

Community

Campaign to find Beeston's Royal British Legion *by the Editor*

THE parade of soldiers through the centre of Beeston on March 20 when the 170 (Infrastructure Support) Group, based at Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, were awarded 'Freedom of Entry to the Borough' was a truly splendid and well-organised affair.

In all aspects except one.

About 100 soldiers and special guests attending the parade were invited to go along to the Royal British Legion (RBL) social club

on Hall Croft if they wanted something a little stronger than the cup of tea available elsewhere after the awards ceremony.

However, the club's social president, John Rumble, has now started a campaign to get direction signs put up by Notts County Council at the corner of West End after about half of the invited guests couldn't find their way to the club, which is tucked out of the way on Hall Croft, nestling between Chilwell Road and West

End.

A spokeswoman for Notts County Council says that the sign will cost the club about £1000, the charge being standard procedure because the sign isn't necessary under the council's criteria for installing such direction signs. Mr Rumble says that the club can't afford it – any funds raised by the Royal British Legion are usually directed elsewhere – and that the council ought to pay.

A petition has been started

asking local residents to support the Beeston branch of the RBL in their 'Help Us To Help You Find Us' campaign, with about 600 signatures already received.

Mr Rumble added that the problem was exacerbated when the Victory Club on Station Road was confused with the RBL Club on Hall Croft, as was often the case.

Broxtowe Play Forum reopens

AFTER being closed for two months, Broxtowe Play Forum & Resource Centre recently reopened its doors at its new premises.

The sun shone as members, supporters and staff watched as the Mayor of Stapleford, Cllr Goff Walt, cut the ribbon and declared the new building open for business.

The Broxtowe Play Forum, a non-profit making registered charity, helps to provide either free or low cost materials, equipment and services to groups or individuals working with children and young people in play activities across the borough.

Members include youth, uniform and after-school groups, pre-schools and

child-minders as well as Sure-Start and the Short Breaks Pathfinder Project.

The Play Forum supports play activities for more than 13,000 children, and works with other play forums within the county to promote and enhance access to play for all children.

With help from Broxtowe Borough Council, the Forum has now been able to move from its somewhat old and dilapidated building to the Wesley Chapel at Wesley Place, Nottingham Road, Stapleford.

The Forum's new premises, the beautiful Grade II listed chapel at Wesley Place, will provide a more welcoming environment for the art and craft materials shop; play,

sports, and craft equipment hire; office services and a fabulous scrap store.

Flagging up the Forum's green principals, this treasure trove of recycled materials is stocked from materials donated by local businesses and industry. It includes fabrics, paints, papers, toys – and even fish tanks. Forum members are able to take these items, free, back to their groups and let the children's imaginations fly.

The new space also means that the small group/individual craft and idea training workshops that the charity offers free of charge will now be more accessible. Indeed, the Forum is already developing plans to provide training workshops for play providers and parents with

disabled children.

A spokesman for the Forum said: "The staff and committee would be delighted to welcome enquiries from any groups or individuals working in play with children and young people within the borough.

"And if you are a business or an individual who thinks you may be able to donate some materials or resources to our scrap store, either on a regular basis or as a one off, then the Forum would be delighted to discuss it with you!

To contact the Forum, call (0115) 949 1497 or go to www.broxtoweplayforum.org.uk

Willow weaving in Stapleford

IN an age of mass production, country crafts are becoming something of a rarity. So it's good to know you can try a traditional handicraft for yourself at Dig In, Stapleford's community allotment.

Dig In is offering willow-weaving workshops to members of the public on Saturday, May 29.

Classes will be led by Helen, Dig In's resident craftsperson, who maintains the living willow structure at William Lilley School. This is the second year that Helen has run the classes, and this year the class size has been reduced and each session extended to ensure that everyone receives plenty of individual instruction.

Far from being a quaint old novelty, willow weaving is a very practical pursuit. Participants will construct a beautiful garden ornament

using willow rods that have been traditionally harvested from the Somerset Levels.

Helen said: "Making a willow obelisk takes between one and one and a half hours, and at the end each person will have a willow obelisk to take home. I use mine for growing beans or sweet peas."

There is a charge of £1 – less than the cost of materials and a fraction of what these willow features cost in the shops.

There will be two workshops, the first starting at 10am, the second at 1.30pm, at the Dig In community allotment, Albany Allotments, Pasture Road, Stapleford.

To book your place, or to find out more about the community allotment, call Kathy on (0115) 875 2095.

Water on the brain

IN an attempt to raise awareness of the need for more water pumps in places like Kampala, Uganda, John Hindson walked from Stapleford to Chilwell Road Methodist Church, Beeston, on Saturday, April 24 – with a bucket of water on his head.

He walked the four miles from his home in Stapleford to Synod being held at the church, where he was greeted by the Rev David Gamble, the President of the Methodist Conference, Vice President Dr John Vantrey and the Rev Wesley Blakey, Chair of the Nottingham and Derby District Methodist Church.

John is a trustee of the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) and the purpose of his walk was to raise money for one of MRDF's projects in Uganda where it works with the rural poor and assisted by its long-standing partner, Voluntary Action for Development (VAD).

He explained: "Through

the parishes and schools in the Wakiso district outside Kampala, VAD helps the community build water and sanitation facilities, such as hand pumps and toilets.

"Members of the community have to travel five kilometres or more to collect water, carrying it back to where it's needed in buckets on their heads.

"Building hand pumps not only decreases the distance they have to travel but also enables the elderly and the disabled to collect this basic requirement.

Mr Hindson's walk was intended to help people identify with those who have to collect water this way every day as a necessity rather than a publicity stunt.

He said: "The idea of walking with a bucket of water on my head is just to make people think.

"Here, they think I'm bonkers.

"In Uganda, it's completely