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Newsletter - Autumn 2018

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Your Officers and Administration team

Welcome to this latest addition of the Friends' Newsletter. There have been a few changes to your officers, which took effect at this year's annual general meeting and so in response to requests from members for pictures, here we are!



Diane Genders has taken over from Len Curtis as our treasurer. She is a practising solicitor and a director of the specialist family law firm Diane Genders Solicitors, based in Lincoln. We have been so pleased that she has agreed to become the Friends' treasurer and thanks must be given to Len who has managed to recruit her services. He is staying on for this year to help and advise and give us the benefit of his experience in this important role.



Michael Belcher is gradually getting to grips with the role of Friends' secretary!

Brendan Calvert needs no introduction to the Friends! He is often the voice that members hear on the phone-recorded or live-and spends much more time in the office than the usual Wednesday mornings. He deals with the many different issues as they arise and knows exactly how to organise the yearly events so that they run smoothly.



He is indeed a greatly valued member of the team and is a highly competent and enthusiastic administrator.

Other regulars on a Wednesday morning are **Ros Lucas**, who runs the Events Committee, and **Paul Pinchbeck**, who has taken over responsibility for the membership database.

2018 Annual General Meeting

On Saturday 16th June 75 members attended the Annual General Meeting in the Cathedral Centre, which was chaired by the Dean, The Very Reverend Christine Wilson, in the absence of our Patron, The Rt Hon Baroness Willoughby de Eresby.



After the formal business of the meeting was over, presentations were made by the Dean on behalf of the Friends to Jean Ducker and Keith Jones in recognition and appreciation of their years of considerable service.



Before sitting down to tea, members had the opportunity to visit the new song school, where the Director of Music, Aric Prentice, was pleased to show off the wonderful facilities now available for all our cathedral musicians. Another visit was to the Cathedral Connected office where Fern Dawson (see article on page 3) had arranged an extraordinary display of artefacts recently unearthed as part of the ongoing redevelopments.

Friends' Harpsichord Concert

In the evening of the AGM there was a wonderful concert in the Chapter House given by the cathedral's Assistant Director of Music, Jeffrey Makinson and the Friends' Choral Scholar Sara Jane Wilson (Mezzo Soprano), where the recently refurbished Friends' Harpsichord was put to good use.



This Year's Christmas Card

Please see below an image of this year's Friends' Christmas Card, which is available in two sizes, and features a view of a suitably wintery Chapter House and Tennyson statue, taken from a photograph by Jim Newton, one of the cathedral vergers.

Orders can be made using the enclosed autumn mailing order form, or bought directly from the Friends' office or the cathedral shop.



Christmas Greetings

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Friends' Visit to Hull

On the 23rd May a number of Friends enjoyed a day out in Hull, where they visited the recently renovated Hull Minster and, in somewhat a departure from the usual kind of visit, The Deep.



One member reported: *'The Minster had the wow factor with no chairs in the nave and no stained glass thus giving a wonderful feeling of space and light. I also enjoyed the Maritime Museum which I felt was special to Hull and unlike any other of its kind. I have never seen penguins before so the visit to the Deep was worth it just to see them!'* Where next?

News from Lincoln Cathedral Connected

Fern Dawson, the Audience Development officer at Cathedral Connected has very kindly compiled a short article about some of the unusual recent finds.

Since 2016, part of the Connected project work has been to better understand the Cathedral's non-archival collections. Throughout this time, many great discoveries have been made, ranging from the sublime to downright strange!

The first find was a 16th century striking figure, known as a Clock Jack. Its identity had been lost in living memory but was re-identified thanks to a Friends Report, bringing to life a forgotten object.

The strangest find has to be some Easter eggs that were painted to look like members of Chapter from 1973, fake hair and all – a most unusual gift from a member of the Close community.



The most surprising discovery has been the three Cathedral seals, including the original 12th century Chapter seal which was used by the Dean and Chapter to officially give documents a seal of approval. The small silver object was found in a box of previously uncatalogued replicas

and was believed to be Victorian in date until a closer look revealed the truth. A supreme piece of Norman art is now back at the heart of the Cathedral's collection. The seals are currently on display in the Cathedral Treasury.

Overall, more than 200 objects have been catalogued and recorded since 2016, and work to unlock their stories has only just touched the surface. With more than 1000 years of history within the Cathedral's collection, there are many stories to find. Sharing these finds with the Cathedral community and visitors both in the run up to the new visitor centre and before, will ensure that these stories are not forgotten and this amazing collection is appreciated and preserved for future generations.

Much of the work being undertaken now is to ensure the objects are conserved, as some need specialist conservation before being displayed to ensure their long-term survival. *continued*

One such object is a 17th century Italian Chasuble, which was donated to the Cathedral around 1940. It is recorded as one of the most intact costumes of its time and, although the object does not originate from Lincoln Cathedral, it tells an important story of the Cathedral as a protector of the past and of the people of Lincolnshire who have supported its work over nearly 1000 years. Every object reflects the people who made them, commissioned them or donated them and finding their stories through objects is what brings them to life again.



News from the Music Department

Premier League Stuff...

It seems incredible that the Cathedral Choir has been in its new 'Song School' home in Minster Yard for a whole year and that it was nine months ago that composer John Rutter officially opened the building with such a flourish!

There have been many musical highlights during the last year for the choir: a concert to celebrate the return of the Father Willis organ following work on the cathedral's north transept roof; five performances of *The Snowman*, Handel's *Messiah*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with harp, a Christmas broadcast with BBC Radio Lincolnshire, the annual Friends' Carols by Candlelight concert, an Evensong with brass from RAF Cranwell in their 100th year, Vivaldi's *Gloria* with The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra, Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, a Jazz Mass and a Duke Ellington concert as part of the Lincolnshire Jazz Week 2018, singing from the cathedral's west front on Ascension Day, two concerts at the International Bomber Command Centre and the recording of a new CD to be released on November 14th: *A Year at Lincoln*. This is of course all in addition to the 274 sung services given during the last academic year as well!

In July we said farewell to one girl and four boy choristers, but amazingly we had welcomed 13 new choristers during the year too! It is an exciting time for the choir and we currently have choristers from ten different local schools, many of them having joined us quite young; this is great news and we can look forward to some wonderful music in the next few years.

Last year's Choral Scholars left us to take up posts in Wells Cathedral, St Peter's Eaton Square in London, and at Royal Holloway, University of London. Four new scholars have joined Sara (our Friends' Choral Scholar) in their new cathedral house from Durham University, Nottingham University, Blackburn Cathedral and from Royal Holloway. We also send best wishes to Hilary Punnett (our Assistant Organist) and Simon Hogan (from neighbouring Southwell Minster) as they begin married life together and to our matron Fiona Howick and bass lay vicar Nic Beemster on their wedding too! Two of our Junior Choral Scholars, Katie Care and Oliver Jones, are also starting life as students at Cambridge University; we are very proud of their achievements and having been involved in their preparation for life as Cambridge Choral Scholars.



The last year has been outstanding for the choir and we look forward to our new cassocks! There is a real buzz about everything. As John Rutter put it when he spoke to BBC Radio Lincolnshire: "Lincoln Cathedral Choir is Premier League stuff, it really is!"

Forthcoming events:

Tuesday	6th November:	3.30 pm Teatime talk, in the Cathedral Centre. 'The Life of Anne Askew' by Margaret Crompton
Tuesday	13th November:	3.30 pm Teatime talk, in the Cathedral Centre. Toni Watts, Cathedral manuscript illuminator
Friday	16th November:	1.30 pm, Feast of St. Hugh, followed by a talk to be given by the Cathedral's Head of Conservation, Jane Cowan (we were unable to book the cathedral centre for 17th November)
Wednesday	19th December:	7.30 pm, Friends' 'Carols by Candlelight' in the Cathedral Nave
Tuesday	12th February, 2019	3.30 pm Teatime talk, in the Cathedral Centre. Speaker TBC
Tuesday	26th February, 2019	3.30 pm Teatime talk, in the Cathedral Centre. Speaker TBC
May 2019	Possible visit to Peterborough Cathedral and The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park	
Saturday	22nd June, 2019	2.00 pm Annual General Meeting, in the Cathedral Centre