

Community

Club Reports

Long Eaton Rotary Club

MEMBERS of Long Eaton Rotary Club were pleased to welcome Gail Tebbutt and Diana Sheppard to the meeting of October 7, when the two young ladies arrived with a special Powerpoint presentation about the sensory garden they are creating at Brackenfield School in Long Eaton.

Using Gail's enthusiasm and Diana's artistic flair, they are creating the garden

to stimulate the senses of the children with special needs who are taught at the school.

Long Eaton Rotary has, been over the years, been a willing supporter of both the children and staff at Brackenfield School, feeling that the local community is fortunate to have this facility in the area for children with special needs.

Club members were told that, at the present time, they were fundraising and looking for support for the project.

Past President Rotarian Russell Thomas thanked Gail and Diana for joining the members for lunch and for their presentation, and wished them well with the project.

Women's Meeting at Toton Methodist Church

MRS Jennifer Cox and Miss Hannah Smith were welcome guests to the Women's Meeting on September 24.

After reading from Mark 10, 'Suffer the Little Children', Jennifer gave an illustrated update about the work of the Children of Honduras Trust, which showed goods being packed in Derby on a snowy Saturday in February and unpacked and distributed several months later on a hot day in the Honduras.

Supplies taken out were food, furniture, toiletries, school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. The Trust also releases funds to help build houses, particularly where storms have demolished the makeshift huts occupied by families in need.

The members asked many questions and Hannah was on hand to sell 'alternative gift cards' to finance the purchase of mosquito nets, trees, chickens, Christmas dinners, etc, as well as 2014 calendars.

Members and friends of the Meetings had collected a large amount of toiletries and school supplies and these were handed over to the Trust, together with the afternoon's collection of £83.

On September 27, members of the Women's Meeting organised participation in 'The World's Biggest Coffee Morning' and raised £409.25 for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Beeston Probus Club

BEESTON Probus Club is appealing for new members. The club's membership has dropped to

just 18 active members and they would like more. If you are interested in joining or would just like more

details, then please contact the chairman, Brian Palmer, on (mob): 07999 978 638.

The Express Observer

by 'The Muse'

The Birdwatcher

HE'S a singular man. He lives alone, possibly lonely. Yet he has a jaunty air about him, almost a skip in his step. If you greet him in the street, he smiles and takes time to pass the time of day. He has an air of contained joy about him, which is charming.

In his late 70s, he's still tall, although he now walks with a slight stoop in his back and the support of a walking stick. Is that curvature of the spine, or just years of bad postural habits made by a tall person trying to fit into a shorter world?

He regularly walks the mile or two into Beeston to pick up groceries or visit the library, always carrying an orange reusable bag from one of the supermarkets. Sometimes I see him on the way there, with an empty bag and a distinct morning spring in his long stride. On other days, I catch him on the way home, walking more slowly now, tired and weighed down by tins and packets, fresh vegetables and a book or two.

He loves bird watching

on the nature reserve. He goes daily, sometimes twice a day, complete with binoculars and enthusiasm, except when the weather is foul. If you stop him to ask whether he's seen anything interesting today, he is excited to share his discoveries with a curious listener. Even if the listener may not know all the birds he mentions, hearing his passion and seeing his face light up is most endearing.

He appreciates wildlife in general. I see him admiring a rather wild front garden, with a fish pond that has enormous irises and probably too much pond weed. It is clearly overgrown and possibly the neighbours think it a nightmare, but that is why he likes it. It is a space for insects and frogs, bees and butterflies to flourish amongst the semi-urban tidiness. To him, it's preferable to the manicured or paved and pebbled front gardens along the rest of the street.

At home, he cooks for one, light yet traditional fare, a small piece of meat or fish with plenty of fresh

vegetables. He doesn't smoke but occasionally will have a glass of red wine with dinner. More usually, though, his evening meal is followed by a cup of tea and a couple of digestive biscuits. On Saturdays he treats himself to a cake. Neither frugal nor extravagant, he leads a moderate life and despises waste. He puts out any leftovers for the local foxes, cats and birds.

If he's expecting visitors, he'll bake a Victoria sponge cake with good quality strawberry jam or a batch of scones. He's a dab hand at baking, he tells me. He'll take the good tea service out of the cupboard and give it a dust, along with a beloved teapot, saved for special occasions.

I wonder if he was always so mellow-natured? Do people change as they age, or do they become more like themselves than ever? Was he ever a beatnik or a hippy? I like to imagine he has a secret past that explains the sparkle in his elderly eye, but maybe it is simply the joy of bird watching?

Obituaries

Roy Adcock

1926-2013

ROY ADCOCK passed away on September 29 at the City Hospital at the age of 87.

Roy, a life-long resident of Beeston, was educated at Beeston Fields School and saw war service with the Royal Navy in the Far East, including service aboard a Rocket Armed Landing Craft in support of the Burma Campaign.

Following his return to civilian life he joined his father at Boots, but subsequently joined Plessey Telecommunications Ltd, where he became an Export

Warehouse Supervisor. He was made redundant in 1981.

His lifelong interest was gardening and at one time Roy not only had two allotments but also maintained 10 gardens locally. He was a long-time follower of Notts County and enjoyed chivvying his Watford-supporting nephew-in-law over the relative merits of each others' teams.

Roy loved classical music, having been trained by an uncle as a tenor. He sang semi professionally up until the 1960s.

His real love, however, was his wife and friend of 32 years, Helen, and his recently found daughter, Katy.

A final farewell to Roy took place at Bramcote Crematorium on Thursday, October 10 at 3.30pm.

Donations in lieu of flowers for the 'Breathe Easy' charity may be made care of: A W Lymn, Trent House, Station Road, Beeston, NG9 2AY.

David Gardner,
Brother-in-Law