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Investors attend packed Embassy event at Cannes



Over 100 businesses representing many investors, developers and agents attended the most recent Derby Embassy event this morning held at MIPIM in Cannes.

MIPIM is the world's leading commercial property show attended by over 20,000 people including all major investors.

Speakers at the Derby Embassy event included Cllr Hilary Jones, Leader, Derby City Council; Peter Richardson, Chairman, Derby Cityscape and John Forkin, Director, Marketing Derby. The message at the packed event was that Derby provides major opportunities for investment in the economic upturn and, in particular, the major 650,000 sq ft of grade A office schemes that currently have planning permission were promoted.

Derby "most resilient to recession"



Derby is set to be one of the cities most likely to prove resilient to the worst aspects of the recession according to a recent BBC TV report. The Inside Out programme analysed all areas in the East Midlands identifying hotspots most likely to suffer.

The worst city in the region was identified as Nottingham and the best as Derby. However, the recent Department for Transport decision to award the inter city fleet contract to Japan was considered a blow to Derby. Outside of the cities, smaller towns such as Corby and Melton Mowbray were expected to do well.

Westfield Derby scoop top national customer service award



Westfield Derby has been voted the top large shopping centre in the country for customer service by industry body the BCSC (British Council of Shopping Centres).

Westfield Derby beat 12 other large shopping centres to scoop the ACE Award (Achieving Customer Excellence) and has beaten rival shopping centres including Birmingham, Leicester and Bristol.

The centre was praised by competition judges for the enthusiastic and positive staff, outstanding parent child facilities and consistently high standards of information, attentiveness and warmth. Judges also commented that a considerable amount of thought had been put into the overall shopper's experience.

Janine Bone, centre manager at Westfield Derby, said: "In a time of increasing competition, choice and mobility, customer service is the difference between success and failure - and it is more important than ever in the current economic climate to make sure we exceed our customers' expectations."

Pictured left are Sue Anduiza, from the concierge team and centre manager, Janine Bone

Canada discovers real ale capital of the Midlands



Derby is rightly known as the Real Ale Capital of the Midlands, with over 120 real ale pubs, 3 micro breweries and 2 CAMRA Festivals each year. It would appear that Derby's proud reputation has stretched far and wide as a Canadian reporter crossed the Atlantic to find out more.

The travel reporter from Canada's national newspaper, the Globe and Mail, recently visited Derby to sample the wide range of intimate pubs that Derby has to offer. The article includes reviews of 5 of Derby's popular real ale destinations. Visit the link at the bottom to read the full report:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090306.newpubs07/EmailBNStory/specialTravel/>

Competition to discover UK's top enterprise location



The search is on to find the most enterprising place in the East Midlands where enterprise is creating jobs and transforming communities through a competition designed to showcase some of the East Midlands most vibrant and successful places or projects.

The Enterprising Britain competition is looking for applications from projects which have been running for two years. Entries need to be submitted by Friday 24 April. Entry criteria and application forms can be found at the following website: www.enterprisingbritain.org.uk

Science brought to life in fun day

An exciting Festival of Science including events to bring science alive and celebrate Derby's evolutionary history will culminate in a hands-on family fun day at the University of Derby on Saturday 14th March between 10am-4pm.

Activities include an opportunity to see some ancient meteorites, meet exotic birds and creepy crawlies, see an advanced composite cycle as used by Chris



Hoy at the Beijing Olympic Games and visit the national Space Centre's Star Dome. All events will take place at the Kedleston Road site with free admission and free car parking on site.

For more information visit www.derby.ac.uk/festival-of-science/

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- Location: Exeter House, Stanier Way, The Wyvern, Derby DE21 6BF
- What do you do/ what is your mission statement? Our objective is to always be the first choice for Corporate Insurance Broking and Risk Management advice in Derbyshire. We offer a refreshingly friendly but technical approach to Commercial Insurance whilst most of our competitors focus so heavily on price that they often leave un-welcome gaps in cover. Franklands level of qualified commercial insurance expertise is beyond rival in the Derbyshire Insurance market.
- When did you start? 1984 with Derby roots dating back to the 1920s.
- Why have you become a Bondholder? It's a great initiative. We know that Derby is a fantastic place to live and work and we need to shout about it. Promoting Derby at such an exciting phase in its development allows us to demonstrate our commitment to the city that has been so good to us.
- What do you think of the scheme? A very forward thinking idea, which is creating real momentum in promoting this great city of ours.
- How do you see business shaping Derby's future? Derby is home to significant traditional and modern businesses supported by a strong service sector. With all of these resources pulling together we are well positioned to retain and attract new investment to the city. Derby is developing a "can-do" attitude and unlocking its potential will have positive benefits for us all.
- What are your favourite things about Derby? Location, Location, Location! Derby has wonderful countryside, great transport links, a vibrant business community and a growing sense of pride.

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Promoting the promise of our city

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