



protecting and improving the environment

# *Newsletter 161*

## June 2014



Toton Manor and Watermill blue  
plaque unveiling on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

More details inside

*in this issue: History of cinema in Beeston and Chilwell,  
Heritage Days, Beeston Continuum*

## **EDITORIAL**

The Civic Society Editorial Group were recently chatting about some of the suggestions coming out of Beeston Continuum discussions and Joyce Brown's offered to conduct some research. Her efforts have yielded a fascinating item on the history of cinema in the area, I am sure you will enjoy it. Beside it, I have placed an article by John Currie about the birth of the Beeston Film Festival.

In the same 'Continuum' area, I have decided to include the whole of Caroline Penn's notes on the important Civic Society open meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

In other news, the Blue Plaque scheme continues and there's information about the Ten Bell, Oxjam and the forthcoming Heritage Days.

**Karen Attwood**

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## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF CINEMA IN BEESTON AND CHILWELL**



Nowadays we have no real centre of entertainment in this area, unlike the days when there were four cinemas in Beeston, two of which were adapted to present live stage shows. There are various venues which stage small local and occasionally larger concerts and shows, but were it not for the Chilwell Arts Theatre, and Bartons Events, there is precious little space to attract bigger productions. Recently, a public consultation about the second stage of Beeston Square development (when all the NET works are complete), showed that many people want

to have an "arts centre", but quite what that means, probably different things to different people, is anybody's guess. And whether or not we shall get anything remotely "arty" is up to the developers in the end. The very first (travelling) movie show to visit Beeston in the early 1900's was shown in a tent somewhere around the top of Regent Street by one Waller Jeffs! However, the first real cinema in Beeston was on the High Road, on the site presently occupied by W.H Smith, next to Hallams the greengrocers. There had been previous attempts to create cinemas by a few enterprising local businessmen, but they had not succeeded for various reasons, including the constant threat of fire. This led to the Cinematograph Act in 1909 which resulted in the closure of many small cinemas.

In January 1912 the Picture Pavilion eventually owned by the Widdowson family, local lace manufacturers was opened. It was later rebuilt on the same site, the first purpose built cinema in Beeston and re-opened a year later, in January 1912 re-named the Palace Cinema. The first film to be shown was a version of "Oliver Twist" and the ticket prices were 2d (old pence), 4d and 6d. In 1923 it was sold to Joseph Allsop and he and his family ran the cinema until its closure.

The Palace was highly successful, for this was the popular new age of moving pictures, and not to be outdone, Thomas Meakin, a local draper opened a cinema in October 1912 in a disused Wesleyan Chapel in Chapel Street, after a lengthy planning application. There was great competition between the two cinemas, and eventually Meakin and his partners built the Palladium Cinema, also on the High Road, approximately where the freezer shop Iceland is now. This was a real state of the art building with a removable large stage area that was used for live entertainment - music hall, concerts etc.- until the 1920's. The typically Edwardian fronted building was designed by Long Eaton architect John F. Dodds with a luxurious interior and had a grand opening, well reported in the local press. It was modernised in July 1927 and in October that year the first talking picture "The Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson was shown there. In 1930 a new sound system was installed, beating the Palace by two weeks!

The Palace continued to thrive after rebuilding in 1935 and further renovation in 1947, but by the mid 30's with rumours of two new cinemas coming in the area, which never materialised, the Palladium was very much in need of some tender loving care. However, it continued to show films, but by 1960 both the Palace and the Palladium had closed their doors for the last time. Just as an aside, I spent many

happy hours in both of these cinemas, which were both within walking distance of my home, although, by this time, the Palladium was known locally as "the flea pit"!

In August 1936 the opening of the Astoria Cinema at Lenton Abbey on Derby Road next to the garage, heralded a new era of cinema going. This was in Art Deco style, sleek, modern and comfortable, with a polished Portland stone exterior. It was floodlit outside with a neon sign, could seat 1250 patrons and had a free car park - many such cinemas were built in town and city suburbs. The first film shown here was "She Shall Have Music" starring the Jack Hylton band and by this time a newsreel was standard. Prices ranged from 6d in the stalls to 1/3d in the balcony. From the start there was a threepenny Saturday matinee for children. In 1949 the Astoria was sold to the Essoldo group of cinemas and in 1953 it was re-named and known locally as the Essoldo, Lenton Abbey. In the 1950's Cinemascope was the new trend, but due to building constraints it could not be installed. Cinema audiences were fast declining and after a renovation in 1970 this site was re-named the "New Essoldo" but the decline continued and it was sold to the Classic Group, which owned two hundred cinemas. Various new ideas were tried - late night and all night shows, free refreshments - but it eventually closed in October 1975. After becoming first a bingo hall then a skate board rink and finally a snooker hall, the building was demolished in December 1996 and office accommodation was built on the site.

The fourth and final cinema to be built in Beeston, opened in September 1938, was the Majestic - at the junction of Station Road and Queens Road West, where the Co-operative supermarket now stands. Intended to entertain the residents in Beeston Rylands, where some six hundred new houses had been erected, by Max Nepolsky who also built the Chaddesden Estate and Majestic cinema near Derby, it was a landmark design by Ernest S. Roberts of Birmingham. This new cinema was state of the art, with an impressive exterior and a sumptuous interior, and was, in my humble opinion, the best, with a luxurious carpeted foyer, upstairs and down, and all the latest in new cinema know-how.

Here, together with my sister and cousins and lots of other kids, I attended the Saturday afternoon "tupenny rush" - although it probably cost more. I watched Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Laurel & Hardy and many others and gained a lifelong enthusiasm for the cinema. Unfortunately, by the time I knew it, the Majestic too, was in need of

some refurbishment. It was also able to stage live shows and for some years, from 1951, the Ericsson Drama Society staged productions there, including the annual pantomime, which had previously been performed at the Palladium. In 1952 it shared the same fate as the Astoria, becoming part of the Essoldo Group. It closed as a cinema in 1968 and was opened as a bingo hall and finally and inevitably, in 1988, came demolition. Television had claimed its final victim locally! During my research into local cinema I learned of plans, just before the war, to build the Embassy cinema in Beeston town centre, somewhere around the area of the Foster Avenue car park. Apparently the foundations were dug, but because of the advent of war, the building was never started. I spent many happy hours, in my pre cinema going days, playing on this derelict site and I had no idea why it was there. As they say, we live and learn!

But, what of the future of entertainment in Beeston and Chilwell? Well to Bartons and the Chilwell Arts Theatre I say "keep up the good work". To the developers and the powers that be I say "yes, an entertainment centre would be great." What say you?

**Joyce Brown**

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## **THE BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL**

Bringing brilliant films to Beeston is the goal of The Beeston Film Festival ([www.beestonfilmfestival.com](http://www.beestonfilmfestival.com) ).

It will take place on January 24th and 25th January 2015 at Dagfa House. The festival will present films from around the world and covering family, drama, action, comedy, horror and documentary genres; that is something for everyone.

The festival will present awards to winners in each category, plus there is an additional award for the best student entry.

A sold-out launch event took place at Café Roya Monday 19th May 2014. The event screened seven international short films including Nottingham produced, "Go With God" ([www.gowithgodfilm.com](http://www.gowithgodfilm.com) ) and "Alles Super!" from Germany.

More events are planned during the year, so if you are interested in getting involved in this exciting project, driving the future of film in Beeston, adding so much more to Beeston's cultural calendar, then contact me on 0750 2011547, or register on the website mailing list.

**John Currie**

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## HOPE VAN SPONSORSHIP

Some of you may spot the Society's logo on this van driving around the area.

See <http://www.hopenottingham.org.uk/> for further details of the organisation's valuable work.



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## MID TRAM BLUES

Is it me, or is the tram slowly grinding to a halt? I have tried hard to be upbeat and positive, despite the inconvenience and extra mileage, but try as I might, I can't seem to find much sign of life. Everywhere I look men in yellow jackets are standing around, taking a break or, as I was told, on one occasion asleep in the cab of a digger! I look for new track - and it does appear in bits and pieces - but not in substantial lengths. Along University Boulevard, where work has been in progress for about eighteen months now, there is a dearth of track.

I don't for one moment blame the men "on the ground", but management and the bosses. Surely things could be managed so that materials and orders arrive together - or within the hour. Depending who you speak to and/or believe, the works are behind (lay estimates

range from two to seven months, project managers are more evasive), but we are assured that all will be done and the tram up and running by 14 December 2014, in eight months time. Having no knowledge whatsoever on the subject of tram line construction, looking at what has been achieved in the past eighteen months, that seem like a pretty tall order. Rumour also has it that some track has been laid "upside down" and needed to be re-laid; sounds pretty bizarre, but if it is so, maybe better training is required and closer supervision.

Whatever the answers to my questions are, there seems to be a lot more to be achieved before trams can run through Beeston. Perhaps it will suddenly be all hands to the pump and lo and behold a tram will magically be running, but I'm afraid I remain sceptical.

It is an open secret that all major government contracts, both national and local cost a lot more than they would if managed properly and fairly, but I begin to see why they double in cost. And let us not forget that for government and local council funding, read Tax Payer funding - and that means you and me. It is our money!

Finally I feel I need to mention the Lower Road residents and the Chilwell Road shopkeepers, who have born the main burden of the NET project locally and who deserve our heartfelt thanks when we eventually enjoy the results of all the tears and frustration.

Since I wrote the above article (in early April) there suddenly seems to be movement and even I am aware of "new bits". It actually begins to feel like we might be getting a tram!

**Joyce Brown**

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## **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2014**

This year the Society has registered over 30 events for Heritage Open Day - from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September. The details are all included in the booklet distributed with this newsletter.

Please note – pre booking is required for the following event:

Chilwell Depot

Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, Beeston, Nottinghamshire, NG9 5HA

A rare opportunity to see the memorial of the 1918 Explosion, which took place in Chilwell. This will be accompanied by a BBC film and a presentation of the life of the Depot from its inception to its role today.

Opening Times

Thursday: Tour 1300

#### Booking Details

Contact: Eileen Atherton (Hon Secretary - Beeston & District Civic Society) Call: 0115 9677260 Email: beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com

Go to: <http://beestoncivicsociety.org.uk/>

Write to: 4 Penrhyn Crescent, Chilwell, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 5NZ

Booking opens: 21 April 2014 11:00 Booking closes: 30 June 2014 19:00

#### Access Information

The tour requires a lot of walking; visitors are requested to contact the Beeston & District Civic Society on 0115 9677260 or email [beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com), so that facilities can be made available for disabled transport.

**Eileen Atherton**

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#### **BLUE PLAQUE UNVEILING NEAR SITE OF TOTON MANOR**

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, a new plaque was unveiled near Norfolk Avenue. The plaque and plinth sit beside a sole surviving gatepost to what was Toton Manor Farm, cleared, we believe with the last evidence of the Manor and Toton Watermill by the early 1950s, to make way for what has become the Manor Farm Recreation Ground - now owned and managed by Broxtowe Borough Council. The Watermill is mentioned in the Domesday Book, so that the Mill and possibly an earlier version of the Manor date back more than 900 years. There are also associations with Stapleford through the Warren Family.

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> plaque in the Southern Broxtowe Blue Plaque scheme and it is the first (and likely to be the only plaque in Toton). The unveiling event was timed to coincide with the start of Lottery supported excavations of the sites of Toton Manor and Toton Watermill, taking place this Spring on the initiative of the Friends of Toton Fields, with Trent and Peak Archaeology acting as contractor. The expectation is that the first hand evidence of the archaeology will add to the sparse knowledge of the origins and development of Toton. I understand that the Lottery award was substantial: in excess of £50k.

The Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Iris White and Gill Morral carried out the unveiling with more than 40 residents and Society members in attendance. Norman Lewis, Chairman of the Friends of Toton Fields, was also present.



The surviving gatepost near where the plaque and plinth stand now is to the left side in our front page picture on the unveiling poster, showing the farm as it existed prior to demolition.

This particular plaque and plinth has been supported by The Stapleford and District Local History Society, Broxtowe Borough Council, Cllr Richard Jackson and the Beeston and District Civic Society.

**Peter Robinson**

On behalf of the Southern Broxtowe Blue Plaque Group

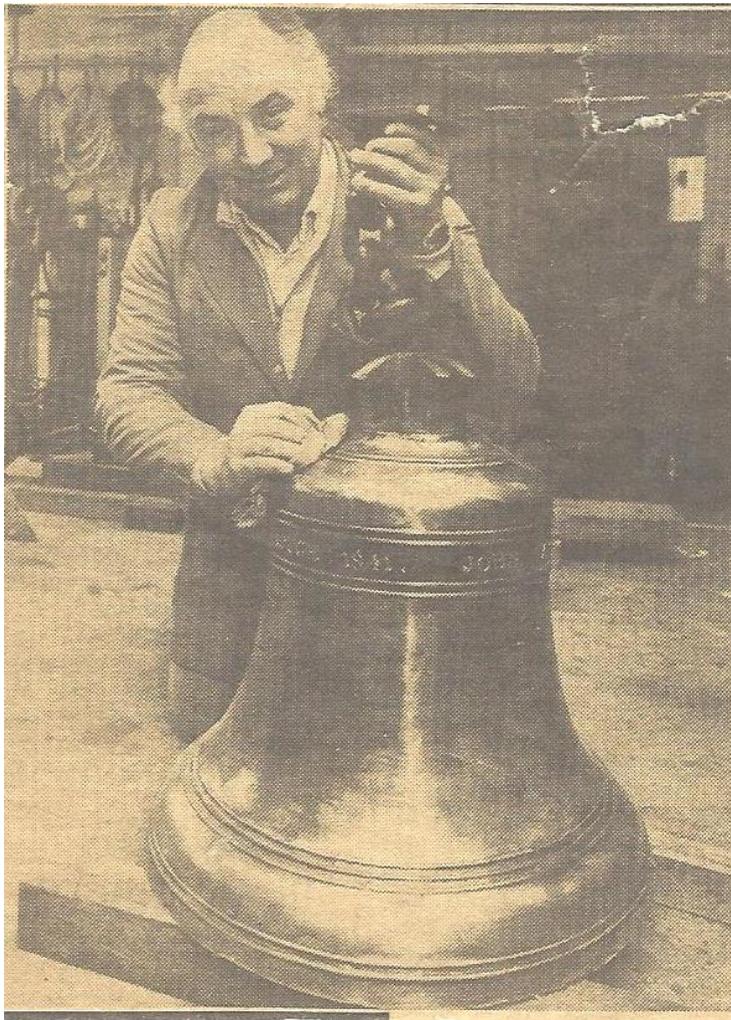
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## **THE TEN BELL**

With the prospect of possible completion of the tram line this year our committee is considering what could or should be done to improve the town centre.

One of their suggested sites for improvement was the Ten Bell and surrounding area at the back of Sainsbury's store. An extension on the back of the supermarket, roofs over the bell and its supporting scaffold which is protected against vandals by some deadly looking spikes. On one side is a bench seat which is used by the store's staff for their smoking breaks. The low roof leaves the bell in semi-darkness but this could be improved if it were cleaned. The metal plate which gives a history of the bell is weather worn and difficult to read. The bell was

cast at Taylor's foundry in Loughborough in 1841 and originally hung in the Silk Mill. This mill building still stands on the High Road near its junction with Wollaton Road. It is presently displaying 'Paper Kisses', and was previously Clinton greeting cards. The bell was moved in 1902 to the Swiss Mill in Wollaton Road. This mill was used for cotton weaving until 1945 and continued in fabric production until it was destroyed in a huge fire in 1984. For some mysterious reason the bell was moved and donated to Broxtowe Council just before the fire. I imagine the insurance company must have had some suspicions about this.



The fire was a disaster for the L.D.J. restaurant named after the initials of the three daughters of a family who were patients of my practice. I doubt if it would have survived because of the long delay in getting your meal; the chef (the mother, started each course from scratch). The bell is named the Ten Bell because that was the time when the children, some as young as 9, stopped work ten minutes before going to school within the factory for 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.starts, to learn the three r's. The bell was salvaged after the fire and lay in a council storage yard until someone realized that this important artifact in the history of the town deserved a better place. I have not been able to discover who paid the bill for the restoration but I suspect it would be Sainsbury's as a gesture of thanks to the town for allowing it to be sited on such a prime site.

The bell was cleaned and a new chain was made by Jim Luke (see photo) who served his apprenticeship as a blacksmith in his native Scotland. He still produces metal fabrications in his yard in Derby Street.

The Council has published a list of improvements they would consider post tram and this can be viewed on the Society's web site – [beestoncivic.society.com](http://beestoncivic.society.com) .You may submit your personal choice of five of the items. Refurbishment or possible re-siting of the bell is not on the list.

**Dick Hutchinson**

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## **THE LATEST FROM HIGHFIELDS PARK**

Only yesterday (May 14th) I attended an extra meeting at Highfields, where the detailed plans for the latest round of the lottery bid were unveiled. Much of the minutiae I have already mentioned in my previous updates, but the grand plan is exciting. I am looking forward to seeing all of the entrances and gateways being restored or refurbished, especially the entrance where the statue of Henry Boot stands. Many historic views will be reinstated, including this one and the view of the Portland Building from the Lakeside Pavilion, presently obscured by overgrown trees and shrubbery. The plans also include restoring the ticket office at the landing stage to its former glory - just as I remember it.

The Historic Ships Committee has looked at the Maid Marian, the pleasure boat that used to ply the lake carrying eager trippers on days out, but they have concluded that the boat has deteriorated to far to be

restored. This is a big disappointment, but there is no point in wasting money on lost causes; it could cost £100,000.00. Rather than waste time and money trying to fit it somewhere into the new plans, I think perhaps it should be consigned to history; we enjoyed it in its heyday, but it is time to let it rest in peace!

Another disappointment was the plans - or rather lack of them - for the paddling pool area, but I hope that, together with the local councillor for Lenton Abbey and other committee members, we managed to convince the planners to look again. They are going to come up with ideas for a wetland area, which has been mooted on several occasions. There will be a tram stop at the paddling pool and it is the first view from the tram of the entrance into the city. It should be more impressive.

I have already mentioned the de-silting of the lake, which is the biggest single item of expenditure (about £1.5 million). When this is happening the entrance to the park at the paddling pool will be closed, for safety reasons. The silt has to be dried out and de-contaminated on site, so it is a major undertaking, and disposal is difficult and expensive. The cadmium (I hope I've got the element correct!) contamination seems to have lessened, so it is hoped that this will not be a problem in future.

The total spend will be approximately seven million pounds, of which it is hoped the lottery will provide 71 - 74% and the city council will provide the balance, which is pretty good in the light of present budget constraints. The bid will be submitted in July (and this time it is expected to be successful, but it is not a foregone conclusion), and we will know the result in September/October. If all goes well the work will start in summer 2015 and take about a year to complete. The restoration of railings and woodland paths, a new adventure golf course, disabled parking re-sited in the main car parks away from the lakeside, new planting of the cherry tree walk (near the playground), repair of the boathouse and much more, are all part of the plans. So we have a lot to look forward to.

Just a couple of things worth mentioning from the last general meeting in March. A new park ranger is now in post and he is already working hard to promote the park and helping to stage events, especially for young people. He is organising walks with Sustrans and plans a bat walk in September and a children's festival in early summer. Incidentally 5,000 people attended the Chinese New Year

celebrations on the park. And the Croquet Club, which goes from strength to strength, is planning to host the Women's World Championships from 25 July - 1 August 2015.

I think we are very lucky to have Highfields Park and Wollaton Park practically on our doorstep and I hope we all will continue to make good use of them. My parents were certainly very glad of them when it came to entertaining four children and there is much more going on in both parks nowadays.

**Joyce Brown**

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**OXJAM** is Britain's biggest music festival, and it's in Beeston. Don't panic. Several hundred thousand revellers brandishing rucksacks and tents aren't about to descend on the Weir Field anytime soon. Oxjam happens simultaneously around the UK in mid-October, taking over towns and cities right across the land. Since 2011, it has been visiting Beeston.

I was lucky enough to get involved early on, when I was asked to help promote the first outing. I willingly pledged to do so, and somehow ended hosting the spoken word and poetry stage in Bartons. I had been sceptical that the festival would be a success, but a few hours, 600 people and £4,000 of takings later, I was happily proven wrong. It was also the first time I'd seen Bartons used so well as a music venue, and the first time I'd seen Chilwell Road thronged with so many people on an evening.

I signed up willingly for the next year, as we extended our reach across Beeston, from Wollaton Road allotments, Beeston Square and a heap of other places. Our little team of organisers grew by a few members, and we broke the previous years target, taking around £4,500. Again, Beeston swelled with revellers, venues I'd never seen used for nocturnal fun got packed to the rafters, and, after having a deserved rest, began planning 2013 in earnest.

This time, we got ambitious. A music festival is all well and good, but we wanted to involve the town on a wider scale. So rather than just offer a night of live music, we put together a series of events, from a pub quiz to a bake-off (very handily held on the same day as Armed Forces Day in Nottingham: as the deputy mayor snipped the tape to herald the opening of the cake-fest, the Red Arrows flew over), a stall at the Carnival, a Ceilidh dance night, and a poetry evening. Each was

a success, raising funds to help cover the overheads for the main festival (we are given zero budget each year, and have to build from scratch each time). We were blessed with great weather on the day, besides a late afternoon torrential shower, and after careful planning with NET, managed to navigate people around the tramworks and into the venues thronged with fun-seekers. We even had our own bespoke beer on tap. We sold out early on, and most venues had to operate a one-in, one-out policy. We counted up the takings the following day, and were astonished to see we'd not just exceeded our target of £5,000, but doubled it, collecting a staggering £10,000.

To put that in perspective, we took more than most of the city-based festivals; much larger events with a greater target audience. We are one of the smallest of the festivals involved, but punch far above our weight.

I don't need to tell you what good work Oxfam does around the world, not just tackling poverty but the roots of poverty, by simple measures such as educating women (one of the real drivers of development in poor societies), clean water initiatives and many other schemes. Which is all good and worthy, but what good does it do to Beeston? Simply, it gives the place a massive surge of goodwill and fun once a year. During the tram-works, this is more needed than ever. As the main event uses venues stretching down the beleaguered Chilwell Road, getting people down there has immediate and lasting effects: most people's first realisation of the wonderful asset of Bartons has come from visits made during Oxjam. Every venue gets a night of free music, a guaranteed full-house, and the benefits, in bar-take and promotion, that provides.

Yet there is something more. Beeston is a community that loves to come together as one, whether that is at a bake-off, a Ceilidh or the main festival. This year we intend to further increase the diversity of events, with a Classical music evening and other great events being planned right now. This determination to use the festival to bring the town together and celebrating at a time when there has seemed little to be too joyful about was recognised at the Oxjam Awards, where we won the Community Award for best community involvement. I say 'we' won it, but by the very definition, we all, as Beestonians, won it.

**Matt Gould**

For more info, see <http://www.oxjambeestontakeover.org/> or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/oxjambeestontakeover>.

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

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

New members include: Mrs. D Mills, Richard King, Charlotte Fallenius, Mrs. J.A. Morris, Mr. & Mrs. Sheppard, Marysia Zipser, Mr. P. Lyons, Mr. F Peacher, Mrs. A. Jennings, Mr. & Mrs. Dobbs, Steve Carr, Simon Barton, Mrs D Bechtloff and Mr and Mrs I. Wilding

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events.

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## **OPEN MEETING – 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

**John Hess, BBC News East Midlands Political Editor**

There is a review of this meeting on our website at:

<http://beestoncivicsociety.org.uk/2014/03/31/john-hess-feb-open-meeting-society-report/>

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## **OPEN MEETING – 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014**

**Sarah Alton from Nottingham City Council, Matt Orchard from Taylor Woodrow Alston and Trevor Stoker from Nottingham Trams Limited gave an update on the tram scheme at the Beeston & District Civic Society open meeting at John Clifford School on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014.**

There is a review of this meeting on our website at:

<http://beestoncivicsociety.org.uk/2014/03/24/tram-net-phase-2-open-meeting-society-report/>

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## **OPEN MEETING – 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014**

**Beeston Continuum**

*Here are Caroline Penn's detailed notes from the meeting, a very important one for the future of Beeston.*

Nick Palmer introductory comments:

There are 3 phases to the regeneration of Beeston. First is this year and consists of the Henry Boot development and the Council proposals. Phase 2 will be the rest of the land left after the tram route is

completed, the choices made there will determine prospects for up to 20 years. Phase 3 is the long term development of Beeston as a whole building on whatever has already happened.

What can the council do, they only have the ability to attract investors on the basis of planning and to direct the direction of things.

The hope is that after this meeting there will be a continuing process for people to keep in contact.

Martyn Poliakoff introduced himself as someone who has lived in Beeston for 35 years, and speaking as a resident. He wants to address people's ignorance of Beeston, and likes the Council's idea of a big screen and free wi-fi. Then went on to say that what we really need is a shared idea that everyone in Beeston can contribute to. It is his idea to make Beeston a sustainable town, we have the opportunity now to let everyone buy into this idea from the tram people to schoolchildren. It also ties in to the University where there are some sustainable houses. We have a site where there could be an iconic building which could make everyone think sustainably. He would like a roof garden on top of whatever is built.

The University has 600 architecture students, and Prof Poliakoff has already talked to the university about them doing a design project, with there being an exhibition of ideas that could inspire potential developers to think differently, this could lead to something quite exciting. Companies that are interested in sustainability could be interested in basing themselves here. It could persuade the large supermarkets to get involved with sustainability. This proposal doesn't cost much money but is more about getting people in the frame of mind to think about such things. The University hierarchy (pro VC etc) is very interested in the opportunity to get involved in this way. Many things cost money but this proposal won't involve costs, and once there is momentum people will buy into it.

John Delaney then spoke. Broxtowe Borough Council is already looking at a whole range of things to coincide with the tram and Henry Boot completions. Phase 2 will be hugely interesting, they have already seen some bad proposals. The Council will not provide funding, the developer will and will have to make any scheme financially viable.

There has to be a balance between grand vision and the developer. A report about the Bus Station in the Nottingham Post was not quite correct. There will still be a bus facility with 6 stops, but it has shortcomings and the decision will be made by elected members (Tues night Cabinet), a third of the potential development site will be lost if the current Bus Station stays.

Meeting then thrown open to the audience, and many comments were made.

Cllr Steve Barber commented that we will be getting a good new bus station as part of the tram, he thought Martyn's idea was really terrific. MP responded the ideas are important, even if real companies can't do what the students have come up with it will be a stimulus, could have a hotel for example and as there is a transport interchange there won't be a need for much car parking. We want to get people prouder of Beeston, it is our duty to make Beeston exciting for future generations. A local trader then asked if there are already developers with plans , the High Road is being left out, there is not much of a draw there, would like to see the market there as in Long Eaton, and was worried that traders there wouldn't get anything. John Delaney responded that the market couldn't move there because one side of the road has to be kept clear for emergency vehicle access. Developers are already coming forward with plans for phase 2, they have seen plans for open space and 3 'retail shacks' with car parking, there will be many visions but there will have to be compromise. Martyn Poliakoff stated he has a vision of an axis from the University to Central College and the Station to the Nurseryman, we want all Beeston to thrive.

Robin Phillips stressed the need for efficient sightlines in the new bus station.

There was a suggestion that money shouldn't hold us back but that we should borrow it. Martyn responded that the University might be able to leverage money from the EU for sustainability things. Another member of the audience pointed out that it was easier to get from Nottingham station to the University than from Beeston Station and that there should be a link from here to the University. John Delaney then mentioned that the Council is currently working with Network Rail. In response to a query about how sustainability could be enforced John Delaney pointed out that the Council can stipulate what it wants to see and set standards and set them quite high. There followed a suggestion that the Council should visit places such as West Bridgford to see what they are doing that's right.

Cllr Steve Carr commented that he liked the idea of sustainability, and that people in the north of Beeston now walk to the A52 to catch a bus and go into Nottingham because of poor bus service to Beeston centre.

He also mentioned that he is a member of the Town Centre Working Party.

A comment was made by someone keen on the idea of becoming a cultural centre. Beeston has lost Barton's activities and Poets in Beeston. Cultural events have to keep going on, but it doesn't have to be great things, but keeping things alive at night. Children need to be made more aware of Beeston's history and past.

Kate Foale asked was it worth learning more about the Centre for Alternative Technology to use their ideas. Martyn Poliakoff responded that with a population as large as that of Beeston we have to find ways of making the modern way of life more sustainable.

Mention of an online petition about bus services which is soon to be set up.

Beeston is not dynamic by southern standards, is it because people are younger in the south.

We need to keep a high bar and insist on things to bring inward investment.

Need to seem welcoming when people arrive, hanging baskets etc.

John Delaney said that the public toilets were a dilemma, there is a scheme to do a minor tart up but it is public investment and it's a site for development, replacement toilets would be written in to a developer's brief.

Cllr Andrea Oates said she would feed back to the Council's Climate Change group. There is a move to get a Book Festival going in Beeston. There is a need to get young people involved, Councillors are too old. John Currie (Beeston Film Festival promoter) The work life balance is good in Beeston, we need to get back to it, not have gimmicks or be guinea pigs.

Local resident Mike Spencer, Director of Nottingham Wildlife trust, mentioned the Sustainability projects at Attenborough and that the sustainability of Beeston could go from the University as far as Attenborough Nature Reserve, we could become famous for it.

The final comment from the audience was about shops which no-one had really mentioned before. He felt that there should be work towards bringing shops back on the High Road which has a lot of low value shops, the quality needs to be raised.

**Caroline Penn**

## **PUBLIC WALKS**

### **Beeston Walk 1 – University Park & Houses**

Description: The walk is designed primarily for beginners but even long established local residents to learn something new!

Date: Sunday 22nd June 2014

Time: 2.30pm and are circular

Distance: 2 miles

Duration: 2 hours

Walk leader: Prof. John Beckett

Contact: 07773 027289 or email. [beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com)

Meeting place: From the car park by the letter box at the bottom of Cut Through Lane on the University campus. Go in through the west entrance and the car park is directly in front of you.

Public Transport to the start: Any Beeston Bus (36, or Your Bus Y36)

Car Parking Facilities: Please car park at West Gate of university campus

### **Beeston Walk 2 – Beeston and the First World War**

Description: The walk is designed primarily for beginners but even long established local residents to learn something new!

Date: Sunday 20th July 2014

Time: 2.30 p.m.

Distance: 2 miles

Duration: 2 hours

Walk leader: Prof. John Beckett

Contact: 07773 027289 or email. [beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com)

Meeting place: The Podium on Beeston Square (Close to Beeston Bus Station)

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

Car Parking Facilities: Please use local car park, free on Sundays

### **Beeston Walk 3 – An introduction to Beeston**

Description: The walk is designed primarily for beginners but even long established local residents to learn something new!

Date: Sunday 14 September 2014 Time: 2.30pm and are circular

Distance: 1 mile

Duration: 2 hours

Walk leader: Prof. John Beckett

Contact: 07773 027289 or email: [beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:beestoncivicsociety@gmail.com)

Meeting place: The podium on Beeston Square (Close to Beeston Bus Station)

Car Parking Facilities: Please use local car park, free on Sundays.

In this issue	
A BRIEF HISTORY OF CINEMA IN BEESTON AND CHILWELL	2
THE BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL	5
HOPE VAN SPONSORSHIP	6
MID TRAM BLUES	6
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2014	7
TOTON MANOR BLUE PLAQUE	8
THE TEN BELL	9
THE LATEST FROM HIGHFIELDS PARK	11
OXJAM	13
OPEN MEETINGS	15
PUBLIC WALKS	19

### **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 September 2014**