



## CCA Newsletter No. 22 Mainly Good News

**H. L. F. Grant.** I could not possibly start this newsletter without reference to the extremely good news that the Trust (Historic Coventry) have just received news that they have been awarded £4.3million towards the refurbishment of the Charterhouse. Ian and the Trustees have worked extremely hard to achieve this result, and we congratulate them. Their vision for the future of the Charterhouse and other historic Coventry buildings with all their heritage is extraordinary. This is just the start of much more.

When we remember the fights that have taken place in the past to ensure that the Priory and the Fields were not lost to the people of Coventry following the bequest by Colonel Wyley, we realise just how far we have come. Some 6 years ago the building was put up for sale, and the local residents had to apply for the fields to be given 'Village Green' status. Now all that is behind us and we can see a future that at times we thought was an impossible dream.

The importance can be judged by the fact that within hours of the official announcement BBC Radio 3 had broadcast a piece on it and it was headline news in the Guardian. Since then ITV have given it news space and there is much more publicity to come. All this in the work up towards 2021 as the City of Culture – Wow!

**Ros Kerslake, CEO of HLF said: "Charterhouse is a site steeped in heritage. From its origins as a medieval monastery, to its subsequent associations with Richard II, the Wars of the Roses and 19<sup>th</sup> Century industrialists, it has a unique story to tell, ... the funding will allow this precious group of Grade 1 listed buildings to be resored ..."**

Read more about the HLF funding on the Association website, see the ref. [HLF Grant to Coventry Heritage Trust](#) at address below.

**Oh! It has been cold.** The recent spells of cold weather have taken their toll on the Priory building. Unfortunately I have to report that it resulted in burst pipes that cause flooding to all three floors at the Victorian end of the building (the guardians quarters in the main). Water poured through the ceilings right down to the panelled room on the ground floor. Luckily no permanent damage has been done and the problem has been sorted, but it did give us all a fright at the time.

**The Priory Bee Hives.** The cold weather has also been responsible for the very sad loss of all the bees in the two hives, situated in the Priory back gardens. The bees will be replaced, but it is a set back that we did not wish for.

**Open Days.** Since the last news letter we have held two more very successful Open Days. Neither saw the best of weather and March 17<sup>th</sup> in particular was bitterly cold. Nevertheless, we had an extremely good turn out and many visitors who braved the cold.

**Coventry Militia – Levy.** On the March Open Day we had a visit from the Coventry Militia, a War of the Roses re-enactment group. Their exhibition of sword fighting, and the whole scene that they provided was spectacular. Our thanks to all those that took part, and our sympathy too, for they managed in spite of their extremely cold hands. Well done. We hope to see a return in warmer times.



**Grateful Thanks.** It would be easy to take for granted the help that Association members give on Open Days. Without you it would be impossible to open the Priory to the public. Thanks too to Emma and her 'Little Vintage Cake Co.' The cakes and scones etc. are very much part of the attraction of the Open Days. So too the music from Andy and his musicians, who lend so much to the atmosphere.



### Contact

By email: [c.jon.plumley@gmail.com](mailto:c.jon.plumley@gmail.com)

Phone: (024) 76 267 919 (Jon Plumley)  
0781 432 7614 (Paul Maddocks)

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

**Next Open Day**  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
**12:00pm to 4:00pm**

**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 too**