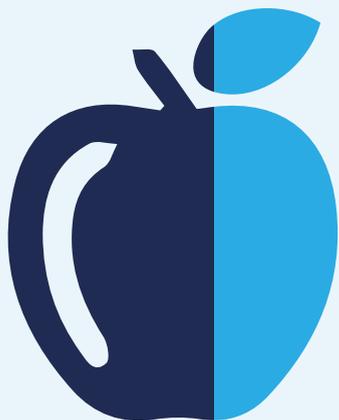




**Herefordshire
Historic
Churches
Trust**



Through The Lychgate HHCT News & Annual Report 2017/18



THE HEREFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

War Memorial Lychgate,
Bishops Frome

Built in 1921 to commemorate the
Great War and those of the village
who served and fell. It was designed
by Herbert Skyrme.



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RIDE AND STRIDE

Ben Furnival
James Probert

Chairman's Report 2018

This year feels like the end of an era; we have lost three strong supporters of the Trust. Lord Darnley died last June after many years of being our Chairman. Since then two early trustees have also died, Sir John Cotterell who was appointed in 1970 and Henry Moore who was appointed in 1976. We look back on their time with the Trust with much gratitude and affection and hope that we, as their successors, can continue their work into the future in a grant-giving environment which is constantly changing.



It was only in the mid 1970s that interest was taken by government in the repair of churches. This increased significantly a decade later with church grants from English Heritage, replaced in 2013 by support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. With declining interest in the Lottery, by 2016 we saw the last of the Roof Repair Grant and last year the Grants for Places of Worship. PCCs, now with many more hoops to jump through, have to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money from a pot shared with other heritage organisations. With the emphasis on sustainability, a recent government report suggests having Fabric Support Officers and Community Support Advisers to aid our beleaguered PCCs in addressing the many problems our churches face. We have had similar excellent officers in this county for some years, demonstrating Herefordshire's forward thinking. We continue to give grants for kitchens and toilets in an attempt to help in such sustainability and to bring the church back into the centre of the community.

This year we gave a grant of £5000 towards the post of Buildings Support Officer, (currently held by Tim Bridges), in recognition of the important work he does and we are very pleased that Wendy Coombey received an MBE for all the work she has done over the years in this county advising PCCs and beyond. Unfortunately for us, we are losing Paddy Benson, who is retiring from his position as Archdeacon. I would like to thank him for the many years of advice he has given to the Trust and wish him well in his retirement. We would like to welcome John Handby as one of our new trustees who will be joining the team on the grants and finance advisory committee.

Lead thefts continue to be a problem in the county and I hope that this year we may be able to announce a new series of grants to help church administrators install security devices. I try to warn PCCs if I have their email address when thieves are in the county but sadly it is usually after a crime has been committed.

Our social events, the Ride and Stride, the Church Crawl, Music in Quiet Places, the Coffee Morning and Ledbury Silent Film have been very well supported and I would like to thank all those trustees or members of the executive committee who have made them possible and of course those of you who have attended the events. Thank you also to Susanna who has done such a good job in putting together this copy of the Lychgate.

We are a very active organisation which is passionate about supporting our lovely Herefordshire churches. It is not easy in this financial climate to give support to all but we are receptive to ideas and give grants where we can.

David Furnival
Chairman

Treasurer's Report 2018

During 2017, a record £101,800 was paid out to PCCs for grants - awarded in 2017 and 2016. In fact, the year had started with a carry-over balance of £79,000 in awards which had not been taken up in 2016, but that figure was quickly reduced with the arrival of spring and the renewal of maintenance and refurbishment projects. Even with that relatively large outstanding balance, there was no shortage of applications in 2017 and net awards totaling £67,500 were made during the year. That was in addition to smaller grants given to churches after any of our activities – such as the Church Crawl or Music in Quiet places. In total, a further £6,500 was given to individual churches which had helped with our events.

It was also an interesting year for the fundraising teams with some of them seeing changes. Their individual reports have all the details so I will simply thank the teams, both old and new. Change is never easy, but it is essential. Probably the biggest change in 2017 involved Ride and Stride. As a result, income from the event fell slightly but it is hoped that, as the re-organisation develops, so the income will pick up and once again top the £10k mark. Meanwhile Music in Quiet places continues to expand. The innovative approach (with on-line booking!) and excellent performers – especially from Hereford Sixth form College – not to mention the Silent Films, have definitely been well rewarded with income of over £6,000 during the year – an increase of more than half as much again as in 2016.

Personal donations took a bit of a dip in 2016 but recovered during 2017 with a 9% increase. Subscriptions and donations from PCCs increased by nearly 50%! Over the past few years, fundraising together with these donations have accounted, on average, for about half of our “basic” income. The other half has come from our investments, including bank interest. The investment portfolio finished the year with a valuation of nearly £882,000 – an increase of 5% on the 2016 position. The valuation does, of course, depend on the “global market” and that can go down as well as up. But we have been lucky with increases recorded in the last few years. Perhaps I should not say “lucky”, rather that we have very capable brokers in Redmayne Bentley.

From all of this, it is clear that the Trust remains in a comfortable financial position, with adequate funds to meet all current demands. Furthermore, the Trust can confidently continue awarding grants during 2018.

*Robyn J Lee,
Treasurer*

Grants Awarded

Grants awarded April 2017 to be claimed by April 2019

Church	Amount
Kington, St Marys	10,000
Weston Under Penyard, St Lawrences	10,000
Kingstone, St Michael and All Angels	Cornerstone 15,000
Dorstone, St Faiths	3,500
Cradley, St James the Great HLF Stage I	3,000
Preston Wynne, Holy Trinity, HLF Stage I	5,000
Brampton Abbots, St Michael and All Angels. HLF Stage I	3,500
Lingen, St Michael and All Angels	Harley Trust. 1,000
Brinsop, St Georges	Harley Trust. 1,500 2,100

Grants awarded October 2017 to be claimed by October 2019

Church	Amount
Leysters, St Andrew's	Partnership. 4000
Almeley, St Mary's	Partnership. 3000
Abbey Dore, Holy Trinity and Mary	Partnership. 3000
Marstow, St Matthew's	3900
Tedstone Delamere, St James The Great	5000
Hentland, St Dubricius	4000

Accounts 2017

THE HEREFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31st December 2017

<u>Expenditure</u>	£	<u>Income</u>	£	£
Grants payable		Subs and Donations		
Project awards to PCCs	67,500	Covenants incl Gift Aid	11,982	
Small grants to Churches	6,500	Donations	6,753	
		Legacies	0	
		PCC	<u>4,299</u>	23,034
Expenses		Income on investments		30,509
Ride & Stride costs	158	Interest on deposits		1,725
Music in Quiet Places & Film	1,853			
Church Crawl and Coffee morning	1,395	Fund raising		
Allocated support costs	2,437	Ride & Stride	8,283	
		Coffee mornings	2,352	
		Church Crawl	1,730	
Other general expenses	8,249	Music in Quiet Places	4,255	
		Silent Film	<u>1,756</u>	18,376
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	(14,448)			_____
	<u>73,644</u>			<u>73,644</u>

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2017

	£		£	£
Unrestricted funds		Investments at market value		881,728
Balance at 1st January 2017	915,546	Bank balances:		
		CoE CBF & CCLA	67,258	
		Redmayne Bentley	2,716	
		Barclays	<u>33,780</u>	103,754
Unrealised net gain on investments	41,983	Debtors:		
		Loans to PCCs	0	
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	(14,449)	Other	<u>3,296</u>	3,296
		Creditors:		
		Grants committed and unpaid	44,700	
		PrePayment MiQP	249	
		Other creditors	<u>750</u>	
Balance at 31st December 2016	<u>943,080</u>			<u>(45,698)</u>
				<u>943,080</u>

PCCs that have donated in 2017

Adforton	Huntington	Pipe cum Lyde
Ashperton	Kenchester	Pixley
Bodenham	Kimbolton	Preston Wynne
Bosbury	Kings Pyon	Putley
Bredenbury	Kingsland	Ross
Brinsop	Kingstone	Sellack
Brobury	Kington	St Anna's
Brock Chapel	Knill	St Marys
Bromyard	Llangrove	St Matthews
Canon Pyon	Lyonshall	St Michaels
Cradley	Marden	St Weonards
Dean & Chapter Hfd Cathedral	Michaelchurch	Staunton on Arrow
Dewsall with Callow	Middleton	Stoke Lacy
Dilwyn	Moccas	Titley
Dormington	Monnington	Upton Bishop
Dorstone Church	Much Dewchurch	Walterstone Church
Eardisland	Much Marcle	Wellington
Edwyn Ralph	Munsley	Westhide
Eye	Norton Canon	Whitchurch
Eyton	Orcop	Whitney
Garway	Pembridge	Wigmore
Hentland	Peterchurch	Wormbridge
Holmer	Peterstow	Yarkhill

Coffee Morning 2017

Another amazing result again this year in spite of the fear of traffic problems and road closures. It was a fine and sunny morning with our loyal supporters turning up to enjoy meeting friends and purchasing bulbs, plants and cakes.

I was particularly concerned this time as I had to manage without June Chase and her students from White Cross Academy. I need not have worried as behind the scenes I was fortunate enough to have some very able ladies who made and served coffee. They cleared cups and saucers and operated the dishwasher.

The cake stall groaned under the weight of cakes, pickles, jams and produce. The good ladies did so well in selling everything and raising more than the previous year.

Thanks also go to the friends who sold bulbs and plants, not forgetting a very successful raffle. All the usual things that make the morning so successful.

The Trust, as always, is delighted with the way we are supported either by donation or attendance which in turn makes the morning well worth while.

Jill Gallimore

Church Crawl 2017 - The Lower Wye Valley

Our 2017 Church Crawl on 20th May proved a fascinating day when we explored the Wye Valley between Ross and Symonds Yat. We met at Whitchurch to visit St Dubricius' Church beside the river. The present church building is mainly 14th century, but it has a long history being an ancient Celtic Christian site as is indicated by the dedication. St Dubricius or Dyfrig was a 6th century holy man who founded a number of churches, including this one, in the former kingdom of Ergyng or Archenfield - what is now South Herefordshire. It is believed he went on to become the first bishop of Llandaff. We received a warm welcome from Sue Morris and members of the congregation with coffee and biscuits when we assembled in the Victorian north aisle which has been beautifully adapted as a community space.

We then boarded two small coaches and set off for Goodrich. The village is famous for its castle, one of the great border fortresses and mainly rebuilt in the 13th century for William de Valence. However, we discovered the fine medieval church, its tall spire being a landmark in the network of lanes and houses, is a real gem. Amongst the treasures we saw were the medieval stone shrine and a fine stained glass window by AJ Davies of the Bromsgrove Guild. We received another lovely welcome from churchwarden Caroline Griffiths and learned about the current repair project as well as plans for installing a kitchen and facilities in the north aisle.

A short drive then took us past the remains of medieval Flanesford Priory and across the river by the Georgian Kerne Bridge to Walford. Here, St Michael's Church is approached by a tree-lined drive leading from the impressive war memorial on the main road. The west end of the medieval church has recently been adapted for community use with a beautifully designed space and kitchen. Murray Alston, the churchwarden, gave us an interesting description of the project and made us hot drinks whilst we enjoyed our picnic lunches and explored the many interesting features of the church including the impressive bell tower once detached from the church.

Back onto the coaches, we drove into the fringe of the Forest of Dean and Bishop's Wood. All Saints' church stands on a hillside on the Bishop's Wood Estate, which was developed from an ironworking centre as a country house and parkland for John and Eliza Partridge in the 19th century. The church dates from 1845, and we are grateful to Barry and Carol Pimblett for opening up and showing us around. The ironwork screen and massive bellcote are two unusual features that we noted at this church.

Our final visit was to Welsh Bicknor. The parish – a detached part of Monmouthshire until 1845 – is on a peninsular on the River Wye and includes the privately owned Courtfield Estate. We were given permission to see St Margaret's church by the Vaughan Family and Mark their agent kindly opened it for us. Access is by a narrow, steep lane from Goodrich, so our excellent drivers from P.W. Jones took their coaches as far as they were able, but beyond the hairpin bend we either walked or were ferried by car to the church. It stands next to the former rectory, now a youth hostel, in the valley. It was quite an adventure on the steep narrow lane, but everyone agreed it was well worth it to visit this magnificent church. The site is again ancient and another Celtic church foundation once dedicated to St Constantine. However, the present building was erected in 1858 at great expense for the rector and a friend to designs by Thomas Rushforth. The building resembles a church from central Europe with its Romanesque style tower, doorways and windows. Magnificently decorated with carvings and stained glass, the church also contains a

very fine 13th century stone memorial effigy to a lady. Outside is an impressive churchyard cross. Closed for Anglican worship and sold in 2011, the church building is now owned by the Vaughan family, who have retained their Catholic faith since the Reformation. It is being restored as a Roman Catholic chapel. It was a privilege to be able to visit St Margaret's during the restoration work and to see such excellent craftsmanship being employed in the conservation of this most unusual building beside the Wye Valley Way.



St Dubricius' Church, Whitchurch

We returned to Whitchurch in time to enjoy the beautiful church building as well as the remarkable Georgian grave enclosure in the churchyard. This was erected in 1744 for the Gwillim Family and restored in 2004 with Heritage Lottery funding; the family were the ancestors of Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe wife of John Simcoe, first governor of Upper Canada and founder of York now the city of Toronto. We are always surprised to find such important international links in the Herefordshire countryside. An excellent tea in the north aisle completed this most enjoyable day when we were also blessed with fine weather.

Tim Bridges

Ali Haydn-Jones

Susanna McFarlane

Ecclesiastical Insurance

We don't normally take advertisements in the Lychgate, but Ecclesiastical Insurance has some great offers which will benefit churchgoers, volunteers and the churches we all love. To celebrate its 130th anniversary of insuring the Anglican community, Ecclesiastical is offering to donate £130 to a nominated church when a new home insurance policy is taken out. Its current home insurance customers have ranked it first, ahead of 46 other insurers, in the independent Fairer Finance rankings. This might be driven by recognition of its Christian values, charitable ownership and unique approach. Its policies are tailored and specially discounted. If you are a church volunteer or worker, you can claim an additional discount off your Contents and Buildings Insurance when bought together online or over the phone. When you call to claim your discount - quote code DIOP10. Or enter discount code DIOP10 when getting a quote online. This discount can be used in addition to the £130 donation to your church - so it's a win win for all concerned!

If you or your church family would like to know more about this offer, or to get a quote, call: 0800 783 0130 quoting TRUST130 or visit <http://www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130>

Ecclesiastical Insurance have donated £100 to offset some of the costs of the Lychgate

Ecclesiastical's parent charity, the All Churches Trust, has donated huge sums to churches and church related bodies (including HHCT) since its inception in 1972. We are grateful for their continued support to the churches of Herefordshire and further afield.



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When it feels **irreplaceable**, trust



Membership Report 2017/18

As always, on behalf of the Trustees of HHCT, I would like to thank all supporters and PCC Members for their commitment to the Trust.

Our annual Church Crawl, Coffee Morning and Music In Quiet Places events continue to be strongly supported – both financially and in participation. Thank you.

The Trust is working hard to publicise its role in grant giving, general advice and support to all churches and places of worship within Herefordshire.

Through our fundraising events, we not only raise money but also our profile in the County and beyond. This is where YOU (our supporters and PCC Members) can help – please ‘spread the word’ and tell your friends and neighbours about our events and work. Any suggestions on how we can improve would be gratefully received! The Trust needs to extend its profile to attract the next generation of support in order to maintain our wonderful heritage for the future.

Meanwhile, I look forward to a successful year ahead for HHCT and thank you once again for your support in 2016/17.

Ali Haydn Jones (alihjmeycote@btinternet.com)

Events in 2018

TBC: Annual Meeting at St George’s Church, Brinsop with tea afterwards at Brinsop Court by kind invitation of Pat and Martin Churchward

5th May: Church Crawl

26th June: NCT Annual Conference,

8th September: Ride and Stride

4th October: Coffee Morning, Hereford Town Hall

16th November: Adam Darnley Memorial Lecture, College Hall, Hereford Cathedral

Music In Quiet Places

24th March: St Mary’s Church, Dilwyn, Academia Musica

17th April: Leominster Priory, HCS and Chetham’s School of Music, Berstein Anniversaries

12th May: Holy Trinity Church, Hereford, Trio Syncordia with piano, violin and cello

9th June: St Mary’s Church, Ross-on-Wye, Semi-Toned, BBC2’s The Choir; Best in Britain

30th June: St Mary’s, Cusop, Jemima Phillips - Harpist Friends’ Concert



THE HEREFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Membership Application

Please write you details in Block Capitals

Title: First name(s) or initial(s)

Surname:

Full home address:

.....

eMail **Tel. No:**

Please note that HHCT will hold your details in electronic form for internal use. Under no circumstances would the Trust ever divulge your details to any third party individual or organisation

STANDING ORDER: to your bank

Name of Bank:

Full address:

..... Postcode:

Name of Account Holder:

Account No: Sort Code:

Please pay - **monthly / quarterly / annually** (*delete accordingly*) until further notice to Barclays Bank Hereford (20-39-64), for the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust (A/C No: 60484296),

the sum of **£30 £75 £100** (please circle) **or other amount £.....**

Starting either **on receipt or on date** (*allow 28 days for processing*)

Signature **Date:**

If possible, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration

Please detach here



THE HEREFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Gift Aid Declaration

Gift Aid declaration - for past present and future donations

Please treat as Gift Aid donations, all qualifying gifts of money made during the past year, made today and in the future.

I confirm that I have paid, or will pay, an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all of the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) to which I donate will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes, such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Donor's details:

Title: First name(s) or initial(s)

Surname:

Full home address:

.....

Postcode: **eMail:**

Signature **Date:**

Please notify the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Also, please note that HHCT will hold your details in electronic form for internal use. Under no circumstances would the Trust ever divulge your details to any third party individual or organisation.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your SelfAssessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please detach here

Weeping Window - using the exterior of our churches

For some years, we have been developing the *interiors* of our churches. Activities which would have been unthinkable fifty years ago - coffee in the Nave, Harvest Suppers and so on - are now a normal part of church and parish activity. In many ways, this has been a return to the practice of pre-Reformation times, when the naves of churches were used for secular activities.

So it is with cathedrals. In Hereford, 'the largest umbrella in the city' has a huge range of activities inside the building - exhibitions, Nave dinners, concerts. In such ways we are using the interiors of our churches to full capacity and making them more accessible and inclusive.

But what about the *exteriors*? In recent years we've seen developments here too. In the past year, the west front of Lichfield has been lit up with laser lights to show the vivid colour of the medieval exterior. Durham Cathedral has been the subject of a popular 'light show' and even St Paul's Cathedral has used its exterior for advertising! At Remembrance-tide, for the past couple of years, Hereford Cathedral has changed its architectural lighting to bright red to reflect the sombre nature of the sacrifice made by so many.



We are also engaging with a further transformation of our Cathedral's exterior for 6 weeks. *Weeping Window* is an installation using hundreds of ceramic poppies. We've seen something similar at the Tower of London, where thousands of visitors flocked to see the spectacle of a sea of scarlet cascading from the walls of the Tower. Now, a similar installation will transform the exterior of the north transept of the cathedral from mid-March. We are hoping that many will come from across the West Midlands to engage with this special interpretation of remembrance in this, the final year of First World War commemorations. Of course, the poppies will cause us to pause and recall the huge sacrifice made by millions in that terrible war - not least in Herefordshire, where thousands contributed to the war effort on the front and also at home on the 'Home Front'. But perhaps, too, those of us who value our historic churches will see it as an imaginative way of helping visitors to see our churches and cathedrals in new ways. Often we take the exteriors of our churches for granted - tower, transept, nave. But the exteriors can change too - and provide dramatic back-drops for thought-provoking displays.

Weeping Window, by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper, will appear at Hereford cathedral from 14 March until 29 April 2018 as part of the final year of 14-18 NOW's UK-side tour.

Michael Tavinor
Dean of Hereford

From the East End to the West of England: the origins of the bells of Herefordshire and the closure of The Whitechapel Bell Foundry

Herefordshire was the last county in England to receive a detailed study of its church bells. In 1966 the appropriately named F Sharpe filled the gap. Sharpe's researches were a masterpiece of scholarship, but bells lend themselves to even amateur investigation — their manufacture traditionally includes the inscription of epigrams and information about their maker. Those bearing the mark of the Whitechapel foundry tell even the layman about the connections between the humble bell of their own church tower and the famous commissions that began life in the same historic manufactory in London's East End — Philadelphia's Liberty Bell, 'Big Ben', the 2012 Olympic bell among them.

Sharpe's listing of inscriptions is comprehensive, but earlier examples do not always betray the foundry. For that reason, and because Whitechapel continued to produce bells for Herefordshire until the foundry's closure in 2017 — by then England's oldest business — it is hard to say how many of the county's bells were made there.

Other foundries were more common. Much manufacture occurred in cathedral cities, unsurprisingly, and in the west we find important foundries at Worcester, Bristol, Salisbury and, especially, Gloucester (re-established in 1684 by Abraham Rudhall and until the 1830s one of the most productive makers, turning out almost 5,000 bells). Abbey Dore, Acton Beauchamp, Allensmore, Almeley, Aston Ingham, Avenbury, Aymestry — in just the first letter of the alphabet a majority of parishes boast a bell made by a Rudhall of Gloucester; the sample is typical.

Nevertheless, Whitechapel had an antiquity and a reputation that set it apart. The period after the Reformation was bad for bell founders: production ceased altogether in London between 1530 and 1570, when Robert Mot established the business just a short distance from the site it occupied from 1739 until last year. It grew mostly by acquisition — the Mearses, the dynasty who owned Whitechapel from 1783, bought Rudhalls of Gloucester in 1835. By the nineteenth century only Loughborough could compete (and is now the UK's last surviving foundry).

By the twentieth century recasting of old bells (often due to damage) was as important as the making of new ones. It is commoner in Herefordshire to find the Whitechapel mark on an older bell of another make than on a new commission. Bosbury provides an example: Sharpe notes that a bell recast at Whitechapel in 1937 was made during the Reformation. Its unintelligible inscription — a string of letters, some upside down or on their side — may be encoded theological arcana, common on the 'alphabet bells' of the period.

The story of Whitechapel bells in Herefordshire finishes at the end of the alphabet — Yarkhill. A new ring of eight bells, believed to be its last commission in the county, was cast in 2011 and proudly hangs alongside older locals — including one cast, unusually, in Hereford, in the 1640s.

Besides recording the history of bells, Frederick Sharpe provided for their future. His will established a grant-making trust for their repair; Dorstone (2017) was a recent local recipient. He would have



Yarkhill's bells

been saddened by Whitechapel's demise. The Grade II* building on Whitechapel Road has been sold but the new buyer is committed to recognising its historic importance. In January 2018 talks were underway that may result in bell founding once again taking place on site.

Whatever happens, the inscriptions of Whitechapel's bells will tell future generations the story of their origins and manufacture. That tradition continues at Yarkhill; all but one of the new bells carries the a benefactor's name. C-sharp speaks for the bells: "All I have is a voice." May it speak out for centuries to come.

Medieval Justice

Leominster Priory boasts one of the few remaining ducking stools in the country and possibly the best preserved. Leominster is also the location of the last recorded ducking – of Jenny Pipes, a ‘notorious scold’, in 1809. There was in fact a subsequent intended victim – Sarah Leeke – in 1817 but the water in the River Kenwater was so low that she was simply paraded around the town in the chair!

Originally called a cucking stool, this was one of a range of medieval forms of punishment and social humiliation which included the pillory and the stocks. All of these punishments involved means of restraint for the offender whilst their townsfolk pelted them with rotten eggs, vegetables or anything else that came to hand, and in some cases, stones. The use of these instruments of punishment reflected the public mood in a much more violent and cruel age, and often resulted in death.

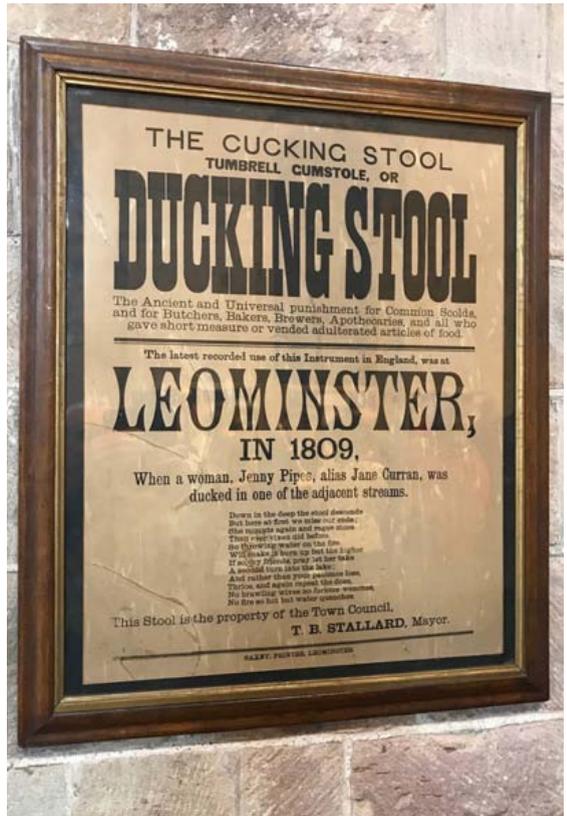
In its original form it was a restraining seat derived from a commode that the offender was secured into, sometimes with wheels, so that it could be paraded through the town to add to the humiliation. Over time the concept was developed into a ducking stool with a long arm for immersing the offender in the local pond or river. Another version was a tumbrel – a chair on two wheels with two long shafts fixed to the axles. This was pushed into the water and up-ended.



It is remembered as primarily a punishment for women although sometimes men were subjected to it – usually traders who short changed or gave false measures. The main offence seems to have been acting as a scold and less frequently for sexual offences. In this guise it was more an affront to dignity than anything else, unless of course the water was particularly cold or the immersion prolonged when it could prove fatal.

Rather more serious was its use to detect witchcraft. In these cases the suspect was dunked in the water and if she rose to the surface this confirmed she was a witch (as she was rejecting the 'baptismal water'). If on the other hand she drowned this confirmed her innocence – posthumously!

Boroughs and manors were compelled by law to obtain their own ducking stool and keep it in good working order. The records of the Court in Leominster contain entries relating to many fines imposed on the Borough for failing to provide a ducking stool in good working order.



Ironically the Leominster ducking stool is in remarkably good condition. It dates from 1718 and was placed in the Priory in 1895.

This form of punishment was originally used by the Saxons and is mentioned in the Domesday book as being in use in Chester. The term cucking stool is first recorded in 1215 but by the 16th century the term ducking stool was in general use. It was still routinely used as a form of punishment as late as the middle of the 18th century. Whilst the punishment fell into disuse at the beginning of the 19th century it was only officially abolished by the Criminal Law Act of 1976.

Its final appearance (briefly) was in Monty Python and the Holy Grail in 1975!

John Handby

The Historic Chapels Trust

The Historic Chapels Trust (www.hct.org.uk) is a secular charity that is the acquirer of last resort of important Nonconformist & Catholic churches and chapels no longer used by their congregations. We restore them and make them available for religious and secular use. Founded in 1993, we are the only body in England dedicated to doing this. HCT owns 20 churches, chapels and meeting-houses, all of them of outstanding architectural and or historical importance and listed Grade I or II* and representing a vital strand in our national story. We never use the phrase 'redundant church' for our buildings; we welcome the public to visit them and encourage their use for weddings, concerts, occasional worship and events.

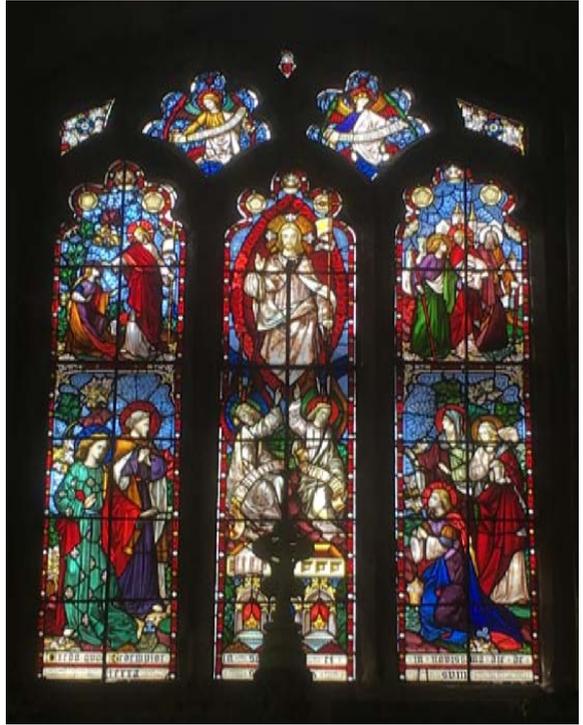
Longworth Chapel, in Bartestree near Hereford, is Grade II* listed. It was built in c1390 as part of Longworth Hall but fell into disuse after the Reformation. It was relocated stone by stone to Bartestree Convent in 1870, where it served as the public chapel. Edward Welby Pugin (1834 –75) almost certainly oversaw the relocation. A key feature of the relocated Chapel is the stained glass window, by Hardman & Co. of Birmingham, described by a specialist as 'of exceptional quality.'

Sadly, after the convent closed, the chapel again fell into disrepair; it was vandalised and an arson attack destroyed part of the floor. HCT rescued the chapel in 2001 and undertook major building work to save it from dereliction.

The Hardman window was removed for safe-keeping as it had become too delicate to remain in situ. It was replaced by a functional, but unlovely, corrugated plastic covering.

HCT began a campaign to raise funds for the conservation and reinstatement of the window and, after three years and with generous support from the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust, we finally reached our target.





The window was conserved at a workshop in Birmingham, appropriately, a stone's throw from where the Hardman & Company made it in the 1860s. The stonework of the window tracery was also repaired.

The conservation and reinstatement of the Hardman window is a great achievement for us but there is much still to do at Longworth. Further external and internal repairs are needed and we also need to install light, heat and a WC so we are fundraising once more! Once this work is done it will be possible for our neighbour, St Michael's Hospice, and local community groups, to use the building much more actively and to bring life to Longworth Chapel again.

We are enormously grateful to Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust's support for this project, which marks an important milestone in our work to restore the chapel and make it a real asset for its local community.

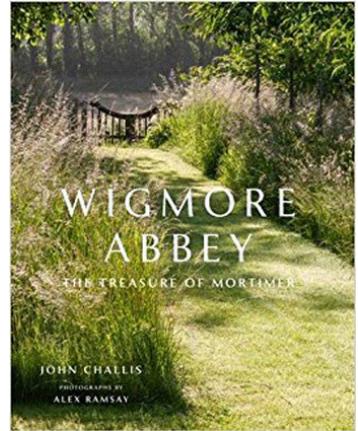
*Nell Hoare,
Consultant HCT
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Book Reviews

Wigmore Abbey: The Treasure of Mortimer by John Challis

Some members may remember our enjoyable church crawl to Wigmore some years ago and so a recently published book may be of interest. "Wigmore Abbey: The Treasure of Mortimer" is a pictorially rich biography of the house and its inhabitants written by John Challis with photographs by Alex Ramsay.

Challis and his wife, Carol, came across the Abbey whilst flicking through the property pages of Country Life. Then living in Richmond, serendipity took a guiding hand - Carol's ancestors had lived at the Abbey for 200 years after the Dissolution of the Monasteries. With this association, the fate of Wigmore (and the Challis') was sealed. As detailed in the book, they restored the house using traditional craftsmen, tools and materials. They have totally revitalised the gardens with local historic varieties of flora.

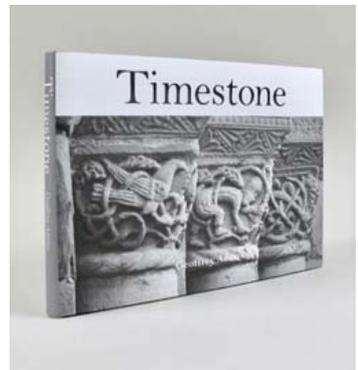


This book is an engaging and beautifully illustrated account of the house and its restoration - a rich and eloquent pictorial record of Wigmore Abbey today. A fuller review of the book can be found on our blog, accessible via our website www.hhct.co.uk.

Ben Furnival

Timestone by Geoffrey Adams

Timestone expresses a passion for history and heritage, a fascination with the passing of time and the impermanence of all things temporal - and the enduring power of stone. Human history is written in stone across the landscape; stone marks our progress from ancient standing stones, through the great Medieval period of castles, churches, abbeys and cathedrals, to the fine stone houses of a later age. Stone tells our story, stone charts our journey. Our castles and abbeys bear the marks of past conflict and desecration, but with the passing of time, these historic buildings - even the remnants of industry that once scarred the countryside, have become part of a gentler and more romantic landscape. Time heals.



Ben Furnival

Ride and Stride



We are delighted to be running Ride and Stride again this year. 2017 was a great success with over £8,000 raised. Thank you to all who supported the event and the 45 who took part. Particular thanks must go to Catharine Sadler who raised £635 - a pound more than last year, and David and Jessica Tidball from Marden who visited 14 churches, cycling 32 miles. What achievements! We'd love to hear other stories. Thanks must, of course, go to the parish organisers who made sure their church was open and in many cases arranged for it to be manned throughout the day and refreshments provided.

We are really trying to encourage new participants and are open to suggestions of how we can make it more attractive, particularly to younger people. Perhaps supporters of HHCT might be able to encourage their children and grandchildren to take part with their friends from school? Travel between the churches doesn't have to be on a bike. Kings Pyon, for example, did local guided walk with Alan Biggs. Other counties have been known to use horses or classic cars. We are looking to split the county into four areas with some of the organisational responsibilities shared between volunteers in their area. We have someone for East and North Herefordshire. Are there any takers for the South and West of the county?

*Ben Furnival
James Probert*

The Hunchback of Notre Dame to Organ...

In October HHCT hosted its second silent film night in St Michael's Ledbury, featuring the 1923 version of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* which stars Lon Chaney as the hunchback, and Patsy Ruth Miller as Esmeralda. Our organist for the evening was Anthony Hammond, Director of Music and Organist at Cirencester Parish Church, and founder and artistic director of the Cirencester International Organ Festival. In addition to his reputation as a performer of French and 20th century organ music, Anthony has made something of a specialism of silent film improvisation and his ability to play for the best part of two hours without a break left the audience awestruck. The Ledbury organ rose to the occasion under Anthony's fingers, finding appropriate music for every mood, and even including a few musical jokes – Esmeralda masqueraded as an Egyptian princess to the strains of Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*.



This blockbuster from Universal Studios was the fifth film adaptation of Victor Hugo's novel, but outshone its predecessors in the lavishness of its sets, including a very convincing recreation of the cathedral of Notre Dame. Like most film adaptations of the novel it plays fast and loose with the plot, in part to avoid upsetting the church: for example, the villain of the piece is not the Archdeacon (improbably saintly in this version) but his evil brother. Lon Chaney puts in an extraordinary performance as the hunchback, featuring his own grotesque make-up, and does all his own hazardous-looking stunts. Though the film ends with the death of tortured hunchback, Esmeralda finds love with the extravagantly named Phoebus de Chateaupers – and his shiny coalscuttle helmet!

Like many silent films, this was thought in the years after the second world war to be of no interest to posterity, and Universal Studios destroyed large quantities of the notoriously flammable nitrous film stock as well as failing to renew its copyright on the 1923 *Hunchback*. The film has survived only via 16mm home movie copies which are inevitably less detailed than the 35mm originals, though digital restoration has greatly improved the version we screened.

We were delighted to welcome a large audience and look forward to future silent film screenings. Initial thoughts are for a comedy evening next time – but if anyone has suggestions, please get in touch.

Our thanks to St Michael's for hosting the evening, to resident organist Philip Hammond for his co-operation, and to the Bosbury "Flicks in the Sticks" team for the loan of their projector.

Stephen Cheetham

Music in Quiet Places 2017

“The essence of the beautiful is unity in variety” said Felix Mendelssohn. Music in Quiet Places concerts are beautiful and there is unity of purpose in providing opportunity and there is variety in terms of performers, music and locations.

Opportunities are provided for children and adults to perform, for audiences around the county to attend a concert local to them, for churches to welcome people through their doors who might not normally venture within and for HHCT to raise awareness of its presence and aims. 2017 saw full audiences entertained by children of primary school age (from Kingsland, Mordiford and Fownhope) and secondary (Malvern St. James, Hereford Cathedral) and adults - those performing for the first time as a choir, (The Athene Ladies' Choir) and those experienced in singing together, as in the Clothworkers' Consort from Leeds, who were a very welcome late addition to the programme when they volunteered to sing for us on their evening off from singing at the Cathedral.

The music selected for each programme is carefully chosen for entertainment value covering as wide a spectrum of tastes as possible. Classical composers are naturally represented but we also heard items popularised by Elvis Presley and the Everly Brothers, traditional folk tunes and songs from far-off lands. Instrumentalists, both soloists and ensembles participated, playing orchestral instruments as well as a steel band and one composed of ukuleles!

The locations for the concerts are deliberately chosen to cover as many areas of the county as possible, each church with its own special feature. We saw Colwall's slot in a stone wall reputedly where medieval archers sharpened their arrowheads, Kingsland's soaring arches which enabled such a wonderful rendition of Eric's Whitacre's *Lux Aurumque*, Brilley's original C12th font, Much Marcle's recently restored memorial of Blanche Mortimer, Eaton Bishop's renowned medieval stained glass and Woolhope's striking window commemorating Lady Godiva and her lesser-known sister Wulviva. One thing all the venues had in common and which provided unity for the whole series, was the warmth of the welcome given by all the churches to both audiences and performers, and for this we are so grateful. We are also very grateful to the clergy, churchwardens and local communities for their hosting of these events.

Those of you who have attended any of the concerts will know that there is the opportunity to have a drink during the interval and meet the musicians as well as the chance to visit a church with which one may be unfamiliar. We hope to be able to welcome more of you in the future. 2018's concerts include more professionals, made possible by sponsorship, for which we are greatly appreciative.

A Coldplay lyric from the concert at Brilley “When you lose something you cannot replace” reminds us how vulnerable many of our historic churches are and how important it is for us to do all we can to save them for future generations.

The church mouse

Sir John Geers Cotterell 1935-2017

Sir Richard Cotterell, John's father, was the Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire and the first President of the HHCT on its foundation in 1954. John became a member. He was acutely aware of the role played by the voluntary sector in Herefordshire.

Thomas Dunne, a past President of the HHCT writes:

In 1845 Sir John Geers Cotterell, 1st Bart. Died aged 88 at Garnons, and was buried in the family vault at Mansel church.

His obituary reads thus:

"The name of Sir John Cotterell had been so long familiar – his public services so eminent – his frank and hospitable disposition so universally known and acknowledged, that there are few who will not feel in greater or less degree, that in his death one is lost; to them the very mention of whose name used to imply some sort of claim on their good will or respect.



In 2017 Sir John Geers Cotterell 6th Bart of Garnons died aged 82 and was buried in Bridge Sollers Church. Remarkably his death rouses similar emotions in me to those written 150 years earlier for his forbear.

Soon after leaving the Army John was running the Garnons estate, which thrives today in the care of his son Harry. But John with his wife Al was also embarking on an extraordinary life of public service.

John's greatest challenge was to chair, in its early years, the difficult union of Herefordshire with Worcestershire as a single County; he added to this a heady mixture of founding a commercial radio station, Radio Wyvern, accepting to chair the Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust, set up as a result of the proposed sale of the Mappa Mundi, and also accepting the National Presidency of the Young Farmers Club. He was a very active member of the Jockey Club and a steward of many local racecourses. In 2005 his wife Al died, but John continued his public service as long as he could. I re-echo the 1st Baronet's epitaph with an addition.

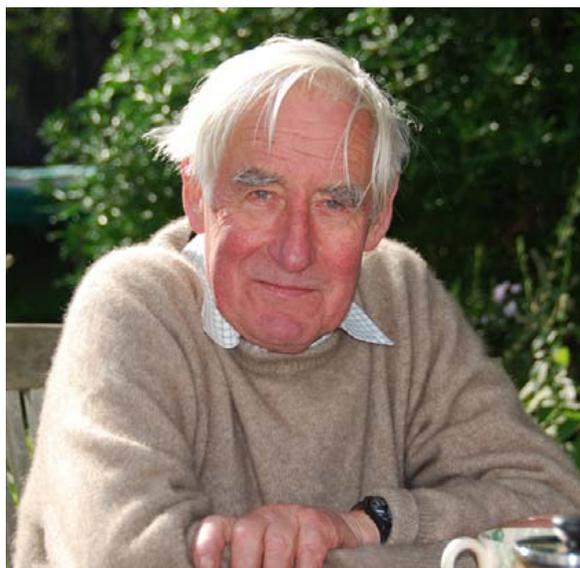
"The name of Sir John Cotterell had been so long familiar – his public services so eminent – his frank and hospitable disposition so universally known and acknowledged, that there are few who will not feel in greater or less degree, that in his death one is lost; he was respected, the kindest of men, and loved throughout Herefordshire"

Sir Thomas Dunne

Henry Moore MBE 1934-2017

The Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust was very sad to lose our longest serving Trustee and Executive Committee member in September 2017.

Henry was a Herefordshire man through and through and his abiding love, apart from his family, was his farm. He was the third generation of Moores to farm Shucknall and must be one of very few who were born and died in the same house, in the same room. He was immensely proud of his herd of Herefords, many of which became champions and whose progeny are scattered around the world. He went to Sedburgh School where he became a first class shot. He was commissioned into the King's Dragoon Guards and



later became a popular and hardworking officer in the Shropshire Yeomanry earning his Territorial Decoration after 15 years' service.

Henry had an ability to speak to anybody about almost anything and used this skill widely. For the Conservative Association, he loved canvassing, not everybody's idea of fun, and was extremely successful at it. In due course he became the Chairman of the Association: he served three MPs and with his customary diplomacy he managed to head off a potentially devastating split in the local party. His well deserved MBE was for political and voluntary services, with the emphasis on the latter.

Henry was involved in a host of charitable organisations including The Marches Housing Association and Conigsby Alms House for the Order of St John; he started and chaired the first meeting of the Stewardship of Hereford Cathedral, where he and Cessa worshipped throughout his life.

As a trustee of HHCT, Henry was involved with the Trust since it's inception in 1954 and was a tireless worker in visiting churches and giving them his advice. He was especially delighted if his visits meant a trip onto the roof or a good inspection of the drains. He always said his background in farming equipped him for both.

Henry was a very special man: a countryman, a soldier, political (never a politician), an artist, a traveller and explorer. He was committed to Herefordshire, it's churches and communities and we are lucky to have had his wisdom and knowledge in our Trust for so long.

Sarah de Rohans

The Earl of Darnley 1941-2017

The Earl of Darnley

The Earl of Darnley gave so much of his time over the last two decades to the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust, despite his involvement in several other charities. Many of you will be aware that he was a Trustee and then our Chairman. It was only a couple of years ago that ill health finally forced him to retire from that post and I wrote about him then in our annual news.

Adam was a dedicated, generous and much-respected Chairman. He put great energy into his work with the Trust ensuring that its income was fairly distributed to the many churches in the Diocese in need of financial support.

His support for Herefordshire churches was unreserved and it seems appropriate that the night before he died he spent an enjoyable evening at the Cathedral's

Nave Dinner. His presence in the county and at our events will be very much missed. His life was celebrated at a Cathedral service in September, packed with friends and family.

David Furnival



Cherishing the past, securing the future: leaving Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust a gift in your will

The HHCT makes grants of many thousands of pounds to the county's priceless historic churches every year. Some of that money is generated by annual fundraising activities, but much comes from the income we are able to generate on the capital we hold in trust from past benefactors. They wanted their money to provide some certainty that when important repairs were needed, the means to fund them could be found, regardless of the willingness or ability of the people facing those challenges at the time.

You may be considering leaving HHCT a gift in your will so that we can maintain and carefully manage our reserves in order that our vital work can continue uninterrupted after you die and for many years to come. If so, there are three main ways you can make the trust a beneficiary.

- Designate a particular percentage of the overall value of your estate to be paid to HHCT by your executors. This has the advantage of not needing to be changed constantly in line with inflation.
- Give a fixed cash sum; by planning carefully, the value of charitable legacies is deducted from an estate before calculations are made for tax purposes.
- Leave us something in kind — land, shares or objects of value.

Before making any decisions of this kind it is advisable to seek professional advice, online or preferably by speaking to your solicitor or a tax advisor. You may of course speak to our chairman or treasurer if that helps.

We and the communities of the future, who will go on enjoying Herefordshire's special places of worship, are grateful for the support you may already give the HHCT and thank you for any help you are able to provide to our cause after your death.

Hereford Cathedral "Weeping Window"



Photograph courtesy of Gabriella Karney Photography

Donate

Please complete the form inside and if appropriate, the Gift Aid Declaration and send with your donation to the Membership Secretary.

Gift aid

If you are a UK taxpayer, signing the Gift Aid declaration enables us to increase the value of your gift by reclaiming tax on your donation.

Remember HHCT in your will

Lend us your skills

Help is always welcome. Please contact our membership secretary.



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