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Heritage Open Days take place in glorious last few days of summer

PHOTOGRAPH – THE BEESTON EXPRESS©

THIS year's Heritage Open Days took place in what must have been the last few perfect days of summer, when many of the venues open as part of the annual event, organised locally by the Beeston & District Civic Society, enjoyed quintessential sunshine, very much 'tea on the lawn' weather!

The national Heritage Open Days scheme provides members of the public access, free of charge, to places that are not normally open to the public. Here in Chilwell, for example, we have the shawl manufacturer G H Hurt, purveyors of fine hand-finished merino wool baby shawls to Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge: the baby

Prince George, third in line to the throne, left hospital wrapped in the gentle folds of the shawl as the images of the new-born instantly rocketed around the world.

Other venues open included the Sunken Church at Bramcote, with visitors able to learn something of the history of the church and how the solitary tower came to be known as 'The Sunken Church'. Many of the venues offered tea and cake, most apparently did a brisk business in the fine and warm weather – sightseeing in relentless sunshine can be thirsty work when you're not used to it!

Looking from the Sunken Church at Bramcote towards Nottingham. The listed Almshouses opposite stand in the centre of Bramcote village.



Weir Cottage information meeting attracts a good crowd

FOLLOWING the successful bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to restore and refurbish the Weir Cottages by Stewart Craven of Beeston Rylands, a meeting designed to introduce the project to local residents was held at The Boat & Horses on Monday evening, September 30.

In addition to displays and information relating to the £865,000 award, which had been announced earlier in September, Mr Craven spoke of the plans for the derelict cottages, which

will be resorted and converted to a high conservation standard, featuring a period interior in one of the four cottages, an exhibition space, a community space for heritage learning and a kitchen garden overlooking the weir for growing produce to use in the café, also part of the project.

The application also included a request for funding for a three-year programme of activities to engage with audiences and visitors.

About 60 interested residents and visitors attended the meeting to learn more about the project – Stewart was also appealing for volunteers to work alongside the team as the project gets under way.

Local resident Liz Rawding, of South Road, said: "This is a great project. Stewart is a visionary to have taken this project on board and to have generated so much local enthusiasm amongst the Rylands!"



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