

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

Nominations Invited for the Various Annual Accolades

Between 1st November and 31st December, we ask you to nominate your top picks in these five categories: City Pub of the Year, Suburban Pub of the Year, Country Pub of the Year, Cider Pub of the Year and Club of the Year. Please submit your nominations, name and membership number to Pubs' Officer, Kat Higgins pubsofficer@derby.camra.org.uk

Derby and Amber Valley CAMRA Members Meet For Social Evening on Wednesday 29th October

Please don't forget this date, as this is when we meet at the Pattenmakers Arms, Crown Street, Duffield which now serves several beers from the well regarded Shiny (Little Eaton) brewery. We'll be gathering from 7.30pm and hope to take in the Town Street Tap later before catching the Sixes home.

CAMRA Corner at Furnace Festival

We'd like to thank Gillian Hough for giving plenty of her time to the CAMRA corner at the Brunswick Beer Festival. Gill signed up 3 new members, sold some 50th anniversary Derby CAMRA merchandise and answered a lot of questions. There will be a similar set up on Thursday and Friday of the Furnace Halloween festival which starts on 29th October.

Fancy Becoming an Expert Beer Taster?

Then this course by Simon Ardron is for you. No prior experience necessary, just a love of beer.

The purpose of this accredited training is to give you (or improve your) skills and confidence to assess beer objectively, learn about CAMRA's beer styles and how to fill in CAMRA's tasting card. It also covers some of the more unusual flavours you can get in beer.

By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Identify the four basic flavours.
- State the four key ingredients in beer.
- With the help of notes, identify some of the more unusual flavours in beer and where they can come from.
- With the use of CAMRA's beer style sheets, identify different beer styles.
- Demonstrate this knowledge, by filling in CAMRA's tasting cards including producing descriptions suitable for CAMRA's central database.

Venue: Back room, Smith's Tavern, 36 St Johns Street, Ashbourne DE61GH.

Time: 11.00am to 5.00pm on **Saturday 8th November**.

Places: 16.

Cost: £15 per person which includes 5 x 1/3 cask ale with tutored session. CAMRA Members only.

Booking online:

<https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/439/beer-tasting-training>

Any Questions? Contact Graham Burke by

email: g.burke27@pm.me Mobile/WhatsApp: 07814

701961. If you're a Derby member intending to attend, please

let Les have your £15 beforehand lescamra39@yahoo.co.uk

CAMRA Branch Meetings

Derby: Thursday 13th November at the Victoria Inn, Midland Place, Derby – 8.00pm.

Amber Valley: Tuesday, 25th November at the Steam Packet, Swanwick – 8.00pm.

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

Ashbourne: Tuesday, 28th October at The Royal Oak, Mayfield – 8.00pm.

Erewash Valley Annual General Meeting

Erewash Valley CAMRA's AGM is at the Mill and Brook, Long Eaton at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th November. Please try to attend if you live in the Erewash area.

Keep Those Beer Scores Coming in

It's vitally important that we maintain a high level of beer scoring from as many members as possible to retain impartiality in Good Beer Guide selection and Pub of the Year. Please go to the CAMRA website on your phone.

Indispensable Good Beer Guide Available Now

The Alexandra, Brunswick, Smithfield, Furnace and Shiny Tap, Little Eaton all stock the 2026 Good Beer Guide, should you want a copy of this uniquely informative publication. There are other pub guides but, uniquely, the Good Beer Guide includes a large brewery section detailing brews. September's launch at the Hoppy Place was highly successful with twelve copies sold.

Derby Beer Girls' Social in November

The next Derby Beer Girls' social is at the Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year, the Flowerpot, King Street, Derby from 7:30pm on Monday 10th November. Follow us on facebook and Instagram.

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 for more information. Age/gender are irrelevant.

Great Yarmouth Pub is Cider Pub of the Year

The Blackfriars Tavern, 94 Blackfriars Road, Great Yarmouth is the CAMRA national Cider Pub of the Year. I can highly recommend the pub, adjacent to the ancient town wall, for its beer as well.

Four Finalists in National Pub of the Year

Volunteer Arms, Musselburgh; the Blackfriars (above); Tamworth Tap and Pelican, Gloucester are the finalists in CAMRA's national Pub of the Year competition.

Vote now for the Champion Beer of Britain

You've got a few days left to nominate your favourite beers – just go to the CAMRA website by 31st October.

Derby Plays Important Role in the Ongoing Handpump Hi-Jack Campaign

Derby South MP, Baggy Shanker, has been prominent in bringing Handpump Hijack to the attention of parliamentarians and this is a great coup for Derby.

Please **lobby your MP**, to deter unscrupulous breweries from serving brewery conditioned (keg) beer through handpumps. You can scan the QR code on page 18 of Derby Drinker. For more on "fresh ale" please go to <https://orlo.uk/gmwnc>

Beer Festivals

29th October to 2nd November: Halloween dark versus light festival at the Furnace, 9 Duke Street, Derby DE1 3BX.



Furnace Inn, where they'll be a CAMRA corner

30th October to 1st November: Hull and East Yorkshire ale and cider festival at Minerva Masonic Hall, Prince Street/Dagger Lane, Hull HU1 2LJ.

30th October to 3rd November: Mallard, Station Approach, Worksop.

31st October to 1st November: Crich Brewery Tap, Campbell Street, Belper. 26 beers and cider at the Halloween Festival.

31st October to 1st November: Beer Festival at St. Aldhelms Centre, Poole BH12 1AD.

31st October to 1st November: 15th Woolston Beer Festival, Pear Tree Church Hall, 80 Peartree Road, Woolston, Southampton SO19 7RT.

19th to 23rd November: Dead Poets, Holbrook annual autumnal beer festival featuring 20 ales and 16 ciders. Ricardo's pizza Friday evening and hog roast Saturday evening. Music from Peashooter on Friday 6.00 to 9.00pm and Claire L Shaw on Saturday at 8.00pm.

20th to 22nd November: Southend Beer and Cider Festival, Naval and Military Club, 20 Royal Terrace, Southend SS1 1DU.

21st to 22nd November: Newark CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival, Town Hall, Newark.

27th to 29th November: Dudley Winter Ales Fayre, Town Hall, St James Road, Dudley DY1 1HP.

27th to 30th November: Smithfield Ale House, Meadow Road, Derby. Nano Christmas Crackers mini festival, celebrating our smallest breweries.

2nd to 6th December: Pigs Ear East London Beer and Cider Festival, Round Chapel, 1D Glenarm Road, Hackney E50LY.

10th to 13th December: Cambridge Winter Beer Festival, Corn Exchange, 2 Wheeler Street, Cambridge CB2 3QB.

CAMRA Membership Report

National membership is static at 144,174. East Midlands membership is down 97 at 14,841. Derby's is currently 2,014. Nottingham has the country's largest membership at 4,124 but down from 6,000 pre-pandemic. Free entry to all CAMRA members at CAMRA festivals from January. **Gillian Hough**

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.

Derby's Dracula Connections Could Boost Tourism in the City

Matthew Cheeseman, a professor of writing and folklore at Derby University, spoke at the October Branch meeting of Derby's Dracula history which could help boost the city's tourism. Many of us don't realise the historic associations Derby has with this global phenomenon, inspired by Bram Stoker, which made its stage debut at the Grand Theatre on Babington Lane in 1924. Henry Irving and Irish actor Hamilton Dean were prominent figures in Dracula's rise to fame and Dean was considered a Derby celebrity after touring the UK in his stage role. Indeed, Dracula became a sensation in the West End and Broadway.

Matthew referenced Whitby, where anything between £6m and £35m is estimated to be generated annually as a consequence of Dracula themed events. Matthew said the tourist office, Museum of Making and Quad were all interested in promoting Derby's Dracula connections. It was suggested we approach city brewers to brew a special beer and perhaps organise a competition to nominate a favourite thus playing our part in Derby's revival.

Ever since 1978, Derby CAMRA Beer and Cider Festivals have brought thousands into the city.

Derby Drinker Distributor Required

We need a distributor as follows: Breaston, Draycott, Long Eaton, Sawley and Ilkeston. Please contact Gareth Stead derbydrinker@derby.camra.org.uk if you can help.

Ashbourne has Plenty to Offer, Ale Wise

A trawl of Ashbourne pubs in October, found plenty to interest the beer buff as in 8 pubs I found 23 unique real ales from 18 breweries. The beers I enjoyed most were Burton brewed Courage Directors in the Pavilion, Cokayne Avenue and Greene King IPA at the Bowling Green, Buxton Road/North Avenue (top of the hill).

With the 114 daytime service from the Morledge, Derby, and the Swift from the bus station operating to Ashbourne into the evenings, it's very easily accessible from Derby. **PG**

Entire set of Festival Glasses Going to Museum

Following September's successful Heritage Beer Festival, Derby CAMRA is donating a full set of Derby CAMRA Beer Festival glasses for display at the Museum of Making. Thanks are due to Chris Perry for supplying some very old ones.

Commemorative, Remembrance Day Beers

Mr Grundy's, Ashbourne Road, Derby will have specially brewed beers on the bar from Black Hole around the 9th November. Co-owner of Grundy's, Carl Haspel, reports brisk trading in the summer.

Former Rams' Player Takes on Pub

Robbie Briscoe, who played for Derby circa 1990 has taken charge at the newly refurbished, Woodlands, Blenheim Drive, Allestree. Chaddesden born Robbie is joined by friend, Rachel Newton, at the pub that was the last to be built by Derby brewery Offiler's in 1965 before the brewery's demise the following year. Big Hug brewery's Paved the Way was one of three real ales available when I called.

Inn Brief

Graham Burke reported that the **Merry Widows** opposite Derby railway station is likely to become a Roebuck (Draycott in the Clay) outlet.

New Zealand Arms, Peel Street, is serving 2 real ales. **Hug and Heave** is opening in Ashbourne.

New Pin, Chellaston Finally Reopens

After a half a million-pound refurbishment and seven years closure, the former Corner Pin, Swarkestone Road, Chellaston finally opened under its new guise just as M&B went to press. Upon opening it had hand-pulled Theakston XB, Taylor Landlord, Greene King Abbot and Pedigree on draught. There are various food offers according to the day of the week and, looking forward to clement weather, there's a good sized, sun trap garden to wile away an hour or two. Gary Booty is the tenant and the pub is open all day every day. Former Derby CAMRA Chair, Julian Tubbs, who lives locally, reported that the place was packed on the opening day. N.B. John Barnes was licensee when the Corner Pin was Good Beer Guide listed for four consecutive years from 1989 to 1992. It sold the much-lamented Ind Coope Draught Burton Ale.



Good Beer Guide Pub Continues Raising Considerable Sums for Charity

The White Swan, Littleover has latterly raised £22,000 for the Derby based Umbrella charity which supports disabled children, young people and their families. Staff have helped organise this annual community event, raising an aggregated £140,000 in the past decade.

Derby Drinker is Seeking New Contributors

Derby Drinker has 24 pages and is published 5 times a year. Please contact Derby Drinker editor, Gareth Stead derbydrinker@derby.camra.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.

Derby Pride Event in September

Andy Mottram has reported that despite inclement weather, the Markeaton Park Pride festival was a success.

One More Belper Historic Pub Walk This Year

The last tour this year (£7.50) is on the 21st December. 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. There is no Great British Beer Festival, nor Winter Festival, in 2026 following a loss-making event in Birmingham this year.

Record Breaking Summer for This Pub

One hears much about how some pubs are struggling, therefore it was heartening to hear that the Victoria, Union Road, Lincoln enjoyed record breaking summer trade. It's next to the castle and the Bateman's house benefits from a range of their ales and live music at weekends.

Minutes of the Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch Meeting at the Red Lion, Hollington, Derbyshire on Tuesday, 30th September 2025

Welcome:

Graham welcomed everyone and thanked The Red Lion for hosting the meeting.

Attendance:

Graham Burke (Chair), Mark Grist, Colin & Alison Terry, David O'Dell, Martin Sales, Rob & Mandy Hodson-Walker, Kevin Woolley, Hannah Barton, Mike Burrows, Konrad Machej.

Apologies:

Stephen Asbury, Paul Jesson, Alan Shenton, John Chamberlin, Diane Grist, Gareth & Lizzy Butterfield, Melvyn Whitehead, Mick Betts.

Declaration of Interest:

Mark Grist – Smith's Tavern, Kevin Woolley & Hannah Barton – Red Lion, Kniveton & Kniveton Cider, Rob & Mandy Hodson-Walker – House of Beer.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Accuracy:

Minutes of the last branch meeting were accepted as correct.

Officers' reports:

Chair:

Congratulations to those pubs in our area in the newly-published Good Beer Guide. GBBF and Winter Festival update – sadly both postponed for 2026, due to costs incurred at this year's GBBF. Reported on Derby Festival, good event, but attendance apparently below expectations.

Secretary:

Membership: 77, down 1. Nominations invited for Autumn POTS.

Cider News:

Announcement of National Cider POTY due tomorrow (1st October).

Pubs News:

Queen's Vaults, has now changed hands, former staff member running it. Members invited to welcome and encourage the new regime.

A new outlet, named **The Hug & Heave**, is very visible on social media ahead of announcement of location on 1st November. Promises 3 real ales, further updates when they go public.

New tenants on a 4 year deal are now in place at **The Bridge**. The **Knockerdown** is now under new management, although the previous owners have retained ownership of the building. The same will apparently apply shortly to **The Machine Inn**.

Socials:

Graham is still investigating minibus costs for survey visits.

Tasting panel:

Graham is liaising with a local organizer to put on a tutored tasting session at Smith's Tavern, provisional date set for Saturday 8th November from 11am.

Any other business:

Discussions are in hand with the local business group to potentially organize an ale trail in conjunction with other businesses, supported by CAMRA members, not flagged as a CAMRA event.

Date and venue of future meetings:

Tuesday 28th October – Royal Oak, Mayfield 8.00pm.
 Tuesday 25th November – The Bowling Green 8.00pm.
 Tuesday 23rd December – Christmas town pubs starting at the Tavern at 7.00pm.
 Tuesday 27th January – Queens Vaults 8.00pm.

Derby Branch Diary

OCTOBER

Wed 29th – Joint Social with Amber Valley in Duffield - Shiny's new outlet, the Pattenmakers, Crown Street and, later, the Town Street Tap. Sixes service from Derby bus station. Meet at 7.30pm in the Pattenmakers.

NOVEMBER

Mon 3rd – Committee meeting at the Oak and Acorn, Danebridge Crescent, Oakwood - 8.00pm.
Sat 8th – Beer tasting, see page 1. lescamra39@yahoo.co.uk
Mon 10th – Derby Beer Girls' Social at the Flowerpot, King Street, Derby – 7.30pm. Good selection of real ales and non-alcoholic beer.
Thu 13th – BRANCH MEETING, Victoria Inn, Midland Place, Derby – 8.00pm.
Fri 28th – Lunchtime social at the Smithfield, Meadow Road from noon.

DECEMBER

Thu 18th – Fabulous Falstaff annual fuddle from 7.00pm. Bring nibbles to 74 Silver Hill Road, Normanton DE23 6UJ.
Sat 27th - Milford Walk 12:00 – 18:00.
 11:35 am Transpeak bus from Derby Bus Station, Platform 3, and alight at Milford for social walk starting at the Holly Bush Inn at noon, heading onto The Spotted Cow, Dead Poets and then finishing at The King William. There may be time to pop into the White Hart in Bargate, although we will not be rushing. Please contact me on **07510 161 151** if you are joining later. Roughly 4.5 km circular or just under 3 miles in old money. Wear appropriate footwear for potentially muddy footpaths, methods to the pubs may change to avoid the worst pathways following local members' advice.

Amber Valley Diary

OCTOBER

Wed 29th – Joint Social with Derby Branch in Duffield – meet in the Pattenmakers, Crown Street at 7.30pm.

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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

Sat 8th – Beer Tasting Course at the Smith's Tavern – see page 1.
Tues 25th – BRANCH MEETING at the Bowling Green, top of Buxton Road – 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 **Thursday 20th November**
Derby Drinker Deadline

5th January

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