

Community

There's lots going on in and around Beeston for all age groups.

For those caring for younger children, information about toy libraries, playgroups, toddler groups, and parenting skills is readily available from Beeston Clinic, Dovecote House, 38 Wollaton Road, Beeston.

If you are planning events or wish to advertise products or services for families, ring 0115 922 8007

Girlguiding HQ runner up in Best Run Village Hall competition

GIRLGUIDING Beeston Divison has been awarded a prize as runner-up in the Broxtowe section of the Nottinghamshire Best Run Village Hall Competition 2009. They came home with £75 and a certificate.

The Girlguiding HQ, located alongside the Youth and Community Centre on West End, Beeston, had been entered into the awards scheme run by the Nottinghamshire Association of Village and Community Halls (NAVACH).

The awards scheme aims to "recognise the hard work of volunteer village hall management committees and promote good practice."

In the past, hall management teams have commented on the useful advice, support and feedback they received from the process of taking part in the competition. It is also a chance to assess how well they measure up against other halls in Nottinghamshire.

Anyone involved with running a village hall or its equivalent was invited to County Hall on October 14 for the presentation of prizes to the County winner and runner up, as well as to district/borough winners and runners-up.

The Best Run Village Hall competition is supported by Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire and receives most of its sponsorship from the district and borough councils of Nottinghamshire.

Mary's loyalty bowls club over

AFTER no fewer than 53 years of playing a game that she once referred to as 'Old Mens' Marbles', Mary Sharp, stalwart member of the Trent Vale Bowling Club, has decided to set her woods aside and take a sabbatical.

All those years ago, Mary went along to watch a bowls game played by what was the Ericssons Bowling Club team at the time. She was asked to step into the team.

After her first game, and with an addiction instantly established, Mary found herself representing the club (now known as Trent Vale Bowling Club) continuously for the next 53 years.

At the bowling club's end-of-season Presentation Evening on October 21 at the New Venture Social Club, Beeston Rylands, Mary was presented with a commemorative plaque in recognition of her outstanding record.

She said: "It all began as a joke. My friends all called it Old Mens' Marbles, but I discovered there was more to the game than they realised

and, at the age of 22, found myself strangely addicted. This fascination with a sport that has given me fantastic enjoyment and enduring friendships over the years has continued right up to the present day."

Mary Sharp did indeed have a noteworthy career playing bowls. Beginning in the days when the Rylands telephone company, Ericssons, would buy new team members their first set of woods outright with the player repaying the company, Mary went on to win every County cup in Nottinghamshire as well as competing in the All England championships at Wimbledon.

Mary's husband, Ken, played bowls until about four years ago and captained the club for 10 years.

Asking Mary if after all this she would miss the game and the camaraderie, she said: "In summer, the team plays about 20 games a month. This has been a big, big part of my life. I'll miss the people and I'm sure I'll be lost for a while, but there are other things that Ken and I would like to do."

Club Chairman Roy Butler said: "Members such as Mary are the lifeblood of any club and, as we wish her a fond farewell, we hope the next generation is bitten by the same bug!"

The Trent Vale Bowling Club green is at Technology Drive, Beeston Rylands. They play in midweek and mixed leagues, the Beeston Open league and the Hucknall Pairs league – as well as having midweek and weekend friendlies.

The club is looking for new members. Chairman Roy Butler said: "Any new members would be made more than welcome, We hold coaching sessions for all standards, including those who have never played before, throughout the season."

For more details, contact Mr Peter Goulding on (0115) 957 5784.

Poppy Appeal launch

by the Editor

THE parents of two local soldiers killed in Afghanistan in recent years (Sergeant Craig Brelsford in 2007 and Sergeant Sean Upton in 2009) were guests of honour as the Beeston branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) launched the annual Poppy Appeal in the locality on October 23.

In launching the appeal, the mayor of the borough is traditionally invited to buy the first poppy and this year, Deputy Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Pat Lally undertook the role.

Cllrs Pat and Lynda Lally then sold poppies to members of the Beeston branch of the RBL and their guests at the

branch's social club on Hall Croft, Beeston.

Sgt Sean Upton, from Beeston Rylands, was killed in July this year whilst on foot patrol in the Helmand province, Afghanistan. His body was brought home in August to be buried at Catterick, the North Yorkshire garrison. As his funeral took place at Catterick, members of the Beeston branch of the RBL paid their respects simultaneously in a poignant ceremony at the War Memorial on Middle Street, where a wreath was laid in Sgt Upton's honour and the Last Post sounded.

At the Poppy Appeal

launch on October 23, Sgt Craig Brelsford's mother, Susan, watched as President of the Beeston RBL branch Jack Johnson presented Sgt Sean Upton's mother and father, who were clearly moved, with a framed photograph of the August memorial service.

Everyone fired up for 'Hired or Fired' evening

THERE was a real buzz in the air as Howard Ebison, from this year's BBC 'Apprentice' programme, arrived at the Bluu Bar and Brasserie in Nottingham's Lace Market. Howard was there to add his input to the 'Apprentice' themed evening, helping to raise funds for the Treetops Hospice Ripple Appeal.

Kate Shaw, Treetops Hospice Ripple Appeal Manger based at Risley, said, "We were delighted to have Howard along. He entertained the audience with his 'Apprentice' experiences, news of other contestants and talked emotively on how the experience had had an impact on his life. He helped to sell raffle tickets, chatted with guests, auctioned items and joined in the 'Hired or Fired' games.

BBC Radio Nottingham's Richard Spurr expertly compered the evening, adding

his own brand of humour as he coerced the not-unwilling audience to join the themed games. He said afterwards: "I had a great evening. Everyone joined in the fun, either by participating – or hiring or firing!"

Howard said: "This has been a wonderful evening for an equally wonderful cause. The Treetops Hospice Ripple Appeal is such a fantastic project to extend the facilities. No one knows when they might find themselves in need of a hospice, but the reality is that there is a large chance that we all may encounter one at some point in our lives.

"Without the hard work and determined commitment of this group, many people in the East Midlands may not have access to the help, support and guidance that they desperately need. We had a great evening and everyone's generosity helped

make it a real success. Some particularly impressive sales skills from some of the attendees who made me think they may be in the wrong career!"

"I wish the Treetops Hospice the very best of luck for the rest of their appeal. They've raised an incredible amount of money already but there is still a long way to go. Congratulations and good luck!"

Kate Shaw added: "I would like to thank everyone who supported the event: Howard Ebison, Richard Spurr, Butterworth Photography, Yorkshire Bank and Bluu Bar and Brasserie for letting us use the venue free of charge and for supplying the delicious tapas. We raised more than £2000 on the evening. A wonderful result!"

Anyone interesting in joining the Ripple Final Challenge is asked to contact Kate on (0115) 939 4551.