



The Beeston EXPRESS



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COVERING BEESTON, CHILWELL,
ATTENBOROUGH, TON and BRAMCOTE

Issue 185: December 10, 2010
Fortnightly - 25p

Accident on High Road, Chilwell

A VAN being used to deliver Sunday newspapers to retailers at 5am on Sunday, November 28, slid off an icy road and crashed into a furniture repair workshop on High Road, Chilwell, which then had to be demolished.

The van ploughed into the workshop of Jag Design Furniture Restoration, pushing the building 4ft off its foundations and severing a gas main in the process.

The building was so badly damaged that it was deemed unsafe and, with problems compounded by the firefighters unable to use the normal hydraulic cutting equipment because of the risk of gas explosion, it took three hours to release the male driver of the van. Eight houses nearby were evacuated.

The 45-year-old driver from Sheffield was eventually taken to Queens Medical Centre with severe leg injuries.

The building was demolished and the owners of the workshop, Shirley Watts and Geoff Skinner, set about retrieving the remnants of their furniture restoration business, established in 1988, from the rubble.

Firefighters and residents of nearby properties helped to move customers' furniture to safety before the building was demolished. The company's extensive business paperwork, which included client records, accounts and sample books, was gathered into bags and taken off site for safekeeping.

Shirley Watts, traumatised by the accident, the extent of the damage

and consequential difficulties, said afterwards: "Geoff and myself would like to thank everyone involved on Sunday, November 28, when the van crashed into the front of our workshop.

"Thankfully the driver survived, but this resulted in the front of the building being demolished, and we would like to assure all our customers that their furniture was moved safely to the back of the building by the fire service before the demolition.

Our sincere thanks go to neighbours, friends, family and members of all the emergency services, National Grid Gas, employees of Broxtowe Borough Council and members of the local community for their help and support."

Happy Christmas

to all our readers

Please note, the next issue will be out
Friday, 7 January 2011



Beeston's Christmas Lights Switch-On

– a teenager's perspective
by *Katie Luckhurst*

WAKING up on the morning of Saturday, November 27 and looking out of the window, I couldn't help but feel extremely pleased. A blanket of snow beautifully coated everything as far as the eye could see – and it was just in time for the Beeston Lights Switch-On event!

I walked into the centre of Beeston mid-morning, where things were already being set up. The children's rides were already spinning, with a happy child onboard the teacups, clearly enjoying himself. Along the High Road, the hook-a-duck stand, the grab-a-prize crane machines and a mini Ferris wheel were starting to take shape. Fallen leaves beneath the surrounding trees were sprinkled with snow, like some sort of strangely dressed salad, and Beeston's resident Beekeeper was sitting contently in his usual spot, wrapped in a gleaming white blanket.


The first event of the day was the ice rink on Broadgate Park. Being older and an avid keen skater myself, I would have liked to have seen real ice on a slightly bigger scale, but

since the children were joyously skating and having fun, the rink fulfilled its purpose perfectly.

Whilst I was at the park, the Snow Queen street performer teetered past on stilts. She greeted passers-by with enthusiasm from high in the wintry sky and the children seemed to be very much entertained. Even I was impressed by her balance on the icy path. I wandered through to the square to see another street performer, Goronwy Thom, amusing the crowd with jokes and tricks.

Throughout the afternoon, several bands performed in the square and on the Foster Avenue car park, closed for the event. 'Rosa's Lovely Daughters', a tinsel-trimmed five piece, put on a great show using their voices and instruments that including an accordion, hand bells and a violin. Many members of the audience were singing along and swaying, which, with hindsight, is likely to have been due as much to the freezing temperatures as the catchiness of the carols.

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