



protecting and improving the environment

# ***Newsletter 160***

March 2014



Children from Wadsworth Fields Primary School recently helped to plant 40 trees in Bramcote Park to celebrate the Civic Society's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*in this issue: 'New Deal' for Beeston, The Archaeology of the Tram, The Canalside Heritage Centre*

## EDITORIAL

It is hard to keep up with all the changes happening locally! In this issue we will give you a snapshot of some of the Civic Society's varied activities and other interesting reports we have spotted and/or commissioned.

You may already have heard that there was a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm recently generated by the formation of a 'New Deal for Beeston' group. Many ideas were put forward for improving life in Beeston. You can be reassured that 'New Deal' or not, the Civic Society is working as a non political group, as always, to help make Beeston a better place for all who live, work, shop and visit – as it has done for the last 40 years. It is hoped that this new initiative will generate new members who will help with all this meaningful work going forward.

**Karen Attwood**

-----

### **'NEW DEAL' FOR BEESTON**

This is the letter sent to the Beeston Express in January in response to the 'New Deal' meeting. Please let any non members who attended the meeting know they are very welcome to join and help us with our initiatives!

*Dear Ed, Although I was not able to be present at the meeting at John Clifford School arranged by Matt Gould and chaired by Nick Palmer to talk about what people want for Beeston, I have spoken to people who were present and I have read various letters and comments on the internet. At a different meeting attended by some members and committee members of the Beeston & District Civic Society we discussed the "Beestonian" meeting and the universal comment was "what do they think we do and have been doing for the past 40 years?" As it appears that not everybody knows what the society is about, I will attempt to explain! Formed in 1973 by a few dedicated locals, as a result of some nasty planning issues around the area, the society is committed to "protecting and improving the environment" and during that time its achievements have been many and varied. Among the early successes we can count saving historic buildings, helping to establish Conservation Areas and the setting up of the first recycling centre in Beeston. Over the years we have also taken part in a consultation concerning flight paths at East Midlands airport, which would have affected Beeston and Chilwell, attended and made representations at the NET Public Inquiry and defended the green belt, plus many other activities.*

*More recently, among other things, we have been instrumental in establishing Cottage Grove as the latest Conservation Area in July 2008, erected and dedicated 30 blue plaques, with 2 more imminent, in and around the environs of Beeston together with other local societies, compiled a pictorial history of the Maltings which we were unable to save and organised meetings and walks to keep the public updated on NET.*

*All of these are just a few examples of what has been done, and continues to be done, by a dedicated band of volunteers. We regularly organise the planting of new trees and for the past few years we have also organised the annual Heritage Open Days in September, we have been a Beeston BID member since its inception and we have a sub-committee which looks at every local planning application and comments or objects when we feel we should. We have established a rapport with the local council and especially with the planning office who take our comments seriously and treat them with respect.*

*I hope I have enlightened you and convinced you that we already have the infrastructure to help implement many of the suggestions that came out of the "Beestonian" meeting. What we need are more member to give us a louder voice, (we already have in excess of 200), especially those prepared to actually play an active part in achieving what they want to see in Beeston, not just talking about it. So, come and join us; for more information see our website at:*

*www.beestoncivicsociety.org.uk, email us at:*

*beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com, or contact our secretary Eileen Atherton on 0115 9677260 or the Chairman, Judy Sleath on 07722 237152. Membership is £7 single or £10 a couple payable yearly.*

*We have meetings, on local topical subjects, open to the public, on the second Friday of the month from September to April, when there is a £2 fee for non members. Keep an eye on our updated website for details of future events, including a general discussion type meeting to be arranged.*

*Looking to the future, we are already discussing the HS2 project, fracking and developments in Beeston "post tram", and keeping an eye on wind turbines, the Boots Enterprise Zone and supporting the Canalside project. With so much going on we need to be vigilant, but our combined voices will be much stronger than the odd one here and there. So, as my gran would have said "get off your backside and do it, don't just talk about it!" We invite you to come and join us; you can be sure of a welcome.*

*Joyce Brown*

-----

## **TREE PLANTING**

Forty trees were planted on Wednesday 5 February to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of *Beeston & District Civic Society*. The Mayor of the Borough of Broxtowe, Councillor Iris White, attended, along with children from Wadsworth Fields Primary School, who enthusiastically helped with the planting.

*The Woodland Trust* awarded us two Woodland Packs of small saplings consisting of Silver Birch, Rowan and Wild Cherry.

*Broxtowe Borough Council* suggested we plant them in the woodland area at Bramcote Hills Park and are providing help and support for the project. They are also providing some more trees for planting - Hazel, Thorn, Oak and Sweet Chestnut.

*The Conservation Volunteers group*, who work closely with the Borough Council, have erected rabbit proof fencing to help protect the trees. They also helped plant some of the trees.

The work by the Beeston & District Civic Society will help towards the Council's 10 year woodland management plan for the park and the tree planting will be a further step towards the target of planting 100,000 trees in the Borough by 2016.

*Groundwork Greater Nottingham* is working with Broxtowe Borough Council to support the Council's environmental education goals, and as part of this, they organised the help from the children from *Wadsworth Fields*.

Beeston Civic Society has had several tree planting projects over the years. We like to involve children whenever possible because it is the children who will be able to watch the trees mature. Maybe in 40 years these children will come back with their families and enjoy the woods in the park! We are also currently working on a project to find and allocate Tree-Guardians for trees that are planted along or near roads within local neighbourhoods.



Beeston & District Civic Society members are very grateful to all the organisations that have helped support this project and, in particular, to the individuals from them all who have been specifically involved with us.

Thanks are also due to Committee member, Barbara Selwood, who has worked tirelessly on these projects.

-----

**NUGGETS FROM THE FIRST DECADE OF NEWSLETTERS – “Where are we now?” (continued from last issue)**

*Barbara Selwood has carefully selected some fascinating excerpts from previous newsletters.*

1977

**Subscription Rates**

Single Adult £1.00  
Married Couple £1.50  
Junior (Under 18) 25p

newsletter 17 - Sept 1977

**Bandstand Project**

"It will be remembered that the bandstand, which at present stands at the end of the Dovecote Lane Recreation Ground, is in a state of disrepair and one suggestion was to dismantle it and move it to the Square where, after renovation, it might be a useful amenity. The Council has decided that this course of action cannot be considered and your Committee has decided to send a strong protest/ expression of dismay."

newsletter 18 - Nov 1977

**Chairman's Report – not Bingo**

". . . we had unsuccessfully opposed the planning application for Bingo in the centre of Beeston on the grounds that shops were more desirable."

newsletter 19 - Jan 1978

**Planning in Broxtowe**

Cllr Michael Powell, Chairman of the Development Services Committee (report of meeting)

"Cllr Powell mentioned that there may in the future be need for a Civic Centre for the Borough of Broxtowe because the Town Hall is too small and at present the Council staff work in various locations thought the district. Sixty staff from Rock House Basford will be moving to Beeston in 1978."

newsletter 20 - April 1978

**Tree Planting**

"Your Committee decided a couple of months ago to allocate £15 for tree planting this year and we consulted John Gregory of the Council Leisure Services Department, as to which trees were most suitable for the sites we had in mind. As a result, a tree planting ceremony took place on Friday 7 April at 11 am. This time proved inconvenient for the strong men of our society and so it was left to an all-female contingent to wield the spades, ably assisted by Council Workmen. Two Norway Maples and 2 Beech were planted on the corner of Beeston Parish Church where Middle Street joins the High Road. We shall watch their progress with interest."

*[Nov 2013 - removed for the tram line!]*

newsletter 24 - Aug 1979

### **Lowe's Nursery Site - hopes and fears**

The acceptability of the housing development on the Lowe's Nursery north of the Derby Road exercised the minds of the society well before ground workers grubbed up the last rose bushes. A threat to the green and pleasant skyline loomed over the houses, and loom it certainly does, as daily seen by hundreds of Beeston and Bramcote households. One can only hope that the proposed route along the ridge line, envisaged in the Bramcote Hills Open Space Plan, will eventually come about. At least we know that Mr Roger Mather, Broxtowe Director of Planning, would like to see it and also some trees along the ridge – mature trees for the imminent future and 'whips' for the long term.

newsletter 24 - Aug 1979

### **Broadgate Park**

"Work is now in progress to smarten up the site around the Boer War Memorial on Broadgate. The plans were made by Tony Smith of Broxtowe Planning Department. A pond is to be made around the war memorial, the railings have already been removed and the hedge is set back behind the memorial. Part of the area is to be made into flower beds and part paved. Readers of the Beeston Gazette will have read that the reaction of local shopkeepers will have been very varied. There have been fears expressed regarding the probability of vandals and concern that the appearance of the public lavatories nearby will mar the effect of the other improvements. Some of the shopkeepers, however, hope that the greatly improved appearance of Broadgate may attract more visitors to the Broadgate Park and bring more trade to that end of Beeston."

newsletter 28 - Aug 1980

### **Forthcoming Events – Glass Recycling**

At the meeting (AGM) two short films will also be shown. The first entitled, 'New Glass for Old' is about recycling bottles. This follows consideration discussion and research by the committee into the matter of having a bottle bank in Beeston to collect glass in order that it can be recycled . . ."

newsletter 32 - Nov 1981

### **New Shopping Centre Beeston**

"Some members may have read proposals for a new shopping centre on the vacant site between Stoney Street and Albion Street. They have appeared in the Beeston Gazette and in the South Broxtowe District Plan Survey Report. Formal proposals will be completed by the

Director of Planning early in the New Year at which time we will be asked, as a Society, for our comments." [Nov 13 - Sainsbury's!] newsletter 37 - Jan 1983

### **Shopping Centres in Beeston**

Broxtowe Borough Council is, as you know, keen to maintain Beeston's status as a shopping centre against the competition of outside Hypermarkets . . .

However, we were a little more than enthusiastic about a proposal to develop land at High Road/Station Road/Acacia Walk as a supermarket and shopping mall – 19 shops and a pedestrian link to the multi storey car park. But would this fend off competition from the hypermarkets!"

-----

### **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2014**

It's time to start organising Heritage Open Days 2014 and Barbara, Eileen and I have already had our first meeting and made our first contacts. But we feel that it would be good to have new energy and input - it is always good to have fresh ideas and challenges - and we could use some extra help! We have been doing this for a few years now and sometimes we feel that it could all become a bit boring and we work hard to find new venues. There is also the matter of funding and publicity. It is not an arduous job and you do not need any previous experience! The end result is always really satisfying, when you see people enjoying visiting the various sites and hear how much the participants enjoy taking part. So, do you have just a few spare hours between now and September? If so we would love to hear from you; our next meeting is on February 24th at 2.15 p.m. Contact Barbara Selwood on 0115 9178488. Eileen Atherton on 0115 9677260 or me on 0115 9259044.

**Joyce Brown**

-----

### **THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE TRAM: BEESTON'S HISTORICAL CORE**

Trent and Peak Archaeology have been working in Beeston since early 2013. Our archaeological focus has been on Beeston's historic core; the market square, High Road and Middle Street, with some extension outwards towards Chilwell Road and Lower Road. Beeston and its surrounding area has a rich history including the Manor House and fourteenth century cross fragment located on Church Street.

Throughout the excavations in Beeston the most prevalent finds and features have been those relating to the Victorian terraced housing that

once would have dominated the area, but due to continued re-development, is slowly being removed and forgotten. It is therefore important for us to utilise this opportunity to record and preserve these structures that have played an important role in our social history. From the evidence gathered we have been able to build up a solid idea of Victorian Beeston.

Excavations in Middle Street produced evidence of walls, basements, yard surfaces and wells. The location of many of these structures demonstrates the original, narrower nature of the street. Nowhere is this more evident than at the site of The Three Horseshoe Pub. Here, beneath the centre of the current road surface, several large basements relating to the earlier public house, were discovered. The evidence of wells would suggest communal living in these areas and possibly squalid conditions for the local population. Discarded pottery and metal objects, all of which date to the 1950's, were recovered from demolition debris, suggesting the properties were demolished around that time.

Whilst excavating within Beeston Parish Churchyard, human remains were uncovered. These were removed and inspected by an osteoarchaeologist before being returned to the Church for reburial. Despite their poor condition, it was possible to determine that the bones were most likely those of a female, over the age of 40. Measurements of the surviving long bones show us that she would have stood at around 4 foot 11 inches. The pathology report indicates extended periods of stress on her lower spine and poor dental hygiene resulting in tooth loss. Her small stature does not seem to be related to any growth defects, although it could suggest long periods of malnutrition during childhood. Records relating to the associated grave plot state that a female named Mary Lowe, who died on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1882 (aged 57), was buried within the plot. The possibility of her childhood malnutrition supports the theory of Beeston's Victorian terraces being hard and squalid areas in which to live and be raised. So far there has been a disappointing lack of Medieval features found in Beeston as evidence has been lost during subsequent redevelopment, however, some small pieces of archaeology remain. Most notable was the footing of a gate found on Middle Street, outside Falcon House. Although the gateway itself did not appear to be constructed from Medieval material, several large carved stone blocks were recovered which may date to the 13 -14<sup>th</sup> century. The level of work on these blocks suggests that they were originally recovered from a high status secular building or church; similar stone has been recovered in Lenton, associated with its medieval priory.

Work is still ongoing in Beeston and we hope to continue finding the quantity and quality of archaeology that has been produced so far.

**Paul Renner, Trent & Peak Archaeology**

- - - - -

## **THE CANALSIDE HERITAGE CENTRE, BEESTON RYLANDS**

Are you one of the many thousands of local residents who, over the past 20 years have walked past the derelict and decaying terrace of cottages next to the Lockkeeper's cottage by the canal in Beeston Rylands and wondered "Someone ought to do something about this"? Well, as many Beeston Civic Society members already know someone, at last, has. A four-year long campaign to transform the buildings by local narrow boat owner and retired builder Stewart Craven is on the point of coming to fruition. Despite early resistance from bureaucrats who dismissed his suggestion that it was possible to save the cottages, Stewart collected together a band of supporters, each bringing their own expertise and passion, and formed the Canalside Heritage Centre Trust (HLF). After a lot of hard work and campaigning a bid was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund which was approved in September 2014 for a grant of £687,200. This means that the HLF will be donating 80% of the £865,549 total cost needed to transform the ruins into a museum recreating a canal worker's cottage, a community cafe, an exhibition space, allotments managed by local schools and a station for the Nottingham City Council Citycard cycle hire scheme. Before the HLF will hand over the money, the Trust has to raise £178,349 in 'match funding'. This may sound like a daunting task but thanks to support from the County Council's Local Improvement Scheme and others £103,500 has already been raised leaving a shortfall of £74,849.

Once the HLF made their award the Trust realised that there was so much to do we needed a lot more help, so a meeting was held to find more volunteers. About 60 people attended and many of them came forward, either with specialist skills such as fundraising, IT, green building techniques and local history, or to offer assistance with work such as the clearing of the extensive undergrowth site which, with the help of an 'in kind' donation from the Environment Agency equivalent to £5,000 in man power and machines we hope to carry out before the spring. Committees have been formed to tackle the immediate problems and opportunities, but we will be going back to the Beeston community to ask for more volunteers as the project develops and the building programme commences.



For Stewart and the other supporters of the project it has been heartening to have received so much support from so many quarters, especially after a long period of gestation when sometimes the problems that had to be overcome looked insurmountable. We have found people who lived in the cottages as youngsters, and talked to local history enthusiasts and residents who have many tales to tell about the lock and how it sparked the development of the Rylands. Several paintings of the lock in its early days have been located and steps are already being taken to instigate an oral history project to record the recollections of the lock and canal by older Beestonians.



The front of the cottages will be restored, to look as much as possible like they did when first built in c1796, with the interior of the one closest to the Lockkeeper's Cottage being restored as an authentic re-

creation of its appearance when it was first occupied by the family of a canal workman. Around the back, a funky new extension will be added. It will be invisible from the front but will allow two storeys of modern facilities to be added, including access for the disabled and a large balcony that will offer stunning views of the river in both directions. The potential of a good quality building in this location as a community resource is considerable. The Canalside Heritage Centre will be a focal point for the exploration of local history, a stopping off point for walkers, cyclists and fishermen looking for a cup of tea and a cake, and a place for local artists, societies and the local community to meet. It will also act as a draw for visitors to the centre at Attenborough, encouraging them to explore the waterways beyond the immediate confines of the nature reserve.

Our hope is that now, we are on the point of bringing an unprecedented quarter of a million pounds of investment into Beeston Rylands, businesses, grant-aid bodies and politicians will continue to respond to our requests for support, help us over the final financial hurdle and ensure that we can start the building work as soon as possible.

**Julian Owen, MBE Architect and Trustee of the Canalside Heritage Centre Trust Feb 2014**

- - - - -

## **SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS**

The recent flooding in many parts of the country has raised fears about this type of event becoming more common.

There is a natural solution. The last few decades have seen the loss of much of our important green spaces. Due to lack of funding in the 1980s, many of our urban parks fell in to a state of disrepair or were sold for development. Alongside this loss, we have seen more out-of-town developments that include large car parks and have few planted areas. More provision has been made for cars and many front gardens, such as those in Chilwell, have been paved over to make way for driveways. This has had a negative effect on how rain drains away.

Without vital green space, rain runs quickly into water-courses and results in local flooding that adds to already swollen rivers. The recent flooding has caused major disruption and damage to property. David Cameron has acknowledged his opinion that the increase in extreme weather events is linked to the effects of climate change.

But green space and green infrastructure – the term used to describe any green elements within the landscape such as parks, green roofs, gardens and trees – also play a crucial role in reducing flooding (as well as helping connect people with nature within cities and improving air quality).

The current practice in landscape design is to consider rain first. Recent large landscaping projects such as the Olympic Park demonstrated this practice of harvesting rain, and not seeing it as something that should be disposed of as quickly as possible. Features that specifically deal with rain within landscape design are known as 'SUDS' or 'Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems'. There are ways in which we can slow rain.

Down pipes can be used for collecting water with water butts for watering plants in pots and so on. Rain gardens are becoming more common within landscape design. These can be simple ponds or bog gardens that are filled by rain and provide habitats for wildlife and can be interesting features within the garden. There are ways of achieving off street parking with careful design of a front garden that offers both hard standing but that is permeable to rain.

This can be a 'grid' system that grass can grow through, a parking strip that is surrounded by planting, grass or other low growing ground cover plants or a permeable landscape product such as block paving. Public spaces such as Beeston Square should be designed to incorporate SUDS; and green space and architects should consider how rain can be harvested from buildings and incorporated in to features such as green roofs. Natural solutions to flood mitigation are an essential tool in designing landscapes.

**Helen Taylor, Hosta Consulting landscape design and consultancy, East Bridgford**

- - - - -

## **WHAT IS TO BE DONE?**

A thought for the future from a relatively new member...

Looking around at a neighbourhood temporarily ravaged by tram works, shopping streets increasingly filled by outlets for gambling and loans, and a City Centre still devastated by the self-inflicted Blitz of the 60s and 70s, the values expressed in the Civic Society web pages seem as important as ever. The "preservation, development, and improvement of amenities and the appreciation of civic design" must be of prime importance in bringing about the environment that readers of this publication desire.

In the discussions now underway about the future of Beeson post-tram, how should these Civic Society values be applied? For example, what should we be striving for as the balance between conservation and development, between heritage and the creation of present-day facilities? What are the sensible 21<sup>st</sup> century objectives of civic-minded individuals and groups? And how can one best cope with the inevitable differences in views and preferences that exist among the inhabitants of an area and even among those actively campaigning for improvements?

What is required, I would argue, is a shared set of objectives (in line with the Civic Society values) that are broad enough to be inclusive but sufficiently specific to form the basis for action – whether that be lobbying, educating, informing, or direct assistance with enterprises and initiatives. Such an approach would provide a focus for people’s civic instincts and a framework for a wide range of activities. The objectives could include:

- Preserving all buildings of a certain age (e.g. dating from before the Second World War), thus preventing any further loss of the historical stock of artefacts within our midst.
- Ensuring that aesthetic considerations are given equal weighting to commercial and functional priorities with regard to new developments, and that there is as wide consultation as possible to identify the community’s aesthetic preferences.
- Maximising the number of amenities that enable and encourage community interaction e.g. public transport, parks, cafes, cultural facilities.
- Increasing diversity within the environment e.g. independent retailers and distinctive developments that lend individuality to an area.

One could add to this list or substitute items on it. What is important, though, is to frame a set of objectives that encompass and target our community’s civic sentiments in a manner that helps create the environment wanted by the people of Beeston.

**Robert Dowling**

-----

## **SOCIETY WEBSITE UPDATED!**

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

Twitter: @beestoncivicsoc

Our website has recently had an upgrade and spruce up! A new website address, a new fresh simple template for the website, a reorganisation of the content to make it simpler and a Twitter feed. All the latest news, views and information can be found there.

We have lots more plans for the website - but we would love to hear from you the members on what you would like to see. Please do email us with your thoughts, please add us to your Twitter feeds for the latest news and please do reply on our website to new Blog posts. It's your Society, we welcome your input and active participation!

**Owen Rees, Web Officer**

-----

## **EMAIL CONTACT**

Do you have an email address you use regularly? Please could you let us know if so. Please take a moment to send an email to our secretary Eileen at [beestoncivicsociety@googlemail.com](mailto:beestoncivicsociety@googlemail.com)

-----

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We have been joined by many new members over the last couple of months and we would like to welcome everyone. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events.

-----

## **OPEN MEETING –13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

The meeting was attended by approx 18 persons.

We started off with asking for ideas for getting new members for the society, with ideas taken from The Civic Voice document, 100 ideas, to start us off.

Many of these ideas are already in practice by our Society - Heritage Week, Planting trees, Walks, Conservation, Planning issues, Blue Plaques, Local trail booklet. We felt that for such a small society we are doing very well doing so much already but there is always room for improvement and we really do need to get younger people involved.

Some Ideas suggested were:

- Inviting the Beeston Youth Council to attend a meeting. *Since the meeting an invitation has been sent.*
- Put some old photos of Beeston on our website, places we may have saved, or not! *Since the meeting Stephen Wallwork has kindly supplied us with a selection and they are on our new website. **If you have any photos you would like to send to us, please contact us (details at the end of this newsletter).***
- Joint photos display of Beeston and surrounds at Beeston Library with Beeston Camera Club.
- Develop website – this is currently being done by a fairly new Member, Owen Rees. He has made a lot of improvements already but there is still a lot of scope there, please keep your eye on it to see how it develops.
- Photographic competition of local photos.
- 20MPH limits on some of our roads, and agitate for road improvements.
- Get a final answer as to who is responsible for the Bell near Sainsbury's and get something done about it, it should be more prominent in the town.
- Prompt the Council to develop new areas and maintain standards in Conservation Areas in the town.
- New Mission Statement to reach a wider audience.
- Someone suggested it was a long time since listed buildings has been revisited.
- Finally a red telephone was suggested as a focal point in the Square, it could be a WIFI hotspot and become a landmark for people - meet you at the red phone box!

After a lively discussion lasting far longer than expected we drank fine wines left from our 40<sup>th</sup> party and ate mince pies and sausage rolls donated by Eileen Atherton, our Secretary.

**Judy Sleath, Chair**

## **PUBLIC TALKS – STEVE DANCE 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

The Society was very grateful to Steve Dance, who stepped in at very short notice to cover for Henry Boot's James Greenaway who was not able to attend.

Steve presented a thought provoking talk, which included a look at the history of Beeston Square and in particular the changes during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

He went on to outline the current square development, which is due to start any week. Steve explained that plans are only in place so far for Phase 1, which replaces the current Square and Argos corner. Steel framed buildings will be fitted around some of the existing shops (Argos, Birds and B&M). There have been several iterations of Phase 1 plans as the Council has demanded improved materials and building/window shapes.

The ugly frontage along Station Road will be improved by the removal of air conditioning units. There is some discussion about further improvements such as a display of public art.

Phase 2 will cover the area of land which will be released after the tram work is finished.

The talk finished with a review of some of the most recent developments in Beeston.

**Karen Attwood**

-----

## **EVENTS**

All events take place at **John Clifford School, Nether Street, Beeston** at **7.30pm**

On **14th February 2014**, JOHN HESS, Political Editor of BBC East Midlands, will visit.

On **14th March 2014**, we will be joined by MATT ORCHARD and SARAH ALTON, who will give us the Annual update from NET.

On **11th April 2014**, MARK CHIVERS will be speaking about the 'Boots Enterprise Zone'.

-----

## **PUBLIC WALKS**

Our update on NET progress with Sarah Alton and Matt Orchard on Friday 14 March will, as in the last two years, be followed by two associated walks led by Sarah and Matt. They will take us as close as we can get to that part of the tram route running from University Boulevard to Toton so that we can see first hand how work is progressing on-site in our area. These events are free and open to all.

The first walk will start at the Square under the clock in Beeston Town Centre at 2.00pm sharp on Sunday 1 June, heading west through Chilwell and Inham Nook to arrive at Bardill's on Toton Lane at about 5.30pm.

The second walk will start at the Square at 6.00pm sharp on Thursday 5 June to take us east along Middle Street, Fletcher Road and Lower Road to University Boulevard where we will finish about 7.45pm.

It is hoped that, in addition, we will be organising another walk to accompany the Boots Enterprise Zone talk. Details will be available on our website and twitter feed.

**Peter Robinson**



The Civic Society has been organising walks around our district for many years. Here's a picture of one that took place in 1979.  
*Do you recognise anyone?*

- - - - -

## **GIFT AID**

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

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

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

You can also download this form from our website at the following link:  
[www.beestoncivicsociety.org.uk/our-committee/gift-aid-form/](http://www.beestoncivicsociety.org.uk/our-committee/gift-aid-form/)

- - - - -

## **LETTERS**

It has been suggested that we have a members' letters section in future newsletters. This would be a forum for any suggestions for the committee to consider.

If you have any ideas please write to; The Editor, Beeston & District Civic Society Newsletter, 21 Grove Avenue, Beeston, NG9 4ED.

- - - - -

In this issue	
'NEW DEAL' FOR BEESTON	2
TREE PLANTING	4
NUGGETS FROM THE FIRST DECADE OF NEWSLETTERS	5
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2014	8
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE TRAM: BEESTON'S HISTORICAL CORE	8
THE CANALSIDE HERITAGE CENTRE, BEESTON RYLANDS	10
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS	12
WHAT IS TO BE DONE?	13
SOCIETY WEBSITE UPDATED!	15
OPEN MEETINGS	15
EVENTS	16
PUBLIC WALKS	16

### **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.

Contributors: Joyce Brown, Barbara Selwood, Julian Owen, Helen Taylor, Robert Dowling, Paul Renner, Owen Rees, Judy Sleath, Karen Attwood, Peter Robinson

Published by Beeston & District Civic Society, Charity No. 503241  
 Website: [www.beestoncivicsociety.wordpress.com](http://www.beestoncivicsociety.wordpress.com)

Hon Sec:

Eileen Atherton, 4 Penrhyn Crescent, Chilwell, Notts. NG9 5NZ  
 phone: 0115 967 7260  
 e-mail: [beestoncivicsociety@googlemail.com](mailto:beestoncivicsociety@googlemail.com)

Treasurer:

Andrew Milner, 16 Elm Avenue, Beeston Notts. NG9 1BU

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 June 2014**