

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

Ashbourne Festival at Month's End Looks Like Being a Cracker!

Ashbourne Town Hall, a Grade 2 listed Victorian gem, sandwiched between Georgian buildings, will host Ashbourne CAMRA's Beer and Cider Festival from the 27th to the 29th August. 30 ales and 10 ciders will feature together with a gin bar on Friday and Saturday. There will be whisky tasting, soft drinks and snacks available, and families with children are welcome but please vacate by 8.00pm. **There are 2 flights of stairs but no disabled facilities.** Opening hours: Thursday – 6.00pm to 10.00pm; Friday and Saturday – noon to 10.00pm. Let the Swift bus or 114 (daytime) take you from Derby to this attractive market town which also has a host of good pubs. If you live in the Ashbourne area, you may want to visit **PARfest** between the 14th and 16th August.



Ashbourne Town Hall

Ticket Information for Heritage Beer Festival

Between 14th and 17th October, Derby Market Hall will showcase 100+ ales, ciders and perries during the following times:

Wednesday 14th - 17:00 to 22:00; Thursday 15th - 12:00 to 22:00; Friday 16th - 12:00 to 22:00; Saturday 17th - 12:00 to 22:00. Last orders will be at 21:45 for all sessions.

Admission is £6 for non-CAMRA members and free for card carrying CAMRA members.

All ticket holders must purchase a £3 refundable glass on entry for use around the festival.

Tickets are now available from Tckty or follow the address below:

<https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/525/derby-heritage-beer-festival>

Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Derby LIVE Sales and Information Centre located at 19 Chapel Street, Derby, DE1 3GU, or at the Derby LIVE stall at the Derby Market Hall.

Tickets will also be available on the door, subject to capacity.

Branch Meetings

Derby: Thursday, 13th August, Tiger Vaults, Lock-up Yard, off Commarket, Derby – 8.00pm. Nic Scott has booked our first Branch meeting at the central venue with so much history inside and out. Dancing Duck DCUK, Taylor's Landlord and a Burton on Trent classic are likely to be on the bar.

Ashbourne: Tuesday 28th July – Okeover Arms, Mappleton. Meeting starts at 8.00pm.

Amber Valley: Tuesday 28th July - Spanker, Nether Heage at 8.00pm.

Annual Beer Census on Friday, 7th August

Route 1 - **City** 7.00pm Smithfield, Exeter Arms, Royal Standard, Peacock, Old Silk Mill, Old Dolphin, Flowerpot.

Mark Fletcher 07712 669581

Route 2 – **Rail & Bus Station Areas** 6.00pm Brunswick, Merry Widows, Victoria, Alexandra, White Horse & Noahs Ark, Flowerpot. Alan Pickersgill, Kat Higgins 07821 943969

Route 3 – **Normanton & City** 6.00pm Falstaff, Bell & Castle, Hairy Dog, Bess of Hardwick, Suds & Soda, Tannery, Flowerpot. Konrad Machej & Tim Williams 07976 749671

Route 4 – **Allestree, West End, City** 7.00pm at the Markeaton, bus at 720 from Allestree Lane to Blenheim Parade for No.189; bus from here at 743pm to Park Farm Pot Hole, Depart Park Farm at 826pm to alight opposite the Jonty Farmer. These timings are approximate: 8.45pm Creaky Floorboard; 9.30pm Victoria & Albert; 10.00pm Horse and Groom, Elms Street; thence Flowerpot for those who wish to join the throng. Paul & Maria Gibson 07895 277062

Route 5 - **City** 6.30pm Royal Telegraph, Neptune, Babington Arms, Tiger Bar, Dukes (if open), Old Bell, Jorrocks, Standing Order, Flowerpot. Chris Rogers 07716 165307

Route 6 – **Derby, Little Chester** 7.00pm Tiny Tap, (Abbey & Little Darley) Coach & Horses, Little Chester Ale House, Furnace, Five Lamps, Seven Stars, Flowerpot. Gareth Stead 07900 407086

Route 7 **Littleover & Mickleover** (White Swan & Half Moon) 6.00pm Masons Arms, Nags Head, Binary Bar, Vine, Hole in the Wall, Flowerpot. (James Williams 07512 001500)

Route 8 - **Spondon** The Malt Shovel, Vernon Arms, Prince of Wales, Spondon Liberal Club, White Swan, Hoptimist, Flowerpot. Russ Gilbert 07909 967142, contact prior to find start time.

Route 9 - **City** 6.00pm Mr Grundy's, Last Post, Greyhound, Golden Eagle, Woodlark, Maypole, Blessington, Flowerpot. Nic Scott 07889 727509

Please wear a CAMRA T shirt or similar, and all friends are welcome.

Next Heritage Beer Festival Meeting

This will be on Wednesday, 9th September at the Smithfield, Meadow Road, starting at 8.00pm.

Derby Beer Girls' Social Gathering

Our next meet-up is on Tuesday, 18th August at the Hole in the Wall, Station Road, Mickleover, from 7.30pm. A wide range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are available.

Beer Festivals

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.

27th to 31st August: Potfest at the Flowerpot, King Street, Derby. Live music every evening and Sunday afternoon.

27th to 31st August: Furnace Inn, Duke Street, Derby.

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.

30th September to 4th October: Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby.

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.

3 Pubs to Look out for in the Coming Weeks

The historic, Georgian **Greyhound**, Cromford Market Place, is to benefit from a half-million pound refurbishment by Admiral Taverns before reopening in the autumn. Dave Brown, lessee of the Five Lamps told John Arguile he has taken (leased or bought) the **Black Swan** on Belper Market Place. This will also reopen, after changes, in the autumn. Meantime work on **The Yard**, Mickleover, a new venture by Alan Shepherd licensee of the Spread Eagle, Etwall, has commenced with an 'opening soon' notice boldly displayed on its Station Road frontage. On the basis of past performances by their respective owners, the latter two should be worthy additions to the real ale scene.

Inn Brief

Richard and Kirsty at the **Merry Widows** opposite the railway station are serving three Roebuck beers from Draycott in the Clay.

Another Staffordshire brewery, Uttoxeter, has been espied upon the bar of the **Hawk and Buckle**, Etwall recently.

Jane Macmanam has now retired and new management are insitu at the **Green Man**, Willington. A brace from Cornish brewers, St Austell, feature together with another real ale.

The Cock, Muggington, is closed but should reopen.

The **Brunswick** has summer barbeques on Friday evenings between 5.00pm and 8.00pm.

J D Wetherspoon Purchase Outer City Pub

The Oast House on the corner of Osmaston Park Road and Sinfon Lane (the old Normanton Barracks site) has been sold to J D Wetherspoon. Pleasingly, all of the existing staff are being re-employed, and after alterations, I confidently predict that the pub will trade very successfully.

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.

Latest News on the Beer King

Les Baynton's return to local pubs was doubly welcoming at the Horse and Groom, where several locals lifted him and his wheelchair in and out of the stepped entrance pub. Phil Gee (ex-Rams) is doing a good job in backing the revitalisation of what was Bass's first Derby pub, and revitalisation work at the Groom is still ongoing. The Five Lamps access was easier, and Dave Brown was on hand to greet Les who was Dave's first pub poet when he originally set up the Dead Poets poetry evening at Holbrook.

John Arguile

Last Breweriana Auction

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

Another Micro Pub for Allestree?

The fireplace supplies shop next to Allestree garage on the A6 will, subject to a successful planning application, be Derby's latest micro pub, a sister pub to the Hoptimist in Spondon and Draycott.

Another Cool Place to Drink

Last month, I mentioned the Spanish Bar, Ilkeston, and at the recent Branch meeting at the Babington Arms, Babington Lane it was pleasing to find air conditioning as well as a good selection of real ale. Many attendees wore shorts in another heatwave.

RR to Benefit TT?

Rolls Royce will establish a training school for staff working on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) at Northedge Business Park off Alfreton Road, Derby. This is of course where the Willers family has invested heavily in the Tiny brewery and taproom. It's the only micro pub to have an on-site brewery in Derby and it's not difficult to imagine RR staff enjoying a drink in the Tiny Tap after their training on a Friday.

Derby Branch Membership

This stood at 1,876 as of June 2026.

Minutes of the Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch Meeting at the Shoulder of Mutton, Osmaston on Wednesday, 1st July 2026

Attendance:

Graham Burke (Chair), Mark Grist, Konrad Machej, John Chamberlin, Dave O'Dell.

Apologies:

Stephen Asbury, Diane Grist, Mick Betts, Mike Burrows, Martin Sales, Kevin Woolley, Hannah Barton, Colin & Alison Terry, Melvyn Whitehead, Paul Jesson, Alan Shenton, Mandy & Rob Hodson-Walker.

Declaration of Interest: Mark Grist – Smith's Tavern.

Minutes of previous meeting inc. accuracy/action minutes: Taken as read.

Chairman:

reported on attendance at the Regional meeting and the presentation to the Red Lion, Kniveton, plus attendance at the Dead Poets Beer Festival.

Secretary:

Membership as of 2nd June – 73 (unchanged). No nominations yet received for the Summer Pub of the Season, will review at July meeting.

Cider:

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

Pub News: No new reporting.

Beer Festival:

Meeting took place on 30th June, all matters in hand at present.

Social events:

No updates.

AOB: None.

Dates

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

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

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

Thursday 27th – Saturday 29th August – Beer & Cider Festival, Town Hall.

Tuesday 29th September – Branch meeting at The Crown, Marston Montgomery.

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.

Amber Valley Report

11 new members joined CAMRA at the successful Eyes Have It festival where we ran a bar in early July. There are currently 95 open pubs, clubs and breweries listed by Amber Valley CAMRA that serve cask ales and 19 more with no cask ale.

The Way You Score Beer has Changed

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.

Humphrey Smith (1945 – 2026) RIP

Humphrey, the owner of Sam Smith's brewery, sadly passed away at the beginning of July. He took control of Smith's aged just 18 and transformed them from a local, Tadcaster based brewery into one having upwards of 200 pubs including 20 in central London which include at least two classics. Between 1976 and 1983 Smith's established new outlets hereabout in Alfreton, Darley Abbey, Swinscoe, Thulston and Wirksworth. As far as I know, only the Darley Abbey pub still serves Smith's beers today. In November 1984, I was part of a large contingent from Derby who visited John Smith's and Sam Smith's breweries in the same day. I took the photograph below of the cooperage which is still operating and one of Britain's last. Humphrey's son, Sam, now takes over and it will be very interesting to see if there are any changes to the North Yorkshire brewery's modus operandi.



World Cup Pays Dividends to Pubs which Screened Matches

Many pubs had large screens showing matches and this is now established as a popular way of watching the home nations. Pub takings were boosted by England's run to the semi-final but it was a pity they couldn't take the next step. For another four years at least, 1966 will remain synonymous with England winning the Jules Rimet trophy.

Derby Branch Diary

JULY

Tue 28th – Social, Little Darley, Darley Street, Darley Abbey at 8.00pm.



Little Darley

AUGUST

Fri 7th – Annual Beer Census. See page 1.

Thu 13th – BRANCH MEETING, Tiger Inn, Lock Up Yard, off Cornmarket, Derby – 8.00pm. Come along and support a true town Local.

Tue 18th – Derby Beer Girls' social gathering at the Hole in the Wall, Station Road, Mickelover from 7.30pm. A cracking choice of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks awaits.

Wed 19th – Social at the Victoria, Midland Place, plus possibly two neighbouring pubs from 8.00pm.

Fri 28th – Midday social at the Exeter Arms, Exeter Street, between noon and 2.00pm.

SEPTEMBER

Wed 9th – Heritage Beer Festival meeting – Smithfield – 8.00pm.

Sat 12th – Derby Pride, Markeaton Park.

Amber Valley Diary

JULY

Tue 28th – BRANCH MEETING, Spanker, Nether Heage, starting at 8.00pm.

AUGUST

Sat 1st – Belper Beer Census - see page 2.

Sat 22nd – Beeston.

SEPTEMBER

Sat 26th – Matlock.

Amber Valley Contact

Chairman: Chris Rogers 01332 880041

Ashbourne Diary

Tues 28th July – BRANCH MEETING – Okeover Arms, Mappleton.

Ashbourne Contact

info@ashbourne.camra.org.uk

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