

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

CAMRA is Seeking Special Protection for Cask Ale – Please Sign the Petition

CAMRA is endeavouring to protect cask ale by having it conferred with protected status by UNESCO. Please take a couple of minutes to sign CAMRA's on-line petition to enable parliamentary attention. <https://petition.parliament.uk>

Provisional Dates for Second Museum of Making Beer and Cider Festival Announced

The proposed dates for the Museum of Making Beer and Cider Festival at the historic Silk Mill are the 3rd to 6th September. After the first festival committee meeting at the Smithfield on 30th April, Secretary, Steve Cooper, will step down and we want to thank Steve for his meticulous minute taking at so many meetings over the years.

You are Welcome at the Weekday Social

Following the successful first afternoon social, we're meeting in the Good Beer Guide listed Five Lamps, Duffield Road between 1.00 and 4.00pm on Tuesday 27th May.

Derby CAMRA is Celebrating Mild in May Month

It's long been the tradition for CAMRA to celebrate Mild in May and with this in mind we've organised a social on Wednesday 21st May at the Smithfield, Meadow Road from 8.00pm. We hope you'll join us here or, later, from 9.30pm, at the Furnace beer festival.

South Derbyshire Survey Trip Looks Tempting

Why not make a note of Saturday 24th May when we'll be venturing forth to certain pubs we perhaps don't get to enough? First off is The Rising Sun, Willington at 11:35 am, then The Dragon; The Red Lion, Repton 1:00 pm, The Boot Inn, Repton; The Swan at Milton 2:30 pm; Mount Pleasant Inn, Repton; The Bulls Head, Repton 4:00 pm, The Royal British Legion 5:30 pm, The Green Man. We're aiming to return either on the 6:26 Cross Country train or the later 6:42 V3 bus. **Approximate pub times only.** We may be behind or ahead of schedule. If arriving later, please call organiser James Williams on **07510 161 151** to find out where the group is, and a small blackboard will be on the table saying CAMRA social if you need to find us. Beer Census is very important for Derby CAMRA because it allows the organisation to get up-to-date information and shortlist pubs for the Good Beer Guide.

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 15th May at the Peacock, Nottingham Road, Derby – 8.00pm. **Please note** that the rear meeting room is down a couple of steps.

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

Ashbourne: Tuesday, 3rd June **AGM**, at the Smith's Tavern, Ashbourne – 8.00pm.

Extended Licensing Hours on 8th May

Government has recognised the importance of the 80th anniversary of VE Day by permitting pubs to extend their usual hours by two hours if licensees wish to do so.

Inn Brief

Jody, the popular licensee of the **Half Moon**, Littleover, has left. Mark Grist of the award winning **Smith's Tavern**, Ashbourne, has secured a new five year lease with Admiral Taverns. Tony of the **Dew Drop**, Station Street, Ilkeston, is leaving and will be replaced by Michelle who will reinstate its original name, the Lord Middleton. The pub, which has been Good Beer Guide listed for 30 years, hit the national newspapers recently for the size of its cheese and onion cobs! The community owned **Anglers Rest**, Bamford, has a new lessee with a 15 year lease.

Derby Beer Girls Next Social

Derby Beer Girls are next meeting on Wednesday 28th May from 7.30pm at Suds and Soda, Friar Gate, Derby.

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 lescamra39@yahoo.co.uk

Young Members' Representative Required

We're looking to fill this important role by appointing an individual who will represent younger people's views. Please contact Secretary, Nic Scott secretary@derby.camra.org.uk for more information.

Belper Historic Sunday Pub Walks

These tours (£7.50) are again proceeding on the following dates: 8th June, 27th July, 5th October, 21st December. www.belpernorthmill.org.uk

Derby Member Re-elected to National Executive

Derby membership secretary, Gillian Hough, has been re-elected to the National Executive for three years as Vice Chair at the recent Annual General Meeting at Torquay.

Beer Festivals

15th to 18th May: Barrowhill, Chesterfield, 400+ beers, ciders.

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

21st to 25th May: Furnace, Duke Street, Derby. Live music Friday and Saturday.

23rd to 26th May: Milking Parlour, Calke Abbey, near Ticknall, south Derbyshire.

18th to 21st June: Dead Poets, Holbrook - Sausage, Cider & Ale Festival.

2nd to 6th July: Shiny Tap, Unit 10, Old Hall Mill Business Park, Little Eaton.

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

10th to 13th July: Tiny Tap, off Alfreton Road, Derby.

24th to 26th July: Smithfest, Smithfield Ale House, Meadow Road, Derby.

26th July: Heanor music and beer festival at 13 venues.

5th to 9th August: Great British Beer Festival, NEC, Pendigo Way, Birmingham B40 1NT.

15th to 16th August: Parfest at the RBL Parwich.

Financial Report: 14th March to 10th April 25

Opening cash in bank 14th March: £3,386.57. Closing cash in bank 10th April: £4,024.87.

Income: £4,080.69. DD adverts £120.00 inc VAT.

DD subscriptions £12.00. GBG 2025 £64.00. M&B subscriptions £15.00. Festival VAT transfer £3,869.69.

Unpaid invoices: DD advert £540.00. **Expenses** £3,442.39. M&B £49.67 inc VAT. Bank charges £5.00. VAT £3,387.72. **Unpaid invoices** – none overdue.

Derby Drinker cumulative costs to revenue ratio £103.99%.

Andrew Norman, Treasurer

Tide Turning for The Neptune?

Steve Kirk, the long serving licensee of the The Neptune, The Spot, may benefit from an agreement between the new Vaillant Live venue and the Derbion car park, London Road, which has a 2,700 car capacity. Notwithstanding Ryans, the Neptune is now the only pub remaining on the direct pedestrian route. With the new Colyear Street auditorium having a 3,500 capacity, the potential for an up-turn in the Neptune's trade is significant, and The Babington may benefit also. Event-goers to Vaillant pay just £2.50 for parking after 5.00pm at the Derbion. The Neptune celebrated St George's Day in style with a beautiful buffet.

Popular Belper Pub Bucks Trend by Expanding

Such has been the popularity of the Devonshire, Bridge Street, Belper food offering, some table bookings have been turned down. Owners, Martin Roper and Denise Sage, have responded by having a rear extension built, including an enlarged kitchen, which should be completed by the end of May.

There's plenty of room for drinkers though, sampling Dancing Duck beers and one or two guests. The elevation shown here has gone for good.



Positive Feedback From the Flowerpot

It's been heartening to hear that the 2025 Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year winner, the Flowerpot, has benefitted from the publicity surrounding the award. Staff say folk who were once regulars have been returning to experience the many improvements that have been made to the King Street premises in recent years. No wonder the award is coveted.

Gibbo's Top Pubs Down the Decades: 2000s Coach and Horses, Sheffield Road, Dronfield

In 2005, Thornbridge started brewing with a ten barrel facility on the Thornbridge Hall estate and the Coach and Horses was their first pub. You were blessed indeed if you sampled the magnificent range of Thornbridge beers back then. They relocated to much larger premises near Bakewell in 2009 and have been a phenomenal success story, owning a dozen pubs, supplying two hundred more and even exporting beer. It will, though, always be that great beer I drank at the Coach and Horses in the early days which lingers long in the memory.

Notable other: Falstaff, Silver Hill Road, Normanton
Ever since 1st April 2003, when Jim Hallows and Steph Briggs lease began at the Falstaff, it has been a destination pub for those of us who appreciate good quality own brewed beer in traditional surroundings. A beautifully carved fire surround in the corner bar, and the Offiler's lounge, a homage to the nearby, lost brewery, make this pub special. It duly won Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2023 but I felt Fist Full of Hops was at its zenith in the 2000s. Our photograph shows the Victorian inspired beer garden which will be a summer sun trap.



Minutes of the Derby CAMRA Branch Meeting Held at the Royal Standard, Derwent Street, Derby on 10th April 2025

Welcome & Apologies

Attendees – Nic Scott, Mark Fletcher, Stephen Crispin, Keith Baker, Paul Gibson, Konrad Machej, John Worsley, Brian Laverick, Steve Cooper, Andy Mottram, Russell Gilbert.

Chairperson's opening remarks

This is the second meeting since the AGM, and we want to try different venues within the Derby area, with a focus on building the number of attendees at meetings.

Apologies for absence

Heather Knibbs, Charlie Pratt, Kevin Hepworth, Kat Higgins, Alan Pickersgill, Andrew Norman, Tim

Williams, James Williams, Les Williams and Gareth Stead,

Declarations of Interest None.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes approved. Actions from the previous meeting: Gillian is to try to raise 400 new members and to contact the 20 members that have left CAMRA.

Matters arising

There was a discussion re £230 for hiring a mini bus for survey of 5-7 pubs. We still feel this is expensive and are actively looking at options. Steve Crispin had previously looked at this issue some time ago and suggested members may be prepared to contribute towards cost. Is someone willing to volunteer and drive the bus? We need to action this to move it forward.

Campaigns Section

An additional 4 pages of Derby Drinker have been supported by committee at a cost of £250 per issue.

Festival and Pub News

Museum of Making Beer Festival – had a surplus of £14,000, which we split 50:50 with MoM. Provisionally, the next event is 3-6 September in the Museum of Making. Russell looking for help to audit the equipment. The next meeting to discuss the festival is on the 30th April at the Smithfield. Mild in May: We'll ask members to go on social media and tell us where and what mild they're drinking throughout May. Summer of Pubs won't be a single event, rather the idea is to use some memorabilia within the area to promote activities in July and August. Unfortunately, no young member has come forward for the young members' position. PG is to appeal in M&B for young members' rep.

Membership & Recruitment

We have not received a plan from Gillian regarding the plan for 400 new recruits. There has been membership material delivered for the Brunswick and Victoria festivals.

Any Other Business

Nic, speaking re Pub of the Year, Flowerpot, said Luke and Catherine have appreciated winning POTY as some people that haven't been in for a while have returned to the pub and seen the positive changes. Regional Director is up for re-election, but we won't be voting for him. There is a lack of information re proposed changes and we are being ignored. Mark commented it seems strange that they are trying to introduce a new Branch that sits between boundaries and waters down the local members. Royal Oak, Ockbrook will be holding a beer festival in October between the 11th-13th.

Next Meeting: 15th May at The Peacock.

Minutes of the Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch Meeting, The Compton Club, 25th March

Present:

Graham Burke (Chair), Mandy Hodson-Walker, Alison Terry, Kevin Wooley, John Chamberlin, David O'Dell, Alan Shenton +1, Phil Lee.

Apologies:

Mark & Diane Grist, Stephen & Susan Asbury, Konrad, Hannah.

Declaration of Interest:

Mandy – HOB, Kevin – Red Lion & Kniveton Cider, Alan RBL. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Committee room at the Compton Club. Minutes of the February meeting were circulated and received. They were approved as read.

Chairmans Notes:

I was unable to attend the Derby Branch meeting due to other commitments. Attended the Uttoxeter Branch Meeting as a guest as did the chair of the Staffordshire Moorlands Sub-branch and discussed the pubs in Staffordshire with DE6 postcode. This resulted in an agreement that these pubs would remain within the Ashbourne & District area. The East Midlands Regional Director has been informed of this decision. The Uttoxeter branch continues to thrive and is now a full Branch and no longer a sub-branch. Derbyshire South POTY pubs in this round were read out and the voting process was explained, deadline is 25th April. It is important that Members contribute to this to enable the Ashbourne nomination (Smith's Tavern) to be included.

Action Mark to email out the full details to all members. CAMRA Members weekend, AGM & Conference is being held in Torquay on 11th to 13th April, Lots going on including a beer festival, brewery tour, Cider tasting etc. Graham is attending to represent the branch. All members welcome to attend. Voting is taking place for the East Midlands Regional Director and Derby have advised that the current incumbent will not get their vote due to poor communication. We have received guidance from CAMRA on Pub Data Collection. To be discussed at a later meeting when Mark is present. Ashbourne POTY, Certificates have now arrived and will be presented in the next two weeks. Burton 50th

Anniversary Beer Festival is on at the Town Hall 27th to 29th March, tickets are £15 including a free glass and £8 vouchers for CAMRA members. Always a great venue!

Secretary:

Membership is stable at 78. No nominations received for Spring Pub of the Season so will review at April meeting

Pub News:

The Bridge management has changed at short notice due to family issues and is now being managed temporarily by the managers of the Tavern at Denstone. Marston's have also put the Bridge up for sale. Mark at

The Smith's Tavern now has a new 5 year contract with Admiral Taverns. **The George at Alstonfield** has now been purchased by a private buyer as the village buyout failed to get the required cash, but the understanding is that it will remain a pub and a manager will be appointed shortly. **The Black Horse** has closed.

Cider News:

Sausage and Cider Festival Wollaton Park, Nottingham Saturday 31st May 2025 - tickets £35. Red Lion at Kniveton Cider Festival will take place in July, planning still ongoing.

Social/Beer Festival Volunteers trip:

Alison has completed the survey of the volunteers as requested and the preference was for a Tuesday evening. Graham proposed a visit to Thornbridge Brewery and Tap on

Tuesday 29th April. Graham to investigate what they can provide and transport options for up to 14 people by next Tuesday. Alison will then circulate details and take bookings based on volunteer's 1st, CAMRA members 2nd and pubgoers 3rd if any places still available. A Thursday visit to Little Brewing Tap will be arranged later in the year.

AOB:

Parwich RBL are in the early stages of planning a 2025 beer festival which will probably be held in August and at the RBL to save the £300 cost of hiring the hall. Mandy proposed a 'Burton Style' Ashbourne Ale Trail around the interested pubs of Ashbourne with either an App or a paper system with stamps, pubs could put in £100 each to cover promotion etc and we could sell tee shirts etc. Graham advised that he had visited the Burton Ale Trail for the last 3 years and there was an enormous amount of work involved in organising it. While this could not be promoted as a CAMRA Event, we could all try to support it. Mandy is to present a formal proposal and maybe set up a working group/committee?

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Derby Branch Diary

MAY

Tues 6th – Committee meeting at the Chequers, Ticknall – 8.00pm.

Thu 15th - BRANCH MEETING at the Peacock, Nottingham Road, Derby – 8.00pm. There are two steps down to the rear meeting room.

Wed 21st – Mild in May social and Furnace Festival. Meet at 8.00pm in the Smithfield, Meadow Road for a pint of the dark stuff, and then, around 9.15pm, stroll over to the Furnace beer festival, Duke Street.

Sat 24 – South Derbyshire Survey trip see page 1.

Tues 27th – Five Lamps afternoon social 1.00 to 4.00pm. Choose from a fabulous range of beer.

Wed 28th May – Derby Beer Girls at Suds and Soda, Friar Gate from 7.30pm.

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

JUNE

Tue 3rd – Annual General Meeting, Smith's Tavern, Ashbourne – 8.00pm.

Ashbourne Contact

info@ashbourne.camra.org.uk

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Tim Williams, M&B Distribution Officer

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Tuesday 20th May
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