



St Helen's Church  
Ashby-de-la-Zouch

# Heritage Project eNews

No. 11 August 2019



## Endings and New Beginnings

On 30th June, our Heritage Lottery funding came to an end. Final reports and accounts were submitted and accepted by Heritage Lottery and we have now entered into a new era with our Heritage Project.

Whilst Heritage Lottery will continue to take an interest from the sidelines, we are now on our own. In order to sustain our activity programme, we need to ensure that we have sufficient income to cover our expenditure and enough volunteers to run our activities. As a result, we will need to make a small charge for future events.

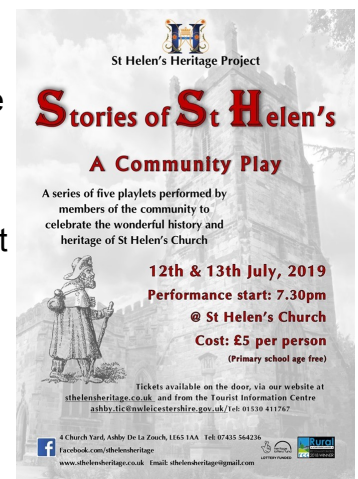
We are delighted to say that Sharn will be staying on as Project Operations Manager for 15 hours each week, but she cannot do everything (despite giving it a jolly good try) and we need 'Event Champions' to take charge of each individual event from now on. Please speak to Sharn if you would like to 'champion' one of our events.

## Our Community Plays

The last 'hurrah' of our Heritage Lottery funding was *Stories of St Helen's*. This took the form of five one act plays, written by members of our local community. All the plays were about people in some way associated with St Helen's Church, some from the present day and some 'brought back to life' from monuments around the church. Some were serious or moving, whilst others were more light hearted.

Wendy Freer's play of remembrance, 'Comrades in Arms,' was written in the centenary year of the First World War and brought together four soldiers from different eras, three Ashby men and a Frenchman from Napoleon's Army. Jill Chapman delighted our audience with her play, 'The Rotas,' a humorous take on Parish life. Helen Bralesford gave us two plays, one in which our 'Pilgrim' told his story to an interested visitor and another in which 'The Two Wives of Robert Nundi' argued out their differences on either side of the man himself. Terry Hammond's slightly risqué play, 'The Bell' offered an intriguing explanation as to how the bells got up into the Tower.

The two performances were joyous and highly entertaining for our audiences. A lot of people worked very hard, both onstage and behind the scenes, and we thank them all. Special thanks must go to Sharn Stinson, who produced the plays, and Diane Crane, who directed them.



## Contacts:

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# Since our last newsletter ...



Stained Glass Window Experience

## Moon Landings Workshop



Left:  
Archaeology Day



Right:  
Stories of St Helen's  
- Community Plays.  
Nigel Freer as  
Robert Nundi



## Heritage Talks

### Richard III and the Greyfriars Dig

On Monday 15th July, as part of the Festival of Archaeology, Dr Richard Buckley, lead archaeologist from the University of Leicester project which found Richard III in 2012, came to talk about the Greyfriars dig and its legacy.

Enquiries from many interested people in the weeks before Richard's talk led us to change the venue from our Hastings Hall (seating capacity around 80) to the Church and we were so glad we did!



Over 140 people came and listened with rapt attention to what Richard had to say. Many of our audience that evening are regular attendees at our winter Heritage talks, but we were also delighted to see new faces, some of whom had travelled quite a distance to be with us.

There was also an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the displays in the Heritage Centre over tea, coffee and biscuits after Richard's talk.

We've since learned that this talk has set a new record as the best attended talk ever during Leicestershire's Festival of Archaeology. Well done Ashby!

### Heritage Talk Series 2019-2020

Mondays at 7.30pm, Hastings Hall, St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

£3 including light refreshments

October 7th	Dr Rebecca Gregory	Viking Leicestershire
November 4th	Roger Willson	Viewing the stained glass at St Helen's in the context of an appreciation of Victorian glass
December 2nd	David Budge	Medieval pottery, found on our site. Who made it and what was it used for?
January 6th	Peter Liddle OBE	Medieval Pilgrimage to and from Leicestershire
February 3rd	Steve Woodward	Wildlife in Churchyards
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Research Group	Hot Off The Press 2! New finds by our very own research team

## Guided Tours of Church and Heritage Centre

This year has been busy for guided tours of both Church and Heritage Centre. We have welcomed Packington Men's Group, Hinkley U3A and the 'Exploring Heraldry' special interest group from Keyworth U3A. All enjoyed guided tours of the Church, preceded or followed by tea, coffee and home made cake in the Heritage Centre.

Ashby Camera Club previously visited the Church Tower in 2018 and displayed their photos of Tower and Bell Ringers in the Heritage Centre last winter. They returned in July to enjoy a guided tour of the church followed by some free time to take photos. The results of their endeavours will be on display in the Heritage Centre in December.

Next week, we will be welcoming Smisby WI for an evening tour of the Church followed by cheese and wine in the Heritage Centre.



*Not much cake left! Keyworth U3A visit in July.*



*Tour staff - still smiling*

If you know of a group of people who would like a tour of the Church, or a talk about Church and Heritage Centre, please don't hesitate to contact Sharn for details.



*Packington Men's Group visit*

## Traditional Games



We had great fun on 7th August, playing oversized traditional games in and around the Heritage Centre. Richard Vann is pictured here with his giant chess set. We also played draughts, snakes and ladders, tidly winks and noughts and crosses.

Cats Cradle provided hours of amusement to children and adults alike.

Who knew how many shapes could be made with one piece of string!



## How to find out about our Project

Our website: [www.sthelensheritage.co.uk](http://www.sthelensheritage.co.uk) Our Facebook page: [St Helen's Heritage Ashby de la Zouch](https://www.facebook.com/StHelenHeritageAshbydeZouch)

## **Events coming up ...**

### **Events for adults, children and families**

**Wednesday 21st August      11 am - 2 pm   Chalk & Doodles**

Our final family event of the summer holiday. Show your creative side as you doodle with all sorts of chalks.

Cost £3. Refreshments available.

**Saturday 14th September      10 am - 2 pm - Heritage Open Day**

Exhibition on 'Charities at St Helen's' in Church and ringing of a full peal on our bells between 10 am and 1.15 pm.

**Saturday 21st September      10 am - 2 pm - Heritage Open Day**

Exhibition on 'Charities at St Helen's' in Church

**Wednesday 16th October      11 am - 2 pm - The Big Draw**

Lots of fun drawing activities in and around Church and Heritage Centre.

Cost £3. Refreshments available.

**Saturday 26th October      10 am - 1 pm - Autumn Fayre**

A great place to get in some early shopping for Christmas.

Refreshments available.

**Saturday 30th November - Festival of Angels in Church and Heritage Centre.**

**Saturday 7th December      10 am - 1 pm - Pomander making workshop**

Cost £3. Refreshments available.

### **Autumn Concert Series**

We will be offering three very different concerts in the church this Autumn, each involving a choir.

Saturday 28th September      Jubilee Singers

Friday 18th October      Mosaic

Friday 8th November      8ctave

### **Special Services in Church**

Sunday 6th October - 10 am - Harvest Festival

Sunday 3rd November - 6 pm - A Time to Remember - service to remember loved ones who have passed away.

Sunday 10th November - 9.30 am - Remembrance Service in Church followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in town.

Sunday 1st December - 6.30 pm - Advent Carol Service

Sunday 8th December - 3.30 pm - Christingle Service

Sunday 22nd December - 6.30 pm - Christmas Carol Service