

Rochester

CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



From the Acting Dean's desk

English cathedrals are a vital part of our national heritage and yet, unlike most European cathedrals there is no state funding. Alongside playing an essential role in the nation's spiritual life and standing as an iconic reminder of the nation's history, it is also recognised that cathedrals play an

important part in the nation's economy with 12 million people annually visiting an English cathedral. During the Christmas Dickens Weekend in 2011 we counted nearly twenty thousand people through the west doors of the Cathedral in just two days. Sadly, only £326 was offered in donations; I'm reliably told that's about 1.7p per visitor!

At Rochester we are committed to remaining open free of charge so that this sacred place can be enjoyed by all; this is a constant challenge. It costs in the region of £2,500 per day to keep the Cathedral running and so we continue to be as imaginative and inventive as possible in providing new sources of income at what is economically a difficult time. We are especially grateful to Southern Water for

sponsoring our Charles Dickens' film evening in February, so celebrating the bi-centenary of Dickens' birth and raising funds into the bargain.

In recent years we have been successful in obtaining Heritage Lottery Funding which has enabled us to improve the experience of visitors and pilgrims, and we have now embarked upon the first phase of another exciting H.L.F. project. Nevertheless, with such an ancient building, the second oldest in the country, finding funding for more mundane projects and regular running costs is more difficult, yet equally vital. For example, recently we were reminded of the challenge to re-roof the eastern arms of the Cathedral when a piece of plaster fell down in the Quire. Thankfully, no one was hurt and shortly scaffolding will be appearing to investigate the matter further. Needless, to say it will cost around £35,000 to erect it! Yet, perhaps, the presence of scaffolding will give us an opportunity to explain better to our visitors the present challenges we face and hopefully encourage a more generous response.

I wish you all a very blessed New Year.

Canon Phil Hesketh

Acting Dean

Christmas Fund Raising

We would like to thank Helen Bannister once again for baking a fabulous Christmas cake for us. The raffle raised £157.00 and was won by a Tea Rooms customer. Thank you Helen!

Thanks go also to Lynne Wallis-Eade for her continued support and raffle prize contributions.

Last but not least a big thank you to all who contributed to the Community Christmas card again this year. Including Gift Aid we raised £515.00 – thank you.



EMAIL REQUEST

To those of you that are online... Would you like us to email your copy of Beacon to you in future? Besides being greener, there is a cost saving too!

Please email to development@rochester-cathedral.org and you will be added to the distribution list.

PLEDGES AND GIFTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2011 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2011:

£272,411.32

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



A new Patron for Rochester Cathedral Trust

We wrote to Jools Holland in December to ask him if he would be prepared to become a Patron for The Trust and we were delighted when he accepted.

Jools was recently honoured with The Music Industry Trust's Award for his outstanding contribution to music and music broadcasting over three decades. He follows in the footsteps of Elton John, Kylie Minogue and Tom Jones. HRH Prince Charles paid tribute to him calling him "a full blown national treasure". Aside from his contribution to music Jools is a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent.

He said

"I am always happy to support the Cathedral. It's both a wonderful building and an important cradle of Christianity in Kent".

A further piece on our series of humorous Legacy anecdotes.

The consequence of not making a Will is that unless you happen to be equally fond of all your closest relatives (which sadly is extremely unlikely) you will have no say whatsoever as to who is to benefit from your estate after your death.

When an obstinate old lady of 89 died in December 1980, having resolutely refused to make a Will because of her religious beliefs as a Christian Scientist, her solicitors advertised for an heir to her £1 million estate. She happened to own practically an entire village in Scotland! An 87 year old male cousin, who had emigrated to Canada seventy years earlier, emerged as the most likely heir, despite 12 other claims. "Catherine would not rest in her grave if she knew Mr Graham was to inherit her wealth," said the old lady's last nurse and companion. "For some reason, she simply hated the sight of him."

A gentleman in Patcham, Sussex, felt much the same way about the Inland Revenue. He hated tax collectors so much that when he died, his £30,000 Will read: "From my grave I curse the Board of Inland Revenue who have ruined my life." He asked that he should be buried "outside the United Kingdom with my back to the country which I have served so well but which treated me and my family so badly."

As far back as 1791 a Londoner was complaining in his Will about his wife: "Heaven seems to have sent her into the world solely to drive me out of it."

If you cannot be your true self in your own "Last Will and Testament", when can you be? Surely you should be allowed to speak your mind in your last comment on life? That is half the fun of making a will.

(Taken from 'Second Best Bed' by Fenton Bresler)

Did you know... While three quarters of the population support charities in their lifetimes, only 7% currently leave charitable gifts in their wills.

(Source: Remember a Charity)

Text donations via Just Giving

Donating a small gift has been made even easier now. All you need to do is text the message

**RCTR46 £10
to 70070**



and you can make a difference.

The Heritage Lottery Fund



Hidden Treasures Fresh Expressions

With the initial positive response we have received from The Heritage

Lottery Fund we have been granted £158,000 to develop our bid. To this end three new staff members have been employed with effect from 4th January 2012 to take the new project forward.

Marilyn Tyler has joined us as a part-time Project Administrator, and Armand de Filippo has been employed as a part-time Library Development Officer.

The post of Volunteer Manager has been filled by Stacey Hatch who comes with considerable prior experience of managing volunteers for the National Trust both in terms of strategic volunteer development across several properties but before that she was managing a large team at Sissinghurst. Stacey is keen to get back to the direct management of volunteers as she really enjoys working with people.

As the development phase is fairly short we do need to have some interpretation input quickly and so we have asked Annie Lucas, who obviously knows the Cathedral well, to take on some of this work.

Helen Bradshaw

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

Adidas Women's 5km Challenge – Hyde Park

There will be no Adidas Women's 5K Challenge in Hyde Park in 2012, as the scheduling of this event would have fallen between the London 2012 Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games.

Are there any ladies interested in taking part in the BUPA London 10,000 that takes place in London on Sunday 27th May? Places are filling fast. This great 10k starts and finishes at the Olympic 2012 Marathon Start/Finish in the Mall.



Organised by the London Marathon team who brought you the Adidas women's

5k, this is a great way to keep you motivated over the cold winter months. For an entry form, please go to www.london10000.co.uk

The Development Office will not be involved in this one but can offer Team T shirts for those that would like to take part.

Great Expectations

The BBC have approached us to have the original 1946 David Lean production of "Great Expectations" screened in the cathedral as part of the 2012 celebrations of the Dickens bi-centenary. The BBC screening on 10th February 2012 will be for invited guests as well as members of the public that will be able to obtain tickets for the event directly from the BBC. BBC South East will also be filming their news broadcasts for the day live from outside the cathedral with Polly Evans and Rob Smith.











We are delighted that we have been given the opportunity to screen the film again as a fund raiser on 11th February. Our hosts for the evening will be Beverley Thompson of Southern Water and Geoff Clark of BBC Radio Kent. South East residents may remember them from their time on BBC South East. We are also pleased to premier a short film "Magwitch" produced by Viola Films on the life of Abel Magwitch before he met Pip.

Charles Dickens was writing at a time of great social upheaval. Society was becoming industrialized, the scale of towns and cities was growing hugely and as a social commentator he saw how individuals often became lost in the new and expanding world of Victorian Britain. His works reflect the development of the Medway Towns and capture a way of Kentish life which has long disappeared, but Rochester Cathedral and its unbroken history within the town remains unchanged - making it the perfect setting for this wonderful film.

We are very grateful to Southern Water and Visit Kent, our partners for the evening. We will also be pleased to welcome some of the Rochester Society members who will be attending in costume, along with The Worshipful Mayor of Medway, Cllr Ted Baker and his Mayoress.

The screening event will commence at 6.30pm with a reception, followed by "Magwitch" and "Great Expectations". Tickets are £15 and are available from the Development Office in Garth House on 01634 810074 or email development@rochestercathedral.org

DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

Saturday 11 February	Screening of the original 1946 Deavid Lean film “Great Expectations starring John Mills and Jean Simmons. Also presenting the premier of local production of “Magwitch”. The tickets are £15 each and include refreshments.	
Saturday 21 April	Quiz Night – Once again please diarise the date to join us in the Crypt for our Quiz night	
Thursday 10 May	Business Guild Networking Breakfast at The Commissioner’s House, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham. Guest speaker is Chief Superintendent Neil Jerome from Kent Police.	
Wednesday 27 June	Business Guild Annual Dinner in the Crypt.	
Friday 20 July	Business Guild Reception and tour of RE Museum at Brompton Barracks.	
Wednesday 5 September	“Made in Britain – Made in Kent” Seminar at The Historic Dockyard, Chatham.	
Friday 7 September	Golf Day at Hever Castle Golf Club.	
Friday 21 September	Cinema in The Cathedral.	
Thursday 8 November	The last Business Guild breakfast for this year at The Commissioner’s House, Chatham Historic Dockyard.	
Friday 16 November	Choir Concert - Join us for an evening of inspirational Choral Music with Rochester Cathedral Choir at 7.30pm – conducted by Scott Farrell.	

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

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