

# Buzz

## New Chairman for County Council

COUNCILLOR David Taylor handed over the Chairman's Chains to the new Chairman, Councillor Tom Pettengell, at the County Council's Annual General Meeting in mid-May.

Cllr Tom Pettengell, a county councillor since 1989, stepped into the Chairman role after a successful year as Vice-Chairman, with the Vice-Chairman vacancy left being filled by Cllr Keith Walker.

Cllr Pettengell's selected charity for 2010-11 is the Fire Fighters Charity. He plans to visit all 24 fire stations in the county and

city. In addition, Cllr Pettengell will attempt to visit every electoral division in the County during his year.

He said: "It is a huge privilege for me to be Chairman of the County Council and I am very proud. It will be wonderful to meet even more of the incredible people from across Nottinghamshire, and I am greatly looking forward to the next year."

Cllr Pettengell is well known in the local area.

As well as representing Toton and Attenborough since 1989, he has served

on Broxtowe Borough Council since 1987. He has two grown up children and lives in Attenborough with his wife, Jacqueline. He has always been actively involved in the community – a long list includes campaigning for the village hall, establishing the local Badminton Club and raising funds for the last field from gravel extraction.

He has been a consultant surveyor all his working life, and obtained the land and building for the Greenwood Youth and Community Centre at Toton.

## Footfall figures

THE May footfall figures from the High Road sensor, Beeston, are as follows:

Week	2009	2010
18	101259	98438
19	93845	87156
20	96339	95068
21	102697	92068
22	101683	98618
<b>Average</b>	<b>99165</b>	<b>94270</b>

As can be seen, the numbers are a little lower this year. However, the next few weeks will be worth watching as this is when the High Road improvements started last year.

It will be interesting to see if the figures did drop just because of that, or if there is a general trend emerging.

**...don't forget!**

**Beeston  
Carnival  
Saturday,  
July 10**

More news  
next issue!

## Snippets

### Refugee Week

THE theme of the 2010 Refugee Week (June 14 –20) is 'Different Pasts, Shared Futures' and there will be a special morning service held at 10.30am at Chilwell Road Methodist Church on Sunday, June 20, related to this theme.

Spokesman Colin Firbank said: "The 2010 church charity is the Women's Friendship Group for asylum seekers and refugees. We have arranged services and meetings in which members of the group can share their experiences, both the conditions in the home countries from which they escaped and their experiences as they attempt to build a new life. The morning service on June 20 will reflect on our Christian response.

"In addition, some of the gardens on the Beeston and Chilwell Garden Trail (see page 7) will be raising money for the Women's Friendship Group.

### Hop to it for research project

THE history of a very specific part of Beeston is to be the subject of some intense research by a group of members from the Beeston and District Civic Society and the Beeston History Society.

Help is sought to uncover the hidden past of the area that includes Beeston Station, Station Villas, the Victoria Hotel, the Maltings, Barton Street Nos 11, 15 and 17, and all of Dovecote Lane between the railway and Queens Road (previously known as Rylands Road).

Beeston Civic Society spokeswoman Barbara Selwood said: "There is already a considerable amount of history about Beeston and the Victoria Hotel available. However, if readers can provide any information that they think will further our research, especially from around the time the various buildings went up, we would be very interested to hear."

Barbara Selwood can be contacted on (0115) 917 8488 or at [babsel@ntlworld.com](mailto:babsel@ntlworld.com)

### May Market raises funds

A SUCCESSFUL May Market held at Chilwell Road Methodist Church on Saturday, May 29 raised £325 for the Women's Friendship Group.

## 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.*

### Lawyers 1 – Taxpayers 0 (Or will the last person out please turn off the lights)

WELL, we are barely three weeks into a new

Government and the first sleaze infested ministerial resignation based on expenses occurred on the day I wrote this (May 29), and on Friday (May 28), I found out about the latest saga from our increasingly barn-pot county council. However, before I touch on the latter topic, I wish to say a few things about the General Election.

Firstly, may I wish our new MP, Ms Soubry, well?

I am sure she will devote as much effort to the constituency that Mr Palmer appeared to. However, I have some sympathy for her even before she starts. MPs are not that well paid compared to many politicians across Europe and the new rule banning

them from travelling first class by train is frankly mad to my mind. They are our national government and they should be treated with a degree of respect and with suitable expenses that will allow them to live in the constituency and in London. The new rules seem a bit stingy.

Secondly I would like to thank Mr Palmer, our former MP, for all his hard work. Although I did not agree with a number of his positions and views, you always got a hearing and a response. He made a refreshing change for me as, in my youth, my local MP (not around here) was a total waste of space. He spent so much time on parliamentary jollies to the Far East that he was

known as the MP for Tokyo, and always took his paid parliamentary aid with him – otherwise known as his wife). For one period of his tenure he did not speak in the house for more than five years and, for one two year period, registered no questions. He failed to get at least one private planning bill through parliament (which used to be a local MP's responsibility) that would have allowed significant investment and jobs into an area suffering 30 percent unemployment. It was rumoured at the time that this was because, as he was normally found propping up the bar, he allegedly missed his own debate.

However, back to Fred Carnos Circus, otherwise

known as Nottinghamshire County Council. Firstly we had the madness of the County refusing to work with the City on the local transport plan for the Nottingham conurbation. Then we had the County saying it was going to stop the tram, and then having to write a letter saying it would not impede the scheme. Then we had the County having to apologise for misleading people over the cost of the tram as they compared 30 years investment in the scheme to less than one year's cost of the annual bus subsidy, and so misled people.

Now they are threatening to force the City into suing them to release the land the County bought specifically for the tram, which they

previously had said that the City could buy off them. The reason given is that, despite all the expensive consultants' reports the County Council has paid for, the frankly amateur councillors don't believe any of their professional advisors. So more lawyers are going to be employed to argue that one out, at a huge cost to the taxpayer, and which the County are bound to lose (possibly with costs against them) and will be made to look daft.

And how is all this going to be paid for? Potentially by turning off every other street light across the county, this the latest idea to emerge from Trent Side.

It's like Clochemerle – but without the talent.