


The Beeston EXPRESS




The Family Funeral Service
www.lymn.co.uk
Owned and personally managed by
the Lymn Rose Family since 1907
Pre-paid funeral plans • 24 hour personal service

BEESTON 0115 922 0433 Trent House, Station Road	LONG EATON 0115 946 3093 West Park House, Lime Grove	WOLLATON 0115 928 4366 107 Arleston Drive
---	--	--

"Our family serving your family"
Ilkeston Co-op vouchers honoured and members discount

COVERING BEESTON, CHILWELL,
ATTENBOROUGH, TON and BRAMCOTE

Issue 207: November 4, 2011
Fortnightly - 25p

Unlock the potential of Weir Cottages *by the Editor*

THE canal and riverside footpaths at Beeston are probably known to thousands of people: those whose doorsteps literally stand alongside the Nottingham/Beeston canal, as well as the countless visitors who travel from much further afield to be here.

So many know this stretch of the Trent as an absolute delight and are there because they love it. Isn't it a shame, then, that the Weir Cottages have stood derelict for so long?

There they stand, neglected, forlorn and surrounded by sturdy security fencing behind the Lock Cottage. And yet every single person who visits this popular stretch of the Trent Valley has to walk past this eyesore between Beeston Lock and the weir field.

Why the neglect?

In the 18th century, the Cottages would have played a significant part in the burgeoning industrial life of Beeston, when goods were transported by barge along the canal or through 'Beeston Cut'. The occupants of the four cottages overlooking the weir would have had their work cut out each day. Those days ended when the railway arrived and the empty cottages were allowed to fall into disrepair.

Can we do anything?

Yes. A proposal to rescue the cottages and put them to good use

as 'The Canalside Heritage Centre' needs community support for the critical next stage.

Local resident Stewart Craven wants to see the cottages restored, and has been working on a sustainable and feasible method of achieving that objective since he first 'tested the water' for his ideas in 2009. A group of trustees has been established.

If successful, the proposal to restore Weir Cottages will include:

- A heritage museum and educational resource centre
- A bistro, with outside seating overlooking the river and weir
- A fishing tackle shop
- A foyer area for art/craft displays
- An allotment/garden to be used as a kitchen garden by local schools
- Scope for the old lock in front of cottages to be used as mooring for 'trip boat' to link with the Big Wheel cycle track and the Trent Valley Way walking route

The Canalside Heritage Centre proposal is ready to move to the next stage and this is where your support is needed.

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) is already supporting the proposal. Mr Craven applied for initial funding to the NCC Local Improvement Scheme and the council offered £35,000 to assist in getting the project through to the

next stage – an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Cllr Richard Butler, NCC cabinet member for Environment and Sustainability, said: "Nottinghamshire County Council believes that this project will be hugely beneficial to the community as a whole and to the surrounding area, hence the commitment and high level of support offered from our Local Improvement Scheme."

Funding

If the funding application to HLF is successful, it will provide a centre manager and support educational projects at the centre for three years.

To get to that point, HLF need to know that the community wants the scheme to go ahead.

Community Support

To find out what people would like to see the cottages used for, project trustees recently set up stall alongside the cottages, asking passers-by if they would complete a survey form. Trustee and local resident Graham Harvey said: "Not only were people happy to stop and complete the survey, they were also volunteering to take care of the garden, to work in the museum, to give talks... We were stunned by the response, with about 150 people stopping to complete the survey.

"The project hasn't even got past the funding stage yet, and people were already offering to work in the centre as a volunteer!"

Please complete the survey

Holders of the purse at the Heritage Lottery Fund will need to see a minimum level of support from the community for the scheme as part of their vetting process.

If you would like to see the weir cottages restored to something attractive that adds value to Beeston lock and the canal side, please complete the form at the website:

www.canalsideheritagecentre.org.uk

(Further details next issue).

Council takes Toton green belt off list of preferred sites for housing

AT the Broxtowe Borough Council meeting held on October 26 at the Town Hall, Toton residents and concerned citizens from all around the borough packed into the public gallery to hear what councillors had to say about listing green belt land at Toton Sidings as a 'preferred site' for housing development.

A furore had blown up because, along with every other local authority across the country, Broxtowe has to find space for building new houses. The Government says so. It is a fact.

And the council thought that Toton's green belt might be an option.

The sidings at Toton had originally been put forward for consideration during the 2009 Core Strategy consultation, during which Broxtowe ended up with a number of 5765 houses to find space for. A change of government, and this number is theoretically no longer a given. But that is the approximate number that political parties are using for their sparring.

continued on page 3...



BHA
architecture

design innovation
domestic & commercial
planning applications
building regulations
free initial consultation

0115 854 5841

Beck Haynes Associates
beeston • nottingham

www.bha-architecture.co.uk



JULIAN OWEN ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTS

Extensions, New Build, Conversions
Green & Energy Efficient Design
Planning & Building Regulations
RIBA Chartered Architects

Free Factsheets
Free Initial Consultation
Residential Commercial Industrial

0115 922 9831

Queens Road, Beeston
www.julianowen.co.uk