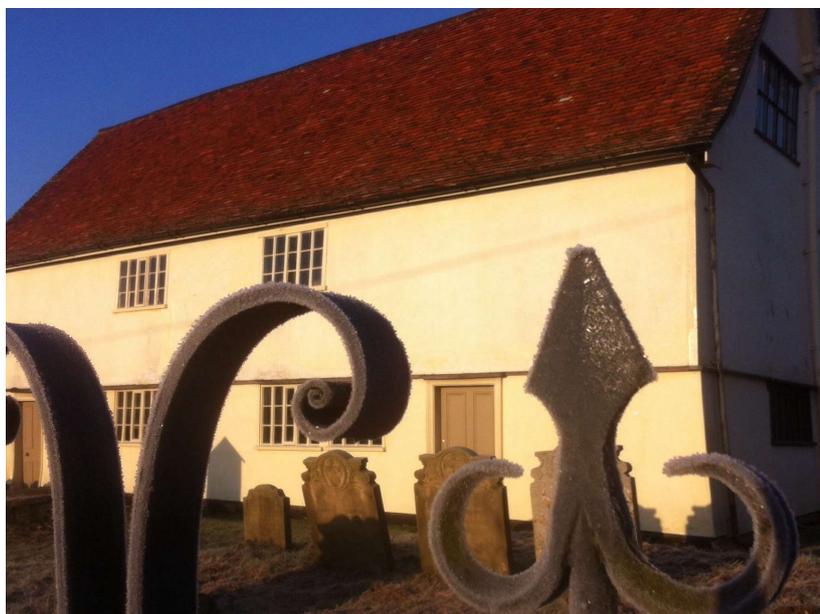


Walpole Old Chapel Annual Newsletter 2020



The chapel is in the care of the Historic Chapels Trust (Charity Commission No.1017321).

Welcome to the 2020 Walpole Old Chapel newsletter.

Firstly, it was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Phil Stevens. Phil died in September after a long illness. Phil and Linda took on the role of joint secretary in the summer of 2017, following Christina Van Melzen's 20 years of service in the role. They were relatively new to the Chapel committee but took on their roles with verve and energy, with great vision for the future of the Chapel. When Phil became ill he did not immediately give up his post, but carried on for as long as he was able and continued to support the Chapel until the very end. His wry smile, hearty laugh and dry sense of humour will be much missed. Our thoughts are with Linda.

The 2019 season was a very busy one. Our new secretaries, Anne and Simon, rose admirably to the challenge. Our new treasurer, Lyn, has settled into her role with ease and efficiency. With many, varied and some exceptionally well attended events our volunteers' capacity was stretched again last season. Thank you all so much for your help and contributions. As Phil Stevens pointed out in a previous newsletter, there is a tension between expanding our events programme and the ability of the local group to cover the workload. We are always on the lookout for volunteers so please tell your friends that there are opportunities for rewarding voluntary work with us.

2019 The programme was very full this year. We had several private events, both weddings and memorial services. We had many returning performers and events and also welcomed new

performers and audiences to the Chapel. In May Harmomium brought their beautiful sound to a candlelight chapel. June was an especially busy month in which Hearbeat, a group of a Capella singers, accompanied by Bridgit Cousins on the harp, gave us perfect music for a summers' afternoon. First timers Laura Cannell, Polly Wright and Osita performed a beautiful concert on a lovely summers evening.

We were treated to jazz by Charlie and Jake and the Suffolk poetry society came back to fill the chapel with their poems. In July Rob Gildon arranged another very successful 'Words and Music' recital this time over two days. Will Summers and the early music Loki concerts returned and we again took part in Suffolk Churches 'Ride and Stride' and the heritage open days.

We finished the year as always with Carols and Readings by candlelight.

2020 Unfortunately, due to the Covid -19 virus, our programme for this season has been cancelled.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the near future.

Please keep looking at our web site for updates on future events www.walpoleoldchapel.co.uk where you will also find links to our Twitter and Facebook accounts.

With best wishes from the friends of Walpole Old Chapel.