



protecting and improving the environment

# Newsletter 159

Dec 2013



in this issue: 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Heritage Day, AGM news

## EDITORIAL

What a busy year it has been with so much new and proposed building work, tram works and related road chaos, Heritage events, 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and even visiting Hollywood stars!

In this issue we review some recent activity and look to the future.

Karen Attwood

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### CIVIC GUESTS WELCOMED TO THE CIVIC SOCIETY'S 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Mrs Marion Wallwork cut the celebratory cake

THE Beeston and District Civic Society celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 11 with a special celebration in the Town Hall on Foster Avenue, Beeston.

Guest speaker for the evening was Dr Peter Barrett CBE. Dr Barrett, previously a GP at the Manor Surgery on Middle Street, Beeston, left general practice seven years ago to take up the role of Chair of the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Having stepped down from his role as Chair of the Trust in July this year, Dr Barrett has more time to devote to his role as Deputy Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire – a local representative of Her Majesty the Queen within the County. It was about this ancient office, which has existed for more than four hundred years, and the part it continues

to play in the year 2013, that Dr Barrett wished to enlighten the members of Beeston's Civic Society at the Town Hall. Mrs Judy Sleath introduced the running order of the evening then Broxtowe MP Anna Soubry spoke to the invited guests and audience. The Mayor, Iris White, then introduced Mrs Marion Wallwork, a founder member of the Civic Society. Mrs Wallwork who gave a brief background of the Society, some of the changes it has seen and the battles it has fought against poor urban design on behalf of local residents. She mentioned, as more recent examples, the Society's concern when the High Road was first pedestrianised, the encroachment of supermarkets and increased traffic and the loss of most of Beeston's independent traders, leaving the town centre "full of estate agents and charity shops." Mrs Wallwork, who lives close to Beeston's town centre, explained the reason for her long-standing and on-going interest.

She said: "In 1973, I asked three or four people if they would be interested in starting a society when I decided that Beeston could do with a bit of brightening up. We met in my living room and, since then, I would like to think we have raised the public consciousness of good design in Beeston."

Although the Society no longer meets in her living room, Mrs Wallwork remains a keen supporter: "I am pleased that the Society has lasted so long. There is still a great need for education about good design."

Mrs Wallwork was asked to cut the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake, which was enjoyed with a glass of wine as the evening's celebrations came to a close.

(Adapted from an item first published in The Beeston Express, October 25, 2013 courtesy of Sheila Eden, The Beeston Express©)



Display boards full of information at the event

NUGGETS FROM THE FIRST DECADE OF NEWSLETTERS – “Where are we now?”

Barbara Selwood has carefully selected some fascinating excerpts from previous newsletters. We will be publishing these over the next few issues.

newsletter 1 - Nov 1973

### Open Spaces

“The Society has already been actively looking at the question of Open Spaces and Children’s’ Play Areas in Beeston. This is a particular concern in view of the proposed sale as building land of Chilwell Manor Golf Course.”

newsletter 2 - Jan 1974

### Planning in Beeston, present and future

“Mr S C Moppett, Engineer, Surveyor and Chilwell Planning Officer of Beeston and Stapleford Urban District Council, spoke first, emphasising that he was giving his personal views on local matters. Referring to the Willows first, he said although the present building would be needed for offices for some time yet, the building of flats was likely in the near future, but these would not be suitable for old people because Middle Street would separate them from the town centre.”

newsletter 4 - May 1974

### Buildings and Trees

“An interesting space which Mr Oram mentioned was the Square (surely a misnomer). The new Shopping Centre had revitalised this area. By removing the railings from Beeston Parish Church the council had created a new feeling of spaciousness.”

newsletter 5- Aug 1974

### Recycling Waste Paper

“Readers who care about trees and realise that vast acres of forest are consumed daily to provide news print will have been disturbed by the fact that even while paper went up in price, the Broxtowe Council ceased its separate Paper Salvage Collection” June Fielden

newsletter 6- Nov 1974

### AGM Report – Listed Buildings

“In connection with the listing of building, the Council has been approached with regard to the Anglo-Scotian Mills (Ariel Pressings) and the Crown Inn. Broxtowe have said the former is listed, but the Crown Inn is not thought to be of sufficient merit. We may therefore try to

get Conservation Area Status to cover this most interesting part of Beeston."

newsletter 9- Aug 1975

#### From the Chair, Over to Who?

". . . when trying to visit the library at Beeston! There's plenty of car parking space, particularly on a Saturday, but it is always fenced off, as is the empty space behind the Town Hall. Meanwhile, residents in nearby streets complain of car parking in front of their house and there is a queue to try to get into the 'Pay and Display'."

newsletter 10 - Nov 1975

#### Cinema Closed

"Beeston's last cinema has closed. Opened in 1938, the Essoldo Cinema began life as the Astoria and was always regarded as a luxury theatre. Now, having outlived its contemporaries (of which there used to be three; the Majestic, still there but emulated by Bingo, the Palace and the Palladium; both on the High Road and sold to provide for Super Markets), the building is shortly to be opened as a Bingo Club. Meanwhile in Nottingham, the Odeon will shortly have an extra viewing theatre."

newsletter 12 - Sept 1976

#### Discussed by the committee - Old Vicarage Site

"The Society's plan for the Old Vicarage Site: The Anchor Housing Associating is interested in our scheme for building Old people's homes on this site."

newsletter 14 - Dec 1976

#### Pilot Practical Project

"From a list of possible projects drawn up the Derek Selby, the committee has decided to investigate the possible renovation of the cottages on Town Street, Bramcote, which at present are owned by Hardy & Hanson Ltd."

newsletter 15 - Feb 1977

#### Old Vicarage Flat Plan Approved

"Beeston Civic Society wins congratulations. Beeston Civic Society, one of the main objectors to a plan to build an office block on the Old Vicarage Site, have succeeded in getting Broxtowe Development Services Committee to approve its scheme to develop the area for flats for old people. Under its plan there would be 18 flats in a 2-storey block expected to blend with the rest of the area

and landscaping. . . . the two storey block would be similar in style to the Crown Inn buildings and would have a courtyard through which, it was hoped , would pass an old-style footpath from the Church to Middle Street.”

[Nov 2013 – Manor Surgery + Grewells Pharmacy was built!]  
With thanks to Barbara Selwood

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## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2013

Hon Secretary Eileen Atherton tell us about some of her highlights

The first visit of the year was again the Chilwell Depot tour on Thursday, 12th September when another 80 people toured the Depot courtesy of Station Staff Officer James McCloskey. This year James had updated his video presentation which now ran for nearly an hour in the Station's Theatre.

This gave an excellent insight into the activities of the depot from its beginnings in the First World War until its use today.



It was a very interesting two plus hours tour, and I am pleased to say that James has agreed to do the tour next year as well.

On Friday I visited the New Beeston Conservative Club which was taking part in HODs for the first time.

Saturday morning saw Beeston Town Hall, which was opening up on Saturday morning for HOD after an absence of a few years. This year, due to publicity about the event, we had been contacted by a Chilwell resident who had offered to lend a map of the area, which was believed to be very old and had been taken to Australia by one of their relatives and returned to them following his demise.

Broxtowe's Mayor, Cllr Iris White, officially opened the event at the Town Hall at 10am and 75 people attended over the two hours. It was

amazing how many people said that they had never been in the building before and everyone seemed to have enjoyed their visit. The venue was also hosting a coffee morning in aid of the Mayor's Charities which raised over £90.

Thanks go to Clive and Maureen Southern, and Janet Bywater who helped with the Society's stand and also to ex-Broxtowe Mayor Maureen Tewson who conducted tours of the building.

My next visit was to The Inham Nook Allotments, where I had a very welcome cup of tea and a cake before setting off to St.Mary's Church, Attenborough.

We then set off for all the events taking place at Bartons, which had been officially opened by our MP Anna Soubry at 10.00.a.m., including vintage cars and buses, a display by the



Anna Soubry MP  
opened events at  
Barton's

Beeston & District Local History Society, Beeston Division  
Girlguiding and Beeston Camera Club.

During this time, Hurt's Shaw factory had another very successful opening, particularly in view of the publicity of producing the Shawl that Prince George wore on leaving hospital.

We then went on to Christ Church Chilwell, where they were already planning next year's event!

On Sunday morning I set off to Stapleford to see Barbara Brooke who was leading the Stapleford Town Trail walk. The weather was not kind but I was pleased to see that the Stapleford Mayor, Cllr David Grindell, and his escort were ready to join the group.

I then set off to Bramcote Old Church Tower, which had 113 visitors on the Saturday but didn't expect to see so many on the Sunday to see how they were getting on. I purchased a couple of plants and hope that I don't manage to kill them off through lack of watering!

After that I went to Attenborough Nature Centre where they had been even busier than usual!

Attenborough Nature  
reserve



A short stop home for lunch before I saw off the start of the Society's own Heritage Trail Walk. By this time it was raining hard but despite this 30 hardy souls turned up with raincoats and umbrellas to listen to Professor John Beckett's very interesting walk and talk.

There were several events going on not mentioned here, including the tour of Lilac Grove Sewage Treatment Works, Royal British Legion, John Clifford Primary School, Greenwood Step Clog Dancers, Boots D10 Factory, the Paradiso Cinema, St.Helen's Parish Church and St.John's C of E. Primary School.

My colleagues Barbara Selwood, Joyce Brown and I are now looking forward to planning Heritage Open Days in September 2014  
Eileen Atherton

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## REDISCOVERY OF BEESTON KING JAMES 1 BIBLES



The Civic Society are delighted to have participated in the 'rediscovery' of the two Beeston King James 1 Bibles (early 17th Century publications) and to have backed and cooperated with the Beeston Parish Church in making the value and contents of this local treasure more available to all our local community.

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century these two Bibles had been found by the then Vicar, Rev Arthur Beckton, stored in the Parish Church Tower. He thought that they had probably been put there and then partly forgotten after the Church was rebuilt in 1842. Beckton realised their real importance and, finding the volumes were in need of urgent attention, they were both rebound.

The Bibles are currently looked after by the University of Nottingham Archives Library where they are carefully preserved. This is good news but it does not allow for easy access and many citizens remain unaware of the Bibles' existence and their considerable historic and ecclesiastic importance. A working group of Civic Society and St. John's PCC members sought to resolve this apparent conflict between preservation needs and general availability.

Financial resources were limited and so the ideal of accessing an especially designed and atmospherically-controlled showcase was quickly dismissed!. So too was the desirability of the costly digitilisation of the script (both methods are successfully used to resolve similar issues in richer dioceses.) Instead, the joint working group decided to adopt the Archive's helpful suggestion that a portable banner be made. This would bear a photographic record of some of the Bibles' most interesting features and give succinct comment on their important history.

The above photograph included here gives some indication of the working group's selection of the material which is shown on the finished banner.

The banner is available for teaching and demonstration use in schools and elsewhere. A concise guide and explanation of the Illustrations is also available.

Enquiries should be made through the Church Office – Kathryn Weller (Admin Assistant).

Tel: 07709 756949 Email: [beeston.parish@gmail.com](mailto:beeston.parish@gmail.com)

Jean Cameron

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#### 40<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY TREES

Way back earlier this year when the committee talked about what to do for our Birthday someone suggested planting 40 trees. Two slight challenges – a) where to plant so many, and b) where to get the funding from; so when we were informed about Woodland Trust giving away Community Tree Packs we applied for two small Copse packs – each with 30 trees, making 60, enough to cover any losses and leave, hopefully, 40 growing. There will be Rowan, Silver Birch and Wild Cherry. And we were successful! The trees have arrived and are being overwintered in a sheltered spot in my back garden in an old vegetable rack basket.

Tim at Broxtowe Borough Council has agreed they can be planted in the Bramcote Hills Park woodland area in January or February. Conservation volunteers are currently preparing the area.

There will be plenty of publicity to mark this final act of our '40<sup>th</sup>' celebrations.

Barbara Selwood

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## MORE TREES – a salutary tale

When the Girl Guide Movement celebrated their Centenary 5 years ago, the local Girlguiding members chose to plant 100 (big) trees within their local areas and chose suitable sites where between 1 and 10 trees could be planted. Five Hornbeams were planted by the Chilwell Guiding members at Inham Nook Methodist Church. We find now that the Church will be sold and the land developed for housing, and there is every chance that the five trees will not be wanted there. We hope to find another nearby site, which won't need to be redeveloped for housing, where we can transplant them. If any Civic Society member/reader is aware of a suitable site in Chilwell for five trees that will grow fairly large, then please let me know ASAP.

Barbara Selwood

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## THE BIG TREE PLANT (update)



As reported in the December 2012 Newsletter, our project THE BIG TREE PLANT continues and once again the sap is rising. A reminder – the original title came from a national project that was funding Big Trees in Cities, replacement trees in streets. It was brought to our notice by Broxtowe Council after we had complained about the 'missing' trees in St. John's Grove and we agreed to work jointly on finding 'missing tree sites'. Beeston Express supported us and we regularly included details in that publication. We had a great response in terms of sites suggested and people willing to be 'Tree-Guardians'. However, on further inspection, some sites were not suitable, some privately owned and so, by a process of elimination, it was agreed to look at St. John's Grove specifically. Because of the possible small number, it was agreed not to apply for a grant from the original funders.

In the meantime, the responsibility for Highways (including street trees) was transferred from the Borough to the County. The end result was that in March seven trees were planted along Devonshire Ave and

on the grass verge at the junction of Bramcote Road and Glebe Street, with local residents willing to be 'Tree Guardians', watering the plants when needed and generally keeping an eye on them.

There was another tree planted, that was not on our list, at the end of Kingrove Ave near Bramcote Ave and, unfortunately, we haven't found anyone who lives nearby willing to be its 'Tree Guardian'. If you live in that area or know someone who does, please let me know.

Tim Crawford at Broxtowe Borough Council suggested that we re-look at the proposed tree sites in Chilwell. As Cllr Joan Briggs had identified many of them, Joan and I met Tim and Sam, his colleague, in September and Tim drove us around Chilwell to actually see each of the sites. Once again they were checked for nearby vegetation and for utilities below. The result is that Broxtowe BC (who are responsible for grassy areas, rather than grass verges along roads) has agreed to go ahead to plant trees on five sites. The trees will be Rowan and Cherry, with colour interest in Spring and also Autumn. At Aldene Court there will be two Red Oak trees planted in the large round area.

The other sites are: -

Grove Court Central Ave, on the grass verge near the entrance to housing (2 Rowan – Golden Wonder) and the warden has agreed to keep an eye on the trees, watering as necessary.

Wheatgrass Road, near Pearson Close – 3 Cherry trees

Rathvale Court on the grassy area between the Court and Field Lane (nos 28 – 45) – 2 Cherry trees

Weldbank Close – grassy area off Field Lane – (5 Rowan, 3 yellow and 2 red) – there are residents around there, yet to be re-contacted, that offered to be Tree Guardians when we first mooted the project.

We did also notice that there are several Cherry trees missing along Bye-Pass Road, so I informed the County Council officer.

I do not know at the moment when the planting will take place. We will circulate members on email to inform them, especially if we have a photo-shoot.

It would be good if we could find people who live near to these sites, who would be willing to keep their eye on a tree, watering it if needed, especially in the next two years if we have a dry spell. If you are willing to help, or know someone who lives nearby then please let me know.

If you are aware of a site near you, which would be enhanced by one or more trees, then please let me know. After all, we, as local residents, will know our patch much better than council officers (unless they live in the area too).

Barbara Selwood

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## BLUE PLAQUE PROGRESS

Blue plaque activity is drawing to a close. It is nearly four years since the joint working group comprising representatives from this Society, the Beeston and District Local History Society, the Stapleford and District Local History Society and, latterly, the Bramcote Conservation Society, pooled resources to action the Southern Broxtowe blue plaque scheme.

This is a remarkably productive collaboration that will result in at least thirty plaques celebrating a combination of people and places in Attenborough, Beeston, Bramcote, Chilwell, Stapleford and shortly, we hope, Toton. What shines through is that we live in a place where interesting people have done exciting things. The diversity is extraordinary. Academics, evangelists, engineers, chemists, bankers, businessmen, innovators, a schoolmaster, a general and an admiral are included in the list, together with the 1918 Chilwell explosion, schools and a manor among places marked.

Plaques bring people together. Many individuals from every background are involved, as with Richard Beckinsale in July. In October we celebrated George Wilkinson in Nether Street - a man responsible for building much of what we recognise now as Beeston. More recently, the oldest houses in Beeston have been marked in West End; and on the afternoon of 11 November Sir William McAlpine, Chairman of the Railway Heritage Trust, unveiled a replica memorial and plaque to the six Midland Railway staff from Attenborough Station who gave their lives in 1914-1918.

Knowledge of the plaque scheme stretches as far as the City of Greater Bendigo in Victoria, Australia. We have rubbed shoulders with Hollywood celebrity, while collaborating with schools, the Borough Council and various local groups. All this helps to raise the profile of Beeston and the participating societies. Each plaque is self-funded by property owners, families and interest groups involved in the subject, while the project as a whole is economically run by a handful of active volunteers, keeping it affordable and popular.

The working group will disband once the job is done. A last task is to produce a freely available explanatory leaflet that will make some use of the wealth of material gathered. This society has set aside up to £500 for artwork and origination to allow this to happen, leaving reprinting in the hands of others to keep the flame alive. We will keep you in touch with progress.

Peter Robinson

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THE B

Matt Gould is a local blogger who has gathered many followers whilst he writes about Beeston issues.

Further details at

<http://beestonia.wordpress.com/>

and on Twitter at @Beeestonia

## BEESTONIA ON THE BUSES

I've only ever met two people who have admitted they've never used a bus, and both in the same town. A decade and a bit ago, I lived in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and both of these public-transport maidens – Barry and Sarah - hailed from there.

For someone who grew up in Nottinghamshire, this was baffling. I've been clambering on and off buses all my life. Around the age of eight I was allowed to even travel alone, shuttled from the arms of my mum in Stapleford to my gran's embrace in Toton. The thrill of being on my own, sat on the velvet-red upholstered seats, the exotic mustiness of the ashtrays, the rough feel of the ticket, purple printed with numbers that seemed like codes into the adult world. All for two pence.

To compare the buses in the South East to the ones we had – and, to some degree, still have - here is akin to comparing a Caribbean cruise on the QE2 to a stormy Channel-cross in a dinghy. The buses there ran by the joy-thieves that are Arriva, were as stripped back as possible, hard seats, no air con or heating, and drivers whose concession to customer service was a pitiful sneer on boarding. For this you paid a premium, for which you would be grateful, as more often than not the bus simply wouldn't arrive at the promised time, if at all. Barry and Sarah's snubbing of buses became more explicable with every journey I was forced to make.

We're very lucky here, I realised. Trent Barton, which shuttle buses through Beeston with astonishingly regularity, are world class. Leather seats, full air con, disabled access, and drivers so friendly you wonder if they won the lottery minutes before and were just doing one more

shift. This is a legacy we're blessed with that goes back well over a century, when the maverick T.H.Barton launched a fleet of buses onto the county's roads and changed public transport for ever.

Barton deeply cared about his buses, and with a fascination with all that was new ensured no expense was spared in keeping ahead in the technological stakes. The history of the company is one that demands more than the space here, but an intriguing detail from the early days of last century echoes through to today. The success of the buses effectively destroyed contemporary plans to introduce trams to Beeston. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century thus became the century of buses, principally Barton's, with their luxurious livery, distinctive grilles and cap-doffing drivers who would always nod you on with a smile even if you were a few pence short of the fare.

Now in 2013 the pendulum seems to have swung back. The tram has returned, and choked off the bus routes from the centre of town: the buses are now forced to ply a route on the outer roads. Barton's may have been sold off to Trent buses to form Trent Barton in 1989, but Barton's as a company, based at the sprawling, huge depot on Chilwell High Road, still operates as a entertainment, art and market space. The tram works, however, led Simon Barton, direct descendant and scion to the Barton legacy, to close down activities as the tram works earnestly continued.

So have trams won this century-long battle? I doubt it. The buses here have treated us well, and that affection is reciprocated. Trams may be faster and marginally more reliable, but we love our buses here. As for Barton's as a venue, their recent surprise Tram-a-geddon series of events suggest they'll be back soon, and the former depot will rumble back into life, not with the sound of buses, but of music, markets and a million other things that will bring colour to Beeston. Get on board.

Matt Gould

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## TRAM TURMOIL AND BEYOND

A very apt description of Beeston and the surrounding area at present I think – and I'm sure it will get worse before it gets better, as my gran used to say! One can see some improvement in certain areas; Chilwell Road for instance, but even that has yet to have the tram tracks laid and High Road, Chilwell is in the process of having service paraphernalia moved. So we could be lulled into a false sense of security. I feel especially sorry for people living in the Lower Road area, where, I hear, they have also had to cope with a rat problem. For everyone in the Broadgate area of Beeston, walking to and from buses must be keeping them mega fit! According to Dr.Nick Palmer's latest

newsletter the completion date is now Christmas 2014, and I relay this news with fingers crossed! But this is bad news for those local traders affected by the upheaval.

For pedestrians and drivers alike, getting around the area takes a great deal of thought and planning. I recently visited a friend in Beeston Rylands, and now that Grove Avenue and Cator Lane are both closed, I had a route planned out until my neighbour suggested a better one. Even so I took a wrong turn and ended up in a cul de sac! We try not to be out in the car on the Nottingham side of town, especially at peak travel times. And, of course, the ring road has its own problems, just to add to the general mayhem. But I'm sure I don't need to go on any more, you are all now aware of the existing (and possible future) situations.

On a slightly different note, Dr. Palmer also urged us to look to the future, after the works are all completed, and the tram is up and running (and it will happen), and think about making Beeston a place to visit and enjoy. He is, of course, right; the future matters and, after all the moaning and complaining is over, there is still work to be done, particularly for our council. We also must be prepared to play our part, and I hope it may not too late to influence the development of Beeston Square. As the tram works develop, one can see what an eyesore Argos and the neighbouring properties will become (in my opinion they always have been), and no amount of attempts to disguise it will hide that fact – even adding a working clock! We are missing a once in a lifetime opportunity to make the square into an attractive outdoor area where people will want to come – and spend their money. Where, one asks oneself, is the vision? Plenty of people failed to make their voices heard on the subject of the tram and Tesco through sheer apathy and I am sure that in the next few years I will hear plenty of voices raised about the abysmal state of OUR square. There is supposedly an improvement in the national economy, so we should be pressuring Henry Boot and the council to reflect that in the plans for the square.

So readers, when you have your tram, and whether you wanted it or not is irrelevant, what next? And how will you react to future plans to change our immediate environment? There IS such a thing as people power and you are the people; so if you don't like it, say so and support organisations like the Civic Society in all they do on your behalf and in your name.

Joyce Brown

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## PUBLIC TALKS – PADDY TIPPING 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013 Bobbies on the Beat?

The rain was unrelenting as members of the local Civic society sought the cheerless refuge of a Junior School hall to hear the views of their recently elected local Police Commissioner, Paddy Tipping. Despite the weather and recovering from a mistaken venue, Mr Tipping arrived in good spirits and quickly engaged his audience with both fact and lively controversy concerning the policing policies for his patch. His main message described a personal mission to return the 'Bobbies on the Beat' and to this end he had already enlisted forty new recruits in the area and was proud to explain that critical to their training was the development of good relations with the public they served. Supporting this mission were moves to retain individuals within areas well known to them. He was, for example, seeking also to develop speedier channels for professional advancement so that individuals were not forced to seek promotion elsewhere. These developments along with other targets are, of course, limited by the financial cuts felt by the service as a whole. In particular, the decision to shut many of the small police stations in the area has already limited easy access to the public. Three teams were already housed in the Council Offices following closure of Broxtowe's Police Station.

Encouraging news was the assertion that local crime had fallen by 40% over the last four years. Nevertheless the speaker felt that 'fear of crime' remained high. To maintain a reassuring and proactive service, priority is being given to the reduction of antisocial behaviour by the 'twenty five and under' cohort of local citizens. Police were engaged with the problems of alcohol- and drug-related behaviour and were involved in the search for meaningful employment and accommodation for this age group. It was interesting in this respect that grants were available to groups willing to engage with such challenging work in the field.

Tipping outlined other important issues for his Force, namely attention to domestic violence, victims of crime and crime prevention itself. These and other relevant Police issues were openly discussed by members and speaker alike.

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'Bobbies on the Beat' sounds comforting and British but the writer asks herself - is this still the most effective way of preventing crime? An omnipresent, uniformed and often armed constabulary seen in alien

lands may bring reasonable assurance of safe passage but it also brings chill and utter despair. Is it possible to be both effective custodian and casual friend? Has British Society perhaps moved on? (your views to the editor?)

Jean Cameron

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held 8<sup>th</sup> November

At this meeting held at John Clifford School, Judy Sleath was elected Chairman with Brian Loughbrough as Vice-Chairman.

Owen Rees and Dr. John Patrick were elected on to the Executive Committee

Chairman's report to the AGM

2013 has been a special year. We have debated our priorities for our 40th year. Looking back is not something we would advocate for all, but we are still concerned about the quality of life here in south Broxtowe as a fit place to live, work and play.

Our high profile activities have once again featured planning and transport. At the same time as we have news of the success of one of our members in securing 40 saplings, others are coping with the impact of congestion. We have made representations about building on the Green Belt and we can foresee difficulties arising from the extension of the tram route to link with HS2.

The Heritage Open Days weekend has enabled us to highlight aspects of history, manufacturing and employment where the scheme has grown in recent years to include even more venues.

Our programme of events, walks and speakers has included the new Police Commissioner for Nottinghamshire and Steve Dance, the Chief technical officer of the Council, and has enabled us to thank the council for the use of the Old Council Chamber in the Town Hall for some of our events.

Now we have secured the use of part of the John Clifford School for the regular events of the Society, it is pleasing to report that we have a new home for our meetings.

After the Christmas meeting, which will allow members to discuss matters of mutual interest, there will be an opportunity to speak about the Square with James Greenway of Henry Boot. In February we shall hear from John Hess about his work as political editor of BBC Radio

Nottingham. Perhaps this will allow us to raise the topic touched on by Dr.Barrett, our guest speaker at the 40th Anniversary meeting, where he referred to the shortage of candidates from this area for recognition in the Honours scheme. Sarah Alton and Matt Orchard will return for the third time in March to discuss the tram project.

Our programme has been tailored to give you, the members, adequate time to raise matters of current concern.

The final meeting of the winter session for which we owe much thanks to the Secretary will take place in April when Mark Chivers of the Boots Enterprise Zone will round of our Season of Talks.

We should end on a happy note. We have broken our own record with 11 Blue Plaques unveiled this year: a total of 28 to date marking local worthies and events. The team are aiming for 30.

Finally, may I remind you of the problem facing small societies throughout the land, that is, the unwillingness of people to come forward to take office. We are in need of a Treasurer – a very interesting and rewarding job.

Brian Loughborough

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#### GIFT AID

With your December Newsletter you will have received a new Gift Aid form. The Tax authorities have changed the way Gift Aid is claimed which has brought our attention to the fact that many of our mandates are very old. We therefore wish to update our records and to that end would like you all to complete the new form if you are income tax payers, and return asap to the treasurer.

If you are joint membership you both should fill in your names and signatures.

If you have any queries please telephone Andrew Milner on 0115 9229280

#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due at the beginning of the Society's year, September with those paying by standing order arriving at the beginning of October. If you have already paid by cheque or pay by standing order you need take no action but anyone who hasn't paid please let the treasurer have your subs asap. The subs have not changed and are £7 single and £10 joint.

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## Postcards and Christmas Cards

The Civic Society postcards can once again be purchased from WH Smiths unless you come to meetings where they are much cheaper! We have a good selection available to buy at our meetings too, also a very nice card which can be used for a Christmas card.

Please consider buying some to use this year.

Judy Sleath

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## Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual authors and not the official stance of Beeston and District Civic Society unless explicitly stated.

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