

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

Teenagers in line for award after life-changing trip

A GROUP of young people from Broxtowe who have returned from a life-changing trip to Uganda have been nominated for a prestigious award.

The group of 15 young people aged from 15 to 22 years travelled to the African country in August to take part in projects to help rural communities whilst getting a taste of Ugandan life.

The group is now in the running for the top prize of £1000 in this year's Young People of the Year (YOPEY), which aims to recognise and reward positive young role models and has £2000 in cash prizes to give to those who give to others. In Nottinghamshire, the contest is sponsored by the County Council (NCC), which is hosting the awards ceremony in December.

As part of the trip, the group spent a week creating a football pitch with drainage and without using machinery for the benefit of a school in the slum area of Kasessa. They also offered sports coaching to disabled school children in Kampala, giving them the confidence to try new activities, such as football.

Although the trip was part-funded by the Commonwealth Youth Council and the County Council's Youth Initiative Grant, the group carried out a range of fundraising activities to raise the extra funds needed for the trip.

County Council Youth Worker Jan Key, who went on the trip and nominated the group, commented: "The young people really excelled themselves in Uganda. Their community work made a huge difference to people who have very little.

"Creating the football pitch using hoes and moving boulders by hand was no mean feat in the blazing heat.

"You could see the impact that they had on the disabled children in Kampala, many of who were initially wary of the group but gained confidence and teamwork skills through the sports coaching."

An emergency with one of the County Council youth leaders on the trip meant that much of the recreational part of the trip was cancelled.

Jan said this did not faze the group: "They did not let this get them down and they continued to make the

most of the trip by making a difference to the local communities. A number of the young people assisted the remaining youth workers who were leading the trip and their help was invaluable."

One of the group members was Ryan Tyler, aged 18, from Chilwell. He said: "Uganda was a phenomenal experience for me. It has left an imprint on my life and how I look at poverty. I shall be visiting Uganda again in the future and hopefully will help with further volunteering projects."

Kerry Pink, aged 19 and also from Chilwell, said: "Uganda has been an amazing and life changing experience for me. Seeing the poverty and disability out there has definitely changed my view on life.

"I had always wanted to be a personal trainer but the trip has made me realise that I want to have a bigger influence on people's lives. I am now taking part in a lot of voluntary work and undertaking training to help me with my new career choice of becoming a youth worker who works with children with disabilities."

In order to raise an additional £5000 towards the cost of the trip, the group organised fundraising activities over a period of six months that included an under-18 evening in Nottingham nightclub EQ, a curry night, a rock gig, a car wash and a sponsored abseil.

Cllr Lynn Sykes, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

at NCC, said: "This group has set a phenomenal example to other young people in their community and we would love more people like more entries like this to be entered for YOPEY."

The contest looks for young people who are positive role models and give to the community. They should be aged between 10

and 25 and live, work or study in Nottinghamshire or on the borders of the county.

Anyone can nominate, including young people themselves. Visit www.yopey.org or write to Young People of the Year, PO Box 103, Hare Street, Ware, SG9 0XD for an entry form.

The closing date for entries is October 31.

Bouquet for retiring chairman

JOYCE Brown stepped down as Chairman of Beeston and District Civic Society at the society's first get-together in its winter programme of meetings and, as she did so, the members showed their appreciation by presenting her with a bouquet of flowers and a cash voucher.

Joyce Brown has never been an 'ordinary' member of the Society before, and is looking forward to taking a quieter seat. She said:

"I went straight onto the committee when I joined the Society. Then, in 1998, I took over as Secretary when Joe Shaw stepped down from that post, and from there I went on to become chairman in 2004.

"I have enjoyed being chairman. It has certainly been a challenge as Beeston prepares to go through a period of massive change. The work that the Society does is invaluable, both in taking action where we think it right that we should, and in

making the public take more notice of what's going on.

"I wish my successor, Jean Cameron, every good wish as she steps into the role."

Earlier, the Civic Society members had heard an interesting talk from a John Lewis partner, Sue Cavanagh, about the history and development of the Nottingham retailer over the years.

Have your say in Chilwell

CHILWELL residents are invited to drop in at a community event as Broxtowe Borough Council aims to find out what people like and dislike about living in the area around the Inham Nook estate.

The free event will take place on Monday, October 26, at Inham Nook Methodist Church, Pearson Avenue, between 10am and 1pm.

Everyone will be asked to complete a questionnaire, which will be entered into a prize draw. The information gathered on the day will be used to help inform and advise the organisations involved in a Week of Action

planned for November.

Visitors will also be able to find out more about the Week of Action. Taking part in the consultation exercise will be representatives promoting some of the groups and activities that take place in Chilwell. These include The Helpful Bureau, Nottingham Credit Union, Inham Nook Kids Club, ABC-LETS, Chilwell Eat Well, Broxtowe Borough Mediation Service, Fire and Police, and Inham Nook Allotment Gardeners Association.

The Week of Action provides services and information over and above that normally provided by

the local organisations, adding a range of extra activities to give the area a boost. The focus is on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and giving residents a sense of pride in their local area.

Local people are urged to drop in to the 'Your Chilwell' event at any time to make sure their voices are heard.

There will be free refreshments and activities for the children. All children should be accompanied by an adult.

The prize draw will take place at the end of the event.