

Buzz



Mayor's Christmas Message 2009

I AM very pleased to have this opportunity to send Christmas greetings to all the residents of the Borough of Broxtowe.

Throughout our Civic Year, my wife and I have been privileged to meet a wide cross section of the residents of the borough and we have thoroughly enjoyed the variety of the events and the insight into a very lively community.

Many of the activities we have attended have been organised by hard working dedicated volunteers and their contribution to life in the borough is immeasurable. Our thanks go to them.

On behalf of all the councillors and employees of Broxtowe Borough Council, may I send our best wishes for Christmas and for a peaceful New Year."

*Councillor John Longdon
The Mayor of the
Borough of Broxtowe*



Community First Responder Scheme

COMMUNITY First Responders are volunteers trained to attend emergency calls received by the ambulance service and to provide care until an ambulance arrives.

Currently, there are schemes in Attenborough South and West Chilwell/Attenborough, and both are looking for additional volunteers.

To find out more about getting involved, please contact the East Midlands Ambulance Service either at www.emas.nhs.uk/cfr, email: community.responder@emas.nhs.uk or phone: (0115) 884 5000.

Community First Responders save lives in your community.

Castle College principal retires

NICK Lewis, the Principal and Chief Executive of Castle College Nottingham, will retire at the end of December. Mr Lewis has spent 32 years working in further education, with the last 18 years as a College Principal.

Speaking of his early retirement, Mr Lewis said: "I have had the privilege of working in colleges with dedicated staff serving the needs of students, employers and local communities in Leeds, the North East and latterly in Nottingham. It has been an honour to lead in the development of further education in Nottingham and, in particular, the creation of Castle College in 2006. With a tremendous effort from staff and governors we have laid the foundation for a successful institution, which has already forged a strong identity as well as winning national

recognition for the quality of its student experience. Now I feel that it is time for the College to review its strategy and address the challenging economic environment under a new leadership. I will continue to contribute to public life at both a national and local level."

"I am confident that the College is well placed to make a powerful contribution to the local communities and to Nottingham's economy for the benefit of generations of students to come," added Mr Lewis.

Deputy Principal Keith Dennis, who has become acting Principal, praised the dedication that Mr Lewis had demonstrated and added: "Nick has spent most of his professional life as a champion of further education. He has worked tirelessly, both locally and nationally, to promote the wonderful, but often

forgotten, work carried out by colleges such as Castle.

"One of Nick's greatest achievements has to be the formation of Castle College in June 2006. I would like to personally thank Nick for establishing the College as a key player in meeting the needs of the people of Nottingham. The staff and governors wish Nick well for the future. His experience and support will be sadly missed."



Nick Lewis.

The Free Ranger...

Our monthly columnist shares his thoughts with us...

THE Free Ranger lives in Attenborough, but asks to remain anonymous so that he can share his opinions freely about local matters that affect all of us.

Please remember, however, that the opinions he expresses are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of The Beeston Express. If you wish to comment, please write to the address on page 2.

Good Will to all Men

IF Christmas is a time of good will to all men, then given various stories I have seen this week about what is going on in our financial sector the banks must still think we are a pack of Muppets. So as far

as I am concerned it's Bah! Humbug.

This week we have had various levels of doom, gloom and tails of impending tax rises to pay off the stupid amounts of debt we have got ourselves into. However, what I have found galling about some of this is the crass stupidity of the (mainly Scottish) banks and former building societies, which has partly got us into this mess. Like Parliament and the expenses scandal, they seem to have learnt nothing and regard stupid salaries and bonuses as some sort of divine birthright like a medieval king. For example, one member of staff at the taxpayer-owned Royal Bank of Scotland has a contractual bonus of £7 million/year, which we will have to pay or else their board will resign. (Good riddance, I say).

Last Saturday a leading banker (and potentially a leading political figure in a new government) was saying that many financial firms and their overpaid staff (including the firm he leads) might leave this country if they get taxed too highly. So having done very nicely, thank you, for the last decade plus, then messed up badly and been bailed out by you and me, rather than stay to help pay off the mess they have created, they will disappear, taking their bat and ball with them. Now, to some degree that may be a good thing. If they have been so incompetent as to create the mess, let them go and cock it up for someone else.

This week, as a small shareholder in LloydsTsb, I was sent a letter (the second of the year) giving me the chance to buy more shares in the firm to help bail it out

again. Why, because when they bought Halifax Bank of Scotland they bought such a skip full of financial effluent that, to quote one of Bill Clinton's political aids, they could not see the effluent for all the effluent flying about. My small number of shares, which I was left by an elderly uncle, are now worth 10 percent of their former value. If they had not bought HBOS, Lloyds on its own would have been OK.

Then, in a magazine I saw, there was a whole page advert from NatWest offering an online training and management package for people to engage in what is called 'Contract for Difference' trading,

otherwise known as spread betting. In the past this was the preserve of on-line bookmakers. I don't go to the bank for horse racing tips (perhaps I should). So what is NatWest (owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland, which is now 75 percent owned by you and me) doing advertising what is, in effect, turf accounting tips?

However, the final straw came in Saturday's paper. In the Money section was a letter from a banker saying he was thinking of leaving the UK to move to a tax haven to avoid paying tax on his bonus and asking where should he go.

Well, I could think of at least 20 suggestions – all of them unprintable.

Snippets

Town Planning in Ancient Greece

MEMBERS of Beeston and District Civic Society met for their Annual Wine and Mince Pie Celebrations in the Upstairs Meeting Room at Beeston Library last week, when they were treated to a more-than-interesting talk by society member Jim Roy on the Town Planning of Ancient Greece. Mr Roy is clearly a master of the subject and illuminated his talk with a selection of some interesting colour slides.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Friday, January 8, 2010 when, accompanied by the more familiar refreshments of tea and biscuits, Tom Woodcock of British Waterways will give a talk on 'William Jessop and the Trent'.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and non-members are most welcome upon payment of £2.

Funds raised for children's charity

CARLTON Male Voice Choir performed a Christmas Carol Concert to an audience of almost 230 people at Chilwell Road Methodist Church, Beeston on Saturday, December 5.

The choir sang a range of traditional and modern carols which included: 'The Boar's Head Carol', 'Deck the Hall', 'Mistletoe & Wine' and 'When a Child is Born'. Five soloists added to the variety. The choir was conducted by Terry Moore and accompanied by Roger Holland on the keyboard.

The evening raised more than £800 for Casa Alinaza, the church's charity for 2009.

An invite to 'Babes in the Wood'

THE Rotary Club of Beeston is inviting local senior citizens to be their guests at the Boys' and Girls' Brigades annual pantomime, 'Babes in the Wood', at the Pearson Centre on Wednesday, January 27.

Unfortunately, wheelchairs cannot be accommodated and if demand is such, transport to and from the venue may be limited.

Applications are to be made to Stephen Kitsch, Andrew McCulloch (Jewellers) Ltd, 7 The Square, Beeston before January 20.

Next Issue

Your next *Beeston Express* will be published on **January 15, 2010**