



protecting and improving the environment

# *Newsletter 166*

## September 2015



**The new Beeston bus/tram interchange**

*In this issue: Conserving the past and planning the future*

## **EDITORIAL**

I hope you find something interesting in this busy little newsletter. It was difficult to fit everything in as there's so much going on at the moment!

Please note the details of our forthcoming meetings and events, we very much hope you can join us.

**Karen Attwood**

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## **CONSERVATION CORNER**

In this issue – musings on External Wall Insulation (or EWI for short) in relation to using it in on buildings – and its pros and cons.

It is entirely understandable that in this age of environmental consciousness and the drive to reduce energy bills that government subsidised EWI is very much in fashion. The theory is simple, if you have a building which has solid wall construction then insulating it externally goes some way to improving energy efficiency. By insulating externally any internal disruption is minimized and a better insulation coverage is achieved.

However, buyer beware. EWI has two major drawbacks.

Firstly, much of the charm and architectural quality – the stuff that makes the amenity of our areas so pleasant to live in – can easily be covered over by the insulation – especially by 'bang it up' without a care builders. There are many buildings already in Beeston which have had their 'soul' removed in this way. These features include brick bond and design, decorative stone work, depth of window reveals and eaves, and detailing of rainwater goods. The buildings we live in were carefully designed and constructed by architects for not just their practical purpose, but also their aesthetic quality. Altering them not only spoils this – but also their financial value...

Even more potentially damaging, though, is the actual physical damage adding the insulation could do to a solid walled building.

At its most simplest, the application of the insulation involves glues and screws – which permanently harms the fabric of the building. It's pretty much a one way process.

More insidiously though is what could happen out of sight. Most buildings built up to 1928 are likely to be constructed in such a way

that they need to 'breathe', by allowing moisture to evaporate through their external lime pointed walls and internal lime render plaster. This is how damp and condensation was effectively dealt with. Covering these buildings up in EWI could potentially cause what is called 'interstitial condensation'. Which basically means that because the moisture in the wall cannot evaporate, the internal structure becomes wet with condensation. This causes walls to be cold (and cold walls are not thermally efficient) and for rot and mould to set in. Not good.

Another factor to consider is planning permission. If you live in a conservation area or in a listed building, planning permission is required to add EWI. But there are many buildings that are not in such areas and are part of our Victorian or Edwardian built legacy. It always pays to enquire with Broxtowe Borough Council as to if permission is still required, as if the insulation material is substantially different and covers a large proportion of the property then planning permission may still be required.

Is EWI the modern pebble dashing scourge – blighting once noble buildings? Maybe. We are all temporary owners of the houses we live in – and we owe it to future owners, our town and our community to try and preserve what is worth preserving and improve what should (a subjective topic if there ever was one!). It is absolutely important to increase the energy efficiency of old solid wall buildings – but care must be taken. It is possible – and for those interested I can thoroughly recommend the Society of Ancient Buildings "Old Eco House Handbook" ([www.huntwriter.com/old-house-eco-handbook/](http://www.huntwriter.com/old-house-eco-handbook/)), a copy of which may be available from Beeston Library. I am also happy to offer thoughts at our meetings and coffee mornings – and do get in touch via the society's email address if this is of interest to you.

**Owen Rees**



*Example of external wall insulation*

## **TOWN DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION – END RESULT**

Most of you will be aware that there was recently a public consultation about what should happen with Phase 2 of the Square. Due to the council not having the funds to put anything on for the public the Civic Society offered to hold a series of opportunities for the public to see the discussion document, highlighting the context and aspiration for the site (although its vision was based on the last plan from several years ago, 2008, which now bears no relation to the current new square) and to make comments.

We did this by having a stall in the Square on 2 occasions, an extremely wet Monday with 2 members of staff from the Council namely John Delaney and Michael Bruce, a Saturday with Michael Bruce and 3 of our Saturday coffee mornings, all of which attracted large numbers of people. We spoke to many people and indeed have been doing at every opportunity starting at last year HOD events.

You can imagine then how upset I was to be told that the total responses made was only 134! I can give you the rundown of the figures: at the top of the list was a cinema with 40 in favour, followed by bars and restaurants 36, cultural and community space 34, shops 21, hotel 15, parking 14, residential 10, recreation (swimming/bowling) 6, public toilets 9, clock 5, student accommodation 3, lastly outdoor art and performance 3.

I am afraid words fail me with this result, this included actual paper forms and responses via the website. Hopefully by the time you are reading this the tram will have been running with passengers for a couple of weeks and developers will come forward with what they can offer our town. Whatever the outcome is, it will not be operational for 2/3 years as it has to be planned, go to planning for approval then built so we could be looking at 2018 before we get our new Beeston. In the meantime I understand that when the site is cleared of all the building materials, the space will become a 'rough' car park so it does not end up looking like the Tesco site did, a blight on our town full of weeds and rubbish.

I hope for a far better response and much more public involvement when the actual plan is put before the town.

**Judy Sleath**

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## **STUDENT VISION**

There is often comment around Beeston that we don't really take advantage of that great institution on our doorstep: the University. While the town is definitely enriched by the town – the academics and faculty staff that make this their home bring in the financial benefits – we perhaps could do more to tap into the humungous intellectual capacity of the place. It took a Professor to work out how.

Professor Sir Martyn Poliakoff – now a Knight of the Realm – came aboard the Beeston Continuum group some time ago, offering his contacts at the University to see if they could come in and bend their brains round Beeston's continued development. The angle he was particularly keen to pursue was that of green, sustainable development: his wife Janet is well known in the area for her work with Greening Beeston. The Professor has form on environmental matters too: his work in 'green chemistry' has led to a mini-revolution in cleaner, less damaging ways to manufacture chemicals. Martyn got in touch with the Department for the Built Environment, who in turn invited a group of people up to the campus to see 'Green Street' a cul-de-sac of diverse homes using different techniques of sustainability: a living lab of retro-fitted 1950's terraces, purpose built homes devoted to energy production; and numerous other cutting edge technologies. It's quite an incredible place: startling in its innovation; inspiring in its applicable feasibility.

How do we incorporate these ideas into Beeston development? That's where the students step in. After talking to the department, it was agreed to let a group use Beeston as a live study area: particularly focussing on the Phase 2 Square development. Yet they weren't just tasked to put a building on the site which fit: they had to take account of the surroundings, infrastructure and commercial practicalities. Possibly the greatest challenge though, was to find something that was sympathetic to a much less tangible but no less important factor: the feel of the place.

This could only be understood by study, so the students immersed themselves into what Beeston is about, visiting the town, talking to locals, reading its history. I was invited up to the campus to show the short film I made about Beeston, Beestonia: The Movie, which attempts to define the undefinable: what makes this town different.

The process has been complex, and I imagine, a huge challenge for the students. Yet the results are in, and from the little I've seen they're

very interesting: these aren't just abstract ideas sketched out idly; but real depth of vision and thought.

An initial presentation took place at the White Lion on 9<sup>th</sup> August. Negotiations with CP Walker and Broxtowe Borough Council should ensure a more permanent exhibition, in an empty shop unit on the High Street.



*Dr Lucelia Rodrigues presenting the students' work*

But to what end? The students will get their grades, but what for Beeston?

Simply, we find what we like, and perhaps even plump for the best idea. If it is feasible, then obviously somebody needs to build it. Yet what developer would pass up on the chance to put up a building that a) has had the freshest, brightest design minds build it b) has been assessed and surveyed c) has overwhelming public (and therefore, one would assume, local authority) support?

It is turning development on its head: we decide the idea, then find a developer to build it, rather than the standard idea of a developer throwing an idea at us and hoping not too many of us disapprove. It should prove to be a fantastic experiment, for both the University and Beeston: a true symbiosis of town and gown.

**Matt Goad**

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## **TRAMS - AGAIN**

Like Joyce Brown in the last Newsletter, I rejoice that the time of turmoil and chaos caused by the tram works is virtually over – although even today, 13<sup>th</sup> July, there was a grand traffic hold up centred on the White Hart Inn area.

I should very much like to know why we have all suffered such delays. Who was in charge of the whole operation? Of course it was massively complicated but what with previous experience of building the first tram route, with all the sophistications of computer assistance, and with many bright brains around, why were things such a mess?

How many different companies were involved in the construction work? How much co-operation was there between them? How often did they liaise over different works? How much co-operation was sought with the various utilities? I was told, when commenting on a deep hole being dug on the same site as a previous one, that the gas utility had suddenly demanded a deepening of the gas pipes. How often were contractors kept waiting for supplies, and why did such happen?

I walk into Beeston Square from the bottom of Devonshire Avenue most days and I never once saw more work people working than standing and watching. Why was this? Idleness? Lack of organisation? Lack of someone in charge?

The whole enterprise appeared very amateurish – and a lot of us felt we might have done better!

**Marion Wallwork**

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## **STREET FURNITURE**

Our chair, Judy Sleath, has been keeping various local social media outlets well informed on this matter.

The latest information is listed below.

Money has been spent on benches from the following sources:

Mostly from developer contributions, a significant amount from the tram project (Nottingham City Council and TWA) and a little from Broxtowe's own budget.

New stainless steel street furniture started being installed in the Square late July, new stainless steel street furniture behind the Chilwell Road tram stop and Collin Street should be installed in August.

New wooden street furniture and the reinstatement of the memorial benches around the Parish Church should be installed in August,

subject to discussions with the church.

Old furniture from The Square and from the old bus station will be refurbished, if still fit for purpose, and will be reused across the Borough, including some locations in Beeston.

**Judy Sleath**

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## **SHOPPING TRENDS**

I have been observing recent debates among local residents on the Facebook page 'Beeston Updated' about what sort of shops they would like to see in the High Street. Two themes emerge time and time again. One is a criticism from residents of the number of charity shops on the High Street and the second is encouragement from some of the owners of our many independent retailers to shop with them. One evening I was reading another update shortly after buying a pair of shoes online, which took less than 5 minutes.

I find it almost unbelievable that the first on line shopping system was demonstrated in 1979 and the first web browser was written by Tim Berners-Lee in 1990. Since then, the phenomenon of buying goods over the internet has proliferated at an astonishing rate across the globe.

In 2010, the United Kingdom had the biggest e-commerce market in the world when measured by the amount spent per capita. In 2012, ecommerce sales topped \$1 trillion for the first time in history and since then growth has continued a pace, particularly in India and China.

Mobile devices are playing an increasing role in the mix of e-commerce. Some estimates show that purchases made on mobile devices will make up 25% of the market by 2017.

I found an interesting study online (via my own mobile device) "*E-commerce and the Market Structure of Retail Industries*", by Goldmanis, Hortaçsu, Syverson and Emre". *Economic Journal*, June 2010, which observed that as one might expect, larger firms have been thriving in the internet business world as they are able to use economies of scale to offer lower prices. The lone exception to this pattern at the time of the study (in 2010) was seen to be the very smallest category of shops, with between one and four employees, which appeared to be withstanding the trend. The study argued that people have become much better informed thanks to the web, and that the businesses that

cater most to their desires will thrive. If people want lower prices, then bigger shops and chains may be the ones that do best. But it is equally possible that a small shop meeting a very specific need might see its market share expand because more people who want what it provides learn of its existence. The internet also allows customers to see businesses' true colours. If the trend continues, the adjustment that follows may be wrenching, but the net effect is one that conforms to what consumers want, whether they admit it to themselves or not.

**Karen Attwood**

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## **PLANNING**

The most interesting and controversial planning applications which have recently gone to the Council's Planning Committee were not in the Civic Society area, but nevertheless I think that they are still worth reporting on.

Firstly there was an application to build a solar farm largely on the old Watnall Brickyard site, which the planners had recommended should be granted permission. This generated lengthy and heated discussion; anti because despite being mainly Brownfield it is situated within the Green Belt and pro because of the need to increase sources of renewable energy to replace fossil fuels. Disappointingly the majority vote was to refuse the application. This application has now been resubmitted, and I wonder whether the councillors will now reconsider their decision.

The second application concerned a pub, the White Bull in Giltbrook, which has been designated an asset of community value and which the applicant hoped to convert into a shop. Being designated an asset of community value gives land or property of importance to the local community additional protection from development under the localism act of 2011. The community can nominate assets to be placed on a Council list, and if the asset is then sold the community has the right to bid to buy it. Again there was much discussion, but this time there was consensus amongst the committee members. It was argued that another shop in the area would not be an asset to the community in the same way as a pub and they voted unanimously to refuse permission for conversion. This decision leaves the pub vacant as although local brewery is apparently interested in purchasing it Greene King the current owners are reluctant to sell to a rival company.

It is often said that the summer is when large, controversial applications are submitted as they slip out without people noticing

them. I haven't seen any evidence of that yet this year but August has barely begun when I write this. I have however noticed another repeat application for 5 flats in the woods in Bramcote, the previous having been refused, and an application for a Poundland in one of the units to replace Wickes at the Chilwell Retail Park, and one from Henry Boot to refurbish and replace the frontage of the vacant Yorkshire Bank unit in the Square.

**Caroline Penn**

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## **GOING GLOBAL – A HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM**

An exhibition at the Weston Gallery at Lakeside from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016

University College Nottingham opened its doors for the first time in 1881. At a time when free elementary education ended at 11 the aim of its Victorian founders was to provide the people of Nottingham with access to a university education.

Positioned on Shakespeare Street, at the heart of the city, the college had a staff of four professors, six lecturers and twelve teachers. Students could enrol from the age of 14 upwards. These origins may have been unprepossessing but the college expanded both in student numbers and in curriculum. IN 1928 Jesse Boot gifted the college part of his estate at Highfields and this became the basis of University Park as we know it today.

The exhibition charts how a University College with a few hundred students grew to become the world's first truly global university. It draws on material from the University's own archives to focus on key events in its history, including the granting of a full university charter in 1948 and, in more recent times, the building of the University Hospital and the opening of the Jubilee, China and Malaysia campuses. The exhibition focuses on the student experience, using prospectuses, timetables, photographs and uniforms to explore changes in the student way of life from the days of the University College to the experiences of today's 40,000+ undergraduate and postgraduates, who come from 150 or so different nations.

The exhibition has been jointly curated by Professor John Beckett, an active member of the Beeston Civic Society, who leads our summer walks. The Exhibition at Lakeside also includes two guided walks around

University Park, and a lecture on Jesse Boot and Highfields, all of which may interest members.

The exhibition will also lead to the publication of a new book on the history of the university, which John Beckett has researched and written, and which will be out in 2016. The book traces the history of the university from its days as a civic college, mainly for part-time students studying for diplomas, in the 1880s, through to the modern institution with several campuses in the East Midlands (including the hospitals - QMC, City, and Derby), and overseas in Malaysia and China. You will be able to pre-order your copy of the book when you go to the exhibition - at a discount!

**John Beckett**

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### **THE LATEST FROM HIGHFIELDS**

Some disappointing news to start, although for those of us who have been living with tram delays it will "par for the course". The Heritage Lottery funded work in the park did not start in June because the contracts had not been received from the contractors. There is no alternative date as yet, although there was a date rumoured - all sound depressingly familiar! So, hopefully, I will have more positive news on that in the next issue.

Work has been completed on the electrical supply to the cascade, so this is now working properly and the northern end of Tottle Brook has been de-silted by Severn Trent. There are some new rowing boats on the lake and these have proved popular. Events for children are also popular and well attended.

The World Women's Croquet Championships took place at Highfields Croquet Club from 25th July to 1st August preceded by an open evening on 24th July. The club had an open day on 4th July which I hope was well attended.

Nottingham Civic Society is attempting to raise the profile of Nottingham and a blue plaque to commemorate Jesse Boot is to be unveiled at the Larder restaurant, the site of his first shop, in Hockley. The Castle Rock Brewery has opened a new pub at Trent Bridge in premises that were formerly occupied by Boots Social Club, and it is hoped that the building will be listed - I'm told that it is well worth a visit!

Finally, if anyone has any old documents about, or photos of, or relating to Highfields Park, we would love to hear from you.

**Joyce Brown**

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### **BEESTON CARNIVAL**

For those of you who didn't make it to the tenth annual carnival on Saturday July 11th, you missed a treat! The weather was good, the threatened rain did not materialise, but the crowds did. Once again I was impressed by what is achieved in Beeston and proud to be a part of it. Many local, mostly voluntary, organisations were represented, fundraising and demonstrating their work in the community. I have to take my hat off to the hundreds of worthy people who give their time and effort to help others. Here in Beeston we are so fortunate to have so many willing volunteers in so many areas.

The Oasis Church again provided free food and refreshments for all and gave away all the money they received in donations to local charities. The Civic Society had their own stall, manned by a few willing volunteers and answered questions on many local issues. This year I also saw Guide Dogs for the Blind, a couple of ex-service charities as well as the Canalside Heritage group and Greening Beeston - dedicated to doing just that - and many others.

All the previous nine carnival queens, together with "Miss Beeston 2015" were present, looking gorgeous. The Beeston Pipe Band and the band of the Boys' and Girls' Brigade gave rousing performances, lots of children sported painted faces, ice cream and candyfloss flowed - or whatever it is they do - and the overall atmosphere was bright and happy.

Do I sound impressed? Well I said I was. It was a lovely day and a good time was had by all. The only thing that might (just might) have made it better would have been the sight of an occasional tram passing by!

**Joyce Brown**

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### **PLAQUE GROUP PROGRESS**

Editing work on *The Plaque Guide* is nearly complete in anticipation of publication towards the end of this year. The *Guide* is expected to be 48 pages long plus covers, bound and in leaflet format - that is one-third A4 for the convenience of a pocket or handbag. It will be in full colour with a location map for easy reference and durable enough to

cope with outside use. We have received backing of £3,200 to meet production costs for an initial freely available run of 10,000 copies. This sponsorship is thanks to the generosity of supporters who have been involved in some way over the six year life of the blue plaque scheme. They include Beeston BID, C P Walker and Son, Leander Architectural, G H Hurt and Son, and the Stapleford and District Local History Society, who have together contributed £1,450. In addition we have received two anonymous donations totalling £1,250 to add to the £500 pledged by this Society for origination some time ago. All of this support is gratefully acknowledged.

**Peter Robinson**

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## **WEB REPORT**

The website has recently been updated with all the talks for this year, as well as the 2015 Heritage Open Days PDF booklet – detailing all the events for our area.

Also this month we have more back issues of the newsletter! To access the page, head over to the website address below, or click on MEMBERS on the navigation of the website. You will need a password to enter. We'll change this password every newsletter issue, and the first password (case sensitive) is:

SQUARE

Find the members page here:

[www.beestoncivicsociety.org.uk/members](http://www.beestoncivicsociety.org.uk/members)

**Owen Rees**

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## **CIVIC VOICE**

Representatives of this fine organisation are coming to talk on the first meeting of our 2015/16 programme. We thought you might like to have some background information beforehand.

*From their website:*

"Civic Voice is the result of extensive consultation and discussion with hundreds of civic and amenity societies and their members and over 100 other interested organisations and partners about the future of the civic movement following closure of the Civic Trust in April 2009. This work was led by the Civic Society Initiative and funded by the National

Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and civic societies with support from CPRE, the North of England Civic Trust, English Heritage and the RIBA among others.

The name – Civic Voice – was chosen after a ballot of over 600 civic society volunteers who selected from a shortlist of options that best expressed the intended purpose and style of the organisations. Civic Voice works to make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive. We speak up for civic societies and local communities across England. We promote civic pride. We are the national charity for the civic movement and have a strong local presence. We know how people feel about places because we feel the same way.

Civic Voice believes everyone has the right to live somewhere they can be proud of. Our vision for 2015 is for a civic movement with a strong local presence and an influential national voice. We will be active on the national, city and local stage, working in partnership across the UK. Civic societies will perform at the level of the best today and the civic movement will reach more places and benefit more people from all walks of life. Our reputation and authority will make us the first port of call for anyone seeking to develop, conserve or interpret the quality, beauty and character of our towns, cities and villages or to engage people in shaping their future. We will be a source of civic pride and people will know us for our independence of thought, challenging perspective and positive outlook. We will listen, advise, support and act on behalf of communities everywhere. Communities everywhere will know they have a voice and a champion for the place where they live.

Civic Voice is a small light footed organisation. As a national voice with a strong local presence we make a difference where it matters. You will find us lobbying in Whitehall and Westminster, campaigning with local volunteers, speaking out in the media, undertaking research, building partnerships and promoting civic pride. We support local groups and help them work together. We organise a national convention for the civic movement and give local groups a national voice. We combine community action with sense of place for the benefit of everyone. We talk civic sense. More information at [www.civicvoice.org.uk](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk)

As agreed at the AGM, our Society have now joined Civic Voice. One of the benefits is that all our members will receive a Civic Voice National Trust single admission pass. Judy will have these passes to give out at the meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The passes are transferable and can

be given to friends or family if you are already a member of the National Trust.

The membership of Civic Voice also brings advantages to the Society as a whole, including free membership of NCVO, the largest umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector in England, website support and access to free civic information databases. There will be plenty more information at the meeting in September.

**Judy Sleath/Karen Attwood**

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### **NEW MEMBERS**

We have been joined by many new members over the last couple of months and we would like to welcome everyone.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events. Do get in touch with us via email/website and events.

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### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS and MEMBER NEWS**

Once again it is time to remind you about your membership subscription. As you know it was decided at last year's AGM that we needed to increase our fee to enable us to move to The Pearson Centre and also to join the Society as a whole to the national body, Civic Voice. At that time one of the benefits to members joining Civic Voice were a free one day ticket pass to English Heritage and National Trust.

I am sorry but it seems now it is only National Trust. This pass can be used by anyone, if you are already a member and I would think that many of you are, then you can take along a guest for free or pass your ticket to someone else, more details will follow in the Autumn. Subs are due on 1<sup>st</sup> October, may I respectfully ask that those of you not paying by standing order at your bank to please consider doing this for us. Many hours are taken up by chasing people for subs which could be avoided. You will all need to increase your subs anyway to either £10 for one person or £15 for two.

I am taking the liberty of putting one of our new updated subscription forms into each newsletter to make it easier for everyone, also please consider doing Gift Aid as we can get a considerable amount from this

at no cost to yourselves, you do of course have to be a tax payer! You can of course also pay by Paypal through our website.

I am hopeful that many more of our members will come along to The Pearson Centre for our meetings. It is bright and spacious and has a hearing loop for those who need it, a great benefit I am sure. We will also be able to provide drinks at all our meetings which we were unable to do at the big public meetings at John Clifford due to their being no facilities in the big hall we used. We have some interesting speakers lined up for you, the list not quite complete yet. The AGM will take the form of an open evening when we hope you will come along to discuss anything you like with other members.

The Coffee and Cake mornings have run through the summer and been very successful and we will continue them through our next season, please do come along to The White Lion (Middle St/Station Rd corner) 10.30 to 12 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, there is parking behind the pub and despite the sign there is no charge for parking.

**Judy Sleath**

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## **EVENTS**

### **Beeston and District Civic Society coffee morning, 16<sup>th</sup> May at the White Lion**

*Please note - Judy has given an update of events following this meeting earlier in the newsletter.*

Some 40+ people visited the Civic Society's regular event this morning to hear John Delaney, Head of Property Services at Broxtowe Borough Council, introduce the latest important consultation on the next phase of Beeston developments. John had copies of 'Beeston Square Phase 2 Plan: The Future' (available on line at <http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10320>) and gave an outline of the coverage of the document, which was produced in conjunction with the Council's Town Centre Advisory Committee. The Council are seeking as much feedback as possible over the next few weeks.

The phase 2 land, incorporating the sites of old Fire Station, multi storey car park and bus station has already attracted proposals from developers. The most ambitious, incorporating a cinema and hotel, was greeted by a round of applause.

It is clear that the feedback from this consultation will directly influence the Council's decision making. Of course, the scope of development is limited by who comes forward with proposals and what sort of shops and entertainment developers think can be supported by the local economy; but I for one found the ambition exciting and encouraging.

The broad aspirations of the Plan are:

- Promotion of an evening economy
- 5 or 6 storey structures, to tie in with other buildings in the same area
- Underground car parking (or none at all)
- External or flexible space for performance/community activities
- Interesting/appealing sustainable buildings

**Karen Attwood**

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### **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS**

We have included a copy of the booklet to accompany this great annual event, taking place this year from **10th to the 13th September 2015**.

We look forward to seeing many of you out and about at one or more of the 30 registered events for Heritage Open Day.

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### **GUIDED WALKS FOR 2015**

Professor Beckett will be leading the last guided walk of his series in Beeston in September. Many thanks to John for taking the time to lead these fascinating events.

### **Historic Beeston (Heritage weekend).**

**Sunday 13 September, 2.30 p.m. 2 hours**

(Meet at the podium, Beeston Square)

This walk is part of Heritage weekend, and is designed particularly for visitors, newcomers to Beeston, or residents who want to know more about the town. It will begin and end in the 1960s Beeston Square (redesigned in 2014), and take a circular route clockwise to take in the remaining mills, the High Road, new developments either side of Station Road, and old Beeston (West End), finishing back at the Square. The hope is that those who come on the walk learn something about Beeston and will be challenged to find out more!

More details on all walks at [www.beestoncivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.beestoncivicsociety.org.uk)

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES – Beeston & District Civic Society meetings and speakers**

Meeting dates for 2015/16

11th September 2015	<b>Civic Voice</b> , Ian Harvey/Freddy Gick
9th October 2015	<b>MOD</b> , James McCloskey
13th November 2015	<b>AGM</b>
11th December 2015	<b>Blue Plaque Scheme</b> , Dr.Peter Robinson
8th January 2016	<b>Beeston Town Centre Developments</b> , John Delaney & Michael Bruce.
12th February 2016	TBC
11th March 2016	<b>Hope Nottingham</b> , Nigel Adams
8th April 2016	TBC

These meetings will take place in our new venue,  
The Pearson Centre and will start at 7.30pm.

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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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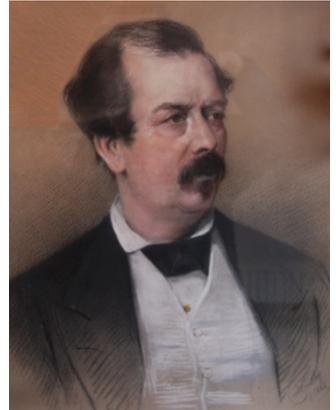
**The next Newsletter is due to be published in December 2015**



*William Wallett in Court Jester's costume*

Actor, entertainer, **WILLIAM FREDERICK WALLETT**, (1813-1892), styled himself 'The Queen's jester' after a performance on 19 July 1844 at Windsor Castle for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert; with the Royal children, Lords and Ladies in Waiting and a large party of distinguished visitors in attendance, including the Duke of Wellington. Wallett was received kindly.

Born in Hull, he was the oldest of five boys and two girls. His career as a circus performer and entertainer in music halls and light theatres - here and

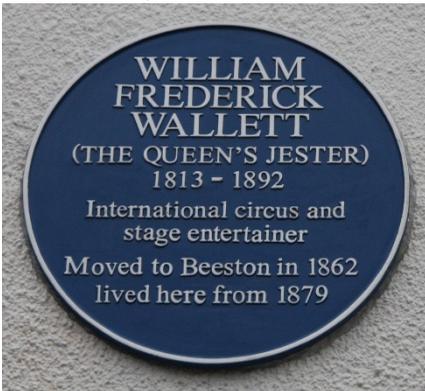


*Portrait of William Wallett*

in the USA - spanned 60 years, delighting audiences with his original wit and humour. Said to be of striking ability and versatility, he often appeared in Court Jester's costume. A feeling for popular taste and a skill for self-promotion kept him in demand well into later life.

His posters proclaimed 'Wallett is here!'

Beeston became his base shortly after his second marriage in 1862 to Sarah Farmer from the well-connected Nottingham entertainment family. An amusing and compassionate man sought after for his wit and charm, Beeston welcomed him as a star of his age.



William Wallett died in March 1892. A memorial survives in Nottingham General Cemetery. His plaque is at 220 Station Road, Beeston, NG9 2AA, his final home.

**Peter Robinson**  
(pictures courtesy of David Hallam)