

Buzz

Pritchetts of Beeston

A COUPLE from Beeston with strong ties to the area celebrated their diamond wedding in York on April 10.

Leslie and Winnie Pritchett ran the grocery store, T J Pritchett & Son, on the High Road for many years before they retired and went to live in York to be near their only daughter, Shirley.

Pritchett's opened in 1912 and Leslie inherited the shop from his father. Twice Leslie and Winnie extended the shop, once to the left and then to the right.

Shirley said: "There were four properties in that area of the street, Mum and Dad started with one, then extended one way and then the other way. Eventually there was Palings (later Georgette's flower shop) and Pritchetts covering the

remaining bit. The Halifax Building Society bought the premises and rented out part of the area to another shop."

As Leslie and Winnie celebrated their diamond wedding in York, friends who remember the couple from their days as one of Beeston's major provisions retailer travelled north to wish them well, along with some of the staff from the old firm.

Winnie said: "It was wonderful to see so many people from Beeston at our diamond wedding celebration at Monks Bar, York.

"Leslie, who once played for the Al William's Dance Band, played the Anniversary Waltz for me. I met him all those years ago at a tea dance at the Astoria in Nottingham. In those days, we took our Mums as chaperones, even

though we were 19 years old. Leslie asked me if I would like to dance; I had to ask Mum if it was OK. We danced, and then he asked if he could see me again.

"After we were married, we devoted our lives to the shop. We both worked a lot of hours each day and full time for 35 years, 70 years in total. People will also remember Leslie as a long-serving officer of more than 50 years in the local Boys' Brigade.

Winnie continued: "We were both bell ringers at Beeston Parish Church, too. A full peal was rung at Beeston when we married and to celebrate our diamond wedding, the ringers here at Huntington rang a quarter peal for us.

"My daughter made a CD of Leslie's music for us – he went to play the piano at the famous Betty's Tea Rooms in York when we moved here, but retired from that at the age of 87.

However, a touch that made the day special was my grandson proposing the toast from Brazil, where he does missionary work with the street children, via a Skype link.

If people would like to contact Leslie and Winnie, *The Beeston Express* will be pleased to forward letters.

Snippets

Look out for Lock Cottages

THERE is some good news in the pipeline about the Lock Cottages on Beeston's waterfront, which currently stand virtually derelict, forlorn and boarded up.

They have a bright new and useful future. As soon as the news is released officially, we'll bring it to you.

Watch this space for superb news relating to a part of Beeston's precious heritage (the cottages appear on the Enclosure Map of 1809) that has been ignored and neglected for far too long.

Coffee Morning

THE next coffee morning at Chilwell Road Methodist Church will include a May Market and a sale of plants, and will take place on Saturday, May 29. The coffee morning held on Saturday, April 17, raised £114.51 for the Women's Friendship Group, the church's chosen charity for 2010.

Broxtowe's Got Talent

WITH the semi-finals for 'Broxtowe's Got Talent' now completed, fourteen acts move on to the Pearson Centre, Nuart Road, Beeston for the final on Saturday, April 24.

The show commences at 7pm with tickets at £5 available from phone 07808 138 318, from Andrew McCulloch Ltd, The Square, Beeston, or on the door at the Pearson Centre.

Three arrested on suspicion of going equipped

THREE men were arrested in Beeston on Wednesday evening, April 21, on suspicion of going equipped.

Police arrested the men at around 6.20pm after they were seen acting suspiciously in Warwick Avenue, Beeston Fields. They were found in possession of tools.

Following questioning, the men, who are aged 17, 23 and 25 and from the Beeston area, were released on police bail pending further enquiries.

The Free Ranger...

Our monthly columnist shares his thoughts with us...

THE Free Ranger lives in Attenborough, but asks to remain anonymous so that he can share his opinions freely about local matters that affect all of us.

Please remember, however, that the opinions he expresses are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of The Beeston Express. If you wish to comment, please write to the address on page 2.

No politics this time?

I HAD vowed to myself that I was not going to lurch

into the political fray with the column during election time. However, following the letters in the last *Beeston Express*, I feel I must make one suggestion.

The suggestion is to Cllr Eric Kerry in particular. Rather than write rambling blustering letters accusing this paper of bias, perhaps you could have written to explain why it seems you were (I am told) unable to donate over 50 percent of your £10,000 county councillor's charity allowance to good causes in your ward. It is alleged that Cllr Kerry has spent the least from his charity allowance than any other councillor in Nottinghamshire. That is

about £5,000 now lost to all the sports clubs and societies, social groups, community halls, play groups, schools, charities and so on that operate in Beeston Rylands and Attenborough. Money that could have been spent on a variety of things and put to good use. However, I am sure there must be a simple and logical explanation.

What I was actually going to write about this time was the flood defences in Attenborough as at last it seems we have prospects of a suitable compromise. This could at last remove a lot of worry from those who have been flooded and hopefully make getting house insurance easier and

cheaper for all living along the lower lands of the Trent.

In the past I have been critical of the actions of those who opposed the route along the Strand as I felt they were seriously prejudicing the whole scheme, but I am pleased to say I have been wrong. I think it has been fortunate that the Environment Agency had the gumption to stick with the project as, during the more recent flooding in Cumbria and the west Midlands and the prospects of funding cuts, the whole project could have easily been shelved. The new proposals, if they proceed with the blessing of the wildlife trust, will preserve the ambience of

the Strand in its current form and avoid a lot of construction disturbance, and work is progressing at the pace of the rest of the defences. I will be interested to see in the finish what the overall landscape effect will be of a roughly 4m high 20m wide grassed bank through the old car park behind the cricket pitch. But no doubt in time this will just become part of the landscape like the power station when you look down the Trent valley (something which I think adds something to the view in terms of scale and juxtaposition).

However, more seriously, there are still some landscape effects that can't be cured in the short term. The in group

in Toton and those who helped with their campaign should be congratulated about the minor victory they have achieved over those who cleared the trees on the old sidings.

Finally, just to finish. By the time you read this, there will still be two weeks to go to the election and I have already had enough. But I am going to vote as, at least as a minimum, it gives me the right to complain. But being cynical, I am sure I can say with absolute editorial balance from your editor, that what we all want and need is change and/or a fairer society (or permutations thereof).