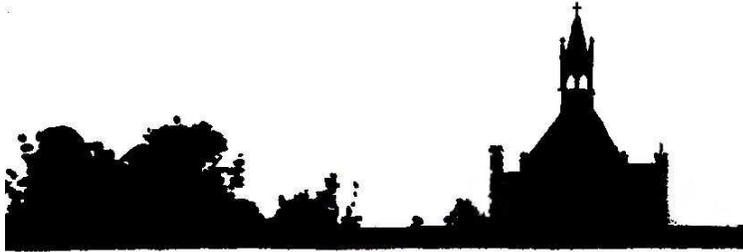


Ellerton Church Preservation Trust



Newsletter number 2

May 2005

Happy birthday ECPT : 1995-2005!

This year, Ellerton Church Preservation Trust is ten years old, and what a rewarding and creative ten years it has been. After years of negotiation with the Church authorities (and within weeks of possible demolition) the ECPT was established in 1995 to take into protective ownership and to conserve Ellerton Priory church, a key element in the cultural landscape of the internationally important Lower Derwent Valley. However, the seeds were sown many years before. In the 1980s Keith Barley, the craftsmen glazier who has now worked on every window in the restored church, tried to acquire it as his workshop, but was thwarted by bureaucracy. The present writer was first taken to see the abandoned and completely derelict building on a bitterly cold day in the winter of 1991-92 by Stephen Warburton, who enthused me and many others with his belief that something could - and must - be done to save it. Stephen became the first Secretary of the Trust, and until his sudden death early last year, was the real engine of the whole enterprise.

The history of the Trust can be told on another occasion. It is enough to say here that it has achieved all that the original trustees and their loyal supporters set out to do - and far more. This year we host our richest programme of events and activities to date (see overleaf), and in August baby Josephine Marr - whose family now live in the former vicarage - will be baptised in the restored Ellerton Priory church. There could hardly be a more fitting way to celebrate than that!

CPRE Mark 2005

And there could be few better ways to 'mark' our anniversary year than to discover that we have been awarded the CPRE Mark for 2005. This is the most prestigious national honour awarded by the Campaign to Protect Rural England, which was founded in 1926, and is one of the longest established and most respected environmental organisations. The CPRE Mark is given in recognition of excellence, value and long-term benefit in rural conservation schemes in England

We certainly believe that our project at Ellerton shares all of those virtues, but we couldn't be more thrilled or surprised to receive such a wonderful, high-profile vote of confidence in our work. The award will be made at Ellerton on 12th June by the East Riding branch of the organisation "*... in recognition of the work of the Ellerton Church Preservation Trust in restoring this Priory church and churchyard as a positive and lasting contribution to the conservation and enhancement of the character, distinctiveness and diversity of the Lower Derwent Valley.*"

Ann Roberts (1942-2004)

Every visitor to one of our Heritage Open Days over the last few years will have met Ann Roberts, though they may not easily recall this unassuming woman who avoided the lime-light and was always happiest working away quietly in the background. Ann was the partner of Reg Thomas, the skilful brick-layer who has re-built much of the churchyard wall. Although she did not live locally, Ann was devoted to Ellerton, where she made many good friends, and she often travelled all the way from her home near Chester to help the ECPT with its work. She sold cards and gifts on open days, cheerfully donated her beautiful needlework and tirelessly re-pointed much of the churchyard wall - every now and again stopping, trowel in hand and face beaming, to listen to the curlews piping their magic above the ings.

Tragically, Ann fell ill last October and died only five weeks after being diagnosed with a rare leukaemia. The trustees agreed that she should have a memorial at Ellerton, and Reg Thomas commissioned the sculptor and letter-cutter Charles Gurrey to carve a plaque. Ann was Welsh, so her memorial is made of beautiful dark blue-grey Welsh slate with delicately coloured lettering, and is placed in the quiet corner behind the church door - very discreetly, as befits the lady herself.

Events at Ellerton Priory, 2005

Please make a note of these dates in your diary, and share them with your friends.

Saturday 14th May and Sunday 13th May

A working weekend for enthusiastic volunteers. Please wear good boots and bring work-gloves.

On **Sunday: church open to visitors from 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm** in conjunction with Ellerton Open Gardens. Refreshments and guide books available, and people on hand to explain things and answer questions.

Sunday 29th May

Church open to visitors 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm in conjunction with Ellerton Open Gardens.

Orchid Walk on the ings at 4.00 pm. Refreshments, guide books and car parking available. People on hand to explain the project and answer questions. Car parking available. Proceeds to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Sunday 12th June

Church open 10.30 pm - 5.00 pm in conjunction with Ellerton Open Gardens. Refreshments, guidebooks and car parking available. At lunchtime the Trust will be presented with the prestigious **CPRE Mark for 2005** and there will also be private tours for Pocklington Arts Society at 11.00 am and CPRE East Riding members at 2.00 pm.

Saturday 25th June and Sunday 26th June

A practical **Weekend Workshop in Creative Stained Glass** led by professional artist/tutor Ann Sotheran.

This course is being repeated by popular demand. Come and make your own small stained glass panel and learn the traditional techniques of leaded stained glass. Fee: £20 per person. **Places limited, early booking advised.**

Booking: Phil Thomas, 13 South Parade, York YO23 1BF. Tel: 01904 630097. E-mail: york@enterprise.net

Sunday 3rd July

Ellerton Priory will be hosting a **private event** to celebrate the achievements of the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Amongst those represented will be English Heritage, English Nature and the Countryside Agency.

Sunday 24th July

York Art Workers' Association are having a **private study day** and pic-nic at Aughton and Ellerton churches. However, casual visitors who would like to view Ellerton Priory church that afternoon will be most welcome.

Saturday 3rd September and Sunday 4th September

A practical **Weekend Workshop in Creative Ceramics** led by professional potter/tutor Ian Howie, who will talk about his own work, and provide a basic course in practical ceramic techniques, concentrating on hand-building.

Ian's website address is: www.ianhowie.co.uk. Fee: £20 per person. **Places limited, early booking advised.**

Booking: Phil Thomas, 13 South Parade, York YO23 1BF. Tel: 01904 630097. E-mail: york@enterprise.net

Sunday 11th September

Church and churchyard open to visitors 10.30 am - 5.30 pm for **National Heritage Open Day**.

Guided tours at 11.00 am, 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm. Guide books to church and stained glass available.

Derwent Valley guided nature walks at 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm. Once again we hope this will be the highlight of our year, with stalls selling local produce, gift cards, second-hand books, and refreshments with great home-made cakes. There will be an exhibition, activities and fascinating, educational tours led by Phil Thomas. Why not bring a pic-nic to the churchyard? And note that our magnificent 'sister' church in the village of **Warter** near Pocklington will be open the previous day, Saturday 10th September, if you would like to make a weekend of it.

Directions: **Ellerton** is 14 miles south-east of York, just off the B1228 York-Howden road. The church is the last building at the far end of the village. Access is via a grass path and two steps. Excellent traditional village pub nearby. **Warter** is on the B1246, 4 miles east of Pocklington. There is an ample village car park nearby. Access is via a sloping grass path and two very shallow steps.

LHI is a partnership between the
Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building
Society and the Countryside Agency