

# Burton Mail

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**A.O.R.**  
has finally  
come to  
**BURTON  
CLOWNS**  
on  
**THURSDAYS**

## Honour for 'Bingo Bob'

In just two years Mr Bob Mears has single-handedly raised over £5,000 for charity.

A quiet, unassuming man, he works hard and according to his friends he will do whatever he can to help people in need.

Mr Mears is the winner of the first BTR Burtonian of the Month award.

A letter backed by over 60 signatories nominated

## FOREST: IT'S ALL OVER

BY KAREN LOCKHART

The fight to save the Forest of Needwood High School at Rolleston is over.

The white flag of surrender was raised at a public meeting in the village last night after an overwhelming majority decided it was time to give up.

It marks the end of a 20-month fight by governors, teachers and parents to save the condemned school.

Their last bid effort was to try to take the matter to court and gain a judicial review of the proposed closure.

The chairman of the school governors, Mr Ken Green, who has led the fight from the start, said last night they had little chance of winning such a case.

A barrister, Mr Stephen Pedley QC, was employed to determine if the school had a case. This cost £1,700, which was mainly met by the school Parent-Teacher Association.

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## Labour triumph in poll

Retired rating officer Mr Charles Davey has won a seat on East Staffordshire District Council.

Mr Davey, a Labour candidate in the by-election at Uttoxeter yesterday, worked for the council up until two years ago.

"We worked very hard and it was on the cards we would win," 63-year-old Mr Davey said today.

The election brought about by the resignation of the Rev Peter Miln, a Liberal, means the

# MARKET GETS MAILED

# Forest

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Mr Green said that having spoken to Mr Pedley the night before, he was told the odds were against an appeal in court succeeding.

Mr Pedley had said it would be necessary to prove there had been some failure by the education authority to conform to the legal requirements of the consultation.

This would have to be proved despite any arguments on grounds of moral implications or on principle.

Despite this, Mr Pedley said he felt the fighters had had a raw deal and he expressed total support for the principles of the case and considerable sympathy for their position now.

After hearing this the meeting was asked to vote on whether or not to carry on the fight. The answer was an overwhelming "no."

The Forest is due to amalgamate with the Wulfric School at Horninglow with the eventual closure of the Rolleston buildings in 1989. A new school, with a new name, will open on the Wulfric sites after August 31 this year.

The Forest is also home to a 1,000 strong youth club, the biggest in Staffordshire, which will also close. Plans are in hand for a smaller club to meet on the Rolleston school site.

Mr Green told the meeting: "Although we are now approaching the final bell and we have taken a fair amount of punishment for our efforts, I think you should be confident the fight was right, even if the weights and the rules were wrong, but we did not control these.

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Our main criticism of the local authority, and whatever happens they will have responsibility for this, is that not only did they fail to recognise and consider the youth and community value of the school, they didn't even recognise its value as an educational establishment.

I am convinced that, considering the odds against us, no school has put up such a hard, honest and determined fight for survival," he said.

Mr Green said there was no doubt that educationally, morally and socially they had proved their case and many people who had criticised them initially for what they forecast had since had to eat their words.

He had absolute confidence in the ability and enthusiasm of Mr Brian Hughes, who will be headmaster of the new school, and in the staff who had been appointed.

He thanked the Forest parents for their work in the fight and urged them to continue their work in making their new school a success.

"If parents give Mr Hughes and his staff the same degree of support as they have given us over the last 18 to 20 months —then he could not ask for more than that.

"I wish the new school and all associated with it the very best of good fortune."