

INSPIRE! APPEAL UPDATE

Saving St Bride's, Fleet Street

The thinking behind the campaign, to raise money to save and secure the future of the spire of St Bride's, was to also achieve a broader understanding of the building, as a working environment, traditionally closely associated with the media but now with a cluster of professional businesses housed in the nearby iconic buildings that once echoed with the sound of printing presses. The initial focus of the campaign has also allowed us to engage with the architecture and property industries, to help us celebrate and recognise one of Wren's architectural gems in the heart of the City. The following highlights some of our activities in the first six months of the campaign and flags-up ways in which you could participate and support the Appeal.



Wren Talk

One of the planned permanent legacies of the Appeal is the establishment of an annual Wren Talk, an event intended to mark and celebrate the life of a man whose contribution to modern life is impossible to measure. We are looking forward to the scope of these Talks being as broad as the interests of Wren himself!

The inaugural talk was delivered by leading architect and urbanist Sir Terry Farrell as part of this year's London Festival of Architecture. Farrell spoke to a packed St Bride's of Sir Christopher Wren's masterplan for London after the Great Fire - which, of course, was never implemented - as well as his own plans for various parts of the capital. Farrell presented his view that London is a better city for its lack of a 'grand plan' such as that seen in Paris, and Wren's subsequent contribution to the city, the 56 churches and many other buildings is unsurpassed. In his view the best projects going ahead are those that celebrate rather than reinvent what we already have - a message that chimes perfectly with our campaign to save this masterpiece.

The Wren Talk was covered by radio station, Monocle 24's design programme, Section D and can be accessed here:

www.monocle.com/monocle24/?openepisode=10500038



The INSPIRE! Appeal is launched!

The INSPIRE! Appeal was officially launched on 21st March 2012, marked by a lecture from noted author, historian and self-confessed Wren fan Adrian Tinniswood. In his talk, Tinniswood, the author of the definitive life of Christopher Wren, *His Invention So Fertile*, described an austere

and sometimes difficult man whose contributions to the development of medicine and astronomy were no less important than his impact on the skyline of London. The audience were left to ponder how poorer the City's streetscape would be had Wren stuck to either of his earlier passions.

Following the lecture, journalist and broadcaster Nick Ferrari hosted the Appeal launch which was attended by The Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, who endorsed the INSPIRE! Appeal and spoke of the importance of St Bride's as the place for journalists to pray, remember and celebrate the work of their colleagues.



Audience gets a taste of St Bride's

London architect John Robertson, a key supporter from day one of the Inspire! Appeal commissioned a giant cake model of St Bride's; dubbed the "Spongscraper" the cake stood some 5 feet high and was displayed at JRA's Southwark studio before being moved to the church for the Wren Talk. John, along with St Bride's Rector David Meara and Inspire! Appeal Patron Sir Michael Bear, cut the cake which was eagerly pronounced delicious by the talk's audience.

John's interest in the Church was heightened by his firm, John Robertson Architect's (JRA) refurbishment of St Bride's near neighbour, the former Daily Express building in Fleet Street.

"I spent many hours over many months in Fleet Street while we were working on the Express building," he said. "I got to know St Bride's very well so when the Appeal to save this important landmark was launched I felt I had to get involved. Much of my practice's work involves giving

buildings a facelift and extending their useful life and we simply can't let a building like St Bride's fall into disrepair."



Future Inspire! events

Following the success of our launch lecture and the Wren Talk earlier in the year, we have two more events coming up, in aid of the Inspire! Appeal, which will provide a musical appreciation of the interior of the church and provide an opportunity to involve individuals in the fund raising campaign.

On Wednesday 26th September there will be an evening of words & music: Rhyme, Reason & Song; the renowned St Bride's choir will be joined by the Escala String Quartet, for a magical evening of music and readings by broadcasters Nick Ferrari and Mike Read from leading English speaking poets.

www.stbrides.com/shop/index.php/tickets.html

Tickets are £25

and are available from St Bride's [details]

On Thursday 18th October celebrated cellist and conductor Orlando Jopling will be performing in St Bride's as part of his Cello Pilgrimage - a series of recitals to help repair and restore church buildings. As well as raising funds for the Inspire! Appeal, the event will celebrate Orlando's milestone of £50,000 raised and launch his new double CD.

cellopilgrimage.blogspot.co.uk

Tickets are £25

(including refreshments) and are available from St Bride's [details]

Ambassadors

Our 'St Bride's Ambassadors' group, representing the local business community, the architecture and property sectors is a vital part of our fundraising strategy - and we're on the lookout for more. We're delighted that Peter Boardman, (Dunbar and Boardman), Andrew Chesser (DAC Beechcroft), Teresa Edmund (Bristows), Robert Kidby (Welbeck Land), David Mellor (Crowe Clark Whitehall), John Page (Deerbrook), John Robertson (JRA), Neil Tone (Lewis Silkin), Andrew Wallington-Smith (Worshipful Society of Apothecaries) and James Wates (Wates Construction) have all agreed to be Appeal Ambassadors helping us spread the word - and we hope raise funds - more widely amongst the City business community.

We will be hosting a series of Ambassador events through the autumn and winter, hosted by Sir Michael Bear.

If you are interested in joining us please contact:
Gerald Bowey on **020 7278 3190**

Fundraising update and how to give

The Inspire! Appeal Working Group has set itself the target of raising £1.5 million by the end of 2012. This will enable work to start on the most vital of the planned works to save the church's iconic spire.

We're currently around half way to this total which, while encouraging, does show there's still much to do. We have set up a simple and flexible system of giving, spread over several years, and would welcome donations from all - our events have encouraged individuals as well as businesses to support our campaign and everyone's contribution is important to us and the survival of St Bride's.

To find out more or download the appeal brochure, please go to:
www.stbrides.com/inspire