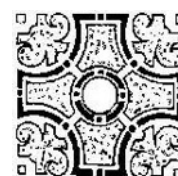


Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens *Newsletter ~ February 2011*



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Notes from the Editor

I start with a reminder to those members that have not yet renewed their membership for 2011 that this will be their last Newsletter and that 2010 membership cards will cease to be valid after 28 February 2011.

Many of you will have heard by now that David Fullard has resigned, to enable him to take up another job outside the Heritage Business. He has asked that I pass on his thanks those members and volunteers that he did not see personally before he left, and this I am happy to do. The Trust wishes him well in his new venture. We have unfortunately also lost the services of both Emma and Tony.

2011 promises to be a difficult year and we have still not heard what grant we will receive from SMBC. We are not filling any of the posts mentioned above in the short term until the Trustees have a better idea of our financial future, and so we once again look to our volunteers to keep us afloat. Gordon is being assisted in the garden by Fran and Stephen, both of whom are part time mature trainees.

We continue to look for ways to save money and at the recent meeting a significant number of volunteers indicated that we could send the newsletter and other documents to them by email. We have started to set up a system to do this so, if any other members or volunteers are willing to allow us to communicate by email, please send an email indicating your agreement to Sue on: Admin@cbhgt.org.uk.

Unfortunately in light of our current staffing difficulties it may be necessary from time to time to shut the gardens without notice. If this does happen please accept our apologies in advance. Please also be assured that this action will only be taken as a last resort.

Dave Bennett

The Trust's Forthcoming Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME
Snowdrop Day	Saturday 12 Feb	11.00 am – 3.00pm
Easter Event	Saturday 23 April	1.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Rare Plant Fair	Sunday 1 May	11.00 am – 4.00 pm
Car Boot Sale	Sunday 15 May	8.30 am – 12.30 pm
National Gardens Scheme	Sunday 22 May	1.30 pm – 5.30 pm
Animals in Hands	Thursday 2 June	11.00 am – 4.00 pm
Crescent Theatre – An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde.	Saturday 2 July Sunday 3 July	7.00 pm 3.00 pm
Central England Concert Band	Sunday 31 July	TBC
Animals in Hands	Thursday 11 Aug	11.00 am – 4.00 pm
Falconry Display	Saturday 20 Aug	11.00 am – 4.00 pm
Car Boot Sale	Sunday 18 Sep	8.30 am – 12.30 pm
Apple Day	Sunday 2 Oct	12.00 – 4.00 pm
Christmas Event	Sunday 4 Dec	12.00 – 4.00 pm

CALL TO ARMS

For our events to be successful we need help prior to them taking place. We need assistance in erecting and dismantling the party tents and also for collecting the roadside posters from the printers, fixing them onto the boards, putting them out at various locations and collecting them back in after the event. Also, is anyone interested in helping as a Press/Public relations officer to keep the gardens in the limelight? If you are able to assist with any of these please let me know. **We are in urgent need of new volunteers, so if you know anyone who may be interested please encourage them to join the team.**

Thank you all for your support last year, and although this year is going to be a difficult one for many reasons, with your continued support let's hope it will be a prosperous and successful one for the gardens.

Sue Brain

VOLUNTEERS Re-REGISTRATION FORMS

If you are a volunteer, enclosed with this newsletter is your re-registration form for this year. I am sorry for the delay in issuing these, but as you will see opening days and hours in 2011 have been revised. Once you have decided when you are able to provide help, your co-operation in completing and returning the form as soon as possible would be very much appreciated, as the rota for Visitor Service Volunteers will have to be sent out before we open. **If you are able to help with any of the events this year list them on the back of your form and also remember to put them in your diary and/or on your calendar please.**

The Million Pennies Appeal continues to grow and reached
£3,071 by the end of December 2010

Education Update

Following on from last year, two schools are booked on to the seven visits programme, both will be starting in early March; five other schools have booked day sessions on various topics between March and the end of the Summer term.

This year we will be able to use the 'Homebase' garden as a 'hands on' teaching resource and source of lunch items, additionally we will be having a bed in the Batty Langley garden to look after as well. The potatoes will be grown again in the Dig for Victory allotment near the North Pond.

Work on a new topic is nearly complete, 'European Plants' will complement the existing topics in science and history and will form the basis of one of the day visits already booked.

I would like to hear from any one interested in helping with either the workshops or to look after any of the beds so please do get in touch with me.

Ann Brookman, Education Officer

Hi Folks

A first for me. Following the hard work by the Tuesday ladies last March we were able to lift, split and divide many of the larger maturing groups of Snowdrops growing in the Lower Wilderness. These have so developed we have taken "the bull by the horns" and gone for a Snowdrop Saturday opening here in the grounds. By the time the newsletter is out we will know how our new venture has gone and how we can build on the event. If any of you would like to put in a donation towards us purchasing a few thousand Winter Aconite to join the Snowdrops for next year's event it would be much appreciated. These need to be purchased by the coming June.

May I thank all the volunteers for the support being given to me since taking up my roll as Chairman of the Gardening Team.

David Howell
Chairman Gardens Committee

SOCIAL GROUP STOP PRESS

Social Group numbers continue to hold up but we would like to see more people at our Tuesday meetings. We had a very successful quiz in January 2011 and the topic of the meeting which took place on February 8th was a talk on a charity which runs a bakery in Tanzania and is helping to make the people there more self-sufficient. In March we have arranged a talk on 'Birmingham, A City in Music.' The Social Group meetings are open to everyone and are held at the Windsor Room, Arden Hall, Castle Bromwich starting at 7.30.p.m. There is a small charge of £2.00 for visitors to cover the cost of room hire & refreshments.

Ivor Hathaway

Details of the meetings scheduled for between now and August 2011 are given here:-

2010 Events.

Notcutts Flower Demonstration

This was a very good, entertaining and colourful demonstration given by Jane Fox. The evening was well attended and was enjoyed by all attendees amongst whom were the Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull. Just over £1,000 was raised at the event.

Christmas Event

This was well attended, considering the bad weather conditions, which unfortunately prevented some of the stall holders from turning up. There was a good atmosphere and visitors enjoyed the entertainment provided by the Castle Bromwich Singers and the Brummagem Mummies. To the delight of the children present, Santa arrived on time despite his busy schedule, and the event raised £1,211.53.

Castle Bromwich Hall Tour

On Saturday 18 December, Mr Liu, the new owner of Castle Bromwich Hall very kindly gave the Trust permission to carry out guided tours around the main rooms of the Hall. This obviously aroused a great deal of interest, as it gave people the opportunity they had long been waiting for - to see the inside of the Hall at last! Tickets sold very quickly, but unfortunately on the day, the heavy snow, although creating a wonderful atmosphere did prevent some people from attending. There is however a possibility that Mr Liu may allow this event to take place again, and if so details will be included on our website. Approximately £2,000 was raised on the day.

Thank You

Many thanks to all the volunteers who attended the Volunteers meeting on Sunday, 16 January - their support was very much appreciated.

Social Group Programme

Tuesday Evenings

March 8th	Mr John Smith on Birmingham <i>A City in Music</i>
April 12th	Mr Jim Parkes <i>The Way we Were 1939 - 1954</i>
May 10th	Mr Tony Kelly <i>Military Accoutrements</i>
June 14th	Mrs Judy Bates <i>A brief History of Birmingham Buildings</i>
July 12th	Mrs Sandra Brew (former Lady Mayoress) <i>Precious Memories</i>
August 9th	<i>Tour of the Gardens</i>