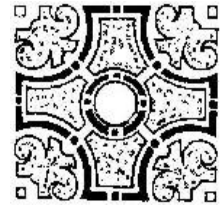


Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens

Newsletter ~ February 2010



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The Volunteers Pre Season Meeting

will be held on **Sunday 28 March 2010** starting promptly at 2-15 pm in the Visitor Centre

New for 2010 is the Homebase Garden, which has been sited between the Keder and the polytunnel. A contemporary garden which Homebase are filming for video display in local stores under their 'Grow your Own' initiative.

Suffice to say the start of this year has seen a proper winter which has delayed some of our 'on the ground' work. However the spring bulbs are pushing through and the snowdrops in the Lower Wilderness are a delightful sign of Spring, please come and look.

Work is under way improving the Courtyard, in the Visitor Centre the water boiler has been replaced and the under sink water heater repaired.

No news on the Hall just yet although it has been strongly intimated that completion of a sale is due this month, we wait and see.

David Fullard

I start with a reminder to those members that have not yet renewed their membership for 2010 that this will be their last Newsletter and that your membership cards will not be valid after the 28th February

The Million Pennies appeal raised a total of £2,773.09 up to 31 January 2010

Thanks to the generosity of a number of charities we now have the funding to continue the Schools Programme for another year. We have also been able to appoint a part time Education Officer on a one year contract and we welcome Ann Brookman to the Staff.

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

Our thanks to Harry Murch, Jean Draycott and their band of helpers for organising the **CANOLDIR CHOIR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT** in December. They raised a total of £879.73 for the Trust.

Last August the Trustees initiated a review of the Trust's restoration and planting policy. It has been the Policy to restore the gardens as near as possible to the period 1680-1740. At their meeting in January they accepted a recommendation from the Gardens Committee that a more logical period would be 1680 – 1762. This latter year being the date when the Bridgeman family moved from Castle Bromwich to Weston Park. In all other respects the policy remains the same with a strict definition of when plants later than 1762 may be used.

Dave Bennett

TILL TRAINING

Could you please arrange to come into the Gardens before the season opens to refresh yourselves with the operation of the till. If you would like to come in small groups or individually please contact the office to make sure that it is convenient. Afterwards, if you feel you still need additional tuition this will be carried out on a one to one basis prior to your duty or if you would prefer ring to make an appointment.

SCHOOL PROGRAMME TEAM MEETING
Tuesday 12 April at 11.00 am

GUIDE TRAINING/REFRESHER COURSES

Please advise the office if you are interested in attending the above courses. Do tell us which days and times that would suit you best so that we can choose days/times that fit the majority. Weekday courses will start in March and weekend courses in April.

BASIC FOOD HYGIENE REFRESHER COURSE

Monday 15 March at 10.30 am

If you help in the Coffee Shop it is important that as many of you as possible attend this course. It will last approximately 2 hours. Please ring Sue to let her know if you are able to attend.

The Trust's Forthcoming Events

Easter Event	Sat 3 Apr	13.00 – 16.30
Animals in Hands	Thur 15 Apr	11.00 – 16.00
**Car Boot	Sun 16 May	8.30 – 12.30
Children's Fun Day	Thu 3 Jun	12.00 – 16.00
A. D. Concert Band	Sun 6 Jun	14.30
**Rare Plant Fair	Sun 13 Jun	11.00 – 16.00
National Gardens Scheme	Sun 27 Jun	13.30 – 17.30
**Merry Wives of Windsor	Sat 3 Jul Sun 4 Jul	19.00 15.00
**An Evening with Brumbats and OPAL	Sat 17 Jul	20.00

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

Recent Events

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

Notcutts £1,009.00
Christmas £1,405.38

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.

If you know that you will be available to help at the EASTER EVENT could you please let me know.

Thank you once again for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.

We need to recruit some new volunteers. If you know anyone who may be interested please ask them to contact me.

ROTA

Enclosed with this Newsletter is the rota for the period 1 April to 30 June 2010. If you are unable to carry out any of the duties or are able to fill in any of the gaps please let me know.

Sue Brain

Social Group Activities

Tuesday Evenings

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	David Donovan The Birmingham Mint
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
14 September 2010	Richard Westcott Confessions of a Pantomime Dame
12 October 2010	Harry Murch Farms for City Children
9 November 2010	Peter Preece Natural History Photographer
14 December 2010	To Be Arranged

Having opened the year with the annual quiz we had our first speaker in February and you will see from the programme within this newsletter that we have arranged speakers up until the end of November giving talks on a wide range of subject matter. We stress that our meetings are **OPEN TO EVERYONE** whether members of the Trust or not and even if you have no connection with the Gardens but see a talk that may be of interest to you, advertised in various leaflets distributed in the locality, please join us, you will be made most welcome. **We meet at 7.30. p.m. in The Windsor Room at Arden Hall, Castle Bromwich.** There is a small charge of £1.20. for members and £2.00. for none members purely to cover the speakers costs, room charges and refreshments. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Ivor Hathaway.

25th Anniversary Celebration

This year signifies the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Trust. We will be organising a celebration day provisional date Saturday 18 September full details will follow.