

Community

Hats off for Easter bonnets!

THERE was a flurry of three Easter Bonnet parades in the week before Easter, two of them attended and judged by the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr John Londgon, the third with three strapping soldiers as invited guests from the TA Centre on Broadgate.

The three soldiers who went along to Neville Sadler Court (NSC) to join the residents for lunch on Tuesday of Easter Week were also invited to judge the Easter Bonnet parade – even though there were only four bonnets.

The real reason that the men were asked along is because the residents of NSC, on Fletcher Road, Beeston, had been raising funds for the charity 'Help for Heroes' and they felt that asking the soldiers along would be a good thing to do.

So Regimental Sergeant Major Mick Parr, Staff Sergeant Jim Daley and Colour Sergeant Paul Sprayson were asked to

choose between the four entries to the Bonnet competition, after they had enjoyed a splendid buffet lunch prepared by some of the NSC residents.

No doubt a bit different from the sights each of them would have seen on tours of duty in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Northern Ireland and Afghanistan, but the judging was carried out in good spirit and with a not inconsiderable amount of lively banter!

A raffle and tombola had also been arranged at the luncheon. The tombola raised £20.50, with the tickets sold at just 20p each; the raffle raised £73.00. Money collected towards the cost of laying on the buffet raised another £128.

Winner of the raffle was Margaret Westby. Support for the event was provided by Sainsbury's on Castle Boulevard, Nottingham.

Over at Falcon House on Middle Street the previous Saturday, nearly all residents

took part in the Easter Bonnet parade being judged by the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr John Londgon, assisted by his wife, the Mayoress, Margaret.

An interesting aspect of the Easter Bonnets at Falcon House was that the hats had come from Sheila's Hats on Broadgate, Beeston – thought by many local people to be all but abandoned by its owner.

It does appear that Sheila Taylor, owner of the hat shop that has stood on Broadgate since 1954, has moved to be closer to her family. At Falcon House, activities coordinator Ann Beck liaised with a member of Sheila's family before Easter to be allowed to use some of the out-of-date hat stock as bases for the creation of Easter bonnets. Much of the stock at Sheila's Hats clearly belonged to a time when ladies always dressed 'appropriately' before they set foot outside the house

– and that included the wearing of a suitable hat. Some of the hats in the shop were masterpieces of the milliner's art – even before the ladies of Falcon House set to work to give them an Easter theme with coloured eggs and fluffy chicks.

In addition to the Easter bonnet parade and competition, which was attended by family and friends and with Easter eggs donated by the Mayor as prizes, a 'Guess the Name of the Easter Bunny' raffle was held at Falcon House. This helped raise funds for the purchase of craft materials

for activities enjoyed by the residents. Winners of the Easter bonnet competition were Cissy Rowlson, Barbara Hill and Mildred Kerry.

The following week, the Mayor was invited to judge the Easter bonnets at Silverwood on Imperial Road, Beeston.

Here, too, almost all of the residents took part and the Mayor presented chocolate Easter eggs to the wearers of no less than six of his favourite creations. The Silverwood prize winners were: Gertrude Woodward, Marjorie Martin, John

Williams, Clarice Wright, Constance Button and 101 year-old May Shaw.

The hats in the Silverwood parade were made with help from members of the resident's families and carers at the home.