

Update on St Denis' church and the churchyard as of 19 January 2020

1. St Denys Church LNR / NS&I Investment Account 137929930

The account was opened on 5th December 1987 and assigned to 43 East Hatley when it was managed by David Newnham.

- At some other point, not recorded in the passbook, the address was changed to 14A East Hatley when the account was being managed by Tim Dickens.
- When Tim passed the book on to Peter Mann in 2017, he included a statement dated 1 January 2013 showing a balance of £1,368.28 in the account.
- On 9th August 2019, Peter and Nicola Jenkins sent a jointly signed letter to NS&I asking for the signatories to be assigned to Peter and Nicola instead of Tim.
- After further correspondence, this was granted.
- On 14th November 2019, Peter was paid £98.00 from the account to reimburse him the print cost of the pages in the new St Denis' visitor book created by Jenny Ollerenshaw for the HODs open weekend in September 2019 and 500 x St Denis' church bookmarks (to sell to visitors at 50p each).
- The balance at that time stood at £1,326.00; the interest rate is 0.80% gross/AER.
- The balance on 1st January 2020 (when interest is paid) – is £1,337.89.

2. Bat survey between 17 September and 7 October 2019 revealed four species of bats using the church

The automated bat detector survey of bat calls, carried out by Duncan Painter of Applied Ecology Ltd at the instigation of Stephanie Norris (appointed to oversee Phase 2 of the renovations), recorded the calls of four species of bat at times to suggest they had been day-roosting inside the building at different points in time over the 20 night survey as follows:

- Brown long-eared bat – recorded every night at times after and before sunset and sunrise respectively to indicate day roosting inside the building throughout the entire 20-night survey period.
- Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri* – recorded every night inside the church, but only at times to indicate day roosting inside the building on a few occasions.
- Common pipistrelle bat – recorded most nights inside the church at times to suggest that it had day-roosted regularly inside the building.
- Barbastelle – recorded most nights inside the church at times to suggest that it had day-roosted regularly inside the building.

The two-page report is on the Hatley website, at <https://www.hatley.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/St-Denis-church-East-Hatley-Cambridgeshire-Bat-report-by-Applied-Ecology-v1.0-14-11-19.pdf>.

3. Recording of bat droppings

Bat droppings inside St Denis' church were photographed and then swept on 29 November 2019 and again on 19 January 2020, by Nicola Jenkins, out of an interest to monitor usage of the church by the bats. Many droppings were found in November. In January far few droppings and two clusters of butterfly wings were found.

4. St Denis' churchyard management – meeting planned for 10.30 am, 23 January 2020

A meeting has been arranged primarily to decide what we'd like to do about the trees/hedging surrounding St Denis' churchyard on the side adjoining Sebastian Kindersley's land. We will also

consider replacing the two horse chestnuts that have had a fungal disease in the last few summers and review the on-going management of the churchyard.

5. Sir George Downing Plaque

Downing College's General Purposes Committee has declined the request, initiated by Peter Man, to make a donation towards a Sir George Downing Plaque on the church.

6. The 1874 Portway stove

Peter also approached BFM Europe in Stoke-on-Trent to ask – as the current owners of Portway stoves – if they would 'consider a project to refurbish the stove, not to 'working condition' as that would involve structural work to the building, but rather to how it would have looked when it was installed. The stove is a big talking point for visitors – image how impressed they'd be if it 'looked like new' again (perhaps not too shiny though!).'

Their rather dismissive one line reply was:

Unfortunately we do not have or know of anyone who would be able to refurbish the stove.
Maybe a cast iron specialist may be your best option?

We've not taken this idea any further.

Nicola Jenkins and Peter Mann
19 January 2020