

MILD & BITTER

Derby CAMRA - A new member welcome

The Derby Branch of CAMRA warmly welcomes once again the 48 new members who signed up at this year's Winter Beer Festival and thanks you all for joining the campaign.

Welcome also to Mild & Bitter, the internal newsletter of the Derby & Amber Valley Branch which you will receive free once a month. This will help keep you informed about what's going on within the Branch as well as events further afield and we do hope you will be able to come along to one or two of the social events that we organise. These are always listed on the Diary Page at the end of M&B. We are all quite approachable and very sociable so please don't hesitate to give an event a try, I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

Derby Branch Meeting & Social - Brunswick Inn, Station Approach, Derby - Thursday 11th March - 8pm



The March Branch Meeting will be held at the Brunswick Inn on Station Approach in

Derby beginning at 8pm.

The 'Brunny' is a Good Beer Guide regular and usually has a large selection of Real Ales on including many from the onsite Brunswick Brewery.

The Pub itself lies near the Railway Station and is quite easy to find being just a short walk from the City Centre. The meeting will be held in the upstairs function room and the agenda is printed elsewhere.

So why not pop along if you get the chance as the meetings are usually good social occasions as well. For further information **contact the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or e-mail: ianforman@btinternet.com**

Derby Branch Annual General Meeting

The Derby CAMRA Annual General Meeting will take place on **Thursday 22nd April** in the rear Function Room

of the Flowerpot pub on King Street in Derby. It will begin at approx. 8pm.



The evening will include the election of the new Committee, presentation of Branch Accounts and handing out of Branch Awards. Any current member can stand for any committee post but nominations must be in the hands of the **Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or e-mail: ianforman@btinternet.com** prior to the start of the AGM. There are up to nine posts in total - Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and 6 Committee Posts.

Current Chairman, Dan Cramp has indicated he is standing down as is Stewart Marshall from the Committee so there will be a few posts that need filling at the AGM. If you are interested then please come forward and volunteer. No experience is necessary just a willingness to get involved. If you would like to know what it entails then just contact any current Committee member for an informal chat.

National AGM 2010

Members weekend away

The National AGM & Members Weekend runs from **16-18th April** in the Isle of Man and is usually a cracking social weekend away. As well as all the formal CAMRA business that takes place there is a Beer Festival to visit, Pub Crawls to do and Brewery Trips to go on, so the whole weekend is a fun packed, enjoyable occasion for all those present.

A handful of Branch members usually attend so why not come along and join us. For tourism or accommodation information please go to **www.gov.im/tourism** or ring the **tourist information centre on 01624 686801**. For anymore information on the weekend go to **www.camra.org.uk** and click on "Members Weekend".

Derby Winter-Fest Success

Well what another great Winter-Fest it was with record crowds drinking dry the

9th Derby CAMRA Winter Beer Festival.

Most people seemed to be having a good time and we have received some good

feedback about both beer and bands. The beer range and quality was superb with none left on at the end despite ordering a lot of late beer during the Festival itself. And the bands certainly seemed to attract the punters in with large queues across the Market Place on Friday and Saturday evening. We also managed to sign-up 48 new members which is a record for a Winter-Fest. All in all then a successful event and we hope you enjoyed yourselves too whether your visit was just as a punter or you helped out at the event itself. Roll on next year.

Derby Winter-Fest Appointment of New Chairman

February 2011 may seem along way off but the new Chairman needs to be appointed asap so that he/she can start the planning process for next year's 10th event and get the Committee in place to run it. To this end every Branch Member is entitled to stand for this important post and if you would like to do so then **contact the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or e-mail: ianforman@btinternet.com** before the start of the next Committee Meeting on **Monday 12th April** when the decision will be made. Current Chairman Ralf Edge has indicated his willingness to stand again.

Derby Winter-Fest Workers Trip

A reward trip has been organised for all those of you who helped out at this year's Derby Winter Beer Festival. This will take place on **Saturday 13th March 2010**.

The trip will begin at Derwent Street, Council House in Derby at 11:30am and take in the Barley Mow, Kirk Ireton, the Yew Tree Inn at Caudon (for lunch), the Black Lion at Consall, the Wilkes Head at Leek and the Green Man Royal Hotel in Ashbourne, arriving back at Derwent St, Derby at 11pm. If you haven't already put your name down for it then please **contact the Winter-Fest Secretary, Joyce Sawford on 01332 346945 or e-mail:- joyce.sawford@ntlworld.com**

PS. If you didn't work at the Winter-Fest but would still like to go then contact Joyce as above.



Derby Survey Trip Organizer Required

Stewart Marshall has stepped down as Pub Surveys Officer and we therefore require somebody to come forward and volunteer. The job of Pub Surveys Officer has several roles:-

Organise Pub Surveys; Collect Pub Survey Data; Organise selection of pubs for the GBG; Organise and edit pub entries in the GBG.

It is vital that one or more members take on this role of organising pub surveys. Without it, it is doubtful whether enough pub surveys would be carried out to produce a set of data useful enough for selecting entries for the GBG.

A brief description of the role is to organise pub surveys in the Derby Branch area by a variety of transport methods including walking, cycling, public transport and minibus. These surveys need to be planned about two months in advance to allow enough time for them to be published in Mild & Bitter, Derby Drinker, What's Brewing and the Derby CAMRA website.

If you are interested in this role then please contact Stewart Marshall or any committee member.

Camramble Cromford to Matlock

A walk has been planned on **Saturday 24th April** of either 4 miles taking in Cromford, Bonsall, Matlock Bath or 7 miles also incorporating Matlock Town. From Derby Bus Station catch the 6.1 service at 12:50pm to Cromford, a £4.60 zig zag ticket will cover all transport.



We will meet at The Bell in Cromford, then take a path around an old quarry into

Bonsall (Barley Mow and Kings Head). Heading along a track and some woodlands to the Temple Hotel, then dropping further to the A6 at Matlock Bath (options include: The Fishpond, The Princess Victoria, Riva, The Midland and

County & Station.) Here the 4 mile walk ends with various bus options returning to Derby.

The longer route heads out of Matlock Bath to Starkholmes (The White Lion), the remainder of the route is on tarmac, dropping down to Matlock Town and heading up Matlock Bank (The Sycamore and The Thorn Tree). The last bus back to Derby arrives at 22.38. If you are interested then **contact Jenny Rowland on jendave01@tiscali.co.uk.**

Nottingham Stout & Porter Trail

The annual Nottingham Stout & Porter Trail is now on and will run until 27

March around 31 of Nottingham's pubs and the trail card is printed in the current Nottingham Drinker. It will feature an array of different stouts and porters from all over the country throughout the period.

You only need to visit 6 different outlets to be entered into a prize draw for bottles of stout and porter so if you enjoy a bit of the black stuff then why not venture over to Nottingham during March and sample a few pints of this exceptional beer style.

Derby Rowing Club Boat Race Beer-Fest

The annual Derby Rowing Club Boat Race Beer Festival will be held over the weekend of **Thursday 1st April till Sunday 4th April** and is timed as always to coincide with the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race which will be shown live on the Saturday.



The Festival will be open Thursday and Friday evening and all day on the Saturday and Sunday with a good range of Real Ales to try on both the bar and separate stillage. Food will be available throughout.

Minutes of the Derby Branch Meeting held at the Rowing Club on Thursday 11th February 2010

Apologies. Eric Streets, Jok Arguile, Konrad Machej, Reg Newcombe, Bill Dudley.

Mins of the last meeting. Accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising. Osnabruk misspelt.

Officers' reports.

Chairman. Dan announced officially that he was to stand down at the next AGM. Candidates were sought. There was also a vacancy for Stewart Marshall's survey job. POTY forms were available for members. Dean Smith may wish to become social secretary. Dan had not met Ian Phillips yet so no progress on website change.

Treasurer. Nothing to report.

Beer Festivals.

Winter. Ralf gave a report and said it had sold 50% more beer than expect. Queues of up to 300 people. Maybe a larger venue next year. 22nd Feb wind up meeting. Ralf and his committee were thanked by the branch.

Summer. No date for next meeting.

DD. Pip thanked everyone for their help to get it out for the festival. Next deadline 20th March. Pubs in Swanwick to be photographed. Stands for DD have arrived and are held by Joy.

GBG/ Surveys. Final GBG Selection meeting at Falstaff on 15th Feb. Willington, Boylestone on Fri 12th Feb this will be Stewart's last. Still need GBG write ups. Stewart named and

shamed. He called for more out of town surveys via the national system. He called for a successor to come forward.

Locale. Athol not at meeting.

Membership. 1470 total lost 12 but 22 new members and 48 new members at festival 31 will be Derby members.

M&B. Was a little late than normal due to the Winter-Fest. Gareth apologised.

Amber Valley. Everything going well with 30 at last meeting. Proposed beer festival next year at Butterley Rail centre?

Information Exchange. Furnace closed because of fire damage and burglary. Lime Kiln - Wirksworth has applied for change of use. Roebuck at Melbourne has permission for change of use. 2 pubs to other use in 2009, 2 pubs demolished. 38 pubs closed. Julian to send report.

Julian Tubbs had list of pubs closed etc. Chestnut Tree has reopened. Slug and Lettuce has real ale with regular bands on last Fridays of month with free entry. St George's day beer festival around pubs in Swanwick. Club 101 now Diva to reopen with 40 real ales. Owned by Queen's Head Marpool licensee. Ilam hall beer festival? Sept?

Diary. As in M&B. 13th March Winter festival thanks trips. Donations required for non workers. Bus trip 49 seater. Details in M&B.

AOB. Reg Newcombe was out of hospital today. The branch sent him its best wishes via a card.

Gwen Shandu gave details of WEA courses and suggested we write an article for Village voice for pubs in Melbourne area. Any winter festival claims for payment? Licensee of Queen's head asked about boundary issues for pubs. He is in Erewash but his customers are in Amber Valley. He was worried about his pub being adequately represented. **Meeting closed at 9.26pm.**

Derby Branch Meeting Agenda

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Matters arising.
4. Officers' reports - Chair, Secretary, Treasurer.
5. Other reports - Beer Festivals, Campaigning, Derby Drinker, Good Beer Guide & Surveys, LocAle inc Liaison Officers, Membership, Mild & Bitter, Pubs Officer, Publications, Pub Preservation, Regional, Sales, Sub-Branch, Tasting Panel, Transport, Website, Etc
6. Information exchange - Pub, Brewery and Technical
7. Committee Meeting Report Back.
8. Diary - Meetings, Socials, Trips and Events.
9. Any other business (give notice to Chair prior to meeting commencing meeting).

VALLEY VIEW

News from the Amber Valley Sub-Branch

DEAD POETS IS INAUGURAL PUB OF THE YEAR



Seven surveyors, using CAMRA's national scoring formula, have judged the **Dead Poets Inn** (pictured), Chapel Street, Holbrook, to be Amber Valley's first Pub of the Year. Sub-branch Chairman, Peter Hounsell, will present mine hosts, Bill and Sue Holmes, with a framed certificate on **Thursday, 11th March at 9pm** and all are invited. Bill and Sue's tenure began seven years ago when Everard's bought the white painted free-house, but it was back in 1998 when the then Cross Keys was rescued from oblivion by David Brown.

The removal of panelling and carpeting revealed original features that had been invisible for decades. Stone flagged flooring; an inglenook and a delightful snug caught the eye once more, whilst half a dozen real ales made the Poets a favoured haunt of ale aficionados. A much improved patio area, conservatory and eleven consecutive Good Beer Guide listings merely embellished the pub's reputation. All 300 branch members were invited to nominate their 8 top pubs and Pub of the Year results are, in descending order, as follows with scores quoted being from a maximum of 1,050. Dead Poets 810; George and Dragon, Belper 759; King William, Milford 722; George, Ripley 717; Bear, Alderwasley 709; Cross Keys, Belper 700; Holly Bush, Makeney 684; Poet And Castle, Codnor 654. The George and Dragon, King William and George are, therefore, adjudged to be "highly commended".

With a raft of real ale pubs having re-opened in recent months, competition for next year's Pub of the Year is certain to be intense.

TALBOT TAPHOUSE TUESDAY TASTING

If Belgium beers are to your taste, then the Butterley Hill, Ripley hostelry could be your destination on **Tuesday, 23rd March**, when Amber Ales and Duvel Moortgat breweries co-host a tasting evening which gives you the chance to sample ten Belgium ales from Duvel's three breweries. Tickets and further details are available from Andy Brett on 01773 742626. The pub's first beer festival will be held Easter weekend to celebrate National Cask Ale Week.

PUB INFORMATION

We welcome new licensees to the Moss Cottage, Ripley,



which is now serving three real ales, and to the venerable Holly Bush, Makeney, where Chris Wilbraham, an Amber Valley CAMRA member, is the new manager. This is Chris's first formal appointment in the licensed trade and we wish him well. Our other Holly Bush, at Marehay, Ripley, is serving Adnams and Pedigree. Declan Nixon, the enterprising licensee of the Fishermans Rest, Broadholme, is hosting a series of "meet the brewer evenings", which saw Dean and Chris Richards showcasing their Nutbrook beers at the 1st event at the end of Feb.

MINUTES OF THE AMBER VALLEY CAMRA MEETING AT THE TAVERN, BELPER ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2010

Meeting started at 2030 with 17 attendees and **apologies for absence** from Stewart Marshall and Peter Clark.

Minutes of last meeting Accepted as a true record. **Matters arising** None

Committee reports Free bus trip surveying pubs in Turnditch, Windley and Shottle on Friday, 19th March. Saturday, 17th April would see us surveying pubs in Somercotes and Leabrooks. These free excursions are increasingly popular, with 15 on the last one, so please book in advance to ensure your place. Chairman, Pete, hoped to attend next Derby meeting and Nathan had been present at Derby's final GBG selection meeting. Membership Secretary, Gus, was absent. Secretary, Paul, passed round a schedule of Derby meetings. He had registered the George and Dragon and Talbot Taphouse online and these pubs were now in receipt of point of sale material relating to discounted beer to CAMRA members. Paul had written, with a view to staging a beer festival, to the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway (no reply) and the Midland Railway Trust, whom we had now met.

Price survey forms were handed in.

Amber Valley beer festival Nathan spoke of the need to reduce the Derby branch subsidy and felt that the symbiosis of a joint venture with the Midland Railway Trust could be mutually beneficial. We are awaiting costings from MR although their initial quote of nearly £10 for a return from Ripley to the Swanwick festival was likely to deter attendance. Should the festival proceed it would be the first weekend in October and we would need to prepare a budget for Derby. Eddie Swayne thought that because we were hoping to fill MR's trains, MR should discount their fares for the festival. Other venues were mooted including

Lumb Farm and Denby Pottery. Further discussions will be held in the wake of the Pub of the Year presentation on 11th March. Carl Brett's name was mentioned in connection with the treasurer's position. No volunteers for a festival chairman were forthcoming.

2011 GBG selection Owing to the duration of time this issue required it was unanimously agreed to have a dedicated GBG selection meeting next year. The following pubs were chosen: Poet and Castle, Dead Poets, George and Dragon, Waggon and Horses (Alfreton), Red Lion (Ripley), Pattenmakers, Bear, King William, George (Ripley) and Yew Tree, South Wingfield. Amber Hotel, Oakerthorpe is our reserve. Stewart Marshall has earned our gratitude for his comprehensive and prompt statistical data. GBG forms to be done by Pete (Amber Hotel) & Jim Suter (Yew Tree).

National Cask Ale Week Pub crawl on 1st April; 8pm Thorn Tree, Waingroves; 9pm Codnor Inn; 10pm Poet and Castle.

Amber Valley Ale guide Pete and Charisma hoped to publish it in time for NCAW but Paul said it was a tall order.

Meeting schedule Pete suggested rescheduling branch meetings to quieter Tuesdays, but why change a successful formula that members are familiar with? Status quo (Thursday) to remain.

Pub of the Year Paul gave a comprehensive breakdown of the results that saw the Dead Poets as outright winner with the George, Ripley, King William, Milford and the George and Dragon, Belper accredited as "highly commended". Nathan would investigate the possibility of a bus to the Poets' presentation on 11th March.

Pub info New licensee at Moss Cottage, Ripley+3real ales. Generous Britain, Ripley closed. Holly Bush, Marehay is open with Adnams and Pedigree. Steve of the Beehive, Ripley had bought the Butterley Club. New manager, and Amber Valley member, Chris Wilbraham, at the Holly Bush, Makeney.

Future meeting dates 27th Feb regional meeting at Gainsborough. Derby committee meeting on Monday, 1st March at Brunswick. Branch meetings: 25th March, Waggon and Horses, Alfreton; 29th April, Thorn Tree, Waingroves; 27th May, Queens Head, Belper (Andy to book); 24th June, Eagle, Heage (Mick and Karen to book).

AOB Brian Nolan reported that New Inn, Derby Road, Heanor re-opened with Abbot, Bass and Potbelly. Four bids were in for the Cross Keys on the same road. Nags Head, Smalley to become an Indian restaurant. Thorn Tree, Woodlinkin to diversify into a chippie. Paul said the Fishermans Rest, Broadholme is hosting "meet the brewer evenings" starting with Nutbrook on 26th February. **Meeting closed at 22:20.**

Derby Branch Diary

BRANCH MEETINGS - 8pm

Thu 11th Mar – Brunswick, Derby.

Thu 22nd Apr – Flowerpot, Derby – AGM.

Contact the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996.

COMMITTEE MEETING - 8pm

Mon 12th Apr – Brunswick Inn, Derby.

Contact the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996.

BEER-FEST MEETINGS

SUMMER – Thu ? Feb – Alexandra, Derby – 8pm. Contact the Chairman, Martin Roden on 07814 776337.

REGIONAL MEETING - 12pm

Sat 19th June – Temple Hotel, Matlock Bath.

Contact Regional Director, Julian Tubbs on 07962 267743.

WEEKLY SOCIALS - 9pm

MARCH

Thu 11th – Brunswick, Derby – 8pm.

Tue 16th – Coach&Horses/Garden City, Derby.

Wed 24th – Hope&Anchor/Royal Oak Wirksworth.

Tue 30th – Malt Shovel, Spondon.

APRIL

Tue 6th – Alexandra, Derby.

Tue 13th – Robin + Honeycomb / Great Northern, Mickleover.

Thu 22nd – Flowerpot, Derby – AGM.

Thu 29th – Peacock + Bridge, Derby.

Amber Valley Diary

BRANCH MEETINGS– 8.30pm

Thu 25th March – Branch meeting at the Waggon and Horses, King Street, Alfreton.

Contact Social Sec, Nathan on 01773 570675.

POTY PRESENTATION – 9pm

Thu 11th March - Pub of the Year presentation at Dead Poets, Chapel Street, Holbrook.

SURVEY TRIPS

Fri 19th March - free bus survey trip to survey various pubs. Departs Ripley Market Place - 7pm. For Alfreton and Belper pick-ups contact Social Sec, Nathan on 01773 570675.

Thu 1st April - foolish pub crawl - 8pm,

Thorn Tree, Church Street, Waingoves. 9pm, Codnor Inn, Jessop Street. 10pm, Poet and Castle, Codnor.

Sat 17 April -7pm - Ripley Market Place, free bus trip surveying various pubs.

For Alfreton and Belper pick-ups contact Social Sec, Nathan on 01773 570675.

Beer Festivals

MARCH

3-7 - Johnson Arms BF – Nottingham.

4-6 - Loughborough BF - Polish Club.

4-7 - Unicorn BF – Newton Solney.

5-6 - Needlemakers BF – Ilkeston.

10-13 - Leicester BF - CharotarPatidarSamaj

11-14 - Old Poets Corner BF – Ashover.

17-20 – George & Dragon BF – Belper.

18-20 – Burton BF – Town Hall.

18-21 - New Barrack Tavern BF – Sheffield.

18-21 - Fat Cat BF – Sheffield.

25-27 - Walsall BF - Town Hall.

APRIL

1-4 – Alma Inn BF – Melbourne.

1-4 – Rowing Club BF – Derby.

2-5 – Arkwright BF, Sutton C Duckmanton.

2-5 - Talbot Taphouse BF - Ripley.

2-5 - Victoria BF – Beeston.

7-25 – Wetherspoons BF – All pubs.

9-10 - Lichfield BF – Guildhall.

22-25 - Steam Packet BF - Swanwick.

22-25 - King William BF - Milford.

22-25 - Air Hostess BF - Tollerton Notts.

23-25 - Corner Pin BF - Westwood, Notts.

30-3 - Royal Oak BF – Ockbrook.

Mild & Bitter – (C) 2010 Derby & Amber Valley CAMRA

We do our best to ensure that the information in M&B is accurate but no responsibility can be accepted for errors or omissions. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor, nor of the Campaign For Real Ale Ltd.

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