

# Derby Drinker

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ISSUE No. 12

CHRISTMAS '85/NEW YEAR '86

FREE

## NATIONAL ACCOLADE FOR CITY PUB

Hot on the heels of its inclusion, for the first time, in CAMRA's best selling Good Beer Guide comes the news that Ye Olde Spa Inne, Abbey Street, Derby has beaten off all competition to win CAMRA's Pub Preservation Group Award for 'Best refurbishment and conservation of an existing Public House'.

It was owners, Ind Coope Burton Brewery, who, impressed with the renovation work, nominated the Spa for this prestigious national award. Pub Preservation Group inspectors made several visits before short-listing the pub and eventually naming the Abbey Street local as their 1985 winner.

Licensee, Peter Frame, who, along with his wife, Margaret and Architect, Keith Roberts supervised the work carried out to this eighteenth century listed building was delighted with the news and credited the success to the large measure of agreement between them - and the brewery.

### Make a date for 1 over the 8

The first thing you should do with that 1986 diary your granny's going to buy you for Christmas is to write in it the dates of the Ninth Derby Beer Festival:

Wednesday 9th - Saturday 12th July.  
Start training now!

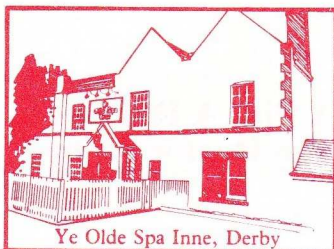
### GRAPE SHOT?

Following hard on the heels of the Austrian anti-freeze wine scandal, the public analysts in Zurich have discovered traces of Azoture, a substance used in explosives, in several bottles of Swiss wine. Is this what they mean when they say wine sales are booming? We know we've always said lager blows you up but this is ridiculous.

**Take an Advert** - it doesn't cost the earth. Licensees phone Dave George on Derby 32762.



By David George



Ye Olde Spa Inne, Derby

Having spent several months getting a feel for the pub and its customers they set out to work around the pub as it was rather than trying to create something new. The result, said Peter, was that "minimal changes improved whereas vast changes would have destroyed". Their policy of careful renovation has brought praise from customers who expressed relief that there were not wholesale changes - particularly to the bar.

### Be Guided By Us!

Just out is the thirteenth annual edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide - but don't let that number put you off. With no trouble at all it retains its position as "Britain's best beer book". In addition to all the gen on over 5,000 pubs where you can bet on a better pint, there are over 50 pages of articles on subjects of interest to you, the beer drinker: like brewery takeovers, lost locals, licensing hours, "free" houses ... and many others. And the book is better illustrated than ever, with a host of cartoons to make you smile.

Derby can be found on page 23 of the map section, where a quick check will reveal 60 or more of those little magic beer jugs within only 15 miles of the centre. Each symbol can mean more than one pub - Derby city itself has 11 entries - and for a change let's look at some of these that aren't in Derbyshire itself. In Nottinghamshire there's the **GREAT NORTHERN** at East-Wood, a terrific canalside local with Kimberley beers; the **STAR (PIT HOUSE)** at West Leake is a splendid old coaching inn with real beams; and if the Home-ly **DIXIE'S ARMS** at Bagthorpe isn't what a pub used to be (and ought to be again) then I give up. Over in Staffordshire you've got, amongst

There was also praise from Pub Preservation Group inspectors who all agreed that the new porch and opened up garden provided a welcoming entrance. They were also impressed with the black leaded fireplace and the "superb tiled floor" (New tiles were put down to match the encaustic/tessellated Victorian tiles). The broadest accolade however, was from inspector Jenny Greenhalgh, who described the pub as "an oasis of good beer, good taste and freedom from bouncers".

Other 1985 winners are the Harrier, a new Greene King pub in Peterborough which becomes the first ever winner in the New Pub category and the Howcroft, a Peter Walker pub in Bolton which wins a special award named after deceased ex-CAMRA Chairman, Joe Goodwin, and is for the best renovation of a good old fashioned street corner local.

See 'Pub in Focus' - page 3 and 'Drinker Comment' - page 2.



many others the **SWAN** at Draycott-in-the-Clay, an unspoilt local with gravity beers.

You can get this mine of information for only £4.95 from your local bookshop, or even your local landlord. Better still, put the "ale" in "wassail" and buy your granny a copy for Christmas; who knows, she might even let you borrow it occasionally ...

## BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarryKeg

### Bass Spring A Nasty Surprise

It happened in Staffordshire, so it was only a matter of time before it happened here. And now it has: Bass have withdrawn cask Springfield Bitter from the handful of pubs in the area that were selling it. In the **WHITE SWAN** in Spordon, for instance, you can now drink keg Worthington bitter as an alternative. No thank you. This leaves Bass with no (count 'em: zero) cask-conditioned ordinary bitters available in the area; is it too much to hope that cask Stones Bitter from Sheffield might now replace the keg version in a few outlets? On Bass's recent record, my guess would be yes, but I would be delighted to be proved wrong.

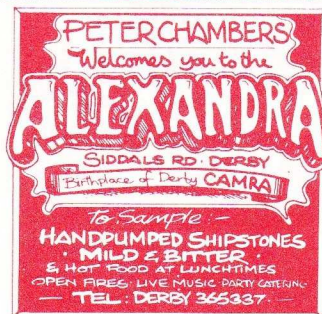
### Trad Ale Meets Trad Jazz

Good news for lovers of both the above: **BROWNE'S CLUB** on Stafford Street, Derby has Ind Coope Draught Burton Ale available on handpump ... one place where you don't have to be there just for the beer.

### FRANKLIN'S FAILS

Those of you who appreciated a glass or two of Franklin's Bitter at the last Derby Beer Festival will be sad to learn that the Harrogate brewery has ceased trading. Other mini-breweries featured at recent festivals have also gone to the wall: to name but two, Nailsea of Avon have sunk without trace, and Hereford of Lincolnshire are unlikely to wake again. It's the old, old problem: if there's not enough truly free trade in the area, the brewery's bound to go bust, good beers or not.

On a brighter note, the success of Banks & Taylor of Shefford, also featured at the last festival, demonstrates that if you can't beat 'em you'd better join 'em: they've just opened their sixth pub. "Other small breweries have problems ... Banks & Taylor have ideas!" say the owners.





# TAKEOVER MANIA — THE REAL THREAT

By Nick Meakin

The current round of brewery takeover battles is reaching dizzying intensity with the recent monster bid by Aussie brewers Elders IXL (of Fosters lager infamy) for Allied-Lyons, brewers of Ind Coope and many other famous real ales. While the stated aim of Elders' Chairman, John Elliott, is to concentrate on the group's brewing interests and sell off the remainder, CAMRA's greatest worry is that Elders' talk of "rationalisation" of Allied's regional breweries could lead to the loss of many of these well-known ales, to be replaced by uniform national brands.

Fifteen years ago, Watney's tried this approach and it was the threat of this Red Revolution which was largely instrumental in the formation of CAMRA to oppose this sort of corporate euthanasia. Watney's have long ago reversed this policy, of course, returning to the paths of reason and regional beers for regional tastes. Elders, with their asset-stripping ambitions, are threatening to start the bandwagon rolling again.

CAMRA recently held a seminar in London, attended by prominent figures from the brewing industry as well as real ale devotees, to discuss brewery takeovers. A proposal under discussion was the

formation of a Confederation of Independent Brewers, to fight the growing trend amongst large companies to snap up smaller rivals as a means of expanding their sales, at the expense of free competition and choice for the real ale drinker.

Recent bids, such as the one by Scottish and Newcastle for Lancashire brewers Matthew Brown, show that the accountants seem to be taking over and it will be the beer drinker who loses out. As we suggested in Derby Drinker No. 9, takeovers lead, almost inevitably, to the closure of regional breweries, as the giants seek to concentrate brewing at their largest plants, hit by falling production, owing to the poor Summer, higher prices from the Budget and rising costs.

If you feel as strongly as we do about the threat to your pint, why not take a few minutes to pen a few lines to your MP and let him know your views. You may be sure that, if just one or two of these bids succeeds, other major brewers will feel they have to fight back by going on the takeover trail once more.

And that's where we came in ...

## CAMRA Cheques in for Charity



Mayor of Derby, Councillor Harry Matthews toasts a £300 donation to his charity appeal, from the proceeds of the 1985 Beer Festival, in appropriate style.

Pictured with the Mayor in his parlour are, left to right, Beer Festival Chairman Mike Meara, Mayoress, Mrs. Irene Matthews, Festival Cellar Manager, Ivor Clissold and Derby CAMRA Chairman, David George.

Photograph courtesy of Roy Burton (Tel: Derby 652960)

## GRAMPIAN GALLUPS IT!

I suppose there wasn't much doubt that the Grampian regulars' tremendous fund-raising efforts would reap their just reward, and indeed that hard-working bunch are the winners of DERBY DRINKER's £10 award for the pub making the best charity fund-raising effort of the year.

And they've not done yet! On Sunday 22nd December they're running (if that's the word) a Christmas Pud Plod - it's like a Turkey Trot, but slower - which is a one-third marathon in aid of Radio Derby's appeal for a Child Care Unit in Derby. Their target is £1,000, and entry forms are available from the pub.

On the day there'll be a Chestnut Bar-B-Q, and in the evening a presentation night with celebrities from Radio Derby and White Rider (guitar vocal) providing the entertainment.

Other pubs are doing their bit too. In Spondon, the White Swan raised £64 by raffling a cuddly toy in aid of the National Institute for the Blind, and over £100 for the Scanner Appeal with a bottle collection.

We know you others must be doing similar things, but we'd like to know just what. Write in and tell us.

## The Old Lady of Railway Terrace

The next chapter of the Brunswick Hotel saga is taking some writing, an ironic situation for one of Derby's nobler buildings. It is one of the oldest purpose-built pubs in the land - designed to serve the World's first railway workers' estate as well as catering for the new breed of coach and horseless commercial travellers which the railways spawned.

Having been saved from the uninterest of Kimberley Brewery and the philistinism of the Council, it has been purchased and put in good order by the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust. Alas, their success with the rest of the estate has meant a lack of parking space, which has put prospective buyers off. It will be some years before the old railway buildings in the area become available for flattening, so the Trust is about to launch a marketing operation to sell it as a car park free boozer.

Although the Victoria closed recently the area is often described as over-pubbed but CAMRA believe there is room for a real piece of Victoriana selling a free range of ales which would attract trade to the area and consequently to other houses.

Ivor Clissold

## DRINKER Comment

### ELDERS

#### Unsuitable Foster Parents

Excuse me for mentioning the Spa again - but I, along with many others, am fortunate to be able to call it "my local". A once dowdy, unwelcoming pub has been transformed by Pete and Margaret Frame into a friendly, vibrant local - and selling good beer at that!

Without dictating colour scheme or choice of wallpaper, the brewery have been in agreement with the well-considered ideas of licensee and independent architect alike - Marstons take note - and have once again won a CAMRA national award.

The brewery in question is Ind Coope Burton Brewery, part of Allied Breweries, who are currently under threat of takeover from Australia's Elders IXL: think what that could mean.


The Australian view of a pub as an austere, male-dominated drinking den with the sale and consumption of alcohol as the single objective, overrides any thoughts of providing a social meeting place in pleasant surroundings.

Elders' ambitions could mean the end of Allied's regional breweries, such as Ind Coope Burton Brewery and their local beers as well as the end of a policy which recognises the importance of the customer.

The thought of what a Sydney corporate architect with no feel for British heritage would have done to the Spa sends shivers down my spine. The thought of what damage Elders could do to all the traditions of social drinking in Britain is horrific.

If you want to continue to drink traditional British beer in traditional British surroundings, join the fight - write to your MP, join CAMRA - BUT DO SOMETHING!

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# PUB IN FOCUS

## Ye Olde Spa Inne - Abbey Street

### RENEWED, RESTORED, RESPLENDENT ... - OR JUST RESPARRED?

One of the best things in recent years as far as Derby pubs are concerned has to be the splendid restoration of the Old Spa in Abbey Street.

Uniquely in this day of plastic and plasterboard, the Spa, or, more correctly "Ye Olde Spa Inne" is a model of tasteful and careful renovation, using the right materials, as befits a listed building that goes back to 17th June, 1759, according to the deeds.

The name derives from the fact that one Dr. Chauncey discovered a thermal spa in this area in 1733. The spa must have been close to the present pub, given the fact that 1852 maps still show the Spa as virtually the only building in the area, at a time when Abbey Street and its surroundings were nothing but open fields.

In 1858, the licence passed to a William Hollis and remained in that family, first as licensees, then as owners for at least fifty years, before its sale to Allsops.

As the Spa wasn't an inn in the correct sense, having no accommodation, its prosperity more likely derived from the fact that it brewed its own beer, in the once strong tradition of Derby home brew pubs. However, whereas most such establishments sold out to major brewers before the First World War, the family continued to brew up to 1932, the Hollis brew being well-remembered as a good quality mild. (Virtually all the home-brewed beers in Derby were mild ales.)

At the onset of the Second World War, the brewhouse was turned over by the licensee, Albert McLocklin, to a different purpose, namely a

By John Oliver King

boxing gymnasium, becoming the home of the Spa Boxing Club and the centre of professional boxing in Derby. The manager was Fred Harrison, who also ran a fish and chip shop in Abbey Street. The boxers of the day were well-known and ranged from Don Scott, a light heavyweight, to Tommy Sharp, a flyweight. Other names still remembered in boxing circles today were Alf Brailsford, Ken Davison, "Darkie" Sullivan, "Moggie" Bonser and Billy and Dennis Slaney.

The club left the Spa around 1946/7. However, during its time at Abbey Street it attracted a great deal of attention running exhibition bouts on a Sunday morning in the yard behind the pub. These free shows drew a good audience and no doubt swelled the lunchtime takings as well.

The licence then passed to Jim Webster, before it came into the hands of the Rawsons in 1954.

Sporting associations were renewed in 1968, when Derek Tranter, a former jockey, took over the licence.



**WHEN IT WASN'T QUITE SO OLDE:** We know that this photo of the Olde Spa dates from around the turn of the century, and our guess would be that all the bunting celebrates the coronation of Edward VII - a good boost for trade for Edward Hollis, who the signboard indicts was licensee at that time. The large building on the right, which rather spoils the view of the place, is of course now demolished. Does any reader have more information on the scene depicted here?

The sixties and seventies were a depressing time for trade in the area, with the demolition of many houses and the Spa suffered like other businesses. A bonus, however, was the demolition in 1978 of a large building that had obscured the view of the Spa from the street.

In July 1983, the present landlord, Peter Frame, arrived and, shortly after, work began on restoring the fabric of the building, under the guidance of architect Keith Roberts.

Like the area in which it is situated, the Spa is being renewed. The first phase was completed in December 1984 but more is to follow. It is a magnificent example of the reversal of urban decay that is a credit to Derby.

## FULL OF EASTERN THREAT

Japanese researchers at the Kirin Brewery Co, Tokyo say they have produced the technology to reduce beer fermentation time from eight days to one. Yeast cells are suspended in small globules of gel made from calcium alginate. These 'beads' are retained in a series of wire baskets and suspended in a fermentation column. The wort is slowly fed into the base, fermented by the yeast and drawn off the top of the column.

Past attempts at this process always fell foul of two nasty tasting by-products but the researchers believe they have found the way to eliminate them.

The new plant ran for twelve days continuously and resulted in a beer of a 'mild, smooth, light and refreshing' quality with alcohol content similar to proper beer. Production will commence soon so watch out for Burton Bledge over the Liver Kwai.

Ivor Clissold

## Fetherlite Ale?

We are assured that the following story is true:

A dedicated real ale fan, on a pub crawl with some keg-drinking mates was dragged against his will into one of these new "fun pubs". It being his round, he ordered pints of the house fizz for his friends while he desperately scanned the shelves for something he could drink with a clear conscience. Spying some bottles of Worthington's famous naturally conditioned ale, he asked the barmaid if he might purchase a White Shield. Blushing prettily, she leant forward and whispered, "I think they're in a machine in the gents, sir".

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DRAUGHT PEDIGREE MARSTONS ALES  
HOT & COLD SNACKS  
LARGE CAR PARK

## Come and Join Us - ONLY £7.00

It may come as a bit of a surprise, but CAMRA membership is steadily increasing. This is in spite of the fact that many people feel that the campaign is won. After all, pubs that don't serve the real thing are in the minority.

But there are two good reasons for joining. First, CAMRA really can be fun. Derby Branch meetings are lively and unstuffy; Derby

Branch socials are likewise. Second there are still jobs to be done and campaigns to be fought. Would you like to help run the Beer Festival? Do you care about the way certain beers have changed? Are you concerned about take-overs, prices or traditional pubs?

If so, please join us - find out more at one of the socials and meetings shown on the back page.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose a cheque/postal order (payable to CAMRA Ltd) for membership

Signed .....

Send to 'Membership', CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts.



## BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarrykeg

### Money For Art's Sake?

In stark contrast to Ind Coope's selling policy, Bass have been undertaking what could turn out to be a major programme of pub refurbishments, recent examples being the **HALF MOON**, Burton Road, Littleover; **PLOUGH INN**, Town Street, Sandiacre; **MOUNT PLEASANT**, Repton and the **GREEN MAN**, St. Peter's Street, Derby.

All credit to the brewery for ploughing some of its profits back into the licensed trade - but it is to be hoped that the 1920's/30's art deco style, which has dominated some of these refurbishments, is not going to become a trend - Bass seem to be reducing the choice of their cask beers available in the area, and it would be a great pity if the range of pub interiors went the same way.

### Ind Coope Selling Spree (Pt 310)

The **COLLIERS ARMS** in Kilburn has become the latest in an ever-growing line of keg-pub disposals, and an unconfirmed rumour has it that the eventual disposals in the Ind Coope tied estate will amount to around 40 pubs in the Midlands region.

### HELLO, GOODBYE

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new landlords and landladies in the area: Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Kelly, the new proprietors of the **NEW INN**, Repton; John and Dorrie Bryden at the **DUKE OF YORK**, Burton Road, Derby; Barrie and Sheila Osborne at the **MOUNT PLEASANT INN**, Repton; and Don Matthews who has taken over the reins at the **THORN TREE INN**, Belper. Welcome to you all.

Finally a fond farewell to Mrs. Phyllis Stubbs, landlady for the past 25 years at the **WHITE LION HOTEL**, Ashbourne, who is retiring from the trade once the hotel is sold.

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## REV



Further information and details on all aspects of Derby CAMRA and the Campaign for Real Ale can be had from any of the following local contacts: Chairman: **DERBY DRINKER** editor: David George, 1 Lower Eley Street, Derby. (Tel. Derby 32762). Secretary: Colston Crawford, 1 Hill Brow, Derby. (Tel. Derby 369933). MILD & BITTER editor: Mike Misra, 61 Borrowash Road, Spondon, Derby. (Tel. Derby 43497).

Opinions expressed in **DERBY DRINKER** are not necessarily those of the Editor, nor of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

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## PINTS FULL OF CHARACTER

### A Night's Real Ale To Be Won!

The surnames of the twelve famous people listed below also happen to be the names of twelve real ale breweries. What a coincidence, eh? All you have to do is identify at least ten of them from the clues given. The sender of the first correct entry out of the hat will win a night's worth of real ale in the Derby area pub of their choice:

1. HAROLD ..... (6 letters)  
(Your premier pipe-dream)
2. ALFIE ..... (4 letters)  
(Bootsie played the violin upstairs)
3. JEKYLL & ..... (4 letters)  
(The bad side of a good pint)
4. JAYNE ..... (9 letters)  
(Blonde bombshell from North Notts.)
5. ALEC ..... (8 letters)  
(Good for you if he doesn't lose his bottle)
6. GORDON ..... (5 letters)  
(Kept a good account as England's number one)
7. LAWRENCE ..... (6 letters)  
(Space above for this chap)
8. PAT ..... (8 letters)  
(The big fellow spurred on to Mexico)
9. ROBERT ..... (6 letters)  
(Thank Christ for the 39 steps!)

10. DEREK ..... (7 letters)  
(Will his beer give you the runs?)
11. .... TWINS (8 Letters)  
(Three's a crowd in pop)
12. MRS. .... (8 letters)  
(here's to you!)

Answers on a postcard with your name and address and the pub where you picked up your **DERBY DRINKER** to: Derby Drinker, 1 Lower Eley Street, Derby, DE1 1PY by the end of January. Derby Branch Committee members, editorial staff and their families may not enter (even if their grannies don't help them with the answers).

Good luck!

### "E" MISSES OUT

A bumper crop of entries for the last competition resulted in a quarter of you getting it wrong! Most of you missed the E off the end of Greene King. Take more care next time! The answers were:

- 1) Ind Coope
- 2) Marstons
- 3) Kimberley
- 4) Shipstones
- 5) Everards
- 6) Theakstons
- 7) Davenport's
- 8) Robinsons
- 9) Whitbread
- 10) Greene King

Winner of the anagram competition is John Barlass of Leycote Way, Belper, who will be drinking his prize at the Grapes, Belper.

another pint (or three) ... it's hell, I tell you.

Anyway, Mike Dilley at the **White Hart** tells me the line-up for the next couple of months is Gary and Vera Aspey on Dec. 15th, "Five go off in a caravan" on Jan 19th, Jon Betts and Bill Zorn on Feb 16th and on March 16th, the Oyster Band. Tickets are available from the White Hart at £2 each, start 7.30 pm.

### A Whole New Dimension

Derby's latest night-spot, is not for the cheapskate! Our scout popped into the Fifth Dimension when he found out that the lagerade there was £1.40 a pint! Perhaps that's how they keep the admission charge so low - £5! There was a cabaret, though - a fire-eater with a python. At those prices, there was no danger of the entertainer getting fuddled, swallowing the python and setting fire to himself. Although lager is very good for dousing people ...

Is this really what pub entertainment is all about? Let us know what's going on in your local.

REG & VI

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## DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings. For more information about these events phone Social Secretary John Popika on Derby 551293.

### Tuesday Socials - 9.15pm

**17th December** - Green Dragon, Willington (Ind Coope); **24th December** - Duke of Clarence, Mansfield Road, Derby (Hardys & Hansons); **31st December** - Shakespeare, Sadlergate, Derby (Ind Coope); **7th January** - Windmill, Hill Top, Breadsall (Bass); **14th January** - Old Silk Mill, Full Street, Derby (Whitbread); **21st January** - Panther, Oaklands Avenue, Littleover (Ind Coope); **28th January** - Rose & Crown, Chellaston (Marston); **4th February** - Moon, Station Road, Spondon, (Bass); **11th February** - Abbey, Darley Abbey (Free).

(Note that the Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve socials are lunch-time socials, starting at 12.30pm.)

### Branch Meetings - 8pm

**Thursday 9th January** - Duke of York, Burton Road, Derby (Ind Coope); **Thursday 13th February** - AGM at Bridge Inn, Shelton Lock, Derby (Marston)

### All Welcome!

**The Bell & Castle INN**

BURTON RD. DERBY

+ DRAUGHT Bass

HOT & COLD SNACKS

AT LUNCHTIME

## BY ROB