

# BRAMCOTE CONSERVATION SOCIETY



## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2008

Dear Members

Another wet and disappointing summer but I trust most of you managed to enjoy holidays in sunnier climes. It hardly seems any time since at all the last newsletter which of course you can now receive on our website [www.bramcoteconservation.org](http://www.bramcoteconservation.org) So do let us know your email address if we do not already have it. To business.

### Autumn Event

Firstly and most importantly is the autumn event. This is being held on **28th October at the Memorial Hall at 8.00pm** and is to inaugurate the establishment of 'Friends of Bramcote Old Church Tower' It is an important development not only for the future of the Tower but also for the future heritage of Bramcote. Your support is vital and for a small subscription each year you will be able to help maintain and benefit from this exciting community venture. You will find enclosed a flyer which we would be delighted if you could further copy and distribute to friends and family and also if possible display.

The previous two events in April and at the AGM in June were most interesting but we were somewhat disappointed at the response in terms of attendance figures. As members we do hope that you will on these occasions make a special effort to give your support. We do try to find speakers whose expertise and work relate to issues of conservation and promotion both locally and nationally. So please do support us and come on 28 October.

### Threat to Green Belt.

As most of you will know the threat to development of the area from Bramcote to Chilwell (Bardill's) has been rejected by Nottingham Regeneration Ltd and will not be in the frame again till 2027! This is wonderful news but locally there is a serious situation where approval has been granted to build between 5000 and 7000 houses from Field Farm off Coventry Lane up to the Conservation edge of Strelley village. However, thank you once again for opposing the Bramcote scheme and for making your views known to NRL.

### Conservation Area Extension

A consultative meeting was arranged by Broxtowe Planning Department led by Tony Ward and Martin Rich. and was held on 22May at the Memorial Hall with a visual presentation and the opportunity for views to be discussed and to be submitted in the form of a questionnaire. The outcome of the appraisal, which has been somewhat protracted, should be known after Notts. County Council cabinet members have met on 14 October. Again, many thanks to those members and residents who attended the meeting. We are hopefully optimistic of the outcome.

### Tower Project

There has been considerable activity on site over the past few months. Countryside Care with the help of additional volunteers laid the gravel path in May and the stone steps and herringbone wall were installed by Garry Dickman and his team from Capitol Stone. Tony Powell of Countryside Care was also responsible for building the four base structures for the Physick Garden which was then planted out by students from Foxwood School under the supervision of teacher David Bennett. Already the garden is becoming established and has received many favourable comments. We are now awaiting the installation of a hand rail for the steps and in November we should see the installation of the three stone carved benches by sculptor Andy Smith who is incorporating images from the work produced by participants of the workshops he has undertaken. These pieces will be

most exciting and will form a dramatic focus within the site. The stained glass window designed and produced by ESCAPE Group is nearing completion.

In addition to establishing 'Friends of Bramcote Old Church Tower', a trust is in the process of being set up in order to gain charitable status, which will assist considerably when making application for major funding, which would then be responsible for managing.

We were fortunate in gaining a £1000 Community Chest Award sponsored by the Evening Post and Barclays plc. We achieved the second highest vote, thanks to tremendous support from so many people. We are also fortunate in receiving funding of £1000 from Cllr Stan Heptinstall's Electoral Initiative Budget, for which we are most grateful.

### **Heritage Open Weekend**

Thanks to the weather we had two very successful days with about a hundred and twenty visitors, both adults and children. Many thanks to all those who helped organise and operate the weekend, and a particular thanks to Jean and Philip Anthony.

### **Planning and Development**

The saga of 60 Bridle Road continues! There has been some activity recently but no substantial progress. The major restoration of Southfield House and Conservatory has been completed and from recent glimpses looks absolutely splendid. Our thanks to owner Mr David Pownall for bringing it back to its former glory.

### **AGM**

At the AGM in June we said goodbye to Jill Ward who had served on the committee in various capacities for many years. She has made an outstanding contribution, be it in a secretarial capacity or organising refreshments for our events. Thank you Jill from us all. Due to family and business pressures, Andrew Britton resigned as Treasurer in March and John Hollingsworth stepped in. He was elected as Treasurer at the AGM. Also elected to the committee were Davina Jackson and Phil Sands (previously a co-opted member).

If there are any suggestions, proposals or queries you may have, please don't hesitate to contact myself or any member of the committee. Your comments are always most welcome.

Thank you once again for your continuing membership but please make a real effort to support and attend the next event. So, make it a priority date in your diary **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October Memorial Hall at 8.00pm** I look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes

Chairman