

## Community

### New dialysis unit opens at QMC

CARE closer to home and increased patient choice are the key benefits of a new 10-station dialysis clinic which has been officially opened at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham.

The clinic has been officially opened by Dr Donal O'Donoghue, National Clinical Director for Kidney Care, who joined members of staff on a tour of the unit and took part in a 'Question Time' style debate on renal services topics.

The clinic provides care for patients who have transferred from existing facilities. It helps the Trust to meet the increased demand for dialysis and provide patients with better access to services closer to their homes. Around 40 patients a week use the facility, which is located in a 10-station unit that is initially operating two shifts per day.

The stand-alone building, not far from South Block, comprises the 10 dialysis

stations, a nurse's station, utility rooms, reception and waiting area, staff room, office and storage area.

The new clinic supplements existing dialysis facilities at the City Hospital and satellite units at Kings Mill Hospital and Ilkeston Community Hospital. This interim facility will be in use for approximately two years until a permanent facility is in place on the QMC campus.

Dr Simon Roe, Consultant Nephrologist at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, said, "This clinic addresses a need to enhance the dialysis facilities in Nottinghamshire. It provides services closer to where people live and gives them greater control over the time and nature of their care. It is also frees up capacity at other units, meaning greater flexibility for patients elsewhere. Both staff and patients are delighted with the new facility."

### Lord's Taverners minibus presented to young people of Gateway Club

THURSDAY, May 6 was a momentous day locally, and not just because of the result of the general election.

Whilst people locally were still heading off to polling stations to cast their votes and turn the country's political scene upside down, it was already an auspicious day for members of the Beeston Gateway Club, based at the Middle Street Resource Centre. At 7pm on May 6, they took delivery of a 17-seater disability vehicle donated by the Lord's Taverners charity, the keys presented by Colin Slater MBE, BBC Radio Nottingham's popular sports commentator.

The brand new minibus

will change the lives of the Beeston youngsters, allowing them much easier access to the area's amenities.

The Lord's Taverners is one of the UK's leading youth sports and disability charities. This year, it will donate nearly £3 million to help give young people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance.

The Beeston Gateway Club is run by volunteers to give young adults aged 16 and over the opportunity to enjoy social activities. The club has more than 30 members with varying degrees of disability, including

learning difficulties, Down's syndrome and cerebral palsy.

The minibus from the Lord's Taverners cost £33,000. It will provide the Gateway Club members with access to a variety of sporting and recreational activities, including football matches, day trips and holidays.

Matthew Patten, Chief Executive of the Lord's Taverners, said: "The Lord's Taverners believes that sport and recreation are essential for all young people, particularly those with special needs. This minibus will help the Beeston youngsters get out and about and enjoy new places and experiences. We are proud

to support the staff, parents and young people of the Gateway Club in Beeston."

As he presented the minibus keys to John Martin, one of six drivers that the Gateway Club has on its books, Colin Slater said: "Presentations such as this, one that will make such a huge difference to what these young people are able to do, gives the Lord's Taverners a real sense of achieving something worthwhile."

### The Lollipop Lady of Lenton

LENTON Abbey lollipop lady Margaret Lamb is due to retire in July, following 27 years of seeing young school children safely across the busy Woodside Road to the Beeston Fields Nursery and Primary schools.

In appreciation of the years of commitment Margaret has put into the role, she was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Nottingham City councillors Dave Oldham and Tony Sutton, and Anne Brown, Chair of Lenton Abbey Resident's Association (LARA) on Wednesday, May 19.

Local writer Martin Leighton prepared this tribute, written in Nottinghamese, on behalf, he said, of "all those grateful Lenton Abbey legions."

"Though there were norra lorra lolly in it, she stuck steadfastly to 'er lollipop through thick'n'thin, come rain or shine, mornin'n'afternoon, courageously crossin'

generation after generation of 'er charges safely over the often dangerous Woodside Road, Lenton.

The lollipop lady's insistent cries of 'Don't press those lights yet' as yet another eager-to-get-home (though not to school) red-topped Lenton Abbey ragamuffin reached impatiently for the button of the Woodside Road pelican crossing will reverberate forever in our minds.

And so, Margaret, after all those years – an accomplishment hard to lick for any lollipop lady – from all those many generations of kids and their parents (myself included – you have negotiated my own six safely across those many years) we give you a heartfelt 'Thank You' for your sterling work down the years. What better way is there of serving one's own community than by keeping its children safe across the years? We think you deserve a medal.

And now, in your well-deserved retirement, we wish you the very best of luck, mi'duck."

Margaret, who lives on Woodside Road, will retire on her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 16, 2010. She said: "Now I've made my mind up to finish, I'm quite looking forward to it. I was asked if I wanted to continue and I discussed it over and over again with my husband, Ian, and we eventually decided that it was time for me to call it a day.

"Being a lollipop lady restricts what you can do each day and I've had very little time off over the years, so, if I'm honest, I'm quite looking forward to being able to do what I want to do and when I want to do it!"

### Free parking permits for some

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE County Council has agreed that people who live on a road with a residents' parking scheme and have a Blue Badge, or are 75 or over, will get free parking permits. They will get one free resident's permit and, where they are included in the scheme, one free visitor's permit.

Residents' parking schemes, such as those in Beeston Rylands, benefit roads where residents have difficulty parking on their own street because they are competing against commuters or other drivers for parking spaces. Drivers

without a permit are then banned from parking on those streets.

Cllr Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways, said: "Although the installation of residents' parking schemes is carried out at no cost to those residents, enforcement and administration has to be paid for somehow and, in the current economic situation, the Council has decided that those residents benefiting from the schemes should pay for them, which is the way it already works in many other areas of the country.

"However, we have been listening to people's concerns and agree that disabled and older people are probably most in need of their own car parked nearby, but are least able to pay any extra cost.

"Therefore, we have decided that these people will not have to pay for parking permits."