

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

Are High Energy Bills Killing Pubs?

On BBC Radio Derby's breakfast show on 11th December, an emotional Trevor, the licensee of the Miners Arms, Brassington, revealed the horrific energy bill totalling £52,000 that had forced him to leave the village pub with his partner and elderly mother. Trevor had been at the Miners for three years, and initial billing had been based on the previous licensees' usage. Matters were complicated by the so called "smart meter" not working correctly owing to a lack of signal. Bills had risen exponentially from £400 to £4,000 per month, and Trevor is still liable for the outstanding sum despite his departure. Also, he cited the case of a licensee he knew whose energy bills had risen from £800 to £15,000 per month! In case you're in any doubt as to the precarious position many pubs find themselves in, just consider J D Wetherspoon's share price, a company which you might have thought could benefit from the cost of living crisis. Pre-pandemic, there shares were £18+ but now languish at little more than £6.



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.

The First Tiny Tap Christmas Festival is a Roaring Success

Sunday 8th December saw the Tiny Tap off Alfretton Road packed with drinkers and shoppers sampling Little Brewing beers and doing some pre-Christmas shopping. I did, though, feel some sympathy for the food vendors outside who had to endure the ghastly weather.

CAMRA Branch Meetings

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

Amber Valley: Thursday, 30th January, at the Bottle Brook, King Street, Belper – 8.00pm.

Ashbourne: Tuesday 28th January, Green Man or Little Brewery.

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.

Advance Notice of Amber Valley AGM

Should you wish to stand for the Amber Valley committee, please contact Chris Rogers ahead of the meeting on Thursday 27th March at the Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse. Chris's phone number is on page 4.

Why Not be a Pub of the Year Judge?

If you have the time why not judge the soon to be announced finalists in the weeks ahead? 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 contact details below. 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.** email pubsofficer@derby.camra.org.uk or text 0771 2669581 quoting your name and membership no.

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?

Derby FemALES

Derby FemALES have been meeting monthly since June, and so far have visited The Alexandra Hotel, The Victoria, The Five Lamps, The Flowerpot, The Royal Standard, The Brunswick and, in December, they met at The Furnace. Future monthly meetings are planned at: 13:00 on Sunday 19th January gathering at The Silk Mill for Sunday lunch, and 19:30 on Tuesday 18th February gathering at The Smithfield. All women who want to sit, sip and chat together are welcome to join in.

Real Ale Golf Club Offers Social Membership

For little more than £20, you can become a social member of Mickleover Golf Club, off Uttoxeter Road, entitling you to 10% off all drinks etc. There are four changing real ales and there's a comprehensive food menu all day and you could enquire to see if the discount applies to food as well.

Beer Festivals Near and Far

10th – 12th January: Whittlesea Straw Bear, Cambridgeshire.

16th – 18th January: Exeter Festival of Beer at the Corn Exchange.

29th January – 1st February: 16th Colchester Winter Ale Festival, Arts Centre.

7th and 8th February: Chesterfield Winter Festival at the Winding Wheel Theatre. Check website for ticket availability.

7th and 8th February: 15th Elysian Winter Beer Festival, The Maltings, Ely.

12th to 15th February: CAMRA Winter Ales Festival at Magna Science Adventure Centre, Templeborough, Rotherham.

21st – 23rd February: Acle Winter Beer Festival, Acle Academy.

27th February – 1st March: Chappel Winter Beer Festival, East Anglian Railway Museum.

6th - 8th March: 48th Loughborough Beer Festival. Polish Club, True Lovers Walk (off William Street), Loughborough. 55 ales.

27th - 29th March: Burton Beer Festival. Burton Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent. 180+ ales and cider.

4th - 5th April: Castle Beer Festival, Nottingham Castle, Lenton Road, Nottingham. Local Breweries. £10 Admission.

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.

Dave Sutton (1942 – 2024) RIP

Dave, owner of The King William IV at Milford, and until recently Landlord, passed away peacefully while on an epic train journey across Australia, and our condolences go to his family. Dave, originally from the north east, worked many years for McAlpine on major projects in the UK, the Middle East and Africa. His passion for steam engines and trains led him to use his procurement skills to supply coal to heritage railways as far away as Australia. Dave and his friend Trevor ran a coal business for a number of years.

In 2005, Dave and his wife Pauline, purchased the King William and kept it as a traditional village pub at the heart of the community.

They loved being landlords and enjoyed welcoming locals and visitors into their pub. Live music was a passion of Dave's and became a feature of the pub. Sadly, Pauline passed away in 2018 and Dave continued to run the pub into his 80s. The King William, or the Billy as many know it, and the friendships that were forged there are a great and precious legacy to them both. Dave will be missed, but not forgotten by his many friends at the King William; long may his legacy continue.



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2025 Members' Weekend, AGM and Conference

It's at the Riviera Centre in Torquay between **11th and 13th April** and you can register now by going onto the members' weekend website.

Gibbo's Gongs

Pub of the year: Devonshire, Bridge Street, Belper. In a break with tradition, I've nominated a pub outside of the Derby Branch area and one that gets little, if any, CAMRA publicity. I've heard it referred to as a "food pub" and, yes, it does serve good quality fare but this is no open plan eatery; rather it offers discreet areas in which to enjoy a well-kept pint of Dancing Duck. The staff, led by manageress Emma, are excellent and unsurprisingly the place is busy. As an aside, I feel that Martin Roper and Denise Sage, who own the freehold here, haven't received due recognition for stylishly reviving several closed pubs hereabout.

Beer of the year: Shiny 4 Wood. Shiny tends to be known for its hop forward brews but this full flavoured 4.5% abv beer was accurately described in the Heritage Beer Festival programme as a "full bodied English best bitter". Try it in the Furnace, Duke Street or at the Shiny Tap, Old Hall Mill Business Centre, Little Eaton (behind the Queen's Head).

Inn Brief

Chris Allingham of the brewing and pub owning family has taken the reins at the **Pattenmakers Arms**, Crown Street, Duffield which serves 3 real ales. The Pattenmakers won Derby CAMRA Country Pub of the Year a decade ago. The **New Zealand Arms** on the corner of Peel Street and Langley Street is for sale. The **Broadway**, Derby offers £1 a pint off its cask ales on Monday and Thursday. **Steve Cresswell** is retiring, with daughter Katy and son-in-law James taking over the Angels, Belper and Groovers Arms, Ripley. Steve has a farewell party on Saturday 4th January at the Groovers. **Crich Brewing Company** has applied for an on licence between 9.00am and 6.00pm, Monday to Sunday for its premises at 1D, Campbell Street, Belper. One of the worst kept secrets has been that Derby Brewing is taking over at the **Papermill**, Darley Abbey (opposite The Abbey). Well, now the legalities have been completed, I understand the place will close from 6th January for 2 – 3 weeks to facilitate building work and reopen as **Little Darley**. I believe that all of the staff have been retained.

Brewing Behemoth Axes Beers including Former Champion Beer of Britain

Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company has ceased brewing several cask beers including Marston's 61 Deep and the 1988 CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain, Ringwood Old Thumper. Derby committee member and real ale, cider and perry campaigns director, Gillian Hough said: "This is another example of a globally-owned business wiping out UK brewing heritage. I hope that this change will mean space on the bar for licensees to stock guest beers from local independent breweries, but realistically, this isn't what CMBC plans. This loss of customer choice is the inevitable outcome of a brewing conglomerate run by accountants and the bottom line. This is a sad and disappointing decision that puts the future of British brewing in jeopardy."

Derby and Ale Book 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.

The Neptune was Packed on Christmas Day

It was great to see the pub on The Spot so busy on the big day and mine host, Steve Kirk, was handing out free food as well. Steve was of course conferred with Freedom of the City for his Poppy Appeal charity raising efforts which has seen him and his loyal customers raise upwards of £120,000 since he became licensee here in 1997.

Minutes of the Derby CAMRA Branch Meeting at the Greyhound, Friar Gate, on Thursday 7th November 2024

Welcome and phones on silent. 15 attendees.

Apologies

Gillian Hough, Charlie Pratt, Konrad Machej, Andrew Norman, Gareth Stead, Les Williams, Kevin arriving later.

Declaration of Interest

None.

Minutes of last meeting

Accepted as in M&B.

Matters arising

None.

Officers' reports:

Treasurer

Branch Report in last M&B courtesy of Andrew Norman.

Secretary

AGM: two months' notice to be given of AGM. All Committee posts up for election and Kevin and Gillian wanting to step down. Call to go into M&B: **Action PG.**

Derby Drinker

Out now as a festival issue but Gareth not at the meeting.

Beer Festival Chair

Russ thanked everyone for what they had done so far. Set up starting Sunday. New venue, new problems? No news on ticket sales. Not many negative comments so far. Hopefully the next one will be bigger and better. Two free pints for new members confirmed. CAMRA members will potentially get a free pint at every session.

Socials

New members' social after festival planned. Membership desk in prominent position. Trade session starts 2pm restricted to two people per invite. Young members' social, under 30, after festival, 1st Dec. Birmingham social 30th Nov. Multi branch event. 4th Dec Burton skittles at Burton Bridge. Weighbridge for meal before. 19th Dec Falstaff fuddle. 27th Dec Milford and Holbrook walk.

Cider

Gillian not at the meeting and no report.

Pubs' Officer

POTY nominations from 1st Nov to end of year; then judging. 1 vote for each category of City, Suburban, Country and Cider pubs. Judges required for the judging in new year. Submission in March. Judging from 1st Jan to end of February. New year GBG selection. We are being encouraged to adopt a formula, which is very like ours. GBGs selling well. Beer list for festival now online. Local beers and some rare ones.

Homage to Burton Union brewing courtesy of Thornbridge brewery. Burton Bridge have now taken over what was Bass Museum brews. Devon, Bristol, Black Country, Manchester and South Lancashire beers are represented. Printed programme available. Some 6.5 and 7% beers. Not all beers available at every session.

Questions asked about noise from bands. Music under jet engine. Les Baynton has written a new poem for the festival. Subject to capacity there could be tickets at the door.

Any Other Business

Paul Gibson asked if we should be concerned at the closure of the Dolphin? We don't have any information on it. Has Ashover brewery stopped brewing? No further info on Regional review. We had planned to have discussions with Burton about Swadlincote. Kevin not keen so this had not happened. New branch in Swadlincote or would it go to West Midlands? We would lose some of South Derbyshire. All of this is ongoing. No meeting in December.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Minutes of the Ashbourne CAMRA Branch Meeting at the Queen's Vaults, Ashbourne on Tuesday 26th November

Attending:

Graham Burke (Chairman), Mark Grist, John Chamberlin, Dave O'Dell, Alison Terry, Kevin Woolley, Hannah Barton, Konrad Machej, Melvyn & Angela Whitehead, Mick Betts, Paul Barnett, Alan Shenton + Paul & Andrew.

Apologies:

Colin Terry, Gareth & Lizzy Butterfield, Diane Grist, Mike Burrows, Phil Lee, Stephen Asbury, Martin Sales, Mandy & Rob Hodson-Walker.

Declarations of interest:

Mark Grist (Smith's Tavern), Kevin Woolley & Hannah Barton - Red Lion, Kniveton & Kniveton Cider, Alan Shenton (Parwich RBL)

Minutes of the October 2024 branch meeting:

Approved.

Chairman:

Welcomed attendees, great to have so many attending despite a number of apologies as well. Briefed members on chair activity since last meeting, which included presentations to Shoulder of Mutton, Osmaston for Autumn Pub of the Season, Ashover Cider for the Cider of the Festival, Blue Monkey Brewery for Beer of the Festival, The Ark for the Charity donation from the festival and also attendance at the Derby Branch meeting and the relaunched Derby Beer Festival. Thanks were noted from the floor for the busy schedule carried out and representation of the branch at so many functions.

Secretary:

Membership up two at 76 as of 07/11. Three nominations received to date for the Winter Pub of the Season, namely The Watts-Russell Arms at Hopedale, The Knockerdown and House of Beer. Any other nominations are welcome, the voting and result to be decided at the Xmas Social.

Cider:

Kevin mentioned copies of the British Modern Cider book are on sale at The Red Lion.

Pub news:

Mark reported that the mooted tenancy-at-will agreement for Smith's Tavern will be signed in the first week of December, with further talks to come after Xmas on a new long-term deal. He also reported that he now has Draught Bass on as a semi-permanent offering. **The Middle One, Ashbourne** opened on 2nd November. No draught real ale is on offer at present, but branch members are encouraged to offer support to get them off to a good start. **The Gate at Brassington** has management issues, which have sadly resulted in the withdrawal of both Alan Shenton and his wife from any part in running it. **The George at Alstonefield** continues with its fundraising campaign to try to have a collective ownership.

Beer & Cider Festival:

A couple of debts remain outstanding, to be chased up asap. A discussion was held concerning the volunteers thank-you event, hopefully to be held at Little Brewing in Derby as soon as a date can be settled on, but an alternative suggestion would be at Wincle Brewery if we can confirm a date asap.

AOB: None

Dates:

Tuesday 17th December – Xmas crawl social – start Smith's Tavern 7pm. Tuesday 28th January – branch meeting – venue tbc, either Little Brewing or Green Man.

Tuesday 25th February – branch meeting – Green Man if not held there in January.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Derby Branch Diary

JANUARY

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

Thu 16th – BRANCH MEETING, in the Parlour, ground floor of the Brunswick – 8.00pm.

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

FEBRUARY

Wed 12th – Annual General Meeting at the Flowerpot (gig room), King Street, Derby – 8.00pm. Why not apply for one of the posts in the right-hand column? Please bring your membership card.

Tues 18th – FemALES at the Smithfield, Meadow Road, Derby – 7.30pm.

MARCH

Mon 3rd – Committee meeting at the Dolphin – 8.00pm.

Thu 13th – BRANCH MEETING at the Dolphin (lounge), Queen Street, Derby – 8.00pm.

Ashbourne Diary

JANUARY

Tues 28th – BRANCH MEETING at the Little brewery or Green Man.

Ashbourne Contact

info@ashbourne.camra.org.uk

Amber Valley Diary

JANUARY

Thu 30th – BRANCH MEETING, Bottle Brook, King Street, Belper - 8.00pm.

MARCH

Thu 27th - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse – 8.00pm.

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

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