

Community

Discover mediaeval Broxtowe

LEARN all about mediaeval Broxtowe during and after the time of Robin Hood and uncover amazing facts by delving into the past with the experts from Nottinghamshire Archives at Beeston Library.

As part of Robin Hood Month, a series of free talks presented by Nottinghamshire County Council will tour the county's libraries and explore what the Nottinghamshire of Robin Hood was really like.

Using old court records, maps and other documents, audiences will be transported back in time to uncover the world of mediaeval Nottinghamshire. Some of the highlights audiences can expect to enjoy include facts about the legendary Sherwood Forest in mediaeval times, and a look at how real life outlaws really did take sanctuary there.

There will be an insight into the strict rules that governed life at the county's many monasteries and religious houses, and how Nottinghamshire's mediaeval monks and nuns once lived as well as a look through local court records to uncover mediaeval crimes and their punishments.

Peter Lester, Archivist from Nottinghamshire Archives, has organised the talks. He said: "Mediaeval Nottinghamshire is a fascinating period in our heritage. These events will give people the chance to find out about some of the beautiful mediaeval archives we hold in our county and gain a real picture of life in the times of the outlaw."

The talk at Beeston Library will take place on Tuesday, May 18 at 2pm. To reserve a place call: (0115) 925 5168.

College House School tries for the top of the table

A NUMBER of Year 5 and 6 pupils at College House Junior School went straight to the top of the table recently after winning a south Broxtowe tag rugby tournament played at the Nottingham Casuals ground in Beeston Rylands on May 4.

What made the win particularly impressive was that it entitles the Chilwell school's newly-formed tag rugby team, made up of players aged between 9 and 10, to take part in the South Broxtowe School Sports regional tag rugby finals to be held in Gedling at the end of May.

Quite an achievement

for a mixed team that had learnt how to play the game at tournament level just one week previously, hurriedly learning the 'proper' rules and putting them into practice during a physical training session lasting about half an hour.

Some of the novice tag rugby players are also members of other sports teams that played at the South Broxtowe Outdoor Sports Tournament, held over two days at Bispham Drive School, Toton, on April 29/30, where they were to enjoy a string of successes in basketball, netball and football to go along with the rugby.

The week before, the school's two keen netball teams had won all their games in the Broxtowe Area Netball Tournament, held at Chilwell School on April 20, before going on to win again at the Outdoor Sports tournament.

Mr Alex Milne, teacher of rugby and basketball at College House School, said: "I looked at the list of previous winners on the Outdoor Sports trophy we've just won, and the name of College House School doesn't appear once.

"Now we've won five tournaments in a row! I think that's quite a remarkable achievement for our Year 5

and 6 players."

Miss Pieniek is responsible for the school's netball teams. She was equally pleased by the achievement of her young players. The school's football teams come under the coaching skills of Mr Mike Nunez, who was unavailable for comment at the time – but only because he was teaching in class.

Learning about compost

PUPILS at Alderman Pounder Infant School, Chilwell, have been getting up close and personal with their school compost bins during international Compost Awareness Week, which finishes this weekend (May 8).

Nottinghamshire County Council 'compost doctors' will be holding 'check-ups' at schools that have started composting, to see how effective they have been, and taking a wormery into other schools to show children the vital role worms play.

The council's Schools Waste Action Club (SWAC) Officers will act as 'compost doctors' to help pupils examine their compost bins and study a sample of compost. They will diagnose

any problems and issue 'prescriptions' to help the compost make a full recovery as well as demonstrating how worms help turn food waste into compost.

The school visits aim to encourage pupils to recycle their organic waste into a useful garden product.

SWAC Officer Lydia Powles said: "These sessions will show the children how easy it is to create something for nothing to help their school grow its own flowers, fruit or vegetables. We want to encourage children to get into the composting habit from an early age."

Memorial bench donated to Silverwood

FRIENDS of a gentleman who spent the last eight years of his life at Silverwood Nursing Home on Imperial Road, Beeston, have been presented with a permanent tribute by his wife.

Robert Akers, known as Bob, told his wife he never wanted to find himself in a nursing home, but he and his wife, Joan, were left with little choice after a series of strokes left Bob very ill. Bob moved into Silverwood at the age of 73 and died there in June 2009 at the age of 82.

When at Silverwood, he was so well cared for that he wanted to leave something that would not only be useful to the friends he had left behind, but act as a reminder as well. He left money in his will for Joan to buy a bench

seat for an existing garden area at the home.

Joan Akers presented the solid oak bench, which bears an engraved memorial plaque, to her husband's 'Bingo Crew' at Silverwood earlier this week. These bingo-playing friends, Claris Wright, Gina Latbadder and Edith Orchard, expressed their appreciation of the gift with a beautiful bouquet of spring flowers for Joan.

Before his became too ill to work, Bob Akers had owned a shop in Chilwell.

However, people may still remember him from his days as a member of the security staff at Plessey Telecommunications Ltd, where he met Joan 46 years ago. Of their meeting, she

said: "As I walked out of the gate leaving work one evening, Bob stopped me to ask if I would like to meet him for a drink later on in the old Plessey Sports and Social Club on Trafalgar Road."

Before joining Plessey (later GPT, Marconi, Siemens *et al*), Bob had been a policeman, and in the Navy before that.

The couple lived in Chilwell, and Bob had a keen interest in his allotment at Inham Road.

In presenting the memorial bench to the nursing home, Joan said: "Even though Bob had said he never wanted to find himself in a nursing home, he accepted after his stroke that some things are going to be for the best

no matter what we might want, and we both felt that Silverwood was right. He was very well looked after here, and he wanted to leave something as a permanent token of his thanks for all the care and attention he'd received whilst here."

Silverwood manager Alison Jarvis said: "This is a lovely gesture, and the bench will be used as the focal point in the sheltered garden area that will now be completely refurbished for the benefit of Silverwood residents.

"It will become a lovely place to sit outside," she said.