

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

Festival Fever in Early July!

You'll be spoilt for choice in early July if you're a beer and cider festival aficionado. First and foremost is **The Eyes Have It Festival** on Eyes Meadow, Duffield off the A6. Apart from the much-vaunted live music, Amber Valley CAMRA is running a bar which showcases an extensive range of mainly Derbyshire brewed beers together with mouth-watering ciders. **Tickets are cheapest on Thursday 2nd July** but they will sell fast so best to go on TEHI website. The festival finishes on Sunday 5th July. Running concurrently, but starting a day earlier is the **Shiny Tap**, Little Eaton, beer festival which features 13 real ales plus 10 craft keg lines. Between the 3rd and 5th July **Crich Brewery** is celebrating its second anniversary with 20+ ales and street food at its festival in Campbell Street, Belper. Apple aficionados will doubtless be flocking to the **Red Lion**, Kniveton, for its annual cider festival on the 3rd and 4th of July. The pub is once again the regional Cider Pub of the Year.

Revitalised Pub Attracted a Good Branch Meeting Attendance

The Maypole, Brook Street, was the popular venue for Derby CAMRA's Branch meeting in June, where a presentation was made by Ashover Brewing Co. One of the four beers on offer was Ashover Amberella, 4.6% abv, which went down well, and it was good to see the pub busy. CAMRA discount here.

Christopher and Kaye Call it a Day

Christopher and Kaye Nix who have run the Staff of Life (below), Ticknall, for the past 30 years, have sold it and a new era beckons for the Georgian pub. We wish the couple well in their retirement.



Beer King Sends His Thanks to Members

Double leg amputee, Les Baynton, thanks those who have sent their best wishes to him. Les says his right hand is ready to receive a large glass of real ale!

Branch Meetings

Derby: Thursday, 9th July, Babington Arms, Babington Lane, Derby – 8.00pm.

Come along and see its latest incarnation in the post-Wetherspoon era.

Ashbourne: Tuesday 30th June – Shoulder of Mutton, Osmaston. Tuesday 28th July – Okeover Arms, Mappleton. Meetings start at 8.00pm.

Amber Valley: Tues 28th – Spanker, Nether Heage.

Derby Drinker Distributors Needed

We are currently looking for distributors in the following areas: Alfreton; Belper; Riddings and Swanwick.

If you can help, please contact the Editor, Gareth Stead at derbydrinker@derby.camra.org.uk

Derby Beer Girls' Social Gatherings

Tuesday, 7th July at the Five Lamps, Duffield Road, Derby. Tuesday, 18th August at the Hole in the Wall, Station Road, Mickleover. All of these socials are from 7.30pm.

Heritage Beer Festival Meetings

These are on Wednesday 15th July and Wednesday 9th September at the Smithfield, starting at 8.00pm.

The Way You Score Beer is Changing

On CAMRA's WhatPub website you now tick one of six categories, namely: excellent, very good, good, acceptable, poor, undrinkable. It's actually simple to score.

Annual Beer Census Team Leaders Required

The census is on Friday evening, 7th August, and James Williams is looking for team leaders who will cover a particular part of the city of Derby. On page 3 is a list of itineraries. Please contact socials@derby.camra.org.uk

Belper Beer Census is on 1st August

Please see page 2 for details of the 4th annual extravaganza.

Ambitious Ashover Brew Co is Striding Forward

The Tannery, Sadler Gate is on a three-year lease to Ashover with an option to extend and they have benefitted from a £15,000 grant from Derby City Council. It's on three levels and this is unlikely to be their solitary adventure as Ashover looks to open outlets in Clay Cross and further afield in Lincoln and York.

The Tannery trades at the bottom of Sadler Gate, offering four Ashover brews and two guests. It's closed Monday and Tuesday. On holiday in Hull recently, I espied Ashover beers in the city and in Filey, so, clearly, they're making a big push.

Spanish is Great for Cooling Off

I challenge anyone to tell me where there is a better place to cool off during a hot spell (24th June), than the Spanish Bar, South Street, Ilkeston. An **air-conditioned bar** complements one of the most colourful floral displays imaginable, outside. The Ilkeston Flyer stops outside and the beers are good too!

Beer Festivals

1st to 5th July: Shiny Tap Beer Festival, 10 Old Hall Mill Business Park, Alfreton Road, Little Eaton. 13 real ales.
Thu 2nd - Sun 5th July- The Eyes Have It Music festival, Duffield. There's a real ale & cider marquee. Ticket details on-line.
3rd to 4th July: Annual cider festival, Red Lion, Kniveton.
3rd to 5th July: 2nd anniversary Crich Brewery Beer Festival, Campbell Street, Belper. Open noon to 8.00pm.
10th to 12th July: Blackfriars Beer Festival at the award-winning Blackfriars Tavern, Great Yarmouth.
17th to 19th July: Reedham Beer Festival, Humpty Dumpty brewery, Reedham, Norfolk.
24th to 26th July: Steampacket, Derby Road, Swanwick. 30 cask ales with live entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings as well as Sunday afternoon. Swanwick Network Scouts are providing the food.
24th to 26th July: Battle Field Beer Festival at Market Bosworth railway station. 60 ales.
31st July to 2nd August: Ipswich Transport Museum Beer Festival, Old Trolleybus Depot, Cobham Road, Ipswich.
13th to 15th August: Worcester racecourse Beer Festival. Tickets: festival.worcester.camra.org.uk/#tickets
14th to 16th August: PARfest Beer Festival at Parwich RBL club. Camping available at Foufinside Farm. Free entry to festival with free PARfest glass. Connect Bus 01335 342951.
25th to 29th August: 47th Peterborough Beer Festival, now **Britain's largest festival** after the Great British Beer Festival was postponed.
26th to 31st August: 34th East Anglian Beer and Cider Festival at St Edmundsbury cathedral, Bury St Edmunds. 250 beers and 50 ciders.
27th to 29th August: Ashbourne CAMRA beer and cider festival at the Town Hall.
10th to 12th September: 32nd Tamworth Beer Festival, Assembly Rooms, Corporation Street. 75 ales, cider, perries.
12th September: Derby Pride, Markeaton Park. Gareth Gates will be headlining.
2nd to 4th October: Craft beers, wines and spirits Festival, Market Hall, Derby between 1.00pm and 10.00pm.
14th to 17th October: 3rd Heritage Beer and Cider Festival at Derby's Market Hall.
26th to 31st October: 47th Norwich Beer Festival at The Halls. **Don't forget, as a member you have free admission to all CAMRA Beer Festivals.**

Inn Brief

The Yard, Station Road, Mickleover, has overcome planning objections, and will open. **Alvaston and Crewton Social Club**, Trent Street, is for sale at £695,000 and it's thought housing may replace it. Former Marston's pub, the **Fisherman's Rest**, Broadholme, near Belper, is also likely to be converted to a private house with new houses built on the car park. The **R&R Sports Bar**, Chellaston, closed prior to a changeover early in June, but should have reopened now. The **Vulcan**, Normanton, Derby, is boarded up. The highly attractive Brewer's Tudor pub, the **King Alfred** in Alfreton is open again following a £175,000 refurbishment by Star Pubs. **Swan Inn**, Milton, is for sale at £550,000. Carl Haspel of **Black Hole brewery**, Little Eaton, is pleased to report a repeat, large order from J D Wetherspoon for Supernova.

Belper Goes Green is a Big Success

The annual event held at Belper Cricket Club attracted a large attendance despite indifferent weather and nearly all of the beer and cider sold out. 20 new members were signed up to join CAMRA.

4th Annual Belper Beer Census on 1st August

The aim is to visit all the watering holes in Belper on a single evening to record all real ales sold and to compare with previous years. For a small town, Belper punches above its weight in terms of the availability of good quality cask conditioned ale. **All are welcome to join starting at 3.30pm** on whichever route takes their fancy.

Route 1 (8 pubs) Bus Route: 6.1 or Transpeak

Leaders: Stewart Marshall & Konrad Machej, phone number: 07944 163737

The George and Dragon, Bridge Street; Rumours Retro Bar (**opens 4.00pm**); The Rifleman's Arms; Dice and Barrel; The Devonshire; The Lion; The Bottle Bank; The Railway, Belper.

Route 2 (6 pubs) NB This route involves a lot of walking Bus Route: 71 from King St Belper (outside Poundland 15:00)

Leaders: Chris Rogers & Chris Perry, phone number: 07896 678577

Spotted Cow, Holbrook; Dead Poets, Holbrook; White Hart, Bargate; Black Bull's Head, Openwoodgate; The Greyhound, Whitemoor; The Railway, Belper.

Route 3 (7 pubs)

NB This route either requires a long walk or a bus journey between The Palfrey and The Tavern

Leaders: Jen Rowland & Andy Foster, phone number: 07812 523169 Bus Route: Sixes or Transpeak

The Elephant and Peacock (Strutt Arms), Derby Road, Milford; The Sunshine Club; The Hollybush; The King William; The Palfrey; The Tavern; The Railway, Belper.

Route 4 (9 pubs) Bus Route: Sixes (not 6.1)

Leaders: David & Nora Harper, phone number: 07866 380909

The Nag's Head, High Pavement; Cross Keys; The Greenhouse; British Legion; Old Kings Head; Arkwrights; Crich Brewery (**closes 8.00pm**); Tylers (**opens 5.00pm**) (**may or may not be open**); The Railway, Belper.

Route 5 (9 pubs) Bus Route: 6.2 or 6.4

Jane Whitaker & Paul Whitaker, phone number: 07484 836974

Thorn Tree (**opens 3.00pm**), Chesterfield Road; Queen's Head, Chesterfield Road (**opens 4.00pm**);

The Grapes; Belper House; Angels, Market Place; Black Swan (**may or may not be open**); Monk Bar (**opens**

4.00pm); Gatsbys (formerly The Vibe) (**opens 4.00pm**); The Railway, Belper.

Flowerpot Goes from Strength to Strength

Derby CAMRA's 2025 Pub of the Year culinary offering just keeps getting better. Around 14 years ago, the Flowerpot, King Street introduced a Gurkha curry on Tuesday night, employing a chef from one of the city's Gurkha restaurants which proved so popular that Wednesday was added to the rota.

This has since been extended to Thursday, thus making three consecutive nights of restaurant quality food at pub prices. In summer, the courtyard is a great place to drink and dine. What's not to like?

Draught Bass Sales' Surge

Roger Putnam (an ex-Bass brewer in Burton), Editor of the Brewery History Society states in the June edition of the newsletter that "**Draught Bass** is today the fastest selling cask ale in the land ...and may soon overtake **Doom Bar** and Timothy Taylor's **Landlord** from the top spots". Carlsberg Britvic has ramped up production to meet growing demand with distribution increasing by 48% last year and volume sales have climbed by 23%.

John Arguile

Route Leaders Wanted!

Last year we got an incredible 181 unique beers found in one night which considering the previous ABC got 183 with a beer festival going on, it shows the number of beers on offer on an average night in Derby is increasing. And with 4 new or new to cask venues this year it looks like we should be able to break the record. With less than half the population of Sheffield, where they have around 300 unique beers, surely it shows Derby is the true 'Real' Ale capital of the world?

Most routes start at **6.00 PM** and route leader contacts will be in the next edition of M&B for those wanting to join. The aim is to converge at the Flowerpot at roughly **10.00pm**.

Why not come along or lead one of our routes on Friday 7th **August**? Contact me, James Williams,

socials@derby.camra.org.uk or 07510 161 151.

Route 1 - (City) Smithfield, Exeter Arms, Royal Standard, Peacock, Old Silk Mill, Old Dolphin, Flowerpot.

Route 2 - (Train & Bus Station Areas) Merry Widows, Victoria, Brunswick, Alexandra, White Horse & Noahs ark, Flowerpot.

Route 3 - (Littleover, Normanton & City)(The Swan & Half Moon) **6.00 PM** Falstaff, Bell & Castle, Hairy Dog, Bess of Hardwick, Suds & Soda, Tannery, Flowerpot.

Route 4 - (Allestree, West End, City) No.189, Pot Hole, Markeaton, Jonty Farmer, Creaky Floorboard, Victoria & Albert, Woodlark, Flowerpot.

Route 5 - (City) Royal Telegraph, Neptune, Babington Arms, Tiger Bar, Dukes, Old Bell, Jorrocks, Standing Order, Flowerpot.

Route 6 - (Little Eaton, Derby, Little Chester) Shiny Tap, Tiny Tap, (Abbey & Little Darley) Coach & Horses, Little Chester Ale House, Furnace, Five Lamps, Seven Stars, Flowerpot.

Route 7 (Mickleover) Masons Arms, Nags Head, Binary Bar, Vine, Hole in the Wall, Flowerpot.

Route 8 - (Spondon) The Malt Shovel, Vernon Arms, Prince of Wales, Spondon Liberal Club, White Swan, Hoptimist, Hoppy Place, Flowerpot.

Route 9 - (City) Mr Grundy's, Last Post, Greyhound, Golden Eagle, Maypole, Blessington, Flowerpot.

It's a night not to be missed!

Home Brewers' Competition at Melbourne Produce Show

Beer lovers and budding brewers are being invited to put their creations to the test in a Homebrew Beer Competition at this year's Melbourne Produce Show, taking place at Melbourne Parish Church on **Saturday, 5th September**.

The competition features two classes: **Light Beers** (including ales and lagers) and **Dark Beers** (such as milds, stouts and porters). Brewers may enter up to **three beers in each category**, giving them the chance to showcase the full range of their brewing skills.

Entry costs just **50p per bottle**, with all proceeds going to charity.

Competition entries can be delivered to the Produce Show on the morning of the event (8:30 to 10:30) or dropped off in advance at the **Spirit Vaults** pub on **1st September**.

Whether you're an experienced home brewer or trying your hand at your first batch, organisers are encouraging local people to take part and celebrate the popularity of homebrewing. For more information, please email melbournepaths@gmail.com.

Last Breweriana Auction

Saturday 24th October, starting at 1030am, is the last Breweriana auction at Burton on Trent Town Hall.

Flood Defence Measures are Impacting Pubs

John Arguile spoke at length recently to Ben Miller, licensee of the Smithfield, who said that Martin Roper of the Exeter Arms experiencing a 15% reduction in trade (which was extensively covered in the Derby Telegraph) is matched by the Smithfield. The Smithfield, though, can't spread the loss over the Exeter's 3 sister pubs which are not in the flood plain. The Smithfield has though been flooded 3 times in recent years and has had to write off stock as insurance premiums are too high to be viable. Trade reductions will, sadly, continue until March next year.

On a different tack, Bass continues to be the largest beer sale at the Smithfield who source it from several wholesalers to get continuation of supply.

Oasis Tribute Band Play at Popular Pub

If you're a fan of Oasis, you may be interested to know that the Three Horseshoes, Derby Road, Ilkeston is hosting a tribute band, outside, on Saturday 11th July starting at 730pm. It's bound to be busy and there are always four real ales from independent breweries available.

An Updated History of the Brunswick's Awards

At the June Branch meeting at the revitalised Maypole, Brook Street, Alan Pickersgill deputising for Chair, Mark Fletcher, revealed that the Brunswick was national CAMRA Pub of the Year runner-up in 1990. The railway pub was also CAMRA East Midlands' Pub of the Year in 1989 and 1990.



Beer Day Britain 2026: Mayor, Jonathan Smale, is greeted by Brunswick licensee, Alan Pickersgill, on 15th June

Handpump Hi-Jack Latest

Derby South MP, Baggy Shanker, assures us that the private members' bill assigning cask ale with protected product status and outlawing the serving of keg beer through handpumps will be read out in parliament before the summer recess.

Minutes of the Ashbourne & District CAMRA AGM at the Smith's Tavern, Ashbourne on Tuesday 26th May 2026

Attendance:

Graham Burke (Chair), Mark Grist, Melvyn Whitehead, Colin & Alison Terry, Martin Sales, Konrad Machej, John Chamberlin, Dave O'Dell, Kevin Woolley, Hannah Barton, Beth Foster, Paul Barnett.

Apologies: Stephen Asbury, Diane Grist, Mick Betts, Mike Burrows.

Declaration of Interest:

Mark Grist – Smith's Tavern, Kevin Woolley & Hannah Barton – Red Lion, Kniveton & Kniveton Cider.

Minutes of previous meeting inc. accuracy/action minutes – taken as read.

Minutes of Ashbourne CAMRA AGM, Continued

Chairman: Reported on general status of sub-branch and recent activities, together with immediate plans for the near future. Confirmed all award winners since last AGM, including the East Midlands Cider Pub of the Year once again to The Red Lion, Kniveton and the Derbyshire Club of the Year to the RBL, Parwich.

Election of officers:

The following were re-elected unanimously: Chairman – Graham Burke; Secretary - Mark Grist; Cider Rep – Kevin Woolley; Pubs Officer – Colin Terry volunteered to take on the role and was elected unanimously.

Secretary:

Membership as of 1st May – 73 (1). Nominations are invited for the Summer Pub of the Season, to be voted on at the June meeting.

Cider: A reminder of the annual cider festival taking place on 3rd-4th July at The Red Lion, Kniveton.

Pub News:

The Bridge, Ashbourne is under new management and some investment seems to be being made in refurbishing the downstairs bar. *The Holly Bush, Church Broughton* has changed hands following retirement of longstanding licensees.

Beer Festival:

Meeting took place immediately prior to this meeting. The next one will be held immediately before the branch meeting on 30th June.

Social events: no updates.

AOB: Graham Burke proposed that the next and future AGMs be moved to February, with allowance made for any clash with Shrovetide dates. Vote carried unanimously.

Dates:

Tuesday 30th June – Branch meeting – Shoulder of Mutton.

Tuesday 28th July – Branch meeting – Okeover Arms, Mappleton.

Monday 24th August – beer & cider festival set-up.

Tuesday 25th August – Branch meeting – Royal Oak, Wetton.

Thursday 27th – Sat 29th August, Beer+Cider Fest, Town Hall.

Tuesday 29th Sept – Branch at Crown, Marston Montgomery.

Derby Branch Diary

JULY

Thu 2nd - Sadler Gate revival evening. Join us in the newly opened **The Tannery** to enjoy some beer from Ashover brewery and other breweries.

Tue 7th – Derby Beer Girls’ social gathering at the Five Lamps, Duffield Road from 730pm.

Thu 9th - BRANCH MEETING, Babington Arms – 8.00pm.

Wed 15th - Heritage Fest meeting – Smithfield at 8.00pm.

AUGUST

Fri 7th – Annual Beer Census. See page 3.

Thu 13th – BRANCH MEETING, Tiger Inn, Lock Up Yard, off Cornmarket, Derby – 8.00pm.

Tue 18th – Derby Beer Girls’ social gathering at the Hole in the Wall, Station Road, Mickelover from 730pm.

SEPTEMBER

Wed 9th - Heritage Beer Festival meeting – Smithfield, Meadow Road -8.00pm.

Sat 12th – Derby Pride, Markeaton Park.

Amber Valley Diary

JULY

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

Tue 28th - BRANCH MEETING, Spanker, Nether Heage.

AUGUST

Sat 1st – Belper Beer Census. See page 2.

Amber Valley Contact

Chairman: Chris Rogers 01332 880041

Ashbourne Diary

Tues 30th June – BRANCH MEETING Shoulder of Mutton.

Tues 28th July – BRANCH MEETING – Okeover Arms.

Ashbourne Contact

info@ashbourne.camra.org.uk

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