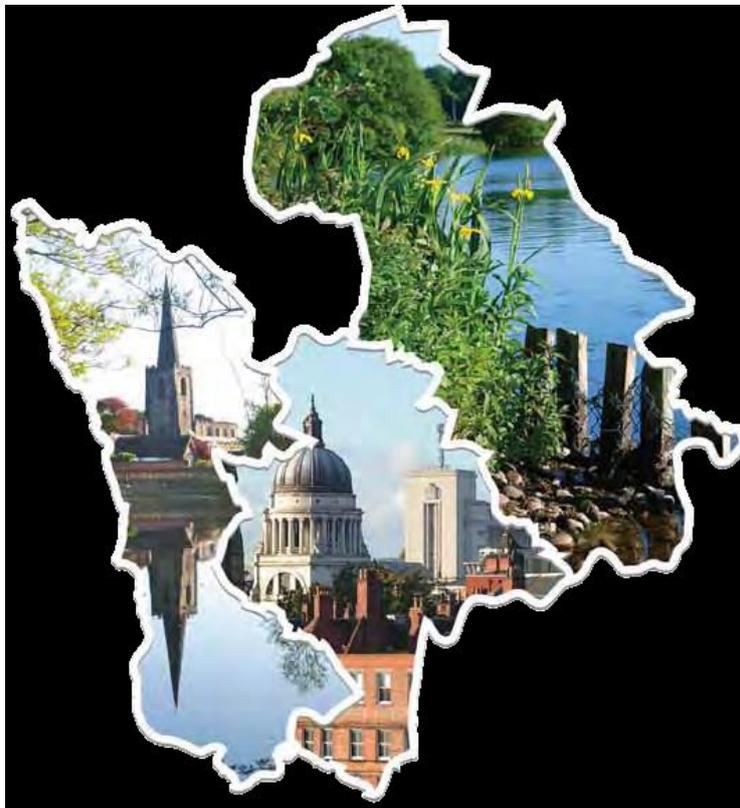




protecting and improving the environment

# ***Newsletter 154***

## September 2012



*Inside:*

*Heritage Open Day guide*

*Response to Broxtowe Borough Council's Aligned Core Strategy*

*Technology update*

## EDITORIAL

Please can you write this Robert? It was only 116 words last time.

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## COMMITTEE NEWS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year the AGM will be held on FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER at 7.00.p.m. If you have any items under Any Other Business to be brought up at the AGM please let our Secretary know by Monday 1st October 2012. Nominations Forms can also be obtained by emailing **beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com** or telephoning **0115 9677260**.

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## MEMBERS NEWS

We are very grateful for Tim Thomas taking over from Mick Atherton as Meetings Secretary. Unfortunately, due to family circumstances Tim's tenure in the role has been short-lived, because he has now resigned this position, due to unforeseen personal circumstances.

Eileen would like to thank everyone for all their cards and messages of sympathy on the death of her husband, Mick Atherton.

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## EVENTS

2012/13 programme

This year the Society decided that there felt that there was a need to increase the number of Open Meetings that the Society arranges, and accordingly Tim Thomas was asked to arrange meetings for September and April, which you will see from the 2012/13 Programme that he has done. The Programme is now complete and offers a variety of Speakers, including the usual Update on the Tram and also John Delaney's Update on the re-development of Beeston Square. I am sure that both meetings will again be packed.

We have pleasure therefore in welcoming you to our first meeting of the new Season which will be on Friday, 14th September at the new time of **7.00.p.m.** This will take the form of an Open Meeting with room for discussion followed by Derek and Iris Martin of the Beeston Camera Club showing some of the photography that they have recently taken.

*EHA*

The full programme is:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BEESTON &amp; DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY SPEAKERS FOR 2012/2013 SEASON</b></p>
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### 14th September 2012

Members Open Forum followed by 'Through the Lens' a selection of images by Derek and Iris of the Beeston Camera Club

**12th October 2012**

Alan Dance, local author of "Narrow Marsh" & "Leen Times" on "The Chilwell Ghost House"

**9th November 2012** AGM followed by

Val Henstock, Archivist & Blue Badge professional tourist guide on "Burtons of Smithy Row" *The well known pre-supermarket shop in the Exchange Buildings.*

**14th December 2012** - Xmas Meeting

Ross Bradshaw, founder of **Five Leaves Publishers** - joint organiser of The Lowdham Book Festival with Bookcase, an Independent bookshop in Lowdham

**11th January 2013**

Steve Dance, Head of Planning & Building Control, Broxtowe Borough Council . 'Beeston & Developments'

**8th February 2013**

Bob White, former head of Corporate Affairs Nottingham City Council  
"You would never believe It" some anecdotal and amusing reflections on 30 years of managing public relations.

**8th March 2013**

Sarah Alton, Ioan Reed-Aspley and Matt Orchard. A further update on **NET phase II development.**

**12th April 2013**

Colin Slater, MBE freeman of Broxtowe, BBC Radio Nottm's Notts County commentator  
"Royal Visits"

**ALL MEETINGS TAKE PLACE IN THE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM AT  
BEESTON LIBRARY AND COMMENCE AT 7.00.P.M.  
*Please note the earlier starting time***

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**BROXTOWE BOROUGH COUNCIL ALIGNED CORE STRATEGY**



After studying the Council's carefully-presented discussion material, the Beeston and District Civic Society returned their considered response to the BBC Aligned Core Strategy proposals for home building in this area over the coming fifteen years.

The Society seriously questioned whether the figure of 6,1500 homes, first proposed in the earlier Consultation, was a sound target. It was not evident that attention had been paid to data in the recent Census return.

Furthermore the Civic Society response drew particular attention to employment availability in the district and to changing lifestyle habits (eg.working from home).

The Society's response reinforced the Council's reference to Flooding concerns in our district and stated need for further emphasis on this issue.

The preference for home building development to take place on suitable Brown sites remains the Society's first concern and our response expressed marked disagreement with the Council's readiness to prioritise building on Field Farm land.

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## **BEESTON CARNIVAL, REVIEWS**

Fortunately the weather was good to us on July 14<sup>th</sup> this year and the Carnival was the best yet – lots of exciting stalls and crowds of people. I was struck by the diversity and talent displayed among the many stands and I felt that Beeston is lucky to have so many talented and hard working citizens. Who said that there is nothing here and it is a dull place? Well that is just not true, there is obviously a lot going on in Beeston.

Many local groups were represented, showing what they do – The History Society, Beeston Camera Club, The Bramcote Tower Restoration Project, Beeston Rotary Club, the Oasis Church (providing free refreshments) and The Civic Society, to name just a few. Various youth organisations were also there - Scouts, Guides, and Air Cadets. Some of these had food outlets or provided entertainments such as face painting to raise funds for their own or other worthy causes. Even NET had a stand manned by employees happy to help.

There were many more taking part, too many to mention; the firemen pulling a fire engine along the High Road; vintage cars on site, craft and artisan food stalls and much, much more. And the public came along to make it all worthwhile. There was a happy, carnival atmosphere, and Leo and I thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Organising the event is no mean feat and for that we have to thank Lynda and Pat Lally, a local couple committed and dedicated to their local community and all their helpers. So, I think I have made my point; there is plenty going on here in Beeston and a lot of committed people eager to make it happen. We applaud their dedication – long may they continue to do what they do! *Joyce Brown*

This year the Society had to call on extra help to man the stand as Barbara Selwood, who has been the mainstay in previous years was on holiday this year. For the first time I had to see to the dressing of the boards for the display and I have to thank Clive and Maureen Southern for responding to my appeal for help.

At one time there was a suggestion that the Society would not be able to have a stand this year as we were depleted by my deceased husband's help, Barbara on holiday and our Vice-Chairman's ill health. Peter Robinson and Andrew Milner had offered to put the gazebo up and take it down but we needed helpers throughout the day besides other members of the Committee helping throughout the day.

Following an email appeal for help which resulted in Valerie Stanley, Margaret Markus, Anne Wragg and Eric Kerry offering to help, together with other committee members, we decided to go ahead.

A few days before the event we realised that we also needed tables, and we are grateful to Chilwell Community Association for them stepping into this breach at the last minute.

All turned out well in the end and I am pleased to say that we had a lot of visitors to our stand, who we were pleased to explain the difference between ourselves and the local history society although of course we collaborate on Blue plaques. Everyone seemed to agree that the Blue Plaques idea was a wonderful one, and this part of the display attracted a lot of interest, together with our 19 Heritage Open Day venues. One scoop being the lady who came to tell us that she had found footage of the Chilwell Explosion in her loft, would we like to take a look.

We also attracted new members, sold our postcards and publications, took names for the Chilwell Depot tour and generally promoted all aspects of the Society.

I am also very pleased to say that it did not rain (not until I arrived back home).

Eileen Atherton

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## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2012



### **6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012**

This year it seemed like it might not happen as Mick and Eileen Atherton had always played a leading role in organising and co-ordinating the event and for obvious reasons that was no longer possible. Barbara Selwood felt that after all the hard work of previous years this shouldn't happen, so she contacted me and we agreed it ought to go ahead as usual.

Although Eileen and Mick are a hard act to follow, we formed a committee with Tim Thomas and representatives from Stapleford and Bramcote and set about contacting venues who had taken part in previous years and a few new ones – Christchurch, Chilwell, the Paradiso Cinema at Lakeside, Chilwell, the British Legion, The Water Treatment Works at Lilac Grove, Beeston, D10 at Boots and Beeston Camera Club at Bartons site.

I am pleased to say that Eileen felt able to join us more recently and her expertise has proved invaluable. So once again we are proud to have a total of nineteen participants and we hope you will visit as many as possible and help to make it another successful year. Please read the enclosed insert for lots more information about all the venues taking part.

Staff at all of the sites have co-operated and worked hard to make your visits informative and enjoyable – we now hope that the weather will also co-operate!

*Joyce Brown*

**STOP PRESS: Chilwell Depot tour.** The date for application has now passed and all the details have been sent to the Depot for Clearance. Successful applicants will either be emailed or telephoned to confirm arrangements.

### **APPEAL FOR HELP AT HERITAGE OPEN DAYS**

As I am sure you are aware the Society co-ordinates the events that happen in our area for Heritage Open Days, and as you can see from the leaflet enclosed, this year we have a total of 19 different attractions.

At a recent HOD sub-committee meeting it was felt that actually the Society itself, apart from organising a Beeston Heritage Trail, did not have a focal point at a venue, and accordingly we have arranged to have a Stand inside the Barton's building at 43/45 High Road, Chilwell,

The Stand will be roughly the same as the one that we have at the Beeston Carnival and it will also have the new Recruitment Leaflet that has just been printed.

I now come to the nitty gritty of this article. We are in desperate need of volunteers to man this Stand as a number of the committee will also be involved in seeing to the smooth working of the other events taking place.

**CAN YOU HELP?** If you are able to spare an hour or two during 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September we would be most grateful.

If so, please contact our Secretary, Eileen on **0115 9677260** or email the society:- [beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com) as this would be a great opportunity to promote the Society.

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### **THE LATEST FROM HIGHFIELDS**

I continue to attend the Highfields User Committee meetings on behalf of the society, the latest one on 21<sup>st</sup> June. As we have said previously, the park is not in our patch, but it is used and loved by many from the Beeston and Chilwell area.

It has been much improved over the past two years and I have reported as much to you, but the latest proposed lottery bid is now imminent and exciting. Stage one of the bid is due to be submitted in August and the draft plans are now complete. Part of the stated aims in the bid is to conserve and restore historical features, and to de-silt the lake, which alone will cost approximately £1m. The boating area will be substantially improved with restoration of the kiosk and ticket office and two new pontoons. The mini golf will be improved with a part artificial surface for all year round use.

There are plans for a water play park near to the children's play area, a wildlife meadow, and a boardwalk and reed beds at the old paddling pool. Terracing will be built outside the cafeteria and the car parking altered to eliminate cars crossing in front of it. Eventually it is planned to restore the rhododendrons to their former glory, but I can assure you that this is not an easy task and there are not many rhododendron experts about!



When the funding for stage one has been secured, plans will go ahead for a stage two bid. This will include more detail, such as improving the footpath on the north shore of the lake. Paths, furniture, lighting, planting and signage will eventually all be improved and upgraded.

You may notice people with clipboards who approach you for your opinions on the proposed bid and improvements. Please give them your time, it is important to have the views of the park users to support the bid and also please support it in any other way you can. There will also be user consultations and publicity in the local press.

The whole project will total around £3.9m and it is very exciting for all those involved – a very dedicated and committed team. For you it will be equally exciting when you see the finished product and can walk and spend leisure time in this great local facility

*Joyce Brown.*

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### **Despatches from the Front Line**

Since I retired in 1999 my alarm clock has only been used in cases of necessity, like an early appointment with the dentist. But since 12th September 2011 the alarm has in any case been redundant. At 7:01 in the morning a loud thump is heard, and work starts for the day in the building site which is Challenge House (No.1 Devonshire Avenue) next door to us.

The noises have varied over the months, giving us a sort of symphony with variations. Sometimes a roar of a diesel motor starting up is followed by the regular grind of the cement mixer. Alternatively the repeated 'peep' 'peep' 'peep' of a tracked vehicle, a digger perhaps or a fork-lift truck, which is reversing and has to sound a warning note to alert the other workmen on site.

At an early stage the thumping of the JCB was truly ferocious! We felt glad that a surveyor had taken photographs of our own premises to provide evidence later of any cracks in masonry. We could certainly feel our building shudder as parts of next door's were demolished. That was the dusty part of the work, too!

As for parking along our street, the parking warden from the Council has really had no work to do, as the road has been occupied by trucks delivering builder's supplies, timber, paving blocks, and so forth. Not that we have wished to park there ourselves, as we have no car.

Whatever one thinks of the design of the new buildings, those inside will certainly not shiver! The amount of insulation stuffed under the roofs of the new extension has been really amazing.

The original building at no.1 Devonshire Avenue, where Dr Hezekiah Barbash's house and surgery stood for many years — later that of Dr Noëline McCoach and partners — is having its front elevation restored,

and windows renewed. This should certainly improve the look of that road.

For some days we enjoyed (?) the noises of pneumatic drills, as they broke up the tarmac that surrounded the frontage, where garden had once been years ago. It will be interesting to see what sort of boundary wall is put back, and how the new trees and planting thrive. For the passer-by, of course, the most noticeable change is the removal of Mr. Brailsford's old house at 24 Chilwell Road. Never before have I stood inside a building where light could be seen coming through a 9" brick wall! The rebuilt house will no doubt have doorways wide enough for wheel-chairs, and fulfil a useful job for the residents. I regret the loss of the ornate chimney-pots, but the replacement building seems as if it will be a worthy contribution to the townscape.

Plastering and decoration came in due course, and then the glazing of the new window-frames.

Now the end of the work is approaching, and we are looking forward to Heritage Care moving back in, and bringing all their residents back to Beeston from their temporary quarters. Bath and plumbing equipment is being installed, and the garden area around the buildings is being paved, planted, and so on.

Our experience, of living next door to a building site, may never apply to you. But as we prepare for the arrival of 'the tram' it may be worth bearing in mind that urban change is continuous, not something occasional. Joining a group like that Civic Society gives us a better chance of ensuring that change goes in the right direction.

One likely effect of the work may be to make people more conscious of the streetscape. Most would agree that Beeston is very fortunate to enjoy so many trees in its streets, but this does not always impel us to look after our front gardens, avoid concreting our drives, and take account of how our property affects those nearby. It would be lovely if the restoration of front gardens on this site inspired several others in the neighbourhood to follow suit. Older Beestonians have told us how as children they used to travel to St. John's Grove to admire the blossom on the trees in spring.

*Robin Phillips*

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## **TRAM GUIDED WALKS**

The Beeston Civic Society hosted two guided walks in late July and early August along the route which the extension of the Nottingham tram system will take through Beeston and Chilwell.

The walks were led by Matt Orchard who is the local Community Liaison Officer for the area for the tram contractor, Taylor Woodrow Alstom.

## PICTURES FROM PETER

Some 25 people came on each of the walks, and Matt not only guided people along the route but explained the temporary works which would be needed to build the tram system. He was also happy to answer questions which were raised.

On 8th March 2013 Matt Orchard and Sarah Alton, from Nottingham Council, will give a presentation to the Civic Society updating us on the progress of the tram project.

Chris Deas, Nottingham City Council's Project Director, said: "We would like to thank Beeston Civic Society for inviting Matt to guide the walk and we very much hope that the people who attended not only enjoyed the tour, but also took away a greater understanding of how the tram will fit into the local environment and the construction activity that will take place."

"Although there will inevitably be some disruption to local people and businesses whilst the construction works take place, we will do all that we can to minimise this and keep people as informed as we possibly can."

For further information about the tram project visit: [www.thetram.net/phasetwo](http://www.thetram.net/phasetwo) or you can get in touch with the NET Project Office by emailing [tram@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:tram@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) or calling: (0115) 924 24 54.

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## **HOW THE NET WORKS ARE AFFECTING OUR DAILY LIVES**

Now that work is well under way, the tram works are beginning to impact on our daily lives in all sorts of ways. Getting around the town

is the most obvious (Middle Street, Chilwell Road, Queen's Road West), but I'm sure there are plenty of others – anxious times for shop owners and others whose livelihoods are affected. There is now no point in screaming that we don't want a tram and stating all the negative aspects, it is far too late for that; we need to be positive and stoic until it is all over. I don't pretend that this will be easy and I appreciate all the difficulties and upheavals, including all those yet to come. Building the turning into Wilkinson Street to access Foster Avenue will be another major works in the not too distant future.

We must not however take our eyes off the ball and we must make sure that those doing the work deliver all they have promised, especially in the area of communication; for instance, it is vital to businesses along the route to know what is happening and how it will affect them on a daily basis. So, find out who to contact if you have a problem and make sure you complain and explain to them, grumbling among ourselves will not achieve anything and will simply sap our energy.

All that said, there might be a few pluses along the way – for instance I find it so easy to turn out of Grove Avenue on to Chilwell Road while the temporary lights are there at the moment, although eventually I will be forced to turn right until the work is finished. And NET has made an attempt to brighten up the old Wilkinson's premises with nice tram pictures! Remember those other nice pictures around the Market Square in Nottingham? Perhaps we might get some more!

Trying to remain positive, I'm sure there will be a few more pluses, and perhaps even some funny stories, along the way and Karen, our new editor, would love to hear these – but not your grumbles please (not that I think our readers are the grumbling sort!)

The NET web site at <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/netphase2/>

*Joyce Brown*

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## **TECHNICAL UPDATE**

Our new webmaster, Kerry Edwards, offers an update on Civic Society activity online.

Beeston Civic Society has a new look website!

The new site, which can be found at [www.beestoncivicsociety.wordpress.com](http://www.beestoncivicsociety.wordpress.com) or via a link on our old website, contains lot's of useful information, including;

- Details of upcoming free walks
- Our meetings programme for 12 -13
- The schedule for this September's Heritage Open Days

We have also launched a Twitter account – follow us at @beestoncivicsoc

*Kerry Edwards*

## — Beeston and District Civic Society

Protecting and improving our local area

Home [Guided Walks](#) [Our committee](#) [Learn more](#) [Around Beeston](#)

[Heritage Open Days 2012](#)



### Upcoming free tram walks in Beeston –

July 31, 2012

News

Leave a Comment

Edit

The Beeston and District Civic Society has arranged two free guided walks along the Beeston and Chilwell leg of the N11 Phase 2 route. They will be led by Matt Orchard of Taylor, Woodrow, Alston.

Both walks start at Beeston Square – please bring rain gear and walking shoes.

**Sunday 29 July, 2.00pm**

Join us from 2pm until 5pm as we walk the outbound route from Beeston square to the planned park and ride site at Toton.

**Thursday 2 August, 6.30pm**

Join us from 6.30pm until 8pm as we walk the route towards the city, from Beeston Square to University Boulevard.



### Join Us

Join us! Interested in becoming a member of the Beeston Civic Society? Our meetings run October – March and we also run regular guided walks and heritage Open Days events. Membership costs £7 per year, or £10 for a route.



**beestoncivicsociety**

@beestoncivicsoc [FOLLOWS YOU](#)

*Civic society based in Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Interested in getting involved in your local area and community? Why not become a member from only £7 a year.*

Beeston, Nottinghamshire · <http://www.beestoncivicsociety.org.uk/>

Followed by It's in Nottingham, Helen , Beeston BID Team and 10+ others.

**5**  
TWEETS

**45**  
FOLLOWING

**32**  
FOLLOWERS

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**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SECRETARY**

A lot of messages and updates are now sent by email so if you have still not let me have your email address  
Please email Eileen at: [beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com)

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**BEESTON MALTINGS - UPDATE** (*following report in June 2012 Newsletter*)

Since the demolition of the site (except for the Manager's House) is going ahead, in spite of our hopes, we obtained quotes from two archaeological firms, Trent & Peak and Mayfield CA Ltd gave quotes. During this time I discovered that English Heritage has a set of photographs in their archives taken just before the business closed in November 2000. It was agreed that a copy of the set should be purchased in order to keep them within the County, locally in the library, in the County Archives or another appropriate place.

We applied to the Borough Council for a grant to cover the cost of these (taking the lower of the two quotes), which was granted. We also contacted the seven local County Councillors, as suggested by members of the Cabinet, to see if they would like to support the project. To date two have agreed to do donate a sum towards the cost.

I contacted English Heritage and, having taken their advice, obtained a black and white photocopy of each of the photos available, before we commit ourselves to spending a higher price purchasing photographic copies.

In the meantime, I put the photographer from Trent & Peak in touch with the key person of the demolition business. The site is to be cleared of asbestos, pigeon guano and other such hazardous substances. At that point there will be a slot when the photographer can be on site, before the heavy vehicles and plant are taken onto the site, at which point no visitors will be allowed.

Currently the modern additions to the main building are being dismantled. If anyone is particularly interested in the "anatomy of demolition" there is a detailed schedule within the planning application. *[Web route - Broxtowe Council website/planning/Find planning application/12/00153/ supporting documents with planning application/outline method statement]*

The final photographic report, digital and hard copies, together with the English Heritage Photographs will be deposited between Local Studies at Beeston Library, Nottinghamshire Archives and the County Heritage Environmental Record (HER).

*Barbara Selwood, 31 July 2012*

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In this issue:

## NEED TO UPDATE KAREN/ROBERT

Editorial

2

Committee News

4

Members News

7

Events

7

Inc

17

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.

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