

THE SOCIETY OF ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

Registered Charity No: 249033 Founded 1922



John M Barrie, Chairman of Council

NEWSLETTER No. 21

MAY 2008

Dear Member,

The members able to attend the annual reception held in February this year, fell short of the number usually present. Those of you who were absent may like to know that on behalf of the Society, I was able to present cheques to the value of £37,000 to His Eminence, an increase of £2,000 over the previous year.

Over the last two years the Society has been bequeathed two generous legacies. These legacies will be invested thus restoring the sums invested to the levels which they stood at before 2002, when some investments were sold in order to meet the request for funds made by His Eminence.

Although not of direct concern to members there is the news of the vast amount (£3 million) urgently needed to repair the Cathedral so that it may remain in constant use. This is mentioned because of the close links, which the Society maintains with the Cathedral and its authorities.

These matters are reported as a timely reminder that both Archbishop's House and the Cathedral are constantly in need of maintenance, and therefore funds, and members are requested to keep this in mind when reviewing their contributions to the Society.

Once again I would remind you of the need to maintain our membership base and urge you to recruit more members, preferably younger ones. Why not start with members of your family ? Those of you who are in the lower quartile in terms of age are encouraged to recruit from among your friends. This is necessary not only to generate additional funds now but looking ahead for the next generation too.

This year the Summer Reception will be replaced by a visit to Canterbury on Saturday 14 June. Details of the visit are set out overleaf. We are indebted to Mary Edwards who has made all the necessary arrangements.

Robert Rigby has introduced a website for the Society and details are to be found overleaf. With this newsletter is a reminder to some that their subscription has fallen into arrear. This is probably as a consequence of an oversight but it would be appreciated if subscriptions could be brought up to date please. His Eminence could do with all that we raise and more.

(Newsletter continues overleaf)

If you have any questions about the Society you may contact the Chairman at the address set out above or Michael Milbourn, Hon. Secretary, at the address below:
The River House, St. Mary's Lane, Hertingfordbury, Hertford SG14 2LF
Tel: 01992 551502 Email: michaelmilbourn@aol.com

The Council

The following serve as officers and Council members:

His Grace, the Duke of Norfolk - President

John M Barrie - Chairman of Council

Michael Milbourn - Hon. Secretary

Paul Williams - Hon. Treasurer

Peter A Bernard; Peter de V B Dewar; Mary M Edwards; Michael Henderson; Michael MacLoughlin; Mary J Maxwell; Stephen J Powell; Robert Rigby

2008 AGM and Reception

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ended 30 September, 2007 which showed total income of £71,709 (*previous year* £38,508), charitable contributions of £34,650 (£34,000) and operating costs of £2,427 (£3,224). The year's income had benefited from a legacy of £33,780 from a deceased member that had boosted year-end funds to £487,211 (£448,426). Copies of the accounts are available from the Secretary.

The Chairman congratulated another member, Mr Bill Metcalf, who had been appointed a Knight of St. Gregory. Sadly, the date of the AGM coincided with his investiture so that he and a number of other members were unable to be present at the AGM.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dick Wheeler, who had resigned from the Council after 45 years' service, and Mr Michael McLoughlin who was relinquishing his Council responsibilities with respect to the Society's investments. Mr Robert Rigby gave details of the Society's new website (www.staugustineofcanterbury.org.uk).

After the business of the meeting was concluded, members enjoyed a jovial reception attended as usual by Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, who gave us a personal account of his recent visit to Zimbabwe.

The 2009 AGM and Reception is scheduled to take place on Thursday 5 February, 2009.

2008 Summer Event

As a break from the Society's usual Summer Reception at Vaughan House, Mary Edwards has organized a visit to Canterbury on Saturday 14 June to include a guided tour of the cathedral, Mass in the crypt and lunch in a local restaurant. Please see the enclosed invitation for further details.

Membership

We welcome into the Society the members listed below, who have joined since publication of the last newsletter:

Mr and Mrs Francis Ayers
Captain Peregrine Bertie
Mr Joe Gilhooly
Mr Simon John
Mr Brian and Mrs Celine McGill

We also belatedly welcome Mrs Sarah Turner who joined the previous year but whose name was regrettably omitted in the 2007 Newsletter.

This is a disappointing number of new members compared with recent years so please consider if you would be able to introduce family members or friends to membership of the Society.

We request your prayers for the repose of the souls of those members whose deaths have been reported to us since the last newsletter:

Mr Peter Bearcroft
Fra Andrew Bertie
Baroness Darcy de Knayth
Lord Michael Fitzalan-Howard
Lord Forte
Mrs Kirsten Groos
Mr David Grumitt
Mrs Marguerite Kelleher
Miss J M Milward
Mr Peter Railing
Mr Miles Tempany

With all good wishes,

John M Barrie