

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

M&B Delivery by Mailchimp is Ending

If you got this M&B via an email with the above heading, you will need to opt-into “Comms” from the Derby Branch of CAMRA to get it sent to you in future. The Mailchimp email explains how to do this. We regret the inconvenience, but this is to save CAMRA money to use for other campaigning purposes.

AGM at the Beginning of February Will be a Most Worthwhile Evening

Derby CAMRA Chair, Mark Fletcher, extends a warm welcome to those members attending the Branch AGM on **Wednesday 4th February** at the **Victoria Inn**, Midland Place, near the railway station. John and Emma have transformed the pub and it now features in the Good Beer Guide, serving Leatherbritches and interesting, changing guest beers, together with cider. Perhaps you haven't been to a meeting for a while or, indeed, have never attended a meeting of CAMRA. Well, this is your opportunity to meet a few of the people who make the Branch tick and enjoy some good beer or cider. **The meeting starts at 8.00pm.**

Why not Volunteer to Help the 6th Largest CAMRA Branch in the Country? 1,978 members make Derby the sixth largest Branch in the country and it's now in its 53rd year but shows little sign of slowing down. To maintain our progress, it would be beneficial to see one or two new faces on the committee as new committee members always bring fresh ideas in relation to Branch activity. We'd therefore welcome nominations from anyone with a little time to spare. You'll need to be a current CAMRA member, as will your proposer and seconder. Nominations with membership numbers before the AGM on 4th February to Branch Secretary, Nic Scott secretary@derby.camra.org.uk

New Zealand is our Destination, Soon!

Depending on when you receive M&B, you may want to join us on **Tuesday 27th January** as we're visiting the **New Zealand Arms**, corner of Peel Street/Langley Street in the New Zealand area of the city and hope to patronise one or two other hostelrys in the vicinity.

Derby Beer Girls' 2nd Meeting in 2026

The next one will be on **Wednesday 18th February** at the **Brunswick Inn**, Railway Terrace, from 7.30pm.

CAMRA Meetings

Derby: Wednesday, 4th February **AGM** at the Victoria Inn, Midland Place, Derby – 8.00pm.

Amber Valley: Tuesday, 17th February, **Good Beer Guide selection meeting** at the Hunter Arms, Kilburn – 8.00pm. Please note this is on a **Tuesday**.

Ashbourne: Tuesday, 27th January at the Queen's Vaults, Ashbourne - 8.00pm. Tuesday, 24th February at The Hug and Heave, Ashbourne – 7.30pm.

Stop Press: Tap Triumphs Again

The Tamworth Tap, Tamworth, has won the CAMRA national Pub of the Year for the third time.

Finalists in the Pub of the Year Awards

Pubs' Officer, Kat Higgins, reports that the following pubs, have made it to the final stages of POTY with the winners in the appropriate categories being announced in early February. **City:** Brunswick, Flowerpot, Smithfield.

Surburban: Creaky Floorboard, Falstaff, Hoppy Place.

Country: Bank of Beers, Spirit Vaults, (both Melbourne), Spread Eagle, Etwall.

Motions for Debate Invited for the AGM

If you have a motion for debate at the AGM on 4th February at the Victoria, Midland Place, please let Branch Secretary, Nic Scott have it before the meeting which starts at 8.00pm. secretary@derby.camra.org.uk You will need a proposer and seconder both of whom must be members.

Three Finalists in Cider Pub of the Year Comp

The three finalists from which a winner will emerge are the Brunswick, Smithfield and Victoria Inn, Midland Place.

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.

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. Please go to the CAMRA website on your phone.

2026 Good Beer Guide Available at These Pubs

The Alexandra, Brunswick, Smithfield, Furnace and Shiny Tap, Little Eaton all stock the Good Beer Guide.

New Look for M&B is Coming

From next month, we're hoping to have a new look M&B. Any news you have regarding pubs and breweries hereabout will be gratefully received. If you would like to contribute to it, please let me have your article(s) in Word document format together with any photographs by the 20th of the month. mildbitter@derby.camra.org.uk

Beer Festivals

28th to 31st January: 17th CAMRA Winter Beer Festival, Arts Centre, Church Street, Colchester.

29th January to 1st February: BeerMuda Triangle Beer Festival in Newark pubs.

29th January to 1st February: Mallard Inn Beer Festival, Carlton Road, Worksop.

30th to 31st January: Beer Festival, Community Centre, High Street, Tarporley.

30th January to 1st February: Coopers Arms Beer Festival, Crowborough, East Sussex.

6th to 7th February: Chesterfield CAMRA Beer Festival, Winding Wheel, Holywell Street, Chesterfield.

6th to 7th February: 16th Elysian Beer Festival, The Maltings, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

6th to 7th February: Bungay Winter Beer Festival, Bungay Community Centre.

9th to 15th February: Valentine’s Beer Festival, Trafford Arms, Norwich.

12th to 15th February: Hucknall, John Godber Centre.

19th to 21st February: Liverpool CAMRA Festival at the Metropolitan Cathedral crypt.

20th to 22nd February: Acle Winter Beer Festival, Acle Academy, Norfolk.

26th to 28th February: Bradford, Saltaire.

26th to 28th February: Chappel Winter Beer Festival, East Anglian Railway Museum, Wakes Colne, Colchester, Essex.

26th to 3rd March: Charity Real Ale and World Beer Festival, Castle Social, Norwich.

5th to 7th March: Loughborough, Polish Club.

19th to 21st March: Burton on Trent CAMRA Beer Festival at the Town Hall.

Don’t forget, as a member you have free admission to all CAMRA Beer Festivals.

Government Relents on Business Rates?

As M&B went to press, it’s understood that there could be some good news emanating from government regarding business rates on pubs. We hope to bring you this shortly.

Willington Pub is Prospering by Trading in Time Honoured Fashion

Our roving reporter, John Arguile, recently had lunch at the Green Man, Willington, and was offered Brains, Reverend James as well as Theakston’s Old Peculier, St Austell Tribute, Draught Bass and Pedigree which were all good. John engaged Landlady, Jane Macmanaman, about **trade over the last year and she said it was much better than 2024**. John understood why, as Jane is doing all the right things in terms of cellarmanship and choice, as well as good, well-prepared food etc. All of this shows that if licensees engage in good, time - honoured practises they can succeed no matter what economic winds are blowing.

Local Journalist Launches Beer Blog

Colston Crawford was the author of the Derby Telegraph’s Beer Hunter column and, now retired, he’s launched an on-line blog <https://colstonbeer.blog/2026/01/04/hello-world/>

New Real Ale Outlet in Mickleover

The expanding Derby suburb is about to get a further boost at the end of February. **The Yard**, 2A Station Road, will have the following cask offerings: Taylor’s Landlord, Draught Bass, Oakham Citra, Thornbridge Jaipur plus a weekly guest from the Bakewell brewery. Dancing Duck will also be supplying a weekly guest beer.

Former Barber’s to Become Micropub

Back in the day, when your editor had hair, he had it cut on the corner of Watson Street, diagonally opposite the Victoria, which was a busy Bass pub. A new micropub in the one-time hairdresser’s will be named the **Victoria and Albert Vaults** in deference to the Vic, and the Albert Vaults in nearby Whitecross Street which closed in 1963. The new venue will have room for up to 41 customers on two levels and traditional pub games will feature. Also, it will have an outside drinking area.

Brewery News

The **Brunswick’s** beers are currently being contract brewed by Whim of Hartington, but brewing should return to Railway Terrace before too long. Dominic Flynn, formerly of the Navigation brewery, Nottingham, fronts **Pour Me** brewing on Derby Brewing’s Nottingham Road site and his beers have featured in the Five Lamps and Golden Eagle. Fingy is currently the best selling brew from Pour Me.

Derby AGM Agenda

Apologies
 Appointment of tellers
 Minutes of last meeting
 Matters arising
 Chair’s report
 Financial matters
 Election: new committee
 Branch awards
 Any other business

Bespoke News

Bespoke Inns, the acquisitive pub company, have bought the stone-built Stenson Bubble canal-side pub. Connie Elefteriou, who opened the Bubble in 2009, has sold it to concentrate on his other hospitality interests.

Peter Hill – We Salute You

The 69-year-old from West Bromwich has spent £66,000 visiting all 4,500 pubs in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide, necessitating travelling over to our islands too. Peter’s accomplishment took 6 years.

Thorn Tree Inn is for Sale

This south facing, stone-built pub, high above Matlock on Jackson Road, has its freehold for sale at £350,000. It’s been Good Beer Guide listed many times in the past and it has truly wonderful views down the Derwent Valley. I earnestly hope that it remains a public house, so if you’re interested in buying, Savills are the estate agents.

Inn Brief

Vines, Sadler Gate, was back in business serving a quartet of real ales including three from Dancing Duck, but sadly it has closed again owing to leasing issues. The price of the **Royal Oak**, Ockbrook, has been reduced to £950,000. The family is keen to pass it on to someone who genuinely wants to keep this classic pub at the heart of village life. It’s a unique property on a large parcel of land but it’s worth noting **that it continues to operate** as it has done for decades with a full beer and food offering.

Fancy Being on a Vintage Bus to Staffordshire?

If this appeals, then please contact Mark Fletcher chair@derby.camra.org.uk

600th Edition of Mild & Bitter

Another Notable Milestone for Mild and Bitter

This is the 600th edition of the Derby CAMRA members' newsletter which was launched at the (now demolished) Meadows Inn, near Pentagon Island on Thursday, 6th November 1975, when 78 were present at a Branch meeting. The originator and Derby CAMRA Chair was Tim Williams, and this milestone edition has reproduced contributions by a few Branch notables, one of whom, Pip Southall, sadly, is no longer with us. The original single column has been re-instated and we'd like to thank John Arguile for providing an extensive back catalogue of M&Bs and Derby Drinkers. M&B was initially available at Branch meetings and by postal subscription with a mere dozen subscribers. Today, upwards of 2,000 members receive M&B electronically. In 2012, M&B was cited as a contributory factor in Derby CAMRA receiving a membership award at the national AGM. We hope you enjoy reading this landmark edition.

Real Ale on the Derby Mile (Derby Drinker no. 102, winter 2004)

The Mile has been a Derby institution for decades. Not quite as popular as its 1980s heyday, Derby Drinker takes a look at its past, its pubs and the availability of real ale in them today.

The Mile became a byword for pub crawls in Derby. Eighteenth and 21st birthdays were regularly celebratory occasions on Ashbourne Road, and in the days before everyone cleared off to Amsterdam, Dublin or adventure weekenders, hen and stag nights as well, often in fancy dress. Indeed, in the days when folk were less tended to wanderlust and stuck to their own locals or town, the Mile would have been a real novelty for some of Derby's suburb drinkers. The run used to kick off at the Derbyshire Yeoman at 6 o'clock in pre-all-day drinking days. I doubt if the crawl pre-dates the opening of the Yeoman, dating it to 1959 earliest. That pub is now McDonalds (what the editor prefers to refer to as a Drive Past) so the starting point is the **Travellers' Rest**. Cask ale is available from the jug in this friendly pub. The **Wagon and Horses** closed following an arson attack but reopened in October with a hope of a future return of cask beers (Burtonwood). Cross the road and there is the **Swan and Salmon** and, a few yards down, the **Gallant Hussar**, where real ale has recently returned after many years of fizz. A couple of minutes' walk brings the drinker to the half mile point and **Mr Grundy's**, the pub at the Georgian House Hotel, serving Kimberley Bitter plus seasonal guests. The next two stops are keg only at the 18thC **Brick and Tile**, round the corner in Brick Street, and the **Thirsty Scholar**, renamed from the Garrick in 1994 and formerly the Wheel (until 1972).



Adjacent here, and up an alleyway is the **Courtyard**, a popular, relative newcomer to the run. If you are in need of a decent pint, nip round the back-street here to the York Tavern (Pedigree and guest beer), but the next official stop is the **Greyhound** with guest beers available. In Jim Smyth's days here he barred Milers from the Greyhound and put a less than imposing "bouncer" on the door! There is then a longer walk down to Friar Gate, and these days Milers take in **Varsity** (not often real ale despite three Pedigree pumps facing the customer), **Fat Cat** (cask beer always on regularly including Springhead brewery beers), **Soda Bar** (NRA) and **Tonic** (Pedigree). The next original Mile pub is the **Bishop's Blaise** (formerly Friargate and Rising Sun).

This is easily the largest selection of real ale on the run with Oakham, Whim, more guests and real cider on tap. What was the Buck in the Park is now the keg only Bespoke, a far cry from the spit and sawdust, tiny roomed back street boozier in town that it remained until the end of the 1980s. Pedigree was excellent in there then, as it remained during Sir Beesting's lively reign until 1999. The Mile originally ended in its original form at the Lord Nelson. Your editor, in a rare moment of inactivity, measured the route and from the Yeoman Island to the old Nelson was 1.1 miles. Now, braver souls plough onto the **Wardwick**, Old Institute (now Barracuda), and beyond (indeed, a good friend of mine did the whole run through to the Exchange one Sunday lunchtime in the 1980s!). The Nelson, alas, now Aqua Bar, sports no real ale but there is still a fair amount of cask beer around in the pubs on this famous old crawl. How long has the Mile been going?

Pip Southall

Advert Con Tricks Anger (Derby Drinker no. 11, autumn 1985)

A poster, which has recently been appearing in many parts of the country, promoting Carlsberg lager, has set traditional beer drinkers muttering into their pints with annoyance. It shows, or appears to suggest, that Carlsberg lager is a traditional beer, served by handpump. As most people are aware, this is not the case, the beer being a pasteurised keg lager, usually served by gas pressure.

Many traditional beer drinkers feel very strongly about this attempt to link a keg lager with traditionally brewed, cask-conditioned beer and so the case was taken up with the Advertising Standards Authority by the Derby Branch of CAMRA.

In his letter, the Chairman of Derby CAMRA, David George, said, “the depiction of a handpump, which is only used for dispensing cask-conditioned beer from vented casks, is a dishonest implication, in that handpumps are widely recognised as a sign that the beer associated with them is a cask-conditioned ‘real ale’”.

The ASA replied that, in their view, the effect of the handpumps was merely to suggest the atmosphere of a public house and did not imply anything further.

The fear of Derby CAMRA as well as other beer drinkers, is that, if misleading advertisements such as these are not curbed, other advertisers will feel they can get away with even more direct implications that their products are something which they are not. Already, an advertisement for another brand of lager, with a handpump prominently displayed in the picture, has been reported.

The ASA upheld a previous complaint by Derby CAMRA, regarding an Ind Coope advertisement.

Editor’s note 2026: Shades of Handpump Hi-Jack.

Nick Meakin

Brunswick Bounces Back (Derby Drinker no. 20, summer 1987)

Derby’s historic Brunswick Inn is safe! That was the good news from the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust, as details emerged of a deal which will ensure that Britain’s first railway tavern will re-open as a pub, serving traditional ale. After the last two years has seen negotiations with brewer after brewer fall through, the Trust and Derby CAMRA were beginning to despair of the Brunswick ever re-opening as a hostelry. All the excellent refurbishing work which the Trust had carried out to the exterior of the building, as part of the Railway Terrace development, threatened to go for nought, as the pub stood empty for month after month.

Finally, however, a buyer was found. As revealed in the last Derby Drinker, a limited company, to be known as The Brunswick Inn Ltd., has been formed with the declared aim of restoring the interior of the pub to its original Victorian splendour. One of the people behind the deal is Trevor Harris, well known to many Derby pub-goers as the former landlord of the Vine inn, Micklover, who will be the Brunswick’s licensee. “We intend to make the Brunswick a focal point for lovers of traditional ales”, says Trevor. “We will bring new beers into the county, even if we have to travel to fetch them ourselves. There is a lot of building work to be done inside the pub first, however, supervised by local builder John Evans, so be patient; our target date for re-opening is September 26th.....and we’ll do it, come hell or high water!”

Knowing Trevor as we do, we are sure that he will. Derby CAMRA wishes him and his associates every success in the venture. The re-opening of the Brunswick will be a cause for great celebration and the final crowning of the Historic Buildings Trust’s ambitious plan to recreate an area of such importance to Derby’s heritage.

David George

Queuing at City Pubs Following Reopening After Lockdown 3 (Mild and Bitter no. 543, May 2021)

After 22 weeks of pub goers’ exile, perhaps it wasn’t a surprise to see queues outside many city centre hostelries on Freedom Day, 12th April. The pubs all exercised social distancing despite being very busy although one landlord commented to me that he “hadn’t enjoyed it”. I suspect, however, that his view might have changed later, on account of his takings for the day. The Standing Order was just one of many pubs with queuing during the day. Sadly, though, many pubs couldn’t open owing to an absence of outside space. Many of those that did open with commodious outdoor areas have, however, reported bumper business during the dry spell, and the Dragon, Willington, was even turning away customers on a Tuesday afternoon despite having large external areas.

David's Protest Was Pre-CAMRA (Derby Drinker no. 1, Spring 1983)

The Campaign for Real Ale has been fighting for a better deal for the beer drinker for twelve years – but the first rumblings of discontent were to be heard before the Campaign got off the ground in 1971. Allenton man, Mr David Pratt, was, along with a number of like-minded friends, among the first people to officially challenge the restrictive policies of the big brewers. He wrote a letter to Scottish and Newcastle as long ago as 1969. David's letter asked the brewery (who produce Younger's Tartan, one of the most reviled brews in CAMRA's eyes) why they wouldn't supply traditional cask-conditioned beer to the Seven Stars pub, King Street, Derby. The brewery wrote back within a couple of days: "We are unable to obtain supplies as our Leicester depot has now adopted keg delivery in place of cask. We are however introducing a further quality of keg beer which we hope.....will prove popular and induce you to continue your patronage". David and his friends didn't continue their patronage – yet over ten years later they got their wish!

When real ale once again became popular with the breweries as well as the drinkers, Scottish and Newcastle began promising to return their cask beers to the Seven Stars. Finally, the promises turned to reality and the pub now serves what many discerning drinkers consider are good examples of S & N's range – handpumped Younger's, IPA and McEwan's 70/- ales. "Better late than never" says David!

Colston Crawford

Editor's note 2026: David is better known as Charley to his many friends in Derby CAMRA.

Happy Birthday, Derby CAMRA (Mild and Bitter no. 107, September 1984)

I find myself in the awkward position of having to write something about Derby CAMRA's 10th anniversary party without being able to remember a great deal about it. Presumably everyone else who attended has suffered the same unaccountable loss of memory, which would explain the lack of contributions. Is this some new Bermuda Triangle scenario, or is there a more mundane explanation? Fortunately, the photos Pat and I took should reveal some hopefully not too embarrassing details.

The party should of course have been held in July, but was postponed for a month to keep it away from the Beer Festival. It was, in my experience, unique amongst CAMRA functions in that people were arriving before the announced starting time. Could the news of the cheap ale have leaked out? A word here about those ale prices: Shipstone's very kindly donated a quantity of beer for the occasion, which it was decided to sell at 1974 prices: 15p a pint for bitter, 14p a pint for mild. The money raised on this was used to help pay for a further quantity of beer, which was sold at the same prices. All of this beer, which I think was about a barrel's worth, had been supped by 9.00pm. What a thirsty lot you were, to be sure!

By this time things were warming up nicely, and Chairman Dave called upon Reg Newcombe to say a few words about the story of Derby CAMRA, which he did in admirably succinct fashion. Dave then presented a commemorative plaque to Peter Chambers (licensee) and a bouquet and an engraved 10th anniversary glass to Flo Fox (who was landlady when Derby CAMRA was founded here). Shortly afterwards, the equally commemorative pork pie, allegedly the largest ever baked in Derby, and bearing the legend "DERBY CAMRA 1974-1984", was displayed briefly before being ceremonially sliced up by Dave and handed round, with the rest of the buffet, to the ravenous ravers. I am pleased to report that it tasted even better than it looked.

After this, things get understandably blurred, as do the photographs: Connie (pianist) and Flo really got down to business at the piano; I myself may have uttered a few quasi-musical grunts, which is the nearest thing to singing that I can imagine. I even have vague memories of performing the Birdie Dance, though fortunately there are no photos to prove it.

I have no idea how many attended, but at times the lounge was so packed and steamy that there was a considerable overspill into the bar. It was certainly good to see so many faces, familiar and not so familiar. All in all, an excellent "do" which I think I enjoyed immensely, and I hope you will all join me in thanking the committee for putting it on in the style of 1974.

Mike Meara

Footnote: Social occasions such as that described above are writ large in our Branch history, as are brewery visits. Our photograph is of a trip in 2002 to Cain's brewery, where our guide for the day was Liverpool legend, the late Tony Molyneux, seated, right. It was an outing enjoyed by the Dolphin Inn's staff as well as Derby CAMRA members. Back then, the Dolphin served Cain's Mild (3.0% abv) whose quality aided its listing on Enterprise Inn's guest beer list which helped save the Liverpool brewery.



All our Yesterdays

- 1974** Derby CAMRA inaugurated on July 3rd at the Alexandra Hotel. First Good Beer Guide published.
- 1975** Mild and Bitter launched with an initial print run of 64.
- 1976** The ground-breaking Real Ale in and Around Derby guide was published. Notts and Derby Drinker magazine launched, a collaboration between the Nottingham and Derby CAMRA Branches. University of Spondon Footlights Club debuts at Crown, Spondon, attracting 130. Ind Coope launch Draught Burton Ale.
- 1977** John Thompson ends Derbyshire's commercial brewing drought when he fires the copper for the first time at his Ingleby pub. Trent Bus Company commences regional real ale tours from Derby bus station.
- 1978** 1st City Charter Beer Festival at the King's Hall, Queen Street, in April, with upwards of 20,000 pints drunk by 7,500 attendees. Three figure Branch Meeting attendance at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook.
- 1979** 2nd Real Ale in and Around Derby guide published.
- 1982** County wide guide, Derbyshire Ale, is published. City Charter Beer Festival moves to Assembly Rooms.
- 1983** Derby Drinker, edited by Colston Crawford, replaces Notts and Derby Drinker with an initial print run of 3,000. The print run subsequently peaked at 15,000.
- 1984** Nigel Barker, 26, becomes Derby's youngest licensee at the city's oldest pub, the Dolphin Inn.
- 1986** Derby CAMRA holds the first of 6 festivals at Alfreton Leisure Centre.
- 1987** Derby's first multiple choice real ale pub opens, the Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace.
- 1988** Following a near 20-year hiatus, brewing returns to Derby at the Flamingo and Firkin, Becket Street.
- 1989** Licensing laws' legislation grants pubs all day-time opening. Beer Orders Act mandates Big Six breweries to reduce tied houses to 2,000 per brewing company. John Arguile launches first of ten Derby city real ale guides. Bateman's of Wainfleet, Lincolnshire, reopen the Alexandra Hotel.
- 1990** 2nd Derbyshire Ale county guide is published, selling 7,000 copies. This was editor Reg Newcombe's magnum opus.
- 1991** Graham Townsend launches the aptly named First Brew at the newly installed Brunswick brewery.
- 1995** Classic Barton Arms, Aston, Birmingham, hosts Derby CAMRA's furthest flung Branch Meeting.
- 2000** CAMRA's national AGM held at the Assembly Rooms, Derby.
- 2002** 1st Winter Beer Festival held in the Darwin Suite, Assembly Rooms.
- 2003** At national AGM, Derby CAMRA wins major campaigning award for Mild preservation and promotion.
- 2004** Progressive beer duty is catalyst for small brewery revolution. Derby Brewing Company is founded by Trevor Harris (ex-Brunswick). Les Baynton is crowned Derby's Beer King, uniquely in this country.
- 2007** Smoking ban in pubs is introduced.
- 2008** Amber Valley Sub-Branch (of Derby) founded at the George, Lowes Hill, Ripley - 42 members present.
- 2010** Winter Beer and Cider Festival moves to the historic Roundhouse, Pride Park. Dancing Duck brewery founded by Rachel Matthews. Amber Valley CAMRA Beer Festival at Butterley Station, near Ripley.
- 2011** Amber Valley assumes full CAMRA Branch status, independent of Derby.
- 2012** Derby CAMRA receives Branch Membership award at national AGM. Ashbourne Sub-Branch founded. Pedro Menon revitalises the Furnace, Duke Street, and Shiny Brewing commences on a 5.5-barrel plant.
- 2013** First City Charter Beer Festival under canvas in Derby Market Place. Beer Duty Escalator finishes after five years of extra tax. Inaugural Ashbourne & District CAMRA Beer Festival in the Town Hall.
- 2014** First of three National Winter Ales Festivals held at the Roundhouse, Pride Park.
- 2017** Last Derby City Charter Festival held in the Market Place as the Assembly Rooms remain closed.
- 2018** World War 1 Derby licensed trade research project is undertaken by Derby Branch, culminating in a collectable booklet.
- 2019** Final curtain call for the University of Spondon Footlights Club, as Christmas show ends at Flowerpot.
- 2020** Roundhouse, Pride Park, hosts Derby Winter Ales Festival for the last time. Coronavirus hits Britain and it prompts government to close pubs on 20th March. Pubs reopen on 4th July but close again on 5th November.
- 2021** Pubs open for outside drinking only on 12th April, and all restrictions are finally lifted on 19th July. Pubs were closed for an aggregated 37 weeks. Derby Drinker returns following pandemic induced hiatus but monthly What's Brewing ceases publication.
- 2022** Tim Williams, a founding father of Derby CAMRA and long-time activist, is recognised in the national CAMRA Golden Awards. Derby Live and CAMRA host a beer festival in the Market Place with 200 beers.
- 2023** John Arguile publishes a book on the history of Derby breweries - Derby & Ale.
- 2024** Inaugural Heritage Beer Festival at the Silk Mill's Museum of Making is successful.
- 2025** The second edition of Derby & Ale is published and, again, sells out.

Minutes of the Derby CAMRA Annual General Meeting Held at the Flowerpot, King Street, Derby, on 12th February 2025

Attendees:

Steve Cooper, John Worsley, Dean Smith, Keith Hill, Steve Crispin, Debra Woods, Jim Suter, Mike Ainsley, Andrew Norman, Claire, Les Williams, Tim Williams, James Williams, Alan Pickersgill, Kat Higgins, Nic Scott, Ian Forman, Russ Gilbert, Paul Gibson, Maria Gibson, Mark Fletcher, Heather Knibbs, Andrew Mottram, John Arguile.

Apologies for absence:

Gillian Hough, Konrad Machej, Kevin Hepworth, Les Baynton, Charlie Pratt and Julian Tubbs.

Appointment of Tellers:

Steve Crispin was appointed as the teller.

Minutes of previous meeting:

The previous meeting's minutes were published in Mild and Bitter and were accepted as true and accurate by the meeting.

Officers Reports:

Chair (Kevin Hepworth)

Kevin could not be present for medical reasons. His AGM statement was sent in and read out to the meeting as follows: "I'm unlikely to make the AGM as I am still in Coronary Care. Most of what I wanted to say is in M&B but I wanted to add: Despite efforts, we have failed to attract women onto the committee - hopefully Gill's Women's Group can help overcome this. However, reference to "Dinosaurs" will not help, and I'm sure if inappropriate language continues, formal complaints will be forthcoming and dealt with in-line with CAMRA's policies. I'd like to thank Karen Cooper who is standing down as membership secretary. She has done a cracking job and will be missed, so thank you, Karen. I'd like to thank the rest of the committee for their support especially when we were under lockdown, and recovering from Covid. I'd also like to mention Ian Forman, our long serving secretary, whose wife has had health issues in recent years, and we wish Penny all the best".

Secretary (Ian Forman)

It was noted that the geographical reorganization mentioned in 2024 is still on-going and we now have re-organisation maps. A discussion ensued.

Derby Branch Annual Accounts 31st December 2024

Treasurer's Report (Andrew Norman)

1. This year not only marked the celebration of the branch's 50th anniversary but also the first full beer festival since 2020. As a result, the financial activity of the branch has been very high due to the various events held, together with the general Branch business.

The Branch opening balance brought forward from 2023 was £3783.42, with the year closing at £6057.81, an increase of £2274.39. Derby Drinker has seen its cumulative revenue to cost ratio value stay above the 90%, currently standing at 105%, as at the last issue in 2024.

Good Beer Guide income in 2024 was just over £700.00, less that in 2023 but there is still revenue to come from the sale of GBG 2025. Income from the Alexandra Hotel, Brunswick Inn, Furnace Inn, Smithfield and Victoria Inn, is still to be collected for this season.

The distribution costs for Mild & Bitter during 2024 amounted to £866.77 (£253.00 postal and £613.77 email).

2. This year's accounts also includes some of the Derby Heritage Beer Festival transactions, but only those up to and including 31st December 2024. A number of transactions have occurred in 2025 so are not presented at this AGM.

3. VAT paid in 2024 amounted to £1199.84, with a £99.39 rebate.

4. The Ashbourne sub-branch finances have been submitted and they, too, had a successful beer festival in 2024, making a profit of £1,620.73.

5. Julian Tubbs has kindly volunteered again to be examiner for the year end accounts. These will be uploaded to COBAS for storage and scrutiny.

6. I recommend the year end accounts for acceptance at the AGM.

Andrew Norman, Branch Treasurer, 9th February 2025
Pubs Officer (Mark Fletcher)

The micropub scene is continuing to grow with the opening of the Hoppy Place in Chaddesden. The national WhatPub website has been revamped and now lives on a new site. The Branch has questioned if the WhatPub name will be retained. Derby CAMRA have retained their status on WhatPub. Beer scoring has been broadly similar to the previous year. John Arguile raised the point that 24 licenses left the trade in the Derby area in the past year.

Festivals (Russel Gilbert)

The Heritage Beer festival was held in November in conjunction with the Museum of Making in Derby. A lot of effort to re-establish a Derby Beer Festival has been realized and this has culminated in approximately £14,000 of shared profit with the Museum of Making, so £7,000 each. The Branch congratulated Russ and his team. Not mentioned at the meeting, but still relevant, is that small beer festivals were held in July with the kind co-operation of the Brunswick Inn and the Victoria Inn, primarily to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Derby CAMRA. This was also a financial success.

7. Motions for Debate

James Williams spoke re the Dogs Society access explanation at a recent branch meeting. Can we ask landlords to produce access statements to put in WhatPub etc. Alan Pickersgill spoke of how they had handled the Brunswick statement. Motion re Pub Accessibility: "Derby Branch to encourage pubs to produce access statements, and the new committee is to deal with this". Motion carried.

8. Election of New Committee

The following positions are being vacated; Karen Cooper, (Membership) Kevin Hepworth (Chair) and Mark Fletcher (Pubs Officer).

Positions Filled

The following positions which form the new committee were filled after submission of the required proposer and seconder: Chair: Mark Fletcher (proposed by Ralf Edge and seconded by Jim Suter). Treasurer: Andrew Norman was proposed and seconded. Secretary: This was a contested position involving Ian Forman who was proposed by Mick Jones and seconded by Tim Williams. Nic Scott was the alternative candidate (proposed by Alan Pickersgill, seconded by Kat Higgins). After a vote by all attendees, Nic Scott was elected to the position. Membership: Gillian Hough. Pubs Officer: Kat Higgins. Social Secretary: James Williams. Press and Publicity: Alan Pickersgill.

Co-opted onto committee: Russ Gilbert, Kevin Hepworth.

Branch Awards

Karen Cooper received an award for her excellent membership secretarial work on festival staffing over many years.

Photograph Appeal

We've had a request for a photograph of the (Black) Panther pub now known as the Oaklands, on Oaklands Avenue. If you can oblige, please contact M&B.

Why not Take Advantage of the 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 withfor-1 meals, discounts at popular restaurants, cinema tickets and more. The initiative is available for every member – please go to the CAMRA website.

Derby Branch Diary

JANUARY

Tues 27th - New Zealand Arms Social, Peel Street - 8.00pm to 9.00pm before visiting other pub(s) in the locality.

FEBRUARY

Wed 4th – AGM, Victoria Inn, Midland Place, Derby - 8.00pm. A fine selection of Leatherbritches beers from Smisby plus a guest or two. Please bring your membership card in the eventuality of a committee election vote.

Wed 18th – Shrovetide Football outing from the Victoria Inn, Midland Place, Derby. More information from the pub.

Wed 18th – Derby Beer Girls Social at the Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace from 730pm.

Amber Valley Diary

FEBRUARY

Tues 17th – GBG 2027 selection meeting, at the Hunter Arms, Church Street, Kilburn.

MARCH

Thu 26th - AGM at The Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse.

JUNE

Fri 5th - Sun 7th Belper Goes Green, Branch is running the real ale and cider marquee.

JULY

Thu 2nd - Sun 5th - The Eyes Have It Music festival, Duffield, Branch is running the real ale & cider marquee.

Amber Valley Contact

Chairman: Chris Rogers 01332 880041

Ashbourne Diary

JANUARY

Tues 27th – BRANCH MEETING at the Queen's Vaults, Ashbourne town centre - 8.00pm.

Ashbourne Diary

FEBRUARY

Tue 24th BRANCH MEETING at the Hug and Heave, Ashbourne – 730pm.

Ashbourne Contact

info@ashbourne.camra.org.uk

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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:** Alan Pickersgill *campaigns@derby.camra.org.uk*
- Cider and Perry Officer:** Post vacant.
- Socials:** James Williams *socials@derby.camra.org.uk*
- Press and publicity:** Alan Pickersgill *publicity@derby.camra.org.uk*
- Derby Drinker:** *derbydrinker@derby.camra.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 *lescampa39@yahoo.co.uk*

M&B Copy Deadline

Copy to *mildbitter@derby.camra.org.uk* by **Friday 20th February**
Derby Drinker Deadline

5th March

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