



protecting and improving the environment

# ***Newsletter 150***

## **August 2011**



### ***Inside:***

***The local Heritage Open Days programme, the Society 2011-2012 Speakers programme and our first Membership Survey***

## EDITORIAL

".. Beeston .. was always a sort of eyesore to us .. a wilderness of more or less squalid or vulgar little houses and mean shops .. a tolerably quiet sort of place and you rode or drove through it in a very few minutes." These are the words of Catherine Mary Bearne written in the "Charlton Chronicles" circa 1860. How do you think the current Beeston (and district) compares and how do you think the Society is doing in meeting our objective of "**protecting and improving the environment**" ? In the centre pages of this issue is a survey intended as an opportunity for you to express your views about the work of the Society. Please do take the time to complete it and hand your response to a member of the Committee. A summary will appear in the December edition of the newsletter.

Also enclosed with this edition is the local programme of Heritage Open Days and the 2011 – 2012 programme of Speakers. We try to distribute this information far and wide as both series of events have a great deal to offer but as always we appreciate the support of you as a member. So please do make notes in your diaries to attend, and also tell all your friends and neighbours !

DL

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## COMMITTEE NEWS

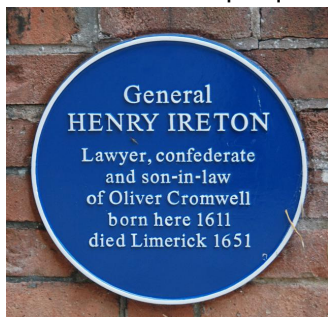
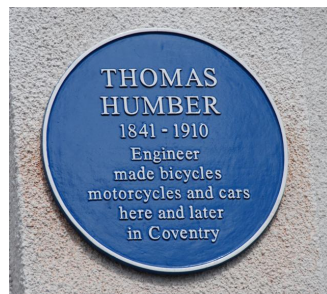
Your Committee meets monthly and various members will report on current topics as a "watching brief". Among the items being monitored and discussed are;

The three **Wind Turbines** currently being proposed by the University of Nottingham. Only one of the three actually fall in our jurisdiction i.e. Broxtowe. To-date the Committee has been divided on the issue but now that the detailed planning application has been published the committee will meet to discuss and agree a stance.

The **Ten Bell** area outside Sainsburys has long been unkempt and there has been correspondence and consultations with Sainsburys, Broxtowe Council and local architects Julian Owen and Julian Tomlin about improving the area and keeping it that way.

## BLUE PLAQUES

The sixth and seventh in a series of at least a dozen plaques recognising important persons and places of historic interest in southern Broxtowe, have recently been installed. These plaques are the result of



collaboration between the Beeston and

District Civic Society, the Beeston & District Local History Society and the Stapleford and District Local History Society and in the future will be joined by the Bramcote Conservation Society

### General Henry Ireton

Quietly and without fuss a blue plaque has appeared in Church Lane, Attenborough to commemorate **Henry Ireton**, (1611-1651). He is better known as an English general in the Parliamentary army during the English Civil War and as a son-in-law of Oliver Cromwell.

The plaque is just a few yards from the house where Henry was born the eldest son of German Ireton of Attenborough, four hundred years ago this Autumn.



He joined the Parliamentary army at the start of the Civil War in 1642, fighting at Edgehill, Gainsborough and Naseby and taking part in the siege of Bristol between 1642 and 1645.

Ireton entered parliament as member for Appleby in 1645 and a year later he married Bridget, daughter of Oliver Cromwell. He was one of the commissioners who signed the death warrant of Charles I, later gaining notoriety in Ireland for his vigorous campaigning. He died of fever in Limerick on 26 November 1651.

Appropriately, Ireton Street links with Cromwell Road in Beeston.



## Thomas Humber

A plaque to commemorate **Thomas Humber**, the founder of the Humber Company, manufacturers of bicycles, motorcycles and later cars, was unveiled at what is now the premises of the Dojo Martial Arts Centre

on Humber Road, Beeston, in August. The Dojo building forms part of what was the original Humber factory and showroom.

The unveiling was performed jointly at a very well attended ceremony by Ray Booty, and John Tarring.

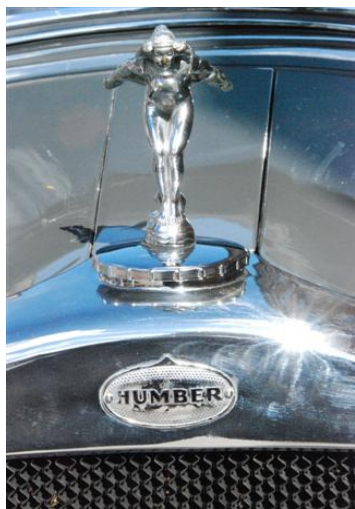


**Ray Booty** was a record breaking cyclist and Empire & Commonwealth Games gold medallist during the 1950s. At that time he lived in Stapleford and was a member of the Ericssons Cycling Club. He now lives in Derby.

**John Tarring** is a founder member and historian of 'The Humber Register', a global organisation of owners of pre-1932 Humber machines (bicycles, tricycles, motorcycles and cars).

Several members of the Humber Register brought their vintage cars and motorcycles along for display to the appreciative crowd.





Also on display was the last bicycle to be worked on in Beeston by Thomas Humber himself. This had been kindly loaned by the Industrial Museum at Wollaton.

### **For your diary:**

Three more plaques have already been ordered by the joint committee.

The next will commemorate the **Rev Dr John Clifford**, 1836 – 1923, who was baptised and preached his first sermon in what is now the Church House Nursery, formerly the General Baptist Chapel on Nether Street, Beeston. The unveiling will take place on **Tuesday 20 September**, at a time to be arranged. This will coincide with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Church House Nursery.

A plaque to **Bendigo**, the all England champion bare-knuckle prize-fighter, will follow on the **11<sup>th</sup> October**; the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. It will be fixed close to the site of the Wollaton Road cottage where he died in Beeston in 1880.

The third plaque to **Edward Joseph Lowe**, 1825-1900, will be unveiled on the boundary wall to Broadgate House on Broadgate at a **date to be arranged**, most probably **in November**. Lowe, an astronomer, botanist, founder member of the Meteorological Society and Fellow of the Royal Society, built Broadgate House as his home and observatory in the 1850s.

As more details become confirmed they will appear on the Society web site @ [www.beestoncivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.beestoncivicsociety.org.uk) and also sent to those members who have provided email addresses.

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## FOCUS ON ... our Vice-Chairman, Tony Krarup



Anthony Krarup was born 7 Oct 1928; Living at Marlborough Road Beeston Tony was first educated at Nether Street Infants School, Church Street Boys School and Henry Mellish Grammar School before going to University College Nottingham in 1945. He graduated in 1948 with a University of London Degree B.Sc (Eng) Hons, as the Nottingham college did not become a university until a year later. He also qualified as a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Institution of Structural Engineers as well as a Chartered Engineer



Tony's early work experiences included green grocer delivery boy for two and six pence, in vacations with Nottingham City Council where he perfected his draughtsmanship skills. Taking an interest in a radio and television shop he trained as a service engineer and ran events as a disk jockey (could this have included "heavy metal"? – Ed).

As a Graduate Engineer he was employed first at the City of Lancaster, then The Borough Of Ilkeston and later at the Beeston and Stapleford U D C (which included acting as Engineer, Architect, Building Surveyor, and Town Planner), together with short periods as technical engineer to a concrete manufacturer and a civil engineering contractor. In parallel he had a private practice (housing and commercial developments) and maintained the interest in the TV shop

In 1955, he set up in partnership with an Architect Dennis Taylor of Long Eaton, and established the firm of Taylor And Krarup Architect Surveyors And Consulting Engineers, first in the Old Council offices Beeston (until they were pulled down in 1960 for the Shopping Centre) and then at Westminster Bank Chambers Long Eaton (26 years) then in Oxford Buildings Long Eaton (9 years). In 1995 he moved his office to the Harrington Factory Complex in Long Eaton where he managed the site and carried out the major refurbishment of the buildings of the mill.

He now works from home and still has several private clients who "don't want anybody else" and retains a number of directorships - mainly non-executive

His work in Beeston, was mostly for local clients Family Businesses, High Road Shops, among many, The Palace Cinema Wide Screen, Long Eaton Fabric Co Dye house and extensions, Addition of the first floor to Barton Transport offices and all following building, Lots of housing developments his first Housing site being at Breaston.

At Long Eaton, work included, W H Paul Ltd Industrial site at Draycott, Carters Soft Drinks Ltd major development at Sawley and Kegworth, Willoughby Garages, consultant to Postmaster Nottingham (via Ministry of Works) and to the MOD Chilwell and land development work at East Midland Airport, including negotiating many land sales etc for private clients, which have become the NTL complex and adjoining motorway service centre. Involved in many significant Housing and Estate Developments in the East Midlands as consultant, financier or developer as well as being managing or controlling director of Companies associated with Building, Sublstatic Printing of Textiles, Travel and Estate Agency, Coordinated Measuring Machines, a Beauty Business. Other Consultant roles included Barton Transport Ltd (for 45 years) and Carters Gold Medal for 46 years (including later a Directorship).

Tony has had, and continues to have, an extensive social and political life. As well as a being member of the Sixth Beeston Sea Scouts, he was Chairman of Beeston Young Conservatives for several years, Chairman of Beeston North Ward Conservative Association, Beeston Conservative Club Committee member, President of Beeston Chamber of Trade in 1960, member of Beeston Fields Golf Club & Chilwell Manor Golf Club, The Beeston Round Table (now the only living founder member and oldest living Past Chairman), Beeston 41 Club Chairman twice, Member of Beeston Masonic Lodge and Trivona Mark Lodge, Member of both Beeston Rotary Club & the Beeston and District History Society. Also holds a valid Radio Ham license G3TAP (since 1964).

Tony obtained a Pilots Licence in Dec 1971 and qualified as Flying Instructor at the East Midland School of Flying. He achieved several thousand flying hours until 1986 and survived two crashes. Trained many pilots who went on to fly for airlines and have since retired as well as teaching a Lord Mayor of Nottingham to fly. He owned a twin engined Piper Apache aircraft operated for training and executive charter He built the General Aviation Hangers at The East Midland Airport to hanger Carters several aircraft and The Rolls Royce spitfire.

Joining The Nottingham County Council Civil Defence in 1952 he first qualified as an instructor then appointed by The Home Office as Scientific Intelligence officer. Appointed to the Rank of Staff Officer in 1959 and promoted to Senior Scientific Officer in 1965, where he was approved to Lecture in Atomic and Biological Warfare. On disbandment in 1968 he had a letter from the Queen and was awarded the Civil Defence Medal

We are fortunate that he is presently both member and Vice Chairman of the Beeston and District Civic Society. His wealth of activities, experience and knowledge are recognised as benefiting the Society immeasurably over the years.

DL / TK

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## MEMBERS NEWS

We are pleased to welcome new members **Mr P D and Mrs S A Smith** of Bramcote and **Tim Thomas** of Chilwell.

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## EVENTS

The enclosed local programme of Heritage Open Days and the 2011 – 2012 programme of Speakers tell you much of what the Society is promoting, but you should also note the details below of the final **guided walk** in this year's series which takes place as part of the Heritage Open Days week-end.

### **BEESTON HERITAGE TRAIL: Beeston Old Village**

Date: **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 2.30 p.m.**

A circular walk just over 2 miles, led by Robin Phillips, **starting at the Podium, Beeston Square** and taking just over 2 hours

Starting from the turnpike road which runs through Beeston's modern centre we move to its original centre, the Manor House, then to houses built as farms in the 17th century. Returning to the main road we walk to the parish churchyard, with unusual monuments, and memories of the Plague, a solid 19th-century school building refurbished for the 21st century, and the remains of our medieval village cross re-instated by the schoolmaster.

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## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

On these four pages are listed a number of the activities in which the Society gets involved. We would like your views on how well we carry out these activities, where we could do better and how you might want to be more involved. Beneath each activity heading are a few general questions to start the ball rolling but it is your views that we would like you to express in the spaces provided and, don't forget, if you can contribute your time, energy or material to play a part in any of these activities then please do also indicate it.

### ➤ CAMPAIGNS

From time to time the Society formulates a campaign in response to important and relevant local issues. For example, what did you think of the Society's stance on the Tram and also on Tesco? Do you believe that the Society could have acted differently in order to have been more successful? Do you have any suggestions for a subject which might be taken up for a future campaign?

### ➤ PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The monitoring of, and the responding to, local Planning Applications is an important and time-consuming part of the regular business of the Society. Do we need to somehow involve the Members more in this work?

### ➤ PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREAS and BLUE PLAQUES

The creation of Conservation Areas and the installation of Blue Plaques have both been success stories for the Society which is still on-going. Do you have suggestions for adding to the future lists of both?

➤ **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS**

This week-end in September is now an established annual event, which we are keen to continue to facilitate. What do you think of the organisation and publicity for this annual event? Do you have suggestions for future venues / activities?

➤ **GUIDED WALKS**

Having organised a number of Walks over the years we are now keen to develop a more wide-ranging programme which properly reflects the aims and aspirations of the Society. What do you think of the organisation and publicity for these tours? Do you have suggestions for the route of future tours?

➤ **PUBLIC SPEAKER MEETINGS**

Our winter programme of Speakers is an important opportunity for Members and like-minded visitors to get together. What do you think of the venue? What do you think of the quality and variety of Speakers, bearing in mind that they all give their time without payment? Does the timing of our programme of Friday meetings clash with other regular events that you wish to attend, or do actually attend instead? Do you have suggestions for future speakers or events?

➤ **QUARTERLY MEMBERS NEWSLETTER**

What do you think of the current appearance of the magazine? What are your views on the content of the Newsletter? Do you have suggestions for additional content e.g. more about the area, more about other Civic Societies?

➤ **PUBLICATIONS**

Have you seen our publications on sale in the vicinity and have you ever bought any? Do you know of any other outlets which might be willing to sell them? Do you have suggestions for new subjects for the Postcards, Greetings Cards and Booklets?

➤ **WEBSITE**

We know that people from all over the world look at our web site, which gives us an opportunity to display Beeston and District Civic Society interests to a very wide audience. Have you ever seen the Societies website? What do you think of the appearance and the content? What else do you think should be included on the site?

➤ **OTHER AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT**

From time to time we have been involved in National Tree Week, to help encourage a greener environment. We also man a display stand at events such as Beeston Carnival to bring the work of the Society and the relevant issues of the day to the attention of the general public. Do you think that this is a good use of our volunteer's time? Do you have any suggestions for other ways of encouraging people to join our Society?

➤ **ANY OTHER COMMENTS**

Name:

Preferred contact details (should we need any clarification on your response):

**Please detach these four pages from the middle of this issue of the newsletter and hand your response to any Committee Member, or post to Eileen Atherton, 4 Penrhyn Crescent, Chilwell, Notts. NG9 5NZ or send an email to [beestoncivicsociety@googlemail.com](mailto:beestoncivicsociety@googlemail.com).**

**Thank you, the closing date is Wednesday November 30<sup>th</sup> 2011.**

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## RICHARD C SUTTON

When I was researching plans in Nottinghamshire Archives last summer, looking in the catalogue for "Dovecote Lane", my eye caught a plan on "Chilwell Road" which I followed up, the old police station.



Some time ago I thought someone had told me that the old Police Station, now Manor Pharmacy on Chilwell Road, was built by Watson Fothergill or T C Hine. I was curious and searched the web and asked around to no avail, so when I chanced upon the plan for it in the Archives I ordered the original to be brought to me.

I had also ordered the plans for the buildings I was researching – namely Twenty Cottages on Dovecote Lane (nos 28 – 66). These I investigated first and found the architect's name – "Ernest R

*Sutton FRIBA, Bromley House, Nottingham", dated 1907.*

I then turned my attention to the old police station and found the architect to be "R C Sutton, Bromley House, Nottingham", but dated 3 July 1888. I was very curious to know more about these two architects, both Suttons. As I don't know the history of Bromley House, I only know it as a library, but assumed that it must have been an architects' office and I was equally curious. Google came to my rescue!!

Richard Charles Sutton (1834-1915) was one of the several fine architects who worked in Nottingham during the nineteenth century, but their achievements have tended to be overshadowed by Hine and Fothergill. Castle Gate Congregational Church (1863) was one of his earliest achievements. His work encompassed a wide range of building types, factories, warehouses in the Lace Market and elsewhere, churches, houses and shops, including Ben Bowers Restaurant (1877) and Jesse Boot's first commission shop in Goose Gate (1881/2). Other buildings included Ilkeston Town Hall (1867/8), the Workhouse, Southwell (extension) (1868), St. Mary's Church, Attenborough (repair)

(1868-69) and Beauvale School, Greasley (1878), as well as the old police station in Beeston.

Ernest R Sutton (1861-1946) was Richard's son and he occasionally worked alongside his father getting second prize in the Mundella School competition.

Ken Brand write:-

*"The most important newcomer to make an impact in the early years of the 1860s was Richard Charles Sutton (1834-1915), son of the editor of the radical newspaper The Nottingham Review. He was a pupil of S.S. Teulon (architect of Bestwood Lodge 1862-5) and actually set up in St. Peter's Church Walk around 1858. His early commissions included a new Grand Jury Room at the Shire Hall (1859) and works for public safety at the public execution outside the Shire Hall in 1860. He soon became engaged in church building; Castle Gate Congregational Chapel, St. Saviour's Arkwright Street and the Peas Hill Road Unitarian Church are all of 1863. Sutton went on to design a number of further churches, warehouses, factories and commercial premises, including Jesse Boot's first purpose built premises."* 'Nottingham Architects' on the Notts Heritage Gateway (2008)

<http://www.nottsheritagegateway.org.uk/people/architects.htm>

The old Police Station is on the local list of buildings of interest that is held by the conservation team at Nottinghamshire County Council. It is in the St. John's Grove Conservation Area of Beeston.

BS

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## **ROLLER SHUTTERS**

Broxtowe Borough Councillors have been scrutinising their policy on roller shutters (see Broxtowe Local Plan S9 on Security Measures.) These together with the design leaflet promote good design.

The Civic Society was asked to send a representative to put forward the "townscape" aspect.

Roller Shutters, if needed, are a very important part of a townscape, or in the outer districts, streetscape. You only have to look at a parade of



shops, closed, or worse, empty, that have solid grey shutters and realise how derelict, and unfriendly it looks, the sort of place that is favoured by gangs of youths to gather and inflict graffiti. Compare that to a shop front, whose business necessitates security, and has a coloured perforated or grille type shutter, coloured to enhance the shop front!

Having been to the council meeting, it was interesting to hear a wider aspect including that of insurance companies, who, we are told, will not insure certain types of 'open' shutters. There is also, of course, the economic side of it for the shop keeper to consider. Obviously more research is required by the council before amending their policy!

Planners will discuss the topic of shutters when dealing with applications for a new shop front, explaining their policy. However if a shopkeeper moves premises and inherits, for example, a solid grey shutter, the planning officers have no power for enforcement.

Sometimes new shutters are put up, that are contrary to the policy. In those cases, we as members of a local amenity society and members of the public can inform the council who will look into the matter and insist the owner applies for planning permission.

Do you know of any 'unfriendly' shutters in your area? It seems nothing can be done if ugly inappropriate shutters are already installed. I wonder if with a bit of imagination, something COULD be done?

Comments please. If you wish to see the leaflet either ask for a copy at the council offices or follow the web link.

**"Shop Front Security Keeping the street lively"**

<http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11085&p=0>

BS

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**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

In the **January 1984** edition of the Newsletter, there was a short article about shop fronts along Beeston High Road. In particular, the article described the upper floors as *"a whole spectrum of neglect, or care, ingenuity or downright barbarism is displayed on these areas which we often miss. The prominent local business man whose first floor is piled high with cartons in the window. The shop with oriel windows which are always sparklingly clean and contain an attractive display. All types can be found. I thought of devising a score sheet for the performance of the different shops, along these lines perhaps:*

- 1. *Exterior defaced by ugly adverts, wire-netting etc.*
- 2. *Exterior unimpaired by signs etc., but lacking paint.*
- 3. *Exterior painted but unclean windows.*
- 4. *Windows clean, but with opaque net curtains.*
- 5. *Clean windows, with attractive display.*

*As an additional refinement, one could add a bonus score of 2 for every shop that sweeps its frontage clear every morning.*

*Try your hand at scoring your local row of shops. You may get a surprise, but don't keep the results to yourself. Pass them on to us. If we can get across the idea to shopkeepers that a facelift can attract customers, then we will see some changes."*

27 years later, in the current economic climate when all traders need to work even harder for our custom, it strikes me that putting more effort into the "first impression" given by the outside of the premises, should be beneficial to them and to us.

DL

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## TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Beeston used to be well known for its trees. Although it still has a considerable number, it has lost many over the years.

Trees not only add to the beauty of a neighbourhood, but are also essential for dampening down noise, for wildlife, and for helping reduce greenhouse gasses.

Trees are supposed to be protected in conservation areas, yet I have noticed the disappearance over the years of trees outside the Manor Surgery, outside Falcon House, and outside the Sports Injuries clinic on Chilwell Road.

Some years ago Sainsbury's felled a magnificent copper beech tree, claiming that was necessary to allow for lorry deliveries. Shortly afterwards the whole area was redesigned, so the beech tree could have remained. It was not replaced. Sainsbury's subsequently planted a number of trees around the car parks and filling station. Some survived; others died and were not replaced.

Then quite a number of roadside trees have been removed over the years. I have noticed that trees have disappeared from sites on Newcastle Avenue, Glebe Street, Devonshire Avenue, Wollaton Road, and there may be many others.

Trees make such a difference in the urban landscape. I have seen young trees planted on pavements in many places from Islington to Athens. Yet Station Road and Queen's Road, among other highways, are bleak in their treelessness. Most garden frontages even in this day of the car can contain a tree or shrub in one corner. And public car parks all look so much more attractive when trees are planted around the edge and in the middle of double rows of cars.

The Beeston Civic Society has over the years been involved in the planting of trees. Firstly, not long after it was founded, it planted six trees at the corner of Chilwell Road and Middle Street. One died shortly after, and another died and was felled last winter. The others are now very significant in the street scene. Some years ago it planted some cherry trees in the grounds of council flats on Middle Street, which are particularly attractive when flowering. And more recently it

arranged for a tree to be planted in the grounds of each local school. However I would wish that there were a campaign to plant many more trees in Beeston and surrounding areas so that again people would recognize Beeston as an attractive place to come to.

Marion Wallwork

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*(Marion subsequently sent the following additions to her list – Ed).*

A few more missing trees - but not an exhaustive list:

- Quite a number on Woodside Road and on Queen's Road
- Lots missing from University Boulevard south side.
- A dead tree outside UPP student residences on Broadgate - should have been replanted by the developers as soon as it failed to thrive.
- Trees missing outside the Evangelical Church on Broadgate.
- Two dead trees outside Lidl, Broughton Street.
- One (and a half?) dead trees on the High Road.
- One dead tree outside the chippy on Humber Road.

Marion Wallwork

*(Stop Press: The Society brought the contents of these letters to the attention of the Council, and this has prompted a Council meeting to take place in September to discuss the whole topic of trees in the street scene. This Society will be following this up of course and any action / decisions will be reported in our next Newsletter – Ed).*

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Dear Editor

Voluntary Action Broxtowe moved into Oban House last December and ever since we have had older people coming into the building sharing their memories of when it was the local doctors' house

We would like to record these memories while we still can as many of the older people are well into their 70s. We are receiving some support and training from the Oral History Society

We have approached the Heritage Lottery Fund and have got through the pre application process and have recently met with their development team. We are now at a point where we are submitting an application and they have asked us to get letters of support to accompany our application.

We would welcome any involvement that your members feel able to give and also those members who have memories of Oban House which they would like to share then we would be delighted to include them. The project will be inter-generational involving young people interviewing older people. We will then produce a booklet as a thank you gift to those people concerned and we will showcase the project at our AGM in 2013

Linda Button, Voluntary Action Broxtowe

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Dear Editor

Your members may be familiar with the sight of the spire of the parish church of St Michael & All Angels in Bramcote village. The 130 foot spire has been a landmark for 150 years but at the last inspection some long-term problems were exposed. English Heritage and the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust are already committed to contributing to a majority of the expected cost but the church itself still has to find at least £30,000. The regular congregation has already "dug deep" but there is an immediate shortfall and this is being met by a short-term loan.

Therefore there is an appeal to the wider community for any financial support for this Bramcote legacy. If you feel that you can help then please, either, visit the church or telephone either Frank Mellon (922 1443) or Victor Smithson (925 0358).

Thank you Gillian Hallam

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Work on the Flood Alleviation Scheme at Attenborough is continuing, and is not expected to be finally finished until next summer. The view of St Mary's Church (one of our Heritage Open Days venues seen here) is changing from the one on the Society postcard.

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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.

Contributors; Tony Krarup, Dave Lovesy, Peter Robinson, Barbara Selwood.

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

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 December 2011**