

Members' News – September 2006

Richard Gray (**Aston Manor**): The free bus service during the summer had now come to an end. This had proved very popular especially for the Arts Festival and Heritage Open Day. There was one additional free service on 28 October for the Museum Collections.

Sophie Wilson (**Barber Institute**): The Birmingham Lecture series for the National Trust included talks on Ashley Hicks, Hidcote Manor Gardens, Villas of John Nash, and early medicine in Birmingham.

Ann Nunn, Alan Griffiths and Pat Cole (**Blue Badge Guides**): Reported that there had been a varied guide programme for the City, but numbers were reduced.

Bill Esslemont (**Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens**): A successful volunteers meeting and they were looking forward to their Potato and Apple Day on 8 October.

Glynis Jones (**Birmingham Pen Trade**): Very successful Heritage Open Day. They were benefiting from an offer of volunteers from Pertemps in Solihull.

Daniel Callicote (**Selly Manor**): Proving very popular for school visits. Redevelopment of the garden almost complete and good publicity from Radio WM. Will be taking part in the Big Draw on the 14 & 15 Oct and have events planned for half term and storytelling on 28 October.

Michael Jepson (**St Martins, Birmingham Parish Church**): Heritage Open Day had gone well, especially tours of the tower and also Arts Festival Events had received publicity from the BBC News Team. Submission had included Ben Ecclestone 'Join the Dance' and 'Bald Statements' sculpture by Jean Parker aided with an Arts Council grant. Arts Café open Tuesday to Saturday- 10am to 4pm.

Philip Aubury (**Birmingham Botanical Gardens**): Autumn Leisure Learning programme now on website.

Pat Mills (**Handsworth Historic Society**): The strawberry tea and coffee mornings continue to be popular and a successful Heritage Open Day with visitors from a wide area. Richard Albutt, digital projects manager from the Central Library, and Sima Gonsai, an artist from the City Council arts team, obtaining reminiscences of Handsworth Park and Dawinder Bansal was working on a project about the changing face of Handsworth. They were able to gather a lot of useful information from the visitors.

Jeff Robinson (**Tyseley Locomotive Works**): A successful summer season with the Shakespeare express. A number of excursions booked for the autumn.

Tony Fox (**Friends of Cannon Hill Park**): The park had received the green flag award for the third year. On 5 November there would be a local History day at Highbury Hall. Work was being carried out on the park regeneration strategy.

Irene Lakin (**Birmingham Cathedral, St Philip's**): Again a successful Heritage weekend.

Christine Doyle (**Back to Backs**): Still very popular with visitor numbers having exceeded 35,000. Unlike many National Trust properties, it would be closing for just three weeks over the Christmas period and then reopening.

Mike Hinson (**New Hall Mill**): 900 visitors for Heritage Sunday. Excellent conservation work being carried out by Sapcote.

Chris Hargreaves (**Birmingham Conservation Group**): Working on an appraisal and management plan for Colemore Av. Consultation taking place on the Steelhouse area, Warwick Bar and Digbeth and with the Conservation Trust looking at the Newman Brothers and S J Evans buildings.

Fiona Adams (**Moseley Hall and Dovecote/Icehouse**): The garden round the Dovecote was now complete.