

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. Remember that, critically, we can't publish what we don't receive. 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, remember to include your home address.

A change of direction

DEAR EDITOR: We have a prospective parliamentary candidate who does more flip flops than a troupe of the Chinese National Circus.

Just before Christmas 2009, the Tory grinned at us from her web page, extorting full support for the county council's plans to sell off residential care homes, including the Bramwell Centre in Chilwell.

Our industrious MP Nick Palmer started up a campaign and petition to save the Bramwell centre, along with all our county council-run care homes. In the process, he and his supporters collected over 1500 signatures.

I may be a little cynical, but has the change in political tunes by the Tory PPC been greatly affected by the fact that a majority of the 1500 petition-signers could vote for Nick Palmer?

In her latest Tory (bulletin), she is now not convinced that the sale of Bramwell is such a good idea, and says that she has an open mind on the issue.

*Nicola Lewis
Blandford Avenue, Chilwell*

Time for all to be above board

DEAR EDITOR: Are the Tories buying the 2010 election?

Lord Ashcroft is the millionaire who is funding the Conservative election campaign in Broxtowe.

However, his tax legal residence remains shrouded in mystery – and senior members of the Tory party have been less than open when asked to clarify the situation.

As the general election approaches we should be asking, "Who is funding the Tory party? Who is buying your vote?"

Lord Ashcroft, deputy chairman of the Tories, has pumped millions into the Tory party coffers over recent years. He has funded campaigns in numerous marginal seats. Yet his financial affairs remain mysterious. He was given a seat in the Lords in March 2000, after promising to return to Britain from his home in Belize and pay income tax in the UK by the end of that year.

Yet neither Ashcroft himself, nor senior Tories, will say whether he has honoured that promise. This lack of clarity sits uneasily with a party posing as the advocate of transparency in the political system.

The Tories have tried to defuse the row by approving a new law

that will ensure all MPs and peers pay full UK tax from April this year. But the party's denial to answer whether Ashcroft has been paying full UK taxes since he became a peer remains an obstinate question of openness.

The Information Commissioner* described the party's comments about Ashcroft as "evasive and obfuscatory".

A dictionary definition of 'evasive' is "tending or seeking to evade; not straightforward; tricky."

A definition of 'obfuscatory' is, "To make so confused or opaque as to be difficult to perceive or understand."

Lord Ashcroft is also being investigated by the independent Electoral Commission, which is looking into donations worth millions made by a company he controlled. The commission is looking at whether the company is eligible to give money.

If the commission finds against it, the party may have to pay the sum donated to the Treasury.

The question the people of Broxtowe must ask before placing an X on the ballot paper in May is quite simple.

Are the Tories "buying the 2010 election" with the help of a donor whose finances are anything but transparent?

*The Information Commissioner's Office is the UK's independent authority set up to uphold information rights in the public interest.

*Sheila Mazeyer
Crofton Road, Attenborough*

Nothing in my hand...

DEAR EDITOR: A secret plan for David Cameron's controversial bid to impose more women, gays and ethnic candidates on reluctant party activists has come to light.

The explosive six-page document proposes the use of deceit to end the white, male and middle-class image of the Conservative party. This document has come to light on the eve of a grassroots revolt over the modernisation of the party.

Was Broxtowe's female PPC chosen as a result of electoral shenanigans by the Tory high command?

Bob Seely, who was the Tory's unsuccessful candidate at the last general election, was the local party's favourite to fight the current MP, Nick Palmer again... but did orders from Tory high command force a female candidate upon local Conservatives?

'Action Plan for Candidate Selection in Safe Seats' is an engrossing insight into how modernisers have planned a gradual Tory party takeover.

The document suggests using 'stealth' and stresses the importance of keeping 'quiet' over the plans to ensure more women, ethnic and gay candidates. 'Like a conjurer, we'll get more applause if the audience cannot see exactly how the trick is performed,' the document says.

So much for transparency in the Tory party.

*Oliver Sutton
Banks Road, Toton*

Sound judgement

DEAR EDITOR: The British people make their electoral choices based on sound judgements rather than on the personality of the candidates. If we didn't, we would have been governed by the likes of Screaming Lord Sutch.

The Tory leader wants the election to be about personalities, because he knows he hasn't changed the Conservative Party's policies enough to win over a questioning electorate.

His failure to essentially change the centre of gravity within the Tory party, preferring instead to sharpen up the marketing operation, is the reason why he has failed to lead them to a commanding position in the opinion polls.

After all the campaigning, press conferences and posters, Cameron has not delivered the goods in making the Tories the obvious choice to be the next Government.

The Tory party is like a British telephone box, which looks appealing on the outside but if you open the door, it smells bad. Cameron has applied a crate-load of Febreeze to the Tory party, but the odour still lingers on. That is why, after several days of policy retreats, muddles and cock-ups,

Cameron launched an attack on the personality of the Prime Minister Gordon Brown this week at an event at the University of East London.

There's a huge internal row about strategy. Cameron knows elections are fought over the middle-ground. Most of his party want to appeal to the Conservative core vote. Cameron's interviews are full rhetoric about people on benefits, a sign of a shift to the right.

The great danger to the Tories of Cameron getting personal, as he did this week, is that it draws attention to their two greatest weaknesses.

The biggest one is the absence of a coherent policy platform.

The other is that Cameron is as fake as the 'student' audience sitting behind him when he made the speech (they were Tory party plants bussed in).

For all his political alterations since 2005, Cameron's personality hasn't changed. He still has a temper on him if he doesn't get his way. You can see the inner temper from week to week at Prime Minister's Questions.

When his policy announcements fail, he resorts to name-calling.

When he attacks Gordon Brown's personality, Cameron no longer sounds like a decent family man with sound middle-class instincts. He sounds like a public-school bully, flogging his fags for burning the toast.

Not the kind of politician we want running our great country.

*Harry Stockkressy
Long Lane, Attenborough*

Next Issue

Your next *Beeston Express* will be published on

March 12

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