

# THE DERBY GUARDIAN

*An independent community paper for the people of Derby*

**Volume 1 No. 6**

**December 8, 2003**

**New today:** Lots of good news as the season of good will begins (not *goodwill*, which is a business concept). See also our companion paper, Derby Flyer, for many Christmas events and contacts.

**Plus David Roberts on Derby unions and the outsourcing of jobs overseas. Robert Ram on a shock to the Coalition as Labourites and Tories win a vote against Lib Dems.**

**From the diary of the re-elected Mayor of Derby, Connecticut, Marc Garofalo: December 8 (changed from December 6 because of “potential inclement weather”): The inauguration of Mayor Marc J. Garofalo, and City of Derby elected officials, at 6.30pm on Monday, December 8, at Derby High School. All welcome – pasta dinner to follow. Our US Derby correspondent reports that they had eight inches of snow on December 6, and were hoping for better weather today. The UK Derby’s Mayor, Councillor Peter Berry, sent congratulations to Mr Garofalo, who hopes to visit us in the near future.**

**For other Derbys, ask [jim@derby-derby.com](mailto:jim@derby-derby.com)**

## **More from US Derbeians**

**Good news for Democrats in Derby, Vermont. The state’s former Governor, Howard Dean, has now been endorsed by Al Gore, former presidential candidate who lost to George Bush.**

**Mr Gore says Howard Dean had the best chance of the nine Democrat contenders. He sure has now, writes our US Derby correspondent.**

**A former doctor, Mr Dean showed a flair for campaigning when he put his cap in the ring. He set up support centres in other states, and by last month had raised more money than the other contenders together.**

**Several of them had supported the war against Iraq. He has never wavered in his opposition, and is critical of the military-industrial complex that is behind Bush both in foreign policy and the home economy.**

**He has pleased the American Derbeians by keeping his main base in Vermont.**

## **Sports awards for schools**

More Derby schools have received Sport England awards recognizing their commitment to physical activity. Seven were awarded the Activemark – three of them in the Gold category.

The three awarded the Activemark Gold were Dale Community Primary, Silverhill Primary, and St Werburgh's Primary. The other four were Brackensdale Junior, Breadsall Hilltop Junior, Firs Estate Primary, and Wilmorton Community Primary. Councillor Mike Carr, cabinet member for personnel, equalities and direct services, said two other schools already hold the Activemark Gold award: Chellaston Junior School, and the Royal School for the Deaf.

Contact: [Suzanne.Meehan@derby.uk](mailto:Suzanne.Meehan@derby.uk)

## Fraud investigators at work

City council benefit investigators have proved 128 cases of fraud, and identified £150,000 in overpaid benefit, which is being reclaimed.

The assistant director, revenues and benefits, Don McLure, said that in addition to tracing fraud, a team of visiting officers helped people on low incomes top receive their full entitlement.

Councillor Roy Webb, cabinet member for social care, said the team will also visit elderly and disabled people who are unable to go to the Council House to make a claim. Contact [Don.McLure@derby.gov.uk](mailto:Don.McLure@derby.gov.uk)

## Man about town

The new “Wild West” pub at the old GPO, Victoria Street, opened this week, and looked interesting on a quick lunchtime visit. But no Guinness. The name of the old pub about 100 yards along Victoria St escapes me, probably because I have never set foot in the place, though I did look in the door. In any case, it has changed its name - to meet the competition - to The Bedroom, which may be a joke.

The Old Hacks' Bar remains a moveable feast, and a bit of a joke, because there are not many old hacks about. At one time there were enough (old reporters and photographers) to have an occasional cheery round or three together.

The Standing Order has been a convenient spot but has been so successful after its recent renovation that it is often difficult to find a lunchtime seat (especially for meals without smoke). It still sells the cheapest Guinness in town. When it's crowded, for anyone who is prepared to go just to the edge of town the Jonty Farmer is a very good substitute. Plenty of elbow room, and a large non-smoking, eating area – and Guinness. There is also a big car park. See you there ?

## The antiques are back

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The four pieces of Georgian furniture which were removed in secret from St Helen's House and sent for auction have been returned to the city in a heart-warming example of co-operation. Four benefactors who wish to remain anonymous have agreed to underwrite the £5,000 penalty for stopping the sale.

The money has been raised to satisfy the auctioneer, and they have been taken to Derby Heritage Centre, thanks to its owner, Richard Felix. In the absence of suitable council accommodation, they could hardly have been given a better home. The admission of the previous leader of the council that he had ordered the secret removal (for reasons of security) has been followed by an interesting attempt to spread the blame to the present council leader.

It is now said that, immediately after the May elections, on taking control, the Coalition (and the 11,000 council staff) should have become aware of such secret deals.

One councillor writes to Derby Guardian: "How many other secret deals are there, waiting to be discovered?"

### **Warning of data protection scam**

The city council's trading standards officers have recorded 180 reports of agencies which try to get businesses to register with them under the Data Protection Act 1998, for £95.

Not all businesses need legally to register, but those which do can do it directly, for only £35. In a warning to Derby businesses, Councillor Evonne Berry, cabinet member for regeneration, social inclusion, youth and community, said these agencies were not illegal, but their letters were misleading clients.

Businesses which hold personal data and may need to register to comply with the Act can check their position with the Information Commissioner's office, on 01625-545745, and on the web site, [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Council contact [Annette.Porter@derby.gov.uk](mailto:Annette.Porter@derby.gov.uk)

### **GPs asked for more flexible appointments**

The city council's social care and health overview and scrutiny commission is to discuss more flexible appointments with GPs, through the Greater and Central Derby Primary Care Trusts. Only six of the 21 practices in greater Derby, and eight of the 16 in central Derby offer advance appointments as well as appointments within the next 48 hours.

The others apply only the 48-hour rule, but intend to introduce advance appointments eventually. The commission next meets on December 15, when it hopes to speed up the changes. Contact: [Maroof.Hussain@derby.gov.uk](mailto:Maroof.Hussain@derby.gov.uk)

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| <p><b>Coalition falters as Labour and Tories vote down Lib Dems</b><br/>by Robert Ram</p> |
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**For the first time since the coalition was formed after the May elections, there was a party split in voting at the last meeting of Derby City Council – over GM foods. A motion proposed by Lib Dem Councillor Ann Jackman was aimed at protecting the city from pollution caused by genetically-modified crops, and urged a lobby against government proposals.**

**Labour members (supported by Tories in the vote) said it was of no consequence because Derby is not a farming community, though Ms Jackman said there are beekeepers in the city, and bees play a vital role. She thought it illogical that the council has a policy of not allowing GM foods in its catering, but cannot see that this choice could be lost.**

## **Derby unions and transfer of jobs**

**Members of unions affiliated to Derby Area Trades Union Council are concerned about the transfer of jobs overseas, says Councillor David Roberts, DATUC president. His own union, TSSA, is involved because of threats to the travel industry.**

**Estimates that 50,000 more engineering jobs, nationally, are likely to go overseas cannot be dismissed as of no concern in the East Midlands (writes our industrial correspondent).**

**As Mr Roberts points out, the threat is not only to call centres. There have already been warnings of bad news for workers at the Derby plant of Bombardier, and other companies in the region are on the warning list.**

**He spoke on the day that Tony Woodley, general secretary of the Transport & General Workers' Union, said that unions could simply look to the government to save them.**

**“The most effective challenge to the dictates of the market is not regulation but action,” Mr Woodley said.**

**“The only thing that talks louder than money is the united voice of mobilized people. Such an approach needs to be globalised. It is big business’s drive for profits at everyone’s expense that is the problem.**

**“We must focus on working with trade unions elsewhere in the world to raise labour protection standards, and to block investment where basic union rights are denied.”**

**He urged unions to fight for workers’ rights wherever they are, and added:**

**“Governments may feel impotent in the face of globalization, but trade unions have once more to use their power.”**

**Mr Roberts said unions in our region cannot afford to ignore the fact that global business tactics concern everyone, including consumers as well as producers.**

## **FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Derby City Council.**

**December 9:**

Licensing Sub-committee A, 1.30pm.

Corporate Parenting Sub-commission, 6pm.

December 10:

Education Commission, 6pm.

Area Panel 5 (Allestree, Darley, and Mackworth), 7pm, at the West End Bowls Club, Markeaton St.

December 11:

Planning and Environment Commission, 6pm.

Next Cabinet meeting, December 16, 6pm.

**Derbyshire Police Authority:**

**December 9. Audit Committee, Police Headquarters, Butterley Hall, Ripley. 10am.  
Complaints and Professional Standards Committee, 2pm.**

The weekly diary of the Mayor, Councillor Peter Berry, is printed in our Derby Flyer (scroll down for subscription details).

**Diary entries welcomed. Please give contact number even if not for publication.**

## **Contacts**

Derby City Council. Web site <http://www.derby.gov.uk>

The list of councillors' names and numbers is published in our Derby Flyer.

The web site for city libraries is: [www.derby.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.derby.gov.uk/libraries)

The council's community information database of clubs and societies, voluntary groups, sports clubs, and tutors: [www.lidnet.org](http://www.lidnet.org)

Derbyshire County Council is at: <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk>

County council matters affecting the city will be included in this newsletter.

**Political parties:**

Conservative. Derby North & South. Agent Paul White. D.832971.

Labour. 2a Wentworth House, Vernon Gate. Agent James Shires. D.345636.

Labour Party Social Club, 26 Charnwood St. D.364627.

Liberal Democrat. Contact Councillor Lucy Care, D.721291.

UK Independence Party. The Woodlands, Fauld, Burton. 01283-520502.

Derby Council for Voluntary Service, 4 Charnwood St. D.346266.

Derby Chinese Welfare Association, 110 Abbey St. D.342436.

Derbyshire China Friendship Association, c/o the above. Another attempt is to be made to revive the association by its founder chairman. A Derby journalist took the chair on his return from working in Beijing in 1988, though a committee had already been set up by Henry Rodwell, a Derby Quaker who was born in China, and an exchange teacher, Maggie Aspdin. Successive chairmen have included a former

Mayor, Alan Mullarkey. It is hoped that Chinese students now at Derby University will play a part.

Derby Fabian Society, meets second Friday evening of the month, Derby Labour Club, Charnwood St. Contact hon sec, Rosemary Key, D.573169.

Derby Irish Association, Becket St. D.332842.

Derby-Osnabruck twinning. Stephi Pohl took over here from Emma Boyd, who is now back in Germany. Our envoy in Osnabruck is now Anna Drysdale, succeeding Angela Woolvin. Inquiries to [twinning@derby.gov.uk](mailto:twinning@derby.gov.uk)

Derby Law Society. President, Michael Copestake. Hon secretary, Susan Woodall, 01283-530333.

Derby Area Trades Union Council (DATUC). President, Councillor David Roberts, [dave.roberts@derby.gov.uk](mailto:dave.roberts@derby.gov.uk)

Racial Equality Council. Based at 31 Normanton Rd., headed by Tony Walsh, who is also a key figure in organizing the annual St Patrick's Day celebration (with Father Tim). D.372428.

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC), based at Wirksworth. Contact Brian Wood, secretary/treasurer, at 01629-824797.

Derby University Students Union. President, Kieran Patel. D.622238.

*More contacts are published in our Derby Flyer. Subscribe now: details below.*

*Amendments welcomed*

More key lists for Derbeians are now being prepared. Additions and comment invited as we press on with this community work in progress.

For more about the editor, see his online Global Journalism Review, which includes his own work in progress, At The Margin, about life in journalism after being demobbed from the army in 1946:

<http://www.globaljreview.btinternet.co.uk/workinprogress1.htm>

*Reports and comments about Derby Guardian can be sent now to [jim@derby-derby.com](mailto:jim@derby-derby.com). This also applies to the Derby Flyer.*

**NB Our email domains include newslettersrus.co.uk**

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**In the meantime:**

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