

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2006

Dear Members

After a baking hot summer it is for most of us a relief to be back to more temperate conditions and to see gardens and lawns returning to some kind of normality. Over this period the Society has been busy on a number of fronts but most particularly the Old Church Tower project. More of that presently.

It is with sadness that we record the death of Kath Archer whose distinguished civic life included being chair of the Society for three years. She was deeply committed to working for the community and we are grateful for her invaluable contribution to the Society.

Autumn Event

The date of **Tuesday 10th October** should already be in your diaries but as a reminder we are fortunate to have as our guest **speaker Dr Paul Roebuck** who will present a fascinating account of the evolution of our calendar **'The Time Has Come'** The evening commences at **8.00pm and is at the Memorial Hall**. After the terrific attendance given to the Spring event in April, for which I offer our sincere thanks, please give this the same support. We are guaranteed a most enjoyable talk.

Tower Project

As those of you who attended the recent Open Days will have noted the project is now progressing. Already the grounds have undergone some major maintenance work by the Countryside Care Group to clear a number of dead and self seeded trees and shrubs and to crown lift the two foreground yew trees to reveal a better view of the Tower. A section of the chevron boundary wall has been successfully rebuilt to remove a structural bulge and we are hoping that the work on the four lidded tombs at the rear of the Tower will be completed by the end of September. The stonemason has been waiting for the stone to be supplied for the surrounding plinths.

We have been fortunate to secure funding allocation from Notts County Council of £50,000 which was announced at the Spring Event. We were also presented with a 'Building Better Communities' award from NCC in July. In addition we have recently been awarded £1000 from Nottingham East Midlands Airport Community Fund. We are now awaiting the out come of our application for funding support from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental).

As part of our fund raising it is intended to create a charitable trust or similar foundation entitled 'Friends of the Old Church Tower, Bramcote' to ensure the

Tower and grounds are maintained for the future benefit of the community. The majority decision of the Committee was to give it this title rather than the sobriquet of 'The Sunken Tower'. But no doubt it will still be referred to as such! A draft business plan has been drawn up to demonstrate how future funds and running costs will be achieved.

An Order of Closure was granted in June by the Privy Council. Redundancy and de-consecration is actively progressing through the Diocese. Our thanks go to the representatives of St Michael's PCC for their involvement and support.

The next stage will be to start work on providing disabled access to the site. However before any work can begin, an archaeological survey will be carried out along the path. You will note from a recent letter that we were asking for volunteer response. We already have about seven names but if you would still like to join the group don't hesitate to make contact.

One final note- A Picus Sonic Tomographic tree decay detection system survey was undertaken to gauge the condition of the two beech trees either side the entrance. It was revealed that the upper tree has sixty percent internal decay and presents potentially a serious hazard. It has therefore been recommended that this tree be felled. It is very regrettable and costly but there appears to be no other option.

Planning and Development

As you are aware we are still very concerned about any planning applications which would have a detrimental effect on the inherent rural character of Cow Lane. We are now awaiting a full appraisal of the area as a result of our formal application to have the stretch to Hillside Road included as an extension to the Conservation Area. The site of Mrs Lumley's cottage 60 Bridle Road is still causing great concern. Not only is it becoming an eyesore and hazard, but having removed part of the hedge, the fencing across an area of remaining hedge is creating light and photosynthesis starvation. Broxtowe Planning Department are aware of our concerns.

New Wall and Footpath 101 Town Street

Although the steps from Fern Close are not fully completed, the overall response has been very positive. Mixed reactions to the road closure, but for many on Town Street it was quietude and bliss!

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 10th October and thank you once again for your continuing support.