

FOLSC NEWS

Issue 9
Winter
20010/11

Published by the Friends of Long Sutton Church

Trustees: Tim Walford - 241224, Chairman; David Crawshaw -
241249, Hon Treasurer; Geoff Pringle - 241371, Hon Sec;
Michael Brake - 241222, Caroline Astington – 241159
David Aitken – 241335, Kevin Robinson – 241266

Charity
Number
1109211

Chairman's Report

Thankfully the financial demands of the PCC for repairs to the church (see later) have not been so high this year and we have been able to make a useful contribution to our reserve fund. There has been some comment locally about using this fund to improve the church heating system; however the church architect has cautioned about the potential unknown consequences of major changes to the heating regime. So in the meantime FOLSC has helped with keeping the existing facilities working.

The reserve fund now has a useful sum that will be invaluable when the time does come for seriously expensive repairs. Over the next few years, the funds that might be available from English Heritage are unlikely to grow as fast as inflation, so the need for match funding from local sources will be very large! The Architect has suggested that the pointing of the tower is likely to be the first major problem area – this is likely to cost many times what has already been accumulated! Hence *the* task, after funding immediate essential repairs, has to remain building up the reserves.

I am sad to report that David Crawshaw, one of our founding Trustees, has decided that his work commitments in Hampshire are too onerous to make it possible for him to continue as Treasurer; over the years David has given a great deal of his time helping with FOLSC events and keeping our books in order. So on behalf of us all, I say thank you most sincerely and hope that we shall continue to see you and Gilly at FOLSC events in the future, as time permits.

There are reports later on events held in 2010. Our 2011 agenda starts with the AGM on Feb 16th. I hope you will all come along, with your friends, full of ideas about what we should be doing! The pool of support for FOLSC is not as large as I would like locally and we need your ideas on how to improve this. We are delighted to see new faces, and even more pleased if anybody feels sufficiently interested to join the Trustees!

In the interest of reducing costs and work, we would like to consider distribution of FOLSC News by e mail in future. Please spare a few moments to tell us your e address by returning the form on page 4 – please keep the last sheet for your diary! Paper copies will still go to everybody else and it will also go on the village website.

Finally, I must thank you all, and your friends, for continuing to support FOLSC. I receive tremendous help from the other Trustees and their spouses for which I am very grateful. It would be impossible to run FOLSC without their assistance – thank you all most sincerely.

Tim Walford, Chairman

Jan 13th 2011

Notice of the AGM – Wednesday 16th Feb 2011

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the School Hall on **Wednesday, 16th February**, doors open at 7.00 for a chat and a complimentary glass of wine before the meeting at 7.30. We hope that all members who are available that night will attend. This is the opportunity for you to make suggestions on how we raise funds and hear how these funds are being used to maintain the Church structure. Non-members who would like to learn more about us will also be most welcome.

Geoff Pringle

Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Notes

After another hard year of excellent fund raising events, the net reserve now stands at just over £34,000. Events in 2010 raised just over £2000. Full accounts will be presented at the AGM.

Long time FOLSC member & regular supporter Twinkle Storey sadly died last year but he very kindly left FOLSC a most generous donation in his will. It is very much appreciated as it was considerably more than was raised from events this year. I urge all members to consider making a legacy to FOLSC in your wills - it is an excellent way of helping, which I think is also tax efficient!

David Crawshaw

Hon Treasurer

Repairs during the Year

Smartwater The threat of the lead being stolen from the roof has led the PCC to have it painted with Smartwater. This is special security paint that is intended to make recovery of the stolen goods very much easier for the Police by giving the item a specific "DNA" to aid identification. It is hoped that it will be a very strong deterrent to potential thieves. An additional advantage is a reduction in the insurance premium.

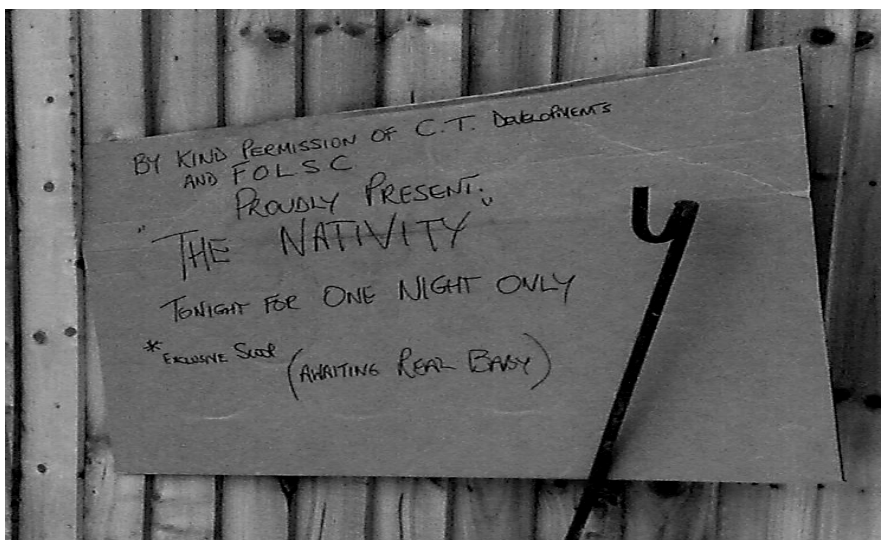
Pipework Unfortunately the iron heating pipes have sprung a second leak! This has been repaired and FOLSC will be making a contribution to the cost.

An annoying aspect of Customs and Excise policy, means that neither the PCC nor FOLSC is able to reclaim the VAT on either of these items as they are not repairs to the medieval structure! In addition, effective from 1st January, 2011, the Government has withdrawn the reimbursement of VAT on work to clocks, pews, bells and organs, as well as on professional fees, thus making FOLSC fund raising even more critical!

The FOLSC event that you did not attend!

Spied in Shute Lane for a brief moment in the run up to Christmas 2010, the notice for this event was very quickly removed. Our reporter caught this image on her phone when driving past! In case it does not copy well, it says:-

By kind permission of C T Developments and FOLSC, proudly present 'The Nativity', tonight for one night only, exclusive seats (awaiting real baby)'



Note from the PCC

These notes are being written after the Carol Service which was well attended despite the snow and sub zero temperature. The Service draws together all strands of village life in thanksgiving and praise. There is a strong community spirit built around the church. Further evidence of this is seen at the monthly sale of produce and coffee morning in the church. Considerable sums are raised for worthy charities and it provides an opportunity to welcome new neighbours and chat with old friends.

Earlier in the week it was my privilege to attend Long Sutton School's end of term service. Again the church was full. The children read and sang well. I was also particularly impressed with the manner in which two young instrumentalists played as we left the church. The strong Christian ethos of the school will be a force of strength to these young people as they make their way in the world.

This year we have welcomed Long Load residents to our regular Sunday services. They are a support to our aging congregation - witness the writer - and are filling some of the gaps caused by those who have joined St Peter in the celestial circle.

On more earthly matters, the PCC is indebted to FOLSC for sharing the cost of repairs to burst pipes in the heating system. We have received a generous offer from a parishioner to assist in the maintenance of the heating system. FOLSC has also shared in the cost of Smartwater treatment to the roof. There has been comment in the press and also from a distinguished member of FOLSC about exhibiting a sign outside the church advertising the fact, however, this is a requirement of our insurers.

It will not surprise you to hear that Church finances continue to be precarious. The basic problem is that Long Sutton is asked to provide in excess of £20,000 annually to the Diocese. This is not a figure that can be sustained from a population of 700 with posteriors on pews not much in excess of 20 on a regular basis. This is only my personal view.

On behalf of the PCC, I wish to record its gratitude to FOLSC for maintaining of our Church. I am also grateful to those who support the life of the church in any capacity.

Roger Cox

Churchwarden

FOLSC News revised circulation arrangements

In an effort by the Trustees to more efficiently distribute your copy of FOLSC News, we are proposing in future to send it (and maybe other reminders!) by email when possible. This will keep costs to a minimum, and will mean you can start to enjoy it in full colour! To this end and to enable us to update our data base, please can you complete and return this form to any of the Trustees.

Members Name(s)

Address

Membership Category Life

 Annual

Phone Number

Email Address

We do not have email and wish to receive FOLSC News by hard copy

Here it is – what we are all working to preserve!



Events which you might have attended or missed!

In March Tony and Janie Ellerbeck presented a talk with stunning illustrations of their **trip to Antarctica**. This delivered rather more excitement than had been intended when their cruise ship was swamped by a massive wave and only the quick action of the crew saved the vessel!



On a blistering hot day in June FOLSC put on an impressive display at the **school fete** reminiscent of the summer of 1940. Visitors were able to inspect artefacts and have a souvenir photograph wearing period flying kit in front of a replica Spitfire.



Our **Summer Party** and pig roast continued the 1940's theme with most of our guests attending in period costume. The Upton Grain Barn was decked out with bunting and period posters.



The evening went with a swing helped by Chris Pamplin and his Atomic Swing Cats disco.

September saw a crowd of FOLSC members and supporters assemble in the Village Hall for a **Grand Mouse Race** evening. The laughter nearly raised the roof and the old adage “gambling never pays” proved correct – unless you are the promoter and a massive £954 went to the fighting fund!



Our final event of 2010 was held on a freezing night in November featuring world class musician **Jackie Oates** and her band. The Village Hall provided an ideal venue, lit by candlelight creating an intimate atmosphere to complement a stunning musical evening enjoyed by all who attended.



Future Events

We are already planning a full programme for 2011 and so far dates confirmed are as follows, so please get them in your diaries:

- AGM** Wednesday, February 16th in Village School at 7.00pm
Mystery Antique Challenge Saturday, March 12th in Village Hall at 7.30pm
Flower Power - Summer Party. Sat July 23rd at the Upton Grain Barn at 7.30pm

Other ideas are in the planning stage so watch out for further publicity. A tour of the hidden parts of Wells Cathedral which are normally off limits could be arranged depending on demand.