

Express Buzz

Happy 70th Birthday, Beeston Library!

BEESTON Library was officially opened seventy years ago in 1938, and staff and customers celebrated the auspicious anniversary on Monday, April 21, 2008 with balloons and chocolates.

Staff produced a display of photographs and articles showing the many changes that have taken place since the original library provision of books to borrow, a study area and a reading room for newspapers.

The library, one of the first to be purpose built in Nottinghamshire, proved so popular when it opened in 1938 that opening hours and staff numbers were increased to satisfy demand within the first six months.

The building on Foster Avenue was extended in 1973 and completely

refurbished two years ago.

Amongst the visitors to the Library on April 21 were library stalwarts Edna Butler and Robert Lamb from Chilwell.

Mr Lamb has used the library since it opened seventy years ago. "Although I was a member of the Junior Library in those days!" he quickly added.

Three generations of his family have used Beeston Library. "My daughter has always enjoyed visiting the library, and now her own children have followed in her footsteps. The staff here at Beeston have always been very good. They are very helpful and nothing is too much trouble for them."

Library Assistant Caroline Penn has worked at Beeston for 20 years.

She commented: "There have been some dramatic changes, even in the 20 years that I've been here. It was all about borrowing books when I started. No computers – either for us to use in issuing books or for the public to use. Now, virtually every aspect of issuing is computerised and access to the internet is very popular with library users.

"The public has changed as well," she continued. "And as society has changed, the library has changed too, becoming less of a 'quiet place' and more of a social centre.

Library user Edna said: "I've been using the library ever since I moved to Beeston from Clifton 40 years ago. In those days, people couldn't afford to

buy so many books, and my two children used to love coming."

As staff prepared to celebrate a second birthday party this week – Shakespeare's Birthday was on April 23 and more fun and games were being planned as part of the 'National Year of Reading' – they wanted to thank their customers.

Area Coordinator Jane Berry said: "All the staff would like to say a big 'thank you' to the loyal customers who have supported us during the last 70 years and continue to do so."

Snippets

Pleasley Colliery Welfare Band at Queens Road Methodist Church

MORE than 100 local residents enjoyed a concert by Pleasley Colliery Welfare Band at Queens Road Methodist Church on April 11.

Cllr Pat Lally, who helped fund the event through the Notts County Council EDI Initiative, said: "The brass band were brilliant, playing a selection of music from the Musicals, classical music and other tunes. A good night was had by all!"

Death of Jeffrey Tillet

THE funeral of Jeffrey Tillet, Head of English at Bramcote Hills Technical Grammar School during the 1960s and 1970s, took place at Mickleover in Derbyshire earlier this week.

Mr Tillet died on April 4 at the age of 80 after suffering from heart problems. Many of his former pupils at the Bramcote school will be saddened to learn of his death.

Express Survey

PLANS to improve *The Beeston Express* move slowly forward; thanks to all those who gave us their constructive views. The winner of the prize draw, open to everyone who returned a completed survey form, is Dr S McClelland of Chilwell. Dr McClelland wins a £20 voucher to spend at a local restaurant of his choice.

Award for Rylands

BEESTON Rylands has won an award under Nottingham County Council's 'Building Better Communities' initiative for the installation of a community Notice Board to advertise events and organisations in the Rylands.

The 'Building Better Communities' competition gave seven winners the chance to win £5000 to boost their neighbourhood and £100 of high street shopping vouchers.

Out on the Chilwell bayou

BAYOU Seco – Ken Keppeler and Jeanie McLerie – provided an entertaining Saturday evening last week for an audience of almost 120 people at Chilwell Road Methodist Church.

Playing at Chilwell as part of the touring Village Ventures scheme, music came from Ken playing the accordion, fiddle, banjo, guitar and harmonica, whilst Jeanie played the fiddle and guitar and sang in English, Spanish and French. The music, drawn from the traditions of New Mexico, Louisiana and Arizona, reflected aspects of life and the stories of the musicians. The content of the songs and poems was presented in a homely style, drawing the audience close.

The event raised £277 for future Village Ventures productions and £48 for the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance, the 2008 Church Charity.

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.

Time Flies, Mind your Business

NEAR where my Grandfather lived stood a church that, around the clock face on the tower, had the phrase "Time Flies, Mind your Business". Now, this was apparently also the

motto that appeared on one of the first coins minted in America and is often quoted, according to the web, as a common adage for many in business.

As I drove along the A6005 last week it made me think how true it was,

When I saw the various piles of rubble that have appeared on one of the old textile sites just past Chilwell Olympia and the rapid progress that has been made at both the old Nottingham Rugby Football Club and the HSBC sites by Beeston station. It set me thinking about how quickly things can move forward once they build their own momentum. However, building that momentum is sometimes what takes the time, and keeping the impetus up is also important, otherwise inertia takes over. So when I started to think back, it

didn't seem possible that it's already more than six months since the consultation details on the excellent proposals for the new Beeston Town Centre came round with *The Beeston Express*, and shortly thereafter the plans for the Barton's site in Chilwell came out.

Now is it just me, but it seems all this has since gone quiet. I have heard little since the forms had to go in, no feedback or news on progress from the Council. Yet since then I have had a least two leaflets about the potential tram scheme and its timing and progress. It seemed quite clear to me from the consultations on all these projects that, regardless which way the tram decision goes, both the Square and the Barton's development need to be prepared to fit in with the tram timetable or vice versa, otherwise the phasing

of the works will end up all wrong.

Superficially this phasing may seem trivial, but I then spent a drizzly afternoon in the 'new' Derby. The refurbished shopping centre there is well worth a visit if you like that kind of thing, but walk outside and other parts of Derby are still a building site. So what happened was that everyone stayed in the shopping centre (helped in part by the drizzle) and the old City Centre was dead.

Roll the clock forward four years in Beeston, if the tram comes. A modern, clean, quiet, fast way into Beeston and the City will be up and running, but what will happen if the Square is not finished, or if Tesco remains half built? People will take the easier option, as in Derby, and stay on the tram into the City. Can we

take the risk of getting the timing wrong?

I don't think I've met anyone who doesn't support the redevelopment of the Square (regardless of whether they like the tram or not). As a scheme, the Square has taken years to get to the current state, and it's too important a project to let drift.

The last thing we need now is for it to get lost due to the inertia of Broxtowe Borough Council, with the risk of arguments about the colour of decorative tops for the lampposts or designs for new planters holding it up for months.

I hope someone has an eye on the bigger picture. Unfortunately, from where I've been sat, the silence on this project has become deafening, so I hope Broxtowe Borough Council is aware that "Time flies, Mind your Business"!