



# The Round Tower

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

## From the Chair

You will all be familiar with the Great Oak in Bruce Castle Park -- a tree that is thought to be around 500 years old, and although that might seem like a long time to us it is, in tree terms, not very old at all. There are beech trees in Epping Forest which are estimated to be around one thousand years old; there is an olive tree in Crete which is over 3,250 years old; the Fortingall Yew in Scotland is estimated as anywhere between two thousand and five thousand years old; and the Rocky Mountains' bristlecone pine is officially the world's longest-lived tree species, at over five thousand years.

But as trees age, so parts of them die -- and indeed hollowing out their trunks and shedding

branches are a natural part of trees' survival strategies, coping with the effects of age by getting rid of diseased or decaying parts of themselves. And at around 6.00pm on Thursday 21 July, the Great Oak in Bruce Castle Park did just that, dropping (or allowing to fall off) the largest of its lower branches, with a crack that brought people running to see what had happened. (See the above photograph, taken by Deputy Curator Robert Waite in the immediate aftermath, showing the branch still partly attached at its root.)

One's first response is shock and sadness, at what is apparently the partial destruction of such a valued part of the local landscape. But one's next response is to consider what might be done with the broken-off branch -- instead of hauling it away

and turning it into mulch for park flower beds, why not give it into the care of the Museum, for reshaping it into something sculptural: an expression, perhaps, of our relationship with old trees, for permanent display in the Museum? I, as Chair of the Friends, have therefore written to the Parks staff to request just this.

At the time of writing, the brushwood and smaller branches which sprout from the branch have been removed, to reduce the weight and to make it safe for the children who will (inevitably) climb on it. For the time being, the rest of the branch, which is stable, will be left as it is, still attached to the tree. The principal concern at present is the gash in the trunk, which could become infected: a mould which penetrates the exposed wood -- the outer part of the trunk; the part which is actually

growing -- could spread through the tree's vascular system and in time cause it to rot from within. Here again, however, trees have a natural defence system, being able to both form scars over exposed wood and isolate parts of its vascular system; and in any case there are various treatments which can be applied to seal up the wound.

We'll report further as we have more news of what's to happen.

Joseph Nicholas



**Great Oak - latest.** *The great branch has been removed from the tree -- it was feared that this might fall and it was also pulling the gash further apart. It certainly looks less gruesome now, and they have coated the exposed wood to prevent fungal and infective organisms from damaging the tree further. The branch, in three sections, has been left in situ. The rest of the tree appears to be flourishing, with masses of acorns on the other branches.*

# Friends of Bruce Castle Newsletter

## Tea and Talk

This year we are replacing our members Annual Lunch with a Tea and Talk to be held on Sunday September 11th at 2pm for 2.30pm. Holding the Tea in September means no one will have to go home in the dark which we know worries many members. The cost is £10 per person and booking is essential.



We will have a guest speaker - Bruce Watson talking on the subject of 'London's Lost Princess' - the story of Anne Mobray.

With this copy of the newsletter you should have received a flyer advertising the Tea and Talk but if you should need further details please phone the Museum on 0208 808 8772

## Shop on line and earn money for the Friends of Bruce Castle

For those of you who shop on line the Friends of Bruce Castle are now registered with the easyfundraising website.

All you need to do is log on to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/brucecastle](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/brucecastle) and register as a supporter.

Once you are registered you can use this link to access websites such as Amazon and John Lewis and each time you make a purchase a percentage of the purchase price (1 or 2%) will be paid to the charity (FOBC in this instance).

Why not give it a try and see how you get on. It's a painfree way to fundraise for our cause especially with - dare it be mentioned? - Christmas shopping not far off in the distance. Think how virtuous you will feel!

## London Open House Weekend Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th September 2011

Museum tours begin at 1.30pm on both days. Tours take place every half an hour. Last tour of the day is at 3.45pm. Doors open at 1.00pm and close at 5.00pm on both days.



### Saturday 17th September

#### Hawk!

Live Birds of Prey outside our Tudor Tower. We welcome back these popular hunting birds. See them up close and personal.

### Sunday 18th September

#### All Hallows Church

The doors to nearby All Hallows Church will be open from 3-5p.m. All Hallows is well worth a visit to see the stained glass window, the mosaic depictions of religious scenes and the memorials on the walls



**For more information about London Open House Weekend visit:**

<http://www.londonopenhouse.org/>

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## Exhibitions

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

On view until the end of Summer

A celebration of 100 years of sporting excellence, achievement and ambition in Haringey



**Location: in the Old Kitchen**

### Mind Journeys

Until 4th September 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**

### William C. Harvey School: From the Start to a New Beginning

From 6 July

Memorabilia covering almost forty years of the school's existence.

**Location: ground floor near the Old Kitchen**

### Who Was the Mysterious Mr H.B.?

Until 2 October 2011

Starting with the North Middlesex Photograph Collection, this exhibition charts the detective work into the Blackwell Collection, and its collector 'H.B.', through photographs, watercolours & oil paintings of local views.

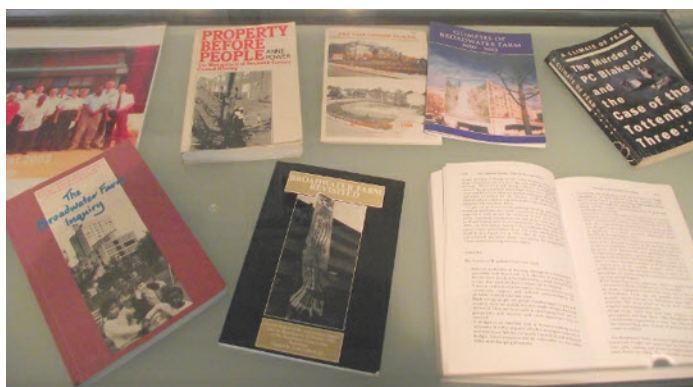


**Location: first floor Coleraine gallery**

### Broadwater Farm: the story of a community 1967 - 2010

Until March 2012

Built between 1967 and 1971, "The Farm" is home to 4,000 people. It has had a chequered history but today after many improvements the estate is a model of social housing, attracting admiration from around the world.



**Location: First Floor Compton gallery**

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## Munch And Listen

**Please note:** There are no talks in August. 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.

### Bruce Castle School

Monday 26 September

Archivist Clare Stephens takes us back to the 19th century progressive school

## Evening Talks

**Please note:** There are no talks in August. 7.30pm, Free admission. Doors open at 7pm. Tea and coffee available. Programme supported by the Friends of Bruce Castle

### Fine Art and Photographs

Wednesday 28 September 2011

John Hinshelwood of the Hornsey Historical Society examines local views through a number of local collections.

## Festival City

The third Story of London festival runs from 1-31 August 2011. This year the festival celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Festival of Britain, which was held to show a progressive view of post-war Britain and showcase contemporary design and innovation.

Story of London events are being held at Bruce Castle Museum and Hornsey Library throughout August.

The festival will culminate on Sunday 28 August when participating venues hold bite-sized versions of their events at the Southbank Centre.

## Markfield

The Markfield Beam Engine Museum is regularly open for steaming so here are some dates for your diary:

Bank Holiday Monday Aug 29<sup>th</sup>  
Open City Weekend Sept 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

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/](http://www.mbeam.org/) and to see other activities within Markfield Park visit: <http://www.markfieldpark.org.uk/index.php>

## Family Arts and Crafts Activities

Throughout August on a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and every Sunday from 2 - 4pm there are arts and crafts sessions. Bring your children and grandchildren and get stuck in! Activities include **Spectacular Spectacles** see early specs and make your own colourful crazy pair. **Make a splash** - travel back to the 1950s and create a fabulous floral swimming cap or a sailor's hat using recycled materials.

**Accessorise** - learn how to accessorise with a pretty fan or shiny pocket watch.

**Crinkly collars** - find out about Queen Elizabeth I and her visit to Tottenham and be inspired to make a Tudor ruff.

Activities are aimed at children aged 5 years and over. Under 8s must be with an adult.

Bruce Castle Museum  
Lordship Lane, London, N17 8NU  
T: 020 8808 8772

To download a full list of activities up to and including 28th August, please visit:

[http://www.haringey.gov.uk/summer\\_2011\\_family\\_activities.pdf](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/summer_2011_family_activities.pdf)

## 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.

Email Deborah at:  
[deborah.hedgecock@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.hedgecock@haringey.gov.uk)

## A Stitch in Time . . .

. . . Would help to preserve some of the Museums precious historical costumes. 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 or by emailing: [deborah.hedgecock@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.hedgecock@haringey.gov.uk)

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## Visit to the Geffrye Museum

Two visits to the Geffrye Museum were organised on May 18th and June 23rd by Cherry and very successful they were too. Both visits included a guided tour around the restored almshouse and afternoon tea afterwards.

The almshouses were originally divided into blocks of four with two rooms on the first floor and two at ground level. Below, in the cellar, were communal laundry facilities comprising a copper to heat water and a large sink for the actual washing. There was a back door leading into the garden where the residents would have hung washing to dry. Indoor toilets were eventually introduced to the residents, housed in the cellar, which must have seemed a luxury even though they were shared between the residents of each block.

The two renovated rooms shown to us were furnished from two different eras, downstairs from 1880 (see below) and upstairs from 1780. We were told that most rooms were of single occupancy, but occasionally there would be married couples in residence. Often occupants would be from a genteelly poor background e.g. housekeepers and governesses.

Residents had to provide their own furniture but were given an annual allowance of clothing. There was a condition with the allowance though which was that woman had to use their old frocks to make underwear. A useful way of recycling!

After the guided tour, there was a delicious tea organised in the light and airy restaurant and then we were free to explore the rest of the museum, shop and gardens. Cherry was thanked profusely and we all went our separate ways.

Ann Robertson

Geffrye Museum Website: <http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/>



1880's interior Credit: Morley von Sternberg

## Audley End Visit

On Sunday 17th July around 13 FOBC members including myself visited Audley End House and Gardens at Saffron Walden, Essex. Audley End is a Jacobean mansion built between 1603-1614 and has a great hall, reception rooms, a chapel, natural history gallery and works of art by such masters as Holbein and Lely. I was particularly impressed by the varied decorated ceilings in each room.

A Victorian service wing is located next to the House with a kitchen, laundries and a dairy. The working conditions of the 1880's were recreated with the staff explaining their duties and there was an interesting explanation of the downstairs "hierarchy".

The early 17th Century stable block had a multimedia exhibition and I saw a horse being groomed with children encouraged to take part. An impressive feature of the House was the 18th Century Organic Kitchen Garden and there was a park landscaped by "Capability Brown". A 19th Century formal flower garden (parterre) was at the rear of the House and there were a number of ornamental buildings around the estate.

In the Second World War, Audley End was a secret training establishment for Polish soldiers and near the entrance is a memorial to those killed during the war.

The day was punctuated by heavy showers but fortunately most occurred when we were in the House. We left at 4.30pm and Cherry was thanked by all for organising a very interesting visit to what I would describe as a "gem" of a country house.

Robert Missen

Audley End Website: <http://www.englishheritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/audley-end-house-and-gardens/>



By kind permission of English Heritage

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## Volunteers

An enormous thank you to all those who volunteered their time to help out at the Tottenham Festival in June. With the Museum's staff level decreasing the Friends need to be as supportive as possible at events.

We must not forget the support given throughout the year behind the scenes either. Some friends help out in various ways at the museum e.g. Cataloguing the Museum's artefacts, publicising events and one Friend was recently spotted finishing off some interior decorating.

Coming up in September is the London Open House Weekend (see page 2) which involves the Museum offering tours of the main building and Round Tower. Help is always needed to ensure the safety of the groups of people taking the tour. The cafe will need helping hands to make cuppas and other refreshments for the visitors and of course there is always the setting up and clearing away afterwards. Any time you can spare to help out with this two-day event will be much appreciated.

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

## We (Almost) Have a Website

Over the last few months a draft website has been put together and needs testing by as many members as possible before it goes 'live' It is still a work in progress but there is enough to give you a feel of how the end result could look.

We would appreciate your comments, suggestions, and ideas on the colours, style and content please. These will help develop the website further. Most of all we need to know if we have forgotten anything essential.

Here is the temporary website address:  
<http://friendsofbrucecastle.webplus.net/index.html>

## Laid Up

At the time of writing two of our members, Cherry McCaskill and Janet Harris, are hospitalised. We hope you both make good recoveries and it won't be too long before we see you again.



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

Tuesday September 20th 2pm to 4pm

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

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deborah.hedgecock@haringey.gov.uk

## Contact Details

### Newsletter items can be sent to:

**Ann Robertson,  
FoBC, c/o Bruce Castle Museum,  
Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17  
8NU**

**Phone No: 0208 801 9654**

**Email: Robbotwix@aol.com**