

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

There's Still Time to Stand for Committee in the Resurgent Derby Branch

Last November marked an important milestone in Derby CAMRA's post-pandemic revival. The successful Heritage Beer and Cider Festival at the Museum of Making, Silk Mill, announced to the wider public that we were back, not that we'd really gone away! Beer festivals, newsletters, important data collection and analysis for Good Beer Guide selection and Pub of the Year, together with a lively social scene have been our *raison d'être* for decades. Those working behind the scenes, however, would in some cases, welcome a break and we're looking for new volunteers with new ideas to take the Branch forward. Age and gender are irrelevant as we seek those with a little spare time who are, perhaps, in need of a fresh interest. **You are therefore invited to stand for any of the committee positions listed on page 4** and if you're uncertain about what a role involves, Ian will be happy to advise you. If you know you'd like to step forward, then you'll need a proposer and seconder, both of whom must be CAMRA members. Please forward membership details ahead of the AGM below to the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman, secretary@derby.camra.org.uk

Annual General Meeting is at the Flowerpot

The Flowerpot (gig room), King Street, Derby, on **Wednesday 12th February** will see the AGM starting at 8.00pm. Last year's AGM at the Victoria, Midland Place, was very well attended and we're hoping for a similarly high attendance this time around. It's a great opportunity to meet friends old and new over a few pints in a pub which has featured in nearly all of the Good Beer Guides these last 30 years. **N.B. 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. **Stop press:** Motions accepted right up to the AGM on **Wednesday 12th February**.

Could Darts' Sensation Spark a Revival in Young Persons' Patronage of Pubs?

Luke Littler, who has just turned eighteen, is the youngest ever World Darts Champion and his success has reverberated around the country in a hugely positive way. It occurred to me that this might just encourage young folk to take up the pub-based game and I was pleased to find that there are still Tuesday darts' leagues in and around Derby. Participating pubs are, in many cases, well known to beer buffs hereabout. Back in the day, pubs such as the Robert Peel near the railway station had first class darts' teams and woe-betide anyone who had the temerity to talk whilst a match was in progress!

CAMRA Branch Meetings

Derby: AGM, Wednesday 12th February in the gig room of the Flowerpot, King Street, Derby – 8.00pm.

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

Ashbourne: Tuesday, 25th February at the Green Man tbc.

2026 Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting

Come and have your say as data is analysed at the Smithfield, Meadow Road, Derby, on Thursday 30th January at 8.00pm.

Revived Oswestry Inn Wins Pub of the Year

Duncan Borrowman, landlord of the Bailey Head, Oswestry, Shropshire, is celebrating after winning CAMRA's national Pub of the Year competition.

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?

In Derby Branch there's still time to be a judge as Derby Branch's judging doesn't finish until the end of February and the more judges the better. So, 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.

2025 Pub of the Year Finalists

Derby: City - Flowerpot, Furnace and Smithfield.

Suburban - Falstaff, Hole in The Wall (Mickleover) and Creaky Floorboard. **Country** - Shiny Tap, Chequers (Ticknall) and Green Man (Willington).

Amber Valley: Groovers, Angels, Holly Bush (Makeney), Spotted Cow, Dead Poets (both Holbrook), Railway, Talbot (Ripley) and White Hart, Bargate. The Amber Valley judging phase runs until 12th February.

Derby Branch Cider POTY finalists: Victoria Inn, Brunswick, Smithfield. Judging finishes middle of February.

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 is Imminent

The 2025 CAMRA Winter Ales Festival is between 12th and 15th February 2025 at the Iconic Magna Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham. This is a new venue, and with demand high, please check online for ticket availability.

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.

Derby CAMRA Chair's Year End Report

Last year was a reasonable year for the Branch and after a lot of hard work by Russ and his team we finally managed to run a beer festival in the Museum of Making (Silk Mill), I'm sure Russ will give a full report at the AGM but the venue seems to have gone down well. Also, we managed earlier in the year to run two festivals in the Brunswick and the Victoria, thanks to Mark and all those who helped him. Also, we'd like to thank both pubs for this novel approach.

On the social front Jamey keeps coming up with ideas to keep our members busy, and helping keep sales going in our pubs. A new venture started by Gill is a women's group which meets in various pubs and this is taking off, encouraging women who would often not go to a pub alone, to join in, and hopefully many will be encouraged to attend Branch meetings, and even stand for committee. Unfortunately, the Branch has a few dinosaurs who have chosen to insult this group, and this is not acceptable.

Regarding the committee elections at the forthcoming AGM, there is still time to submit a nomination, with a proposer and seconder, and though we take nominations at the AGM it is only for positions not submitted in advance. Please see page 1. Our treasurer Andrew has worked hard sorting the bank accounts; you would not realise how difficult the bank makes it changing signatures.

Our membership has fallen significantly since Covid; Karen is standing down and she worked hard to keep our membership numbers accurate. Hopefully, now we are able to run a beer festival membership will grow again.

As you will know many pubs are struggling financially, and not surprisingly some have felt they had to stop CAMRA discount, however, paying the full price should not bankrupt members, but if you think how much the pubs get, it can make the difference between staying open or closing.

Finally, for those not aware, I am standing down as Chair at the AGM; I don't think it's good for a person to be chair too long although I hope to be elected onto the committee.

Cheers, Kevin Hepworth

Cider and Perry by Gillian Hough

Derby might not be the first place you think of when you want a cider or perry, but some outstanding 'evangelistic' work is happening in our pubs. The Brunswick currently holds the Branch Cider and Perry Pub of the Year (PoTY) Award, having been judged to be the best in town. Almost next door to The Brunswick, The Victoria, under the capable leadership of Emma and John, their cider and perry offering is well worth checking out too. The Victoria were runners up to The Brunswick last year in the cider and perry PoTY judging. Both pubs will offer tasters if you are unsure what to order, and when you get the cider or perry that's right for you – oh, well, now that's magical. As the ancient yuletide greeting goes, Wassail! (celebrated a short time ago).

Accounts From 8th November to 16th January
Opening cash in bank 8/11/24 £5,789.56. **Closing cash in bank 16/1/25** £4,785.32. **Income** £2,142.66. DD adverts £900.00 inc VAT. GBG 2025 £170.00. Merchandise £377.32, which includes £300.00 for beer festival goods. M+B £24.00. Donations £70.50. Payment from Ashbourne beer festival for VAT liability £600.84.

Unpaid invoices DD advert £120.00. **Expenses** £3,146.90. DD £1,199.78. M+B £182.27 inc VAT. Bank charges £17.40. Transfer of funds to festival account £300.00. VAT £1,447.45 which includes £600.84 for Ashbourne beer festival and £624.97 for Museum of Making beer festival. **Unpaid invoices** (none overdue) GBG £800.00.

Geoff Davis, Derby Branch Stalwart, RIP

I sadly have to report the passing of CAMRA member, Geoff Davis, 61, who hailed from Shelton Lock. Geoff would often be seen behind the bar at our beer festivals and he delivered the Derby Drinker for many years. I met Geoff at his first Branch meeting in 1982 when he accompanied Pip Southall, another who went far too soon. Geoff, ex-Rolls Royce and a keen cyclist, will be sadly missed and our condolences go to the Davis family. Geoff is pictured, left, at an Assembly Rooms Beer Festival. The funeral will be on Tuesday 11th February at 2.30 p.m. at Trent Valley Crematorium, Derby Road, Aston-on-Trent, Derby DE72 2AF.



Beer Festivals

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

12th to 15th February: Winter Ales Festival, Rotherham.

13th – 16th February: Hucknall Beer Festival at the John Godber Centre.

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

27th - 29th March: Burton CAMRA 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.

9th to 12 April: Derby's Brunswick and Victoria Inns collaborate to present 60 real ales.

15th to 18th May: Tutbury pubs' beer festival extravaganza.

3rd – 6th July: Eyes Have It Festival, Eyes Meadow, Duffield.

King William is Alive and Kicking

Subsequent to last month's Dave Sutton obituary, I want to emphasise that the King William, Milford is still very much open and, from all accounts, well worth patronising with 5 real ales and artistes most Saturday nights.

Inn Brief

Little Darley (ex-Papermill), Darley Abbey, should be open soon under the auspices of Derby Brewing. **The Coach and Horses**, Dig Street, Ashbourne, will reopen at the end of February after a £200,000 refurbishment with Ian Godfrey in charge. **The Anglers**, Bamford, rescued by the local community in 2013 and Good Beer Guide listed, is struggling owing to rising costs and reduced customer spending. A new tenant is sought. The **Pear Tree**, St Thomas Road, Normanton, which has a classic art deco exterior, is serving real ale. Tollgate brewery has signed a 20-year lease with the National Trust which secures the future of the **Milking Parlour** bar at Calke Abbey. The **Crich Brewery Taproom** in Belper is now open from noon to 6.00pm on Saturday and Sunday only. **Ted Goodall** who ran the Half Moon, Littleover, between 1973 and 1991, has sadly passed away. The Derby Telegraph reported that Ted was a former Grenadier who was a pall-bearer at the King George VI funeral. **The Markeaton**, Allestree, will reopen at the end of February after major refurbishment.

Minutes of the Derby CAMRA Annual General Meeting, Held at The Victoria Inn, Midland Place on Thursday, 8th February 2024

Welcome, and a moment of reflection for absent friends, among them sadly, Rob Gilvary, who has died. Former Branch Chairman, Dave George, spoke about Rob and the sad circumstances of his death. There will be a celebration of Rob's life at the Victoria on Sunday 17th of March at 2.00pm.

1. Apologies and any declarations of interest

Gareth Stead sent a statement; Heather Knibbs, Julian Tubbs.

2. Appointment of Tellers

Steve Crispin and Gillian Hough were appointed.

3. Minutes of previous meeting including accuracy/action minutes

Published in M&B and accepted as a true record.

4. Matters arising

Tim Williams asked if his AGM motion from last year was on the agenda. It wasn't, as it was felt that it would be dealt with in the Chair's report and other business. Some limited success.

1. Short and more informal meeting instigated etc.
2. Take up of M&B and Comms had been quite successful. Activity of members being encouraged.
3. Increasing membership. Difficult as we have not had a beer festival.

Tim spoke of the fact that his motion had not been enacted and proposed that the new committee looked at the motion again. Three new objectives needed which should be communicated to the branch in a co-ordinated way.

5. Reports: Chair

Kevin spoke of a difficult year, especially in respect of Derby Drinker. Times had been hard but DD now running at a small surplus. He thanked the DD team for their hard work, Michael Lindsay in particular. Michael spoke about his role in the rebirth of DD. He reminded everyone that we are all marketing managers for DD. He is spending a lot more than the two hours he had been expecting.

He noted the changes of publication dates in reference to planned dates. He also noted that we were, compared to other local branches advertising rates, expensive. Perhaps we need to look at our prices. Ian pointed out that DD needed to return a profit as per HQ rules. He spoke of successes of written articles by e.g. Paul Gibson. Michael invited to next meetings.

Beer glasses design for 50th Anniversary passed round.

Secretary

Ian felt disillusioned, particularly with mooted reorganization of branch areas.

6. Financial matters including auditors for next year

Andrew spoke of his role as treasurer. He spoke of anomalies in Cobas but he had addressed these issues. He spoke of the different aspect of the accounts; Derby Drinker, Good Beer Guide, donations for support etc. No problems with festival account. VAT is up to date. Ashbourne CAMRA festival is not in scope of this report. All details in Cobas and checked by HQ, which helps with their year-end accounts. Julian Tubbs had checked accounts. Please get in touch with Andrew for detailed accounts if you're interested. Andrew recommended acceptance of accounts. Accounts do NOT need to be audited because they are on Cobas. The Branch voted to unanimously accept the accounts.

7. Election of new committee

The following committee members were re-elected unopposed: Kevin Hepworth, Chair. Ian Forman, Secretary. Andrew Norman, Treasurer. Karen Cooper, Membership. Gillian Hough, Cider. Mark Fletcher, Pubs Officer. James Williams, Social Secretary. Gareth Stead - Co-opted committee member. Russ Gilbert - Ditto

8. Branch awards None this year.

9. AOB

Pub of the Year and Club of the Year judging are in progress. Voting on 50th anniversary design later in the evening.

Thanks given to outgoing and incoming committees. Dates and venues of future meetings are on the branch calendar.

Next committee meeting is on Monday 4th March at the Malt Shovel, Spondon from 8.00pm.

A vote of thanks was proffered to the Victoria Inn's John and Emma for the use of the room and the sandwiches they kindly provided.

AGM closed at 21.15.

DERBY AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Appointment of Tellers
3. Minutes of last meeting
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's report
6. Financial matters
7. Election-new committee
8. Branch awards
9. Any other business

Amber Valley Area Update for 12th December

92 pubs, clubs and breweries serve cask ale, and 17 don't serve cask ale as reported by Amber Valley CAMRA Pubs' Officer, Chris Perry.

Gibbo's Top Pubs Down the Decades: Part 1

This year sees me marking 50 consecutive years of CAMRA membership and I've allowed a little self-indulgence by featuring some of my favourite pubs down the years. Of course, any such list is highly subjective and inevitably some good pubs are omitted. The primary consideration is beer quality.

1970s: Chequers, Ticknall. Wednesday, 22nd October 1975 is memorable as that evening I had my first pint of the nectar known as Ruddles County. Chequers' landlord, Ted Mather, had Barrie Eccleston's commentary on BBC Radio Derby of the Rams' European Cup slaying of Spanish giants' Real Madrid. Sadly, Ted and Barrie are no longer with us. County (5.0% abv) was the only beer to win Brewex twice, which was the brewers equivalent of CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain.

County changed markedly, however, after the takeover of Ruddle's by Watney in 1986 which signalled the beginning of the end for the brewery that was synonymous with the 70s real ale revival. Today, the Langham, Rutland brewery site is housing. Tony Matthews now runs the Grade 2 listed Chequers which is a finalist in the 2025 Derby CAMRA Country Pub of the Year competition.

Notable other: Liversage Arms, Nottingham Road, Derby.

Integral to the 500-year old Liversage charity estate, The Liversage run by Andy Morrow, was a plain two roomer serving exceptional Marston's Pedigree. I have still the newspaper cutting from 1978 in which a national survey of beer quality was conducted. Pedigree was unique in gaining a maximum score of 12 thanks to the sulphurous "Burton Snatch" which made the beer so special. The delicensed Liversage is now flats. **Next time:** the 1980s.

CAMRA Membership Report, 3rd January 2025

National Numbers (as of end Dec 2024)

As of the end of December 2024, membership stands at 146,899 (decreases of 140 in December and 759 in November). Over the 12 months there were 14,617 new and 17,447 lapsed members.

Local Numbers (as of end Dec 2024)

Locally, as of 31 December 2024, Derby had 2,143, which is a small loss (51 lapsed & 46 new). Over the year we had 134 new members and 284 lapsed members. At the start of the pandemic the Derby Branch had circa 3500 members.

Derby Heritage Beer Festival 2024

At the Festival held in November we signed 34 new members, it is difficult to determine how many of these are Derby members but it is at least 25.

Karen Cooper, Membership Secretary

Derby Branch Diary

JANUARY

Thu 30th – Good Beer Guide selection meeting at the Smithfield, Meadow Road, Derby 8.00pm.

FEBRUARY

Mon 3rd - Committee meeting at the Smithfield – 8.00pm.

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.

Thu 20th – Social evening starting at the Peacock, Nottingham Road, Derby at 730pm.

MARCH

Sat 1st – Survey trip to Shardlow. Leave Derby bus station at noon on the Skylink bus.

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

Wed 5th – Ash Wednesday trip to Ashbourne Shrovetide from Victoria Inn, Midland Place. Please ask at the Victoria.

Sat 8th – Derbyshire County Meeting in Belper tbc.

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

Ashbourne Diary

FEBRUARY

Tues 25th – BRANCH MEETING at the Green Man tbc.

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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Campaigns' Coordinator: Vacant

Gillian Hough: Cider and Perry Officer

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M&B Copy Deadline

Copy to
mildbitter@derby.camra.org.uk by

Thursday 20th February
Derby Drinker Deadline

1st April

derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk

Advertising:

ads@derbycamra.org.uk

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