

Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1
Summer 2015



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Good News!

- Progress is being made with the documentation and archiving of the heritage collections.
- St Seraphim's Day liturgy this year takes place on Sunday 19th July at 10.30am, with refreshments afterwards in the garden.

St. Seraphim's Trust

St. Seraphim's News

CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF ST SERAPHIM'S GARDEN AT OUR

Garden Party



- The Pilgrim Jazz Band (live) ● Hog Roast
Refreshments ● Stalls ● Children's activities

Saturday 27th June 2015
1pm - 6pm

Free admission
Pay and display car parking in the coach park
Disabled access via ramp from Station Road

St Seraphim's Chapel
Station Road
Little Walsingham
NR22 6EB
01328 820610

After many years, hands and hours, we are pleased to be able to celebrate the Official Opening of St. Seraphim's Garden on Sat 27th June.

The garden will be opened at 2.00pm by the Bishop of Lynn, whose Uncle was the founder of the chapel.

There is plenty of room, so come and enjoy the views from the top of the garden and the atmosphere, as well as the music and refreshments!

We look forward to your company for this special event!

St Seraphim's Trust would like to express continued and grateful thanks to our funders, supporters and friends :



Remembering Douglas Andrew Cowling

On the Feast of the Nativity Old Style, 2015, Douglas Andrew Cowling fell asleep in the Lord.

Douglas Andrew was truly a pilgrim. He was the last person to be received into the Orthodox church by Father David; his Orthodox friends knew him as Andrew.

In his own words:

'He came alone.

Before they had come to Walsingham together, but now she was dead and he came to stand alone at the back of St Seraphim's Church for the Liturgy. He was disconsolate, empty, at a loss, unable to think or pray yet unable to deny God. At the lowest point of his life he stood there and heard the choir sing 'Blessed are the poor in spirit...Blessed are they that mourn....', and knew that there was a place for him there.

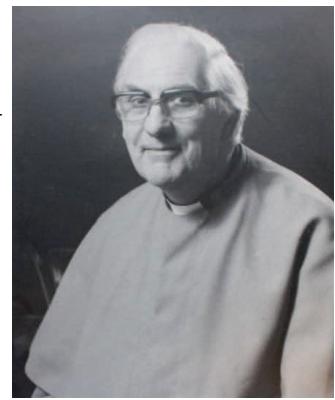
So he came again: this time for the Christmas day liturgy and, invited by Mother Seraphima, to the feast in the Walsingham Village Hall afterwards. Father David had a word with him, others spoke to him and he was introduced to a man who had come further for the liturgy than he had.

Walsingham had been part of his life, for forty yearsfifty years ago the seed of Orthodoxy had been planted in his heart and mind by Nicholas Zernov. At Pascha 1993 that seed came to fruition in St Seraphim's Church.'

Sometimes Douglas Andrew came with his neighbour and former parishioner, Nan, who after attending her place of worship, would join the congregation of the

Holy Transfiguration for coffee.

Following Nan's death, Douglas Andrew continued to make his way to church, praying along the journey as a pilgrim.



Latterly, Douglas Andrew came by taxi, and the driver would spend a couple of hours by the seaside, while Douglas Andrew attended the Liturgy.

Quite by chance, looking through books being accessioned, during a break from the Newsletter writing, I came across a leaflet, written by Father Douglas, during the organisation of a Pilgrimage to Walsingham on August 18th, 1979. The cost: of the coach, coffee, lunch, tea, pilgrimage fee and printing, was £4.

In the leaflet, Father Douglas had written:

'The Pilgrimage is a sort of acted prayer; the offering of ourselves in body, mind and spirit to our Lord Christ who loved us enough to be made man and live in a little house in a village. The Holy House reminds us of this; in it is the image of His holy Mother, whom we honour for so gladly and willingly making Jesus present to our world. We ask her to pray for us and we seek a blessing at the Holy Well.'

Douglas Andrew is greatly missed by his family, and his friends. His faith was strong and steady like the flame of a candle and he helped many people during his long life, responding to their need with kindness and empathy, from his own experience and wisdom.

Eternal Remembrance!

Friends, welcomers and fundraising...

The Friends group continues to develop and if you would like to contribute to the work of St Seraphim's, joining the Friends group is a way of keeping in touch with the progress as well as give financial assistance.

Volunteers who are willing to be **Welcomers**, both for access to the displays and the garden, are needed. Anyone with time to spare, who would like to be involved in the work, should telephone or email, to arrange a time to come and have a look. Volunteers who assist with documentation & archiving have access to training which is to museum accreditation standard.

We are urgently seeking funding for the essential roof and guttering repairs, and for the materials needed to store the archives safely and securely. We are tremendously grateful to the volunteers who are now helping us with the documentation and archiving. The trustees are currently looking at the different heating arrangements that could be considered, as the whole building is very cold in the winter and the collections will deteriorate in time if there is no heating provided. In order to enable a more permanent display of the icon and railway heritage, it is essential first to install a source of heating, which can be afforded.

An ongoing welcome to pilgrims and visitors!



As this newsletter is being drafted, Walsingham is buzzing with students, who arrived on Good Friday carrying large wooden crosses from different parts of the country. The **Student Cross** began in 1948. The wooden crosses are decorated after their arrival in Walsingham, with greenery and flowers.

The pilgrimage season to Little Walsingham begins with the arrival of the Student Cross pilgrimage. The students are up to meet the dawn on Easter Sunday and assemble in St Seraphim's afterwards, for quiet prayer.

As part of the life of a Shrine village devoted to the Mother of God, St Seraphim's welcomes many pilgrims, local, national and international. Many pilgrims are regular visitors and become old friends.

Every second year the **Marian Pilgrimage** to Walsingham takes place. A visit is usually made to St Seraphim's as part of the itinerary, and this year was no exception. On Wednesday 18th March Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia celebrated the Presanctified Liturgy, assisted by Father Patrick.

Father Philip and Philippa Steer led the singing. Father Elias and Barbara Jones were also present. Altogether the congregation was a mix of visitors and local people participating in the pilgrimage.

St Seraphim's day falls on a Sunday this year, so the Liturgy will be taking place on **Sunday July 2015 at 10.30 am**. There will be refreshments in the garden following the Service.



In the garden...



The community payback volunteers continue to do essential work in the garden, replacing two fence panels which had blown down during the recent stormy weather, an excellent job was done, thank you all. Every inch of wooden construction, in the garden, be it fence or cabin, has been treated with wood preserver. The lawn has been thoroughly raked and given the first trim of the year.

Not forgetting Wanda and Una, the geese who spend most of the daylight hours weeding the lawn, no clover, buttercups and daisies where their beaks can reach, as well as keeping the grass clipped. These 2 ladies are shy of people, and the community payback

volunteers have built a pond and enclosure, so on days there are visitors in the garden, Wanda and Una will be safely within their space. Wanda has constructed a lovely nest, decorated with the mini daffs that grow nearby, and she sits on the nest, with the sheep and lambs from the adjoining field making neighbourly noises to her. Una, who has laid no eggs this year, probably due to age, sometimes 'eggsits' while Wanda enjoys a swim. Geese have been 'employed' as weeders of certain crops because of the industrious way in which they work!

Thanks to our new volunteer garden welcomers, the Garden and the railway displays are now open to visitors every Wednesday. Further volunteers would enable us to be open on additional days!

St. Seraphim's Trust

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The Chapel of St. Seraphim is a place of Orthodox Christian worship. The Faith to which it bears witness is that of the Undivided Christian Church before West and East became separated in the Eleventh Century. Its ancient tradition of worship and prayer is rooted in its biblical and apostolic inheritance, and is expressed in living symbolic form.

In 1966 the Anglican Shrine authorities asked that someone be sent to take care of the Orthodox chapel there, and Father Mark Meyrick (who subsequently became a monk, with the name David) came to undertake that task. It was soon apparent that the open plan construction of the chapel was unsuited to a pattern of regular services and in 1967 Father David and three companions, with £25 between them, settled in this building which, until the closure of the railway in the early 60s, had been Walsingham's station on the line between Wells and Fakenham. They converted the booking hall and ticket office into the nave and altar of their new chapel, and crowned it with bell tower, onion dome and cross.

The painting and selling of icons was, from the outset, an important part of the Orthodox witness here. Following Father David's death in 1993, his colleague Leon Liddament continued and developed that tradition until his own death in 2010.

A 'Thank You' to all St. Seraphim's Volunteers!

Thanks to the hardworking, dedicated volunteers, St Seraphim's heritage collections are being documented and archived. A small display of railway heritage can be seen by prior arrangement, which includes memories from local people and pilgrims, as well as artefacts which have been unearthed during the development of the garden and photographs and timetables. This wonderful display of fragments of willow pattern pottery ranges from the hand painted to transfer print. A quiz has been compiled using the willow pattern poem.

Some of the interpretation panels which were used during the Exhibition of Icons at Norwich Cathedral, are now in the porch, as an introduction to iconography, and the history of the building and chapel. Two volunteers have produced leaflets, one featuring the heritage collections one a discovery trail to locate icons in and around Walsingham, painted by Father David and Leon. A small grant from Museums Norfolk paid for the leaflets to be printed. Another volunteer is translating the leaflets into Russian for our Eastern European visitors.

A sign in the original railway colours of cream and green has been made by a kind volunteer from the MGCR network, letting visitors know what goes on, as well as a Garden Open Today sign to be put out when the weather permits! The website is maintained by another volunteer. Others have been on courses run by Museums Norfolk and Share East, to learn about archiving, documentation, making trails for visitors as well as work for Key Stage 3 pupils. A small grant from Museums Norfolk has enabled an objects box and worksheet to be produced, so children can engage with the icons in the Chapel in a meaningful way. There is also a printed trail for the leader/teacher to use, as a written guide to the icons and the objects in the box, one each for Key Stages 1 & 2. If you are bringing children to St Seraphim's do call me first if you would like to use the Object box and self-led trail and it can be put out for you.

The Museums Networking Meetings bring an opportunity to engage with others involved in similar work and advice and information is shared and support given. Advice, guidance and practical help has also been given by railway volunteers through the Great Eastern Railway Society, another excellent network of information and support and to whom we are very grateful in helping us understand and develop this side of our heritage.

To all the volunteers, supporters, donors and friends, Thank You for your participation, and support of the work. If anyone has time to help us or can help at the garden party then do please call, we are very grateful for all offers!