



FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE
OLD CHURCH TOWER
Charity Registration No. 1135913

NEWSLETTER 5
May 2010

Well, what a winter! Thank goodness that's over although it doesn't seem to have affected the flora on the site at all. The daffodils have been magnificent and even the dandelions look particularly bright and cheerful.

Unfortunately, the frost wasn't so kind to the 3 stone seats, especially the History one, and there has been some damage. However the sculptor, Andy Smith, is confident he can repair them all satisfactorily.

It is hoped that the really cold weather has not affected the bat colony but we will know more after the next survey. Baby bats are normally born in June and begin flying after about 4 weeks so a survey in July/August will be ideal. We'll keep you informed!

You may have noticed the scaffolding and netting around the Tower over the last 2 months and wondered what was happening. We were very fortunate in acquiring some funding from Notts County Council to pay for Mark Stafford, the stonemason who has done so much work for us already, to do repairs and pointing work to all sides of the Tower. After 800 years it was looking sorry for itself in some places with a fair bit of weathering and lost pointing. Hopefully, what Mark has been able to do will leave the Tower resplendent for another 800 years!



We really are indebted to Notts County Council, and in particular Jason Mordan, the County's Senior Conservation officer, who has been instrumental in keeping the Tower project near the top of the list whenever grants have been awarded.

We have also acquired funding of £600 from Broxtowe Action Fund towards the cost of repairing the door to the Tower as well as the wooden panel on the side wall. By the time you receive this newsletter the building should be clear of the scaffolding and may also have had the woodwork repaired. (We don't stand still, even in the 'off-season' !)

If anyone knows of any sources where you think we may be successful in applying for further funding, especially as we now have Charitable status, please do let us know. We still have so much we need and would like to do and we try to use money as soon as we acquire it. Our Charity Registration Number is at the top of this Newsletter.

Maybe you can help us with some research. We are currently trying to find out as much as we can about any of the names found on the gravestones during our archaeology surveys. A copy of the list of names is attached to this newsletter so if you think you may be related to one of these people, or know someone who is, or can shed any light on the family name, please do contact Moira (phone number below or use the Conservation website to send an email). It would be lovely to expand our knowledge and know a bit more about individuals.

What else has been happening? Our 60's Night Party on Saturday February 27th was a huge success and those of you who dressed the part were fantastic!



Karen and Phil

David Martin writes:

We had lots of dancing and rock 'n roll from the 60's with the music being provided by 'Four and a Bit' who kindly provided their services free of charge for the evening. Over 150 friends and guests danced the night away to the great sounds of the 60's as zimmer frames and walking sticks were cast aside to recall long forgotten jive and rock 'n roll moments. It was agreed by all on the night that the event had been a great success and requests were made for another similar celebration at some other time. The Band has already agreed to perform for us, again at no charge, in the Spring of next year.

After deductions, a total of £1,000 was raised for the Tower Funds.

Thank you to all who supported this great event and please make sure that you look out for that all important date next Spring, 2011.



Four and a Bit

At the time of writing this is likely to be March 5th, 2011

Also with this Newsletter is a copy of our Programme of Events for the rest of the year. We really need other Friends to help with the organising of these events. Can you provide Tombola prizes, Raffle prizes, would you help with refreshments, can you distribute posters and leaflets, help put out tables and chairs etc? Please do get in contact and offer your services.

YOUR TOWER NEEDS YOU!

Thank you all once again for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you on a Sunday afternoon.

For any information please contact:

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Friends information can also be viewed on www.bramcoteconservation.org