

Community

Alderman White pupils take part in 'Three 999s' challenge

PUPILS at Alderman White School took part in a 'Three 999s Challenge' as part of the 'Action Chilwell' event week of November 23–29.

The Three 999s Challenge at the school involved Nottinghamshire Police, Notts Fire & Rescue Service and the East Midlands Ambulance Service as well as partners from Broxtowe Borough Council, Trading Standards, Nottingham City Transport, the Nottinghamshire County Council Road Safety Team, and Nottinghamshire Primary Care Trust, who offered alcohol and drug guidance.

The young people had to speak to every service provider at the event as part of the challenge, and participate in a number

of interactive workshops delivering safety and crime prevention advice, life skills, education and information about the different services and support available to young people. About 600 pupils were involved.

PC Chris Edwards, the Youth Issues officer co-ordinating the project, said: "The aim of the event was to give the young people an opportunity to speak to members of the emergency services and partner agencies.

"It was all about development and personal, social and healthcare education. The students seem to have enjoyed the event and took something away from it.

Rob Musson, deputy head at Alderman White School,

said: "It's been a fantastic event, and an excellent opportunity for the students to learn more about the emergency services and other support providers.

"Alderman White School encourages any opportunity for the enrichment of our pupil's education, and this has been an excellent example of additional activities building on our students' experience.

"It has been a real multi-agency approach to proactive education, and all the students have engaged with it. The providers have been very professional, and there has been some very positive feedback from both members of staff and the students themselves."

Embroidery exhibition at Attenborough

A STUNNING exhibition of Embroidered Landscapes by a renowned Nottinghamshire artist is currently being staged at Attenborough Nature Centre.

Using a combination of embroidery stitches and watercolours, artist Anne Harrison creates beautiful pieces. She begins by painting directly onto the

canvas, and then builds up the image using embroidery to highlight texture onto the detail of the landscapes, including the trees, hedgerows and flowers.

To finish each piece, Anne extends the embroidery onto and through the mount to give a feeling of continuous perspective.

Her exhibition is open now and will run throughout December at The Gallery, Attenborough Nature Centre, Barton Lane.

Admission is free. For more details, tel: 01509 672 424.

The Oasis Christian Centre presents

The Bethlehem Bus

Sunday 13th December



Come along and join us!

The Bus Stops at

Pearson Ave – Inham Nook:
4.45pm until 5.30pm

Central Ave Shops – Beeston
5.45pm until 6.30pm

Meadow Road – Beeston Rylands
6.45pm until 7.30pm

Mulled Wine

Mince Pies



and a few more surprises!

A gift to you from -
Oasis in the Community

www.beestonoasis.org.uk Tel:9255463

Finding out about life in the slow lane

DO you have a garden pond? Do you think your pond contains water snails?

If the answer to both questions is 'yes', then a research scientist at the University of Nottingham would be pleased if you could assist him with some research.

Dr Angus Davison, an evolutionary biologist, is looking for pond snails for his research into why humans are either left or right handed, or why every one in 10,000 humans have their internal organs 'the wrong way round'.

Dr Davison said: "As part of my research, I would like to survey local (Beeston) garden ponds for the variety of snails that they contain, more specifically whether there are any 'mirror-image' snails (anticlockwise as opposed to the more normal clockwise).

"My lab at the university is investigating the genetic

basis of body asymmetry and handedness. As humans, our body is roughly symmetric on the outside – an imaginary line down the middle will create a mirror image on each side – but entirely asymmetric on the inside. Our heart is to the left, liver to the right, stomach and spleen on the left. Why is this so and, more specifically, why does nearly everyone develop with the same asymmetry (about one in ten thousand people are the 'wrong way round' inside and are mirror images of everyone else)?

"Also as humans, we are handed. Roughly 10 percent of us are left handers, 90 percent right-handers. Why this skew? Why not 50:50 or 100:0?

"We don't really know any of the answers to these questions, and are using snails to get at the answer. They are particularly convenient to use because mirror image snails are

relatively common compared with humans – and they don't complain so much!

He continued: "A gene has recently been found in both snails and humans that is important in setting up the left and right sides of the body, so there has to be some kind of common mechanism at the heart of it – a general rule in biology would be if that something has been conserved for more than 500 million years (dating to the common ancestor of snails and humans), then it is probably quite important."

Dr Davison is asking local residents with ponds to invite him into their garden for a quick look into the watery depths! "Basically, we would like to know what is going on in the ponds around Beeston," he said. "We would like to encourage people to invite us into their back gardens to have a look at their ponds, and anticipate that it shouldn't take long. Conveniently, the snail

that we are most interested in is pretty common (the Great pond snail, *Lymnaea stagnalis*), so most ponds will have it.

"For me, this is a fascinating subject. Over the next few months, by surveying some of the ponds of Beeston for their snails and their handedness, we will build up a picture of what is going on in the wild rather than just in the lab.

"We could just knock on doors, but it would be so much nicer – and easier – if people invited us."

If you think you can help Dr Davison with his research, contact him at the Institute of Genetics by emailing angus.davison@nottingham.ac.uk or by calling (0115) 823 0322.