

Buzz

The Beeston Express

CONTACT

The Editor
PO Box 7440
Beeston, Nottingham
NG9 1ZS
Tel: 0115 922 8007

email:
enquiries@beestonexpress.co.uk

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Beeston Express is independent of any organisation, commercial or political. Our policy is to provide readers with news and information that is fair, accurate and balanced.

We try hard to avoid mistakes, but some may inevitably slip through. If you have any comments to make about the paper, or any complaint, please contact us. We will, as far as possible, try to put things right when the error has been ours.

NEXT ISSUE

Friday, 7 May 2010

Deadline for Adverts
Tuesday, May 4

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City Hospital
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Broxtowe Borough Council
0115 917 7777
Citizens Advice Bureau
0844 499 1193
Beeston Library
0115 925 5168
Train Timetable Enquiries
08457 48 49 50

Consider yourself spotted

DNA match lands man in court

A POLICE officer's quick thinking led to an offender being caught through a DNA match and brought to justice for five crimes.

Marcus Booth, aged 22, of Stapleford Lane, Toton, pleaded guilty to committing four criminal damage offences and one offence of using threatening words or behaviour on January 20, 2010 when he appeared at Nottingham Magistrates Court on Monday, April 19.

The prosecution arose after PC Chris Copley, who is based at Stapleford Police Station, was on patrol in Stapleford on January 20 and came across a man in Eatons Road whose car tyre had been slashed.

PC Copley noticed red spots, which he suspected were blood,

on the bonnet and wheel arch of the man's car. He was aware that earlier that day, staff at the George Spencer School, less than half-a-mile away, had reported criminal damage and the suspected offender's blood had been found at the scene.

Believing the incidents could be linked, PC Copley asked for assistance from crime scene investigators. However, none could attend immediately. Determined to preserve the evidence, he asked the man to drive his car to Stapleford Police Station.

PC Copley, who has been a police officer for eight years, said: "I knew the blood spots could be key in identifying not only the offender who slashed the tyre but

potentially the offender from the school as well.

"To preserve the evidence, PCSO Dean Bardill and I cut patches from a bin liner and, with the permission of the car's owner, taped these over the spots of dried blood. They were examined the next day and matched the blood found at the school, giving us a DNA match linking the same offender to both scenes."

Booth was arrested and charged. Following his appearance in court, he was sentenced to a 12-month community order and ordered to complete 36 hours' training in social skills.

He was also ordered to pay a total of £295 compensation to his victims.

Shout up on noise

BROXTOWE Borough Council will open its doors for a special 'noise surgery' at the end of April for residents to discuss various aspects of neighbourhood noise. The event forms part of Environmental Protection UK's Noise Action Week, which aims to raise awareness about noise nuisance and measures that can be taken to tackle it.

The daily surgeries will take place between Monday, April 26 and Friday, April 30 at the council's offices on Foster Avenue, Beeston.

Advice will be available on a range of issues that will include:

- Headphones and hearing
- Student noise
- Licensing and licensed premises
- Noise from tenants
- Transport noise

The week-long event encourages people to think about the noise that disturbs them, as well as the noise they make and the effect it has on others.

For more information, contact the Council's Environmental Health section on (0115) 917 3485.

Hope for General Election

HOPE NG9 – Churches Together in Beeston and Chilwell – is hosting an open meeting with the parliamentary candidates for the Broxtowe constituency at the Baptist Church, Dovecote Lane, Beeston on Sunday, April 25 at 7.30 pm. This will be a chance for the voters to come and listen to and question those who seek to represent them in Parliament.

Recent publicity surrounding Parliament may lead to cynicism or apathy about the up-coming election, but church leaders and members across the town believe that it has never been more important for all to take an active part in the democratic process, and vote on 6 May. Bringing together candidates in a public meeting like this is one way of finding out more about what they

and their parties stand for.

Questions will cover a wide range of subjects from the local (e.g. public transport and housing), to the national (taxes and government 'interference') and even international (climate change and trade).

Kevin Dare, who is organising this meeting on behalf of Hope NG9, said, "It's been said that for evil to triumph all that is necessary is that ordinary people know nothing. It may seem such a small thing, putting a cross on a piece of paper, but that cross does count.

Our hope is that this meeting, and others like it, will first of all encourage people to vote, and secondly, give them information that will help them choose who to vote for."

The Beeston Express

"THE Beeston Express, which supposedly prides itself on its impartiality, has let itself be used by the Labour Party."

These are the words of members of AN Other main party, thrown in front of the Editor of *The Beeston Express* when we contacted them to see what else had been happening on the local political front.

What do you think? We are

aware that things haven't been perfect and will indeed have appeared one-sided as efforts to get input from the other parties didn't always achieve much, but should *The Beeston Express* be held responsible for that?

Have we let ourselves be used? Perhaps we should take a vote after the election is over – failing that, please write and let us have your opinion.

News in Brief

Pillow Fire

FIREFIGHTERS were called to a house fire in Beeston on Wednesday morning, April 14, which caused excessive smoke damage to a bedroom.

Wearing breathing apparatus, the firefighters extinguished the fire before clearing the house of smoke using a positive pressure ventilation fan.

The occupants, who had evacuated the house before the fire service arrived, were treated for smoke inhalation at the scene.

Upon investigation, it was discovered that pillows stacked close to and touching a fluorescent light inside a built-in wardrobe caused the fire. The heat from the light caused the pillows to decompose and smoulder, giving rise to dense acrid yellow smoke.

Fire Officers recommend that people do not store flammable materials close to light sources, especially in enclosed areas.

As the bedroom was used by a small child, fire officers fitted a smoke detector in the room and advised other parents take the same precaution.

'Caught on Camera' launch

POLICE have launched a new initiative to identify offenders captured on CCTV. The 'Caught on Camera' scheme will see images released through the Nottinghamshire Police website (www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/can_you_help) in a bid to get people who recognise them to call in.

The campaign will earn a reward for any caller whose information given to Crimestoppers leads to an arrest and charge. It follows a push by the force to increase detections as part of 'Policing for You with 20/20 Vision'.

Sarah Smithurst, Crimestoppers Coordinator, said: "Other forces have had significant success using initiatives like this. Receiving a reward gives people an incentive to give us their information – not only will they help solve a crime, they gain financially by doing so.

"Officers work hard to identify those captured on CCTV but 'Caught on Camera' means that even if they are not known to the police, someone will know who they are."

The images will be updated frequently and information about anyone charged with offences will also be published.

Anyone with any information relating to the 'Caught on Camera' images is asked to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.