

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024 No. 8

The Friends of St Ruan and St Grade Historic Church Buildings Registered Charity No. 1164632

Fund Raising Reaches £87,000

We are thrilled to report that we have reached this level and it represents an increase of £12,000 since our last Newsletter. We are most grateful to the Ruan Revellers who donated the generous sum of £2,500 following their February 2024 pantomime - Dick Whittington. During the year we have had four musical events with Jazz in the Garden, Jazz evenings at the Village Hall and the Cadgwith Singers performing at Grade and these have raised over £2,800. We are pleased to be supported by Annie Wood who is raising funds for both churches and our Buy A Slate on Just Giving is continuing.

A grant application has been made to the National Churches Trust and we have reached Stage 2 and should hear whether or not we have been successful towards the end of July. We are also receiving help from Cornwall Council's Strategic Historic Environment Team for a pre-application enquiry to the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is very important to get a positive indication that an application would be appropriate and we hope that Lottery Funding will enable us to significantly improve the churchyard, byway approach to Grade Church and the enjoyment of visitors as a whole. We are hoping to do some planting reflecting the heritage of the Cornish landscape and make the church surroundings a welcoming and sensory experience.

It has been a long hard winter and the church roof has suffered, inflation is sending the cost of the work higher and higher at approximately £190,000 for the Phase One roofing works. We are so grateful to all those who support our fundraising efforts.





SEARCH SEVEN CHOOSES GRADE By Annie Woods

Senior Paid Media Executive at Search Seven

I'm part of the team at Search Seven, a search marketing agency who are committed to making a positive impact. We pledge 7% of our profits to charity each year because our close-knit team has a passion for giving back.

Our latest initiative, the #Share177 campaign, aims to raise \pm 177,000 for charity! All of our 15 charities, each lovingly selected by a member of the team, will benefit from the funds raised.

I'm pleased to share that I've chosen The Friends of St Ruan and St Grade as my charity. These churches hold special memories for me, having grown up in Ruan Minor and Cadgwith and attending Grade Ruan primary school.

Some of these include shuffling into the Church every Friday morning to sing hymns with my friends and sneaking the sweets from my orange during the annual Christingle service. I find it so sad to see such an

important part of our culture in such desperate need of care and I'm so happy that I can do my bit to help save these beautiful buildings.

In addition to our team fundraising, each year, every team member undertakes an individual challenge to fundraise for just their charity. For my challenge, I set out to



complete 200,000 steps throughout January. It was quite a task for someone like me who spends most days at a desk 9-5! Despite the rain and early darkness, I surpassed my goal taking **over 263,000 steps** – roughly 110 miles. Together with Gift aid we have raised £573 so far!

If you'd like to show your support my fundraiser is still open!

Simply hover over the QR code with your phone camera and tap the link to contribute online – every little helps!

I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported my fundraiser so far, especially my mum Sharon who joined me on many of those steps, my dad Antony and my great gran Betty for spreading the word and collecting donations.

DOUBLE THE FUN Saturday 6th July

The Old Post Office

2 - 5.00 pm

Cream Teas, Cakes & Raffle

Come Along Bring a Friend

(Raffle Tickets on sale at both events and at The Store, Ruan Minor)

There will be Flowers in the Church

MUSIC in the Rec

Come and relax at the Pavilion listening to a selection of music from local musicians 2 - 4.00 pm

Also join the Tea Party at Angela's

All Proceeds for the St Grade Roof Appeal Registered Charity No. 1164632

VISITORS' BOOKS CAPTURED



The Friends are so grateful to Andrew Damant who has pain-stakingly analysed the Visitors' Books at Grade Church from 2014 to the end of November 2023. The larger the word the more often it has been used and it gives a good indication of how Grade Church is appreciated. It is good to see the word 'Open' feature prominently. The church is always kept open and in particular during Covid the doors were never locked.

Visitors' Books are known to vastly under estimate actual numbers, not least as most visit in pairs but multiplying by 8 or 10 is a more than reasonable adjustment and born out by observations in the church itself. The 10 year break-down below does show a decline in numbers which we trust will improve when the church is rejuvenated and our plans to enhance the visitor experience are in place.

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2014 - 805 / 2015 - 819 / 2016 - 679 / 2017 - 613 / 2018 - 585 / 2019 - 627
2020 - 385 (Covid) / 2021 - 587 / 2022 - 624 / 2023 - 562
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2024 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

The continuing support of our members is crucial to maintaining the Friends and we value your support hugely. If you would like to pay by Standing Order then please email our Membership Secretary at friendsofstruanandstgrade@gmail.com and a form can be sent out to you. Membership fees have not increased and all details are overleaf on our Membership Form.

Please share with any friends or relatives who might be interested in joining and helping to support not just the Friends but our massive fundraising effort to preserve Grade Church for future generations.