

Express Buzz

Footprints in Beeston Rylands

FOOTPRINTS is a new friendship club that has opened in Beeston Rylands – now that the Post Office on Meadow Road has closed and people have nowhere to meet.

A one-time Rylands girl herself, Cheryl Smith noticed that, once the PO had closed its doors for the last time after the recent cut-backs, Rylands residents found themselves with nowhere to meet up and chat. She set about rectifying the situation.

“Not surprisingly, the people who at one time always had a valid reason to go out, and would chat with friends as they called at the PO, found they missed that interaction when the PO closed,” she said. “I decided to see what I could do.

“The Footprints Club, whose name is taken from the well-known poem ‘Footprints in the Sand’ is the result.”

After scouting around for somewhere to meet, Cheryl found that the room

at the rear of the Methodist Church on Victory Road, Beeston Rylands, was available. She then set about arranging for supplies of useful information to be on hand for those who wanted it: for example: leaflets with details of Age Concern and Citizens’ Advice services, welfare rights and benefits, fire and safety advice, etc. Toys are available for Mums visiting with young children.

“We will meet every Monday, except for bank holidays, for tea and coffee, toast and teacakes.

“We are open to all age groups; Mums with young children as well as older folk. Come in for a cup of tea and a chat – we’d be delighted to see you,” said Cheryl.

Footprints is open to all every Monday (except Bank Holidays), 9.30am – 11am at the Methodist Church (rear room) on Victory Road, Beeston Rylands. Admission: free.

Organic milk bar naturally a success

A MONTHLY group aimed at encouraging new mums wanting to breast feed has found a popular, if shifting, clientele at ‘Scents of Harmony’ on Chilwell Road, Beeston.

During National Breastfeeding Week in early May, ‘Scents of Harmony’ owner June Cobley held an open coffee morning at the business premises where she generally offers aromatherapy and reflexology for expectant mothers.

At the regular drop-in sessions, June works with colleague Denise Pemberton to offer advice to new mothers who might be finding it difficult to breast feed, possibly needing nothing more than guidance from someone with years of experience – Denise was at one time Breastfeeding Advisor at QMC and keeps her qualifications up-to-date.

June said: “As well as offering what might be just that little bit of advice for

a nervous brand new mum who wants reassurance, we also keep details of, for instance, current legislation for the mothers of older babies who might be ready to return to work.

“Mums drop in and chat with other new mums who might otherwise find themselves stuck in the house with only the baby for company. They can talk about any ‘baby problems’ and we’re always pleased to help.”

As she enjoyed a coffee, mum Alison Rowe was keeping track of a lively six-month-old Sammy.

Alison said: “Looking back, I can see that, when pregnant, I was often told the pros and cons of breastfeeding – but never *how* to breast feed. Some health professionals appeared to take the line that it would happen naturally, but this isn’t always the case. Sammy wasn’t feeding properly at first – and I didn’t realise.

“It was all easily sorted.”

Snippets

Barton family – correction

IN Issue 126 of *The Beeston Express* (May 9), page 5 carried a note about the death of Eric Paul Barton. In both the article and the headline, we referred to Mr Barton as the “last surviving member of the Barton family.”

This is incorrect, and should have read: “the last surviving son of Thomas Barton, founder of Barton Transport in 1908.”

We apologise unreservedly for any distress caused to members of the Barton family by the error.

Volunteers needed for Wollaton’s canal basin

BBC Radio Nottingham is looking for volunteers to help make over Lambourne Drive’s old canal basin in Wollaton.

Between Monday, June 2 and Friday, June 6, volunteers to help in a variety of ways from litter picking, to painting fences and cutting down brambles will be welcomed between 10am and 3pm. If you can spare some time please contact BBC Radio Nottingham’s Actionline on 0115 934 8484. A spokesperson for Radio Nottingham added: “Everyone is welcome to join us for our launch of the old canal basin on Saturday, June 7 and picnic.

Look out for posters and flyers in Wollaton explaining about the launch.

Financial reward for accountancy student

A CHILWELL student has won a £15,000 accountancy scholarship awarded by one of Europe’s leading experts in financial and business training experts, Kaplan Financial.

Coming out on top of a gruelling series of interview steps, Sarah England (17) will join Kaplan’s accountancy scholarship scheme for school leavers in September.

Mum Shariefia said: “Sarah decided that she would have a look at this scholarship and started to do the work needed to pass each stage. It was a long and drawn out process culminating in an interview, and she was completely self-motivated right through the process. I’m very proud of her.”

Sarah is currently a Year 13 student at Bilborough College, Nottingham.

Spring visitors raise cash

MORE than 190 people visited a fund-raising ‘Spring Flowers’ event organised by the Friends of University Park at the beginning of May. In indeterminate weather that couldn’t make up its mind whether to rain or not, visitors strolled at leisure around the park, taking in the Millennium, walled and Jekyll gardens and enjoying the glorious displays of spring flowers. £440 was raised for charity through the National Gardens Scheme.

Digging in

PEOPLE walking between the High Road and Sainsbury’s in Beeston – perhaps heading to buy their lunch from jacket potato seller Steven Jones – will have noticed that Mr Jones remains in situ, even though his temporary lease officially expired at the end of April. Mr Jones had been asked to leave the site by J Sainsbury plc, owners of the land where the supermarket chain had given him permission earlier this year to set out his stall opposite the ‘Ten Bell’ on Stoney Street.

Sainsbury’s then wrote to Mr Jones early in April, advising him that they were “unable to permit the arrangement to continue on a permanent basis” although Mr Jones was certain he had not breached the conditions of the initial ‘probationary’ lease.

Now, four weeks after the temporary lease officially expired, Mr Jones commented: “I haven’t spoken to anybody from the store or received anything in writing. My understanding is that, by implication, they have decided to let me to stay.”

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.

Charge!!!

DURING the last few weeks I have had to get heavily involved at work into looking at transport issues and issues of sustainability. So, given recent events in the area, I have been paying rather more interest than is probably

good for me in the planned workplace parking levy and congestion charging.

What came to the fore (having now found myself in an informed position) is the general lack of consistency or robust analysis on such issues that comes from some of our local representatives and from those who think themselves worthy as opinion formers.

Firstly, it’s quite clear that if you go through the data and the reports they show that Nottingham is congested (no big surprise there then). Nor would you be surprised to learn that West Nottingham is heavily congested, especially the main routes into the City, and that most of the delays are down to working people commuting to work.

However, you might be surprised to learn that the costs associated with such delays are £167m per year for road travel in Greater Nottingham, and bus delays

alone at £27m per year. That sets the base line, and there aren’t many people who would disagree with these figures. So, what can we do?

It would appear that there are three options for curing the congestion problem: (1) ration the ability to travel by car by limiting road space, places to park or by cost/charging; (2) provide alternatives to car travel (a softer option); and (3) just build more road and parking space to build your way out of the problem.

So the City has said let’s go for option (1) and link to option (2) by trying workplace parking linked to other public transport improvements. Not surprisingly, this has caused a lot of controversy, and while the parking charge is a crude tool to limit travel, it’s quite cheap to make work. Congestion charging (like the system in place in London)

only hits those who travel into the City and, while potentially fairer, it is more complicated and expensive to run.

Now some have complained that they won’t support workplace parking charges, claiming we must be provided with the public transport alternatives first. Others say that we don’t need to do anything, as Nottingham’s congestion is not on the same scale as London’s. Some of these same people also oppose the main tools to provide alternatives to car travel into the City (such as the dreaded tram), saying there is nothing wrong with the current bus service.

But how people can say that the bus service is fine so we don’t need the tram, then say there is no viable public transport alternative to the car so we can’t have a congestion charge, is beyond me.