

starts or after the event has finished. This has raised a few furrowed brows from racing organisers, but it has maintained Richard's drive and enthusiasm for the sport. It reminds us all that by re-evaluating our goals we can still motivate ourselves to grab a pair of trainers and embrace the joy of running – whatever level we are. I just hope that Richard gives us other locals a chance of clinching one of Mervyn Greenhalgh's famous wood-turned trophies by only fake racing next year's May Day Challenge!

Chris Brown

### St Paul's Church chancel repair and Heritage Project progress

If you have walked or driven up Church Hill in Woodhouse Eaves recently, you will probably have noticed the metal protective cladding and fencing panels surrounding the chancel of St Paul's Church. The National Lottery-funded repairs to stop the chancel subsiding further, due to its inadequate foundations, are now ongoing. Innovative techniques are being used to hold the heavy stone chancel walls together without any underpinning while, apparently, leaving very little evidence of any repairs at all. It really is fascinating! Anyone wanting to discover more or get involved in the Heritage Project is invited to come and find out more during one of our Saturday open church afternoons, or leave a message at the church.

#### A bat-free building site

The transitory bats, which prefer a snug gap in a roof to a draughty belfry, should by now have found a warmer roost for their winter hibernation, probably locally and possibly in cavity walls. The bat specialist has confirmed that no bats are left in the roof, so work can continue uninterrupted.

Inside, the chancel and vestry (now known as the building site) are screened off from the body of the church by means of an amazing plastic 'tent' on a wooden frame. This protects the body of the church from the effects of the restoration work, with its attendant disruption, draughts and dust, and the escaping water from drilling works.

Although this screening off has resulted in a reduced area for worship and activities, with every available corner containing items that would normally be in the chancel or vestry, the bonus is that church services and activities are continuing in a much more intimate space. Everyone visiting the church has been enjoying the increased activity in the building and hearing tales of the things that are being discovered by us all as the works proceed.

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#### Timescales

The repair works are probably still on target to finish some time in December, but the Heritage Project will run on to the end of August next year, which is when the planned Heritage Exhibition is due to finish. As part of this Heritage Project, a large group of heritage volunteers spent the morning at the Leicestershire Record Office in Wigston learning about the storing, conservation and retrieval of historic records, which will prove invaluable in the research they are conducting into various aspects of Woodhouse Eaves history and culture. The visit ended with a view of large-scale ordnance survey maps of the village, going back to the 18th century, on which the houses in the village were clearly marked.

#### Volunteering or visiting

It is not too late to become a volunteer and contribute to the Heritage Project, in however small a way. But even if you just want to come and see for yourself how things are going, with a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake as a bonus, you can be sure of a very warm welcome.

Some of the open church afternoons are themed, with a chance to view aspects of village life. One of the most notable to date was the open church afternoon with wedding albums, which ran well over time as visitors pored over a selection of wedding albums and photographs over the decades. This event was so successful that it is hoped to run it again next year.

Susan Young, St Paul's Heritage Project

### Mountsorrel and Rothley Community Heritage Centre

It will come as no surprise to most that Leicestershire is fortunate to be served by a plethora of both environmental and historically significant sites. Local groups and visiting tourists have numerous country parks and woodlands all within a few miles of each other. On top of this we have a wide range of archaeology, battlefields, grand country houses and several sites of industrial heritage, not to mention the last resting place of an English monarch. In recent months, the industrial heritage has grabbed my attention but it is not of the Gimson foundry, nor the county's windmill heritage, that I wish to speak this time.

#### Dedicated volunteers

A couple of years ago the local history group were visited by a volunteer from the newly formed Mountsorrel and Rothley Community Heritage Centre based at Nunckley quarry off Swithland Lane in Mountsorrel. For

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