

# People's Cathedral Newsletter

## Welcome to the Fifth edition of the People's Cathedral Newsletter

We are delighted to announce our main contractor has been appointed and is now on site setting up. We will remain open throughout the works - do come and see the progress in action.

## Project Update

**PEOPLE** We are delighted to have William Barnes joining us from Royal Holloway, University of London to undertake a placement linked dissertation project. William is currently in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year, studying for a Bsc in Geography. He will be working with the People's Cathedral Project this summer, exploring the exciting history of the Cathedral's kneelers.

We hope William will be able to interview some of the people who worked on the kneelers and gain an insight into why they became involved in the project.

If anyone knows of someone associated with the kneelers who might wish to share their stories, please contact Helen Ellis.



**HERITAGE** Work is underway to develop an Ecclesiastical Textiles Study Day to share the rich heritage of Guildford Cathedral with the wider community. The day is being developed in conjunction with Mary Sleight and members of the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS).

Mary was previously a member of Guildford Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee, providing advice in relation to the care and preservation of ecclesiastical textiles. Mary is a full member of The Embroiderers' Guild as well as an active member of The Textile Study Group, exhibiting and teaching throughout the UK and abroad.



NADFAS is a leading arts charity which works to advance decorative and fine arts education and appreciation, alongside promoting the conservation of our artistic heritage. NADFAS members help to repair and conserve the textiles at Guildford Cathedral and can be seen working hard most Wednesdays in the Chapter House.

The day will focus on the heritage of ecclesiastical textiles and explore some of Guildford's interesting array of items.

**COMMUNITY** The Project Team has been out in the community presenting to members of the Guildford Institute. Guildford Institute is a unique venue where people of all ages and backgrounds can get together to learn, explore, create and meet old and new friends. Kate Pitt, Interpretation Officer and Helen Ellis, Project Manager gave an hour presentation on the exciting work of the People's Cathedral Project and how members can get involved. The talk culminated in a subsequent visit to the Cathedral to see the work in action.

## HLF ARCHIVIST TAKES UP POST

Guildford Cathedral has a unique and comprehensive archive dating from its inception in the 1920's to the present day ranging from architectural plans to photographs, CDs, videos/DVDs and registers. The collection is currently housed above the Lady Chapel, making it difficult to access.

In addition, Guildford Cathedral houses one of the largest libraries of books on bells and ringing in the UK and it is said to be the 4th largest collection of ringing books in the world. The collection contains approximately 2000 items stored within the crypt and tower ringing chamber.



As part of the project, we will digitise key elements of these two archives to share with the wider public with our newly appointed Archivist Rebecca Grafton. Rebecca is a graduate in History and has previously worked as University Archivist at the University of Surrey and Assistant Curator at Petersfield Museum. She will be working with our Volunteer Archivists over a 9 month period from April.

## Artists in Residence Progress: The Cabinet of Curiosity

Caroline Collinge and Edmond Salter of Cabinet of Curiosity Studio are nearing the end of their six month residency at Guildford Cathedral. They have been focusing on creating hand painted textiles for origami forms and a series of paper cut. They hope to create a series of products that include a pictorial alphabet book of Guildford Cathedral and an architectural kit of parts of the building.

This was recently tested within an art workshop for children, held at the Cathedral, who made their own paper tower that they then customised.

The idea for this originated from research they undertook into paper architectural models at the V & A Museum of Childhood. They discovered that



there is a tradition within Spanish cultures for celebrating the building of a Cathedral or religious building with a paper toy model for people to make.

It seemed fitting to bring this tradition to Guildford Cathedral since the residency is coinciding with new building works supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The paper cuts of the angel and the stag are the starting point for the alphabet book of the Cathedral. We hope to turn these paper cuts

into screen printed images and experiment with using geometric patterns we have found within the Cathedral architecture and interior to create a series of decorative illustrations.



## Oral History: We Need Your Stories!

Progress on the Oral History Project is going well with over 20 interviews captured to date and over 40 written memories received. Interviews range from memories of services in the Crypt to the commemoration of the Women in

*"In the late 1930s, my two aunts, a friend and I, cycled the 12 miles from home to the site of Guildford Cathedral, for the first ever service which was held in the crypt, at that time the only finished part.*

the Royal Navy (WRNS) stained glass window, unveiled July 8, 1979, by Lord Mountbatten, to mark the WRNs diamond Jubilee.

However, we still need more stories. So if you remember the Cathedral being built, were involved in making the kneelers, attended a special service or remember the early days of the People's Cathedral, we want to hear from you.

We have a team of fully trained oral historians, willing to record memories either at your home or at Guildford Cathedral at a time to suit you. Interviews usually last from 20 minutes to an hour and provide a wonderful opportunity to reflect on days gone by.

If you are interested, please contact Helen Ellis on the details in the "Contact Us" section of this Newsletter.

## What's On

### Spring Family Fun Day – 16<sup>th</sup> April

We're celebrating Spring with a fun-filled round of activities for ages 3-12, between 11am and 3pm on Saturday 16 April. Plant your own seed ready for the Summer; explore our Spring trail; or make something to take home with one of our absorbing craft activities. For more information, please visit <https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/diary/2016-04-16/free-family-fun-day>

### Open Day – 14<sup>th</sup> May

Join us on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May between 11-3 for a behind the scenes look as building work starts on the People's Cathedral Project. Hear about the challenges of working on a grade II\* listed building or take a tour and hear about the work that will be taking place. Learn about our exciting oral history project and discover unseen images from the Cathedral Archives. There will be activities for children to enjoy so come along and see this once in a lifetime project taking place. For more information, please visit <https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/diary/2016-05-14/peoples-cathedral-open-day>

### Summer Market, Family Fun Day and Royal Tea – 11<sup>th</sup> June

Join us for a wonderful day at Guildford Cathedral to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. Explore our Summer Market, try your hand at our various craft activities, or get a "poemcetamol" from our Emergency Poet, Deborah Alma. After all that, join us for a Royal Tea in the Cathedral, providing a rare opportunity to dine in the Cathedral and see how the internal building works are progressing. For more information, please visit <https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/diary/2016-06-11/summer-market-family-fun-day-and-royal-tea>

### CONTACT US

To learn more about these events, project activities or to volunteer, please email [helen@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:helen@guildford-cathedral.org) or call 01483 547888

The People's Cathedral

*"This building was paid for by local people and is today, and will remain, open to all"*