

Community

Express Letters

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Honesty the best policy

DEAR EDITOR: In a recent newsletter sent out by the Conservative Party, Anna Soubry, the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate, outlines in some detail the financial situation of her campaign.

It explained precisely how much the campaign had received and it was very interesting when it compared this to the amount received by Nick Palmer!

While I'd be lying if I said I regularly sit down and think about political funding, it was still an eye-opener to see how much more Nick Palmer receives for his campaign than Anna Soubry (and, I would guess, the Lib Dem candidate).

It was refreshing to see such honesty in a political leaflet and I really hope that the Conservatives continue in this vein, and that other parties follow their example.

Paul Shaw
Beeston

Presenting the facts

DEAR EDITOR: Many readers may be curious about a recent Conservative leaflet claiming that I have a "huge financial advantage" in the coming General Election. This does have its funny side, but it may be helpful to set out the facts.

The position as I understand it is: Funding for the Conservative campaign 2007-9

Subsidy from Lord Ashcroft via the central Conservative Party: £38,509; contributions from three individuals: one payment of £100,000 and two smaller payments.

Funding for my campaign 2007-9: Funding from the national party: zero; funding from the UNITE union: £4,500; small contributions from lots of individuals, none of them greater than £100.

The idea of the national party giving me £38,000 or an individual giving my campaign £100,000 is an

idyllic pipe-dream. But if it ever happens, I promise that I will never complain that my opponent has a 'huge financial advantage'. There is a certain irony in being so well off as to be able to afford a special expensive leaflet to say how poor you are.

The leaflet argues that I have an advantage as I have paid staff and a £10,000 budget for non-partisan letters to constituents, such as the recent information about travellers in Toton. That's true, but there's a difference between party propaganda and, as a team, simply doing our job of responding to constituents who've asked for help in a non-partisan way: I don't think anyone who reads my letters on the travellers, land development, open-cast, or Tesco will have found them politically slanted.

The reality is that the Conservatives are throwing an enormous amount of money at Broxtowe. Whether this enables them to buy success remains to be seen, doesn't it?

Nick Palmer MP

Club Reports

Rotary Club of Beeston

VISITING Past President and former Rotarian Tony Lincoln stepped in at short notice to give a talk on The History and Life in Cyprus at the Rotary Club of Beeston's November 2 meeting, when the speaker for the evening had to cancel due to illness.

Clare and Christine from Midlands Women's Aid gave an illustrated talk of their work on the 16th November. Established in 1974 it

was the first refuge to be established outside London and there are now nine in Nottingham and the county providing help for women and children suffering domestic violence. Also an outreach service operates alongside the Refuge to provide a complete package of support to the victims. On behalf of the Club Alan Oxley thanked the ladies for giving a very enlightening and entertaining talk.

A book sale was held at Beeston Market last Saturday the 14th November, which raised funds for the Club's charities.

Preparations are now in hand for the next major event, which is 'Santa in the Square' on Saturday the 12th December. Further details will appear in the next edition of *The Beeston Express*.

Two o'Clock Club

A SALE of Christmas cards by Caroline Hoare of the Rainbows Children's Hospice raised £120 for the charity at the start of the November meeting of the Two O'clock Club.

Caroline's fund-raising was followed by Barbara and Ian Morton presenting 'Music and Flowers'.

The entertainment began with a sing-along, including a set of Irish songs,

accompanied by Ian and his keyboard before Barbara gave a demonstration of how to make a selection of Christmas flower arrangements to the club members. These were raffled at the end of the meeting, when other flower arrangements that Barbara had brought along to form a display of her handiwork were sold.

The afternoon's

entertainment concluded with a tribute from Ian to Andrew Lloyd Webber and included songs from the shows Joseph, Cats, and Phantom of the Opera.

The following week it was the turn of Reg and Shirley's Tea Dance; well attended as usual and attracting its regular visitors. Dancers had the chance to participate in Old Time, Line and Ballroom dancing.

Beeston Probus Club

CLUB member Colin Sharpe shared his enjoyment of his latest visit to Peru with the other club members at the latest meeting of the club.

The video of his recent tour included a visit to Lake Titicaca at an altitude of 14,000ft down to the equatorial Amazon forest at Iquitos in the very east of the country.

His visit started with the capital, Lima, a city he found to be a very colonial Spanish City, its buildings seemingly straight from Spain, but now with the trappings of a very

modern 21st century city where supermarkets vie with shops selling locally produced goods.

He said: "The most imposing building in the city is probably the Presidential Palace and the ceremony of the changing of the guard just has to be witnessed! The guards have obviously been trained at the school of funny walks."

A railway trip to Lake Titicaca revealed the poverty of inhabitants in the countryside, whilst in the Andes at 11,000 ft, Cuzco

and Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas, were visited.

Colin then descended to the Amazon basin, where he took a boat trip along the river before engaging in a spirited blowpipe competition with the natives.

Later in the month, Club members and their wives and guests met at Beeston Fields Clubhouse for the annual lunch. The current Chairman, David Trotter, welcomed the guests and thanked the Golf Club staff for the excellent lunch provided.

Toton Women's Meeting

THE Women's Meeting at Toton Methodist Church held a Remembrance Service on November 10, and a collection of £62 was donated to the Royal British Legion.

The group held its AGM in October under the chairmanship of Rev Melanie

Stoodley. Reports were given by the President and the Treasurer, and the officers and committee agreed to continue in office for the coming year.

The meeting continued with hymns, prayers and readings, and a collection of

£50 was donated to the New Tribes Mission. This will be credited to the Hansen family, missionaries in Greenland.

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24 at 2.15pm, and all ladies are invited. The speaker will be Miss Doreen Pinfield.

Winter Wonderland
Christmas Fayre
Notts County Football Club
Thursday 3rd December
6pm - 9pm

Come and join us for a fun and festive evening of live entertainment in a themed venue. Indulge yourself in a wide selection of luxury Christmas gifts, fashion and beauty for both men and women.

You are sure to find the perfect present for your loved ones.






Raffle in Aid of the Tootsups Hospice Raffle Appeal

* Free Mince Pie * Free Goochy Bag * Live Prize Draw *
* Free Parking * Live Entertainment * Themed Venue*

Tickets: Only £5 in advance or £6 on the door

Ticket Box: Tel: 0115 9614648. M: 07981 242005. E: beeston@nottsfc.co.uk www.nottsfc.co.uk


