

# Buzz

## The Beeston Express

### CONTACT

The Editor  
PO Box 7440  
Beeston, Nottingham  
NG9 1ZS  
Tel: 0115 922 8007

email:  
enquiries@beestonexpress.co.uk

### 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, 30 July 2010

Deadline for Adverts  
Monday, 26 July

### ADVERTISING in The Beeston Express

**Classified - Mono**  
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**Broxtowe Borough Council**  
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**Beeston Library**  
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**Train Timetable Enquiries**  
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## Wreath laid as special tribute to wartime loss

SUCH was the power of a wartime news embargo made by Winston Churchill on June 17, 1940, that many people still know virtually nothing about the loss of what had been a cruise liner before the war, the *Lancastria*.

The ship, now painted steel grey and taking part in the evacuation of France, was attacked and hit by German aircraft. Estimates of the lives lost are between 4,000 and 9,000.

The 16,000-ton liner sank quickly after being bombed, taking with her between 6,000 and 9,000 people being evacuated. No-one knows exactly how many were on board; the vessel was loaded with embarked troops, RAF personnel and civilian refugees, including women and children. The evacuees had been taken out to the ship by a flotilla of small boats and vessels, hence the estimated figures.

The liner, now known as HMT

*Lancastria*, had been anchored off St Nazaire and was waiting to set sail when she was hit. Of those on board, about 2,500 survivors were picked up. German planes continued to fly over the stricken ship, machine-gunning those struggling in the water and try to set fire to oil leaking from a ruptured tank.

Winston Churchill forbade publication of the news in the interests of public morale, but the sinking of the HMT *Lancastria* – a Cunard liner requisitioned by the Ministry of War Transport – was certainly Britain's worst maritime disaster.

Sixty years after the disaster, Beeston resident Mr Brian Bartles sought to honour his father-in-law, Albert Elston, who died when the *Lancastria* went down.

Albert Elston, who lived with his wife and two daughters on Collins Street, Beeston, had been serving

with an RAF ground crew in the south of France when the call came to evacuate. At the age of 28, he was on board the *Lancastria* when she was hit by four bombs dropped by the enemy aircraft during a sustained attack on a number of ships taking part in the evacuation.

Members of the Beeston branch of the Royal British Legion joined Mr Bartles as he laid a wreath in memory of his father-in-law at Beeston's War Memorial at 11am on June 17, 2010 – 60 years after the sinking of the *Lancastria* during the evacuation of France.

## News in Brief

### Parking charges bring parking 'chaos'

THE new parking charges introduced in Broxtowe are reputedly bringing traffic 'chaos' to Dovecote Lane, Beeston, as visitors to the town centre try to avoid the charges. We'd be pleased to hear people's views as to why this course of action is being taken – after all, the first hour of parking on the town centre car parks is still free.

### Campaign to increase biker road safety

MOTORCYCLISTS across Nottingham are being urged to collect free high-visibility vests to keep them safe on the roads.

The week-long 'Think Bike' campaign started on Monday, July 12, with fluorescent backpacks and vests available for bikers, as part of the Nottinghamshire's Road Safety Partnership's attempt to increase education about the dangers of the road. Over the last three years, 44 people riding motorbikes have been killed on the county's roads. The number of people using motorcycles increases during the summer, so the backpacks and vests are a practical way to increase their visibility to motorists. The items were available for collection – while stocks last – from Monday, July 12 at the front counters of police stations within the county, including Beeston.

### Suspected robber remanded

A MAN accused of several serious offences was remanded into custody after appearing at Nottingham Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, July 7.

Anthony Wayne Herrett, of no fixed address, is charged with robbery and false imprisonment of a woman at a home in Beeston on May 17. He is also accused of a burglary in Toton on June 1, and an attempted burglary at a house in Whatton on June 17.

Two further charges were heard; one of fraud by false representation at a city centre restaurant on July 5, and for failing/refusing to provide a sample for a drugs test on the same date.

The 49-year-old entered no pleas and was remanded into custody. He will appear at Nottingham Magistrates' Court on July 15 to answer the charges of fraud by false representation and failing/refusing to provide a sample. A preliminary hearing in respect of the other charges will be held at Nottingham Crown Court on July 21.

## Virtual Neighbourhood Watch

A NEW website aimed at bringing the Neighbourhood Watch scheme into the 21st century will bring the benefits of shared knowledge to a new online community for Broxtowe Borough Council residents.

The easy-to-use site enables residents to report incidents of suspicious activity to the police in complete confidence, as well as providing an online forum to discuss local issues such as anti social behaviour, crime, fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling.

Residents will also be able to sign up for a free Neighbourhood Alert System, offering crime prevention advice and updates

on current issues in their area by email, text message or by telephone. The site will provide information about crime trends and incidents, a reporting system for suspicious or anti-social behaviour, crime statistics, graphs and charts for particular areas, and a virtual information neighbourhood watch scheme.

Cllr David Watts, Leader of Broxtowe Borough Council, said: "This is a great scheme. We are urging Broxtowe residents to sign up as soon as possible to get access to the neighbourhood information which will help the communities work together to make their area better and safer."

Nottinghamshire Police has launched the website in partnership with Broxtowe, Rushcliffe and Gedling Borough Councils.

Neil Thacker, Crime Reduction Manager for Broxtowe, said: "The work done by volunteers is invaluable. 'Neighbourhood Alert' allows you to be part of a virtual Neighbourhood Watch group but remain hidden. It's about people looking out for each other through being better informed about what's going on where they live and work, and contributing without having to attend meetings, patrol in pairs, or sit curtain-twitching."