

St Mary's, Petworth - Flower Festival 13 - 16 August 2015

With huge help from friends in Petworth and the surrounding villages the team from St Mary's Petworth who brought life to prose and poetry in four Festivals of Flowers at Chichester Cathedral are mounting their own flower festival in St Mary's. The event is in aid of the Friends of St Mary's, a charitable trust set up to sustain and enhance the building of St Mary's for the whole community in its secular capacity as a civic and cultural centre.

With this in mind it was one quick leap for the team to decide that the theme of the festival should be Petworth itself. A CELEBRATION OF PETWORTH thus was born. It was enormous fun selecting the subjects of the displays.

In the Nave Petworth's historic November fair, dating back to 1179, will be presented with modern flair by one group of our exceptional team of flower arrangers. Other scenes will reflect the activities of the local community including a medley of Petworth's favourite sporting pastimes - cricket, fishing, football, stoolball, tennis (real and lawn!) - allotment gardening, harvest - as a tribute to the wonderful landscape that surrounds Petworth, a cottage garden in honour of the Cottage Museum and Matthew Spriggs will depict Petworth Park on the Rood Screen for generations of local walkers - with or without dogs!

Petworth's Station - that for a while transported people and goods and the Coultershaw Beam Pump - that piped water to the town, will both be portrayed. Historic events, music and the arts have displays and there are celebrations of births and marriages.

With the wealth of material at the team's disposal a very special SOUVENIR PROGRAMME has been commissioned to enhance visitors' tour of the festival packed with background of the displays and accompanied with over 30 illustrations. Why not buy your programme on arrival and have a first look at it over a cup of tea or coffee, available in the churchyard, before making your tour!

Tickets for this event are available on the door. Flower Festival opening times are: Thursday 13th and Friday 14th August 10am - 7pm, Saturday 15th August 10am - 5pm and Sunday 16th August 2pm - 5pm (last entry 30minutes before close). Ticket price £5 Children (accompanied by an adult) aged 12 and under are free.