

Mild & Bitter

Drinkers Flock to Ripley Festival

The second Amber Valley CAMRA Rail Ale Festival at Butterley Station was a runaway success as 1,581 thirsty drinkers slaked their thirst in Mediterranean type weather. Indeed, the soaring temperatures precluded the chocolatier from offering her luscious wares! The attendance represented a whopping 72% hike on last year's debut event, and it wasn't just the 80 ales that sold out, as Chris Rogers, cider bar manager, reported a doubling of sales. The bands were well received with a packed marquee captivated by the headline act, the Rollin Stoned, who delivered a rousing rendition of the famous rockers' songs. It was a memorable few days with many commenting on a carnival like atmosphere, and 25 new members were added to CAMRA's growing army of 130,000. Amber Valley CAMRA wishes to extend its thanks to our main sponsor, the Queens Head, Marlpool, and also to the Hunter Arms, Kilburn; Amber Ales; Wade Printers, and Reuben Shaw of Moorgreen, Newthorpe. The festival wouldn't have happened without a herculean effort from Amber Valley CAMRA members together with their counterparts from Derby branch, and we are also indebted to Ged Swallow, Roger Morgan, Julian Ellingham, Judy Mallaber amongst others. Special thanks go to the regulars from the Queens Head, Marlpool, who worked tirelessly, and of course, to our hosts, the Midland Railway, Butterley. Finally, we wish to thank Mansfield CAMRA for its loan of equipment, and Reg Newcombe for his logo design.

Derby Pubs of the Year 2012

There will be a City Pub of the Year Award, a Country Pub of the Year Award and one overall winner from the two categories. A long list of pubs is printed below from which you can vote for one pub in each category. This can be done via e-mail: poty@derbycamra.org.uk, text: **07900 407086** or mail: **44 Duke St, Derby. DE1 3BX** but you must include your CAMRA membership number. Or you can attend the Branch Meeting on **Thursday 10th November** at the Horse & Groom, Derby to cast your vote in person. The list will then be narrowed down to a short list of 3 pubs in each category which will then be judged along National Pub of the Year Guidelines to determine the winners. The final results will be announced in January.

POTY Judges required

We are now actively seeking members to take part in the judging process for the Branch Pubs of the Year. This will require you to visit all 6 short-listed pubs over November/December and mark them along National Pub of the Year Guidelines, so if you fancy being a judge this year then please contact us at poty@derbycamra.org.uk

Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year Candidates

Derby City unless stated:

Abbey, Alexandra Hotel, Babington Arms, Barley Mow, Kirk Ireton; Bell, Smalley; Bell & Harp, Little Eaton; Black Cow, Lees; Brewery Tap - Derby's Royal Standard, Brunswick Inn, Chequers Inn, Ticknall; Coach & Horses, Corner Pin, Crompton, Cross Keys, Ockbrook; Exeter Arms, Falstaff Tavern, Five Lamps, Flowerpot, Green Man, Willington; Greyhound, Harrington Arms, Thulston; Hope & Anchor, Wirksworth; Horse & Groom Malt Shovel, Malt Shovel Inn, Shardlow; Markeaton, Mason's Arms, Mr Grundy's Tavern, New Inn, Shardlow; Oaklands, Old Silk Mill, Olde Dolphin Inne, Olde Spa Inne Pattenmakers Arms, Duffield; Portland Hotel, Rising Sun, Middleton; Rowditch Inn, Royal Oak Wirksworth; Royal Oak, Ockbrook; Smith's Tavern, Ashbourne; Smithfield, Spread Eagle, Etwell; Standing Order, Station Inn, Swan Inn, Milton, Sycamore Inn, Parwich; Thomas Leaper, Windmill.

BLOs Required

Derby CAMRA seeks Brewery Liaison Officer(s) for Leadmill and Bottlebrook breweries, please contact the Branch Secretary (details below) if you're interested.

Derby Branch Meeting & Social - Horse & Groom, Elm Street, Derby, Thursday, 10th November

The November Branch Meeting will be held in the Horse and Groom, beginning at 8pm. There is a Beer Festival as well. The agenda is printed elsewhere. For any further information **contact the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or e-mail: Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk**

Concessionary Entry to Festivals to be Revised?

The Branch Committee has decided to revise the free admission policy for the Derby Beer Festivals. CAMRA members will pay around half price on Friday and Saturday nights, and the free admission concession to under 26 year olds (U26s) will be withdrawn, except at lunchtimes. These are significant changes from the committee's previous policies, and it has agreed that there will be a discussion at the November Branch Meeting.

At the 2011 Summer Beer Festival (SBF) there were about 780 free admissions to U26s. That's about half the number that would have come had the festival attracted equal numbers from all age groups. It cost about £4000 in lost door income; if all 780 U26s would have come anyway, it was probably money wasted.

At the other extreme, if all of the U26s had come only because admission was free, it was probably a worthwhile promotion.

We would have got perhaps an extra £2000 profits from the extra beer sales. In addition, if the beer festival is as good as we think it is, many of them will come back year after year, and help maintain the profit and success of the festival. Maybe some will become members, a few active. Unfortunately we don't know what return our investment will bring, if any. We do know that the brewers spend millions of pounds in promoting their brands to younger drinkers. They don't see it as "wasting money", but recognize that they need a continuing supply of new customers as the older ones shuffle off to the celestial bar.

It has been said that the Nottingham Beer Festival shows that U26s will pay a lot more. However, Nottingham has 56,000 students, and the festival is held at the beginning of the academic year when they have got their grants and are forming new friendship groups. In the Derby case a U26 may have more difficulty in persuading his or her mates to come to a festival when you have to part with £6 just to get in.

The question of free admission to CAMRA members is closely connected, but there's not space to discuss it here. However, both this and the U26 issue are part of the larger question of what the beer festivals are for – promotion of real ale, or profit, or a mix? Once we are clear on our objectives, we need to consider how best to achieve them over the long term, noting that SBF attendance is now down to 1983 levels. Alternative pricing strategies, or much more radical changes, may be part of the solution. However, we need to think hard about any changes, and their possible consequences. Although decisions can be reversed at some future date, it can be hard to undo any damage they caused.

In this, and other matters where the branch is spending significant amounts of money for campaigning purposes, we should involve branch members. This is not only

to ensure their support, but also, and more importantly, to take benefit from their knowledge and ideas; it is good that we are having this debate. **Tim Williams**

The Smithfield

We understand that the Smithfield on Meadow Road, will be sold at auction on 1st December. Licensees, Roger and Penny Myring and their loyal, long serving bar man, Dan, are leaving to take over the reins at the Peacock on Old Nottingham Road. The riverside free house has been a fixture in the Good Beer Guide since 1998 following its purchase by John Evans, who died in 2008. We wish to thank Roger and Penny for serving consistently high quality beer and we hope their new venture is successful.

Derby Winter Festival 2012

Derby Winter Beer Festival is from Wednesday 15 – Saturday 18 February 2012 at The Roundhouse. Sue Rogers the Staffing Manager said "Online staffing forms will be available online via a link on the Derby CAMRA website from the end of November. Everyone's help is welcome. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there".

Next Planning Meeting Wednesday 16th November 2012 at 8pm in The Alex. Contact Gillian Williams to have a chat 07847 504074.

Derby Summer Fest 2012

Next meeting:- **Wednesday 7 December**, 8pm at the Alexandra. If you would like to take part in the organisation of next year's event then please contact the Festival Chairman, **Russ Gilbert on 07909 967142 or summerbeerfest@derbycamra.org.uk**

Derby Christmas Show

The annual Derby CAMRA Christmas Social & Show will take place in the function room of the Flowerpot on **Thursday 15th December from 8pm.** The evening will include the immortal University of Spondon footlights review, a sumptuous buffet and the usual array of ales on offer. Tickets will be available soon from **the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or e-mail: Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk**

Derby's Dark Delight Triumphs in Nottingham

Congratulations are due to Rachel Matthews of Derby's Dancing Duck brewery for her oatmeal stout, Dark Drake, winning Nottingham CAMRA's Beer of the Festival award at last month's festival in the city. The delicious stout was spotted on the bar at the Hunter Arms, Kilburn, the current Amber Valley CAMRA Pub of the Year.

Darley Abbey Welcomes Derventio

Derventio, the brewers and wholesalers, have relocated from Trusley to the historic surroundings of Darley Abbey's Long Mill, built in 1789. Location and the room to expand the current 6 barrel brewing plant were key factors in Pete Nash and John Baldock's decision to up sticks. An evening and weekend on licence planning application has been submitted, and, if successful, pre-booked groups and CAMRA meetings will be welcome. A visitors' centre is also a possibility which would form part of the regeneration of the mills complex, which is the biggest 18th C factory complex in the world. Derventio, which is named after the erstwhile Roman fort just down the river in Little Chester, is reporting rapid sales of Emperor's Whim at Spondon Asda, a beer brewed on site and then tanked to Holden's in the Black Country to be bottled.

Good Beer Guide 2012

The 2012 Good Beer Guide is available from the Branch and selected local pubs around the area. If bought from the Branch at the next Branch Meeting it will cost £9.50, a little bit more at one of the pubs, £10.50 plus. Copies are currently available at the Alexandra, Brunswick, Rowditch and Smithfield in Derby, the Pattenmakers in Duffield and the Royal Oak in Ockbrook.

Derby Survey trips

All members are welcome so please come along on the day to the meeting point(s) given, or call **Paul Richards on 07866 375560** if you would like more information beforehand or during the day. See page 4 for details.

Derby Website now live

Derby CAMRA's new website is now live. **www.derbyscamra.org.uk**

If you have any suggestions for the site then please e-mail the Webmaster, Richard Mackney **webmaster@derbycamra.org.uk**

Mild & Bitter on the Web

Mild & Bitter is now available to view in the Members Area of the Derby Branch Website as well as a number of back copies in case you have mislaid previous editions. You will now have a choice to follow the link in the reminder e-mail straight to the Members Area or download the attachment.

E-mail User Groups

Did you know that Derby & Amber Valley Camra have a user groups 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. They are open to all members, to join just send an email to the administrator with your membership number. For Derby contact, Stewart Marshall, **beersurvey@derbycamra.org.uk** For Amber Valley contact, Nathan Dille, **NDille@hotmail.co.uk**

Branch meeting held at the Thomas Leaper, Derby on Weds 12th Oct 2011

31 at meeting. **Apologies** Les Baynton, Phil and Wendy Stryj.

Mins of the last meeting Published in M&B. **Matters Arising** Shottle in Amber Valley and they have a prospective BLO for the brewery. **Chair** Cask Ale week this week. Locally, a crawl had taken place. Oct is cider month. Social had taken place for it. National brewery auction this Sat in Town Hall in Burton. Amber Valley festival had gone well. GBG launch had gone well. Thanks to Stewart Marshall. **POTY**- vote to take place at the next meeting. Publicised and explained in M&B. List only for guidance. Judges needed for Nov Dec with result in Jan 2012. There may be a problem as it was stated the top 100 pubs would be considered. Nottingham beer festival starts 13th Oct. No vacancies for branch jobs. A first?

Treasurer Money already received back from Amber Valley. Colorstream invoice has not arrived. GBG invoice received

Beerfestivals

Summer Julian Tubbs told of published meeting in M&B. First meeting 1st Nov. Social this Fri 14th at the Babington. Carl Brett had not given details of the last festival yet. He is to be contacted.

Mins from wash up meeting? Had they been produced? Need to be circulated to branch committee.

Winter Gillian told branch of meeting on Weds 19th and monthly until Jan. All positions filled. Approaches to be made for volunteers in all areas. Branch now has three major festivals, we all need to help. Budget submitted. This year's accounts had been audited. 2012 it is anticipated that there will be a slight increase in numbers. Beer suggestions being asked for. Final decisions by Nov.

Campaigning Goals DD had been revamped with discount scheme being promoted. No progress yet on Mild month goal.

DD with new layout had been distributed by the new team in place. Camra campaigning focus with local issues to be considered in subsequent issues. Next edition copy deadline in Oct 25th. Ray Smith congratulated the team on the new issue.

Revamp had not been fully costed as yet.

GBG and Surveys Old Talbot at Hilton is to be deselected from the 2012 GBG as it is shut. The closure was confirmed at the meeting. A vote to this effect was taken and carried 27 in favour 2 abstentions. . . Due procedure was observed. 2013 guide – now starts. List to be published soon. Please submit surveys to

www.beerscoring.co.uk Please don't survey beer festival beers, also submit price minus any CAMRA discount. Next survey to Long Lane area. Details from Paul Richards. City centre survey had

taken place with scores and details on website.

Membership 13 new members and 1 transfer with 14 lapsed. DD dispensers and membership forms available.

M&B Paul Gibson had been busy as Treasurer at Ripley festival and Gareth had produced this issue. **Regional** Next meeting 26th Nov. East Mids POTY presentation 12th Nov at Crown at Beeston. 1pm.

Amber Valley 1581 had attended the beer festival. 72% increase in numbers had made it very successful. Paul thanked all the volunteers and Derby branch for their continued support. **Socials** Cider trip had been eventful. Dean thanked Sue and Chris Rogers for their hospitality. Dean will not be contactable for a couple of months. University of Spondon Footlights Club Christmas Show is on Thurs 15th Dec at the Flowerpot. **Transport**. New Zig Zag discount for CAMRA members. **Website** Up and running. Some errors being corrected. Summer festival dates not fully decided yet? Calendars being produced for beer festivals. Need a permanent person to manage this. **Information Exchange** Bulls Head at Belper Lane End is open again. Smithfield up for auction on 1st Dec. Crompton may be closing? Holly Bush at Makeney has new landlord. Queens Head at Little Eaton opens 17th Nov.

Ranbys to be piano bar. Derventio have moved to Boars Head Mill in Darley Abbey. New Coppice Side pub- Butchers- Nov launch? **AOB** GBG app is now free. Tim Williams was concerned about Committee decision on beer festival admission charges. this. He felt this was a significant change and asked for a discussion at branch level. He felt that the committee decision was not adequately explained. He also was concerned that under 26 discount was to go as well. He asked for the decision to be delayed until after a full branch discussion. Gareth said the budget had already been submitted on the basis of the committee decision. Nov branch meeting to discuss. **Meeting closed 9.49pm**

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

Bulls Head reopens

October saw the reopening of the Bulls Head, Belper Lane End, and the former coaching inn looks set to become a popular destination again. Walkers and ramblers have long enjoyed this old pub with its panoramic views, and the beamed public bar with quarry tiled floor is a welcome retention. A quartet of hand pulled beers are available with Adnams Gunhill in fine fettle on my visit. The food menu looked particularly tempting and doubtless this will help attract custom to a beautifully located inn.

Stables Bar at Fritchley

Many of you will have fond memories of the Stables Bar at Park Hall, Denby, which, sadly, was forced to close a few years ago. Well, out at far flung Fritchley, a smaller reincarnation has been created by Terry Harby at the Red Lion, in an atmospheric 16th C outbuilding serving three real ales direct from the cask. There's a log burner to keep you warm during the winter and it's open from 4pm Friday, and all day Saturday and Sunday.

LocAle Festival for Ripley

The Good Beer Guide listed Red Lion, in the shadow of Ripley town hall, is hosting a LocAle festival of 20 locally brewed ales between 7th and 13th November, with the added incentive of discount for card carrying CAMRA members. The Treasurer of the successful Ripley Rail Ale Festival at nearby Butterley Station wishes to record his thanks to the Red Lion for saving his bacon with some much needed change.

Pub of the Year- Nominations Required

Members within the area are invited to nominate their five, favourite hostelrys by emailing maria.curl@hotmail.co.uk or 'phone/text 07804 361283, quoting your name and membership number. The eight most frequently nominated pubs by the November AGM, will then be assessed on a broad criteria by members, with the winner and runner-up being announced early in 2012. The area is defined by the following post codes: DE5 3, DE5 8, DE5 9 (all Ripley), DE55 1 (Swanwick), DE55 4 (Riddings and Somercotes), DE55 7 (Oakerthorpe, South Wingfield and Alfreton), DE56 (Belper area, extending southwards to include Milford and Makeney). Horsley Woodhouse and Holbrook are in Amber Valley CAMRA's area.

AGM

November's AGM at our Pub of the Year, the Hunter Arms, Kilburn, will be your chance to stand for committee, as two members of the original committee formed three years ago, have indicated that they wish to stand down. If you are a member who would like the opportunity to influence Amber Valley activity, then please contact the Branch Secretary, Paul Gibson, at the email address above. You will require a proposer and seconder.

Minutes of the Amber Valley CAMRA meeting at the Poet & Castle, Codnor on 27th October 2011

Meeting started at 830pm with 22 attendees including National Executive member, Julian Hough, and Regional Director, Julian Tubbs, who were welcomed to the meeting. **Apologies for absence** Nigel Heathcote and Kate Sherras. **Minutes of last meeting** Accepted as a true record. **Matters arising** Alison will give driving forms to Chris Burke soon. **Committee reports** Chairman, Nathan, asked members to consider standing for committee positions at the forthcoming AGM. Secretary, Paul, referred to April's Pubs Month and the new website on beer tie reform. Pub of the Year nominations were invited. Social Secretary, Alison, is stepping down at the AGM and she thanked Jane Wallis for running the last survey trip. Membership Secretary was absent. **Branch autonomy** Should Amber Valley seek independence, the National Executive would make the final decision based on the recommendation of the Regional Director. Looking back, the RD said that our first year wasn't very fruitful and, looking forward, we need to show evidence of sustainability with members prepared to shoulder responsibility in forming a committee of at least seven, that included a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Pubs Officer and Membership Secretary. In the event of a loss or resignation there need to be members willing to be co-opted onto the committee. Four is the minimum number required to form a quorum at committee meetings, which have to be held bi-monthly. A committee's responsibility is to run the branch, though non committee members may attend committee meetings but can't vote. The RD stated that a branch has to comply with CAMRA's internal branch policy document. A branch can't go bust; everything is underwritten by CAMRA. Bulk of any festival profit is transferred to HQ, though it isn't a prerequisite that branches have to run a beer festival. Paul Gibson opined that it was more onerous to organise and run a beer festival than it was to form a branch committee, but in a vote,

the vast majority were in favour of the status quo, and only 1 was in favour of seeking independence. The consensus was to focus on another beer festival and, then, look at the issue again in a year's time.

Beer Festival Treasurer's report Paul Gibson gave a detailed, statistical analysis of a successful festival, which had made a profit despite a near 70% increase in our costs. He added that the close correlation between budgeted and actual figures wasn't a coincidence; rather it was due to the experience and judgement of Nigel Heathcote. If there's another festival at Butterley, we need to establish precise terms and costings with Midland Railway from the outset. Nigel was thanked, as were Derby branch for their continued support. **Pub news** Planning application has been submitted for stables bar to rear of Bee Hive, Ripley. **Future meeting dates** 24th November, AGM, Hunter Arms, Kilburn, and 29th December, branch meeting at Pear Tree, Ripley. **AOB** It was agreed to have a discussion on the starting times of meetings. Alison to enquire about cost of bus to Old Oak beer festival on 27th December, action AC. There will be one free firkin at AGM. Derventio has offered to host an AV meeting at their "new" brewery in Darley Abbey-inform Derby branch as a matter of courtesy. Raffle raised £18.60. **Meeting finished at 1005pm.**

Amber Valley Diary

NOVEMBER

Sat 19th Nov - free bus trip surveying pubs in Windley, Turnditch and Shottle. 730pm from Ripley Market Place or ring Alison for Belper/Alfreton pick-ups.

Thu 24th Nov - branch meeting and AGM, upstairs room of Hunter Arms, Kilburn. 815pm start.

For all Amber Valley Socials contact Alison Cox on 01773 570675 or alisonhcox@hotmail.com

Amber Valley Contacts

Chairman: Nathan Dillel on 01773 570675 or NDillel@hotmail.co.uk

Derby Branch Diary

NOVEMBER

Thu 3rd – **Social** - York Tavern, York St and the Greyhound, Ashbourne Rd Derby. Suggested timings 8.30 to 9.30 York Tavern, 9.30 onwards the Greyhound.

Thu 10th - **BRANCH MEETING**, Horse & Groom, Derby - 8pm.

Sat 12th – **Survey** – Swarkestone, Melbourne, Ingleby Area. 7.30pm from

Cathedral Green, By Mini Bus. Melbourne, Ingleby, Swarkestone. Names to Paul Richards to Reserve a place.

Thu 17th – **'Surburbeer'** - **Coach and Horses**, Chester Green, Derby. From 830.

Fri 25th – **Survey** - **Carsington Area**. 7.30pm Cathedral Green, By Mini Bus. Carsington, Knockedown, Hognaston, Kirk Ireton. Names to Paul Richards to Reserve a place.

DECEMBER

Thu 1st-**Advent Crawl**-Start at Alexandra at 730, then Brunswick, Smithfield and city centre.

Thu 8th-**BRANCH MEETING**-Spa Inn, Abbey St, Derby-8pm.

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

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M&B- PLEASE NOTE

Please tell me if you:

- ♦ Don't want to get M&B
 - ♦ Don't want other stuff from Derby CAMRA
 - ♦ Expected M&B but it did not arrive
 - ♦ Change your email or postal address
- Also tell HQ if you change address. The M&B database is kept on my home PC and is entirely separate from the CAMRA membership database.

Tim Williams, 01332 381358

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