

# Mild & Bitter 20<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

JUNE 1977

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DERBY BRANCH OF CAMRA

*EYS... NEWS... NEWS... NEWS... NEWS... NEWS... NEWS...*

## The John Thompson DERBYSHIRE HAS A BREWERY!

"A fantastic thing for the area. Three years ago when the branch started I would never have believed this possible" was the comment from Tim Williams after tasting and learning the details of John Thompson's XXX Special bitter (JTS XXX).

The story of John Thompson's own brew began when the price of one particular beer went up by one penny. Some of his friends jokingly told him that he would do better to brew his own and, with fierce determination, this is what he has done.

On Thursday 2nd June CAMRA members from the Derby and Loughborough branches as well as Area Organiser Spike Golding (and the BBC) were at the Ingleby pub for what was perhaps a premature free tasting session. In the rush to be ready for the Jubilee celebrations Malt Extract had to be used due to the non-delivery of vital equipment and barley.

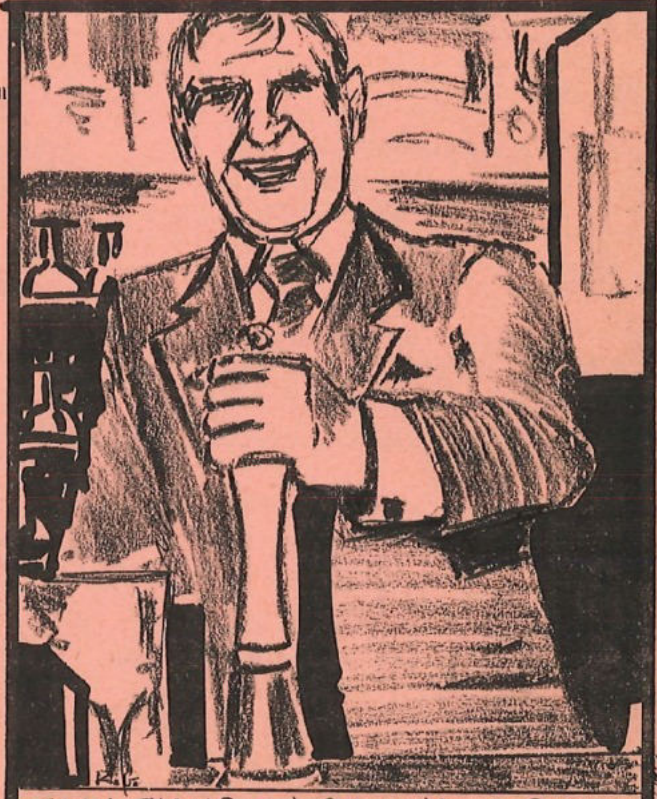
The beer, which had not been allowed to stand for an ideal length of time before the BBC's hastily arranged preview, has an Original Gravity of 1045 and sells at 28 pence a pint. The XXX in the name has been designed to comply with proposed new labelling laws in that it comes into the 1041-1048 OG range.

Mr. Thompson has spent roughly £5,000 on equipping his brew house and is to brew seven barrells a week using loose hops and mashing the malt himself (when vital deliveries are made).

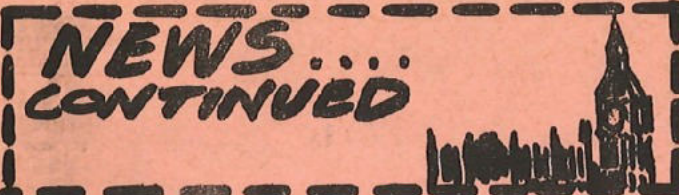
The general opinion of the beer was that it was a pleasant, slightly sweet taste, but refreshing for a beer of its OG. Most commented that it will obviously get better and better.

If Mr. Thompson follows through his plans to brew an unfiltered lager and to serve it through handpumps he could be joining a tiny elite of pubs which serve real lager.

Dave George



JOHN THOMPSON PULLING A PINT



MILD SELLING WELL

Marstons No. 5 Mild is selling well at The Crown Spondon where it was recently installed. The landlord says that the patrons are of the real stuff are converts from No. 3 Keg mild drinkers.

PONTOON TICKETS

Fund raising pontoon tickets should be ready for the next branch meeting.

MILD PRESS RESPONSE

There was dissappointingly no response from the local press or radio to the recent Mild May month.

DERBYSHIRE BEER EXHIBITION

There is to be a Beer Exhibition/Folk Festival at Ilam in September. The Derby Branch will be co-ordinating the Beer Exhibition arrangements and helpers will undoubtedly be called for. The branch has had to turn down participation in another local Beer Exhibition which was due to be held on the same weekend.

CAMRA BEERMATS

The committee are to investigate the possibility of printing beer mats for distribution amongst local real ale pubs.

HEALTHY BALANCE

On 30/5/77 the balance of the accounts was a healthy £273.79 which is up on the previous month's figures.

THE CROWN SHARDLOW

According to various reports this pub is no longer dispensing draught Bass.

BELL AND CASTLE - BURTON ROAD

The Landlord had formerly stated that the mild was only kept for the benefit of a few regulars. According to more recent reports there is no mild to be had at all now. The landlord has also informed one of our members that the pub is being 'done up' but he does not want pressure on his ale.

NAVIGATION - SHARDLOW

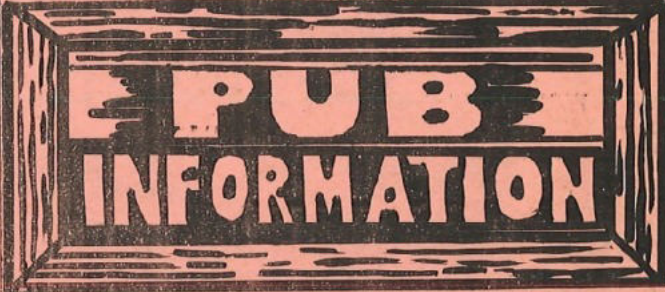
The Landlord states that the pub is being redecorated and that he does not want pressure on his beer.

FURNACE - DUKE STREET

There have been unconfirmed reports that this pub will be extended.

GLOBE - SACHEVERAL STREET

Yet another pub that is due for redecorating. When the Landlady was asked if she thought keg beer would be brought in she replied, "Over my dead body".



RUMOURS

The Bartlewood Lodge may soon be selling D.B.A. and the Durham Ox on Burton Road is being sold privately and will be a free house.

DUKE OF WELLINGTON - MIDDLETON BY WIRKSWORTH

After a visit there by one of our members it was reported that the Landlord had died and his daughter was now running the pub. The Bass is under pressure although the description in the Beer Guide is Gravity Bass. The pub has also been modernised but not tastefully. Could we have confirmation of this please.

MARKEATON HOTEL - KEDLESTON ROAD

All recent reports state that real draught Bass is now being dispensed.

HARDWICK INN - HARDWICK HALL

This pub sells Tetleys Bitter on handpump as well as Youngers Scotch Bitter. This is not stated in the local guide.

MINERS ARMS - BRASSINGTON

According to a reliable report this pub is changing from blanket pressure Pedigree to handpumped Pedigree. The pub has been structurally altered but lacks the character of the Olde Gate, just 100 yard up the road.

SHIRE HORSE - WYASTON (formerly The New Inn)

Thwaites was sold here at one time and the pub was in the National Guide. At present the cellar is being dug out to accomodate cask conditioned beer again. Handpumped Pedigree only will be available.

DOG AND DUCK - SHARDLOW

There is a report that No.3 Dark Mild is now on sale.

**PUB INFORMATION - CONT.**

**TIGER - TURNDITCH**

The Tennant is toying with the idea of having his DBA gravity dispensed. The brewery will have to be consulted first. Apparently the DBA has sold very well as he normally serves a very good pint via the new beer engine.

**BLESSINGTON CARRIAGE - CHAPEL STREET**

Although the Marstons is dispensed through a diaphragm dispenser the Landlord states that it is sold under pressure. He is also having 'trouble' with the Keg but not the draught Ansells. HA HA!

Once again it has been a significant month for Pub Information. You are all doing a good job in reporting news and I hope this keen attitude will continue. Isn't it just great about the John Thompson. *SAM KENNEY*



**THIS ISSUE**

The presentation of this issue will (fingers crossed, touch wood rabbit's foot and four leaf clover on printing machine etc.etc.) be far more professional than the last. The involvement in this issue has been wide with articles from the majority of committee members, typing by Pat and Artwork by Rob Gilvary.

As Editor I find it pleasing and encouraging to the campaign that there are enough relevant pieces of information and activities to me t increasing the size of M&B to eight pages for this issue. I also find it encouraging that others have contributed so much as it has left me to concentrate on the job of Editing. *DAVE GEORGE*

**RESTRAINT!  
PLEASE!**

In view of the large amount of interest which the new beer at the JOHN THOMPSON is sure to generate, please would members try to arrange their visits to this smart and highly popular pub during the quieter periods, and also to refrain from cross-examining the Landlord or staff about the beer. The appropriate members of the committee will be trying to get further technical details and these will be published in M & B. *TIM WILLIAMS*

**TUESDAY  
SOCIALS**

There has been a complaint from various regulars at Tuesday Socials that these otherwise well attended functions still lack one or two familiar faces. While it is appreciated that various committee members have a great deal on their respective <sup>plates</sup> and are often committed to other activities which make attendance impossible it would be encouraging if all committee members could make an effort to attend now and again.

By the same token it would be encouraging to committee members and regulars if a few more faces made an occasional visit to a social. *DAVE GEORGE*

**TRENT  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
TRIP**

Derby CAMRA members made up a considerable proportion of the thirty passengers on Trent's first trip and certainly added impetus to the day's search for real ale. The official programme listed 5 pubs, all in the National Guide, but most CAMRA members improved on this and clocked up 12, 10 of them listed Nationally.

At Spilsby, where the official stop was the White Hart for handpumped Stones and Bass, the CAMRA party managed to sample Batemans at the Nelson Butt and at the Bull which provided not only bitter by gravity but also the new XXX Special Bitter by handpump - OG 1048 and certainly an excellent addition to the Bateman range. The party then managed to taste handpumped Brew X from Tadcaster at the Kings Head and Home Ales at the George where the landlord dispensed by electric pump due to "pressure of trade" not pressure of CO<sub>2</sub>, whilst sadly the handpumps stood idly by.

The coach next stopped at The Three Tuns at Ingolmells, where the CAMRA members perhaps exhausted by their efforts at Spilsby were content to remain with the main party drinking Bateman by gravity in the excellent and friendly old pub.

The afternoon saw various CAMRA members searching Skegness for fish and chips or sleeping peacefully on the beach. (Or getting soaked in the boating lake - Ed)

Lincs. trip continued  
Six down and six to go!

The evening session started at Horncastle where the official stop was at The Bull for handpumped Bass - Worthington. Opinion differed here about the quality of the bitter. A small minority (in the person of one large committee member) declared it undrinkable, but the majority found it acceptable, some also trying the mild which was dispensed from some very unusual lever-type pumps. The party also tried hand-pumped Shipstones at The Red Lion and some excellent Batemans at The Kings Head where handpumps were connected to casks kept at floor-level and the landlord enthused about the insulating qualities of 15 ins of thatched roof. (Thirteen pubs might have been chatted-up had the Crown not resolutely remained closed at 7.15 p.m.)

The coach then moved on to Wragby for a stop at The Adam & Eve for that rarity - handpumped Younger's I.P.A. served in very traditional surroundings. CAMRA members also took the opportunity for a last taste of Home Ales at the nearby Tunor Arms.

The final stop was at Newark where both Rudolphe's County and bitter were both available at the Kirrages as a finale to a most enjoyable day, which had been full of amusing incidents, friendly landlords and bar staff, and consistently good ale. Three non-CAMRA members enjoyed the trip so much that they failed to leave Newark! The Rev. Bellows (or is it Boddos?) whose presence at one stage surprisingly evoked hymn singing remained upright throughout. (Shock shock - Ed). Let's hope that the success of the day will encourage Trent to arrange further trips and who knows next time some Nottingham members may even turn up.

DEREK BLAKEHORE

## LONDON TRIP

Our coach of 23 from Derby and Notts, including the CAMRA member busdriver, descended on the suburb of Hampstead for some liquid refreshment.

The CAMRA investments pub the Nags Head seemed very popular not surprising with an excellent choice of beers: Green King, Fullers, Adnams, Brakspears. Across the road a Youngs House and around the corner The Flask, a famous old Youngs pub serving

Mild, Bitter and Special, again very popular.

Just time also to walk to 2 other locals for a taste of Courage Directors Witbread (Marlow).

Next stop the Jubilee Beer Exhibition at Alexandra Palace. Here a choice of 20 beers to try whilst various displays of trampolining, Folk and Morris - attempted to capture ones attention.

An abandoned pair of goldfish in a plastic bag were taken under the wing of Spike Golding "What are their names Spike?" - "Shepherd and Neame" was the reply "Here carry them for a while."

At 7.30 we departed for St. Albans and once again our master of maps and beerguides, Dave Johnson, navigated us to the Barley Mow, more of a beer exhibition than a pub with a choice of 9 real ales.

The last stop, The Garibaldi, a St. Albans back street local, with a friendly landlord, serving Ind Coope (Romford) and DBA and excellent hot steak and kidney pie. "Time gentleman please. You're very welcome if you pass this way again" - "Hey don't forget your goldfish." T.M.



# MEETING THE UNIONS

## A VISIT TO BASS'S OLD BREWERY

For many draught bitter drinkers in these parts a visit to the Burton Union Room in Bass's Old Brewery is something of a pilgrimage, which not all of us were making for the first time on May 25th. The Burton Union Room takes its name from the 144-gallon casks, or Unions, in which Draught Bass completes its fermentation, and there is possibly no finer sight in the brewing world than those 1500 massive casks arranged in orderly rows in that enormous, heavily-beamed hall.

Much as it may hurt our patriotic pride, English oak is not the best for making beer casks, and each of these Unions is carefully coopered from the closer-grained, sweeter oak of Russia. Though Draught Bass is no longer distributed in wooden casks, the cooper's services are still needed to keep the Unions in good repair, the heads and bung-staves eventually requiring replacement. (It is interesting to note that the only other brewery using the Burton Union System - Marston's - has tried to replace the oaken casks with metal ones, to reduce cleaning and maintenance costs; but the yeast objected, so that's one step Progress did not take.)

Fermentation does not commence in the Union Room but in the 'Square Room', where fresh yeast cultured in the Union Room is pitched into each new wort. After the first vigorous fermentation the wort is then run down into the Unions to ferment out. Before its work is done, the yeast multiplies itself many times, and the Burton Union System was designed primarily to cleanse the beer of excess yeast produced during fermentation. Clinging to millions of bubbles produced by its own action, the yeast is carried up through the bent pipes called "swan necks" and deposited in the overhead barm troughs. There it is cooled to make it settle, and the beer that has been carried up with it is run back into the Unions to complete its fermentation. It is this continuous circulation of the beer over fresh yeast which contributes to the characteristically subtle flavour of Bass beers. Since the introduction of the

skimming method, by which the yeast crop is removed by suction, this old method of cleansing the beer is not thought to be the most efficient, and the Burton Union Room, from Bass's point of view, is not now the most economic unit of the brewery. Its importance, however, to the character of Bass beers and its value in perpetuating the original yeast strain - quite apart from any historical significance - firmly assure its continued existence. Not only Draught Bass but White Shield, Barley Wine, Blue Label and '200' (Belgian Beer) all complete their fermentation in the Union Room (though the last three, of course, are subsequently given the treatment).

One feature of the Old Brewery which was not seen on this occasion was the figure of "Soss", who has been nursing the beer in the cobbled sampling room for 40-odd years, witnessing the changes from oaken to metal casks, from horse-drawn drays to lorries, and from nothing but real ale to "a greater variety of choice for them that wants it". It was, perhaps, because "Soss" wasn't there that our long-awaited sample of Draught Bass was not quite the perfection that it usually is in that place. Nor was there a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for the Reverend Bellows, whose untiring efforts to discover the exact whereabouts of draught White Shield were entirely in vain. R.N.



On Friday 20th May about 60 CAMRA members from the Sheffield, Nottingham and Derby branches descended on the Tiger at Long Eaton for an extended evening social.

Unfortunately, Derby, due to a poor turnout by the branch's top ale swillers, were unable to accept the challenge of a drinking contest from the Nottingham branch. A team of foolhardy locals were brave enough to take them on but failed miserably.

Later in the evening Derby showed their strength as Sam Kenney provided instrumental backing on a very out of tune piano (not that anyone noticed) for the vocalisation (some call it singing) of some Notts and Derby real ale songs. This was led by the well known FIGURE of Spike Golding. Terry Morton

# 1977 REAL ALE SURVEY

The selection of pubs in the local good beer guide was not made by any remote committee but by the 'grass-roots' members of the Derby Branch of CAMRA: in other words, by YOU. Similarly, the entries in the best-selling National Good Beer Guide were also selected on the basis of YOUR VOTES - that is, if you participated. If you did not, then please do so this time. After all, to take part in the Real Ale Survey is not the unpleasantest form of participation, even though not everything you taste may be your cup of tea or, mug of ale.

We already have much information about most of the pubs in the area and about the beers they sell; but much more is needed before we can be satisfied that our next selection is both up-to-date and well corroborated.

Though it may not seem long since the publication of the 1977 National Good Beer Guide, the time is not far off when our entries for next year must be submitted. For those who would rather carry one page than a book, our last entries for the NGBG are listed below as a check list. In addition are a number of others which members have recommended for consideration, and the list is still open. If you try the beer in any of these places in the weeks ahead, will you please record your votes on the green slips available at every Branch meeting or from any Committee Member and return them to Sam Kenny or any member of the Good Beer Guide Sub-Committee.

ASHBOURNE  
ASHOVER  
ASTON ON TRENT  
BELPER  
BLACKWELL  
BOLEHILL  
BRASSINGTON  
CHURCH BROUGHTON  
CRICH  
DARLEY BRIDGE  
DERBY

GREEN MAN & BLACK'S HEAD  
CRISPIN  
WHITE HART  
GRAPES  
HILCOTE ARMS  
MINERS' STANDARD  
OLD GATE  
HOLLY BUSH  
RISING SUN  
SQUARE & COMPASS  
ALEXANDRA  
BUCK IN THE PARK  
EXETER ARMS  
JUNCTION TAVERN  
LIVERSAGE ARMS  
MAFEKING  
ROSE & CROWN  
SIR ROBERT PEEL

DRAYCOTT  
FARNAH GREEN  
HAZELWOOD  
HEANOR  
HORSLEY  
ILKESTON  
KNOCKERDOWN  
LEABROOKES  
LONG EATON

MATLOCK

MORLEY  
OCKBROOK  
PENTRICH  
REPTON  
SHARDLOW

SMALLEY  
SOMERCOTES  
STANTON-BY-DALE  
TICKNALL  
WILLINGTON  
WIRKSWORTH

VINE  
TRAVELLERS' REST  
BLUEBELL  
PUSS IN BOOTS  
NEW INN  
COACH AND HORSES  
DURHAM OX  
KNOCKERDOWN  
THREE HORSE SHOES  
RAILWAY  
TIGER  
DUKE OF WELLINGTON  
SYCAMORE  
THREE HORSE SHOES  
ROYAL OAK  
DOG INN  
RAD ZION  
MALT SHOVEL  
SHAKESPEARE  
NAG'S HEAD  
HORSE & JOCKEY  
STANHOPE ARMS  
CHEQUERS  
RISING SUN  
BLACK'S HEAD  
LIME KILN

Hardwick Hall  
Derby

Hardwick Inn (1st reserve)  
Lord Napier (2nd reserve)

## WHO'S WHO

TIM WILLIAMS (Chairman) 140 Dale Road,  
Spondon, Derby. Derby 676027 (H) /61461  
ext. 3152 (W)

REG NEWCOMBE (Secretary and Derby Editor  
of the Notts and Derby Drinker) 30 Harr-  
ington Avenue, Borrowash, Derby. Nott'm  
(97) 865007 ext. 35 (ask for Joe)

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Mickleover, Derby. Derby 511355 (H)

SAM KENNEY (Pub Information Sec) 60 Stone  
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61481 ext. 78 (W)

TERRY MORTON (Social Sec and Sales Sec)  
23 Priestland Ave., Spondon, Derby. Derby  
674025 (H)

REG NEWCOMBE (Beer Guide Sec and Public  
Relations Officer) 14 Vicarage Avenue,  
Derby. Derby 45399 (H)

DEREK WILLIAMSON (Membership Sec)  
42424 ext. 1576 (W)



Notts and Derby Drinker sales records show that there are several people who have either cash or unsold copies of N & DD which should be handed to Terry Morton at the earliest possible moment, if not sooner.

Still outstanding from the No. 3 Issue are John Kearney (30 copies), Reg Newcombe (10 copies), Paul Gibson (10 copies), Tim Burgess (20 copies) and Mick Chambers (15 copies). *SEE ALSO BELOW*

Well done Dave Johnson and Eric Rodgers wh managed to find cusomers for 120 copies of the third issue between them. T.M.

# THREATS & HARRASMENTS DEPARTMENT

I wonder if you realise the risks you take as an everyday member of CAMRA? There are all kinds of unpleasant dangers - for example, what if a clumsy member were to quite accidentally tip the contents of the Lager spill-tray over your suit? Or if an absentminded AD like Mr. Golding were to sit on you, thinking the chair was empty? Or if the Treasurer were to order 5 reams of headed notepaper, and your name were to accidentally be put on the invoice? You see what I mean?

Naturally, we are deeply concerned for your safety, and we would hate to see such an unpleasant thing happen. So let me explain just how to avoid it:

i) The next time you see a Committee member, rush up to him and say, "hello, sit nice to see you, let me buy you a pint!" or some similar phrase (provided it carries the gist of the kind offer). OR

ii) Write an article for the Notts & Derby Drinker, and give it to Rog Robinson (With the offer of a drink if you like .....) The sort of article is really up to you, anything about beer or pubs which might interest the drinking man/woman. In particular, you can build up a fair bit of credit by visiting your local DBA pub, and finding out how well the stuff is selling, and what sort of trade it attracts -

\*OUTSTANDING FROM No 2 ISSUE - JOHN KEARNEY (23 COPIES) / PAUL GIBSON (20 COPIES) / TIM BURGESS (24 COPIES)

locals, trendies etc. This will be of great help in the production of an article on the success of DBA, and could well prevent a nasty accident at the next Branch meeting - did you know that a certain laxative is completely tasteless in beer? .....

(is dat freatening eenuff, boss?)  
"Joe Cool"

# Chairman's Chatter

I've spent some time in London recently, but, for a variety of reasons, had very little choice in which pubs I could visit. Nevertheless, and almost completely by chance, the five pubs I visited produced Ink Coope DBA, Courage Directors Bitter, Watneys Fined Bitter, Braught Bass, and Youngs.

In none of the pubs, however, was there any real indication that CAMRA approved beers were on sale. Had I not been there, mh colleagues from work with me on these occasions would almost certainly have been drinking the pressurised brands familiar to them, not the unfamiliar read ales.

It struck me that this situation must apply also to most of the pubs in our own area. There must be many real ale sympathisers walking into pubs and drinking pressurised brands merely because they have insufficient knowledge to recognise that real ale may be available. One way to help this situation is to get more outlets for the NDD and to get more posters up, particularly in those un-CAMRA-ised pubs not in our current guide.

**STOP PRESS** .....  
...Bartlewood Lodge rumour (page 3) untrue but has Ansell's Bitter handpumped-confirmed.

# DERBY Diary

TUESDAY SOCIALS start 9.15

TUESDAY 21st JUNE

Navigation - London Rd. (BASS)

TUESDAY 28th JUNE

Jolly Colliers - Horsley Woodhouse  
(WARD)

TUESDAY 5th JULY

Bell & Castle - Burton Rd. (BASS)

TUESDAY 12th JULY

Broadway Hotel (DBA)

THURSDAY 23rd JUNE

8.30 The Alexandra. Nextlocal GBG Sub  
Committee meeting.

MONDAY 4th JULY

7.45 p.m. Committee meeting

SATURDAY 2nd JULY

Coach trip to Bristol and Bath (Beer  
Tasting). Depart 9 a.m. Derby Bus Station

Arrive 12 noon Bristol. A visit to the  
Old Fox (A CAMRA Investments pub) serving  
Eadridge Pope, Wadworths, South Wales  
Clubs, Beers.

Other pubs where Ushers, Courage, Holdens,  
Ruddles and Theakstons are obtainable.

Afternoon can be spent shopping in Bristol  
or sightseeing around the Clifton Suspend-  
sion Bridge.

Evening. Boarding the coach for Bath to  
sample more of the beers in the area.  
(Deposits to Terry Morton)

THURSDAY 14th JULY

8 p.m. Branch meeting Liversage Arms,  
Notts Rd.

THURSDAY 11th AUGUST

8 p.m. Branch meeting Royal Oak, Ockbrook.

## MISS CELANESE ★ WANTS

Anyone who knows anything about the  
removal and replacing of chrome plating  
or Vapour blasting please contact Sam  
Kenney or John Broadbent.

## SUB COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Belper Area - Ian Grimshaw, Belper 3270

Matlock Area - Trevor Peacock, 62 Dale Rd,  
Matlock.

Ripley and Heanor Area - Mick Chambers,  
Belper 5160 and Tim Burgess, Derby 880656.

Beer Exhibition - John Griffiths, Derby  
702372

Handpump - John Broadbent

Historic Pubs - Chris Gale

Pub Contact Scheme - John Kearney

Pub Sales - Dave Johnson

Raffles organiser - Keith Normington

Meeting Sales Organiser - Jeff Fletcher

Press Cuttings Curator - Gill Burgess

## Agenda

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters  
arising.
2. Branch News
3. Social and other notices
4. Beer break
5. Pub contact scheme and Beer Guide  
compilation
6. Any other business