

*The email*

# DERBY GUARDIAN

The independent, not-for-profit community journal, an alternative voice for the caring people of Derby. Controversial but rational.

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**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS AND SUPPORTERS**



The bestknown campaigning group in our city today, the Heritage & Environmental Association for Residents & Traders (Derby HEART), joins the Derby Guardian in sending Christmas greetings to all, with this nostalgic portrayal of the Seven Stars Inn, King Street (dating back to 1680). This card, which includes the slogans Save 7 Stars, and Save Five Lamps, is available NOW from Derby HEART at £1.25 each, or five for £5.50. Ring Penny on Derby 603909, or email [cards@derbyheart.org.uk](mailto:cards@derbyheart.org.uk)

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By email

December 20, 2004



Contents in this issue include: Old friends from America; Christmas links around the world; Anglo-French - 'Twas the night before Christmas (for language teachers and students); The Mayor's Diary; Council Diary; Our man about town. New features include Our MP Watch; Book Ends; The way we were - today's Derby in context, with the background of Jim Brennan's weekly columns over 25 years on the local scene, from his return home on retiring from The Guardian.

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## News from Derby, Connecticut



Mayor Marc Garofalo

Season's greetings are being exchanged between our Mayor, Ruth Skelton, and the Mayor of Derby, Connecticut, Marc Garofalo, and with the Mayors in other Derbys.

## Old friends from America here for Christmas

Chris Woodhead, membership secretary of Derby HEART, and his wife, Rosemary, have two good friends in Connecticut – and they are staying with them here at their Crompton Street home for the Christmas holiday. They are Pat and Terry Bullock, and Pat was the landlady of the Crompton Tavern (formerly the Queen's Head) in Crompton St. Another American friend in Connecticut is a fellow doggy-lover, who made Rosemary's acquaintance via the ubiquitous Ebay.

Chris adds: "Connecticut has another, more worrying connection with Derby - it has a large Westfields presence. Americans love our small shops. Malls have wiped them out over there. Now Westfields are bringing mall shopping to our Derby with the redevelopment of the Eagle Centre. Not that there are many small shops left in Derby anyway...."

Heading West for the New Year is City Councillor Evonne Berry, who will be revisiting her friends in Wichita, Kansas. She hopes to be able to make a side trip to the Derby in that state, which was mentioned here in our last issue.

A former Mayor there, Richard Standrich, visited our Derby when he came over at the time of the Queen's Jubilee visit. His successor is Dion Avello, and Ms Berry, who is interested in American local government, may be able to discuss it with him.

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## Christmas links around the world

There are many links on the web for exploring ways in which Christmas is celebrated in other countries. In keeping with the Derby Guardian's aim of providing not only an alternative voice in the media, but a window on the world, here are some of the links among many to be found by typing in Christmas Greetings in the Google search engine:

Christmas round the world (with a world map to click on); Seasons Greetings, for teachers in modern languages; Christmas.com; Christmas greeting cards; Christmas Ecards; Free Animated E-cards, and so on.

From the Seasons Greetings site comes the following bilingual version and rewrite of a famous poem.

### 'Twas the night before Christmas

Adapted by Pete Jones, who writes: I hope that you enjoy this version of 'Twas The Night Before Christmas, which I composed for teachers and students of French. Enjoy!

'Twas the night before Christmas  
 Dans la classe de langues vivantes  
 Noone was reciting "la plume de ma tante"  
 No students were present, les portes étaient fermées,  
 Corridors were empty, pas de visages fatigués.  
 Chalk lay unused et le rétroprojecteur  
 In a corner rested quietly, aucun bruit de moteur!  
 School was now out, les études terminées.  
 Christmas is coming, deux semaines de liberté!  
 French teachers were home et les élèves aussi  
 Each one of them sleeping dans son petit lit.  
 Of what were they dreaming? Laissez-moi vous le dire  
 But please make a promise de ne pas trop rire!  
 The teachers were dreaming que les élèves pourraient  
 Without too much coaxing à la bonne page arriver!  
 They dreamt that leurs élèves savaient conjuguer  
 Their irregular verbs sans difficulté.  
 That they knew avoir/être, cela leur a bien plu.  
 And they all got their circonflexe on j'ai dû!  
 That the students avaient tous fait leurs devoirs  
 And their answers were correctes au tableau noir.  
 The teachers much enjoyed ce paradis terrestre  
 And hoped that it would last pour le reste du trimestre!  
 The students were asleep les têtes sur l'oreiller

With thoughts of subjontif ils ne voulaient pas se réveiller!  
 They had seen enough of that old voix passive  
 Had endured many lessons avec faire causative!  
 Mrs. Vandertramp is great, mais on veut pas que je mente  
 We sometimes forget ce que les lettres représentent!  
 I've filled in my verb charts, ils sont dans mon cahier.  
 By doing it your way, je ne vais pas oublier!  
 Don't think we're complaining, on a besoin de repos.  
 We adore your French class et avec ces mots  
 We thank all of you de nous avoir enseigné  
 How important it is d'apprendre le français.

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Merry Christmas to all ! Pete is a teacher in Whitby, Ontario, Canada.

If you received this issue of Derby Guardian from a friend, without paying, please thank your friend and consider helping to support this alternative voice in the region's media (a not-for-profit publication) with a subscription/ donation to help cover costs of professional reporting, editing and production. Support our efforts with your own subscription, and get your own copy direct. Details from [brenmedia@btinternet.com](mailto:brenmedia@btinternet.com).

At the annual meeting of Derby City Council on May 23, 2001, James Brennan was presented with the Derby Civic Award for his contribution to the community through journalism. He had worked at the People, Times, Daily Telegraph and Guardian before returning as a freelance to his home town. He began there in journalism with a few weeks' work experience at the Derby Evening Telegraph in 1939, before going into the army (until 1946). He is a member of the Society of Editors (Emeritus), and the National Union of Journalists (Member of Honour).

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Editor James Brennan

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 For more about the editor, Jim Brennan, 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>¶

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