

Community

Halloween fun at Broadgate

ANYONE careless enough to unwittingly drop by Broadgate Park on Halloween would have been in for a big surprise. Ghosts, ghouls, witches and all manner of things that go bump in the night bewitched the park as the third Halloween event organised by Broxtowe Borough Council took earthly form.

Children poured onto the park at the end of half-term week to make scary monsters out of vegetables, learn circus skills, spin plates and how to hoola hoop – very important to know this if you're already a little monster.

A balloon-modelling artist was on hand to meet

endless requests for his twisted animals but the high spot of the day for most was the fancy dress parade.

This was when innocent passers-by were most likely to witness the stream of apparitions in the centre of Beeston. As about 30 children paraded in their spooky fancy dress, their ghostly faces courtesy of the professional face-painting artists provided as part of the entertainment, judges were looking for the best and spookiest costume.

Winner of a huge Halloween cake decorated with spiders and cobwebs, donated by the Home Made Bakery, was Edward, aged 6, of Chilwell.

With him were a number

of his scary friends from the College House After-School Club, who were running a half-term holiday club. One of the childminding staff said: "We've always held a Halloween party and now we make sure we include this 'Spooktacular Fun Day' organised here on the park to the fun. The children just love it."

The organisers were kept constantly busy throughout the three hours of the event, during which the number of children visiting was estimated at between two and three hundred.

Diamond Wedding celebration for local couple

MORE than 70 friends and relatives were asked along to help Ernest and Jean Mellors celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary at an 'Open House' celebration held at their comfortable Dovecote Lane home in Beeston on October 22. However, with judicious foresight and a nod to their own well-being, the list was divided into two and guests were invited to come either in the morning or the afternoon – giving Jean and Ernie a few minutes to get off their feet at lunchtime!

A local outside caterer had been asked to come along and take care of the refreshments and drinks, making sure that Jean and Ernie could spend the day with their guests rather than in the kitchen.

The couple previously lived on Redland Drive, Chilwell, for 44 years. They moved back to Beeston and The Dovecotes eight years ago.

The Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr John Longdon, and the Mayoress, Margaret, called in to the afternoon festivities to wish the happy couple well.

Ernest and Jean were also looking forward to a 'quieter' event two days later, when 50 guests were joining them for lunch at Mayfield House, Long Eaton. This time, Ernie's 81st birthday would be added to the list of toasts.

Beeston Fields School – one final identity parade

ONE-time Beestonian Clive Hopcroft instigated the initial search for names to put to faces of young children in the Beeston Fields' school photograph, dating from around 1945/46, and published in recent issues of *The Beeston Express*.

Clive, a resident of South Africa these days, has now provided a few more names to add to the list last updated by Marian Kelvey (née Russell), and we'll wind this up with one last update.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with this challenge to name names.

Clive wrote to his brother, Graham Hopcroft, who remains a Beeston resident:

"Marian Russell must have wonderful memory!

First, I was contacted by Derek Workley – note the correct surname – who also gave me the teacher's name and that of a couple of pupils. Following Marian's letter, I can add a couple, including Jim Wright's input, as follows:

Back row: Far left is Trevor Ling who left for Australia after High School with his parents and who I believe got a good position in Australian TV.

Next to him is Colin Salmon, with whom I became good friends until I left for South Africa in 1969. Far right, according to Jim Wright and next to Jim himself, is Geoff Kirk. I do believe that third from the right is Alan Hayes as that name sprang to mind on taking a closer look and

shaking my mental cobwebs.

Front row: Far right I believe is a young man, no longer young, called Alan Buck, but again, the name came from the dark depths of my ageing mind so may be incorrect. If so, who the heck is Alan Buck?

I will be sending this on to Ron Thursby in Australia who originally surfaced the photograph to me and who I am sure will be interested in recollecting the names.

If anyone wishes to contact Ron, his email is ronthepon@internode.on.net who hopefully will like to hear from his old classmates (with emphasis on old!)"

Clive Hopcroft

Back Row (l-r)

Trevor Ling, Colin Salmon, (next three unknown), Clive Hopcroft, John Fox, Brian Whitaker; Ron Thursby, Brian Guildersleve, Derek Workley, Alan Hayes, Jim Wright, Geoff Kirk.

Centre Row (l-r)

Faces 1 and 2 unknown, Maureen Portus, Margaret Jenkins, Mary Constantine, (next face unknown), Mavis Turton, Jacqueline Norrish; Lilian Walters, Pauline Slack, Kathleen Taylor, Barbara Payne.

Front Row (l-r)

Stuart Dunn, Geoff Daykin, Brenda Gilbert, Margaret Russell, Shirley Barwood, Angela Gilbert, Janice Barnes, Marian Russell, Kathleen Gash, Pamela Selby, Janet Perkins, Pat Campion, Pat Yates, Richard Jones, Alan Buck.