development of interest as to its origins and later history. In this context those seeking suitable sources for study are directed *inter alia*, once the Library is reopened, to volumes XXIII and XXX of *Archaeologia Cantiana*, wherein are two articles by Victorian historians telling the tale of the various perils by land and water which the *Textus* has suffered since the hand of Humphrey, the Precentor at Rochester, inscribed it over 800 years ago.

It was in the 17th century, around 1633, that it was the subject of disputed ownership in the Court of Chancery, having been virtually stolen, or 'borrowed', by one Dr Thomas Leonard of Canterbury. At the time it was in London, in the apparent care of Sir Henry Spelman to whom the Dean and Chapter had lent it to assist him in his researches. On completion of this work arrangements were made for its return to Rochester. At that time one John Larkin, a Prebendary of Rochester Cathedral, was in London and it was arranged that the *Textus* should be delivered to his lodging and that he should bring it back with him. Accordingly an intermediary, Thomas Somer, delivered it to the lodging but, Larkin being away at the time, he left it with Jane Walker, the wife of the landlord, "a haberdasher of hats". Another lodger at this house, Dr Thomas Leonard, found the *Textus* lying about and, realising its value, gave the landlady five shillings for it and carried it off. Two years seem to have elapsed before it was discovered by another scholar, Sir Edward Dering, in the home of Dr Leonard, as a result of which and following proceedings in the Court of Chancery, it was returned to Rochester. The full tale can be found in *Archaeologia Cantiana* Volume XXX, mentioned above.

It was to be a further eighty years before the *Textus* was nearly lost altogether. Again it was on its way to or from London in the care of Dr John Harris, who was using it in connection with his *History of Kent*, published in 1719, when it appears to have fallen into the river. One can imagine the panic that must have ensued before its recovery from a watery grave. A later scholar wrote in 1770 "The book has been in perils both by land and water, and I presume this last escape will prove a sufficient warning to the Dean and Chapter not to suffer it to go any more out of their custody".

For a number of years the *Textus* has been under lock and key in the strong room at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre in Strood. We look forward to its safe passage across the Medway and to its installation in its new home.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT ... Ian Stewart, Surveyor of the Fabric

It has been a turbulent year in every way since I last reported, with many lows but also not a few highs. At a personal level I started a couple of months' radiotherapy shortly after I addressed the Friends' AGM in June. My dogged colleague John Caselton held the fort admirably during my enforced absence.

The main preoccupation over the year has been the Hidden Treasures – Fresh Expressions project which is currently on site and threatens to remain so well into the autumn. Despite lengthy and careful preparation, several surprises have slowed progress significantly, reminding us that when you start messing with a 935 year old building it will always have a few tricks up its sleeve.

The first delay was a very 21st-century one. All the tenders came in far higher than predicted and the painful process of finding cuts - euphemistically called 'value engineering' these days - began. The second was of the 20th century in the form of undetected asbestos in the Crypt floor ducts and the third had a more respectable 11th-century pedigree. Graham Keevill writes more fully about the Norman masonry which has completely scuppered our scheme for a lift set into the Kent Steps to serve the Crypt, Nave and Quire Transept levels. Apart from necessitating a complete redesign of this part of the project, it also rendered redundant our lengthy negotiations with the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England over the details of the balustrade and lift enclosure, for which we had just gained permission.

On the positive side, we have been extraordinarily lucky to have benefited from no less than three unprecedented increases in the Heritage Lottery Fund grant, in recognition of the exceptional difficulties encountered. Dr Edwina Bell, Project Director, also managed to attract a grant from the World War I Cathedrals' Repair Fund towards the cost of repairs to the Library roof and external walls. These additional funds have enabled many of the deferred elements of the project to be reinstated into the contract.

Progress is being made despite all the changes and the new floor in the Crypt is now taking shape after a complex redesign to mitigate the impact on archaeological discoveries, cope with the structural implications of shallow or in some cases non-existent foundations, accommodate large ducts for the distribution of conditioned air, lighting and electrical services and still show a beautiful, orderly, paved surface.

Handsome new arched openings are also being formed allowing better circulation round the Crypt and through to the Vestry areas below the Library. Work is progressing in the Cloister Garth in connection with the revised layout of paths to give step-free access out of the Cathedral, around the Garth and through the Old Chapter House to the Tea Rooms. Detailed design work by specialists continues on the fit-out of the exhibition area in Gundulf's Crypt, the Servedy, the Library and Strong Room.

A second, separate grant from the World War I Cathedrals' Repair Fund also enables us to carry out urgent repairs to roofs, parapets and rainwater goods, all prioritised in the 2013 quinquennial survey about which I spoke at the AGM. Tenders have been received and it is now a matter of co-ordinating this project with the ongoing Hidden Treasures contract

to minimise disruption. A third application has been made to the same fund for masonry and glazing repairs to the North Transept, which were also called for in the quinquennial survey. At the time of writing we await the outcome of that application. It would be excellent if this essential work could be put in hand.

Gilly Wilford, the Chapter Clerk, has secured funding from the North Kent branch of NADFAS for the conservation of painted panels of the pulpitum screen, about which I wrote in last year's report. This delicate work has yet to be programmed.

Painfully slow progress is being made on two other projects supported by the Friends, which involve lettering. One is the list of Bishops, to match that of Priors and Deans in the Presbytery, and the other is a list of Vergers past and present intended to be placed in the passageway from the North Quire Aisle through to their HQ in Gundulf's Tower. A third lettering project is sponsored by the Old Roffensians to commemorate Douglas Vicary, a former Canon and Headmaster of King's School. This will be a small bronze plaque in the floor of the Lady Chapel. This, which has also been under discussion for a very long time, is being executed by Paul Wehrle who (like me) thought he had retired. He has been persuaded to tackle this one last commission which will join other examples of his excellent work around the Cathedral, notably the Royal Engineers' Memorial and the Bishop David Say memorial.



A 14th century face in the Palm Court

Throughout this busy and demanding year we have continued to enjoy the understanding, advice and support of the Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee. Sadly during the year we heard of the deaths of two friends and former stalwarts of that Committee, namely Peter Marsh, Chairman for many years and Architect to Canterbury Cathedral, and John Physick, Deputy Chairman and Assistant to the Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum under Sir Roy Strong. We benefit hugely from the input of people of this calibre who continue to give their time and expertise towards the care of the unique, very special place which is our Cathedral.

ARCHAEOLOGIST'S REPORT

Graham Keevill, Cathedral Archaeologist

The Hidden Treasures – Fresh Expressions project has, unsurprisingly, dominated my work at the Cathedral during the past year. It has provided us with a once-in-a-lifetime chance to examine the east end of the Norman cathedral. The likelihood that the current east end of AD 1200 hid the evidence for its predecessor was a tantalising prospect. William St John Hope's 1898 paper on the building's architectural history¹ proposed that the Norman work had a square east end, with a small projection at its centre also with a square end. He based this on what he referred to as "probing and excavations". Several later scholars have questioned his interpretation, suggesting that the Cathedral would have had semi-circular eastern apses at this date. We had hoped that a radar survey of the Crypt late in 2011 would help with this conundrum but alas the solid concrete floor, now removed, blanked out any results. We did get very good radar results from the South Quire Aisle – but more of that in a moment.

The reflooring of the Crypt has allowed us to examine virtually the entirety of its interior and this large-scale approach has certainly paid dividends. This is not the place to go into great technical detail but we have seen no evidence whatsoever of apsidal foundations or walls anywhere. This includes the so-called Gundulf's Crypt, the one surviving part of the Norman east end. Some have suggested that this itself was later Norman and that the Cathedral built by its namesake actually ended in apses on the line of its current west wall. This is not the case for all we have in this location is some Roman pits cutting into the natural brick-earth. Further to the east, within the 1200 century Crypt, we have found pretty much the entire extent of the Norman foundations, with its end just behind (west of) the glazed screen at the entrance to Ithamar's Chapel. Perhaps to our slight surprise the flint, mortar and gravel foundations follow exactly the plan published by St John Hope: flat ends with no trace of any apses. Most tellingly, not only have we found his small projecting chamber in the centre of the east wall but we also have a surviving course of wall masonry. This rises directly off the outer edge of the foundations and runs to the end of the projection. It was most certainly square-ended and in our opinion the suggestion of an apsidal east end can now be dismissed. St John Hope was right.

And so to the lift shaft. Everything we have found in the Crypt so far was at least broadly predictable, or in the case of the Roman evidence (including a building) not unexpected on the basis of previous work. But the proposed lift shaft under the Kent Steps descending into the former cleaner's store at the foot of the steps down into the Crypt held a real Hidden Treasure in wait for us. As Ian has already mentioned, our find stopped the lift dead in its tracks before it could even be built. The Fresh Expressions this brought to various mouths sadly cannot be repeated in this august journal ...

Without going into great detail, tempting though that is, the Kent Steps lay above and concealed extensive Norman masonry which was also hidden behind the west wall of the cleaner's store. The radar survey here had successfully revealed the foundations of the Norman cathedral's south wall, or so we thought, and a structure built against it - perhaps the supposed lesser tower shown by St John Hope or the west range of the Cloister. Critically, the radar could not be used over the proposed lift shaft position because the treads of the Kent Steps were too narrow and of course the wheelchair lift was also still

in daily use. Thus we had no chance to look for, let alone find, our unexpected masonry before now. The core of our discovery is a door, with its threshold and one step both worn through extensive use intact and the 'ghosts' of two more visible. We are certain that we would find evidence for further steps if we continued digging westwards. The masonry consists of tufa – typical of the Norman cathedral and mined out by c 1150. Thus our door must be earlier than that. Most remarkably though, its south side clearly abuts, and is thus later than, the wall of the South Quire Aisle but this part of the Cathedral is supposed to have been built c 1200 like the main Crypt. Plainly the lower parts of the wall at least are around 100 years earlier than that!

Why did this prove to be such a major impediment? The reason is that Norman cathedrals are rare beasts – fewer than two dozen in the whole country. Virtually all of them have been altered more or less substantially down the years since that age, and of course Rochester is no exception. Thus Norman fabric is rare and almost always of exceptional importance. That is the case with our Hidden Treasure – and CFCE took the unanimous view that it could not be lost, even for such a laudable reason as an access lift to the Crypt.

As I write my voice is recovering from three days of site tours on 12-14 March 2015. As several Friends can testify, these were very popular, indeed many times over-subscribed. This reflects the strong public interest in archaeology, and of course our dedication to and love for the Cathedral. Without exception, people were fascinated by our discoveries, sympathetic over the problems some of them posed and delighted that the Norman masonry which had scuppered the lift shaft would become a visible treasure, displayed as a result of our project thanks to the generous support of the Friends, the Heritage Lottery Fund and our other sponsors.

¹ *St John Hope W 1898: The Architectural History of the Cathedral Church and Monastery of St Andrew at Rochester, Part 1: The Cathedral. Archaeologia Cantiana 23, pp 194-328.*



The Norman door exposed

The Building Stones of Rochester Cathedral



Part 2: The Interior

Allow around 30-40 minutes to complete this trail. The various building stones and some technical terms are described in the Glossary.

Rochester Cathedral has a long and chequered history, suffering major fires, rebuilding, demolition, neglect and major restorations. Some of these events are evident in the Cathedral's stonework which is examined in this trail.

The first cathedral was founded in 604, though nothing from this period is known to survive. Even its location is uncertain, although the foundations of a small Anglo-Saxon church, perhaps the first cathedral, were discovered in 1888: their location is marked on the ground at the west end of the present Cathedral.

After the Norman Conquest Gundulph (Bishop 1077-1108) replaced the Anglo-Saxon cathedral and founded a Benedictine monastery. Only part of the Crypt and some walling survive from his time.

In the 12th century the West Front was re-modelled and the Nave and Cloisters rebuilt. Later in the 12th century, following major fires in 1137 and 1179, the whole building east of the Nave was rebuilt in stages in the Early English style. In the 13th century rebuilding of the Nave was started at the east end but abandoned. The last major addition, in the early 16th century, was the Lady Chapel.

When the monastery was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1540 the Cathedral remained in use, so the interior is largely preserved in its mediaeval state.

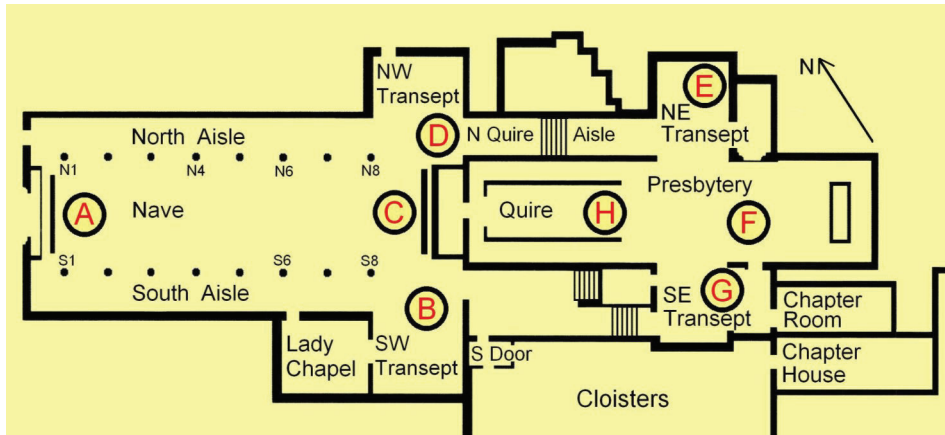
The exterior is mostly built of Kentish ragstone from the Maidstone area which is suitable for walling but not fine carving. For the interior a finer finish was needed so the Norman work is mainly of Caen stone, shipped across the English Channel from Normandy, together with some Reigate stone. Reigate stone is found only in the Reigate area of Surrey and had to be transported around 15 miles by cart across the North Downs to wharves on the River Thames for shipping to Rochester. It suffers from weathering when used externally.

The third main type of stone is Purbeck marble used in the late 12th century and the 13th century for monumental slabs and dark decorative shafts to contrast with the light Caen and Reigate stones. This was shipped some 250 miles around the coast from the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset.

Other types of stone were used for minor works, 19th century restorations and monuments, and several are described in this trail. All are imported from outside Kent except Wealden marble.

Acknowledgements

This trail was compiled by David Carder based on studies by Bernard Worssam, with help from Peter Golding and Bob Ratcliffe.



The Trail

Begin the trail inside the Great West Door by the steps (Point A on the plan).

The Nave was rebuilt after the 1137 fire mostly using Caen stone. It is divided from the North and South Aisles by arcades with a triforium above, all with round Norman arches with some chevron ornament. The clerestory is 15th century with shallow pointed arches over the windows. Much of the Caen stone has been covered with limewash, plaster or varnish but it can be seen exposed in the memorial arches on the west wall on each side of the Great West Door.

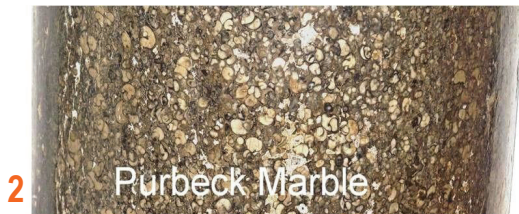
The apse of an Anglo-Saxon church, discovered in 1888, is inscribed on the floor near pier N1. Four pier bases (N1-4, notably N1 and N4) have leaf-shaped spurs which are late Norman features suggesting that the North Aisle was built after the South Aisle. (Photo 1)



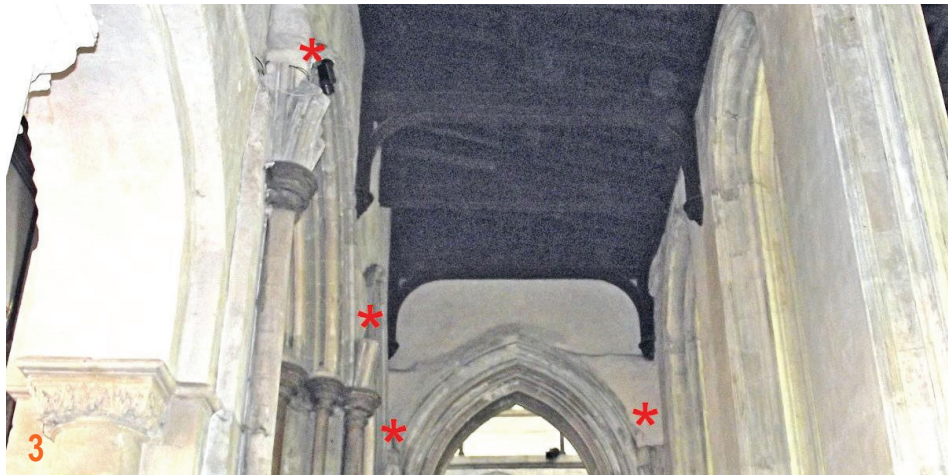
Go along the South Aisle to the South-West Transept (Point B).

The font and its pedestal were carved from Hopton Wood stone in 1893 in the Early English style. Further along is the large monument to Dame Ann Henniker with the figures of Truth (left) and Time (right) in Coade stone. They stand on a Carrara marble pedestal and "Coade London 1793" is marked on their bases. On the wall of the Lady Chapel is the South African War Memorial of 1903, carved from alabaster.

In the 13th century a re-modelling of the Nave in the Early English style was started but abandoned, as shown by the east ends of the arcades at piers S6-8 and N6-8, which have tall pointed arches and no triforium. The piers have shafts of Caen stone (light) and Purbeck marble (dark). Purbeck marble is composed of small freshwater snail shells, best seen in the shafts of pier S8 adjacent to the South-West Transept. (Photo 2)



Piers S6-S8 have unused springers (marked *) showing that a vault was planned for the South Aisle but never built. (Photo 3)



The South-West Transept is vaulted in timber rather than stone, presumably for economy: the planks and their supporting framework are clearly visible. The wall shafts are of Caen and Reigate stones and Purbeck marble. The monuments are in a variety

of stones including true marbles and the black ledger slabs are of Tournai marble.

Opposite the South Door is the tomb of Bishop John de Bradfield who died in 1283. He is represented as a flat effigy in Purbeck marble, now headless. The canopy is of Reigate stone and the wall above is painted to represent stone blocks.

Return to the east end of the Nave (Point C).

The black ledger slabs on the Nave floor are of Tournai marble. The triforium above piers S5 and S6 has several dark Reigate stone blocks amongst the lighter Caen stone, presumably an ancient repair.

The Pulpitum at the top of the steps has a 13th century central doorway but the stonework on each side, with recesses and statues, was constructed in about 1888 by John Pearson using Weldon stone.

On the large pier (N8) behind the pulpit, particularly on the north side, are some randomly placed carved stones with basket-weave and diaper (cross) decoration, probably reused from a demolished Norman building. A complete diaper decoration scheme can be seen externally above the Chapter House entrance in the Cloisters. The massive nature of piers N8 and S8 suggests structural problems, perhaps when the Nave's east end was re-modelled in the 13th century.

As with the South Aisle piers N6 and N7 have unused springers showing that a vault was also planned for the North Aisle.

Go over to the North-West Transept, then the North Quire Aisle (Point D).

The walls of the 13th century North-West Transept are faced with a mixture of squared blocks of light Caen stone and darker Reigate stone with some Purbeck marble shafts. The North Quire Aisle has shafts of Reigate stone with some capitals, bases and shaft-rings in Purbeck marble. Both areas have vault ribs of Reigate stone. The doorway on the left before the steps, known as the Pilgrim Steps, is also of Reigate stone, contrasting with the tomb of Bishop Hamo de Hythe opposite which is of Caen stone.

There are several large stone slabs in the floor with indents for mediaeval monumental brasses, including one for a bishop. They have been gathered here from around the Cathedral and those which contain large fossil shells may be of Unio marble. Sadly the Cathedral has lost all its ancient brasses.

Climb the steps into the North-East Transept (Point E).

The east end of the Cathedral, which comprises the eastern transepts, the Quire and the Presbytery, is thought to have been rebuilt immediately after the fire of 1179; the Quire was complete by 1227. It is vaulted throughout in stone and has shafts of Purbeck marble and bases of either Purbeck marble or Wealden marble.

The monument to Bishop Walter de Merton (died 1277) was completely rebuilt in 1852. The effigy is of alabaster and the dark shafts are of Wealden marble: its composition of large shells can be distinguished from the small shells of Purbeck marble. (Photo 2)

The tomb of Bishop John de Sheppey (died 1360) was hidden in the wall until discovered in 1825: the effigy's paintwork is mostly original. The tomb has an original base of Reigate stone and a replacement canopy of Portland stone, best seen where the stonework is chipped.

Go into the Presbytery (Point F).

The slab on the south side in front of the sanctuary rail is of Purbeck marble. It is decorated with a stem with sprouting foliage and was moved here from the Crypt in the late 19th century. On the floor is a large 15th century Purbeck marble slab with indents for the monumental brass of a bishop.

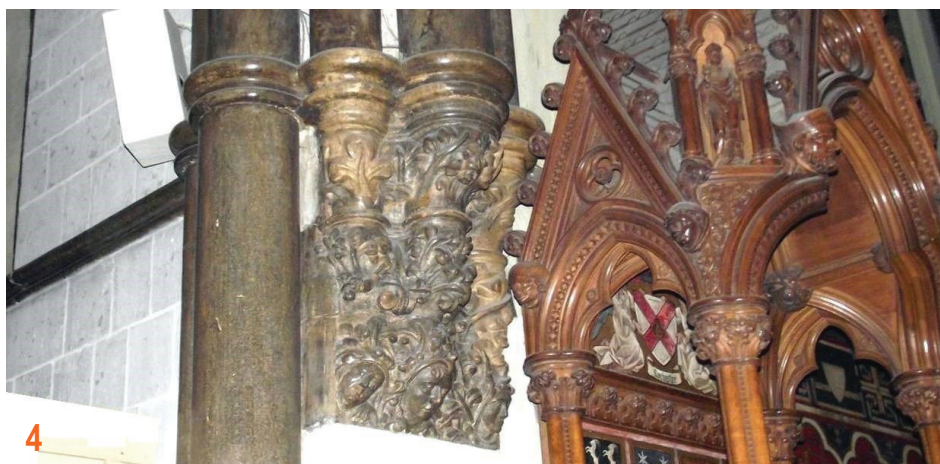
Go into the South-East Transept (Point G).

One of the Cathedral's finest features is the early 14th century Chapter Room doorway, with the small naked figure at the top of the arch representing the ascension into heaven of the soul of Bishop Hamo de Hythe. It is of Reigate stone and, although restored in the 19th century, shows how finely this stone can be carved.

The walls and piers are of Caen and Reigate stone with Purbeck marble shafts.

Go into the Quire (Point H).

The eight corbels supporting the wall shafts are finely carved from Purbeck marble in the Early English style, with stylised leaves, human heads and animals. The one next to the bishop's throne is particularly elaborate. (Photo 4)



4

The trail ends here.

Glossary

Alabaster: A translucent stone with pink veins used decoratively in monuments. Historically it came from the Derbyshire area.

Aisle: A north or south extension to a nave or quire, often separated by an arcade.

Anglo-Saxon: The historical period from about 450 to 1066.

Apse: The semi-circular or polygonal end of a church.

Arcade: A series of arches supported by piers.

Base: The carved foot of a pier or shaft.

Caen stone: A fine cream or light yellow Jurassic limestone from Caen in Normandy, suitable for carving and much used in Norman buildings in South-East England.

Capital: The decorative head of a pier or shaft.

Carrara marble: A white true marble, often with grey veins, from Carrara in Italy.

Carboniferous: A geological period from about 359 to 299 million years ago.

Chevron: Norman V-shaped or zig-zag ornament.

Clerestory: The top level, pierced by windows, of a wall of a large church.

Coade stone: Light-coloured stoneware fired at high temperature to make it impervious to rain and frost. It was used for statues and architectural ornaments and made until the 1840s by the company established in 1769 by Mrs Eleanor Coade.

Corbel: A stone bracket projecting from a wall to carry a load.

Cretaceous: A geological period from about 145 to 66 million years ago.

Early English: The style of architecture from about 1190 to 1250 which followed the Norman style. Its characteristics include pointed arches and stylised leaves.

Hopton Wood stone: A fine cream Carboniferous limestone from Derbyshire.

Jurassic: A geological period from about 200 to 145 million years ago.

Ledger slab: An incised stone memorial slab set flush in the floor of a church.

Limestone: A sedimentary rock with a high calcium-carbonate content.

Limewash: A white or pale cream paint made from limestone.

Marble: (a) Strictly a limestone altered by high temperature and/or pressure ('metamorphosed'), referred to in this trail as a 'true marble' and always imported. (b) An unaltered limestone which can be polished to produce a decorative finish - see Purbeck marble, Tournai marble, Unio marble and Wealden marble.

Mediaeval: The historical period from 1066 to about 1540.

Nave: The western area of a church historically occupied by the laity.

Norman: (a) The historical period from 1066 to about 1154. (b) The style of architecture used during that period characterised by round arches.

Oolitic: Stone formed from small round grains of calcium carbonate.

Pier: A structural block of masonry often supporting an arch. In this trail the expression includes pillars and columns.

Portland stone: A fine white oolitic Jurassic limestone from Dorset widely used from the 17th century for prestigious buildings.

Presbytery: The eastern area of a large church historically occupied by the clergy.

Pulpitum: A stone screen separating a nave from a quire.

Purbeck marble: A dark Cretaceous limestone from Dorset formed from packed fossil shells of small freshwater snails. Used in the 13th century as a decorative stone.

Quire: The area of a large church historically occupied by the clergy and the choir.

Reigate stone: A pale-grey, slightly greenish Cretaceous stone of unique composition, mined from the Reigate area. It suffers from weathering when used externally.

Rib: An arch used to form some types of vault, known as rib-vaults.

Sedimentary rock: Rock formed by the deposition of sand, mud or other material on land or in water. All stones described here are sedimentary except the true marbles.

Shaft: A non-structural slim stone cylinder at the side of a window, doorway or pier.

Shaft-ring: A ring joining two shafts, one above the other.

Springer: The first stone or stones at the base of an arch or vault.

Spur: A late Norman ornament which fills a space on the base of a pier.

Tournai marble: A black or dark-grey Carboniferous limestone from Belgium, often polished to produce a decorative glossy finish for shafts and memorial slabs.

Transept: A transverse projecting part of a church.

Triforium: The wall level above an arcade, usually below a clerestory and often with a passage behind.

Unio marble: An uncommon form of Wealden marble with mussel-like shells.

Vault: An arched stone ceiling. Rib-vaults are constructed using ribs.

Wealden marble: A dark Cretaceous limestone from the Weald usually formed from packed fossil shells of large freshwater snails. In Kent it is often called Bethersden marble after one of its main sites. See also Unio marble.

Weathering: Wearing away of rocks by physical or chemical action.

Weldon stone: A light oolitic Jurassic limestone from Northamptonshire.

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www.rochestercathedral.org/friends

*A PRECIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held in the King's School Hall, The Precinct, Rochester, on Saturday, 21 June 2014*

Seventy-one members were present.

The President, The Very Revd Dr Mark Beach, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The President read the names of the 18 members who sadly had died since the previous AGM.

Apologies for absence were received from 43 members.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 June 2013, having previously been circulated, were signed by the President as a correct record.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The President thanked everyone for their support and welcomed Cllr Ray Maisey, Deputy Mayor of Medway, to the meeting.

The President referred to the Heritage Lottery Fund project being delayed but thanked the Friends for their financial support. He was delighted to report that work would begin on the 28 July. The funding was not quite complete yet and work to the Garth and Ithamar Chapel would have to be excluded at this stage. He was fairly confident that further funding would be secured from the HLF. This had involved a massive amount of work by Ian Stewart and Dr Edwina Bell, the Project Director. It would of course disrupt the life of the Cathedral over the following twelve months and he asked for patience during that period.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked the President for his address and said that the Friends were delighted to have honoured their pledge of £300,000 towards the works for the provision of disabled access. Minor works had included the Garth maintenance, the publication of a booklet on Dean Hole *The Muscle and the Rose*, written by our Vice-President, Canon Dr Philip Hesketh, the repair to the Tudor Gate and the Pulpit together with £1,000 for educational leaflets. He said that he had been impressed by the education officers of the Cathedral.

Looking forward positively at the Quinquennial Report one element for the Friends to consider supporting was the updating of the audio system. Estimates were to come from the Dean and Chapter.

One objective in the current year had been to endeavour to increase our membership to that magical figure of one thousand. The Chairman asked members to consider enrolling just one new member from within their family, friends and acquaintances.

The Chairman thanked the Dean, the Vice-President, Mr Terry Wood, our Vice-Chairman and Members of Council for their support over the year. He expressed his gratitude to Bob

Ratcliffe, who had undertaken the editorship of the Annual Report. Special thanks were recorded to Miss Betty Trollope for her substantial contribution to the affairs of the Council and as a past Chairman and to Mrs Mary Woodfield for serving on the Council for six years and for organising the events and outings for the Friends, both now standing down.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Mrs Christine Tucker, the Friends' Administrator, as an excellent ambassador for the Friends and her husband Andrew for helping with IT issues in the office.

After 26 years on the Council the Chairman wished the remaining team every success in the challenge of gaining 1,000 members.

Miss Trollope proposed a vote of thanks for Michael Bailey as he stood down from the Council.

The President in agreeing, said that he looked forward to working with the incoming Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer referred to page 29 in the Annual Report and a printer's error in the recording of Crypt Project – Stage 2, which should have read £200,000 and not £20,000.

The Annual Report showed a simplified statement before the audit. Following meetings with the Independent Examiner the full Accounts were now signed off and copies were available at the meeting or from the Office to any member upon request.

The Investment Portfolio had grown by 10% during the year and the Friends had continued to enjoy an investment return in excess of 3%. The valuation of the portfolio stood at £982,000 as at 31 May.

The Treasurer expressed grateful thanks to Mrs Christine Tucker for her hard work in producing all the necessary paperwork over the year.

There were no questions from the floor.

The acceptance of the Accounts examined by Richard Abel and set out in the Report for the year to 31 December 2013 was put to the meeting for approval. Terry Wood proposed and Miss Betty Trollope seconded their acceptance and they were approved unanimously.

ELECTION OF FOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

There were four vacancies on the Council following retirements.

The President announced that Alan McLean, Alf Philpott, Mrs Heather Sinclair and Julian Shales had all offered themselves for election and, there being no further nominations, were elected for three years.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

With only one nomination received Terry Wood was elected as Chairman for one year.

ELECTION OF HON TREASURER

With only one nomination received John Dalley was elected as Hon Treasurer for one year.

ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Richard Abel, having notified that he was prepared to act, was appointed Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2014.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President announced that none had been notified to the Office by the notification date.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Friends would be held at 2 pm on Saturday, 20 June 2015.

Following the meeting an Address on The Quinquennial Survey was given by Ian Stewart, Surveyor to the Fabric of Rochester Cathedral.



For the record 2; The Ithamar Chapel before work commenced

SOCIAL EVENTS ... Mrs Mary Woodfield, Social Secretary

OXFORD

Our first day-excursion in 2014 was to Oxford on Wednesday 26 March for a guided tour of Merton College, specially timed to coincide with the 750th anniversary of the founding of the College in 1264. Founded by Walter de Merton, one time Chancellor of England and later Bishop of Rochester, his tomb is in Rochester Cathedral's North Quire Transept and maintained by Merton College.

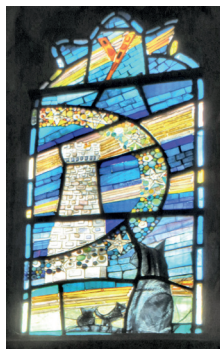
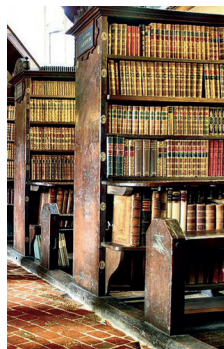
We alighted by the Ashmolean Museum, with free time before reassembling at Merton College Lodge at 2 pm. We entered through the 15th century Gatehouse and were welcomed by three guides. Our large party was then split into three groups for a most impressive tour.



It was a special delight and privilege to be taken to the Upper Library built around 1373. Our guide explained that it was improved in the 16th century under Warden Henry Savile. To allow more light dormer windows were added to the roof.

This superb Library still retains its 16th century fittings, some chained books, one of Elizabeth 1's Welsh Bibles, a remarkable matching pair of 16th century globes (one of the earth, the other of the heavens) and a fine collection of other early scientific instruments.

We learnt that Thomas Bodley, whose memorial we saw in Merton College Chapel, was responsible for this library in the, then, new Continental style; the old book chests and lecterns were replaced by book shelves with benches between them and were among the first to be used in England.



Whilst wandering round the impressive college buildings we noticed this plaque on the wall under an archway; the left side of it being of particular interest to us. In the Chapel, was this beautiful stained glass window.

Our allotted tour time

went quickly and all too soon it was time to say a big 'Thank You' to our excellent guides and return to our coach for the homeward journey.

Mercifully although a cold but sunny day, the rain held off until we were in the coach. However we learnt that the Medway area had endured terrible thunderstorms and power cuts whilst we were in Oxford!

PARHAM HOUSE

Wednesday 11 June was a perfect summer's day greatly adding to the enjoyment of our 52, who visited Parham House in Sussex. It is a beautiful family home built to an Elizabethan H-plan. On arrival and lunch in the Tudor Kitchen, with its gleaming copper pots, members were free to explore the house, garden and grounds.



With a wealth of interesting paintings, furniture and family memorabilia in each room (the Great Hall, Parlour, White Room, West Room, Saloon, Great Chamber, once a principal reception room, the Green Room, Long Gallery), there was so much to view and admire. In the West Room was a double portrait by Sir Peter Lely of Sir Ralph Assheton and his wife Elizabeth, who apparently ran away from her husband. The room steward told us that when Elizabeth eventually returned to him he had the picture altered to show him holding a lock of her hair with his foot on her dress!

We saw also 16th century Italian wool wall-hangings, the earliest known examples of flame stitch in England, and a number of rare Stuart needlework pictures.

In the small room off the Long Gallery was interesting information about the genealogy and general history of the family.

The 160 foot Long Gallery, the third longest Long Gallery in England, in past years was used for entertaining, recreation and military exercises. Apparently even the Parham Troop of Yeomanry was drilled there in the days of the Napoleonic Wars.

Nowadays it also has a wonderful variety of furniture, needlework, pictures, antiquities, amongst them a 4th century lead Roman cistern thought to be an early Christian font.

Some members also took time to walk across to the nearby 15th century St Peter's church. Due to leave at 5 'clock for our homeward journey there was just time to return to the Tudor Kitchen for a welcome cup of tea.

WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

By booking a year in advance we managed to secure 50 tickets for two timed tours of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry on what turned out to be an extremely hot Saturday, 8 August.

On arrival in London group one went straight to the Foundry shop for their tour.

Group two's tour wasn't until 4 pm so there was plenty of time to get some lunch and explore the area. Some even made their way to the Tower of London to see the wonderful display of poppies commemorating those who had lost their lives in the First World War.

Assembling in the shop our guide met and led us into an inner yard and here he gave us a splendid introductory talk about the history of the Foundry.

We followed our guide into a large rectangular room.



First, however, he gave us repeated warnings that, as we were about to enter a very busy workshop with items strewn all around, everyone needed to take very great care.

Warm as we all were whilst just standing in this room and listening to our guide explaining how the bells were made it was easy to imagine that, when the furnaces were lit, the heat would have been quite unbearable for most of us!



These photos below give an idea of the site that confronted us on entering the room!

We were told that when completed the task of tuning the bell to a particular note needed to be done by a specialist with perfect pitch.

Moving very carefully on again we came to a very high, large, littered room from where

new, repaired and cleaned bells would be loaded onto a lorry and sent to their destinations. After climbing up some steep stairs to even more rooms our guide showed and told us about the various hand-bells which they make and repair. Shown here is a set of returned bells, boxed and ready to be returned to their owners.

On returning to the yard our guide completed our tour and rang one of the many bells hanging there.

The tour over it was time to return to our coach for our homeward journey after a most interesting and enjoyable day.

DERBY

Derby was our destination for our 5-day residential visit in 2014 from 9 –13 May.

This year we made our way straight to the new Holiday Inn Derby Riverlights Hotel as, being the only time it could be organised, we had booked a late afternoon visit to the Roundhouse. So, after a short rest our driver took us to the nearby world's first and oldest surviving Roundhouse to meet our two delightful guides. We were given a comprehensive and fascinating tour of what was once, with its associations with Robert and George Stephenson, a major engineering centre of the railway industry. Now it is used as part of the University.

Whilst walking through the large Roundhouse, the Engine Shed, Carriage Shop and other rooms all around us were visual reminders of these buildings' past use and of the men, women and children who pioneered Derby's railway industry.

Saturday was a full day with visits in the morning first to the excellent Derby Museum and Art Gallery. It had a room devoted to a superb collection of paintings by Joseph Wright. In another was a replication of the room in Exeter House (now demolished) where Bonnie Prince Charlie had held his council of war in 1745 while on his way south to seize the British crown. In many other rooms were fascinating displays featuring archaeology, geology, natural history, military history and other fine art.

Leaving the Museum we were taken a short distance to look around Pickford House Museum at No 41 Friar Gate, an elegant Town House built by the prominent architect Pickford in 1770 for his own family, and set out delightfully as it would have been in his time.

We returned to our coach for a drive through the beautiful Derwent Valley to Cromford Mills for lunch. Sadly our arrival coincided with a thunderstorm and torrential rain so it was a quick dash to the nearest shelter for lunch! Eventually, when the rain stopped there was just time for a quick look around the mill area before rejoining our coach to drive on to the famous Heights of Abraham for our timed booked visit for the cable cars. Luckily, although it rained hard whilst there, the rain just held off long enough for most to see the famous panoramic view.

On Sunday, we were warmly welcomed to morning service at Derby Cathedral. Afterwards some of their Cathedral Friends escorted us to their new shop/refectory as Stephen, the

manager, had very kindly opened and prepared a special lunch for us all. When we had finished we quickly returned to the Cathedral for an excellent tour arranged and given to us by three Derby Cathedral Friends. With its history, Bess of Hardwick's memorial, the impressive Bakewell Screen and Joseph Wright's tombstone there was much to learn and admire.



Our last visit on Sunday was to the classical Palladian mansion of Kedleston Hall with its magnificent central block containing the impressive State Rooms and memorabilia collected by Lord Curzon whilst on his travels in India as Viceroy. An example of this being a highly decorative Howdah illustrated here.



Monday morning John Mortimor, Derby Cathedral's Visitors' Officer, kindly joined us to open and recount the fascinating history of this beautifully restored little mediaeval St Mary's Chapel on the Bridge, now used by the cathedral.

Back to the coach again and off to the magnificent Chatsworth House, the original being built by Bess of Hardwick and her third husband Sir William Cavendish in the mid 16th century. On arrival and given our passes we were free to explore on our own. Some took advantage of the buggy guided tour of the grounds or just walked in the extensive gardens before lunch and entering the house. Our visit also coincided with a wonderful Flower Festival with the most beautiful arrangements in the rooms and corridors.



With its magnificent Painted Hall, the many State Rooms and the Sculpture Gallery our time there passed all too quickly before it was time to return to our coach and back to our hotel.

Tuesday in the morning of our last day and with our luggage safely stored on the coach we went to the nearby Crown Derby Factory for our last guided tour.

Welcomed, we were escorted to the Museum where within numerous showcases were the most exquisite examples of Crown Derby work.

Having divided our party into groups our guides then took us through several rooms showing and explaining to us how the various items of their fine bone china were produced. Many of the designs on the plates, cups and saucers, etcetera, were familiar to us. We were also shown the enormous gas-fired kilns where, with great care, all the items were fired.

We marvelled at the care, skill, artistry and intense concentration of those artisans who were creating the exquisite china pieces for many special orders. The tour once completed we thanked our guides and walked through the shop to the restaurant where our lunch was awaiting us.

Lunch over it was time to rejoin the coach for an easy homeward journey after a busy but very pleasant few days away.

*THE TRUSTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL*
Registered Charity No 273973

Report of the Officers and Members of Council

We submit our report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Objectives and Policy of the Charity

The charity was formed in 1935 to apply its income towards the furtherance of the upkeep and welfare of Rochester Cathedral by support from members paying subscriptions and income from legacies and fund-raising events.

Organisation

The Council meets at suitable intervals during the year to consider the Association's performance and to decide on appropriate grants.

The charity has one part-time employee and, apart from the office costs and the annual report issued to members, has minimal administration costs.

Review of the Year

The income during the year was £49,943. The overall capital value of the fund has decreased due to the fluctuation in the Stock Market. However, current valuations show a recovery to previous years' values.

The grants paid to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral during the year were:

Upkeep of Garth Gardens	£ 7,500
Bishop's Chair refurbishment	800
	<u>8,300</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT ... John A Dalley, Hon Treasurer

These Accounts represent the year ended to 31 December 2014.

I report that our Investment Portfolio reduced by almost 3.5% during the year due to Stock Market and Global Market trends; however we have continued to enjoy an investment return in excess of 3%. I consider our Investments to be of a long-term nature and in place to generate income for the future.

The main source of our income has been from dividends receipts, subscriptions and donations. During the year we received £4,772 from HMRC as a tax refund in respect of Gift Aid. We continue to monitor closely all expenditure and I can report that we are on budget in all areas.

I should again like to thank Mrs Christine Tucker for her hard work and for her continued efforts in the management of the office and control of expenditure for the Friends.

The Charity Commissioners' recommended format for Charity Accounts has resulted in a large document which would be uneconomical to produce in full in this report. These figures are an extract from the Unexamined Accounts. Independently examined copies of the full accounts will be available to any member upon request.

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral Balance sheet as at 31st December 2014

	31.12.14	31.12.13
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Investments	<u>952,487</u>	<u>985,468</u>
Current Assets		
Stocks	1,717	1,888
Prepayments	0	642
Cash at Bank	<u>43,449</u>	<u>16,004</u>
	<u>45,166</u>	<u>18,534</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	7,374	<u>6,500</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>37,792</u>	<u>12,034</u>
Net Assets	<u>990,279</u>	<u>997,502</u>
Funds		
Restricted	902,487	935,468
General	<u>87,792</u>	<u>62,034</u>
	<u>990,279</u>	<u>997,502</u>

**The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2014**

	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31.12.14 £	Total 31.12.13 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Subscriptions	9,090	0	9,090	9,436
Gift Aid Tax Relief	4,772	0	4,772	0
Donations	1,800	0	1,800	1,604
Profit on social events	818	0	818	1,246
Dividends	31,847	0	31,847	33,293
Profit on publications	666	0	666	584
Book of Memory surplus	-50	0	-50	140
Legacy	<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>49,943</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>49,943</u>	<u>47,303</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Direct charitable expenditure				
Grants	8,300	0	8,300	227,722
Other expenditure:				
Management and administration	<u>15,885</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15,885</u>	<u>15,147</u>
	<u>24,185</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>24,185</u>	<u>242,869</u>
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS AND FUND BALANCES				
Net incoming resources before transfers	25,758	0	25,758	-195,566
Unrealised gain on investment held	<u>0</u>	<u>-32,981</u>	<u>-32,981</u>	<u>94,722</u>
Net movement in funds	25,758	-32,981	-7,223	-100,844
Fund balances brought forward	<u>62,034</u>	<u>935,468</u>	<u>997,502</u>	<u>1,098,346</u>
Fund balances carried forward	<u>87,792</u>	<u>902,487</u>	<u>990,279</u>	<u>997,502</u>

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable UK Accounting Standards and with the Charities Act 2011

2. Management and Administration Expenditure

	Total	Total
	31.12.14	31.12.13
	£	£
Salary	7,200	7,004
Office Expenses	5,117	4,255
Postage, Printing and Stationery	1,186	2,185
Annual Report	1,680	1,223
Accountancy	510	480
AGM	<u>192</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>15,885</u>	<u>15,147</u>

3. Investments

The investments of the charity are managed by Cazenove Capital Management Limited of 12 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA. The investments in the year comprised:

	Total	Total
	31.12.14	31.12.13
	£	£
UK Bonds	96,360	117,556
Portfolio Funds	84,264	88,701
UK Equities	625,766	653,290
Property	47,058	44,379
Hedge Funds	75,550	27,235
Cash on Deposit	<u>23,489</u>	<u>54,307</u>
Portfolio Valuation	<u>952,487</u>	<u>985,468</u>

*SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL – JULY TO DECEMBER 2015*

August

8 Saturday Charles Timberlake informal lunchtime Piano Recital

September

5 Saturday Day Trip to Ely Cathedral
13 Sunday Patronal Festival
20 Sunday Royal Engineers' Memorial Day

October

4 Sunday Harvest Thanksgiving

November

7 Saturday Royal Marine Association Service
8 Sunday Royal British Legion Remembrance Service

December

2 Wednesday Advent Lunch at Redlibbets Golf Club, Ash
BBC Radio Kent Carol Service
Wisdom Hospice Lights for Love
5 Saturday-6 Sunday Dickens Christmas Festival
5 Saturday Lunchtime Carols
12 Saturday Christingle Service
19 Saturday Volunteers' Evensong
21 Monday Cathedral Carol Service (1)
22 Tuesday Cathedral Carol Service (2)
24 Thursday Blessing of the Crib
24 Thursday Midnight Mass

At the time of going to print some dates are not confirmed.
Please contact the Cathedral office nearer the date.

Concerts

1 July Wednesday Summer Concert

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