

Greetings from the Friends' Office

Spring time is a season when our thoughts turn to the garden, to flowers and new growth. It is a time of renewed energy and looking forward, and you will find the Friends are no exception! Not surprisingly then we are heralding in this Eastertide with a beautiful concert of words and music 'A Rite for Spring' with Sonia Woolley and the Amberley Ensemble.

The Friends began the year with another Winter Warmer concert with

the Sarum Six entertaining us with their distinctive sound and blend of voices, and a real treat to spend a candlelit evening enjoying wine and nibbles in the company of friends under the shadow of the spire. We hope to make this a regular feature each January as it is such a popular event. We had another successful Cosy Coffee Morning in the Bell Tower Tea Rooms and a very special **thank you** goes to our band of faithful volunteers who work so hard baking, serving and washing up in order that Friends can get together to meet others. It is always a happy

occasion, and we hold another coffee morning on **Tuesday November 7th**. If you would like to be one of those wonderful helpers, without whom we cannot continue with our events, then please step forward and let us know. We have a very busy year ahead with lots of fun and interesting events for you all.

Tuesday 4th April sees Commander Tim Ash (son of our own Sue Ash) speaking in the Refectory about HMS Warrior, an historic ship of which he is captain. I know this will be a truly fascinating talk.

The Secret Gardens of The Close on the afternoon of **Sunday 21st May** will be a great chance to see the gardens usually hidden behind closed doors but which have all sorts of floral delights and magnificent trees for us to see. This year we are also holding an exhibition by the Salisbury Florilegium Society in Leaden Hall campus of Salisbury Cathedral School to complement the day, with a display of botanical art of plants and flowers from the Secret gardens themselves. It promises to be something very special, and again Helen Holtam, our Bishop's wife, will have the garden of the South Canonry open, as well as hosting delicious teas.

A coach outing to Kelmscott in Oxfordshire, the home of William Morris, is organised for **Thursday 20th April**, and we are lucky enough to start the day with a guided visit

to Marlborough College, where Morris was a pupil. This promises to be a beautiful day out.

Please contact the office for information or to book tickets for any of the above events.

Dates for your diaries: (further info & booking form with Spire in July)

Monday 9th October: we will have a coach trip up to London to visit Spencer House on October 9th. From its conception, Spencer House was recognised as one of the most ambitious aristocratic town houses ever built in London and is the city's only great 18th century private palace to survive intact. The first Earl and his wife were prominent figures in London society and Spencer House was a suitably splendid setting for lavish entertainment. There will be free time in the afternoon and a Blue Badge guide is happy to take anyone who would like to visit The Royal Collection at The Queen's Gallery where there is a fabulous exhibition of Canaletto and his contemporaries. If you prefer you can venture into Piccadilly, St James's Church, the Royal Academy, The Ritz, Hatchard's Bookshop or Fortnum and Mason - a great opportunity to enjoy yourselves!

Tuesday October 10th promises to be another exciting event for your diaries - the Very Revd June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury, will be our first castaway for Desert Island Discs!!

Saturday 16th September:
FRIENDS' DAY & AGM North Transept with President: The Very Revd June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury. Friends' Lecture given by Adrian Green, Director of Salisbury Museum: 'Salisbury Cathedral in Art'. Adrian is also generously offering special afternoon tours of the Museum, behind the scenes.

Other news - Council agreed at its February meeting to support a request from the Dean & Chapter by making a Grant of £2,000 to fund 20 new sets of pewter Liturgical vessels. This will give enough sets to cater for the Cathedral's largest services, such as Christmas or ordinations. Metal vessels are more hygienic and durable than the pottery versions, and the common design for all the sets will give a uniform appearance. Our priority is still to support the 'Little Paradise' project, and we are looking to be on target to grant another payment of £74,000. This will be the third year running we have had sufficient funds to go towards the repayment of the loan which was required to complete the new facilities, and this is all down to your generosity, so many thanks indeed for your continued support of the Friends. We are also supporting Cathedral Flowers this year with £3,000, and a new Cathedral poster/services case with £1,500.

Finally we would like to welcome Julia Lever to our merry band of

office staff - Julia also works as PA to the Chapter Clerk part time, and is in the office here on Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings. Veronica is in on a Tuesday and Thursday morning, and Sue Ash is in on a Friday morning. Kate continues Tuesday - Friday. Do come in and see us!!

Ps. please note the office will be closed over the Easter break, from Wednesday 12 April re-opening Tuesday 18 April.



View of the Cathedral Conservators on a March afternoon!