



Prolific 'hobby' author prepares to release new political thriller

BY CHRIS PEDDY

A DERBY author is gearing up for the release of his latest political thriller.

Day Of The Phoenix, Neal James' sixth novel since 2008, is published next Thursday.

Set in 2007, the sequel to A Ticket To Tewkesbury sees the return of politician Steve Marshall and documents his attempts to install a fascist government in the UK.

Mr James, 61, of Heanor, said readers could expect an enthralling story that would make them question their political beliefs.

He said: "I have tried to create a suspense and a believability about the story and it is frightening."

"You are brought over to

"I like to write anything, horror, crime and I have dabbled in romance."

NEAL JAMES

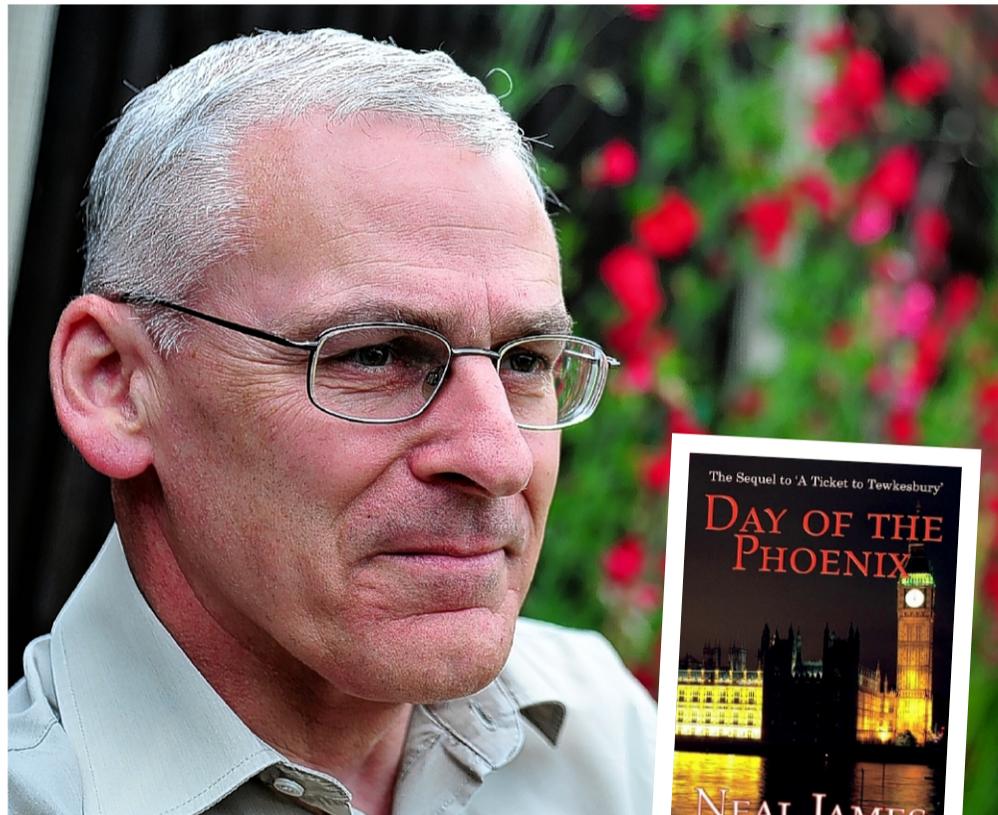
his way of thinking because he is so commanding and powerful in the delivery of his speeches. It asks: 'How far would you go towards electing a fascist government?'"

Mr James recommends that people read A Ticket To Tewkesbury – released in 2008 – first, as much of the story and main characters follow on from the original.

There are many themes that parallel Nazi Germany in the 1930s.

"There are similarities to Hitler in the lead-up to the Second World War," he said. "But the ambitions of the campaign in this book are completely driven by a thirst for power."

Much of the book is set in the Amber Valley area, with



Heanor accountant Neal James is preparing to publish Day Of The Phoenix, his sixth novel since 2008.

THE DAY OF THE PHOENIX

"STEVE Marshall was ready.

This time there would be no mistakes – no-one to derail the plan, and no-one to step outside his ideas for the perfect Britain.

Anyone standing in the way of progress would be unmercifully mown down.

Infiltrating the British Democratic Party was the ultimate solution to the establishment of a Fascist state – a state controlled by him and him alone.

Robert Grafton, the party's current leader, would be the perfect tool in the fulfilment of a dream, and would be just one more stepping stone on a path reaching back to the end of the Second World War.

Marshall had toiled hard and long at the plan since the debacle of 1992.

The organisation had come within a whisker of success, and but for some strokes of outrageous

fortune, MI5 and head, George Watkinson, would have been all but consigned to history. This time it would be different."

Neal James takes this sequel to A Ticket to Tewkesbury into a frighteningly possible future: a future built upon the use of the ballot box to further the aims of a radical political society, and where the lessons of history are all too easily forgotten.

the towns' names changed. But people will be able to relate to the work geographically because Derby and Nottingham are both referred to.

Mr James, an accountant, first began to write as a hobby. He began by writing short stories, many of which have appeared in the Derby Telegraph.

"I like to write anything, horror, crime and I have dabbled in romance," he said. "Next year I am releasing a science fiction thriller which I have already completed."

"There is also a second volume of short stories ready to go."

While he still considers

"Neal is a prolific writer who always thinks outside the box."

VIVIAN AKINPELU

writing novels to be his hobby, he claims he will know when the time is right to put down his pen.

"I write in the evenings and weekends," he said.

"It still is a hobby and, when the fun stops, that's when I'll stop."

The book is published by Pneuma Springs, priced £8.99.

Publishing manager Vivian Akinpelu said: "It is a pulsating, political page-turner. Neal is a prolific writer who always thinks outside the box. He leaves no stone unturned."

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COURTS

Car had no MOT

WALEED Liaqat, 39, of Briar Lea Close, Sinfin, was fined £75, ordered to pay £35 costs and a £20 victim surcharge for driving without an MOT certificate in Almond Street, Derby, on April 28. No separate penalty was imposed for allowing a child under the age of 14 to travel in the car without wearing a seat belt.

Drink-drive ban

KAY Debra Mephram, 58, of no fixed address, was fined £110, ordered to pay £85 costs, a £20 victim surcharge and banned from driving for 20 months for drink-driving in Staker Lane, Mickleover, on July 16.

Licence fraud

DEMI Leigh James, 19, of The Fairway, Newhall, Swadlincote, was handed a 12-month conditional discharge, ordered to pay £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge, for fraudulently obtaining a driving licence in Church Gresley on December 1 last year.

No insurance

THOMAS Barradell, 29, of Rushdale Avenue, Littleover, was fined £110, ordered to pay £35 costs, a £20 victim surcharge, and had his licence endorsed with six points for driving without insurance in Wyatts Way, Stenson Fields, on June 3.

Breached order

CRAIG Byrne, 27, of Beatty Street, Alvaston, was handed a 12-month community order, ordered to pay £85 costs and a £60 victim surcharge for breaching a previously imposed restraining order between December 19 last year and March 8.

All cases dealt with by Southern Derbyshire magistrates

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