Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

Membership Boom

Over the last four months, Derby Branch membership has risen by 125, equivalent to a 15% increase over a full year. This is nearly twice the average rate for CAMRA as a whole in 2013 (7.7%), and 50% higher than CAMRA's national target for the coming year (9%). Many thanks for this excellent result are due to Konrad Machej and his team of helpers. Derby CAMRA now has about 2,600 members, and the national membership is over 160,000. You may have friends who have been contemplating joining CAMRA but haven't done so. Why not remind them that, as members, they can gain **free admission at next month's City Charter Festival** and many, many, more benefits. Derby Drinker has a membership form or go online.

Join us on the Summer Ale Trail

The Summer Ale Trail is in full swing and runs until the start of the 37th City Charter Summer Beer Festival. You can now collect blue "real ale" stickers in return for drinking a half or more of real ale at participating pubs. Stickers, once collected, should be attached to the trail form in Derby Drinker. Additionally forms can be downloaded from the Derby CAMRA website. The 22 pubs on the trail are: Alexandra Hotel, Babington Arms, Bell & Castle, Brewery Tap, Brunswick, Dolphin Inn, Exeter Arms, Falstaff, Five Lamps, Flowerpot, Furnace, Greyhound, Golden Eagle, Honeycomb, Mickleover, Horse & Groom, Little Chester Alehouse, Mr Grundy's, Old Silk Mill, Queens Head, Little Eaton, Royal Oak, Ockbrook, Spa Inn and Thomas Leaper. Members completing the trail will be entitled to up to 4 pints of free beer at the festival, depending on how many stickers they have collected. Additional information will be posted on the Derby CAMRA website. Members are asked to also enter their score on the whatpub.com website. Thanks are due to Mark Fletcher for organizing the trail.

EGM and Branch Meeting, Rowing Club, Wednesday, 11th June

Derby Rowing Club, Darley Grove, is the setting for an Extraordinary General Meeting to ratify accounts on **Wednesday**, 11th **June**, starting at 8pm. A branch meeting will follow. Wheelchair access is poor as the meeting room is accessed via a flight of stairs.

Clubs' Officer Required

Derby CAMRA is seeking to appoint a Clubs' Officer. For more information please contact Branch Secretary, Ian Forman 01332 882996 or email *secretary@derbycamra.org.uk* CAMRA is seeking to give greater prominence to clubs serving real ale, especially if admission to non-members is permitted. Those clubs with well-preserved interiors are going to be given recognition too.

City Charter Festival Meeting Dates

The next meetings are both on Wednesdays starting at 8pm: 4th June, Dolphin; 25th June, Thomas Leaper, Iron Gate. **A Publicity Officer is still required.**

Have You Submitted Your Staffing Form Yet?

This year's 37th City Charter Beer Festival will be held in a huge marquee on Derby Market Place between 9th and 13th July. As always, Derby CAMRA relies on the goodwill of volunteers to run one of Britain's biggest and best beer festivals so, once again, we're calling on members to give some of their time. There will inevitably be some changes as the Assembly Rooms have been decommissioned, but organizers are working flat out to ensure that the City Charter Festival maintains its status as a flagship event. Evening entertainment is as follows: Wednesday: Noway2Norway (Osnabruck folk/rock band); Thursday: Willie & the Bandits (Rock/Blues); Friday: The Wam Bam Band (soul); Saturday: Ferocious Dog (Levellers style). A paper version of the City Charter Beer Festival staffing form is enclosed but if you have received M&B by email please use the online version of the form if possible. Please print this off for any friends who don't have access to the internet but may like to try working at the festival. It can be very enjoyable, we will make sure you get a few drinks, and even one four hour session will help a lot. To access the online form go to the Derby CAMRA web site

http://derbycamra.org.uk/summer-beer-festival-staffing. It only takes a minute to complete the form and you will quickly get an email reply. To keep up to date with all of the latest information see www.facebook.com/Derbybeerfestival or www.derbycamra.org.uk/summer-beer-festival

Derby Branch's 40th Anniversary

Put **Thursday**, **3**rd **July** in your diary, as this is when we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Derby CAMRA's formation at, appropriately, the **Alexandra** on Siddals Road. It was on this very day in 1974 that the inaugural meeting was held, and some of those who were there will be present next month. If you've never been to a branch meeting, or perhaps haven't been to one for a while, why not come along and see what we're all about, and enjoy a celebratory drink afterwards.

Fox and Hounds Beer Festival

Saturday, 14th June, sees the Fox and Hounds, Coxbench, staging a beer festival.

Julian Hough

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of Julian who joined CAMRA in the late 70s. Julian became synonymous with organizing the City Charter Festival, chairing the festival committee for 3 years, and was hall manager for 20. Indeed, it was once said that Julian was more familiar with the labyrinthine layout of the Assembly Rooms than the council staff themselves! Julian also held the post of Branch Treasurer between 1987 and 1990. He had the distinction of becoming the first, and, to date, only Derby member to serve on the National Executive, latterly responsible for pub company reform. A few years ago, Julian met and fell in love with National Executive member, Gillian Williams, who is now National Winter Ales Festival Chairman. They married in November 2013, after which a memorable celebration was held at Ockbrook's Royal Oak, which might, perhaps, be described as Julian's second "home". As a venture scout, Julian was jointly responsible for pioneering the excellent Stamp and Deliver Christmas card delivery scheme which still flourishes today. The warmth of feeling directed towards Julian was evident in the standing ovation he received at the recent Scarborough AGM. Our thoughts are with Gillian, her daughter Jeanette, and Julian's family.

Patten Makers ACV Listing

Following on from Claire Muldoon's success in securing another five years at Duffield's Patten Makers' Arms, comes news that the Crown Street pub has now been registered, with Amber Valley Borough Council, as an Asset of Community Value. Hopefully, this will help to protect the pub's long term future.

Former GBG Pubs for Sale

Two Derby pubs that featured in the Good Beer Guide some time ago, the **Blessington Carriage** and the **Bishop Blaise**, are currently for sale. Remarkably, Tony Williams of the "Bless" has been the sole manager since the former furniture store opened in the 70s.

New Inn - New Look

The former canal side pub, the New Inn, Little Eaton, has been refurbished.

Greater Percentage of City Pubs Serving the Real Stuff

John Arguile has had a trawl of Derby pubs and has found some interesting statistics. Derby City currently has some 163 pubs of which 123 sell real ale or about 75% of the total, cf with 2005 (Real Ale in Derby) - the figure then was around 61%. In 2005 there were 127 real ale pubs, now there are only a few less, despite the carnage of closures, which must say something about the selling power of real ale (or even CAMRA). These statistics are not definitive and we hope to update them.

Black's Head, Wirksworth

Spotted on the bar, recently, at the cosy Market Place pub, was 2009 Champion Beer of Britain, Rudgate Ruby Mild and Greene King beers, including Abbot. There's a stunning patio at roof level that's a real sun trap.

Further Fall in Beer Sales

UK beer sales fell during the first quarter of 2014, according to figures released by the British Beer & Pubs Association (BBPA). The organisation's quarterly figures show that overall beer sales fell 3.1% during January–March. Off-sales declined by 1.8%, while pub sales fell 4.2%

Inn Brief

Bank at Spondon is now called 48's, the name changed in April 2014. It has real ale. Garden City due to reopen early June after refurbishment. Haus, Wardwick to reopen soon with Nicki (ex Bell & Castle). lease has been bought by the owner of Hairy Dog (Paul Keenan?). Real Ale gain. **The Moon**, Spondon, is not, as previously reported, closed and landlady says it will have real ale when the cellar cooling is repaired. The former Peregrine, Chaddesden, will open as an Iceland store in July. Royal Crown, Chaddesden, reopened in 2012 when purchased by the Little Pub Company from Punch, having been closed for seven years. It has real ale. Station, Midland Road – Unconfirmed rumour that Terry Holmes may take over (draymen comment). Yarnspinner, Spondon, closes midweek at lunchtimes. It has real ale. Castle & Falcon, East Street open, refurbishment due, but, as before, no real ale. City Bar, Albert Street, now has good / great quality Pedigree - only £2.50 a pint as well. County, Sinfin, struggling to exist, real ale promised but a loss. Lola Lo / Coyote Wild closes at lunch, suspect it is now a nightclub. White Horse, Morledge now has real ale x 4, plus lovely courtvard.

Themes for 2014/15

At our last Branch Meeting, the Derby Branch of CAMRA agreed the three campaigning targets proposed by the Branch Committee for this year (see separate article). It also agreed to adopt three overall themes: prioritized Campaigning; increased Activation and improved Professionalism (CAP if you like acronyms). These themes are for all of us, not just for the committees, subcommittees and branch officers. They're being introduced, not because we're doing badly, quite the opposite. However, with some care and thought, and a little extra effort, we can be a more effective branch. Prioritized **Campaigning** is about accepting that we cannot do everything. We should focus on what gives the most value to the campaign from the available resource. Resource includes numbers of

active members, their individual enthusiasms and skills, the opportunities and threats that come our way, and the money available. We need to think about what best we can do, when it is best done, and then do it - and do it well. As an example, putting more resource into our beer festivals might not significantly increase the tremendous campaigning value they already have; putting the same extra resource into WhatPub? could bring much more campaigning value. There is no simple formula, but we all need to keep prioritization in mind whenever there is a choice in our branch or individual campaigning activities. The theme of increased **Activation** does not imply that we are all bar-stool potatoes. On the contrary, over 200 of our members helped with the hugely successful National Winter Ales Festival (NWAF) and approaching 300 submit National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) scores. Of course there is overlap in these numbers, and our friends from neighbouring branches also give a great deal of help, but I judge that our activity level is good in comparison with national CAMRA figures. These suggest that around 15% of all members are active, which works out at about 400 in our branch. Some we may never see, they are doing vital stuff behind the scenes such as submitting pub updates or helping with publicity. However, about 60% of members, though not contributing to specific campaigning activities, are committed supporters; they read What's Brewing (and I hope Mild and Bitter) and help spread interest in real ale. If we can encourage just 10% of these to join the activists, we would increase our campaigning efforts by about 40%. Younger members, with vigour and new ideas would be particularly welcome. Furthermore, most of our active members, including me, could do more with relatively little effort. Some well-known active members, judging by the number of NBSS scores they submit, scarcely ever go to a pub! Improved Professionalism means doing things in such a way that all members can be proud of Derby CAMRA. The more professional we all are, the more likely it is that we will attract new members and increase activation. Many things we do, for example beer festivals, are highly professional, but all of us can (and should try to) think of ways we can improve both as a branch and individually. Lack of time is always the enemy but it can be defeated with thought and planning. (A permanent theme is **Fun**. An active CAMRA member from another branch, who knows Derby Branch well, recently told me how much he admired our friendliness and sociability - let's keep it that way.) Finally, please send me your comments and ideas (see Contacts on last

Tim Williams, Branch Campaigns' Coordinator

Newsletter of Derby, Ashbourne & Amber Valley CAMRA – EDITION 460 – June 2014

Campaigning Goals 2014/2015

The committee is finalizing details of these three campaigning goals: 1) Attaining "green" status in WhatPub on-line listings. 2) Identify and register certain pubs as Assets of Community Value. 3) Activation of younger members via social media.

CAMRA Members' Weekend 2014

In his article in the April What's Brewing, Colin Valentine, the National Chairman of CAMRA, said that he never forgets that CAMRA is its members. It's not just the National Executive (NE) or the HQ staff in St Albans, but all of us. At the Members' Weekend, in a polite rebuttal to someone who opposed a motion on the grounds that Conference had no right to ask branches to do more, he replied that of course it did; that is what conference is for, to set policy. But he also said that he did not expect all branches to do everything; but what we do, we should do well. All members have a right to submit motions to Conference and all members have a right to attend, speak and vote. There were around 600 of us in Scarborough, half a dozen from the Derby Branch. If a CAMRA Members' Conference sounds dull, think again; the debate can be lively, and the motions are interspersed by talks from key people and the presentation of awards. Conference provides a good opportunity to meet members of the NE, HO staff and other branches, to understand the issues the campaign faces, to find out how CAMRA works and potentially to influence where it's going. My overall impression is that there are some highly professional and effective members of the NE and HO, who are making a significant impact on government and the industry. But it is well appreciated by them that this could not happen without individual members and branches doing the basic legwork, and providing the funds. The size of CAMRA's membership (now over 161,000) is vital to our influence; and the income from beer festivals and subscriptions is essential to funding the staff and providing the other resources essential to an thriving campaign. So what is currently seen as most important? In a nutshell: Pubcos; pub changes of use; and the declining trend in pub-going. They are all connected, and are all being tacked as national campaigns, but one of the many useful things that we can all do is to contribute to WhatPub? Accurate and comprehensive entries will help visitors and locals to find the sort of pub they want wherever they happen to be, and to have confidence in visiting it. Families may not want to end up in a loud sports bar, young people may not want to party in a cosy olde worlde inn, a gastropub might not suit those just wanting a pie and a pint, and many are put off by the possibility of decrepit and smelly loos. Description is all. Derby CAMRA was congratulated

both by Ken Davie, the NE's Finance Director, and by Mike Brenner, the CAMRA Chief Executive, for the success of National Winter Ales Festival. Julian Hough, who has been the only Derby Branch member to be elected to the NE. retired at the AGM and was given a standing ovation. (Gillian Hough was an NE member, but not then a Derby Branch member, nor married to Julian.) Julian Tubbs spoke up for Rutland, and with effect. There was beer as well! The Members' Bar in the Spa Complex, in which the AGM and Conference were held, was open (only to those registered to attend the weekend), at lunchtimes and evenings and had a range of 70 splendid Yorkshire beers; and the local pubs (some of them excellent) were buzzing with happy and friendly CAMRA members. **Next year** the event will be hosted by Nottingham CAMRA, which is sure to put on a good show - be there if you can! If you want to help with WhatPub? and want to know more, contact Stewart Marshall: for more about the Members' Weekend, contact me. Contact details are on the last page.

Tim Williams, Branch Campaigns' Coordinator

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-Branches, Tasting Panel, Transport, Website. 6. Information exchange – Pub, Brewery, etc 7. Any other business.

Minutes of the Ashbourne Sub-Branch of CAMRA Meeting at The Ostrich, Longford, on 29 April 2014

Present: 9 Apologies: Pat Laughlin, Keith Palmer, David Coackley, Michelle Leigh, Phil Lee. Minutes of the last meeting/matters arising The Minutes had been circulated and were approved. No matters were arising. Chairman's Report The Chairman reported that he had attended a joint meeting with of committee members of both Derby and Matlock branches for the discussion of area boundaries. It was agreed in principle that Matlock would take on the Wirksworth area, thus allowing Derby to consolidate their area below Amber Valley and adjacent to our area, using DE6 3xx /DE4 xxx as the simple dividing line. This does mean that Brassington & Carsington will fall into Matlock's area, but that Kirk Ireton will be confirmed in our area along with the rest of the DE6 3xx area we already have. This agreement is subject to ratification at regional level. The Chairman confirmed that next month's

meeting at the Cock at Clifton will be our 2014 AGM and advised members that any motions for debates should be submitted prior to the day of the meeting. Proposals/nominations for committee and branch positions will be accepted up to the start of the AGM. Details were circulated for the Belper Goes Green Festival on the weekend of 30th May. Amber Valley branch are running the beer festival, although it is not an official CAMRA event. Staffing forms are available for anyone interested in helping out. It had been proposed to run a social event into Derby to coincide with the Amber Valley Ramble on 13th April, but a lack of availability meant it did not materialise. The Chairman confirmed that he had been unable to attend the Black Horse, Hulland Ward on the proposed date to present Muriel with her certificate of appreciation, but that he had done so a couple of days later and was able to give it to Muriel in person as she was still at the pub for a few days longer than expected.

Secretary/Treasurer The secretary was

unable to attend, but indicated that there

are no essential matters to be raised for this meeting. Branch Activity Keith was also unable to attend, but again asked for interest to be gauged for a trip to the Winding Wheel Beer Festival in Chesterfield on May 15th-17th. Numbers are low, so it will probably have to be left to individuals to attend if they so wish. Keith has proposed a beer ramble for Sunday 11th May – details to be circulated. Pub Reports The Dog & Partridge, Thorpe – Still no confirmed opening date, but it seems that it could be a date in June. The Izaak Walton Hotel, Ilam – has been bought and may be re-opening at the end of May or early June. Members will report back as soon as it does. The George & Dragon, Ashbourne – members reported that it seems to have settled down after some problems after the recent change of hands. Dancing Duck beers have been seen at the bar. The Red Lion, Kniveton has applied for planning permission for B&B rooms. Beer Festival Members were informed that we have provisionally booked the Town Hall for Friday-Sunday 10th-12th October. A brief discussion of the revised layout and potential roles to be filled was held and it was agreed to hold a beer festival meeting at The Smith's Tavern on Tuesday 6th May at 8pm. **Dates** for Diary - Beer Festival meeting – The Smith's Tavern – Tues 6th May, 8pm Fri-Mon 23-26 May. Beer festival – The Black Cow, Dalbury Lees - Fri-Sun 23-25 May. May Meeting – Tuesday 27th May – AGM – The Cock, Clifton, June Meeting - Tuesday 24th June - The Bentley Brook, Fenny Bentley (+ survey The Coach & Horses, Fenny Bentley). July Meeting -Tuesday 29th July - The Yew Tree, Ednaston (+ survey). August Meeting -Tuesday 26th August – TBC – possibly The Coach & Horses, Ashbourne. Any Other Business None. Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Newsletter of Derby, Ashbourne & Amber Valley CAMRA – EDITION 460 – June 2014

Amber Valley CAMRA

Treasurer Required

Paul Falconer, Treasurer of the Amber Valley Beer Festivals in 2012 and 2013, has, owing to work commitments, stepped down. The branch is seeking to fill this important position as soon as possible, and help will be given to any interested applicant. **Please contact Chris Rogers 01332 880041**. Amber Valley CAMRA wants to record its grateful thanks to Paul for giving sterling service.

George and Dragon Beer Festival

The George and Dragon on Bridge Street (A6), Belper, is holding a beer festival between Thursday, 19th and Saturday, 21st June.

Holbrook News

The Wheel is for sale. The Dead Poets has had a stylish extension entirely in keeping with the existing building. Inside it has a stone flagged floor with tasteful, period furniture chosen by the licensees. An improved Monday to Saturday lunchtime menu will now be offered.

5th Beer and Cider Festival

The Edwardian splendour of the old Herbert Strutt's Grammar School on Derby Road, Belper, is the venue for our 5th festival between Thursday, 25th and Sunday, 28th September. You will have the choice of more than 100 beers, ciders. perries and wines. A little like Burton Town Hall where our Staffordshire CAMRA friends hold their annual festival, there are several rooms which will see a number of bands performing. Jazz fans will warm to the Ford Jones Dixieland Band on Friday afternoon, and in the evening, Mojosa will headline in the main hall with Gasping Kahuna supporting. Also, on Friday evening, in a side room, there will be an acoustic set from Pink & Blues Acoustic Live Lounge. On Saturday afternoon there's a nod to the famous Eastwood novelist, when D H Lawrence & the Vaudeville Skiffle Band perform. Ricky& the Retros set the right tone on Saturday evening, before those old festival favourites, Midnight Pumpkin Trucks, conclude proceedings entertainment wise. CAMRA members get free admission at all times except Friday and Saturday evenings when £4 is charged.

ambervalleycamra.org.uk

Amber Valley Diary JUNE

Mon 9th - Beer Festival meeting, Tavern, Derby Road, Belper-8pm.

Thu 26th – BRANCH MEETING, New Inn, Riddings-8pm.

Contact Jane Wallis on 01773 745966

Amber Valley Contact

Chairman: Chris Rogers 01332 880041

Ashbourne Diary

JUNE

Tue 24th – BRANCH MEETING, Bentley B<u>rook Hotel, Fenny Bentl</u>ey-8pm.

Ashbourne Contact

Chairman, Mark Grist m.grist2@sky.com

Derby Branch Diary

JUNE

Mon 2nd – Committee meeting-8pm. Wed 4th – CCF meeting, Dolphin, Queen Street, Derby-8pm.

Wed 11th – EGM and Branch Meeting, Derby Rowing Club, Darley Grove-8pm. Thu 19th – Social, Little Chester Ale House-9pm.

Sat 21st – Longest Day Social in the Black Country by Public Transport.

A bus / train hopping tour of the best of the Black Country; Bull and Bladder, Ma Pardoe's and the home of Sarah Hughes. This will require a sense of adventure and some walking to piece it all together as not all venues are either directly on bus routes or practical. Times are 9am at Café Loco if you want breakfast. 9.45 at the railway station for a 9.52 train. And we'll make it up as we go along from there onwards.

Contact Dean Smith 0770 3458623
Mon 23rd – Committee meeting-8pm.
Tue 24th – Midsummers day social at the Exeter Arms-9pm.

Wed 25th – CCF meeting, Thomas Leaper, Iron Gate-8pm.

JULY

Thu 3rd - BRANCH MEETING and 40th anniversary celebration, Alexandra, Siddals Road, Derby-8pm. Come along to the shortened meeting and, afterwards, celebrate 40 years of Derby CAMRA at the birthplace of the branch. Ralf and Anna are bound to have some cracking ales for your delectation.

Wed 9th to Sun 13th - 37th City Charter

Beer Festival, Market Place, Derby.

For all Derby Socials contact

Socials@derbycamra.org.uk

Derby Contacts

DERBY - Ian Forman on 01332 882996 DERBY COMMITTEE

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: Stewart Marshall
pubsofficer@derbycamra.org.uk

committee@derbycamra.org.uk

Beer Surveys: Stewart Marshall beersurvey@derbycamra.org.uk

Winter fest Chairman: Gillian Williams gillian.williams1@yahoo.co.uk

Summer fest Chairman: Russell Gilbert

russgilbert@o2.co.uk

Ashbourne Chairman: Mark Grist

m.grist2@sky.com

Campaigns' Coordinator: Tim Williams

timwilliams39bhr@gmail.com NON COMMITTEE

Socials: Dean Smith
Socials@derbycamra.org.uk
Derby Drinker Distribution: Joy
Olivent dds@derbycamra.org.uk
Survey Trips: Dean Smith
surveytrips@derbycamra.org.uk
LocAle: Atholl Beattie
locale@derbycamra.org.uk

M&B Copy Deadline

Copy to *mildbitter@derbycamra.org.uk* by Wednesday, 18th June, please.

Derby Drinker Deadline

Copy by 5th June to derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk Advertising: ads@derbycamra.org.uk

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Tim Williams, M&B Distribution Officer, 01332 381358;

timwilliams39bhr@gmail.com or MBdatabase@derbycamra.org.uk

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