BREASTON COMMUNITY FORUM REPORT 23-24

The forum has had a good year due to a very dedicated committee and their partners. We have managed to arrange all our usual events, though not without some concerns along the way, and we have even planned a new idea.

Our year begins with St Georges' day when we encourage the Breaston residents to put up their bunting and keep it up until after the May Gala. We would love to see bunting outside every house but unfortunately sales were low this year. However, Blind lane residents excelled with their whole street display.

Three times a year we produce a free newsletter that is delivered by volunteers to every household in the village. This highlights the work of the Forum and the In Bloom group and any other local group that asks us for space. We also list an event diary and publicise local events.

This year we held our 2nd Breaston Bake-Off at the May Gala. The Bake -Off had over 20 entries which was really pleasing, but we do hope for more entries each year. The Adult winner receives a Star Baker apron, and the children entrants win a medal. Entries are judged by a leading WI judge and then put on display in the tent for everyone to see.

Following the Gala we hold our Yard Sale. This used to be in April but in the hopes of better weather it was moved to May. The event is well publicised and very popular with over 50 Yards entered each year for only £3 to be on the map. It is so great to see so many people walking around the village in search of a bargain.

The new event we have planned is a Car Boot sale on Duffield close in July. See next years report for how it went.

In October we held the usual Pumpkin party – something to brighten Duffield Close on what can sometimes be a very dull day. We had a bit of a panic this year as our usual brilliant DJ Andy was unavailable. Luckily Richard, the husband of one of the committee, stepped up and even provided his own equipment. The Pumpkin party was saved and he did a brilliant job.

Over Christmas we light up the tree outside the Co-op, provide Xmas trees in the Memorial garden and this year there was a Rock Carol event held at St Michael's Church – also led by Richard – which was a huge success.

Our final event was our Annual Quiz night in March. This is held at the Chequers Inn, who always greatly support the Forum and the In Bloom groups throughout the year. They allow us to use the pub for the quiz and collect in entry forms for any event we hold and generally support us with all our plans – for instance they hold a children's disco after the Pumpkin Party.

The quiz night was also under threat of being unable to run this year as our usual M.C. and quiz setter Matt was unavailable. Louise from the committee volunteered her partner Toby without him knowing!! What a success! Julie set the questions and Toby turned out to be extremely good at the role of M.C. – we couldn't have asked for better. He definitely has a job for the future. The quiz was a sell out and we raised around £500 .

Any money raised by the Forum throughout the year is always ploughed back into the events we hold, our purpose is to give Breaston residents free fun events to attend throughout the year.

If you would like to get involved please get in touch – we always welcome new faces.

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