

Business

This is the official business page of The Beeston Express, where we feature local businesses, large and small, with news to share. Our aim is to keep Beeston Express readers living in the wider community up-to-date with what's going on in the business world, either as items of general interest or if it may directly affect them (such as changes to tax laws, for instance). However, we request that, if we are running advertising editorial, advertising in The Beeston Express supports it.

New owner for the Commercial Inn

THE legendary Remington Shavers advertising quip, made famous by Victor Kiam in 1979, "I liked the shaver so much, I bought the company!" could equally apply to Damian McGrath, new licensee at the Commercial Inn on Wollaton Road, Beeston.

Damian has always lived in Beeston and has always preferred to do his drinking (since the age of 15, but let's not go there) in local pubs. His favoured local has steadfastly remained the Commercial Inn so, when he heard that the current landlord, Tony Timmons, and his wife, Rose, were planning to retire, Damian, aged 40 and a bachelor, stepped up and offered to take the pub off Tony's hands. The changeover will take place on Thursday, June 10.

Like pubs everywhere, the Commercial Inn has seen a considerable decrease in clientele since the smoking ban hit. The dramatic drop in revenue that inevitably followed the plummeting number of drinkers walking through the pub's door is

not an entry in the business accounts that Damian has chosen to ignore. He has bold plans for this once-popular pub in the centre of Beeston.

To begin with, the Commercial has a good chef in its kitchen and a good menu, but this is where the first changes will be made. Improvement is never beyond the bounds of possibility, whatever business you're in.

The kitchen will have been completely refurbished by July 1 and, as the refitted kitchen opens, a revised menu will be introduced.

The current menu is available each day from noon until 5pm. However, Damian wants to define the pub's dining hours and introduce specific lunch and dinner menus, bringing in his own choice of wines. He has negotiated new terms with the brewery, Greene King, that will allow him to go elsewhere to buy wines and spirits. There are currently four hand-pulled beers on sale behind the bar. Soon there will be eight.

Then, it always helps to have your own building company if you decide to buy a pub and have ideas on the scale of those planned for the Commercial. The locally based 'design and build' company, DPM, belongs to Mr McGrath and a business partner. The partner will continue to run DPM, which will be used for any building or conversion work that gets planning approval at the Wollaton Road pub. Not many people know this, but the piece of land where the derelict 'Attenborough' factory stood until recently belongs to the Commercial.

The new landlord has longer-term plans to see this land restored as a relaxing garden space with bench seating, summer barbecues on the menu, and plenty of room for children's activities. The small building at the rear of the pub's car park also has potential as a 'play barn' where parents can relax with a drink and keep an eye on the children.

Mr McGrath said: "Becoming licensee of 'The Commercial Inn' will be a real challenge for me and I'm looking forward to taking it on. I know the pub and I know the locals who use it. The Commercial is a traditional, down-to-earth pub with loads of atmosphere. I hope to turn it round and restore its popularity amongst Beeston's regular drinking population."

He added: "At the same time, I would like to say 'thank you' to Tony and Rose for the hard work they've put into running the Commercial for the past 25 years. It's been a great local pub, and that's all been down to them as good licensees."

"I think I speak for a lot of people when I wish them all the very best as they begin their retirement."

Pre-retirement course at Town Hall

AS people live longer, current figures estimate the average life span after retirement to be in the region of 30 years.

However, not everyone thinks to plan for their retirement, and even less people are aware that Nottingham & District Pre-Retirement Council, based on the High Road, runs local pre-retirement courses.

The Pre-Retirement Council is a registered charity that holds courses at the Town Hall each month for people coming up to retirement.

The delegates who attended the most recent course were very impressed with the amount of information they received in three days, one attendee exclaiming: "We've been absolutely blown away by the amount of information we got through in three days!"

Most of the people attending had favourable

comments to make. These included: "A most enjoyable few days in an extremely relaxed, friendly atmosphere," and "An invaluable course to anyone approaching retirement,"

Another remarked: "Please ask companies to advertise it five years before retirement," and "The accommodation was good, a bright room with lots of windows. Lunch was great, with coffee and tea when needed."

Course organiser Linda Whitt said: "The message is coming back loud and clear – this course is a must."

"We have been in operation for 42 years and courses are held each month at Beeston Town Hall. For further information, visit our website www.ndprc.org or ring the office on 922 3824 and speak to myself or Phil Whitt."

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Onyx Goldsmiths

ONYX Goldsmiths Ltd is sponsoring the Beeston Carnival Princess once again this year, and on display in their window is the beautiful tiara that this year's Princess will be crowned with on Saturday, July 10.

In addition this year, the Carnival Prince will be presented with a specially made and hand-engraved silver ingot and chain. This is also on display in the shop window at 99 High Road, Beeston.

The staff at Onyx

Goldsmiths has been as busy as ever this season with talks to local groups. In May, they were well received by the Mind Alert group at the Conservative Club and, in June, they will be talking to the members of the Attenborough and Chilwell Women's Club.

The presentations are very popular, with local people always amazed at the range of services provided by the prestigious and well-respected company that has been in Beeston for 24 years. Apart from Onyx's

famous rapid repair service and handmade jewellery to order, they have jewellery available for hire.

Onyx Goldsmiths are also agents for Life Gem, a certified high-quality diamond created from the carbon of your loved one's ashes as a perpetual memorial to his or her unique life.

This month, Onyx is holding a fabulous Father's Day sale, with all male jewellery reduced – including their award-winning Fred Bennett range.

BID News



BEESTON BID
Your Beeston Your Future

Our neighbours are going for a BID

YOU may already be aware that Nottingham City Centre is embarking on a Retail Business Improvement District (BID).

When Nottingham City Centre's BID goes ahead next year, their management team will drive a strong campaign aimed at attracting more shoppers into the city.

The Nottingham retail management team invested in three one-day road shows situated at strategic locations around the city centre for retailers to visit. The hope was that retailers would engage with the initiative by voting on five main issues:

- Cleaning up
- Security matters
- Accessible to all
- Improving the retail offer and trading environment
- Marketing and promotion

Each of the Road Shows was situated in a vacant shop: one next to the Tourist Information Centre in Market Square, the second in the Broad Marsh Shopping Centre, the third in the Victoria Shopping Centre.

There is already a successful Leisure BID operating in Nottingham city centre that made the retailers see the value of a BID initiative and want one specifically for their industry.

Fortunately for Beeston, we already have our own BID structured and ready to 'GO' later this year. If we hadn't, then Nottingham's BID would certainly have impacted negatively on Beeston's retail industry.

By having a BID in Beeston, the management team will ensure that

we don't lose out to Nottingham. The team will drive a consistently strong campaign to keep Beeston in the forefront of shoppers' and business investor's minds.

Nottingham City Centre utilising a BID strategy demonstrates how effective these Business Improvement Districts are when put to work for the industries and cities that employ them.

We wish our counterparts in Nottingham all the best with their campaign to win the vote for their BID.

NB: Don't forget that you can read Beeston's BID Business Plan at www.beestonbid.org

Matt Robinson
Beeston BID Manager
Tel: 07875 581 427