Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

Barnes Wallis Celebrated at Ripley Festival

Ripley born Barnes Wallis's unique contribution to defeating Germany in World War 2 will be recognised at the third Ripley Rail Ale Festival. Wallis, born just up the road on Butterley Hill, invented the Bouncing Bomb which breached the Ruhr dams, and the 26th September, the eve of the four day festival, marks the 125th anniversary of his birth. Ripley's Amber Ales will brew a 6% commemorative special entitled Grand Slam, a reference to a Wallis 10 tonne bomb. Flash, the Queen tribute band, will headline on the Saturday night of the festival which runs between Thursday, 27th and Sunday, 30th September. Supporting Flash on Saturday in the marquee will be the Fab 2 who pay homage to the Fab Four (The Beatles). There will be over 100 real ales, ciders, perries, fruit wines and food at the event, whose main sponsor is the Black Bulls Head, Openwoodgate. This year, in addition to special festival brews, some newer breweries will feature, including Hop Fuzz, the Kentish brewery. RAW of Staveley will be launching a brand new dark beer and steam trains will be running during Saturday and Sunday daytime. All Fired Up and Whiskey Bob Shaker get proceedings underway on Thursday evening, and Friday sees the Pesky Alligators with their twisting guitar and raunchy drum beat, supporting the astonishingly energetic and visual rock n' rollers, Jalapenos. Morris Men dancing will be to the fore on Saturday afternoon, and for those who just want a quiet pint, two railway carriages will house some of the many fine beers on offer. Admission concessions are available to **CAMRA members at all sessions**, though Sunday lunchtime will be free admission with remaining beer at £2 a pint. Advance tickets for Friday and Saturday nights are available from: Butterley Station, Talbot Taphouse, Ripley, Hunter Arms, Kilburn, Victoria, Alfreton, and main sponsors, the Black Bulls Head, Openwoodgate. Online ticket purchases may be made with credit/debit cards www.midlandrailwaycentre.co.uk Alternatively, telephone 01773 570140. The Trent Barton nines bus service conveniently goes direct from Derby to just outside the Butterley Station festival site.

Urgent Staffing Appeal

We are short of helpers at the event particularly on the Saturday night so if you have some spare time to help out, our Staffing Officer, Phil Marshall, would like to hear from you. Please contact Phil at *avbfstaffing@gmail.com* or phone/text Phil 07828 197795.

Auditors Required

Auditors are required for the Derby Winter Festival and Derby Branch Accounts 2012. Please contact the Branch Secretary, whose details are on this page, if you're interested in either of these important roles.

Good Beer Guide 2013

The brand new Good Beer Guide is now out and available at a special members price of £10 for those attending the September, October or November Branch Meetings. They will be a little bit more in the pubs.

Derby CAMRA Branch Meeting, Harpurs, Melbourne, Thursday, 13th September

The September branch meeting will be at Harpurs, Melbourne, starting at 8pm on Thursday, 13th September. A free bus will depart from Cathedral Green, Derby at 7.30pm returning at 10pm. Further information from the **Branch Secretary**, **Ian Forman**, on 01332 882996 or email <u>secretary@derbycamra.org.uk</u>

Festival Concessions

The Branch Committee would like to introduce the following concessions at both Derby Festivals and would like to hear members' views at or before the Branch Meeting in Melbourne before making a final decision: Free admission to CAMRA members; 50% admission to the Under-26s, with the option of a free halfpint to be claimed at the Membership Desk; Free admission to the Over-60s before 3:00pm: Free admission to carers of those with disabilities or special needs. In addition, anyone who arrives for an evening session, and can prove that they paid for that day's lunchtime session, will be charged only the difference between the evening price and the daytime price.

Good Beer Guide Launch

The attractive Arts and Crafts corner house, the Coach and Horses, Chester Green, will be the venue for launching the 2013 GBG at 8pm on Friday, 14th September. This is the first time that the Coach has featured in CAMRA's prestigious guide and is just reward for landlord, Mick's considerable efforts in raising standards at the Edwardian pub. Buy your discounted GBG here or at a branch meeting.

National Cask Ale Week

This year's National Cask Ale Week will run from the 28th September to 7th October, and promote cask ale throughout the country. All pubs are encouraged to take part and run events throughout the week. Promotional material is available to order from the CAMRA website www.camra.org.uk

Please Sign the Beer Tax e-Petition

If you haven't already done so, **please** sign the online e-petition today: **www.camra.org.uk/saveyourpint.** We have over 80,000 signatures to date but we need 100,000 to trigger a high profile Parliamentary debate and pressure the Government ahead of Budget 2013. **Scrap the beer duty escalator!**

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Gold for Lakes Brewery

Coniston No. 9, an 8.5% barley wine, has been named Champion Beer of Britain at last month's Great British Beer Festival. Our congratulations go to the Lake District brewery, but let's hope that this great brew doesn't suffer the same fate as their previous CBOB, Bluebird, which won the ultimate accolade in the late 90s. The Coniston brew house simply couldn't cope with the massive demand and consequently sub-contracted its brewing to Brakspear, who unsurprisingly couldn't replicate Bluebird's flavour profile at Henley-on-Thames.

Muirhouse Open Weekend

Ilkeston brewers, Muirhouse, are opening their doors to the public on **Friday 28th September**, between 6pm-11pm and will then be open Saturday and Sunday 12 noon-11.30pm. They are aiming to have six Muirhouse beers on, and all the beers will be £2.50 a pint and all bottles £2.50 regardless of ABV. **Unit 1, Enterprise Court, Manners Road Industrial Estate, Ilkeston DE7 8EW**

Winter Fest Meeting

The third winter 2013 meeting is on **Thursday**, 4th **October** at the Brunswick, Railway Terrace, Derby, starting at 8pm. Gillian can be contacted on 07847 504074 or *gillian.williams1@yahoo.co.uk*

Festival Reward Outing

Places on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway beer festival excursion on 27th October, for Assembly Rooms beer festival workers, are going faster than the Mallard. Only 5 places left as at the end of August.

Marston's Regains its Pedigree

In the 1970s, Marston's Pedigree was, depending on your taste, as good as anything brewed in these islands, and "Pedi" consequently gained a hugely loyal following. In 1979 it lost some of the sulphury "Burton Snatch" that contributed to its reverential status and I stopped frequenting Marston's houses in the early 80s. It's pleasing to report, therefore, that the Burton brewed ale has made something of a welcome return to form, though much, of course, depends on the quality of cellarmanship. Marston's Pedigree is widely available but it would be hard to find a better example than that served at the Rose and Crown, Boylestone, in west Derbyshire. PG

Beer Festivals

Peacock, Old Nottingham Road, 6th-8th September. **Erewash CAMRA**, Westgate Suite, Clifford Street, Long Eaton, 14,15th September. **Steamboat Inn**, Trent Lock, Sawley, 6th-30th September 60 ales. **Brunswick**, Derby, 3rd-6th October.

Beer Scoring

Please go to www.beerscoring.org.uk where you'll easily be able to register your score. It's important to be aware of the beer quality of all of our pubs for Good Beer Guide selection. Thank you.

Derby Cask Pubs Map

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

Mild & Bitter on the Web

Mild & Bitter is now available to view in the Members' Area of the award winning 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

Minutes of Branch Meeting at Crown & Cushion, Derby on Thursday, 9th August

APOLOGIES: Ian Forman (IF, Secretary). MINUTES: Agreed. JA reported that Trevor Harris was angry that he was reported to be interested in buying the Kedleston Hotel. CHAIR'S **REPORT:** GS congratulated the Branch on the success of the recent Summer Festival, and reported that Coniston No. 9 Barley Wine (8.5%) was voted CBoB at the current GBBF. The beer escalator Epetition now stood at 80,000 signatories. TREASURER'S REPORT: None CHARTER FESTIVAL: RG thanked 230 volunteers who helped. 90% of invoices have been paid. He had discussed complaints from five people. Sponsors had been very positive. RG's report was followed by a long discussion including concerns about the lack of glasses, the limited choice of beer on Sunday, the closing of the Main Hall in the afternoon resulting in the Darwin Suite becoming quite crowded. The Wash-up would take place on 15 Aug. WINTER FESTIVAL: GS reported that Gillian Williams now had a full team.

CAMPAIGNING GOALS: Pub Map of Derby: GS reported that it was in preparation, and photos of pubs should be sent to photos@derbycamra.org.uk; Mild Month: GS reminded about the award

presentations to the Best Pub (the Alexandra Hotel), and for the Best Mild (the Falstaff's Brian May): CAMRA Discount Scheme and LocAle: GS reported that there have been recent substantial developments. DERBY **DRINKER:** GS reported that the August issue would be out in the next week. GBG & Pub Surveys: Stewart Marshall (SM) asked for a push on out-of-town surveys and for members to use the NBSS system either online, or by sending paper reports to him. The GBG will be launched nationally on 13 September, and the Derby Branch launch will be on 14 September at the Coach & Horses, Mansfield Road at 8:00pm. SM commended CAMRA's new What Pub? website. In discussion, he reported that surveys were down last year on the previous year, and it was suggested that they receive more financial support. MEMBERSHIP: KM reported that recruitment was buoyant. M&B: PG reported 28 August as deadline for next issue. SOCIAL SECRETARY: DS mentioned forthcoming survey trips, Mild Month and CotY presentations, and the Summer Festival thank-you trip to Keighley. AMBER VALLEY: PG asked for volunteers for the Amber Valley Beer Festival to contact Phil Marshall. **ASHBOURNE & DISTRICT: GS** reported on plans to survey all Ashbourne pubs, and possibly to hold a beer festival in March. INFORMATION **EXCHANGE:** JA opined that information exchanged should be attributed to contributor - agreed; Les Williams announced the possibility of a Thornbridge Brewery trip on a Wednesday afternoon if there is sufficient interest; Charlie Pratt (CP) reported the Melbourne Packhorse is open, the Alma may be closed, there were six cask beers available at the Allenton British Legion, and there is a forthcoming beer festival at the Fat Cat; GS-beer festivals at the Flowerpot, the Exeter and the Peacock; Terry Morton said Kingfisher is open again. AOB: JT reminded that the accounts previously presented were confidential; CP reported on an improved evening bus service to Ashbourne; on behalf of the Branch, GS thanked Ian and Heather for their hospitality. Next branch meeting: Thursday, 13th September, 8:00pm at Harpurs, Melbourne: transport- Full Street

Derby Branch Meeting Agenda

at 7:30pm. Meeting closed at 10:05pm.

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 & Surveys, LocAle, Beer Guide Membership, Mild & Bitter, Pubs Officer & Pub Preservation, Publications, Regional, Sales, Socials, Tasting Sub-Branches, Panel. Transport, Website. 6. Information exchange - Pub, Brewery, etc 7. Any other business.

Newsletter of Derby, Ashbourne & Amber Valley CAMRA – EDITION 439 – September 2012

Amber Valley CAMRA

Before the Big One......

Before the Ripley Rail Ale Festival there are a couple of smaller but interesting looking pub festivals meriting investigation. Over the weekend of 14th to 16th September, the current Amber Valley Pub of the Year, the Hunter Arms, Kilburn, is staging a traditional cider festival with 9 ciders for your delectation in the Old Slaughterhouse Bar. These will be accompanied by 4 ales, in addition to those on offer in the pub itself. Not bad for a pub that was closed three years ago. The following weekend sees a four day event at the King William, Milford. This is the latest in a long line of beer festivals and landlord, Dave, is bound to have some cracking beers available.

Bedlam Bar Opens

There are now a number of dedicated real ale bars in Amber Valley following the opening of a previously unused outbuilding at the Black Bulls Head, Openwoodgate. Four ales are gravity dispensed and augment those in the revitalised hill-top pub which has gone from strength to strength since reopening six months ago. The Bedlam Bar is open 3-9 Friday, 12-9 Saturday and 12-6 Sunday. Over in Ripley, Steve Cresswell has worked wonders to establish the Honey Pot annex to the rear of the Beehive, Peasehill. Steve is planning to produce some T shirts to promote the bar which is open lunchtime and evening.

'Tis a Mystery...

Strange things seem to be happening in the world of Greene King these days. When they purchased Hardy/Hanson a few years ago, subsequent events, such as the immediate closure of the brewery and the transfer of the beers to Bury St Edmonds led one to believe that what they had really wanted was the pubs, thus giving them a presence in the Midlands. It seems very strange therefore that getting rid of pubs in the region seems to be high on their agenda nowadays. However, they don't appear to want to sell to sitting tenants as several former GK pubs have been sold to people who haven't worked for them. The sales tactic seems to be to make the pub unviable for the tenants by putting up rent and beer prices, then sell the pub off once it's closed or on its last legs. The latest pub that may become a victim of this tactic is the Pear Tree at Ripley, which has been run fairly successfully by Simon and Annie Rawson for about 15 years. In recent times the best selling beer at the Pear Tree has been Abbot, which they've been able to sell at a competitive price, and which was disappearing at a rate of around 5x18s per fortnight. Now however, they aren't able to sell Abbot, as GK saw fit to raise the price by 50p per pint, which would have meant charging £3.05 in the

pub, a price that most customers wouldn't be prepared to pay, so it's had to go. Apart from that, GK are trying to impose a substantial rent rise, despite not being particularly interested in doing some much-needed repairs. The Pear Tree is at least allowed to sell occasional guest beers, but these can only be purchased through GK, and obviously the price has to be right so they can be sold as inexpensively as possible in what is a competitive market, price wise. Personally, I find it odd that while GK tenants can't afford to sell beers like Abbot because the price they would have to charge would almost certainly inhibit sales, pubs in the free trade are able to do so at a much lower price. I don't know of any other GK pubs in the same boat as the Pear Tree, but have heard of the tactics being used on them being used before. GK's attitude reminds me of a child that has tired of a toy and wants to discard it, but pubs aren't toys, and neither are tenants. They are people trying to make a living in an increasingly challenging industry, with failure resulting in loss of livelihood and often the loss of their home as well. I'd like to see GK either reconsider their price hike or agree to sell the Pear Tree to Simon and Annie, but I'm

Minutes of the Amber Valley Branch Meeting, at the Beehive, Ripley 26th July Meeting commenced at 8:35, with 8

members in attendance Apologies: Alison Cox. Paul Gibson, Nigel Heathcote. Minutes: accepted Matters Arising: none Officer's Reports: Social Secretary – Jane handed out her report, which said that the Amber Ramble, although poorly attended, had been enjoyable, while the July survey trip had seen 11 members visit 6 pubs, finding about 20 different beers on offer. The walking survey of Ripley had been postponed, when festival posters and flyers will be distributed. Trip to Sheffield by train on August 11th, when we will be visiting several pubs. Jane suggested that that we catch the 11:39 train from Alfreton to Sheffield, returning on the 20:41. The next survey trip is scheduled for August 18th to Shottle, Turnditch, Windley and Farnah Green. Membership - Phil told the meeting that the website has now been redesigned and has a link to AV. June was the best month so far with 16 new members, 1 lapsed, 1 transfer in and 0 transfers out. The figures from the recent Derby Beer Festival have not yet been received. Secretary - Trevor said that Branch Meetings have been booked up to and including the AGM in November, with the next one being at the New Inn, Riddings on August 30th. He needs to order GBGs by mid August, and it was suggested that 40 copies will be adequate for Branch needs. Chairman - Nathan told members that he had received an email from the new owner of the White

Hart, Heage regarding an application for change of use as he is hoping to use the building for both residential and business purposes. Nathan felt that the area is wellpubbed – there are 4 pubs still open in Heage, and further commented that the White Hart had a recent history of opening and closing on frequent occasions. It isn't a pub of any historical significance, so it is difficult to see a reason why the Branch should object, but he will discuss the matter with Julian Tubbs. Jane commented that the owners' plans may create jobs in the area, while should his application not be granted the pub was more likely to become derelict, and a possible target for vandals, than reopen as a public house. **Beer Festival**: Details on the website now it is up and running. Phil said that the beer order is in hand, although he had received a variety of responses from brewers. Staffing forms have been sent to various local branches, and some Health & Safety guides requested. Any Other Business: Trevor drew the meeting's attention to the situation at the Pear Tree, Ripley, where the tenants have been dealt a double blow by owners Greene King. The price of their best selling beer Abbot has gone up by so much that they are no longer able to stock it, as they would have to charge over £3 per pint, which would be unacceptable in Ripley. At the same time, the brewery wants to impose a huge increase in rent, but isn't interested in carrying out any repairs, some of which are very much needed, at the pub. The branch agreed to back the licensees as much as possible. The Stable Bar, Red Lion, Fritchley, closed, whilst Beehive, the Honeypot, is opening on Saturday August 4th. Jane asked when we might rearrange the Ripley poster crawl, and both August 25th and 27th were seen as possible dates. Annual Beer Census date will be discussed at the next meeting. The meeting closed at 9:35, after which the Beehive generously provided members with a buffet.

Ashbourne CAMRA Minutes of the Meeting, Wheel, Ashbourne, 31st

July,

7 members present. In Attendance: Gareth Stead, Chair, Derby Branch of CAMRA and councillor, Steve Bull. Apologies Sam North. The Secretary reported that contact had been made with 40% of potential membership, i.e. those who had provided email addresses. A full Ashbourne' mailing list had been received from CAMRA but only 50% had given email addresses, although all had agreed to be contacted by email. A letter to be sent to all members circulating the Minutes/sub-Branch details, asking for agreement to future contact and, if confirmed, email addresses. Derby Branch would reimburse costs based on receipts. Action: Secretary. Notes of 26 June Meeting These had been circulated

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and were confirmed by the meeting. Actions from the 26 June Meeting The Branch trip planned for 4 August was undersubscribed. Uptake was thought to have been affected by the holiday period. It was agreed that this trip would be reduced to a pub visiting trip, i.e. of pubs in Fenny Bentley and Parwich. Keith Palmer would rearrange transport. Action: KP The Ashbourne News Telegraph had been informed about the sub-Branch and Radio Ashbourne had included info in its Communities section. Ashbourne CAMRA social network group formed on Yahoo but limited uptake. Branch Activity Once the members list had been rationalised, members would be surveyed about the activities confirmed at the last meeting. Action: Secretary It was agreed that the next meeting on 28 August at the George and Dragon would be preceded by a members' 'pub visit'. There are 16 outlets in Ashbourne. These were divided into geographic groups of three and allocated to members present : A52 Group (s) -Black Sheep, Mirai, The Wheel and Bridge. A523 Group - Royal Oak, Stepping Stones, Station. A515 Group -Bowling Green, Ex-Servicemen Club, Smiths Tavern. Market Place Group -Vaults, The Horns and White Swan. Town Centre Group - White Hart, Coach & Horses & Compton Club. Other members were welcome to join the Groups and this would be reinforced through the planned mailout. Details to be circulated via Yahoo Group, M&B, and Derby Drinker. Action: Secretary & MG. Ashbourne Beer Festival Major undertaking for a new Branch, and planning would continue for a 2013 Beer Festival. Help available from Derby branch and the wider membership would be approached. Although one member had suggested a link with Ashbourne Arts Festival in June. those present preferred March with a working title of Ashbourne Shrovetide Beer Festival. Cllr Bull agreed to explore options for use of the Town Hall and its availability. Aiming for a two-day festival from noon on Friday to Saturday. However a 5-day booking would be required to allow for set-up and take-down (on the following Monday). Chairman to consider options for a trade/commercial sponsor or supporter. Members agreed Festival should be linked to a local music event which could allow local bands to perform. The next stage would be to develop a business plan which would need to be approved by the Derby branch. AOB Members advised Derby Branch Chair of pubs considered to be under threat, including the Green Man. Ashbourne and pubs in Brailsford, Ednaston and Wyaston. The Chairman to circulate CAMRA guidelines re dealing

possible community asset transfers. The issue of membership in DE6 3 is still not resolved. Members active from that area would opt to join Ashbourne and advise Derby Branch. Members advised that the status of the Barley Mow, Kirk Ireton as a Heritage Pub is likely to be downgraded as few original features are believed to remain. Ashbourne Branch has access to Derby CAMRA website and can submit copy for Derby Drinker - next edition imminent. The Chairman will be provided with access data for the webpage and the Secretary will submit copy for DD. Action: Chairman & Secretary Amber

Valley Branch is seeking helpers for its Beer Festival 27-30 September. There is a CAMRA trip to the National Cider & Perry Festival in Berkshire on 13 October. **Branch Dates for Diaries - Tuesday 28** August Pub visits and Branch meeting George & Dragon 2000h Tuesday 25 September Branch meeting at The Bowling Green 2000h Tuesday 30 October Branch meeting at Okeover Arms

Amber Valley Diary **SEPTEMBER**

at Mappleton 2000h.

Thu 13th - Beer festival meeting - Hunter Arms, Kilburn. 8pm start.

Sat 15th - Free survey trip - Lower Hartshay, Buckland Hollow Somercotes, 730pm from Ripley Market Place. For Alfreton and Belper pick-ups, please ring Jane.

Thu 20th - BRANCH MEETING -King William, Milford. 830pm start. Beer festival as well.

Thu 27th to Sunday, 30th - 3rd Ripley Rail Ale Festival, Butterley Station, Ripley.

For all Amber Valley Socials contact Jane Wallis on 01773 745966

Amber Valley Contacts

Chairman: Nathan Dilley on 01773 570675

Ashbourne Diary **SEPTEMBER**

Tues 25th - BRANCH MEETING,

Bowling Green, Ashbourne - 8pm.

Ashbourne Contact

Interim Chairman, Dave Leigh, on 01335 300809 or daveleigh707@hotmail.com

Derby Branch Diary **SEPTEMBER**

Thu 13th - BRANCH MEETING.

Harpurs, Melbourne - 8pm. Free coach provided from Cathedral Green 7.30pm. Return coach at 10pm.

Thu 20th – Club of the Year award, Nunsfield House, Boulton Lane, Alvaston, 9pm. Pre-award pint at the nearby Blue Peter, 8.30pm.

OCTOBER

Mon 1st – Committee Meeting, Peacock, Derby - 8pm.

Wed 3rd - Beer festival social, Brunswick, Derby - 9pm.

Thu 4th - Winter festival meeting, Brunswick, Derby - 8pm.

Thu 11th - BRANCH MEETING. Alexandra, Derby - 8pm and Best Mild Pub award during the same evening.

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

Derby Contacts

DERBY - Ian Forman on 01332 882996

DERBY COMMITTEE

committee@derbycamra.org.uk Chairman: Gareth Stead Chairman@derbycamra.org.uk Secretary: Ian Forman Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk Treasurer: Julian Tubbs Treasurer@derbycamra.org.uk Membership: Konrad Machej Membership@derbycamra.org.uk **Pubs Officer: Steve Crispin** pubsofficer@derbycamra.org.uk Committee Member: Ralf Edge Ralf.edge@ralfedge.co.uk Committee Member: Anna Dyson Ralf.edge@ralfedge.co.uk

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M+B Copy Deadline

Copy to mildbitter@derbycamra.org.uk by Wednesday, 26th September, please.

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 MBdatabase@derbycamra.org.uk

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