

Birmingham Heritage Forum Member's News – September 2008

Stephen Spencer, **Birmingham Community Museums.**

The Museum of the Jewellery Quarter is extending the premises with a tea room, education space and exhibition area.

Aston Hall, phase one of the work has been completed in the north wing. Expected to reopen in June 2009.

Weoley Castle has received £1.2m of funding from English Heritage, HLF and Birmingham City Council. An education centre will be built by late 2009 and an Outreach Officer has been appointed.

Soho House is preparing for next year's Boulton celebrations.

Blakesley Hall has had a successful year.

Sarehole Mill is applying for funding to dredge the mill pool. The new tea room has been a great success.

Events, history bus numbers have been much better. Details of future events can be found in an A4 printed publication available from local libraries.

Pat Mills, **Handsworth Historical Society.** The strawberry tea and coffee mornings continue to be popular and it is hoped it will be a successful Heritage Open Day (HOD) on Saturday 13th September. The Society has been involved with a Cultural Townscapes film, produced by English Heritage's Outreach Department, and have also been asked to participate in next year's centenary celebrations at St Andrew's Church, Oxhill Road. No update on repairs.

Rosemary Turner, **Moseley Society.** 200 people visited the dovecote over the Moseley garden weekend. Moseley has reached the final for Birmingham in Bloom. Work on the 18th century gardens around the dovecote are planned, plants are required and donations would be welcome. The HOD walks will begin in Woodbridge Road.

Margaret Ward, **Birmingham Cathedral, St Philip's.** 11th – 13th Sept. there is a great deal going on for HODs. Other events include; 12th Sept. – lunchtime recital. 26th Sept. at 7.30pm – Festival Concert. 1st Nov. at 7.30pm – Cathedral Chorus. 19th Sept at 6pm – Rev. Chapman will be welcomed.

Mike Hinson, **New Hall Mill.** The mill has had a good season, with 1,102 visitors on August Bank Holiday Monday. The mill will be open on 14th Sept. for HODs, which will include a stall by Sutton Civic Society and the Midland Hand Weavers. The tree trail is being planted and will open in 2009.

Jean Jepson, **Birmingham Parish Church, St Martin's.** HODs runs from 11th – 14th Sept. At St Martin's there are guided tours and there is also the unique opportunity to see the Bull Ring from a different perspective by going up the church tower. JJ attended the national launch of HODs and Birmingham received a special mention because of the Faith Trails taking place. Harvest Festival is on 28th Sept. There is a special nativity presentation taking place at numerous locations around the city, planned for Christmas. A Quaker Trail leaflet about Birmingham has been produced, available from Bull Street Quaker Meeting House and Central Library.

Jeff Robinson, **Tyseley Locomotive Works**. The first open weekend for many years was held to celebrate the centenary, with over 6,000 visitors. Another open day will be held on 26th Oct. The Shakespeare Express ends its season at the end of Sept. There is a trip taking place on 27th Sept to the mid-Hants railways.

Richard Gray, **Aston Manor Transport Museum**. The success of the history bus this year may lead to more vehicles next year.

RG is meeting city museum officials to discuss the rental of the museum site. The transport museum's future could be in jeopardy. The museum needs security of tenure to allow them to apply for funding.

On 19th Oct. red double-decker, Routemaster, will be on the road. 23rd Nov – Collector's Fair. Offering free entry for HOD weekend.

Sophie Wilson, **Barber Institute of Fine Arts**. To celebrate the Gwen John exhibition and Artsfest, there will be performances at the Council House about Gwen John's life. The exhibition itself ends on 21st Sept.

In Oct. 'The Past within the Present' shows contemporary works inspired by the Barber's collection.

3rd Dec. – 28th Jan. is 'Back On the Road', showing the original manuscript scroll of Jack Kerouac's novel On the Road.

The Art Deco concert hall has been refurbished and opens on 3rd Oct. There is also an ongoing fine art lecture series on occasional Weds. SW will be talking about the portrait of Lady Barber on 13th Nov.

Daniel Callicott, **Selly Manor**. For HOD free guided tours specialising on the early oak furniture collection, and with demonstrations by a local carpenter, on 13th and 14th Sept, 2-5. Also, preparing for children's Halloween craft activities at half term.

School visits have commenced again, and are as popular as ever for children learning about the Tudors.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses.

14th Sept – Plant Hunter's Fair.

21st Sept – Cyclamen Show.

5th Oct – Cactus and Succulent Show.

Cannon Hill Park.

12th Sept, – Moths and Bats.

14th Sept, 12-6 – Party for the Park, to celebrate the 135 year anniversary.

Birmingham Tours.

The 'Big Brum Bonanza Walk' and the 'More Canals than Venice Walk' have been very popular this summer. Booking is through TIC and Birmingham box office.

Have been working with Marketing Birmingham, providing guides for the future Rotary International event, the International Airport Conference and with a TV presenter to promote Birmingham as a weekend break.