



the city beautiful

Centenary Programme

Talks, Walks, Tours,
Family Activities and more



THE
BIRMINGHAM
CIVIC SOCIETY

*Celebrating 100 years of
Birmingham Civic Society*



Welcome to

the city beautiful

Celebrating 100 years of Birmingham Civic Society

Birmingham Civic Society was founded on 10th June 1918 partly through a desire to create a better society following the First World War. Its primary focus was to influence the post-war regeneration of the city.

In its early years the Civic Society successfully bought land to create open spaces establishing parks in places such as Northfield and Kings Norton. The Society also provided designs and funds to make improvements to several existing parks including Aston, Handsworth and Cannon Hill Parks.

Over the century the Society campaigned to save a number of historic properties and organisations including The Rep Theatre and safeguarding Birmingham Cathedral's Burne-Jones stained glass windows during the Second World War.

In the 1950s the Society erected the first of its Blue Plaques which honour significant people who have lived or worked in the city. This scheme continues today and four new plaques will be created in this centenary year.

Today the Society continues to lobby for an improved urban environment and strongly promotes active citizenship. The Next Generation Award encourages young people to play a role in the future of their city and Renaissance Awards recognise the most successful conservation projects in the city.

The City Beautiful celebrates the centenary of the Birmingham Civic Society. A full programme of events has been created in collaboration with many of the diverse organisations Birmingham boasts.

Join us in looking back over the past 100 years and help us look forward to the next.

Events are open to everyone. Visit birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk to book directly or for venue booking details.



@BirminghamCivic

#thecitybeautiful100

Saturday 24 March, 10am
Georgian Town to Victorian City
 Birmingham Cathedral,
 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB

Birmingham Civic Society Trustee Stephen Hartland will lead you on a virtual walk through the developments from a modest Georgian town to bustling Victorian metropolis examining many facets of the changing streetscape of our great city.

£5

 birminghamcathedral.com

Saturday 21 April, 10am
Uncovering 10,000 years
of Birmingham's Past

The Council House,
 Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB

Discover the fascinating archaeological history of Birmingham from the depths of pre-history onwards with prominent archaeologist Mike Hodder. Join Mike after the talk on a visit and introduction to the Birmingham History Galleries at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

£5

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk



Monday 11 June, 1pm
Making 'The City Beautiful' –
John Drinkwater and
The Birmingham Civic Society

Birmingham and Midland Institute,
 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

James Kelly describes how poets, artists, intellectuals and in particular John Drinkwater, contributed to establishing the Society.

£5 Free to BMI members

 bmi.org.uk

Monday 9 July, 1pm
Birmingham Civic Arms

Birmingham and Midland Institute,
 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

Armourist Adrian de Redman takes a look at the history and both legal and illegal uses of The Birmingham Civic Arms.

£5 Free to BMI members

 bmi.org.uk

**Saturday 15 or
Sunday 16 September, 10am**
A History of Birmingham Parks

Aston Hall, Trinity Road,
Aston, Birmingham B6 6JD

Darren Share, Assistant Director, Birmingham City Council describes the history of Birmingham's much loved parks and Birmingham Civic Society's role in greening the city. A Ranger guided walk is available to join after the talk. See Tours and Walks page for further details.

£5

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk

 Birmingham Heritage Week

Please note, this event is subject to change depending on Aston Villa match fixtures. Bookings will open in June once the date has been confirmed

Thursday 27 September, 6pm
**Birmingham Artists
in the 20th century**

Royal Birmingham Society of Arts,
Brook Street, Birmingham B3 1SA

Join Hon Professor of Art History Brendan Flynn in an engaging and colourful talk describing the prominent Birmingham artists of the 20th century.

£7 to include welcome drink

 rbsa.org.uk



birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk

Saturday 29 September, 10am
**Birmingham and
The First World War**

The Council House, Victorian Square,
Birmingham B1 1BB

The Birmingham Civic Society's Heritage Committee member Sian Roberts illustrates the considerable story of Birmingham during the First World War.

£5

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk

Saturday 29 September, 12.30-2.30pm
**Birmingham's First World War
Archive**

Library of Birmingham
Centenary Square, Broad Street,
Birmingham B1 2ND

A rare opportunity to view selected archive material relating to Birmingham during the First World War presented by Sian Roberts

£4

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk

Saturday 13 October, 10am
**The Civic Gospel
and Citizenship**

Winterbourne House and Garden,
58 Edgbaston Park Road,
Birmingham B15 2RT

Curator Henrietta Lockhart recounts the history of the Civic Gospel, a significant movement in Victorian Birmingham and its influence on local government and citizenship. The talk is followed by a short presentation from winners of the Society's Next Generation Awards illustrating the Society's role in citizenship today.

£5

 winterbourne.org.uk

Monday 5 November, 1pm

Women of the early Birmingham Civic Society

Birmingham and Midland Institute,
9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

Birmingham Civic Society's Heritage Committee member Sian Roberts reveals the history of women from the formation of the Society including politician Mary Cottrell.

£5 Free to BMI members

 bmi.org.uk

Wednesday 7 November, 6pm

William Haywood and the Birmingham Civic Society

The Gunmakers Arms,
93 Bath Street, Birmingham B4 6HG

Birmingham Civic Society Trustee Stephen Hartland introduces us to the Society's first honorary secretary and illustrates a man dedicated to making Birmingham a better place for everyone.

£5

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk

Saturday 17 November, 10am

The Suffragette Movement in Birmingham

The Council House, Victoria Square,
Birmingham B1 1BB

Women's historian Nicola Gauld provides a fascinating account of the suffragette movement in Birmingham from key individuals to historic events. After the talk, take the opportunity to join an accompanied visit to Women and Protest exhibition at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

£5

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk

**Monday 26 November,
4.30pm-6.30pm**

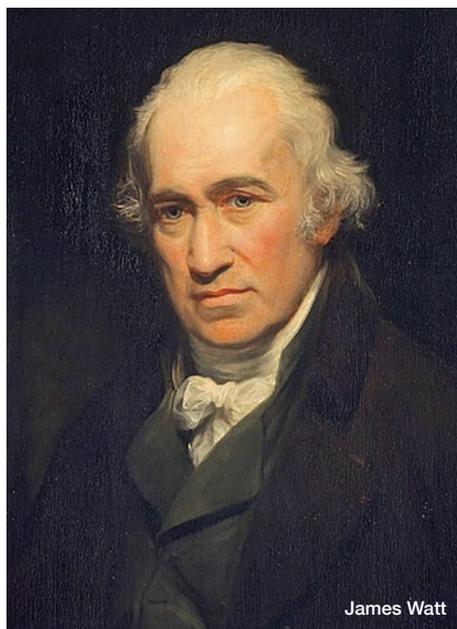
The City Beautiful in Archives

Library of Birmingham,
Centenary Square, Broad Street,
Birmingham B1 2ND

A unique opportunity to view selected archive material relating to Birmingham Civic Society, its work and achievements over the past 100 years.

£4

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk



James Watt

Monday 10 December, 1pm

James Watt

Birmingham and Midland Institute,
9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

Historian Chris Rice on James Watt, Birmingham and how, between them, they shaped the world.

£5 Free to BMI members

 bmi.org.uk

Saturday Tours:**31 March, 2 June, 28 July
& 22 September, 10am****City Centre Walking Tour****Meet outside St Martins in the Bull Ring,
Edgbaston Street, Birmingham B5 5BB**

An informative and enjoyable walking tour of Birmingham city centre with Blue Badge Guide, Ian Jelf. Starting at the front of St Martins in the Bullring, the tour will visit key landmarks and places of interest in the city. Ian will highlight important aspects of Birmingham Civic Society, and some of the individuals who have contributed to making Birmingham a better place. A number of Birmingham Civic Society Blue Plaques feature in the tour and it will end at the Library of Birmingham.

£4 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk**Heritage Walks**

A series of walks have been created as part of The City Beautiful programme, many of which have been organised by Birmingham City Council's excellent Ranger Service. The walks celebrate the diversity of Birmingham's heritage, people and places and the work of the Society in securing open spaces and parks for the city. Arrive at the meeting place on time and prepared for whatever the weather may bring!

Saturday 14 April, 11am**Rea Valley Heritage Trail****Meet at Garden Tea Rooms,
Russell Road entrance, Cannon Hill Park,
Russell Road, Birmingham B13 8RD**

A guided, 6 mile walk from Cannon Hill Park to the site of Hazelwell Mill and return.

Free event**Saturday 5 May, 1pm****480 million years of history
in two hours****Meet at Lickey Hills Visitor Centre, Warren
Lane, Rednal, Lickey, Birmingham B45 8ER**

A walk through time starting in pre-history, then Roman Britain, a quick stop with the Normans and Middle Ages, finishing with the Second World War and home in time for a brew!

Free event**Sunday 6 May, 11am****Boer War to First World War****Meet at Garden Tea Rooms,
Russell Road entrance, Cannon Hill Park,
Russell Road, Birmingham B13 8RD**

A guided, one way, 4.1 mile walk from Cannon Hill Park to Brandwood End Cemetery.

Free event**Saturday 19 May, 2pm****A Spring Woodland History
Revealed at Sutton Park****Meet at Sutton Park Visitor Centre,
Park Road, Sutton Coldfield B74 2YT**

Take a wander through Holly Hurst looking at the many features that reveal the previous management of the wood in this archaeologically rich area of the park.

Free event**Saturday 2 June, 1pm****Lickeys at War****Meet at Lickey Hills Visitor Centre, Warren
Lane, Rednal, Lickey, Birmingham B45 8ER**

Discover the Lickey Hills' involvement in both World Wars and even a little bit of Napoleonic gunnery too.

Free event

Sunday 10 June, 11am

Walking 'Between the Oaks'

Meet at Park House, Kings Heath Park,
64 Brent Road, Birmingham B30 2TP

A guided 3 mile, one way walk from Kings Heath Park to Cannon Hill via five splendid oak trees.

Free event

Saturday 7 July, 11am

Water Way To Go

Meet at Brookvale Park, car park off
Park Road, Birmingham B23 7AG

A look at the past and future of the pools and surrounds of Brookvale Park and Witton Lakes.

Free event

Saturday 8 September, 2pm

An Autumn Woodland History Revealed at Sutton Park

Meet at Sutton Park Visitor Centre,
Park Road, Sutton Coldfield B74 2YT

Take a wander through Holly Hurst looking at the many features that reveal the previous management of the wood in this archaeologically rich area of the park.

Free event

 Birmingham Heritage Week

15 or 16 September, 12noon

Aston Park and Birmingham Civic Society

Meet at Aston Hall Stables Range,
Aston Hall, Trinity Road, Aston,
Birmingham B6 6JD

Join Ranger Jim Harrison for a brief look at the history of Aston Park and the involvement of Birmingham Civic Society.

Free event

 Birmingham Heritage Week

Please note, this event is subject to change depending on Aston Villa match fixtures. Visit website from June for confirmed date.

Sunday 16 September, 2pm

Edward Burne-Jones Walk

Birmingham Cathedral's Heritage Manager tells the story of one of the city's best known artists through the sights and sounds of the city centre.

£4

 birminghamcathedral.com

 Birmingham Heritage Week

Sunday 23 September, 2pm

Cannon Hill Park

Meet at mac reception, Cannon Hill Park,
Queen's Ride, Birmingham B12 9QH

Put your best foot forward and discover the park from the perspective of curator, historian and Cannon Hill Park regular Irene de Boo.

£4

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk

Sunday 21 October, 2pm

Roots, Rights and Resistance

Meet at Soho House, Soho Avenue,
Birmingham B18 5LB

Join Rachel West from Legacy WM for a lively tour of Handsworth and find out more about the people, movements and struggles that shaped this area and wider Birmingham. Discover some fascinating stories of this ever evolving, dynamic part of the city.

£4

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk



Ranger Walk

Family Activity at Winterbourne



Tuesday 3 April, 1pm-3pm

Dream Cities

A drop in craft activity for children ages 3-12

Moor Pool Hall, The Circle, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9DY

Roll up your sleeves, imagine, design and create a Dream City in the unique surroundings of Moor Pool Estate, created by 20th century pioneering planner John Sutton Nettlefold.

Free, drop-in event

Friday 6 April, 1pm-3pm

Casting Creations

A drop in craft activity for children of all ages

The Coffin Works Museum, 13-15 Fleet Street, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham B3 1JP

Celebrate Birmingham Civic Society's Blue Plaque scheme by creating your very own name plate out of a magical combination of sand, plaster and paint.

Free, drop-in event, (tour of factory not included).

Families participating in the event can enjoy a tour of the factory at a reduced rate.

Tuesday 29 May, 11am-1pm & 2pm-4pm
The Garden Beautiful

A drop in activity for children ages 5-12

Winterbourne House and Garden
58 Edgbaston Park Road,
Birmingham B15 2RT

Have fun seed planting and exploring the garden at Winterbourne.

Admission fee

Buy one ticket, get another free for families visiting this drop-in event

Tuesday 7 August, 1pm-4pm

Library Laughs

A bookable activity for children ages 5-12

Birmingham Children's Library,
Library of Birmingham, Centenary Square,
Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2ND

Bring along your best jokes or write them with us on the day - then try out a bit of stand up! Guaranteed laughs inspired by world famous 20th century Brummie comedian Sid Field and The Summer Reading Challenge *Mischief Makers*.

Free event - pre booking not essential but highly recommended,

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk



Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Story Steps

Thursday 16 August, 1pm-3pm **Casting Creations**

A drop in craft activity for children of all ages

The Coffin Works Museum,
13-15 Fleet Street, Jewellery Quarter,
Birmingham B3 1JP

Celebrate Birmingham Civic Society's Blue Plaque scheme by creating your very own name plate out of a magical combination of sand, plaster and paint.

Free, drop-in event,
(tour of factory not included)

Families participating in the event can enjoy a tour of the factory at a reduced rate.

15th or 16th September, 1pm-3pm **Imaginative Gardens**

A drop in craft activity for children of all ages as part of Heritage Open Weekend

Aston Hall, Trinity Road, Aston,
Birmingham B6 6JD

Enjoy the parts of Aston Park designed by Birmingham Civic Society in the 1930s then see if you can make your own Imaginative Garden.

Free, drop-in event

 Birmingham Heritage Week

Please note, this event is subject to change depending on Aston Villa match fixtures. Confirmation of the date will appear on the Birmingham Civic Society website and social media from June.

Sunday 30 September, 2pm-4pm **The City Beautiful Printmaking Workshop**

Royal Birmingham Society of Arts,
Brook Street, Birmingham B3 1SA

A unique opportunity for families to work with an RBSA print making tutor with The City Beautiful as your theme.

Free, bookable event
Limited places available

 rbsa.org.uk

Monday 29 October, 10pm-12pm **Written Word**

Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row,
Birmingham B3 2QB

A family friendly exploration of words and writing in and around Birmingham Cathedral.

Free, drop-in event

Saturday 8 December, 1pm-3pm **Victorian Christmas Card making**

A drop in craft activity for children ages 5-12

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery,
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH

With the newly restored statue of Queen Victoria as inspiration join us in making a picture perfect Christmas card.

Free, drop-in event

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

People, Places and Pride

The City Beautiful, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, continues to tell the story of the Society's first 100 years through a number of projects that reflect its wide reaching activities and achievements and takes the opportunity to look forward to the next 100.

Exhibition and Trail

From June, in one of Birmingham's busiest and most treasured spaces, Cathedral Square, an exhibition will be on display telling the story of Birmingham Civic Society, its achievements, personalities and journey over the past 100 years. For people keen to get out and about and explore the story of the Society on foot, a printed trail will be available. This will guide people around the city centre stopping at places significant in the Society's story. What better way to discover a different viewpoint of some of Birmingham's most iconic places?

Films

Coming later in the year will be a series of creative films available on our website. The first of these will involve groups of Birmingham young people, each producing a short film exploring the wider heritage of the Society and providing a unique opportunity to engage with the Blue Plaque scheme. A further film brings the Blue Plaque scheme to life illustrating the process from selection and research of recipients, through the foundry casting of the plaques to final installation.

Archives

The City Beautiful project has provided the chance to research Birmingham Civic Society's archive fully which will enable the material to be more available and accessible in the future. Continue to visit our website for more information about archive events throughout the year.

Membership

The Birmingham Civic Society is open to anyone to join. We are a membership body

made up from a wide range of volunteers who encourage community engagement and promote pride in our city. As a member of the Birmingham Civic Society you will join like-minded individuals who wish to combine an active contribution to the city with a social programme designed to celebrate its strengths and heritage.

Blue Plaques and History Plate

In this special year four Blue Plaques and a History Plaque will be unveiled, celebrating the significant lives and events of people in Birmingham's history.

Restoration of the statue of Queen Victoria, Victoria Square

The statue of Queen Victoria by Thomas Brock and recast by William Bloye is being restored as part of The City Beautiful project. Look out for events and activities planned to show Her Royal Highness in all her majesty!



And more...

Further exciting events and activities with Birmingham organisations such as Birmingham Repertory Theatre and The Old Rep are also planned. Keep up to date by visiting birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk

Friday 29 June, 1.30pm-3.30pm
The City Beautiful at
The Museum Collection Centre
 Museum Collection Centre,
 25 Dollman Street, Birmingham B7 4RQ

A rare opportunity to see Birmingham Museum Trust's incredible collection of objects currently in store and discover connections with Birmingham Civic Society along the way.

Free event

 birminghammuseums.org.uk



Birmingham Cathedral

Saturday 7 July, 5pm-7pm
Divine Beauty Concert
 Birmingham Cathedral,
 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB

A programme of great cathedral anthems inspired by the stained-glass windows. This concert supports the Divine Beauty window restoration project.

£10/£8

 birminghamcathedral.com

Sunday 10 June, 1pm
Civic Picnic
 Soho House, Soho Avenue,
 Birmingham B18 5LB

Pack a picnic, join the festivities and receive a warm welcome as we celebrate our 100th birthday with a fun filled afternoon in the grounds of Soho House, Handsworth, home of industrialist and Birmingham great, Matthew Boulton.

Free event

Saturday 28 April, 10.30am
Centenary Tree Planting -
Lickey Hills Arboretum

Meet at Lickey Hills Visitor Centre,
 Warren Lane, Rednal, Lickey,
 Birmingham B45 8ER

Join in and help the Birmingham Trees for Life team as they plant 25 specimen trees selected for replanting to create a varied and attractive arboretum.

Free bookable event

 birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk



Tree planting

What do you think makes this a great city?



Send us a Tweet @BirminghamCivic and use the hashtag #thecitybeautiful100 to tell us what you think makes Birmingham a great city.

Working together
to make Birmingham
a better place
for everyone

@BirminghamCivic
#thecitybeautiful100



Join us on Instagram in showcasing
our beautiful city @BirminghamCivic

For further information about
Birmingham Civic Society visit our website
at birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk or email us
at info@birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk

Birmingham Civic Society is proud to be working with the following organisations



Birmingham Civic Society is grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Limoges Charitable Trust, the Birmingham Common Good Trust and the William A Cadbury Charitable Trust for their support towards our Centenary programme.