

From the Events Co-ordinator

This has been another busy and fruitful year, and as we draw towards its close with Advent in sight and Christmas not far away, I have been reflecting on the social threads that have drawn us together as a community of Friends.

It seems that we continue to be uplifted by the cathedral building, its music and regular acts of worship, but as a body of supporters, we are also continually challenged by the rapid and multiple changes within our lives, both personal and corporate. Much of what the Friends organisation does is to bring people together for support, fun and mutual sharing, with love of the Cathedral and all it stands for as a common factor. To continue into the future as an organisation we need new members to join and we look to you for your continued interest and practical encouragement with our events; another full year lies ahead.

This autumn, our event inspired by Desert Island Discs was a lovely opportunity to welcome back our previous President and Dean of Salisbury, June Osborne, now Bishop of Llandaff, who so kindly found time in her busy and demanding schedule



to share with us something of her life's journey and her choice of music. It was an evening of delightful anecdotes, thoughtfulness and amusement with a great selection of music, nostalgic for many. Bishop June was relaxed and happy, having travelled down from Cardiff by train; she said being a Bishop was wonderful! Her new cope, lately on display in the cathedral, was then expertly packed up by Anthony Lewis, Dean's Verger, and put into her suitcase, and it went back to Cardiff with her on the train that evening. Our events in the refectory have a warm, 'at home' feel to them and it is always good to have your support on these occasions.

Our Events Sub-Committee planning for events in 2018 is going well and we have a very stimulating programme to look forward to. The Friends' 2017 holiday to Truro you can read about in the next issue of

Spire. Our holiday for 2018 to Chester in June became booked up as soon as it was advertised, which I know has left some people disappointed and I am very sorry about this. Unfortunately, due to pressure now on hotels and places of interest in this country, they become booked up well in advance so we have to organise and book at least 18 months ahead of time. I am already making provision for the holiday in 2019!

Sarum Six will be entertaining us by candlelight in the refectory on Saturday January 27th with another delightful programme of music, first half Renaissance sacred music and African American spirituals, and second half music with a maritime flavour! The dismal days of February will be cheered by another of our Cosy Coffee Mornings in the Bell Tower Tearoom, both venues kindly opened for our use by Kevin Osborne the catering manager and his team. Your help on these occasions is invaluable, and please continue to support us and bring your friends and family.



2018 is the centenary of the first limited franchise for women, and a statue of Millicent Fawcett is to be put up in Parliament Square in memory of her outstanding contribution to women's suffrage. A statue of her husband, Henry Fawcett, stands in the Market Square in Salisbury. Millicent came from the redoubtable Garrett family, her eldest sister being Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, while she herself was a co-founder of Newnham College Cambridge. She was appointed to lead the British Government's commission to South Africa to investigate conditions in the concentration camps created in the wake of the second Boer War. Our illustrated talk on Tuesday 13th March, by Elizabeth Crawford, who has written extensively about this remarkable woman and her circle, will consider the part Millicent played in improving the lives of women in the 19th and early 20th century.

On Monday 9th April, when I hope the weather will be encouraging us into our gardens, we would like to visit the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens near Romsey to have a tour and talk from the head gardener and enjoy the magnolias, spring bulbs and blossoms. Self Service lunch available. We then travel to Romsey Abbey with a guided tour of this ancient Benedictine community founded in 907 by King Edward the Elder for his daughter, a nun in



Wilton who became the first Abbess. Having gone through a history reflective of the changes of the Church in England, the Abbey continues to flourish as the largest parish church in Hampshire. Time to explore the town, maybe a cup of tea, before returning home.

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, with several new gardens open thereby allowing some previous owners time for a rest. We would like to have our own Bring & Buy plant stall, so if you are intending to visit the gardens, or just have plants to spare, we would ask you to bring them on the day or during that week! Refreshments at the South Canonry, Exhibition of the Salisbury Florilegium at the

Medieval Hall, plants stalls on Choristers Green.

In early September, the date has yet to be finalised, we plan to visit the home of the Earls of Radnor, Longford Castle. The Huguenot, Laurens Des Bouverie, having fled from religious persecution during the Reformation, settled in London and became a prosperous silk merchant. His enterprising descendants became wealthy landowners in England. The family was ennobled in 1747 with Sir Jacob Des Bouverie becoming First Viscount Folkestone, while his son William was created an Earl in 1765. Longford has continued to be the home of the Earls of Radnor ever since. Then its Friends' Day and another coffee morning! So you see there is a lot to look forward to and much to be grateful for.

We try our best to provide a rich and varied annual programme but I am



happy for your suggestions and of course always grateful for support in whatever capacity. Please order your tickets as necessary on the booking form enclosed separately with this newsletter. Later events will be advertised again in the next newsletter and Spire.

May Kate and I, alongside everyone else in our office, take this opportunity to thank you again for your support for the Friends, and to wish you all a very joyful and peace-filled Christmas.

Veronica Armstrong