

# 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.*

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Home Made Bakery

LOU and Trevor West of the Home Made Bakery on Broadgate, Beeston, have been in business together trying to earn a crust for 14 years, married for twelve of them.

The independent and artisan Home Made Bakery is well known locally as a purveyor of fine breads and scrumptious cakes, pies and pasties. Everything is made fresh on the premises daily by the husband and wife team and, with all due respect to other local bakeries, the pastry produced at the Home Made Bakery is second to none.

But Lou, 39, never wanted to be a baker. She wanted to be a mechanic. She'd grown up in the midst of her father's transport business and that was what she wanted to do.

So how do you get from wanting to be a mechanic to becoming a top-notch baker?

Lou explained. "Back in 1987 when I needed to choose what to do with my life,

training to become a mechanic wasn't a career option for girls.

"So I wrote to the bakery in Nottingham where I'd completed my work experience earlier that year to ask if they had any part-time jobs available – after all, I needed a job of some description. The owner contacted me and asked if I would like an apprenticeship with them.

"People never plan to become bakers," she said, "but I said 'yes please' and went to Clarendon College, Nottingham, for three years to learn the basics of being a commercial baker.

"Trevor also studied at Clarendon and over the years, we've increased our knowledge and nurtured our skills. Working in the business is a love/hate relationship – the hours spent, no time together, all the usual drawbacks of running your own small business. But our

reward is a quality product, and we both enjoy that."

Lou recently attended a course in France, sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Bakers, to study the art of baking what the French know generically as 'morning goods' – patisserie, croissants, rolls, etc. She said: "I applied for a place more in hope than expectation, and was amazed when they offered me a scholarship. Already in my thirties, I thought I'd be too old. But off I went, leaving the family to fend for themselves, and came back having gained a wealth of knowledge – even though the entire course was conducted in French."

Lou and Trevor are both members of the Master Bakers Association.

They live in Chilwell with their two children. The older of two boys, Daniel, is already at work – as a baker in the family business.

## BID News



### How's it going?

MATT Robinson – the BID Manager for Beeston – is still working hard canvassing for voluntary contributions and we should have some exciting news to report in the next column.

With an extremely full diary, it's not always been easy for Matt to get to see the people who would benefit from contributing to the BID. Meetings have been cancelled and rescheduled many times while time keeps ticking on.

"I have to get these voluntary contributions tied up soon because the new financial year has already started for most companies and their 2010/11 budgets are being set." Matt explained.

However, with his enthusiasm and determination

stronger than ever, Matt continues to knock on these doors on behalf of the Beeston BID.

### Another BID gets the go-ahead

A ballot taken in March to establish a BID in Solihull was successful; the result was 75 percent in favour by a number of businesses, 73 percent in favour by rateable value.

The Solihull BID will focus on marketing, promotion and events, safety and security, accessibility and car parking.

A good example of a BID working really well for its elected area is London Bridge. Have a look at its website for more information, which can be

found at [www.teamlondonbridge.co.uk](http://www.teamlondonbridge.co.uk)

You might have thought that somewhere as world renowned as London Bridge wouldn't need to invest in a Business Improvement District initiative, but this demonstrates how well these initiatives are working.

### Keeping you in the picture

There will be exciting news in the next column about the voluntary contributions, so watch this space.

For more information, Matt Robinson can be contacted on 0787 558 1427. His email address is [matt.robinson@beestonbid.org](mailto:matt.robinson@beestonbid.org)

## Obituary - Dick Knight

RICHARD Herbert Knight, who died on April 9 at the age of 74, became a well-known figure locally as he travelled around Beeston on his pushbike, a bulging saddlebag each side of the back wheel, from one of his voluntary jobs to another.

Known almost everywhere as 'Dick', his life in later years was not one of the easiest, but he continued to have time and a smile for people and was certainly not one of life's whingers. Dick had always expected to be around to care for his wife, Christine, knowing that her health and mobility would only deteriorate as a consequence of her degenerative illness as the years passed, so it was a bolt from the blue when Dick was found to have cancer of the oesophagus early in 2009.

One of Dick's many voluntary roles was keeping the building and gardens tidy at the Volunteer Bureau

on Devonshire Avenue, Beeston. For this, he was nominated for a Broxtowe Borough Partnership Award and, invited to the Town Hall for the awards ceremony on March 30, 2010, Dick was thrilled to receive the 'Happy Borough' award watched by family, friends and work colleagues, his delight not diminished by being confined to a wheelchair.

Proud wife Christine was at the Town Hall to see her husband of 43 years receive the award. Of his busy life helping others, she said: "Dick had taken early retirement from Boots in 1995, where he'd worked as a Postal Supervisor for 25 years. Once he'd retired at the age of 60, he began help out more and more with local community groups such as Disability Matters, a group I had started that same year, and the Chilwell Circle of Friends, which had been under threat of closure.

"He was soon asked to join the local Partially Sighted Society. He delivered newsletters by bike for Christine and moved chairs for the Mother's Union at the parish church, he helped at events at the Catholic church on Foster Avenue where he was on the social committee and would assist with bus trips organised by some of the groups."

"He was so proud to receive the award," Christine added. "It was completely unexpected."

Dick was born in 1935 in Basford, Nottingham, and has one surviving younger brother, Eric.

He joined the 14<sup>th</sup> Nottingham Boys Brigade at the age of 12 and, leaving school at the age of 15, went to work for the GPO as a telegram delivery boy.

In 1957 he began work as a postman in Nottingham, then in Sutton-in-Ashfield, unable

to enter National Service because of his poor eyesight. However, poor eyesight didn't stop Dick from indulging his favourite pastimes of potholing and climbing, and he managed to stay in every youth hostel in Derbyshire as he explored that county's rock formations with a local friend, Bill Wharmby. He also enjoyed swimming.

He met Christine in 1965 when they were both cadet officers with St John's Ambulance and often on duty together. They would travel to engagements on a tandem, First Aid kit bags strapped to the back.

On one memorable occasion, they were out on the tandem – when the police pulled them up for speeding!

Christine explained: "It was nothing to do with me! I was merely another pair of legs for pedalling at the back of the bike. On this occasion, we were heading down the bridge by Beechdale Baths on the ring

road, and Dick wanted to beat the traffic lights, telling me to pedal harder.

"What we didn't know was that the car behind us

was an unmarked police car. We were pulled over on the other side of the lights and the officer asked us what on earth we thought we were doing,

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## Beeston Snooker Hall

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