



protecting and improving the environment

Newsletter 158

Sept 2013



*Inside:
40 years to celebrate...*

EDITORIAL

The Civic Society is gearing up for its 40th Anniversary celebrations. You will find an invitation to join in on page 19 – please do come along! In this issue, we have compiled a diverse mixture of news, views and reports, along with a fascinating insight into the history of the Civic Society.

Karen Attwood

A DAY TO REMEMBER



The latest blue plaque unveiling was somewhat different from the previous ones. Maybe because this time the daughter of the person being commemorated was the big draw for many local people! After all, it isn't very often that a currently famous Hollywood star, English born, pays a visit to Beeston, accompanied by a host of other film and theatrical notables. Kate Beckinsale came to unveil a blue plaque to her actor father the late Richard Beckinsale, star of *Rising Damp* and *Porrige*, among others, on Thursday July 17th at College House Junior School, where he was a former pupil. It was a day that will long be remembered locally, especially by the school staff and children. Judy Loe, Richard's widow, mother of Kate and a well known actress in her own right (and a particular favourite of mine) helped in the unveiling. Looking very attractive and much younger than her sixty odd years, she spoke about Richard, who tragically died at the age of thirty one, and her memories of him and his Beeston family. His sisters Judith

and Wendy and their families were also present. Richard's lifelong friend, Alan Harrison, now a retired college principal, and his actor friend, Steve Bent, who he met at repertory theatre in Crewe, also spoke emotionally about their memories of him. To all who knew him he was a true professional and a caring, funny, loyal friend. Kate's memories of her father are very different; she was only five and a half years old when he died and she remembers all the sadness around her at that time. Her memories are mostly drawn from that time and the thoughts and memories of other people. She is impressed that he is still so well remembered thirty-four years after his death. This is probably because the two above mentioned sitcoms are repeated regularly on our television screens and are still just as funny as they were then; which in itself is testament to Richard's acting ability - and to Ronnie Barker and Leonard Rossiter of course! Also present were Len Wiseman, Kate's husband, a famous (sorry to keep using that word, but no other will suffice) Hollywood producer, the British actor Michael Sheen (he has played both Tony Blair and Brian Clough among his many parts) and David Walliams, comedian and television celebrity, a friend of Kate's, who is also known for swimming the Channel and the Thames to raise money for charity. I know there were others present whose faces I recognised but whose names I do not know or cannot remember. So, you see, I do not exaggerate when I say that it was a day to remember - it even got a mention in The Independent and the Daily Telegraph newspapers! I cannot finish this article without mentioning the children from the school who sang so beautifully for us and the headmaster who made us all welcome, and all the staff and helpers who provided great food and refreshments and made everything run so smoothly. The event itself was arranged and managed by Peter Hillier, a member of the South Broxtowe Blue Plaque Group, with help from other members. Well done to all concerned!

Most of us went quietly home afterwards, but the famous and privileged, numbering about twenty, adjourned to the Victoria Hotel in Dovecote Lane, Beeston, to eat, drink, catch up and reminisce. I gather they also drank a toast to Richard in a local brew "Beckinsale Ale" brewed especially to commemorate local celebrities and, by coincidence, thought up entirely independently of the Blue Plaque event. How do I know all this? Well my cousin by marriage, Alan Butler, and his son David, were two of the privileged few, and if anyone remembers Alan and would like to get in touch with him, I will be pleased to help.

Joyce Brown

CARNIVAL, SATURDAY 13th JULY

The eighth Beeston Carnival, on Broadgate Park with some events in Beeston Square, was another great success and the weather certainly helped. I reckon there were in excess of 40 stands/stalls and lots of visitors. It was bigger and better than ever. In one of the first reports I wrote on the carnival I said how impressed I was by the many and varied talents we have in and around the area, and by the many volunteers who give so generously of their time.

Those talents and volunteers were very much in evidence again, and nowhere more so than in the award winning display, given by the Boys & Girls Brigade, of music and marching. They recently won a national competition with this display, of which we only saw a small part - well done to them and their leaders. We heard too the Beeston Pipe Band, who have also been national competition winners in the recent past. What a wealth of talent and volunteering in those two organisations alone.

Others were telling us "we are here", taking care of the young, the elderly, the disabled, the environment and many other worthy and deserving causes. They had different ways of fund raising, all the details of which I won't go into, but it all added to the fun and the atmosphere. Tombola is ever popular, as is face painting for the children, and I saw "hook a duck" among many others. The armed forces and related groups, such as cadets, were much in evidence - a sign of the times as they appear to be enjoying some popularity lately. There was, of course, plenty of food to be had from Chinese to chips and sandwiches and the Beeston Free Church had their usual stall with free drinks and cakes. I did succumb to an ice cream, but I passed on the cake! The Civic Society also had a stall and exhibition, put together and manned by the usual small but dedicated group. We also witnessed the parade and the crowning of the Carnival Queen, a pretty young girl, with her entourage, proving that tradition is alive and well and there was plenty of lively music all day.

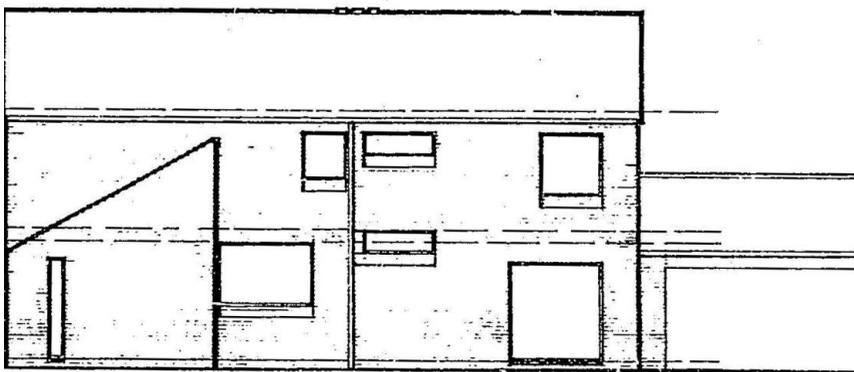
Once again Pat and Lynda Lally, local councillors and carnival organisers, are to be congratulated on another successful day and commended for all their hard work, as are all their helpers. Along with all the other organising, getting vehicles safely on and off the site is a huge undertaking. Well done to everybody who helped to make the day such a success.

Joyce Brown

THE 1960s RE-IMAGINED IN PARK ROAD *The history of an interesting house*

What attracted us to a 1969 architect designed house? It was unusually light and airy in the peaceful setting of the Cottage Grove conservation area, surrounded by mature trees.

The original design shows how the windows are laid out in an almost abstract fashion, a little like a Mondrian painting. The effect gives interest and variety as well as a generous amount of natural light.



We employed architects with a specialism in sustainable housing, Marsh Grochowski, to create a master plan for development. We chose not to go ahead with extensions, one of which would have replaced the garage, but instead focused on the existing house.

We wanted to make the house energy efficient, so added cavity wall and loft insulation, high performance argon filled double glazed windows, a new heating system, and LED lighting. These measures, together with solar PV panels, enable the house to achieve a 'B' Energy Efficiency rating, something shared by only 5% of homes in England.

The windows we chose retained the simple profile as the originals, which had been replaced by unsympathetic uPVC versions that obscured the garden views. Instead of being wholly in wood, the new windows have natural wood frames internally, an insulator, and aluminium facings externally.

The house was designed in 1969 by Architects Design Group; the architect in charge was Bob Cullen. ADG were looking at models from the Nottinghamshire area, as well as in Scandinavian domestic architecture. The practice won awards for their work in housing, and was referred to in the Pevsner's Buildings of Nottinghamshire. The practice later moved on to design North Sea gas platforms amongst other large projects. The house was one of two built in the grounds of 66 Ireton Street, commissioned by Professor Maurice Barley, lecturer in archaeology at the University of Nottingham. With Bob Cullen he shared an interest in traditional domestic architecture. The form of both houses are very different, with our house having a simple two storey layout, while next door there is a double height living space and flexible partition walls. Both have in common open wooden staircases, and a tendency to open plan living.

Julian Tomlin

www.juliantomlin.com

FIRST EDITION OF BEESTON AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Thanks are due to Caroline Penn and Jean Cameron for unearthing the first ever edition of the Civic Society newsletter in Beeston library. Printed below are the original terms of reference.

Beeston and District Civic Society

At a small informal meeting on 9th April 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.

The Society will study local problems and propose solutions to the local authorities. It hopes to develop a constructive relationship with both District and County Councils. The Society will be ready to be consulted about planning developments, under the 1971 Planning Act.

The founding members of the Society propose to study and comment upon the following issues :

1. parks and open spaces
2. planting of trees
3. High Road - its buildings, the traffic, and amenities for pedestrians
4. development of the area between the High Road and Middle Street
5. traffic problems in the Queens Road/Station Road locality
6. problems concerning vehicles and transport around the Plessey works
7. preservation of the Crown Inn, Middle Street
8. 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
9. the bank of the River Trent
10. the siting and amenities of a new community school
11. litter

During the summer the Society plans to hold a few informal meetings to discuss further the role of the Society. Details available from the acting Secretary - Mrs. M. Wallwork, 294 Wollaton Road, Beeston.

The Society will be formally inaugurated at a public meeting in the new library on Foster Avenue towards the end of September.

April 26/1973

THE BEESTON AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY, THE FIRST FORTY YEARS

During the early months of 1973 the WEA held a class in Beeston on the subject: "Beautiful cities – Happy accident or design?". It was led by Robert Cullen, an architect and sometime chairman of the Nottingham Civic Society, of which I was a member. There were only maybe ten students, but the course helped us all to realize how far from interesting were most of our towns. At the end of the course, I suggested to the fellow students that we ought to proceed further by forming a local Civic Society in order to put pressure on our local councillors, who seemed to believe that anything new was "progress" and that anything old was of no interest.

A small number of those present decided to form a steering group for the proposed Society, including Susan Hall, June Fielden and Edna Scothern. Planning meetings were held at my house. Our numbers soon increased to about a dozen. And minutes of the meetings were taken by my 16-year-old son, Christopher.

An inaugural meeting of the Society was held on 1st October 1973, at what is now the Beeston Resource Centre, and was attended by about seventy people. We had invited Arthur Percival of the Civic Trust to speak at the meeting. He arrived during the afternoon prior to staying at my home, which was in chaos as we had only moved house three days previously. Having arrived, Arthur asked if I would take him for a walk around Beeston. We went along the High Road, still full of traffic, down Humber Road and along Station Road, all at a galloping pace. When we returned he described Beeston as "banal" – which seemed unkind at the time, but was not untrue.

So, the Society was established with about a hundred members. Lawrence Geary was elected chairman, I, secretary and, I think, Bert Elmes was elected treasurer. The local planning officers were very pleased as they told us that we would likely strengthen their hands when dealing with councillors!

Within a comparatively short time the Society was invited to meet with the members of the planning committee who were anxious to widen Town Street in Bramcote but, due to some technical oversight, were not able to do so without the Society's approval. Professor Kenneth Stevens was by now chairman and, with scientific precision, he demolished all their arguments. The atmosphere in the room was

awful! Had the plan gone through, however, the Society believed that it would be the end of keeping the village atmosphere in Bramcote.

Another early achievement was to gain listed building status for the Grange – on the suggestion of the planning department. The police authority was anxious to demolish it and rebuild but it is a very handsome building, originally built in the early nineteenth century. Subsequently, we understood that the police were in fact glad that they had been obliged to reconsider the best use of the building.

The Society had a tree planting session at the junction of Middle Street and Chilwell Road. The trees greatly improved the local landscape for many years but have now been sacrificed for the tram works. So we must watch this space!

It seems old hat now but there used to be no recycling facilities of any kind. Gillian Hallam, when secretary, wrote countless letters to the council suggesting that there should be bottle banks in various places for the collection of glass. The number of excuses she was given for not providing them was quite remarkable. Eventually, however, her campaign on behalf of the Society won – and now we even have a regular doorstep collection of glass.

Keeping an eye on planning applications has always, of course, been a primary concern for the Society. Had it not been for the Society's submission, for instance, there might well be a three storey office block for the Department of Pensions on the site of the old vicarage where the Manor Surgery is now.

When the government made it possible for areas of special merit to be designated Conservation Areas in order that they might be protected from unsuitable development, the Society urged the council to designate the area from St.John's parish church and Chilwell Road Methodist Church down to West End and also containing the Manor House. Subsequently, it persuaded the council to designate as a Conservation Area the area containing Devonshire Avenue and Elm Avenue, now known as St.John's Grove. Since then, it has been involved in discussions relating to other possible conservation areas.

Although not all members of the committee were in favour, the Society supported the pedestrianisation of the High Road. There was tremendous opposition to it at the time from many local people. I spoke over the phone to Arthur Percival about the opposition. He told

me not to worry, saying that was the norm but, when the scheme was completed, the complaints would disappear. And that is what happened – so maybe something similar will happen when the tram is up and running.

During the first few years Gillian Hallam, secretary to the Society, organized a number of outings. Among them was a trip to Newark and a guided tour around the town. Another time we had a similar trip to Stamford – both delightful towns that have kept their historic centres. Then there was a trip on a barge along the canal from Beeston Lock to the river Trent, and a visit to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. Sadly, such trips ended when they did not draw enough takers.

From the beginning the Society has arranged talks on subjects of local interest. It has also arranged guided walks in and around Beeston, which have enabled people to appreciate the amount of history in the area. It has also produced and sold a number of publications, starting with the "Old Village Trail", and including one on local walks, "Tracks, towpaths and twitchells". Another was "Views of Beeston", published after an exhibition of the same name. This showed local buildings both good and bad, and also some architectural details often overlooked. By now it is quite a historic document because of all the changes that have since taken place. All these publications helped to generate interest in the local area.

Since early in the scheme inaugurated by the Civic Trust, the Civic Society has been instrumental in encouraging the owners of buildings not normally open to open them to the public, free of charge, on Heritage Open Days weekend - a national event early in September. Now it has developed, particularly through the work of the late Michael Atherton and his wife Eileen, into a major event in the district. Hurt's shawl factory has been a regular, very popular site. The Town Hall, and various churches have opened their doors. Chilwell Depot has been a place of great interest. And even Bramcote Crematorium was open one year. Those of us who visited it were fascinated to see what goes on behind the scene, and we were most impressed by the caring attitudes of the staff.

More recently, the Society collaborated in a scheme whereby plaques would be installed on appropriate buildings to commemorate local worthies or places. The group, chaired by the Civic Society's Peter Robinson, contains representatives of the Beeston Local History Society, the Stapleford Local History Society, and the Bramcote

Conservation Group. Individuals honoured include local historian Arthur Cossons, Baptist Church leader John Clifford, and actor Richard Beckinsale. The old village cross on Church Street is commemorated, as are those killed in the Chilwell munitions' explosion. Before the group is wound up it is anticipated that some 30 plaques will have been erected in Beeston and surrounding areas.

Looking through old newsletters I see that many problems remain, in particular that of bad design. It is dispiriting to note how little developers seem to care about enhancing the environment in any way. And problems relating to the reuse of old buildings, the use of space above shops for residential use, brownfield sites, heavy traffic, and trees etc. still remain.

Like most groups, the Society has difficulty in finding willing volunteers to fill the different roles necessary for keeping it running. Over the years, however, it has had a very positive effect in promoting high standards of appreciation of our surroundings, and it is essential that it should continue.

Marion Wallwork, *former secretary, chairman, and editor.*

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BEESTON SQUARE

Planning application **13/00042/FUL** was approved by the Development Control Committee on 17 July. During the course of the application, the proposals have been amended to include the gymnasium use (class D2) and to omit the proposed takeaway (class A5) use. Various amendments have also been made to the fenestration, materials, the extent of the public art and the design of the new build element.

Way back in 2008 *The Beeston Town Centre Plan Supplementary Planning Document* was adopted. It was developed from a Masterplan prepared by consultants for the council. Within the strategic aims were the diversification of town centre uses and the promotion of a sustainable evening economy. The vision for Beeston Town Centre includes the following statement:

"The redevelopment of The Square linked to a proposed new transport interchange will help to revitalise the heart of the town centre".

This original plan was exciting and we looked forward to it being developed. It included the multi-storey car park and fire station. Since then, two main factors have arisen, the TRAM and the economic downturn. NET demanded the land around the fire station and Bargain Booze and then the Multi-storey Car Park. That scuppered the rumours that Marks & Spencers were interested in having part of the car park for their store!

Henry Boot had to cut down the plans and, of course, with a smaller development the opportunities to bring in a prestigious 'Anchor Store' went. Businesses such as M&S demand benefits such as a free rent for x number of years, which was clearly not viable with the smaller development.

Pure Gym has expressed an interest in investing in Beeston Town Centre (they already have a very large gym on Nottingham Road, Basford). They will use the whole of the new build upper floor and take up two of the retail units down below. We hope that those windows on the ground floor will be kept 'active' and interesting.

We (B&D Civic Society) expressed our regret to the Council for the potential loss of retail units in the town centre and questioned whether the development would be sustainable if the gym were to fail, asking if the units, especially on the first floor, could be adapted for another use including retail. However, the Council welcomed the gym proposal as it will add to the overall town centre, not detract from retail, enhance the evening economy and hopefully encourage more retailers to invest too.

We welcome the progress that has been made to improve The Square and The Precinct but regret that no more can be done due to circumstances beyond the developer's control.

We also expressed our concern to the Council about the Station Road façade as this is currently unattractive and highly visible to passers-by. We welcome the 'street art' concept but the delivery and detail will be important (bearing in mind what happened across the road with Tesco's "community art idea"). We suggest something brave and bold, perhaps reflecting the town's industrial heritage and nothing that might encourage graffiti.

We hope that Henry Boot will move forward speedily and co-ordinate the development with that of the Tram and the transport interchange. We note that councillors at the Development Control meeting

suggested that if Henry Boot doesn't get started by the end of summer then the Council should consider issuing a Compulsory Purchase Order for the site!

Let's hope that at the end of the day the Council's vision will be apt and the heart of the Town Centre will be revitalised and Beeston will be "alive and vibrant".

Barbara Selwood

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FIELD FARM - LATEST

The Field Farm planning application has been "called in" by Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government. For those of you who do not know what that means, the application and final decision has effectively been taken away from the local authority, and the minister will deal with the application and make the final decision, after a public consultation, where all interested parties will be able to have their say. If you want to know more, I'm sure there is an appropriate website, or you can just phone the council planning office.

Joyce Brown

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TWO POINTS OF VIEW

One...

As our Society prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary it should consider how successful it has been in its aim to 'make Beeston a better place to live in'. Things started to go wrong in 2010; shops were closing, the opening of Tesco being the main cause, but the ageing Precinct and Square with threat of increased rents hastened closures. Broxtowe Council's decisions to demolish the multi-storey car park and bring in charges for the surface car parks were surely disastrous. They coincided with the City Council's imposition of a tax for employee parking on business premises.

Beeston had been a popular destination for shopping because of its free parking policy; an initial free hour does not offer time for relaxed shopping or a cup of coffee. Another deterrent to visitors has been the difficulty in negotiating the roads which have become, in many central areas, single track because of cars parked on both sides of the road and pavements. Many of the cars are those of workers in the town but the distribution near bus stops suggests that many belong to city workers who find it cheaper to pay a bus fare than the new city council

tax. An aerial view would show Beeston as a massive car park and I haven't mentioned the demolitions, road closures and diversions which are particularly inconvenient to those dependent on buses.

The trams may eventually run through Beeston, although if you come from Edinburgh, with its unfinished and massively over budget tramway system, you will have doubts about it. I certainly doubt if Beeston's shops will ever recover and the town become a great place to live in.

There may be some hope for improvement. I am sure many of you will have ideas about this. Our Christmas meeting will be an opportunity for you to hear them.

Dick Hutchinson

Two...

The experiences of Birmingham, Sheffield and Manchester offer a strong rebuttal to growing opposition to Nottingham's proposed tram expansion. These, along with many other major cities across the globe, reveal how a modern forward-thinking outlook can change a city for the better.

Quite understandably, residents are wary about the disturbance the tram system will bring, not least during its construction. And admittedly, the chaotic construction phase will be a disruptive presence in our city. But this will give way to an enhanced Nottingham, in a range of different ways.

Perhaps one of the most striking benefits of the new tram system will be its environmental friendliness. Compared to buses, trams produce negligible noise and air pollution. In an era of highly personal transport, these are important considerations. Cities that have invested in tram systems have witnessed dramatically reduced pollution, which is not only good for the environment, but saves the health services millions of pounds in treatment costs.

Moreover, the extension will give commuters the opportunity to leave their cars at home. Instead of parking in the city centre, commuters can simply walk to the nearest tram stop, which results in fewer cars on Nottingham's over-used roads. Concomitantly, this will reduce traffic accidents and subsequent fatalities. We will also see less congestion, partly because trams have a higher capacity than buses.

Interestingly, market research indicates that commuters are far more likely to transfer their commute to rail-based transport, rather than to

road-based transport such as buses. This suggests the tram will prove to be a successful alternative to buses.

More efficient access to the city centre will allow people to get to work on time. The tram will bypass traffic jams, making Nottingham a more fluid place to travel. This will boost the economy, and attract more investment to our superb city.

In response to widespread concern that the tram will bestow a heavy cost on taxpayers, it is important to highlight how the next phase will be financed. The trams will be financed through a government grant and various other businesses that have a vested interest in its construction.

In the aforementioned cities, grumbling about building works and concerns that the tram would not work were soon alleviated by its immeasurable contribution to the wellbeing of residents and the environment. A Nottingham with fewer cars will be a cleaner and more peaceful place.

In Manchester, enthusiasm for the Metrolink reached such heights that the city decided to fund greater expansion to cater for more areas. Evidently, before we knock it, we need to try it.

Rob Moher, student at the University of Nottingham

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THE LATEST FROM HIGHFIELDS

Although our last User Group Committee meeting took place before the announcement about the lottery bid result, this is the latest news, as those of you who read the Nottingham Post may know. The resubmission of the stage one bid under the Parks for People programme was successful thanks to the hard work of the team involved. This means an award of £280,000.00 - 93% of the project development costs, and we can now proceed to the stage two bid. You thought it was all over - not that easy I'm afraid! The stage two bid will be submitted in August 2014 and the decision will be made in November 2014. If that is also successful, work in the park will start in mid 2015. The total currently required for the whole project is £3.89m. So you see we aren't quite there yet, but there is much jubilation about our success so far - and rightly so!

Furthermore, since the meeting the new sprinkler system for the croquet lawns, also lottery funded, has been installed and officially turned on by the Lord Mayor, on Saturday 4 July. There was also an open air orchestral concert, by the University Orchestra held in the park, free to all, on 16 June, which was very successful and well attended.

Back to my report of the meeting on 20 June. Remember the Maid Marian which used to take us on trips around the lake? She is presently languishing in storage at Toton and her condition is about to be assessed by a boat builder. It is hoped that she can be restored to her former glory and put back to work. I for one am eagerly looking forward to that! The Colwick lifeguards are currently running the small boats on the lake, on lease, for a trial period.

The pump on the cascade at the Beeston end of the lake is not working and is currently being repaired. In the meantime the payback team is doing more maintenance work in that area. The children's play area is also undergoing more work. Safety matting will be put down, some shrubs removed and new topsoil laid down prior to new planting. Railings are to be relocated for child safety and there is the possibility of new fencing in the area. This part of the park is possibly the best used. Eventually, more trees will be planted between the play area and the tram, species yet to be agreed. The old paddling pool is destined to become a wildlife area in the lottery project.

Finally, two new notice boards will be installed, one at the Beeston end and one near the play area; the Beeston Hockey Club hope to get a third pitch, to be leased by the University from Nottingham City Council, and the planned tree sculpture has not been forgotten!

Joyce Brown

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PUBLIC WALKS and TALKS - EAST BEESTON WALK

Professor John Beckett took us on a fascinating walk on **13th June** during which he explained how the east end of Beeston was developed.

We began at Salthouse Lane, which was named after Joseph Salthouse, a jeweller for whom Dagfa House was built, where John explained how the area had changed from agricultural land after the Lenton Grove estate was sold.

A number of 'gentlemen's houses' were built along Broadgate, all given names of trees. The Cedars, approached by Cedar Avenue, was a Red Cross and VAD hospital for 26 patients in the First World War. Across the road John pointed out Broadgate House, home of the astronomer Edward Lowe, which has a blue plaque, the Air Force officer's training centre which was built just before World War II and Iona House, home of Thomas Humber.

We proceeded to the recreation ground which was given by Sir Louis Frederick Pearson and opened by the Duke of Portland in July 1923. It was expanded in 1951 when the bowling green and play area were built on the cottage garden of The Elms, which can still be seen if you look above the shop fronts.

Further down Humber Road we saw housing built for Humber workers and, of course, the Humber Factory where bicycles and cars were produced until 1907 when Humber moved to Coventry, leaving 600 empty houses in Beeston. This also has a blue plaque.

With the development of the Humber works and Henry Pearson's Beeston Foundry (later Beeston Boiler Company, which eventually covered 28 acres) housing and facilities grew, including Humber Road, Hawthorn Grove, Mona Street the Anglican Valley Mission and Queens Road Methodist Church.

We proceeded to The Queens Hotel which, along with Beeston Boiler Company canteen and houses on Mona Street and King Street, suffered bomb damage on the night of 7/8th April 1941.

Another blue plaque, to Colonel B.D Shaw, who lectured in Chemistry at The University of Nottingham and was famous for his explosions, was pointed out before we crossed Queens Road.

The walk ended in Willoughby Street, where John informed us of the history of The Gospel Mission, now the Oasis Christian Centre.

Jill Oakland

PUBLIC WALKS and TALKS - ATTENBOROUGH VILLAGE WALK

The second of the Society's walks led by Professor John Beckett took place on **4th July**. This was a new walk devised by John around the village of Attenborough. The first part took the form of a joint presentation by John and Gary Watson of the Environment Agency.

This took place in St Mary's Church, and refreshments were kindly provided by Ann Parkes.

John gave an overview of how the village of Attenborough had grown from very small beginnings. He pointed out that Attenborough is the ecclesiastical parish, with St Mary's as the church, for three hamlets (Attenborough, Toton and Chilwell), but that Toton and Chilwell were civil parishes; hence the curiosity that Toton was in Attenborough for church matters including baptisms, wedding and funerals, but Attenborough was in Toton for civil matters! Today all three have their own churches.

Using contemporary and Ordnance Survey maps, John demonstrated just how small Attenborough had remained until the post-war years. This was partly because of its location on the flood plain, which became a serious issue when the village was flooded in 2000. In his presentation, Gary Watson showed how the Environment Agency had responded, and how through discussion with the villagers the boundary of the flood prevention scheme had eventually been agreed to include the Village Green and Cricket Pitch.

After this presentation John and Gary led the group on a walk around the village. Gary explained the flood defences in the fisherman's car park. He talked about re-routing the stream and told us of a rare plant in the area that had be preserved.

John led us along The Strand pointing out Rose Cottage (a listed building), the Sunday School, the former Bell Inn, and Brookside, previously the last house in the village.

Gary explained how the floodgates would be closed if a flood was imminent and how the defences were modified to preserve a listed garage frontage and fit in with existing walls.

Eileen Atherton/John Beckett

TREASURER'S PLEA

Our Treasurer would dearly love to resign at least by the AGM in November so if anyone is willing to take over this responsibility please talk to Andrew Milner about what is involved.

40th Anniversary Celebration

You are invited to join members to celebrate

The Beeston and District Civic Society

40th Anniversary

On Friday October 11th at 6pm

**At The Old Chamber, The Town Hall,
Beeston**

Followed by our Guest Speaker, Dr Peter Barrett
Deputy Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire at 7pm

r.s.v.p beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com

Heritage Open Days 2013

There is a booklet enclosed in this issue with more details.

BROXTOWE WALKS 2013

**15th September (Sunday of Heritage Weekend) at 2.30pm –
Heritage Beeston**

Meet at Podium Beeston Square.

Distance 2 miles, duration 2 hours.

Public transport: Any bus to Beeston. The podium is a few yards from the Bus Station

Park in a local car park, all are free on Sundays.

The walk is designed primarily for beginners, but even long established local residents are likely to learn something new!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Your Membership card is included in this Newsletter and this has details of our Speakers for the coming season. We hope that you like what has been arranged for the next Season

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due on the 1st October and we have again held our membership fee of £7 single and £10 per couple

'Paddy Tipping' Nottinghamshire Police Commissioner starts the Season on **Friday 13th September** which is also the Heritage Weekend.

Please note that with the exception of our **40th Anniversary**

Celebrations, all of our meetings next year take place in either the **Junior School Hall or The Committee Room at John Clifford School , Nether Street, Beeston.**

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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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