

From the Chairman, Duncan Glass

Dear Friends, welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Although, sitting here looking at our wonderful Cathedral in mid-February it feels a long way from Spring! It's very grey and quite cold. At times like this I recall my youth when grey, cold days meant model-making close to a log fire! Like most youngsters, making the occasional plastic plane, train or ship from numerous pieces of plastic was a fascination that resulted in varying degrees of success. My ability eventually improved and the high point was an enormous model of the tea clipper "Cutty Sark" which turned out quite well! Hence my huge respect for the wonderful model of the 'Construction of Salisbury Cathedral' that has pride of place at the West end of the North Aisle and is the starting point for the hundreds of thousands of visitors having tours of the Cathedral.

So it was, on close examination of the wonderful model one day three years ago, that I noted a number of figures and features in the model had fallen over or fallen off and that the type-written legend around the model was in need of improvement, in bigger clearer text. The base cabinet and carpeted step was looking understandably worn, given the vast number of visitors who made contact with it.

This model of the Cathedral under construction - circa 1240 - was made by James Mogford and John Ogg and presented to the Dean and Chapter



The Chairman gazes in wonder at the detail!



Ecclesiastical Joiner Richard Pike

in 1985 to mark the beginning of the Spire Appeal. On close examination it's clear that they were hugely talented and masters of detail, which becomes clear when you discover that Jim Mogford was a renowned maker of harpsichords and John Ogg was an eminent ophthalmic surgeon. Both were partly retired and devoted hundreds of hours to this masterpiece. We are deeply indebted to them.

Having realised the model was in need of loving refurbishment I proposed to the Dean and Chapter that the Friends could undertake this as a project if they agreed. Support was immediate and the Friends Council concurred that this was thoroughly worthwhile and set a budget. For months thereafter, our Secretary Kate and I sought suitable model makers and artisans to

undertake the task as set down in a specification detailing what needed to be done.

To cut a long story short, we were unable to engage with those who had the skills to undertake the refurbishment of the model. They were, like our Cathedral Works Department, far too busy to take on a painstaking and lengthy project of this nature. With the help of the Canon Chancellor, Head Guide and other experts we reviewed the narrative text around the model and designed new panels with interactive buttons so that the reader can identify features in the model by lighting them up. However, our disappointment at not finding highly skilled crafts-persons was to continue throughout nearly three years!



Cathedral Artisans Richard Pike and Phil Court

Imagine my delight when the Cathedral's Clerk of Works, Gary Price, advised the Friends in December last year, that his department could fit the refurbishment of the model into their busy schedule of work in the New Year, when winter weather precludes some of their activities on the exterior of the Cathedral. This was perfect and our original preferred solution, the model was carefully relocated to the Works Department in early January 2018, and three craftsmen with an eye for detail have been painstakingly working on it, namely Richard Pike ecclesiastical Joiner, Phil Court electrician and Brendan Seller plumber, all three work in the maintenance department in the cathedral works yard.

Sorry to go on about this, but by the time you are reading this story the fully refurbished model will be back in its prime position in a lovingly restored condition which will better serve our Friends, congregation and visitors by showing how a beautiful, early English Gothic masterpiece was constructed. Sincere thanks to the original makers, Messrs Mogford and Ogg, all who made this refurbishment project possible, and made a nostalgic amateur model maker very happy.

Shrove Tuesday, 13th February, saw the Pancake Race, organised by St Thomas's and the Trussell Trust take



place in the South Cloister of the Cathedral, rather than the High Street in the City, due to it being a very cold, wet morning!

Many thanks to the Cathedral for accommodating this event and to all who took part so enthusiastically. These photos show Amber Rawlings, Marketing Officer for the Cathedral, hurtling off in the final on behalf of the Friends, where she took silver medal position, and Amber with Tricia Glass who ran gracefully on behalf of the Cathedral Volunteers. Many thanks to all who made this event such fun.

