



# Friends of St Cross Hospital Winchester

*Celebrate its Past – Support its Future*

## 'Retrospective'

### Tenth Anniversary Annual Newsletter

We hope you enjoy this bumper issue of the *Retrospective*. As it marks our tenth anniversary, we have included some extra pages in the middle with photographs of our activities since we were founded. Our extra costs have been covered by advertising. If you would care to advertise in future issues, please get in touch with us.



*Our Patrons, Alastair Bruce and Victoria Wakefield cut the tenth anniversary cake with a Bruce family sword,  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2021.*

# Foreword by our Chairman, John Pringle



The first months of 2021 seemed almost to merge into the previous year with the long lockdown and only very gradual easing of the pandemic restrictions. Your Board took a cautious approach with regard to events, but we had several online lectures and socials, to fill the void of the cancelled lunches, summer party and outings. Then in September, we held our first in-person event with a delightful drinks reception in the Master's Garden, swiftly followed by our tenth anniversary celebration tea on the Bowling Green. Behind the scenes your Trustees met, often 'virtually', throughout the year to review the programme and plan for the year ahead.

## Grants to the Hospital of St Cross

The Friends' 2020 grant of £25,000 contributed towards the recent refurbishment of the Hundred Men's Hall, shown below left and right. In April 2021 we gave a small grant to the



Hospital for a new St George's flag, which Richard Chisnell and Fiona Whitehouse presented to the Master and the Porter, as depicted below.



Your Board also approved a grant of £17,000 for paving work below the Beaufort Tower and this work is being done as we go to press.



For details of all our grants, see [www.friendsofstcross.com/ways-we-help](http://www.friendsofstcross.com/ways-we-help)

Friends of St Cross Hospital – supported by:



# Carter Jonas

# Promotional Activities

As in 2020, Fiona, our Administrator, continued to keep Friends updated via regular e-bulletins with news of the Hospital and forthcoming events. Jonathan Sleath and Claire McDonnell also posted on our social media during the year. In the summer, the Trustees undertook a mail-drop to local people who are not yet Friends, in the hope of encouraging them to join, whilst our anniversary tea party (see page 10) was generously reported in the *Hampshire Chronicle* with a full-page spread, which we hope will also have attracted new Friends.

The St Cross Parish Fête did not take place in 2021 but there was a lot of interest in the Friends' stand at the Michaelmas Fayre in September and we were glad to recruit new Friends on that occasion. At both the anniversary tea and the Fayre, we were pleased to be able to demonstrate what the Friends have done in the past ten years, not only by proudly displaying the cheque for £141,500 raised so far, but also by illustrating some of our activities in an electronic display of photographs on a new screen we purchased from Whitwams during the year. We hope to use this on future occasions to showcase our events. Friends also helped to advertise our charity at the Winchester Christmas market on the days when the Hospital of St Cross occupied a chalet.



Trustees Pip Billington and Claire McDonnell distribute leaflets and showcase our new display screen at the Michaelmas Fair.

Our website address may be found on the back page. For those of you who have not yet joined us on social media, we can be found at:

**Facebook:** Friends of St Cross Winchester

**Twitter:** @friends\_cross

**Instagram:** friendsofstcross

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/friendsofstcross](http://www.youtube.com/friendsofstcross)

Our JustGiving page was especially useful during 2021 when most events had to be 'virtual', but we hope that you will continue to remember the Friends by using this site frequently even when life gets fully back to normal. Shopping on AmazonSmile also enables donations to our charity with every purchase - at no extra cost to the purchaser - if you nominate your charity for this purpose. Finally if you wish to place an advertisement in future issues of the *Retrospective*, please contact us (see back page for details).



# 2021 At A Glance

## A 'Virtual' New Year Reception and Online Get-Togethers

Due to the lockdown, our 2021 New Year Reception was held on Zoom, but we were delighted that so many Friends, including a group of Brothers, were able to attend. This was in fact an international occasion and Chairman John invited those who lived further away to tell us what they were doing and how life was treating them in the new year. One participant described the bright but snowy day she was currently enjoying, despite the ongoing curfew in Montreal, Canada, whilst a couple from Yorkshire was delighted to report that they had already had both Covid vaccinations. A Friend in Manchester enthused about a splendid concert which he had enjoyed over Christmas, and many others recounted how they had spent the festive season. Towards the end, Chairman John announced a prize draw for a couple of hampers provided by the Trustees. Everyone attending had been allocated a ticket and appropriately one of the hampers was won by the Master of St Cross Hospital!



*The New Year Reception on Zoom; and one of the two hampers in the raffle.*

In the first six months of the year, Friends enjoyed many other 'virtual' get-togethers. It was a great pleasure to hear how everybody had been spending their lockdown hours and particularly to be joined by those who don't live locally to the Hospital and would not otherwise have been easily able to meet with us.

## Three Zoom lectures, January-March 2021

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Commander Jonathan Cooke, Chairman of the Hospital of St Cross, gave the first Zoom lecture of the year, entitled 'Submarine Reminiscences', in which he recalled his distinguished career in the Royal Navy and particularly in 'boats' (the nickname for submarines).



*Our speaker in 2021; and as a young submariner.*

He was mainly involved in gathering intelligence in the Iceland-Faroes Gap, but was captain of HMS Warspite during the Falklands War in 1982. He explained how his submarine was being refurbished at the outbreak of hostilities, so did not arrive in the South Atlantic until early June, by which time British troops had already gone ashore and Argentine naval troops had returned home. So his 'boat' also went home, but returned a few months later to keep watch on Argentine bases. In an interesting parallel to our then current situation (in lockdown), he noted that the crew's main concern was that provisions might run out. Eventually they went onto 'portion control' (ie rations) but the only thing which actually ran out was toothpaste, so their doctor concocted a

substitute paste for them to use! The tour of duty, originally anticipated to last 90 days, continued for much longer and they were awarded a place in the *Guinness Book of Records* for being the submarine patrol which had been ‘submerged and unsupported’ for the longest period of time ever.

Jonathan recalled that it had been a fairly monotonous stint of duty, but the crew had reacted well, occupying themselves with films, games, quizzes and exercising in the torpedo compartment. Mail was transferred by helicopter, but they kept up with the news using satellite signals. The mood was ‘resigned apathy’ - another similarity with the general mood in lockdown.



*HMS Warspite; and two features of a long tour of duty under the sea: a beard-growing competition and a shortage of toothpaste!*

One personal problem for our speaker, resulting from the delayed return home, was the postponement of his wedding, but his fiancée made appropriate arrangements and they were pleased to receive an apology from the government for this inconvenience!

This riveting talk attracted many questions ranging from how air purity is maintained on a submarine to our speaker’s views on nuclear weapons. One member of the audience had served as a young officer on HMS Warspite and he complimented Jonathan as an excellent commander, noting that it was largely down to his strong leadership that morale had been maintained on their very long posting in the South Atlantic.

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On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, our second Zoom lecture, entitled ‘Do we need traditional diplomats?’ was presented by Andrew Sparkes, a teacher at Winchester College, who had formerly been a Foreign Office diplomat, serving as Ambassador in turn to the Democratic Republic of Congo, to Kosovo and to Nepal. His school Careers Officer had advised him that becoming a diplomat would satisfy his wish for ‘money, power and travel’, but he soon discovered that whilst the money was good and some power - or at least influence – was possible, it was the opportunity for travel, which had been best-fulfilled by his career in the Foreign Office.



*Our speaker, Andrew Sparkes; and in a meeting with the revolutionary President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo.*

He explained that his particular niche had been service in countries which were re-establishing themselves after political upheavals and conflict. His worked in Turkey, Thailand, Indonesia and South Africa, before he took up his first ambassadorial post in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Our speaker gave one simple definition of a diplomat as ‘the representative of Her Majesty’s Government overseas’. As such, all diplomats are covered by diplomatic immunity under the Vienna Convention of 1961, which, he told us with humour, would not have exonerated him from a speeding fine, but could be helpful when difficult messages had to be delivered to a dictator!



*Our speaker explained the many different perceptions of diplomacy with excellent and amusing imagery, ranging from paintings to cartoons and photographs.*

Andrew then analysed the diplomat's role in many areas of national life, from politics, trade and military relations to the protection of UK citizens and development of cultural links. He observed how the role had changed as a result of globalisation and mass communication, a process which had been hastened by the pandemic, and also by the growth of major multi-lateral organisations such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the European Commission. But he also argued that multi-lateralism had been found wanting in some situations, that real power still lies with the nation-state, and that traditional diplomacy is still necessary.

This was a multi-faceted talk by a man of great experience which was enjoyed enormously by the interested audience and there were numerous and wide-ranging questions, covering subjects as various as the role of the Department for International Development (DFID) and the impact of a diplomatic life on families.

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On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Friends were treated to a very evocative 'virtual' tour of Venice by Stephen Shuttleworth, a chemistry teacher at Winchester College but also a raconteur, Italian aficionado and artist. Stephen explained the general layout of the city through maps and aerial photographs and told us that the name Venezia derives from the Italian word for veins – in this case, veins filled with water. He then took us to the Doge's Palace and the Bridge of Sighs, the Basilica of St Mark and its campanile (bell-tower) in St Mark's Square, the Rialto Bridge and the Ponte dei Tre Archi, and a number of churches.



*Venezia la Serenissima.*

Stephen explained that the Venetian Republic had been governed by an elected Doge from 726 until the city was conquered by France in 1797. Making ingenious links with the Hospital of St Cross, and via a painting in the National Gallery, we saw the (now destroyed) La Chiesa della Sante Croce, and our speaker singled out particular Doges who had been contemporaries of figures such as Henri du Blois and Cardinal Beaufort. He peppered his talk with fascinating anecdotes and beautiful images, but also showed us photographs of some buildings under water, reminding us that flooding is an ever-present threat, especially as the long-awaited construction of the flood barriers has still not been completed.

From central Venice Stephen took us to four of the less-familiar nearby islands: Torcello, the original settlement of Venice, which had fallen into decline following the silting-up of its waterways and multiple catastrophic plagues; Burano, famous for its merletto (lacework); Murano, which is internationally-renowned for its glass; and finally the island of Cimitero di San Michele where the city's dead, including some famous former residents, are

buried. We then visited the Lido, a narrow strip of land which protects the city from the Adriatic and a fashionable resort, where the Venice Film Festival takes place annually.

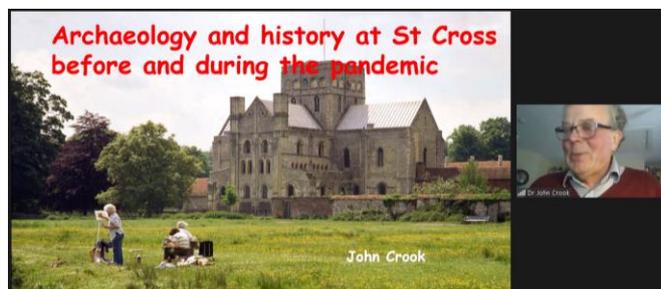
Stephen showed us illustrations of the annual festivals held in the city, and told us about two imitation cities which have sprung up elsewhere - at Chioggia and Comecchio - concluding his talk by recommending Francesco da Mosto's television series and some of the food and wine which can be enjoyed in Venice. There were many questions from the interested audience, ranging from whether there is life beyond tourism for the Venetians, to the significance of St Mark for the city, and the association of Vivaldi with Venice. This was an especially enticing talk, given at a time when foreign travel was not allowed under lockdown regulations, and by someone who clearly loves Venice and its artistic, historic and culinary pleasures.



*Our speaker enjoying a cappuccino in Venice.*

## **AGM and Friends' Day talk**

The Friends' tenth AGM was held on Zoom on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 and once again we had to forego the usual convivial tea and Evensong, due to the pandemic. After the business meeting, Dr John Crook, the Hospital Archaeologist, delivered a splendid lecture, illustrated magnificently with photographs, maps, archaeological drawings and even a nineteenth century watercolour.



*Chairman, Administrator and Treasurer at the Zoom AGM; and Dr John Crook presenting his talk afterwards.*

John began by explaining the archaeology undertaken when the new wheelchair access to the Chapel, which the Friends had supported, was created. He explained that the original plan, in 2008, for an 'accessible' entrance had been to locate it at the west front of the Chapel, which would have spoiled the timeless view, and elongated the building. The final, more pleasing, solution was to redevelop the area where the boiler-house had been, at the end of the Ambulatory. Finds from this work had included floor tiles, a memorial to former Master, Canon Alan Brodrick, dated May 1909 (which was re-located), and a curious brick showing a workman's calculations marked onto it.

John then moved on to the new boiler-room, sited in an area known as the Matron's Garden, on the south side of the Gravels inside the Hospital. Before its construction, he had dug an evaluation trench which established that the boundary wall is indeed a medieval wall, though not of twelfth century origin, and that there were steps down to the Lockburn waterway, which takes a slightly different course from what had previously been thought. Finds included glassware, pre-decimalisation twentieth century coins, pottery, clay pipes and a butchered ox-bone.



*Pottery, glassware and coins found in the Matron's Garden. Photos courtesy of Dr J Crook.*

John then turned to the pavement under the Beaufort Tower, the improvement of which the Friends have supported financially. The archaeological work has shown that the current pavement is not medieval, although it is possible that the two slabs of Purbeck marble at the entrance might have been part of an earlier floor.

He then turned to an earlier excavation in the Quadrangle, which had revealed paving below the grass. Graves had also been discovered in this area including, curiously, the skull of a child aged twelve, and a female skeleton. These were probably the remains of lay people once associated with the Hospital, although there is no record of their identity. This area also produced a bell, musket ball and a fifteenth century Burgundy coin.



*The pavement below the Beaufort Tower; and discoveries from the Quadrangle. Photos courtesy of Dr J Crook.*

John concluded his talk by telling us that his work can never be considered 'finished', as there are always new discoveries to be made about the Hospital in the past. His final image showed a fifteenth century wall-painting in the north nave gallery of the Chapel which is currently under investigation prior to its restoration.

This fascinating and beautifully-illustrated survey of the recent archaeology of St Cross elicited a number of questions from the audience, particularly about the different levels in the Chapel and the Quadrangle, the storage of the finds, and the current and possible past uses of the Ambulatory. We were left looking forward to visiting St Cross again when it re-opened, and with a much more informed interest than hitherto.

## **A 'virtual' tour of the western side of the Isle of Wight**

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Clare Dixon, a resident of St Cross, Blue Badge Guide and long-standing Friend, took Friends to the western side of the Isle of Wight, adapting her tour with admirable skill into a wonderful online experience, which as the Chairman said at the end, included every sense, except perhaps the smell of the sea!

First of all we 'visited' Newtown, the old and now deserted capital of the island, and Clare perfectly captured the atmosphere with an evocative recording of silence and the occasional birdsong. On we went to Bouldnor, where she showed us an underwater video of Mesolithic finds. This was followed by a visit to 'yachty Yarmouth', and from the end of the pier we looked back at the Castle, constructed by Henry VIII to ward off the French. On we went to Sconce Point, the nearest point to the mainland, with its Fort Victoria which had been built to 'twin' with Hurst Castle in defending the Solent; Clare noted that its rubble is still used in defence of the coast, but this time against the sea, which has supplanted the French as the number one danger.

We moved on to the Needles and some stunning views. Clare explained that originally there were four stacks, but the one which looked like a Needle and gave its name to them all, fell into the water in 1764! At Alum Bay we observed the different coloured sands and we also saw a monument to Marconi's first wireless telegraph station. Up on the glorious downs, where you could almost feel the fresh air, thanks to Clare's wonderful photography, we saw another monument, this time to the poet, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, who had lived on the island and, along with other famous residents, had popularised it as a tourist destination. One particularly well-

known visitor was the Empress Eugénie, friend of Queen Victoria, and ironically the widow of the French Emperor against whom the island's defences had been reinforced in earlier years!



*Yarmouth Castle; the thatched church of St Agnes at Freshwater; and the Tennyson monument.*

After this diversion into the nineteenth century, we continued our journey to Freshwater, from where we could see St Catherine's Down and St Catherine's Point, the southernmost point of the island, where the softer brown Wealden rocks provide one of the best places in the world to find dinosaur bones. The climate has also made this an excellent area for kite-flying and surfing. This concluded our visit, but Clare answered many questions from her audience - about the island's red squirrels, recent landslips and the splendid walks to be taken. Her fascinating tour had embraced many natural wonders and historic sites and she had inspired us all to visit the island again when circumstances allowed.



*Clare (second left) with Hospital Porter Cathy (left) and other friends after a charity walk across the island.*

## Late Summer Drinks Party



On a beautiful September evening, Chairman John (far left) welcomed about 70 Friends to a drinks reception in the Master's Garden, marking the Friends' first in-person event for many months.

The drinks table was ably run by Brothers Clive, Kevin and John (right), canapés were provided by the Trustees and there was a sumptuous hamper won in the raffle by the Chairman of the Hospital Trustees (below left with Fiona Goodman). We were delighted that our Patron Victoria Wakefield (below right with our Founder Chairman Richard Chisnell) was able to join us on this occasion.







# Tenth Anniversary Tea





On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Friends celebrated the tenth anniversary of our charity with a splendid afternoon tea on the Bowling Green at the Hospital of St Cross. Amongst the special guests were the Mayor of Winchester, The Master, Trustees and staff of the Hospital, Founder Friends and our two Patrons.



*The catering team from Saira's Kitchen preparing tea, as Friends arrive.*

We also welcomed several Brothers at the party, including Brother John Leathes who helped with the setting-up, Brother Clive, who took many of the photographs here, and the centenarian Emeritus Brother John Goodman.



*Friends enjoying the delicious tea.*

Our newly-acquired screen showed a looped display of photographs of Friends' activities and achievements over the past ten years, whilst on the tables were photo albums of early events, and postcards, leaflets and past publications. A dummy cheque proudly displayed the total of £141,500 which the Friends have raised for the Hospital since the charity was founded, whilst the special cake depicted the Friends' Gate funded by the charity.



After the Chairman's welcome, Jonathan Cooke, Chairman of the Hospital Trustees (left) thanked the Friends for a decade of support and Alastair Bruce (right) gave a rousing speech of encouragement for the future. He and Victoria Wakefield, our two Patrons, cut the anniversary cake (see photo on front cover) and we all raised a glass of bubbly to the Friends (below).



# Tenth Anniversary Memories

*Ceilidhs and parties, receptions and dinners, lunches and teas, concerts and variety shows, talks and quizzes, outings - and so much more! The photographs on the next four pages celebrate ten years of 'fun and fellowship' with the Friends of St Cross.*





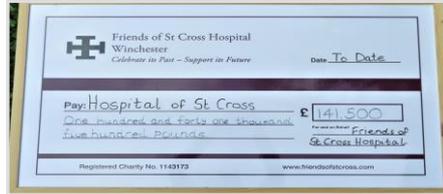


Entertainment 5

- From which TV series does the phrase 'I have a cunning plan' come from?

**KEEP CALM  
I HAVE A  
CUNNING  
PLAN**





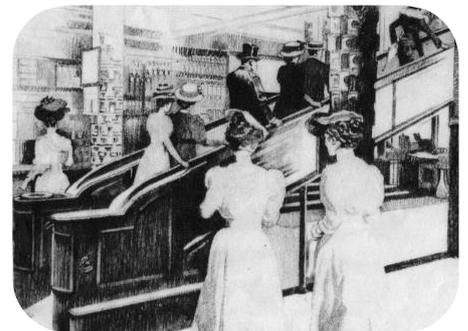
**HERE'S TO THE NEXT TEN YEARS!**

## Autumn events

Our first indoor Friends' event for nineteen months took place in the newly-refurbished Hundred Mens' Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 when Brother John Leathes (shown below left) talked to us about the history of Harrods department store in London, where he had worked as assistant workroom manager for three years. John generously brought delicious canapés to accompany our drinks before the talk, and cheesecake to enjoy afterwards, which added to the celebratory atmosphere of the occasion. He also provided a wonderful array of images, ranging from fine portraits and historic maps to old photographs and statistical charts, to illustrate his talk. At the end there was a short video of John in his younger days (see clip below right). During the questions afterwards, two of John's former colleagues joined in the reminiscences, which added to the pleasure of this evening.



John began his talk with an historical survey of the area where the present store was later built, explaining how the original swamp was eventually transformed into the upmarket district of today. Founder Charles Henry Harrod had opened his first drapery business in Southwark in 1824; he gradually acquired other small properties and diversified his business, but it wasn't until 1849 that he opened a shop in Knightsbridge, although the present building dates from 1894. John described the fabulous interior decoration and some of the improvements that were made in the building over the years, including the introduction of England's first 'moving staircase' in 1898, which required a member of staff to offer brandy and smelling salts to revive nervous customers after their 'journey' upstairs!



*An earlier Harrods shopfront; poster advertising Harrods as a 'fashionable resort' for shopping; and customers taking the escalator.*

John took us through the many ups and downs of the business, including bankruptcy, a serious fire, rivalries with stores such as Selfridges, and even criminality; he explained how it coped in times of cholera, war and terrorism and how particular individuals such as Edgar Cohen, Woodman Burbidge and Sir Alfred Newton had contributed to the success of the business. He also explained many aspects of daily life at Harrods, including details about how 'the green men' (or doormen) operated, what the staff uniforms were like, how the delivery vehicles changed over the decades and so on. He occasionally tested his audience by asking them questions, such as 'What is the meaning of the Harrods motto 'omnia, omnibus, ubique?', the answer being 'all things for all people everywhere'; and he related many amusing anecdotes, one recalling the escape of a snake in the underground tunnel and another a mistake in the cash-tube room by an over-excited operative, which resulted in £75 in notes turning into confetti!

This entertaining talk was presented with style and humour and much enjoyed by the audience. It was a wonderful start to 'business as usual' after the disruption of the pandemic.



Guests enjoying drinks and canapés with Brother John; Trustee Sue Woodward introducing the speaker; and two former Harrods employees contributing to the discussion at the end.

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What better way to resume Friends' events in the Hospital Chapel than with the organ recital by Brother Graham Davies (shown below) on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021? The 150-year-old Walker organ is well suited to the warm acoustics of the building and Brother Graham showed us many of the instrument's features in his varied programme of pieces by composers from the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The comprehensive programme notes which Brother Graham had compiled for us, provided a lot of background: how the young Bach wrote his *Pièce d'Orgue* in the French style and used all the stops (Grand Plein Jeu); how Maurice Duruflé's *Chant Donné* was written as an exercise in harmony; and how César Frank loved reeds and used their characteristic timbre

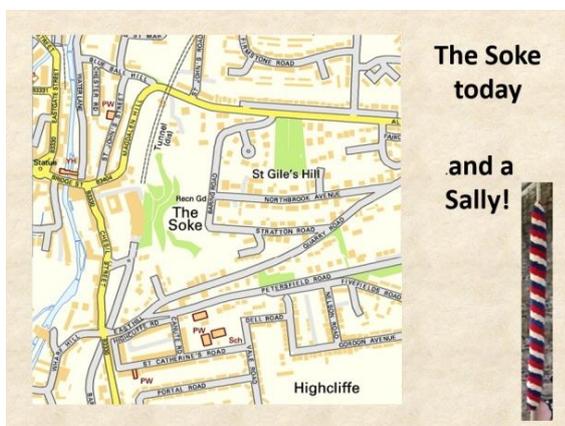


in his *Chorale in A minor*, one of the last pieces he composed before his death in 1890.

In the 1970's Brother Graham was Director of Music at St Cross, having been a pupil of Clement McWilliam, also a Brother, so he felt very much at home, and his glorious playing left all those lucky enough to attend with memories of a delightful evening.

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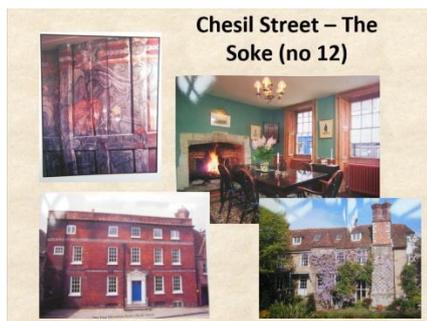
Our second autumn talk 'A Sally Round the Soke' was presented to us on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 by Colin Cook (below left), a St Cross resident, fellow-Friend and known to many of the audience for his work as a City Guide and a Cathedral bell-ringer. The title of his talk, therefore, was doubly appropriate - a sally being the fluffy part of a bell-rope as well as a tour!



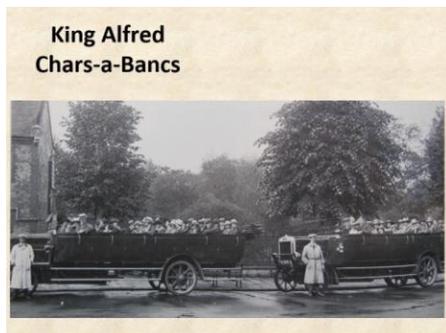


Colin took us on a fascinating visit to the eastern part of Winchester, known as the Soke, which was an area of jurisdiction historically under the control of the Bishops of Winchester until the mid-nineteenth century, with its own Soke court at Cheyney Court and its own prison for miscreants in the cellars below what is now the Rising Sun public house. He started by looking at the area in Roman times, taking us through its medieval history, noting particularly the Bishop's fair on St Giles's Hill and the impact of the Black Death, and telling us also about more modern developments such as the arrival of the railway.

We were taken on this 'sally' by means of historic maps, prints and photographs, enjoying beautiful views, especially from St Giles' Hill and St Catherine's Hill, and looking at many interesting buildings along the way. These included private houses such as number 12 Chesil Street (which is actually called "The Soke"), the churches of St John and St Peter Chesil, various pubs, the Chesil Rectory, the City Mill and St Mary Magdalen Almshouses. Amongst the many wonderful images were those of American troops marching through the Soke during the Great War and another of circus elephants in the river!



Colin also told us about many of the local characters who had lived in the area – including William Masters, a Cathedral bell-ringer like himself, the Craze family, and members of the Chisnell 'dynasty' especially the entrepreneurial Robert Chisnell, grandfather of our Founder Chairman, Richard. He had started his business life when young, and he moved on via rabbit-trapping, the strawberry trade, a tobacconist's business, a bookmaker's shop and an ice skating rink, to found the King Alfred Bus Services and manage a taxi business in Winchester.



It was therefore highly appropriate that Richard Chisnell (above centre) should give our vote of thanks to Colin for his comprehensive and interesting talk, adding a few imaginative and entrepreneurial ideas of his own as to developments he would have liked to have seen in the Soke area of the city in his lifetime!

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The photos below show that Friends clearly enjoyed themselves at the autumn lunch held in the newly-refurbished Hundred Men's Hall in November! Sadly the December lunch had to be cancelled this year due to ongoing pandemic concerns.



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On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021, Friends enjoyed a very convivial evening of Christmas wreath-making in the cosy, newly-refurbished Hundred Men's Hall, with fizz and mince pies made by one of the participants, Pip Billington (third from the

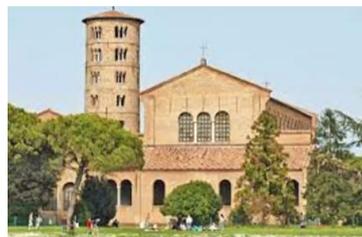


right in the photo). Sadly the regular tutor, Sue Moreau, was poorly but the participants managed to share enough knowledge to make interesting and varied wreaths, as can be seen in the photograph on the left.

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Our final event of the year, a talk entitled 'Emilia Romagna or Spaghetti Bolognese' by Stephen Shuttleworth took place on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. We were very grateful to our speaker, for agreeing at the eleventh hour to give his talk on Zoom, instead of in-person, due to increasing Covid concerns. Stephen began with a general introduction to Emilia Romagna, a region in north-central Italy stretching from the Apennines in the west to the Adriatic in the east, covering about 22,400 square kilometers and with a population of 4.4 million. He then took us on a tour of some of the highlights of this pleasant region, through wonderful photographs, and with the aid of maps, plans and even some of his own attractive paintings.

First we visited the Romanesque Pomposa Abbey near Ferrara, with its striking campanile (bell-tower) and its astonishing frescoes. Stephen gave us many interesting details including how the window lights in the campanile start with one at the lowest level, moving through two and up to three lights at the top, this being to reduce the weight of the tower and allow the sound of the bells to be heard more effectively. After this, we went to the church of Sant'Apollinare in Classe, near Ravenna, with its breathtaking mosaics dating from the sixth century and another attractive, but this time round, campanile.



*Above: Painting of Pomposa Abbey by our talented speaker (shown centre); and the church of Sant'Apollinare.*

Finally we visited the attractive city of Bologna, the regional capital, which has earned the epithet of ‘the fat, red and learned city’ because it is renowned for its cuisine, red roofs and eleventh century university, which is the oldest university in the western world.



*The red roofs of Bologna.*

Stephen showed us many photographs of the city’s buildings, such as Le Due Torre or The Two Towers, which dominate the cityscape and help visitors to get their bearings, the remarkable colonnades which cover 38 kilometers within and around the city, the huge basilica of San Petronio, and the extraordinary complex of religious buildings at Piazza Santo Stefano. Perhaps the most unusual place we visited was our last: the Anatomical Theatre within the university. This dates back to 1637 and delights here included an ornate staircase, a coffered ceiling, wonderful paintings and statues – and all adorning a central space where university medical and anatomy students were taught by a professor on his ‘throne’, as dissections took place on a marble slab in the middle, and sometimes overseen by a member of the Inquisition who would appear from cupboards above to check that nothing heretical was being preached.



*Left to right: Le Due Torre; the vast interior of San Petronio; Pilate’s courtyard outside San Stefano; and the elaborate interior of the Anatomical Theatre in Bologna.*

After lovely slides delighting our visual senses, and interesting stories about the landscapes, buildings and people of Emilia Romagna, Stephen then proceeded to whet our palates with a description and many alluring photographs of the food for which the region is renowned, and he even included a recipe!. It was interesting to hear that in Italy, spaghetti bolognese (shown below left) is actually known as tagliatelle al ragù whilst the curly shape of strozzapreti (shown below right) dates from the fifteenth century. Strozzapreti literally means ‘priest-strangler’ and legend relates that it earned this name when women, angry at the high taxes imposed by the church, would twist the pasta as if strangling a priest! After this fascinating story, we concluded our ‘virtual’ meal with a delicious trifle and a glass of vino rosso. Chairman John then thanked our speaker for an excellent talk, which had transported us all from our pre-Christmas preparations to this very attractive region of Italy. Rather appropriately he gave our speaker a bottle of Italian vino bianco on behalf of us all.



# Membership News

**By the end of December 2021, our membership numbered 709.  
Our thanks to all Friends for continuing to support us throughout the pandemic.**

## New Friends, Jan-Dec 2021

Catherine Abbott	Nick and Anne Johnson
Christopher and Susan Bacon	Peter and Suzanne Johnson
Shiona and Elizabeth Brown	Emilie Kirton
M Burke	Les and Jenny Surry
Claire Celand and Judy Dunkley	Eileen Brenda Lothian
Guy and Anne Collins	Steve and A Lovick
Gillian Collymore	Jonathan and Alsu Mardall
Clare Denby and Tony Pullman	Primrose Metcalf
Joyce Dorsett and Elizabeth MacKenzie	Adam Rattray
Fay Dunn	Steve and Sula Riedlinger
Michael and Margaret Ann Eltham	Jennifer Rigamonti
Hilary Felice	Tim and Zoe Robbins
Victoria Louise Fisher	Michael and Julia Rowlands
Stuart Forrester	Alison Taylor
Tony Gaster	Indira West
Prunella Hatton	Winchester College Common Room (per Eric Billington)
Christine Haughton	Bernard Wiseman
Ian Holloway	Arthur Wood
Clare Jennings	Peter and Judith Worth

## WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS WHO HAVE DIED

Stewart Abbott, Jane Bonvin, Shione Carden, Leo Coley, Erma Fletcher, Ann Gildersleve, Jim Glasspool, Roger Lewis, Brother David MacGeorge, Sonia Nuttall, Mark Savidge, David Sears, Senior Brother Ron Stacey and George Tusa.

## News from the Brothers - our Honorary Friends

Brother Clive writes 'When I began to think about what we did last year, I thought - very little due to the government restrictions and the sensitivities of the community here. 2020 had brought everything to halt with a knock-on effect in 2021. We were unable to have any prospective Brothers to visit or stay their 48 hours and there were also no Gownings, creating seven vacancies over the past two or more years. There were no Gaudy lunches, but we were able to use the Chapel in our masks and with social distancing. Then as I looked through the pictures of last year I found that we had in fact been fairly active!

'We are thankful that no Brothers had the virus during 2021, although some were hospitalised due to acute health needs. There were several farewells: Groundsman Les Surry retired after 25 years' service to the Hospital and in June, Brother John Goodman moved to a local care home and became a Brother Emeritus. In November, Ian Ruddle our postman for some 17 years moved to Canada to join his wife. They were married in the Chapel just before lockdown.



*Farewells to Les Surry, Brother John Goodman and the postie! Amongst other presents, Les was given a darts board, featuring his photo in the middle and photos of the Hospital staff and Brothers around the edge!*



‘We were also able to thank the volunteers who helped the Brothers with shopping and medical supplies during the lockdowns, with a tea in the Master’s Garden (left). In September we had an official visit by Tim Weale, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire (right), to thank the Hospital Community for the care taken throughout the Covid pandemic to keep everyone safe.



‘We managed two celebrations – In May the Brothers shared lunch in the Brethren’s Hall to celebrate the relaxation of social distancing and isolation restrictions, and in August we held a celebratory tea to mark Brother John Goodman’s 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. By using several cars we also managed a few outings under rather strange conditions with a driver and one masked Brother in each vehicle and with the windows open! These were to The Holt, home of one of our Trustees, Katherine Wake, to Ashley House to visit our former Master, Reg, and Muriel, and to our friends at St Mary’s Almshouses in Chichester. On Christmas Day we were kindly invited to Christmas Lunch in the Master’s Lodge, and were graciously served by the Master, Ruth and two of their friends. So it wasn’t a bad year after all!’



*Above: visits to the homes of Katherine Wake and the former Master, and to St Mary’s Almshouses, Chichester. Below: Master and Brothers celebrating the end of lockdown in the Hundred Men’s Hall; and group photo in the Chapel.*





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