

Walpole Old Chapel Annual Newsletter 2015

The chapel is in the care of Historic Chapels Trust (registered charity number 1017321)

I must begin with an apology; this newsletter will not be up to the standard that you have come to expect. To our great sadness **Linda Holmes** died on the 31st of January, as you read this the lack of her design and editing skills will be obvious to you all. Her memorial took place on Thursday the 19th of February in the chapel. This latest death adds to that of two other long-term committed friends to Walpole Old Chapel this last year, **Heather Burroughes** in October and that of **David Holmes** just after we went to print last year. I can't begin to tell you how much they are missed.

Last season was the best ever, but the effort involved was frankly expecting an awful lot of us. We are aware that new blood is desperately needed, not simply to replace those we have so very sadly lost, but also those of us (myself included) who are frankly getting a bit past it and are looking forward to taking a slightly less involved role in looking after the lovely old chapel.

As I said the 2014 season was the best ever, both in attendances and consequently in income, which is very important as this summer a repair programme will begin following the regular architectural survey undertaken last year. This work can take place largely thanks to your generosity and support over the years.

Ronald Blythe spoke at our annual service about John Bunyan's Bedfordshire, getting us publicity in the Church Times. The retrospective exhibition of the work of the late **Jack Penton** over the Heritage Open Days was certainly a highlight and our thanks go to the family and friends who lent work and especially to Tim and Ann Penton who donated one of Jack's Venetian watercolours for sale in aid of the repair work. Another excitement was the publication of a new book by **David Gentleman** entitled '**In the Country**' based locally. It contains a loving appreciation of the building and two delightful paintings, one of which he has given to us along with a signed copy of the book. I then found the grave, and consequently the story of a local man, **James Baldry Saunders** a World War 1 conscientious objector, who is referred to in David Butler's book 'Objection Overruled' and whose life we remembered at the Songs of Praise. However the Christmas Carols & Readings broke all records and certainly raised the roof with a capacity congregation.

This coming season we have fewer events planned, the reasons being that there will be builders at work during the summer and as a small committee we feel the need to take a semi-sabbatical to see where we go from here. If you or anybody you know has any time or skills to offer we would be more than grateful to hear from you.

The normal Saturday afternoon openings from 2.00 to 4.30 begin on the 2nd of May (but please bear in mind we have a wedding booked for that day) until Saturday the 26th of September.

Events 2015 Season.

Quaker Meetings will be held at 10.30 a.m. on the last Sunday of each month beginning on the 26th of April until the 27th of September.

14th June Chris Doddridge is giving one of his Raga Meditations at 3.00 p.m.

20th – 21st Walpole Village Open Days

21st June Annual Ecumenical Service when the address will be given by our very own Revd Bill Mahood. 3.00 p.m.

16th August Halesworth Café Poets at 5.00 p.m.

11th – 13th September Heritage Open Days – exhibition 'Around the Chapel'.

12th September Suffolk Historic Churches Sponsored Bike Ride.

27th September Songs of Praise Waveney Valley Brass Ensemble. 3.00p.m.

19th December Carols & Readings for Christmas. 3.00 p.m.

There will almost certainly be other events so please keep an eye on the website and locally in both the press and on local notice boards.

We all look forward to seeing you at some time or other during the coming season and take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support to this wonderful old building.

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