

# Manor at its festive finest

**Selly Manor will be dressed in its festive finery this December - make sure you don't miss it!**

There will be a host of activities on Friday December 15 and Saturday December 16 from 5pm to 9pm, and the stunning manor building will be lit by atmospheric candlelight.

You can enter into the Christmas spirit with some marvellous merry musicians - Diabolus In Musica on Friday and Dante Ferrara on Saturday. Refreshments will be available and there will be great children's activities going on too.

So join us at Selly Manor for Christmas By Candlelight! Prices are: adults £5, concessions and children £3 - no booking required.

Also, a timely reminder about our 'Christmas Cards for Good Causes' campaign. Come along to Selly Manor from Tuesday to Friday 10am to 5pm until Friday December 22 and you'll find dozens of Christmas card designs for good causes.



• Musician Dante Ferrara

## Panel plays a vital role

**The Bournville Village Trust Maintenance Panel was set up in November 2003 and is made up of eight tenants and four officers.**

In the last three years the panel has played a substantial role in assisting BVT in continually improving its maintenance policies and procedures.

This year the panel has helped select bathroom components for houses, reviewed tenant information brochures and has completed an evaluation on the standard specifications for the modernisation programme.

The Maintenance Panel has also visited empty properties across Bournville, and is currently reviewing the standard to which empty properties are repaired before being re-let. Joyce Stone, who has been on the panel since it started, said: "I really enjoy coming to the meetings and find it very interesting to know the lengths the Trust goes to, to ensure the upkeep of all their properties."

**For further information on how to become a member of the Maintenance Panel, please contact Andrew Brown, Senior Surveyor for Planned Maintenance, on 0121 415 6537.**



• Andrew Griffiths (BVT), with Joyce Stone and Ron Woodhouse, members of the maintenance panel

## Event Alert!

From its tentative beginnings a few years ago the 'Traditional Christmas Event' organised by the 'Friends of Bournville Carillon' has become a regular feature of village life. This year's event will take place on Saturday 16 December, between 3pm and 7pm and promises something of interest for all the family.

The afternoon will begin with the arrival of Father Christmas and then there will be a programme of entertainment through until 7pm. As well as the input of seasonal music played on the carillon, there will be performances by choirs and musicians from local schools and adult dance groups. All the shops will be open, as well as the 'Carillon Visitor Centre' so why not do your Christmas shopping locally this year? And just in case it's a bit chilly there will be plenty of hot Christmas fayre on offer to "warm your cockles."

So get into the Christmas spirit by coming along on December 16. But wrap up warmly - just in case it's as cold as last year!

# Packed day for Shropshire conference

**This year's Shropshire Conference - with the theme "Homes for Life" - took place on Saturday October 14.**

The event was held at the Telford Holiday Inn and was organised in conjunction with residents and landlord members of the Shropshire Tenant Participation Working Group. Amongst the speakers on a packed day were Alan Shrimpton, BVT's Director of Estates; Helen Williams, the National Housing Federation's Head of Neighbourhood and Sustainability, and Alison Venning, Choice Based Lettings Adviser for the Department for Communities and Local Government. Workshops for attendees included Choice Based Lettings; Homes for Life; Shared Ownership; Tenant Groups and Community Projects and Sustainable Working Communities. Ian Waye, Chairman of the Consortium of Shropshire Tenants and himself a BVT tenant for many years, said: "This year's conference has been by far the best one yet. Everyone who came had a great time and we are already looking forward to next year's conference!"



• A few of the many tenants at the conference



• Tenants giving their feedback in a workshop

## Easter opening times

In the interests of customer care, in future all the Trust Offices will be closing on Good Friday, April 6, and Easter Monday, April 9. We will then be re-opening on Tuesday April 10.

## COST on lookout for members

**The Consortium of Shropshire Tenants (COST) is always on the look-out for new members.**

The group was formed three years ago to act as a united voice for all tenants of housing associations and councils in Shropshire.

Members consist of tenants from South Shropshire Housing Association, Bridgnorth District Council, North Shropshire District Council, Severnside Housing, Wrekin Housing Trust, Bournville Village Trust, Beth Johnson Housing Association, Shropshire Rural Housing Association, Marches Housing Association, amongst others.

Chairman Ian Waye told Outlook: "We always welcome new members and the group has been invaluable in assisting people in various ways.

"Our team is grateful for the help of our landlords and local authorities who support us with donations each year. These donations help us buy stationery, equipment and so on so that we can carry on the work we are doing to help other tenants in the county of Shropshire."

## Event Alert!

We may be almost a year away, but the Tinsel and Turkey trip to Jersey is already booked for 2007! The cost is £188 per person and the break takes place from November 5 to November 9 next year.

**Further information from Marie Docker on 0121 270 0980.**