



SHEEP FLOCK TO CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Passers-by in Canterbury city centre were taken by surprise on Sunday morning when a flock of sheep trotted past them.

But the Romney Marsh sheep hadn't escaped from a nearby farm – they were being driven through the streets by a group of Freemen of the City of Canterbury, including the Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Rev Dr Robert Willis. The unusual procession was joined by Amanda Cottrell, Chairman of Visit Kent and Friend of Canterbury Cathedral, as part of a campaign to raise awareness of the important role the cathedral plays in drawing tourists to Kent.

The sheep and their shepherds for the day made their way from Westgate Towers, along the High Street and right up to the steps of the cathedral, with the flock being encouraged to keep to the straight and narrow by a bucket of sheep food being shaken in front of them.

“This was a light-hearted venture with a serious message,” said Amanda Cottrell after the sheep had been safely rounded up outside the cathedral doors. “Our aim was to raise the profile of the Canterbury Cathedral Appeal – now known as the Canterbury Gift – set up to raise the funds needed to keep this ancient building for future generations to enjoy. We certainly gained people’s attention

and prompted them to think about the vital role the cathedral plays, not only for Canterbury but for the whole of Kent.

“The Freemen were exercising an historic privilege which entitles them to drive sheep through the streets of the city.”

Ends

PICTURE: the Freemen of the City of Canterbury drive their sheep through Canterbury High Street, with Visit Kent Chairman Amanda Cottrell (right) keeping the flock on course with a bucketful of sheep treats

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- Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the district and borough councils, Tourism South East and the leading sector tourism businesses in Kent. Visit Kent champions Kent's £2.5 billion tourism industry by targeting UK and overseas markets, improving quality and skills, and growing investment in the tourism product.
- Celebrating Kent is part of the Kent Campaign for the 2012 Olympic Games, a partnership led and managed by Kent County Council to maximise the benefits and long term legacy to the County off the back of the 2012 Games. The award winning Campaign primarily works across eight sectors, including tourism, sport, the arts, and education. Further details can be found at www.kentsport.org/london2012
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