

## Express Community

### Daisy saved by gut reaction

A MUCH-loved family pet given just 24 hours to live is enjoying a new lease of life after a local vet tried one last-ditch effort to save her.

After more than two months of deteriorating health, the yellow labrador had become dangerously ill. Chilwell vet Philip Peters was completely flummoxed as to what was wrong. He carried out several investigations and tried a series of treatments, but the dog's health continued to fail.

Four-year-old Daisy was taken to the vet when her owners, Bruce Lowe and his partner Susan Buckley, realised that she was losing weight.

"We noticed that Daisy had lost her appetite and was losing weight at the beginning of March," said Mr Lowe, from Chilwell. "She hadn't been ill and there didn't seem to be a reason. We changed her diet and tried all of the usual

measures, but her appetite didn't improve. Then, at the beginning of May, she began to get really ill."

He said that Mr Peters was 'mystified' as to what was wrong with Daisy. Two courses of antibiotics had no effect, blood and urine tests were clear, an MRI scan revealed nothing – and Daisy was still off her food.

In May, septicaemia peritonitis set in and Daisy was given her last rites. Mr Peters gently explained to Mr Rowe that, seeing as Daisy would die within 24 hours if they did nothing, he would like to operate even though the MRI scan was clear.

One week later and Daisy was up and about, running around, "like a puppy again" said Mr Rowe.

A door stopper, about 30mm x 25mm, had become lodged in her guts, too small for the MRI scan to pick up but big enough to

cause trouble when it didn't pass through.

Mr Rowe couldn't believe the transformation in Daisy's health in one short week. "We'd been told she was at death's door, and Mr Peters told us that, as we were about to lose her anyway, he wanted to make this one last attempt to save her. He was sure something was wrong with her insides, even though the MRI scan was clear. And there was the stopper."

Mr Lowe continued: "Provided Daisy doesn't eat any more door stoppers unnoticed, Mr Peters has told us she should live out her 14-year life expectancy. Susan and I are so relieved and delighted that Daisy didn't die we want everyone to hear of our story, and to thank Mr Peters publicly for his dedication to saving her life."

### Doreen Clark

IN the year 2000, Doreen Clark shared a vision with Cllr Sally Stephanian of allowing people with disabilities the opportunity of shopping in Beeston by the use of mobility scooters. Now more than 1500 users are registered with the charitable service, Shopmobility.

Cllr Stephanian died whilst plans to launch the scheme were still under way, but Doreen Clark carried on with the help from friends.

Broxtowe Borough Council gave the group space on the multi-storey car park, funds were eventually raised to buy a cabin for use as an office, local businesses donated six scooters and a committee was formed. Doreen was made chairman and Beeston Shopmobility was born.

As Doreen's health declined, she decided to retire as Chairman. In 2007 the committee voted for her to be the first President of Beeston Shopmobility.

Doreen often talked about how, when the charity was first started, she would sit on a scooter in the car park in all weathers to enrol people. She was delighted this year when Broxtowe Council donated a new office where the volunteers and scooters could be kept under cover and in a warm comfortable environment; although she was quite ill and wheelchair-bound she was delighted to attend the opening ceremony.

Doreen died on June 22 at QMC and will be sadly missed by all her colleagues and friends.

### Ellie finds herself a top writer

ELLIE Holland, just eight years old, entered a national story-writing competition about children in foster care – and won. Her prize was a trip to London to meet renowned children's storywriter Jacqueline Wilson on the 42nd floor of the impressive HSBC Tower at Canary Wharf.

Thirty children were short-listed in the competition, organised through The Fostering Network.

Jacqueline Wilson wrote the opening paragraph of what was to be a story about an extra-ordinary child, for completion by entrants in 500 words. Ellie finished it with the tale of an autistic child coming into her own home – her family offer respite foster care to Kieran also aged eight, who is autistic. Jacqueline Wilson said that Ellie's humour and understanding had shone through her story.

The Holland family are part of the Children and Carers Support Service (CCSS) group which provides respite play support at The Beeston Youth and Community Centre, Beeston for foster carers and befrienders caring for a child with a disability.

Ellie's father, Richard, said: "We had a lovely day out in London and lunch with Jacqueline Wilson, who said that Ellie's story was one of the best she had read."

"Ellie was pleased to come home with a bag of goodies, but it was a good opportunity to raise awareness of the CCSS support network, and of the day-to-day issues that surround autism."

For more details of the CCSS group at the Beeston Youth and Community Centre, call Lillian Britton on (0115) 939 4586.

### Club Reports Hemlock Stone Probus Club

MEMBERS of the Hemlock Stone Probus Club are enjoying a full range of summer activities, with yet more to come, such as the croquet evening planned for mid July.

Bowling is taking place weekly and the competition for the Gordon Matthews Trophy continues apace. Meanwhile, the 2007 Singles Champion crashed out in the first round and a new winner will be crowned later in the year.

In early June, a group of members enjoyed a walk along the banks of the Trent. Setting off from the John Thompson Inn at Ingleby, their walk took them through fields of mown grass with sheep and cattle, past Foremark School and on through fields of ripening corn. A hearty pub lunch then provided succour.

Later in June, Robin Gent, a past president and a 'son of Hucknall' led some members on a Heritage Walk around the town of Hucknall, calling at the church for a guided tour.

At the May meeting, speaker Alan Clayton stirred the childhood memories of members with his talk entitled, 'Here is the News'.

Slides, taken from newspapers and magazines before 24 hour TV news programmes existed, surveyed the years from the summer of 1939, when the clouds of war were over Europe, to the celebrations following VJ Day in 1945. Pictures depicted the fall of Europe to the German Panzers, the iconic photo of St. Paul's cathedral standing proud against the blitz, the horrors of concentration camps and the several theatres of war. Recalling his war-time years in Scarborough, Arthur Greetham proposed a vote of thanks.

The June meeting had two rather unusual visitors, in the shape of barn owl Jessica Jane and Blossom, a tawny owl. Accompanying Jessica Jane and Blossom was Jim Slaney, come to give a talk about the Greenwood Owl Rescue Service,

whose sole aim is to return previously injured owls to the wild. Unfortunately, some damaged birds take so long to recover from injuries such as broken wings, legs, or ill health, that they lose their hunting instincts, necessitating a life at the sanctuary. Probus Club members heard how the Rescue Service currently has 12 resident owls. Jim's talk focussed on the tawny and barn owl, although there are seven species of owl scattered throughout the UK. Describing owl habitats, he outlined some of the reasons that cause owl numbers to rise and fall.

Mr Slaney concluded his talk with a look at how owls have featured, for good and ill, in folklore and in the Bible, as far back as the Old Testament.

Past president Warwick Groves gave the vote of thanks.