

Newsletter

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St. Seraphim's Trust

St. Seraphim's News

Spring at last!

The late spring meant the daffodils were only just peeping through for St David's Day, when the Walsingham W.I. presented St Seraphim's Community Garden with a lovely bench. Despite the cold there was a good turnout and we enjoyed the Birthday cake for Iris which Jane from the shop kindly made. Two people from the Workout Project joined us, who helped plant the bulbs on the bank in October last and Leon's cousins from Norwich.



Monica Smith planting a 'Daphne' in memory of Daphne Tinsley, who was an original friend of St Seraphim's

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Above: The Walsingham W.I. enjoying the new bench



Left: Leon's cousins from North Norfolk pictured on the veranda of the lookout hut

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

Good News!

- The Friends of St Seraphim's launched in April with 'standing room only' in Walsingham Village Hall.
- We're progressing with the Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Bid. Many thanks for the many hands and hours contributed!



Launch of the 'Friends of St. Seraphim's'



Friends is to help retain and develop an important piece of local and national history, which includes the railway, the iconography and pilgrimage. The aims of the Friends are to draw up a development plan and continue to raise funds for this important work. Please send in an expression of interest form, which can be found either enclosed with this newsletter or on our website, if you would like to become a friend.



The **Friends** launch on the 17th April was well attended with about seventy people in the village Hall to hear **Fr Stephen Stavrou** talk on Beauty and Holiness. We were in for a real treat and the evening was very enjoyable, with people stopping to chat, look at our display plans and have refreshments. Thank you Fr Stephen and the visitors and volunteers who made the evening possible. And thanks must go to Gaby for providing the delicious biscuits. Thank you all for your support in our project, most heartening.

We would like to thank everyone who has already showed interest in becoming a Friend at the meeting. We hope that as supporters of St Seraphim's Trust you will consider joining the new Friends of St Seraphim's group. The purpose of the



Watching the wildlife



Wanda the goose decided to sit on her eggs and has decorated the nest with weaving skills using pieces of the hedge next to her and small daffodils, nicely arranged. Una attends her and sits on the eggs when Wanda takes a break. A pair of mallards have joined them for the third spring running and are becoming quite used to us.



*Above: **Fr Stephen Stavrou**, the speaker, with an icon painted by Leon Liddament*

*Opposite :**Brigid Harrison**, the Education Department Administrator at the Anglican Shrine, has been working closely with us during this development year. **Jessica Knights** is the Project Administrator. **Chris Allen**, a loyal volunteer, introduced the evening and made everyone feel at ease.*

In the garden...



The greatest activity in the community garden has been the re-building of the Workman's hut by the Community Payback and a wonderful structure it is, almost completed. Despite the absence of the correct tools and the appearance of a strong wind for two weeks, work has progressed. A shaded pergola is also under construction and is looking very good. Thank you goes to all of them for their support and dedication, which is showing fantastic results.

Primroses have flowered on the bank since November and still look lovely, in April, with cowslips, narcissi and other spring flowers joining them. The lungwort is alive with bees, now the sunshine is finally warming the earth.



A Russian Snowdrop

Cordelia Jones, who produced the little woodcut of the Chapel in the 1960s which has become well known as the logo for St Seraphim's, has made a fine woodcut of the garden, which will soon be on view.



Upcoming and ongoing!



The work for the **Heritage Lottery Fund stage 2 submission** has been completed. The help, enthusiasm and support received has been remarkable. Thank you everybody, in the many different ways you have contributed. We couldn't have done it without you!

The planning of '**Praying with Icons**', the exhibition of Fr David and Leon's icons in the Hostry at Norwich Cathedral for the month from **5th December 2013** onwards goes on and Mike Dixon has been busy photographing the icons for us, to include in the catalogue. Mike is finding icons we did not know were painted, when he goes to photograph certain ones for the exhibition and archives.



It will be twenty years on **December 8th** since **Fr David** died and through the good work of two volunteers on the archives we are seeing the fruit of his work. The archives are being gathered into order and the importance work carried out here is becoming increasingly clear – the sheet music and service books as well as the icons, the converting of the Chapel and ministering to many people, in London, Nottingham and Manchester, and of course the growth of the small community in Walsingham. As time passes we see a person more clearly in the mind's eye; Father David was a man of vision coupled with great common sense. His legacy is enduring, Memory Eternal!

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.

Keeping in Touch

- ♦ We are now on **Facebook** and **Twitter**! Please follow us for updates on the project.
- ♦ We're also considering experimenting with **Skype**, particularly to allow people to participate in 'Friends' committee meetings who may not live close enough to attend in person. If you have any thoughts on this, or other ideas to make participation easier, please let us know!
- ♦ We are pleased to have received some memories of railway travel to Walsingham as a result of requests in Church national papers. Our condolences to the family of **Geoff Tuck** who died recently. Geoff gave a detailed account of his time as a young porter at Wells Station and told of his weekly duties at Walsingham Station.



Mike Dixon©St Seraphim's Trust 2013

- ♦ Anyone receiving the newsletter in the post, it would be a great help if you wouldn't mind receiving the newsletter by **email**. Please contact us with your details.
- ♦ We will have a stall at the Volunteer Fair organised by Voluntary Norfolk on Thursday June 6th in Fakenham. In particular we are looking for a volunteer Project Manager for the garden development. Please contact us if you would be interested in this role.
- ♦ **St Seraphim's Day, Friday 19th July 2013**, will be celebrated by **Fr Julian Sadowski** from the Norwich parish at **10.30am**. Everybody is welcome and there will be refreshments afterwards.