

**Birmingham Heritage Forum  
Member's News – December 2011**



*Members enjoying one of the Pen Room Museum tours*

Brian Jones, **Pen Room Museum**. NADFAS have been doing research and the museum is currently displaying Reeves' badges.

Anna Williams, **Winterbourne House and Garden**. Have recently taken part in the VAQAS scheme and passed.

Jenny Smith, **St Mary's Convent**. Have been continuing tours and are preparing more for the Pugin Bicentenary. Also recently celebrated 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Michael Jepson, **Birmingham Parish Church – St Martins**. A whole host of Christmas events are taking place including; 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. Nativity Service, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. free advent walk, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. Carols by Candlelight, 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Charity Concert. St Martins features on 2011 Christmas stamps. There is also an event at the Cathedral Square on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec with live nativity, storytelling, music and the tree of hope.

Carol Parkinson, **The Oratory**. Will now be open during the day, 10 – 5. A sign is soon to be erected advertising its location.

Rosemary Turner, **Moseley Society**. Fiona Adams chose to be invested with her MBE, last Friday, in Moseley. This was presented by the Lord Lieutenant. A quiz is taking place in the new year.

Irene de Boo, **Birmingham Museums**. At BMAG the history galleries are due to be completed in Sept 2012. Community Museums have repairs and maintenance being carried out during the closed season. Birmingham Museums Trust is due to be set up by April 2012.

Alan Bishop, **Aston Manor Transport Museum**. The museum is now closed. There is a possibility it may reopen next year in a new location out side the City.

Amanda Cadman, **Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve**. Work continues on the reserve. Guided walks take place on the last Saturday of every month. It is hoped there will be an extension to the reserve upstream of the River Rea.

Muriel Higgs, **St Paul's Church**. Visitor numbers have increased.

Lizzie Hatchman, **National Trust**. The Back to Backs are winding down for Christmas. The lecture series at the Barber Institute is now planned including a lecture on Octavia Hill.

Remo Forecellini. The Pugin Bicentenary celebrations begin on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012. A draft trail can now be found on the Pugin Society website. Exhibits will be on display at BMAG and the Barber Institute.

Sarah Hill-Daniel, **Martineau Gardens**. The gardens are open everyday except Sunday with free entry.

Nigel Cripps, **Aston Parish Church**. NADFAS have completed their record of the church monuments which has taken a year and includes a rare Puritan monument. This year was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Aston becoming part of Birmingham. Events have been well attended. NC expressed concern over the future of the former Aston Council House which is now empty and boarded.

Lucie Thacker, **Birmingham Conservation Trust**. If any members have had problems with lead theft a university study is taking place – details are on the BCT website. BCT have just completed an options proposal on Highbury Hall. Fundraising continues for the Coffin Works and BCT hope to be on site soon.

Jeff Robinson, **Vintage Trains**. The workshop is busy with repairs. Excursions are taking place and the next open day is in June 2012.

John Sheard, **Bells Farm House**. The grade II\* listed building is to undergo restoration with a £639,000 project, with funding coming from Birmingham City Council and English Heritage. The work is expected to take 9 – 12 months and will include repairs to the roof, making the building watertight and structurally sound and rebuilding the rear wing.

Emma Buckler, **Conurbation Museums Officer**. The Wikipedia session is now fully booked but there is likely to be another one in Jan / Feb next year.

Joy Smith, **Birmingham Botanical Gardens**. A restoration project for the cascade is underway. A new bed has been created in the Arid House. On 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. there is a Christmas event called 'Top Hats and Tinsel'.

Glynis Jones, **Friends of Key Hill and Warstone Lane Cemetery**. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month there are guided tours throughout 2012, costing £2.50 for non-members. Safety testing of monuments is taking place. Unsteady memorials will not be toppled but investigated further.

Sophie Wilson, **Barber Institute of Fine Arts**. There were very good attendances for Galleries Night and the Craft Fair. The shop has a variety of Christmas gifts and decorations for sale. In the new year there will be a display of lesser known works from the collection.

Daniel Callicott, **Selly Manor**. The recent Christmas Craft Fair was very well attended. Selly Manor recently received the Sandford Award for Heritage Education at an awards ceremony in Durham Cathedral.

Jeff Childs, **New Hall Mill**. Currently carrying out winter maintenance. In the grounds the overwintering crops are being planted and the Millers garden is being prepared for spring. The wild flower meadow and new ponds have established themselves well, and a kingfisher has been spotted on several occasions.

The next **Birmingham Heritage Forum** meeting will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at St Mary's Convent. [This meeting is for members only.](#)