



The Round Tower

The newsletter of Friends of Bruce Castle, a completely independent group supporting Bruce Castle Museum and Park

From the Chair

Long-standing members will be aware that the Friends was founded in 1995 out of concern for and to protect the future of the Museum, the Archives, the building, the Park and all their services. Members will not therefore be surprised to hear that the committee is very concerned about the funding and staffing settlement for the Museum and Park as part of the local authority spending cuts which took effect from 1 April.

In the current economic and political climate, no local authority service can be exempted from these cuts. However, the reductions in the staffing levels, in what is already such a small team, will seriously impair its day-to-day operations and thus the services offered in the Museum and Archives as well as those for the Park. The reduction in frontline staffing levels from three attendants to one also raises potential security and safety concerns, and the loss of the administrator post could affect the potential for income generation -- both of which could seriously compromise the professional work carried out by the remaining staff.

There is further cause for concern in the "Rethinking Haringey" strategy document

adopted by the council in February. Culture, Libraries and Learning are now part of a new directorate which will be revised again in April 2012, when all cultural services will become part of "community hubs" delivering council services from a smaller number of outlets and bringing them together with other services such as the police and the NHS. It is not at all clear to the committee how the Museum and the Archives can be expected to function successfully as part of such a hub, nor indeed why the services the Museum and the Archives provide should be considered as analogous to other council services.

It would of course be premature to anticipate the results of this restructuring. Nevertheless, in March I wrote on behalf of the committee of the Friends of Bruce Castle to Haringey's Chief Executive, Kevin Crompton, to outline our concerns. I also said that we would be monitoring developments to keep our membership informed and make, as required, representations about them to the council.

It is very disappointing to have to refight a battle for the future of the Museum that we thought we had won over ten years ago. But with your support, we can surely win again.

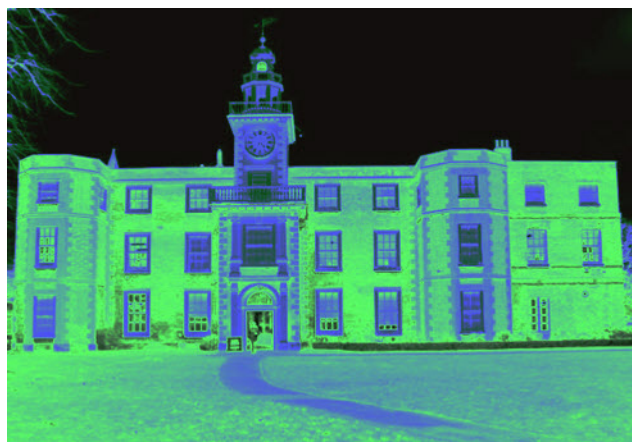
Joseph Nicholas

CHILL WITH US: MUSEUMS AT NIGHT WEEKEND 2011

Friday 13 May

Special screening of *The Innocents*, starring Deborah Kerr and Michael Redgrave. A spooky British psychological thriller from 1961

7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm. Tea and Coffee available. Supported by the Friends of Bruce Castle.



Friends of Bruce Castle Newsletter

Spring and summer visits – now available to book.

This year the Friends have organised two visits – to the Geffrye Museum in Hackney and Audley End House in Saffron Walden. Details are given below so check your diary and join the Friends for a delightful day out!

The Friends of Bruce Castle have organised a visit to the **Geffrye Museum Alms Houses in Kingsland Road Hackney**. The group visit has been arranged for **Thursday 23rd June**. We will meet at Bruce Castle at 12.45 pm and travel on the 243 bus to the Geffrye Museum. Our talk and tour is booked for 2 pm followed by tea and scones in the restaurant. The cost is £5 (excluding travel costs). Alternatively you may meet the group at the Geffrye Museum at 1.45 pm provided you have booked a place and arranged it with the Friends. There are 10 places available. The Alms Houses have recently been re-opened to the public; two of the rooms are now as they were in the 1790's and 1890's with access to the domestic facilities (there are some steep steps).

Ring Cherry McAskill on 0208 888 7856 to book a place, payment can be made on the day. The Geffrye Museum's website is: <http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/>



The Geffrye Museum

Our second visit is arranged for **Sunday 17th July to Audley End House and Gardens near Saffron Walden in Essex**. This visit will be by coach from Bruce Castle, leaving at 9.30 am and returning at approximately 6.30 pm. The

cost will be £25 (less for English Heritage members on production of current membership card). The House and gardens, stables, café are all worth visiting and there is a picnic area. Audley End house is a spectacular Jacobean mansion and one of the great sights of East Anglia. Behind the architecture, furniture and furnishings is the story of Audley End and its successive owners – from Thomas Audley, Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII in the mid 16th century, through earls and kings, to the Neville Family in the 19th and 20th centuries. Audley End House itself is a magnificent house, built to entertain royalty, and includes a Victorian Service Wing complete with kitchen, laundries and a dairy. With beautiful grounds to explore, including an impressive formal garden and the working Organic Kitchen Garden, there's something for everyone.

Ring Cherry McAskill on 0208 888 7856 to book a place. Visit the Audley End website at: <http://www.englishheritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/audley-end-house-and-gardens/>



A view of Audley End

"Tell Me About It..." - Our New Reminiscence Café

Drop by the museum and reminisce over old photographs and objects; a variety of topics to inspire.

2pm to 4pm:
Tuesday 31 May
Tuesday 21 June
Tuesday 19 July

Museum Exhibitions and Talks

Exhibitions

Inspiring Schools, Inspiring Pictures

Photographs by students from Haringey Schools Co-ordinated by the Children and Young People's Service.
On show in the first floor Gallery until the end of May, 2011

The Phoenix Cinema. 100 Years

Until May
East Finchley's newly restored Phoenix Cinema is arguably London's oldest surviving purpose-built cinema. To celebrate the cinema's centenary, the exhibition will display memorabilia from the Phoenix's own archives, the Cinema Museum and from Bruce Castle Museum's own cinemas collections.
Location: Ground floor east wing gallery.

Carrying the Torch for Haringey: the Past, Present and Future of Our Sporting Heritage

On view until Spring in the Old Kitchen.
A celebration of 100 years of sporting excellence, achievement and ambition in Haringey

Postal People

From 19 May
Celebrating the end of the Museum's Postal History Project in which ten people with connections to the Post Office or Royal Mail have a special object from the Museum's Morten Collection. On display on the ground floor west by the Old Kitchen.

In My Father's Footsteps

Memories of Tottenham 70 years ago. Oil paintings by **Ricky Clark**. His paintings will be displayed in the first floor back gallery
2 March until June 2011

Mind Journeys

from 4 June 2011
Mind Journeys is a youth media initiative, using writing and graphic design, which has been developed by Exposure Magazine. The project has been designed to assist teenagers with mental health issues to work together to recount their personal journeys.
The project aims to help enable these young people to retake some control of their own lives.

Funded by the Wates Foundation and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Location: ground floor east-wing gallery.

Munch And Listen

Bring your lunch and listen to our free lunchtime talks at 12.15pm. Doors open at 12pm.
Programme supported by the Friends of Bruce Castle.

Family History On the Internet

Monday 23 May.
Archivist Clare Stephens and Archives Assistant Valerie Crosby guide you through a web of research possibilities.

Tiptoe Through the Tombstones

Monday 27 June
Jane Potter, local guide and expert, will take us on a virtual tour of Abney Park Cemetery.

Our Feathered Friends

Monday 25 July
David Cotteridge, from Friends of Tottenham Marshes and wildlife photographer, will take us on a guided tour around Bruce Castle Park.

Evening Talks

7.30pm, Free admission. Doors open at 7pm.
Tea and coffee available. Programme supported by the Friends of Bruce Castle

The Life And Legacy Of George Peabody

Wednesday 25 May 2011
Christine Wagg of the Peabody Trust tells the story of how an American merchant banker founded what has since become London's largest charitable housing association.

Road to Redemption: the Brewing of Ale in Haringey

Wednesday 29 June 2011
Deputy Curator Robert Waite looks at the history of our local breweries.

Who was St Benet Fink

Wednesday 27 July 7.00pm
Find out with Father James Hill who will be leading a visit to St Benet Fink Church at the junction of Lordship Lane and Downhills Way, Tottenham.

Please note: There are no talks in August

Friends of Bruce Castle Newsletter

Local History Fair

The Local History Fair was held in February this year at the museum. It was the first one I'd been to for a few years and it seemed to be much busier than the last one I'd attended. The lecture Hall seemed to be packed at each talk given by some interesting and varied speakers.



A captivated audience at one of the talks

Visitors to the History Fair were greeted warmly by volunteers manning the FoBC stall at the entrance. Many people showed an interest in what FoBC does and wanted to know more about us and our role in supporting the museum.



Volunteers (from left to right) Joan, Robert and Ruth Upstairs, there was plenty going on. The Archives were open with some wonderful displays of the research material available to use. Claire and Val were on hand to answer visitors' questions about how the archives can be used to delve into the history of a particular

area in Haringey, discover the lifestyle of one's



Part of a display in the Archives antecedents or peruse some of the maps showing the changes to Haringey over the centuries.

Each gallery had stalls to wander round with different takes on local history and related subjects from pen and ink drawings of historical buildings, books, leaflets and information of just about anything or anyone from the past one may wish to investigate.



The Friends of Tottenham Marshes stall

To me the museum is a hub of information and I feel so lucky to have these brilliant resources to use, both in and out of the museum, which bring Haringey alive for anyone who has an interest in the past and its people. Long may the museum and the Local History Fair continue to run.

Ann Robertson

Friends of Bruce Castle Newsletter

Film Night at Bruce Castle

On Wednesday 30th March I attended the monthly evening talks programme supported by the FOBC . The usual talk had been replaced by a rarely seen film "The Smallest Show On Earth "made in 1957 and directed by Basil Dearden who also made the classic "Blue Lamp " starring Jack Warner and Dirk Bogarde .

"The Smallest Show On Earth " is a comedy about a fleapit cinema "The Bijou " and its battle against a takeover by "The Grand ". It stars such stalwarts of 1950's British cinema as Bill Travers, Virginia McKenna, Peter Sellers , Margaret Rutherford, Leslie Phillips and Bernard Miles . The film was very much appreciated by the audience and brought back memories of attractive usherettes and films that constantly broke down !

This event was part of the Cinema season at Bruce Castle which included a previous talk in February by Jeremy Buck on Cinemas in Haringey and the East Finchley Phoenix Cinema exhibition .

Keep an eye out for future evening and lunchtime talks supported by the FOBC . They are well worth attending and are free !!

Robert Missen

Copies of *What's On*

The museum is no longer able to send out copies of *What's On* by post. We will try to enclose a copy with each Round Tower and of course they will be available to collect directly from the museum.

However if you have email you can contact Deborah Hedgecock, Curator, and she will put you on the list of email recipients. Please remember to identify yourself in your email if your name is not immediately obvious in your email address please.

Contact Deborah by writing to:
deborah.hedgecock@haringey.gov.uk

Markfield History Day

A history day event will be held at the Beam Engine Museum in Markfield Park on Saturday 14th May 2011 from 11.30am to 4.30pm. The day will feature stalls and activities run by groups and organisations and there will be the opportunity to see the beam engine steaming during the day and also in the evening up to 10.30pm. The event is being held as part of the Museums at Night Weekend 2011. Refreshments will be available from the Café Pistachios.

The Markfield Beam Engine Museum is regularly open for steaming so if you miss the above event, here are some dates for your diary:

Bank Holiday Monday May 30th

Sunday June 26th

Sunday July 24th

Bank Holiday Monday Aug 29th

Open City Weekend Sept 17th & 18th

The museum will open at 11am and engine steaming will be 12 noon to 2pm and 2pm to 4pm. For further details of the Museum, visit: www.mbeam.org/ and to see other activities within Markfield Park visit: <http://www.markfieldpark.org.uk/index.php>

Tottenham Festival

This year's Tottenham Festival will be held on Saturday, June 18th. The History Zone will be set up on the front lawn with stalls from local groups and organisations.

Lots of help will be needed on the day to set up the stalls and generally get things ready and then take them down again at the end of the day. During the event people will be needed to help on the FoBC stall and other areas. Also, if you know the museum building well, help is needed to guide visitors on the day to various activities, areas and stalls.

Please phone the museum on: 0208 808 8772 with your offers of help

Friends of Bruce Castle Newsletter



Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Lindsey Hollingworth, Administrative Officer, for two and a half years at the museum. The good news is that Linsey is volunteering at the museum so we will still see her.

We wish you good luck for the future, Lindsey.

The Way Things Were

Tuesday 17th May 2.30-4pm

A special event at the museum where you can share your sporting memories with Pat and Barbara Elliot from *History On The Move* with **On Your Marks, Get Set, Go!**

What was your favourite sport or games? Where did you go and play? Who was your favourite sporting hero? Come along and have fun reminiscing over a nice cup of tea.

Any Good at Sewing?

Experienced hand-stitchers are needed at the museum to help repair some of the costumes. If you can offer your services, please contact Deborah at the museum by phoning: 0208 808 8772

Fancy a Trip to Duxford?

A suggestion has been made for a future outing to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, in Cambridgeshire. Duxford remains a working airfield and has a history going back to WW1. The museum has an extensive programme of events, air shows, talks and tours throughout the year.

If you would be interested in a future outing, then please get in touch using the contact details in the box at the bottom of the page. Duxford's website is:

<http://duxford.iwm.org.uk/server/show/nav.178>

Volunteers

First of all, a huge thank you to all who helped out at the Local History Fair earlier this year. Volunteers are vital to events being a success and help them to run smoothly. With a decreasing museum staff, volunteers at museum events and activities are becoming even more important.

There are many areas that the museum needs your help. The big events like the History Fair, the forthcoming Tottenham Festival and the Open City Weekend in September need a large amount of volunteer help with setting up stalls, assisting with the safety of visitors when on tours around the museum and packing up at the end of each event.

Regular activities, such as the talks and family activities, and often 'one off' sessions e.g. the experienced hand-stitchers need help too. Any help you can offer, whether an hour or a longer amount of time is always appreciated. Please offer whenever you can and help to support the museum.

For further information or to volunteer your time, phone the museum: 0208 808 8772

Pssst . . .

. . . are you getting your copy of the *Round Tower* in black & white? Do you have email? If so why not consider receiving electronic newsletters? Email copies of the Round Tower arrive in your mailbox in full colour. If you would like to change over to receiving electronic issues then contact Ann: Robbotwix@aol.com

Contact Details

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