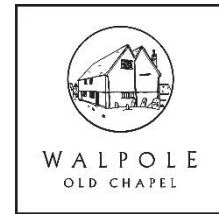


## **The Friends of Walpole Old Chapel**

**Charity Registration number 1198030**

**Annual Report for the Year 2023-2024**



We are pleased to report we have had a successful year, our second as a Charity.

We have continued to lead and secure progress on the major project for repairs and conservation to The Chapel. We have also been exploring a new partnership with another organisation as the time moves towards the Historic Chapels Trust's intention to devolve ownership of the chapels in its care to other bodies.

We had a good turnout of people at the Chapel on Monday 8 May to be part of the post- Coronation volunteering day. Our aim was to tackle the brambles and other invasive plants in the Chapel yard, in order to help preserve the rare, herb-rich grassland. Further work was undertaken in the autumn by a professional firm who have removed many of the elm suckers that had sprouted around tombstones.

Our small but dedicated group of volunteers continues to beaver away on our research project about the history of the Chapel and its community, in partnership with Halesworth & District Museum. On the website you can find a brief history of the Chapel with a timeline, the graveyard survey, baptism registers and accompanying notes, the story of John Baldry Saunders, a conscientious objector, and a transcript of our original title deed, along with the story of Alma Dale, the celebrated Quaker preacher from Canada who died in Walpole. We are finding out about her final years through our oral history project, which has also gathered stories from seven people with close connections to the Chapel.

Our relationship with the History Department of the University of East Anglia has proved very fruitful, as we have hosted another four student placements.

We have initiated a project to acquire legally secure parking for Chapel visitors, realising how important it is to the success of the Chapel's activities.

We have opened the Chapel to the public on Saturday and Bank Holiday afternoons from Easter till the end of September.

We have hosted a programme of concerts and other events over the summer months, a third of which have been designated as 'educational'. These numbered 15 in total; highlights being Blake Morrison and the Hosepipe Band where we provided wine and soft drinks in the interval which increased our funds, and the Gainsborough Quartet.

During the Aldeburgh Festival, The King's Singers had three sell-out performances and raised our profile amongst that clientele.

We have expanded the content of our website and our social media coverage with many thanks to Mark Wenham.

We have produced an informative quarterly newsletter, which is distributed to approximately 600 in two versions – general public and specifically one for the Friends

We have increased our membership to 67 and will continue to promote this form of support for the Chapel as well as, hopefully, providing more volunteers for our Open Saturdays and other events.

The Trustees have a business plan, which contains 30+ annual targets and milestones, linked to 8 broader objectives. These help to direct the charity's activities and priorities. Our achievements against these targets and milestones are reviewed by Trustees at mid-year and year's end. The results for the year to March 2024 have been as follows:

At the year-end review in April 2024, we had met 24 of the 32 targets and milestones for the year (75% – up from 61% the previous year)

Trustees have a policy that £4,000 should be held as a designated reserve, this being sufficient to cover 12 months' worth of fixed costs.

Lyn Banks  
Lin le Versha  
Miriam Stead  
Paul Simmons  
Simon Weeks

May 2024

Walpole Old Chapel Annual Return April 2023 - March 2024

	ASSETS			Start of year April 23	End of year March 24		
		Cheque a/c		12,812.81	8,810.64		
		Deposit a/c (general)		13,964.41	22,177.04		
		Deposit a/c (legacies)		4,617.91	4,673.12		
		Total assets		£ 31,395.13	£ 35,660.80		
			April 2023	£ 31,395.13			
	INCOME						
	General						
	Weddings	900.00					
	Open days & donations	3,406.79					
	Concerts, etc.	3,536.05					
	Sales	638.34					
	Consultation events	100.00			Meeting with Historic Suffolk		
	Interest from deposit a/cs	267.84					
		8,849.02					
	Membership/Friends	1,301.00					
	Unwrapped						
	Plaster Squares	195.00					
	Ride & Stride	557.50					
		752.50					
	OVERALL INCOME	£ 10,902.52		£ 42,297.65			
	EXPENDITURE						
	General						
	Printing & advertising	282.20					
	Water/electricity	410.79					
	Websites	475.20					
	Concerts	2,404.87			Artists' fees		
	Weddings	140.00			Fees to minister and authorised person		
	Merchandise for sales	358.75					
	Maintenance	796.00			Tree surgeon work, regular cleaning, PAT		
	Consultation events	150.00			Meeting with Historic Suffolk		
	Equipment	379.90			New external signs, picture of chapel, signs for use on the roadside, fire safety equipment, post box for gate		
	Consumables	68.01			Refreshments, biros, toilet rolls & paper towels		
	Subscriptions	128.68			GoodBox rental, Assn of Suffolk Museums		
		5,594.40					
	Membership/Friends	490.68			Advertising for members		
	Unwrapped - Discovery Project	551.77			Digitisation of baptism records, book, copyright agreement		
	OVERALL EXPENDITURE	£ 6,636.85	March 2024	£ 35,660.80			
	OVERALL SURPLUS			£ 4,265.67			
	Surplus - General			3,254.62	This includes Concerts: + 1131.18, Sales + 279.59		
	- Friends			810.32			
	- Unwrapped			200.73			
	SUPPORTING INFORMATION						
	Allocation of Assets				Equipment and physical assets		
	Working reserve	4,000.00			New external signs and fire safety equipment and signs.		
	General	17,729.33			Post box for gate		
	Friends	1,235.32			Various pictures/ artwork of the chapel		
	Unwrapped - non-specific	11,247.92			A-board, Key safe, Hasp & lock		
	Unwrapped - Discovery Project	1,448.23			First Aid Kit, Visitors book		
		£ 35,660.80			Hand held vacuum cleaner		
					Wine glasses, coffee mugs, boiler, kettle & some crockery items		
					External advertising boards		
					Approx £250 worth of post cards		
	Unwrapped Project						
			Funds held by FWOC		Funds held by HCT	Total funds	
	Start of year April 23		£ 12,495.42		£ 40,998.80	£ 53,494.22	
	Income	Plaster Squares	195.00	Donations	9,668.36		
		Ride & Stride	557.50	Historic England Grant	21,650.00		
			£ 752.50		£ 31,318.36		
	Expenditure	Discovery Proj. - digitisation of baptism records	504.00	Investigatory work required by Historic England - surveys, trial repairs and making good, etc.	54,462.47		
		Discovery Proj.	47.77	General repairs	571.20		
			£ 551.77		£ 55,033.67		
	End of year March 24		£ 12,696.15		£ 17,283.49	£ 29,979.64	