



national association of
welfare rights advisers

Hosted by Derbyshire Welfare Rights Service

**Friday 27th November 2009
@ Chesterfield Legacy Hotel
Malkin Street, Chesterfield S41 7UA**

AGENDA

- 09.30 **Registration and refreshments**
- 10.00 **Welcome** - Lois Race, Principal Welfare Rights Officer,
Derbyshire Welfare Rights Service.
- 10.10 **Minutes from previous meeting** and any matters arising.
- 10.20 **Information Exchange** – an opportunity to share ideas,
knowledge and good practice with other advisors and
colleagues.
- 11.00 **Guest speaker - Helen Goodman MP**, Parliamentary Under-
Secretary of State at the Department of Work and Pensions.
There will also be a brief Q & A session.
- 11.45 **Break**
- 12.00 **Committee report** – update on NAWRA activities and
discussion
- 12.30 **Lunch**
- 13.30 **Workshops – session one** (see next page)
- 14.30 **Refreshments**
- 14.45 **Workshops – session two** (see next page)
- 15.45 **Plenary session** – workshop feedback and any other business
- 16.00 **Close** (and NAWRA Christmas party begins...!!)

GUEST SPEAKER

Helen Goodman was elected MP for Bishop Auckland in May 2005 and was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Work and Pensions in June 2009. In her role at DWP, Helen focuses on combating child poverty and providing affordable child care.

Prior to becoming a Minister, Helen was an Assistant Government Whip (October 2008-June 2009), and was Deputy Leader of the House of Commons from June 2007-October 2008. She has also served as a Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Ministry of Justice, and has worked both on the influential Public Accounts Committee and the pre-legislative Scrutiny Committee for the Climate Change Bill.

Before her election in 2005, Helen was a senior civil servant at HM Treasury, a senior executive of two children's charities, and Director of the Commission on the Future of Multi Ethnic Britain. She is married with two children, and outside of politics she enjoys cooking, walking and being with her family.

WORKSHOP CHOICES

1. **'Welfare rights in GP practices - getting the best support out of health staff'**
– George Downs, Derbyshire Welfare Rights Service

George Downs has developed innovative ways of working with GP practice staff over the last 12 years. Come along to this interactive workshop which aims to share good practice and expertise.

2. **'Training the Judiciary'** – Judge Howard, The Tribunal Service

Judge Howard was first appointed as a part time chairman in 1988 and became a full time chairman in 2002. As well as being a full-time District Tribunal Judge in Derbyshire, he is also coming to the end of his time as Regional Judicial Training Officer. Judge Howard has lectured extensively to solicitors and social workers and wrote the welfare rights section of the Routledge Guide to the Elderly. He was formerly on the editorial board of Solicitors Journal and has written articles some on welfare rights issues. In 1990 he was the solicitor to the Staffordshire Child Care Inquiry and spent a year investigating the 'Pin Down' scandal.

In this workshop, Judge Howard will look at a broad range of issues including function and diagnosis, duty judges and directions. There will also be an opportunity to discuss how the new rules are working with regard to withdrawal and reinstatement of cases, strike out and barring the Secretary of State from participating.

3. **'Employment & Support Allowance – happy 1st birthday?'** – NAWRA committee

This workshop will be participant led, giving an opportunity to focus on issues advisers and clients are experiencing one year after the introduction of Employment & Support Allowance. This will include experience of medical assessments, the quality of decision making, appeals and other issues. Come along to share your experiences and learn from others.

4. **To be confirmed**

Social Evening! Thursday 26th November.

If you are arriving on Thursday, why not join us from 7pm onwards at:

**The Portland Hotel (Weatherspoons)
West Bars
Chesterfield S40 1AQ**

Directions: See map location 7.

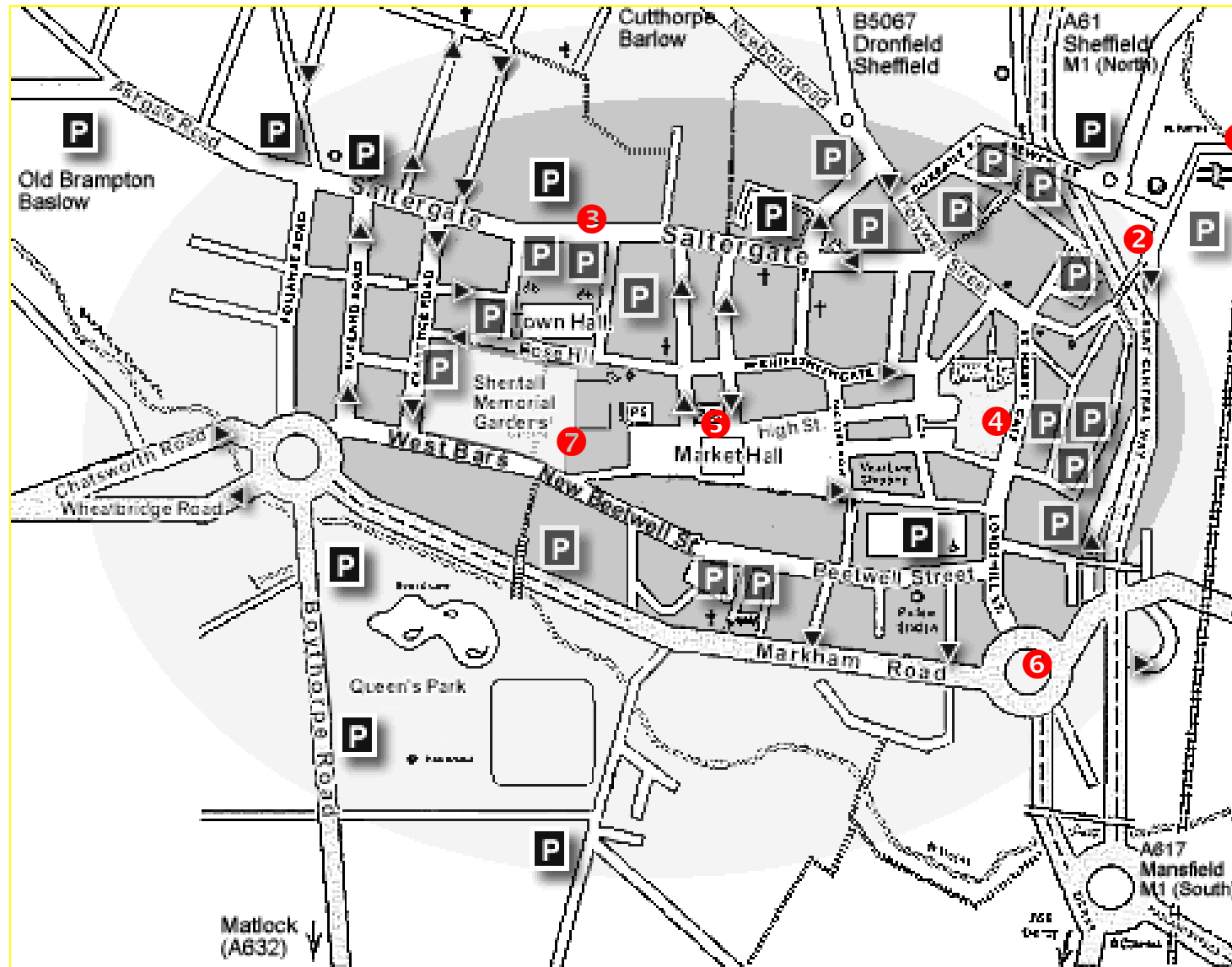
Christmas party! Friday 27th November.

For those of you looking to kick off the festive season early, why not stay on Friday for the inaugural NAWRA Christmas party? It promises to be a fun-packed evening with all the usual trimmings¹. There will be the option of a meal in the Chesterfield Legacy hotel restaurant, followed by dancing until the early hours². Alternatively, just stay on for a few drinks and a bit of sociability with colleagues and friends both old and new!

¹ Well, sort of!

² Ibid.

NAWRA Conference 27th November 2010 @ Chesterfield Legacy Hotel



- 1** Railway Station
- 2** Chesterfield Legacy Hotel (meeting venue)
Some parking available across from the Hotel
- 3** North East Derbyshire District Council Office
- 4** Crooked Spire
- 5** Post office
- 6** Lordsmill roundabout
- 7** Portland Hotel (Weatherspoons pub)
– Thursday night social