

# Newsletter

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate one of our members on an event that is rather rare among the BDTA members.

Melissa & Hayden Woolley from The Albynes have had a baby girl, Olivia.

This is a grandchild for Cynthia Woolley who used to run the 5 star B&B.

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### DINNEY FARM

Following a recent inspection Dinney Farm at Chelmarsh have had an upgrade of their self catering cottages to 4 and 5 stars. The 4 cottages sleeping up to 30 people in total are also available for group bookings.

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### BRAMLEY HAS OLYMPIC GUESTS

Dee Revell at Bramley in Homer had an interesting couple staying in the cottage a couple of weeks ago in connection with the Wenlock Olympian Society William Penny Brookes Bicentenary celebrations. There was an excellent exhibition put on in the Priory Hall, of memorabilia from all the past Olympics, including postcards written by spectators at the time, photos, stamps etc. The exhibition was mounted by the Society of Olympic Collectors, of which Dee's guest, Bob Wilcock, is Vice-President. He also gave a couple of talks about

the London 1908 Olympics, on which he has also written an interesting book, full of photographs.

He & his wife Ruth said they thoroughly enjoyed their stay at Bramley and will be back again.



A brand new shop selling exclusive rustic goods and traditional craft items has just opened at Blists Hill Victorian Town in Madeley, near Ironbridge, Shropshire.

T.E.N Horsehay at Blists Hill is a shop run by adults with disabilities supported by Telford & Wrekin Council. Service users work in the shop, dressed in period costume, selling goods they have made at the workshop in Horsehay.

The goods include rustic benches, chairs and, rose arches, bird and bat boxes, as well as children's outdoor seats and more.

The shop was officially opened today by Cllr Andrew Eade, Leader of Telford & Wrekin Council and Steve Miller, Chief Executive of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. The shop is now open to the public visiting Blists Hill and is an exciting new development, which not only gives a much needed retail outlet for the products made by service users locally, but also an opportunity for people with disabilities to demonstrate traditional skills and be fully involved in the day-to-day life of the museum. This is an innovative venture between Telford & Wrekin Council and Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.

Blists Hill is one of the ten museum sites dotted around the World Heritage Site in Ironbridge. It transports you back to the Victorian era where you can visit the baker and buy fresh bread, make candles and a favourite for many is the traditional sweet shop.

T.E.N at Horsehay is part of Telford & Wrekin Council's Inclusive Education and Training service, which looks to support adults with disabilities to gain qualifications and develop skills for work in many areas such as customer care, IT, office skills, retail work and the production of rustic goods and craft items.

Steve Miller, Chief Executive of the Ironbridge Museum Trust, said: "I would really like to encourage residents and visitors to the area to come to Blists Hill, not only to enjoy the attraction as a whole but to take the opportunity to view and purchase some of the unique items made by local adults with disabilities."

For more information please contact Deborah Williams, Inclusive Education and Training Services Manager on 01952 381571.

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## HELLO AND GOODBYE!

It has been all change in the VIC this year. Alison Pipe, who has been with us for nearly 10 years has decided to go for more in-depth research of camper van sites in the UK! She and her husband will be our roving correspondents concerning hook ups, hard standings and those unmentionable areas involving pumps! However, Alison is not always

over the hills and far away and in her spare time in Bridgnorth she has kindly agreed to keep her hand in at the VIC. We are very pleased that we can still call on her from time to time and that all her invaluable local knowledge will still be put to good use.

In Alison's place we welcome Gemma Brown. Gemma is a very busy young lady who packs much into her life, but is also finding time for a tour of duty in the VIC on Saturdays and alternate Friday mornings. I think the range and volume of the enquiries have come as a bit of a shock, but Gemma is finding her feet and getting to grips with the weird and the wonderful – enquiries and visitors! We welcome her to the team.



Gemma Brown and Jytte Spouncer

...and there's more. Sadly we are losing Jytte Spouncer who is heading east. Jytte and her husband have decided that the time has come to abandon the commuting they have been doing for some years and finally to base themselves in Norfolk. Jytte has been with us for 5 years and has brought many strengths to the job. Having worked in tourism in the past she has a wide understanding of the visitor scene beyond the VIC and this has proven particularly useful in the role she has played in an admin. capacity within BDTA, as well as within the centre. Jytte is not a lady to be idle and I have no doubt that in due course she will throw herself into a new tourism role with her customary expertise and enthusiasm. We wish her well and thank her for all she has done for the VIC and BDTA and for the support she has given to all her colleagues.

Sue Yardley

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## BOSCOBEL HOUSE AND THE ROYAL OAK

At Boscobel House and the Royal Oak, new interpretation is being installed to help visitors understand more of this historically important hunting lodge. Hear stories of Charles II's escape from Cromwell's troops, explore the site with our virtual tour and using the new panels in the dairy, even learn how milk and butter were made. Then discover Boscobel's collection of farm machinery and the smithy dating from the Victorian period.

### Entry prices valid until 30/03/10:

Adult £5.20 / Concession £4.40 / Child £2.60 / EH Members FREE

15% discount for groups of 11 people or more paying together (EH Members do not count towards group numbers).

For more information please call the site on 01902 850244 or visit [Boscobel House and The Royal Oak](#)

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## EVENTS

### ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

The Churches Conservation Trust celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. There are many events taking place in our churches up and down the country. To find out what is happening in a Trust church near you please visit our website [www.visitchurches.org.uk](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk)

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Wombourne & District Choral Society will be in church from 10am with workshops throughout the day finishing with a free concert at 6pm.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 3pm. A service for animals will take place. All animals are welcome & we hope families will bring along many varied animals & pets to the special service.



### Spooky Spectacular

31<sup>st</sup> October 2009 6.30pm – 10.00pm

Join us for a special evening of spooktacular entertainment in the mysterious Warplanes Hangar. Walk through our spooky graveyard and meander through dark tunnels to each of the creepy activities.

Listen to terrifying tales from the wise witches and take a ride on the ghost train simulator.

A fantastic fireworks display will conclude the evening's events and a fun fair will keep the whole family entertained late into the night.

Advance tickets are available from the Museum and are priced at:

£9.00 Adult  
£6.00 Child  
£7.00 Senior Citizen  
£26.00 Family (2A & 2C)  
£13.00 Family (1A & 1C)

Check out the website at <http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford/planavisit/halloween-spooky-spectacular.cfm> or email: [halloween-cosford@rafmuseum.org](mailto:halloween-cosford@rafmuseum.org)

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## LAST NEWSLETTER

As part of the Joint Membership Agreement with Shropshire Tourism, they will also take over the editing of the newsletter. Therefore this will be the last newsletter in this format. Hope you have found it useful and thank you to all those who have contributed. Please email all future news/events/ideas to [enquiries@shropshiretourism.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@shropshiretourism.co.uk)

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Editor: Jytte Spouncer, Bridgnorth VIC

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