

Express Letters

Where to collect your Beeston Express:

Please note that this list is regularly updated.

ATTENBOROUGH

Attenborough Nature Centre
Barton Lane

Attenborough Service Station
5 Nottingham Road

BEESTON

Beeston News
86 High Road, Beeston

Chilwell Road News
86A Chilwell Road, Beeston

Co-op Food Store
291 Queens Road, Beeston

G & A Middleton
99 Central Avenue, Beeston

Hiral Newsagent
148 Wollaton Road, Beeston

Sainsbury's
Stoney Street, Beeston

Sangha Newsagent
182 Queens Road, Beeston

W H Smith
High Road, Beeston

BEESTON RYLANDS

Arun Food & News
154 Meadow Road, Rylands

County Stores
57-59 Trafalgar Road, Rylands

Discount Food & Wine
46 Lilac Crescent, Rylands

Plumb News
1 - 3 Lilac Grove, Rylands

BRAMCOTE

M&N News
40a Sevenoaks Crescent,
Bramcote Hills

CHILWELL

Bains News
Bramcote Avenue, Chilwell

Bramcote Lane Stores
181 Bramcote Lane, Chilwell

Chetwynd Stores
8-10 Chetwynd Road, Chilwell

Sunnyside Post Office
Sunnyside Road, Inham Nook

STAPLEFORD

Wilsons News
7 Pasture Road, Stapleford

**TOTON
Post News**
79 High Road, Toton

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.

Let the politicking begin...

DEAR EDITOR: Apparently the Conservative Party has changed; it is not the nasty party anymore.

Yet in this veneer of public relations smoothness – a veneer so thick that it has got a lot of voters fooled – there are cracks. One crack is Christopher Chope MP.

On March 12, a group of MPs, led by Andrew Gwynne, were attempting to pass the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Bill. The main aim of the Bill was to restrict the despicable and immoral operation of vulture funds in the UK.

A vulture fund is an individual or company legally purchasing the debt of a third world country from its creditor. The creditor, usually another country often preparing to write off the debt, is glad to recover some of its losses by selling the debt on, at a large discount. The company that purchases the debt then goes on to sue the third world country for the full amount of the debt, including any accrued interest.

In view that Parliament (will be dissolved) for the general election, the only way the Bill could be passed before the election was if there were no objections. Indeed, with the Bill having cross-party support, it was expected to go through unabated until a lone "object!" piped up from the Tory benches. MP Sally Keeble immediately demanded to know which of the three Tory MPs present killed the Bill, but they were not obliged to reveal their identity and it only later emerged that it was Christopher Chope.

As a councillor in the London Borough of Wandsworth in the 1970s and 80s, Chope was responsible for selling off vast quantities of council housing, helping to pioneer Thatcher's right-to-buy scheme and gentrifying the borough to the extent the Tories have had control of the council ever since. Elected to Parliament in 1983, he was promoted by Thatcher in 1986 to Undersecretary of State at the Department for the Environment, where he oversaw the introduction of the poll tax.

If there was any doubt that this is a man who couldn't care less about the poor, be it at home or abroad, then surely that doubt must vanish with Chope's 2009 Employment Opportunities Bill, an innocuously-named attempt at

effectively scrapping the National Minimum Wage. Chope argued that if employees could "opt-out" of receiving the minimum wage (i.e. accept lower pay), then companies could afford to employ more people and thus keep unemployment down during the recession. Despite that argument having a certain amount of deeply twisted logic, Chope's Bill went on to say that it was against a person's human rights to make them work for a minimum wage: breathtaking, considering the Tory desire to abolish the Human Rights Act.

Thankfully, a campaign organised by John Prescott blew the Bill out of the water after fierce opposition caused Chope to stop sponsoring it. We must remain wary, however, as there is nothing stopping future attempts by Tories, such as these, to destroy the things fought hard to achieve, or still hope to achieve.

Going into the general election, I must impress upon voters that it is Labour that introduced the minimum wage in the teeth of Tory opposition, that brought millions of people in this country out of poverty, two-thirds of them women. Labour has more than doubled overseas aid that helps lift 3 million people out of poverty every year. That only Labour will maintain both of these things.

Hopefully, it won't be far into the next Parliament when we can stop enduring the shame of allowing vulture fund owners to extort money from the world's poorest nations in our courts; not even Christopher "Chopper" Chope will be able to stop it then.

Sheila Mazeyer
Crofton Road, Attenborough

The perennial student problem

DEAR EDITOR: The University of Nottingham is under the illusion that they have a good relationship with local residents.

I'm sorry to be the one to burst their bubble, but that is totally untrue when residents are subjected to irresponsible student behaviour.

For instance, that of the students returning to the Broadgate Park accommodation as late as 4am, disturbing the residents with their shouting and yelling. And the students who urinate on gardens and trespass on private property.

There are many students who sign the Broadgate Park residents agreement licence, which is held by UPP Broadgate, not to park within two miles of the student complex.

They continue to ignore this, creating problems not only for residents, but also for Dagfa House School.

Numerous complaints have been made to both the University and UPP Broadgate student accommodation. Little, if anything, has been done, apart from excuses being made.

Maureen Adams
The Cloisters, Beeston

Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC) seems obsessed with the planting and promotion of these inferior trees in the Beeston area by offering, during 2009, FREE saplings to plant in local gardens: they are a tree weed!

We residents have recently requested BBC to remove the birch trees surrounding this elderly complex (Regency Court) – many of the residents suffer asthma and breathing ailments.

In fact, a small petition was sent to the tree officer at the council, requesting removal of all the birch trees; a request to meet the officer concerned has not been forthcoming since November 2009, only a verbal reply to the scheme manager that this would not be carried out. This is not only undemocratic but an insult to all residents likely to suffer from lung and breathing problems in the Beeston area.

COPD claims more lives every year than breast or bowel cancer.

Can we have these trees removed and replaced with flowering trees in parks such as Broadgate and others in the borough? They are filthy trees and are proven now to be abhorrent to a healthy society promoting awareness of 'Love your Lungs'.

Thank you to *The Express* for the informative comments on the Community page of Friday, March 26; I hope other readers will contribute to this essential debate.

Ken Andrews JP
Regency Court, Beeston

More letters on page 5...

...remember!

We can only publish your viewpoint if you tell us what it is...

Share your opinions with others, and write to us using the contact details on page 2

Breathing is not so easy in Beeston

DEAR EDITOR: I am very pleased to read that Beeston has been targeted by the British Living Foundation (BLF) and the NHS Notts County in raising awareness of 'Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in our area. (March 26, p8).

Hay fever is caused by being allergic to high levels of birch tree pollen in the atmosphere.

Next Issue

Your next *Beeston Express* will be published on April 23

Ordering The Beeston Express

To the Newsagent:

Commencing April 23, 2010, please reserve _____ copies of each issue of *The Beeston Express* for me, at 25p per copy, until further notice. I will make my own arrangements with you for collection and payment.

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