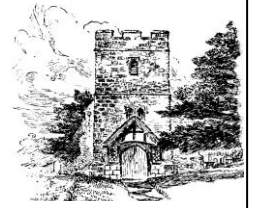




FRIENDS OF LEEDS AND BROOMFIELD CHURCHES

Annual Report and Newsletter 2011



JAZZ IN THE GARDEN 2011!



The Chicago Jazzmen in full swing

On July 10th we packed a picnic and wended our way down the road to our neighbours, June and Jonathan Harrison, for Jazz in the Garden. It was a glorious day and as we approached we could hear the babble of voices and smell the mouth-watering scent of sausages being cooked on a barbecue.

The garden was looking beautiful and was already packed with families, their picnic baskets open, tucking into lunch, relaxing on the lawn. Whilst the adults sipped wine and chatted, the children played "It" and ran races in the adjacent field. At 2pm the band struck up and we all sat back and enjoyed the great sound.



As we all chilled the toddlers led the way and started off the dancing. The combination of melodic jazz and sunshine was perfect.

Comments from the adult members of the audience included "the embodiment of an English summer"; "I can't think of a better way of spending a summer's afternoon"; "quintessentially English", "perfect", and from the children "cool", "it's been great to play with friends", "can we come again tomorrow?"

Just in case we hadn't eaten enough at the interval we were tempted by an enticing display of homemade cakes to be washed down with cups of tea.



Jazz fans enjoying their picnics in June & Jonathan's lovely garden

Then the music started up again and we were treated to a further hour of delightful music before heading back to our cars.

Thank you to June and Jonathan Harrison for the use of their beautiful garden and for being such perfect hosts, Tom Hoy for manning the barbecue and for all those who made cakes and helped behind the scenes in particular Jenny Hoy. And a very special thanks to the Chicago Jazzmen who provided the inspiration for the day.

Sophie Aujard



Chairman's Report

The AGM of the Friends of Leeds & Broomfield Churches was in October 2010 and following my election as the new 'Chair' I was delighted to join such an experienced and competent committee. They had worked together over the years with Jonathan and June Harrison who have been such active supporters and organisers of the Friends.

The main function of The Friends is to raise money to help maintain and improve these two beautiful church buildings so they may be enjoyed by the community. This is for the use of the church itself which includes christenings, weddings and funerals and as the historic centre of our communities.

In this The Friends have been particularly successful raising over £45,000 since 1999. This year has again made a useful ongoing contribution to this fund of over £4,000. This has been considerably helped by Simon Brice donating his plum harvest to the Friends and advising us on how to thin plums in the orchard in spring enabling us to organise 'pick your own' later in the year. We are indebted to Simon for this generous gesture and to all those teams who helped cover the PYO days.

The actual contribution to the churches this year has been:-
£330 from the Mayor's Fund donation through Peter Parvin for smaller works.
Up to £5,600 has been allocated to repair damaged plaster on the walls in Leeds' Church.

The Friends organise the various events to not only raise money but to also be enjoyable and to bring members of the two villages of Leeds and Broomfield, including Kingswood together. Recently we held another very successful Jazz in the Garden (Jonathan and June's lovely garden with Peter and Mike helping set up). It was blessed with glorious weather, the Chicago Jazz Men's great music, a hotdog stand (thanks Tom), homemade cakes (thanks Ladies) and some wonderful picnics, altogether around 130 people attended for a wonderful afternoon. We also had in attendance The Sunday Telegraph photo journalist doing a published feature of the event.

Plum PYO is currently in full swing and a Beetle Drive family evening is planned for Sat 15 October at Kingswood Village Hall when we hope to see some new faces perhaps winning prizes.

Your Committee is seeking extra help with the website and has recently updated the membership application form. They have contacted members who are happy to allow us to contact them by email saving money and speeding up communications. They have 'brainstormed' for new event ideas, thinned plums, had a social lunch (at their own expense), liaised with the PCC and contributed to everything.

I thank them all : Michelle Aujard-Webb, Peter Coleman, Jan Enever (Treasurer), Mike Evans, Nigel Fry, Jenny Hoy, Caroline Jenkins, Jonathan Harrison (Vice Chair), June Harrison, Christine Sharp, Judi Taylor (Secretary) and Sue Wotton on your behalf and remind you that there is always room for new committee members.

Martin Sharp - Chair

Friends AGM 2011

Thursday 27 October at 8pm

St Margaret's Church, Broomfield

Please do come along!



Membership Secretary's Report

Gosh how time flies! It seems a nano second since Judi was badgering me for last year's report. We have had a good year in Membership this year. With the help of Caroline Jenkins, we have increased our Membership from 111 to 128. 94 people pay by Direct Debit which is wonderful. Many people pay more than the £6.00 basic subscription, so I feel we have had a very successful year on Membership and Caroline and I are most grateful to you all.

Not that we should rest on our laurels. We still need many more members to give £6.00 annually to keep the funds flowing. With inflation and tough times economically, we must keep increasing the numbers who support the upkeep of the fabric of the churches – so if you have a new neighbour or friend who is not a member, can you twist their arm and get them to fill in the Membership Form that is attached to this Report.

We all like to see churches kept in good condition and at the important times in our lives, the church is very much a focus for families – christenings, weddings and funerals – but also at times of joy, sadness, turmoil in the world – the church is where people go – to be together. Perhaps you can pass this Annual Report to your neighbours and ask them to support us.

Tel : 01622 842327 or e-mail carolinemjenkins@btinternet.com Or write to Caroline Jenkins, Protea, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, Maidstone

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

I / We wish to become /remain a member(s) of the 'Friends of Leeds & Broomfield Churches'.

(Please print)

Full Name(s):

Address:

.....

..... Post Code:

E-mail address:

Telephone No+AreaCode:

I enclose a cheque for £..... (or complete the attached Banker's Order).

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I / We want the 'Friends' to be able to reclaim Tax on my / our subscription / donation.

Give more at no extra cost to yourself! The Gift Aid scheme means that the 'Friends' can reclaim tax on any subscription / donation you make to us. This will increase each amount you give by 28p in the £1, provided you have paid sufficient UK Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax to cover this amount. To enable the 'Friends' to reclaim the tax on any subscription / donation you make, please sign and date below:

Signed: Date:

Signed: Date:

BANKER'S ORDER

Please complete this form and send it to our Treasurer Jan Enever, 18 Ashford Drive, Kingswood, Maidstone ME17 3PB who will forward it to your bank.

To the Manager:

Name of Bank:

Sort Code: - -

Address of Bank:

.....

..... Post Code:

Please pay the sum of £..... immediately and then on 1st January annually until further notice.

To NatWest Bank, 130 Ashford Road, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 4AF, Sort Code 51-70-55, for the account of the 'Friends of Leeds and Broomfield Churches', Account No: 81990588.

From my account :

Account Name:

Account No:

Name:

Address:

.....Post Code.....:

Signed:

Date: