

Community

Chetwynd children DARE to say no to drugs

FORTY seven children from Chetwynd Road Primary School, Beeston, have dared to say "No" to illegal drugs and antisocial behaviour.

They have all graduated with honours from the programme run at the school by the anti-drugs education charity DARE, and were duly presented with certificates at a special ceremony at the school. The ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr John Longdon, and included original poetry and drama from the young graduates, as well as a lively performance of the DARE song.

DARE UK is a national charity that delivers life skills and drugs education to youngsters aged nine to 16.

It was brought to the UK in Nottinghamshire 16 years ago and is popular in more than 280 of the county's schools.

The successful DARE programme, delivered by serving or retired police officers and teaching staff, is now being taken up by schools in other East Midlands counties as well as being introduced into Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire.

Cllr Longdon said: "DARE is a brilliant programme, and has the support of the council. It gives children about to go to secondary school the self-awareness and confidence to say 'no' to any temptations and dangers they may face."

Chetwynd Road Primary

School's head teacher, Graeme Robins, said: "DARE is an essential part of our curriculum and contributes to the all round education of our children, helping them to make the right decisions for a healthy lifestyle."

The DARE officer who delivered the programme to the school, Kathy Cross, said: "I am very proud of all these new DARE graduates. I know they are now well prepared to make informed choices and to deal successfully with the challenges they will face in the future."

Beeston fields the PCSO of the Year

BEESTON-based Mike Drury has scooped the title of South Nottinghamshire's PCSO of the Year for delivering 'exemplary Neighbourhood Policing'.

That was the view of Divisional Commander Chief Superintendent John Busuttill, who presented PCSO Drury with the 2009 Lynette Potter Award during the annual D Div PCSO Conference at Mellish Rugby Club in Arnold.

Ch Supt Busuttill said: "Mike has an impressive knowledge of local incidents, locations and

offenders and, on noting suspicious activity, he investigates appropriately.

"This year, 37 arrests have been made as a direct result of his work, including wanted offenders and recalls to prison.

"His intelligence-gathering has led to 'risky people' being taken off the streets and 'risky places' being dealt with. His work has been brilliant and others should be inspired by what Mike has done over the past year."

Drill success for 1359 (Beeston) Squadron

THE drill squad from 1359 (Beeston) Squadron were at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire at the end of November to represent the Central and East Region of the Air Training Corps (ATC) against five other squadrons, each representing their respective regions.

This was the culmination of hours of drill practice over many evenings and weekends as the squad honed their drill skills. They had already seen off the competition from the 28 other squadrons in the South and East Midlands Wing in early July, going on to the Regional Competition in September where they beat the five other Wings in the region, giving them

the opportunity to represent the Region at the Corps competition.

The team travelled to RAF Halton on the Friday evening, along with Flt Lt Bannister VR (T), OC 1359, and WO Gary Tinsley, where they immediately set to work on their drill practice before settling down for the night. The late night sessions were essential as, for the last few months, they had been practising without their usual drill commander, CWO Marie Grant, away at university in London. She met the squad at Halton and took the opportunity to get back to grips with the routine and the commands.

Saturday morning dawned and the squad

prepared themselves for the competition. All the effort proved worthwhile as they finished in second place, just 14 points behind the winning team and 100 points ahead of third. The Best Drill Commander trophy went to CWO Grant, an extremely well deserved personal success for her, especially as she had been named joint Best Drill Commander at the Wing competition and won it outright at the Region competition.

The whole squad was in good spirits as they drove back to Nottingham, especially as that same evening the squadron were holding their annual Winter Ball, where they were soon celebrating their success,

receiving a standing ovation from everyone present.

Fit Lt Bannister praised them all for their efforts. He said: "These cadets have all given up a lot of their personal time to prepare for this competition, ensuring that their drill and uniform were to the highest standard. That effort has paid off with the result, and I am extremely proud of them all.

"My thanks also go to those staff from South and East Midlands Wing who helped, advised and encouraged the team along the way."

CWO Grant was overjoyed with the result, "I am so proud of the guys. When I met up with them on Friday for the first time

in several weeks I couldn't believe how good they looked; they were fantastic. I'm so pleased to have won the award but credit to the squad for finishing second. It really is a brilliant result."

Congratulations to the squad from the staff, the cadets and the Civilian Committee of 1359 (Beeston) Squadron, you did them all proud!

Date for your Diary

Beeston Seed Swap

AS soon as Christmas is over, people start to pick up travel brochures and seed catalogues, looking for inspiration for the coming year. But before you throw away those old seed packets, you are invited to think about the forthcoming Beeston Seed Swap.

Following last year's highly successful event, Beeston Transition Group is holding another seed swapping event on Saturday, February 20 in Wollaton Road Methodist Church, Beeston, between 10am and 12 noon; bring along your unwanted seeds and take away something different.

All seeds are free of charge and refreshments will be available.