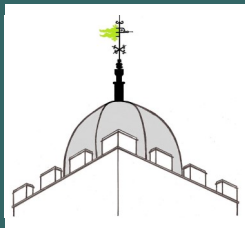




[www.alburyoldsaxonchurch.org](http://www.alburyoldsaxonchurch.org)



## *The Friends of Albury Old Saxon Church*

# Newsletter

Registered Charity Number: 1168550

**Sixteenth Edition, Autumn - Winter 2019**



Royal visit of HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex



## Chairman's Comment

I am going to start with a quick job advert...

Do you have a skill you could offer to help support Albury's finest heritage building? Although it's the Churches Conservation Trust that owns the Old Saxon Church, much of the local care, publicity, etc., is done by the Friends.

Despite already having many able people, we can use more who want to be part of this, whether in event organising, publicity, practical tasks, or administration. It's not continuous labour and we're not talking frightening amounts of time here, but many hands make light work (as long as they are organised properly!). If this grabs your imagination at all, have a word with me or one of the Committee on the back page, and let's see.

Now, to other matters. Although it's no longer Albury's parish church, the Old Saxon Church often finds itself with a continuing identity in community events and focus. One delightful task recently was to serve as the venue for the presentation of the *Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Surrey Hills Society by HRH the Earl of Wessex*, which you can read about on the opposite page, along with the final report on page 6 of *'One Enchanted Evening'* which raised thousands of pounds towards the restoration of the Drummond Chapel.

Aside from these high profile events, the church is a destination for several thousands of visitors every year, and as a place for meaningful events on a much more personal scale. It continues to see marriages blessed and celebrations marked, and it was great to be with Lucy and Joss tying the knot in September.

Alongside trying to raise funds for the restoration of Phase Two of the Drummond Chapel restoration/conservation, we are in regular contact with the CCT about larger and smaller issues within the church. One thing of particular concern to us at the moment is the apparent damp problem at the foot of some of the walls. We believe this can be rectified with a comparatively minor improvement to the water run-off and drainage arrangements outside, and we will keep up the dialogue with them.

So, thank you for all that you do to support this living piece of history, and we look forward to seeing you at any of the events on the back page, or simply to visit the old church. Don't forget the Carol Service on 22 December – a simple local celebration whose unique feel and character has spread a reputation far and wide.





# The Royal Visit - HRH Prince Edward

**W**ith Albury sitting in the midst of the Surrey Hills, the Friends have always had a good relationship with the **Surrey Hills AONB**.

The *Surrey Hills Society*, formed in 2008, is in effect the public face of the **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** and this year they have been honoured with the **Queens Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS)**!

On Wednesday, 6 November the Award was presented by HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex at the *Saxon Church in Albury Park*. Whilst the event was not directly ours, it afforded the opportunity to gain a good deal of publicity and to be an integral part of the Tillingbourne Valley and the SHS.



On the arrival of the royal party, Prince Edward was introduced to Gordon Jackson (Surrey Hills Society Chairman) and to Andrew (Friends Chairman) by Michael More-Molyneux (Lord-Lieutenant for Surrey).

After inspecting all of the many and varied displays of the SHS Volunteers, the Friends Group had the opportunity to talk about our plans for the restoration/conservation of the Drummond Chapel. The Prince expressed a keen interest and wished us luck with our endeavours!



At the end of the speeches and the formal presentation of the QAVS Award, Prince Edward signed the Friends Visitors Book along with 47 volunteer members of the Surrey Hills Society. All-in-all a highly successful and satisfying event that was enjoyed by everyone.



Fortunately, after so much rain, the day was beautifully bright and sunny. Albury Park looked absolutely splendid with its burnished autumn colours. However, this was evenly matched by the floral display inside the Church! Our team of flower ladies surpassed themselves with their artistic skills, so our sincere thanks to Shirley Farrar, Jackie Squance, Sally Godfrey, Julie Baxter and Janet Brown.

*Roy Hogben, Trustee*







# Fund-Raising is still alive and well!

Our Fund-raising is nearly complete for this calendar year, but it must be reported that we are, with your help, doing extremely well! At the moment we have more than £35,000 reserved for *Phase Two* of the restoration/conservation of the Drummond Chapel.

This year we have almost added £10,000 to this good cause with the fantastic support from the local community for the various events that the Friends have managed to put on, and we sincerely thank everyone who has helped to contribute towards this.



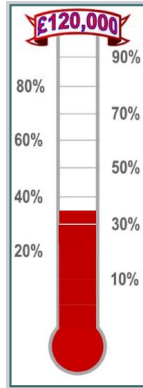
With our reserved finances in a good position, it is our intention to apply for *Match-Funding* from the Heritage Lottery Fund early next year.

Certainly a good constant source of funding comes from Friends becoming **Life Members** or **Joint Life Members**. At the moment we have 62 *Life* and *Joint Life Members* together with 25 **Benefactors**.

Our web-site is completely up-to-date and, hopefully, it is totally 'user friendly'. Please log on regularly to get any current information and also use it for payment for events and the different types of Memberships that are on offer.



Editorial



## New Oak Signs and Notices

After a number of years the Friends have invested in some very handsome engraved, air-dried joinery grade oak signs and notices which should now last for many years to come.





# Celebrating 50 Years of the CCT

This year The Churches Conservation Trust celebrates fifty years of history. Originally it was established in 1969 as the *Redundant Churches Fund*, a unique partnership of church, state and charity, which was the result of tireless campaigning by a pioneering group of heritage enthusiasts.

The CCT operates the third largest heritage estate in charitable ownership in the UK. All 353 of the churches in their collection are listed, mostly Grade I and II with some being scheduled ancient monuments (our particular Saxon Church is a Grade I listed building). Collectively the churches in the CCT's portfolio attract more than two million visitors each year. This unique collection includes irreplaceable examples of architecture, archaeology and art from more than a thousand years of history.

All of these historic churches are vested in the CCT by the *Church Commissioners of the Church of England* and set out to be the caretakers, repairing the damage from sometimes years of neglect, and working with local communities to bring them back to life again. Their vision is for historic churches to be enjoyed by everyone as places of heritage, culture, spirituality and beauty and for the significant contribution they make to communities, society and the economy.

The Albury Old Saxon Church was vested to the CCT in 1974 and the Friends Group of local volunteers have been closely associated with the CCT ever since then.

*Monica Cassels - Trustee*

Can you imagine....

Can you imagine in times gone by  
A thousand times Christmas  
Under Albury's sky.

A thousand years of 'coming and going'  
Of rich and poor and all of them knowing  
The story that we all remember -  
The twenty-fifth day of the month of December  
Where they could celebrate and recall  
Here at Saint Peter and Saint Paul.



Brian Alexander



# One Enchanted Evening

On Saturday 29 June under a hot summer sun 148 concert-goers arrived at the Saxon Church, all dressed up in their finery and set to enjoy themselves for the Friends major fund-raising event of the year - **'One Enchanted Evening'**.

Certainly, all of the necessary ingredients were in place for a successful event. A concert with five artistes of exceptional quality, under the direction of **Kim Collins**. A magnanimous offer of sponsorship for twelve nights accommodation from **Small Luxury Hotels of the World**. Very generous sponsorship for the canapés from **Sarah & Chris Hammond of Rhubarb Catering**, and the stretch tent and hosting in one of the principal apartments in the Albury Park Mansion from **Paul Kerr**.

On arrival at the Saxon Church guests were treated to a glass of fizz from Albury Organic Vineyard and then seated on the Friends newly acquired 'padded' chairs to enjoy a remarkable concert of popular arias and songs from Rogers & Hammerstein and Leonard Bernstein. Soprano Kim Collins, tenor Stephen Petch, mezzo soprano Chloë Allison, cellist Jennifer Janse and accompanying pianist Charlotte Hobbs captivated their enthusiastic audience!

After the concert everyone made their way up to the Mansion where more fizz and delicious canapés awaited them. **The Bow Street Runners**, a string quartet, played relaxing background music whilst the last of the Charity Raffle tickets were sold. Winning tickets were drawn by the Mayoress Lynda Billington for the eleven prestigious prizes from very generous sponsors, culminating in the star prize of a voucher for two nights at the *Small Luxury Hotels of the World*. A total of **£1,000.00** was raised from this raffle alone!

To round off the evening, The Grand Charity Auction galvanised the audience's attention and began with a Magnum of Albury Vineyard's Award Winning limited edition of their finest Cuvée, followed by Vouchers from Small Luxury Hotels of the



World for two nights, three nights and finally for eight nights accommodation anywhere in the world! Bidding was enthusiastic and a total of **£4,080.00** was raised!

By the end of the evening some 66 bottles of Fizz had been enjoyed and everyone went home with a smile on their face... all-in-all a very successful fund-raising event with a final profit of **£7,000.00**, which will go towards the

Second Phase of the Drummond Chapel restoration/conservation project.

Sincere thanks to our generous Sponsors: **Kim Collins - Musical Director, Paul Kerr - Albury Park Mansion Host and Small Luxury Hotels of the World, Rhubarb Catering, Detail Design Consultants, Albury Organic Vineyard, Kinghams Restaurant, Chilworth Manor Vineyard, Denbies Wine Estate, The Drummond Arms, Onslow Arms Restaurant, Silent Pool Distillery, Albury Estate & The Churches Conservation Trust**. Many thanks also to **Victor Keech** for the lighting and photography.

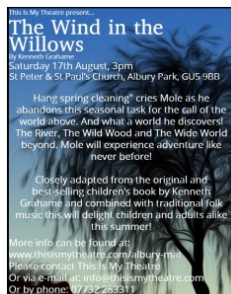




# What else did you miss this year?



## Romeo & Juliet



# Make sure you don't miss out on these!



Free Event!

## Friday 6 December 6:00 - 6:30pm. Christmas Lights - 'SWITCH-ON'

Come along for a glass of mulled wine, a mince pie, and listen to a few traditional songs by the lovely Kim Collins to celebrate the start of the festive season.

RSVP: [secretary@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org](mailto:secretary@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org)



Concession for Friends!

## Saturday 7 December 6:30 - 8:00pm This is My Theatre Presents... 'THE SNOW QUEEN'

Wrap up warm and experience another professional and outstanding performance by this ever popular group of young talent.

Book on-Line: [www.thisismytheatre.com/albury](http://www.thisismytheatre.com/albury)



Donation Event!

## Sunday 22 December 5:00pm. CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

This very popular carol service will be as crowded as ever - wrap up warm, sing your heart out and afterwards enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.



## Diary of Services and Events 2019/2020

**Friday 6 December: Christmas Lights Switch-On!** 6:00pm. Wrap up warm and come along for a glass of warming mulled wine, a mince pie and a few traditional songs from the lovely Kim Collins to celebrate the start of the festive season!

RSVP: [secretary@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org](mailto:secretary@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org)

**Saturday 7 December: 'The Snow Queen'** 7:00pm. Wrap up even warmer for this performance by this very professional and talented **This is My Theatre Group** in the Saxon Church. (*Concessions for Members of the Friends of the Saxon Church*).

Book on-line: [www.thisismytheatre.com/albury](http://www.thisismytheatre.com/albury)

**Sunday, 22 December: Carol Service by Candle-light** in the Saxon Church at 5.00 pm. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies!

**Friday, 10 April 2020: Good Friday - 'Quiet Reflection'** in the Saxon Church at 2:00 pm..



*The Trustees of the Old Saxon Church  
send Christmas greetings to all the Friends  
of this beautiful ancient church*



## Members of the Friends Committee

(Registered Charity Number: 1168550)

**The Duke of Northumberland**, Patron of the Friends Charity

<b>Rev. Andrew Pearson</b> (Chairman)	<a href="mailto:chairman@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org">chairman@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org</a>	07887 360061
<b>Sally Godfrey</b> (Hon. Secretary)	<a href="mailto:secretary@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org">secretary@alburyoldsaxonchurch.org</a>	01483 203452
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