

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

Grass Roots Campaigning

Local branches are the grass roots of CAMRA. Without them, and the volunteers who run and support them, there would be no CAMRA; no Good Beer Guide, no CAMRA Beer Festivals, and no local magazines to promote great beer and pubs. And you would not be reading this. Branches do all the leg work in their areas, and raise money to help support the national CAMRA structure. The latter enables and co-ordinates branch activities, and runs national campaigns, but it is members and branches who set CAMRA policies and branch priorities. Derby CAMRA is a large branch and should be playing a major role in the campaign. **If you have the ideas and ambition to help this happen, come along to a meeting or one of the socials below to find out more.** You won't be press-ganged into anything; we are all volunteers and only do what we enjoy!

Join us in Birmingham for a Great Day out

Join us in England's second city for a fun day out on Saturday **30th November**. 1010 train, platform 4 from Derby, arriving Birmingham at 1055. We have the option of a quick visit to the London and North Western before meeting at the Craven Arms, Upper Gough Street B1 1JL at noon. Xmas market is in full swing and the last train back is 2249. **07510 161 151**.

Yule Love These Social Dates in December

December has traditionally been a time for celebration, so why not come along to one or more of the following?

Sunday 1st: Little Eaton Fair - a village wide extravaganza including craft stalls and live entertainment at the **Queen's Head**, Alfreton Road, and the **Shiny Tap**, 10 Old Hall Mill Business Park behind the Queen's.

Sunday 1st: Last day of the **Angels**, Market Place, Belper beer festival. 10 dark brews subject to availability.

Wednesday 4th: Derby CAMRA Skittles match at the **Burton Bridge Inn**, 24 Bridge Street, Burton at 7.30pm. Flex your muscles against opposition from friendly neighbouring Branches at 8.00pm. X38 bus or train from Derby.

Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th: Nano Christmas Crackers. Nano breweries' Christmas beers at the **Smithfield**, Meadow Road.

Sunday 8th: The **Tiny Tap**, Unit 23, Northedge Park, Alfreton Road, Derby, DE21 4BN will be opening the brewery early to host a Christmas Market. They'll be open from 11.00am with loads of great local stalls, food available from Feast of the East, mulled wine, mince pies, and Little Brewing beers on draught.

Thursday 19th Derby CAMRA Festive Fuddle at the **Falstaff**, 74 Stone Hill Road, Normanton from 7.00pm. Bring some nibbles, gather around the fire and indulge in own brewed beers in the wonderful Offiler's lounge.

Thursday 19th Derby CAMRA FemALES drink and draw Social, **Furnace Inn**, Duke Street, Derby at 7.30pm.

Friday 27th Derby CAMRA Post-Christmas all day Milford and Holbrook meander from Derby bus station, platform 3, Transpeak 11.35. Contact James Williams **07510 161 151** for our latest position.

Heritage Beer Festival Wins Widespread Praise

The riverside location proved popular; please see page 2 for a report on the new Derby festival.

CAMRA Branch Meetings

Amber Valley: Thursday, 12th December, at the Spotted Cow, Holbrook – 8.00pm. Please note that Amber Valley CAMRA Branch meetings are now bi-monthly.

Derby: Thursday 16th January in the ground floor Parlour of the Brunswick Inn, Station Approach, starting at 8.00pm.

Scoring Beers Aids Beer Guide Selection

It won't be long before we're choosing pubs for the Good Beer Guide so it's important to let CAMRA have beer scores as and when you visit pubs. This is easy on your smart phone.

Your Votes are Required by the end of December for Pub of the Year

It's that time of the year when CAMRA members' thoughts turn to nominating their favourite pubs for the prestigious Pub of the Year awards. To cast your pub votes for city, suburban, country, cider/perry and also Club of the Year email pubsofficer@derby.camra.org.uk or text 0771 2669581 quoting your name and membership no.

The delineation between city and suburb is as follows:

All **city** pubs are within the inner ring road plus those between the railway station and town. In addition, the following just outside of the ring road: Smithfield, Furnace, Golden Eagle, Seven Stars, Greyhound and Peacock. Please note that nominations must be submitted by **31st December**.

Nominating Pubs? Why Not be a Judge as Well?

Every year we hear comments akin to: "Why isn't the Black Bull the Pub of the Year?". Well, folks, it's on **you** to nominate pubs but also, if you have the time, to judge finalists in the New Year. Plainly, the more judges we have the less potential personal bias can affect outcomes. So, please, if you'd like to judge then please use the above contact details. If you need a lift to out-of-the-way pubs, please let Mark know as he may be able to help you, and judges from outside of Derby Branch's area are welcome.

Derby Drinker Advertising Manager Required

We're looking for someone to fill this important position. Should the role appeal, please contact Derby Drinker editor, Gareth Stead derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk

Winter Festival Tickets on Sale Now

The 2025 CAMRA Winter Ales Festival is between 12th and 15th February 2025 at the Iconic Magna Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham. A new venue and with tickets starting at just £8.00 online what's not to like?

Dolphin Opens and Changes at The Abbey

The **Dolphin**, Derby, has reopened in time for the lucrative Christmas period with six hand-pulled beers. **The Abbey**, Darley Abbey is serving food now in the Hall Bar (only). The Undercroft bar is open now for wet sales only. The meals in the Hall Bar are very reasonably priced and Old Brewery Bitter and coffee are still available in the Hall Bar.

Regional Meeting

It's on Saturday 30th November with a 1.00pm start at the Yarborough Hotel [JD Wetherspoon] Grimsby DN31 1JN - Just 20 Metres from Grimsby Town Railway Station. Afterwards, for those interested, the local Branch will host a trip around Cleethorpes.

The First Heritage Beer and Cider Festival

The festival wasn't always at full capacity, but the new venue beside the river was very well received by attendees. One comment reproduced here, succinctly summarises many: "The beer festival was very enjoyable. Great venue and lots of possibilities for moving things around for another year". Over four days, 2,933 attended, drinking 8,848 pints, and Karen and Konrad signed up 34 new members. We are, therefore, indebted to Russell Gilbert and his dedicated team for organising an event which had been eagerly anticipated ever since the Roundhouse festival in February 2020. Also, we'd like to thank the Museum of Making staff for their co-operation in making the inaugural event successful. So, let's hope this is the first of many annual Heritage Beer Festivals.



Advance Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is given of the Derby Branch AGM at the Flowerpot (gig room), King Street, Derby, on **Wednesday 12th February** starting at 8.00pm. You are invited to stand for any of the committee positions listed on page 4 and you'll need a proposer and seconder, both of whom must be CAMRA members. Please forward membership details to the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman, secretary@derby.camra.org.uk
N.B. Only Derby Branch members can stand for committee and please bring your membership card to the AGM for voting purposes.

Motions for Debate at AGM are Invited

If you have a motion for debate at February's AGM, then please forward it to the Secretary, Ian Forman secretary@derby.camra.org.uk by Monday 10th February. You will need a proposer and seconder, both of whom must be CAMRA members.

Looking for a Stocking Filler? Here's a Suggestion for Christmas

Christmas is rapidly approaching and CAMRA may have the answer to that perennial question of what to buy? Alexandra, Brunswick, Flowerpot, Furnace, Victoria Inn, Smithfield and Royal Oak, Ockbrook have copies of the 2025 Good Beer Guide for sale, so if you know someone who enjoys a pint of the real stuff, why not pop down to get them a copy?

Milford Pub Makes Donation to DLRAA

Long serving licensee of the King William, Dave Sutton, and his regular customers **raised £1,765** for the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance during their Wednesday night quizzes this year. Dave has held the reins here for more than two decades and the DLRAA was grateful to receive the donation because it gets no funding from government nor the National Lottery.

Farewell to the In the Sticks Newsletter

For more than twenty years, the monthly RuRAD newsletter has been an entertaining read with editorial enhanced by reports of visits to places near and far, which were helpful in planning one's own trips. Sadly, however, this month's newsletter is the last and we're going to miss it. One item that was reported regarding the Budget before last, which I was unaware of at the time, was the much-vaunted reduction in beer excise duty, which only applied to 3.4% abv and below. Less modest strengths were to be taxed more heavily. A big thank you, then, to RuRAD's editors and contributors over the years.

Good Beer Guide City Pub Licensees to Leave

Tim and Anna Heapy-Silander are to leave the Good Beer Guide listed Golden Eagle in Agard Street. The pub, which has a brilliant roof-top terrace, could benefit from the opening of the University of Derby Business School next door. The couple are moving to Anna's native Finland and the leasehold is available at £39,000 per annum. We wish the couple well.

New Lease of Life for Country Pub

By the time this is published, the Fox and Hounds, Coxbench should be welcoming customers again, courtesy of Kevin and Hannah Hiles. The couple love art and invite local artists to have their paintings on display.

Adrian Phipps-Hunt RIP

The sad news has reached M&B of the passing of Adrian, a sculptor, who died on 19th October. Adrian, who moved to Derby from the south of England, used to be seen regularly working behind the bar at Derby CAMRA beer festivals. Latterly, Adrian's company could be enjoyed at the Flowerpot, and his funeral was held at the crematorium on the 18th November with a wake at the Pot.

Belper's Last Historic Pub Walk This Year

This short, easy walk tells the history of pubs in Belper and stories about the characters that drank in them. It lasts about one and a half hours, with a mid-tour break at one of Belper's Good Beer Guide Pubs. The last one this year is on **Sunday December 15th**. It's £7.50/person. All proceeds go to the Charities Belper North Mill Trust and Age UK Derbyshire. To book and get more information go to – www.Belpernorthmill.org.uk. Early booking is recommended.

Campaigner of the Year Nominations

You are invited to nominate anyone you feel has made a significant contribution to the pub and brewing industry either directly or indirectly. They don't have to be a CAMRA member and could, for example, be a writer or someone whose influence from outside of the industry has had a positive effect. Please go to the CAMRA website.

Derby and Ale is Still Available

If you would like a copy of Derby's breweries' definitive history, please send a cheque for £10.00 payable to Mr J L Arguile, 71 Elms Avenue, Littleover, Derby, DE23 6FB. John's Friday afternoon talk at the Heritage Beer Festival on the demise and rise of brewing in Derby was well attended and John sold 13 copies of his book, Derby and Ale.

Derby Book is a Fascinating Read

Michael Smith has published a book entitled Celebrating Derby which includes a chapter "Beer Capital of the World". Available from Poynton's in the Derby shopping centre.

Derby Drinker Correction

I want to apologise for wrongly stating the names of the Flowerpot management in my Inn Focus article on the King Street pub. Catherine Perry is the manageress and has been for some time. Sorry, Catherine.

CAMRA Branch Membership Report

National Numbers (as of end October 2024)

As of the end of October 2024, membership stands at 147,329 a decrease of 188 members from the end of August. We recruited 2,645 new members in September & October 24.

Local Numbers (as of end October 2024)

Locally, as of end of October 2024, Derby had 2,175, which is another small loss of 2 (32 lapsed & 30 new). At the start of the pandemic the Derby Branch had circa 3500 members. The Membership website contains the following statement that may stop some unanswerable question – “Totals – Due to the nature of the way memberships are added and deleted from the system it is not possible to reconcile the totals exactly. So, 10 new members and 5 lapses may not mean your membership grows by 5. Renewals, members moving to non-financial add a “churn” to the data. Looking at trends over a longer period is more helpful.”

Karen Cooper, Membership Secretary, 18th November

Discounted Beer at Refurbished Local Pubs

South Normanton based Pub People Company has smartly refurbished the Royal Standard, Derwent Street and Greyhound, Friar Gate. As a further incentive, both pubs operate a buy 8 pints to get one free collector’s card for their various cask beers.

2025 Members’ Weekend, AGM and Conference

Those members who were present at the AGM in Torquay in spring, 2012 will doubtless recall the lovely, sunny and warm weather. Well, next year it’s held again at the Riviera Centre in the town between **11th and 13th April** and you can register now by going onto the members’ weekend website. Fingers crossed for some similarly fine weather.

More on the Birmingham Social, 30th November

This will be an inter-branch social and we catch the 1010 train, platform 4 from Derby, arriving Birmingham at 1055. We have the option of a quick visit to the London and North Western before meeting up at the **Craven Arms**, Upper Gough Street B1 1JL at noon. At 1.15pm, we go to the **Prince of Wales**, Cambridge Street. Between 2.00pm and 3.30pm we will be free to have lunch or look around the market (a 9-minute walk).

For those who would like to try a couple of breweries, there is a brisk 15-minute walk to the **Rock and Roll Brewery Taphouse**, and then a 4-minute walk to **Burning Soul Brewery**. Another 10-minute walk brings you to **The Bull**. 3.30pm: The Bull, then **Gunmakers Arms**. 5.00pm: **Old Contemptibles**. 6.00pm: **Post Office Vaults**, Colmore 7.30pm: The **Wellington**, run by former Derby licensee, Nigel Barker. There will be small blackboards on tables labelled Derby CAMRA Social for folk to find us. Last train to Derby 10.49pm. **James Williams 07510 161151**

Milford and Holbrook Meander, 27th December

After alighting in Milford from the 1135 Transpeak from Derby bus station, the first port of call is the **Holly Bush Inn**, Makeney at noon. After which we call at the **Spotted Cow and Dead Poets**, Holbrook, and finishing at the **King William** back in Milford. Owing to the William not opening until 430pm, there may be time to pop into the **White Hart**, Bargate, although we will not be rushing.

The route link is below and you can contact me on 07510 161151 if you are joining us later. Roughly 4.5 km.

<http://explore.osmaps.com/route/14841461>

Wear appropriate footwear for potentially muddy footpaths. Methods to the pubs may change to avoid the worst pathways following local members’ advice.

Derby Branch Financial Report From 11th October to 7th November 2024

Opening cash in bank 11/10 £4,786.55 (including sale of 50th anniversary glass at Branch meeting). Closing cash in bank 7/11 £5,789.56. **Income:** £1,090.00. DD adverts £960.00 including VAT. GBG 25 £130.00.

Unpaid invoices: None. **Expenses:** £86.99 M&B £70.99 including VAT. Books £11.00. Bank charges £5.00. **Unpaid invoices:** (None overdue) GBG 25 £800.00. DD printing £1,199.78. M&B £20.70.

Derby year-end financial return 2024, covering the period 1st November 2023 to 31st October 2024 has been fully completed and submitted to CAMRA central finance on 4th November 2024. **Andrew Norman, Branch Treasurer**

Minutes of the Ashbourne CAMRA Branch Meeting at the Smith’s Tavern, Ashbourne on Tuesday, 29th October

Attending: Graham Burke (Chairman), Mark Grist, John Chamberlin, Alison Terry, Kevin Woolley, Hannah Barton, Martin Sales, Konrad Machej, Stephen & Sue Asbury, Rob & Mandy Hodson-Walker, Mick Betts, Lewis Morris.

Apologies: Colin Terry, Gareth & Lizzy Butterfield, Diane Grist, Mike Burrows, Phil Lee, Dave O’Dell.

Declarations of interest: Mark Grist (Smith’s Tavern), Kevin Woolley & Hannah Barton - Red Lion, Kniveton & Kniveton Cider, Rob & Mandy Hodson-Walker (House of Beer).

Minutes of the September 2024 branch meeting:

Approved.

Chairman:

Graham briefed members on CAMRA lobbying of MPs with the budget due tomorrow. Reminded members of the impending return of the Derby Beer Festival 13th-16th November. Confirmed that Derby Branch committee member Gillian Hough has been named as Vice-Chairman of CAMRA. National news also included the Members’ weekend in Torquay and the return of GBBF, this time to the NEC, Birmingham.

Secretary:

Membership up two at 74 as of 02/10. Nominations are invited for the Winter Pub of the Season, voting and result at either the November meeting or the Xmas Social.

Cider:

Kevin updated members on the winner of the National Cider Pub of the Year, The Chester Tap. Mentioned that the initiative to get small producers into tied pub seems to have no emphasis on cider, only on beer.

Pub news:

Mark reported on the ongoing changes at **Smith’s Tavern** to say that any new long-term contract is unlikely to be offered before the expiry of the current one in early December, so a tenancy at will agreement has been reached for now to bridge the gap. **The Middle One, Ashbourne** opens this weekend (2nd November); no draught real ale is on offer at present.

Beer & Cider Festival:

A separate meeting is to take place immediately following this meeting and a report will be available from Graham in due course. It is anticipated that, despite lower turnout and beer drunk than hoped for, we will have made a surplus due to cutting all costs to the barest minimum.

AOB: None.

Dates

Tuesday 26th November – branch meeting – Green Man, Ashbourne. Tuesday 17th December – Xmas crawl social – start Smith’s Tavern 7.00pm. Tuesday 28th January – branch meeting – venue tbc. **Meeting closed at 9.00pm.**

Derby Branch Diary

NOVEMBER

Sat 30th – Birmingham all day “jolly”. Join us in England’s second city for a fun day out. See pages 1 and 3 or contact James Williams 07510 161 151.

DECEMBER

Wed 4th – Skittles match with Burton on Trent Branch of CAMRA at the home of Burton Bridge Brewery since 1982. Burton Bridge Inn, 24 Bridge Street, Burton – 7.30pm.

Thu 19th – Falstaff Festive Fuddle, 74 Silver Hill Road, Normanton - 7.00 to 1030pm. A great evening is assured in the Offiler’s lounge at this own brew pub. Please bring some nibbles.

Thu 19th - FemALES drink and draw Social, Furnace Inn, Duke Street, Derby at 730pm.

Fri 27th – All day Milford and Holbrook walk. See page 3.



Holly Bush Inn, Makeney

JANUARY

Mon 6th – Committee meeting, Brunswick – 8.00pm.

Thu 16th – BRANCH MEETING, Brunswick – 8.00pm.

Sun 19th – FemALES at the Silk Mill, Full Street, Derby at 1.00pm. Need to book.

Ashbourne Diary

DECEMBER

Tues 17th – Christmas Pub Tour, starting at the Smith’s Tavern at 7.00pm.

Ashbourne Contact

info@ashbourne.camra.org.uk

Amber Valley Diary

DECEMBER

Thu 12th – BRANCH MEETING, Spotted Cow, Holbrook 8.00pm.

Sat 21st – Belper Pub Walk, meet at 1.00pm.

Mon 30th – Nottingham Christmas social, meet at 1.00pm. Details to be announced a week prior to excursions.

Amber Valley Contact

Chairman: Chris Rogers 01332 880041

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Tim Williams, M&B Distribution Officer

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M&B Copy Deadline

Copy to

mildbitter@derby.camra.org.uk by

Friday 20th December

Derby Drinker Deadline

1st January

derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk

Advertising:

ads@derbycamra.org.uk