

## Buzz

# Boots put nurses back in store

BOOTS UK has opened a new nurse-led health clinic in its Nottingham store, the first of its kind since nurses were employed in the company's shops in the 1920s. At the time, hospital-trained nurses worked in Boots stores, in association with local doctors, and provided healthcare and advice to patients for several decades.

The new clinic is one of two to be launched in the UK as part of a pilot scheme (the second will be in Milton Keynes). The clinics will complement existing in-store services and provide high-quality healthcare in central Nottingham. The services offered by the nurses will include health checks, lifestyle support,

travel clinics and sexual health advice.

The Nottingham clinic will offer convenient access to healthcare close to where people live, work and shop. By providing access to a nurse during the store's opening hours, Boots hopes to make it easier for the local community to receive better health and, in future, social care, where and when they need it.

Christine McDonald, the first nurse to work in Nottingham's new Boots clinic, said: "It's great to be working so closely with the community, to give people convenient access to the services they need and provide a holistic healthcare service in a relaxed setting.

"We will be able to

provide quick access to a range of services such as travel vaccinations and screening for certain conditions, not all of which are available at GP surgeries."

Alex Gourlay, Chief Executive of Alliance Boots' Health & Beauty Division, commented:

"This is an exciting development, one that helps lead the way into the future of the UK's healthcare.

"The trusted heritage of Boots, together with the professional expertise that the new clinics offer, will ensure the local community has greater access to health care. This can improve patient outcomes and critically support the NHS in reducing costs.

"We will continue to work in partnership with the NHS, to deliver and support services as part of our commitment to making high-quality healthcare more available and accessible."

## Snippets

### Charities to benefit from Garden Trail

CHARITIES to benefit from the Beeston and Chilwell Garden Trail, which took place one fine weekend in June, will include Treetops Hospice, Cancer Research, Refugee Friendship Group, Victim Support, Mercy Ships, Oxfam, the Urology Department of Nottingham University Hospitals Charity, Broxtowe Women's Project, Cystic Fibrosis, Leukaemia Research and Lymphoma Research, and the BBC Wildlife Trust.

During the weekend, £4,400 was raised for the charities through ticket sales and the sale of teas, plants, crafts, etc.

### Picnic packed in the park

THIS year's 'Picnic in the Park' held at the Millennium Garden, University Park, on Sunday, July 4 was the busiest one ever, said university grounds manager Desmond O'Grady.

Mr O'Grady said: "More than 500 people poured into the garden, where they enjoyed a sunny afternoon relaxing with a picnic and listening to music from the Newstead Brass Band.

"Visitors came from many local community and cultural associations and we had an excellent afternoon. People gave us some super feedback as they left at the end of the afternoon."

### Garden party raises a sunny sum

THE Garden Party held at the home of Kath and David Jenkins on July 3 raised £1150 for Cancer Research UK.

From his Beeston home on Grasmere Road, David Jenkins said: "We would like to thank all the people who helped by providing items to sell, to thank all the people who helped us in any way, and to thank everyone for their support on the day.

"We are delighted with the amount raised for Cancer Research UK, even though it was slightly less than last year."

# Between you and me...

*BROXTOWE MP Anna Soubry writes her monthly column for The Beeston Express to keep us, her constituents, up-to-date and informed. We would like to remind you, however, that the views she expresses are her own and do not necessarily reflect those of The Beeston Express. If you would like to comment on any of the issues she raises, please write to the address on page 2.*

*May we remind you that The Beeston Express has no political allegiance to any political parties.*

IT'S a common complaint amongst new MPs: "I'm spending too much time in my office and not enough time in the Chamber."

In some ways it's an inevitable situation. Many of us have only just moved into our office, there is stuff to be organised, equipment to be bought and installed. Some of us are still recruiting staff and all of us are getting to know our way around the enormous Palace of Westminster, parliamentary procedure and the whole business of being an MP.

And then there are the emails. Everyone groans under the sheer number to be read each day. Many are internal pleas to join this 'All-Party Group' or come along to that pressure group meeting.

Then there is the endless

stream of communications from almost every charity in existence urging one to take up their cause and/or support their Early Day Motion. Ah! The Early Day Motion (EDM), a now much abused device that costs the taxpayer £600,000 a year. Any topic, however frivolous, can be tabled and Honourable Members are urged to add their name to the list of supporters. The number each week amounts to a booklet, which has now accumulated, in just a few months, to a number of volumes. The addition of each new name requires the page to be reprinted and each motion is reproduced thousands of times in Order Papers. So, I have decided not to sign any.

Far better, in my view, to ask an oral or written question, or simply write to

the relevant minister. Even better is to collar him or her in the lobby. I'm not one for token politics; I appreciate it can look good to say you have added your name to those supporting some valid cause or other, but the power of the EDM has been all but extinguished as there are so many of them that no-one pays them any attention.

Then there are the 'round robins'. Well-intentioned constituents subscribe to the website of a particular group who supply a lengthy template letter to which you add your name and address and the name of your MP's constituency. The MP is then inundated with a large number of totally impersonal emails. Round robin emails tend to get a round robin reply.

Of course I welcome genuine emails from genuine

constituents and I hope they will keep on coming to [anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk)

I appreciate the plea to stop laying hens from having their beaks trimmed is a genuine cause of concern to a number of people. But, in the overall scheme of things, it is not a pressing priority. My priorities in the last few weeks have been some very serious constituency cases, including cancer patients desperate for non-NHS drugs to help them in their battle for life and the circumstances of how a severely mentally ill man came to kill his grandfather despite the warnings to the authorities from his family and people who knew him.

There is also my attempt to persuade the Government not to grant 'anonymity' for people accused of rape.

A few weeks ago, I sat in the Chamber and listened to a debate on reform of the workings of the House of Commons. Giving power back to back bench MPs has been championed by the MP for Nottingham North, Graham Allen, who happens to be a long-serving Labour MP. He didn't agree with various coalition plans. I watched and listened as the debate unfolded and Graham's arguments won through; the result was that the Government accommodated his views. It showed the power of good arguments well made in the Chamber of the House of Commons winning through. That's what good MP's do – get into the Chamber, join in the debate and make a difference.

So when 'Anonymity of



Defendants' was debated, I abandoned my office for the Chamber. I spoke against the coalition's proposals and I was by no means alone. The debate exposed a real lack of significant support from any MPs and ministers listened as member after member from all sides and of both sexes carefully demolished the Government's argument. With so little support, it's difficult to see how this coalition proposal will make the statute book.

For me, it was another example of Parliament at its best – a genuine debate, with speakers contributing on the basis of knowledge and experience and party differences being put to one side. A subdued minister congratulated me on my speech – let's hope it makes a difference.