

Community

Club Reports

Beeston Probus Club

ON a snowy morning at 6am, a stalwart group of 20 early risers climbed into a coach and journeyed down the M1 to meet at Westminster Hall for a welcome cup of coffee.

The object of the journey? To take a tour around the Houses of Parliament and to meet the local MP, Mr Nick Palmer.

After undergoing security checks, the group was allowed into the Houses of Parliament and the tour, which took 75 minutes, included both Chambers of the Lords and the Commons.

After lunch, the members moved across the road to Portcullis House. Here, they met Mr Palmer in his office, where he was catching up on Parliamentary work after the Christmas recess. Nevertheless, he was able to enter into a lively question and answer session with the visitors for some time.

Parliament had restarted work that very day following the Christmas recess and, when the group returned to the House, they were just in time to see the Speaker's Procession, complete with the Sergeant at Arms (carrying the Mace), and all

the attendant ceremony.

This was followed by a visit to the Visitors Gallery from where they heard the Justice Secretary, Jack Straw, engaged in debate with the other MPs.

The club members left London at about 3.30 pm to regain home territory having had a very interesting but tiring day.

Long Eaton Probus Club

LONG Eaton Probus Club celebrated its Christmas lunch in December in some style after almost 50 members arrived at Risley Village Hall at 9.30am on the day of the lunch to join the working party busy preparing everything.

First of all, this meant that coffee and warm mince pies could be served to the members as they arrived. After chatting and circulating, everyone

was welcomed by the Club President, Bob Thurlow, and invited to join in with the indoor games.

After a tight competition, the overall winner was announced and pre-lunch drinks were served.

Then it was lunch for everyone! The chefs were on form and the waiters, rushing around balancing trays loaded with food, served up a marvellous

meal: the main course of pork loin, potatoes and salad followed a starter of leek and potato soup. Christmas pudding provided the dessert.

After the meal, all those present joined the President in thanking the Club's special team of chefs and waiters for a job well done.

Next Meeting: February 4 at Risley Village Hall – Hobbies and Crafts.

Beeston and District Civic Society

ALTHOUGH members of Beeston and District Civic Society braved the snow of Friday, January 8, and turned up at Beeston Library for the usual meeting on the second Friday of the month, the planned speaker didn't get that far.

The reason wasn't snow and road chaos, as you might have assumed, but because the speaker, Tom Woodcock of British Waterways, had put all of the equipment he needed to present his slide show into a goods lift at British Waterways Newark, where it promptly got, and remained, stuck. Lift engineers become rare and elusive beasts on a Friday teatime.

On hearing the news, several Civic Society committee members went along to the Library early to greet members and guests with the bad news and a cup of consolation tea or coffee.

Typically, in spite of the very snowy conditions when a low turnout could rightfully be expected, a large number of civic society members turned up. They were augmented by members of various canal associations, who had come to hear the British Waterways speaker.

'Snatching success from the jaws of defeat', four of the guests offered to give a talk on their own particular specialities of the canal

world. Society members agreed afterwards that it was one of the most entertaining meetings ever held.

Meanwhile, Tom Woodcock, full of remorse, promised to give his planned talk in the next season; October 2010 - March 2011. He has also agreed to make himself available for two canal walks during Heritage Open Day Weekend in September. Details have yet to be arranged.

At our next meeting on Friday, February 12, Broxtowe MP Nick Palmer will give a talk entitled: 'On being your MP'.

Rotary Club of Beeston

INTREPID Rotarian Shally Suri has returned home safely from the Antarctic after completing Shackleton's Unfinished Journey to the South Pole.

The expedition did not intend to repeat or emulate the journey made by Sir Ernest Shackleton 100 years ago, but rather to celebrate it within the centenary year.

The team flew to 88.23 South, the latitude from where Shackleton turned back in 1909 to prevent his team dying from starvation

– and then skied to the Pole from there.

Nevertheless, the journey was not an easy one with a team of limited experience and walking in temperatures of about minus 30C at an altitude of around 9000ft. Shally, at the age of 56, was the oldest member of the team and is to be congratulated on his achievement.

The 65th monthly Rotary Walk was completed in December around the Edwinstowe area. These

ever-popular walks are organised by Brian Cooke and have covered areas in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, with an average of eleven walkers per meeting.

After morning coffee, the circular walk of approximately five miles takes around three hours, and is then followed by a convivial lunch. Amazingly, Brian seems to be very lucky with the weather when choosing the dates!

Toton Women's Meeting

THE first speaker of the New Year at Toton Women's Methodist Meeting was Mrs Carole Thomas of Long Eaton, who gave a reading from the gospel of Mark, 'Jesus calms the Storm'.

Mrs Thomas followed this with a reading of a poem by Helen Steiner Rice, and explained that, if we had faith in the Lord, we would have the peace to weather any storms in our lives.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19 at 2.15pm at Toton Methodist Church. All ladies are welcome to attend.

Places on WEA courses still available

THE Beeston Branch of the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is currently offering the following courses. Classes started at the beginning of January, but enrolments for the coming weeks are still being accepted.

- Creative Writing Workshop
- Reading for Pleasure
- The Dark Ages and Anglo-Saxons
- Everyday Computer Skills
- The House Detective – Who Lived In My House?

For more details, contact the Branch Secretary on (0115) 922 2627.