

Express Community

The Canary Girls of Chilwell

NINETY years after the explosion in the shell-filling factory at Chilwell that killed 134 workers, 25 of them women, a member of Beeston & District Local History Society thought it was time to write a book acknowledging the contribution made to the WWI war effort by local women munitions workers.

Maureen Rushton had originally researched the subject 'Women Munitions Workers in the First World War' as part of a local history course at Nottingham University and decided to expand on the subject.

The book that emerged as a result was launched last week at Chilwell Road Methodist Church. 'Canary Girls of Chilwell', takes its title from the nickname given to women munitions workers at the No 6 Shell

Filling Factory who – along with skin rashes and quite debilitating sickness – developed yellow hands and faces after working with the yellow crystalline explosive TNT.

Guests invited for the book launch included the Beeston & District Local History Society President Margaret Cooper who, as a young child, distinctly remembers being out walking with her mother when the explosion occurred on July 1, 1918, just after 7pm. "We had just set off and were walking along Park Street, Beeston, when we heard a huge explosion from the west," she said. "My mother said: 'That's Chilwell!' and immediately turned round and we headed straight home."

As well as the 25 women killed in the explosion, 250 men and women were injured.

Other guests welcomed to the book launch by Society Chairman Alan Clayton included Captain John Pascoe, adjutant of Chetwynd Barracks; Broxtowe MP Nick Palmer and the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Sue Wildey.

Displays of photographs and other material about the Shell Filling factory provided a fascinating insight into the war-time Beeston and Chilwell of ninety years ago.

CAT Meetings

The following Community Action Team (CAT) meetings are scheduled to take place:

Beeston West

Thursday, August 28 at 7pm
Beeston Town Hall

Bramcote View

Tuesday, August 5 at 7pm
The Rosegrower, Sandringham Drive,
Bramcote



What's on

Send details of your forthcoming events for listing in the 'What's on' column to: *The Beeston Express*, using the coupon below

Sunday, August 10

The Russell School Exhibition
(large collection of school photos over the years)
2pm – 5pm
Wollaton Dovecote Museum
Dovecote Drive,
near The Square, Wollaton
Admission: Free.
(Next open: Heritage Weekend,
Sept 13 & 14)

Sunday, August 17

Friends of University Park
Summer Colour
National Gardens Scheme
2pm – 5pm
Millennium, Walled and
Jekyll Gardens,
University Park, Nottingham
Admission: £2.50 charity charge

Saturday, August 30

Summer Fair
11am – 3pm
Yew Tree Court,
Union Street, Beeston

Wednesday, September 10

Issues of our Time
Pubic Meetings with
discussion organised by
Beeston Labour Party
'What Future for the NHS?'
Speaker: Prof Justine Schneider
Mental Health and Social Care,
University of Nottingham
7.30pm
New Venture Social Club,
Technology Drive,
Beeston Rylands

Amnesty Meetings

THE Beeston Amnesty International Group will meet on the following dates at 7.30pm:

Monday, August 4 Letter Writing meeting at the Commercial Inn, Wollaton Road.

Thursday, August 21 Letter Writing meeting at the Commercial Inn, Wollaton Road.

Monday, September 1 Letter Writing meeting at the Commercial Inn, Wollaton Road.

There will be no monthly meeting in August. The next monthly meeting will be on Monday, September 8 at Beeston Library, Foster Avenue.

Answers to General Knowledge Quiz on page 18:

1. A Formicary
2. Tsunami
3. China clay
4. Pyramids at Gaza
5. Inner Hebrides
6. Mussels

To put your event in the *What's on* diary, complete the coupon below, using block capitals. Items for inclusion in the column should reach us at least 15 days before the event. Remember that *The Beeston Express* is published fortnightly and allow sufficient time in advance of publication.

What's on diary coupon

Name of Organisation	<input type="text"/>	
Title of event	<input type="text"/>	
Venue	<input type="text"/>	
Date	<input type="text"/>	
Starts	<input type="text"/>	Finishes <input type="text"/>
Admission price	<input type="text"/>	
Sender's details (in case of query, not for publication)		
Name	<input type="text"/>	
Tel. No.	<input type="text"/>	

If necessary, please use an additional sheet of paper to provide more information. Send your coupon to: **What's on**, The Beeston Express, PO Box 7440, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1ZS or email enquiries@beestonexpress.co.uk

Listings for the diary are accepted from bona fide clubs, charities and non-profit making organisations.