

From the Events Co-ordinator

Our first monthly event of 2018 took place on Saturday 26th January when the Sarum Six once again entertained a full house with a selection of religious and secular singing. In a new departure from previous evenings, the opening half took place in the beautiful Chapter House of Salisbury Cathedral. We were delighted and uplifted by the wonderful acoustics as their voices filled the circular medieval space

with a selection of 16th century music and Negro Spirituals. This was the perfect setting and made a suitable welcome to Nick Hawker who is a great addition to the Six.

The second half, in the Cathedral Refectory with wine and nibbles, was light-hearted and amusing as the Sarum Six showed the range of their skills with a selection of folk, pop and film music on a maritime theme. Many thanks to all who attended this wonderful evening enjoyed by us all.



In February we were lucky to have a sunny morning to welcome Friends and families to our biannual Coffee Morning in the Bell Tower Tearooms and it seemed that the sun brought you out in droves! How wonderful to see so many Friends and to have the premises bursting at the seams! Our trusty volunteers were there again to help on the day and bring delicious home-make cakes and biscuits for you to enjoy and I want to say a very big thank you. We look forward to welcoming you again on Tuesday 6th November.

You will have heard a lot in the media this year about Millicent Fawcett and the partial franchise of women in 1918. In April a statue of her will be placed in Parliament Square as a fitting tribute to all she did. In order to celebrate this remarkable woman and the historical cause that she championed we invited Elizabeth Crawford to come and speak as an expert on the subject and knowledge of the

Garrett family. As I write we are looking forward to an evening when she will give an illustrated talk on this extraordinary period in history. The women's suffrage campaign of 1866-1928 grew from the tireless work that went on amongst both women and men, with Henry Fawcett and his young wife Millicent Garrett with them. It will be so impressive to hear how she and other members of her circle laboured to improve the lives of women in the 19th and early 20th century and realise more fully the huge debt we owe them.

The Secret Gardens of the Close has proved such a success in the past two years that we will be repeating this event on Sunday afternoon, 20th May 2018 1 - 5.00 pm, with 6 new gardens open, and 6 favourites, thereby allowing some previous owners time for a rest. Do come along if you can and tell your family and friends - the cost is £10 entrance with programme, Helen Holtam is serving refreshments in



the South Canonry, and we will have an Exhibition of the beautiful botanic art of Salisbury Florilegium at the Medieval Hall, and plants stalls on Choristers Green. I do hope that you will wish to join us that afternoon - pass on the word! We will also be having our own 'BRING AND BUY PLANT STALL' so please think about bringing along a pot or two of plants for our stall either that afternoon or the week before to our office - also donations of cakes for Helen Holtam's tea tent. **WE ARE ALSO CALLING FOR GARDEN VOLUNTEERS!!** Please contact the office and add your name to our list - it's a lovely way to spend a May



afternoon, on the gate in a garden, or checking entry in, with free entrance to all the gardens on offer after your stint, and a cup of tea at the South Canonry.

We are delighted to have been successful in arranging a half day outing, a morning visit, to the home of the Earls of Radnor, Longford Castle, on Friday 29th June. We had to apply to the Radnor Estate to apply for a visit, as there are only a few dates per year available, and this is the date we have been given - we know it clashes with the group away in Chester on the Friends' holiday, but I'm afraid this was out of our control! We can take a minimum of 20 and up to 40 people on this visit, so do get your application in! The guided tour will be given in two groups of 20, and there will be time afterwards to spend a half hour or so in the beautiful gardens by the River Avon before returning to Salisbury. The estate warns us that access by wheelchair is only available on the ground floor; the upper floor is only accessible via stairs.

Please order your tickets as necessary on the booking form enclosed separately with this newsletter. Later events will be advertised in Spire.

Veronica Armstrong