

Community

Healthy fun in Stapleford

TRAINING to become a superhero was high on the list of priorities for younger members of the community attending the Healthy Fun Day in Stapleford recently.

And as the younger children went off to hone the skills essential for a superhero with the Sprouts Drama Group, other members of the families attending the event at William Lilley School

enjoyed salsa, belly dancing, bollywood dancing, hula hooping and cheerleading.

Visitors were also entertained by a pedal-powered smoothie bike, kite making and face painting, and being able to sit in a fire engine.

More than 200 visitors attended the Fun Day, which had been organised by Broxtowe Borough Council and Surestart, with funding

from Broxtowe Choosing Health.

Whilst they were there, the visitors were asked to make a pledge to do something healthy in 2010. Pledges ranged from riding a bike more often to eating more fruit, and were all entered into a draw to win a child's bike.

Encouraging students to be good neighbours

STUDENTS at The University of Nottingham are being encouraged to be good neighbours as part of a new campaign launched last week.

The University is promoting a new campaign – 'Make Time for Tea' – in a bid to boost community spirit amongst students.

The campaign, run by the University's Off-Campus Student Affairs Department, aims to encourage students living off campus to introduce themselves to their neighbours, whether they are permanent residents or fellow students.

Teabags with the 'Make Time for Tea' tagline will be given out to encourage students to create a positive rapport with neighbours by sharing a cup of tea.

Information will also be

handed out on postcards, reminding students to take pride in where they live and to make a positive effort to be good neighbours.

As well as introducing themselves to their neighbours, the students are asked to be considerate when coming home late at night and keep noise levels down, and to let their neighbours know in advance if they are planning to have a party and agree a finishing time.

They are reminded that bins need to be brought back off the street after bin day – bins left out make the neighbourhood look untidy and could lead to a £100 fine.

Melanie Futer, Manager off-Campus Student Affairs, said: "If neighbours get to know one another then problems, if they do arise, are easily sorted.

"And the best way to have a chat with your neighbour is to make time for a cup of tea!"

Alice Hardy (22) will graduate in history this year and has been helping Melanie Futer launch the scheme.

She said: "Helping Melanie get this up and running whilst I wait to graduate, I've been involved in designing the postcards and creating publicity for the 'Time for Tea' launch. In doing so, I've been out to visit residents in Dunkirk with 3rd year student Harry Mustoe.

"Residents were pleased to sit and chat with students over a cup of tea. It created a real rapport.

"Students I spoke to arriving for the Freshers Fair are really up for this. It will make such a difference."

Fire on Collington Street

by our special correspondent, Annie MacArthur

THE stereotype of seventeen year-olds finding it difficult to get out of bed at 11am is not without justification. I can say this with a level of certainty as, at 7am on Saturday, January 30, I woke up to someone banging on the door and shouting 'fire!' through the letterbox, and yet I still found the prospect of getting out of bed an impossible task.

Eventually, of course, I did manage to clamber downstairs, where I soon discovered that the terraced house next to my own was producing a large amount of smoke, which, luckily, a more awake neighbour had spotted. She'd called 999.

The fire brigade came crashing around the corner within five minutes. They were extremely impressive as they piled out of their trucks and set to work on the blazing house.

It's safe to say that at this point I hadn't realised the severity of what was happening, especially the fact that I wouldn't be allowed back in my own home for another five hours. (I probably wouldn't have chosen my mum's old fleece and dad's slippers as my choice of outfit for a January morning stood on the street if I had). But I wasn't

particularly concerned about my choice of outfit as I noticed flames shooting out of my neighbour's roof. I soon came to the conclusion that it was probably best that I, along with the rest of the street's residents, stood well back and waited to see what would happen.

Within the space of what felt like 10 minutes, but turned out to be about an hour and a half, there were three fire engines, firefighters, police officers, and all sorts of official looking people and paraphernalia on our previously very quiet street. Whilst I could see firefighters running into my own home, my concern was for the neighbours. In the space of a second, the whole roof caved in and next thing I know, everyone's shouting and moving back.

We all realised that fighting the flames from the inside was now extremely dangerous and a different approach was going to be needed. I was amazed to see how quickly the firefighters began using some sort of crane from one of the trucks to get to the top of the three-storey house and slowly realised that the mass of dense cloud still coming

from the building was no longer smoke but steam. I'm no scientist but I was starting to feel pretty confident that, whilst I'd been watching and wondering what was taking so long, the fire brigade must have had some sort of clear plan as things seemed to be looking better.

The fire was eventually extinguished but the house itself was still dangerous. With extremely hot walls leaning inwards I could tell that things were serious, but over the next few hours the house was cooled and secured, and, to my great surprise, I was told I was welcome to go back into my home.

Granted there was a bit of a hole in our roof and I kept turning round to find yet more firefighters strolling out of the attic but, once the heating was back on and I'd managed to dry off my dad's slippers, I thought I could sit back, relax, and enjoy the rest of the weekend. Well, until the phone rang.

If you're ever in the same situation I would recommend not opening a phone conversation with your mum and dad with: "Do you remember when you said not to burn the house down?"

Bramcote Hills Primary School goes creative

THERE wasn't an unhappy face in the place as the children of Bramcote Hills Primary School took part in a 'Create It Week' before breaking up for half term.

The themed week gave the children the chance to explore aspects of performing and creating arts outside of timetabled lessons. Six house groups, each made up of children from the youngest 'rising fives' at the school to the Year 6 children, who will leave for secondary school this summer, enjoyed a week packed with activities that ranged from productions in the school theatre to sessions of African drumming.

Wednesday was a day

for dressing up. Each of the Houses decided its own theme, such as superheroes, pyjama party or characters from Robin Hood, and children arrived at school out of uniform and in costume accordingly. Staff and teachers were also in fancy dress (or their pyjamas) and everyone was asked to donate £1 for UNICEF and Haiti.

Head teacher Andrew Pearson said: "The 'Create It Week!' is held two or three times a year. Wednesday is our day for change, which is why everyone is in fancy dress and raising money for UNICEF and Haiti. We usually raise more than £300, and the School Council

decides which charity the money will go to.

"The children, their ages ranging from four to 11 year-olds, all get involved in deciding their own programme of activities for their House group, and carry it out during the week."

The youngsters held a parade around the playground in the morning, a chance for them to see all of the other costumes.

In the evening, parents were invited into school to take part in a series of activities including art, craft, music, drama and dance – including a 'Strictly Hall Dancing' session.