



Summer Newsletter 2022



Everything's Coming Up Roses!

Summer at St Mary's Attleborough

It certainly has felt more like summer of late. We hope you are getting the opportunity to enjoy the sunshine and take a break after what has certainly been a remarkably busy first half of 2022 for our Events Committee here at the Norfolk Churches Trust. Below is a roundup of what has been taking place so far this year.

It was no April Fool; the Trust did host two church tours on that particular date. In the south-west of the



county, and two years later than billed the **STANTA Area Churches Tour** took place. The weather was not looking promising when arriving on site in a snowstorm. However, on boarding the coach the sun made an appearance, as you can see in the photograph on the left of St Andrews, Langford, the smallest of the Battle

Area churches. Our guide, Deputy Commander Steve Metcalf, did a sterling job, and as befitting the military the afternoon ran like clockwork. Our thanks also to architect Ruth Blackman who was on hand not only to detail the features of each of the four churches, but the efforts to which she and her team keep these buildings standing. We are hoping to organise another tour next spring.

That same afternoon, Justin Nolan was our guide to a fascinating and informative **Tour of St Paul, Salle, and St Agnes, Cawston**, 'two of the grandest perpendicular churches in the county.' He demonstrated that by peeling away the layers of these buildings, one can get an impression of the social history of the people for whom those two churches were the centre of their communities. The tour was perfectly concluded with a delicious afternoon tea served in Cawston Church.



Part of the Rood Screen at Cawston, with St Agnes on the left

Later in April, it may not have been summer, but the music was hot for an evening of **Gypsy Swing Jazz at Oxnead Hall**. Thanks to David and Beverley Aspinall for allowing our guests to enjoy their beautiful

gardens, whilst sipping a glass of wine before the music began. We were privileged that the extremely accomplished Ben Creighton Griffiths (harp) and Adrien Chevalier (violin), made time to perform for our guests as part of their short UK tour. Their repertoire included the song that made Piaff famous, *La Vie En Rose*, and *Almost Like Being in Love* a classic from the Great American Song Book, all given that special 'gypsy swing' twist. The introduction of Chantuese



française, Muriele Allexandre added a certain 'je ne sais quoi,' to a very enjoyable evening.



The first Bank Holiday weekend in May saw the much anticipated **Stately Car Boot Sale**, the first for five years. Taking place at Sennowe Park, with the kind permission of Mr and Mrs Charles Temple-Richards and Mr Tom Cook. A record number of pitches were sold this year. There was a wide array of items for sale providing some much needed retail therapy for the thousands of people who turned up on the day. The queues were such that the event had to be opened early. The food outlets and the tea tent were a welcome retreat when a break was required and, for the first time there was a farmers'

market to get some tasty treats to take home. The Norfolk Churches Trust tent was the place to see the fantastic entries in the School's Art Competition which encouraged primary school aged children to create a piece depicting their local church. Thank you to those who donated 'not on the high street' lots for the Silent Auction, which produced a substantial amount for the Trust. Overall, a total of almost £83, 000 was generated by the event. This fantastic sum was only made possible by the attendees, pitch-holders, donors, auction bidders and volunteers, a BIG thank you to everyone who helped to make the day such a success.

The Trust had a stand at the **Royal Norfolk Show** this year. Thank you to those of you who popped in to say hello, it was lovely to spend some time chatting to you and sharing the needs of the churches of Norfolk and the work that the Trust does to help.



Last but not least, June was rounded off by our **Summer Party**. To set the mood for a summer evening, the event commenced at Horning Church, pictured left, with strawberry cream tea and fizz. A jubilee inspired supper of Coronation Chicken was served en route to St Benet's Abbey, where our guests were treated to a marvellous guided tour of this atmospheric site by Norfolk

Archaeological Trust volunteers Marion Jackson and Barry Elliot, who was suitably attired as a monk. Dessert was served on the return trip, and an enjoyable evening was had by all. Special thanks to Scilla Landale and Mair McFadyen for their hard work in making the evening a success.

More details and photographs of these events can be seen on the news page of our website.

<https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/news/>

The Trust hopes that our members and supporters enjoy the events that we put on. So far this year the events above have raised over £90,000 which goes directly to fund the grants that the Trust awards to Norfolk's churches and chapels at its thrice yearly Grants Committee Meetings. So, whilst you are enjoying your glass of fizz, or attending a tour, or finding a bargain at the car boot sale, you are helping to keep Norfolk's wonderful church buildings open for all. To that end, please see below those churches that benefited from grants at the most recent meeting.

Grants Awarded News

The Grants Committee met on 21st July and have awarded £41,100 which has been split between the following fourteen churches. Perhaps it is no surprise that almost half of the grants go to churches dedicated to St Mary, being the saint with the most dedications within the Church of England. However, regardless of their patron saint these grants have been awarded to places of worship to assist with a wide range of repairs, the most common being to roofs, windows, rainwater goods, and windows.

Blo Norton, St Andrew	£600	Hickling, St Mary	£3,000
Cranworth, St Mary	£1,000	Narford, St Mary the Virgin	£5,000
Elsing, St Mary	£5,000	Southburgh, St Andrew	£1,000
Flitcham, St Mary the Virgin	£4,000	South Walsham, St Mary	£3,000
Foulden, All Saints	£7,500	West Beckham, All Saints	£1,000
Great Ryburgh, St Andrew	£1,000	West Lynn, St Peter	£5,000
Hapton, St Margaret	£2,000	West Raynham, St Margaret	£2,000

Grants Work Completed



Swainsthorpe, St Peter were awarded a grant towards window repairs from the Trust in November 2021. The work has recently been completed, as you can see in the photographs here the windows are looking great. Additionally, grills have been added which not only prevents the ingress of birds and the mess associated with them, but it also means

that the church is able to safely open the windows, improving ventilation and to help prevent damp in the building.



The deadline for the next round of grant applications is Monday 3rd October, for consideration at the November Grants Committee Meeting.

Leased Churches News

Art and Memory, at St Peter's Corpusty



This spring saw the installation of a collection of seventeen carved and lettered stones at Corpusty church, made possible by a grant from the Behrens Foundation and the support of the local community. This is a joint collaboration between the Norfolk Churches Trust and the Lettering Arts Trust; Corpusty is one of seven sites in the UK displaying such a collection of carved memorials. Whilst not marking graves, these stones show just what is possible and how art and memory can combine to create distinctive and attractive memorials. Indeed, as John Betjeman said in his *Passion for Churches* 'Do the stones speak? My word of course they do!' Visitors can follow a trail through the churchyard and see an inaugural exhibition in the church which illustrates the history of memorials and letter cutting. It is wonderful to see the church that was the impetus for the founding of the Norfolk Churches Trust in the 1970s now coming back to life with future plans including the development of the church as an exhibition and workshop space, once more at the centre of the community.

Lynford, Our Lady of Consolation and St Stephen

The major repairs to the north parapet and bellcote at the Grade II* listed Lynford church were completed in June. At last, the scaffolding, which had been in place since 2018, has come down and once the electric wiring has been replaced the church will be open once more to visitors having been closed for four years. The complex stonework repairs were made possible by a Cultural Recovery Grant of £119,956 from Historic England. Lynford (1877-78) is a notable work by the architect Henry Clutton and considered the finest small Roman Catholic church in the region. The grant application was co-ordinated and strongly supported by the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. It is fantastic to see this jewel in the Breckland crown quite literally coming 'out of the woods,' as you can see in the before and after pictures below.



Thank you to Colin de Chair for the photograph of Lynford above

Looking Forward

Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk

Pictured right is Elsing St Mary, one of the beneficiaries of a recent grant from the Trust. The photograph was taken by David Nice, a stalwart of the bike ride and one of the winners in the 2021 Bike Ride photography competition. You can see this and the other winning photographs on our website, which may inspire you to enter this year's competition. The website also contains all the information you could possibly need for the 2022 event where registration is now open.

The date for your diaries is **Saturday 10th September**.

<https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride-walk/>



Other events

The Events Committee is currently putting together its autumn programme and news of this will be emailed to you and placed on our website shortly.

However, as a taster here is a date for the diary: The Trust is planning a piano recital to be held at Houghton Hall on Saturday 24th September. Please save the date as this one will be something rather special, an event not to be missed. More details will follow shortly.

For information on any of our events please see our website <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/events/>

And finally

To raise funds to restore the organ at St Mary's Flitcham, there will be a special evening with Lady Glenconner in the ballroom at Sandringham House on Wednesday 19th October from 6pm.

In this the Platinum Jubilee year, Lady Glenconner, who was a maid of honour at her Majesty's coronation, will share memories of her life and her connection to our Royal Family.

The venue could not be more apt as the organ at Flitcham was generously donated in 1909 by Sandringham's first royal resident, King Edward VII.

For tickets and more information please contact Bill Tweddle at b.tweddle@btopenworld.com

Thank you as ever to our wonderful members and supporters for your loyalty and patronage for the work that we do. May you have a relaxing summer.

www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk

Other ways to find out about our work.



The Norfolk Churches Trust Ltd, Manor Farmhouse, Diss Road, Tibenham, Norfolk, NR16 1QF
01379 677272 • secretary@norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk • www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk
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