

**Birmingham Heritage Forum
Members' News – September 2017**



Before our autumn meeting Helen Kempster gave members, who could arrive early, a tour of St Nicolas Place including a visit to the old Grammar School

Michael Jepson, **St Martin's Church**. The rector Stewart Jones is moving on after 12 years and the church is awaiting a new appointment. Taking part in Heritage Open Days (HODs) with tours up the medieval tower.

Diana Perowne, **Guide**. DP is working on the Open Top Bus and reiterated the difficulty the city faces with the lack of a Tourist Information Centre.

Pat Mills, **Handsworth Old Town Hall**. The building will be open for HOD on the Saturday.

Sue Ingle, **Holy Trinity Church**. The HLF project continues and are using Secret City Arts to build an education programme. A new website is being set up and a group of stewards is being put together. Staff from the University of Birmingham are digitizing the collection. The HOD event takes place on the Saturday and a concert of The Night Watch on 16th September.

Carol Parkinson, **The Oratory**. The roof is being mended in Newman's library and the archives have been scanned. It is

hoped there will be a museum in St Philip's Hall. Music is performed at 10.30 on a Sunday. A pilgrimage is taking place to Littlemore College near Oxford.

Bill Esslemont, **Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens**. Visitor numbers have been maintained for events. There is a new senior gardener with excellent experience. HOD event takes place on the Sunday with the hotel, church and guided tours from 1pm. The Apple Day is in October.

Helen Minovi, **Moseley Society**. The Folk Festival took place in the park for 3 days. The Icehouse and Dovecote are open regularly. Waiting for the Britain in Bloom result and working on a new leaflet.

Helen Kempster, **Saint Nicolas Place**. For HOD will be opening on the Saturday with free shortened tours. Fundraising is taking place by selling Christmas cards. There is a quiz on 7th October and a Lantern Slide Show on 9th December.

Alison Wheatley, **King Edward's School Archives**. The WW1 exhibition has now ended, and are trying to raise funds for the third and final stage.

Judith Al-Seffar,
Pugin's Birmingham. St Chad's Cathedral continues to run free organ recitals on the 1st Thursday of the month starting at 1.15pm. Further details can be found on the website: www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/ The 14th annual fundraising dinner is on Saturday 18 November at 7pm.

Capability Brown
The CB steering group will be meeting in September to further develop plans for future local activities. The national Repton festival rep will be coming, as

well as academic garden historians who are developing more events, to which locals will be very welcome.

The next lecture will be on Wednesday 11 October, at the BMI, 6.30 – 8.00pm on ‘Industrialists gardens’; later lectures on 18th April 2018 and 26 September. On 15 November a study day is being run at Highbury: ‘Garden History in 10 easy lessons’. On 28 November the national assembly for Garden Trusts will be held at the BMI.

Ellie Gabbay, **Friends of Moseley Road Baths**. The baths had a reprieve in June until March 2018. The lack of life guarding staff has led to some closures, and it is hoped volunteers will be able to be trained. Hoping to organise a volunteer clean up, and the gala pool has now been barred to visitors.

Jeff Robinson, **Vintage Trains**. The Open Day takes place on 29th October. The highlight is the return of the Clun Castle following its overhaul. The rail tour programme continues, with details in the brochure. The Shakespeare Express season has now finished.

Barbara Nomikos, **Moor Pool Heritage Trust**. The kitchen refurbishment has taken place which will be opened for HOD. The Heritage Festival takes place on 10th September 11am – 3pm. This is the biggest event of the year with group demonstrations, music, a BBQ, plant sale, bouncy castle, heritage tours and historic clubs. There is a talk on the Coffin Works in late September.

Julia Morris, **Lightwoods Park**. An HLF project of £3.6m has taken place. The building is partially open with a tea room on the way and will include community use and weddings.

Paul Marshall, **West Midlands Growth Company**. Events can be added to the

visitbirmingham.com website by contacting Paul - editor@marketingbirmingham.com, the website receives 120,000 hits a month.

Sophie Wilson, **The Barber Institute of Fine Arts**. From 27th October an exhibition called Pride and Persecution takes place showing the work of artist Jan Steen. Visitor figures for the academic year were very good with 60,000 visitors.

Daniel Callicott, **Selly Manor Museum**. Bournville Heritage Open Day takes place on 9th September with 11 heritage sites opening with tours and activities taking place. A talk on Beatrice Cadbury by author Fiona Joseph is also being held on 13th September.

Anthony Hayes, **The Pen Museum**. On 16th August hosted a Calligraphy Day with talks and workshops. The rear unit has now been opened, and have displayed a temporary exhibition with Chattock’s 19th century etchings of the industrial Black County on loan from Dudley Museum service, alongside the work of local poet Elinor Cole.

Jenny Smith, **St Mary’s Convent**. Held a successful past pupil reunion in June. Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams visited St Mary’s as part of a parish weekend. In the heritage centre have been busy replacing displays ready for HODs.

Marion Wilson, **The Assay Office**. Taking part in HOD with fully booked sessions taking place on 7th September, with the hope that this may be something that can be offered further in the future. The displays in the Boulton Gallery continue to be improved with some talks and visits booked. At present the collection is accessible by appointment.

Jeff Childs, **New Hall Mill**. Apart from one broken drive belt the mill has performed faultlessly this season and producing very good wholemeal flour. The August Bank Holiday Monday had over 1000 visitors. Final open day is on 10th September.

Vicki Cox, **BCT/ Coffin Works**. At the WM Volunteer Awards ceremony our Front of House Team were awarded the Special Audiences Award. During the second weekend of Birmingham Heritage Week, in conjunction with the 20th C Society and the Prefab Museum, we opened up three of the Wake Green Road prefabs. With ideas from the visitors and following a condition survey their future can be secured.

The next **Birmingham Heritage Forum** meeting is on 12th December at St Mary's Church, Handsworth. [This meeting is for members only.](#)

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