

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2007

Dear Members

I hope you all managed to get away from this summers appalling weather and enjoy yourselves in sunnier climes. Since the Spring Newsletter there are a number of matters to report which includes some good news which is always encouraging! However firstly:-

### Autumn Event

The date for this is **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** when we will have the pleasure of welcoming **Tim Preston** who will give an illustrated talk on **Wollaton Hall and Park**. This will be at the usual venue, the **Memorial Hall, commencing at 8.00pm**. It should be a most interesting evening and I trust you will give it your support.

### Website

Perhaps the most exciting proposition is the establishing of a dedicated website. Work has already commenced with a sub-group working on the information structure which will form the basis of the site. The domain has already been registered as <http://www.bramcoteconservation.org.uk> so we hope that very soon we shall be up and running. We believe it will enhance communication immeasurably and will allow for rapid updates.

### Neighbourhood Pride Initiative

Those of you who attended the AGM were given a presentation by Steve Fisher from Broxtowe Borough Council on the scheme and the benefits that Bramcote village have gained from this initiative. Most of the programme has been undertaken with one final element commencing on 2nd October which will see the refurbishment/landscaping of King George's Park car park. We are in hope that at some later stage additional finance could be made available to resurface pavements on Town Street which are really quite dreadful and in fact dangerous. We hope you agree that this scheme has generally enhanced the village.

### Conservation Area Extension

The appraisal procedure we understand is progressing, if slowly. Final discussions are taking place between the County and Broxtowe and decisions on the local area appraisals, which includes parts of Beeston, should be known soon. We await further information with 'baited breath'!

### Tower Project

In August, a week of archaeological survey and data recording was organised by the team from Notts. County Council along with volunteers from both the Conservation Society and the History Group. An organised sequence of probing discovered at least three hitherto unknown burial plots, the most exciting of which contains two tombs (lids only) which are believed to date from 14<sup>th</sup> century and possibly from the reign of Edward II.

In mid October the Countryside Care volunteers will be back to work on the grounds, cutting back hedges and crown lifting a number of trees. General grass cutting and maintenance has been undertaken over the summer by members of the committee.

On the funding front, our application to 'Awards for All' has been most successful and we have been awarded £10,000. This has been matched by an equal amount by Notts County Council from their original allocation. The funding is for an arts project to design and provide seating and interpretation panels that reflect the heritage of the Tower and its habitat, and to commission a stained glass window. The project will be undertaken by a professional artist, appointed by a selection panel chaired by Broxtowe's Arts Development Officer, who will work with local schools and an adult arts enterprise group. There are also plans for a Physick Garden which will be underwritten by David Bennett and

students at Foxwood School and local primary schools. This would be a raised-bed installation and suitably designed for disabled access.

Work on providing disabled access to the site will begin soon. We have engaged in a thorough process of consultation to achieve a scheme which will provide suitable access although this has meant compromises due to the very nature and character of the site. The installation of railings will also be undertaken soon once planning permission has been approved.

### **Heritage Open Weekend**

Last year was the first time the Old Tower and grounds had taken part in this national event. The response was terrific and generated much interest. This year was no exception. We received once again an enthusiastic response and over the two days we had over two hundred visitors. Jason Mordan organised lime pointing workshops and children were given an opportunity to do paper and graphite rubbings on some of the slate gravestones. The latest archaeological discoveries created much interest. My thanks to all involved in organising and making this such a successful event, and also to those members who came along in support.

### **Planning and Development**

Work will at last begin on the site of 60 Bridle Road. After over two years of problems and hedgerow damage it would appear that approval has been granted to start again this time following the plans correctly. The construction will be closely monitored by the Planning Dept., as will landscaping which includes replanting the area of removed hedging and to 'beef up' (I quote) what exists!

### **Committee 2007/8**

Mrs Jean Anthony	
Mr Andrew Britton	Treasurer
Mr Peter Hillier	Chairman
Mr John Hollingsworth	
Mr David Martin	Secretary
Mr Richard Oswin	Co opted
Mr George Read	Vice Chairman
Mrs Louise Read	
Mrs Moira Robinson	
Mr Phil Sands	Co opted
Mr Keith Town	Publicity
Mr Tony Smith	
Mrs Jill Ward	Assistant Secretary

At the AGM in June we said goodbye to Jemima Wade who stood down from the committee. As a former secretary and long standing member, I would like on behalf of the committee to thank her once again for the tremendous contribution she has made to the Society over the years.

Should you have any suggestions or queries at any time please don't hesitate to contact myself or any other member of the committee. May I thank you all for your continued support, and I look forward to meeting as many as possible of you on **Tuesday evening 9<sup>th</sup> October.**