

# Buzz

## The Beeston Express

### CONTACT

The Editor  
PO Box 7440  
Beeston, Nottingham  
NG9 1ZS  
Tel: 0115 922 8007

email:  
enquiries@beestonexpress.co.uk

### EDITORIAL POLICY

*The Beeston Express* is independent of any organisation, commercial or political. Our policy is to provide readers with news and information that is fair, accurate and balanced.

We try hard to avoid mistakes, but some may inevitably slip through. If you have any comments to make about the paper, or any complaint, please contact us. We will, as far as possible, try to put things right when the error has been ours.

### NEXT ISSUE

Friday, 6 November 2009

Deadline for Adverts  
Monday, 2 November

### ADVERTISING in The Beeston Express

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£3 per single column  
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0115 943 0999

#### NHS Direct Line (24 hours)

0845 46 47

#### Queens Medical Centre

0115 924 9924

#### City Hospital

0115 969 1169

#### Broxtowe Borough Council

0115 917 7777

#### Citizens Advice Bureau

0844 499 1193

#### Beeston Library

0115 925 5168

#### Train Timetable Enquiries

08457 48 49 50

# Chilwell estate to benefit from proceeds of crime

RIBBLESDALE Court in Chilwell has been selected to receive a £20,000 windfall funded by cash and assets seized from wealthy criminals.

The court is one of just three projects in Nottinghamshire that has been chosen to receive the cash under the Community Cashback scheme. It will be used towards the cost of installing CCTV cameras in an area with a long history of antisocial behaviour related to drugs.

Labour's Home Secretary Alan Johnson announced the £4 million Community Cashback fund, which gives local people a direct say on how criminal assets are spent in the fight against crime and antisocial behaviour. It was felt that Ribblesdale Court would benefit from the extra security.

More than 45,000 members of the public voted on 1,225 community projects via a dedicated website, neighbourhood policing meetings and through Citizens' Panels.

Broxtowe MP Nick Palmer said: "The area around Ribblesdale Court has always been a worry to me. Last year I leafleted the area asking for information, in confidence, to help the police get on top of the court's drug problem. Several useful bits of information were forthcoming and I'm pleased to say that as a result things did get better.

"It's a tiny minority who make it unpleasant and difficult for the vast majority of decent people in the area. I hope this initiative sends a message loud and clear to our youngsters. If you get involved in drugs you will be caught."

Home Secretary Alan Johnson MP, said: "It's only right that criminals are made to pay back for their crimes. The Community Cashback fund ensures some of their ill-gotten gains are ploughed back into local communities.

"Seizing assets deprives criminals of money, reduces the incentive for crime and promotes fairness and confidence in the criminal justice system. I'm glad so many people have got involved either by putting forward plans to improve their neighbourhoods or voting for their favourite project."

Road shows were held earlier this week in different parts of Nottinghamshire to promote the powers available to the courts, the Crown Prosecution Service and the police to seize money and goods made as a profit through illegal activity – in the case of Ribblesdale Court, drugs.

Using the Proceeds of Crime Act powers, confiscation orders totalling almost £500,000 have been made against local criminals

in this financial year alone. This is expected to at least double by the end of the year.

While investigating crime, police can seize assets as evidence of offending; these can be retained later as evidence of a lifestyle funded through crime. Prosecutors can also apply to the court for an order to freeze bank accounts or prevent the sale of property.

Money seized from offenders is fed back into the Criminal Justice System, with some going back to areas directly affected by crime.

Detective Inspector Kevin Fidler, who heads up the force's financial investigation unit, said: "Over the last few years we have seen significant amounts of money seized from people found guilty of committing crime.

"Working with other agencies in the criminal justice system we want to hit these people where it hurts – in the pocket. Offenders may think they can serve their prison sentence and once released they can enjoy the fruits of their crimes. We are here to make sure they do not benefit from their ill-gotten gains.

"The powers are there for us to use. If we are made aware of someone living beyond their means and this is through criminality, we can and will target them."

## Firework display organisers urged to put safety first

ORGANISERS of firework displays are being urged not to cut back on costs at the expense of safety.

Up to 1,000 people are injured every year by fireworks, and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is concerned that there may be more this year if organisers ignore safety procedures to reduce costs.

Major displays can cost thousands of pounds for the fireworks alone. HSE inspectors want to ensure the events pass off safely and have issued new guidelines.

A principal inspector at HSE's Explosives Inspectorate said: "Firework displays should be enjoyable occasions, but they obviously need some responsible planning. We provide simple and clear advice to help displays go off both safely, and with a bang!

"If you're holding a local firework display, you won't need to plan it in the same level of detail as a major

display. But you still need to plan it responsibly, without cutting corners over safety.

"That means thinking about who will light the display, whether the site is large enough and free from overhead obstructions, and what you'd do if something went wrong. It may be common sense, but accidents often happen if people don't think enough in advance about the risks."

HSE has issued five safety tips for the day of a fireworks display:

- Recheck the site, weather conditions and wind direction;
- Don't let the public into the firing zone or the area where the fireworks will fall;
- Discourage spectators from bringing alcohol onto the site;
- Don't let spectators bring their own fireworks onto the site; and
- Never attempt to relight fireworks that have failed to go off.

## Concern over missing woman

POLICE are concerned for the welfare of a woman who went missing from an address in West Bridgford on Wednesday, October 21.

Maureen Lundy, 44, left a house in Patrick Road, West Bridgford, around midday on Wednesday and did not return.

She is described as white, 5ft 3in tall, of slim build, with blue eyes and shoulder-length black but greying hair. She was last seen wearing a pink velvet zip up hooded top, green jogging bottoms and grey canvas plimsoles.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Nottinghamshire Police on 0300 300 99 99 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



## News in Brief

### Police patrols continue

POLICE patrols continue on and around the Beeston Fields estate after the outbreaks of violence that began with a stabbing at a teenage party on Foster Avenue on October 10. This was followed a few days later by a street fight in daylight on Wallet Avenue, during which a 15-year-old girl was hit with a stick.

Inspector Zoe Hallam, based at Beeston Police Station, said: "The increased patrols will continue until after Christmas. Residents in the area are already more confident about coming out, and we would like to remind residents that, in addition to the increased street patrols, there is work in progress behind the scenes to improve the amenities in the area which, people tell us, have all but disappeared during recent years.

"Youth services are involved in discussions to find the young people an alternative to hanging about on street corners, which older residents find intimidating, but we would like the community to help us as well."

Inspector Hallam said that the six youths involved in the Wallet Avenue fracas all remained on police bail and that she was keen to find a way of resolving the current tensions in the area.

### Residents' parking schemes reintroduced

DRIVERS who have difficulty parking on their own street will benefit from residents' parking schemes in future.

Nottinghamshire County Council is reintroducing residents' parking schemes from this financial year and intends to create up to 10 a year, starting with some of those that have already been requested on streets with the most problems.

The Cloisters, just off Salthouse Lane, Beeston, is on the list.

Residents' parking schemes provide each household with a free parking permit plus one for visitors and ban anyone without a permit from parking on that street.

Cllr Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways, said: "Since the county and district councils took over parking enforcement last year, drivers no longer get away with parking illegally, so sometimes park on nearby streets instead. This means residents in some areas have difficulty parking near their own house so we are reintroducing a programme of residents' parking schemes."

In addition to The Cloisters, there will be extensions to schemes in Albert Street, Stapleford and the Station Road area, Beeston Rylands.