

Community

Club Reports

Two O'clock Club

ALTHOUGH there was a chilly wind, club members who joined the outing to Burton-on-Trent earlier in April enjoyed their trip.

Many took the opportunity to walk along the riverbank or around the water meadows as the others crossed above them by the viaduct and river bridge, heading for the Stapenhill side. That was where the large flock of swans for which the area is well known had congregated; a gigantic model swan has become a popular feature at Stapenhill Gardens.

On the Burton side, the visitors had discovered that the public library contained an excellent restaurant. This was followed by a return via Abbots Bromley for afternoon tea at Marsh Farm, a regular destination

on outings in the area. All had a good time.

The slide presentation on April 15 by Mike Davey, entitled: 'Historic Houses and Gardens' began with a World Garden site, Powys Castle.

Powys Castle was built for a Welsh prince in the 1200's and, after the last one renounced his title, he was created Earl of Powys. It was sold to Sir Edward Herbert in 1587 by one of his descendants, and remained in the family until it was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1952.

Mike Davey moved next to Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge, once used for the rental of horses. However the owner, Mr Hobson, would only hire them out in the order he

decreed and it wasn't long before 'Hobson's choice' came to mean no choice at all.

Next up came The Manor House at Hemmingford Grey, the oldest continually inhabited house in England, then Lyvedon New Bield, started in 1605 by Sir Thomas Tresham but never completed after his death, although it does have gardens and an orchard.

Mr Davey showed slides containing the features of more than twenty houses and gardens, recommending as he went along the best time of year to visit depending on the plants in each garden.

The illustrated talk was very good, and Mr Davey thoroughly deserved the vote of thanks at the end.

Knowing a real offer when you spot one

VISITORS to Attenborough Nature Reserve this Sunday (April 25) will have the opportunity to buy top quality binoculars and telescopes at discounted prices.

Attenborough Nature Centre has teamed up with supplier Opticron to give visitors the chance to try out a range of products in field conditions. Whilst prices for Opticron products at the Nature Centre are already keenly priced, purchases on the day will also be subject to a further 10 percent discount (except sale items).

The event will run from 10am – 4pm with experts on hand to demonstrate the

products. Profits from the sale of binoculars, telescopes and other merchandise at the Nature Centre help to fund education and conservation work at the popular nature reserve.

Speaking about the event, Wildlife Trust Communications Manager Erin McDaid said: "Good optics can really enhance people's enjoyment of wildlife watching and these special events supported by Opticron are proving extremely successful. Our relationship with Opticron has grown considerably over the past couple of years and we are now able to offer customers a range

of high quality binoculars and telescopes at very competitive prices. We can also offer people advice and share our expertise to help people make the right choice."

Mr. McDaid continued: "By working closely with Opticron to deliver these special demonstration days where people can try before they buy, it makes it much easier to get the pair of binoculars or the telescope that suits you best, so why not pop down to Attenborough this Sunday to get some advice and take advantage of the special discount."

Beeston Probus Club

BEESTON Probus Club held its Annual General Meeting recently and the outgoing chairman, David Trotter, looked back over the past year's activities.

The year's programme of meetings had been completed without hitch, and some very interesting talks and shows had been presented. Twenty meetings were held in the Club's premises, the Beeston Guiding Headquarters building in West End.

Outings had been made to the Great Central Railway Museum at Loughborough and the Houses of Parliament, where the group met with the local MP, Nick Palmer.

A new venture for about 20 club members and ladies was an enjoyable walk along the Trent, followed by lunch.

In January, Ladies Day was held at the Wollaton Road Methodist Church and, despite the icy weather, a good attendance was achieved.

However, probably the highlight of the year was the annual lunch in November, held on a very warm and sunny day at Beeston Fields Golf Club House. The members and their ladies were well looked after by the staff at the golf club.

David was pleased to announce that the year's charity, SSAFA, benefited from various sources and

he presented a cheque for £784.28 to the charity's local representative at the AGM.

After thanking the members of the club committee for their work and help over the year, David then handed the Chairman's chain to Brian Palmer to take over for the next year.

Brian said he was looking forward to the challenge and promised an interesting year. His charity for the year will be SkcIN, which helps to fight skin cancer.

Over the year the club has maintained the number of members it has, but it does look to enlarge the membership. Applications from interested persons would be welcomed.

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All becomes clear

DEAR EDITOR: I am grateful to Cllr Taylor for drawing to everyone's attention the excellent website, 'They WorkForYou.Com'.

I was genuinely shocked at just how much Nick Palmer has blindly followed the Labour party line in the 13 years he has been in Parliament.

I was led to believe that he was independently minded MP, that is how he presents himself here in Broxtowe but that is clearly a myth and, when you look at what he has voted against, it gets worse.

Of the 29 times he rebelled, seven were regarding House of Lords reform, four times over Members' pay and allowances and three times each over the Hunting Bill and City of London (Ward Elections) – whatever they are.

When it came to post office closures, which he had campaigned against locally and as a matter of importance in Broxtowe, he failed to join 29 of his Labour colleagues in opposing the Government.

In pay and expenses, he receives over £230,000 of tax payers' money a year. Broxtowe surely deserves better than this?

Hamish Stewart

Myth dispelling

DEAR EDITOR: There has been much discussion through these very pages in recent weeks over the County Council's plans for on-street car parking in Beeston Rylands.

There has also been a leaflet from the local Labour Party which a number of residents tell me they found misleading – I therefore write to put the record straight.

The existing residents parking scheme around the Trafalgar Road/Trent Road area has been in place for many years and there is a feeling amongst residents that it is outdated. The County Council therefore is considering changes to improve parking for residents in that area. No changes will be introduced without the support of effected residents.

To dispel one myth: We have no plans, and indeed no

budget, to widen the existing scheme to cover the whole of Beeston Rylands.

In light of the current economic climate and in view of a probable reduction in local authority funding in future years, we have decided to bring Nottinghamshire into line with most other authorities and charge an administration fee of £25 per year to cover the costs of processing and issuing the residents parking permits.

To dispel another myth; This is not, as some have said, a tax on Rylands residents but a fee charged to people across the county who benefit from a residents' parking zone. I would also like to point out that there will be concessions for blue badge holders and for older drivers.

I hope that residents covered by the existing residents parking scheme will welcome our proposed improvements and I am happy to assure them that no changes will be made without public support through our consultations.

*Richard Jackson
Cabinet Member for
Transport & Highways*

Toton Methodist Church Women's Meeting

MEMBERS and friends of the Women's Meeting in Toton have been busy knitting for people in Albania during the last few months. In March, 509 newly-knitted garments ranging from baby booties, jumpers for adults, shawls and blankets were handed over for adding to the next Police Aid Convoy, along with a collection of

£75 and a large amount of tools and bed linen.

In April, a collection of 5p coins amounting to £150 was donated to 'Livestock for Life' when Miss Jane Beynon came to talk about the work of the organisation in Africa.

At Easter, Rev Melanie Stoodley led a Communion Service, during which she

spoke of events leading up to the crucifixion from a woman's point of view. A collection of £35 was donated to the Methodist Church World Mission Fund.

The next meeting will be on April 27 at 2.15pm, when Major Doreen Mantle of the Salvation Army will speak. All ladies are welcome to this meeting.