

## Express Buzz

# Support boost for Ripple Appeal

THE end of February 2008 saw the launch of the Treetops Hospice Ripple Appeal to raise the £2.5m needed to build a new Care Centre at Treetops Hospice in Risley. *The Beeston Express* offered its assistance in raising money by raising awareness of the Appeal.

Local business owner Brigitte Armstrong at Jolie Lingerie read about the Ripple Appeal Challenge.

Working with Anita Care UK, she set to and arranged a special one-to-one fitting day for pre- or post-operative mastectomy or reconstruction customers at the Wollaton Road shop in Beeston, offering to donate 10 percent of the day's takings to the Appeal.

Brigitte said afterwards: "We had a lovely day. So

many people didn't even know we were here, let alone what sort of lingerie is available for mastectomy customers.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for local ladies who have, or are waiting to have, a mastectomy or reconstruction to find out just what is available in prosthesis, lingerie, swimwear and sportswear.



"One lady had unwittingly accepted the wrong size prosthesis. We advised her to go back and ask for it to be changed: it's really nice to have a day where you know you've helped someone."

Jolie Lingerie's support for the Ripple Appeal raised £110.80.

Kate Shaw, Ripple Appeal Manager at Treetops Hospice, Risley, said: "The day was a great success; there was a lot of interest from ladies of all ages who had been affected by breast cancer. It also helped to raise awareness for the services that Brigitte offers.

"I appreciate the support given by Brigitte to the Ripple Appeal."

If your business or group would like to get involved in the Treetops Ripple Appeal Challenge, please call Kate Shaw, Ripple Appeal Manager, on (0115) 949 1264, or contact *The Beeston Express* on (0115) 922 8007 and ask for a Ripple Appeal Challenge Pack.

## Aspects of Beeston

A STUDENT studying for a BTEC course in Digital Photography at South Notts College has put together an art exhibition, as part of his course, entitled 'Aspects of Beeston'. Concentrating on the architectural and social changes taking place in Beeston, the exhibition features photographs of local scenes, highlighting some of the transformations Beeston is undergoing.

Architectural changes, such as the building of the new Tesco supermarket and the proposed tram routes, have prompted the loss of buildings. Social changes illustrated within the exhibition include consideration of how the influx of people from all over the world are being woven into the fabric of Beeston town.

*The exhibition is on show at the Flying Goose Cafe, Chilwell Road, Beeston, for three weeks from Tuesday, May 6.*

## Snippets

### Bingo hall for Tradex site?

MECCA Bingo has submitted a full planning application to Broxtowe Borough Council for change of use from retail to bingo hall, and external alterations, at the defunct Tradex site on Queens Road, Beeston.

### Laptop computers stolen

FOURTEEN laptop computers were stolen from John Clifford Primary School, Nether Street, Beeston, in the small hours of Friday, May 2. Entry was gained through a window at the rear of the school and the thieves caused considerable damage to interior doors before handing the computers out through the smashed window.

### Attempted break-ins at Attenborough

POLICE are investigating a series of attempted break-ins at Attenborough on the evening of Saturday, May 3, 2008.

Anybody with information regarding either of the above incidents is asked to contact Nottinghamshire police on (0115) 943 0999 or call in confidence on 0800 555 111.

### Chilwell Lawn Tennis Club

CHILWELL Lawn Tennis Club is seeking new players over the age of 16 from all areas to join the club, which plays on three grass courts at Chilwell Memorial Institute, High Road, Chilwell (opposite College House School).

New members are welcomed on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm, and Saturday afternoons from 2pm. Ladies only also play in the afternoons on Tuesday and Fridays from 2pm.

For more information telephone Lorna (0115) 928 4598 or Colin (0115) 972 4994.

# Between you and me...

*BROXTOWE MP Nick Palmer writes his monthly column for the Beeston Express to keep us, his constituents, up-to-date and informed. We would like to remind you, however, that the views he expresses are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of The Beeston Express. If you would like to comment on any of the issues he raises, please write to the address on page 2.*

*The Beeston Express has no allegiance to any political party.*



### Is there too much politics in politics?

I USED to share lodgings with a full-time political party agent, and one evening over a drink he confessed something to me. "I find that I interpret absolutely everything in terms of how it will affect how people's vote. It doesn't matter if it's England playing a match in Prague or a drought in East Anglia; my first thought is always whether it will affect the next opinion poll." He added ruefully, "I'm ashamed of it, it's not normal, but I can't stop myself."

I was amused at the time, but it's actually very common among politicians. Is there a blocked drain in Toton? Never mind about reporting it – the urgent thing is to get a leaflet out

criticising the council. Is there an outbreak of bird flu? Never mind the farmers or the birds – how will this affect the party standings?

And what's more, it's becoming the normal way for the media to report any policy issue, and it rubs off on nearly everyone. I get letters saying things like: "I think you're a good MP but I'm not happy with the Government's policy on X, so I can't decide how to vote." I also get letters from people over the years saying they usually vote Labour but they won't ever vote for me because I didn't sort out the problem with their neighbour/get their pavement fixed/get them a new postcode.

But Parliamentary politics is only about voting every 4–5 years. In between, you actually don't need to decide how to vote. I'm naturally

interested, and do a survey of a few hundred constituents in different areas each week, but it's fine to say, "I dunno, I'll think about it then."

A hidden truth about politics is that much of it isn't really party political. What should we do about the American credit crunch? What is the relative priority of hospital care and preventative health? Should new houses be built in Rushcliffe? Should Beeston Square be redeveloped? Are A-levels or the International Baccalaureate the better preparation for life? It's possible to arrive at different answers whichever party you belong to, and there are going to be pros and cons every time. (Another hidden truth is that no controversial issue is as simple as the media imply – if it was, it wouldn't be an issue.)

To give an example: I organised a meeting recently in Kimberley for residents to discuss issues for the area, and someone asked why we couldn't have more light-hearted distractions for young people instead of just sport and studying. I mentioned the electronic dance simulation gear at Bramcote Leisure Centre and wondered if Kimberley couldn't have something like that. A Conservative councillor there said that was a good idea, and she'd ask them. A couple of days later, she told me that she'd talked with them and they hoped to do it: we will both support funding for it.

Now suppose you were a Kimberley parent and you were delighted to hear this. Should you vote Labour because I proposed it, or Conservative because the councillor followed it up?

Of course not – all that's happened is that we've both been doing our jobs in a completely non-political way.

The importance of party politics is that it reflects the underlying attitudes of the people who stand for the parties. The fact that I'm a Labour MP tells you something about my likely ideals, and if I were a Conservative it would tell you something different which you might prefer, or not. But even a casual glance at the national scene shows how much people vary within each party: Dennis Skinner and Peter Mandelson; Norman Tebbit and Ken Clarke – are they really very like each other? And ultimately your choice comes down to which individual you'll want to represent you.

But that's in a year or two. For now, I think we should

work together where we can, and concentrate on making our community work well. Where the parties disagree, of course we should say so. I'll have a spirited policy argument with anyone. And a healthy democracy needs lively parties putting different ideas forward: I wish more people would join the parties they support instead of just sitting moaning on the sofa. But politicians who only talk about parties are forgetting the point. We're all supposed to be trying to make our world a bit better, and if we spend a bit less time squabbling over votes and a bit more time putting forward positive solutions, we'll get better results for ordinary non-political people. It might even produce a few extra votes in the end as well.