



CCA Newsletter No. 20

2016. It is well worth reviewing 2016, and its impact upon activities in 2017. Last year was busier than we have known previously, with more activities and events having been scheduled. The Trust, looking for major funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, have had to show that such funding would also result in an increased use of the site, and that there was already an increase in interest as noted by the additional activities. Also to help in the extra work load, and to provide the detailed plans for the future upon receipt of a Grant, we have seen a number of consultants on and around the premises. The overall result is that the Priory is showing a new lease of life, and a real hope for its future.

Open Days. We have already seen two Open Days this year, and of course there are more planned. Many thanks to the volunteer effort and members help in running and managing the Open Days in January and March. Both days were very successful. In January we were able to welcome a Story teller, who we had hoped would help to keep the children entertained. We were not wrong, and the children of all ages were enthralled.



The Sherbourne. A team of Sherbourne enthusiasts determined that 2017 would be the Year of the Sherbourne, with activities related to Coventry's river each month throughout the year. The Charterhouse has been the centre of a number of the activities thus far and will host some during the remainder of the year. Most recently a 'Water Vole discovery and training' session was hosted at the Priory. The numbers were limited, but those that took part were very enthusiastic. A repeat session is now being planned for later in the year, because of its success. Look out for notice of a bat hunt centred on the Charterhouse stretch of the Sherbourne in September. The actual date has still to be finalised.



Filming. Not for the first time, the Priory was used as a backdrop by film crews recently. The Wheatsheaf Players, a local amateur Dramatic Society, came and made a film in the building. This I am told was a film a little on the 'Dark Side!' Whether or not they have been a little secretive about it. In contrast a local progressive rock band, Arimantus came and used the building for a video to accompany their latest CD. When it was released they took every opportunity to promote

the Charterhouse and, whenever they could, advertised our Open Days. They were enthralled with the site, and if you get an opportunity to listen to the music and see the video you too will be enthralled by their use of the Priory.



Visitors. The Priory has been lucky enough to have had some notable visitors recently. We have been getting 'flying visits' from the local Barn owl in the evening. During the day however a Little Egret is often seen down by the river. It would appear in fact, that there are a pair of them. In the garden at the rear of the Priory there has also been sightings of Muntjac deer. They are camera shy and so not often seen,



even though they have been resident in the garden for a while. The wildlife in the Charterhouse area is quite remarkable considering that it is only a mile or so from the city centre. We are very lucky. In contrast, visitors that we didn't need are in the fields as I write. Once again there has been an invasion from the Travelling community. Hopefully they won't stay too long. As a post script they have already moved on even before I could finish this missive. This is where the Trust and the Association is particularly thankful to the vigilance and help of the Guardians. They do a magnificent job and there is no doubt that without their help the safety and security of the Priory would be compromised.

Matt Doran of the National Trust, has been quoted as saying:
"Coventry's Charterhouse is a wonderful multi-layered historic site, a rare Carthusian Monastery with exceptional wall paintings. To have such a magical place sitting so close to a city centre offers great opportunities and the proposed restoration is very exciting."

Future Plans for the Building. The Trust are expecting to submit details of their plans for the future renovation upkeep and usage of the Priory, the fields, and the area toward the end of this year. We can expect a positive reaction from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a bright future for the Charterhouse. One of the exciting ideas in the current thinking, is that there will be permanent public archaeology areas on the site, These will be digs that any member of the public can get involved in, with proper supervision. If a site dig is completed another will be opened so that the public involvement can continue.



From Priory to Visitor Centre Plus. In medieval times and again in Victorian times the building had two wings. Currently only one still stands. Planning ideas for the future include the possibility of re-introducing a North Wing as an administrative area.

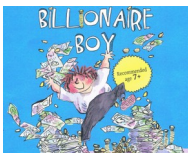


The Immediate Future. Of the several special events planned for 2017 a number, in particular, should be mentioned.

On May the 27th the William Stanley's Household is presenting a medieval re-enactment afternoon. This will be real entertainment for all the family. Medieval craftsmen will be working and showing off their wares, as well as archers and swordsmen demonstrating their skills. Check out the poster at: bit.ly/2pr98mm



Come along and join the Big Lunch on June 18th We will be picnicing on the lawn and there will be music, dancing, games and children's activities. Find out more at: bit.ly/2pUwMI3



In August, on 19th, David Walliams play Billionaire Boy is being performed at he Charterhouse. More detail at: bit.ly/2pTSJDY

Contact

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Check out the Website at:
<http://www.CoventryCharterhouseAssociation.org.uk>

Next Open Day
Saturday 17th June
12:00pm to 4:00pm

Note Also Other Events (see Opposite)

May 27th a Medieval Re-enactment

June 18th The Big Lunch

August 19th Billionaire Boy

Your help on Open Days and other events is appreciated, come along if you can make it. And make sure that your friends and acquaintances know and come along