

## **Birmingham Heritage Forum Members' News - March 2008**

Jeff Robinson (**Vintage Trains**) - Excursion programme for 2008 now available with the Shakespeare Express running on Sundays for July to Sept. 28/29 June will be special celebrations at Tyseley for the centenary of GWR.

Michael Jepson (**St. Martin's in the Bull Ring**) – Maundy Thursday service at 7.00 with a simple meal in the café. On Good Friday there will be a three hour service which people are invited to join for any period with access every half hour. The service will be preceded by street drama depicting the events leading up to the death of Christ. There will be an Easter Eve Shoppers' Service and the usual services on Easter Day at 9.30, 11.00 and 6.00.

Irene Lakin (**St Phillip's Cathedral**) – The Revd. Nigel Hand has been appointed as the new Canon Missioner. A full programme of services for Holy Week. An exciting admission-free programme of Friday lunchtime concerts at 1.10pm. Anniversary Day of Dance on 12 April 11.00 to 1.30 in the churchyard with the Morris dance group 'Glorishears'. 20 April, 3.30 – 4.30 Choral Evensong and the Royal Saint George Society Service.

Fiona Adams (**Moseley Hall Dovecote & Icehouse**) - The Dovecote and Icehouse are now open on the 4th Saturday of the month to coincide with the Farmer's Market from Easter to autumn. Work is progressing on the garden at the Dovecote and the overgrown cypress trees have been removed from the side of the Icehouse and will be replaced soon with more suitable trees.

Diana Perowne (**Blue Badge Guide**) – There has been an important conference on guiding at the National Memorial Arboretum seeking to improve guiding standards in the UK.

Rachel Bannister (**Historic Kings Norton**) – The Grammar School has been completed and formally opened and there are now tours of the Grammar School, church and the outside of the Saracen's Head. Work on the Saracen's Head is going really well and will be completed for a June opening.

Chris Rice (**Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery**) – Community museums will be opening for the season from Good Friday with the exception of Aston Hall which is undergoing a £12m refurbishment and will reopen in 2009.

Peter Jordan (**Friends of Bournville Bournville Carillon**) – Although in the UK there are 5,000 towers with bells there are only 14 carillons of which the one at Bournville is probably the finest. It was built in 1906 on the tower to Bournville Village School. A carillon school is being set up so that people can learn to play the bells which is by means of a keyboard. As access to the carillon is difficult for anyone who is not able bodied, pictures from the playing chamber are relayed to a screen in the Visitor Centre. There will be a special recital of Edward Elgar music on 26 July and the visitor centre on Bournville Village Green has full details of other playing times.

Linda Keen (**Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses**) – A good start to the season with 2,500 visiting the ‘Taste of the Tropics’ event. The Growing Schools Garden, designed by Chris Beardshaw, which won gold at Chelsea, is being reconstructed as a resource for teachers. A high tech interactive educational facility will open shortly, called the Green Man. The Turkish Outcrop will be formally launched in April. A full programme of events is available from Reception or on the Garden’s website.

Glynis Jones (**Pen Room**) – Now displaying an exhibition from the Assay Office.

Glynis Jones gave apologies from Pauline Roberts (**Key Hill Cemetery**) - Pauline has started on a book about Key Hill to include a history of the cemetery, non-conformism, tragedies and other interesting items as well as the rich and famous. The new website [www.friendsofkeyhillcemetery.co.uk](http://www.friendsofkeyhillcemetery.co.uk) is underway.

Mike Hinson (**New Hall Water Mill**) – Last year ended on a high with a TV slot on Central News with Suzanne Carter. During winter clearing of the mill overflow a half 18C millstone has been uncovered. There is a full programme of open events planned for the year including National Mills Sunday on 11 May. This is organised by the Mills group of the SPAB and involves 350 working mills. The spring bank holiday opening would include coppice crafts and basket making. MH invited members to sign a petition for the inclusion of Environmental Education in the National Curriculum. See [www.naee.org.uk](http://www.naee.org.uk)

Anna Russell (**Back to Backs**) – Special events planned for the Easter holiday. 5 May, VE Day celebrations with stories in the air raid shelter. A project of new stories is being undertaken.

Richard Gray (**Aston Manor Transport Museum**) – The History Bus will be running again on the first Sunday of each month through to October. This bus connects all the City’s community museums. There will also be a bus for the St Patrick’s day parade.

Pat Mills (**Handsworth Historical Society**) – A good start to the year with two busy coffee mornings. Still no progress with repairs at the Old Town Hall although a full surveyor’s report from BCC had been passed to Chris Hargreaves..

Sophie Wilson (**Barber Institute of Fine Arts**) – Weekly Gallery talks at 1.30 on Thursdays are proving popular. A full programme of lunch time concerts, see website. Gwen Jones exhibition 22 May – 14 Sept.

Pamela Vanderstam (**Winterbourne Botanic Garden**) – There has been a good start to the season including the opening of the new Arid House which was funded by the Friends of Winterbourne. In April a new Gallery will open in the Coach House with temporary exhibits of art and photography. A substantial donation of orchids has been received. A full programme of garden events through the summer.