

## Express Community

# Prost! Here's to the next thirty years!

THIS Easter, members of the Broxtowe Badminton Club (a club that began its existence as part of the Plessey/GPT/Siemens/SMS Sports and Social Club set up) entertain the Gütersloh CFB badminton club as the two clubs celebrate 30 years since the formation of the twinning link between Broxtowe Council and the German town of Gütersloh.

Badminton club members, along with members of the table tennis club that also belonged

to the Sports and Social Club of the Rylands-based telecommunications company, were lucky to be on the initial trip back in 1978. The link with their German friends has been maintained every year since, and includes members involved today who made that very first visit.

This year's Easter weekend celebrations will include a visit to Warwick Castle, a barbecue and firework display, a

badminton tournament and an indoor bowls tournament. The weekend will be brought to a close with an early St Patrick's Day evening shindig.

Organiser Alan Stanley, a badminton club member on that first trip, said: "A distinguishing feature of the early visits made to Gütersloh was the amount of schnapps consumed. This photograph, taken outside Gütersloh Town Hall on that first visit in 1978, shows one of the

German team members with an oversized bottle of schnapps strapped to his back, ready to instantly dispense liquid refreshment whenever it was called for. It's a wonder that any badminton or table tennis ever got played – but it did! And thereby began thirty years of 'lost' Easters and special memories."

On March 14, the Mayor and Mayoress of Broxtowe will host an official dinner at Risley Hall to mark the 30th anniversary of

the twinning partnership between the Borough of Broxtowe and Stadt Gütersloh.

Is it the end for ex-employees of Ericsson/Plessey/Siemens?  
(See page 1)  
Let us have your memories of life as an employee, or as a member of the Sports & Social Club.

## Youth Centre to reach greater heights

BEESTON Youth and Community Centre has been awarded £10,000 by Awards for All to replace its internal climbing wall with a new state of the art climbing facility.

Ian Hayes is the Youth Worker based at the Centre on West End, Beeston. He said: "With this new wall, we can attract increased usage, and it will enable us to run an accredited climbing course.

"The current wall is used by climbing and community groups and by the local Scout and Guide groups, but it is limited in terms of height and the challenge it provides for its users.

"The money from Awards for All gives us the final piece of funding needed to purchase and install a new wall, and we hope to get the project under way by the end of April 2008."

Awards for All is the small grants scheme administered by the Big Lottery Fund for grass roots community groups and voluntary organisations.

## Life in Great Britain

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Libraries has recently bought a licence to provide software which will help people prepare to take the British Citizenship Test. The course, called 'Life in Britain' includes text from 'Life in the UK – a journey into citizenship' under licence from the Home Office.

Features of the software include speech output with a human voice and a glossary of more than 200 words. There are revision and practise tests as well as full tests to help the learner gauge their progress. The

course has been designed to enable the learner to work through the program independently, but can be used with tutor support.

The program does not have a dual language facility and learners will need to have achieved a reasonable standard of English in order to use it effectively.

'Life in Britain' is now available on People's Network computers at Beeston Library. For more information, contact Beeston Library on 925 5168 or People's Network Development Officer, Steve Baker on 01777 706 973.

## Scouts to get new camping kit courtesy of county councillor

SCOUTS at 8th Beeston were the delighted recipients of a cheque for £850 after an appeal to county councillor Steve Carr secured enough money to buy two new sleeping tents for the group and stacking chairs to replace the ancient ones they currently use that have seen better days.

On behalf of the scout group, Pam Mitchell said:

"We heard that county councillors have a certain amount of money that they can allocate from the Electoral Division Initiative Scheme to help fund worthy projects in their area.

"We decided it might be worth applying and were delighted when Cllr Carr presented us with funding to put towards new equipment."

8th Beeston Scouts has spaces available for new members to join its ranks of cubs and scouts. Cubs (aged 8–10½) meet on Wednesday evenings at the Scout Hut on Waverley Avenue, Beeston, between 7pm and 8.30pm. Scouts aged from 10½ to 14½ meet on Fridays between 7pm and 9.15pm.

Scout Akela Mark Manley said: "In addition to

welcoming new members to the Cubs and Scouts, we would also like to hear from anyone interested in becoming a leader for our Beavers, aged between six and eight years – or indeed for any of the sections."

Please call Mark Manley on (0115) 919 1085 for more details.