

Community

Time for coffee at Beeston Station

THE old parcel office at Beeston Station is to be opened up and turned into a coffee bar, serving drinks and snacks to travellers and commuters using the Grade II listed station building.

Beeston Station dates back to 1847, but the parcel office has been closed since road transport increased dramatically – most of the freight that might once have been sent by rail was then transferred by road.

The parcel office, at the road bridge end of Platform 1, contains its original iron fire surround. This will be restored by the operator of the proposed café, Jayne Forbes, and incorporated into the decor.

To celebrate gaining permission to start work

on the café, Jayne Forbes issued invitations to a special launch event held in the parcel office at the end of March.

In addition to representatives from East Midlands Trains (EMT), MP Nick Palmer was also present, along with the Deputy Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Pat Lally, and local historian Alan Dance, who was also representing the Railway and Canal Historical Society.

Mr Dance showed the other guests photos of Beeston Station in its prime as a transport hub on the Midlands mainline, and before it became a vital public transport link for thousands of workers at the Ericsson/Plessey/Siemens

telecomms manufacturing site that stood alongside it.

As she passed drinks and cakes round to her invited guests, Jayne Forbes said: "I'm looking forward to getting the parcel office, where the café will be located, renovated. The existing fire surround is in very good condition and it will form the focus of the room, which we plan to decorate in a 'country kitchen' style.

Jayne will be an independent leaseholder. She has already opened her first café on station premises at East Midlands Parkway, so she is not unfamiliar with the needs of weary travellers and commuters.

Dean McPherson attended the launch event on behalf of East Midlands Trains. He said: "We are very pleased to support Jayne in this venture. Beeston Station is a brilliant station. Passenger numbers are up and revenue is up, and now we will be able to provide a bit more convenience for our customers."

Jayne is planning to have the café ready to open by the end of April 2010. Opening times will initially be from 5.30am until 4pm, Monday to Saturday.

Conquering Everest and its challenges

A MUSIC student at the University of Nottingham has signed up to take part in a challenge run for Childreach International, and one final push is needed in order to raise the money she needs to get to Mount Everest in the Himalayas.

Music student Lucy Savage said: "I have signed up, through the university, to participate in a challenge run by Childreach International. My challenge is a 14-day trek up Mt Everest in June, 2010, to base camp, reaching 18,000ft above sea level. To fulfil the challenge, I must raise at least £2300 for the charity.

"Childreach International was founded in 2003 and has already helped many children and young people in under-developed areas of Asia and Africa. The charity provides health care, education and training, childcare and family networking in deprived areas.

"During the course of the trek, I will be visiting some of the projects that Childreach has set up in Nepal. I'll be able to see

for myself the good work they are doing – where they have enabled children to help themselves in life and where, with further help, they will be able to continue their work in the future."

For anyone wanting to help Lucy raise the funds she needs in order to meet the challenge, she adds: "Please be aware that at least half of my fundraising target will be spent on charitable expenditure by Childreach International. Some of the money I raise may be spent on my expenses."

Please visit www.childreach.org.uk for more information. To help Lucy hit her target, you can donate to the challenge at www.virginmoneygiving.com/LucySavage.

Lucy, a member of the congregation at St Barnabas, Lenton Abbey, has already been hard at work fundraising by providing church lunches, providing baby sitting services and organising concerts at the Commercial Inn, Beeston.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

THE Walk of Witness set out from Broadgate Park for Beeston Square on Good Friday (April 2) as it has done in years past, reminding local Christian people of the message of Easter.

About 200 people assembled at Broadgate Park to follow the cross, born aloft by the walk leaders, along the High Road towards the Square. After a brief introduction by the organiser, Pastor Nigel Adams, a short prayer and the first hymn at

the Park, the crowd fell silent and, apart from the rhythmic beat of a drum as the walk moved along the High Road, there was not a sound to be heard. Families out shopping moved to one side and stood and watched in silence, or joined in behind the Walk to follow it into the Square.

In the Square, there were prayers, readings, hymns and songs.

As the short service came to a close, people were invited to offer their own

prayers at the foot of the cross, and to symbolise it with a pinch of incense thrown onto a burner provided.

The Wollaton Road Methodist Church had opened for soup and rolls following the Walk of Witness, with all proceeds going to Christian Aid.