

Beyond Reasonable Doubt

Justice for Derek Christian

Newsletter No. 3, October 2000

Dear friends,

Welcome to the third newsletter from *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*. And long overdue it is too. Nearly a year has passed since the last newsletter. The main reason being that Tracey and Kevin, in addition to their other commitments, have been extremely busy working on my case. Much has happened in the past twelve months. We will be reporting on some of the developments in this newsletter, (and hopefully another before the year is over.)

In the meantime I've seen in the millennium, and 'celebrated' my 36th birthday in prison, so I'd like to start by offering belated thanks for the many Xmas and birthday cards I received. They brighten the place up. Christmas was quiet, with no carol singers to be heard anywhere, but I made sure I cooked myself roast beef, Yorkshire puds and all the trimmings. The millennium celebrations were Radio 1 chasing after the new year with TV pictures from BBC1. I saw in 5 millenniums in 15 hours – Australia, South Africa, Britain, New York and Honolulu.

At midnight we all celebrated the new year in traditional prison fashion – making as much noise as possible by banging objects against the doors for 15 minutes.



The return to work was a continuation of where I'd left off – exams. I passed the First Aid at Work course. I got a distinction for my City & Guilds maths exam, and passed units for Integrated Business Technology and Word Processing. I've also done some more computing courses and should have the results soon. In the summer, however, I started working for Her Majesty again. I'm now a cleaner! It's only for a short time as I may have to move. I am still attending a higher education course run by Rushden College, which I have to do if I want to study with the Open University. I also get an extra education session – cookery. Not that I need the lessons, it's a chance of some decent food for 'free'.

Earlier this year I read "Some prisoners are not guilty of the crime with which they are charged. They suffer a special anguish. Do we listen to them and support them in the quest for justice?"

As the third anniversary of my conviction approaches, I would like to thank all of you for listening to me and supporting me in my quest for justice.

Derek

News & Updates

Legal News

We have now received an independent report examining the evidence in Derek's case. This report has prompted us to seek further expert advice, and we are making progress which will hopefully culminate in an application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC), which is responsible for reviewing cases in which it is claimed there has been a miscarriage of justice. We are now hopeful that we can make a strong application, sooner rather than later.

Innocent

Since **Innocent**, the Manchester-based campaigning group, took up Derek's case in October last year, Tracey and Kevin have developed a close relationship with the organisation and its members; Tracey plays an active role in the administration of the group, and Kevin has designed and created a new Website for **Innocent** (www.innocent.org.uk).

Through the Website, **Innocent**, and thus all those involved in the organisation, have been able to establish many useful contacts in the past months. These contacts which will hopefully not only benefit Derek but also the many other victims of a miscarriage of justice throughout Britain.

Austin Mitchell MP

At the end of July Kevin met with Austin Mitchell MP to discuss Derek's case. Mr Mitchell, the Labour MP for Great Grimsby since 1977, has offered his support for Derek's eventual application to the CCRC. Mr. Mitchell comments "clearly a series of questions have been raised over this verdict and evidence has been brought in which casts doubt on the original case. In the light of this it is only right that the verdict should be reviewed by the CCRC".

As well as being Chair of the Campaign for a National Legal Service, Mr Mitchell

is a familiar face to television viewers in the Yorkshire area since his days on the regional news programme, Calendar.

Further information about Austin Mitchell is provided at his Web site: <http://www.austinmitchell.force9.co.uk/>

How to help the campaign

- Write to your **MP** or the **Home Secretary, Jack Straw**, at the **House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**, requesting their support and demanding that Derek's case be referred back to the Court of Appeal. We can provide copies of the booklet *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* and a flyer summarising the case, as well as sample letters. Even if an MP is not prepared to support Derek's case, he or she will become aware of the campaign to reverse this miscarriage of justice.
- Write to Derek to show your support for his case.

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