



FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE
OLD CHURCH TOWER

NEWSLETTER 2
APRIL 2009

At last! Spring is just around the corner and, hopefully, we are all feeling better for it. The Tower looked lovely with the winter snow covering and several pictures were taken. If you also took photos of Bramcote in the snow, perhaps you could share some with us by sending via email to Peter Hillier (www.bramcoteconservation.org and use the Contacts link).

The website now shows our new seats. The 2 seater Community bench, sited on the



curve of the path, depicts designs, suggested by local groups, including the Turks head knot often seen on Scout woggles. Looking out over the site is a carving of Konrad Elsdon, a long serving previous Chair of Bramcote Conservation who was passionate about preserving the village's assets. Also on this seat are various arches, angels, flowers and berries found on other stonework around the village. Class 4 from the Church of England School watched Andy Smith install the Community seat last November.

At the top of the path you may take a rest on the other 2 seater bench, dedicated to Nature and showing a bat with herbs and plants found on the site, Physick Garden beds.

We asked Pat Ashworth, a local an appropriate inscription for each and these have been sand blasted and inlaid into each seating area.



open wings, and some especially in the four

writer, to compose of our stone benches onto black granite If you haven't yet

had the opportunity to see these for yourselves, do take a walk around very soon.

The third seat, a 1 seater 'chair', is sited near the Tower doorway and is devoted to History. You will notice the sheep's head at the top, reminding us of Bramcote's agricultural beginnings. The cross design is one we discovered during one of our three archaeological 'digs'



on a headstone dedicated to the Rev. Thomas Wilkinson, vicar of Bramcote for 30 years, who died in 1841. There is also a skull and crossbones, again a design found on a number of headstones. On the side of the chair you can see a pair of clippers and a stocking stitch pattern, remembering the influence which the framework knitting industry had on the growth of the village in the 19th century.

Our beautiful stained glass window is due to be installed during April/May, weather permitting, and this then completes Phase 1 of the project. The next Phase will be to do repairs to the Tower itself, especially on the roof, but for this we have to apply to the Heritage Lottery for some more money and in the present financial crisis we are not certain of being successful. We will keep you informed.

Foxwood School will be paying a number of visits to tend the four Physick Garden beds and Countryside Care will be doing their usual ground maintenance as well as removing some of the overhanging beech tree at the back of the Tower. We are most grateful to both of these groups for the work they provide.

The Group have now put together a calendar of events for the rest of this year and we look forward to seeing you at as many of these as you can make. The biggest commitment we are making is to have the site and Tower open for visitors every Sunday during the months of June, July and August, from 12.00 until 3.00pm. This means that a small number of volunteers will be there each Sunday. As Friends of the Tower, would you be able to spare some time on any of these Sundays to keep us company? An hour by several Friends would spread the load considerably—don't feel that you have to be there all the time from 12 to 3pm. You'll find a copy of our programme of events with this Newsletter.

Please contact us if:

- You can offer some time on a Sunday afternoon during June, July, August
- You need more information about any of our events
- You have any suggestions for other events you would enjoy
- You have photos or comments you would like to share

Thank you all for you support. It's good to know that what we are doing is appreciated and welcomed. We do like to hear from you!

FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE OLD CHURCH TOWER.
EVENTS FOR 2009.

May 23rd. Saturday. Drawing and Painting Workshop, led by Peter Hillier

Location-Bramcote Old Church Tower, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Cost-£12 per person, with a £5.00 deposit payable at time of booking. Max. 20 bookings.
Hot and cold drinks available during the day. Participants to make own lunch arrangements.

May 25th Spring Bank Holiday Monday. Tower open from 12 noon to 3.00 pm. Admission free

June 6th, Saturday. Hemlock Happening.

Location-Bramcote Park, Ilkeston Road.12 to 4.30pm.

Purpose-to promote the Friends, it's activities and the project

We will provide information about the project, maybe a stone carving demonstration and a children's activity.

June 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th (Sundays)

The Tower will be open from 12 noon to 3.00 pm on each of these Sundays. Admission free.

A children's activity will take place on 21st(Father's Day)

July 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th (Sundays)

The Tower will be open from 12 noon to 3.00pm on each of these Sundays. Admission free.

July 12th will be a Craft Event with a variety of people demonstrating their crafts, interests and hobbies.

August 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 30th(Sundays)

The Tower will be open from 12 noon to 3.00pm on each of these Sundays. Admission free.

August 31st, August Bank Holiday Monday. Produce Sale

Location-Tower site, 12.00 to 4.00pm

Cost-£5.00 per pitch

An open event for people to sell their 'extra' garden/allotment produce as well as new plants for the forthcoming Autumn/Winter season. There will also be a Cake stall.

September 12th/13th Saturday and Sunday. Heritage Open Days

The Tower and site will be open from 12 noon to 4.00pm each day.

It is hoped to have a lime-pointing session, a visit from Andy Smith, stone sculptor, who will provide an opportunity for visitors to 'have a go', refreshments, children's activities and volunteers willing to tell you everything they know!

October 17th, Saturday. Concert by Carlton Male Voice Choir

Location-St Michael's Church Centre, Church St., Bramcote. 7.30pm start

Cost-£8.00 each. If you are a 'Friend', cost will be £7.00

Refreshments available during the Interval

November 14th, Saturday. Barn Dance, led by Dave Huxley

Location-St Michael's Church Centre, Church St, Bramcote. 7.30pm start

Cost-£10 each. If you are a 'Friend', cost will be £8.00

Price includes food during the Interval (jacket potato, choice of filling, and salad)

For further information about any of these events, please contact:

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