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Newsletter - Spring 2018

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AVE ET VALE (Hello and Goodbye)

I write this at the beginning of the year after spending most of last year in hospital. So I say "Ave" (hello) to a new life as I move from a short stay with my daughter to an apartment of my own suitable for an active and independent life in a wheelchair.

I look forward to a life of writing, cooking for myself and friends and the exploration of different possibilities. Sadly I say "Vale" or Goodbye to my active involvement with the Association of Friends. My limited mobility, together with Health and Safety Regulations prevent me from working in the Friends' Office and I would not wish to do any less than I did formerly. The Association deserves better than that.

However, I have been asked to help to compile the Spring Newsletter. After this I hand over the future challenges to my successor. Whereas in the past I have organised the events there is now an Events Committee whom, I am sure, will devise an exciting programme.

I have been privileged to have been your secretary for the past fourteen years and am honoured to have made so many personal friends by correspondence.

To the new secretary, the new administration team and those who continue to help I send my best wishes for their future success in maintaining the Association's high standards.

Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers and good wishes.

Keith Jones

FROM THE FRIENDS' CHORAL SCHOLAR



Many thanks again for your kind support. It was great to chat with some of you following the Choristership Evensong this past Sunday.

Before moving to England for high school, I was born and raised by English parents in Norway. This was where I discovered a love of music that has guided me to be here today. After having moved to England I began singing lessons and found joy in choral music.

This led me to study a Bachelor of Music at Canterbury Christ Church University, where I attained Honours in 2016. While there I had the pleasure of being tutored by many visiting specialists in choral music, not least Ralph Allwood, VOCES8, and Robin Tyson, amongst others.

After graduating, I went on to become the first female Choral Scholar at Gloucester Cathedral, where I was lucky enough to take part in the world-renowned Three Choirs Festival which took place in Worcester. I also held a position as Teacher of ICT at the King's School, Gloucester where the boy choristers study.

Now at Lincoln Cathedral, I have already learnt a great deal from my time in the choir. My regular lessons with Robert Rice have already taught me a great deal and I am putting this training into action every day in services and recitals. Alongside my commitments in the choir, I have secured a job in the Chapter Office, which keeps me busy when I'm not singing! I am delighted to have been so warmly welcomed into the Cathedral community and am very excited to have been given the opportunity to return as a Choral Scholar for a second year.

My thanks go to the Friends of Lincoln Cathedral for sponsoring me and giving me this remarkable opportunity.

With all good wishes,

Sara Jane

REPORT FROM THE WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Works programme continues to be rich in both challenges and achievements. We have completed two key Cathedral projects. The end of the last phase of work on the North West Turret brought to a close the Turrets Restoration Campaign which was launched in 2010. Finishing such a major project gives the whole team a profound sense of satisfaction and pride. How must the original builders have felt as they saw the Cathedral taking shape?

We have also completed the repair work on the North East Transept Clerestory roof. The last few weeks of the project allowed the team a rare opportunity to gain an insight into the work of the organ builders. The collaboration with Harrison and Harrison was a very positive experience, as specialist skills and knowledge were shared, and our knowledge of this important area of Cathedral life deepened.



The joinery team continued their close association with the Music Department throughout the summer, as they carried out the complex and sensitive conservation and restoration work on 16 Minster Yard, to transform it into the new Song School. I'm sure that we would all agree that the Song School is now a fitting environment for our wonderful choir.

Most of the Cathedral joinery projects are on the massive roof timbers, but over the last few months the joiners have been carrying out repairs to the St Hugh's choir stall floorboards. Heating pipes run under the floorboards in this area, with carefully measured gaps left between the boards to act as heating ducts. Over a long period of time, the general wear and tear of daily use had left the floorboards in need of essential repair work. In line with best conservation practice the original timber has been retained where possible. The new timber that has been used is kiln-dried English oak which had been stored in the Cathedral for over a year to acclimatise it to our environmental conditions. The practice of maintaining a stock of seasoned oak in the Cathedral maximises the compatibility between original and replacement timbers, and reduces the risk of movement.

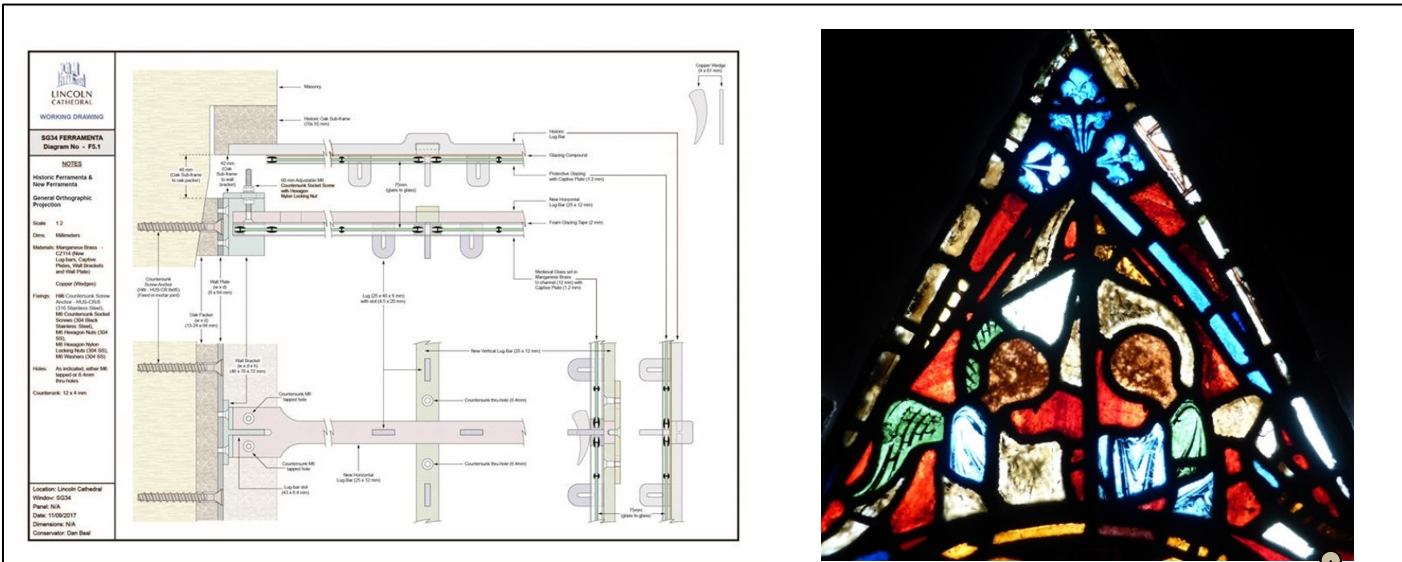
This project has been made possible thanks to a generous gift from US Baronial Order of Magna Charta. The repair work has been scheduled to be carried out gradually over a number of months. One bay of the stalls is being worked on at a time, to minimise inconvenience, and to ensure that there is no disruption to worship.

The glazing team continue to focus on the medieval lancet windows under the Bishops Eye. Working on the window we identify as FSG 34, the glaziers have painstakingly removed the tenacious black pollution deposits from the external surface of the glass, and have completed conservation repairs to the lead matrix and the glass itself.

The glaziers are currently framing the medieval glass with a support structure, in preparation for fitting it within the new metalwork which is being fabricated. The glaziers are also starting to make the protective external glazing.

The glaziers are aiming to fit FSG 34 back in place by late Spring this year.





Working drawing of the ferramenta

Part of a panel showing two angels from the medieval glass of FSG 34 – pre-conservation

Since I last reported to you, the masonry conservation team has carried out the first work for Lincoln Cathedral Connected. The first stage of the work was on the Cloister Wall, conserving the masonry and replacing failed stones.

At the beginning of the works we found evidence that bats may be roosting in the roof space of the Cloisters. As all bat species are protected, we stopped work immediately and brought in a consultant environmental specialist to carry out a bat survey. We were subsequently allowed to continue the work, but with a deadline of the end of November, so that we would not disturb the hibernation period from December to the end of March. By putting the whole masonry team on to the project, we met the deadline with a week to spare.

Preparations are under way for scaffolding work on the West Front. During February and March a fabricated steel frame will be erected at the West Front. The cantilevered frame will accommodate a scaffold which will give access to some of the Cathedral's most significant sculpture and masonry. The scaffold will be in place for several years, and will allow the masonry conservation team to survey and conserve the Southern Run of the Romanesque Frieze, the Gallery of Kings, and the West Front Central Niche and Gable. This programme forms the core sculpture and masonry conservation work for Lincoln Cathedral Connected, and was one of the main catalysts for the whole 'Connected' project.

The main work for the masonry conservation team this year will not be for Lincoln Cathedral Connected, but on the north side of the Cathedral, on the area of the Transept adjacent to last year's roofing work. The work of recording, cleaning, and replacing failed stones has moved from the North East Transept to the North West Transept

The team is methodically working its way through the different levels. The lower level masonry on the east wall will be complete by the end of February 2018, and as I write the scaffold is going up for work to begin at Clerestory level. This new work will be ongoing for most of the next twelve months.

To give an idea of the scale of the challenges I have included two sets of photos. The first set shows the same section of the masonry, before and after conservation and restoration work. Where the original details had been eroded and almost completely lost, a new section of masonry was worked and fixed.



Before and after masonry cleaning and conservation work on the North West Transept



The second set of photos show a similar area of decay on the North Choir Aisle, and next to it is the new worked stone waiting to be taken on site for fixing. We know that it will be at least 100 years before our successors will return to the areas being worked on now, therefore we try to do as much as possible while we have access from the scaffolding.



Decayed masonry on the North Choir Aisle, and its replacement with stiff leaf carving ready to be fixed

Much of the work for the next year, however, will not require carving skills, but rather the highest level of fundamental masonry conservation skills. This non-glamorous work calls for a constant painstaking attention to detail. It is as much for the quality of their work on these areas, as for their skills in conserving the more intricate areas of stonework, that our masons and stone conservators are recognised as true experts in their field.

We are getting ready to advertise for our new stonemasonry apprentice, and I am in discussion with colleagues to put mentoring in place, and to decide on the best current training provider. I will be able to report more fully in the next newsletter.

Going forward, we have a very full programme of work on the Cathedral and the Close and we are looking forward to an exciting year.

*Carol M Heidschuster MICWCI MCMJ
Works Manager and Clericus Fabricae*

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL REVEALS PLANS FOR ITS 'WORKSHOP IN THE SKY'



The West Front of the Cathedral

Lincoln Cathedral has announced that essential restoration and renovation works are set to begin on the West Front of the iconic building from 12 February.

To enable these works, a specially designed, steel podium deck fabricated by MAP Engineering will be erected on the West Front.

The scaffolding, has been created by specialist scaffolding firm PMC, will be erected to create a workshop 7m above the ground to enable the conservators to access to the stone and rare carvings that are being restored. The Cathedral will remain open as usual throughout the duration of the works.

The work is being undertaken as part of 'Lincoln Cathedral Connected', a heritage lottery-backed project to improve the Cathedral's setting and visitor experience.

The West Front works involve the conservation of the beautiful 14th Century 'Gallery of Kings', which is the carvings of eleven kings sitting above the largest door of the Cathedral, the conservation of the gable at the top of the West Front, and conservation works to the 12th Century Romanesque Frieze.



The "Gallery of Kings"

Some initial conservation work began to the West Front back in 1983, which left the southern run of the Romanesque Frieze covered to protect the Romanesque sculptures, which date back to 1123-1148.

The scaffolding will incorporate a steel platform from which works will be carried out. Designed by engineers Elliott Wood, the platform will allow the Cathedral's Works Department to access and remove the covering boxes and to unveil part of the Romanesque Frieze for the first time in nearly 35 years.

Anne Irving, programme manager of Lincoln Cathedral Connected, said: "Following our successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, we are really excited to see the significant work to the West Front commence, which is essential in allowing us to continue to protect the Cathedral.

"The Romanesque Frieze on the West Front has been covered for many, many years so this work to unveil the carving and stone work has been a long time coming and I can't wait to see what we refer to as the 'workshop in the sky' in place. It's an exciting time for the Cathedral and it is fantastic that we have the funds available to do these necessary and important works.

"It's vital that we preserve the rich history of the Cathedral, which has stood over Lincoln for the last 900 years. Whilst the scaffolding isn't ideal, the public can be assured that it is necessary in preserving and protecting the Cathedral, which will remain open as usual throughout the works so we still encourage visitors to come and visit."

The works manager, Carol Heidschuster, said: "We welcome the final push of restoration on the West Front. The Works Department is excited to have the opportunity to work on such a prestigious carving. This work will also provide the opportunity for training future stone masons and conservators."

The Lincoln Cathedral Works Department is undertaking the West Front conservation and repair work, which is expected to reach completion in 2023, and the steelwork as part of the new 'workshop in the sky' is being delivered by architectural steel fabricators MAP Engineers.

Other upcoming works as part of the Connected project involve the landscaping of Dean's Green to create a new public space, the new visitor centre which will include a larger café and shop, new toilets with changing places facilities and an interpretation centre to display some of the Cathedral's treasures.

ABOUT LINCOLN CATHEDRAL CONNECTED

- 1 Further information about Lincoln Cathedral Connected is available on the website:
- 2 <https://lincolncathedral.com/lincoln-cathedral-wins-national-lottery-support/>
- 3 Lincoln Cathedral is deeply embedded in the hearts and minds of people from around the world as a holy place of worship and an architectural gem - one of the finest surviving medieval Cathedrals in northern Europe. It functions as a centre of excellence for its music, library and traditional craft skills and is a place of unrivalled architecture.
- 4 Bishop Remigius built the first Cathedral on the site, which was consecrated in 1092. Building continued in several phases throughout the medieval period. Lincoln Cathedral was reputedly the tallest building in the world for 238 years between 1311 and 1549). The central spire on the central tower collapsed in 1549 and was not rebuilt.
- 5 The Victorian writer John Ruskin declared: "I have always held... that the Cathedral of Lincoln is out and out the most precious piece of architecture in the British Isles and roughly speaking worth any two other Cathedrals we have."
- 6 **About the Heritage Lottery Fund** (www.hlf.org.uk.) From the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife, we use National Lottery players' money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about.

For more information please contact : Katie Owen, HLF Press Office, on 020 7591 6000

FROM THE NEW SECRETARY

After having been persuaded (even cajoled?) by a number of people in the Cathedral Community to take on the role of secretary to the Friends, I am now looking forward to taking up the position with considerable enthusiasm. I know Keith will be a hard act to follow but I am sure that with the help of the committee I will successfully settle into the role.

I have been a member of the Cathedral Community for many years. I was a Lay Vicar for seventeen years and since my retirement from the Cathedral Choir in 2008 have continued to participate in Sunday morning worship. Two of my three children and three of my grandchildren have been christened at the famous font and my late wife was responsible for running the Sunday School for some years.

Since retiring from my teaching job six years ago at what is now called Westgate Academy - just round the corner from the Cathedral- I have been involved with two main areas of voluntary activity. I am Chair of Governors at Westgate and am responsible for coordinating the Speech and Drama section of the Lincoln Music and Drama Festival. I still enjoy singing and am a member the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra.

I have often wondered how I might use some of my time helping with some aspect of the Cathedral's outreach and becoming the Friends' new secretary has certainly given me the answer!

I look forward to a constructive and enjoyable time with the Friends.

Michael Belcher

A very warm welcome awaits Michael In the office. We are looking forward very much to working with him.

A THANK YOU

All of the administration team would like to thank Keith for the tremendous amount of work he has done for the Friends . We wish him well for the future.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

New Members afternoon	12 th May
Visit by the Friends of Ely Cathedral	21 st May
Coach trip to The Deep and Hull Minster (Holy Trinity Church)	23 May
Annual General Meeting Harpsichord Recital in the Chapter House at 7.00 pm	16 th June
Tuesday Talks – 3.00 pm followed by tea/coffee Cathedral Centre £.3.00	6 November 20 November
The Feast of St Hugh (Speaker and venue to be announced)	16 November
A Concert of Carols by Candlelight In the Nave - 7.30 pm Tickets £10.00	19 December

In future, we are planning also to have two talks followed by tea in February

