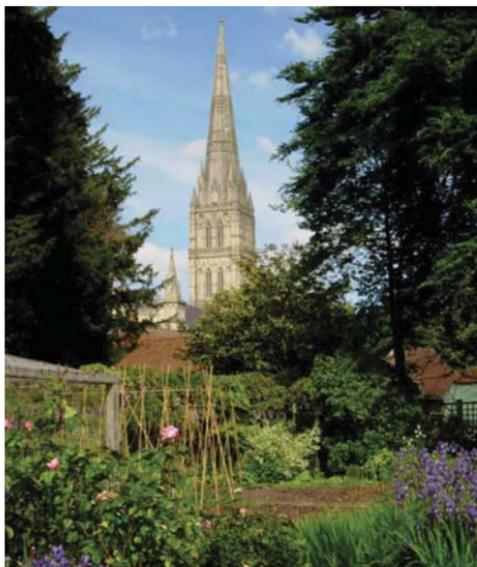


Friends Events 2016-17

A full year of trialling an 'event a month' programme has taken place, and we are now well into another year (and onwards into 2018!). Well in fact sometimes it turned out to be more than an event a month, as some months we had two or more, not even counting Friends' Day! But this was in part due to being chosen by Mayor Derek Brown as one of the three charities he wished to support during his mayoral year; we are very grateful to him for this as not only has it benefited the Friends financially with donations from Derek and his wife Penny's climb of Kilimanjaro, but it has also raised our profile within the City of Salisbury, particularly our taking part in Salisbury Carnival, and our Tea Dance in Salisbury Guildhall!

The programme of events has been arranged with the help of the Events Sub-Committee, comprising Nigel Salisbury, Dudley Heather, Katharine Shearing, Veronica Armstrong, Julia Lever, Chairman Keith Millman and myself, not forgetting the goodwill and support of Kevin Osborne in the Refectory, Cathedral staff who help set up etc. and volunteers. The events we have held have been discussed, arranged and scrutinized in our monthly committee meetings, and I'm very grateful for their serious and steadfast commitment to meet up so regularly and for their input and contribution. The variety of events not only raises a much needed boost to our funds for grants for Salisbury Cathedral, but also raises awareness of who we are, what we do, and why we do it. It goes without saying of course they are also arranged so that our members can meet up together as a community, but we couldn't run anything without our volunteers and Friends staff



The Spire on view from the garden of Myles Place

who work hard to make every event a happy and interesting occasion, be it a candlelit concert or talk in the Refectory, a coffee morning, a coach outing or a holiday.

We know that most events we run are likely to be supported only by members who are close enough to Salisbury to join in, but we were delighted to see so many Friends from far and wide visit our open gardens, both in May last year, our first foray into the 'Secret Gardens of the Close', and again this year in May, both exceptionally well supported events! Members of the public too were invited to see the beautiful gardens open in aid of the Friends, and this year we were within touching distance of reaching our target of £10,000, having taken £5,000 on the gate last year (but with a grant from the Girdlers Guild making £6,700). Both open garden events were 'for the people' and that sense of community was felt by

all the visitors and those involved in putting these events together.

We were a little worried this year that people wouldn't want to see the same gardens as last year, but there is always something new to delight and we were overwhelmed to see such a great number of visitors. The gardens open ranged from resident Salisbury Canons, existing Close attractions, the College of Matrons, and private residents, but we also had three new gardens open for us, plant stalls (Alabare & plants, Riding for the Disabled & plants, and Pococks roses from Romsey), artists and music in situ (Cliff Topping, and the Close Consort recorder group) as well as an exhibition of the beautiful botanic art of the Salisbury Florilegium Society, and children's art from Leadenhall School – a very happy atmosphere. Tea and homemade cakes were served in the garden of the South Canonry, the home of the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam and his wife, Helen, with proceeds of nearly £2,000 going to the Sudan Link.

A florilegium is an illustrative record of a collection of flowers and plants, and Salisbury Florilegium Society was founded last year as a direct result of the Secret Gardens of the Close event. The society's aim is to create a collection of



The Close Consort playing in the garden of Loders

original botanical paintings depicting the flowers and plants from the 'secret gardens', plus vignettes of each garden to put the botanical illustrations into context. Botanical artist Sally Pond, who runs workshops, teaches at Sarum College and is a member of the assessment panel of Salisbury Florilegium Society, said she was talking to one of her students, Nick Stiven last year about the Winchester Florilegium Society and he said: "Salisbury should have one of those." "This is a wonderful vehicle for my students to publish their work," said Sally. "All the gardens will be represented by a flower or tree and every year the artists will produce one or two pieces of work, so the collection will grow." She said the collection of paintings – there are 41 at present – would be used by the Friends to generate funds to support projects at the Cathedral. Further exhibitions are being planned, and packs of 8 designs are already available as blank cards to buy – see the order form in this annual report!

I do hope that Friends will continue to enjoy our events programme; we are always open to suggestions or comments so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kate Beckett
Executive Secretary



Friends enjoying a Secret Garden!