

# Newsletter 152 March 2012



*Inside:  
The Future of The Beeston and District Civic Society*

## **THE FUTURE OF THE BEESTON AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY**

At a small informal meeting held on 9th April 1973 it was decided that a Civic Society should be established locally, concentrating on Beeston but with interest also in the surrounding area. Membership would be open to anyone interested in improving the local environment.

At that meeting the founding members proposed to study and comment upon the following issues; Parks and open spaces, Planting of trees, High Road - its buildings, the traffic, and amenities for pedestrians, Development of the area between the High Road and Middle Street, Traffic problems in the Queens Road / Station Road locality, Problems concerning vehicles and transport around the Plessey works, Preservation of the Crown Inn, Middle Street, Design of buildings and amenities, e.g. the footpath through Beeston Fields Golf Course, the Bramcote Grange estate, the new office building on Middle street / Hallams Road, The bank of the River Trent, The siting and amenities of a new community school and Litter.

The first public General Meeting was held on 27th November, and included the adoption of the constitution and election of the first committee, followed by a talk on "Planning in Beeston - Present and Future" given jointly by Mr S.C. Moppett, The Engineer, Surveyor and Planning Officer of Beeston and Stapleford U.D.C. and Mr C.Daybell, Principal Assistant to the Director of Planning in Broxtowe.

The Society quickly became involved and influential in a diverse array of subjects such as, Planning (support of the "good", opposing the "bad"), improvement of Public Spaces and Amenities (including the Nottingham and Beeston Canal, Open Spaces and Childrens Play Areas), Trees (their protection and replacement - including the planting of trees on the Middle Street / Chilwell Road corner), Waste land (renewal of use), Conservation Areas (the increase in designation) and identifying Buildings of Merit (in 1973 there were only three buildings which were Listed) - also The Grange was saved from demolition circa 1976. The Society produced detailed responses to the "Nottinghamshire Structure Plan - Beeston" (1974) and the "Beeston Town Centre Plan" (1975) (which resulted in the pedestrianisation of the High Road and the formal paving of The Square.

Today, the Society continues to exert an even greater influence in matters related to Beeston and the surrounding district, because we care for the present of the area, as well as for its future. Strictly non political our aims are:

- **To make Beeston and District a better place for all who live, work, shop and visit here.**
- **To protect all that is good by promoting high standards of architecture, design and planning.**
- **To eliminate eyesores and areas of neglect within our community.**

Committee members monitor and comment on planning applications, and also keep a watching brief on all major developments and local and regional planning documents. We are not against change, but strive to ensure it is for the better and benefits us all.

In the past we have supported better public services, campaigned for Conservation Areas, appeared at Public Enquiries, saved buildings from demolition, planted trees, and influenced local council decisions.

During the winter we hold monthly meetings with invited speakers; in spring and summer we organise guided walks, and in September co-ordinate the local participants in the annual Heritage Open Days. We publish booklets and postcards of local interest and members receive this quarterly newsletter.

The Society is now a Registered Charity (Number 503241) with nearly 200 members

Beeston is about to undergo some major changes which need to be thoroughly monitored and influenced. However, the Society has reached a crisis point. For the Society to succeed it depends upon the active goodwill of a number of volunteers who provide their time and effort, not only to carry out the aims stated above, but also to enable the Society to function as an effective organisation. Some of the current volunteers have already given notice (for a variety of reasons) that they will not be available to continue their involvement after August this year. As a result a number of the current roles will become vacant and must be filled – notably Chairman, Treasurer, Meetings Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Web Master and Walks Organiser. In this issue are very brief summaries of some of the responsibilities of these roles which we consider critical to the Society. The actual details given are not intended to be entirely prescriptive but rather to give a flavour of what we think it takes to run a Society such as ours.

We desperately need your support and to have your ideas on how to take the Society forward. Having a good size membership does enable us to exert some influence in line with our aims, but we also need that

membership to exert its own influence in encouraging the next generation of active volunteers. Do you think we are trying to cover too much? Do we really need a Newsletter – the editor receives so few letters and feedback? Should we really be organising the programme of Speakers – after all less than 20% of the membership actually attends? Should we go to the effort of having a web site (even though it has some 1,300 visitors a month)? Should we continue to co-ordinate the local Heritage Open Days participation and to organise guided walks? If you agree with us that all these activities are “critical” for this Society then we urgently need additional active involvement from you?, your family?, your friends?, your neighbours?

Time is short, very short so please help us to keep your Society going. DL

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## COMMITTEE NEWS

The following information gives just a very brief flavour of the **prime responsibilities for the five roles on the executive Committee that will be vacant in September**. More details can be obtained from any current Committee member and also on the Society web site from the end of March.

WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted

### Chairman

- Planning and running Society and committee meetings
- To be the spokesperson for the Society
- To ensure the Society as a whole adheres to priorities and policies
- To prepare Annual Report for AGM and oversee election of officers.

WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted

### Treasurer

- Recording, management and safeguarding with regular reporting on the financial position of the society, including production of the annual accounts with the examiner/auditor.

WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted-WANTED-wanted

### Meetings Secretary

- Prepare the annual Winter programme of six Speakers, book a Venue, management responsibility for all related logistics prior to and during each event, including media publicity and reporting.

## Newsletter Editor

- Preparation of draft version for Editorial Board approval, of each quarterly issue, including the editing of text, selection of illustrations and the “design” of page and Newsletter layout, and organisation of subsequent printing and delivery to distribution team.

## Web Master

- Preparation of draft version, including the editing of text, selection of illustrations and the “design” of page layout, Uploading of final version(s) and checking of all likely affected links and page content, and monitoring and maintenance of web site space utilisation

## PLAQUE PROGRESS

Collaborative work with other local societies continues through the Joint Working Party on Plaques. When we set out two years ago we expected interest in a dozen or so in the greater Beeston area, but now ten plaques have been installed and we could end up with over twenty, such is the demand. We live in a place where remarkable people have done some exciting things.

Looking immediately ahead: the plaque for the **Beeston Manor House** in Middle Street, Beeston, is being cast by Leander Architectural of Dove Holes for delivery in mid March. A date for the unveiling has yet to be arranged. On the High Road, Chilwell, **G H Hurt and Son** will be celebrating their centenary later this year and we are working with them to commemorate this event with a plaque to be unveiled in May.

Just a few yards outside the Depot barrier in Chetwynd Road, Chilwell, is **Orchard Cottage**, former home of Albert Hall, Chief Engineer at the Shell Filling Factory at a time of peak output in 1918. He survived the catastrophic explosion on 1 July 1918 by a lucky absence that day when, we believe from fresh research carried out by Alan Dance, 139 people died. Unveiling is planned for Sunday 1 July, the 94<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the explosion. In Beeston we continue to look for a suitable position on the Anglo Scotian Mills to commemorate **Francis**

**Wilkinson.** We are hoping for a positive outcome and for an unveiling this summer.

Also under active consideration are **St John's School, Stapleford** and the presently unoccupied **Wesleyan Chapel, Stapleford**. The present Chapel frontage dates from 1848, but the foundation stone of an earlier structure on this site was laid by John Wesley himself in 1782. We are investigating the late **Richard Beckinsale**. The actor was a Chilwell resident, attending College House Junior School and later the Alderman White Secondary School. Discussions continue for a plaque commemorating Beeston's flamboyant **Lt. Colonel BD Shaw**, described as an academic chemist, distinguished army marksman and popular lecturer on explosives. Apparently the bomb squad were called to clear his house in Queen's Road at his death in 1999.

We are discussing a blue plaque to commemorate the **Beeston Lads' Club** and to recognise Stephen Hetley Pearson, There are also possibilities for celebrating the **Pearson and Smith families** in Bramcote and the **Gregory and Charlton families** in Chilwell. **William Walleth**, the so-called Queen's Jester, is another. As always we are keeping in close touch with English Heritage and we will be preparing explanatory information to complement the plaques in time.

There are limits to the numbers of people and places we can celebrate in a small area, but we would still like to hear from you if you have ideas for others we have not covered, or you have information about any we are planning. This could be a one off opportunity. The Plaques' Group is expecting to wind up once our job is done.

PR

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## MEMBERS NEWS

### THE TRAM



As preparations for the route of the new Tram line are beginning to become obvious, many of you will be making your own photographic record. Do send us copies so that we can include them in future Newsletters and on the Society web site,

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## EVENTS

### HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

September 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 2012



### Stop press !!

This is not a misprint, we know the Heritage Open Days Weekend is not until September but it is amazing how quickly it comes along and it is one of the highlights of your Civic Society's Year.

One of our jewels of this weekend is the 2 hour walk around Chilwell Ordnance Depot where you will learn more about the First World War Explosion and local history generally.

In the five or six years we have been offering this tour we have had to turn away as many people as we have been able to invite because each year we readily reach the limit of 80 that we are allowed to take. This year we are working on the basis that Chilwell Ordnance Depot will again kindly allow us to repeat the Tour, hence the headline of Stop Press! Because the only way to be sure of your place is to get in NOW!

Register your interest by email or telephone, with your name, address, telephone number to the Secretary, Eileen Atherton, **0115 9677260** or email [beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com) and we will do our best to make sure you are included (No Promises!)

The Visit this year will take place **on THURSDAY** (NOT Friday as in previous years) **6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012.**

If the visit follows the normal pattern (yet to be confirmed) it will include a BBC video, visit to the Garrison Chapel, the two Memorials inside the Depot, and tea in the Sergeant's Mess. **Pre-booking is essential** at least ONE MONTH in advance so that the MOD can carry out I.D.clearances.

Due to Mick Atherton's illness, the sub committee for HOD is rather depleted; however we are making progress and gathering events ready for September. Once again we are being joined by other local amenity societies in the area. To date we have 17 events with a definite "YES" and at least 7 more "possibles". The Canalside Cottages Project is considering taking part with a possible canal walk and Lilac Grove Water treatment centre might open, amongst others.

We are aiming to register all the events on the national website by 1 May, which means we will be able to circulate the information on flyers ready for the big Jubilee Hemlockstone Happening on Sat 2 June. We will also include full programme details in the next newsletter.

This year we are asking for volunteers to attend a specific HOD event (or events) and to give us feedback which will then help us to organise HOD 2013. Eileen and Mick have usually done this in the past, but with the increasing number of events it is impossible for one person to attend every event. So, if you are interested and would like to be involved in this way, or want further information, please contact:-  
Joyce Brown 925 9044 [joyce.brown3@virgin.net](mailto:joyce.brown3@virgin.net) or  
Eileen Atherton 967 7260 [eileen.atherton@googlemail.com](mailto:eileen.atherton@googlemail.com)

EA & BS

## GUIDED WALKS

The 2012 programme has now been finalised, with three walks to be led by **Professor John Beckett**:



### Walk 1, CHILWELL VILLAGE

Date: **THURSDAY JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Time: **7:00pm.**

Distance: 1.5 miles

Duration: 2 hours

This linear walk begins outside the Hop Pole, and proceeds along Chilwell Road through the old village, to end at the Cadland. Along the way we will discuss the Cottage Grove estate, dating from the 1840s, the old village around the Green, Chilwell Hall, and the layout of the village in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Walk leader: Prof. John Beckett

Contact : Dave Lovesy, 0115 925 2577

Meeting place: Hop Pole, High Road (Chilwell) / Chilwell Road (Beeston), NGR SK 520 360

Public Transport to the start: Trent Barton Indigo or NCT 36 or Your Bus Y36, to Hop Pole / Wilmot Lane stop.

Public Transport from the finish: Trent Barton Indigo.



## **Walk 2, SOUTH BEESTON**

Date: **THURSDAY JULY 5<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Time: **7:00pm.**

Distance: 2 miles

Duration: 2 hours

This circular walk begins in Beeston Square. It will follow a route down Church Street and Dovecote Lane, taking in the church, the old manor houses, West End, the war memorial, the Baptist church and the recreation ground. After crossing Queen's Road we shall look at the development of the area around the Victoria and the Station, take in briefly the business park south of the railway line, and then walk back to the Square stopping briefly to look at several buildings of historic interest including the John Clifford school.

Walk leader: Prof. John Beckett

Contact : Dave Lovesy, 0115 925 2577

Meeting place: The Podium on Beeston Square (Close to Beeston Bus Station and the Multi-storey Car Park). NGR SK 527 366

Public Transport to the start: Trent Barton Indigo or NCT 13, 14 & 36 or Your Bus Y36, to Beeston Bus Station.

## **Walk 3, BEESTON TOWN CENTRE for "beginners"**

Date: **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> 2012 (during Heritage Open**

**Days)**

Time: **2:30pm.**

Distance: 2 miles

Duration: 1.5 hours

A walk designed primarily for both newcomers to Beeston, and those who have lived here but not had the chance to venture very far! It will begin and end in the Square, and take in the structure of Beeston centre, with a brief walk along the High Road towards Chilwell, then north up Wollaton Road to take in the remaining mills, east along the High Road, and back to the Square. The aim is that those who come on the walk start to learn something about Beeston and will then be inspired to find out more!

Walk leader: Prof. John Beckett

Contact : Dave Lovesy, 0115 925 2577

Meeting place: The Podium on Beeston Square (Close to Beeston Bus Station and the Multi-storey Car Park). NGR SK 527 366

Public Transport to the start: Trent Barton Indigo or NCT 13, 14 & 36 or Your Bus Y36, to Beeston Bus Station.

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**PS Preparations are also being made for one or more guided walks (during the middle of the year) to follow the route of the Tram in our area – so watch this space!**

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## ATTENBOROUGH RAILWAYMEN'S WAR MEMORIAL

In the November 2009 Newsletter No 143 the Society was able to report that the Attenborough Railwaymen's War Memorial had finally been re-sited at Attenborough Station. This Memorial had been re-erected by East Midlands Trains after the Society approached Cllr Eric Kerry to see if he could bring his influence to bear on this long standing saga. The memorial had been left lying unloved at Derby Station waiting for repair for many years after its removal following demolition of some of the Station at Attenborough.



Unfortunately, the Society has now to report that the Memorial only stayed in place at Attenborough for roughly two years before it again had an accident and 'fell off the wall' in November last year. The diagnosis being that the rumble of the trains passing by had loosened the screws. Luckily, we have been able to 'pick up the pieces' with kind assistance of Alan Dance and Cllr Kerry and it now resides temporarily in a garage at Chilwell whilst a local stone-mason assesses its fate. The Society is still keen to arrange another repair if possible so watch this space!

EA

**NEW KID ON THE BLOCK**, a talk given by Councillor Eric Kerry on 10<sup>th</sup> December

Well he was neither new nor a kid, but Councillor Kerry gave a most entertaining and thoughtful talk to the Society – after seasonal refreshments had been enjoyed by all.

Councillor Kerry told us how he had spent his first few years living by the river in Beeston, before the family moved to a council house in Chilwell. Over the years Eric Kerry, after training as an accountant, worked for Boots, and for Chambers' Pencils, and also set up his own business as a Sales Contractor. He became a director of Notts. County Football Club, and



helped save it from oblivion. And in course of time became both a District Councillor and a County Councillor.

In a professionally presented exposition, he said that the most important things in his life were politics, career, family and friends, and social interests. He believed, he said, it was necessary always to research and to listen, before reaching a decision. (Would that all politicians could do likewise!). His philosophy, he said, was to work hard, be honest, and be fair.

Clearly Councillor Kerry must have twice as many hours in the day as most mortals to fit in all his activities. His council work, firstly, involved lots of casework helping individuals – and that made it “a wonderful job”. Then he is a governor of two schools, and he is a trustee of the Canal Heritage Centre. On the Borough Council he sits on the Overview and Scrutiny committee, which looks into any problems suggested to it. He also sits on the Finance and General Purposes committee, and on one for the Attenborough Nature Centre. On the County Council he sits on the Notts. Police Authority, and also the Fire Authority. Then he is on the Communities and Environment committee, which checks all heritage places. Also Councillor Kerry is on the Standards committee, and on the Joint (with the city) Health Scrutiny committee. Altogether it was a very impressive portfolio, and he explained the work of each.

Among his achievements Councillor Kerry mentioned helping to save the Resource Centre on Middle Street and working towards the flood alleviation scheme. He also included, “Being here tonight!”.

Many questions from the audience followed which he answered very helpfully, and though not everyone shared his political beliefs that he put before us, nevertheless he gave us an entertaining and revealing talk about his life, his philosophy, and his work as a councillor.

MW

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**EXTRAORDINARY LIVES: COLONEL DON WRIGHT AND DR DICK HUTCHINSON, MO** a talk given jointly by Anne Wragg and Dr Dick Hutchinson, on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

It was Friday 13<sup>th</sup> on the week of a full moon so we might have expected the unexpected. The twenty five of us who braved the elements to hear Major Wright talk about Military Matters and the Chilwell Depot were treated instead to two delightful vignettes of a quite different sort, both army-related and both spontaneously

delivered from our audience. The puzzle in the title of Major Wright's original talk was never resolved. Instead Anne Wragg and Dr Dick Hutchinson spoke about military life in times when the services were larger and could make a visible difference in world affairs.

### **Colonel Don Wright, POW Stalag 383, 1941-45**

Anne Wragg spoke first about her father Colonel Don Wright, (no, there



is no connection), who had left home in the 1920s as a boy soldier to seek a life of adventure in the army. He was not to be disappointed.

By the 1930s Don was married. As a non-commissioned officer he had found himself, with his wife Vera and the young Anne, posted to Palestine over the period 1938-41.

Anne herself had spent some time under canvas with her mother in Egypt before being evacuated to South Africa when hostilities started to intensify. Her father was sent to Greece where Don was captured and spent the rest of the War as a prisoner, being marched first to Austria and then on to Germany and finally Nuremburg, *Stalag 383*. In the confusion her mother was not clear whether her dad was alive or dead, but they expected the worst. The telegram read, 'Missing, presumed dead'.

A prisoner's life was dominated by hunger and boredom. Her father's answer was to set up a POW camp school. Assisted by the Red Cross, 3000 prisoners from all walks of life passed through the system in the three and a half years Don was there; an effort that earned him an MBE on his return.

Against all the odds he kept a diary which Ann is intending to pass on to the Imperial War Museum.

Her dad was back home in time to take part in the Victory celebrations, while Anne and her mother

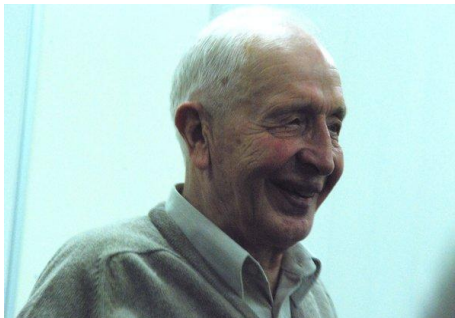
were repatriated from Durban in July 1945, leading to an unforgettable reunion on Leicester Station.

That is not quite the end of the story. Don was given two year's leave of absence over the period 1945-47 and a scholarship to Oxford; earning a PPE degree and ultimately a commission. His later career took him to Berlin over the difficult years 1949-51, with later postings through his connections with army education to Nottingham, York, Colchester and Hong Kong.



### ***National Service in Malaya in the early 1950s***

Dr Dick Hutchinson's experiences as a Medical Officer from 1951 to 1953 were quite different. Dick's life was transformed in a few short weeks from working all hours at Blackburn Royal Infirmary as a recently qualified junior doctor, to having to cope with the responsibilities of an officer in the rubber plantations of Malaya at the height of a national emergency.



As a schoolboy Dick had been in the officer training corps before studying medicine. Young men lived at that time with a near certainty of service in one of the armed forces. In his case this led to the War Office Selection Board and subsequent officer training in the Borders. Six weeks further instruction with the RAMC included one week of tropical medicine, which proved to be crucial because, when postings finally came, he was sent off unexpectedly to the Far East. A hasty marriage to Jean followed before departure by troopship to Singapore, via Gibraltar, Suez and Colombo. It was a youthful blur of activity. Injections in Singapore over he was sent more or less immediately up country by train to the plantation area in what is now Malaysia. Here Chinese communists were disrupting rubber production, so provoking a strong British-led presence. Dick found himself after initial minor postings as a Medical Officer with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Malay Regiment, a new battalion staffed largely by seconded British officers. However, the majority of men spoke only Malay, so he had a steep learning curve to be effective. Accommodation was tented on the plantation edge where spiders could be the size of dinner plates.

Ambush was a day to day hazard. Water could be tampered with, leading to many fatalities and injuries among the Malayan police drawn into traps as they investigated incidents. Fevers were another risk. On one occasion he had to send to Singapore for an antibiotic to deal with a dozen men with typhus. Dick was unsure of the treatment dosage, but he was lucky and they recovered. A separate incident involved officers bitten by a rabid cat – sure they were going to die. Then there was the prisoner that ran amok and so it went on....

Dick found himself in charge of mess supplies in an accompanying scout car that crashed when the driver fell asleep. The car rolled down a steep embankment towards a river and was stopped only by dense bamboo. It could have killed him. On another occasion he was in charge of plasma on a night train from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur laden with ammunition in bandit country where trains were attacked regularly. Mercifully it did not attract attention.

After two Christmases away Dick was glad to get back home. His two years of national service amounted to basic training, 10 weeks of travelling and about 20 months of productive, character building, activity: a unique interval at the start of a busy life.

PR

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**SEVERN TRENT WATER** a talk given by Stacey Bush on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Did you realise that before leaving the house for work you will probably use 53 gallons of water supplied by the Severn Trent Water Ltd.?

Every day the Authority abstract, treat and supply our households with clean water for all our daily needs. Our reservoirs may be currently low and surface water limited but with the help of the Authority`s 181 treatment plants and their six hundred Kilometers of water mains the district`s supply is maintained throughout all seasons.

### Have you used much today ...?

Had a wash	40 litres
Used the toilet & washed your hands	10 litres
Cleaned your teeth	2 litres
Had a drink	1 litre
Total used so far: 53 litres	

- The average person in the UK uses around 150 litres of water per day.
- In a developing country, the average person uses around 10 litres of water per day.

Alas, it is estimated that 44% of the supply of clean water is wasted and it seems that, unlike inhabitants of other comparable countries (but with lower annual rainfall e.g. Australia), UK industrialists and householders are much less watchful of their water consumption. Severn Trent`s useful pamphlets on water-saving devices and practices are designed to help

consumers to monitor their "water footprint" and cut waste. The Authority also runs a lively education programme for schools and other interested groups. Severn Trent is however conscious of the part they too must play to prevent water loss from their plant and pipe systems.

The public may sometimes criticise the apparent inadequacy of such maintenance but people are not always aware of the serious delays and collateral damage that such repairs may cause. E,g. digging up roads and disturbance of buildings.

Our house pipes take away both rain and sewage and the request to "bin" solid waste rather than allow it to enter the pipes is clearly good sense but users are perhaps less careful in preventing grease being washed down into the drains. Telling cross-sectional photographs of grease clinging to the inside of sewage pipes conveyed to the audience the serious harm such unwanted effluent can cause to the treatment system. Once again householders and local industry in particular receive advice from Severn Trent on good practice - 'Fat Traps' are available to domestic users. In addition, the Authority monitor individual areas for general unwanted pollution of their sewage system. Beeston and District are happily not amongst the list of worst offenders.

The Authority's Treatment Plants use mechanical screening, chemicals and bacteria in dealing with the waste and some treat the equivalent of 16 Olympic Swimming Pools of effluent in one day! Most of the treated water is returned to the mains for redistribution and it is sobering to reflect that the clean water from your tap may have already passed through 10 human beings! It is interesting to note that the sludge/residue remaining after clean water is safely filtered off is further treated, dried and eventually sold to farmers for application to their fields.

**Questions** arising elicited the following information:-

- Plastic pipes were now being fitted but metal pipes are still necessary when the need for greater width is an issue .
- The water industry adds approximately 1% to the UK's CO<sub>2</sub>'s emission.
- The difficulty of transferring water from one region of the UK to another is exacerbated by the fact that the separate Authorities set up in 1974 act entirely independently.

JC

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## **THE SOUTH BROXTOWE DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACON**

We are to play a part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations when thousands of beacons will be lit around the world on **the evening of Monday 4 June**. The South Broxtowe Beacon will be one

of 2012 in total to appear on an official national register. The event is to be held on a Scout Campsite **off Common Lane, Bramcote**, as a follow on from the Hemlock Happening on Saturday 2 June. A bonfire and fireworks are expected.

Committee members from this Society attended a meeting of volunteers at St Michael's Church Centre on 2 March. It took less than two hours for Stan Heptinstall, MBE, Chairman of the Bramcote and Stapleford Golden (yes) Jubilee Group (and organisers of the annual Hemlock Happening), to agree the key elements of South Broxtowe's contribution to this Diamond Jubilee project. The Hemlock Happening has grown steadily over the years since its inception a decade ago and now attracts crowds of thousands.

The chosen site for the South Broxtowe Beacon will be off Common Lane in Bramcote, a venue routinely used by South West Notts Scouts for Bonfire night fireworks. Electricity is available and the Scouts are familiar with the complexities of organising an event in the dark with an audience. They will be assisted by various local groups who will together make this a truly memorable event. Arrangements for food, a brass band and a choir were discussed along with funding. A site meeting will take place shortly.

Any Society members who would like to be involved in any part of this celebration should contact Barbara Selwood or Peter Robinson.

PR

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## **THE TREE SAGA (continued)**

Since the December newsletter a whole project has been launched. Those of you who are on email\*, read the Beeston Express or Nottingham Post, listen to Radio Nottingham or have an allotment or belong to a local 'green' group, will have heard of *The Big Tree Plant*. But for those of you who have missed the message in these media here is an update.



Following Marion Wallwork's letter about loss of trees and the reply from Broxtowe Borough Council, Beeston & District Civic Society joined forces with Broxtowe Borough Council to replace as many as possible of those missing trees. We joined **The Big Tree Plant** campaign and we asked for help from the public to suggest places. *"The Big Tree Plant is a campaign to encourage people and communities to plant more trees*



*in England's towns, cities and neighbourhoods. It is a partnership bringing together national tree-planting organisations and local groups working with Defra and the Forestry Commission to plant trees throughout England.* <http://thebigtreeplant.direct.gov.uk/index.html>

We had a good response, covering a wider area than originally anticipated – including Toton, Bramcote Hills and Stapleford. Thanks to everyone who noticed where trees are missing, places where trees would enhance the area and other comments relating to trees. Thanks also to everyone who is willing to nurture one or more trees.



All the potential tree sites were discussed with Tim Crawford at Broxtowe Borough Council and it was agreed that this time round it would be better to concentrate on missing trees in Beeston. We are proud of the beautiful avenues of trees such as in St

John's Grove Conservation Area, i.e. Devonshire Ave, Elm Ave, Newcastle Ave, Glebe Street and part of Bramcote Road. So they were on the list, together with Cedar Ave and Highgrove Ave. At that stage, that was approximately 50 trees.

All these sites were checked for overhead wires or other trees and vegetation that were too close, or other such hazards preventing planting a tree nearby, and the utility companies were consulted as to what was underground. To our great disappointment we have been left with only about eight sites which are initially considered suitable to plant trees. However, we are still awaiting the County Council's report on the sites and Mr Crawford has agreed to re-look at those proposed sites, so we might still be able to replace a few more trees with a grant from *Defra*.

Throughout this process, to date there has been great enthusiasm and hard work from the several people who initially responded to our appeal.

During this public consultation several queries about trees arose. Here are a few answers:-

- The trees outside the Bee Keeper pub in Chilwell were pollarded because *"they had very dangerous crowns and in strong winds were losing a lot of branches close to a busy main road"*. (to quote Tim Crawford)
- Replanting avenues of trees where trees are ageing – these will be allowed to live their lives out, which will be much longer than us no

doubt! If however, they become dangerous or diseased they will be removed or suitable action taken.

- When replacing trees within an established avenue of trees, then if possible the same type of tree, e.g. an elm, will be planted but a more modern and smaller species will be used.
- Another point of great concern is the horrendous felling of trees along the tram route. On the positive side – the local councils involved will be given financial compensation to plant more trees along the tram route and possibly in the wider vicinity. I also checked with NET as to what will happen to the felled trees. – *"Suitable trees, trunks and major branches are sent to a saw mill for converting into timber. Trees that are not suitable, together with small branches and brush wood are chipped and used as biofuel."* (Steve Tough NET)

BS

## TO THE EDITOR

Dear Secretary

Several groups send reports of their meetings to the Beeston Express. Would it be an idea for the Civic Society to do likewise? Then at the end of each the next meeting could be mentioned, and also your name for further information. Thanks for making all the arrangements for refreshments on Friday evening. It was a very nice occasion.  
Regards Marion Wallwork

Reply

Dear Marion,

I usually do send a report to the Beeston Express, but regret through Mick's health it has not been done since the start of the new season. I will send a short report of our Xmas Meeting, and hopefully it will get printed in the edition of the Beeston Express due out next Friday.  
Kind regards, Eileen

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## FREE WORKSHOP ON 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL

Pertinent to the lead article in this Newsletter, both Peter Robinson 925 5219 [peterjrobinson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:peterjrobinson@tiscali.co.uk) and Barbara Selwood 917 8488 [babsel@ntlworld.com](mailto:babsel@ntlworld.com) from the executive Committee, will be attending a **free workshop** in Birmingham on **Wednesday 18th April**, on "how to strengthen your own civic society and attract new volunteers". If you are interested in also attending then please contact either Peter or Barbara **as soon as possible**.

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## “MODERN” WAYS OF “COMMUNICATING”

### “Social Networking”



These days the popular ways of communicating is by Twitter, RSS, YouTube and Facebook. Do you think it would be a good idea for the Society to follow these trends?

If so, do you have any expertise in such media? If you do then maybe you would be willing to help us understand the benefits and show us how to use them? After all some other civic societies are already on YouTube!!

### Touchscreens



The two touchscreens have now been in place in Beeston on the High Road since December last year. Have you used them? Have you seen other people use them? Do you think that they enhance the visitor experience? Let us know and we will pass on your comments

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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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All correspondence and contributions (text and photographs) can be sent to the **Editorial Board** at either the postal or e-mail addresses shown above under Hon Sec.

\* if you have an email address then ensure that we have the up-to-date details so that you receive regular messages from the Society.

**The next Newsletter is due to be published in June 2012**