

## Birmingham – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010

We all know B'rum, don't we? We either drive through on the M6 trying not to look out of the car window, or else avoid it like the plague – after all, there's nothing there remotely worth seeing, is there? Well, we think you will be surprised – so read on!

We shall be leaving St Peter's Street at 08.45 (repeat 08.45), with first stop Birmingham, where we shall be welcomed with tea / coffee by the Lord Mayor in the impressive Council Chambers. The head of the Birmingham Civic Society will also be present. The rest of the morning will be "free" – for us to walk around as we choose. At time of writing, it should for example be possible for us to see the inside of the superbly modern Symphony Hall, as well as the "Greek" Town Hall. St Phillip's baroque cathedral will be a must for some – others may make a dash for the "Selfridges armadillo"! And then there is the (much restored!) Gas Street Basin, etc. etc.

From 1.00pm, one of our members, Keith Waite, has kindly arranged for us to have a two hour guided bus tour of the city, following which we shall move on to Bournville, where our guide will give us a tour (again by bus) of this famous late Victorian model workers' village.

At about 4.00 pm we shall arrive at St Nicolas Place in Kings Norton for afternoon "tea and cake" in the Saracen's Head café (within the Tudor Merchant's House) followed by a guided tour of St Nicolas Place itself. For those of you who do not recognise the name, this is the winner of the very first BBC2 "Restoration" programme, and includes not just the Tudor Merchant's House but also a 12<sup>th</sup> century church and one of the oldest grammar schools in the country.

We expect to leave Kings Norton at about 5.30pm, to arrive back in St Albans at, say, 7.00pm.

***Cost is only £21 per person – to cover coach, morning coffee and afternoon tea, plus guided tour of Birmingham, Bournville and St. Nicolas Place***

**See overleaf for details of our visit to Canterbury and Dover**

## **Dover and Canterbury– 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

It took the Romans nearly a century to make their first “return visit” – we are taking only a decade. When we last visited Dover, the weather was so good that those of us using binoculars were able to read the time on the clock tower in Calais – will we be blessed with such good fortune this time?

We shall leave St Peter’s Street at 09.00 and aim to be in Canterbury by about 10.30. Some will no doubt make a beeline direct to the cathedral, others for an essential morning coffee? We shall vote during our journey on how much time we wish to spend in Canterbury before we move on to our main visit of the day - Dover.

The town is of course dominated by its castle, set in a spectacular location above the white cliffs. Visitors may now immerse themselves in the majesty, colour and opulence of the mediaeval world of Henry II, which has been recreated to show how it may have appeared in the 1180s – *“Journey through richly furnished chambers filled with hundreds of finely crafted objects and learn about life in the Great Tower”* – etc. etc. Going further back in time, there is the Roman lighthouse and, near the town centre, the Roman painted house. From even further back, there is the “bronze age boat” – claimed to be the oldest sea going boat in the world.

Of course the secret wartime tunnels are definitely also well worth a visit, as you try to imagine just what life was like for those who were stationed here at “Hellfire Corner” during the worst days of World War II.

We shall leave Dover at, say, 5.00pm in order to arrive back in St Albans at about 7.00pm.

***Cost is £15 per person***

**See overleaf for details of our visit to Birmingham**

☎01727-851734

**How to book:-**

- Please fill in the form below for the visit(s) of your choice
- Make cheque(s) – one for each visit – payable to St Albans Civic Society
- Date each cheque with the **date of the visit**
- Send your completed form to Bryan Hanlon at:  
24 Monks Horton Way, St Albans, AL1 4HA
- Please enclose a **stamped addressed envelope** for your receipt

NB Seats are allocated on a first come, first served, basis. Cancellations may mean no refund although every effort will be made to sell on seats to those on any waiting list. Your friends are welcome on our visits – they may even join our Society too!

**Travel Arrangements:-**

The coach leaves promptly at **08.45** (for Birmingham) and **09.00** (for Dover) from St Peter's Street (near "Strutt and Parker") and aims to return by approximately 7.00 pm.



**BOOKING FORM**

Name .....

Tel. no.

Address

I wish to reserve ..... seat(s) for the visit to Birmingham on 8/5/10  
I wish to reserve ..... seat(s) for the visit to Dover on 25/9/10

I enclose a cheque for each visit (*dated the day of the visit*) made payable to St Albans Civic Society, *together with a stamped addressed envelope.*

Please send to:-

**Bryan Hanlon - 24 Monks Horton Way - St Albans - AL1 4HA**