

Community

There's lots going on in and around Beeston for all age groups.

For those caring for younger children, information about toy libraries, playgroups, toddler groups, and parenting skills is readily available from Beeston Clinic, Dovecote House, 38 Wollaton Road, Beeston.

If you are planning events or wish to advertise products or services for families, ring 0115 922 8007

100 trees will mark 100 Years of Guiding

GUIDES from across Beeston got their hands dirty last week as they started to plant the 100 trees that will provide a permanent memento of Guiding's centenary year.

They began their digging exercises at the start of National Tree Week by planting 10 six-foot rowan and birch saplings on Swiney Way, Attenborough and 10 hazel whips at the Greenwood Centre, Toton.

This was followed by planting groups of birch, maple and flowering cherry saplings on Hanley Avenue,

Bramcote, hornbeams outside Inham Nook Methodist Church, rowans at St Barnabas Church, Chilwell and hazel whips on the weir field in Beeston Rylands.

The planting programme continued throughout the next week with mixed plantings at Stapleford at the Hickings Lane and Pit Lane recreation grounds, and cherry saplings going in at Christ Church, Chilwell.

The programme will be completed on December 5 when a cluster of hazel, birch and rowan trees is planted

outside Beeston Youth & Community Centre, the headquarters of Girlguiding Nottinghamshire's Beeston Division.

This final group of 19 trees will be planted during 'Tree O'clock Hour' (December 5, 11am to 12 noon), as part of the BBC's 'Breathing Spaces' initiative, which is hoping to set the world record for the number of trees planted during a single hour. Guests at a special reception at the Beeston Division HQ will include the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr John Longdon. Cllr

Longdon will unveil a plaque to commemorate the link between 100 years of Guiding and the planting of 100 trees in the borough.

The Guides' tree planting programme is running in collaboration with Broxtowe Borough Council, which owns six of the sites and will be responsible for ongoing maintenance. Funding has also come from the Tree Council and Greenwood Community Forest, with other supporters including Bardills Garden Centre, Rod Beales of Inham Nook Allotments and Margaret

McConnollin from Leyton Crescent Allotments.

Barbara Selwood has been managing the tree-planting project for Beeston Division Guides. "Instead of planting just one tree to mark 100 years of Guiding, we decided to plant 100!

"It's wonderful to think that Guides celebrating their second centenary in another 100 years time will enjoy it under the trees we're planting this week."

County Commissioner Dee Miles agreed, adding: "We appreciate all the

support we've had with the tree planting in Beeston.

"Anyone wondering how they can help us make the most of this unique year, which will culminate on 20 October 2010, is more than welcome to get in touch."

Girlguiding Nottinghamshire can be contacted on (0115) 987 7220.

Cynthia cracks the code to receive an award

A BRAMCOTE resident has been awarded the new Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge in recognition of her service during WWII.

Cynthia Humble, now 83, joined the ATS (Auxiliary Training Service) at the age of 17 and was trained as an interceptor of Morse Code. She then served in 'Y' Signals, from where the material that she collected, along with others like her, was sent to Bletchley Park, home of the famous code-breaker Enigma machine.

In July 2009, the Government decided to recognise the vital and secret contribution that people like Cynthia had made to the

war effort, and Cynthia was invited to Bletchley Park for a special presentation ceremony with David Milliband.

Unfortunately, she was unable to attend as she was on holiday so her badge and certificate, signed by Gordon Brown, arrived in the post.

Cynthia is very proud, her only regret being that her father, Major Harold Grossman, never knew of the vital part she played in the war, as she had signed the Official Secrets Act. Major Grossman was a serving soldier in the REME for forty years and was awarded the OBE in 1955. His brother, Major Henry (known as 'Harry')

Grossman lived in Peveril Road, Beeston, until his death in 1984.

Recently, Cynthia and her husband of 59 years, Sam Humble, were invited to visit Field House Infants School in Ilkeston to speak to the Year 2 Classes about their wartime experiences as part of a 'Remembrance' history topic.

Calling potential foster carers

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE County Council is launching an appeal for 10 new fostering households in the south Nottinghamshire area to give local children in care a loving home.

The Council's fostering service is struggling to find new foster homes due to the increasing number of children who come into the Council's care.

In October 2008 the Council had 339 children in its care across the county. This had increased to 407 by October 2009 – an increase of 68 children needing a home.

The Council is also finding problems as a large number of its foster carers are reaching retirement age, so the number of approved foster carers available is falling.

The south Nottinghamshire area that includes Broxtowe needs 10 foster care households, particularly for teenagers, sibling groups, and for children under 5 and over 10 years of age.

Foster carer Lynsey Freeman from Toton said: "I started fostering 10 years ago after seeing an advert in the local press, I'm the eldest of four and have always loved having children around. I was ready for a career change and felt I had nothing to lose.

"It is great to see a child you are looking after thrive and learn to enjoy life if they have had a difficult time.

"There are so many kinds of foster placements out there so I would encourage anyone thinking of fostering to make the first call and find out how they can help."

Councillor Philip Owen, Nottinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "We are looking for foster carers from all walks of life. They will need to demonstrate that they have a mature and responsible attitude with enough energy for the task of looking after a child."

Foster carers can be single, married, live with

a partner, own their own home, rent or receive benefits. Likewise, foster carers can be at home all day, work or have regular weekends to spare. The fostering service has many different types of foster care to fit in with these lifestyles.

Fostering is a way of providing family life for children who cannot live with their own parents, whether due to abuse or neglect, a breakdown in family relationships or the need for a short break or holiday for a disabled child.

The Council offers training and support to carers to ensure placements are successful, including a full preparation package, local support groups, essential equipment such as beds, bedding and pushchairs, and generous financial allowances and career opportunities, such as NVQ/BTEC qualifications.

For more information contact the fostering service on 0845 301 8899.