



Friends of St Mary's Redenhall

News Letter

Spring

2017

Registered Charity No.284276

WELCOME TO OUR NEWS LETTER

Welcome to the second edition of the FOSM News Sheet which is later than intended as we were awaiting the result of our further application for roof funding. Sadly, we were again unsuccessful and then held the delayed AGM to discuss the situation. The Friends exists solely to preserve and improve the building.

Our main focus in 2016 has been to make St. Mary's more user friendly. It belongs to the community and we have purchased a 'Portaloo' which has been installed in the base of the tower. We are also have permission to remove the front three pews to create a suitable space for holding events such as concerts. Both these developments will make the church more acceptable for future events including perhaps hiring it out to other organisations.

We held a varied programme of events during the summer all of which were successful. Did you attend any of these? Have you any ideas for future events? Please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you at our future events details on back page

The Churchyard

People have been buried in this large area for many centuries; the earliest graves were not marked but there are now about 1,800 memorials of various kinds. By 2005 it had become impossible to dig new graves without disturbing old ones, which is why the Town Council bought some adjacent land to form a municipal cemetery. It is possible to place a cremation slab in the churchyard; also to open an old grave for the burial of a widow or widower and a few people reserved plots several years ago but the churchyard is now designated as closed.

This does not stop the grass growing! Legal responsibility for maintenance now rests with South Norfolk District Council. They take advice from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust because churchyards are important reserves for wild flowers, birds, insects and small creatures like slow worms and hedgehogs. Maintenance is difficult because of the kerbs, headstones, footstones, small stone flower-holders, ant hills, stumps etc. Ride-on machines can be used in some areas but for the most part hand-held equipment has to be used. Local authorities always have more demands on their resources than they can meet so for several years the Parochial Church Council funded clearing by the Pay-Back Unit. This was operated by the Probation Service and they did an excellent job but then the PCC ran out of money and the Pay-Back Unit fell victim to reorganization. Anyone visiting the churchyard now can see the consequences. However 2017 may see a new start. Discussions with SNDC and the revival of the Pay-Back Unit may lead to clearance in the Spring and again in the Autumn. The fact that many people take responsibility for family graves is extremely helpful, especially when they take their rubbish home for disposal.

DID YOU KNOW....

That the Domesday Book of 1086 mentions 217 churches in Norfolk, and there were many others that were not listed; of those still standing 750 were in existence by the middle of the 13th century; Norfolk has three quarters of the churches with round towers in the country. There is evidence that Redenhall once has a round tower.

Crossword compiled by Micheal Quarmby who sadly died in January answers in next issue or available at Georges garden party

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Clues Across

- 1.Substitutes
- 5.Tethered flyer
- 9.State of Terror
- 10.Not an opening for you
- 11.Alpine rose shrubby invader
- 13.In foreign parts
- 14.Light
- 17.Comes close too
- 20.Runs out
- 21.Carol mentions Ivy's companion
- 22.Small gull
- 23.Recover

Clues Down

- 1.Enough given may prove fatal
- 2.Big cat
- 3.Residence of church Officer
- 4.Conceal a message
- 6.Most reluctant worker
- 7.Often may be claimed
- 8.Shorthand typist
- 12.Noisy London immigrant
- 15.On which seal meets bear
- 16.Soft absorbent paper
- 18.Hamlin celebrity
- 19.Northern flower

Forthcoming Events from The Friends of St. Mary's –

Saturday May 20th from 10am until noon; a Coffee Morning in George's garden at the Old Post House, Low Road, Wortwell.

Sunday May 28th at 5pm; a Concert given by the Windjammers in St. Mary's.

Sunday June 11th, times to be confirmed, readings from the works of Arnold Wesker in St. Mary's, followed by a Strawberry Tea at Beck Cottage.

Saturday October 21st at 6.30pm a Quiz and Supper organised jointly with the Chapel at Wortwell Community Centre.