

**Final Coffee Morning**  
*Saturday, 5th November, 2011*

*Visit the Good Old Days*

*Dress up Again  
for a Great Afternoon*



Your hosts Dave and Joyce Thomas.

*Sausage/mash  
Tea/scones*

*12.30-7.00pm*

*CHURCH HALL WYKEN*

**BEREAVEMENT**

**Bryn Barker**

Bryn, a 72 year old perpetual student and master of degrees, was first a club member in the 1960's. He always remained loyal, although his membership was generally on a come-and-go basis, depending on what intricate studies he was ever involved with. Bryn could speak Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, Latin and German and was a witty writer who performed his work with gusto. You may have seen him making notes in his writer's

notebook which he always carried with him. One of his poems was read out at his funeral. His tall, sensibly well-clad figure will always be remembered fronting a large rucksack. The question was once asked as to whether he was preparing for the Himalayas. His dry sense of humour often came to light during deep conversations. Bryn was a great character, who will be sadly missed.

*Angela Cottrell*

**National Heritage**  
*by David Hancock*

By battle broken  
and time besieged,  
castle and abbays  
may seem  
melancholy monuments  
with no secrets  
unsundered -  
our ruined legacy.

But,  
beneath tourist-trodden turf  
and fallen masonry,  
are hidden hoards  
or ancient artefacts  
still buried deep -  
protected for posterity?



# CHA

## Coventry Rambling Club Centenary Newsletter

*September 2011*



**The Black Country Museum**  
*Saturday, 2nd July by Pat Head*

What a wonderful day we had!  
The weather was kind to us and  
everyone joined in with the spirit  
of the day by dressing up.

Over 80 of us assembled at the  
White Street Car Park. What a

sight! Scullery maids to labourers,  
ladies in their lovely long skirts and  
amazing hats, to men in their shirts,  
striped blazers and straw boaters.  
Men in bowler hats and men in fine  
moustaches mingled with ladies in  
lace blouses and shawls, carrying  
baskets. The mine owner and his lady  
looked suitably distinguished as did  
Sherlock Holmes, who expertly  
rounded us all up and deposited us on  
the two vintage charabancs and an old



double decker bus. It was lovely to see a few club members who were unable to go, come to take photos and see us off.

What a noisy lot we were, much worse than a bus load of school children.

On arrival at the museum we were transported back in time to a canal side village with recreated early nineteenth to twentieth century buildings.

We saw the chapel, the cinema, Gregory's General Store, Mr. Doo's, the Chemist, the fish and chip shop selling chips in the paper cones we all remembered from our childhood, the tailor's, the sweet shop, the baker's, the



pawnbroker's, the chain maker's house, and many more.

Costumed demonstrators brought the buildings to life with colourful local knowledge, practical skills and their unique Black Country humour. We saw the mines, the canals, the boat builders, and the forge where we observed a chain being made in the traditional way.

The Black Country played a vital role in the nation's industrial history and it was all eloquently told by a m a z i n g enthusiasts who were keen for us to learn about their region.



Many of us went on the trams, and the boats and enjoyed a mad half hour at the fair ground. Some even had a free ride for being dressed up and some were seen flying down the helter skelter!

We enjoyed looking into the homes of local people; lots of memories came flooding back. How frugal and hard life was during this time.

At the end of a fantastic day we all met for a fish and chip supper in the Workers' Institute Building which was built in 1912 with the surplus money from the Cradley Heath Strike Fund.

What a fitting outing for our Centenary Year! Dressing up really made us feel part of a bigger community and of a bygone age.



We all had a fantastic time!  
Pat Head

## Garden Party

Saturday, 13th August, 2011



Thanks Alan and Jean!

## Mike Ledbrook's Notes

### Jersey Holiday

Saturday, 15th October, 2011

7.45am Coach loading at Fairfax Street and departing at 8.30 am.

### Tickets for Barn Dance

Friday, October 28th, 2011

£6.00 each available from Mike.

### Tickets for Dinner/Dance

Saturday, 3rd December, 2011

£22.00 each available from Mike.

### Isle of Wight

Sunday, 15th January, 2012

Coach loading at 8.15am at Fairfax Street and departing at 9.00am.

**Mike's phone number 7644 4047**

## CHANGE OF PICK-UP POINT

All Sunday walks from 2nd October, 2011 will depart from White Street Coach Park for a trial period.





What a wonderful day we had . . .



at the Black Country Museum.  
Saturday, 2nd July, 2011



# Thanksgiving

on the  
Burton Dassett Hills  
Sunday, 17th July, 2011



It was a wind, rain and showers day for our Thanksgiving walk but over 100 members made the day special. There were two coaches and three groups led by Mike Ledbrook, Brian Keates and Ben & Bren Mathias which managed to meet at the top of the hill with military-style precision. Sandra Hobley gave an excellent address, reviewing the Club's history and achievements and we had a period of silence to reflect on what the Club means to each of us. Then it was a romp down to North End Village Hall for a marvellous feast of goodies brought and served by the members. As usual everyone pitched in to help. A really splendid day!

A collection was made for the Burton Dassett church roof fund.

## YHA Update

The full address for the YHA Secretary, is:-

Richard Price  
18 Chesley Grove,  
Erdington  
BIRMINGHAM  
B23 5EP



Tel 0121 243 4052  
Mobile 077 9424 5654

*Please note that:-*  
Bookings are now being taken for Swanage in Dorset. Dates of hostel trip 8-10 June, 2012.

Bookings are also now being taken for Forest Corner in Nottinghamshire. Dates of hostel trip are 7-9 Dec 2012.

Payment for Youlgreave Youth Hostel of £55 is due by 20th November. Dates of hostel trip are 13-15 April, 2012.