

Friends of Chaldon Church

The *Friends of Chaldon Church* committee has now completed a very successful year following our inaugural meeting on December 5th 2015. A number of events which included a very well attended quiz evening in the Chaldon village hall, walks in the surrounding countryside and the City of London, and a continuing series of Saturday afternoon talks on a variety of topics relating to church and local village history have been well supported. The church continues to attract a large number of visitors from the UK and other countries but we do still need to attract more members to the FCC.

We were most fortunate to receive ceramic plates made by the artist Alistair Payne which are extremely fine and accurate reproductions of the church mural. These have sold well and we have one remaining plate which we will auction at our next quiz night event on 3rd March. The Trustees are now planning FCC events for the whole of 2017 and you will receive notification of these.

Our major contribution to the church fabric costs this year was £900 for the funding of an assessment of the current state of our 12th century mural by the art conservators *Arte Conservation Ltd.* This firm had previously cleaned and conserved the mural in 1989. A short section of the firm's current report is attached to this newsletter and it is clear that although the painting is in a reasonably satisfactory condition at the moment some expensive renovation work will be required in the near future.

The general fabric of the church, including the floor and the walls, is also in need of some urgent attention. The Trustees have agreed that the FCC will help with the cost of an initial architectural survey but the Parish Church Council will be responsible for securing grants for the work itself which may total approximately £100,000.

Our ability to fund the bill for the mural assessment this year and to promise help with the cost of an architectural survey of the general fabric of the church is a great measure of the success of the first year of the FCC. On a lighter note the FCC Christmas cards have sold well and the four publications on the Church and the mural, kindly prepared by Dr. Robert Warner, have been appreciated by many of our visitors.

We look forward to another active and enjoyable year raising money for this beautiful 1000 year old church.

Thank you for your support

Ted Howard – Chairman of the Trustees.



Upcoming Events

Saturday 25th February 2017 **Tea and Entertainment**

2 – 4pm at Chaldon Village Hall
Tickets £5 on the door, teas and cakes for sale

Friday 3rd March 2017 **Quiz Night**

7.30 for 8pm start at Chaldon Village Hall in aid of the Friends

Saturday 11th March 2017 **Illustrated Talk 2 – 4pm**

Martin Harman; Lord of Lundy and Chaldon Benefactor.

For more details see page 3

Church Opening & Sunday Teas

The church is open daily 10am - 3pm during the winter and 10am – 4pm during the summer.

With the exception of Good Friday till the dawn of Easter Sunday.

From Sunday 2nd April the Hazell Rooms will be open from 3pm – 4.30pm for teas and homemade cakes.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION OF THE CHALDON MURAL by *Arte Conservation Ltd*

In general, the painting survives in remarkably good condition with few areas of immediate concern. However, some minor problems were noted during the inspection and it would be prudent to deal with these in the near future.

CONSERVATION PROPOSALS (Tom Organ ACR - 14 June 2016)

Problems highlighted by the conservators included small areas of paint loss and detachment of plaster. They advise that plaster repairs should be carried out where necessary to secure loose edges and losses using a limes and mortar chosen to match the colour and texture of the existing medieval plaster

The proposed conservation works which are not considered to be urgent would ensure that the painting is placed in an inherently more stable condition and better suited to the environment in which it is situated.

Any conservation work on the mural would be highly skilled and time-consuming work and the current cost has been estimated at £4,780.00.

Finally the conservators have advised that a regular inspection and maintenance cycle should be considered with a minimum of 5 yearly intervals. If conditions are found to be stable the inspection period could be increased to a 10-year cycle.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

What a fantastic start we have had to the Friends this year, our membership of Friends is growing and we now have gained 79 friends in our first year, including 21 Life Members.

We aim to contact all our Friends on a regular basis by email and if you have received this Newsletter by post please send us your email address at friendsofchaldonchurch@gmail.com to help reduce our costs and keep us in touch with you on a regular basis.

The first annual membership will be due at the end of January and letters will be sent to you at the start of January.

FRIENDS FUNDRAISING

In our first year (this includes Dec 2015) the Friends have raised over £1,300 in fundraising events, received over £200 in donations and received over £3900 in membership fees. We also have kindly received over £375 from the Chaldon History Group.

In 2017 we will be looking to gain Charity Registration as we hope our income to be over £5000.

SPREAD THE WORD

If you know of any friends, family or colleagues who would be interested in joining the Friends please do not hesitate to contact us either by email: friendsofchaldonchurch@gmail.com or in writing to Alison Pannett, Hon. Treasurer, 26 Whyteleafe Hill, Whyteleafe Surrey CR3 0AB.



In the Community

Saturday 21st January: 2 - 4pm: ILLUSTRATED HISTORY TALK

At Chaldon Village Hall
Chaldon Mead, Fryern and the
Golf Course Lands

Liz Bonsall will give an illustrated
talk on the history of the Golf
Course Lands.

This land, stretching through
from Rook Lane to Happy Valley
was originally part of the Fryern
Estates.

Hear and see how the land has
been used over the centuries
and discover some of the
personalities who contributed
to the development of the
Chaldon community.

Tickets £5 on the door, teas and
cakes for sale.

A Chaldon History Group event.

CHALDON HISTORY GROUP

Chaldon History Group has
made several contributions to
the Friends during the year. A
joint event with the Friends in
January raised over £135. The
Summer Walk and two
Autumn talks each raised
£60. A talk to the residents of
Glebe House Nursing Home
raised a further £60, giving a
total in 2016 of £375.

Friends Events 2017

TEA AND ENTERTAINMENT WITH FOUREFFECT QUARTET AND HUMMINGBIRDS QUARTET

Saturday 25th February 2 – 4pm at Chaldon Village Hall Tickets £5 on the door, teas and cakes for sale.



FourEffect and Hummingbirds are female a cappella quartets who sing in the Barbershop style. They are part of an award winning Barbershop chorus, Vocal Dimension.

Each quartet has their own individual style and they will sing from their own repertoires as well as the chorus repertoire as an octet. Their music spans many decades, from the 1920's to naughties, with songs from musicals, films, well known popular singers and groups.



If you feel in fine voice and would like the chance to sing, there will an opportunity for audience participation!

So come and join FourEffect Quartet and Hummingbirds Quartet for an afternoon of tea, cakes, singing and entertainment.

ILLUSTRATED TALK Saturday 11th March: 2 - 4pm

An illustrated talk by Ted Howard - Martin Harman; Lord of Lundy and Chaldon Benefactor

Martin Harman was born in 1886, and from 1906 his parents and their large family lived in Chaldon. He was concerned about potential threats of urbanisation to Chaldon, and in 1926 gave 6.69 acres to the village which he named Six Brothers Field.

At the same time he purchased the Island of Lundy off the North Devon coast. This talk will review his many contributions to the development of both Chaldon and Lundy. Tickets £5 on the door, teas and cakes for sale. A joint event with the Chaldon History Group

QUIZ NIGHT Friday 3rd March 7.30pm for 8pm start

In aid of the repair and maintenance of Chaldon Church.

Friday 3rd March, Chaldon Village Hall, 7.30 for 8pm start.

Teams of up to 8 people, bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles.

Tickets £5 in advance from Jane Edwards – Tel. 07814526306

(We sold out last time so book early to avoid disappointment)



TUDELEY & CAPEL CHURCHES WALK

Saturday 8th April 10:30am – c 3:30pm

Tudeley and Capel Churches Walk, near Tonbridge (starting at Tudeley Woods). Another of the popular walk programme led by Richard Payne. This 5.5m (9km) circular walk visits two unique churches located in the beautiful countryside of the Kent Weald. All Saints, Tudeley is the only church in the world in which all the stained glass windows were designed by Marc Chagall, the Russian born artist. St Thomas a Becket Church, Capel contains fragments of 13th century wall paintings which are similar to the Chaldon mural and provide a vivid impression of what the interior of a Medieval English church would have looked like before the Reformation.

For more details contact Richard email: richard@artofwalking.com or phone: Richard on 01883 330785 £5 per adult.