

Community

Broxtowe's new MP speaks to Chilwell students

BROXTOWE'S new Member of Parliament, Anna Soubry, went along to Chilwell School last week to talk to Year 9 students about her experience of being a new MP in the first month of a new Parliament.

Attentive students packed into the school's theatre to hear Miss Soubry speak of how she came to be an MP and the effort involved, and of her personal and educational background as well as her working career before entering Parliament, which includes time spent as a presenter for Central TV and, more recently, as a criminal barrister.

Questions had been

prepared by the students for the new MP, with Anna answering questions about the motivation needed to get into Parliament, her sense of achievement having got there, and on more specific aspects of how Parliament works.

Afterwards, the MP said: "I was delighted to be asked along – good, searching and intelligent questions were asked by an excellent group of pupils."

Wollaton Hall the venue for summer garden party

LOCAL solicitors Ellis-Fermor & Negus invited Kate Shaw from Treetops Hospice in Risley to talk to guests about the work of Treetops when they held their tenth summer garden party in the grounds of Wollaton Hall last week.

The Treetops 'Ripple Appeal' for funding for the new day care centre at the hospice is Ellis-Fermor & Negus's Charity of the Year for 2010, and Kate Shaw spoke of the exciting times they have experienced at the hospice as the day care centre opens. She also managed to recruit a few

runners for the Experian Robin Hood Festival of Running which will take place later this year, and for which Treetops is one of two official race charities.

Guests at the garden party, which started with drinks in the picturesque grounds of Wollaton Hall and was followed by dinner in the Great Hall, were also treated to entertainment in the form of a jazz band and a magician.

Duncan Lyon, partner at Ellis-Fermor & Negus, said: "We greatly value our growing relationship with Treetops and have

the greatest respect for the wonderful and essential work they do. It is a privilege to be associated with them in their capacity as the Ellis-Fermor & Negus 'Charity of the Year'.

"Kate Shaw's energy and infectious enthusiasm at our annual garden party will, I believe, have prompted many of those present to seriously consider supporting this excellent charity, and dig out their trainers and running vests to run for Treetops in this year's Robin Hood Marathon."

Kate commented: "I thoroughly enjoyed myself at

the garden party, which took place in a wonderful setting and with great company.

The support that Ellis-Fermor & Negus give Treetops is fantastic."

Anyone interested in running for Treetops Hospice in the Experian Robin Hood Marathon is asked to contact Alex Ward at the hospice on tel: (0115) 939 4551.

Helping hand for New Beginnings

JENNY Spowage is just 42 years old and had never painted for pleasure in her life. Two years ago she had a stroke and, as she worked to recover the use of her hands, realised that she had lost the use of her right hand and would need to teach herself to manage things left-handed.

Jenny lives in Beeston and heard about the New Beginnings Art Group, which meets specifically for people below retirement age who have had to stop working because of health problems.

The art group provides tuition every other week from a professional teacher or artist and, in 12 short weeks, Jenny has learnt to paint with her left hand – good physiotherapy in its own right. She also enjoys being in the company of the art group members.

However, survival of the group has been under threat of late due to financial constraints. Just the same as any community group operating on limited income, New Beginnings still has to pay rent and find money for

overheads and materials.

Cllr Eric Kerry stepped into the breach to provide respite in the form of a donation from his Community Fund allocation to cover the group's immediate rent and expenses payments.

He visited the group on July 7 to present a cheque for £240 to Anthea Wainwright, the organiser and driving force behind New Beginnings.

When Cllr Kerry visited, the group's 10 members

had been charged to 'paint and complete a picture this afternoon' and Cllr Kerry spent some time looking at the results and talking to the artists.

He said: "I'm amazed at the quality of work that has been produced this afternoon. I don't paint, and would have expected work of this standard to take much longer to do. The results are very impressive."

Anthea Wainwright was relieved that the group will continue in the autumn.

She said: "We are grateful to Cllr Kerry for helping us out in this way, as we were beginning to get concerned as to where we would find enough money to continue.

"The group meets on a Wednesday afternoons between 1.30pm and 3.30pm at the Oasis Centre in Beeston. We have professional tuition every other week and, on the weeks with no tuition, the group carries out work set the previous week.

"We keep our charges to

a minimum. We do keep some art materials for anyone who would like to have a go before buying their own, and donations of art materials are always welcome."

The group will recommence after the summer break on September 8. For more details, contact Anthea on tel: 07814 318 402.