



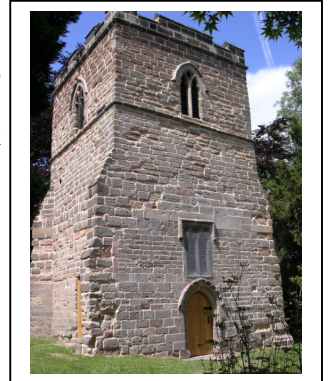
FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE
OLD CHURCH TOWER
Charity Registration No. 1135913

NEWSLETTER 6
September 2010

What a busy summer we have had! So much to report since the last Newsletter in May.

The scaffolding was removed in time for us to start our Sunday openings at the beginning of June. These have proved to be really popular with only two Sundays when numbers were poor. We think competing with Wimbledon and the World Cup was just too much! The Tower now looks resplendent after Mark's stonework repairs and John Shaw has replaced the main door and side panel.

Peter started off the month on Saturday 5th June with his Art Workshop, an opportunity for experienced as well as budding artists to spend the day on site painting and drawing the Tower and other scenes. This is what Barbara Barton, participating for the first time, recalls of the day.



DAUNTING CHALLENGE AT THE TOWER

As if having a sister as a professional artist was not enough, my best friend and well known artist, Peter Hillier, decided it was time for me to explore my talents in this direction and invited me to his Art Class on 5 June 2010, at Bramcote Tower.

Generally welcoming a challenge, I impulsively said yes and immediately went to raid my daughter's ancient school art equipment stored under her bed. I found a sketch pad with quite a few spare sheets, and some water colour paints and brushes. Peter had particularly asked that I use colour rather than pencil drawings. This was a bit scary, as I could have erased pencil, but I remembered watching Tony Hart on the children's programme painting over mistakes, so decided I could do that!

I suppose the fact that art was never my strong point made me feel quite relaxed as no one was expecting too much from me and, to my surprise, I had a fantastic day. It was so lovely and peaceful to just sit in the sunshine and concentrate on something so different. Peter kept an eye on me and made some encouraging suggestions from time to time.

We had a break for lunch and went to the "Top House" for a refreshing drink and snack and after a good laugh and rest, with renewed vigour we returned to finish the task.

The day went very quickly and when the class came to a close, we walked round looking at each other's work. Some people were so talented and produced lovely paintings. I was pleasantly pleased with my efforts for the day, but need much more practice and will definitely try again at the next session!



The poppies in the garden bed were particularly beautiful on that day and several of the artists portrayed them in a variety of ways. It was just as well they did because overnight there was a storm and the next day the poppies were no longer upright or as beautiful!

If you think this is something that you would like to try, Peter will be running his Workshop again next summer, probably in June. We'll keep you informed once the date is finalised.

We have been so fortunate with the weather on Sundays and 2 events in July were blessed with sunny days. With a wide selection of young perennial plants, shrubs and even trees, we launched our first

dedicated plant sale on the 18th to a warm and enthusiastic response. Sales were brisk throughout the afternoon and many visitors left with bags bulging with plants off to new homes! Our first visitor of the day was, however, looking for vegetable plants of which unfortunately there were none, but as we have already decided to make this an annual event, it may well be an idea worth considering for next year.

The following Sunday, on the 25th, we held a Strawberry Tea Fair, again in glorious weather. Pat Ashworth was one of our visitors.

The Strawberry Fair was a delight, a real community event. It turned the Tower into something of a village green, a hub for meeting up with friends and neighbours and a chance to sit down, relax and enjoy a classic English afternoon tea on a lovely sunny afternoon. No-one seemed in any hurry to get away and the whole occasion was so good-humoured that even the assorted dogs seemed to get on.

As for the Tower itself, it looked splendid after all the work on the stone. There were very appreciative comments from some who hadn't seen it at close quarters for a very long time and really didn't know how much work had been done. This could become a not-to-be-missed seasonal event in the Bramcote summer calendar...

Another lovely day was Sunday 1st August and you may have seen the report in Beeston Express when we were visited by Pat and Lynda Lalley, the Mayor and Mayoress of Broxtowe. They spent time looking at the stone seats and the stained glass window and discussing the progress of the project.

Other news includes an award from Notts County Council to help us repair the Tower roof. We have been extremely fortunate with the financial support we've had from NCC since we started the project and always knew that their funding would eventually cease. It looks as though this will be their last donation so I hope you agree that they have enabled us to do an excellent job in restoring the Tower. Repairs to the roof will probably take place next spring once the bats are out of hibernation. We can confirm that there has been a bat nursery this year and a survey undertaken just last week recorded 33 bats, both pipistrelle and brown long eared.

So what else is on the Programme of Events for the rest of this year?

On **Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September** we are again taking part in **Heritage Open Days**. The Tower and site will be open from 12.00 until 4.00pm with refreshments available as well as a plant stall and a sales table of greetings cards, preserves, key rings etc. On both days there will be demonstrations of limepointing skills(do join in if you wish), Richard Upton with his model of Bramcote Hall (walking tours of the site of the Hall at the rear of the Tower will take place at 12.30pm, 1.45pm and 3.00pm), children's activity packs available and volunteers willing to talk about the history of the Tower and the current project.

On **Saturday 16th October** do join us for a **Quiz Night** at Bramcote Memorial Hall. Tickets cost £7.00 per person which includes hot food, tea, coffee and soft drinks. Please feel free to bring your own wine etc if you wish. We start at 7.30pm. Contact any of the numbers below to acquire tickets.

On **Saturday 13th November, Radcliffe on Trent Male Voice Choir** will be giving a concert in St Michael's Church Centre to raise money for the Tower fund. Their programme is varied and exciting. Tickets will be on sale at a later date and we'll keep you informed.



Four and a Bit

Please note a change of date. '**Four and a Bit**' will be performing on Saturday **March 12th**, not March 5th as reported in the last Newsletter so remember to alter your diaries! The venue, Beeston Youth and Community Centre, remains the same.

Thank you all once again for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you soon.

For any information, and to purchase tickets, please contact:

Peter 9252104 Moira 9226782 Jean 9221063 David 9251492
Davina 9222626

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