

Buzz

Remembering the Holocaust *by the Editor*

THE bleak winter backdrop of the Walled Garden at Bramcote Park and the biting chill of a northerly wind provided an apt setting for the Holocaust Memorial Day Event 2010, which took place on January 27.

Poignantly, flowers had been placed by the memorial before the event – a lone white cyclamen with a card that read simply: “To the 6,000,000” – the number of Jewish people that died at the hands of the Nazi regime.

Those attending huddled deep into their coats at the Holocaust Memorial in the Walled Garden to hear the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr John Longdon; the

Leader of the Council, Cllr Michael Rich and Cllr Milan Radulovic speak of the rational behind establishing a National Holocaust Day across the UK in 2001, and then of the United Nations declaring January 27 as Holocaust Memorial Day 2005.

Members of the Broxtowe Youth Council attended, as did a group of pupils from Kimberley School.

Kerry Pink, Broxtowe Youth Mayor, read out the Statement of Commitment as adopted by the United Nations to the 60 or so gathered in the Walled Garden. The Statement serves to remind people today that the Holocaust

needs to keep a permanent place in our collective memory, partly to reaffirm shared goals of mutual understanding and justice. It also seeks to make sure that future generations understand what happened during the Holocaust.

However, perhaps the part of the Statement most pertinent here at the beginning of 2010 reminds us that, sadly, we remain scarred by the belief that race or religion, disability or sexuality makes some people's lives worth less than others, and that genocide, racism, xenophobia and discrimination continue.

Alongside the plaque

dedicating the Walled Garden to Holocaust victims, members of the Youth Council read verses from two significant poems about racial hatred: the first by Pastor Niemoller about the Holocaust, the second ‘Children of Rwanda’ by Rev Francois Murenzi.

Following a conversation at the event between Cllr Milan Radulovic, Clive Burton of the Nottingham Interfaith Council and Kerry Pink, plans are in hand for Ms Pink to visit Auschwitz as part of a regularly organised visit to the death camp.

Snippets

Stapleford Library – temporary closure

STAPLEFORD Library will be closed from Monday, February 15 and will reopen Monday, March 1 to allow a number of improvements to be made to the layout of the building and the organisation of the stock.

These improvements will include the installation of self service equipment, a measure that will free up staff to provide direct assistance to customers in choosing stock and answering enquiries.

Gilbert & Sullivan pulls them in to Chilwell

A CONCERT at Chilwell Road Methodist Church on Saturday, January 23 by the Derby Gilbert & Sullivan Company attracted an audience of almost 200 people.

Forty members of the company supported 11 soloists in a programme that contained selections from ‘Oliver’, ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ and ‘My Fair Lady’, as well as other songs from stage and screen. Andrew Nicklin accompanied the singers on the piano, Stephen Godward conducted. A delighted audience showed their appreciation for an excellent performance, and the concert raised £530 for the Women's Friendship Group.

Choral benevolence in Beeston and Chilwell

THE Beeston Methodist Carol Choir raised the sum of £852.17 through the house-to-house collection held for the Beeston Chilwell Road Methodist Benevolent Society when the choir sang carols around the streets of Beeston and Chilwell on three evenings before Christmas.

In addition, the regulars at the Hop Pole public house, Beeston, contributed more than £70 when the choir sang there on December 10.

Society spokeswoman Ruth Taylor said: “Through the pages of *The Beeston Express*, could you please say a big ‘thank you’ to everyone who heard the choir singing and gave so generously!” The Society, which was founded in 1826, distributes money and gifts to the sick, poor and needy irrespective of race, creed or sect, and still fulfils a great need in the area.

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.

When does no frills become no service?

I HAVE thought long and hard about this, but I am coming to the conclusion that of all the places I have lived in over the years, Nottinghamshire County

Council has become in recent months one of the worst councils I have ever had the misfortune to experience. They have become so penny-pinching that it would appear that the system is falling apart.

Firstly, the new council has hiked the cost of care services to some of the most vulnerable in our society with, for example, a near 70 percent increase in the cost of meals on wheels. But then we come to the frankly insulting attitude to the residents and users of the services provided from Bramwell care home in Chilwell, which they intend to flog off amidst significant public anger. They have made a few tepid and, to my mind, worthless gestures to say the home must remain open for three years after a sale. They have said that they are now going to delay the

sale for at least a year (until the general election is over). But if it is going to be sold, I think delay is worse than selling it now. The rumour that developers are already circling around the prime housing site is already doing the rounds.

However, if you are looking for a home for an elderly relative, especially one with the dementia-type illness that Bramwell clearly looks after so well, you are not going to choose a home with a potentially uncertain future. So from now on, people may think twice about taking a place. An extra year's delay could only engineer a loss for the home, which the council will use to further justify their position. The home is apparently rated in the top care category, of which there are few similar homes in our area. As far as I am aware, the only people

who seem to have failed to express an opinion on the topic are the two county ward councillors, Cllrs Petengell and Jackson, who are members of the ruling group from whom I have not seen or heard anything.

Then we come to the gritting farce. Although the recent cold weather was extreme and many councils ran out of grit, despite having being over-stocked, I understand the County did not increase its stocks to a level similar to other neighbouring counties; one can only assume as part of the process of reducing costs. The aforementioned Cllr Jackson, transport portfolio holder for the County Council, went on the telly with a degree of hubris saying the county was well prepared, only for it to become one of the first counties in the country to

have to stop gritting paths and minor roads. It finished up with the unedifying spectacle of the main bus route from Chilwell to the city (running through Cllr Jackson's ward) having to be suspended, as the roads were too icy. All the more ironic as Cllr Jackson had said when appointed he would invest more in buses by pulling out the tram, and improve our bus services making them more reliable. He has now failed on both counts. It finished up you could not use your car as the roads were not safe to get to the main routes and, as the county also failed to secure the public transport routes as well, many vulnerable people ended up almost imprisoned in their homes.

But of more concern

for the longer term is what is happening to the library service. In the north of the county, library refurbishments have been dropped, some libraries are under threat of closure and others are having their opening hours reduced. How long before they try the same penny pinching at Toton or Beeston libraries?

When the new council was elected they made a number of promises, one of which was they would become the ‘no frills’ council. Well, there is a fine line between no frills and no services, and in recent weeks that is what they seem intent on providing. Other councils are making cuts but still seem to be able to function, why not in Nottinghamshire?