



FOLSC NEWS

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Chairman's Report

I am pleased to report a successful fourth and good year for FOLSC, thanks to the hard work of all our members and helpers. We have held three fund raising events during the year which are mentioned later, and judging by the photos, we all seemed to enjoy ourselves! Yet again we have raised a useful sum of money, with funds increasing by some £4158 to help maintain the structure of our magnificent church! Thankfully it has not needed too much expenditure and assistance by FOLSC, so we continue to build up the fighting fund against the inevitable call for serious help by the PCC.

The main item of interest has come at the end of the year – with the Church architect's quinquennial inspection and report. His report is excellent and makes many good suggestions for the future. He found the Church to be in generally good condition with seven minor items needing attention now – the PCC is currently dealing with these and FOLSC expects to contribute in due course. The architect does warn however that expensive work will be required on the tower within the next 10 years or so, hence the importance of building up a fund now to address this issue. Until it is much clearer what has to be done, and when, the matter remains with the PCC.

There are reports later on events you might have attended or missed in 2008; but this year starts with the AGM on Feb 11th. We all hope you will all come along, with your friends; full of ideas on what we should be doing! See the notices later! Several of our Office holders have indicated their desire to stand down in a year or so, due to pressure of work or other interests: we will have then done 5 years and it will be time for a change! Hence if anybody would like to take a more active role in helping to preserve our very important local heritage please do tell me!

As ever, it would be impossible to stage most events without the extensive support from my fellow Trustees and their spouses, so, on your behalf, I thank them all most sincerely. I must of course also say a big 'thank you' to all our members, with their friends, for your continuing support during the year.

Tim Walford, Chairman

Jan 23rd 2009

Notice of the AGM – Wednesday 11th Feb 2009

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the School Hall - doors open at 7.00 for a chat and a 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.

John Bradley – Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Notes

After another hard year of excellent fund raising events, we now have £27832 in cleared funds at the end of the year. Full accounts will be presented at the AGM.

Membership remains at 57 so taking into account that many are family memberships, we estimate that in the region of 100 people now belong to the "Friends". I urge you to encourage anybody to support us who has an interest in this fine building.

David Crawshaw – Hon Treasurer

Note from The PCC

The church architect has provided the PCC with his report arising from his quinquennial survey and the FOLSC trustees have studied it. The PCC is currently obtaining three builders' estimates for the cost of the work and when they have all been received the PCC will supply copies to the trustees and indicate their preferred choice.

Michael Thomas

Events which you might have attended or missed!

Valentine Dinner Dance

The village hall was transformed with the appropriate red decorations and subdued lighting! With a glass of bubbly, an excellent dinner provided by Susie and Toby Albu, with music courtesy of Nick Gould it was a great evening. Nick Bond encouraged us all to dig deep into our pockets for his auction, so



that the evening raised approximately £1,800 all of which will help the reserve fund. A very big thank-you to all who helped and supported the event.

Summer Party on Knole Hill

This was one of the few evenings in 2008 that one could enjoy being outside and make the most of being on top of the world (nearly!). The Crawshaw's orchard is a beautiful spot from which to look down upon Knole and enjoy the rural scene. A roasted hog was provided by the Pitney Farm shop and entertainment came from the Tulk disco, which kept us all - young and old and dogs - going well into the night!



Visit to wells Cathedral

In September a party of twelve enjoyed a fascinating visit to the high level parts of the Cathedral which are normally not open to the public.



Military Ops in Afghanistan

Captain Barny Barnwell, Royal Marines, from RNAS Yeovilton, gave us a talk about the tri-service helicopter force which supports the Army and Royal Marines in Afghanistan. Not surprisingly, the dedication of our military personnel in that theatre came out very clearly. However, many might have been surprised by the beauty of the landscape in that unfortunate country. (These photos came from the net.)



Drains!

Over the years there has been discussion about the problem of the splashing of the church walls below the hunky-punks. It is caused by the rain water falling from a considerable height, and hence high speed, onto the concrete drain and associated pads, which makes the water splash all around for several feet. Apart from some encroaching grass and twigs, and a few cracks, the drain is in reasonable condition and seems to efficiently get rid of most of the water falling from the roof. Owing to the splashing, the stone of the walls stays unduly damp, and this will eventually lead to it cracking or perishing as a result of frosts etc. The architect has previously suggested removing the concrete drain and replacing it with a 'French drain', consisting of clean stone laid in a trench on top of a buried drain pipe; the hope being that the irregular small stones would lead to less splashing. As an alternative approach, I suggest that a softer and more absorbent material is needed for the water to land on.

In the last Trustees meeting I made the suggestion of providing some low shrubs that don't mind being wetted too much below the spouts. The water would splash less and fall for only a short distance into the existing drain and away. To avoid invoking formal ecclesiastical permissions for dug-in shrubs etc, I suggest they be installed in suitable pots or containers so they could be easily removed if no good, or shuffled around to better catch the water falling on them! Obviously this would be much cheaper than replacing the concrete drain with a new French variety!

Can anybody suggest a suitable type of shrub? Suggestions very welcome! This approach might be considered as part of any changes for disabled people and access via the west door. I emphasize, this is my suggestion and not a FOLSC proposition!

Tim Walford

Future events - Get these dates in your diaries now!

AGM – Feb 11th - 7:00 for 7:30pm - Village School - see earlier

Spring Dance – Mar 21st in the village hall. Leave the gloom of winter behind; enjoy an evening of good food and dancing. Tickets on sale from Feb 16th from the shop. Secure them early to avoid disappointment!

Upton Barn Party – This will be in a special old barn at Charity Farm, and if you like the atmosphere of old buildings, this is not to be missed! August 1st – details to follow.

Autumn Event – There will be something but we are not quite sure just what at the moment!

Another Wells Tour? If there is sufficient demand, this can be arranged, possibly in September.

