

Mild & Bitter

Derby CAMRA Annual Beer Census 2012

The Derby CAMRA Annual Beer Census will be held on **Friday 3rd February** and will see the City endeavouring to consolidate its title of '**Real Ale Capital of Britain per population head**', which it currently holds. The ABC crawl (as it has become known) has developed into one of the best social nights out of the year with members young and old crawling around most of Derby's pubs in the name of Beer Science and a pint or three. This year's event will see around 65 pubs visited during the evening with the aim being to determine how many different Real Ales are available in the City on any one given night. Last year's total was 161 different beers. So why not come along and join a route on the night, or dip in and out of different routes as you like. Most will start about 7pm but confirm with the route leader beforehand or contact them on the night as all should have mobile phones with them. All routes will finish at the Flowerpot around 10.45pm where the sheets will be aggregated and the results announced. These are the routes and crawl leaders:-
Route 1 – Crawl Leader – Eric Streets (Tel. 07946 116005) – Smithfield (if re-open), Royal Standard, Exeter, Tavern, Peacock, Liversage, Furnace, Seven Stars, Flowerpot. **Route 2 – Crawl Leader – Julian Tubbs** (Tel. 07962 267743) – Crescent, New Zealand, Travellers Rest, Waggon & Horses, Mr Grundy's, The Mile, Greyhound, York Tavern, Flowerpot. **Route 3 – Crawl Leader – Julian Hough** (Tel. 07801 417887) – Florence Nightingale, Crown & Cushion, Station Inn, Merry Widows, Victoria, Waterfall, Brunswick, Alexandra, Flowerpot. **Route 4 – Crawl Leader – Les Baynton** (Tel. 01332 206734) – Rowditch, Great Northern, Junction, Bedford, Dog & Partridge, Dunkirk, Old Spa, Kensington, Bishop Blaise, No.5 Bar, Flowerpot. **Route 5 – Crawl Leader – Chris Rogers** (Tel. 07745 576923) – Jonty Farmer, Horse & Groom, Five Lamps, Maypole, Woodlark, Ram, Masa Bar, Blessington, Flowerpot. **Route 6 – Crawl Leader – Steve Crispin** (Tel. 07831 803749) – Allestree pubs, Broadway, Abbey, Coach & Horses, Garden City, Duke of Clarence, Bridge Inn, Flowerpot. **Route 7 – Crawl Leader – Chris Sherratt** (Tel. 07914 674397) – Falstaff, Babington Arms, Neptune, Crompton Tavern, Wardwick, Metro Bar, Tiger, Flowerpot. **Route 8 – Crawl Leader – Gareth Stead** (Tel. 07900 407086) – Noah's Ark, Quad, Shakespeare, Old Bell, Jorrocks, Standing Order, Thomas Leaper, Slug & Lettuce, Dolphin, Old Silk Mill, Flowerpot.

Derby Branch Meeting & Social – Alexandra Hotel, Siddals Road, Derby Thursday, 12th January

The January Branch Meeting will be held in the Alexandra Hotel, Derby, beginning at 8pm. The agenda is printed elsewhere. The Alex is one of three Derby City Pub of the Year finalists after being revived by Ralf Edge and Anna Dyson. Don't forget, either, that on Tuesday, 24th January, Castle Rock is celebrating its 35th birthday by offering £1 a pint discount. See its website for details. For further branch meeting information **contact the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or email Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk**

Amber Valley CAMRA Pub of the Year 2012

The Hunter Arms, Kilburn, won the annual competition with the Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse, runner up. See page 3 for the full story. Derby branch winners will be announced shortly.

Derby Drinker Distributors Required

Head of distribution, Joy Olivent, requires distributors in Alvaston and Derby city centre, so if you can help, please contact Joy on 07766306985.

Winter Festival Approaching - Staff Required

Massive demand last year has triggered 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 A staffing form is attached. **Next Planning Meeting Wednesday 11th January at 8pm in The Alex.**

"Derby – Best Place in the World to Drink Real Ale"

Yes, that's the verdict of the Lonely Planet Guide, though many Derbeians probably already suspected that. The vast choice we enjoy today in the city is a far cry from 1974 when Derby CAMRA was founded with just a dozen real ales available from half a dozen Nottingham and Burton breweries. Of those breweries, Marston's is the sole surviving supplier to Derby, with even Draught Bass being brewed at Shobnall Road. The Bass/Allied Breweries duopoly that so restricted choice back in '74 has been supplanted by myriad breweries, many of them from England's midmost county.

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 was sold at auction for £176,000. Mild and Bitter understands that a builder was the successful bidder and that refurbishment of the private living quarters is underway. It is hoped that the pub will reopen towards the end of January although this has still to be confirmed. The Editor can vouch for the beer quality at the Smithy's former sister pub, The Flower Pot, when attending a couple of functions over the festive period, it seemed as good as ever.

Derby Real Ale Tours

As reported on page 1, Derby's reputation for excellence of pubs and brewing knows no bounds. The latest innovation to attract further patronage to the city comes in the form of guided tours by bus, which include transport, sampling of beer at a microbrewery, and half a pint of your chosen beer at each pub visited. Snacks will also be provided en-route. Groups of up to 16 are catered for and the cost is £29 per person. For further information on these Thursday and Saturday evening tours, please email info@realalederby.com or call 01332 340063.

Brewery News

Derby Brewing Company has been presented with the George Rennie award by Derby City Council in recognition of the brewery's restoration of The Greyhound, Friar Gate. George Rennie was a 19th C mechanical engineer. Another Derby brewery, Dancing Duck, celebrated its first anniversary in December by notching up 160,000 pints, and Nice Weather 4 Ducks and Dark Drake have already triumphed at CAMRA beer festivals. You can, of course, sample the wares of Brewster, Rachel Matthews, at the Exeter Arms. Marston's are adding to their estate by building 20 new pubs including the recently opened Blue Jay, just off Raynesway. The Burton based brewery is anticipating the creation of 1,000 new jobs. A little further afield, Everard's, who own, or have a stake in, a number of pubs in this area, are looking to relocate to a greenfield site in the Leicester area.

Derby CAMRA Surveys 2012

January's is on Tuesday 31st featuring the Ashbourne Road Mile – Derby. The Survey will start at the Waggon and Horses at 7.30pm before leaving at 8.00pm and progressing towards the city centre to finish at The Greyhound. For more information contact **Paul Richards on 07866 375560**.

Derby Summer Fest 2012

Next meeting:- **Wednesday 1 February**, 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**

Year End -Accounts Need Finalizing

This is the last call for anyone who has invoices that require paying or have any claims to make, so please submit them immediately to Treasurer, Julian Tubbs, 07962267743.

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.

Vote Now For CBOB

You still have time to go online to CAMRA's national website and vote for your favourite beers in the Champion Beer of Britain competition.

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 Dilley, NDilley@hotmail.co.uk

Minutes of the Derby CAMRA meeting at the Olde Spa on Thursday 8th Dec 2011

APOLOGIES. Dean Smith, Chris and Sharon Sherratt, Joy Oliviant, Paul Cooper, Tim Williams, Eric Street, Reg Newcombe. **MINS OF THE LAST MEETING.** As printed in M&B. Accepted as a true record. **MATTERS ARISING.** Concessions - Outcome of committee meeting was that all CAMRA members would remain free at both festivals. The issue of the youth discount was not as clear cut. For the upcoming Winter festival an under 21 free entry at all times would apply to fit in with the challenge 21 scheme. Summer committee to decide what they would like with referral back to the branch committee and the figure would have to be built into their budget. Jok felt there should be a branch decided subsidy, as the festival committees

were not elected. Gillian Williams objected to this. IF pointed out that no official vote had taken place at the last meeting. Everything else were only perceptions of events. Konrad felt uneasy about festival committees deciding subsidies as this should be a branch committee decision. He felt the committee's process was wrong as we had a wealth of information. He also didn't like concessions to be under 21s. He felt it was not a concession at the door; rather getting money back in beer tokens. He felt the process was cumbersome, not really likely to glean any useful information for us to use. This also restricted us to only getting information from under 21s on receipt of an email address. He felt this might result in fraudulent use of email addresses to get beer tokens. He felt that as the under 21 membership was only 5, we were unlikely to get members from this age group. The mid 20 market looked better. We need to get 20 new young members to meet our target. We could offer a reduced membership and there are more workable options. Russ Gilbert felt we would leave ourselves open to scrutineer problems and we shouldn't alter things that didn't need altering. A debate ensued. Questions asked about costs of the various subsidies. Julian Tubbs clarified the situation in the light of the new financial constraints of the campaign. He said that concessions could be built into the festival budgets and need not be branch subsidies. Do we need a proactive team to get more young members? Les Baynton cautioned about being anti youth. We need to attract young people. Gareth explained why there was a discrepancy between the winter and summer festivals. Winter festival to run with under 21s with the summer festival to talk to the branch committee about further concessions. The branch aim is to homogenise both summer and winter festivals. **OFFICERS' REPORTS. CHAIRMAN. POTY** at judging stage. Derbyshire Brewers Collective had thanked us for our support at their recent festival in the Darwin Suite. Still need Bottle Brook BLO. DD distributors for City Centre and Alvaston needed. 18th 21st Winter Ales Fest in Manchester. Cider Poty nominations needed by 20th Jan. Members Weekend March 30-1st April in Torquay and registration is now open. NEC vote to be a contested one, if you need a postal vote please apply now. **TREASURER.** Expenses in as soon as possible. DD advertising down. **WINTER FESTIVAL.** Posters are ready and to go out with DD this issue. Information and staffing forms on the website. 300 ales plus ciders and continental beers. **SUMMER FESTIVAL.** Russ – accounts had gone to the auditor. More talks with Assembly room about venue change. Three year deal on table. They want greater involvement with entertainment. Hall manager has stood down so there is a vacancy. Please ask for minutes if you are not getting

them. **CAMPAIGNING.** Locale and discount scheme doing well. Mild month no update. Movement expected when Dean Smith returns from the States. **DD.** New issue out now. Next issue will be out mid Jan to headline the Winter festival. Copy date 31st Dec for next issue. **GBG and Surveys.** 40 candidates for GBG had been listed. Surveys needed. Descriptions to reach Stewart by 21st Jan. Final selection meeting at Falstaff on 7th Feb. Last survey had found 59 unique beers from nine pubs. Not many surveys had been returned. Paul Richards apologised for lack of spaces. He needed prior bookings to ensure you get a place. Jan surveys problematic due to winter festival. 31st Jan Mile survey from Travellers' Rest. **M&B.** Out for meeting. **REGIONAL.** Pubs campaigning month in Apr next year. What are we going to do. Committee to discuss. **SOCIALS.** No Jan socials set. Only branch meetings on calendar. 22nd Dec social at Falstaff. All invited. **SUB BRANCH.** Committee changes. New festival treasurer. **TRANSPORT.** Some reductions in Sunday services evident. HQ report mentioned about previous transport members being evident in complaints about the transport committee's demise. The feeling of the meeting was that we should do more for transport for our area. **WEBSITE.** Mostly up to date and access rights had been sorted out. **PUB INFORMATION** Bluebell at Farnah Green and Bear at Alderwasley to shut? Victoria has Dancing Duck beers. Corner Pin had SIBA beers (Has meeting room). Butchers, Heanor opening next week? Smithfield still open but future uncertain? Burton Bridge new pub at Newton Solney. Camra national pub database- What Pub, is live from 10th Nov. only open to committee members. Stewart has put information on site. We can attach photos. Park Farm, Allestree to be Wetherspoons? Any information about Green Man at Ashbourne? **AOB.** A commercial real ale trail has been launched in Derby. Charges £29 for brewery tour, pubs and sausages etc. Ad in DD and leaflets in Derby pubs. Can branch have a single sheet map of Derby pubs for Winter festival. (Last meeting had requested one and is being sorted.) **Meeting closed at 9.55pm.**

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

Kilburn Pub Takes Gold.....Again

From abandonment to consecutive Amber Valley CAMRA Pub of the Year awards; that's the stunning success story of the Hunter Arms, Kilburn. Ten competition judges assessed the nine Pub of the Year finalists, which had been nominated by Amber Valley CAMRA members, on broad criteria over a five week period and, as last year, the Hunter's triumphed. In 2009, Mark Showers, a charismatic Canadian, and his wife, London born Paula, bought the closed Hunter's and started re-establishing the pub's customer base with a mouth-watering range of beers frequently featuring Blue Monkey, Thornbridge and Oakham breweries. A beaming Mark said "given the stiff competition, I'm delighted to receive this recognition, especially as it's the second such award. It's been made possible by the hard work of Paula and our dedicated staff" The **runner up, the Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse**, has been at the forefront of the local real ale scene for longer than the Hunter's, with the weekly mini beer festival that is the RuRad bar continuing to attract custom from far and wide. Richard and Tracey Creighton have been justly rewarded for their hard work and enterprise at a homely pub that offers excellent value for money. Both pubs are serviced by the Amber Line bus route with stops conveniently situated right outside. **Results in full** (scores out of a maximum 1300): Hunter 1066, Old Oak 1003, Dead Poets 939, Holly Bush 938, Talbot Taphouse 919, Bee Hive 870, Black Boy 840, George and Dragon 830, Thorn Tree, Waingroves 805.

Greyhound Beer Festival

Those of you that have been to the excellent Greyhound, Whitemoor Lane, Belper beer festivals, will be delighted to know they have another one starting on Thursday, 19th January. This promises to be bigger and even better than before, with cider and wine available to widen its appeal.

Holly Bush Goes From Strength To Strength

That timeless classic, the Holly Bush, Makeney, has increased its trade since Chris Wilbraham took over in the Autumn, to the extent that it no longer closes on weekday afternoons. Eight real ales are served by enthusiastic staff and Chris himself is congeniality personified. You can, of course, kill two birds with one stone in these parts by also paying the

King William on the A6 a visit. It recently featured Bees (Norfolk) Porter, which was outstanding. Another Holly Bush, at Marehay, Ripley, is open again and the early signs are encouraging for the former Good Beer Guide listed Shipstone's house.

Discounted Beer Offers

With a crushing 7.2% alcohol duty hike on the horizon in April, some Amber Valley pubs have taken pre-emptive action in order to preserve their patronage. These include the GBG listed Beehive at Peasehill, which offers real ale at £2 a pint. Another GBG pub, the Talbot Taphouse on Butterley Hill is courting custom by offering an impressive 15% discount on Mondays. 20p a pint reduction on Amber Ales is always available to card carrying CAMRA members. Monday is also discount day at the Travellers Rest, Kilburn. Members may also receive 20p discount at the George and Dragon, Bridge Street, Belper. The Thorn Tree on Ripley Market Place offers a free pint if you sign up at www.thornreethotelpub.co.uk The King Alfred, Alfreton and Midland, Ripley offer card schemes whereby the purchase of ten pints is rewarded with one free pint. Savings at the bar are always welcome but let's hope that, for the sake of quality and enjoyment, real ale continues to be brewed up to a specification, rather than brewed down to a price, in these difficult times.

Ripley Rail Ale Festival

Amber Valley CAMRA is pleased to announce two key committee appointments for the third festival, which has been booked for the last week in September, at Butterley Station. The vastly experienced Chris Rogers is Festival Chairman, and we are very grateful to Yvonne Warhurst for taking on the Treasurer's role. Chris has played a major part in the running of past Burton CAMRA Town Hall festivals, and is proprietor of Three Cats Cider. Yvonne is a familiar and popular figure behind the bar at the Dew Drop, Ilkeston. Nigel Heathcote, the architect of the festival, will continue with his invaluable input.

Minutes of the Amber Valley CAMRA branch meeting at Hunter Arms, Kilburn on 24th Nov 2011

Meeting started at 925pm with 31 attendees and with apologies for absence from Julian Tubbs.

Minutes of last branch meeting

Accepted as a true record.

Matters arising Alison to give Paul Eydon driving forms, who in turn, will pass them onto Chris Burke.

Beer festival 2012 John Arguile spoke of the need to submit budget well ahead of

the event. Key positions need to be filled before proceeding. Chair, treasurer, meeting minutes secretary are pre-requisites. It seems likely that VAT will be chargeable in 2012. Should someone volunteer to be treasurer, guidance will be given to him/her. Nigel Heathcote offered to be organizer again. Paul Gibson said that Chris Rogers had expressed interest in the organizer's position. Alison Cox alluded to the level of work involved which had tested many of us. Karen Guest to produce poster to advertise preliminary meeting at Thorn Tree, Waingroves on 15th December, starting at 830pm. It was proving difficult to find a new Treasurer, so Paul will draw up a job description which can be circulated.

Pub of the Year Nine pubs would be surveyed: Bee Hive, Black Boy, Dead Poets, George and Dragon, Holly Bush, Hunter Arms, Old Oak, Talbot, Thorn Tree. Judges: Alison, Nathan, Andy Horsfall, Ged Swallow, Chris Burke, Jane Wallis, Trevor Spencer, Paul Eyden, Roy Burrows, Nigel Heathcote and Chris Rogers. All forms must be returned to Paul Gibson by 29th December.

Future meeting dates 15th December, Thorn Tree, Waingroves (festival). 29th December, Pear Tree, Ripley (branch). 26th January, Kings Head, Days Lane, Belper. 23rd Feb, Wheel, Holbrook. AOB Holly Bush, Marehay, opening 3rd December. White Hart, Heage is still closed. Any news on the Blue Bell, Alfreton? Mark Little will be BLO for Shottle. PG to inform Steve Westby. Imperial Vaults, Belper to be a shop? Deputy Regional Director, Dave Brett, encouraged Amber Valley representation at Saturday's regional meeting in Hinckley. One GBG for sale. **Meeting closed at 1010pm.**

Amber Valley Diary

JANUARY

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

Thu 12th Jan - beer festival meeting Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse 8pm. Note the earlier start time.

Sat 14th Jan - free bus trip surveying pubs in the Alfreton area. 730pm from Ripley Market Place.

Thu 26th Jan – **BRANCH MEETING** Kings Head, Days Lane, Belper. 830pm start.

For all Amber Valley Socials contact Jane Wallis on 01773 745966

Amber Valley Contacts

Chairman: Nathan Dille on 01773 570675

Derby Branch Diary

JANUARY

Thu 12th - **BRANCH MEETING** – Alexandra, Siddals Road, Derby – 8pm.
Tues 17th – **social**, Peacock, Derby. 9pm.
Tues 24th – **social**, Crompton, Crompton Street. 9pm.
Tues 31st – **Survey** of Ashbourne Road, Derby. See page 2 for details.

FEBRUARY

Fri 3rd – **ABC crawls**. See page 1
Tues 7th – **GBG selection meeting**, Falstaff 8pm.
Thu 9th – **BRANCH MEETING** – Wardwick Tavern, Derby. 8pm start.
Wed 15th – **Sat 18th WINTER BEER FESTIVAL** – Roundhouse, Pride Park. 320 beers.

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

Derby Contacts

DERBY - Ian Forman on 01332 882996
DERBY COMMITTEE

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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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Mild & Bitter – (C) 2011 - Derby & Amber Valley CAMRA

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