

Express Letters

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BEESTON

Beeston Library
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Beeston News

86 High Road, Beeston

Broxtowe Borough Council

Council Offices,
Foster Avenue

Chilwell Road News

Corner of Chilwell Road
and Imperial Road

Co-op Food Store

291 Queens Road, Beeston

County Stores

57-59 Trafalgar Road,
Rylands

Discount Food & Wine

46 Lilac Crescent, Rylands

Food & Wine

Priory Island
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Hiral Newsagent

148 Wollaton Road, Beeston

Arun Food & News

154 Meadow Road, Rylands

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W H Smith

High Road, Beeston

BRAMCOTE

M&N News

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CHILWELL

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Bramcote Avenue, Chilwell

Bramcote Lane Stores

Bramcote Lane, Chilwell

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LENTON ABBEY

J B News

113 Woodside Road,
Lenton Abbey

TOTON

Toton Library
Stapleford Lane, Toton

A bee in your bonnet? Have your say here...

IF you want to express your opinion on anything that affects us as a community, then this is the place to do it. And bouquets are as worthwhile as brickbats are valuable. But please keep your letters short. We do reserve the right to cut letters to fit if necessary. If you contact *The Beeston Express* by email (see panel on page 2), remember to include your home address.

POLITICAL fervour increases, and we asked for readers' opinions as to how the apolitical *Beeston Express* should handle it. A couple of comments have been received:

Balancing freedom of speech

DEAR EDITOR: My feeling is that you get the balance about right. Throughout, your sword and shield is freedom of speech after all. All readers have to trust the editor. This is not so with political pamphlets, which can be appalling.

I went to the meeting on housing at Chilwell School: this meeting was organised and led by Nick Palmer and was, in the main, intelligent and positive, like the man. My sense of fair play was outraged by Mrs Soubry's pamphlet which does not mention Dr Palmer at all in the context of the meeting – until I read the rest of it and realised that she did not mention him as she could not find anything negative to say – the rest of her output clearly demonstrates that if she can find something negative – however tenuous – she will say it.

I also got a "questionnaire" (oh what enlightening information that will generate!) which was more of a collection of rabble-rousing slogans phrased as questions without context or consequence. 'Are you happy with fortnightly bin collections?' 'No, Mrs Soubry, I would like my rubbish taken away every morning at 9am in a silver wheelbarrow by a person in a freshly pressed white suit. I also want to pay less council tax and do more personally to protect the environment.'

Now this letter...if you are sure something is not the case, Mrs Soubry, do not go on to state it; to do so is to resort to the lowest level of mudslinging. I AM sure that Broxtowe Conservatives are not reconsidering their choice of candidate...but I do wonder if any of them wish they could.

*Andy Buttery
St Marys Close
Attenborough*

Right of reply

DEAR EDITOR: I wasn't going to answer Mr Bryant's criticism of myself and the Labour Party directly (Letters, Apr 11) but simply accept his points and get a haircut.

I did, however, pass on a copy of *The Beeston Express* to the regional officers in the Labour Party so that his point about the

national party could be taken on board. However, the Conservative parliamentary candidate raised certain points in your last edition which I feel need clarification.

Reference was made to a Tory leaflet which specifically mentioned Beeston. I keep a close eye on political leaflets being delivered, and, in the candidate's online blog, she stated that this particular leaflet was delivered over the weekend of April 12/13 – the day after Mr Bryant's letter appeared in *The Beeston Express*.

Therefore, he could not possibly be referring to this leaflet, but more likely to a Conservative 'questionnaire' which did not mention Beeston and arrived through letterboxes in the Rylands during the two weeks previously; around the same time as party supporters delivered the Labour party leaflet alluded to.

To answer to the editor's question regarding political input to the paper: I have always tried to remain objective and keep party politics out of this Letters column. I believe that is the way it should be, but there should always be a right of reply.

I would like to congratulate the management of this newspaper for being impartial at all times. It's a pity certain national newspapers don't adopt the same high standards.

*Steve Barber
Councillor for Beeston Rylands*

No railings, no lock

DEAR EDITOR: Broxtowe Borough Council has recently renovated the Square by removing the railings around the trees and adding yellow stone chippings to the bases.

Although this has improved the look of the area, the council has taken away an important and useful function for cyclists; namely the removal of suitable and secure areas for riders to lock their modes of transport.

As a cyclist, I now find it extremely difficult to find a sturdy place to lock my bike on a Saturday as there are only two rails outside Argos, two by Peacocks and one outside Somerfields.

If one of these isn't available, I have to lock my bike to one of the seats as I have a 'D' lock, which is the most secure, rather than a chain or cable which can be cut very easily by a determined and quick thief. I can't fasten it to a tree or post.

As there are so many cyclists living in Beeston, and cycling is promoted both as a health benefit and a green mode of transport, can I ask if the council is planning to install any more rails in the Square for its velocipedean residents?

*Christopher Frost
Denison Street, Beeston*

Time has stood still for too long

DEAR EDITOR: The precinct at Beeston Square was constructed many years ago. A clock was incorporated into one of the buildings (currently occupied by Argos), but for much of that time, it has lacked a hand – very frustrating.

I enquired recently at the Broxtowe Council offices on Foster Avenue if they knew anything about it. The person I spoke to surmised that it belonged to either Argos or the owner of the building into which it is incorporated, but did not know for certain.

Surely someone could authorise and pay for the necessary repair – it's a disgrace to Beeston. What does the Civic Society have to say – or the local MP?

*H J Gale
Sandringham Drive, Bramcote*

Social club history

DEAR EDITOR: There have been a number of references to the New Venture Social Club in *The Beeston Express*, but I cannot recall any mention of the fact that the building was originally a billiard hall run by Bruce...?

I cannot remember just when it was acquired by Ericssons, but I do remember that the building was covered by the works firewatch teams during World War II.

Does anyone else remember sleeping on a mattress on the floor when doing their turn at the club?

*Derrick Avery,
Broadgate Avenue, Beeston*

Too taxing

DEAR EDITOR: We are told that there are 5 million people who are affected by the abolishment of the 10 percent tax on income. I am one of them. I am 85 and, as far as I am concerned, as my income is fairly low, it is equivalent of losing half of my winter fuel allowance. If you are unhappy with your circumstances, please write to your MP and voice your protest. It is important that he should know, so that he will hopefully do something about it.

Name and address supplied

Social decline?

DEAR EDITOR: We must give thanks to Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair for the great legacy they have left us.

Britain is a country concerned by its changing society, with greed and family breakdown becoming the great social evils. It is also true that our society has become more individualistic and selfish.

Greed is an issue that echoes the unease about the growing gulf between the rich and poor. Connected to all of these issues is the opinion that we no longer share a set of joint principles, and that we have lost our 'moral compass'.

This is linked with the decline of community, connected to increasing personal isolation obscured by a gratuitous desire for consumer goods. Everything seems to be based around money and owning things. The more you have, the more successful you are.

The mis-use of drugs and alcohol is both a cause and consequence of many other social problems, including family breakdown and poverty. All political parties seem to be 'out of touch with the real issues people face' and are ineffective at tackling social problems. The gutter press propagates negative and damaging attitudes and big business fuels inequality and consumerism. This is the great legacy of Margaret Thatcher regrettably carried on by Tony Blair.

*Eric Clarke
32 Marton Road
Beeston*

Slow down

DEAR EDITOR: Some time ago, someone in the Highways Department had the brilliant idea of erecting live 'Slow Down' speed signs on Wollaton Road, Beeston.

These seemed to be very effective in slowing traffic down, much more so than any speed camera.

However, they have not worked for months, which is a shame. We could do with a few more of this type of sign around Beeston. Is the lack of them because they do not earn any money?

I see that recently someone was so obviously incensed by the speed camera just past Chilwell School that they set fire to it.

A gentle reminder is usually all that's needed to slow down.

Local Motorist