

Oh Christmas Tree! Oh Christmas Tree!

Every December, thousands of Bournville residents, passers-by and travellers on the number 11 bus are cheered by the sight of the Christmas tree that stands in the grounds of the Friends Meeting House, in Linden Road.

"However, few of those folk will be aware of the history of this colourful Christmas landmark," BVT Director of Estates, Alan Shrimpton, told Outlook.

"The tree is a Cedar, probably an Atlas Cedar, and it was planted by Dame Elizabeth Cadbury to commemorate her 90th birthday, on the 24th June 1948."

So, when you pass by the tree this year, spare a thought for a woman who did so much for Bournville and the wider Birmingham scene.

On Tuesday December 6th at 7.00pm, the lights on the Christmas tree will be officially switched on by the Festival Queen, Laura Hemming.

BE WITH FRIENDS THIS CHRISTMAS

The Friends of Bournville Carillon will join with local shopkeepers and other groups on Saturday December 17th to present a feast of festive fun.

The festive fare will include roast chestnuts and mulled wine, local choirs will sing carols and the shops on Bournville Green will stay open late.

Seasonal music will be played on the carillon ... and if you close your eyes and make a wish Father Christmas may even put in an appearance! The fun starts at 3pm and everyone is welcome.



Come celebrate by candlelight

Why not start your Christmas with a visit to Selly Manor in Maple Road, Bournville on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th of December ... when it will be festively decorated and lit by candles?

Open between 5.00-9.00pm, this beautiful Tudor building will also be alive to the sound of merrie Tudor musicians Diabolus in Musica.

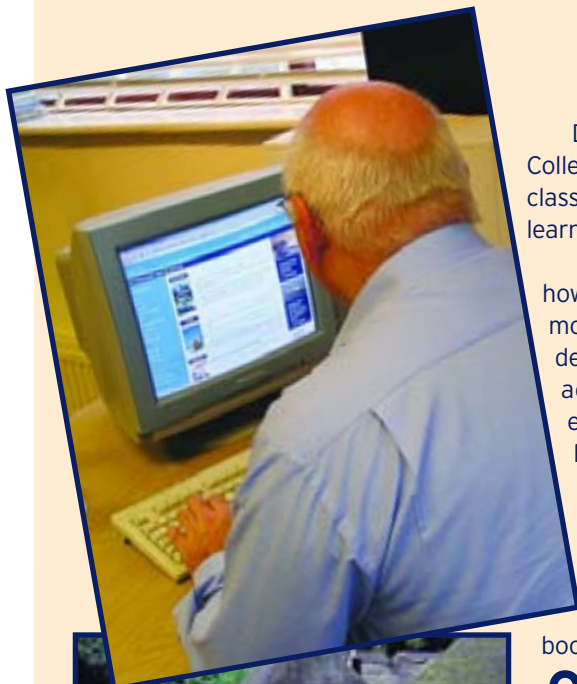
A visit costs £3.50 for adults and £1.50 for children. A family ticket costs £9 - for two adults and up to three children - and includes refreshments and children's activities.

For more information about Selly Manor call 0121-472 0199 or visit www.bvt.org.uk/sellymanor

Selly Manor is holding a Christmas card sale from now until December 22nd from Tuesday to Friday 10am-5pm. Over 25 charities are represented in a huge variety of card designs. So why not visit Selly Manor, get your cards and help a worthy cause in the process?



FOCUS 50+



Tech set to net silver surfers

Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Technical College is to offer free computer literacy classes to anyone 50+ interested in learning about computers.

The classes will include lessons in how to power up a computer, use a mouse, word process a simple letter, design a club notice, email a relative, access the internet, study or even help grandchildren with their homework.

The five free sessions will take place at the college, which is in Bournville, on Wednesday afternoons from 4pm.

For more information, or to book a place, contact Jane Brennan on

0121-464 4040



50+ Club Talk of Torquay

Marie Docker would like to remind 50+ Club members that she is now taking bookings for the Club's 2006 holiday to Torquay.

The cost, £182 per person, includes bed, breakfast and evening meal, entertainment each night and four excursions - one of which will be a theatre trip.

As usual, preference will be given to those prepared to share accommodation. Marie can be contacted on

0121-415 6481



Could you be a Darby or a Joan?

The Bournville Darby & Joan Club is open every Friday afternoon at the Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Hall ... and it's looking to welcome new members.

The club meets between 1.45pm and 3.30pm at the Hall, which is at the rear of the Estate Office in Oak Tree Lane. Every week there is entertainment, sometimes a slide show or a choir and often a speaker.

If you are interested, simply go along ... or for more information call Irene Lorton on

0121-475 1964



Emergency number proving an 'ICE' idea

Dr. Emil Toescu of Shenley Lane, Bournville wrote recently to make Outlook readers aware of the new ICE - In Case of Emergency - initiative recently piloted by East Anglian Ambulance Trust.

"The new initiative advises those with a mobile phone to enter the name of the person they wish to be contacted in the event of an emergency, under 'ICE' in their telephone's internal directory," Emil told Outlook.

East Anglian Ambulance Trust was prompted to set up the scheme because often in emergency situations patients have no emergency contact information on them; and when they do have a mobile phone, it is often difficult for paramedics to decide who to call.

"As a doctor, I was impressed with the common sense of this initiative and I am keen to make details of it more widely known," Emil added.

You can find out more about ICE by visiting www.eastanglianambulance.com

