



FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE  
OLD CHURCH TOWER

NEWSLETTER 3  
SEPTEMBER 2009

As I write this newsletter, there's definitely a chill in the air so I guess that means summer is just about over and we should start to think about Autumn, a particularly beautiful time of year but one for which I'm not quite ready!

It has been an exceptionally busy summer for the small working group who manage the Tower project and we are truly grateful to those Friends who have helped us out at different times. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September was our final open weekend when we took part in the Heritage Open Days scheme. Almost 200 people visited the site over the weekend and were most kind with their comments about the progress so far. Five years ago when the first ideas for the project were suggested our vision was to have a safe, attractive site that visitors could come to and feel welcome, as well as to use it for a number of community events. We feel we are well on the way to achieving this.

Our beautiful stained glass window is now in place and we are pleased to say that the bats have fully accepted this new addition to their home. It is hoped that ESCAPE, the group who made the window, will be able to design something just as stunning for the front window.



May 23<sup>rd</sup> saw Peter Hillier leading an Art Workshop on site. The weather was kind and a group of artists spent several hours painting and sketching the Tower and views within the grounds. A few of the artists have donated their finished pieces to the Friends and we have had them reproduced as greeting cards.

Most of our Sunday open afternoons have been successful and visitor numbers were obviously influenced by the weather. Unfortunately, due to lack of support, we had to cancel 2 events which we hoped would help to raise some much-needed money. These were the craft event on July 12<sup>th</sup> and the produce sale on August Bank Holiday Monday. We apologise to all who were hoping to attend either or both of these events.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May we had a particularly special Sir Paul Smith, the Beeston born international fashion designer, came to see for himself what the project was impressed and has sent a very complimentary letter to the group complimenting us on the work to date.



visitor to the Tower. fashion designer, about. He was most letter to the group

Another successful day was when a few of us went to Beeston Carnival at Broadgate and ran a tombola stall. We had had over 100 items donated and all but 13 were won! We were highly delighted with this so start saving your items ready for the next tombola please.

### **What's happening next?**

On Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> Bramcote Conservation Society are holding their Autumn meeting at the Memorial Hall, Church Street, Bramcote. The evening will start at 7.30pm with the Friends Annual Report followed by an illustrated talk from Emily Gillott of Notts County Council Archaeology team, entitled 'Archaeology in the Community'. Emily will be talking about the work the team has undertaken around the County, including the surveys that have already taken place at the Tower and plans for further 'digs'. The Friends Annual Report will give you the opportunity to hear what's been happening over the last 12 months, what's planned for the next phase and talk to people involved in the project. We welcome you all to the meeting.

We have 2 further dates for you to put in your diaries:

- **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October.** **Carlton Male Voice Choir** will be giving a concert in St Michael's Church Centre, Church Street, Bramcote, commencing at 7.30pm, and they will be joined by Sarah Bamlett, soprano soloist
- **Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>**, same place, same time when we would like you to join us in a **Barn Dance** with caller David Huxley.
- Tickets for C.M.V.C. concert cost £8.00(Friends £7.00) and Barn Dance tickets cost £10.00(Friends £8.00) which includes food—jacket potato, filling and salad. To obtain your tickets please contact Moira or Peter (numbers below)

Our financial year-end was 31<sup>st</sup> August, the books have now been audited and enclosed is a copy of our final statement sheet showing a balance of just over £3,000. This may seem fairly healthy but we do have a number of expenses within the next few months so your support for the above mentioned events is really needed. The winter offers us little opportunity to hold events at the Tower, although we are considering something special for next winter!!

We are still proceeding with the legalities of forming a Trust and subsequently becoming a charity, which should open more doors for funding applications, credit crunch dependent of course. Currently we are working our way through a Heritage Lottery form, all 24 pages of it, to fund Phase 2 of the project which includes some stonework repairs to the Tower, 2 new information boards and setting up our own website. We'll keep you informed of our progress and hopefully our success.

And finally, we hope you like our new logo at the top of the first page. The one we have previously used 'belongs' to the Conservation Society so, to show that we are becoming a unit in our own right, Janet Martin suggested a number of designs and this is the one we chose. It has lovely simple lines, looks good in colour and photocopies well in black, too.

We look forward to seeing you all on **October 13<sup>th</sup>** at the **Memorial Hall, 7.30pm**

**For any information please contact:**

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