

Spring Newsletter

2019

A Message from our new Chair of Trustees



I am delighted to have become your Chairman and look forward to meeting you at events during the coming year. We have an important role in providing help and support to those who are responsible for the upkeep of the fine churches and chapels in the county. Our generation has an obligation to see that what is our legacy is there for our successors. The Trust exists to that end.

Hugh Duberly

Hon Secretary's Report

Our Autumn Newsletter recorded our gratitude to the Rt Revd Dr David Thomson for his service to the Trust and his leadership of its affairs in recent years. We also celebrated our good fortune in the fact of Sir Hugh Duberly agreeing to take on this mantle.

Our other recent stroke of luck has been the agreement of David Ball to join our body of Trustees. David has extensive experience in the field of fundraising, something which the Trust needs to give serious attention. As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, returns from the Ride Drive and Stride, which used to be our main source of income, have declined severely over recent years. We are attempting to arrest and reverse this decline, but that alone may not be enough to meet the need for grants from churches in the county.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has invited the Trust, along with other interested organisations, to an open day at which they will be explaining their new grant arrangements. There have been some re-assurances that in the immediate future there will be no reduction in the total amount of money available from that source for churches. However, in the longer term it is clear that in today's multicultural world, churches will increasingly have to take their turn among other claimants of financial support for the maintenance of "heritage assets".

The National Churches Trust has also announced a new programme of grants. There are a number of different programmes, designed to support various categories of repairs and improvements. However in most cases these grants will only meet part of the cost, leaving a substantial gap to be met from elsewhere.

We therefore need to consider, as other churches trusts have done, establishing an endowment fund. In order to produce significant investment income, even if interest rates rise above their present historically low levels, we shall need to raise "serious money".

The Trust is also benefiting greatly from the appointment of Holly Isted as Ely Diocesan Church Buildings Support Officer. Many of our members will recall the valuable work carried out by Scilla Latham in a similar post a few years ago, among



*Holly Isted
Ely Diocesan Church
Buildings Support Officer (continued overleaf)*

other things organising training events for church officers to equip them more readily to deal with repairs and maintenance.

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 the annual Ride, Drive and Stride and from membership subscriptions. Members receive twice-yearly newsletters and other information about the Trust's activities including 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.

Hon Secretary: David Stazicker, The Willows, Low Bank, Mepal, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2AU. Phone 01353 778129

Email: secretary@camhct.uk

Membership Secretary: Jenny Lowles, Phone 01353 861574, Email members@camhct.uk

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

Hon Secretary's Report continued

The appointment has been revived, again with a small financial contribution from the Trust. Holly, whose previous background is in the care of historic buildings, religious and secular, is commissioning "Faith in Maintenance" events organised by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and is planning other events to improve church officers' capacity to handle practical problems.

A significant difference from Scilla Latham's appointment is that Holly Isted's responsibilities specifically include assisting with the Ride Drive and Stride. In discussion with the Trust's officers she has come forward with imaginative ideas for reviving the fortunes of this annual event, and now serves on the national co-ordinating committee mentioned in the article on page 3 of this Newsletter.

David Stazicker

Hon Secretary

Church Tours

As usual at this time of year we can't say precisely how many subscribing members we have, because some may not have renewed for one reason or another, and this may not have become apparent until we have seen the Trust's bank statement for January. Then we have to contact the people in question to find out whether this was intentional or an oversight. What we can say is that total membership continues a little above the 300 mark, including both individual and corporate church members, slightly over a third of the total being in the latter category.

As we have said before, our aim is to double the total. A principal way of working towards this is by existing members donating an initial year's membership to a friend or relative. So far, only a very few of you have taken advantage of the formal arrangements we have introduced for this purpose. We did this in time for those of you who were wondering what to give as presents for Christmas 2018, and there will be another such opportunity later this year. Meanwhile, please bear this in mind when you are pondering what to give as a present on a birthday or other occasion during the year. Forms can be downloaded from our website and will also be available at the Annual Conference and the church tours.

Again I would like to encourage the few members who still pay by cheque to switch to Banker's Order, the form for which can be downloaded from our website. Those of

you who already pay by Banker's Order, if you have not already changed this to our new account with CAF Bank, please email members@camhct.co.uk for the necessary form, or ask the Hon Secretary (contact details on page 1) to post you a copy. I have reminded members that payment was due on 1 January for 2019 so if you have yet to renew your membership, please let me have payment as soon as possible.

Jenny Lowles

Membership Secretary

Ride, Drive and Stride

This is Cambridgeshire's contribution to the national Ride and Stride day in which local historic church trusts across the country take part. It is the Trust's main sources of funds to enable us to make grants to churches for repairs and improvements. Continuing the practice of recent years, in this county we welcome participants using all forms of transport and not just those who cycle or walk. The proceeds are divided between the Trust and the church or churches nominated by each participant.

The event in September 2018 produced a total of £15,951, nearly half of which has been handed back to nominated churches, and in addition we are reclaiming £2,478 in Gift Aid from HM Revenue and Customs. These figures compare with £16,618 and £2,673 in 2017, continuing the trend of decline over recent years. From being our main source of income this event has now fallen behind membership subscriptions as the principal means by which we raise funds which we can award as grants to churches.

The Ride nationally is co-ordinated by a committee organised by the Churches Trusts Forum, a group that represents us and our sister Trusts across the country. In a few counties the Ride continues to produce very large sums, in some cases running into six figures. However, Cambridgeshire experience seems to be more typical. As outlined in the Secretary's Report, we hope that the local presence on that committee will secure changes that will help revive the fortunes of the Ride. Meanwhile we are working on this ourselves and aim to announce the arrangements for September 2019 in ample time for churches to undertake the necessary planning.

Grants

Perhaps not surprisingly, applications over the winter have slowed down with grants totalling £7,000 recently offered to three churches - All Saints Little Shelford (repairs), St Leonard Southoe (roof alarm) and All Saints Elton (toilet). Two of these churches took up interest free loan offers totalling £24,000 as well. In St Leonard's case, the loan proved very useful to almost completely fund the roof alarm and allow a speedy installation at a time when lead thefts are still prevalent.

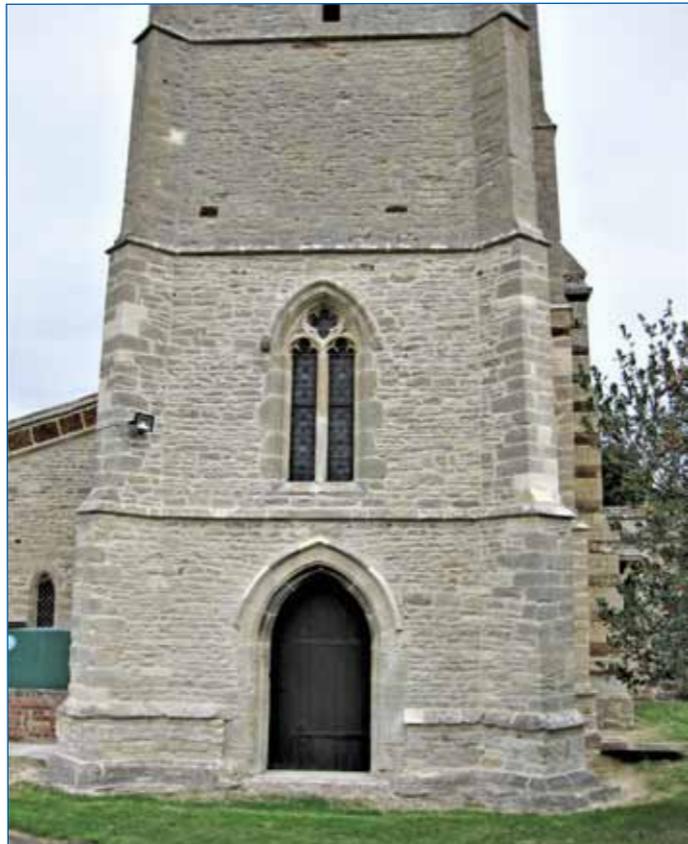
With insurance payouts without alarms now often capped, they have been a top priority for lots of PCCs and Duxford, Great Paxton, Soham, Southoe and Woodditton are now fully operational with the help of earlier grants.

There have been revisions to the grant and loan offers recently and an additional condition of taking digital photographs during your repair works will soon help us to show our readers what is going on in the county, so keep clicking and start those pictures coming in.

Graham Pledger
Acting Grants Secretary

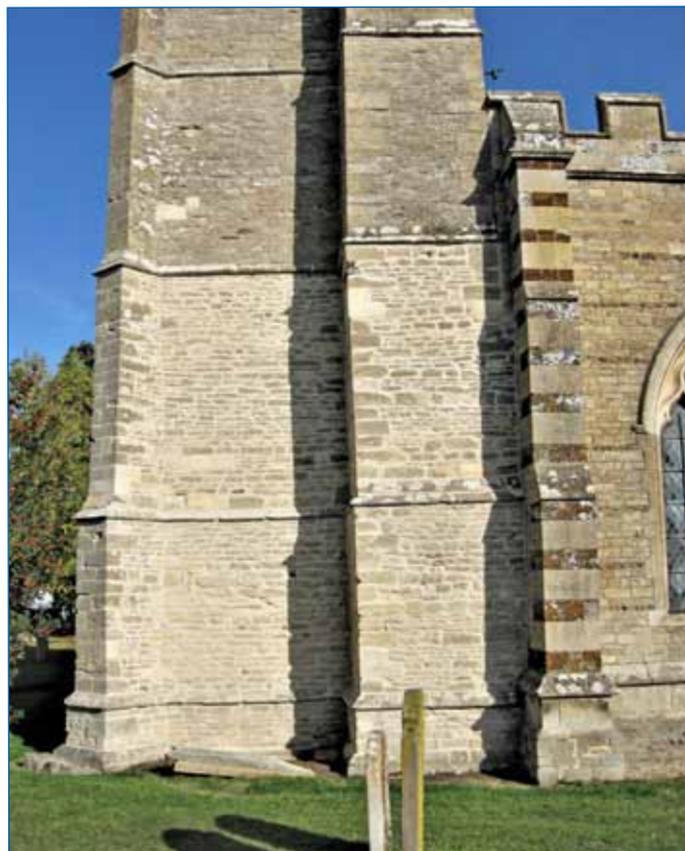
Here is an example of work recently completed with the help of the Trust at All Saints, Tilbrook.

West face of tower



These masonry repairs were carried out with the aid of a loan of £20,000 and a grant of £3,000 awarded by the Trust in January 2018.

South face of tower



Annual Conference

Sing unto the Lord

Music in English Churches 1450 to 1900

Saturday 6th April 2019

Wolfson College, Cambridge



The conference is again taking place early in April but we hope that this newsletter will have reached most of you by then. We are extremely grateful to the Revd Canon Nicholas Thistlethwaite for assembling a most attractive programme of distinguished speakers, of which he is one. In addition to the presentations there will be the usual brief session describing the work of the Trust and enabling members to ask questions and express their views.

Costs continue to rise and we have again found it necessary to make a small increase in the fees for attendance to £24.50 for members and £29.50 for non-members, but this remains very good value for money.

Church Tours

As we remind ourselves from time to time, the Trust's core purpose is to help churches in the county with the cost of repairs and improvements. However, our trust deed also empowers us to do "all such lawful things as shall further the attainment of the objects of the Trust". With these words in mind we have from the outset organised conferences and tours designed to enhance people's knowledge and understanding of churches and their contents, and therefore to encourage and grow wide support for the Trust's main objective.

This year as usual there will be tours of churches in or adjacent to the county, on the second Sunday afternoon in each month across the summer. Two of the tours will again be led by the Revd Dr Lynne Broughton. The other two will be led by Chloë Cockerill, a Trust member who undertook this task with distinction at one of the churches we visited last year. Chloë has worked extensively with NADFAS recording the contents of churches, and presented a paper on that subject to our 2014 Annual Conference. We are very grateful to Lynne and Chloë for giving us the benefit of their expert knowledge. Two of the visits have yet to be confirmed but the latest information is as follows :

12th May	Six Mile Bottom Swaffham Bulbeck Burwell	St George St Mary St Mary
9th June	To be confirmed Stanground	St John the Baptist St Margaret
14th July	Fletton West Dereham Fincham Stow Bardolph	St Andrew St Martin Holy Trinity
11th August	Westry March To be confirmed	St Mary St Wendreda

If possible an insert will be circulated with this Newsletter giving the full itineraries.

As before, each tour starts at 2.30 pm at the first church named. On arrival at the final church, our hosts are kind enough to provide us with tea, and toilets are available. Those who wish to can stay after the tour of the final church, for a short service of Evening Prayer, or join the congregation for their evening service if there is one. There is no charge for participation in these tours, which are open to all, but those attending are asked to donate generously to the churches visited, and especially for the teas. Directions will be posted on our website and printed in leaflets nearer the time of the tours.

Visit to Southwell

Our coach trip last August to Rochester, jointly with the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History, was most successful. This year Lynne Broughton will accompany us to Southwell Minster, celebrated not only for its 12th and 13th century architecture of the first rank but additionally for its exquisite 1290s botanical carvings, unrivalled in England, and meriting an entire publication by Nikolaus Pevsner "The Leaves of Southwell". The Minster achieved Cathedral status in 1884.

In 2019 there will be a third partner in the enterprise, the Huntingdon Local History Society, and the coach will call in Huntingdon as well as Cambridge. In previous years very few people have joined the coach in Ely and we shall not be picking up there this time. On the return journey we shall also visit the 13th and 14th century church of St John Evangelist at Corby Glen in Lincolnshire, with its extensive and remarkable 14th century wall paintings, and tea will be available.

Full details and a booking form will be circulated later.

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered as a charity in England and Wales No 287486

Trustees

Sir Hugh Duberly CBE KCVO (Chair)
The Revd Canon David Pritchard (Vice-Chair)
David Ball
Alan Churchard
Nicholas Grantham
David Stazicker
The Revd Simon Talbott
Alison Taylor

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Alan Churchard (Hon Treasurer)
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Jenny Lowles (Membership Secretary)
Graham Pledger (Acting Grants Secretary)
The Revd Canon Annette Reed
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Ride, Drive and Stride Treasurer

Nick Pallister