

Express Letters

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Broxtowe Borough Council

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A bee in your bonnet? Have your say here...

IF you want to express your opinion on anything that affects us as a community, then this is the place to do it. And bouquets are as worthwhile as brickbats are valuable. But please keep your letters short. We do reserve the right to cut letters to fit if necessary. If you contact *The Beeston Express* by email (see panel on page 2), remember to include your home address.

Give the man a chance

DEAR EDITOR: I was saddened to read of the difficulties facing Steve Jones in his hot potato venture (April 11, p1).

I have known Steve for many years and have always had a deep respect for him. If anyone deserves support, he does.

Here is a man willing to work hard to provide for his old age in spite of the problems he has had following his accident. He tells you what his problems are, not for sympathy, but to let you know where he stands. He isn't asking for hand-outs, he is asking for a livelihood.

He has fulfilled the conditions dictated by Sainsbury's. Just for once, it would be nice to see a supermarket giant supporting a courageous battler by granting him the dignity of independence he so richly deserves.

*Mrs Dorothy Phillips
Neville Sadler Court, Beeston*

Gerald Gibson

DEAR EDITOR: I first met Gerald when we were schoolboys at the Nottingham Technical School (April 11, p5).

He proudly wore a Boys Brigade lapel badge on his school blazer and I wore a Boy Scout badge on mine; there was much good-natured exchanging of jibes. I remember his use of the term: 'bare knees mob!' and my reply: 'bucket bangers!'

I always liked and admired Gerald. He went on to do great things in, and for, the Brigade in Beeston, particularly the band, which he led with justifiable pride. When they marched, some 30 strong, through Beeston it was a joy to behold.

He really was one of those people of whom you can say that Beeston is poorer for their passing, and I am proud to have been one of his many friends.

*Bill Shaw
Beeston*

Setting the record straight

DEAR EDITOR: Further to the letter from Geoff Bryant (April 11), I enclose a leaflet that has been delivered by Beeston Conservatives to homes throughout Beeston and which, I assume, he referred to in his letter.

As you can see, his description of whatever fell through his

letterbox and the actual leaflet is less than accurate.

Beeston and Beeston matters feature on the front and rear of the leaflet. Details of our new 'Beeston Concerns Officer' (Tom Moore) are provided along with stories about the fire station, the threat of car parking charges and the Town Centre Plan.

Inside the leaflet are items of political concern from throughout the parliamentary constituency, notably the threat to the Green Belt and the local Labour MP's refusal to support plans to halt the closure of yet more Post Offices.

Finally, I have tried to discover Mr Bryant's full address on the electoral roll, but to no avail. Cllr Brunton tried, without success, to find the details of another of your correspondents who had criticised her and, like Mr Bryant, was a Labour supporter. I am sure the local Labour Party has not stooped so low as to sending letters to *The Beeston Express* from fictitious correspondents in order to improve their flagging position in the opinion polls. I therefore look forward to Mr Bryant's response.

*Anna Soubry
Conservative Parliamentary
candidate for Broxtowe*

PS: Broxtowe Conservatives has a small office behind Oceana, opposite a 'drop in centre', not the "fancy Nottingham address" Mr Bryant describes!

EDITOR'S note: As political fervour increases, the apolitical *Beeston Express* thinks it should continue to allow our local politicians a right of reply, but steer clear of partisan material.

What do readers think?

Budding poet

DEAR EDITOR: Several people approached me at the Beeston District Civic Society in December 2007, having read the article in *The Beeston Express* about the sculpture unveiling ceremony on Broadgate Park. They enquired as to how long I had been writing poetry.

The answer is from the age of 14. Most of my output has been centred around family events: weddings, birthday retirements, etc, and widened to include work colleagues who had a particular milestone to mark.

Following the *Beeston Express* episode, I submitted an entry to

a United Press Limited poetry competition featured in 'Yours' (an over 50s fortnightly magazine, previously monthly, similar to 'Saga'). I had a letter from the publishers advising me that, whilst I hadn't won, they liked my entry and I was invited to submit two poems under the headings: 'Lyrics of Life' and 'People and Places' to be considered in their poetry anthologies due for publication during 2008. I'm delighted to say my entries 'Wire in the Blood' and 'Minus a Robin' have been selected. 'Minus a Robin' will be in their next book in early summer.

There was no entry fee, I did not pay to have the work published and I retain copyright. Their covering letter states: "This does not infringe upon your copyright. You retain all rights to your work and can reproduce or republish it whenever you like, without needing to ask us."

Thank you, *Beeston Express* for re-igniting my interest in poetry writing. Ironically, I recall one of my early efforts found its way onto the notice board in the Prefects Room at school. It got me into serious trouble as it poked fun, very lightheartedly, at our over-enthusiastic caretaker. I had to apologise to him in the headmaster's office. I'm sure both caretaker and headmaster are no longer with us, but from such small beginnings, 47 years ago, I've now accomplished entries in print and in bronze!

*Sharron Bilbey
Bramcote Drive, Beeston*

Editor's Note: We are delighted to have permission to publish 'Wire in the Blood' in our next issue.

Time to update the Law of Succession

DEAR EDITOR: A 300-year-old law which gives males primacy in the royal line of succession is, hopfully, to be abolished.

MPs are expected to use new equality legislation to guarantee a monarch's female decedents equal claim to the throne and also to repeal the law forcing royals marrying Catholics to renounce their place in the line of succession.

Already MP's are welcoming the move, but said changing the law could be problematical.

Under the Statute of Westminster 1931 any change would have to be agreed by the

parliaments in all countries which have the Queen as head of state.

The Queen is head of state of the UK and 15 other Commonwealth realms, including Australia and Canada. (Well, may be not for long in Australia).

I believe we can't have a law that is supposed to fight bias and discrimination but allows a patently sexist law on royal succession to persist.

Let's confine this obsolete message that men are better than women to the waste bin of history.

*Mrs Ruth Moore
Beeston*

More friends needed

DEAR EDITOR: I was wondering if I could get something about the need for befriending volunteers for people with dementia in the Beeston/Broxtowe area into *The Beeston Express*.

Nottingham Alzheimers Society runs a befriending scheme called Side By Side for people with dementia and their carers. We currently have clients in Broxtowe who have requested a volunteer through the scheme but, unfortunately, we are struggling to find anyone to fulfil the role.

We do have volunteers successfully working with people with dementia in Broxtowe: maybe we could write an article about one of them and the valuable role they are fulfilling.

Many thanks for your assistance. Your help is vital to getting appropriate local volunteers for those with dementia in your area.

*Pete Sturgess
Side By Side Befriending Coordinator
Tel: (0115) 934 3800*

Distributors are urgently required for:

Toton

*Rutland Avenue,
Newland Close,
Chetwynd Road, Norfolk
Avenue, Kensington Close,
Hillview Road*

The Beeston Express is distributed free to 9000 homes in Beeston, Chilwell, Attenborough, Toton and Bramcote.

If you have time to help once a fortnight and would like to earn a little spare cash, please call 0115 922 8007