

## Yoko Ono art exhibition in our cathedral



Yoko Ono

CONCEPTUAL artist Yoko Ono is displaying some of her artwork in our cathedral this month.

The former wife of John Lennon has been a pioneer of new art forms for decades, moving freely between genres.

Her exhibition was opened on April 16 and will remain in the cathedral until May 17.

It includes a dramatic piece of art within the

nave entitled 'Morning Beams', which consists of ropes and pebbles laid out across the floor in the shape of a river.

The piece is an interpretation of light, which acts as a stream of consciousness reflecting down on the 'river of life'.

It will therefore benefit from the natural light streaming into the nave.

Another piece, 'Wish

Tree', will be on display in St Thomas's Chapel. It is part of a series of works created in the 1990s in which actual trees are used – and visitors are invited to place a wish on the tree.

"As a child in Japan, I used to go to a temple and write out a wish on a piece of thin paper and tie it around the branch of a tree," she said.

"Trees in temple

courtyards were always filled with people's wish knots, which looked like white flowers blossoming from afar."

Yoko Ono may visit the cathedral at some point during the exhibition, but no confirmation has yet been given.

For more information, contact Rosemary Fairfax on 023-9282 5500 or visitors@portsmouthecathedral.org.uk



Morning Beams

Pompey Churches

DEADLINE FOR JUNE EDITION: Monday 10 May

AVAILABLE FOR PARISH REPRESENTATIVES TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS: Thursday 27 May

AVAILABLE IN YOUR PARISH CHURCH: Sunday 30 May

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PHOTOGRAPHY: David Lawrence Neil Pugmire

# See Spirit soar on family day

**HUNDREDS of Christians from the Bishop's Waltham area will celebrate Pentecost with an open-air family party later this month.**

The ecumenical event will mark the day in the Christian calendar when we remember the Holy Spirit being given to the first disciples.

The Pentecost celebration, entitled 'Let the Spirit soar' will take place on May 30 at Rookesbury Park School on Southwick Road, Wickham, from 2.30pm-5pm.

It will include activities for the whole family, including kite-flying, music, a magician and a treasure hunt. Helium-filled balloons will be given away and families will be able to join together in a mass picnic.

At 3.30pm, there will be an ecumenical service, which will

include the premiere of a new sketch performed by the Portsmouth-based Christian group Top Cat Theatre Company.

The event has been organised by the 19 churches involved in Churches Together in Bishop's Waltham.

And it will be the fifth year in a row that Christians of all denominations in the area have met together on Pentecost Sunday.

The rural dean of Bishop's Waltham, the Rev Peter Kelly, said: "We first got together for a large event at Pentecost in 2000, when there was a pilgrimage to the ruins of the palace at Bishop's Waltham.

"Most churches cancelled their morning service, and there were around 1,400 people involved. They all travelled in different ways – most on foot, some riding horses, and even a carnival bishop in a horse-drawn

carriage!

"It is now an annual event, usually involving an open-air gathering on the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday. This year will be a celebration with worship and a family picnic.

"Churches Together in Bishop's Waltham Area has a close working relationship. Our Anglican deanery boundaries are almost the same as those of the local Meon Valley Methodist circuit and the area covered by Churches Together.

"This year is particularly exciting because we have already invited our ecumenical partners to be fully involved in the bishop's Kairos initiative."

Anyone is welcome at the day. Those who would like to take part in kite-flying should bring their own kite.

If the day is wet, the event will take place inside Rookesbury Park School.



Geoff King in his captain's uniform

## Past came to life

VISITORS were given a chance to see the 18th century come to life in a re-enactment day at St Mark's Church, Wootton.

The Living History Day was staged by the Mannered Mob, who portrayed everyday domestic life, hat-making, bookselling, farming and military life from that era.

Cakes and biscuits

made to 18th century recipes were served, and visitors were able to handle a musket and write with a quill pen.

The day helped to raise more than £200 towards the restoration of the organ at St Mark's. Since the appeal was launched last year, more than £11,000 of the £30,000 needed has been raised.

## Cash from rubbish helps facelift

THE cash may have come from companies running rubbish tips. But it will help make St John's Church in Locks Heath look more attractive.

Diggers will move in this month at the start of a six-week project to give the grounds of the church a facelift.

The £42,000 scheme includes block paving the area round the church, re-surfacing the parking areas, providing a new

drainage system and creating a disabled access to the church complex.

The project has been made possible by making use of the landfill tax credit scheme, which allows companies running landfill sites to support environmental projects rather than paying tax.

Financial backing has come from the Cleansing Service Group in Botley, Waste Management Research at Lyndhurst and Raymond Brown Eco Bio of

Southampton, which has a landfill and inert waste recycling plant in Swanwick.

Project co-ordinator, Dick Richards, said: "We are very proud of our hall and church centre, and they are well used throughout the week by all sorts of people.

"But the grounds are dreadful; they flood when it rains heavily, the surfaces are broken up, and access for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people wearing light shoes is very difficult.

"We are immensely grateful to the organisations and the individuals who have supported us. We hope the community will be able to enjoy our grounds and facilities, and make good use of them."

Funding has also been received from the Allchurches Trust, a parent company of Ecclesiastical Insurance. There has also been funding from members of the congregation and the parochial church council.