

Notes from the Rutherford Team Meeting 11th May 2022

Present: Rev'd. Diana Garfield, Rev'd. Dawn Butcher, Trudy Stevens (chair), Val Pattenden, Malcolm Taylor, Cathy Pearson, Neil Wiffen, Amber Mussell, Alan Coday, Margaret Pinkerton, Ros & Ian Mercer, Chris Bailey, Rachel Butterworth.

Apologies: Kathy Rouse, Sheila Hasler, Karen Paxton, Yvonne Heaver, Alun Powell

Thanks were given to Diana who has led the project so far but will be retiring shortly. The continuing core team remains: Malcolm Taylor, Alun Powell and Trudy Stevens.

It is hoped that each area of work will be undertaken by a specific small team of volunteers who will liaise between themselves, communicating with the core team as necessary.

Aim of Meeting:

To determine: what needs to be done,
 who to do it,
 when by.

Also to consider: stall at village fayre on 4th June
 church opening

Three main area of work: the exhibition area, the information & materials, activities.

The Exhibition Area

Team: Ros & Ian Mercer
 Patrick Readings
 Charlotte Dodsworth's, Mother Karen Purkiss
 Penny Clements (architect)

Work to be undertaken:

Removal of pews requires a faculty. Response from the Victorian Society and English Heritage is required before this can be submitted; however the documents can be started.

Action: Diana/Dawn. As the pews were brought over from the old church hall and not part of the original church development design, there should not be a problem.

Alan offered to forewarn the chair of the DAC regarding the forthcoming faculty.

Quote from Bakers for removal of pews and flooring has been requested; they have yet to assess (meeting scheduled for 25th May).

Design the physical exhibition stand: Patrick to visit the site. Ros & Ian to meet with Penny (? on 25th May).

Neil noted the Essex Heritage Trust may be prepared to assist with funding the creation of the stand; there is only a limited budget for this and it is sensible to create something substantial that will last and can be used for other things in future years.

It was thought the current electricity supply will be sufficient for LED lighting.

The use of audible materials was discussed; also possibility of IT displays although security might be an issue.

The pews will be sold, although it is hoped some furniture for the tower space might be created from one of them, if possible. The redundant kneelers and cushions will be retained. Close liaison with the team gathering information and materials is essential.

Aim to have area with basic exhibition available in the autumn.

Information and Materials

Research Team: Naomi Courtenay-Luck - family
Kathy Rouse, - museums
Sheila Hasler – art / stained glass
Cathy Pearson – oral material
Neil Wiffen - historical
Jill Readings
Ros Mercer
Amber Mussell

Activities Team: Jill Readings – lead for secondary school trails
Chris Bailey – lead for primary school trails
Val Pattenden
Sheila Hasler
Karen Paxton
Dawn Butcher

Seminars & publications: Neil Wiffen
Alun Powell
Ros & Ian Mercer
Trudy Stevens
Cathy Pearson

Plus anyone else interested with relevant contacts – co-opt as available.

Work to be Undertaken:

Relevant museums to be contacted and identify if they have materials we can copy / loan (not ideal for security issue), and what costs are involved. **Action:** Kathy Rouse

Liaise with Naomi to identify materials available, what is suitable, and what format is needed. **Action: ? who will do this?**

Recording of oral history from Rutherford's housekeeper. **Action:** Cathy Pearson

Collation of all materials. Identify how best used. **Action:** All

Ideas for use of materials:

A4 question sheets – hunt the xyz trails
creation of jigsaws (cut up laminated copies of pictures,)

Consider involving clubs such as Beavers, Cubs, Guides, Scouts, local nurseries – adapt material for different ages.

This will require liaising with school before July to ensure we fit with their curriculum. **Action:** Jill, and Chris/Dawn

Publications: suggestion of two. As so much material is forthcoming, there is enough for an academic text (Cathy to speak with Jill Clark who undertook a biography on Evelyn Dunbar), and a booklet for local consumption in the People and Stone series. **Action:** Cathy, Neil, Naomi.

Seminars:

potential topics: Rosemary Rutherford
 Broomfield in 2nd WW (Neil contact Andy Begent)
 Repeat some of the P&S series eg Saxon Princely Burials
 Church Green – historical houses

Aim for first seminar in the late autumn. **Action:** P&S team

Other Issues

Church Stall 4th May:

Dawn, Jill, & Chris volunteered to help Trudy.

Gazebo available (TS). Church has boards.

There will be only one table but we need exhibition materials. Ros volunteered to create. Picture of Fresco as centrepiece with one liner headlines – e.g. where is this? Children's bible is needed.

Suggestion of activities to attract children e.g. colour pictures as in stained glass / jigsaw pictures.

P&S booklets for sale.

Donations bucket.

Church Opening Rota:

This was discussed with general agreement it is needed asap. Dawn volunteered to organise the rota. TS to send names of volunteers to-date. Tuesday and Thursday mornings agreed. **Action:** Trudy / Dawn

Blue Plaque:

Neil noted there is currently a county-wide project of installing blue plaques commemorating women. Although we are a grade 2 star listed building, which may present difficulties, we might apply for one for Rosemary Rutherford, to be unveiled at the end of the project? This will need to go to the PCC for discussion. Michael Hurst, the conservation officer at the City Council is overseeing this; it is likely to cost £3-400 although the council may pay.

Action: PCC

Oxford Dictionary National Biography:

There is no entry for Rosemary Rutherford in this internationally acclaimed text. Perhaps we could draft something suitable for consideration for inclusion? **Action:** Neil & Cathy.

Neil will be visiting the tower on 23rd May with the surveyors for the dendrochronology.

The circulation of a comprehensive contact list was requested. **Action:** Trudy