

Mild & Bitter

10th Winter Beer Festival - getting even closer...

As we're sure you all know by now the 10th Derby CAMRA Winter Beer Festival at Derby College's ROUNDHOUSE site is getting ever closer, please put the dates (**24-26th February 2011**) in your diary now! Please try to support us in any way you can, be it behind the scene's work, volunteering during the festival or just supping some beer. We're often asked a few of the same questions regarding the festival so to help answer them here's a few:-

Getting to the festival - that's easy... We plan to run a number of free shuttle buses from the City Centre to the beer festival almost every hour the festival is open. If that's not your cup of tea it's a short walk from the Alexandra Hotel / Brunswick into the college site - there's a gate off the 'Riverside Path' that will be open during the event to save walking round the perimeter of the site. Otherwise the bridge at the Railway Station, which has ticket barriers in place, will be open from 20:30ish every day to allow direct access to the Station Inn (and Arriva buses)!



Beer etc, we'll be having a wide range of beers with lots and lots of dark's and strong's as you'd expected from the Winter Festival, the main change this year is the beer will be conventionally stillaged (like in the Great Hall if you've been to the Summer Festival) so all of the beers will be available from the moment the doors open until they run out. We'll be having around 120 beers from near and far, along with a wide range of Cider's and Perries and Continental offerings.

Cheese? You've probably all heard rumours about a "Cheese Man" at the festival, well it's true, plans are in progress for a prominent Derby city centre Cheese Merchant to be there selling his wares.

More questions? - Well please get in touch with us via **07506 330374 (Ralf)** or **winterbeerfest@derbycamra.org.uk** or finally we're normally at all branch, beer festival and committee meetings and at the next winter meeting on **Monday 25th October in the Brunswick Boardroom at 7.30pm**. If you'd like a chat just ask!
Cheers, Anna & Ralf.

Derby Branch Meeting & Social – Brunswick Inn Station Approach, Derby - Wednesday 13th October

The October 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: Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk**



Derby Branch Pubs of the Year - Selection Time

Yes, it's that time again and if you're thinking that it all seems to have come around rather quickly then you'd be right as the Branch has now moved forward the timetable for Pub of the Year selection so as to give the winners a whole year to celebrate their achievement.

The November Branch Meeting at the Old Spa will see the Branch Pubs of the Year short-listed and once again there will be a City and Country Pub of the Year Award with one overall Branch Pub of the Year Award from the two winners. Runners up will also

receive awards. Last year saw the **Green Man in Ashbourne** take the overall award and the **Falstaff in Derby** the City award and this year's contest is sure to be as keenly fought.

The POTY selection procedure and timetable will be as follows:-



- 1) A Long List of pubs will be created from the top 100 pubs according to NBSS scores and circulated to the M&B list in October. It will also be available at the November Branch Meeting.
- 2) A Short List of finalists, 3 city and 3 country will be chosen by branch members from the Long List at the November Branch Meeting. Each member can select 1 city and 1 country at the meeting.
- 3) Volunteer judges will then mark the shortlisted pubs based on the National CAMRA Scoring System during November and December.
- 4) The results will be announced in January.
- 5) Presentations will then take place during January/February.

If you can't make the November Branch Meeting but would still like to register your votes then please **contact the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or e-mail: Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk** before the start of the meeting.

Derby Branch Pub of the Year – Judges required

The Derby Branch Committee is actively seeking members who are able to take part in the Judging stage of the Branch Pub of the Year competition.

This will take place in November / December this year and will require you to visit all 6 of the shortlisted pubs, 3 from within the City boundaries and 3 from outside. All of the pubs will be marked on the National Pub of the Year judging guidelines.

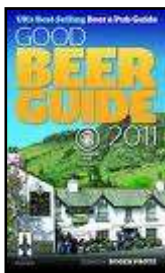
No experience is necessary as you will be shown what to do before you start.

If you would like any further information on this or would like to volunteer to judge then please contact us at:

committee@derbycamra.org.uk

Good Beer Guide 2011

This is now out and copies are available from both Derby and Amber Valley Branches as well as selected local pubs around the region. If bought from the Derby Branch at the next 2 Branch Meetings the cost will be £9.50, a little bit more if bought from one of the pubs. The Guide can be purchased at varying reduced prices, in a number of pubs in the Derby area including: Brewery Tap/Royal Standard, Brunswick, Falstaff, Flowerpot, Mr Grundy's Tavern & Brewery, Old Silk Mill, Rowditch Inn and Smithfield – all in Derby plus the Pattenmakers Arms (Duffield), Old Oak (Horsley Woodhouse) and Royal Oak (Ockbrook).



Derby Branch Vacancies

We currently have three vacancies for roles within the Branch:-

The first is for a **Derby Drinker Editor** as Pip will be moving out of the area so we need to somebody to take up the reigns of our flagship publication. It will require you to put together 6 issues per year. If you have any experience in this field or are looking for an exciting new challenge then please get in touch.

The next is for a **Derby Drinker Advertising Manager** to obtain adverts and thereby sustain a viable Derby Drinker. A full Job Spec is available on request.

And the last is for a **John Thompson Brewery Liaison Officer** to liaise with the brewery and send a report to the Regional coordinator 4 times a year.

If you are interested in any of of these roles then please **contact the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman by e-mail: ianforman@btinternet.com or on 01332 882996.**

Derby Drinker Distributors required.

We are currently looking for Derby Drinker Distributors in the following areas:- Sinfen, Stenson Fields, Sunnyhill, Littleover, Normanton, Peartree, Hulland Ward, Idridgehay, Kirk Ireton, Shottle, Turnditch, Windley. If you need any more details or are willing to volunteer **contact Joy Olivent on 07766 306985 or coopandjoy@lineone.net**

Derby Summer-Fest

Russell Gilbert has been elected as the new Chairman of the Derby Summer Beer Festival and he is keen to get things underway. To this end planning meetings have been arranged for:-

Tue 26 Oct 2010 & Wed 24 Nov 2010 at the Smithfield, 8pm start.

If you would like to take part in the organisation of next year's event then

please pop along to the 1st meeting or contact Russ, russgilbert@o2.co.uk

Local Beer Festivals require your help

Two local Beer Festivals require helpers. The first is the **Nottingham Festival** held in the Castle from 14-17th October.

Contact staffing@nottinghamcamra.org or 07756 001504. The second is the **Erewash Valley Festival** held in Long Eaton on 22/23rd October. **Contact John 07962 318605.**

Pip Bows Out

Branch Committee Member and long time Derby Drinker Editor, Pip Southall will be leaving Derby at the end of the month for pastures new in York.

He has organised a leaving Do at the **Derby Rowing Club on Saturday 23rd October from 7.30pm** and has invited all members to attend. Beers on will include Bishops (Pips) Farewell, KSA and a Blue Monkey at £1 pint while stocks last - courtesy Lol Stevenson - (with a donation box to Lol's charity) plus Burton Bridge.

Mild & Bitter

Due to continuing e-mail distribution problems the committee have been looking at ways around it. It was decided to post it in a members area on the new website when it is up and running. In the meantime a Yahoo User Group will be created where M&B will be posted. This will hopefully alleviate the problems caused by large file attachments getting blocked by Internet Service Providers.

Derby Branch Meeting at the Thomas Leaper 9th Sept 2010

At meeting: 56

Apologies. Pip Southall.

Mins of last meeting. Published in M&B.

Accepted as a true record.

Matters arising. None.

Officers' reports

Chairman. Good Beer Guide launch on 16th Sept. Copies being picked up tomorrow and will be available for members at discounted rate of £9.50 at the next two Branch Meetings. Licensees packs had been received. Perfect pub crawl in Derby is an included feature in GBG. East Mids POTY and COTY will be announced the same day.

Amber Valley beer festival at the end of the month 30th Sept to 3rd Oct. Please support it with work and patronage.

Pub coop scheme has been scrapped by Coalition to be replaced by a leaflet. Lots of MPs signed up for early day motion on pubs.

Review of alcohol taxation to take place. Committee had discussed boundaries with Amber Valley who will take over Somercotes area. Duffield returns to Derby with Horsley Woodhouse being ceded to Amber Valley.

Four branch vacancies published in M&B. Summer festival Chair, John Thompson BLO, DD editor, DD advertising manager, 4th of Oct for offers.

POTY judges still needed please.

Oct is Cider and Perry month and we have a mini Derby crawl on 7th Oct.

Campaigning goals. Website feedback being processed. Looks good!

Discounts-letters have been written. More info next month.

Locale- increase in mileage to 20 miles.

Majority of branch agreed in a vote.

Secretary. Had received licensee packs and will distribute. Had received email.

Treasurer. Jok had supplied a full and detailed report. Append email.

Two unusual items, workers at SIBA beer festival. £700 of DD advertising received. More adverts in next issue.

Questions were asked about what would happen to any AV beer festival profits. AV unable to hold a full branch bank account until they are independent after 3 years.

Winter Festival. A budget scrutineer meeting had taken place re the budget. Hopefully the transport issue is being sorted. Revised quotes being sought for transport. All post filled on committee. Next meeting is on Mon 27th Sept at the Brunswick at 7.30pm.

Summer Festival. We need to decide if we will hold a 2011 festival.

Martin Roden gave a report on the last festival. There were not enough numbers through the door. As such the profits are substantially down on previous years. He suggested several reasons for the lack in numbers. All day opening had not worked. The Darwin had sold all its beer but lots left in main hall. Sale or return to be considered in future. Martin felt that the branch had not pulled their weight and Martin had had to double up on important jobs because there were no volunteers. Martin was thanked by the branch for all his sterling efforts in battling through in the face of adversity.

A branch discussion took place.

Some thought a festival should take place, others felt that we shouldn't. The committee view was that unlike this year, we need a full team in place very early on, if we are to run with a 2011 festival.

Health and safety issues raised by Ray Smith need to be addressed or we will not be able to get insurance.

Had there been some published misinformation or was there a lack of publicity. It might have been that advance publicity had been late in being published by the press. Perhaps we didn't get to our audience despite them going out.

Under 26 subsidy had not been displayed or advertised. So only a third of what we are used to under 26s turned up.

We should learn by our mistakes if we run a 2011 festival.

The crux of the matter was that we are a large branch but have few people willing to take on important jobs.

Russ had put himself forward for 2011 festival and spoke about verbal assurances from nearly all key posts. Again he needed full help to run a successful festival.

The branch were asked if they were in agreement to run a festival. Should we contact all members in M&B? Committee was happy to run a festival if a full team. The branch agreed unanimously. **DD.** New editor needed by 4th Oct. **Membership.** Dispensers available from Konrad.

M&B. Late because of members holidays with copy being received at the last minute but will be on time next issue. There are still might be issues with distribution which needs looking into.

Socials. Weds 22nd Alex social rescheduled for the 18th. Sat 11th survey to Kirk Ireton, Carsington, Brassington, Knockerdon. Lack of interest for Bridgnorth thank you trip. Oct surveys planned.

AV Sub Branch. Still need staff for the festival. Please volunteer.

Branch Awards. Jok spoke about the need for more awards. He proposed the most improved pub for the decade and consistency of excellence awards at the coming winter festival. He called for branch support. Agreed by branch. Committee to discuss.

Pub information. A letter had been received from the Horse and Groom stating the pub was definitely not being sold. Exeter up for grabs? Corner Pin Alan Shepherd – running a pub co and has been the subject of a press release. Mr Grundy brewery on stream tomorrow. Osnabruk twinning support needed. Tiger Turnditch has Thornbridge. Nunsfield beerfestival on 18th. Flyers available.

AOB. Pip Southall is having a farewell leaving do on 23rd Oct, venue to be confirmed. He says, "All are invited, and most are welcome."

Next meeting Weds 13th Oct.

Meeting closed at 10.04pm.

Derby Branch Meeting Agenda

1. Apologies. **2.** Minutes of last meeting. **3.** Matters arising. **4.** Officers' reports - Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. **5.** Other reports - Beer Festivals, Campaigning, Derby Drinker, Good Beer Guide & Surveys, LocAle, Membership, Mild & Bitter, Pubs Officer & Pub Preservation, Publications, Regional, Sales, Socials, Sub-Branch, Tasting Panel, Transport, Website. **6.** Information exchange - Pub, Brewery, etc **7.** Any other business.

VALLEY VIEW

News from the Amber Valley Sub-Branch

AGM

This will be held in the upstairs room of one of the most improved pubs in our area, the



Hunter's Arms, Church Street, Kilburn, on Thursday 28th October, starting at

8pm. CAMRA prides itself on democracy, so should you wish to stand for a committee position, please let us have your nomination with a proposer and seconder, all of whom must be CAMRA members, by the start of the meeting. Chairman, Peter Hounsell, is retiring and Paul Eydon, aka Charisma Bypass, is stepping down from his role as social secretary, so new blood is essential for the branch's furtherance.

The area the Sub Branch covers includes: DE5, DE55 1, DE55 4, DE55 7 and DE56. For further information contact *the Social Sec, Nathan Dillel on 01773 570675.*

New Lease of Life For Thorn Tree

In the 1960s and 70s The Thorn Tree (pictured) on the A610 at Woodlinkin, near Codnor, was a popular Kimberley house run by the Bexon family. The Bexon's pioneered, locally at least, the



basket meal concept, though following their departure, the fortunes of the roadside tavern ebbed

and flowed as licensees came and went. A new dawn broke recently which, on the evidence of a recent visit, promises sustained prosperity. The other half and I dropped in on a weekday lunchtime to find the car park and pub packed. The draw, it seems, is Georges Tradition, whose award winning fish and chips are ordered at your table. We both chose haddock, chips, mushy peas and tartar sauce from the wide-ranging menu, washed down with a pint of Nutbrook Tradition. The bill, which also included a soft drink, came in at a reasonable £18.50. Taylor's Landlord and Black Sheep Bitter were also available on handpump. The Thorn Tree is open all day with last food orders at 930 and a Sunday roast is in the offing. It would be unsurprising to see further ventures such as this.

Pub of the Year

Nominations, which are starting to come in, should be made by 17th November. If you are a CAMRA member, resident in Amber Valley, we invite you to submit your top five pubs by e-mail to maria.curl@hotmail.co.uk or telephone/text 07804 361283 quoting your name and membership number. The eight most frequently nominated pubs will be identified at the November branch meeting, when we will be seeking members to survey them. The winner and runner up will be announced early in 2011.

Inn Brief

Two of our pubs, the attractively fronted Imperial Vaults, Belper, and the Pear Tree, Derby Road, Ripley, both sell Greene King XX Mild, winner of the silver award

in the mild section of the national Beer of the Year gongs.

Minutes Of The Amber Valley Camra Meeting At The Beehive, Ripley On 23rd September 2010

Meeting started at 830pm with 11 attendees.

Apologies for absence Mick Guest.

Minutes of previous meeting Accepted as a true record except that Alison's apology for absence had been omitted.

Committee reports

Chairman said that the festival press launch at the Talbot had been successful. Secretary had posters and GBGs available. GBG licensee packs were handed out.

Social Secretary reported 9 on last survey trip with increasing number of Belper members. 16th October will see us visit Shottle, Windley and Turnditch. 20th November, Ambergate, Bull Bridge and Crich. Membership Secretary absent.

Beer festival Nigel said that although the beer list was nearing completion, it was still subject to late alteration. Strong folk needed on Tuesday in Clay Cross for festival collection. Nathan and Alison volunteered to be in Butterley on Tuesday for dropping off equipment. They are also collecting Mallard beers. Power may be an issue although Andrea Hett at Midland Railway has previously been informed of our requirements in this respect. 750 Derby glasses being delivered. We need some thick polythene damp proof membrane-Pete has some, and Nathan to approach Clowers, builders merchants, in Ripley. In exchange for DPM, we'll distribute their sales literature at festival and give them free tickets. Alison reported that staffing was looking promising although we're a little short on Saturday night. Maria Gibson will help on Saturday night and Charisma and Dider offered to help as well. Nigel said that a beer wholesaler had let him down because now they were charging much more than they originally indicated. The Queens Head, Marlpool is paying £250 for its programme advertisement. Stef to approach radio stations to advertise festival, but Paul will do so as well.

Straw's Gold from Marlpool brewery is a late addition. Nathan asked several questions regarding beer procurement. Alison remarked that Midland Railway was selling tickets online at £6 each, although that's reasonable as it includes a booking fee. More tombola prizes required.

POY timetable Nominations to be in Paul's hands by 17th November. 8 most frequently nominated pubs will be identified at November branch meeting, when surveyors will be sought. Winner and runner-up announced at January meeting and the two presentations will be in March. It was agreed to delete the disabled facilities element and revert to CAMRA's standard surveying form.

AGM Pete Hounsell retiring as Chairman, and Charisma, joint social secretary, was

also stepping down. Nathan expressed concern that the branch secretary may depart. Committee nominations with proposer and seconder must be with the Secretary by 8pm, 28th October.

Pub news Moss Cottage, Ripley, closed. Horse and Jockey, Ripley to open as fish restaurant in January. Crib Bar, Church Street, Ripley, to have real ale. There's a Monday night price war in Kilburn. Martin is allegedly leaving Nags Head, Ripley. George, Lower Hartshay is now a free house and its house beer is brewed by Brampton. Old Macdonalds Farm, Alfreton to open late October and a pre-opening invitation to CAMRA members was mooted.

Future meeting dates 28th October, AGM, Hunters, Kilburn. 25th November, Strutt Club, Campbell Street, Belper (Steve, Beehive to book). 16th December, Poet and Castle, Codnor (Roy to book). **AOB** A big thank you to The Talbot for press launch hospitality, and also to Steve for tonight's sandwiches.

Meeting closed at 10pm.

Derby Branch Diary

OCTOBER

Wed 13th – Branch Meeting - Brunswick, Derby – 8pm.

Thurs 14th - Nottingham Beer Festival, Nottingham castle grounds. Seeing as its Cider Month it's the best I can think off to get a good selection of Cider near us. I'm sure many of you will be able to find Nottingham unassisted, and are going anyway but I'll certainly be going on the Thursday if no one has plans already.

Sat 16th Matlock /Matlock Bath, illuminations and Fireworks Mid afternoon start visiting some of the pubs in Matlock before making our way to Matlock Bath.

Wed 20th – Social/Mini Town survey Babington, Crompton area. Suggested timings 8.30 start Babington.

Friday 22nd - Survey/Social, Aston, Weston, Ingleby, Milton. (By Free Mini Bus) Meet at the Cathedral green coach stop 7.00pm. Return by 11.30. To book on the trip please let me know your membership number and contact number (ideally mobile) to secure a place.

Wed 27th - Social/Mini Town survey Mr Grundy, Ashbourne Road Area. Suggested timings 8.30start Mr Grundy.

Fri 29th - Survey/Social Shardlow Area (by public transport). Skylink bus.

NOVEMBER

Wed 3rd – Social – Exeter and Smithfield, Derby. Exeter Arms 8.30pm, The Smithfield, 9.30pm.

Saturday 6th – Mini Bus Survey/Social, Spondon, Stanley, Smalley, Horsley, Little Eaton (By Free Mini Bus).

A trip to the north east corner of our branch area with plenty of GBG pubs and some former country pub of the year winners as well, should offer us plenty of choice and a variety of

Locales. Meet at the Cathedral Green coach stop 6.30pm (please note slightly earlier time). Return by 11.30 pm.

To book on the trip please let me know your membership number and contact number (ideally mobile) to secure a place.

Thu 11th – Branch Meeting - Old Spa, Abbey St, Derby – 8pm.

Wed 17th – Social - Burton Bridge Brewery Tour & Skittles Evening, Bridge St, Burton-Upon-Trent, 7pm. Burton Bridge Brewery takes its name from the Burton Bridge over the River Trent at Burton-on-Trent. It is situated twenty yards from the end of the present bridge. The building was built in the late 17th Century as the Fox and Goose Inn. The public house we know today was purchased back in 1981 and brewing started on the 25th May 1982, the first brew was Bridge Bitter. For more information visit their web site; <http://www.burtonbridgebrewery.co.uk/Ind ex.shtml>

Please be there by 7 pm (7.30 pm at the latest) to allow a bit of time to socialise and practice our skittles prowess before we start the brewery tour. If you haven't been round brewery before – now's your chance to visit a great locale one! Costs TBC. Burton is easily accessible from Derby by bus or train. Suggest those travelling from the city centre use the 18.05 pm or 18.37 pm train from Derby Railway station; return times are 22.40 pm and 23.39 pm. There is also a number of Trent Villager bus options for those in the Hilton, Repton, Willington area.

Sat 20th – Survey - Pattern Makers & Kings Head, Duffield (public transport). Meet at the Pattern Makers from 8.00pm and the Kings Head at 9.00pm. Transport: 7.35pm (or 8.35pm) Trent 6.3 from the bus station, return bus at 10.23pm or 10.53pm back to Derby.

Thur 25th - Social – Rowditch Meet at 8.30pm.



Sat 27th – Mini Bus Survey/Social, Parwich, Fenny Bentley, Ashbourne (by free mini bus).

Once again a trip to the far out post of the branch area, but again it has plenty of great pubs and our own Pub of the year winner. Meet at the Cathedral Green coach stop 6.30pm (please note slightly earlier time). Return by 11.30 pm. To book on the trip please let me know your membership number and contact number (ideally mobile) to secure a place.

For all Derby Socials contact Dean Smith on 07703 458623 or Socials@derbycamra.org.uk

Amber Valley Diary

Sat 16th Oct – Survey Trip - Shottle, Windley and Turnditch. Meet Ripley Market Place – 7.30pm. For Alfreton and Belper pick-ups **contact Nathan on 01773 570675.**

Thu 28th Oct – AGM – Hunter Arms, Church St, Kilburn.

Thu 25th Nov – Branch Meeting - Strutt Club, Campbell St, Belper.

Thu 16th Dec – Branch Meeting - Poet & Castle, Codnor.

For all Amber Valley Socials contact Nathan Dilley on 01773 570675 or NDilley@hotmail.com

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