

MAY 2008 NEWS & UPDATE

Exhibition Stands & New Publicity Leaflet

The preparation for the production of the exhibition stands including photographic work with appropriate text has been passed to NWDA for the approval of their design team. Our new leaflet will follow closely the text of the exhibition stands so they complement each other.

A National Perspective

Canon John Brown outlined the setting up of the National Churches Tourism Association in 1993/94 with the aim of bridging the gap between Tourism and Churches. Initially the main focus was on rural churches. He praised Derek Seber for his active involvement in this.

Canon Brown is looking to involve the organisation with more inter-faith and this is moving up the agenda for various reasons. He informed us of the positive response he had had from Harriet Crabtree (Interfaith Network based in London) and her promises to ensure that the CTA has an input to the document, Face to Face, which is in the planning stage. She is keen to involve multi-faith in the document.

He reported on problems with the ASPIRE project due to the increasing amount of information required to support a bid. The decision on bids, initially scheduled for June, has moved to September. Any further delays would cause bids to have to be resubmitted due to rule changes.

Finances

The audited accounts were distributed at the meeting and members received an update of transactions since October 2007. A receipt of over £10,000 for 'marque' development was much appreciated.

NWDA Meeting

This was well attended especially by some key people from tourism.

Training Seminar at Whalley Abbey

This was an excellent and enjoyable day funded by Lancashire and Blackpool Tourism. The presentation given by David Mewis had been particularly interesting and well received.

Mission Statement

Members agreed to look at the draft mission statement in advance of the next meeting with a view to producing a shorter statement.

Membership

Requests for membership renewals are currently on-going.

Marque News

Malcolm reported on the progress of marque awards.

10 sites have now received the marque.

Hawkeshead Parish Church and Cartmell Priory have been added to our previous list.

6 sites preparing to receive the marque.

- Christian Science - First Church of Christ Scientist, Preston,
- Grasmere Parish Church - 25th May,
- Bolton Parish Church 21st June, Coniston Parish Church 27th June,
- Carlisle Cathedral - autumn,
- St Mary, the Hidden Gem, Manchester- 10th Dec.

Other developments

10 Churches have been offered the 'marque'. 3 churches have still some work to do before receiving the 'marque'. 9 further churches are considering how they could improve enough to receive the award.

2008 Programme

The delivery of the 'marque' is our main work for 2008 and the programme outlined above demonstrated how much work the arrangements for the current set of marque presentations involved. Members are extremely appreciative of all Malcolm's hard work, enthusiasm and commitment.

Interpretation Materials

Malcolm described a plan to provide a template for interpretation materials as a resource to help sacred sites produce quality materials. A photographer and social historian will be involved. 9 churches have indicated that they are prepared to send representatives to a day seminar in Cumbria.

Prayer Boards

Malcolm outlined ideas about the significance and use of prayer boards indicating that there was a serious spiritual need out in the community. 6 churches have expressed an interest in a day exploring this issue

Next meeting
Tuesday 8th July 10.30 to 12.30

Venue: First Church of Christ Scientist, Reading Rooms, Stoneygate,
Preston. PR1 3XT