

## Community

### Planting for a brighter future

BEN Goodlass is just 5 years old, but whenever he walked past a large municipal planter in Beeston Rylands that had been neglected and was full of litter, the sight of it offended his young sensibilities.

His protests prompted Mum and Dad, Lisa and Rob Goodlass of Roy Avenue, to take action. Notts County Council put the planter in place earlier in the year, but it was Broxtowe Borough Council who took young Ben's comments on board when, through his parents, he expressed his wish to see it being used for its proper purpose – to grow flowers.

The planter is at the corner of Longlands Road and Meadow Road in the

Rylands. It's a busy corner with plenty of pedestrian passers-by: parents taking children to the nearby infant school or walkers heading for a stroll by the canal or along the river. There's a notice board nearby with a plan of the area. For some reason, once in situ, the planter fell off the radar and nothing else happened.

All is now remedied.

With a little bit of help from his parents and Broxtowe Borough Council, Ben has filled the container with trailing ivy, cyclamen and lots of winter pansies. Springtime should see it ablaze with daffodils.

As the Goodlass's live close by, Rob Goodlass has

said that he will keep an eye on the planter as winter approaches.

Mum Lisa Goodlass said: "Ben has a real aversion to litter and complained about the state of the planter every time he passed it. Now he's excited that something's been done. He helped to choose the plants that will see it put to its proper purpose and has helped to plant them."

Ben described how, with his Dad's assistance, they'd marked out where everything would go before planting, and how an ivy had been placed in each corner so that it would trail over the rim when it grew.

Cllr Frank Prince, borough councillor for the Rylands, went along to meet Ben and thank him for his hard work.

He said: "We're pleased that the Rylands community has got involved in taking care of this planter. I would like to thank Ben and his family, and everyone who has helped.

Members of Broxtowe Borough Council's parks team cleared the planter before filling it with compost in anticipation of Ben's gardening skills.

### Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition for Beeston Cadets

FIVE cadets from 1359 (Beeston) Squadron have just completed their expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

The three-day walk through the Peak District had been meticulously planned by the five cadets to ensure that the route was challenging but still safe, and that each day's walk could be completed by the time night fell.

The first night was spent under canvas in Edale, the second in Hayfield.

Spokesman Mike Hill said: "In total, they covered 46 kilometres over the three days and were glad of a long soak in the bath once they got home. At least the sun shone for them each day."

The five cadets: CWO Kyle Crawford, CFS Grant Vernon, Cadet Sgt Claire Hallam, Cadet Corporals Simon Ranson and Nichola Whitehouse, now need only to complete their voluntary work before they can be presented with their Silver Awards.

### Parish church hosts antiques event

IN an authentic twist, the Historical Food Group connected to Beeston Parish Church offered to provide the refreshments for an Antiques Valuation Evening, held at the church to raise money for charity.

As Nigel Kirk from Mellors and Kirk Fine Art Auctioneers took a look at the objects brought in by about 80 ticket-holding visitors, an intriguing buffet containing at least one snack from each century was served: the earliest a curd cheese pastry from a recipe dating back to the Vikings through to the most recent, a butter bean pâté from the 1920s. Liquid refreshment came in the form of piment, a 14<sup>th</sup> century French

drink made from red wine sweetened with sugar and flavoured with spices.

The 'antique-style' buffet of sweet and savoury items had been entirely cooked and donated by the members of the church's Historical Food Group and the visitors enjoyed tucking in before the evening's main attraction – Nigel Kirk's valuation of their objet d'art, brought along to see if any fortunes were to be made overnight.

Mr Kirk said that he would be highlighting objects on the table that he thought were of particular interest – starting with an ornate blue and white earthenware lavatory pan made in Staffordshire in the

19thC century worth, he said, between £150 and £200 to its lucky owner.

He was delighted to spot a set of Russian decorative silver and cloisonné enamel spoons on the table, the largest of which might have fetched up to £600.

Mr Kirk noted that many of the objects on display – china and earthenware, glassware, statuettes, jewellery – dated from the late Victorian era. He said: "The reason these have survived in good enough condition to be brought here this evening is because your grandparents looked after them and you've looked after them. I wonder if they'll survive the next

generation as our children inherit them." The general murmur of consensus was "no".

The most interesting item of the evening as far as Mr Kirk was concerned, he said, was an original portrait painted in oils, unstretched, unframed and rolled into a protective tube made from WWII tobacco tins. "What is incredible is that the painting's provenance is intact. Whilst the fellow POW posing for the artist to pass the time away in the camp may not have been too thrilled with the result, this is a juvenile work by someone who was to become one of Britain's most famous abstract artists, Sir Terry Frost."

Terry Frost died in 2003, and nowadays his contemporary art is worth thousands of pounds.

Other objects singled out for individual attention by Mr Kirk included a certain style of crystal ware, which he described as "unprepossessing dross" and a double-ended scent bottle in glass and silver, one end for perfume and the other to contain smelling salts "needed directly to hand as the ladies of the 19<sup>th</sup> century delicately fainted on receiving yet another proposal of marriage!"

Two chairs used every Sunday by clergy at the parish church of St John the Baptist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

also drew the auctioneer's attention. He believed them to date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and around the time of Charles I. "However," he said, "they've had a hard life and have been restored and repaired many times. They're worth nothing more than their value."

Mr Kirk finished his round up by valuing items brought to him by individuals as the evening ended.