

# AUBOURN CLOCK TOWER PROJECT

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### 2004

Aubourn Clock Tower has been restored thanks to a Heritage Lottery grant of £86,100 and other grants from Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership, RACoL, Awards for All and Aubourn and Haddington Parish Council. Also North Kesteven District Council have provided professional assistance to the project and funded a village walks leaflet.

2004 was a very significant year as it marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parish Council signing the lease to take responsibility for this important building on October 30<sup>th</sup> 1974. During this year the application for the Heritage Lottery grant was forwarded and the grant approved.

During the latter part of 2004, the work on the roofs was tendered by North Kesteven District Council ensuring that the materials to be used matched the originals - British Oak Shingles for the spire and Collyweston slates for the Apse roof.

### 2005

Work commenced during April 2005 with the re-shingling of the spire. It took many days for the scaffolding to be erected as can be seen from the photographs. Once the scaffolding was in place the contractors moved in to strip the spire of the old shingles. During June 2005, there was damage caused to the cockerel on the very top of the spire when there was an attempt to steal it. The cockerel, which was made of copper with a rotating glass eye still in tact after 140 years, had to be removed to be repaired.



Once the old shingles had been removed, the wooden structure was revealed and remarkably it was in good condition and did not require any major repairs. A new waterproof membrane was secured on the spire and the shingling work began. This work was completed and the cockerel was returned once again to its position before the scaffolding was moved.

During August 2005, the focus of the building work moved to the Apse roof and the Collyweston slates. In addition to this, whilst the scaffolding was in place, it was decided that the face of the clock would be re-gilded. A local benefactor funded this work and on completion the clock face was magnificent. Later on in the year, the Parish Council decided that the clock itself should be overhauled to complete the transformation.



August 2005 - Work to Apse roof is undertaken

The work on the Apse roof was more complex as it required contractors with the specialist expertise to lay the slates correctly and the slates themselves were difficult to source as they are available at only certain times of the year. All the problems including the weather in the autumn were overcome eventually and the slates were fitted as they were in 1862. Once the guttering work and other ad-hoc building tasks were completed we had reached December 2005.

Also during 2005, the website was being developed. Through project updates in the local community magazine, information was gathered including photographs and historical information from local residents to enable the basis of the website to be created. In September 2005, the information was transferred to the internet. The website was updated during July 2006 to enable the information to be accessed more quickly and through training locally this will be updated and added to in the future.

During late 2005 the internal works of the Clock Tower building were being considered and the equipment required for the Chancel was being identified. During December, a successful application was made to RACoL for some funds for additional display equipment.

## 2006

In 2006, the flooring in the Chancel was reviewed by the Parish Council and wooden flooring was the preferred option. Following a visit from a Conservation Consultant it was agreed that a raised floor would be a better option which would protect the floor tiles that remained in the Chancel. In order to do this work the Parish Council had to apply to North Kesteven District Council for Listed Building Consent. This work attracted more costs than anticipated and a further application to RACoL secure the funding to provide the floor and ramp.



Internal Views of Chancel and vestry January 2006

Plans were drawn up locally for a raised floor and disabled ramp and were submitted. Whilst the decision was awaited, the electrical requirements were finalised and tenders submitted for this work to be undertaken.



Internal Views of Chancel and vestry May 2006

In spring 2006, the Listed Building Consent was finalised and work commenced on the flooring and electricity supply. The floor construction was completed by May 2006 and through volunteers we were able to complete the sealing and varnishing. The electrical wiring was completed during this time and new lighting points identified. Work has continued with the remaining floor being sanded and furniture being ordered to create the community room.



Internal Views of Chancel and vestry June 2006

Whilst the building work was under way, a Village Walks leaflet was designed which was printed and funded by North Kesteven District Council. The information was compiled by a parishioner who provided a map of a heritage trail through the villages of Aubourn and Haddington with text giving some background information of the area. A further leaflet was designed for the Clock Tower providing a brief narrative about the building. Using the information from the village walks leaflet and Clock Tower history, an information panel was designed locally to act as a guide to visitors. This has been situated at the entrance to the Clock Tower building, clearly visible from the road and provides a short history of the Clock Tower building.

Other grants were then sourced to develop the Clock Tower further. In July 2006, the Parish Council were successful in securing a grant through Awards for All to provide two new gothic style windows in the west elevation (the area boarded up when the demolition process was stopped in the 1970's). A further grant from Lincolnshire County Council was achieved to allow for repairs to be made to the windows and to provide water to the building during spring 2007.

In August and September 2006, the furniture was ordered and delivered and the heating was organised. The display systems were put together and the first display of material was determined. A number of photographs have been collected locally and have been organised for display purposes.



In November 2006, the Parish Council concluded the Heritage Lottery Fund part of the project and submitted their final report. Following this, the HLF in the East Midlands sought the approval of the Parish Council to use the Clock Tower project as part of its promotion of the fund. Publicity leaflets were produced with the Clock Tower photograph on them for distribution in the East Midlands region.

## 2007

The work to create the two new gothic style windows commenced in November 2006 following the completion of the repairs to the vestry and chancel windows. By the end of February 2007, the contractor had completed all the work to the windows and in addition the Parish Council agreed to the provision of worktops, cupboards and a sink in the vestry area in readiness for the connection of the water. The water and sewage work was scheduled during spring and a further grant from NKDC has allowed for the work to be completed.



New gothic windows (far left & left) and vestry window

During December 2006, the Parish Council agreed to the provision of an improved exterior access for the disabled. Listed Building Consent was applied for and contractors sought to undertake this work. In February 2007, funding was sourced to provide for this enhancement to the facilities.

### Official Opening - March 2007

The official opening of the Community Heritage Room at Aubourn Clock Tower took place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007 when guests were invited to inspect the refurbishment work that had been undertaken.

Cllr. Mrs. Pat Woodman (Chairman of Aubourn & Haddington Parish Council)

Cllr. Mrs. Nicola Wetherill (Aubourn & Haddington Parish Council)

Cllr. Mr. Denis Knott (Aubourn & Haddington Parish Council)

Mrs. Debbie Parker (Parish clerk)

Mr. M. Gadd (North Kesteven District Council)

Mr. G. Wright (North Kesteven District Council)

Mr. R. Shortland (North Kesteven District Council) Mr. & Mrs M. Dove (Sign writer)

Mr. & Mrs J. Long Mr. R. Wetherill Mr. J. Woodman

Mr. O. Woodman Mrs. S. Bark (North Kesteven District Council)

Mr. I. Richardson Mr. D. Hatcher (A. Hatcher & Sons Ltd)

Two Representatives from Pattinsons Roofing Ltd Mr. A. Gosling (Lincoln Diocesan Trust)

Miss. S. Saunter (RACoL) & colleague Mr. & Mrs S. Bates (S.W. Bates Building Contractors Ltd)

Mrs. C. Knott (Churchwarden)

The Community Heritage Room was first open to the public on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2007 where 30 visitors came to view the new facilities.

During April 2007, the work started to provide water and sewage to the Clock Tower. This work was completed during the summer with running water available inside the kitchen area. In September 2007 a further grant of £600 from Lincolnshire Co-operative Society enabled a disabled access to be created outside the building and this was completed during the Autumn.

#### Open Days and Events

During May to September 2007 the Community Heritage Room was opened each month to visitors and groups. Over 200 people came through the doors and enjoyed the displays of local information and heritage. On 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2007 there was a special opening in support of the Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days event which was taking place all over the county. In October we provided a special group opening to the building.

The Parish Council held its monthly meetings in the Heritage Room from March to November.

In December 2007, the Parish Council held a Christmas Coffee Morning in aid of the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance. This was very well supported and raised in excess of £230.

#### Thank you

As the main Clock Tower project draws to a close, Aurborn and Haddington Parish Council would like to thank the following organisations, groups, contractors and individuals for contributing and supporting the project during this time:-

Heritage Lottery Fund  
Awards for All  
Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership  
RACoL  
North Kesteven District Council  
Lincolnshire County Council  
A. Hatcher & Sons Ltd  
Pattinsons Roofing Contractors  
Lincolnshire Co-operative Society  
Lincoln Diocesan Trust  
M. Dove Signwriter  
Steve Bates Building Contractor  
EYB Building  
ESPO  
Instagas  
Mark Booker Electrical  
Mizpah Ltd  
John Woodman  
Fairfield Displays Ltd  
Topline Furniture  
Allen Signs  
Richard Bett