



# Friends of St Michael's

Patron: Sir Roy Strong

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August 2011

A year has passed since our last newsletter and we have reached our first target. The paper murals are conserved with more than £5,000 raised through your membership subscriptions, donations and support for our fund-raising activities. Go to [www.friendsofsaintmichaels.co.uk](http://www.friendsofsaintmichaels.co.uk) for before and after pictures and all our other news too. (Web site created and maintained by Jim and Jane Osler)

## **What we have done since this time last year?**

September 2010 – John Wells-Thorpe, distinguished local architect, talked on *Domus Ecclesiae and all that*, with quotations from his book, an entertaining account of his life both here and overseas.

He generously donated one third from the sales of his books to Friends' funds

October 2010 - Annual lecture and cream tea

This year the talk was preceded by an organ recital given by Philip Adams, Director of Music which brought in even more people.

*The Pre-Raphaelites in Oxford* was the very entertaining and informative illustrated talk given by Jon Whiteley, keeper of Western Art at the Ashmolean Museum.

February 2011 - Spanish evening

Local residents, Tom and Linda Powers of 'The Spanish Food Company' attracted a large number of Friends to their illustrated talk, wine tasting and food sampling of 'real' food and wine from rural Spain. Unfortunately we had to turn people away since what was intended for 50, expanded to 70 and there was simply no more room. The North aisle was filled with the sights and tastes of Spain culminating in the arrival of a huge paella. Tom and Linda were supported in this by personnel from the wine importers 'Ten Green Bottles' who led us through the tasting, and a chef from a prestigious local hotel who did much of the prep for the paella.

Conservation – the culmination of all our efforts

Mark Sandiford, paper conservator to the National Trust, has completely transformed the paper paintings which had been hanging off the wall at both ends of the Bodley church. Thanks to the accommodation provided by our chairman, scaffolding loaned by a local church and delivered free, costs were kept down. Mark became almost a part of the community and may return to do other small bits of restoration. Again, do look at the web site

June 2011- Annual dinner

This was also a sell out, one more table than last year and nearly £4,000 raised for our next project. This year the tables were decorated not with rose petals but with clods of grass delivered

from a member's farm, placed in dishes, stuck with roses from our gardens; tea lights lit up the settings. Margy Nixon and Pauline Messum are the inspiration and driving force behind this, our major fund raiser, with help from Gabi, Jane, Penny, Simon, Zita and many others. The story of the logistics in preparing a food for 110 in various kitchens round the parish and beyond, its transport to the church is worthy of a novella. The outcome was a great success: good food, good company, entertainment by Michael Chance, local actor and singer, raffle and a profit.

**Our Next project: Lighting to illuminate the paper murals and also to cast light on the work of William Morris & Co carried out 150 years ago in the Bodley church.**

How are we going to achieve this? We need your help in many ways.

**Support for events:**

Dates for your diary - details on separate sheet:

September 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> - Heritage weekend

September 16<sup>th</sup> – Illustrated talk

October 15<sup>th</sup> - The Annual lecture:

April 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 - Ladies' lunch postponed from September

June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012 - Annual Dinner

June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Conversazione

**Membership.**

Members are the core of our entire fund raising efforts

In July we had 13 Life members and 136 annual members

Please encourage people to join us or if you know someone who didn't manage to renew this year, it is never too late to rejoin.

**Gifts**

We have been excited, since we started our drive, by the number of people who have given money, time and expertise and are also grateful for all of you who include gift aid in your donations. Over £630 was added to our funds by this means.

**Members and Volunteers**

There are never enough

If you have time to help in any way do please contact Ann Smith, [ann@powissq.plus.net](mailto:ann@powissq.plus.net) (01273 729342) or Simon Thompson, the parish administrator and our liaison officer, at [parishoffice@saintmichaelsbrighton.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintmichaelsbrighton.org), 01273 822284.

AND if you have ideas on fund raising, please tell us.

With many thanks for your continued support,

John Cox  
Chairman