

# Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

## Joined CAMRA at the Festival? Meet Us at the Brunswick Beer Festival

Why not meet Derby CAMRA on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October between 2pm and 10pm in a dedicated corner of the Brunswick and hear about Branch activities.

## Why not Take Advantage of the new Member-get-Member Initiative?

You should, by being in receipt of M&B, be a CAMRA member. Why not help to grow the CAMRA community by inviting others to join with our *new referral scheme*? Your friends will get £5 off their CAMRA membership when they use your unique *referral link or code*. As a thank you, you'll receive six months of free Tastecard membership (worth £39.99) which saves you money on dining out with 2-for-1 meals, discounts at popular restaurants, cinema tickets and more. The initiative is available for every member – please go to the CAMRA website.

## Second Heritage Beer Festival

Following last November's successful debut, an enlarged marquee and outdoor seating were added to the second Heritage Beer Festival in September which showcased over 150 real ales. Aggregated attendance was nearly 2,400. Karen Cooper and Konrad Machej reported that 43 new members joined, up from 34 last year.

World Beer bar manageress, Les Williams, doubled her order of beer this year and nearly sold out! 21

members signed up to receive Mild and Bitter, of which 19 were new members. These figures include 6 female members. Derby CAMRA wants to thank the 90 plus volunteers, some from neighbouring Branches, and is indebted to the Museum of Making staff who helped make the event a success.



## Vote now for 2027 CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain

You have until the end of October to register your nominations in ten categories. Please refer to the CAMRA website. There is no Great British Beer Festival in 2026 following a loss-making event in Birmingham this year.

## CAMRA Branch Meetings

**Derby:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Alexandra, Siddals Road, Derby – 8.00pm.

**Amber Valley:** Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November at the Steam Packet, Swanwick – 8.00pm.

Please note this is on a **Tuesday**.

**Ashbourne:** Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September, at The Red Lion, Hollington – 7.30pm.

## Packed Social Roster in October

Join us on one of the great looking socials listed on page 4. There's a members' only invite to the Standing Order festival.

## Oakwood Pub's Offering Markedly Improves

The Oak and Acorn, Danebridge Crescent, Oakwood is making a big effort to attract the real ale drinker with 5 beers on offer. Hitherto it served no real ale.

## Indispensable Good Beer Guide Available Now

The Alexandra, Brunswick, Smithfield, Furnace and Royal Oak, Ockbrook all stock the 2026 Good Beer Guide, should you want a copy of this uniquely informative publication. The launch evening is from 7.00pm, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September at the Hoppy Place, 488 Nottingham Road, Chaddesden.

## Beer Girls' Social in October

The next Derby beer girls' social is at the Smithfield Ale House, Meadow Road, Derby from 7.30pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Car parking is to the side.

## Parwich RBL Triumphs Again

There's no stopping the Parwich Royal British Legion as for the second year running it won CAMRA East Midlands' Club of the Year. Congratulations to Alan and his team, whose hard work has been suitably rewarded.

## Opportunity Knocks for Volunteers in Derby

Derby CAMRA has a number of interesting roles for those with a few hours to spare. Please contact Branch Secretary, Nic Scott [secretary@derby.camra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@derby.camra.org.uk) for more information. Age/gender are irrelevant.

## 38<sup>th</sup> October Brunswick Beer Festival

We're meeting on the opening night, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 7.30pm to see what's on offer. This is in addition to the afternoon and evening information corner headlined in M&B.

## 39<sup>th</sup> National Breweriana Auction

150 auction lots up for grabs at the annual at **Burton on Trent Town Hall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**. Viewing starts at 10.30 am and bidding starts at noon with completion around 3.00pm.

## Victorian Classic Closes

Those who love classic Victorian pubs will be saddened by the news that the Barton Arms, Aston, Birmingham has permanently closed. Beautiful inside and out, Derby CAMRA held a Branch meeting here in 1995 when former Derby licensee, Nigel Barker, ran it. It's a sad loss.

### Beer Festivals

**27<sup>th</sup> September:** Octoberfest night, 189, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby.  
**1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October:** Brunswick Inn, 1 Railway Terrace, Derby. 40+ cask ales plus 20 real ciders, perry c/w barbecue.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October:** Clockfest 111, Beer Under The Clock, Retford.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October:** Octoberfest at the Old Poet's Corner, Ashover.  
**4<sup>th</sup> October:** Tiny Tap Octoberfest at unit 23, Northedge Park, Alfreton Road, Derby DE21 4BN. 5.00pm to 10.00pm. £5 entry – for tickets go to [littlebrewing.co.uk/okt](http://littlebrewing.co.uk/okt) Live oompah band and Hollow Farm Bratwurst sausages.  
**4<sup>th</sup> October:** 10<sup>th</sup> Wirksworth beer festival at the Maltings.  
**8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October:** Robin Hood Beer Festival, Trent Bridge, Nottingham. 500+ beers, 100+ciders and perries. Wednesday 4.00pm to 10.00pm trade and CAMRA members only.  
**10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October:** Royal Oak, Ockbrook - food and music.  
**12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October:** Brown Cow, 31 Ratcliffe Gate, Mansfield.  
**15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October:** Stoke on Trent Festival in Kings Hall.  
**15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October:** Sheffield Beer Festival – Steel City 49 at Kelham Island Museum.  
**29<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November:** Halloween dark versus light festival at the Furnace, 9 Duke Street, Derby DE1 3BX.  
**30<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November:** Mallard, Station Approach, Worksop.  
**21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November:** Newark CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival, Town Hall, Newark.

### Belper Beer Census: 2025 Report

On a Saturday afternoon at the end of July, 15 members of Amber Valley CAMRA carried out the third annual Belper Beer Census of all the pubs in Belper and surrounding areas. **A total of 38 pubs were visited, one more than last year. There were at total of 83 real ales representing 57 different breweries**, compared to 84 real ales from 50 different breweries in 2024 and 66 real ales from 42 breweries in 2023. Dancing Duck Ay Up holds its own against the nationals, Bass, Landlord and Pedigree, those being the most readily available beers. The availability of Bass and Timothy Taylor's Landlord has increased markedly over the three censuses, possibly a sign of landlords playing safe with well-known national brands at a difficult time in the trade. **Once again, the pubs serving the most real ales were Black Bull's Head (9), Angels (8), Dead Poets (8), Arkwrights and The Hollybush (7). The Railway dropped out of the top group, only having 6 beers on sale instead of its usual 7.** Unfortunately, due to the lack of route leaders, three of the more distant pubs, The Bull's Head, Belper Lane End, The Hanging Gate at Shottle Gate and The Blue Bell at Farnah Green were not included. Only three of the pubs sold no real ale: The Monk Bar, Gatsbys (formerly The Vibe) and The Royal British Legion, although due to minor management difficulties, two others were without real ale at the time of the visit. One pub has closed since the last survey: The Beer Trap, a craft keg and bottled beer shop. Two have reopened: Scran and Barrel (formerly Bang in Belper) and The Bottle Bank (formerly Bank at Belper), a real ale gain. Another new addition to the survey is Crich Brewery Tap (formerly Campbell Street Brewery). It has limited opening, mainly serves craft keg, but always has at least one real ale. Yet again, Belper can be proud of the availability and quality of its real ale. Long may it continue.

Jane Whitaker, August 2025

### Derby Drinker Distributor Required

We need a distributor as follows: Swan, Milton; Boot, Repton; Bulls Head, Repton; Mount Pleasant, Repton; Royal British Legion, Repton; Red Lion, Repton; Green Dragon, Willington; Green Man, Willington; Rising Sun, Willington; John Thompson, Ingleby; Cherry Tree, Toyota island (A 38). Please contact Gareth Stead [derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk](mailto:derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk) if you can help.

### Boost for Ticknall as Wheel Returns

After prolonged closure, the Wheel Inn, Ticknall has reopened and very smart it looks too. Jason Billingham is the licensee and although it's food orientated, traditional beer drinkers can indulge in Theakston's Old Peculier, Theakston's Best Bitter, the gluten-free Lightfoot and the new Peculier IPA. With the Good Beer Guide listed Chequers and Staff of Life around the corner and Tollgate's Milking Parlour close-by it's easy to see folk making a bee-line for the south Derbyshire village.

### More on the Derby Annual Beer Census

The total number of beers was 267 from 99 breweries, of which 181 were unique.

#### Most commonly found beers:

Draught Bass 22; Pedigree 14; Greene King Abbot 10; Dancing Duck Ay Up 6; Oakham Citra 5; Dancing Duck Dark Drake 4; Doom Bar 4; Wainwright Gold 3; Falstaff Phoenix 3; Taylor Landlord 3; Dancing Duck DCUK 3.

#### Largest number of real ales in a pub on 18<sup>th</sup> July:

Standing Order 17; Brunswick 16; Five Lamps 14; Babington 11; Smithfield 10; Victoria 9; Flowerpot 8; Alexandra 8.

#### Average alcohol by volume: 4.5%.

#### Average price £4.30.

#### Brewery Rankings:

AB InBev 22; Dancing Duck 18; Carlsberg Group 18; Greene King 13; Shiny 10.

Thanks are due to James Williams for collating this information.

### BLO Clarification

Last month's M&B wrongly stated that Steve Mellor was Brewery Liaison Officer for Shiny. In actuality, Gareth Stead is BLO for Shiny and the Furnace brewery.

### Hoppy Place is a First for Chaddesden in the New Good Beer Guide

The Hoppy Place, Nottingham Road, is the first pub in Chaddesden ever to feature in the Good Beer Guide. It's listing is well deserved and congratulations go to founder and operator, Adam Taylor. The first bound copy Good Beer Guide was published in 1974.



Hoppy Place bar

### Inn Brief

**Woodlands**, Blenheim Drive, Allestree is closed for refurbishment. **The Crafty Tap**, Market Place, Heanor has had its alcohol licence revoked.

## 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](mailto:derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk) if you'd like to write an article as more copy will be required.

## Amber Valley CAMRA Festival Plans

2026 will see Amber Valley CAMRA participating in two Beer Festivals, namely Belper Goes Green and the Eyes Have It event in Duffield.

## Amber Valley CAMRA Pubs' Report 1<sup>st</sup> August

The **Crossroads Tavern** in Alfreton closed earlier this year, reopened in June, no cask ales currently but further details awaited.

The **Devonshire Arms** at Alfreton (Samuel Smith) is still closed and up for sale.

The **Moot Bar** in Alfreton now has two ales on handpull from Nottingham Brewery (bag in box of debatable quality).

The **Hurt Arms** at Ambergate is still closed due to flooding but is to be refurbished with additional flood defences and is due for full reopening in early 2026. Will hold some outdoor themed events during weekends in summer 2025.

The **Angels** at Belper has successfully applied for planning permission to expand into the adjoining building and will also have a hanging sign.

The **Beer Trap** at Belper ceased trading in June, the building is currently empty.

The former **Vibe Bar** at Belper has reopened as **Gatsby's**; still a wine bar with no cask ale.

The **Fisherman's Rest** at Broadholme closed on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024; a further planning application AVA/2025/0285 for conversion to housing was received 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

The **Bulls Head** at Denby was closed in August 2024 by food hygiene inspectors and the manager dismissed by the Pubco. No news from the Pubco or on Facebook since March, so the future is uncertain.

The **Black Swan** at Idridgehay remains closed with an uncertain future.

The **Little Roosevelt** micropub at 43 Oxford Street, Ripley opened on 27<sup>th</sup> December but is still overdue a cellar installation for cask ales.

**Pentrich Brewery** at Ripley has applied for planning permission for a new taproom and off-sales, AVA/2025/0355.

There are currently 92 open pubs, clubs and breweries listed by Amber Valley CAMRA that serve cask ales and 18 more with no cask ale. **Chris Perry, Amber Valley CAMRA Pubs' Officer**

## Belper Historic Sunday Pub Walks

These tours (£7.50) are on the following dates: 5<sup>th</sup> October and 21<sup>st</sup> December. [www.belpernorthmill.org.uk](http://www.belpernorthmill.org.uk)

## Beer in Digital Format Only

Owing to losses sustained at two national Beer Festivals this year, the winter edition of Beer will be available in digital format only.

## 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>

## 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>  
We need more signatories.

## Minutes of the Ashbourne & District CAMRA

### Branch Meeting at the House Of Beer,

### Ashbourne on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025

#### Welcome:

Graham welcomed everyone and thanked HOB for hosting the meeting on this very busy night.

**Attendance:** Graham Burke (Chair), Paul Jesson, Alan Shenton, Stephen Asbury, Colin Terry, Alison Terry, David Odel, Dorsen Barker, Andrew Martin and Martin Sales.

#### Apologies:

Received from: Mark & Diane Grist, Hannah Barton & Kevin Wolley, Konrad Machej and John Chamberlin.

**Declaration of Interest:** Alan Shenton/Paul Jesson RBL

#### Minutes of previous meeting including accuracy/action minutes

Accuracy: Minutes of the last branch meeting were accepted as correct.

#### Officers' reports:

**Chair:** Congratulations to Parwich Royal British Legion on winning the East Midlands Regional Club of the year for the second year running. This is a massive achievement and credit to Alan and his team and all the hard work they put in.

Congratulations to this year's Ashbourne entries into the Good Beer Guide, these will be officially announced on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Certificate for the Summer Pub of the season will be presented to the Watts Russel Arms on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 7.00pm with all welcome, and the Certificate for the EM Club of the year to RBL Parwich at 7pm on Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm - all are welcome to attend.

I visited the CAMRA Great British Beer festival at the NEC Wed/Thu, an excellent range of beers from all over the world, great tasting session with Thornbridge, food range was a little disappointing and it may have been the size of the venue but it did feel as if there was room for a few more people at the time of my visit.

The new Derby Drinkers are out and are promoting the Derby Heritage Beer Festival from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September, as always, I'm sure this will be an excellent event. Free Trade tickets for the Wednesday afternoon have been handed out to all the pubs in the Ashbourne & District area as have posters.

#### Secretary:

Membership: Unchanged this month at 78

**Cider News:** No report this month

#### Pubs News:

Alan reported that the beer festival at RBL Parwich was a great success with an improved range of beers and holding it at the club instead of the hall worked well. House of Beer have a Shiny tap take over starting tomorrow 21<sup>st</sup> August.

#### Festivals:

Several local 'pub' festivals on in the area during September see promotions on our Fb page

**Socials:** Graham – has just been too busy to organize anything.

**Tasting panel:** For discussion at the September meeting.

**Any other business:** None.

#### Date and venue of future meetings:

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September- Red Lion at Hollington 8pm.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Royal Oak, Mayfield 8pm.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November – The Bowling Green 8pm.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Christmas town pubs stating at the Tavern at 7pm.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Queens Vaults 8pm.

#### Actions in September:

Socials/pub surveys GB. Ale Trail? MG. Beer tasting course (in preparation for pub of the year voting) GB.

**Derby Branch Diary**

**SEPTEMBER**

**Thu 25th – Good Beer Guide launch** at the Hoppy Place, 488 Nottingham Road, Chaddesden DE21 6PF from 7.00pm. **Specially discounted price on launch day.** Parking available.

**Fri 26th – Afternoon social** in the Furnace, Duke Street, Derby from noon to 3.00pm.

**Tues 30th – CAMRA members’ only invitation to the Standing Order beer festival preview** from 7.00pm to 10.00pm. Some free food.

**OCTOBER**

**Wed 1st – Festival social** at the Brunswick from 730pm.

**Mon 6th – Committee meeting** – Spirit Vaults, Melbourne at 8.00pm.

**Tues 7th – Derby beer girls’ social** at the Smithfield Ale House, Meadow Road, Derby from 730pm.

**Thu 9th – BRANCH MEETING** at the Alexandra, Siddals Road, Derby – 8.00pm.

**Tues 14th - Tuesday social** at the Last Post, 1 Uttoxeter Old Road – 8.00pm.

**Thu 23rd - Skylink to Shardlow evening** to the Navigation, 143 London Road, Shardlow which has new licensees.

**Wed 29th – Duffield excursion** to Shiny’s new outlet, the Pattenmakers, Crown Street and, later, the Town Street Tap. Sixes service from Derby bus station. 8.00pm Pattenmakers.

**Amber Valley Diary**

**SEPTEMBER**

**Sat 27th – Sheffield pub walk** 1.00pm.

**OCTOBER**

**Sat 11th – Mini bus survey trip** to western-most pubs.

**NOVEMBER**

**Tuesday 25th – BRANCH MEETING** at the Steampacket, Swanwick – 8.00pm. Please note this is on a **Tuesday**.

**Amber Valley Contact**

*Chairman: Chris Rogers 01332 880041*

**Ashbourne Diary**

**SEPTEMBER**

**Tues 30th – BRANCH MEETING** at The Red Lion, Hollington - 7.30pm.

**OCTOBER**

**Tues 28th – BRANCH MEETING** at the Royal Oak, Mayfield – 8.00pm.

**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 **Monday 20th October**  
**Derby Drinker Deadline**

**5th January**

*derbydrinker@derby.camra.org.uk*  
 Advertising:  
*ads@derby.camra.org.uk*

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

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