

Bell's Farm, Druid's Heath - derelict rear wing

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATION TRUST ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS TO 31ST MARCH 2011



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Architectural Heritage Fund

Birmingham City Council

Birmingham Common Good

English Heritage

Individual donors (who have chosen to remain anonymous)

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I. OUR MISSION AND STRATEGY

The charitable purposes of Birmingham Conservation Trust are:

To preserve and enhance Birmingham's threatened architectural heritage
To promote an enjoyment and understanding of the City's historic buildings

We work **for** the benefit of the people of Birmingham and its visitors and believe in working **with** local people to find imaginative, sustainable solutions to secure the long-term future of buildings at risk.

We aim to

- enhance local distinctiveness and create a new identity for the city that integrates the best of the old with the new
- form partnerships with local communities, with business, industry and the voluntary sector
- empower communities within the city to help improve their environment for the better
- act as a catalyst for urban regeneration in rundown areas of the city
- contribute to the local economy by drawing funds into the city and encouraging tourism and leisure
- combine the best of modern design with the use of traditional construction skills
- encourage people to visit and engage with their built heritage
- provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information about Birmingham's heritage
- sustain the operation of the Trust for the long term benefit of the people of Birmingham

2. WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE WORK

Birmingham Conservation Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee that was set up on 29th May 1977. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were last amended on 15th November 2010, when a standard three year term of office was introduced for Trustees with a maximum of two terms, voting procedures were formalised to include a secret ballot and City appointments from amenity societies were replaced with ordinary Trustees. This was done to refresh the Board regularly, increase the number of former Trustees acting as advocates for us and address anomalies regarding nominations.

The management of the business and the control of the Trust is vested in its Governing Body, a board of Trustees of up to 11 members, who meet bi-monthly. There are no formal sub-committees but smaller groups of Trustees meet as required to discuss specific tasks. The Trust Director,

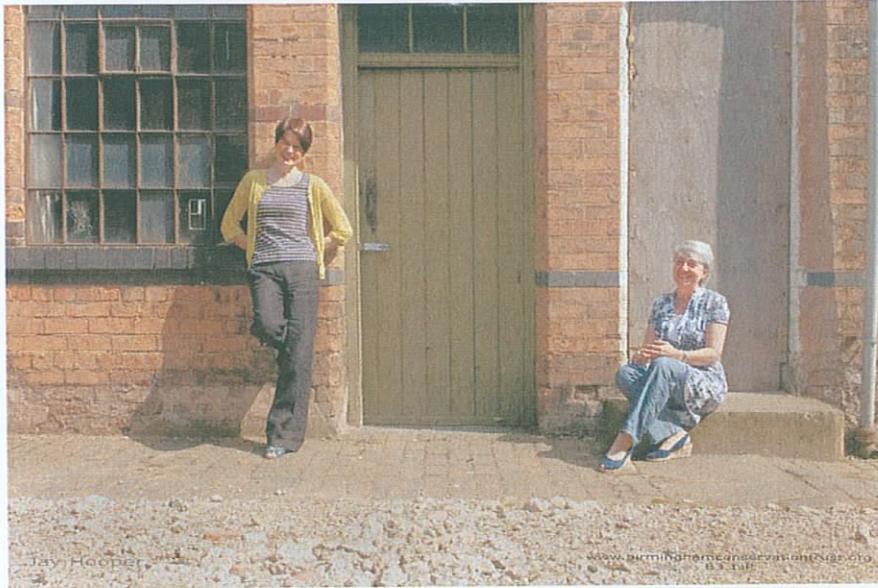
Elizabeth Perkins, is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the Trust. All new Trustees Directors receive an induction pack containing the Constitution, Annual Report and Accounts and details of supporting information for Trustees available from the APT Guidance Notes for Building Preservation Trusts and the Charities Commission. In the current year we have been reviewing the existing Constitution as it is no longer fit for purpose. A new Constitution based on the most up-to-date Architectural Heritage Fund model will be drawn up. Proposed changes include a small increase in the number of Trustee Directors, from 11 to 13 in order to increase the range of skills and experience available to the Trust.

The Trust has close ties to Birmingham City Council. For so long as it remains a member of the Trust, the Council has the right to appoint four councillors to the Trust, including the Chairman. The Trust is also housed by the City Council, although we have recently moved office location from Alpha Tower to Lancaster Circus, on the other side of the city centre. The Trust also has close links with the National Trust through the partnership on the Back to Backs project and through the Midlands Regional Advisory Board, of which Elizabeth is a member. Close ties are also maintained with other key heritage organisations, such as English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund.



Some of our Trustee Directors, July 2011 – from left: Joe Holyoak, Nick Booth, Iain Davies, Jane Arthur, Cllr Bob Beauchamp and Cllr Peter Douglas Osborn

Birmingham Conservation Trust is a building preservation trust and a member of the Association of Preservation Trusts (APT). As secretary of the Midlands region of APT, Lucie ensures that there are close links to the various national and local initiatives.



Elizabeth Perkins (right) and Lucie Thacker in the courtyard at the Coffin Fittings Works. They regularly empty the buckets collecting rainwater from the leaking roof (photograph: Jay Hooper)

The Trust is managed by Elizabeth Perkins, Director, assisted by Lucie Thacker, Development Officer. Professional development undertaken this year, included BURA 's training courses on Regeneration through Sustainable Communities, a HELM course on recent development in green technology in historic buildings and several social media surgeries to improve our blogging skills!

3. PROJECTS, PEOPLE AND PLACES – REVIEW OF 2010/11

PROJECTS

a. The Coffin Fittings Works

Top of the list of our objectives for 2010/11 was to secure the funding for and the purchase of the Coffin Fittings Works building with its contents. With the aid of a grant of £150,000 from Birmingham City Council, we became the proud owners in September 2010.

Here's an extract from our web page of September 2010

"After nearly 10 years of progressing the Newman's project this represents the start of a new direction for the Trust, enabling us to work more closely with current supporters and hopefully new ones through events, activities and an interesting range of volunteering opportunities.

It means a change to our older and more costly plans. Now we intend to undertake a £1.5 million restoration to bring the building back into use with help from English Heritage, Heritage Lottery and Birmingham City funding. This will be the first phase of the project, which will in the long-term create a museum on site and high quality workspaces. Once this first phase restoration is complete, the Trust will move into the building and encourage other creative organisations and individuals to take space there."



Front elevation of the Coffin Fittings Works on Fleet Street, Birmingham, formerly known as Newman Bros. This building earned its Grade II* listing when English Heritage's survey of the Jewellery Quarter in 2000 identified it as one of the most important survivals in the Quarter. (photograph: Jay Hooper, January 2011)

Our largest funding bid was a submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund - Stage 1 bid was accepted in December 2010 and we pulled out all the stops to submit Stage 2 in March 2011. (This was successful!)

- As part of this work, we developed a 10 year Activity Plan for the Coffin Fittings Works outlining all the activities we would be carrying out over the next four years and a 10 year Management and Maintenance Plan addressing the curatorial and conservation aspects of the scheme
- We substantially revised the architectural scheme, to keep costs within budget, and devoted time to establishing firmer costs. In particular, five specialist companies quoted for refurbishing the historic cast iron windows – there are 91 windows and each window needs repairing inside and outside so this is a high risk cost item. We also took advice from some of the experts on the Technical Panel of the IHBC (Institute of Historic Building Conservation) when we showed them round the former factory in February. We aim to preserve as much historic glass as possible and we want to end up with windows that will last another 100 years with a little regular maintenance.
- As part of the bid we also drew up job descriptions for the posts of Volunteer Manager, Learning and Outreach Officer and Curator which will be created as part of our work

In other development work:

- we continued to play an active part in the development of the Jewellery Quarter; strengthening existing partnerships, with a view to creating a cluster of heritage based visitor attractions
- Plans to formally constitute a separate operating Trust to manage the formal visitor attraction at the factory were reviewed in the light of changes to the project which involve BCT moving into the building and running the programme of events and activities. As the formal visitor attraction is on hold an operating group is not required, however, the members of that group retain a strong commitment to the Coffin Fittings Works, and one of them, Jane Arthur, has joined our Board.

b. Bell's Farm

The Spearhead Trust, a community group which occupies this part-derelict 17th century timber-framed farm, wanted to expand their activities and offer a wider range of services to the local community. The completion of an Options Appraisal and a Conservation Management Plan by BCT in November 2010 meant we were able to secure a major grant of c.£300,000 from English Heritage to match funding from Birmingham City Council. We are hopeful that this will ensure that the fire-damaged rear wing (shown on the front cover of this report) can be restored. Birmingham Conservation Trust played a pivotal role to enable the restoration of a Grade II* building at risk and helped the local community to achieve their long term aim by working in partnership with a wide range of people.



A meeting in the 'barn' at Bell's Farm., February 2011. From left, Nicholas Molyneux, English Heritage, John Sheard, Spearhead Trust, Steven King, Senior Conservation Officer, Birmingham City Council and Nick Joyce, specialist conservation architect, some of the many contributors to the work we did on Bell's Farm.

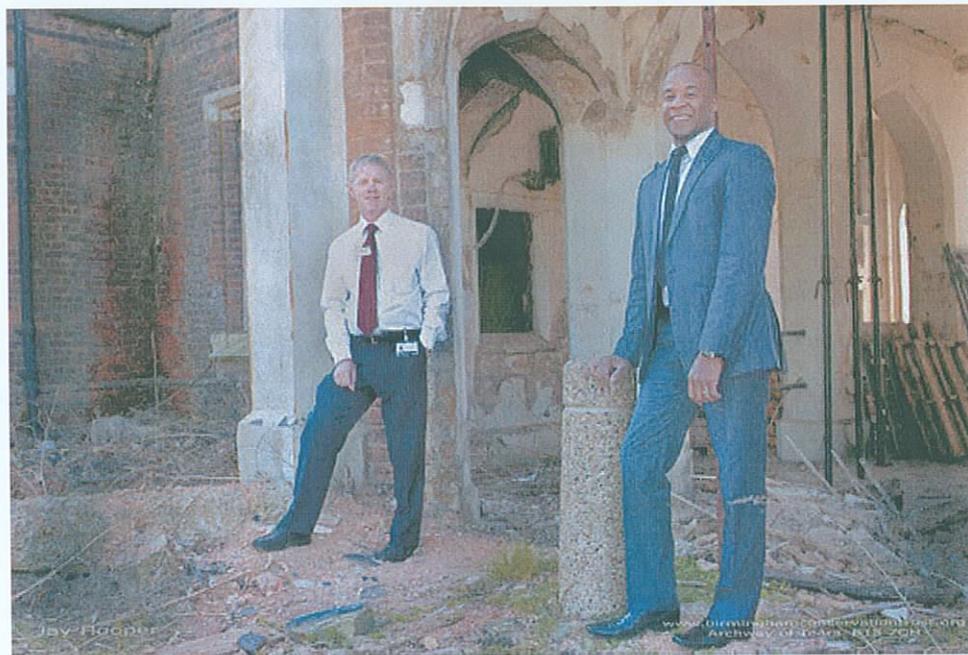


Nick Joyce, conservation architect with specialist knowledge of timber-framed buildings, outside Bell's Farm with Andrea Burton, architect, in February 2011

c. Archway of Tears

In line with our objective to complete an Options Appraisal on the Archway, the study was completed in November 2010. Working with the local constituency officer we produced some really interesting ideas but unfortunately we are having less success taking our ideas forward. The 1852 building is unlisted and was put forward for listing by the Victorian Society but was deemed to have lost too much of its context when the surrounding buildings were demolished. This means we cannot access development funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund, and of course, means the building remains at risk. Lines of communication remain open with the NHS, Birmingham City Council and with North West Birmingham Development Agency, so if an opportunity arises to rescue this robust building, we can take it!

The study also provided an opportunity to provide excellent professional development experience for two SPAB scholars.



Rob Banks (left) Estates Manager, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and Neil De-Costa (right) Acting Constituency Senior Manager, Ladywood Constituency (photograph: Jay Hooper, May 2011)

There is a wealth of history attached to this place as it was the former entrance to the Birmingham Union Workhouse. The name given to the building reflects the sorrow of the people who, through infirmity and poverty, had no choice but to come here. This was where husbands and wives, parents and children were separated for the duration of their stay. Local people have a strong attachment to the building, especially when they discover that their relatives worked or died there. We were particularly moved by the following extract (overleaf) which was posted on our website on 20th January 2011 by Jayne Casey.

My great great great grandfather Nathaniel Felkin served 15 years in the Royal Marines after seeing action in the French Wars and left in 1816. On his return home it seems that he was an inmate of the old Workhouse in Lichfield Street and was a stone breaker. By 1823 I have found him in the records as Superintendent of Stone Breakers earning 20 shillings a week. His wife Sarah was Launderess of the infant department.

In 1848 he was directed by the board of guardians and Mr. JJ Bateman to gather 7 of the parish men to make holes in the field at Birmingham Heath and assist Mr. Bateman the architect to ascertain the fitness of the land for the building of the 'New Workhouse' in Western Road.

The 'New Workhouse' was opened in 1852 and Nathaniel was appointed the Superintendent of Pauper Labour and assisted Mr. Bateman in such jobs as finishing the drainage systems.

From the records I found and read about Nathaniel he sounded a very fair and caring man. He put it to the Guardians in 1849 that 'the indoor and outdoor paupers do cease work on the following Thursday as the day has been appointed a day of great thanksgiving on account of the cessation of cholera in this county.' I have many stories showing he was caring probably due to the fact that he used to be an inmate himself.

Nathaniel worked at the Workhouse well into his 80's as the Guardians were happy for him to stay on as he 'rendered good service'. He died in 1864 aged 86 of Senile Decay. The Guardians placed an obituary in the Birmingham Daily Gazette which read

Felkin – on the 16th inst. in the 86th year of his age Nathaniel Felkin, who for nearly 40 years filled the office of Superintendent of Outdoor Labour in the parish of Birmingham. In which he rendered good service to the rate payers. He for several years served as a marine in the Royal Navy during the reign of George the Third, and was present at the Battle of Trafalgar and Several other engagements by sea during the French War.

I am very proud to be his great great great grand-daughter and to have found out about his life.

d. Rookery House

We planned last year to work with Birmingham City Council on at least two of their buildings at risk. Bell's Farm was one of those buildings and Rookery House was the other. Located in Rookery Park, Erdington, the house was declared surplus to the City's requirements in 2008. We were brought in to help support the Rookery House Trust, a group of local people wanting to restore the building for community use, in the development of their proposals. This involved establishing what mix of uses could provide a sustainable income stream to support the community activity and what the costs were to restore the house. Although some progress was made we were unable to finalise plans with the group. The matter is now back with the City but we remain committed to finding a solution for this magnificent nineteenth century villa, if we are offered the opportunity.



Italian garden elevation of Rookery House, April 2010

e. Highbury Trust Estate

In November 2010 BCT were commissioned to carry out an Options Appraisal on the Highbury Trust estate. Highbury was the home of Joseph Chamberlain, a magnificent Victorian mansion complete with its own mini-country estate including pleasure gardens, hobby farm, boating lakes and superb vistas. The estate was left to the city in trust for the benefit of the citizens of Birmingham. We have been asked to review the management of the trust assets and make proposals to improve the sustainability of the estate and improve public benefit, without compromising the heritage merit of this remarkable survival.

f. Yardley Cemetery Lodge

In addition to the three City Council buildings above, we have also briefly investigated the possibility of restoring the old toilet block attached to Yardley Cemetery Lodge. Despite the unglamorous use of the building, it is a high quality Victorian Gothic building which would convert into a very attractive two bedroom home. Restoration costs would be high so it would be difficult to get a return but we are working with the City to explore the options.

g. Birmingham City Council

As well as working on projects with the City we have been having discussion about assisting with other conservation related functions. Although we are only at the early stages of these discussions a number of potential collaborations have been identified. We are very grateful for the support of the Director of Planning and Regeneration, Waheed Nazir.

PEOPLE

All our work centres around people and places, from experts in the conservation of historic buildings to people who give their time to clean up places in readiness for Open Days.

a. Consultation

Our reputation for finding solutions to difficult historic buildings means that we are regularly called on for advice. This year the Trust Director met with the Aston Transport Museum Trustees to help with fundraising, the operators of Moseley School of Art, at the request of Heritage Lottery Fund, to assist with a possible HLF bid and the owners of the Old Bus Depot in Moseley, who are looking at ways to raise funding for repairs. We also advised local councillors about Hawthorne House in Handsworth Wood.

In addition we have assisted over a dozen students, mostly at undergraduate and post graduate level, with their studies. This has involved providing information about projects, interviews, or tours of the buildings. This means that we have exceeded our objectives for community engagement this year.

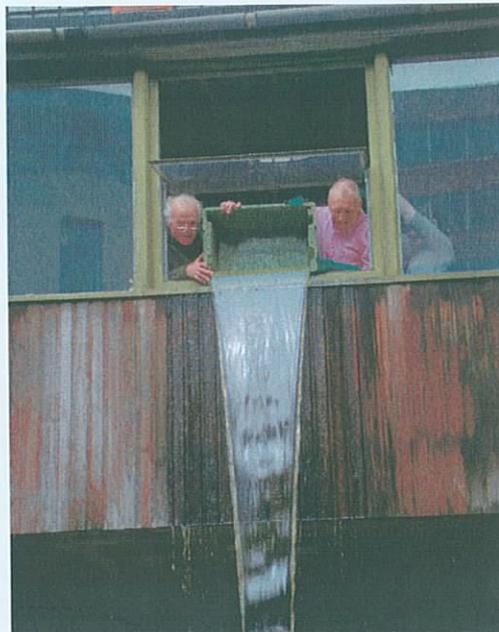
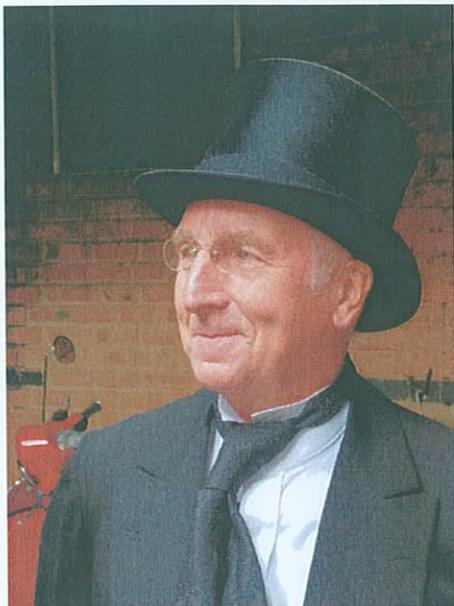
b. Open Days – September 10th and 11th 2010

We opened the Coffin Fittings Works for guided tours on Saturday September 11th and although we were not formally part of the national Heritage Open Days, we were still overbooked. (We had been too late to register our event with Heritage Open Days as the building's future had been in limbo earlier in the year, when the news of the closure of Advantage West Midlands (then the owners) was announced).

On Friday September 10th we opened to welcome supporters who had played a key role in helping us acquire the building with their emails. We had great fun and got extremely dirty on Wednesday September 8th when a group of volunteers helped us clean up the Coffin Fittings Works in readiness for these events. We thank Teresa Castle, Rob Pass, Julian Cleaver and Bob Beauchamp very much indeed for all their hard work!

c. Volunteers

25 new people offered to volunteer with us this year. Thank you! We could not take up everyone's offer of help as we do not have the office space but we are very grateful to all volunteers who helped us at events and who help spread the word through our website. We had a fantastic response to our website plea for support in asking Advantage West Midlands to consider selling the Coffin Fittings Works to us. Our special thanks also goes to two brilliant heritage professionals who generously gave us their time – Katie Kershaw, who wrote the Conservation Management Plan for Highbury and Stella Dyer who wrote the 10 year management and maintenance plan for the Coffin Fittings Works Heritage Lottery Bid.



Bob Beauchamp and Julian Cleaver (right) empty rainwater collected inside the Coffin Fittings Works. Julian spruced himself up in Victorian undertaker's suit to welcome visitors on the Open Day.

One of our volunteers has embarked on an ambitious project for us. Jay Hooper, a building professional with specialist conservation knowledge and a Masters degree in Visual Communication, has agreed to revisit some of our previous projects to photograph and talk to their current users. We can then use his pictures and audio commentary on our website (currently being updated) to explain to people what we do and how people connect with and value historic buildings.

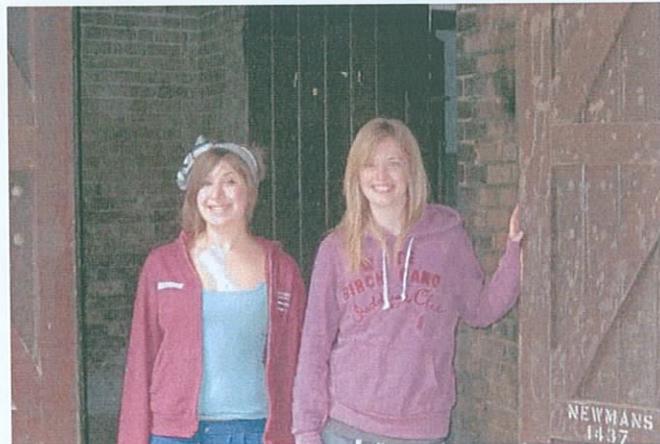


Jay has already taken lots of photos for us (as you can see from this report) but we managed to snap one of him! Thank you Jay!

Our volunteer bloggers continued to make our website the place for information about Birmingham's history news of and events in the historic environment. In the year **81** blogs were posted – thank you Hannah Severn, Emma Neil, Rosie Phenix-Walker and our indefatigable social media expert Trustee Director, Nick Booth
www.birminghamconservationtrust.org

d. Arts Projects

We want to use the Coffin Fittings Works in lots of different ways, so that we can connect with audiences who may not normally be interested in historic buildings. In February 2011 we met with Jo Gleave and Jo Newman, Masters students from the University of Birmingham, who started developing a play inspired by the history of the Coffin Fittings Works and the reminiscences of former workers. The site-specific promenade performance played to full houses in June 2011 – we thank Jo, Jo, the cast and crew for filling the building with joy and enthusiasm, and for inspiring their audiences.



Jo Newman and Jo Gleave, directors of Stop the Clocks, the play they wrote and directed having been inspired by the history of the Coffin Fittings Works

e. Talks and Tours

Local history groups continue to ask for information about the Trust and its work and this year we have given talks to five different groups around the city. We also welcomed many conservation colleagues to the Coffin Fittings Works, including the Technical Panel of the IHBC (Institute of Historic Building Conservation), the National Trust archaeologists, as well as their Regional Director, and staff from English Heritage. We also showed around theatrical producers from Birmingham Rep and students from the University of Leicester.

4. AMBITIONS FOR 2011-2012 AND BEYOND

One of our wider aims for the next few years has been, and is, to become more focussed on our supporters and enable a wider range of people to work in partnership with us. We have made the first significant step in this journey by becoming owners of the Coffin Fittings Works. Once the building is restored we will establish an office there and welcome volunteers and visitors.

Research shows that there is national and international interest in 'dark' tourism and the culture of death so we have a unique opportunity at the Coffin Fittings Works to develop this over the next five years and we aim to include a range of education, training and research opportunities. The whole project will provide opportunities in heritage and conservation that will contribute to national knowledge and expertise.

The building is in Ladywood, which has one of the highest unemployment rates in the UK, and sizeable areas of deprivation. Our work will tap into this community by creating volunteering opportunities and enabling the local community to take an active role in the project.

Coffin Fittings Works

Our objectives for 2011-2012 for this project are as follows:

- To raise match funding for the Heritage Lottery Fund grant (£999K). We are very grateful to English Heritage who have already promised £250,000 towards the costs of repair of the building and to Birmingham City Council but we still have £350,000 to secure from a range of other sources which will be quite a challenge in this economic climate. We aim to secure the funding by early 2012
- To secure a working capital loan to assist with cashflow during the construction phase of the project
- To establish sound procurement processes that ensure that the project is achieved at the best possible price and at the best quality
- To start to animate the space through special events
- To strengthen links with our existing partners in the Jewellery Quarter to develop ways in which visitors can engage with this significant historic place and establish new partnerships with emerging organisations in the Quarter.
- In a city with a multiplicity of faiths and funeral customs, to research best practice in engaging with new faith-based audiences
- To firm up the programme of activities to take place when work starts on site
- To make better use of our website and other social media techniques to communicate with our audiences

Highbury Trust Estate

Birmingham City Council has commissioned a number of different studies about Highbury over the years but not any that look at the whole estate. We hope to bring together that work and

our expertise in heritage to find a way forward that will balance heritage, charitable use and sustainability. We plan to

- Complete a Conservation Management Plan for the house
- Investigate the range of possibilities for all aspects of the estate to come up with four overarching options that can be discussed at public consultation.
- Complete the Options Appraisal by the end of the year having further developed the agreed preferred option

Other Projects

We plan to

- Continue to investigate options for Yardley Cemetery Lodge
- Work with the City Council on a range of different heritage projects where the Trust can bring heritage expertise and add value
- Identify one other non-city property to take forward as a project

Heritage Open Days

- Open the Coffin Works for at least two days
- Start to advertise the commercial spaces at the factory

Volunteers

- To develop policies and procedures for volunteers in line with best practice to ensure we are prepared for our widening engagement
- Identify and develop volunteering opportunities in non project areas like fund raising

Website

- Commission an updated website that is easier to read and navigate and that shows instantly what we do
- Train Trustee Directors to use Social Media so we can spread the word about Birmingham's heritage and the value we add to it

A Sustainable Future

- Having identified that the revolving fund model for Building Preservation Trusts is not feasible in the prevailing economic circumstances, Trustee Directors will explore different ways of income generation to build and maintain reserves
- Promote consultancy work more effectively
- Identify potential partnership with developers
- Investigate and respond to opportunities in the public sector, particularly in relation to Buildings at Risk

5. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Constitution and objectives

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of Company law, submit their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the Charity.

Birmingham Conservation Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee that was set up on 29th May 1977. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were last amended on 15th November 2010. Its objects are to preserve for the citizens of Birmingham and in the County of West Midlands and of the nation at large, whatever of the historical architectural and constructional heritage may exist in and around the City of Birmingham aforesaid in the form of buildings (including any buildings as defined in Section 336(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) of particular beauty and historical, architectural or constructional interest and to promote the education of the general public as regards the occupation and use of such buildings throughout their history.

Public Benefit

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aim and objectives of the trust and in planning any future activities.

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company, Birmingham Conservation Trust, are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Councillor Bob Beauchamp – Chairman, appointed 20 September 2010

Councillor Paula Smith

Councillor Peter D Osborn – appointed 22 July 2010, resigned 26 May 2011

Councillor Mike Sharpe – appointed 26 May 2011

Councillor Geoff Sutton – Chairman, appointed 29 August 2008, resigned 19 July 2010

Councillor Ian Ward, resigned 19 July 2010

Mr Nicholas D Booth

Mr Iain Davis

Mr Joe Holyoak

Mr William Houle

Mr Les T Sparks

Ms Jane Arthur – appointed 15 November 2010

Miss Ann Levitt – resigned 15 November 2010

Secretary	Mr William Houle
Company No:	03380637
Charity No:	1063124
VAT Reg No:	754 1150 55
Registered Office:	P.O. Box 28, Birmingham B1 1TU
Bankers:	Co-operative Bank PLC, Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 3BA
Solicitors:	Gateley LLP, 111 Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2HJ
Accountants:	Clement Keys, 39/40 Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1TS

Statement of financial activities

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on page 22 of the financial statements. Any surplus funds are invested with Birmingham City Council. The Trust's wholly owned Trading Company was dormant in the year.

Reserves

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves of the Charity. The Charity has formerly undertaken projects with a view to making a surplus that goes towards funding future projects, but this business model has been reviewed in the light of wider current economic circumstances. The Trust now seeks to develop a regular income stream from the property it owns, and from consultancy and development work.

Risk management

The Trustees examine the major strategic, business and operational risks that are associated with undertaking each project. Systems are in place to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to manage these risks.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

The Trustees (who are also directors of the Birmingham Conservation Trust for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' and Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Thanks

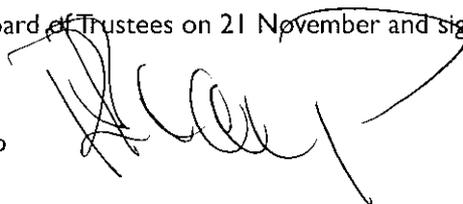
Our grateful thanks to Leigh Nash, whose specialist knowledge and orderly management of our financial data is invaluable. We were sorry to say goodbye to Bill Smith, who has been our Treasurer for over a dozen years. His support, financial acumen and tax knowledge will be much missed.

Small company provisions

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 November and signed on its behalf by:

Cllr Bob Beauchamp
Chairman



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATION TRUST

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 31 March 2011, which are set out on pages 22 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Clement Keys
39/40 Calthorpe Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 1TS

Mr S Atkins BSc (Hons) FCA
Chartered Accountant

Date: 21 November 2011

Birmingham Conservation Trust

Statement Of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 March 2011 (Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	Designated Fund £	General Fund £	Total Funds £	2010 Total £
Incoming Resources					
Investment income - Deposit interest		-	831	831	642
Voluntary income - Donations		-	503	503	287
Charitable activities		<u>159,853</u>	<u>35,088</u>	<u>194,941</u>	<u>65,927</u>
Total Incoming Resources		<u>159,853</u>	<u>36,422</u>	<u>196,275</u>	<u>66,856</u>
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities		30,923	17,660	48,583	24,805
Project costs	2	-	33,898	33,898	38,450
Support costs	2	-	-	-	-
		<u>30,923</u>	<u>51,558</u>	<u>82,481</u>	<u>63,255</u>
Governance Costs					
Salaries		-	2,878	2,878	3,306
Independent Examination fee		-	1,450	1,450	1,435
ERDF Audit - Back to Backs		-	-	-	1,875
Sundry Expenses		-	30	30	30
		<u>-</u>	<u>4,358</u>	<u>4,358</u>	<u>6,646</u>
Total Resources Expended		<u>30,923</u>	<u>55,916</u>	<u>86,839</u>	<u>69,901</u>
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources being Net Income / (Expenditure) for the year		<u>128,930</u>	<u>(19,494)</u>	<u>109,436</u>	<u>(3,045)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund Balances brought forward		<u>20,523</u>	<u>101,044</u>	<u>121,567</u>	<u>124,612</u>
Fund Balances carried forward		<u>149,453</u>	<u>81,550</u>	<u>231,003</u>	<u>121,567</u>

There were no recognised gains or losses for 2011 or 2010 other than the result for the year. Accordingly, a statement of recognised gains and losses has not been prepared. All income and expenditure relates to continuing activities and there is no difference between the reported result and that on an historical cost basis.

Birmingham Conservation Trust

Balance Sheet As At 31 March 2011

Company number: 03380637

	Note	Designated Fund £	General Fund £	2011 Total £	2010 Total £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	6	65,000	-	65,000	-
Investments	7	-	15	15	15
Current Assets					
Debtors	8	-	455	455	2,088
Cash at Bank		84,453	121,181	205,634	122,786
		<u>84,453</u>	<u>121,636</u>	<u>206,089</u>	<u>124,874</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	9	-	40,101	40,101	3,322
Net Current Assets		<u>84,453</u>	<u>81,535</u>	<u>165,988</u>	<u>121,552</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>84,453</u>	<u>81,550</u>	<u>166,003</u>	<u>121,567</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted Income Funds	13	<u>149,453</u>	<u>81,550</u>	<u>231,003</u>	<u>121,567</u>

The directors consider that the charitable company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

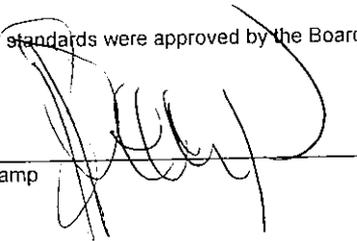
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at 31 March 2011 and of its incoming resources and application of resources including its net income or expenditure, for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 November 2011 and were signed on its behalf by:

Bob Beauchamp
Chairman



Birmingham Conservation Trust

Notes To The Accounts For The Year Ended 31 March 2011

1 Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and comply with the Financial Reporting standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in 2005 and the Charities Act 1993.

(b) Income and Expenditure

Income and expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

(c) Grants and Donations

Grants are recognised when approved by the donor. Other donations are recognised in the period in which they are received.

(d) Governance Costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include those related to statutory audit and accountancy fees together with an apportionment of support costs. The apportionments are based on the Trustees' best estimates carried out on a reasonable and consistent basis.

(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. No depreciation has been charged in the year as the asset is still currently in the course of construction.

(f) Fund Accounting

Funds held by the Charity are:

Unrestricted Funds: These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

(g) Designated Funds

These are funds which have been put aside out of unrestricted funds at the discretion of the trustees for particular projects. The designation is for administrative purposes only and does not legally restrict the trustees discretion to apply the fund.

(h) Cashflow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds it is a small company.

2. Charitable Activities

Expenditure on charitable activities represents project costs in the year on: Coffin Works £95,923; £12,558 on Archway of Tears; £2,019 on Bells Farm, £1,808 on Rookery House; and £1,275 on Yardley Cemetery.

The support costs are:	2011	2010
	£	£
Salaries	33,099	36,208
Sundry Expenses	799	2,242
	<u>33,898</u>	<u>38,450</u>

3 Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

No remuneration was paid or payable in respect of the year out of the funds of the Charity either directly or indirectly to any Trustee or to any person known to be connected with them (2010 nil).

There were no expenses paid to Trustees this year (2010 nil).

Birmingham Conservation Trust

Notes To The Accounts For The Year Ended 31 March 2011

(continued)

4 Employees

The Charity employed two people during the year (2010 Two).

5 Taxation

As a charitable company, Birmingham Conservation Trust, is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen within the charitable company.

6 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Asset in course of construction £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2010	-	-
Additions	65,000	65,000
	65,000	65,000
At 31 March 2011		
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2010	-	-
Charge for the year	-	-
	-	-
At 31 March 2011		
NBV		
As at 31 March 2010	-	-
	-	-
As at 31 March 2011	65,000	65,000

7 Fixed Asset Investments

The Trust holds the whole of the issued share capital of Birmingham Conservation Trust (Trading) Ltd, a dormant company incorporated in England and Wales.

Shares in subsidiary undertaking	
2011 £	2010 £
15	15
15	15

8 Debtors and Prepayments: amounts falling due within 1 year

	2011 £	2010 £
Accrued interest	455	338
Birmingham City Council - VAT on Rookery House	-	1,750
	455	2,088

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year

	2011 £	2010 £
Accountancy charges	1,450	1,450
HMRC	2,674	1,872
B'ham City Council - salaries	35,977	-
	40,101	3,322

Birmingham Conservation Trust

Notes To The Accounts For The Year Ended 31 March 2011 (continued)

10 Related Party Transactions

The Birmingham Conservation Trust paid the following amounts to Birmingham City Council in the year:

	2011 £	2010 £
Administrators' Remuneration	35,977	41,322
NNDR Business Rates - Coffin Works Storage	1,097	2,147
Insurance	980	423
Planning Fees - Station Road Cottages	-	335
	<u>38,054</u>	<u>44,227</u>

During the year one payment was made to one Trustee for £1,200. This was for the storage of Coffin Works contents at premises owned by the Trustee.
(In 2010 four payments were made to two Trustees. Two payments were for maintenance of the Trust's website. £1,000. The other two payments were for storage of Coffin Works contents at premises owned by a Trustee, £4,800.

A £2,000 donation was received from Councillor Osborn as a contribution towards the Coffin Works storage costs (2010 Nil)

11 Risk Management

The Trustees keep under review the major strategic and operational risks which the Charity faces and are satisfied that systems have been established in order to minimise the possible effects of such risks on the Charity.

12 Liability of the Members

The liability of the members as set out in the Memorandum of Association of the company is as follows:

"Every Company Member promises, if the company is wound up whilst he is a Company Member or within one year after ceasing to be a Company Member, to contribute such amount as is required up to a maximum of £1 towards the costs of winding up the company and liabilities incurred whilst the contributor was a company member."

13 Designated Fund

The designated fund is a fund set aside by the trustees to represent the income and expenditure incurred in connection with the Newman Brothers Coffin Works project.

14 Purchase of the Coffin Fitting Works

On 2 August 2010 the Trust purchased the Newman Brothers Coffin Fittings Factory for £65,000. A grant was received from BCC in July 2010 for £150,000 in respect of this purchase. The remainder of this grant will be put towards the restoration costs due to be incurred in 2011/12.