

Mild & Bitter

Committee Nominations Required for AGM

The Derby CAMRA Annual General Meeting is on **Thursday, 12th April at 8pm** at the Flower Pot, King Street, Derby. Derby CAMRA will once again be seeking members to stand for committee positions. So if you want to play a part in determining the future direction of this dynamic branch please get in touch with branch Secretary, Ian Forman, 01332 882996 or email secretary@derbycamra.org.uk. A proposer and seconder will be required. The branch awards will also be presented on the night, with some free beer and nibbles available.

Derby-Still the Real Ale Capital

The latest edition of the Lonely Planet Guide describes Derby as the “Best place to drink Real Ale in the World” and who are we to disagree as the results of the City’s **Annual Beer Census** undertaken by Derby CAMRA members have confirmed Derby’s status as **Real Ale Capital of Britain** per population head for yet another year. The census took place in February and involved 8 different pub crawls around the City which saw a record number of Real Ales available on any one given night. 290 were counted (up 20 on last year) with 176 different ones available (up 15 on last year) and these came from just 68 pubs averaging 4.3 Real Ales per pub. In total 74 pubs were visited, 1 was shut and 5 had no real ale. 10 pubs had 10 or more Real Ales on and leading the way was the Flowerpot (18), Babington Arms (17), Brunswick (14), Alexandra (13), Thomas Leaper (12), Five Lamps (11), Mr Grundy’s (11), Old Silk Mill (11), Standing Order (11) and Brewery Tap (10). Marstons Pedigree was still the most dominant brand in the City available in 40 pubs followed by Bass in 11 pubs and Timothy Taylor Landlord in 10. Local ales are well represented with beers from 7 of the City’s breweries widely available - Brunswick, Black Iris, Dancing Duck, Derby, Derventio, Falstaff, Mr Grundy’s and the Rowditch. Beers from other breweries around the area were also well represented - Blue Monkey, Burton Bridge, Castle Rock, Leatherbritches, Nutbrook and Muirhouse to name a few. The average price of a pint was found to be £2.77 (5p up on previous year). However in reality a lot of pubs were hovering around the £3 a pint mark with some now regularly topping it. The dearest pint of the night was found at the Alexandra Hotel - £4.00 for Fullers Golden Pride although at 8.5% this is not excessive given its strength. The cheapest pint was found at the City’s 3 Wetherspoons pubs at £1.60 for both Marstons Burton Bitter & Greene King Ruddles Bitter. The only outlet around here for Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter, the Abbey in Darley Abbey, was next cheapest. So there you have it, a few stats to bear in mind while drinking around Beer City, once again proving that, per head of population, Derby has more Real Ales available than any other City.

Derby Drinker Distributors Required

Head of distribution, Joy Olivent, requires distributor(s) for Cromford, Brassington, Carsington, Fenny Bentley and Kniveton, so if you can help, please contact Joy on 07766306985.

Ashbourne CAMRA Imminent?

It’s been a long time in the making, but the Ashbourne area looks as if it could soon have formal CAMRA representation. A score of mainly Ashbourne based CAMRA members attended the Smith’s Tavern exploratory meeting in March, where Dave Leigh was appointed interim Chairman. There were stirrings of Ashbourne CAMRA activity back in the 1970s, when the late John Fowler was delivering What’s Brewing to the town’s pubs. Later, in the same decade, Ian Chater, landlord of the Smith’s, and famous for his coach excursions to the Great British Beer Festival with a cask of re-racked Pedigree on board, flew the flag for CAMRA in the town. So if you live in the area, please try to come to the Smith’s at 8pm on **Tuesday, 17th April**, when, subject to sufficient support, the inaugural sub-branch meeting is planned. The mainly rural area might also include Wirksworth.

M&B Distribution

Because it’s the Derby Branch Annual General Meeting this month, Mild and Bitter is going to all Derby Branch and Amber Valley Sub-Branch members. That’s a total distribution of about 2,700. We don’t have email addresses for about 700 of you (500 addresses), so it’s expensive. However, it’s important that all members get a chance to see what’s going on in their local branch, and to participate if they wish. *We will also send the May edition to everyone. This will report news of the AGM, and give the new Committee contact details. We will then ask if you want to continue to get M&B for the following ten months. Look out for a form with your next M&B if you get it by post, or for a message with the email copy. If you get this by post and want to switch to email, it would be very helpful if you could let me know immediately. Please email your CAMRA membership number and postal address to timwilliams@39bhr.fsnet.co.uk*

The Budget: The Editor's View

Despite CAMRA's best efforts, the Chancellor retained the beer duty escalator, and the consequences, dearer beer and further pub closures, are depressingly predictable. Indeed, Britain pays a massive 42% of the aggregated European beer duty. I can't help feeling, however, that there's more to this than just penal taxation. Given that our pubs are quintessentially British, and many of our MPs are beholden to the European Project, I contend that they (the MPs) are indifferent to the existence of our cherished public houses, which in some communities are the last retail outlet. It makes one wonder whether any of our pubs will still be in business by the time the beer duty escalator is due to finish in a couple of years' time. **Paul Gibson**

Derby Cask Pubs Map

Derby CAMRA is currently designing a Real Ale Pubs Map and we require your help to produce it. If you have any current pub photos or are able to take any then please e-mail them to photos@derbycamra.org.uk

Make May a Mild Month

To ensure this promotion is successful, we need members to deliver information packs to participating pubs. If you can spare a couple of hours or so, please meet us in the Alexandra at 8pm on Thursday, 26th April. We'll reconvene later at the Flower Pot. Also, please make a note in your diary of Thursday, 3rd May, when Derby CAMRA's mild promotion begins with a crawl of Derby pubs serving the dark elixir, starting at the Falstaff, 730pm.

The Furnace Inn

Mild and Bitter understands that a Derby CAMRA member has bought the Duke Street pub with a view to it offering a selection of real ales. The purchaser, who wishes to remain anonymous for the time being, has gained experience on brewing courses, and plans an on-site micro-brewery in the not too distant future. With the right business acumen, it's hard to imagine the former Kimberley house failing, given its proximity to the city centre and Strutt's Park.

Allestree to Gain Real Ale Pub?

Speculation is mounting that the abandoned Park Farm at the shopping centre of the same name is about to get a new lease of life as a J D Wetherspoon pub. The building, which can only be described as an ugly box, faced with concrete cladding panels, is owned by Enterprise Inns, after starting life as a Bass house in 1968. The Park Farm had a subterranean bar, popular with the younger element, titled the Pothole, replete with

plastic "stone" to give a cave-like feel! It will be interesting to see if the Watford based pub company can turn this ugly duckling into the goose that lays the golden eggs.

National Recognition for Website

Congratulations are due to Richard Makeney after Derby CAMRA's website was adjudged East Midlands' website of the year, and most improved website in the country, at the recent Torquay AGM. This also meant that Derby CAMRA has achieved one of its campaigning goals that were set last April.

Derbyshire Tour

The excursion on 28th April looks particularly enticing with each and everyone of the county's branches Pub of the Year on the itinerary. In no particular order, these are: Flying Childers, Stanton in the Peak; Old Hall Inn, Whitehough; Anglers Rest, Millers Dale; Chesterfield Arms, Chesterfield; Devonshire, South Normanton; Admiral Rodney, Hartshorne; Hunter's, Kilburn and Dew Drop, Ilkeston. If that lot hasn't sated your appetite, then you could even finish off in the Derby Pub of the Year, the Five Lamps. Names and £5 deposit to Dean Smith asap 07703458623.

Dual Awards for Derby Brewers

Dancing Duck and Derby Brewing Company are celebrating after their brews won medals in the Society of Independent Brewers' Association (SIBA) national contest. Rachel Matthews' Dark Drake took gold in the porter/stout category, which was a timely boost ahead of Dancing Duck's second pub opening, the New Zealand Arms, on the corner of Langley Street and Peel Street. Quintessential from DBC took silver in the strong bitter category.

New Zealand Opens

The New Zealand Arms on Peel Street re-opened with half a dozen Dancing Duck beers at £2.50 a pint, and a couple of guests available at the brewery tap. If your penchant is for traditional cider then you're looked after too, with half a dozen to choose from. Initial reports of trading levels at the white painted corner house are positive.

Martin is New Manager at Exeter

Martin Roper, 50, has been appointed manager of the Exeter Arms, where he will continue to produce his interesting food menu which has attracted considerable custom since the characterful, Regency boozer re-opened a while back. The pub will host a beer festival at the beginning of May.

Beer Festivals

Derby Rowing Club in Strutt's Park is hosting a one day mini beer festival on Easter Saturday. The Windmill, Breadsall Hill Top, will be serving 5 changing guest beers for four weeks from 4th April. Patten Makers, Duffield, is hosting a four day event from 6th April.

Derby Summer Fest

Next meetings:- **Wednesday 4th April** and **2nd May**, 8pm at the Alexandra. If you would like to take part in the organisation of this summer's event then please contact the Festival Chairman, **Russ Gilbert** on 07909 967142 or summerbeerfest@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 Dilley, NDilley@hotmail.co.uk

Derby Website now live

Derby CAMRA's new website is now live. www.derbycamra.org.uk If you have any suggestions for the site then please e-mail the Webmaster, Richard Mackney webmaster@derbycamra.org.uk

Minutes of the AGM of Derby CAMRA at the Flowerpot, on 14th April 2011.

56 Present at meeting.
Apologies. Konrad Machej, Dean Smith, Jim Suter, Les Baynton. **Minutes of 2010 AGM.** Published in M&B and available at the meeting for members' scrutiny. Accepted. **Matters Arising.** The phrase describing Rob Davison's "demise," would be better described as resigned. **Appointment of Tellers.** Carl and David Brett. **Chair's Report.** As published in the May 2011 M&B.
Finance.
Treasurer's Report – 2010 Branch accounts. John Arguile moved and explained the branch accounts. M&B costs had reduced and Derby Drinker was

in profit. We still continue to make a good contribution to HQ from the festivals, despite the festivals' variable fortunes.

Audit of Branch Accounts for 2010.

Accurate and complete - Keith

Normington. **Winter 2010 Beer Festival - Treasurer's Report.** We doubled the

budgeted profit and all in all it was a successful Festival, run by an efficient, enthusiastic and effective team - Susan A Lawson. **Auditor Report Winter Festival Accounts 2010.** The accounts

were clear and easy to follow and in order - Maria Gibson. **Summer 2010 Beer**

Festival Accounts - Treasurer's Report. The attendance for the festival was well

down on previous years and due to this factor beer sales were also down and as such a quantity of beer was left over at the end of the festival. Post festival the

majority of this beer was sold to local pubs/breweries. Consequently the Festival made a much reduced profit - John Roden.

Festival Auditor Report Summer Beer

Accounts 2010. The accounts were correct to the best of my knowledge - Maria

Gibson. **Amber Valley Beer Festival 2010.**

It was noted that the reason that this matter was being discussed at this meeting

was because this was the only forum

available whilst the Derby Branch had

responsibility for the AV sub Branch. This

situation would alter if and when the sub

branch became independent. Regional

Director Julian Tubbs congratulated AV

on running such a successful festival

despite the inclement weather.

Treasurer's Report for the 2010 Amber

Valley Beer Festival. The profit for the

inaugural Amber Valley beer festival

exceeded the budgeted surplus. I would

like to record my sincere thanks to Derby

branch for their faith in, and support of,

Amber Valley CAMRA. Also Derby's

assistance in staffing was really

appreciated - Paul Gibson. **Audit of**

Amber Valley 2010 Beer Festival. I

found them to be an accurate reflection of

all the supporting documents. - Kevin

Hepworth. All the accounts were accepted

as true by the meeting. **Appointment of**

new Auditors. Keith Normington for

Branch, we need new auditor for festival

accounts. Kevin H volunteered to do

Winter with Peter Mann volunteering for

the summer. AV - Kevin Hepworth happy

to do auditing again. **Election of New**

Committee. Gareth Stead, Dean Smith,

Ian Forman, Joy Olivent, Ralf Edge, Anna

Dyson, Chris Sherratt, Sharon Sherratt,

Konrad Machej had stated their

willingness to stand for election. All had

their relevant proposers and seconders

with paperwork being available for

scrutiny. No election was needed as nine

had volunteered. No treasurer was

forthcoming. Questions were asked about

this. John Arguile volunteered to cover for

the first month. **Branch Awards.** Stewart

Marshall was congratulated by the branch

for his sterling efforts in running the

surveys and supplying the data and was

awarded a branch tankard. The committee

will also re-present Pip Southall with his tankard. A plaque was awarded to Anna Dyson and Ralf Edge for their sterling efforts in running the Roundhouse festival.

AOB. Gwen Shandu gave details of a proposed cider orchard. The Branch congratulated John Arguile for all the work he had done for CAMRA. The branch heartily approved.

AN UNABRIDGED COPY OF THE AGM MINUTES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE AGM.

Derby AGM Agenda

1. Apologies. 2. Appointment of tellers 3. Minutes of last meeting. 4. Matters arising. 5. Chairman's report 6. Finance (Treasurer's report, branch and beer festival accounts, Auditors' report, Appointment of new Auditors) 7. Motions for debate. 8. Election of new committee. 9. Branch awards. 10. Any other business.

VALLEY VIEW

News from the Amber Valley Sub-Branch

Blue Bells are Blooming

Yes, it's Spring again, and a couple of Blue Bells of the public house variety are certainly flowering. South Wingfield's is offering Bass, Landlord, India IPA and three changing guest beers, one at a bargain £1.90 a pint. For real cider lovers, there are two varieties available, and it's open from 4pm weekdays, and noon at weekends. If you haven't already visited the Bell, why not try it over the Easter weekend when it hosts a four day beer festival? Meanwhile the Blue Bell at Farnah Green is back in business and the emphasis isn't just on the food, as they sell Bass, Landlord and Shottle Gold, brewed a mere two miles away. The idyllically located country inn is open all day with meals served at lunchtime and evenings. The George and Dragon, Bridge Street, Belper is another permanent outlet for Shottle Gold, where you will receive a discount on production of your CAMRA membership card. The George is also holding a beer festival between 19th and 21st April.

Meet the Brewer & Groom

No, it's not a new pub! The King William IV in Milford will be hosting another of its

popular beer festivals from Thursday 19th to Sunday 22nd April. The festival opens with a 'Meet the Brewer' session at 6.30pm from Worthington's brewer Jim Appleby - your chance to catch up on the changes at the home of White Shield. It also coincides with Stewart Marshall's Stag Night (there's the Groom connection). All CAMRA members welcome to join in celebrating his marriage to Janie Belhaven.

Thorn Tree Grows Bigger

In addition to its range of real ales, the Thorn Tree, Waingroves, has opened a restaurant and also offers bar food and Sunday lunches. The 1A Trent Barton bus service conveniently stops right outside.

Dancing Duck's Easter Parade

The Hunter Arms, Kilburn will be serving up an Easter treat for devotees of Derby's Dancing Duck brewery. Between 6th and 9th April, the Amber Valley CAMRA Pub of the Year will showcase all six of the company's brews including the outstanding oatmeal stout, Dark Drake.

Inn Brief

Easter weekend sees the New Inn, High Street, Riddings, celebrating the religious holiday with a beer festival. The Holly Bush, Makeney, is commemorating St George's Day with good old bangers and mash between 6 and 9pm on Monday, 23rd. The Thorn Tree, Market Place, Ripley is also celebrating England's patron Saint. The White Hart, Bargate, is staging a 15 brew beer festival between 26th and 28th April.

Minutes of the Amber Valley CAMRA Sub-Branch Meeting at the Wheel, Holbrook 23rd February

Meeting commenced at 8:35 with 11 attendees. **Apologies for absence:** Paul Gibson, John & Wendy Truman, Nigel Heathcote, Nora Harper, Mark Little, Anne Kennedy **Minutes:** Accepted as a true record **Matters arising:** none **Officers Reports:** **Chairman** - Nathan noted the sad news that Ken, the landlord of the Horse & Jockey at Somercotes, has passed away and the pub is closed for the foreseeable future. It was agreed that the Branch should send a card to his family. Nathan also commented on the success of the Derby Winter Beer Festival, thanking those who helped in making it such a success. **Social Secretary** - Jane distributed a report on the February Survey Trip, during which 6 pubs were visited and a total of 15 different beers were on offer. April 1st Social at the Talbot Taphouse has now been finalised. As for the beer for St Georges Day, Pete Hounsel has suggested brewing an old English-style IPA, which members may help to brew, for this event. However, due to the amount needed to be brewed to make production viable

members may be asked to help sell the beer to other outlets. Doubts were expressed as we don't want to be seen to be pushing individual breweries. Trevor will seek the advice of Julian Tubbs. Jane suggested that if St Georges day does not go ahead maybe a beer safari can be arranged for the summer, with a visit to Amber Ales and a Social. **Membership Secretary** – Phil says the website has been updated but he needs to contact Gareth Stead or Richard Makeney regarding full access. As for membership, January saw 2 new members, with 2 transferred in, and 7 lapsed. 23 new members have joined and one has transferred in during February, but 3 have transferred out of the Branch and 11 have lapsed. Phil spoke to Gus at Derby Festival, and was promised an email regarding the 2011 beer of the Festival, information that is needed before the beer order for the 2012 Festival is finalised. **Branch Secretary** – Trevor confirmed that the Victoria at Alfreton has been booked for the April 26th Branch Meeting. He then spoke about the Club of the Year competition, having received an email regarding a self-nomination by the Strutt Club at Belper. Members commented that it seemed that the Strutt Club would be the COTY by default if no other clubs were nominated, so it was agreed to at least visit Milford Social Club, which was on the list of outlets at the GBG selection meeting, before the closing date for COTY judging, Trevor will make a visit in the next fortnight and email Members with his findings, as well as inquiring if any other clubs in the AV area meet the criteria for COTY. **Mild Month 2012:** Trevor proposed a Mild Month event during May, and Nathan endorsed his idea. Pubs were put forward and a letter will be sent to landlords inviting them to take part by stocking a mild during May. While no pub should be excluded, accessibility by public transport needs to be considered as the pubs that agree to serve mild need to know we are going to drink it. Trevor will notify Derby Drinker, Nottingham Drinker and other local CAMRA publications. **Beer Festival 2012:** Phil said we may well have two treasurers now, so maybe one can be assistant treasurer. The budget has been prepared, but cannot be presented until the appointment of a treasurer has been confirmed. In the meantime, Nigel has requested that Derby Branch review our progress so far. As for beer prices, while the beer order will dictate what they will be, we may not make the same profit as last year as we need to try and stay in line with pub prices locally. **AOB:** The Thorn Tree, Ripley Market Place, is accepting 50p JDW vouchers on their guest beers. The Dog & Doublet at Pye

Bridge has reopened and is serving Real Ale. The Marquis of Ormonde, Denby is reopening soon. The owner of the Hurt Arms, Ambergate also has the Peacock, Oakerthorpe and the Black Bulls Head, Openwoodgate opens on 24th February. Jane reminded members of the proposed Belper Walkabout Survey on Monday 4th June. **The meeting closed at 9:40**, after which the Landlord generously provided sandwiches.

Amber Valley Diary

APRIL

Sat 14th free survey trip – Pentrich, South Wingfield and Oakerthorpe. 730pm from Ripley Market Place. For Alfreton and Belper pick-ups, please ring Jane.

Thu 19th - Beer festival meeting – Black Bulls Head, Openwoodgate, 8pm.

Thu 26th – BRANCH MEETING - Victoria, Nottingham Road, Alfreton, 830pm.

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

Amber Valley Contacts

Chairman: Nathan Dillel on 01773
570675

Derby Branch Diary

APRIL

Wed 4th – City Charter Festival meeting – Alexandra, 8pm.

Thu 5th – “Suburbeer” Littleover, White Swan 8.30, Half Moon 9.30. Suggested buses are: Trent V3 from bus station at 810pm, return bus 1030pm. The Arriva 32/33 will also get you there, but not back.

Thu 12th – AGM – 8 pm, Flower Pot, King Street, Derby. Some free beer and nibbles will be on offer.

Sat 14th – Nottingham Caves and Ale. Meet Brewery Tap on Derwent Street at noon prior to catching Red Arrow bus. Those of you who went on Pete Elliott's trip last year, will doubtless want to go again.

Tues 17th – Social, Rowditch, Uttoxeter New Road, 9pm.

Tues 17th - ASHBOURNE SUB-BRANCH MEETING, Smith's Tavern, Ashbourne, 8pm start.

Thu 26th – Mild Month Info Delivery, meet in the Alexandra at 8pm. Helpers required to deliver mild information packs to pubs. Finish Flower Pot.

Sat 28th - Derbyshire Pub of the Year trip to all branch POYs by mini bus. The itinerary has to be determined, but this should be a cracker.

Names and £5 deposit to Dean Smith
07703458623.

MAY

Wed 2nd – City Charter Festival Meeting – Alexandra, 8pm.

Thu 3rd – May Mild Month, launch evening crawl, 730pm, Falstaff, then Brunswick, Alex and Exeter Arms.

Thu 10th – BRANCH MEETING, Brunswick, Derby. 8pm.

*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) 2012 - Derby & Amber Valley CAMRA
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