

Birmingham Heritage Forum Member's News – June 2017



After the Forum's summer meeting and buffet lunch members who could stay for the afternoon enjoyed a tour of the estate and a go on the Moor Pool skittle alley.

Sue Ingley, **Holy Trinity Church.** Access has improved following £1.6m re-ordering project. Phase 2 will open up the tower. An HLF grant of £96,000 will help to interpret the history of the church. Two artists will liaise with the community and catalogue artefacts. On 17th June there is a talk with historian Roger Lee, 22nd July a chance to meet the artists and on 9th September activities for HODs.

Marie Considine, **RBSA.** There is a new watercolour exhibition on display and events alongside.

Sue Behan, **Birmingham Tours.** Have had a good start to the year, especially with Tolkien and Peaky Blinders tours. Running *Be Proud to be a Brummie* tours for 3 Ark schools in the city.

Rachel Lambert-Jones, **West Midlands Museum Development.** Funded to work with accredited museums, although workshops are available to others if spaces are available. Currently conducting an audit of education provision and assisting with site photography. The volunteer awards

nominations are now open and there will be another conference next March.

Pat Mills, **Handsworth Old Town Hall.** A few busy months have included school visits and a visit from outgoing Lord Mayor Carl Rice. There is a coffee morning and cake sale on 24th June and Handsworth Wood in Bloom on 8th July at Uplands Allotments.

Stephen Wycherley, **St Alban's Church.** Have had visits from NADFAS and the Victorian Society and are keen to extend access to the public. The building requires a new roof, and this is being explored.

Vicki Cox, **Newman Brothers Coffin Works.** Have tied in with the Addams Family production at the Hippodrome. The Conservation Trust are currently working with the pre-fab houses in the city.

Helen Minovi, **Moseley Society.** Trying to recruit more members. In June and July there are lots of festivals in Moseley and the Dovecote and Icehouse will be open for all of them. Entered into 'It's Your Neighbourhood' as part of Britain In Bloom and will be judged in a few weeks.

Jean Jepson, **St Martin's Church.** The current rector Stuart Jones will be moving on in September.

Bill Esslemont, **Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens.** The gardens have lost their only paid gardener after 25 years of service and require lots of volunteers to help. In May hosted a 1940s weekend with record crowds and income. For HODs the hall, gardens and church will all be open for guided tours. Having a stand at BBC Gardener's World, and a rare plant sale in July.

Jeff Robinson, **Vintage Trains**. The open weekend is on 24th and 25th June. Excursion programme continues. The Shakespeare Express runs from 16th July – 3rd September every Sunday from Birmingham Snow Hill to Stratford. A new brochure will be released soon.

Diana Perowne, **Guide**. Currently busy with groups visiting for the cricket.

Judith Al-Seffar.

Capability Brown. Discussing Repton Festival and there will be activities at Moseley Hall and Warley Woods in 2018. The Garden Trust has 2 evening lectures on 11th October and 18th April. Hoping to promote garden history education in the future.

Pugin Society (Birmingham). There is a national recruitment drive and hoping to further develop a network of regional reps to encourage more local events. Most events currently take place in London and Kent. Printed copies of the Birmingham Pugin Trail are available.

Rachel West and Barbara Nomikos, **Moor Pool Heritage Trust**.

A range of activities are taking place including history education sessions, a community dig on 11th June, and free monthly Lego workshops. There is a talk on Soho House on 22nd June and then talks on the Back to Backs in July and Coffin Works in September.

Other events include:

18th June at 7pm - Circle Cinema £5

8th July - 3 one act theatre comedies and a fish and chip supper

15th July at 7pm – quiz and fish and chip supper £10

The Nettlefold Garden is also now open from 8am – 6pm daily.

Ollie Buckley,

Birmingham Museums Trust.

BMAG – I Want I Want: Art and

Technology, a contemporary art

exhibition – free entry. Exhibition of

Birmingham People in Gallery 12 until 31st August.

Thinktank – *Looking Up Looking Down*, a display exploring the skies

Aston Hall – *Siege* takes place in September with the Sealed Knot

Blakesley Hall – *Hoodwink*, a play about the reformation is coming soon.

Museum of the Jewellery Quarter – have live music and a jeweller's bench from July.

Sarehole Mill – have revamped the shop.

Cafes are being revamped at a number of sites. There are continued financial challenges, such as **Soho House** being open just 2 days a week (Wed, Thurs) and the 1st Sunday of each month.

Chris Rice. Currently writing a regional trail for the Lunar Society which will be launched in 2018, and on a lottery bid on behalf on the Civic Society.

Sarah Hughes, **University of Birmingham**. Now organising placements for history students at the university. 35 have now been placed.

Sophie Wilson, **the Barber Institute of Fine Arts**. *More Real Than Life* is an exhibition of early studio portraiture with the National Portrait Gallery. From 23rd June *Only Light and Shadow* is an exhibition of Spanish works by Goya, Picasso and Miro. From 24th June – 10th September one of Monet's lilypond paintings will be on display from the Art Institute Chicago.

Daniel Callicott, **Selly Manor Museum**.

George Cadbury Heritage Talk on 6th July at 7pm by Bournville Village Trust chairman Duncan Cadbury. *Sense and Sensibility*, the Crescent Theatre's summer outdoor tour on 12th and 13th July. On 9th September Bournville Heritage Open Day will see 11 venues opening their doors for free with lots of activities.

Jeff Childs, **New Hall Mill**. The open day on 14th May attracted 986 people, whilst on 29th May there were only 692 people due to the weather. The milling machine is also due for work after a fault was discovered. Next open day is on 11th June, entry and parking is free and there will be tea and cake for a charge.

The next **Birmingham Heritage Forum** meeting is on 5th September at 2.30pm at Saint Nicolas Place. This meeting is for members only.

If you wish to **submit Member's News** for the next meeting by email please send to danielcallicott@bvt.org.uk