Newsletter - March 2021

Welcome to the March newsletter, slightly late but still fun to read!

Chair Chatters with Barrie

Another month of slow but steady progress is the order of the day. Following our zoom meeting with the National Lottery Heritage Fund in March we are now getting closer to contractor boots on the ground.

The Trust is currently asking for tenders from contractors for the wall restoration and the archaeological works and we are inching forward on getting the water supply onto the site. Our ambition is to ensure that we will see everything coming to fruition by late April. Much later than we hoped but progress none the less.

The Trust is also in the early stages of discussion with the County Council ecology team to look at ways we can access a grant towards making the planned gardens as environmentally friendly as possible. Hopefully we will be having a site meeting with their specialist advisors in the next couple of weeks to enable them to assess the potential and help us formulate a plan that meets the grant requirements. Any plan will also include looking at the allotment areas to incorporate environmental and ecology thinking into the overall plan as well.

As ever the Trust needs to address the ever present need to raise funds to complete all the works. We are working hard in our quest to gain support from major funders but I am aware that we will need to tap into all the potential local sources. Many local organisations have already been very generous in their support and our heartfelt thanks go to them all but I am sure that there are still organisations, businesses and individuals we can approach who may still not be fully aware of what we are about. If you have any ideas or thoughts that we can implement, sponsorship potentials we can exploit or funding sources we don't know about then let Natalie know. Every £1 we raise is one £1 less we can tick off from our current shortfall of around £70k. That's just £2 per head of all the people who live in Evesham!

Finally, may I wish you well and thank all of you that have continued to work and support the work of the Trust over the past few months despite the Covid shutdown. This has been a very trying time for everyone. Zoom meetings are no substitute for face to face gatherings. Emails do not communicate as well as verbal conversations! This has been a very frustrating time for us all, which now has a glimmer of light to illuminate the way.

On-site news

They're back……(not the badgers, the volunteers!)

As lockdown eases it's been great to welcome the volunteers back on site. The 'lawn' is beginning to grow and those pesky weeds are starting to pop up. Alan and the Ground Force Team have returned to site on Wednesday mornings, in a socially distance format, to tackle the maintenance. Lifting of lockdown rules has also allowed Nat to visit site to meet the volunteers and see what they have planned. Nick from Swift Ecology, and John, a local tree surgeon, have also been on site.

Nick having a closer look around.

Can you spot John in the tree?

The Silver Birch in the 1952 excavation pit needed to be taken down as it wasn't in a healthy condition. John came and removed it in early March.

The Trust will be fully engaged with the organisers of the Medieval Market which is being organised for May. We have been in discussion with the organisers and they will be using the cloister area for re-enactors and demonstrations over the weekend. We of course will have our own display gazebo on site as this will be a great opportunity to tell our story as well.

As ever we will need volunteers to help man our display and chat to visitors about the work of the Trust, the Abbey project and support the activities we have planned. Nat will hold some optional information sessions in early May to support volunteers on the day and provide all the background information you need. So don't worry if you've not volunteered with us before!

To find out more about volunteering at the market, or to sign up, please contact Nat on,

natalie.hanson@eveshamabbey.org.uk

Evesham Tapestry Project

We are excited to be working with Rotary in the Vale, who have commissioned an Evesham Tapestry, depicting the history of Evesham from the Bronze Age to current times.

Although we are calling it a tapestry, we are looking for any type of stich work or artwork that can be printed on to fabric. (If you can paint it, we will do the printing!)

We already have people working on various parts but would love more people to join this exciting project. You can help in two ways, firstly, share your ideas about what we should include. We want to know what makes Evesham special to you, what stories do you have? Secondly, if you would like to produce a part of the tapestry, get in touch! Sandra and Nat are more than happy to welcome you onboard and provide all the details you need.

Contact Sandra at rotaryvale19@gmail.com or Nat at natalie.hanson@eveshamabbey.org.uk

Education update

The Trust continues to reach out to local schools as we shape our future activity plans. We are thankful to the Lead Teachers Group, who have continued to meet with us and share their ideas, whilst juggling many other commitments.

We are working together to produce an educational resource pack—designed to compliment the national curriculum and highlight local history. Whilst site visit's are not able to go ahead we have been embracing the world of online learning. We already have our collection of educational videos on our youtube page (click here to view). Whilst Elizabeth Spencer delivered an online talk to Kitebrook Preparatory students on the topic of Heraldry. The students are currently making their own shield emblems and Elizabeth was able to provide a fascinating history explaining what different symbols mean. We look forward to seeing the completed shields!

Nat is working on getting the pictures up on display and bringing some colour to the office.

St Richards CE First School has also been getting creative,

"Year 3 have been looking at the artwork of David Hockney and have been inspired by his vivid use of colour and line detail.

We have taken our school logo of the Bell Tower and experimented with bright colours and hatching technique"

Miss Cameron

Useful contact details

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Natalie is in the office every Tuesday. Voicemail is set up if you'd like to leave a message.

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