

Peter Mann - Buzz Associates

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Date: 15 October 2019 17:14
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Cc: "Buzz Associates Limited" <peter@buzzassociates.co.uk>
Subject: St Denis' church, East Hatley - update for 15 October 2019 Parish Council meeting

Dear all

Just to update you on St Denis' church,

Jenny Ollerenshaw (with Peter organising the printed pages) made a beautiful visitors' book in time for the Heritage Open Days.

The Heritage Open Days were a great success, aided by beautiful weather, with a total of 103 visitors over the three days (13-15 September). £267.45 was raised for the Friends of Friendless Churches. A full report with thanks to all those who helped is on https://www.hatley.info/news_events/news/hod-raised-250/. Special thanks to Joyce Denby and Peter Mann for their very informative guided tours and for the work that went into researching, designing and mounting a [timeline display of events that shaped Hatley](#), and to Peter for the final cutting of the churchyard before the event.

David Bevan formally of SCDC was amongst the visitors as was Dr Knighton of Pepys Library, Magdalene College. Several people who had been baptised and worshipped in the church came along.

The event was nicely advertised in the [Royston Crow](#) and Rachel Morley was invited to contribute to a programme on Radio Cambridge.

Stephanie Norris appointed Duncan Painter of Applied Ecology Ltd to carry out a bat survey. Duncan left a recording device in the church from 17 September to 7 October. We await his report with interest. We saw two brown long-eared bats behind the loose limestone cladding in the porch and, from the many droppings, Duncan thinks pipistrelle and barbastelle bats are using the church too.

Stephanie was appointed by the Friends of Friendless Churches under her new practice (having left Purcell in April 2018) to undertake phase 2 of the renovation work on St Denis' church. The scope of work includes the reglazing of the chancel windows to north and south, W02, W03 and W12, to the same Butterfield pattern as installed in the Nave under Phase 1, and the modification and installation of a salvaged stained glass window within the east window reveals, with any necessary masonry repairs. The works are not likely to be carried out until the summer of 2020 (subject to gaining planning and LISTED Building (LB) consent and ecological restrictions, as well as tenders meeting budget.

The issue of damp in the church has been tackled for now, anyway. For extra ventilation, slots were cut in the access panel in front of the main door. The panels are being left lifted up and the windows are being kept open.

Peter contacted Jack Duffy of BFM Europe to ask if anyone in the company could refurbish the Portway 'Tortoise' stove but the answer was no, unfortunately. He suggested we could maybe find a cast iron specialist.

Peter contacted Susan Lintott (Senior Bursar) to ask if Downing College might consider donating some money towards a Sir George Downing Plaque. She has kindly agreed to ask the College Secretary to put the proposal to the College's General Purposes Committee.

Quite a bit of progress on the stained glass window! – contributed by Peter Mann

The London Stained Glass Repository has a catalogue of stained glass windows it has acquired over the years – all available to see on their website (www.stainedglassrepository.com). When the FoFC took on St Denis' church, Matthew Saunders, at the time their director, found a window on the site from a demolished church in Norfolk which he thought would be ideal for St Denis' east window. On 29th August 2019, Peter Mann and Joyce Denby were invited by Rachel Morley to go and look at the window at the Repository's storeroom on the Welbeck Estate in Nottinghamshire. It was a wonderful window – arguably too good for St Denis' – but, unfortunately far too big.

Rachel brought with her a few pieces of the original window which Simon Damant picked up from the ground back in the 1980/90s when he lived in Hatley and handed over to Rachel last year – he thinks he may have more 'somewhere'; Rachel gave them to Peter for safe keeping and is chasing Simon to see if he can find any more. Meantime, Joyce Denby is looking at the few pieces of glass wrapped and lying with the 'rubble' under the alter in St Denis' to ascertain what there is – most appear to be plain glass from the side windows.

When we know whether Simon has any more pieces and we've established just what we do have, the FoFC will decide whether to pursue the idea of a second hand window or commission a new window incorporating the few pieces we do have. It is known Norma Hood has a piece (which we've not seen), but she is keen to hang onto it.

Peter may like to say a bit more about stained glass window if that's OK with you.

Apologies for lateness of this report!

Kind regards

Nicola



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