

Mild & Bitter

RIPLEY RAIL ALE FEST IS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The first Ripley Rail Ale Festival at Butterley Station was a soar away success, despite some appalling weather, with 920 attendees. "Hope to see you next year" was an oft-heard expression, and Amber Valley CAMRA hopes to oblige. 54 beers completely sold out and only a gallon of cider remained at closing time on the Sunday afternoon.

The bands were very well received too, notwithstanding the power failure that interrupted a fine set by The Alma Boobies, and Membership Secretary, Gus Manning, recruited 19 new members. Cropton Black Out was voted beer of the festival with Dunham Massey Chocolate Cherry Mild runner up, followed by an old favourite, Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild. Interestingly, all are of the dark variety, perhaps indicative of a shift in drinkers' tastes away from traditional bitters. It should be noted, however, that only a fraction of the punters completed the relevant form. Carey Organic from Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, triumphed in the cider category.

On festival Friday, former Amber Valley MP, Judy Mallaber, worked tirelessly all day, and on the same day, Judy's successor, Nigel Mills, put in an appearance but in a drinking capacity. It's good to see our elected representatives taking time out to frequent our festivals.

Our grateful thanks go to festival organizer, Nigel Heathcote, and a large supporting cast, some of whom worked 16-hour days. Those who stayed overnight deserve particular mention, so thank you, Chris Rogers, Nathan Dilley and Alison Cox. Mansfield CAMRA supplied a lot of the equipment and half a dozen Derby branch members provided much needed assistance. Grateful thanks to the Queens Head, Marlpool, and Amber Ales who were our main sponsors. Also, we are indebted to Leadmill brewery for kindly donating the T-shirts and to Chris Burrows of Wade Printers. Finally, thank you to the Midland Railway Heritage Trust for allowing us to stage the event.

The second Amber Valley beer festival has been provisionally booked for **29th September to 2nd October 2011.**

Derby Branch Meeting & Social – Old Spa Inn Abbey St, Derby - Thursday 11th November

The November Branch Meeting will be held at the Old Spa Inn on Abbey Street in Derby beginning at 8pm and there will be a selection of Real Ales on. The Pub itself is quite easy to find being just a short walk from the City Centre along Abbey Street. The meeting will be held in the rear 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 Christmas Show & Social

The annual Derby CAMRA Christmas Show & Social is almost upon us when the University of Spondon Footlights Review take to the stage to entertain you with their unique take on everyday life.

The event will take place on **Thursday 9th December** in the rear function room of the Flowerpot pub on King Street in Derby beginning at 8pm. Tickets priced at £6.50 including buffet will be on sale soon from *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 pubs that have scored above 3 according to NBSS scores and circulated to the M&B list in November. 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 pub 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 at the Winter Fest in 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

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 15th November in the Brunswick Boardroom at 7.30pm**. If you'd like a chat just ask!
Cheers, Anna & Ralf.

Good Beer Guide 2011

This is now out and copies are available from Derby and Amber Valley Branches as well as selected local pubs around the region. If bought from the Derby Branch at the next 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 two vacancies for roles within the Branch:-

The first is for a **Derby Drinker Editor** as Pip has now moved out of the area and we need somebody urgently to take on this role. 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.

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

Derby Drinker Distributors

We are currently looking for Derby Drinker Distributors in the following areas:- Sinfen, Stenson Fields and Sunnyhill. If you need any more details or are willing to volunteer **contact Joy Olivent on 07766 306985 or**

DDDistribution@derbycamra.org.uk

Derby Summer-Fest

Russell Gilbert has been elected as the new Chairman of the Derby Summer Beer Festival and he has arranged the next planning meeting for **Wednesday 24th November 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 meeting or contact Russ, **russgilbert@o2.co.uk**

CAMRA Yahoo User Group

Did you know that Derby & Amber Valley Camra have a yahoo user group which circulates info on social events, beer festivals, breweries, pubs, etc helping you keep right up-to-date with the current happenings on the real ale scene. It's open to all members, just send an email to the moderator, Stewart Marshall with your membership number to sign-up.
samarshall37@googlemail.com

Branch Meeting of Derby Camra held on Thursday 13th October 2010 at the Brunswick.

Apologies. Athol Beattie, Chris Sherratt, Kevin Hepworth, Janie Belhaven.

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

Matters arising. None.

Officers' reports

Chair. GBGs for sale at the meeting for members' price of £9.50. Derby crawl was featured in the new GBG. This had caused some discussion & dissent from licensees. WB cask report had reported that there had been a 5% increase in cask ale production with 3000 more pubs selling cask ale. Now over 8.6 million real ale drinkers. National membership fees being looked at, it may increase. Fit for purpose review to take place at HQ.
GBG 2012 should consider clubs.

POTY awards imminent. Long list being prepared. Next branch meeting will decide shortlist then voting will proceed. Judges still needed.

Both Notts and Erewash needed volunteers to work at their festivals.

Real ale tent had appeared at the Feste weekend event on Derby market place.

Bridgenorth trip had been fantastic.

Vacancies - Chris Sherratt had put himself forward for the vacant BLO post at John Thompson. **Action IF to email Steve Westby (discharged 13th Oct 2010)**

DD advertising manager was still needed.

Job spec had been received from Jok Arguile. DD editor still needed as Paul Gibson was now unable to take up the post Amber Valley boundaries issue to be held back until after AV AGM.

Branch Campaigning goals.

Website. Continuing to be developed. Things going very well.

Discount scheme. Launch had had to be delayed because the article preceding it had not appeared in the current DD.

Locale. Mileage now increased to 20 miles. Athol Beattie had sent a report detailing three new pubs that had joined/rejoined the scheme. They were,

The Green Dragon at Willington, Cross Keys Turnditch and the White Post at Stanley Common (which has dropped out but now wishes to rejoin).

Secretary. Nothing to report except that the University of Spondon Christmas show was on Dec 9th and tickets would be for sale at the next branch meeting.

Treasurer. Jok Arguile had sent a detailed report by email. GBGs had gone out and we have sold about 36. AV have repaid the loan for the festival. They need an auditor for their accounts. Our summer festival accounts are still being scrutinised by John Roden with a profit expected.

Winter Beer Festival. Anna and Ralf reported good progress. Budget has gone back to HQ and we are awaiting judgement. We have Cheese and teeshirt stalls planned. Any requests for beers at the festival to Ralf Edge.

Summer Beer Festival. Summer festival chair is now Russ Gilbert, however, he may be out of the country during part of his tenure. Branch committee is keeping a close eye on the situation. Hall and supplies managers still needed. Save for that a reasonably full committee is in place. Tues 26th Oct first meeting at the Smithfield then Weds 24th Nov.

Budget to be worked on soon. Assembly Rooms to be the venue. Summer wash up meeting had taken place. It was felt in some quarters that this meeting had not been democratic as details of the meeting had not been publicised adequately. Basic principles need decisions very soon. (E.g. Beer, entertainment, beer styles, pricing etc). Ray Smith's Health and safety issue had been discussed. Phil Hall was looking at prices and options to alleviate the container situation. Branch committee to be sent both winter and summer festivals committee minutes in future.

DD. Pip Southall was thanked for his services over the years, and wished good luck and happiness in his new life. He would be leaving soon. Party at rowing Club on 23rd Oct with all welcome. He would be editing DD from York whilst we get a new editor. Distributors needed. Contact Joy Olivent. DD dispensers were available to take away.

GBG surveys. 2012 candidates to be compiled imminently. Stewart still needs help organising surveys. Pub database is being updated by Stewart. All details of pub changes to Stewart please. Aim is to make this available online and be searchable. Stewart spoke of his problems receiving e M&B. Online National pub database being uploaded to HQ.

Membership. Quiet at moment with figures still going up.

M&B. Email distribution had been problematic. It was hoped that a follow up email would highlight whether the situation had improved. The next issue solution was that it would be put on the Yahoo group or the website.

Pub Preservation. Punch to reduce from 6,000-5,000 with expected losses of pubs.

Amber Valley. First festival had been a resounding success and a profit was expected. 900 had attended. The branch congratulated them on this successfully run event. Chair Pete Hounsell was not restanding for chair. Also Paul Eyden was standing down as joint social secretary and Paul Gibson as Secretary.

Information Exchange. Mr Grundy's should have their first beer on the bar this weekend. They are also, according to Chris Sherratt, keen to host both branch and committee meetings. Alex much depleted stock of beers and awaiting a new licensee. Dancing Duck brewery off Ashbourne Rd. New BLO needed. Producing beers by Christmas. Melbourne Hotel closed. Owner had been selling the business to Alan Shepherd's co. The deal had fallen through. Nov 24th Bass/Coors Museum Brewery reopens. Rowditch brewery now producing. Public House at bottom of Raynesway? Quad had had local real ales on recently. Do they have DD? Kensington has real ale.

Socials. As published in M&B. Sat 30th Oct to Birmingham beer festival. 11.20 train from Derby.

Regional. Next meeting last week in Nov in Mansfield. The Redgate 27th Nov.

AOB. Les Baynton had produced some Christmas cards.

Meeting closed at 9.49pm. Next meeting, Thurs 11th Nov at Ye Olde Spa.

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

Pub of the Year Update

If you haven't already done so, you have until the 17th November to nominate your top 5 Amber Valley pubs. As at 1st November, the leading contenders were: Hunter's Arms, Thorn Tree (Waingroves), Talbot, Dead Poets, George and Dragon and The Tavern, Belper. Just behind and sharing the same number of votes were: Old Oak, Barnes Wallis, Poet and Castle, and Dog at Pentrich. Surveyors will be sought at the November branch meeting. Telephone/text your vote on **07804 361283** or e-mail maria.curl@hotmail.co.uk quoting your name and membership number.

AGM

At the Hunter's Arms, Kilburn meeting, Nathan Dille was elected Chairman, replacing Pete Hounsell who successfully guided the branch through its first two years.

Minutes of Amber Valley Camra

AGM at the Hunter's Arms, Kilburn on 28th October 2010.

Meeting started at 8pm with 23 attendees.

Apologies for absence

Julian Tubbs, Bob and Sally Bramson, Gus Manning, Nigel Heathcote, Lee Allen, Andy and Carl Brett.

Minutes of last meeting

Accepted as a true record.

Matters arising None.

Chairman's report

Pete Hounsell: "A good year for Amber Valley CAMRA, and CAMRA in general, with membership increasing steadily. Locally we have seen the opening of several new cask ale emporia, including the Thorn tree, Waingroves, two Amber Ales pubs and, most recently, the King Alfred, Alfreton. In addition, the Pub of the Year, The Dead Poets at Holbrook is going from strength to strength and will be hard to beat next time. Our first shot at selection of Good Beer Guide entries also saw a number of new additions to the book. The process was a good learning opportunity while we applied our principles of openness and transparency, and one I hope we can build on for next year. CAMRA discounts on beer prices have been seen at many pubs locally under the national scheme, which I'm sure we all applaud. A mysterious character called Mandrake Root has stormed the ramparts at both the Nottingham and Derby Drinker magazines and cemented a regular Amber Valley column-congratulations must go to him for such communications. A beer festival report follows in the branch meeting; however, I would just like to thank all the people who made it happen. Great beer in a soggy tent and smiles all round, how very British! Finally I would

like to thank this year's committee, especially Secretary, Paul Gibson who, effectively, runs the branch, Social Secretaries Nathan Dille and Paul Eydon and Gus the membership guru. In summary, I think there have been some significant milestones for the branch this year, including Pub of the Year, discounts and the beer festival-all on top of more great ale across the region! So I bow out with a mixture of sadness and relief, and wish my successor well."

Election of officers

The following nominees were proposed, seconded and, unanimously supported: Nathan Dille, Chairman, Paul Gibson, Secretary, Gus Manning, Membership Secretary, Social Secretary, Alison Cox.

Budget for 2010/2011

Derby branch Treasurer, John Arguile said that we can't use our festival account to fund branch activities, and the bulk of the balance will have to be transferred to Derby branch. The festival account will not, however, be closed. Two non-committee members of Derby branch will audit our festival accounts, which are close to finalization. **AOB** John Arguile, speaking on behalf of Derby branch, congratulated Amber Valley CAMRA for its sterling work during the past two years. Meeting closed at 820pm.

Minutes of Amber Valley Branch Meeting at the Hunter's Arms On 28th October 2010

Meeting started at 825pm with 23 attendees and Nathan took the chair to tumultuous applause.

Opening address Newly elected Chairman, Nathan Dille, thanked his predecessor Pete Hounsell for his two year tenure. Nathan also thanked Derby and Mansfield branches for their support.

Minutes of last meeting Accepted as a true record although Jok urged us to record actions for individuals to follow up.

Matters arising Horse and Jockey, Ripley now open as a chip shop.

Pub of the Year update Identify top eight pubs at November meeting and surveying will be carried out on CAMRA's standard form. All nominations to be in Paul's hands by 17th November and he mentioned his e-mail of 24th September in which he had reminded everyone that the Old Oak was now in AV's area.

Beer festival report Paul wearing his treasurer's hat summarised a popular and profitable first festival that saw 920 attendees, 54 beers completely sold out, 19 new members recruited and only one gallon of cider left. 191 Advance tickets had been sold. Paul added that asking Nigel Heathcote to organise it was the turning point. We had already had a constructive meeting with the Midland Railway and made a provisional booking for 29th September to 2nd October 2011. There was a lengthy list of volunteers to thank, too numerous to mention, but which

included Nathan, Alison, Chris Rogers, Roger Morgan and Karen Guest. Deputy Regional Director, David Brett, praised us for our endeavours and told us to write to Frances Lock to avail her of the festival's success (action PG). Main sponsor, Queens Head, to receive letter of appreciation too (action PG).

Pub info and beer festivals Jolly Colliers, Heanor shut. Martin has left Nags Head to open Generous Britain, Ripley with real ale. Paul Eydon reported imminent beer festivals at Holly Bush, Makeney, Cross keys, Belper and Poet and Castle. Also, there's a fest on Bonfire night at Bear, Alderwasley, and at Old Oak between 27th and 30th Dec. King Alfred (ex-McDonalds Farm), Alfreton reopened with 7 ales.

Future meetings/socials Survey trips 20th November and 18th December. Branch meetings at Strutt Club, Campbell Street, Belper, and Poet and Castle on 25th November and 16th December respectively. 29th December, Ripley crawl, meet at the Barnes Wallis at 730.

AOB GBGs and festival T-shirts for sale. Old Oak and Travellers Rest at Kilburn want to host branch meetings though Travellers can only accommodate us on Tuesdays. Paul Eydon will book meeting at Old Oak for 27th January. There was some discussion re the festival and PG will ask Nigel Heathcote to book the Queens Head, Marlpool for the first meeting on 9th December. Gareth Rees to investigate obtaining a generator at minimal cost to the branch. A copy of the audited accounts to be sent to Julian Tubbs (action PG) and Derby branch treasurer.

Meeting closed at 940pm.

Derby Branch Diary

NOVEMBER

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.

Mon 15th – WINTER-FEST MEETING – Brunswick, Derby - 7.30pm.

Wed 17th – Social - Burton Bridge Brewery Tour & Skittles Evening, Bridge St, Burton-Up-on-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; www.burtonbridgebrewery.co.uk 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 - Pattenmakers & Kings Head, Duffield (public transport). Meet at the Pattenmakers 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.

Tue 23rd – COMMITTEE MEETING – TBA, Derby - 8pm.

Wed 24th – SUMMER-FEST MEETING - Smithfield, Derby - 8pm.

Thu 25th – Social – Rowditch - 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.

Sat 27th – REGIONAL MEETING – Redgate, Mansfield – 12pm.

DECEMBER

Thu 2nd – BRANCH MEETING – 8pm Beaconsfield Club, Green Lane, Derby.

Mon 6th – WINTER-FEST MEETING – Brunswick, Derby - 7.30pm.

Thu 9th – Christmas Show & Social - Flowerpot, King St, Derby - 8pm.

Tue 14th - Social (and a bit of surveying!) - Green Dragon, Willington. Suggested timings are to catch the 8.10pm Trent Villager 3 bus from the bus station,

8.30pm if travelling direct. If there are enough of us, a group zig-zag ticket can be cost effective.

Wed 22nd - Social - Falstaff, Silverhill Road, Derby. What better way of avoiding the Christmas shopping and the crowds in town! 8.30pm onwards.

Mon 27th – Social - Horse and Groom, Elm Street, Derby There just happens to be a band on as well - so if you like your punk tunes get along to see Verbal Warning.

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

Amber Valley Diary

Sat 20th Nov - free survey trip to Ambergate, Crich and Fritchley. 7.30pm from Ripley Market Place. For Alfreton and Belper pick ups, please ring Nathan.

Thu 25th Nov – Branch Meeting - Strutt Club, Campbell St, Belper. 8.30 start.

Thu 9th Dec - Beer Festival meeting at Queens Head, Marlpool. 8.30 start.

Thu 16th Dec – Branch Meeting - Poet & Castle, Codnor. 8.30 start.

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

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