

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Autumn Newsletter

AUTUMN / WINTER 2023

From the Chairman

It may not technically have been a golden year but certainly a ruby one. Those who were able to attend the festivities for our 40th anniversary at Ely Cathedral on 27th June will agree that the day will long live in the memory. The Festal Evensong was an entirely fitting opportunity for praise and thanksgiving with splendid hymns and readings and an address from Bishop Stephen, making one of his last appearances before his translation to Lincoln.



• Bishop Stephen with recipients of the Ride & Stride award

It was also a great opportunity to mark the contribution made by a couple of riders and striders for their enthusiastic support for the 'Ride & Stride' fund raising initiative over several years. They were young Caleb Nicholas who attended with his family and the slightly older Graham Bevan who was joined by his wife. We all hope they will treasure their scrolls. We then made our way to the Bishop's Garden for drinks and canapés and the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and meet a whole host of new friends. The weather stayed fine and the atmosphere at least as warm as the temperature.

Canon David Pritchard and Sue Holgate took the lion's share of planning and administration for the day. Canon James Garrard helped greatly in his role as Canon Precentor and it was a shame that he was unwell on the day and unable to be present.

We took the opportunity to promote the charity by launching a Legacy Campaign encouraging donations and/or bequests and if you have not yet taken this up and would like to do so please get in contact with us via the website.

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The Trust is an independent charity whose primary task is to give financial help in the form of grants and interest-free loans towards the cost of repair and improvement of churches and chapels of all denominations throughout Cambridgeshire. Its funds accrue mainly from membership subscriptions and from the annual sponsored Ride and Stride. Members receive twice-yearly newsletters and other information about the Trust's activities including in normal times an annual conference in the Spring and Sunday afternoon church tours in the summer. Minimum annual subscription £20 for up to two individuals at the same address, £50 for corporate membership for churches.

Administrator: Sue Holgate, 9 The Chase, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 3DR. Phone 01353 668438

Email: admin@camhct.uk.

For our formal Annual Report and Financial Statements visit www.camhct.uk or ask the Administrator for a printed copy.

From the Chairman contd ...

What next? Should we consider having a service and social gathering more regularly, say every year or every other year? Although the Bishop's Garden at Ely is a great setting it does not have to be there and if you have any suggestions for an alternative, do get in touch. It is possible that we would have to make a charge but pitch it at such a level that the cost would not exclude those who might have difficulty in affording a ticket. Let me know what you think nam1492@btinternet.com

Of course, there has been much more to cherish this year. The Wolfson Training Conference in April was very well attended and attracted some really excellent speakers on the theme 'Imagery - Wall Paintings and Screens'. We were made most welcome by the College and our thanks go to them and of course to David Stazicker who planned the whole thing with his usual skill and assiduity. Please make a note of the date for the 2024 Conference - Saturday 13th April, again at Wolfson.



• Festal Evensong to celebrate CHCT@40

Church Tours

The church tours in May, June, July and August were again well attended and we are very grateful to the Revd Dr Lynne Broughton and William Schenck for leading respectively the May, June and August tours and the July tour.

We hope that they will be able to assist similarly in 2024, and we are exploring whether we can find any other suitably qualified guides to join the team. Many thanks also to Dr Broughton for very ably leading the visit to Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday 2nd September.

David was again instrumental in arranging the programme of Church Tours in and around Cambridgeshire on Sunday afternoons in the Summer - an opportunity for gentle learning under large and hopefully sunny Fenland skies. This idea is now very well established and much enjoyed and we are grateful to him, the Revd Dr Lynne Broughton and others who have made these trips an essential feature of the summer calendar. Long may they continue!

May I conclude with an omnibus expression of gratitude to all of those who work very hard in and for the Executive, for the Ride & Stride organisers and those who turn out to examine potential projects often in remote locations and not just on glorious summer evenings but also on foggy and frosty February mornings.

To all very many thanks and well done!

Neil McKittrick



• Garden Party for CHCT@40

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 13th April 2024 Annual Conference at Wolfson College, Cambridge – Materials and working methods – details to be announced.

Sundays 12th May, 9th June, 14th July and 11th August 2024 Church tours - Itineraries to be announced later.

Ride and Stride Saturday 7th September 2024.

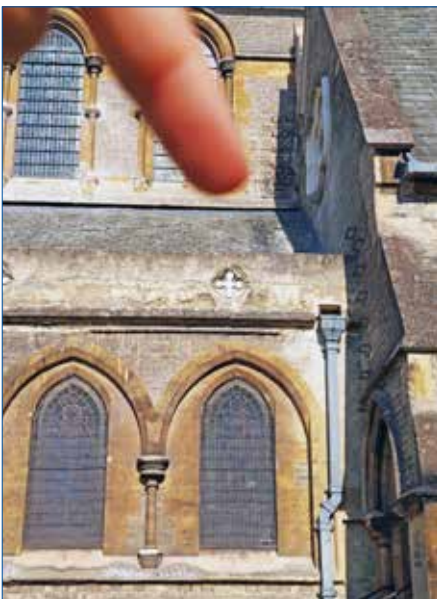
Grants Report

In February 2023, the Trustees agreed to two important changes to our grants conditions. They were:-

- 1) The £10,000 minimum project cost (ex VAT) as a CHCT Grant requirement can be removed.
- 2) Retrospective grant applications can be considered where additional work has been discovered during the contract.

The first condition arose when an application was received from Cambridge, St Giles to repair a leak on the South Aisle Roof following an already expensive window repair project and little money left to fund a second.

The second condition arose when Westley Waterless thought they has sufficient funds to repair their timber bell turret, only to find that a once £10,000 project had now doubled in size when cladding was removed to reveal



• Cambridge St Giles Leaking Roof



• Westley Waterless Scaffolding

extensive decay in the principal posts of the turret.

The summer saw a rush of grant applications and we finished our financial year at the end of June with 19 applications compared to only 8 in the (Covid affected) previous year. Our thanks must go to the Trustees who agreed to extra funding for all of these cases.

During this period, we also experienced some technical problems with our website which made filling in the on-line grant application very difficult. Although, we think that this has now been resolved, we have also uploaded a grant application form with guidance so that there is now a backup or an alternative for those who would prefer to see their application in full before submitting it.

All of this and our latest grant awards can be seen as usual at <https://camhct.uk/grants/>

Graham Pledger



• Westley Waterless during the work



• Westley Waterless after

A keen Ride & Strider!

In last Autumn's Newsletter we featured one of our younger Ride & Stride supporters, this Autumn we have one of our more senior participants! Mary Slark decided to take part this year. Before the event she accosted all her Ely friends and spoke of why she was taking on the challenge.

"My husband in his youth was a cross country runner – the 'North Run' and the 'London Marathon' were unheard of in those days. Then when the knees were not so good, he took to his bike.

One of the challenges he did every year was the Historic Churches Bike Ride. This is now called 'Ride & Stride for Churches'. Half the money raised goes to the Trust, set up to help congregations maintain their churches, and the other half goes to the local church, in my case the Cathedral.

On Saturday, no, I won't be running or riding but I will be walking with my Rollator! I will be visiting 10 churches in Ely. I would very much value either an amount for each church or a donation to cover however many or few churches I visit. Thank you."

Who could resist her? Needless to say she undertook the walk, on a boiling hot day, and did indeed visit all ten churches, stopping half way for a cup of tea at the local tearooms! She did



8,147 steps and covered 3.1 miles – a wonderful achievement. And best of all, people were very generous and she has raised over £600.00.

So, thank you Mary – and thank you for your enthusiasm! Next year perhaps more of us can take a page out of Mary's book and have a go!

Sue Holgate,
Administrator

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered as a charity in England and Wales No 287486

Trustees

His Honour Neil McKittrick (Chair)
The Revd Canon David Pritchard (Vice-Chair)
Susan Pope (Hon Treasurer)
David Stazicker
The Revd Canon Simon Talbott
Alison Taylor
The Revd Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite
Geoffrey Hunter

Executive Committee

The Revd Canon David Pritchard (Chair)
Susan Pope (Hon Treasurer)
The Revd Dr Lynne Broughton
William Craven
Graham Pledger (Grants Secretary)
The Revd Canon Annette Reed
The Revd Tim Thompson (Ride & Stride Treasurer)

Administrator

Sue Holgate

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