

Buzz

Royal Navy inspection for Sea Scouts

MEMBERS of 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts were all present and correct for the Royal Navy inspection of their base at Barton Island on the River Trent last week.

Lieutenant-Commander David Griffiths has the task of inspecting just 100 Sea Scout units across the UK that have Royal Navy Recognition, and he arrived from his Portsmouth base to inspect the river base of the scouts on Barton Island.

An inspection is carried out once every 18 months and alternates between the land based and water based headquarters of sea scout units. Navy Recognition brings with it a range of extra-ordinary benefits, such as access to the facilities of HMS Bristol, the training ship at Portsmouth. Once lost, RN Recognition is hard to regain and the members of 2nd Beeston, ages ranging from the

six-year-old Beavers to the oldest Explorer scouts as well as their leaders, were determined to show Commander Griffiths what they were made of.

He was piped aboard the island after being brought across the river by a team of accomplished oarsmen on board the skiff 'Styx'; the scouts had been practising their 'pulling' technique in preparation for the event and were highly proficient. Other dignitaries invited to Barton Island for the inspection included the Mayor and Mayoress of Broxtowe as well as South West Notts District Commissioner Stuart Stanton and Deputy District Commissioner Colyn Kemp.

Commander Griffiths inspected the scouts – the ship's company – smartly lined up for flag break, speaking to each of them about the badges they'd gained. He then observed

their prowess on the water once they had changed out of uniform ready to take part in activities that included kayaking, rowing (pulling) and sailing.

Commander Griffiths said he would be looking for a good scouting programme, the equipment available, qualifications gained and safety on the water as part of a marks-based inspection. "One of the things I do look out for is smartness and discipline," he added. "I noted that the Scouts and the young Beavers here were all very well disciplined during flag break. Not everyone achieves that high standard."

Before taking leave of the island and heading back to the land-based HQ at Lilac Grove, Beeston, for a buffet, Commander Griffiths told the young people they had passed their inspection.

"I would like to compliment all of you on what you have here," he said. "You have a wonderful setting, some excellent and well-maintained equipment, a wide range of activities to choose from and a good set of strong leaders. What's most impressive, though, is the way you all work together as one team."

"Watching your oarsmanship on the river, I don't mind telling you that you could give the London lot – who think they're the bee's knees – a good run for their money!"

Snippets

Concert raises money for homeless

THE concert held at Chilwell Road Methodist Church by the Boots Orchestra on June 13 raised almost £400 for Casa Alianza, the church charity this year. Entitled 'A European Tour', the concert delighted an audience of more than 100 people.

Application for amended hours

BEESTON Muslim Centre on Evelyn Street, Beeston has submitted an application to Broxtowe Borough Council to vary Condition 2 of consent 01/00390 to cover the period 7am and 11pm on any day and with no restriction of hours during Ramadan.

Beeston Evangelical Free Church is seeking permission to construct two single storey extensions to the side and rear of existing church premises on Salthouse Lane, Beeston.

Minority ethnic communities invited to raise policing issues in Stapleford

MEMBERS of the black and minority ethnic communities living in the Stapleford area are invited to attend a meeting at which they can highlight the issues their Neighbourhood Policing Team should be tackling.

The policing team will host a Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting at the NHS Walk-In Centre, Church Street, Stapleford, on Tuesday, June 30 at 7pm.

The PACT meetings are held every 12 weeks. They identify and agree issues to be addressed by the policing team over the coming three months.

The meeting will be attended by representatives from a number of different agencies serving residents of Stapleford, Bramcote and Trowell.

PC Chris Copley, Stapleford South West beat manager, said: "The PACT meeting is essential in setting the priorities for the neighbourhood policing team over the next three months, so it's an ideal opportunity to bring matters to our attention."

The meeting is not open to the public, however anyone who would like to attend should telephone the Stapleford Neighbourhood Policing Team on (0115) 943 0999 ext 5760.

Pearson Centre History goes on display

A DISPLAY of items to celebrate the centenary of 17th Nottingham BB and the 35th anniversary of 30th Nottingham GB, both of whom are part of The Pearson Centre, is on show at Beeston Library on Foster Avenue.

The display includes old photographs, press articles, books etc, relating to the two organisations and has been compiled by Centre Archivist Bob Wilson. It is open for viewing by anyone visiting the library until June 29.

The two organisations have been an integral part of the Beeston local community for many years.

Other celebrations include a reunion for former members on Saturday, June 27, and a celebration service and picnic on June 28. Both events will take place at The Pearson Centre for Young People on Nuart Road, Beeston.

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.

I am Worried – Part 2

NOW the elections are over I can now share with you what I was concerned about following on from the last column (Issue 147, May 29). However, what was

originally intended for two columns is now probably going to extend to three.

In light of all the issues about MPs' expenses, some of the parties have been trying to play themselves whiter than white by suggesting that they are the people who should be allowed to deal with any political reform, and MPs were sent off to hold sleaze-buster meetings. At our Broxtowe MP's meeting, he was apparently given a clean bill of health by the 200 or so in attendance and I thought, at least locally, the world had moved on.

So I was then very interested to read in one piece of election propaganda I saw from one candidate that our MP employs two councillors to work in his office as researchers, and

one of them happened to be my then current councillor and was re-standing. The leaflet was suggesting that this was a terrible thing and linking it to the expenses/use of taxpayers money debacle implying they were up to no good.

I thought to myself: "I don't have an issue with this and its daft, cheap point." The chap in question seems to work dealing with constituency business: it's not as though between council meetings he is employed by Parliament to clean Mr Palmer's moat or for duck husbandry duties. MPs need people to staff their local offices, so what is the issue? However, the implication was there that it was all a bit underhand.

I then got the regular email newsletter from the

Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate saying much the same thing, and implying how dubious she considered this to be and how she would never do the same and employ a councillor to help her run her parliamentary office.

Then I came across Mr Callum Heckstall-Smith, who was the election agent for the leaflet I mentioned.

Mr Heckstall-Smith, I have discovered, also works in the Conservative party offices in Nottingham as a researcher for the aforementioned scandalised prospective MP. Following an internet search, low and behold, Mr Heckstall Smith unsurprisingly lives in Nottingham but is also a borough councillor in Wellingborough. So I would like some assurance if we do

have a change in MP next year and following this high moral stance that he will be either sacked – or stop being a councillor.

Anyway, perhaps this is just another example of a cheap political point to try and smear the other side whilst pretending to be whiter than white.

If we are going to have political reform we also need to stop the petty point scoring as it normally ends up as spin, as demonstrated by this example, to my mind, of a non-issue being linked to a proper scandal.

However, if I am wrong and it's all quite reasonable and there are two Callum Heckstall-Smiths in Nottingham, I apologise. I am obviously just a cynic.