

Mild & Bitter

Pub Openings Confound Economic Gloom

Amidst the news of seemingly endless economic woe, and against the back-drop of falling beer sales in pubs, there have been a string of re-openings that illustrate that there is still a market place for good pubs to flourish in. Firstly, Alan Johnson, a former Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse, regular, bought the **Nelson Arms**, Middleton by Wirksworth, as a retirement project. It re-opened serving Pedigree and three changing guest beers on handpump. The Nelson looks certain to be a viable business as one holiday let is already available and a holiday cottage to the rear is currently being renovated. The old, stone-built pub also benefits from a daytime, hourly 6.1 bus service between Derby and Matlock, that stops right outside. The portents for Trevor Harris' fourth pub restoration look promising as the **Queens Head**, Alfretton Road, Little Eaton, started trading again after a costly and tasteful 5 month refurbishment. Half a dozen Derby Brewing Company beers are complemented by a couple of guests and the reconfiguration of the bar areas has allowed the original entrance to be accessed, and a cosy snug has been added. Built in 1835 and Grade 2 listed, the exposure of stonework and beams make for a pleasant ambience, and the installation of a brand new kitchen will surely reap rewards on the food side. In Derby, the **Peacock**, on Old Nottingham Road, opened its doors again on the 1st December with nine ales, and with Roger and Penny Myring, formerly of the Smithfield, at the helm, it's sure to be successful. Perhaps, though, the most eye-catching re-opening is just over the branch boundary, in Erewash Valley, where the **General Havelock**, Stanton Road, Ilkeston, has been restored, with no expense spared, to its Art Deco inspired splendour. There isn't space here to adequately describe it, but, suffice to say that 15 hand drawn beers are augmented by 40 (forty) real ales in the cellar bar at weekends, and the outside drinking area has to be seen to be believed.

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. Judges are currently assessing the following pubs that received the most nominations: City-Alexandra, Five Lamps and Rowditch. Country-Barley Mow, Kirk Ireton and the Royal Oaks of Ockbrook and Wirksworth. Winners will be announced early in the new year.

Derby Drinker Distributors Required

Congratulations are due to Steve Webster for the new look Derby Drinker which has won many plaudits. Head of distribution, Joy Olivent, now requires distributors in Alvaston and Derby city centre, so if you can help, please contact Joy on 07766306985.

Winter Festival Staff Required

Huge demand last year has resulted in a reconfiguration of the Roundhouse with the stage moving to the carriage room allowing more beer to be stillaged at the festival, which runs from 15-18 February. Consequently, staffing manager, Sue Rogers, is seeking more staff than last year. If you are in a position to help, please contact Sue on 01332 880041 or winterstaffing@derbycamra.org.uk

Derby Christmas Show

The 37th annual Derby CAMRA Christmas Social & Show will take place in the function room of the Flowerpot on **Thursday 15th December from 8pm**. The show, which started at the Crown, Spondon in 1976, is a real highlight of the social calendar and owes much to co-writers Tim Williams and Nick Meakin and a stellar cast which includes the perennially popular Bishop of Belper. So if you're starting to get the winter blues, why not buy a ticket for an evening of irreverence that will include the immortal University of Spondon footlights review, a sumptuous buffet and the usual array of ales on offer. Tickets, priced £7, are now available from **the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman, whose details are at the bottom of the page.**

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 – Olde Spa Inne, Abbey Street, Derby, Thursday, 8th December

The December Branch Meeting will be held in the Olde Spa Inne, Abbey Street, beginning at 8pm. 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**

Derby CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2013 Candidate Pubs

Forty candidate pubs for GBG 2013 have been chosen using data from surveys submitted by CAMRA members over the last 12 months. From these candidates, 27 will be selected to represent the Derby Branch in the next edition of the GBG. From now until the end of January, it is your chance help make sure the right pubs are chosen by visiting and submitting surveys for as many as possible of these candidates:

1. Rose & Crown, Boylestone
2. Abbey, Derby
3. Alexandra Hotel, Derby
4. Babington Arms, Derby
5. Brewery Tap - Derby's Royal Standard, Derby
6. Brunswick Inn, Derby
7. Coach & Horses, Derby
8. Exeter Arms, Derby
9. Falstaff Tavern, Derby
10. Five Lamps, Derby
11. Flowerpot, Derby
12. Greyhound, Derby
13. Harrington Arms, Derby
14. Horse & Groom, Derby
15. Markeaton, Derby
16. Mr Grundy's Tavern, Derby
17. Old Silk Mill, Derby
18. Olde Dolphin Inne, Derby
19. Rowditch Inn, Derby
20. Smithfield, Derby
21. Standing Order, Derby
22. Station Inn, Derby
23. Thomas Leaper, Derby
24. Windmill, Derby
25. Pattenmakers Arms, Duffield
26. Spread Eagle, Etwall
27. John Thompson Inn, Ingleby
28. Barley Mow, Kirk Ireton
29. Black Cow, Lees
30. Bell & Harp, Little Eaton
31. Rising Sun Inn, Middleton
32. Swan Inn, Milton
33. Royal Oak, Ockbrook
34. Sycamore Inn, Parwich
35. Bell, Smalley
36. White Post Inn, Stanley Common
37. Chequers Inn, Ticknall
38. Green Man, Willington
39. Hope & Anchor, Wirksworth
40. Royal Oak, Wirksworth

Surveys can be submitted at <http://www.beerscoring.org.uk> The

GBG Selection Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 7th February, starting at 8pm in Falstaff lounge.

Stewart Marshall, Derby CAMRA GBG Coordinator

The Smithfield

The popular riverside pub faced an uncertain future as Mild and Bitter went to press. It went under the hammer at Graham Penny's auction at Pride Park on 1st December and though we understand that there has been significant interest from local brewers, it remains to be seen whether they can beat off competition from developers who may see the site as a desirable location for apartments. It would be really sad if this much loved Derby boozier bit the dust.

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 14th December 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**

New Year's Day Social

It's long been the custom of Derby CAMRA members to meet in the Rowditch on Uttoxeter New Road for a pint or three on New Year's Eve. If, however, you're not too hung over and are at a loose end on New Year's Day, why not make your way to Duffield station to catch the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway train departing at 1210 which will take you along the scenic line to Wirksworth. You will have two and a half hours in the former lead mining town before leaving at 1520, and EVRA are even giving a glass of Bucks Fizz to start the New Year in the right way. The fare is a bargain at £10 and it will give you the opportunity to visit the rejuvenated Red Lion, which should have a cask of Blue Monkey available on the day. The former coaching inn, built in 1770, has a wealth of interesting features including a rare Lunette window, and in the bar on the left, a carved fire surround. Behind the three handpumps is an attractive back bar fitting with a grand clock.

Len Holland

Those of you who knew Len, will be saddened by the news of his death on 15th November, at the age of 71. He set up the eponymous Holland Brewery in the shadow of Hardy and Hanson in Kimberley in 2000, and Len, and his beer, would often be seen at local beer festivals.

Len, who was always good company, will be missed by all who knew him.

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.

Year End Looming- Accounts Need Finalizing

If you have any invoices that require paying or have any claims to make, please submit them to Treasurer, Julian Tubbs, 07962267743, by 31st December.

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

Minutes of Derby Branch meeting at Horse and Groom on Thursday 10th Nov 2011

Apologies. Dean Smith, Paul Richards, Julian Tubbs. **Mins of last meeting.** Correction-should read without Camra discount. GBG2012 app not free. Accepted as a true record. **Matters arising.** None. **Chair.** Nationally - We are encouraged to write to our MPs for tie reform. 20th Jan submissions for Cider POTY. Community pub month in April. Training opportunities at National Winter ales festival. Pre-reg for Torquay members' weekend now open. Locally – POTY shortlist to be decided at meeting, voting forms available. Christmas Show next event, tickets now on sale. Vacancies for BLO for Bottlebrook and Leadmill. Pub map of Derby to be launched at Winter Ales festival. WB reported that drinking beer was good for you. **Secretary.** IF had received the 2012 GBG survey forms and had passed them to Stewart Marshall. Tickets on sale for

Christmas Show. 15th Dec priced £7.

Treasurer. Julian had had an accident and was unable to attend or send report.

Beer Festival Concessions Debate.

Branch committee had decided to charge half price entry for members on Fri/Sat nights and have lunchtime only free entry for under 26s. Gareth pointed out that the branch committee made decisions on behalf of the branch, though they would listen to the views of the meeting. Gareth outlined the process of budget scrutiny. Some elements of concessions were paid for by the branch. Terry Morton reminded branch that expenditure over £1000 had to be approved by the RD. This had had a bearing on the committee's decision. Our RD had a conflict of interest and would be subject to an external decision from an outside person. This also had a bearing on Mayor's contribution. Tim Williams spoke on the issue. He had prepared a chart to explain. He spoke of his opinions on under 26 concessions. He suggested that Camra was buoyant and could afford a subsidy. He suggested we could ask for allowance to subsidise. He felt we should encourage younger people to try real ale by letting them in for a reduced price, and made a case for encouraging them to become activists. On Camra members – he thought was contrary to internal policy document. Julian Hough quoted the document which stated 4.16 says entry should be free of charge. 4.17 which states if not possible it must be at reduced price. Paul Whittaker supported Tim but thought under 26s should pay something. Members, he thought, should have free entry. He felt we should not always pursue profits. He objected to the order before the debate in the branch. Chris Gale shared some facts about the City Charter festival. 780 under 26s with loss of income of £4000 - 60% more than last year. 2500 members came costing £9000 of lost income. He agreed with Paul on the members having free entry. WB festival – 57 festival. 14 of 57 allowed free entry with other concessions. Only 4 offered concessions to under 26 members. Terry Morton thought there were 2 debate issues. Members and under 26s. He felt we should separate the two issues. Kevin Hepworth felt members should be free. Under 26 were a different issue. It was a benefit that should be encouraged. Les Baynton felt we should look after members but needed to encourage the next generation and under 26s should get in free. Gillian Williams objected to the budget being submitted and could not be altered. She felt we should encourage the under 19s as we are missing an opportunity.

Pete Elliot reiterated about the multiple entrants. Sue Lawson asked for an indication of how many under 26s and under 30s were at the meeting. She felt we should encourage under 26s to drink real ale. She worried about varying the budget by more than 5% if the decision was altered. Kate Neale spoke about why we ran a festival. It should not be so we as

members should get in for nothing. Julian Hough spoke about why it was not possible to adhere to policy document 4.16 and free entry. He felt there was no justification to charge. He felt under 26 entry should continue to be subsidised. Stewart Lawson spoke of value for money for the subsidy of under 26s. We did not collect any information about them once we had let them in for free. We should use the subsidy to contact and retain under 26s. We need to target them. Russ Gilbert spoke about the way the branch committee had gone about the situation. We should not have a policy we change for no reason. He felt we should retain the under 26 subsidy. Jok Arguile spoke of the current situation when measured against what had been current in the 70s. He felt we need to move with the times. We should not charge. He asked why the committee had made up their mind and would not budge. Gareth said that he had said at the start of the meeting that the Committee would listen to the views of the Branch and act accordingly. Janie Belhaven informed the branch committee of the four absent festival committee members and related their views that subsidies should continue and extend. Konrad Machej spoke of the integrity of the committee who had made the decision in good faith. The Committee to discuss all the relevant issues and would look for a way forward. Tim Williams summed up and thanked all for their contributions. He said those who attended were the camra activists which set us apart from camra members. To charge would stop the curiosity factor for the under 26s. A show of hands on free entry for Camra members - Indicated a majority. A show of hands on the under 26 subsidy - there was no clear majority. A show of hands on a lower age subsidy - indicated a majority.

POTY. Votes at the meeting. City - Alex, 5 Lamps and Rowditch. Country - Barley Mow at Kirk Ireton, Royal Oak at Ockbrook. Royal Oak at Wirksworth.

Winter Festival. Gillian told members of preparations for the festival. Last meeting on 19th and 25th October met with scrutineer. Budget passed. Now things are snowballing. Volunteers needed. Beer favourites to Chris Sherratt please. Festival will be cash bar with some corporate tokens. **GBG and Surveys.** 2013 list of 40 candidates for GBG. Will be on website. These will then be surveyed. We also need pub descriptions. **Pub Info.** Bell and Castle for sale on freehold. Queens Head Little Eaton opening soon. Shakespeare in Sheffield open. Penny and Roger Myring are having the Peacock. General Havelock in Ilkeston opening soon. Smithfield for sale on 3rd Dec.

AOB. A vote of thanks was given for the sandwiches provided by the Horse and Groom. **Meeting closed at 10pm.** 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

Festival Treasurer Required

Are you interested in finance? Then you could be just the person that Amber Valley CAMRA requires for its third beer festival, provisionally booked for the last week of September 2012. We need a Treasurer who is comfortable handling and recording monies, so if you're interested in taking on this important role, please contact Paul Gibson at maria.curl@hotmail.co.uk

Travellers is Worth the Journey

The current Amber Valley Pub of the Year, the Hunter Arms, isn't the only pub making waves in Kilburn. The former Ind Coope house, the Travellers Rest, on Chapel Street, is continuing to excel with beers chosen from the SIBA list and Copper Penny and Cairngorm Caillie have been spotted on the bar recently. It's good to see that the Travellers has preserved its quarry tiled floor in the bar together with the old cast iron fireplace. With the renowned Old Oak not far away, that's three good reasons to venture out here, especially as the Oak will be staging its annual beer festival between Christmas and the New Year.

Inn Brief

Following last month's report on the reopening of the Bulls Head, Belper Lane End, Shottle Gold has already been served here. We understand that the Cross Keys, Turnditch, has reopened. A food and real ale festival will be held in Belper town centre on Sunday, 4th December starting at 10am. Santa will be on hand to entertain the children.

Pub of the Year-Update

Judges are currently surveying the nine pubs that received the most nominations. Of the 21 pubs nominated, the following nine, in alphabetical order, were the most

frequently nominated: Bee Hive, Black Boy, Dead Poets, George and Dragon, Holly Bush, Hunter Arms, Old Oak, Talbot, Thorn Tree, Waingroves.

AGM

November's AGM saw some changes to the committee. Ever present Secretary, Paul Gibson, Membership Secretary, Gus Manning and Social Secretary, Alison Cox all stepped down. We welcome new committee members Trevor Spencer (Secretary), Phil Marshall (Membership) and Jane Wallis (Social Secretary).

Minutes of the Amber Valley CAMRA AGM at the Hunter Arms, Kilburn on 24th November 2011

Meeting started at 820pm with 31 attendees. **Apologies for absence** Julian Tubbs. **Minutes of last meeting** Accepted as a true record. **Matters arising** None. **Adoption of minutes** Proposed Nathan Dilley, seconded by Trevor Spencer. Unanimously accepted. **Officers' reports** Chairman, Nathan, said the beer festival was the highlight of a successful year. 1,581 attendees represented a 72% increase on last year's festival. 25 new members signed up. Attendances at branch meetings were increasing together with more active members. Independence has been postponed for now. Secretary, Paul, said in addition to taking minutes and sending HQ the branch diary for What's Brewing, he was moderator for Pub of the Year and he submitted Good Beer Guide entries online. Paul had also been Treasurer of the beer festival for two years but owing to the time taken by his editorship of our newsletter, Mild and Bitter, he was now relinquishing this post. Social Secretary, Alison, said survey trips continued to be well supported and she thanked Jane Wallis for deputizing on occasion. Suggestions for trips are welcome. Survey trips assist us in choosing our GBG entries though members may record their scores online on the NBSS. 17th December survey trip from Ripley but it was decided that for our social at the Old Oak festival on 27th December, we would not hire a mini bus, but make our own way there. 5pm onwards at Old Oak. Pub walk on 7th January from Hunter Arms 11am, to Holbrook and Little Eaton. Boots recommended. Possible future events: St Georges Day social, National Cask Ale Week and 3rd Amber Valley festival. Please speak to Alison if you wish to volunteer to drive mini bus. Membership Secretary, Gus, was absent and we had had no report. Google maps showing pubs, to be provided by Phil Marshall. action PM. **Meeting days/times alterations** The majority were in favour of keeping our current arrangements. **Election of Officers**

Chairman, Nathan, who was proposed by Trevor Spencer, seconded by Dave Harper and unanimously supported, vowed to continue in Chairman's role this year but he appealed for "new blood" and it was agreed that this request would be highlighted three months before next year's AGM. Trevor Spencer was nominated for Secretary by Paul Gibson and seconded by Alison Cox, and was unanimously supported. Jane Wallis was nominated for Social Secretary by Alison and seconded by Anne Kennedy, and unanimously supported. Phil Marshall was nominated for membership secretary by Alison and seconded by Paul Gibson, and unanimously supported. John Arguile proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing committee members. **Budget for 2011/2012** Paul Gibson will inform Derby Treasurer, Julian Tubbs, that our budget is £1,500.00, mainly for survey trips and possible mail shots. It was pointed out, though, that Mild and Bitter was a good source of publicity. **AOB** Membership Secretary has contact details for our members. Phil Marshall volunteered to send a concise monthly email to members informing them what was on during the month. Action PM. Phil also kindly volunteered to keep our web site up to date. Carl Brett confirmed that he has paid for our website copyright. **Meeting finished at 925pm.**

Amber Valley Diary

DECEMBER

Thu 15th Dec - Preliminary beer festival meeting Thorn Tree, Waingroves 830pm. Please try to attend.

Sat 17th Dec - free bus trip surveying pubs in the Ripley area. 730pm from Ripley Market Place or ring Alison for Belper/Alfreton pick-ups.

Thu 29th Dec - branch meeting in the rear snug of one of Ripley's best pubs, the Pear Tree, Derby Road. 830pm start.

JANUARY

Sat 7th - Twelfth Night walk from Kilburn to Holbrook and Little Eaton. Meet Hunter Arms 11am.

*For all Amber Valley Socials contact
Jane Wallis on 01773 745966*

Amber Valley Contacts

Chairman: Nathan Dilley on 01773 570675 or NDilley@hotmail.co.uk

Derby Branch Diary

DECEMBER

Thu 1st-Advent Crawl-Start at Alexandra at 730pm.

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

Thu 15th - Christmas Social - Flower Pot.

Thu 22nd - Shortest day social - Falstaff, Silverhill Road from 830pm onwards. This is a repeat of last year's event when the classic Victorian cornerhouse was packed, making for a great atmosphere aided by the fine ales brewed on the premises.

JANUARY

Thu 12th - BRANCH MEETING - Alexandra, Siddals Road, Derby - 8pm.

*For all Derby Socials contact
Socials@derbycamra.org.uk*

Derby Contacts

DERBY - Ian Forman on 01332 882996

DERBY COMMITTEE

committee@derbycamra.org.uk

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Beer Surveys: Stewart Marshall

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Survey Trips - Paul Richards

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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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