

# Community

## Club Reports

### Long Eaton Men's Probus Club

THE December meeting was held on the first of the month, with 41 members present for the Christmas games morning and lunch. Members tried their hands at various games including table skittles, bagatelle, quoits, darts, etc. with mixed degrees of skill! The overall winner was new member David Brown. Members then sat down to an excellent lunch provided by Harland Chesters and his helpers, which rounded off a very enjoyable meeting.

On December 2, a party of 45 members, their wives and friends visited Lincoln Christmas Market. This description of the outing is as seen through the eyes

of club member Malcolm Hutchinson:

"We arrived at Lincoln Market, held in the castle grounds and the surrounding area, on a bright and sunny day. The objects on display were mainly arts and crafts exhibiting beautiful items in wood, glass, leather, wool, fabric, paintings as well as the usual array of farmers' products and take-away hot food. Fudge stalls, with many flavours of the confection for sale, seemed to be everywhere; presumably a favourite with market browsers.

Many of our party took the opportunity to visit other parts of the city, particularly the cathedral and, if they

were lucky, to hear the choir singing carols.

As darkness fell the lights were switched on and we witnessed a complete change in the ambience of the event; it became much colder, the aroma of cooking food was more intense, the mulled wine became more attractive and generally everything had more of a Christmas card sparkle. Everyone agreed that it had been a good day." Long Eaton Men's Probus is a club for retired and businessmen. Meetings are held on the morning of the first Thursday of each month. For further details please contact the secretary Bob Thurlow on (0115) 939 1947.

### Beeston Wildlife Club

#### Chris Packham visits Beeston Wildlife Club

BEFORE Christmas, around 200 people packed into the school hall at Trent Vale Infants to hear Chris Packham, of Autumn Watch fame, speak about his passion for photographing wildlife both here in the UK and overseas.

Ahead of the evening talk entitled 'A Wildlife Exposed' in the Rylands on Friday, December 2, Nigel Slater introduced Chris Packham to the audience. Chris said that he had been for a walk around the nature reserve at Attenborough earlier in the day and had liked what he saw.

To begin his talk, Chris chose aspects of species such as tigers, where they could be found and where they were endangered. His talk was illustrated with some magnificent images of tigers but, at the same time, Chris reminded us that, in a poor

country such as India, a tiger is worth \$60,000 dead. A poor farmer, his eye on the big prize, could hardly be blamed for pulling the trigger. Poaching rates in India have risen dramatically, with 75 percent of wildlife crime trafficked through China.

"One thing that does help prevent the killing and poaching is eco-tourism," said Chris. "To see species such as tigers in the wild is amazing and eco-tourism contributes to the economy of wherever that area happens to be. When this happens, the local people aren't going to let the tigers that contribute to their economy be harmed.

"Tiger conservation is in a mess. The Chinese have laws to make the selling of tiger 'bits' illegal but they pay only lip service to the laws."

Chris said that he was not convinced the tiger would survive.

He then spoke about more local species such as foxes

and squirrels. Otters, Chris explained, have spread back into most of England thanks to the efforts of the water companies to improve water quality. In Scotland, where golden eagles have long been persecuted as birds of prey, the law has been changed and now the landowner is culpable.

Moving down the species size chain a little, Chris had images of damselflies as part of his collection. These had been photographed using slow exposure and he was particularly pleased with the results, appearing as they did like contemporary art.

Chris Packham is a thoroughly professional and knowledgeable speaker. His own captive audience for the evening, members of the Wildlife Group and their guests, were most appreciative of his visit, with many purchasing Chris's stunning wildlife calendars and requesting that they be signed.

### Rotary Club of Beeston

DURING the days leading up to Christmas, members of the Rotary Club of Beeston were busy with Santa and his sleigh raising money for various charities.

On Saturday, December 10, £858.24 was raised in Beeston Square and on the

High Road. Evening street collections around Beeston North and Chetwynd Barracks Married Quarters at Chilwell brought in a further £837.89. With other donations, a total of £1776.13 was raised. The Rotary Club of Beeston

wish to thank every one for their continuing support and stress that local charities are at the forefront of the club's fundraising.

In the new year, the club will return to its usual Monday evening meetings at Beeston Fields Golf Club.

### Long Eaton All Media Art Club

#### What an end to 2011!

AS usual our year ended with a bang and a double 'whammy' at that. Firstly there was Vic's pastel workshop at the end of November, which was one of the best yet. Our subject was an Arctic wolf. Judging by the look of the results, we may need another category for pictures painted during workshops, as they were all fantastic. You should see plenty at the exhibition. It was a fantastic day and nobody wanted to go home!

Not even Vic. Our thanks to him for giving us a great fun workshop. We have another one booked with him in March 2012 (subject is a Lion portrait) so watch this space.

Our second enjoyable experience was the club Christmas dinner, attended by 24 members at the Jasmine Garden, and as far as I know everybody went home full up (stuffed or podged I think is nearer the truth).

As previously mentioned, our annual open show takes place in February and our

judges are Tony Cowlshaw, international artist; Vic Bearcroft, international artist and runner-up in the Wildlife Artist of the Year competition and Sue Sheldon, leading light of the Embroiderer's Guild. Show dates can be found on our website and the last date for entries will be January 31, 2012. So get painting and creating and get them in.

Oh! Yes, and a happy new year to you all.

For more information about LEAMAC events, call (0115) 849 0048

## Broxtowe Ramblers

For details of the Broxtowe Ramblers group, see the 'Meeting People' column on page 6.

#### Sunday, January 8 Clumber/Elkesley

Meet at Clumber Park main car park (on the A614 north from Nottingham) at 10am for a 10.15am start. A leisurely 10-mile walk led by Colin Portman.

#### Wednesday, January 11 Lwr Hartsay/Fritchley/Crich

Meet at Lower Hartsay canal bridge (A610 from Nottingham, past Ripley) at 10am for a 10.15am start. An eight-mile leisurely walk led by Peter Hayden.

#### Wednesday, January 11 Tansley/Lumsdale

Meet at the Matlock car park before Sainsbury's at 10am for a 10.15am start. A6 to Matlock, straight on to new by-pass, car park 200m on left. A six-mile leisurely walk led by Derek Sisson.

#### Saturday, January 14 River Trent

Meet at the South Bank Bar, Trent Bridge, Nottingham at 10am for a 10.15am start for a five-mile leisurely walk led by Carol Wood.

#### Wednesday, January 18 Farnsfield/Edingly

Meet at the Southwell Trail car park, Station Lane, Farnsfield at 10am for a 10.15am start. A seven-mile leisurely to moderate walk led by Brian Stroud.