



FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE
OLD CHURCH TOWER

Newsletter 1
December 2008

Welcome, everyone, to this, the first newsletter of the 'Friends'.

Thank you very much to those of you who were able to attend the meeting on October 28th in Bramcote Memorial Hall. We were so pleased with all the positive comments we heard about what has happened so far and how we plan to take the project forward. It was especially good to have representatives of ESCAPE, the stained glass window group, and Barclays Bank who are offering guidance on our management plan, at the meeting. Margaret Thurgood, always a popular visitor, kindly brought some of her rescued bats and Andy Smith, the sculptor, provided a short presentation on his work.

The stained glass window is now complete and looks fantastic but will be held in storage until a suitable time can be arranged for installation. We have to be guided by Natural England so that as little disturbance as possible is caused to the bats, as well as waiting for the protective covering to be completed.

We are in the process of setting up a Trust for the management of the Tower project and then we can apply to become a Charity. Once we have this status it will be possible to apply for further funding. Money is still required to make repairs to the structure of the Tower, especially the roof, and we hope to apply for a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund for this purpose. We also need to make sure we have sufficient funds to pay for annual expenses such as insurance, both Building and Public Liability, and your subscriptions will help with these costs. With your subscription you will have received a free Tower keyring. This is just one of several items of merchandise we have for sale. If you wish to purchase any of these please contact David Martin(see below).

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| Keyrings | £1.50 each | there are 3 different designs |
| Pack of 5 pencils | £2.00 each | different brightly coloured pencils in wallet, with Tower logo, with or without eraser |
| Special cards | £2.00 each | 3 designs are available |
| | | a. Peter Hillier's painting of the Tower |
| | | b. Peter Hillier's painting of sledging in King George's Park |
| | | c. David Spicer's painting of the Tower in 1980s |

Great news!! Andy Smith, the sculptor, has completed the 3 stone benches and they are now on site. They were craned in at the end of November and painstakingly manoeuvred to

their final positions by many hands (and a trolley!). If you haven't seen them yet, do make a visit to the site. Carved out of Ancaster stone, each one has its own theme—nature, community and history—and the individual carvings reflect various aspects of each theme. The next newsletter will give more detail. At the moment they are rather cold to sit on but, come the spring, they will offer a delightful resting spot. A class of children from Bramcote C of E School watched the proceedings and here are a few of their comments.

"Everyone was really excited, we couldn't wait to see the new benches."

"We were astounded that we were going to be the first people to see the finished benches in their proper places."

"The new path looks really good and leads you right up to 2 of the benches."

"When Andy tore the wrapping off the first bench it looked incredible so I hope you go and see the benches for yourself soon."

Our next fund raising event is later this month, on **Saturday 13th December**.

'Farnaby and Co'. Nottingham's premier vocal ensemble, will be giving a concert in St Michael's Church, Church Street, Bramcote, starting at **7.30pm**.

The concert will consist of operatic excerpts, English madrigals and part-songs. During the interval mulled wine and mince pies will be available.

Proceeds will be in aid of the Friends of Bramcote Old Church Tower.

Admission on the door will be £6.00 but 'Friends' will only pay £5.00! So please do come along and support us—find out who else is a 'Friend' (we have over 50 members at present), enjoy the music and get into the Christmas feel with the refreshments.

Finally, once again thank you for all your support and we really look forward to seeing you on Saturday 13th December at St Michael's Church.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a good Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.



If you have any queries please contact any of the following:

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www.bramcoteconservation.org