

Buzz

The Beeston Express

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Beeston Express is independent of any organisation, commercial or political. Our policy is to provide readers with news and information that is fair, accurate and balanced.

We try hard to avoid mistakes, but some may inevitably slip through. If you have any comments to make about the paper, or any complaint, please contact us. We will, as far as possible, try to put things right when the error has been ours.

NEXT ISSUE

Friday, 20 January 2012

Deadline for Adverts
Monday, 16 January

Wilkinsons to close *by the Editor*

SHOPPERS in Beeston were surprised to hear just before the start of the Christmas holiday period that Wilkinsons will close in March 2012. It is hoped that the closure will only be temporary – the Beeston store, opposite the main Post Office, stands in the way of the tram route and is to be demolished to make way for NET Phase Two, Line Two as it passes through the centre of Beeston.

That the Wilkinsons store was due to come down is not hot news. However, what did take Beeston's shoppers by surprise was that nothing had been achieved in what was supposed to be a protracted search for an alternative location by the Wilkinsons company bosses, the owners of the leasehold on The Square, Henry Boot plc, and Broxtowe Borough Council.

Rumours are beginning to emerge as to what will happen when the present Wilkinsons store does vacate its current shop unit – there has even been mention of a temporary structure going on to Foster Avenue car park

(surely that would be something of an impractical and logistical nightmare for both the council and Wilkinsons; the tram would probably be up and running before the lawyers had even started to sort out the legal complexities of such an idea).

Beeston's shoppers want Wilkinsons to remain. Beeston Square is about to change for good and, we hope, for the better. As NET Phase Two construction work gets under way, the demolition of Wilkinsons premises marks the beginning of the end for The Square as we know it. What has become clear is that, whilst people might accept that the current store must close and even accept that its impending closure may well be the result of a distinct lack of customer-focussed action on the part of the company, they would like to see the popular hardware store return in a bigger and better format when Beeston's town centre emerges re-modelled and vastly improved in a couple of years' time.

Jubilee beacons

AN appeal has gone out for six beacons to be lit in Broxtowe borough in Monday, June 4, 2012 to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The council is hoping that the six beacons will be part of the Nottinghamshire-wide target of 48 beacons and part of the national target to light 2012 beacons or more.

From 10pm on June 4, beacons will be lit across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, the Commonwealth and other countries around the world to mark this moment in The Queen's reign. The Queen will light the National Beacon on June 4 following a concert at Buckingham Palace.

A number of local groups and individuals in the borough have already expressed an interest in lighting a beacon here in Broxtowe and the council has developed a new web page to support and promote any events that do take place. The web page is already live at www.broxtowe.gov.uk/jubilee and contains information about setting up a beacon site, street parties and event planning.

News in Brief

Displaying cigarettes could cost a packet

RETAILERS are being reminded that new legislation banning the display of cigarettes and other tobacco products comes into force in just three months time.

The ban will begin initially at larger shops (with a floor area of more than 280 square metres) on April 6 this year. All other retailers, including pubs and clubs, must comply by April 6, 2015.

The legislation requires the removal of all cigarettes and tobacco products from where they could be seen by under-18s, and there are restrictions on the use and size of price lists promoting all such products.

Any breach of the new law is a criminal offence which could face a fine of up to £5000 or six months in prison through the Magistrates Court, or two years imprisonment and a fine, or both, in the Crown Court.

Trading Standards officers from Nottinghamshire County Council will be actively enforcing the new ban after April 6 and are urging larger shops to make sure they are ready to go live.

For more information contact NCC Trading Standards on 01623 452 076.

Technology to tackle motorway closures

DRIVERS are to benefit from shorter motorway closures after crashes thanks to the roll-out of 3D laser scanning technology funded by the government and police.

The Department for Transport has awarded 27 police forces across England a total of £2.7 million, including £64,803 for Nottinghamshire police.

The funding, together with police and the National Policing Improvement Agency contributions, will enable them to purchase scanner technology that saves time by quickly making a 3D image of the whole crash site, rather than having investigators painstakingly survey multiple sections of a scene. The digital image is then stored on a computer screen remotely, allowing investigators to take measurements of where vehicles are in relation to each other and examine other important evidence.

The initiative is part of an action plan aimed at reducing delays caused by incidents in order to keep traffic moving – a vital element in securing the UK's prosperity.

During 2010, there were more than 18,000 full or partial motorway closures lasting a total of more than 20,000 hours.

ADVERTISING in The Beeston Express

Classified - Mono
£3.25 per single column centimetre (scm).
Minimum: 3 cm.

Notice Board (8cm x 8cm Box)
Mono: £45
Colour: £55

Display Price on Application

Meeting People Column
Subscription:

£36 per annum (24 issues)
Private subscriptions: £24

www.beestonexpress.co.uk

Useful telephone numbers

Police

0115 943 0999

NHS Direct Line (24 hours)
0845 46 47

Queens Medical Centre
0115 924 9924

City Hospital
0115 969 1169

Broxtowe Borough Council
0115 917 7777

Citizens Advice Bureau
0844 499 1193

Beeston Library
0115 925 5168

Train Timetable Enquiries
08457 48 49 50

Pledge to support armed forces

AS part of a national initiative to promote greater understanding between civilian communities and local armed forces, Broxtowe Borough will sign a Community Covenant pledge at the Town Hall on Monday, January 9, along with representatives from the Broxtowe Borough Partnership, Beeston BID, Voluntary Action Broxtowe and the borough's civilian community.

Brigadier Andrew Williams, Commander 49 (E) Brigade, Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, together with representatives from the services in Nottingham and beyond, will reciprocate on behalf of the military.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Milan Radulovic, said: "I believe that this Community Covenant will help to link our forces and the wider community in which they live and work."

It is hoped that the covenant will provide an opportunity to build on existing good work, such as the Heroes Welcome shop discount scheme in Beeston town centre.

Owner of drunken puppy banned from owning a dog

A CHILWELL man has been banned from owning a dog for three years after allowing his puppy to drink his vodka and cola.

The six-month old labrador, Max, drank the vodka and was drunk when owner Matthew Cox, aged 26, went out to DJ, leaving the dog with his flatmate.

Two girls later saw Max stumbling and swaying near Rathvale Court, Chilwell, and called the police.

The dog was taken to an emergency vet for treatment for alcohol poisoning and has been rehomed since the incident took place in August 2011.

Footfall figures

FOOTFALL figures from the counter situated on the High Road, Beeston, indicate that the week commencing December 19,

2011, was the busiest week ever recorded on the counter, with 118,184 people in town.

	2009	2010	2011
Week 49	101289	65857	105827
Week 50	103338	93262	97293
Week 51	103309	92497	110124
Week 52	75513	85107	118184 Christmas week
Average	95862	84181	107852