

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

Railway Terrace is the Place to be for Beer Festival Fans in April

Last July's beer festivals at the Brunswick Inn, and Victoria Inn, Midland Place were so successful that a repeat offering is being staged between Wednesday 9th and Saturday 12th April. 60 cask ales will be available in total.

Beware of the Handpull Hijack!

On page 2 we have outlined the Branch's position on this unwelcome development.

You are Welcome at the Inaugural Weekday Lunchtime Social at the Branch's Birthplace

Some CAMRA members are retired and certain others enjoy the flexibility of working from home, so we thought it was time to innovate regarding socials. On **Thursday, 3rd April** we're meeting at the **Alexandra**, Siddals Road, Derby, from 1.00pm for an informal drink and chat. Hope to see you there.

Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year Winners

The Flowerpot, King Street, Derby is the City Pub of the Year and Branch Pub of the Year. It's been a beacon for good beer and live music for 30+ years and is a deserved victor. It last won this accolade in 2007. Our photograph shows a smiling Catherine holding the City Pub of the Year and Branch Pub of the Year certificates at the 20th March presentation when the place was packed.

Suburban Pub of the Year is the classic Falstaff brew-pub on the corner of Society Place and Silver Hill Road, Normanton. Congratulations to Jim and Steph.

Country Pub of the Year is the Shiny Tap, Little Eaton, which triumphed in this category last year. Well done to Pedro and his great team.



Cider Pub of the Year

The winner is the Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, with the runner-up the Victoria Inn nearby, and the Smithfield Ale House in third place. Well done to all concerned.

Club of the Year

The enterprising Liberal Club, Spondon has won the accolade, reflecting their endeavour in offering a quartet of real ales. There's an honesty box for non-members and the Ilkeston Flyer stops close-by. The Jubilee Club, Chaddesden, and Victory Club, Allenton, just missed out on the top honour.

Campaigning Officer is Important Role to Fill

Any campaigning organisation such as ours self-evidently needs to have a competent and enthusiastic person to fill the role. If you'd like to play a prominent part in the resurgent Derby Branch, please contact Branch Secretary Nic Scott secretary@derby.camra.org.uk

CAMRA Branch Meetings

Derby: Thursday 10th April, in the first-floor room of the Royal Standard, Derwent Street, Derby – 8.00pm. **Please note** that the meeting room is accessed via a flight of stairs.

Amber Valley: Thursday, 29th May, at the Cross Keys, lower Market Place, Belper – 8.00pm.

Ashbourne: Tuesday, 29th April, at the Bentley Brook, Fenny Bentley – 8.00pm.

Derbyshire Pub of the Year Contenders

Derbyshire North - Rose & Crown, Chesterfield; Cross Daggers, Coal Aston; Bod, Matlock; Old Hall, Hope.

Derbyshire South - Smiths Tavern, Ashbourne; Dead Poets, Holbrook; Flowerpot, Derby; Burnt Pig, Ilkeston; Colville Arms, Lullington.

Derbyshire Club of the Year

Pioneer Club, Dronfield; Spondon Liberal Club; Hasland Club, Chesterfield; RBL, Parwich.

Judging is now underway in both competitions with a closing date of April 21st. There will then be a run off between them both for the overall Derbyshire POTY.

Ashbourne Accolades Announced

The **Pub of the Year** winner is the Smith's Tavern, with House of Beer runner-up, and The Red Lion at Kniveton in third place. **Club of the Year** is the RBL, Parwich, and the **Cider Pub of the Year** is The Red Lion at Kniveton. Certificates and presentations are being arranged, and our congratulations go to the licensees concerned.

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 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

Fancy Being on Derby CAMRA's Tasting Panel?

Derby CAMRA Tasting Panel Chair, Les Williams, is looking for members to partake of tasting sessions in breweries etc. If you'd like to join in in the fun, please contact lescandra39@yahoo.co.uk

Amber Valley Pub of the Year Results

The Pub of the Year winner is the **Dead Poets Inn**, Holbrook, with the **Talbot**, Ripley runner up. The cider POTY winner is the **Groovers Arms**, Peashill. Well done to all concerned.

Leatherbritches' Expansion

The ambitious Smisby outfit have acquired the Good Beer Guide listed Angel Ale House in Atherstone, Warwickshire.

Outwoods Brewing Real Ale

The Arches micropub, Station Street, Burton on Trent, has real ale brewed on site by Outwoods Brewing.

Save our Cask Ale!

Cask Conditioned Ale is under real threat as Carlsberg Marston has waged war on cask conditioned real ale by introducing Fresh Beer. This new concept is effectively a keg beer connected to a handpull on the bar.

The customer is being duped, conned, and misled.

If you arrive in a pub and order a beer from a handpull dispense, you naturally believe it's cask conditioned ale. What's wrong with this then? There are many issues for the Campaign for Real Ale as this is the thin end of the wedge. Allow this, and traditional cask ale could disappear along with traditional cellar skills. **This is Handpull Hijack.** So, Derby CAMRA will not recognise this type of keg ale as we believe it's misleading and we will not recognise pubs that serve beer in this way, from a keg to handpull.

We will not select pubs for The Good Beer Guides if we are aware this dispense is being used.

CAMRA nationally has reported this practice to trading standards, believing this is an unfair trading practice, misleading and not being in the best interest of the consumer.

Mini bus Survey Trips are Returning

In the past, one of the Branch's best activities was visiting out of the way pubs by hired mini bus. These were socially enjoyable and gave us valuable information regarding beer quality for potential Good Beer Guide listings, Pub of the Year etc. Our enterprising social secretary, James Williams, is seeking to organise one or more such outings in the coming months with the 2nd or 23rd May being mooted together with a couple of dates in June. Two different routes visiting multiple pubs are in the offing, and if you'd like to join in the fun, please contact socials@derby.camra.org.uk

Beer Festivals

- 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:** Barrowhill, Chesterfield, 400+ beers, ciders.
- 15th to 18th May:** Tap into Tutbury pubs' beer festival extravaganza.
- 23rd to 26th May:** Milking Parlour, Calke Abbey, near Ticknall, south Derbyshire.
- 3rd - 6th July:** Eyes Have It Festival, Eyes Meadow, Duffield.

The Eyes Have It Music Festival

The 10th Eyes Meadow event is at Duffield from 3rd - 6th July and Amber Valley Branch has been asked to set up a real ale & cider stillage plus staff/serve drinks inside a dedicated marquee with the festival's own volunteers. Overall, The Eyes Have It attracts upwards of 4000 attendees and runs all day - Thursday evening has been added on in 2025 as an acoustic opener. There will be interchangeable staff behind all bars, and an interim budget has been submitted to CAMRA & accepted. Sponsorship would be useful and more information will follow. Bands featured include Toploader (Dancing in the Moonlight) and the Blockheads.

Amazing Prices at Wetherspoon's

I tend not to drink in Wetherspoon pubs as I feel other pubs need my patronage more. On the 15th March, however, after going to Pride Park to see the women's League Cup Final, we decided to spend a couple of hours in the Babington, Babington Lane. I enjoyed Bateman's Coffee Porter and Brain's Boudica both 5.0% abv. The prices were astonishingly low with all cask ales just £1.99 a pint, or £1.49, net of CAMRA voucher discount. This equates to a third of the price of a pint in many pubs!

PG

Mixed Fortunes in Normanton

A trawl of four pubs in the area on the 7th March produced mixed results. The **Norman Arms** (pictured), Village Street, had decent hand drawn Draught Bass at £3.90 a pint.

However, the **Oast House; Chestnut Tree, Inn and Grill,** Portland Street and **Pear Tree** St Thomas Road, had no real ale despite the latter advertising the stuff on its sign board. The Pear Tree has though had a smart makeover.



CAMRA Branch Membership Report

At the March 13th Branch meeting, membership secretary, Gillian Hough, said that our current Branch membership stood at 2,111. This represented a decrease with 7 new members and 20 lapsed members in the past 30 days. We're aiming to recruit 400 new members this year.

Belper Historic Sunday Pub Walks are Back

We're pleased to inform you that these tours (£7.50) are again proceeding on the following dates: 13th April, 8th June, 27th July, 5th October, 21st December. 13th April has already sold out. www.belpernorthmill.org.uk

Burton Brewery Receives Royal Visit

It's rare that a member of the royal family visits a brewery, but that's exactly what happened a few weeks ago when King Charles was photographed pulling a pint and then quaffing it at the aptly named Tower brewery in Burton on Trent. Founder, John Mills, was on hand to welcome his majesty and naturally the Derby Telegraph covered proceedings. You can visit the tap room on Glensyl Way although it has very limited opening hours.

Gibbo's Top Pubs Down the Decades: 1990s Coach and Horses, Fenny Bentley

In 1994, the small village of Fenny Bentley had two breweries: Leatherbitches and Black Bull. Keen home brewer, Michael Peach ran the latter on Ashes Farm, brewing a small range of high-quality beers. I first drank Black Bull Best Bitter on a hot day in July '94 and subsequently returned many times to the Coach and Horses. Only a limited number of pubs were supplied including the Derby free trade and the Red Lion, Kniveton was a regular stockiest. Sadly, by millennium year, brewing had ceased although I'm not entirely sure why. Today, the main road pub serves a couple of real ales together with a popular culinary offering. **Notable other: Flamingo and Firkin, Becket Street, Derby** I could have opted for the (now closed) George Inn, Lowes Hill, Ripley when it became Bateman's most westerly tied house in 1989. Back then, XXXB and Mild were brilliant. I have, however, chosen this brew pub that ended Derby's 20-year commercial brewing hiatus.

David Bruce founded the Firkin pub chain in 1979 but by the time the Derby outlet opened in December 1988, David's business had been taken over. Dogbolter was probably their best known ale but Becket Ale (4.5% abv) was outstanding before the pub closed in 1999. The premises are now known as the Hairy Dog which specializes in live music and offers the general public 3 real ales including a brace from Dancing Duck, the Derby brewers.

**Minutes of the Derby CAMRA Branch Meeting
Held at the Dolphin on 13th March 2025**

Attendees

Nic Scott, Alan Pickersgill, Kat Higgins, Mark Fletcher, Les Williams, James Williams, Tim Williams, Jim Suter, Paul Gibson, Brian Laverick, John Worsley, Andy Mottram, Debra Woods, John Arguile, Gareth Stead and Russell Gilbert (16 People)

Apologies for absence

Heather Knibbs, Charlie Pratt, Les Baynton.

Declarations of Interest Alan from the Brunswick.

Minutes of the Last Meeting and matters arising

Les to get the taster panel up and running. Memos from HQ to be brought forward.

Chairperson's opening remarks

Start of the year and moving forward, CAMRA membership for 2025 has fallen but Derby hasn't been the worst performing Branch in this regard. We need to give people a reason to join CAMRA.

Social Events & Beer Festivals: Upcoming beer festivals & social outings

18th March Shiny tap as a presentation of Country pub of the year at 7.00pm.

24th March, a presentation to the Falstaff for suburban pub of the year.

3rd April Thursday Alex, from 1pm as a social event to test if there is a feeling for midday drinking. (**ACTION – Put a message out on socials for this**) 1st Survey trip with 5 people, good mixture of pubs in Shardlow. Mini bus on a quarterly basis if there is the requirement. Budgets to be discussed and allocated at the next meeting Committee meeting and presented to the Branch meeting next month

ABC crawl - didn't happen last year and would like to do it this year. Get people to send in Mild in the wild pictures, a promotion maybe - it needs to be pushed. James asking if there is a HQ initiative for Mild beers as there are no promotions at the minute. Gillian said Mild month is now May, Cider is now July month. Campaigns for beer day Britain 15th June Sunday 2025

Pub & Brewery News

POTY has finished for 2025 and Pub of the Year is Flowerpot with the presentation on 20th March. Country pubs very close with the Shiny Tap being the winner. Suburban poty is the Falstaff. Club of the Year is the Spondon Liberal Club and will be presented at the next committee meeting. Cider pub of the year, the Brunswick, runner up was the Victoria, then the Smithfield.

Good Beer Guide submissions

They have been submitted for the year. Whatpub has been removed, with the current name being FindPub. Whatpub was receiving about 300K views a month and was outshining CAMRA as a name.

Membership & Recruitment

Gillian said she will email John Cotter to understand why people are leaving and signing up to CAMRA. 2111 members currently and looking to extend this to 2500 in the next 12 months. There have been 7 new members in the last month, with 20 members lapsed and we will contact them. A report each month will be sent to Gillian to chase members that have lapsed. **Check that regular attendees to the meetings are live members and haven't lapsed.** It was raised that we need to try to recruit active members not just dormant paying members. Look at the trend and not just the actual numbers as things will naturally go up and down. We need to be present and active, not just Derby festivals, but at national ones also.

Updates on ongoing campaigns, including Fresh Beer and Cask

Apologies for the haphazard approach to releasing the POTY information. It wasn't supposed to be released to Derby Live and we plan to address this in future. Fresh Beer and Handpull Hijack are HQ campaigns to address the issue of hand pumps connected to kegs rather than casks. CAMRA have reported Marston's to trading standards as they have promoted this as cask ale. CAMRA, a few years ago, came up with a campaign, Fresh Beer. CMA didn't hold up a complaint that was raised by a Mansfield brewery. Cellarmanship skills could be lost. Trading standards has been watered down over the last 10 years and it's affecting the quality of managing the beer. The Boat Inn, Retford, was cited as an example of malpractice. Alan Pickersgill said those pubs serving beer by this method should be excluded from the GBG and we should consider a certificate for pubs highlighting that they serve CASK conditioned beers ONLY through handpumps. Tim was reassured that here in Derby there were no pubs, at present, falling into the handpump hijack category. An article with Colston Crawford, Derby Telegraph, was mooted. Brewers need to know this is an unacceptable practise. Les, who has come across this previously in Tamworth, asked if we can we put something forward to the National AGM. Derby Drinker should not publicise/advertise those who indulge in malpractice. Beers that are currently in the pipeline that are brewed in this method are Hobgoblin beers and Wainwrights. WhatPub has a flag for misleading information that can be set to identify if pubs are not using Fresh Beer. A motion has been passed to support cask conditioned beer pubs and notify the Good Beer Guide should they not use Fresh beer.

Any Other Business

Regional meeting in Arkwrights, Belper on Saturday 15th March, starts noon. Burton Beer festival 27th March.

Next Branch Meeting

10th April at The Royal Standard.

**Minutes of the Ashbourne Branch Meeting at
the George & Dragon, on 25th February 2025**

Present:

Graham Burke (Chair), Mark Grist, Mandy & Rob Hodson-Walker, Phil Lee, Alison Terry, David O'Dell, Stephen Asbury, Martin Sales.

Apologies: Diane Grist, Colin Terry, Gareth & Lizzy Butterfield, Kevin Woolley & Hannah Barton, Melvyn Whitehead, John Chamberlin, Konrad Machej, Mick Betts.

Declarations of interest: Mark Grist – Smith's Tavern, Mandy & Rob Hodson-Walker – House of Beer.

Chairman's notes:

Attended Derby CAMRA AGM, several new officers elected. After some discussions prior to this meeting, it has been decided not to proceed with the **beer & cider festival** this year, mainly due to continuing issues with maintaining a committee and doubts about the venue availability or alternatives. **The best suggestion for the future is to look at a bi-annual event rather than an annual event.** Ongoing national discussions surrounding the proposed branch boundary changes were mentioned, with Graham producing a map showing potential pub losses/gains dependent on the outcome of the consultation. As there appears to still be scope for inter-branch discussions, we will make contact with the Staffordshire Moorlands branch to talk about those pubs along the border that were previously taken on by our sub-branch. A discussion with Uttoxeter branch may also be needed for the southern edge of our area. Judging forms and votes have been received for the **Pub of the Year** competition. Votes were

Minutes of the Ashbourne Meeting, Continued

also invited from those attending who had not previously done so. After collating all results, the chairman announced the **winner** as Smith's Tavern, with House of Beer runners-up and The Red Lion at Kniveton in third place. **Club of the Year** was confirmed as the RBL, Parwich and the **Cider Pub of the Year** is The Red Lion at Kniveton. Certificates and presentations will be arranged by the chairman as soon as possible.

Secretary: Membership (at 03/02/25) – 78. Nominations are invited for the Spring Pub of The Season, none yet received.

Pub News - The **Coach & Horses**, Ashbourne is re-opening on Thursday 27th February. **The Gate** at Brassington is now under a renewed management team. The **Miner's Arms** in the village remains closed.

Smith's Tavern - talks continue towards a permanent deal, several small hold-ups in the timeline, but still moving towards completion at the time of this meeting.

Cider News: None

AOB - A further discussion was held regarding the arranging of a thank-you trip for festival volunteers and the difficulty in arranging a suitable night, so that most could attend. Alison volunteered to send out a message to all those on the volunteer database to gauge interest for different nights of the week and we will look to get something in place as soon as possible.

Venues for upcoming meetings:

March 25th - Compton Club, April 29th Bentley Brook, May meeting (3rd JUNE) AGM at Smith's Tavern.

Derby Branch Diary

APRIL

Tues 1st – Committee meeting at the Liberal Club, 4 Moor Street – 8.00pm.

Thu 3rd – Inaugural midweek lunchtime social at the Alexandra, Siddals Road 1.00pm to 3.00pm. All welcome.

Thu 10th BRANCH MEETING at the Royal Standard, Derwent Street, Derby – 8.00pm. Upstairs room.

Wed 16th – Midweek social starting at the Last Post, 1 Uttoxeter Old Road at 8.00pm, then at 9.00pm moving onto the Greyhound or Golden Eagle.

Wed 23rd – FemALES, Greyhound, Friar Gate, Derby 7.30pm to 8.00pm start.

Tues 29th – Darley Abbey social – Little Darley 8.00pm then across the road to The Abbey at around 9.00pm.

Amber Valley Diary

MAY

Thu 29th – BRANCH MEETING, Cross Keys, Belper – 8.00pm.

JUNE

Sat 7th – Mini bus survey trip.

Amber Valley Contact

Chairman: Chris Rogers 01332 880041

Ashbourne Diary

APRIL

Tue 29th - BRANCH MEETING, Bentley Brook, Fenny Bentley – 8.00pm.

Ashbourne Contact

info@ashbourne.camra.org.uk

How to Unsubscribe from M&B

If you do not want to be sent further editions of M&B, click the "Unsubscribe" link at the bottom of the email with which it is sent. Mailchimp will do the rest. You can also change your M&B email address by clicking the "Update your preferences" link. If you get M&B by post, you can unsubscribe or change your address details by phoning Tim Williams (07803 546496) or emailing him at *timwilliams39bhr@gmail.com*. Any changes you make to your M&B subscription will not affect the CAMRA Membership Database, so any changes affecting your membership and communications from the national organization should also be made at <https://camra.org.uk/my-membership/> or by phoning 01727 867201.

Tim Williams, M&B Distribution Officer

DERBY CONTACTS

COMMITTEE

Chair: Mark Fletcher *chair@derby.camra.org.uk*

Secretary: Nic Scott *secretary@derby.camra.org.uk*

Treasurer: Andrew Norman *treasurer@derby.camra.org.uk*

Membership: Gillian Hough *membership@derby.camra.org.uk*

Pubs Officer: Kat Higgins *pubsofficer@derby.camra.org.uk*

Ashbourne Chairman: Graham Burke

info@ashbourne.camra.org.uk

Campaigns' Coordinator: Vacant

Cider and Perry Officer *cider.perry@derby.camra.org.uk*

Socials: James Williams *socials@derby.camra.org.uk*

Press and publicity: Alan Pickersgill *camrapublicity@aol.com*

Derby Drinker: *derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk*

Beer Festival: Russell Gilbert *BeerFest@derby.camra.org.uk*

NON – COMMITTEE

Derby Drinker Distribution: Kevin Hepworth

derbydrinkerdist@hotmail.com

Derby Drinker advertising manager: Vacant

ads@derby.camra.org.uk

Derby CAMRA Tasting Panel Chair: Les Williams

lescama39@yahoo.co.uk

M&B Copy Deadline

Copy to

mildbitter@derby.camra.org.uk by

Sunday 20th April

Derby Drinker Deadline

1st April

derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk

Advertising:

ads@derbycamra.org.uk

Mild & Bitter – (C) 2025 – Derby, Ashbourne & Amber Valley CAMRA

EDITOR: Paul Gibson - E-MAIL: *mildbitter@derby.camra.org.uk*

We do our best to ensure that the information in M&B is accurate but no responsibility can be accepted for errors or omissions. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor, nor of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.