

Results confirm mumps outbreak

ELEVEN cases of mumps have been confirmed at the University of Derby following a suspected outbreak of the disease.

A total of 1,300 students from the University, aged between 16 and 25, were inoculated against the illness in a three-day mass vaccination last week.

Dr Roy Fey, consultant in communicable disease control for Southern Derbyshire, said that there were 16 suspected cases of mumps, 11 of which were "pretty definite".

Saliva tests were taken from six of the patients and sent to London for analysis. Results were returned on Friday.

Dr Fey said four of those students tested positive for mumps, one was not definite and is being tested again and one person did not have the illness.

He said the rest of the suspected cases will not be tested, but their conditions will be monitored over the next two weeks.

Despite the vaccinations, Dr Fey said more students could still get the disease, which is spread by coughing and sneezing.

He urged other students to come forward for vaccinations.

"We will be looking out for cases next and the week after," he added.

SSSSHH to meet with MEP

AN action group calling for the retention of adult education at Derby's Grade I listed St Helen's House is holding a public meeting with East Midlands MEP Phillip Whitehead.

Students and Supporters to Save St Helen's House (SSSSHH) was formed in March after Derby City Council said it was considering selling the building. The council later put the sale plans on hold but confirmed last month it would disperse adult education across the city.

But SSSSHH is pressing the council to rethink and is discussing the issue with Mr Whitehead in St Helen's House, King Street, at 12.30pm tomorrow.

Mothers ditch nappies for rock debut



● **MOTHERS OF INVENTION:** Punk group members (from left) Henry Hinds (bass), vocalists Nicci Wilson and Claire Armstrong, Izzy Drury (drums) and Beth de Lange (lead guitar) during their first gig at The Victoria Inn last night.

Picture: Johanna De Winter JW090504C-3

It's a city first for punk frock

FIVE mums desperate for a break from maternal duties have smashed convention to form a five-piece Derby punk band.

But rather than singing about anarchy in the UK, like 1970s punk rockers the Sex Pistols, the mums' original repertoire of self-penned songs celebrate motherhood in all its glory, including burning the tea and battling with nits.

And last night, the group, called The Mothers, played its first-ever live gig at the Victoria Inn, Midland Place, Derby.

The concert went ahead despite the fact that one of the lead singers, Nicci Wilson (34), of Beeston, is heavily pregnant, expecting her first baby.

Visual artist Ms Wilson, step-mum to 10-year-old Tallissa, said: "I'm eight months' pregnant, so I'm sure some

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people were surprised to see me on stage. But it's been fun being a part of the band. I couldn't miss the gig."

The Mothers' debut performance was a resounding success, according to Beth de Lange (35), of Chestnut Avenue, Derby, the group's guitarist.

"It went really well," said single mum Miss de Lange, who has a 10-year-old son, Oliver, and works as a project officer for an environmental group. She said: "We were feeling nervous about doing our first official public performance, but it was good. Lots of our family and friends came."

The band members write all their own songs and their children are at the centre of their creative work.

Fellow band members include vocalist Claire Armstrong (36), of Moss Street, Derby - a community artist and mum to five-year-old Callum. The band's bass guitarist is Henry Hinds,

who has a one-year-old daughter, Jasmine Cope-Hinds, and the drummer is mother-of-three Izzy Drury (31), of Fleet Street, Derby.

Miss Drury, a full-time mum to Floyd (three) and 16-month-old twins Frances and Louis, said: "It was my idea to get the band up-and-running. I thought we all needed a break from our maternal duties and playing in a band is so different from changing nappies."

"We've had so much fun. It's been brilliant. All our songs are about being a mum, including pregnancy, having twins and being a step-mum."

The band started up nine months ago and has met every week in the cellar of Miss de Lange's house. She said: "It's a bit like an up-to-date knitting circle."

Andy Sewell (37), landlord of the Victoria Inn, said: "I was delighted to let The Mothers perform here. Promoting new bands is extremely important to me. The women did a sterling job."

● **Punk band mothers rip up convention: Pages 18 and 19.**



● **BLAZE PROBE:** Firefighters at the scene yesterday. Picture: Kevin Gardom

Dog rescued from blazing home

NEIGHBOURS of a house that caught fire had to break in to rescue a dog left home alone.

The blaze started in the kitchen of semi-detached house in Outram Street Court, Ripley, just after 3pm yesterday.

The occupants of the property were out when the fire started.

Leading firefighter Simon Abbs, of Alfreton fire station, said: "The

neighbours discovered the fire and broke in to get the dog out.

"The whole house was absolutely filled with fire and smoke."

Firefighters from Ripley fire station also attended the blaze.

Four crew members wore breathing apparatus to tackle the blaze and three hose reel jets were used.

A neighbouring house became smoke-logged from smoke that had

travelled through the roof space.

Fire fighters broke in to that house to check that no-one was trapped inside.

An investigation into the cause of the fire was being carried out last night.

But, Mr Abbs said that initial clues suggested that the fire had started from an unattended pan left on the heat.

NEWS

► IN BRIEF

Biker critical after collision

MATLOCK: A motorcyclist was last night being treated for serious injuries after he was involved in an accident on the A615 Alfreton Road between Matlock Green and Tansley on Saturday afternoon.

The 40-year-old Chesterfield man, who was airlifted to Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, was riding his bike east from Matlock when he is believed to have been in collision with a car travelling in the same direction at 2.45pm.

His condition was yesterday described as critical.

Call the Derbyshire police witness appeal line on 01773 572929 on information.

Butcher's shock

CHELLASTON: A car crashed into a butcher's shop in Derby Road on Saturday morning. The driver, a woman in her 70s, was uninjured but was taken to Derbyshire Royal Infirmary suffering from shock.

Her Nissan Sunny car ploughed through the front of Chellaston Butchers and smashed the large window pane.

Trapped in lift

DERBY: Two customers were trapped in a lift in a Derby city centre sports shop yesterday.

Firefighters from Kingsway and Nottingham Road stations were called to JJB Sports, in St Peter's Street, at 12.46pm. They managed to free the adult and child by 1pm.

Blaze at terrace

NORMANTON: Firefighters were called to a blaze at a house in Belvoir Street shortly before 4am yesterday. The fire, which was in a first floor room of the terraced property, was thought to have been caused by an electrical fault.

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