

# Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

## Celebrate Beer Day Britain at Derby CAMRA's Pub of the Year

Beer Day Britain will be celebrated nationally on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June and here in Derby we'll be doing just that at our Pub of the Year, the Flowerpot, King Street. Branch Chair, Mark Fletcher, will read a couple of poems written by our Beer King, Les Baynton at 6.00pm and there'll be a **Cheers for Beer** celebration chant at 7.00pm. Also, there'll be a presentation to the Pot for being runner up in the South Derbyshire Pub of the Year competition won by the Burnt Pig, Ilkeston.

### Be a Team Leader for a Really Good Night Out

On Friday 18th July, it's the Annual Beer Census covering many pubs that serve real ale within the Derby city boundary. In your editor's opinion it's the highlight of our social calendar and one where we all finish at the Pub of the Year, the Flowerpot, to recall our experiences that evening. We collate the number of different beers so we can compare our numbers with previous years, and with other cities. Please contact Social Secretary, James Willams if you'd like to lead a team in an area of Derby that suits you [socials@derby.camra.org.uk](mailto:socials@derby.camra.org.uk)

### Don't Forget to 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>

### 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](mailto:secretary@derby.camra.org.uk)

### Belper Historic Sunday Pub Walks

These tours (£7.50) are on the following dates: 8<sup>th</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 21<sup>st</sup> December. The latest Derby Drinker has a feature article. [www.belpernorthmill.org.uk](http://www.belpernorthmill.org.uk)

### CAMRA Branch Meetings

**Derby:** Thursday 12th June at the Brunswick, Railway Terrace, Derby – 8.00pm.

**Please note** that the meeting room is at first floor level reached via a dog-legged staircase.

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

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

### Regional Meeting is Imminent

As a CAMRA member you're entitled to attend regional meetings, and the next one is at the Ram, Castle Gate, Newark on 31<sup>st</sup> May starting at 12 noon.

### 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](mailto:derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk)

### Opportunity Knocks for Brewery Liaison Officers Around Derby

We currently have vacancies for Brewery Liaison Officers for the following breweries hereabout: Brunswick, Little and Shiny (Little Eaton). If you find the prospect appealing of regular bi-monthly contact with these innovative brewing plants, all with their own bars, then please contact Gillian Hough [gillian.hough@camra.org.uk](mailto:gillian.hough@camra.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 [lescama39@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lescama39@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](mailto:secretary@derby.camra.org.uk) for more information.

### Derby Beer Girls Next Gathering

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June is when Derby Beer Girls' next meet in the front bar of the Old Bell Hotel, Sadler Gate from 7.30pm.

### Milford Walk and Dead Poets' Festival

Meet on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June** at the Hollybush, Makeney, noon and leave at 130pm for the Dead Poets, Holbrook festival.

### TV Celebrity Acquires Derbyshire GBG Pub

The Neil Morrissey Pub Company has acquired the Good Beer Guide listed Brickmakers Arms, Newton Solney which Bruce Mackie and his daughter, Fee, are running. Back in the day, when Neil appeared in the Derby Assembly Rooms Christmas Pantomime, he would round off the evening with a few pints of Thornbridge Jaipur in the nearby Silk Mill, run by Terry Holmes aka Big T.

### Beer Festivals

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July:** Eyes Have It Festival, Eyes Meadow, Duffield.

**5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August:** Great British Beer Festival, NEC, Pendigo Way, Birmingham B40 1NT.

**29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August:** Off the Tracks (music) Festival, Isley Walton, Castle Donington. 70+ real ales. For tickets, go to [www.offthetracks.co.uk](http://www.offthetracks.co.uk)

**3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September:** (provisional) Derby CAMRA Beer Festival, Museum of Making, Silk Mill, Derby.

### Festival Manager Receives National Award

Russell Gilbert (pictured) has been recognized for his work over many years in organizing Derby CAMRA beer festivals. He's been presented with the runner up accolade in the Campaigner of the Year competition, and was second only to Steve Alton of the British Institute of Inn Keepers. Well done, Russ.



### Julian Hough Award Winner Announced

Clive Toplass is the deserved winner of the Derby Beer Festival award in memory of Julian, a Branch beer festival organizer. Clive's positive attitude was much admired at the Silk Mill event in November.

### Melbourne and King's Newton Ale Trail

31<sup>st</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August are the dates to note for this trawl of ten pubs and bars. Regular Arriva buses from Derby bus station serve Melbourne.

### Heineken Makes Substantive Investment

Heineken is investing £40m in 600 pubs nationwide creating 1,000 new jobs. Here in the East Midlands, £3.1m is being invested, including £317,000 on the Bridge Inn, Sandiacre, which will reopen after refurbishment in June. It will be interesting to see what becomes of the long-closed Corner Pin, Chellaston.

### Special Live Music Event at Pub of the Year

The Flowerpot, King Street, will host the Swamp Club Weekender between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July. For more details and tickets go to [www.theswampclub.co.uk](http://www.theswampclub.co.uk)

### Fancy a Long Walk for a Charitable Cause?

Steve Kirk, the enterprising and long serving licensee of the Neptune, The Spot, has organized a walk from the Pirelli Stadium, Burton on Trent to Pride Park Stadium on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Afterwards, they'll be the Neptune's annual charity celebration of our armed forces. Enquire at the pub for more details.

### Inn Brief

**The Abbey**, Darley Abbey has closed again and the inn sign has gone already. **The Royal Telegraph**, London Road/Traffic Street no longer serves real ale. The **New Zealand Arms**, Peel Street should reopen soon. The first steps towards **The Wheel**, Ticknall reopening have been taken after years of closure. Debra Woods reports that the **Bell**, Smalley has closed and is for sale at £600,000 including guest accommodation and the post office. The freehold to the **Staff of Life**, Ticknall (pictured below) is for sale. The revamped outside area at **Little Darley**, Darley Abbey, looks impressive, attracting plenty of May sunshine.



### Brewery News

Matt Willers of **Little Brewing Company** says he's just had the three best months of trading since his company was founded. On a Friday afternoon in May, customers were queuing up to enter the Tiny Tap off Alfreton Road. **Ashover Brew Co** has now been established after a successful crowd funding venture. Ed and Matt Allingham of **Leatherbritches** report that they are selling a lot of their imitation Citra beer Citra Pale. Try their beer at the Victoria, Midland Place; Bank of Beers, Melbourne and Little Chester Ale House.

### Mickleover Golf Club Welcomes All

Mickleover Golf Club is different to many golf clubs in offering 4 real ales as well as an all-day food offering. The Golf Club is reached by a drive off Uttoxeter Road (by A38 flyover). Julie Cottrell's offering is all very reasonably priced.

### Gibbo's Top Pubs Down the Decades: 2010s

#### Alexandra Hotel, Siddals Road, Derby

In December 2010, Derby CAMRA members Ralf Edge and Anna Dyson began their tenure at the birthplace of Derby CAMRA. Castle Rock beers are augmented by changing, interesting guest beers, some previously unseen on Derby bars. The lounge is a veritable treasure trove of brewery memorabilia and themed food evenings add to the appeal of a venue which has hosted fund raising events for charity. The Alex deservedly won Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2015 and it is perennially Good Beer Guide listed. Ralf and Anna married many moons ago and all these years later the pub is still in their safe hands.

#### Notable other: Rowditch Inn, Uttoxeter New Road

In 2010, Steve and Jan Birkin had been at the Rowditch for 13 years, and they chose to enhance the pub's offering by brewing on a three-barrel on-site plant. St Stephen's Ale was launched with body and depth of flavour belying its modest 3.6% abv strength. For many, the Ditch was a "home from home" where reliable beer quality was a given and the beautiful garden, tended by Jan, was a joy to behold. Also, significant sums were raised for good causes. The pandemic, however, hit hospitality hard, and this pub wasn't alone in struggling with the consequences with, sadly, closure in the early 2020s.

**Minutes of the Derby CAMRA Branch Meeting at The Peacock, Nottingham Road, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Attendance:** Nic Scott, Kat Higgins, Mark Fletcher, Russell Gilbert, Brian Laverick, John Worsley, Graham Burke (Ashbourne), Steve Cooper, Paul Gibson, Gillian Hough, John Smith, Jim Suter, Konrad Machej, Debra Woods (14 People).

**Apologies for absence**

Andrew Norman, Alan Pickersgill, James Williams, Les Williams, Tim Williams, Charlie Pratt, Gareth Stead, Julian Tubbs.

**Declarations of Interest**

John Smith from The Victoria Inn, Midland Place.

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

2 Sheets circulated re Annual Beer Census tours, so please put your name down for the tour, usually a Friday night.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Minutes reviewed and approved.

**3. Matters arising**

None.

**4. Social Events & Beer Festivals**

We have a mild in May promotion and on the 20<sup>th</sup> May we're starting at The Victoria (7.00pm), thence the Brunswick, The Alexandra, with an hour in each. CAMRA vouchers will be accepted for mild beer in these pubs; this will be funded by Derby CAMRA.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May we start at The Smithfield and then the Furnace festival.

In June, July, August, we'll have a promotion to get people interested in beer and cider, a traditional ale trail with something at the end, we will try and get some nik-naks from breweries and there will be a pub spotlight – we turn up to the pub and have a membership desk for a month. Brewery spotlight - visits to local breweries which will be interesting to see how they operate. We will arrange transport and look to encourage members to attend. Derby Drinker has missed the timeframe, but we can use social media and other means to advertise the events. The aim is to do several ale trails to cover the next few months. Little Eaton beer festival on the 17<sup>th</sup> May at the village hall.

**5. Pub & Brewery News**

Ashbourne AGM on June 3rd and they want to readdress things and get new members. Membership - 8% increase from last year. The next planning meeting for the Derby Beer Festival will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> May at the Smithfield from 7.00pm. Brewery Liaison Officer/Brewery Liaison Co-ordinator update - we don't have a coordinator for the area but looking to appoint someone in the local area. We are looking for a liaison person with certain local breweries. Bi-monthly reports required from breweries. **Action:** Nic will speak with James from the Brunswick Brewery.

Gillian said there are changes planned for the Good Beer Guide in the future. Regional News & Regional PotY: The South Derbyshire winner was the Burnt Pig, Ilkeston. The runner up was the Flowerpot. Beer Day Britain is the 15<sup>th</sup> June, this will be at the Flowerpot but Les Baynton is not well so we will speak to him about how he wants to proceed.

**National News:** Russell is a runner up to the Campaigner of the Year. The certificate was presented to him. Gillian - a requirement will be to publish business plans for events going forward. John Smith - breweries are asking John if they can stock their beer in his pub, but the breweries (who supply Wetherspoon) cannot sell their beer for the same price to local pubs as they do for Wetherspoon's, as they cannot afford to. Paul is preparing a Derby Drinker article on how beer prices have risen over the last 55 years.

**6. Membership & Recruitment**

Not much to update, but new leaflets to come out shortly, and there will be an increase in the price for membership. An idea going forward is to allow free entry to events rather than the discount vouchers. Mental Health is an important aspect and loneliness is a problem, but people can attend the pub to discuss things to help to alleviate problems. Mark cited an example of this working to someone's benefit. Gillian remarked that there is a cohort of armchair people who don't go to the pub for the chance of having good conversation. John Smith said that a reason the Victoria Inn opens at 9.30am is because people want to talk and get things off their chest, thus the pub is a very important part of the community.

**7. Any Other Business**

**Annual Beer Census:** 18<sup>th</sup> July - All routes to be covered on the date.

John (Victoria) spoke to Alan (Brunswick) about a beer festival on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Debra Woods reported that The Bell Inn at Smalley is available for 600K including the post office. The Wheel in Ticknall is set to open again. Ashover Brewery is back after crowdfunding.

Ashbourne AGM, 3<sup>rd</sup> June at the Smith's Tavern. 7<sup>th</sup> June: Derby Silk Mill Lockout Procession and Festival. CAMRA is supporting a local brewery at the Silk Mill green with 10.15am start.

Derby CAMRA wrote to HQ to ask about trading standards surrounding fast cask and fresh ale but didn't get a response. The regional meeting will be held at the Ram in Newark on 31<sup>st</sup> May at 12.00pm.

**8. Next Meeting:**

12th June at The Brunswick @ 8.00pm.

**Minutes of the Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch Meeting 6th May 2025 at The Bentley Brook Inn, Fenny Bentley**

**Present:**

Graham Burke (Chair), Mark Grist, David O'Dell, Martin Sales.

**Apologies for absence:**

Kevin Woolley & Hannah Barton, Colin & Alison Terry, Gareth & Lizzy Butterfield, Rob & Mandy Hodson-Walker, Diane Grist, Stephen Asbury, Konrad Machej, Phil Lee, Mick Betts, John Chamberlin.

**Declaration of Interest:**

Mark Grist – Smith's Tavern.

**Minutes of the March meeting:**

Circulated and received. Approved as read.

**Chairman's Notes:**

This is the delayed April meeting, following the successful and enjoyable trip to Thornbridge Brewery last Tuesday. Attended the CAMRA AGM in Torquay, gave a rundown of the main motions and talking points, highlighted the proposed rise in member subscriptions. Also attended the 50th Burton Beer Festival. Derbyshire South POTY – the judging was now complete and the winner in our area declared as The Burnt Pig at Ilkeston. Branch sends its congratulations to them and wishes them well in the next round.

**Secretary:**

Membership: 77 (as of 1st May – down 1). No nominations received for Spring Pub of the Season, it was agreed to leave the slot vacant and move onto nominations for the Summer Pub of the Season. A plea out to all members to remember to score pubs for the ale quality on WhatPub as often as possible. Cider – no report, but a reminder of the annual Cider Festival at The Red Lion, Kniveton in July.

**Minutes of the Ashbourne Meeting, Continued**

**Pub News:**

The Gate at Brassington has been taken on by the management team of the Middle One in Ashbourne and it is anticipated the two will be run side by side. The Miner's Arms at Brassington may be possibly re-opening in the near future, but nothing confirmed as yet.

**Social Scene:**

Short discussion on the proposed Ashbourne Ale Trail – it is viewed as a great idea, especially if it could be launched as the months of roadworks in the town come to end in September (hopefully) – as previously discussed, this would be something organised by the pub operators as a business idea, but branch would be very keen to help support and promote it where possible.

**Dates:**

Tuesday 3rd June – AGM – Smith's Tavern, Ashbourne, 8.00pm.

**Derby Branch Diary**

**JUNE**

**Mon 2nd – Committee meeting** at the Royal Oak – 8.00pm.

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> – Midday social**, Golden Eagle, Agard Street - noon to 3.00pm. To be confirmed.

**Thu 12<sup>th</sup> - BRANCH MEETING** at the Brunswick Inn, 1 Railway Terrace, Derby – 8.00pm. The first floor meeting room is accessed via a dog-legged staircase.

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> – Beer Day Britain** celebration at the Flowerpot, King Street from 6.00pm. Cheers for Beer chant at 7.00pm together with runner up award presentation for South Derbyshire Pub of the Year. Why not make the most of the light evenings by joining us?

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> – Milford walk and Dead Poets' festival.** Meet at the Hollybush, Makeney, noon, and leave at 130pm for the Dead Poets, Holbrook festival.

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> – Derby Beer Girls' social** in the front bar of the Old Bell Hotel, Sadler Gate from 7.30pm.

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> – Allestree social.** Pot Hole, Park Farm, Allestree at 8.00pm; then at 9.00pm leave for 189, Blenheim Drive.

**Amber Valley Diary**

**MAY**

**Thu 29<sup>th</sup> – BRANCH MEETING**, Cross Keys, Belper – 8.00pm.

**JUNE**

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> – Mini bus survey trip.**

**JULY**

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> – Belper Beer Census** - details next month.

**Thu 31<sup>st</sup> – BRANCH MEETING** at venue to be announced.

**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*

**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  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Derby Drinker Deadline**

**5<sup>th</sup> July**

*derbydrinker@derby.camra.org.uk*

Advertising:

*ads@derby.camra.org.uk*