



The Round Tower

Friends of Bruce Castle Newsletter

Summer 2013 No 63

Supporting Bruce Castle Museum and Park

From the Chair.

There is good news to report on this occasion. First of all Haringey Council has allocated a sum of £1.2 million to prepare for a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the development and restoration of the building. I, Deborah Hedgecock and other committee members met with Paul Ely, Head of Commissioning in Leisure Services in March to discuss preliminary work to be undertaken before this can move forward. As ever, what to do with the money, if the bid is successful, is the easy part -- it is anticipated that an application will be made within the next 9 months to the HLF.

Secondly, speaking of applications. I have written, as Chair of the Friends a letter in support of Haringey Archives' application to The National Archives for the digitisation of its records relating to Broadwater Farm, not solely the records of the 1989 Riots Inquiry, but other material relating to the history of the estate and the land it was built on. Broadwater Farm is one of the most popular research subjects of social, political, architectural, economic and historical issues, for users of the Museum and the Archives. There is therefore a pressing need to produce a comprehensive catalogue with clear access and copyright conditions. The Museum and Archive, staff considers, as do I, that a digitised catalogue would accentuate the material's research and

heritage value. Alas, as writing this piece, news has been received that the application to produce a comprehensive catalogue with clear access and copyright application, although long listed for consideration, has not made it past the first-stage sift.

Thirdly, Groundwork the community charity, established in the eighties to "...help people to create thriving communities in places that face the greatest social, economic and environmental challenges... places that are stronger, greener and more prosperous..." now has two people working for two days a week in the Park, carrying out the routine upkeep green spaces require if they are not to become untidy and overgrown. (One of the people concerned has previously worked at Kenwood House.)

Groundwork's, co-ordinator, responsible for this and for similar volunteering in Haringey's parks has met with Deborah to gain an understanding of how Bruce Castle Park differs from the other parks. She has been in touch with me to help understand more about FoBC which is different from other Friends of Parks groups, has a wider remit and geographically dispersed membership.

There is a volunteer-working workshop being established every two weeks "...bulb planting..." afternoons and the like in which those who live locally might like to get involved, programme and...

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From page 1. ... posters available from the Museum. Although, speaking as an amateur gardener with an allotment, I have enough to do on my own plot to have much time left over for that sort of thing.... Fourth, Tottenham Active! (the exclamation mark is apparently mandatory), is a three-year Council programme underwritten by £250,000 of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Community Sport Activation Fund and will be offering a range of beginner classes in sports and other exercise to get Tottenham residents fitter and healthier. The initial classes will be focused on middle aged and older men, plus younger women; will involve local sports clubs and voluntary groups and will be available in Tottenham parks from this month onwards.

The programme will be officially launched in Bruce Castle Park on Saturday 6th July at noon. Details of the launch event and classes are available on the Council's website.

Fifth and finally, the Museum was recently visited by (at his personal request) the current High Sheriff of Greater London, David Jones and his wife Elizabeth, whose sister established the Prince's Drawing School which has been using the Museum as one of its venues for six years. Mr. Jones had heard of the Museum in May from Mayor of Haringey, Cllr Sheila Peacock at the launch of the 639 High Road Enterprise Centre.

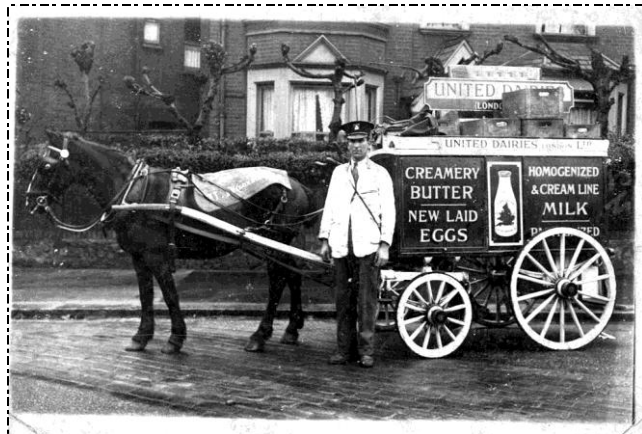
He thought it would be good to discover more about our historic building and what it does now. As the Friends of Bruce Castle, we of course thoroughly approve of this interest!

Joseph Nicholas

Do You Remember The Horses?

By Chris Protz.

Many of us remember the milkman and his float making daily deliveries to our doorstep. But can any of you recall the horse-drawn deliveries?



Or even the days when milk was carried in churns to be poured into the housewife's jug, with deliveries sometimes up to three times a day? Roy Hidson's father worked as a milkman for 51 years and Roy has written a fascinating memoir of the changes in milk deliveries from before the First World War to the 1960s.

We are now seeking other people's memories of the milkman and daily doorstep delivery. Perhaps you worked for a dairy, or on a milk-round? Maybe you had a Saturday job when still at school? Or do you have childhood memories of the milkman and his horse, and the gradual post war changes to an electric float carrying more than milk and dairy products? What do you remember about your milkman and his deliveries? If you want to contribute to our collection, you can contact us by dropping a line to the Friends, c/o Bruce Castle (for the attention of Chris Protz.) or by email to: christine.protz@blueyonder.co.uk

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Visited to the Museum of the Order of St John in Clerkenwell. on the 1st of June. The Museum itself is pretty compact, and you can probably get around it, during a lunch-break was actually the last part of our guided tour and is the only way to see the non-public parts of St John's Gate. The Priory of St John established in Clerkenwell as the English headquarters of the Order in the 1140's. Just outside the City of London, and not answerable to the Mayor and Aldermen. The Hospitallers had established themselves in Jerusalem by 1080 and subsequently became militarised as Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. When Henry VIII split from the Catholic Church and established a new Anglican Church the Order in England was dissolved and all its lands and wealth were seized by the Crown. The buildings in Clerkenwell were subsequently put to a number of different uses. During the sixteenth century offices of the Master of the Revels; thirty of Shakespeare's plays were licensed there. In the 18th century the Gate was briefly used as a coffee house, run by Richard Hogarth, father of the artist William Hogarth. It later became a public house, The Old Jerusalem Tavern. The modern Order of St John in England was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Victoria in 1888 as a public First Aid and ambulance transport service at a time when no such system existed and in addition to taking back the Gate, the Order established an eye hospital in Jerusalem, following the principles of the Order's first hospital to treat all in need regardless.

... of faith or wealth.

The Order's full title is The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem; principal charitable foundations are St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem, St John Ambulance, the original Roman Catholic Order still has headquarters in Rome and its, full title is the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. It remains a sovereign entity in international law.

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Inside The Priory Church.



The Priory Church Garden.



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The tour behind the scenes at the Museum in our case, led by the Chair' of The St John's Historical Society, Keith Schnaar, included the Chapterhouse with the coats of arms of all its Priors since the 1140s around the walls. The Boardroom walls are decorated with gold-painted panels commemorating the beneficiaries of the Order and the Chancery houses a medieval wooden safe disguised as a window seat. The descent of an oak-wood spiral staircase is said to be one of only two surviving oak-wood spiral staircases in Britain.

The Maltese Room displays furniture, artefacts and paintings from the Order's time in Malta from the sixteenth to the end of the eighteenth century. The priory church, on the other side of the road is the third church to stand on the site; the first was destroyed during the Peasant's revolt in 1381 and the second by Luftwaffe bombs in 1941. This left the shell of the building standing, but incinerated the post medieval box pews and gallery, all of wood! The Norman crypt, however was untouched, where a number of medieval knights of the 'Order' have been found to be buried in its walls. The visit to the church also included the small garden on the site of the former cloister, which is open to visitors at weekday lunchtimes.

The Chancery Safe



St Johns Wort, carved above a doorway.



THE URBAN CHEESEMAKER

Our April *Evening Talk* attracted a huge crowd, chairs reaching right up to the door and possibly beyond.

The attraction was Philip Wilton, the Urban Cheesemaker, who makes artisan cheeses in Tottenham and who evidently gets enormous fulfillment from it. In a lively and humorous presentation he told us of his previous employment "...in management..." which the recession ended, and how, with his redundancy money running out, he decided to take a new direction entirely: to become a cheesemaker. This required serious study and the gaining of qualifications in a variety of disciplines.

When it came to choosing a base for his new enterprise Philip had no hesitation; he loves Tottenham and felt that staying there and setting up his business, WILDES CHEESE, in N17 would be an ideal life style. So that's what he did. Philip told us that he uses pasteurised, but not homogenized milk from a single herd in Rye, Sussex and his rennet is vegetarian. He makes a variety of cheeses and constantly introduces new ones including his no. 5 "The Drunk," which is given a regular drink of Redemption Brewery's Hopspur ale to make its particular flavour, uniting two Tottenham artisan products.

At present Wilde's Cheese has quite a limited number of specialised outlets; you cannot yet obtain his products locally, but you could buy them at BCM after his talk.

Ranged along the back of the hall was a table bearing plates of small biscuits with cheese samples and tiny cups of milk, which his helpers handed out, and enticing packets of cheese portions to buy and take home. Obviously, when the talk was over everyone wanted to taste, so there was a surge of people towards the back of the hall. Alas, I never got to the front but I may yet taste his product because he has a stall at the Alexandra Park Farmers' Markets held on Sunday mornings.

Marlene McAndrew

Painless Fundraising

Did you know that donating money to FoBC need not cost you a penny? Whenever you shop online, simply go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk click on 'Support a Good Cause' and choose 'Friends of Bruce Castle' then follow the instructions from there. The companies you shop from will donate an amount, according to how much you spend.

Vintage Fair

As you will see from the flyer, another Vintage Fair is due to take place at Bruce Castle on 13th July. If anyone is able to volunteer a little of their time - it doesn't have to be all day - then we would love to hear from you. We need helpers on the FoBC stall, on the entrances, and for lunchtime cover for those staying all day. Please contact the museum if you can help. 020 8808 8772

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Changes in Tottenham Cemetery

When Tottenham Cemetery was transferred to the private funeral company Dignity in April 2012, we thought there might be changes. Public information sessions held in the autumn showed that Dignity were keen to tidy up the much neglected cemetery and seemed to be aware of the environmental issues concerning this little piece of semi-natural landscape that delights so many of us. One proposal was to clean up the lake by dredging out the silt and removing this to two small bays to create reed beds. This work took place in the winter, but considerably more silt was dredged out than had originally been anticipated. Rather than remove the surplus from the cemetery, it was decided to dump it across the western end of the lake, covering an area that included the largest island. With a land bridge now inserted across the lake, this island is no longer a safe place for the water birds that have been breeding there year after year. Numerous local residents complained about dumping the silt and the reduction in the size of the lake to Dignity and the Council (which agreed to this work). Nevertheless, they both have maintained their position on the basis that to remove the silt from the cemetery would have been too costly and created too much disruption. They also say that although the lake is now smaller, with just one island, it is cleaner and the reed beds, due to emerge next year, will enhance the lake. So now we will have to wait and see how the lake – or pond as it now seems to be – will develop over the coming year.

At present it is a place of two halves, the eastern section looking cleaner and attractive and the western portion still displaying an ugly expanse of grey mud and yet to show whether such a large reed bed in a smallish lake will work environmentally.

Chris Protz.

Proposed Friends of Tottenham Cemetery

With these changes in mind, and stimulated by a fascinating walk in nearby All Hallows cemetery led by Deborah Hedgecock, a few people thought it was now time to restart the Friends of Tottenham Cemetery. A Founding Meeting is to be held on 30th June. The Friends Group intend to start the process of identifying and compiling the lists of records held in various places, and develop maps and guides to assist with family history and local heritage. It will also be engaged in conservation and biodiversity issues, and a proposed website will make it easy for people to access information and developments. The Group wants to include as many people and organisations as possible, from the local community to those further afield with family connections with the cemetery, and of course all concerned with the heritage and environment of this lovely, unique part of Tottenham. If you are interested in working in this new Friends Group, either as a member or active volunteer please contact: totcemfriends@gmail.com

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Hands on History – Family Activities

Sunday afternoon in the museum can sometimes seem overflowing with buggies, scooters and excited youngsters - it must be nearly 2 o'clock! The ever-popular Family Activities take place most Sunday afternoons and week days (usually Wednesday to Friday) during school holidays. Supported through the Friends and overseen and organised by the Education Officer (Lucy Grey) and Deborah, our curator.

These activities offer all kinds of things kids love to do, paint, draw, stick, cut, spread glitter, and dress up and more. Each session has a focus or theme based on local history, items found in the museum or park. Recent themes have been the Romans and included dressing up in a toga, making clay pots and a centurions' shield; Haringey history looking at the paintings and drawings in the galleries and creating their own versions, making a model of the Tudor tower and Seven Sisters. Our Family Activities are an important part of the outreach work and community involvement of the museum.

Numbers taking part vary depending on the time of year, weather and activity offered. Recently our numbers have been swelled by the excellent publicity generated on 'mums' websites, notices in nursery magazines and of course What's On and the museum listings on line.

A massive selling point for us is all activities are free, but this is the rub – funding is urgently needed. The Friends have donated all profits from our Vintage Fair stalls to

support the activities, grants have been applied for but funding is still urgently needed. The cost of materials and sessions and someone to deliver each activity still needs to be met. This is just one way in which FoBC supports the museum and the local community.
Cherry McAskill

Reminiscence Cafe

Did you know that Bruce Castle Museum holds a Reminiscence Cafe in the Old Kitchen once a month on a Tuesday between 2-4pm.

This is the place to reminisce about childhood games and activities such as hoola hoops, tops, card games, street games or games that were simply made up, favourite meals, customs, school days, music etc. Previous topics have included My Teenage Years, A Dickens Christmas and Festivals and High Days.

Objects and pictures from the Museum collection are also shown to enliven the discussion, as well as occasional music sessions or short local films. The next topic is 'Radio Favourites of the Past' on Tuesday 24th July. So come along and bring your photos and objects and share your memories with us. We are a friendly bunch and Tea and Biscuits are served!

Robert Missen and Chris Protz.

Love Parks Event

This is due to take place in Bruce Castle Park on Sunday 4th August 12-3pm.

Come and join us.

Barrett's - a Wood Green

Institution. By Robert Missen.

On Wednesday 29th May an audience of over 50 watched a film at Bruce Castle entitled "Story of Barratt Sweets" made by David "Tec" Evans in 2005. It had previously been shown at a Munch 'n' Listen event and was back by popular demand!

George Osborne Barratt and his wife founded Barratt's Confectionery Business in Islington in 1848 and they moved to Mayes Road in Wood Green in the mid 1880's, as they needed larger premises.

Between 1904 and 1953 the site was expanded by which time it covered 6 acres. Over 200 sweet lines were made there including Aniseed Balls, Liquorice Allsorts, Nougat, Sherbert Fountains and Sweet Cigarettes.

Several ex employees were filmed explaining the "arcane" mysteries of sweetmaking and John Elston Barratt talked about his ancestors who ran the firm.

Over the years a Dental Surgery, Chiropody practice, SRN, a Social Bar, Football Team and Rifle Club were established by the company. Barratt's remained at Wood Green until the mid 1970's when it was taken over and moved north. It is now part of Trebor-Bassett. The site is currently occupied by the Chocolate Factory --a series of industrial units used by craftsmen, artists, sculptors, painters, photographers and designers etc. The film was greatly appreciated by the audience and was a fitting testament to a company which had given employment in Wood Green for over 90 years.

SWEET MEMORIES

The Barrett's film brought back to me - and no doubt too many who saw it - memories not only of sweets but also the firms who made them. As a child I used to think that Bassetts (founded 1899) was an alternative name for liquorice allsorts. The words toffee and "Sharp's" (1911) always went together. Trebor (1907) meant Refreshers and Murray meant "mints"; Fox's (1918) meant only Glacier Mints. Maynard's (1880) was wine gums. Pascal is a name I associate with something sweet and powdery but I can't recall which; Mackintosh's (1890) recalls beautifully wrapped chocolates and toffees, often in tins or packets. I also recall Meltis (1913) who made Mitcham Mints and New Berry Fruits, and Clarnico (1972) famous for their mint creams. During the war sweets being in short supply, children sucked and chewed some odd things. Those I remember were lemons, liquorice wood, cough sweets called Zills and even pitch off the road - yes, really! After the war when sweets were available but still rationed, a visit to the sweet shop was a Sunday ritual in my home. My mother would give me some money for 2-oz (yes, always 2-oz, never ¼ pound!) of sweets for me, nut rock for my dad and some boiled sweets for herself. If we visited my Grandma I usually came back with a small flat bar of Nestle's (pronounced Nessel's, not Nestlay!) I am sure some of our members can recall the shop in Seven Sisters Road (Tottenham end) which made boiled sweets in glorious profusion. Ah bliss! Peardrops!
Marlene McAndrew