

Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens

Newsletter ~ November 2009



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A very big **Thank You** to all our Volunteers;
Without your unstinting help the Trust would not exist

A Volunteers' Meeting will be held on Thursday 26th November at 12oclock in the Keder Greenhouse for a One Hour Formal Session followed by a light buffet lunch in the Visitor Centre.
Could you please ring or e-mail Sue if you will be attending in order that we can organise the catering.

David Fullard

At the **AGM**, the following members were elected to be Trustees for the for the periods shown:-

Mrs Jean Draycott	3 years
Mr Bill Esslemont	2 years
Mrs Jennifer Teall	1 year

Each will be eligible to stand for re-election at the end of their term of office.

It was decided that there should no increase in the membership fees for 2010 but the Trustees have decided that each of the the normal entry prices will have to increase by 50p. These will still represent fantastic value at £4-00 for adults; £3-50 for concessions and £1-00 for children.

Included with this news letter are the renewal forms for Members and re-registration forms for Volunteers. Sue would like them returned soon after Christmas.

The Trust occasionally faces unexpected problems and expenditure. A recent example of this was just before the Band Concert in August a persistent but intermittent electrical fault knocked out one of our computers and unable to keep any power on for more than a few minutes, the Sunday event was in jeopardy. This resulted in an emergency call out costing several hundred pounds, a new computer and later some remedial work to the electrical circuits in the Garden.

There is more work to be done and the final cost will be nearly £1,000.

The Million Pennies appeal raised £199-90 between 1 June and 1 October.

Our schools education project has been a great success this year and the Trust are actively seeking ways to continue the work next year. It is possible that we will be able to appoint an **Education Officer** to lead this project. It is likely that this will be for 2 days a week on a one year contract.

With time running short, if we find the rest of the necessary funding we will have to move fast. Are you interested in doing this valuable job? If so please contact either myself or David Fullard.

We need more **guides** especially for weekends. If you would like to help in this area please let Sue know. Training will start in February and is spread over three half days plus reading at home.

The Trust were sad to learn of the death of Sheila Hodgkiss who had been one of our guides for many years.

Finally my thanks to all the members of our staff without whose dedication and support we could not continue.

Dave Bennett

The Mystery of the Spinney.

The day after bonfire night strange groups of logs, twigs, leaves and fruit were discovered in and around the pond and the orchard. These groups appeared to represent the shapes and form of fruit trees and cordons. There was evidence of people moving or dancing in a circle around the offerings. Was this a post Hallowe'en ritual or a prelude to Wassailing? Despite an extensive search we could not find any evidence of how anybody could have entered the Garden, did they fly in? As we all know folklore rumours and tales abound here, does anyone have any ideas? (no we haven't been on the magic mushrooms)

The Gardeners

Forthcoming Events

**Christmas Flower Demonstration	Notcutts Tue 17 Nov	19.00
Christmas Event	Sun 6 Dec	12.00 – 16.00

Entry to most events is FREE to members of the Trust on production of their membership cards.
Trust Members only pay for events marked **

**For the Xmas Event we need your help again
Please**
Adult & Children's Tombola Prizes.
Soft Toys
Home-Made Cakes

Recent Events

Thanks to you these excellent events raised the amounts shown:-

Children's Funday £1,872.31
Concert Band £ 685.44
Car Boot..... £1,257.09
Apple Day.....£1,895.27
Halloween.....£1,754.25

Many thanks for all your help. Please put the dates for future events in your diary. I will need your help again

BEFORE, DURING & AFTER each event.

For those of you on the normal daily rota please remember that it is important to let me know if you can't attend. Our visitors depend on us having available the facilities that we advertise. Thanks.

Sue Brain

The Hall

All we know at present is that the Christian Heritage organisation have made an offer and are gathering funds. There are three other interested parties, possibilities are: a Boutique Hotel, use as a Private Residence and Offices.

CANOLDIR CHOIR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Arden Hall, Water Orton Road, Castle Bromwich
On
Friday 11th DECEMBER 2009
Commencing at 7.30pm All Tickets: £8-00
All seats reserved and booked in advance by contacting

Jean Draycott 0121 779 4171
or Harry Murch 0121 783 0841

Social Group Activities

The meetings, held on the second Tuesday evening of the month at Arden Hall at 7.30 p.m., have been well attended.

Ivor Hathaway.

Tuesday Evenings

10 November 2009	'Safety in the Home' Steve Mann The West Midlands Fire Service'
08 December 2009	Social Evening
12 January 2010	'Quiz Evening' Harry Murch
9 February 2010	Mrs Edna Handley Solihull – Now and Then
9 March 2010	Mr David Hess Collar the Lot The Story of the Internment of Refugees from Nazi Germany.
13 April 2010	Notcutts Making Hanging Baskets
11 May 2010	John Letts – Sculptor Will create an image in clay as he talks
08 June 2010	Will Farmer Fieldings Auctioneers'
13 July 2010	Mike Miles The lives of canalboat women 1800 to 1960
10 August 2010	No Meeting Happy Holidays

All are welcome- Trust Members £1-20, Visitors and friends £2-00.

As autumn gives way to winter the garden staff and volunteers are busy preparing for next year. Several hundred new bulbs have been planted including tulips, snowdrops and crocus. Delicate pot plants have been moved inside and the winter pruning of the fruit trees is well in hand. The propagation area in the Keder is being used for cuttings of lavender, germander and rosemary for use on the plant stall and to renew plants in the garden. The polytunnel has been recovered and will be back in use as soon as the doors have been fitted. Weeding, grass & hedge cutting, are never ending jobs due to the mild weather.

Gordon Sammons