

Community

Club Reports

Hemlock Stone Probus Club

DURING the past few months, the Club has continued to provide a varied programme for its members and their ladies.

In September, Peter Wood left the hall scattered with wood chippings as he delivered his action-packed talk, 'Chair Bodging – The Art of the Windsor Chair Maker'. Using a portable foot-operated treadle lathe, he fashioned a chair leg in the style of a craftsman using raw materials in a forest.

In October, Social Secretary Robin Gent organised a visit to the RAF museum at Cosford. As the male club members drooled over the 'big boys' toys', the ladies tried their hands at the experiments demonstrating the science of flight. Two daring members, having tried a flight simulation of the Red Devils, came off looking, in the words of the Procul Harem song, 'A Whiter Shade of Pale'!

The members and their ladies enjoyed a Christmas lunch at Trent Lock Golf Club. Prior to the lunch, the guest speaker was Rick Bailey, for many years a

presenter with Radios Derby, Stoke and Nottingham, and now an announcer at Derbyshire County Cricket Club. Rick entertained members with tales from his career and used a variety of equipment to show how reporting techniques have developed over the years.

In mid-December, 20 or so members drove to Hathern to see the Christmas Tree Festival in the church. Children from the village school presented a short concert of carols and hand bell ringing, and then it was off for lunch at the Kings Arms for the Probus club members.

In the run-up to Christmas, several members and their ladies joined the audience at one of the carol concerts presented by the Nottingham Harmonic Choir and the Thoresby Band – always a good occasion for a hearty singsong.

In early January, 21 members of the combined Long/Heritage Walking Groups had a belated festive lunch at the Brook Teahouse in Repton – too cold and icy to walk! President John

Worsley took the opportunity to introduce a booklet of poems collected by Margaret Scothern, widow of past club member Stan Scothern, who had been instrumental in setting up the heritage Walking Group. All proceeds from the sale will go to the Treetops Hospice Ripple Appeal.

At the January meeting, Barry Lings spoke of his 25 years as a County Ranger in Derbyshire. Building stiles, unearthing and recording Roman remains, negotiating rights of way with farmers, conducted walks and tandem rides for the blind, managing the 'Foot and Mouth' disease epidemic, restoring engine houses: all these fell within Barry's experience.

As winter turns to spring and the days lengthen, the social programme will see the Club return to Bardills' restaurant for the annual Valentine's Evening. An outing to the Black Country Museum in Dudley is planned, as is a skittles evening and a trip to the Ladies' Meeting at Uttoxeter Races. All good fun!

Toton Women's Meeting

MRS Pamela Levens travelled from Eastwood to give an illustrated talk to the members of the Toton Women's Group about the work of the Leprosy Mission in India and Africa.

She explained how early treatment and surgery was vital for the rehabilitation of

people that had contracted leprosy, and spoke of how the Mission helped with housing, water and education.

Members of the Women's Meeting Group members had gathered a large collection of postcards and postage stamps on behalf

of the Leprosy Mission. These were presented to Mrs Levens, along with the proceeds of a collection that had raised £72.

The next meeting will be at 2.15pm on Tuesday, February 16. The speaker will be Deacon Lisa Rathbone and all ladies are invited to attend.

Rotary Club of Beeston

IN February, Peter Moralee of the Bretby Club spoke of the National Immunisation Day in India. With 86 other Rotarians, he had made the trip out there to join Indian Rotarians and health workers in a mass immunisation project against polio in Lucknow and Delhi.

More money is still needed to continue this project and the Beeston Club will be having a collection for 'End Polio Now' on Saturday,

February 27 at Tesco, Swiney Way, Toton.

Club Secretary David Biggs then reported that the 300 Shelterbox tents which Rotary had provided as temporary shelter in Haiti had appeared on the BBC's Ten O'clock News. These tents continue to be shipped to Haiti to provide much-needed accommodation.

Nearer to home, guests who had been transported to

and from the Pearson Centre for 'Babes in the Wood' enjoyed their evening at the pantomime at the end of January.

At the following meeting, Andy Taylor, President of the Wollaton Park Club gave an interesting talk entitled 'Amateur Violin Making', showing samples of his work. Ernest Chambers remarked on Andy's skills during his vote of thanks.

Beeston Probus Club

"If you are no longer in full time work, why not take the opportunity to pursue learning for sheer enjoyment and for its own sake and, as a bonus, meet people of a like mind and make new friendships?"

This was the message from Christine Baxter, chairman of the University of the Third Age (U3A) in her talk to club members last week. U3A has a view that shared learning experiences lead to a wide range of interests groups as there is no fixed curriculum, the topics discussed are wide ranging and reflect the members' wishes and resources.

These were outlined as some of the benefits of joining the U3A.

She explained how the group tutors were unpaid, and that the people running the groups were often found to be those whose working life had given them particular fields of knowledge, which they passed on to group members. Activities range from languages, art history, painting, science and wine appreciation.

One benefit is that there are no examinations and no certificates; the attendees attend for pleasure, and to learn and make new friends.

There is no age limit.

For the physically minded, there might be walking or other outdoor activities – all dependant upon members wishes and the availability of leaders, etc.

At the end of her talk, Christine Baxter urged the Probus club members to try out the current programme available. At present, she said, the U3A has about 300 members and continues to grow.

For more details of U3A in Nottingham, call (0115) 950 8412.

Two O'clock Club

MARGARET Harrison returned to the Two O'clock Club with the second half of her 'Monthly Menu of Mirth' after reaching the month of June in an earlier talk. She claimed she'd only got that far because of the level of noise from the audience on that occasion.

July was devoted to old age and retirement, when a good night's sleep meant not getting up to go to the toilet, or trouble finding the car in the car park.

In August, school holidays mean looking after the grandchildren. Being given such excuses as "I'm not

picking my nose, I'm trying to put it back" or told the capital of France is F.

Moving to November, she recounted an incident in a cinema, when a cinema-goer stumbled across a man stretched over three seats in the stalls. She asked him to move so she could sit down. The man just grunted. An usherette came over and asked him to move. Again he grunted. A policeman was sent for and got the same result. The policeman asked him where he came from. The man pointed to the balcony.

Margaret's idea for December was that the wives

of the wise men should have visited Bethlehem instead of the men. They wouldn't have needed a star as they would ask for directions first and would have taken practical presents like nappies, helped with the delivery and the cleaning up.

During Margaret's talk, she managed to keep the club members laughing endlessly; the afternoon was enjoyed by all.

The Club's AGM took place in February, with Chairman Reg Goodman presenting his report and thanking the committee for their work during the year.

Art Exhibition at Attenborough

RICHARD Eddleston, a local artist from Chilwell, will be holding an exhibition of his paintings at the Attenborough Nature Centre throughout March.

The paintings, all of Attenborough, the nature centre and the reserve, are a mixture of oil and watercolours. This latest showing follows a successful exhibition that Richard held in Beeston Library in

November last year.

Richard says: "I took up painting about 10 years ago, when ill health meant that I could no longer be as active as previously. I've not had any formal training in the arts, but have attended art classes locally." He is now a member of The Nottingham Society of Artists as well as the Spotted Dog Art Group, a local art group based in

Beeston and Chilwell.

Most of Richard's paintings are landscapes. He says of Attenborough: "It's the changing light throughout the day that inspires me; light that brings the nature reserve alive."

He hopes that his paintings will inspire others to enjoy the nature reserve as much as he does.