

SUMMER 2007

Welcome to BCHRC's Summer 2007 newsletter. Our aim is to keep all of you informed of progress at BCHRC, and to let you know about current and up and coming activities and projects you might like to become involved with.



Carnival Memories

May 19 saw BCHRC open its doors to receive Carnival memories when volunteers and the Carnival committee worked together to gather information that local people have in their cupboards or in their lofts about the Carnival and its long history.

Everything that came into the centre was recorded, either by being photographed, photocopied or scanned, and many items were donated to the Carnival to join their collection and go into the centre's secure museum-standard store to be preserved for future generations.

Richard Lewis donated a pair of cymbals that his father, Reg Lewis, used as part of his costume in 1969 when the theme was The Romans, as well as a photograph of his father at the Carnival in costume.

BCHRC put on a display at the Carnival Town Trail in the Public Hall on 24 June and at the Carnival itself on 1 July. Among the highlights of the display were photograph albums donated by Rita Coxall with photocopies of photographs stretching back as far as the early days of the Carnival. Many people identified missing names and dates on the photographs, and this information will be added to the albums before they go into the store for safe keeping.

The event and display were funded by Awards for All as part of the BCHRC Heritage on your Doorstep project





Summer in Chapel Yard

One sunny day in early June (not words you will have heard much this year, but bear with us!) we spotted the foxgloves growing outside The Barn, and noticed how lovely Chapel Yard was looking.

So, just to remind you, and ourselves, that the sun did sometimes shine this summer, and will one day surely shine again, we are printing this record of Chapel Yard buildings in June 2007. We would like to find out more about the history of Chapel Yard, so if you have any information, or would like to do some research, do let us know.





Volunteers' Trip

Walsall Leather Museum and Garden will be the destination for a trip for volunteers at BCHRC, House on Crutches and the Railway & Transport Museum on Wednesday 26 September. A bus will leave Bishop's Castle church at 9am and after a guided tour of the leather Museum there will be free time until leaving Walsall at 4.30pm. Why not visit the New Art Gallery, the Arboretum or Walsall Museum, or just go shopping? The cost of the bus will be about £8, and please contact 01588 630556 to reserve a place.

Reaching Out – Big Draw and Learning Links

Judith Payne recently joined the BCHRC team as our volunteer Education Co-ordinator, and has been busy forging links with other individuals and groups who are interested in exploring local heritage. On 13 October Beth Hendley will be leading a free day of drawing and other fun activities for all ages at the Church Barn from 11am – 4pm on the topic of the Candle Factory fire of 1901.

In September Judith hopes to be working with one of our local schools to produce a learning resource for primary school age children using artefacts in the House on Crutches Museum and based on the theme of working children. The scheme, which will provide cover to release a member of staff to work with Judith, is funded by MLA West Midlands' Learning Links programme.



New Depositors at BCHRC

New deposits continue to come into the store, and some of the latest are the Bowling Club, Mainstone PCC, Friends of Stone House and the Community College, who among other things deposited documents, flyers and national press cuttings from the 1995 'Don't Cut the Heart from Bishop's Castle' campaign.



SWSHAS/Oxford Dendrochronology team

In July a team from Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory working with Madge Moran and SWSHAS started work on dendrodating 28 High Street and the buildings behind, including the Railway Museum.

Our photographs show a core sample and BCHRC Chair Graham Lloyd with Madge Moran (medieval vernacular architecture expert) and Sarah Screen (owner of two buildings involved in the research). They are looking at a drawing by Henry Hand of the possible layout of the castle and market hall.

BCHRC was the meeting room and coffee stop and Madge has requested that Henry's final drawings be lodged at the centre.



**To find out more about
Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre please contact:
BCHRC, Chapel Yard, Bishop's Castle SY9 5DE
E mail: mail@bchrc.co.uk
Telephone: 01588 630556**

(Please leave message on answer machine when Centre is not staffed) for information on

Storage at BCHRC
Opportunities for research
Hire of facilities & resources
Education & Outreach materials
Helping at the centre
Affiliation