



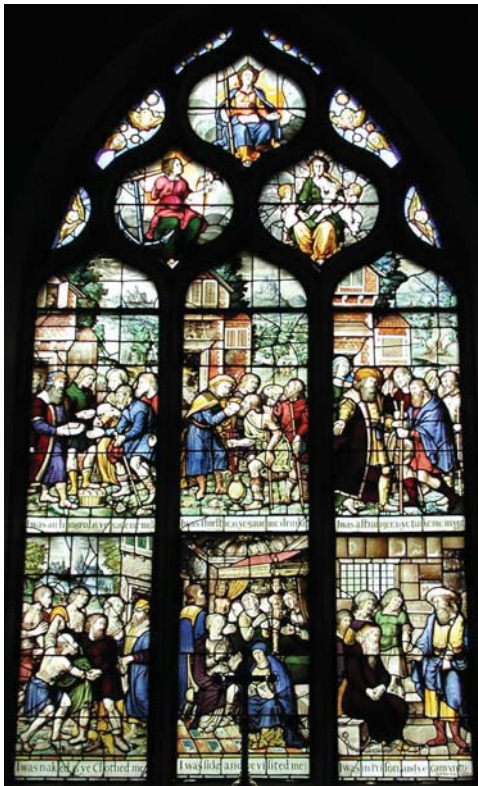
Supporting Christian Churches & Chapels in Essex & East London

FECT NEWS 2012

incorporating the Accounts for 2011

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

All Saints, Messing is a small church dating back to the thirteenth century. It has a wonderful seventeenth-century stained glass window, attributed to Abraham Van Linge, depicting the Six Works of Mercy. The nave roof can be dated to 1360 by the carved heraldry held by angels bearing the arms of the Bayard family. This is a church definitely worth visiting.



East window of All Saints, Messing

At its last quinquennial inspection five years ago the parish were told that the nave roof was in total disrepair and needed replacing. The Friends of Messing Church began fund-raising: they had a Roving Supper, curry lunch in the pub, concerts, events on the green; but they needed to raise over £100,000, which is a vast amount for a village with a population of about 350.

Jan Barker set to work applying for grants. She approached a lot of grant-making charities, making sure she didn't miss any deadlines. Some charities only give out grants once a year, some have several meetings a year, so a lot of preparation was required, but all the charities she rang could not have been more helpful about timing and anything else she wanted to know.

The Friends of Messing Church raised £21,000, and grants amounted to

£89,000. I am glad to say we were one of seven charities able to help. The work is now completed, with a time capsule made by children of Messing School hidden in the rafters with instructions not be opened until 2094 – the church’s 900th birthday.

It can be done, but it takes a lot of time and dedication.

Claire Cottrell

GRANTS OFFERED IN 2011

Althorne St Andrew	Underpinning	£7,000
Aveley St Michael	Stone and plaster repairs	£5,000
Bobbingworth St Germain	Chancel roof repairs	£5,000
Bradwell St Peter-on-the-Wall	Roof repairs	£10,000
Bush End St John the Evangelist	Various repairs	£5,000
Castle Heddingham St Nicholas	Collapsing flue repair	£5,000
Corringham St Mary the Virgin	Tower roof reshingling	£5,000
Duddenhoe End Hamlet Church	Thatching	£1,000
Eastwood St David	Floor repairs	£2,000
Ford End St John the Evangelist	Various repairs	£1,000
Great Baddow St Mary the Virgin	Tower timber repairs	£2,000
Great Bardfield St Mary the Virgin	Access ladder	£1,000
Great Bromley St George	Clerestory masonry repairs	£5,000
Great Saling St James	Roof repairs and drainage	£7,500
Great Totham St Peter	Roof repairs	£10,000
Great Waltham St Lawrence	Masonry and porch timber repairs	£10,000
Leaden Roding St Michael	Roof and rainwater repairs	£2,000
Leytonstone St Margaret	Slate roofing repairs	£10,000
Little Saling St Peter and St Paul	Lead spout to tower	£1,000
Little Totham All Saints	Tower timber repairs	£2,000
Mayland St Barnabas	Masonry repairs	£2,000
Messing All Saints	Roof repairs	£10,000
Noak Hill St Thomas	Spire repairs	£5,000
Plaistow Baptist Memorial Church	Brick repairs to tower	£10,000
Rochford St Andrew	Masonry repairs	£2,000
South Benfleet St Mary the Virgin	Porch retiling	£3,000
South Hanningfield St Peter	Urgent electrical repairs	£2,000
Thaxted St John the Baptist	Lead roof repairs	£10,000
Wickham Bishops St Bartholomew	Roof repairs	£3,500

GRANTS

As usual the Grants Committee met on four occasions in 2011. The meetings were well attended and many thanks should be given to the Committee members and the Secretary, who all give so generously of their time. In addition to the meetings all the parishes who apply for a grant are visited by one of the Committee. The visit is arranged to discover the role of the church in the community and to gain an overall impression of the work to be undertaken. It is also an opportunity to confirm the funds available, any fund-raising activities proposed, and the expected shortfall.



The Hamlet Church, Duddenhoe End: £1,000 for thatching

The number of grant offers in the last few years has continued to rise and 2011 was no exception, reaching a total of twenty-nine. It is still very noticeable that there are almost no applications from denominations other than the Church of England. The total amount offered was £144,000, 96% of this year's budget; the balance will be carried forward to 2012. The grants offered ranged in value from an upper limit of £10,000 down to one or two who received £1,000. As in previous years, roof repairs played a predominant part among the offers. This is not only to be expected, but is extremely important. The first principle in caring for an historic building is to keep out the weather, which can cause so much further damage.



St John's, Bush End: £5,000 for general repairs

The Committee has a very open mind when considering applications, and looks favourably on buildings of all ages and all needs. The oldest building by far this year was the wonderful chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall at Bradwell-on-Sea, built in about 654, which has a major roof repair to carry out. At the other end of the timescale is the church of St John the Evangelist at Bush End, Hatfield Broad Oak, which was built in 1856–58. At this church a major programme of improvements is being undertaken alongside repairs for which it was possible to offer a grant. A more unusual repair is the thatched roof of the Hamlet

Church at Duddenhoe End, Wenden Lofts, which was originally a timber barn. The urgency of a decision is often critical, and this was certainly the case at St Nicholas, Castle Hedingham where many tons of masonry forming part of a Victorian flue had decided to part company with the tower wall and were threatening to crash through the bells and onto the organ below. The offer from FECT allowed the work to proceed, and fortunately no collateral damage was sustained.

2011 was the first year of the new Partnership Grants where we are working with the National Churches Trust. The NCT had allocated £20,000 to us, which we were able to use on small projects which we identified and recommended to the NCT for payment. Three churches were put forward: St John, Stratford (£5,000; photo on p. 10), St George, Brentwood (£10,000), and Wanstead URC (£5,000).

The terms of the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme, which allows parishes to reclaim VAT on repairs, were altered during the year, and could seriously affect larger projects. The government have set an annual ceiling figure, and each quarter HM Revenue & Customs will divide the amount of claims into the budget for the quarter, thus calculating a percentage. At the time of writing the figures for the quarter ending 30 September 2011 was just over 71%, which means that on a project of £10,000 a payment of £1,420 would be received instead of the previous figure of £2,000. It is impossible to tell whether future figures will rise or fall, and the Grants Committee are taking into account this factor when assessing applications.



St Nicholas, Castle Hedingham: £5,000 to repair a collapsed flue



St George's, Brentwood: £10,000 National Churches Trust Partnership Grant

Lastly but most importantly, as you will see from the Treasurer's Report income for 2011 is considerably reduced, and this will affect the grant budget for 2012. The Committee will continue to assess the situation and try to meet the continuing need of parishes, and welcome applications from all Christian denominations.

*David Lodge, Grants Committee Chairman
Application forms for grants available from
John Bloomfield, 01708 745273,
john.bloomfield@btinternet.com*

EVENTS

For the Friends of Essex Churches Trust the beginning of 2011 brought a magical evening of musical entertainment in the packed candlelit church of St John the Baptist in Danbury. It was beautifully organised by the High Sheriff's wife, Susan Hindmarch, who very kindly invited us to share in the proceeds of the evening with Little Baddow and Danbury Churches.



In October, Hylands House was bathed in autumn sunshine and inside thronged with shoppers at the Christmas fair. Opened by Chelmsford's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mike Harris, and his wife Julia, the rooms were packed with stalls selling a vast range of items – luxurious velvet coats, essential kitchen gadgets, cashmere jerseys, jewellery, bridge cards, soaps, olive oils, home-made cakes and much more. Over a hundred more people came through the doors than in 2010, and takings were up by £600, which in these days of recession was a highly satisfactory outcome.

Enjoying the music? Bench end at St John's, Danbury

Our Christmas card of Christ and the Four Evangelists from the Becroft Art Gallery in Southend proved very popular and quickly sold out, showing that amongst our members, at least, the day of the e-card has not yet come.

We look forward to seeing you at future events: please see the back page for the list of what's on in 2012. Further information, updated during the year, can be found on the website, <http://www.foect.org.uk/events.php>.

Katie Griffith-Jones
01245 222857, cmgriffithjones@aol.com



RIDE & STRIDE 2011

Once again we were blessed with good weather for the 2011 Ride & Stride. Over 450 people were out and about riding and striding in support of the event, and at the time of FECT NEWS going to print we had raised £93,114. Whilst this figure is again down on what was raised the year before, Essex still remains one of the top county fundraisers; and St Thomas, Brentwood managed to have one of their best years ever, raising an amazing £3,536.



Cyclists from St Mary's, Widford signing in at Chelmsford Cathedral

As with other years, some churches reported that the number of visitors was down for the 2011 event, while others commented on the fact that numbers were up. We never know from year to year how many people are planning to take part in the event and where participants are planning to go. Tim Hughes, for example, chose to cycle round the Saffron Walden area: an incredible 100 miles with total climbs amounting to a height of 1,430 metres (think Ben Nevis) for 9 hours 35 minutes, stopping to register at 56 churches. Chris Abbess of the Chelmsford Diocesan Environmental Group organised a group of 20 to do a 23-mile cycling pilgrimage from St Margaret's, Barking to Waltham Abbey, almost all of which was off-road. And Song Cycle rode from Galleywood to Stock, the long way round: 30 miles, 30 churches and 17 motets.

Once again the National Ride & Stride committee did their best to get national publicity for the event, and as part of this effort we changed our letterhead and the Ride & Stride stickers to use the new national logo (see above). But newspaper coverage



The cycling pilgrimage, led by Chris Abbess, at Barking

tends to be local, and so this year we were very grateful to be supported by four Essex and East London MPs who kindly gave up their time to be photographed for local launches. Our thanks go to Robert Halfon (Harlow), James Duddridge (Rochford and Southend East), Stephen Metcalfe (South Basildon and East Thurrock) and Jon Cruddas (Dagenham and Rainham).

Thank you to all who took part in the 2011 Ride & Stride. The 2012 Ride & Stride will be on Saturday 8 September.

Fiona Nelmes, County Organiser
01245 380365,
fionanelmes@lineone.net
www.justgiving.com/fionanelmes



Stephen Metcalfe MP launching Ride & Stride 2011 at St Mary's, Corringham with Don Cox



Daphne Hilliar welcoming cyclists to St Andrew's, Boreham

Did you know that past issues of FECT News back to 2003 can now be seen on our website? Please go to www.foect.org.uk/annual_news.php.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

It is disappointing to have to report a fall in total income of £17,322 to £118,985. This was largely because we did not have the benefit of £11,000 from the Great Essex Feast as in 2010, nor was a large regular donation available in 2011 as it had been in previous years. Two legacies for which we are grateful, totalling £1,500, helped to offset the drop in income as did interest on cash deposits, which achieved a higher rate by being invested for fixed terms.

The grants offered of £144,000 was very close to the figure allocated at the beginning of the year of £150,000. Fund-raising and support costs were again lower than the previous year. However, a combination of expenditure exceeding income and a loss on investments reduced reserves by almost £37,000 to £361,674.

Looking forward, it is a fact that unless existing or new sources of income can be boosted, the amount available for grants, so necessary in the current climate, will be reduced. Various ways of increasing income are being explored and we hope that our assistance in repairing and restoring the fabric of our churches can continue at the same level as it has done for many years.

Philip Smith, Hon. Treasurer

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2011

	Total 2010	Total 2011
	£'000	£'000
∞	45.3	36.8
Subscriptions and donations	0.0	1.5
Legacies	55.8	53.8
Fundraising - ride & stride	25.0	14.3
Fundraising - other events	10.2	12.6
Interest and dividends	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	136.3	119.0
Support costs	(0.4)	(0.5)
Governance costs	(2.0)	(2.0)
Fundraising/publicity costs	(4.1)	(2.7)
Fundraising expenses - ride & stride	(3.9)	(3.7)
Fundraising expenses - other events	(5.3)	(5.3)
Grants payable	(116.3)	(128.0)
Total Expenditure	(132.0)	(142.2)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	4.3	(23.2)
Gains/(losses) on investments	15.2	(13.6)

Net movement in Funds (36.8)

Summary balance sheet as at 31 December 2011

2010	2011
£'000	£'000
235.5	221.9
265.3	196.8
13.6	6.9
514.4	425.6
(112.0)	(62.0)
(3.9)	(1.9)
398.5	361.7
Represented by	
General Fund (unrestricted)	361.7
398.5	361.7

Auditors' Statement to the Members of the Friends of Essex Churches Trust. We have examined the above summarised financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors. The trustees are responsible for preparing the summary financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' Annual Report.

We also read other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we became aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.
We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

Opinion. In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of The Friends of Essex Churches Trust for the year ended 31 December 2011.

Edmund Carr LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors 146 New London Road Chelmsford CM2 0AW

12 March 2012

STUDY DAYS 2011

Our May Study Day was combined this year with the Friends' AGM, and this is the formula we expect to adopt in future. Christopher Starr was unwell and unable to lead the May Study Day but James Bettley kindly took over for the day at very short notice.

In May we visited three churches in the Chelmsford area. Our first stop was St Mary the Virgin, Great Baddow, a large church where the mixed use of flint and Tudor brick gives the church great visual appeal. It was here that disgruntled peasants gathered during the Revolt of 1381; the Friends were, however, in a much happier state of mind. St Mary the Virgin, Little Baddow was next, a church with two rare wooden figures of the fourteenth century which probably commemorate members of the Baddow family from the nearby Hall. After a break for lunch we moved to St Andrew, Boreham, where we examined the fine effigies of the earls of Sussex in the Radcliffe chapel. The church is also the mausoleum for the Tyrell family of Boreham House. Having concluded our Study Day we went on to the Chapel at New Hall, Boreham, where we were fortunate enough to have not only our AGM, but a talk on the building and very welcome refreshments.



St Mary the Virgin, Hatfield Broad Oak

Our October Study Day took place in a cluster of attractive villages in pleasant countryside on the western side of the county. We began at St Mary the Virgin, Hatfield Broad Oak, a church which was once incorporated in a now demolished Benedictine priory. Here we had an unusual opportunity to see the parish library of rare books and also to examine monuments to the De Vere and Barrington families. St Mary the Virgin, Little Laver was next and we heard a vivid eye-witness account of the baptism here in 1369 of the heir to the manor of Enfields. Moving to All Saints, High Laver, we learned that the philosopher and polymath John Locke lived in the village at the home of the Masham family. Locke is much revered in the USA for his influence on the drafters of the Declaration of Independence.

After lunch we moved the Norman church of St Mary Magdalen, Magdalen Laver, rich in ancient timberwork. The Revd William Webb Ellis, who reputedly established the game of rugby, was rector here. Had England won the Rugby World Cup in 2011, the William Webb Ellis Trophy would no doubt have been exhibited here as it was on a previous occasion. The last of the five churches we studied was St Mary the Virgin, Matching which, like so many Essex churches, is situated close to the principal manor of the parish. Although very heavily restored in the nineteenth century, the church has retained many of its ancient features. We concluded the day at the Marriage Feast Room next door, where, after an excellent tea, our Hon. Secretary Keith Gardner thanked everyone who had worked to make the day such a great success.

Christopher Starr

For information about Study Days, please contact Sarah White (01245 233363, sarahwhite279@aol.com)



St Mary the Virgin, Matching

2012: THE YEAR OF RECRUITMENT

We are always keen to bring new members into the fold. The year 2012 will see a special effort to garner new 'Friends of Essex Churches'. One source is individuals who share our desire to see the county's rich heritage of old and newer buildings continuing as the special focus of Christian and community life. Also, we will be looking to more church congregations for regular support. And this includes the five London Boroughs of Havering, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, Barking & Dagenham and Newham. All are still in the Dioceses of Chelmsford and Brentwood, all were once in the County of Essex and many keep Essex postal addresses. We include everywhere 'from the Lea to the Sea and from the Thames to the Stour'.

A number of initiatives are being explored and will be launched. Already, a dozen or so people have joined us as the result of personal approaches. There is nothing like 'one to one' contacts. Are there any people you know who might like to be with us? If so, ask me, Keith Gardner, to send you or them an invitation. I am on 01708 688576 and keith@thegreenwood.me.uk. Please search your minds and address books.



St John's, Stratford: one of the closest churches to the London Olympics, but in Essex until 1965 and still within the fold of the Friends of Essex Churches Trust

We have ten or so recruitment avenues ahead. All are being examined to single out those most likely to be productive within the volunteer resources we have to hand. Some will be pursued, others put to one side at least for the time being.

The need is urgent. Most of our members are stalwart, long-term supporters, but there is bound to be continual change. Unfortunately, some join but soon fall by the wayside. In the closing months of 2011, I have written to around one hundred members who are two years in arrears with their subscriptions. I am glad to say that ten have renewed. I have been advised of half a dozen who have lapsed through death, moving away, etc. But over 80 have not responded at all and this is despite receiving FECT NEWS annually, invitations to events, and a subs reminder each year.

In this context it is surprising that subscription income has remained remarkably stable over the years. During the past seven years the annual average has been £19,800. So £19,353 in 2011 is not too bad. To this must be added a yearly average of £4,100 from Gift Aid.

Church congregations, mainly but not exclusively Anglican, are also very loyal. Their seven-year average has been £11,900, with £12,025 donated in 2011.

To all, I say thank you, and keep up the good work!

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER!

Many of you will have remitted your contribution to us by Standing Order. Others will already have sent me a cheque. For everyone else, now is the best time to renew your subscription. A renewal sheet is enclosed to make the task easy. If you would like to set up a Standing Order or have not already Gift Aided your subscription, there are sections to do this on the renewal sheet. Please remember that any new Standing Order will cancel an existing one.

To keep our overheads to a minimum, we do not acknowledge subscriptions as a matter of course. Please accept our thanks now. If you would like a receipt, please indicate accordingly when you complete the renewal form and I will be happy to send one.

*Keith Gardner, Honorary Membership Secretary
01708 688576, keith@thegreenwood.me.uk*

SOUTHEND BRANCH

Whilst 2011 was not quite so successful as 2010, with a lower donation to County funds of £1700, membership remains buoyant at over eighty, and the steady stream of fresh names appearing suggests that news of our, pleasant, friendly outings gets around! It is also good to report that our Committee has grown in number, bringing fresh ideas and help in making things easier all round.

St Giles, Great Maplestead and St John the Baptist, Little Maplestead took us in April to a delightful part of Essex, almost Devon-like, including a little short-lived driving rain! A lovely welcome? Of course, as we find at all churches visited. After an interesting talk about St Giles's we took the short run to St John's, learning much of its history before returning for our W.I. tea. Our AGM followed, where members were respectfully reminded of the slender base of their Committee upon which the future of the Branch depends.



St John's, Little Maplestead: one of England's five round churches

In May we had the pleasure of meeting our County friends for their AGM at New Hall School, Chelmsford. The talk given in the Chapel, apart from interesting information about the building and interior artefacts, took us back to the sixteenth century and the fact that Henry VIII had so much to do with the Chapel, despite being of a different religious persuasion! The meeting closed when 'Song Cycle', of Ride & Stride fame, gave a delightful harmonic performance.

All Saints, Ashdon was our venue on a glorious June day, again, reached through beautiful rolling countryside. What a church! Mainly fourteenth century, and with many notable features explained to us in two groups taken inside and out by charming guides. An adjacent field, we learnt, was the site of a long extinct part of the present village. Then off to Swards End village hall for a W.I. tea. A previous visit told us what to expect. We were not disappointed!

Then south of the Thames in September to Sir Winston Churchill country at St Mary, Westerham. A change here, for we enjoyed, again with the local W.I., a superb ploughman's lunch, including apple pie and cream. Then up to the heights of the church, with its magnificent views and access to the floral delights of the nearby village



All Saints, Ashdon, looking through to the Tyrral Chapel

shops and village green. Here the eagle-eyed noted from a tiny inscription that our war time leader's monument was erected at the behest of Marshall Tito. The speaker's amusing style delighted us with tales of events over the years at this, his birthplace, including the disappearing font used as a bird bath for many years; the large organ brought in pre-rail days from Norfolk; and Sir Winston's connections both before and after the War.

Then for home, and pleasurable anticipation of visits in 2012, including Hatfield Broad Oak, Little Saling, and Little Dunmow. *Don Woracker, Southend Branch*
01702 203027, donworacker@hotmail.com

GIFT AID

Gift Aid continues to be an important source of income for us. Despite the reduction in the amount we have been allowed to claim since April 2011, and despite the general gloom and doom around us, 2011 has still brought us well over £15,000 in Gift Aid.

Please continue to monitor churches and chapels you visit either for worship or appreciation and make sure that Gift Aid envelopes are readily available. If not, investigate why.

If you come across any church without envelopes email me with details of the church and parish and date visited, and I will chase them up. My address is walterscottage@hotmail.com.

And please be GENEROUS – most congregations struggle to make ends meet and deserve your help.

Alastair Stewart, Gift Aid Secretary

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

*The interior of St Mary's, Farnham during work in 2010-11 that included reroofing and was supported by a grant of £2,500 from the Friends of Essex Churches Trust. You can read more about St Mary's in the Featured Church section of our website,
http://www.foect.org.uk/church_of_the_month/featured_church.htm.*

If you would like your church to be featured on the website, please contact James Bettley on 01621 892450, jamesbettley@btinternet.com.



CALENDAR FOR 2012

Wednesday 9 May

SPRING MEETING AND STUDY DAY

The day will begin with visits to churches at Little Totham, Goldhanger, Tolleshunt Major, Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Tollesbury, followed by the AGM and tea at Tollesbury. Study Day details from Sarah White (01245 233363, sarahwhite279@aol.com)



St Mary's, Tollesbury

Saturday 8 September

RIDE & STRIDE

To raise funds for the Trust and participating churches. 10.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Saturday 6 October

AUTUMN STUDY DAY

To include visits to High Roding, Leaden Roding, Aythorpe Roding, White Roding, and Abbess Roding. Details later from Sarah White (01245 233363, sarahwhite279@aol.com)

Wednesday 17 October

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Hylands House near Chelmsford, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Many new stalls. Details from Rachel Grainger (dr.rockhills@lineone.net).

Other events are still being planned for 2012 – please visit our website, www.foect.org.uk, for up-to-date information.

FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST 2011-12

Patrons: The Bishops of Brentwood and Chelmsford, H.M. Lord Lieutenant for Essex

President: George Courtauld

Executive Council and Trustees: Claire Cottrell (Chairman), James Bettley (Vice-Chairman), Philip Smith (Hon. Treasurer), Keith Gardner (Hon. Secretary & Hon. Membership Secretary), Katie Griffith-Jones, David Lodge, Ralph Meloy, Fiona Nelmes, Christopher Starr, Don Woracker

Advisory Council: John Bloomfield, Ray Clements, Ann Hilder, David Hoppit, Simon Mynott, Neil Stedman, Sir Alastair Stewart, Sarah White

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