

## Community

### Reading more into the new library

CHILDREN at College House Junior School were delighted to welcome a group of local dignitaries to the opening of their new school library, recently refurbished thanks to financial assistance from a number of community sources.

Mrs Thelma Brown, at one time a school parent and then a school volunteer for more than 40 years, was invited to officially open the library.

Members of the school council, attending the opening ceremony to represent the refurbished library's eager young readers, said that, almost without exception, pupils liked spending time in the area now that it had been

given a new lease of life.

Of the old library, Ellie Wilkinson (11), said: "The old library space was dull, it had no imagination and wasn't a nice place to be.

"The old school office took up a lot of the space, so that was moved out of the way, making much more space available for the new library."

"Which is fantastic!" chipped in Izzy Humphries, aged 10. "It's brighter, the shelving is better, and we have a number of new books and a bigger variety of books.

"The seating is better and there's more of it. It's more colourful and there are more pictures on the walls.

It makes you want to read because it's just a lot better and a nice place, somewhere you want to be."

The pupils have also been inspired to write their own book reviews. Children's author Jack Trelawny had been to the school in recent weeks to talk to the children about being an author, and how he came to write his popular books based in a fantasy kingdom.

Eleven-year-old Lewis French, of Year 6, said: "It was good to have Jack Trelawny here at the school and to learn where he gets his ideas from for the world of Kernowland. I hope that we get to invite more authors."

The Onion Club, a

community-focussed group that meets at the Blue Bell, Attenborough, donated £1000 towards the library refurbishment. Terry Truman was at the opening to represent the group. Since its inception in the early 1980s, the Onion Club has donated about £120,000 towards local projects and Mr Truman explained how it worked: "Once we've raised some money we like to donate it to specific community projects. We never give just money, it's always destined for something that will have a tangible benefit."

Other money towards the refurbishment came from the Attenborough and Chilwell Ladies Group, county

councillors Pettengell, Jackson and Kerry, as well as the school itself.

Acting deputy head teacher Jason Gilman said: "The space was just so shabby before, and we would like to thank all those who have generously donated money."

Geraldine Lally, Chair of the Friends of College House, said: "It's lovely to see how much more the children enjoy the space now. It's become a very popular and friendly place with, on average, about 30 pupils choosing to come in each lunchtime to use it instead of playing outside."

One thing that does remain to be done, even though the 'working' aspect of the

library has been seen to, is the application of a fresh coat of paint to the walls.

Mr Gilman said: "The walls can't be painted whilst there are children in school, so that will be seen to during the summer holidays.

"That existing shade of blue is awful," he added. "And it's everywhere in the school!"

### Legitimate money for Citizen's Advice Bureau

THOSE attending the Annual General Meeting of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) on July 5 heard a fascinating talk on the dangers of dealing with 'loan sharks'.

The guest speaker was Steve Ward, who works with the Illegal Money Lending Team, based at Nottingham County Council's HQ. The team is spearheading the current 'Stop Loan Sharks' campaign.

The AGM was held at Beeston Town Hall, where Mr Ward explained how 'loan sharks' operate: he pointed out how easy it is for some people to be trapped into an upward spiral of debt. Someone

with an urgent bill to pay or Christmas presents to buy could all too easily be caught by these illegal money lenders.

Mr Ward said that the temptation offered by the 'sharks' – a ready fistful of cash in hand – "pay it back in a week or two, no worries" – could be irresistible at a time of stress. But where would the cash come from to repay the money lender? The problem would start to escalate and would soon get out of control, given the high interest rates charged by the 'sharks'.

The worst interest rate his team had ever come across, added Mr Ward, worked out

at a whopping quarter of a million per cent!

Mr Ward also advised CAB volunteers at the AGM on the action they needed to take if they came across someone suspected of being an illegal money lender.

Before the presentation, the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Pat Lally, presented the CAB with a cheque from Broxtowe Borough Council's Grant Aid award. The £73,757 cheque was accepted by Sharon Fletcher from the CAB. The money will be used to cover the bureau's running costs and rent etc.

### Aim of exercise to keep people healthy

THE Deputy Mayoress of Broxtowe, Cllr Jacky Williams, was amongst the guests who visited Trowell Parish Hall for a special celebration showcasing the work of more than 30 projects around the borough which have benefited from a share of £200,000 of 'Choosing Health' funding during the past two years.

Cllr Williams joined in with the demonstrations and activities taking place, including

a seated exercise routine organised by 'Movement for All'.

Cllr Williams said: "The Choosing Health fund has provided resources of more than £200,000 to support a variety of projects across the borough, which have been successful in helping people to live healthier lifestyles.

"We are proud of these projects, and my colleagues and I have enjoyed hearing more about the achievements

and sharing the success at the event."

NHS Nottinghamshire County hosted the Choosing Health Celebration in partnership with Broxtowe Borough Council.

The Choosing Health fund was launched in 2008 and offers support to community, voluntary and partnership projects that help improve the health and wellbeing of local people.