

Walpole Old Chapel Annual Newsletter 2019



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

Welcome to the 2019 Walpole Old Chapel newsletter.

Firstly, a huge thank you to Phil and Linda Stevens for their hard work and good humour during their tenure as joint secretaries. They worked tirelessly and creatively to introduce new audiences to the chapel and, under their management, we have had two very successful Summer seasons. In their place, we officially welcome Anne Thomas and Simon Weeks to the role of joint secretaries. Active in the chapel for many years already, they generously bring invaluable local knowledge and experience to the role, both having served on many local committees and community projects.

We also have a change of Treasurer. Jeremy Henry has filled this role with diligence, efficiency and dedication for more than twenty years. We will miss him at committee meetings but look forward to seeing him and Mary at events whenever they can make it. Many thanks to them both for their huge contribution to the chapel. We welcome Lyn Banks in his place and we are very grateful to her for agreeing to take on this important role and very much look forward to working with her.

A big thank you to ALL members of the Walpole Old Chapel committee and volunteers for everything that you do. Without you we would not be able to put on these events and your time and effort are much appreciated.

Our plans to renovate the Chapel exterior are on hold as a result of the uncertainty of the future of the Historic Chapels Trust. However, we have managed to get the doors and windows painted this spring and the chapel is looking very handsome for the new season.

2018

Our 2018 season was a very full and successful one. Many of our most generous supporters returned to perform in the chapel for another year. We welcomed back 'regulars' William Summers with three Loki concerts, Helen Rolfe leading another morning of Peace Songs and both the Halesworth Café Poets and the Suffolk Poetry Society. The Waveney Brass Band Ensemble treated us to another lovely afternoon and we hosted the Heritage Open days as usual in September.

Rob Gildon organised a wonderful concert of 'Words and Music', which was very well supported and in which local writers and musicians performed in aid of the chapel. It was so successful that we have two evening concerts this year over a weekend in July.

We also hosted the 'Chroma' residency, a new departure for us. The ensemble spent a week in the chapel culminating in a concert showcasing what they had been working on. It was a delight to be able to wander in and out and listen to their work in progress.

Group A returned to perform again and we enjoyed dramatic performances by Anne Boileau and the Wonderful Beast Theatre Company.

The year culminated in the carols and readings by candlelight, always very special as we are joined by so many from Walpole and surrounding villages.

2019

promises to be equally vibrant and varied. The Annual service this year, when we celebrate the foundation of the chapel as a place of worship, will take place on Sunday 14th July. We will be joined by several choirs over the summer and Jazz duo Charlie and Jake will be performing on Saturday 22nd July. The words and music concerts will take place over the weekend of July 6-7th.

These are only a fraction of the events we have planned. Please see the attached list of events for further details. Please note that events are often added after we go to print, so keep up to date by visiting the web site www.walpoleoldchapel.co.uk where you will also find links to us on Twitter and Face Book.

It only remains to say thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you over the summer.