

Buzz

Christmas at Teesdale Court

JUST before Christmas, the true spirit of Christmas present arrived in the form of a community celebration at Teesdale Court, Chilwell.

On the evening of December 16, a Christmas Carol Service, attended by the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Jacky Williams, was held out-of-doors on the open space outside the frontages of the homes of Teesdale Court.

Adults and parents living around the court and nearby had met in the months before Christmas to plan and prepare for this special service. They were determined to put every

effort into producing a wonderful bit of Christmas magic for the children, well away from the blatant corporate commercialism of the high street that abounds at this time of year.

On the chilly and windy evening itself, the service started with bible readings, music and carols against a backdrop of a fantastically lit Christmas sleigh in one of the gardens. The Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Williams, then presented prizes to the young winners of a colouring competition that the children had entered previously.

Then it was off to see Santa in his grotto and to receive a present for the youngsters as everyone else attending the service and community celebration tucked into warm drinks, mince pies and shortbread.

Local resident Mr Max Morecroft, the driving force behind the event, said: "The community here at Teesdale Court realised earlier in the year that, whilst we might nod and say, "Hello" as we pass by, we never really talk to each other. We decided to do something about it and the idea for this community carol service emerged.

"We made sure that we had enough funds available to make the entire event free of charge and for each child to receive a free present from Santa.

"We would like to offer special thanks to the Pastures Community Church on Pasture Road, Stapleford and to Pastor Duggie, and to Broxtowe Borough Council and the Mayor for their support and assistance.

Ducks down with a splash into 2012

THE 21st Annual Duck Race took place on Sunday, January 1, 2012 at Manor Park Toton.

As usual, the Mayor of Broxtowe, currently Cllr Jacky Williams, started the race by releasing 1200 plastic ducks into the River Erewash. They floated down the river before being caught at the bridge approximately 600 yards down stream; the owners of the first 10 ducks to cross the winning line received a prize.

The 2012 Duck Race was a resounding success and attracted a crowd in excess of 600 people and their family pets. A fun day in spite of the weather (very heavy rain). Mulled wine and mince pies were served and festive music ensured there was a great atmosphere.

Alongside the duck race event a children's stall was selling 'retired ducks'. These ducks had been used for the

race in the past and were now being sold to raise more funds for the charity. There was also a tombola stall.

Long Eaton Plant Hire sponsored the duck race, and prizes for both the race and the tombola were donated by local businesses.

Organiser Angela Barnes, Committees Co-ordinator for Age UK said: "The Duck Race has become a great local event and we are so grateful, both to Broxtowe Borough Council for allowing us to use the park and to the Mayor, Cllr Williams, who braved the weather and stayed until all of the prizes had been presented.

"We are especially grateful to our sponsors, Long Eaton Plant Hire, and to the people of the surrounding area who always turn out to support us."

"We raised an amazing £2300, all of which will be spent in the area for the benefit of local older people."

Between you and me...

BROXTOWE MP Anna Soubry writes her monthly column for The Beeston Express to keep us, her constituents, up-to-date and informed about what's going on in Broxtowe.

We would, however, like to remind you that any opinions she expresses are her own and do not necessarily reflect those of The Beeston Express. If you would like to respond to any of the points that Anna raises, please write to the address on page 2.

May we remind you once again that The Beeston Express has no allegiance to any of the political parties.



FIRSTLY, a Happy New Year and I hope you had a good Christmas. I didn't send Christmas cards; instead I donated the money to the women's refuge in Beeston and to famine relief in the Horn of Africa.

Secondly, a confession: I am not averse to using what you might call bad language. My excuse is my background (the Hartland Comprehensive, Worksop) and the work environment of my two chosen professions, namely, a newsroom and the barristers' robing room, which were traditionally thick with smoke and a rich variety of swear words.

But I know when it is right to use a word which may cause offence and when it is wrong. So whilst I accept that in football passions run high, even I was appalled by the

tirade of abuse peppered with the foulest of words bellowed by a rather large man sitting behind me on Boxing Day whilst watching Nottingham Forest. I was so shocked I turned round to discover that he was accompanying two small children who called him 'Dad'. As the game wore on (it was a very dire football match) others joined in and the crowd turned quite nasty, not on the opposing players from Peterborough but on their own hapless Forest team.

One week on and I was having a far better time at Meadow Lane watching a great game between Notts County and Huddersfield Town. Sure, there was the occasional curse but the atmosphere was entirely different and, unlike my experience at the City Ground, I left in good spirits

looking forward to the next home game.

I first watched football as a teenager at Hillsborough back in the early 1970s and my parents never had any concerns for my safety. My 'other half' well remembers his first game on Boxing Day at the City Ground, as a seven year old being lifted over the heads of the men to the front of the crowd. Football has indeed changed considerably but not too much, it seems, at Notts County. Beeston man Colin Slater is, dare I say, a legend at Meadow Lane and his book, 'Tied up with Notts' marks the club's 150th birthday this year. The celebrations at the world's oldest league football club will be moments of light in what I fear will be an otherwise gloomy year.

Now before the usual

suspects begin to sharpen their electronic quills and fire off predictable missives to the Letters page attacking me and the "Tory-led coalition", I do not seek to make any party political point. Whatever the colour of the government we would be suffering the effects of substantial cuts in public expenditure, the continuing crisis in the EuroZone and the general downturn in the world economy. The economic forecasters offer some comfort predicting that inflation will fall but whichever way you look at it, 2012 is going to be a tough year for many people.

In a speech I made in the House of Commons towards the end of last year, I called on the banks and high earning top executives to exercise responsibility and restraint in pay and bonuses. I am by no means a lone voice on the

government benches and I anticipate the growing calls for some sort of regulation to tackle the unacceptable excess, notably in the City of London, will result in government action. People are worried about jobs and paying their bills; many of us are particularly concerned about the difficulty too many young people are having in finding work. But things are made all the more difficult to understand and accept if there is a feeling of unfairness, and huge rises in pay and excessive bonuses are plainly not right.

Locally, our biggest challenge is to make sure the tram work causes the least disruption and that all and every channel of communication is opened and working. I very much hope a significant number

of contracts, jobs and apprenticeships go to local people. The borough council faces a huge challenge in improving Beeston town centre; they must make sure businesses like Wilko's, who have told me in no uncertain terms that they want to stay in Beeston, can find a new home here.

Nationally, we have the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics to look forward to this year. As we saw with the Royal Wedding last year, such events can bring communities together and lift the national mood. With the prospect of a difficult year ahead, these two events should be a boost and, if you're minded to support the Magpies, there's a good birthday party at Meadow Lane to enjoy too.