

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

What Now? Have Your Say at the Flowerpot Branch Meeting

In an ever-changing society, it's beneficial to look at our role in the beer world and our direction of travel in the future. With this in mind, we invite you to attend the Branch meeting at our Pub of the Year, the Flowerpot, King Street at 8.00pm on Thursday 7th August. We want to hear what **you** have to say.

Council Levy Causes Concern in Hospitality

Food vendors have brought significant increases to pub trade when they have pitched up outside pubs. Now, however, an annual levy of £585 imposed by Derby City Council is likely to deter them with consequential loss of custom for pubs, who have expressed their concern on social media. Recently, BBC East Midlands Today interviewed James Brown of the Five Lamps and Matt Willers of Little Brewery regarding the positive impact that on-site food vendors etc have on their businesses. Apparently, neighbouring Councils charge far less.

Beer Girls' Social at Revitalised Pub

The next Derby girls' social is at Little Darley, Darley Street, Darley Abbey from 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th August. There's a wide selection of drinks available including some hand-pulled beers from Derby Brewing Company. Car parking is to the rear.

Museum of Making Heritage Beer Festival

Tickets for the Heritage Festival between the 3rd and 6th September are now available on-line and there are discounts for CAMRA members. Wednesday evening is free admission to members who can have their glass deposit refunded. Derby river boat trips will run during the festival and we'll publish further details next month.

Social Media Officer is Required

Derby CAMRA is looking for an individual who's conversant with facebook, TikTok, Instagram. Please contact James Williams socials@derby.camra.org.uk

Membership Desk: Could you Volunteer?

Towards the end of August, the Furnace and Flowerpot have beer festivals. We'd like to have membership desks on the premises, so if you'd be prepared to staff one please contact gillian.hough@camra.org.uk

Handpump Hi-Jack Campaign Update

Please sign the Handpump Hijack petition, to deter unscrupulous breweries from serving brewery conditioned (keg) beer through handpumps.

<https://petition.parliament.uk> 32,000 have signed thus far, and we need more signatories.

CAMRA Branch Meetings

Derby: Thursday 7th August at the Flowerpot, King Street, Derby – 8.00pm.

Amber Valley: Thursday, 31st July, at the Hunter Arms, Kilburn – 8.00pm.

Ashbourne: Tuesday, 19th August at The Old Dog, Spend Lane, Thorpe – 7.30pm.

Stop Press: Derbyshire Pub of the Year

As we went to press, it was announced that the Burnt Pig, Ilkeston has won this coveted accolade.

Vote Now in the Derbyshire Dines Awards

You have until midday on 31st July to vote online for one of the six finalists in the inaugural competition promoted by the Derby Telegraph. Victoria Inn, Derby; Navigation, Shardlow; The Horseshoes, Long Lane; Inn the Middle, Langley Mill; Prince of Wales, Baslow; Bulls Head Inn, Foolow.

Melbourne Ale Trail Trip is Imminent

On Thursday 31st July we're catching the 18:49 No. 2 Bus from Derby bus station, and alighting at the Hardinge Arms, King's Newton, and then making our way towards the centre of Melbourne. We will be returning on the 21:50 bus. Due to the early bus service, we unfortunately will not be able to get around all of the ten locations, however, if people have any preferences, please let me know. If you are arriving on another route or joining later, contact me, James, on 07510 161 151. Everyone is very welcome.

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.

Derby Pride

The annual event on Markeaton Park will be held on Saturday, 13th September between noon and 6.00pm. 4 real ales will be available.

Opportunity Knocks for BLOs Around Derby

We currently have vacancies for Brewery Liaison Officers for the following breweries hereabout: Brunswick, and Shiny (Little Eaton). If you find the prospect appealing of regular bi-monthly contact with these innovative brewing plants, with their own bars, then please contact Gillian Hough gillian.hough@camra.org.uk Russell Gilbert is the new BLO for Little Brewery.

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>

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

The Eyes Have it Music and Beer Festival

Amber Valley CAMRA were invited to run a real ale and cider bar as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations at this festival. It was a different kind of venture for us, but we readily accepted. The site was idyllic, with the river Derwent on one side and Duffield Cricket Club on the other. The festival ran from Thursday to Sunday; Saturday being the main day for music with bands alternating on two stages from 12 noon until 1am! Our bar was at one end of the main marquee, and customers soon started arriving. The average age was higher than at some music festivals and plenty of them were real ale drinkers.

After four hectic days we were more than happy with the results. 34 casks of real ale and 18 boxes of cider were sold out, both figures higher than pre-festival expectations. We sold 6 kegs of lager too; the festival has to cater for all tastes! 6 new CAMRA members were signed up. I'd like to thank everyone who helped to make our bar a success, and to the festival organizers for putting on a very well organized and enjoyable event.

**Chris Rogers, Amber Valley CAMRA Chairman
Beer Festivals**

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

15 to 17th August: RBL, Parwich Beer Festival.

20th to 24th: Furnace, Duke Street, Derby.

21st to 25th August: Flowerpot, King Street, Derby.

29th to 31st August: Off the Tracks (music) Festival, Isley Walton, Castle Donington. 70+ real ales. Tickets: www.offthetracks.co.uk

3rd to 6th September: Derby CAMRA Beer Festival, Museum of Making, Silk Mill, Derby.

1st to 4th October: Brunswick Inn, 1 Railway Terrace, Derby. 40+ cask ales plus 20 real ciders and perry c/w barbecue.

4th October: 10th Wirksworth beer festival at the Maltings.

Former Pub of the Year for Sale

The lease of the **Babington**, Babington Lane is for sale following Wetherspoon's decision to withdraw, which will leave just the Standing Order, Iron Gate as their sole Derby pub. In 2005, the 'Bab' was our City Pub of the Year and our photograph shows the presentation with the then manager, Tom Taylor, second right. Happier news emanates from the **Old Bell Hotel**, Sadler Gate which reports an uptick in trade thanks to the opening of the Valliant performance venue. Ossett New Zealand was very good at the Branch meeting at the Bell, and there's CAMRA discount too. **The Abbey**, Darley Abbey has started serving food again.



Is Choice More Important Than Quality?

During one of the recent heatwaves, Maria and I visited a beautiful Derbyshire village which has three pubs. The first one was Good Beer Guide listed, serving 8 beers, and I had two pints, the first was OK; the second tasted like it had been on too long or hadn't had the overnight beer in its line pulled through to be thrown away. The second pub sold reasonable beer from what used to be the Marston's empire of breweries, which are now controlled by Carlsberg. In terms of beer quality, the third pub was the best on the day, serving Abbot and Theakston's Old Peculier which was excellent. Therefore, I ask: Is the number of real ales a pub serves a guide to their quality? **PG**

Red Lion is East Midlands' Cider & Perry POTY

Last month's M&B stated that the Red Lion, Kniveton was South Derbyshire Pub of the Year in this category, and it is now East Midlands' winner. This is the third time Hannah and Kevin have won this accolade.

Derby Drinker is Seeking New Contributors

Henceforth, Derby Drinker will have 24 pages and be published 5 times a year. Please contact Derby Drinker editor, Gareth Stead derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk if you'd like to write an article as more copy will be required.

Melbourne and King's Newton Ale Trail

31st July to 3rd August are the dates to note for this trawl of ten pubs and bars. Regular Arriva buses from Derby bus station serve Melbourne. See page 4 for details of an outing here.

Belper Historic Sunday Pub Walks

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

2014 City Charter Festival Glass Required

Derby CAMRA is endeavouring to present a complete set of City Charter Beer Festival glasses to the Museum of Making, and we need the 2014 glass to complete the set. If you can oblige, please contact Russell Gilbert BeerFest@derby.camra.org.uk Old glasses are always welcome as they can be washed and used again at the Heritage Beer Festival.

Tiny Tap Festival Looked Like a Big Success

Judging by the crowds and queue of people entering the Tiny Tap festival off Alfreton Road on Saturday 12th July, it certainly looked like it was going to sell out on Sunday.



New Brewery in Derbyshire

Further to last month's report, the 10am brewery is in Hilton. head.brewer@10ambrewhouse.co.uk

Next Beer Festival Meetings

Preparations for the second Museum of Making Derby CAMRA Beer Festival are well underway and the next meeting here in Derby is on Wednesday 13th August at a venue tba.

Gibbo's Top Pubs Down the Decades: 2020s

Brunswick Inn, 1 Railway Terrace

The oldest purpose-built railway pub reopened as Derby's first multiple choice hostelry in 1987 after being rescued from dereliction and a brew house was added four years later. It's gone from strength to strength and since 2014, licensees, Alan Pickersgill and Philippe Larroche, have won Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year titles on the back of a splendid range of beer and cider. James Salmon brews the in-house beers. A year never passes without at least one beer festival, usually in the autumn. Derby has fared better than most cities in that it still boasts several unsullied city pubs and this is one of the finest.

Notable Other: Smithfield Ale House, Meadow Road

I'd be lynched if I didn't feature the "Smithy" as it's been a good pub under successive owners for almost as long as I can remember. In 2017, local Westminster Building Company bought the freehold and promptly converted the first floor into their HQ. Emily Bowler and Ben Miller were recruited to run the refurbished pub, being given carte blanche to purchase beer from whomever they choose, effectively creating a permanent, small beer festival. Several Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year awards followed with only the Falstaff and Flowerpot interrupting a title winning streak. Live music and beer festivals only add to the allure.

As I said at the beginning, a list of one's favourite pubs is highly subjective, but I hope my series has provided food for thought.

Minutes of the Derby CAMRA Branch Meeting at The Old Bell Hotel, Derby on 17th July 2025

Attendees Nic Scott, John Smith, Gillian Hough, Sue Carter, Greg Clarke, Graham Burke, Lewis Morris, Tim Williams, James Williams, Mark Fletcher, Jim Suter, Russell Gilbert, Paul Gibson, Andy Mottram, Konrad Machej, Keith Baker, Stephen Crispin, John Worsley, Brian Laverick, Debra Woods.

Apologies for absence Kat Higgins, Kevin Hepworth, Heather Knibbs, Les Williams, Charlie Pratt, Gareth Stead.

Declarations of Interest

John Smith – The Victoria, Gillian Hough – National Executive.

Minutes of the Last Meeting Minutes accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

Gillian had contacted membership about IPADs and marketing. Also, Gillian had brought along some marketing material for Handpump Hijack. Nic had updated the Branch calendar re the festival meeting at the Smithfield on the 25th June. Mark is in the process of speaking with the Alexandra re updating the pub's 40 year DCAM banner.

Social Events & Beer Festivals

Tomorrow, we have the ABC in Derby, finding out what beers pubs in Derby have. A focus is on the hand-pull hijack with Hobgoblin a potential offender. We had 176 unique beers last year and the plan is to up meet at 10pm at the Flowerpot. 31st July sees a trip to Melbourne, starting with the 6:49pm bus from Derby to return at 9:50pm. The GBBF starts on Tuesday 5th August and we'll be at the Wellington at noon and then get to the beer festival at 5pm.

The festival tickets are online for the Derby Heritage Beer Festival. Prices are reasonable when you take into consideration the refundable deposit for a glass.

We will have a presence at The Smithfield and Gillian is managing the Jukebox on Friday. The Furnace (20/24th August) and Flowerpot (21st /25th August) will be having beer festivals. Mayfield near Ashbourne will also be having a beer festival. We went to celebrate the Tiny Tap beer festival and it was a great festival.

Treasurer's Report

It was reported that our Budget is healthy. CAMRA are now giving us art work and we are having to print the material ourselves.

Pub & Brewery News

Scores are running at the normal levels and it would be good for people to score on the new version of WhatPub. More scores are always welcome. Re The Abbey, a Sam Smith's pub, Paul said the beer is much improved. The Babington is for sale in Derby. The Bell, Smalley, is currently under offer.

Regional & National News

There has been a comms issue, and we have spoken about the regional review and as far as Derby is concerned it hasn't achieved anything. There will be no changes to our boundary. Burton won't be submitting any pubs for judging in our area. RD to encourage all branches to ask pubs and breweries to apply for trade tickets for GBBF. Jim asked if CAMRA members would have free entry into certain events. GBBF website has an oddity that when applying for trade tickets for multiple people, you can only choose 0 or 1. Gill to ask how do you book for multiple people.

BLOs

Russell will be the Brewery Liaison Officer for Little Brewing.

Campaigns

Alan has spoken to Baggy Shanker re Handpump Hijack and we are progressing with the campaign for Fresh Ale. CAMRA have produced the art work, which we are seeing potential issues with. There is a petition asking the Government to recognise production and serving of traditional British cask ale as Intangible Cultural Heritage. We need to promote this moving forward. 32K have signed the petition: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/716686> Jamie asked how do we look to encourage more people to recognise what we are trying to do.

Membership & Recruitment

New beer mats and cards to promote membership. We weren't able to have a membership stand at the Little Brewery event as we didn't have the material to use at the event. There are events at the Furnace and Flowerpot at the end of August; if someone is able to manage a membership stand, contact Gill. John asked: can someone can sign up with cash membership? Gill confirmed yes, this is not an issue. Ideas for recruitment & engagement welcome.

Communications

Derby Drinker is due out early August but this hasn't been mentioned at the meeting and is hearsay. Debra Woods suggested we need to look at the distribution routes as there is duplication of pubs in some instances. Website is updated by Nic and Mark and we will update it as needed. Social media is updated by James and we could do with more people to help out on other platforms.

Any Other Business

John Smith of the Victoria Inn had spoken to Gareth but it's too late to do what John wants at the Heritage Beer Festival this year. John would like to encourage young members to sign up but the event is too close when they are promoting their own event. Derby Beer Girls are, on the 23rd July, in the Exeter Arms, gathering at 7:30pm. They will also meet on the 12th August at Little Darley. Tim congratulated John Smith on being one of the best 500 pubs in the UK according to The Daily Telegraph. John Worsley asked: Is no alcohol ale, real beer? Gillian replied: technically no, however the Government is currently consulting on raising the "alcohol-free" threshold to 0.5% ABV.

John Smith said The Pride Event, is getting 4 beers, 12-6 pm, 13th September at Markeaton Park. <https://www.derbypride.co.uk/> Mark said we need a debate about what CAMRA is about and what we can do more of. This will be debated at the next Branch meeting.

Next Meeting

Will be on the 7th August, at The Flowerpot @ 8pm.

Meeting closed at 945pm.

Minutes of the Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch Meeting at the RBL, Parwich on 26th June 2025

Present:

Graham Burke (Chair), Alison Terry, Colin Terry, Martin Sales, Paul Jesson, Alan Shenton, David O'Dell, Andrew Martin.

Apologies:

Mark & Diane Grist, John Chamberlin, Phil Lee, Mike Burrows, Rob & Mandy Hudson-Walker, Stephen and Susan Asbury, Hannah and Kevin.

Declaration of Interest: Alan Shenton/Paul Jesson – RBL.

Minutes of the AGM and Branch Meeting of 3rd June were accepted as correct.

Chair:

A Presentation was made to the Red Lion at Kniveton for the East Midlands Cider Pub of The Year 2025. Massive congratulations to Hannah and Kevin on achieving this for a third year. The Burton Ale Trail was held 5/6/7th June and was well attended and a great event yet again.

Pub Surveys: Nothing organised as yet but it would seem that most pubs on the routes are now open on Tuesdays during the summer so we may go on both surveys on a Tuesday to get more people along. The downside would be that we may not get the best selection of beers.

CAMRA Promotion: Again, due to holidays I have not done anything on this yet but just to remind people the plan was to spend an evening in a pub with a CAMRA membership desk (as at beer festivals) in the hope of attracting new interest/membership.

Membership:

Static at 76 (although 77 last month, Paul has said that his wife has not renewed her membership due to inactivity).

Pub Scores: No update available at the time of the meeting.

Cider News: Nothing reported.

Pub News:

The Middle One has now closed permanently after a short life. The Miners at Brassington is now not selling Real Ale (TBC). The Yew Tree at Edleston is now up for sale as A PUB after being closed for 6 months. The sale of the George at Astonfield is still progressing but not yet confirmed.

Pub of the Season nominations:

Watts Russell Arms and the Pavillion. Voting at next month's meeting.

Beer Festivals and events in and around our area in July:

4/6th July, Red Lion Kniveton Cider Festival. 4/5th July, Leek Beer Festival, Foxlowe Arts Centre 40 beers. 4/5th July, Wincle Beer Festival, Wincle Brewery, Wincle – Camping available.

Minutes of the Ashbourne CAMRA Meeting, Continued

11th July, Night Inn Beer Festival, Uttoxeter Brewery Tap, off Market Place. 11/12th July, Little Brewing Beer Festival, Little Brewing Brewery and Tap. DE214BN.

18th to 20th July, Churnet Valley Rail Ail Festival, Froghill Station – Highly Recommended. 25th to 27th July, Mayfield Beer Festival, Memorial Hall Mayfield. Free Entry. 27th July, Aldwark Country Sheep Shearing & Beer Festival - Camping available.

Any Other Business: None.

Next Meetings:

Tuesday 29th July, The Watt Russell Arms 7.30pm. Tuesday 19th August, The Old Dog 7.30pm Note: 1 week early due to Bank Holidays. Tuesday 30th September, The Red Lion at Hollington 7.30pm. Tuesday 28th October, The Royal Oak Mayfield 8pm. Tuesday 25th November, The Bowling green 8pm. Tuesday 23rd December, Smith's Tavern + others 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 905pm.

Derby Branch Diary

JULY

Thu 31st – Melbourne Ale Trail Trip - Catch the 18:49 No. 2 Bus, and starting at the Hardinge Arms and then making our way towards the centre. Returning on the 21:50 bus.

Due to the early bus service, we unfortunately will not be able to get around all of the ten locations, however, if people have any preferences, please let me know.

If you are arriving on another route or joining later, please contact me, James, on 07510 161 151.

AUGUST

Mon 4th – Committee meeting – Wilmot Arms, 2 Morley Road, Chaddesden at 8.00pm.

Tue 5th – Great British Beer Festival outing. Meet in the Wellington, 37 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5SN at noon and, later, we'll arrive at GBBF for the 5.00pm opening.

Thu 7th – BRANCH MEETING – Flowerpot, King Street, Derby 8.00pm.

Tue 12th – Derby Beer Girls' Social – Little Darley, Darley Street, Darley Abbey from 730pm.

Fri 22nd - Lunchtime social – meet in the Victoria, Midland Place at noon and after 1.00pm walk to the Brunswick.

Tues 26th – Evening social – Creaky Floorboard, 179 Kedleston Road from 730pm.

Amber Valley Diary

JULY

Thu 31st – BRANCH MEETING at the Hunter Arms, Kilburn – 8.00pm.

Amber Valley Contact

Chairman: Chris Rogers 01332 880041

Ashbourne Diary

AUGUST

Tues 19th – BRANCH MEETING at The Old Dog, Spend Lane, Thorpe - 7.30pm.

Ashbourne Contact

info@ashbourne.camra.org.uk

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Tim Williams, M&B Distribution Officer

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M&B Copy Deadline

Copy to

mildbitter@derby.camra.org.uk by

Wednesday 20th August

Derby Drinker Deadline

5th September

derbydrinker@derby.camra.org.uk

Advertising:

ads@derby.camra.org.uk