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Newsletter - Spring 2013

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From the Secretary



It is the February 13th as I write this Newsletter; it was a pleasant morning at the start of the day but as I now look out of my office window, I see the West Front of the Cathedral through a haze of snow which seems to be settling. Sad news for those who live on a hill and particularly those who, like myself, live on the Steep Hill in Lincoln.



As I walked across to the cathedral this afternoon, I heard the glaziers working on the perpendicular window above the south western door. The window is being re-glazed to replace the old and leaky glass. However, high up in the apex of the window is the engraving of probably the last person to work on the window, Thomas Wase. He describes himself as a "plumer" (a plumber), a worker in lead. The style of writing suggests a late 18th or early 19th century date.

When the re-glazing is complete, the stonework surrounding the door will be cleaned to match that of the north western doorway.



You will remember that the Friends paid for the cleaning of the stonework immediately to the south of the doorway.



At the moment work on the south western turret has ceased for the winter. More stone than was anticipated was needed to be replaced and our masons are busy in the workshop preparing the stone to be fixed when the weather improves. We are fortunate to have so many masons - only some of whom are photographed here - who can work our stones.



Of course among the masons is our own masonry apprentice, Adam Wilcoxson. He is here shown working a “voussoir” which is a wedge shaped element used in building an arch for the turret of St Hugh.

Adam took me outside the workshop to show me the stones he had already carved for the turret. I was very impressed at his skill and the progress he had made from his first encounter with a block which he had to smooth.



In the ten years since I have been secretary I think our financing of Adam’s training is one of the best things we have done..

Keith Jones

St Hugh’s Feast

On the 16th November 53 members attended the 12.30 Eucharist and then walked to the Assembly Rooms in the Bail for Lunch. It was a joyful occasion and after lunch we were favoured with a talk by Lord Cormack who gave an interesting review of things past and those to come. This event is now firmly fixed in our calendar.

St Hugh’s day



At the Eucharist for St Hugh, one day later than our lunch, our new chasubles were worn for the first time. They match our Jubilee Copes and were made, as usual, by our needlework guild. They were designed by their leader who is a member of the Friends, Dilys Jones.



The Friends’ Chamber Organ

Two years ago the Friends responded to a need and agreed to finance a new Chamber organ for the choir. The building of this was delayed whilst the various Cathedral committees decided upon the fretwork for the casing. We were not involved during this process. However, a design was finally agreed and the organ is now being built. We hope it will be ready for our concert on the 15th June, after our AGM.

The Eastern End of the Cathedral

For the past two years, a committee has been meeting to consider the re-ordering of the eastern end of the Cathedral

At present, to the left of the east end are the Gilbert Pots, in the middle is the Shrine of St Hugh (*fig. 1*). To the left is a rather empty space in where there is a cenotaph to William Hilton, the father-in-law of Peter de Wint. It is proposed to make this space the Chapel of the Virgin Mary, to whom the cathedral is dedicated, and to relocate the cenotaph in the north transept.

A sculptor has been commissioned and has prepared a half size maquette of the statue of Our Lady for the chapel (*fig2*).



fig. 1



fig. 2

The central part of the eastern end will be redesigned with new furniture. The remains of St Hugh's head shrine is to the left of this space and is surmounted by a modern sculpture representing the neck of St Hugh's pet swan. (*fig 3*). This was financed by the Friends and perfectly ties up the truncated columns of the shrine. It seems an odd practice to us that it was customary to separate the head from a saint's body.

This gold and jewelled receptacle was destroyed during the Reformation; however there is a drawing of it in the Library.

Many members have said how splendid it would be to re create this. Perhaps it is a future project for us.



fig. 3

Subscriptions

From time to time we send out reminders to those people who have not paid their subscription for over a year. Postage these days is so expensive that it is not expedient to continue to send newsletters and reports to those whose membership has lapsed. We always enclose a stamped addressed envelope for a reply, but if none is received we delete that member from our mailing list. It is a sad thing to do because we greatly value all of our members.

Christmas cards

Our last Christmas card was very popular. We sold 12,000. We do not aim to make a large profit and consider this to be a service to our members. However we cannot please everybody. Some like photographs with snow, others like old prints of the Cathedral. We will try this year to satisfy everyone! (Am I being too optimistic?)

Events 2013

Thursday 14th March	Poetry, Prose, Coffee and Chat Theme: Spring	11.15am Longland Chantry. Meet at 11.00 am for coffee in the refectory
Wednesday 10th April	Visit to the City Guildhall.	2.00 pm Guided Tour. Details from the Office. Meet at the Stonebow. Numbers Limited
Saturday 15th June	Annual General Meeting	Chapter House 2.00 p.m.
Saturday	A Light Concert for a Summer Evening	Charles Harrison...Harpichord and Piano With Bozidar Smilianic soloist And a surprise!!! 7.30...the Chapter House.....£5
15th June City Show 19th and 20th June		Wednesday & Thursday The Lincolnshire County Show
Sunday 14th July	Visit to Grimsthorpe Castle.	Guided tour and evensong in the Chapel Meet at the Castle. Further details in June Mailing Take membership cards for reduced admission. Numbers Limited.
Tuesday 16th July	Church Crawl	Limited to 16. £15 A tour around some interesting Lincolnshire Churches Further details in the June Mailing
Friday 20th Sept	Weekend away to Bury St Edmunds	Visit the Cathedral, Norwich, Anglesey Abbey and Ickworth House. (<i>Details enclosed</i>)
October		New Members' Day (<i>date to be arranged</i>)
Tuesdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th Nov		Tea time talks. The cathedral Centre (<i>Details to be announced</i>)
Friday 15th Nov	St Hugh's Feast	£15, in the Assembly Rooms
Wednesday	A Concert of Carols by Candlelight	7.30 pm In the nave £10

The last 45 minutes of Anne Boleyn

Lesley Smith (Curator of Tutbury Castle and Elizabethan Historian)
To be held on Thursday 21st March 2013
At 7 pm in The Chapter House of Lincoln Cathedral
With a Medieval Supper

All proceeds will be donated
to the Lincoln Cathedral
Music Fund

Tickets available from Sandra Grattrick
1 Higson Road, Lincoln. LN1 3XB
Ticket £20
Tel. 01522 530163

sandragrattrick47@btinternet.com