

Community

Dovecote Lane bandstand celebrates 100th birthday

THE Edwardian bandstand on Dovecote Lane recreation ground in Beeston was 100 years old in 2009. To mark its centenary, the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Pat Lally, officially re-commissioned the bandstand on June 9 following its renovation by Broxtowe Borough Council.

On a moderate early June

evening, the local Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade bands used the bandstand for a practice session to entertain the Mayor and members of the Beeston and District Civic Society.

The refurbishment included replacement of the wrought ironwork, a new roof and paved surround.

The structure has also been cleaned and repainted.

The bandstand was originally donated in April 1909 by a local businessman, Louis F Pearson. The Pearson family came from Chilwell and were involved in the nursery trade before venturing into hosiery and later, opening the Beeston

Foundry Company. This later became the Beeston Boiler Company.

During the 1970s, the bandstand became dilapidated and was threatened with demolition. It was saved by the Beeston and District Civic Society, who argued the case for its historical and decorative

importance, suggesting it might be moved to Beeston Square.

The Council's Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Chris Riley, said: "It was neither demolished nor moved, but fortunately, it was renovated."

Dig In Community Allotment, Stapleford *by Ben Grundy*

THERE'S a bit of a buzz around Stapleford at the moment. It's the sound of honeybees going about their business on the 'Dig In' community allotment. Having woken up after a long, hard winter, they are making up for lost time. Indeed, they are doing so much pollinating of the fruit and flowers that the site already had ripe strawberries in May.

Resident beekeepers Lee Atkin and Dean Thompson set up two hives on the site just over a year ago and enjoyed a harvest of over 80lbs of honey in their first season. Contrary to the cartoon image of bees swarming noisily, they are so passive that many people who use the site are

altogether unaware of their presence.

Since bees will forage up to three miles from the hive, it's quite likely that many readers will have already met some of them in their gardens or parks. Well, here's a chance to get a closer look into the fascinating world of the honey bee, because Lee and Dean will be opening up the hive on Saturday, July 10 to members of the public and to answer questions on bee keeping. It is as much an art as a science – in fact, much of the behaviour of bees is still beyond the reach of simple scientific explanation.

Places are limited, so to book your place, or to find

out more about Stapleford's community allotment, call Kathy on (0115) 875 2095.

Whilst every effort will be made to run this event, it will be subject to weather because the bee colony can suffer if the hive is opened in unsuitable conditions.

Although honey bees are not aggressive and very rarely sting, this event may not be suitable for anyone who is allergic to bee stings.

See the 'Dig In' blog at www.digincommunityallotment.blogspot.com

Teacher gets in a spin to raise money for children with autism

BEESTON resident Sue Coombes will be in a spin on her 50th birthday weekend.

She will be attempting to ride 50 rides at Alton Towers over the weekend of July 3 in order to raise funds for a new playground for pupils with autism at Sutherland House School, where she works.

The school, run by autism charity NORSACA, is based on five sites in and around Nottingham. Sue works as a

teacher at the Carlton site.

She said: "My class of autistic children has a lot of sensory difficulties and would really benefit from some sensory integration equipment for swinging and spinning – just like the full-on experiences I'll have at Alton Towers!"

People with autism have difficulties with communication, socialising and planning for and

copied with change, and it is estimated that autism affects one in 100 people. Everyday life can be very confusing and frustrating for people with autism.

If you would like to sponsor Sue, please visit her webpage at www.bmycharity.com/sutherlandhouseschool. For more information on Sutherland House School and the work of NORSACA, the charity can be contacted on (0115) 976 1805.

Have your say *Continued from page 3...*

Cllr Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways, said: "We believe it is very important to give local people an opportunity to have their say and tell us what they put at the top of the transport agenda.

"At the beginning of the year we asked the public to tell us what they thought the challenges of delivering a transport strategy would be, and the response was excellent.

"Now we want to take

this further and the only way we can gain knowledge about what the people of Nottinghamshire think is by collecting information from our transport questionnaire. I encourage people to get involved, as their responses really count."

The Local Transport Plan will look at how it can tackle congestion and make journey times for public transport more reliable, accessible and affordable. It will seek to improve connectivity to train

and bus networks, as well as developing greener ways to travel such as walking, cycling, car sharing and using public transport.

The plan will also consider how good transport links can encourage local business regeneration and support areas of the county where the housing population and employment sector is growing.

For more information, visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk.ltp or call 08449 80 80 80.