

# Community

*There's lots going on in and around Beeston for all age groups.*

*For those caring for younger children, information about toy libraries, playgroups, toddler groups, and parenting skills is readily available from Beeston Clinic, Dovecote House, 38 Wollaton Road, Beeston.*

*If you are planning events or wish to advertise products or services for families, ring 0115 922 8007*

## Building a better future for South Africa

I'M going to build houses. And I'm hopeless at DIY! So am I mad? No, I'm going with a group based at Grangewood Methodist Church, in Wollaton, to be part of a team building houses in a township just outside Cape Town. We are joining what is known as the 'Desmond Tutu Build' organised by Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat is an international charity that was founded by ex-US President, Jimmy Carter. It aims to provide for people around the world in the most desperate need of decent housing. It operates in many countries, usually using local builders and building simple homes in the local style, and invites donations from the richer countries to enable this to happen. It arranges a few projects where people go from the better-off countries to work alongside local people – and especially the people who are going to live in the houses. This particular project is supported by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The aim is to demonstrate by our presence, the human

face of support to help people stand on their own feet, and to bring back here and share a deeper awareness of their circumstances, and how they can be transformed.

When my wife and I visited South Africa three years ago, we spent time in some of the townships around Cape Town. We were bowled over by the warmth, friendliness and dignity of the people we met there, but also by the conditions in which many of them were forced to live. We saw the rows upon rows of corrugated iron and cardboard shacks, hundreds served by one tap and very primitive sanitary arrangements; but we also saw the small neat houses being built by Habitat, and the owner of one of them showed us her new home with such pride and delight – it actually had running water and electricity! The government's efforts will take many years to provide decent homes for the millions living in the shanty towns.

So, between September 11 and 18, we'll be working alongside people, seeing their new home take shape and

become ready to live in. We have room for one or more people to complete the party, so if this grabs you, please let us know. There is no age limit and no experience is needed (we are certainly taking very little!) and that all the expertise and support will be on hand to guide us.

We have a number of fund raising events planned, the first of which is a concert by the Bestwood Male Voice Choir at Grangewood on Saturday, March 20 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 and can be obtained at the door or from Pat Clarke (tel. 925 1562).

Some of the party are able to pay their own way, but our younger members will need help to make up the £1500 (plus flights) per person. £700 of this contributes directly to the cost of the house we build. Further details of the project are at [www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk/dtbuild.htm](http://www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk/dtbuild.htm).

If you are interested in joining us, or would like to make a contribution, please contact Rosemary Harrison on (0115) 877 2238.

## 102 years young Edith Cooke

A LOCAL lass celebrating her 102nd birthday last week, Ethel Cooke was born on Grove Avenue, Chilwell, on February 20, 1908, in her grandfather's house. She was the oldest of five children.

Ethel's father worked at the Humber cycle works in Beeston until the fire there in March 1917, after which the family moved to Coventry. Then came a move to Paisley in Scotland, then another to Dumfries.

The decision to move back to Beeston was taken after the deaths of two of Ethel's brothers and the premature death of her father, aged 47, in Scotland. Ethel returned to live in her mother's shop at 44 Bramcote Road.

She worked at Ericssons and Wolseley until aged 21 and, during the war, in the offices at Vyella on Castle Boulevard. Ethel married William Cooke at Beeston Parish Church on August 16, 1941 and moved to Hope

Street, Beeston, where their only son, Stuart, was born. Afterwards came a move to Bramcote Road, Beeston and finally to Cumberland Avenue, Chilwell.

At the age of 65, Ethel went out to work once again as a part-time inspector at Laurence Boot (off Wollaton Road) where woollen garments were made. She also loved dancing, especially at Grange Farm, and she loved her garden, spending many hours outside. At one time she broke her wrist gardening but as soon as it was mended, she was back outside – at the age of 95.

Arthur died at the QMC in December 2003, aged 91.

Ethel was a member of the congregation at Christ Church, Chilwell, for more than 40 years until Arthur's death, and was a member of the Keep Fit Club, their meeting place the church hall at St John's – before it burned to the ground. She was also

a keen member of the Whist Drive Club, this about 16 ladies of Beeston Mother's Club who held their meetings at each other's houses each week, and is an Honorary member of Beeston's Mind Alert.

On 21 August, 2004, Ethel had a stroke and was admitted to QMC, where she remained for more than seven weeks. On her release from hospital, she moved into Silverwood Nursing Home, which is where she celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday last weekend with a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr John Longdon and his wife Margaret.

## Friends of the Forces

THE Friends of the Forces Awards was launched in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire on Tuesday, February 23, in order to recognise the members of the British public who go to exceptional lengths to support the British Armed Forces. The scheme is being launched with the support and backing of HRH Prince Harry.

Praising the new Friends of the Forces Awards, His Royal Highness said: "These awards are an excellent idea, and I am very proud to be involved."

Prince Harry, a Lieutenant with the Household Cavalry (Blues and Royals), served in Afghanistan with the British Army for more than two months.

"For those serving in the British Armed Forces, the knowledge that others are thinking of them has a hugely positive effect that cannot be underestimated. I remember that very acutely."

It is quick, easy and free to nominate an individual or an organisation for the Friends of the Forces Awards.

Paul Charles Mulingani, The Royal British Legion's manager for Nottinghamshire, invited members of the public to step forward with nominations.

"The Friends of the Forces Awards will say thank you to anyone in Nottinghamshire who has contributed materially to the well-being or appreciation of our Armed Forces," he said.

"We hear of so many amazing acts of kindness and support that we strongly urge people to submit Nottinghamshire area nominations for these exciting new awards."

Winners will be chosen in categories recognising individual, young individual, community group and commercial organisation contributions. They will be announced in eight regions covering England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and a shortlist of 12 will attend the national awards at a Royal Gala ceremony in London in July.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.friendsoftheforces.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheforces.org.uk) or contact 0845 363 1478.

## Join with the Women's World Day of Prayer

REPRESENTATIVES from many of the churches in the district will be taking part in this year's Women's World Day of Prayer service, to be held at Beeston Parish Church on Friday, March 5 at 2.15pm.

The service has been put together by the women of Cameroon, Africa, with the theme of 'Let Everything that has Breath Praise God'.

The Women's World Day of Prayer started in the USA and Canada, when Christian women decided to have a

special day each year to celebrate their work in the mission field. In 1910, they held a special service to celebrate 50 years of ministry and, in 1922, agreed a special date for the service – the first Friday of Lent. By 1926, the Order of Service was being distributed to many countries and the response worldwide was so enthusiastic that the Women's World Day of Prayer came into being. Today, more than 170 countries take part.

The day begins on the International Date Line with

a service at dawn in Tonga. As the earth rotates, the prayer continues through the Pacific, across Asia and Africa, on to the Middle East and Europe, then across the Atlantic to the Caribbean, South, Central and North America, and on to the Pacific again, when the last service of the day is held on the island of Samoa.

The final hymn of every service each year is 'The Day Thou Gavest,' reminding everyone of the journey that the service has made in many tongues around the world.