

Derby Drinker

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Campaign
CAMRA
for Real Ale

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 17

CHRISTMAS '86/NEW YEAR '87

FREE

ALFRETON'S CHRISTMAS BEER CHEER!



Following nine very successful years of the Derby Beer Festival, the local branch of CAMRA's latest venture is a beer festival in Alfreton, at the Leisure Centre on Church Street (see map, page 2). The date to note: Saturday December 6th.

The organisers plan to feature about 20 different beers, concentrating on famous names not locally available, such as Greene King Abbot Ale, Courage Directors' Bitter, Taylor's Landlord, Theakston Old Peculier, and famous

Black Country beers like Ma Pardoe's and Holden's Special.

In addition there'll be some local beers which are not as widely available as they should be, like Four XXXX from Mansfield and John Smith's new draught bitter. Real draught cider will also be available.

There'll be live entertainment at both sessions: at lunchtime we have the contemporary folk sound of Culpepper, and it's umph in the evening with the Wunderschon Schunkel Umph Band.

Glass collectors should note that the special souvenir tankard is expected to be in great demand, since it's a small production run.

You'll be able to get something to eat to soak up the ale, and you can do your Christmas shopping for the 1987 Good Beer Guide and other items at the sales stall.

Why not start your Christmas celebrations with CAMRA?

Footlights Fun and Games

Over 100 people joined CAMRA at the Beer Festival this year, proving, if proof were needed, that there's still work to be done in promoting the cause of real ale. The Derby branch of CAMRA is renowned nationally as being one of the most active, least stuffy and political and generally one of the most fun to be involved with.

We'd like to see a lot more of you at our regular functions and meetings; you don't have to join CAMRA to come along, though you may be swayed once you've seen us at work - and at play.

Talking of which, on Friday, 19th December at The Crown, Nottingham Road, Spondon, we're holding our usual Christmas Social and Party. There will be entertainment from our tame bunch of loonies, The University of Spondon Footlights Club with their side-splitting

revue, music from Monty's music shop, a few snacks and lots of lovely real ale. Tickets for this extravaganza are only 50p and can be obtained from Pat Meara (Tel: 663332) or from any committee member at one of our socials or meetings.

So do come along and see what we get up to; we're quite nice, really and we don't bite. And if you're one of the 100 new members, you'll be especially welcome.

See the CAMRA Diary on the back page for details of our meetings.

BEST OF 57!

Nicely in time for Christmas - that's the fourteenth edition of CAMRA's National Good Beer Guide. Of the 57 commercial pub guides currently available in the UK, this is the only one surveyed by a team of independent volunteers who actually know and live in the areas they survey. It's also the only one which concentrates on beer quality as the criterion for selection. And of course, in our totally unbiased opinion it's the only one you should consider buying.

It's not just a catalogue of 5,000-plus good bets for a better pint. There's also a complete guide to Britain's breweries, large and small (Q: Who brews a beer called Willie Warmer? A: see below) and a selection of entertaining yet hard-hitting articles on topics the big brewers would rather we didn't talk about: what's really in your pint; the perfect pub and why it's so difficult to find; the sad saga of our lost bottles.

All this and much more for just £4.95: how can you resist? Don't wait hopefully for Christmas morning - get your copy now.

(A: Crouch Vale of Woodham Ferrers, Essex. The O.G. 1060.)



Christmas Guests

The Sir Francis Burdett at Melbourne is putting on an extravaganza of real ale over the Christmas period. Twelve different guest beers including Burton Bridge, Old Expensive, Hook Norton Old Hookey, Wadworth 6X, Adnams Bitter, Litchborough Bitter and Greene King Abbot Ale will be on sale.

THE
CLIFF INN
CRICH,
DERBYSHIRE
Tel.
Ambergate
2444
(Kimberley ALES)
Roy & Beryl Calladine

BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarryKeg

Ind Coope Selling Spree (Pt 311½)

The future of yet another Ind Coope pub now looks extremely uncertain. The Wheatheaf, a keg beer only pub in Wirksworth, which has been closed for some time, has now been put on the market for £65,000. It is understood that an as yet undisclosed supermarket chain may still be interested in acquiring the premises and converting it into a store. Also currently on the market is a free house, Derby's controversial 'Abbey' at Darley Abbey, which was recently refused planning permission for a beer garden. Offers are required of at least £195,000.

Pub Alterations

Additional car parking space should soon be available at the Old Spa Inn, Abbey Street, Derby where planning permission has been applied for the demolition of outbuildings. Of greater concern is the application for internal alterations at the Seven Stars, King Street, Derby - it is to be hoped that this will not affect the character of one of Derby's oldest and more interesting pubs.

Wards on the increase and more Booze Nooze

The outlets for Wards bitter are again on the increase in Derby. It is now available at Boaters restaurant on Friargate, where you can pop in and sample this Sheffield brew without having a restaurant meal, and it is also understood that the Babington tea rooms have applied for an on-licence with the intention of taking Wards.

Also the Dolphin Inn on Queen Street is now selling M & B mild on electric dispense and John Smiths bitter has replaced Mansfield Four XXXX at the Kestrel, Ripley. Whilst on the Bass front, the James Wyatt at Alvaston is no longer selling Draught Bass, but the New Flower Pot on King Street, Derby may be having it in future - watch this space for further developments.

The Sir Francis Burdett Inn
Derby Road, Melbourne.



BASS-THEAKSTON'S-RIDDLES
PLUS GUEST BEERS



Beer Guide Launch Row

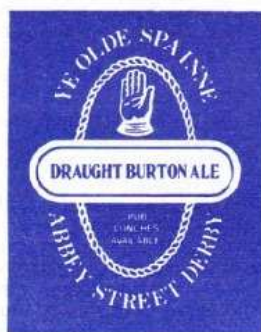
The new, 1987 GOOD BEER GUIDE, published by CAMRA, has already stirred up quite a bit of controversy, even before its launch. Editor Neil Hanson chose as his target for his usual campaigning editorial the additives that brewers put into beer.

Items such as head stabilisers and colouring, sulphur dioxide and lead, as well as a number of other things they don't tell you about, are to be found in many beers, claims Hanson. He is pressing for a list of ingredients to be displayed on beer containers. He cites the fact that many foreign countries ban the import of British beer, ostensibly because of the additives which are often used.

The Brewer's Society sees no cause for alarm, however, stating that things such as lead occur naturally in the ingredients used and are not put there by the brewing process. They also state that, as brewing changes the chemical nature of the ingredients, what would you put on such a list - what went in or what came out?

SUPERSTORE SUPPING STOP

Bass are intending to build a new pub in Spondon, and have now applied for outline planning permission to build near the Asda superstore. It could be quite an inducement for reluctant males to accompany their better halves on a late night shopping expedition.



Ye Olde Spa Inne

Lunches Mon - Sat inc.
Children's Room

Enjoy Ind Coope's
Traditional Ales in a
convivial atmosphere

A BURTON BREWERY HOUSE
PROUD OF BEING BETTER

ALFRETON ALE GUIDE



- 1. BLUE BELL**
High Street
Bass (E)
Small old modernised town pub with friendly bar staff.
- 2. DEVONSHIRE ARMS**
King Street
Shipstone Mild, Bitter (E)
Typical town local with plain bar and spacious, comfortable lounge.
- 3. GATE INN**
Nottingham Road
Home Mild, Bitter (E)
Basic town local.
- 4. KING ALFRED HOTEL**
High Street
Home Mild, Bitter (E)
Spacious residential hotel that still retains a touch of former grandeur, hinted at in wooden panelling and interesting decorations.
- 5. ROBIN HOOD**
Nottingham Road
Hardys & Hansons Mild, Bitter (E)
Small old local, well-preserved and friendly. Skittle alley in garden.
- 6. SWAN & SALMON**
Derby Road
John Smith Bitter (H)
Modern pub with front and back lounges. Very popular at lunch-times.
- 7. VICTORIA INN**
Nottingham Road
Ind Coope Bitter (H)
Small cosy lounge and small bar. Old stables at rear converted into pool room.
- 8. WAGON & HORSES**
King Street
Hardys & Hansons Bitter (E)
Old, modernised town local with attractive exterior. One-room interior with mock beams.

MORE NEW PUBS

Licences have now been applied for a new pub at the District Centre, Broadmeadows, South Normanton, Alfington and also for a new bar and restaurant at the Clock Warehouse, Shardlow - more details when available.

HOME ALES - watch for price rises!

Now that the OFT have, as expected, cleared Scottish and Newcastle's 1120m takeover of Home Ales, prices are expected to rise - according to a report entitled 'Save our Breweries' which was presented to the OFT by CAMRA in September.

CAMRA price surveys over a number of years have consistently found Home to be one of the cheapest breweries in Britain and rents paid by Home tenants are widely regarded as being below the industry average. With Greenall Whitley owning Shipstones; Nottingham is viewed as being under the threat of a national brewers cartel.

Scottish and Newcastle's promised "retailing skills" would undoubtedly involve costly advertising - another cost to be covered - and it is feared that the larger, high turnover Home pubs will become less of the traditional local and more of a "profit centre". Closure among the 100 Home houses selling less than five barrels a week are also feared.

JUST SAY NO

Convictions for drink-driving offences soared last year to 107,000, double the number 10 years ago, according to the Department of Transport's "Statistics 1975-1985", published recently by HMSO. Last year, over 250,000 motorists were tested.

A sobering thought, with the party season upon us. Leave the car at home and get a taxi, or organise a rota with your friends so that one person drives but doesn't drink. You know it makes sense.



DRINKER Comment

HARD TO SWALLOW?

By Our Medical
Correspondant
- Dickie Hart

It seems you can't do anything these days without it being bad for your health. Once again, the British medical profession has turned its guns on the demon drink, citing it as a major cause of heart disease, kidney failure, problems at work or marital break-ups through alcoholism and, for all I know, Dutch Elm Disease and terminal flatulence.

One and a half pints a day, say the BMA, keeps the doctor away. The trouble with all these reports nowadays is our obsession with lists and statistics. Probably the media carries some of the blame for this, as everything is neatly packaged and pigeonholed in statistical terms. It's like saying that eight out of ten cat owners prefer Whiskas; it just depends which ten owners you pick.

Likewise, if the BMA say "One and a half pints a day is OK," some people might actually INCREASE the amount they drink, just because they think it must be all right if the BMA says so. One and a half pints a day is ten and a half pints a week. Does that mean if you only go out on a Friday night, it's safe to drink ten and a half pints?

We at CAMRA feel that reducing everything to statistics is the wrong approach. We are right with the BMA on acknowledging that over-indulgence brings its problems, but feel that most people are intelligent enough to indulge in moderate social drinking without having to keep a checklist. Those that aren't are unlikely to be influenced by these kind of reports anyway.

Me? I'm looking forward to a week next Thursday, when the BMA say it's OK for me to have another drink.



GONE FOR A BURTON

Ind Coope Burton Brewery's estate of tenanted and managed pubs, set up as an experiment under the direct control of the brewery marketing department, to try to give a little individuality to a local cross-section of Allied Breweries hostilities, is to be transferred, to come under the management of the Ind Coope and Allsopps arm of the giant brewing combine.

Landlords of the pubs affected voiced their disapproval of the move at a meeting called by the brewery after the decision had been taken. They are worried at the prospect of being re-absorbed into what they see as the anonymity of Allied's tied estate.

Ind Coope Burton Brewery, with its motto, "Proud of being better", had achieved a remarkable reputation in its relatively short existence, most notably in the field of pub refurbishments. Its tasteful treatments of traditional inn decor culminated in the award of Best Pub Refurbishment in Britain to the Olde Spa Inne on Abbey Street, while the Brick and Tile has been put forward for this year's awards.

Area Manager, Bob Thorne, widely praised by CAMRA as the man behind these successes, has taken redundancy.

Ferret Unmasked

All right, we admit it; Doris, the mild-drinking ferret of the last issue was a figment of our warped imagination. It had a few of you fooled, though, we even got a phone call from a certain local evening newspaper, wanting to know if they could take a picture of Doris and her supposed owner Tim Webb!

We have to come clean; we succumbed to the temptation of an in-joke. Tim Webb is an official of CAMRA National H.Q. who edits a publication called "Omnibus", which is a compilation of the best bits from CAMRA regional newsletters. The ferret joke was us having a dig at him over something he wrote in a recent issue. We are sorry. (Tee hee) No, really, we are.

Landlords feel they have been let down by the brewery over what had proved to be a most popular move, towards a smaller trading unit with its own identity. Many feel that with a little more publicity and possibly a beer sold exclusively through ICBB outlets there would have been a strong argument for retaining the separate identity.

They are not convinced by the brewery's assurances that the name Ind Coope Burton Brewery will continue to be developed as a pub brand by Ind Coope and Allsopp.

ELDERS TAKE COURAGE

Elders IXL, the giant Australian brewing concern, finally bounced into the British brewing industry in September by buying Courage from Hanson Trust for £1.4 billion, just as we suggested they might in the last issue of Derby Drinker (swank, swank).

This means that the Elders bid for Allied-Lyons (Ind Coope to you) lapses and Elders' Fosters lager brand will probably become available in Courage pubs under a joint distribution arrangement with Watneys, who currently fill the tinnies with it under licence.

Let us hope that Mr John Elliot, Elders' ebullient chief executive, stands by his pledge, made to CAMRA's AGM this Spring, that he intends to develop the sale of traditional beers.

ALFRETON BEER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 1986

AT THE

ALFRETON LEISURE CENTRE
CHURCH ST., ALFRETON

11.00 - 2.00 LUNCH, 6.30 - 10.30 EVENING

20 REAL ALES - SOUVENIR GLASSES - CIDER
CULPEPPER - UMPAH BAND - SWORD DANCERS

PUB ENTERTAINMENT By F. Sharp

With the current mania for Trivial Pursuit, it is perhaps not surprising that there has been a tremendous surge in the popularity of pub quizzes in recent months. There is a thriving pub quiz league in Derbyshire, run by a committee independent of any brewery or other body and any pub may enter a team for the season, which runs from October to April.

Each Wednesday night, pubs all over the county are full of the sound of grating cog wheels, as rusty I.Q.'s grind into action to answer questions which range from the simplest to those which would leave Magnus Magnusson floundering. An element of the Krypton Factor's fitness test creeps in too; can you still remember who wrote "Death in Venice" after 3 pints of Bitter? (Why should anyone want

to write "Death in Venice" after three pints of bitter? - ed.)

It's all good fun but that doesn't mean it's not taken seriously; team managers agonise over who to pick for which match, (John's good on sport and pop music but he's a dead loss on current affairs and literature...) heated exchanges are common over a disputed point or the not infrequent wrong answer on the question sheet and "needle" matches are prepared for like internationals.

So, if your pub is one of the 60 or so in the league, pop along on a Wednesday night and support them. As most teams operate a "pool" system of players, you may get a game from time to time. If your local is an Ind Coope pub, persuade your landlord to enter a team in the Ind Coope Knockout Trophy, starting after Christmas. This culminates in a grand final at the brewery in the Spring.

Who knows - your pub could contain the next Boozebrain of Britain!

Join CAMRA today! Join the 'INN' Crowd

CAMRA membership is steadily increasing - 108 new members at the Beer Festival joined the campaign to fight brewery takeovers, preserve our traditional pubs and beers and enjoy ourselves.

Our meetings are lively and informal, as are our much varied socials and coach trips and we need all the help we can get to run the Beer Festival, distribute Derby Drinker and survey pubs. Needless to say, most of our activities involve the consumption of traditional beers so if you would like to join us or find out more about CAMRA see us at one of the meetings or socials shown on the back page.

Spit
Roast
Chicken



Fresh, tender, 1/2 chickens, spit roast to perfection. £1.95 to eat in or take away.

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JOIN CAMRA NOW



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

Full/Husband & Wife Membership for one year £9.00

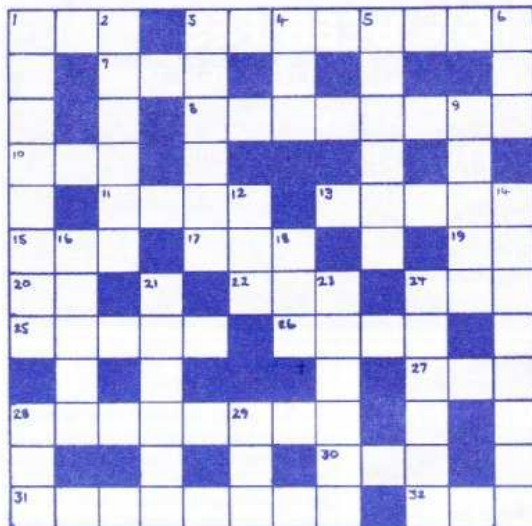
or

Full/H & W overseas membership for one year £12.00

* Delete as appropriate.

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) with this completed Application Form to: Tim Williams, 39 Breedon Hill Road, Derby.

PRIZE CROSSWORD — WIN A FIVER



ACROSS (Cont.)

20. and 22. Don't gimme this and you won't be 3. across (2,3)
 24. Peculiar poetic peculiar (3)
 25. A beach: glorious and yellow, innit? (5)
 26. This is not it (4)
 27. Male chauvinist road-user (3)
 28. Soda nuts? This amazes (8)
 30. Carol-singing nobleman passes test: a bit thick eh? (3)
 31. Mixed-up sister in long-distance projectiles (8)
 32. Help! This is the long and the short of it (3)

DOWN

1. Brewers with breeding (8)
 2. Looks like curtains for copycat doctor (6)
 3. A little devilish (6)
 4. She's taking legal action (3)
 5. Chinese baritone is not winning (6)
 6. Used in five-a-side footy (3)
 9. Quick (especially in a river) (5)
 12. Achilles had a weakness for this fish (3)
 14. Little Reginald upset in turbulent French river (8)
 16. Interesting arrangements at Banks's houses (5)
 18. Oxfordshire town without its French Marshal sounds funny (3)
 21. Do I sit around these fools? (5)
 23. Arrangements of lunar shapes (6)
 24. He rots around the topless matrons (6)
 28. A good one is essential for success in 13 across (3)
 29. Three-quarters of a river amounts to nothing (3)

ACROSS

1. Glorious, but in your eye? (3)
 3. Wet end for cheeky Cows (8)
 7. An odd drink (3)
 8. Delight to be found in pure ales (8)
 10. Drink delicately (3)
 11. With which you should complete this crossword (4)
 13. Shoot at this bird (5)
 15. The original Rodger (3)
 17. Sounds like a Welsh lumberjack (3)
 19. Ni (anag.) (2)

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 PEDIGREE - MESSIE MONK & CAPITAL
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Stuart & Karen
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 BRICK ST. DERBY
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 TRADITIONAL ALE
 HOT & COLD FOOD CONVIVIAL ATMOSPHERE

Caption Winner - £5



"Guy says he doesn't give a Fawkes (4XXXX) what's in the barrels, but reckons it's strong enough to blow your head off."

Send your completed entry, together with your name and address and the pub where you picked up your Derby Drinker, to: **DERBY DRINKER CROSSWORD**, 33 Sedgefield Green, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 5TH. Closing date for entries is 16th January 1987.

A whole sackful (well, at least five) of entries for this competition, and Graham Mitchell of Sheffield Place, Derby was an obvious winner - £5 is on its way Graham.

Eagle-eyed Steve Wright of Oakwood spotted the source of our cartoon - the Autumn 1979 issue of Notts and Derby Drinker - and reminded us of the original caption: "He's right, Captain. It's not gunpowder, it's Shippo's Bitter".

Nottingham CAMRA have repaid the compliment by "pinching" our "Lager Con" article and cartoon of several issues ago.

DON'T DRINK & DRIVE!

DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings. For more information about these events phone Social Secretary Pat Meara on Derby 663332.

TUESDAY SOCIALS - 9.15pm

25th November - Hardinge Arms, Kings Newton (Free); **2nd December** - Strutts (formerly Trinian's), London Road, Derby (Mansfield); **9th December** - Robin Hood, Nottingham Road, Alfreton (Hardys & Hansons); **16th December** - Chestnut Tree, Portland Street, Derby (Ind Coope); **23rd December** - Green Man, St. Peter's Church Yard, Derby (Bass); **30th December** - Golden Eagle, Agard Street, Derby (Free); **6th January** - Cricketers, The Flat, Kilburn, (Free); **13th January** - New Inn, Duffield Road, Little Eaton (Marston); **20th January** - Wardwick Tavern, Wardwick, Derby (Ind Coope).

BRANCH MEETINGS - 8.00pm

Wednesday 3rd December - Gas Board Social Club, Ashbourne Road, Derby (Marston); **Thursday January 8th** - White Horse, The Morledge, Derby (Ind Coope).

EVENTS

Saturday 6th December - Alfreton Beer Festival, Alfreton Leisure Centre, Church Street.

THE COCK INN, MUGGINTON

In Derby Drinker 16 we said that the Cock Inn at Mugginton was for sale. The Cock Inn is not (and was not) for sale and we apologise for any inconvenience or embarrassment caused. In future we will not print any unconfirmed items concerning pub sales or closures.

The DUKE OF YORK
 BURTON RD DERBY
 DRAUGHT BEERS
 BURTON & IND COOPE
 LUNCHES MON-SAT
 TELEPHONE 44792



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: David George, 40 Weston Park Gardens, Shelton Lock, Derby, DE2 9EU. (Tel: Derby 701554). MILD & BITTER Editor: Mike Meara, 61 Borrowash Road, Spondon, Derby. (Tel: Derby 663332).

Artwork by Rob Gilvery, 130 Green Lane, Derby. (Tel: Derby 43497).

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

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