



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No.22

CHRISTMAS '87/NEW YEAR '88

FREE

RIDING INTO TOWN

Mansfield Brewery have revived and relaunched Riding Bitter in some 40 of their 320 pubs.

This beer originally marked the return to real ale of North Country Breweries (formerly Hull Brewery) when it first appeared in 1982. The brew had mixed fortunes, partly due to the inconsistent quality from the brewery, and partly to lack of expertise amongst licensees.

When Mansfield took over and closed North Country in 1985, the beer disappeared, but happily this absence has proved to be only temporary. Our information is that

the beer has been well received, and sales are good despite the lack of publicity accompanying the launch.

We have also heard a rumour that Mansfield are considering brewing a cask Mild. If this turns out to be well-founded, it will complete a remarkable turnaround in attitude of a brewery which abandoned real ale altogether in the early 1970's.

You can try the beer for yourself at the Crown & Cushion on London Road (see Rail Ale Trail) and also just up the road at Strutts, where it is accompanied by Old Bailey Bitter (formerly Four XXXX). Out of town, try the Nag's Head in Belper or the Miners Arms, Pinxton.

Preserve Our Pubs

CAMRA's Pub Preservation Group has scored a notable success in York, following a meeting with the city's licensing magistrates.

The PPG had identified just twelve pubs, out of 150 in the city, which were as yet untouched by the breweries' obsession with catering for the 18-25 age group.

Though the magistrates deny any official policy preventing the conversion of these Tudor exterior properties into trendy watering holes, Chairman Dr. Alf Peacock said his members would take into account what they had been told by the PPG, and would be taking every new pub alteration on its merits.

Indications are that these few remaining historic pubs could be under unofficial conservation orders in future.

It would be nice to think that we could achieve a similar success locally, in keeping a few pubs for the "forgotten" drinkers over 25. If you have any suggestions for worthy pubs, let us know and we'll see what can be done.



BLAND ON THE RUN?

Regrettably not, concludes CAMRA National Executive member Mark Taylor.

When the first issue of the (then) Notts & Derby Drinker appeared at the end of 1976, the major problem facing the Campaign for Real Ale was the limited availability of cask-conditioned beer. Now, 11 years on, around three-quarters of the County's hosteleries sell the real thing; however, much of it is bland and unexciting, to say the least.

Some beers that have always been available in cask-conditioned form have deteriorated in quality over recent years, and others which are new names (or revivals of old names) have been thin and tasteless since they first appeared. This is not the whole story, however. Too many licensees these days do not give their beer time to mature in the cellar. I know that many breweries now operate direct debiting schemes with their tenants, and others do not give six weeks' credit on accounts as they



Licensee, Trevor Harris, Mayor, Councillor Nancy Wawman and her husband share a joke at the official opening of the Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace in October. For full story see 'Brunswick Back on the Rails' on page 2.

did heretofore, thus putting financial pressure on licensees to sell the beer as soon as they can after delivery.

I believe that the best ale is sold in those pubs where the licensee gives his beers a full week to condition after they have undergone their settling and secondary fermentation period. The fact that a beer is clear and bright does not necessarily mean that it is good beer: good beer also has taste.

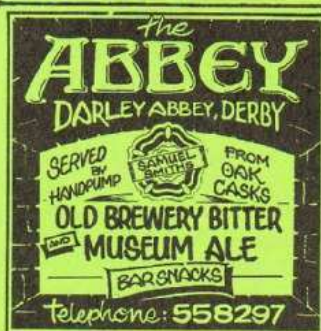
There is no mystery about the art of brewing and serving flavoursome beer: top quality ingredients, skill and attention to detail at the brewing stage, and competence, care and cleanliness on behalf of the licensee when the beer arrives in his cellar, are all that are necessary.

It is the brewer's responsibility to ensure that the individual licensee has the necessary expertise to do the job properly, and also to supply the licensee with a decent product in the first instance.

I sometimes wonder if we would be better off going back to the old days when the small proportion of licensees selling real ale served a good pint because they believed in cask-conditioned beer, and were pleased to demonstrate their skills of cellarman ship.

Mike Meara

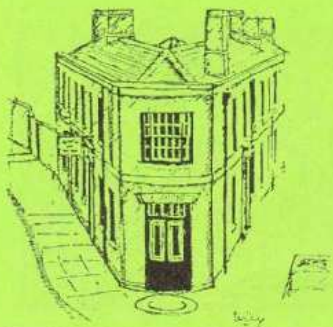
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Draught Burton Ale
jugged from the cask
Tetley and Ansells
Bitter

Meals from around £1.50
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BRUNSWICK BACK ON THE RAILS

By David George and Nick Meakin

On Saturday, October 3rd, nine years after being condemned to demolition and 145 years to the day after Mr. Harvey Lane, the first landlord, opened for business in 1842, The Brunswick Inn was set back on the rails of Derby's history by the Mayor, Cllr. Mrs Nancy Wawman, when she pulled the ceremonial opening pint.

The event, attended by local dignitaries, brewery officials, members of the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust and Derby CAMRA, marked the successful culmination of years of work to see the first railway pub in the World restored to its former glory.

Originally built to serve the adjacent Railway Cottages and their Railway worker tenants, as well as providing lodging for the many commercial travellers arriving in Derby before the days of the Cavalier or Sierra, the pub has seen generations of history pass by or over its doorstep.

130 years on, however, the railway workers had moved out to the suburbs and the cottages and surrounding area had deteriorated. The pub could no longer make ends meet and was forced to close.

RESCUE PLAN

That might have been the end of the story but for the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust, which stepped in with an ambitious plan to refurbish the cottages and the pub. The much sought-after restored cottages were quickly sold, but the pub proved a sticking point, with the lack of a car park and the high cost of refitting the interior soon dampening the ardour of the many breweries who looked at it in the early days.

As time passed, despite the best efforts of the Trust and Derby CAMRA to find a buyer, things once more looked bleak for the Brunswick. Alternative schemes for converting the pub to offices or shops were reluctantly considered, though the Trust still nursed the ambition to see it re-open as a hostel.

SAVED AT THE LAST MINUTE

Finally, in May this year, after some last-minute negotiations, the Brunswick's future was sealed, with the purchase of the building by The Brunswick Inn Ltd., a company set up by licensee Trevor Harris and John Evans, a local builder.

Throughout the summer, work has been in progress to restore the interior and on October 3rd, early arrivals for the opening ceremony were greeted by a very tired Trevor Harris and a barely-awake John Evans, who had been up all the previous night, putting the finishing touches to the decor.

The pub is decorated throughout in Victorian style, with hand-grained wood effects on all the panelling and skirting boards, as would have been the case originally. (Even the radiators have been painted in wood-grain, to camouflage their presence!) The original stone floor has been retained in the bar area and the curiously-shaped end room has been comfortably fitted out as a family lounge.

The staircase from the passage leads up to an impressive function room, where guests at the opening were treated to a lavish buffet, indicative of what Trevor hopes will be a regular feature of the pub, once the kitchens are fully in operation, providing traditional pub food at lunchtime and catering for functions. Trevor plans to have darts, dominoes and cribbage on a regular basis and has already imported the championship-winning Quiz team from his former pub, the Vine, Mickleover. Five or six traditional ales, from all over the country, are planned to be available. Currently, Bass and Hook Norton constitute the "regular" bitters, with others being changed weekly.

BIG STEP FORWARD

For the disconcerting drinker, this represents a tremendous boost for real ale in Derby. The Brunswick now forms the core of a very nice little evening out in the station area, with several other pubs within a couple of hundred yards, all serving at least one traditional beer. The lack of a car park should prove to be little problem, as we certainly wouldn't recommend driving after sampling the delights these hostels have to offer!

Hopefully, the area will become a mecca for drinkers driven out of the city centre at weekends by the rowdism which now prevails in the teenage fun-drinkeries and make the Brunswick the success it deserves to be. We at Derby Drinker will certainly be giving it our support.*

(* Polite euphemism for propping up the bar!)

DONT DRIVE DRUNK

BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarryKeg

BARNES TAKES A CORNER

John Barnes, the extrovert White Horse licensee (not he of Liverpool and England fame), is to take on the **Corner Pin** at Chellaston when refurbishment is completed. The size of the cellar will probably restrict him to Burton Ale only, although he had hoped to put on Tetley Bitter and Ansell's Mild. Tetley bitter is, however, on sale at the **Drill Hall Vaults**, Newland Street, Derby, the **White Post** at Stanley Common and the **Punch Bowl** at West Hallam, which has a new landlord.

ALL CHANGE

The Punch Bowl's landlord was formerly at the **Knife and Steel**, Horsley Woodhouse. Other changes are at the **Ram**, Bridge Street, Derby and the **St. Helens Inn**, Duffield Road, Derby, where Frank Monk is retiring after 25 years at the helm. Sheila Lewis is taking over and running the **Crompton Tavern** at the same time. Best wishes go to Frank from all at the Derby Drinker.

SPANKING NEW NAME

The Spanker at Nether Heage is under new ownership and has been renamed **Fletchers Way**, selling Ward's beers.

WIN AND LOSE

Some you win - the **Abbey Social Club**, **Abbey Street**, Derby has handpumped **Marstons Pedigree**.

Some you lose - the **White Hart** at **Moorward Moor**, near **South Wingfield**, has replaced **Home Bitter** with **Green Barrel**.

CHEAP BEER

Monday night is cheap beer night at the **Dolphin**, **Queen Street**, Derby. Nigel's M & B Mild is 55p a pint and his Bass just 65p.

PHEASANT CHANGE

The **Golden Pheasant**, **Chellaston Road**, **Shelton Lock** has dropped **Castle Eden Ale** due to poor sales, replacing it with **Pedigree**.

HARDLY HANDSOME

Hardy & Hanson's new pub, the **Paddock** in **Breadsall**, is predictably selling pressurised beer. No demand for it, eh, squire? Nought out of ten, H & H.

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TOP OF THE POPS

Well, not really. No-one could sensibly describe Draught Burton Ale as "pop". But the top 50 chart of DBA stockists published by "The Cellarman" still shows Peter Frame at the **Olde Spa**, **Abbey Street** holding third place behind the **Prince of Wales**, **Moseley** and the **King's Head** in **London**. This by virtue of shifting around eight 18-gallon casks a week of the amber nectar.

A new entry at 19 is the **George Hotel**, **Ashbourne** and bubbling under (what's all this talk about bubbles? - ed.) the top 30 at 31 is the **Masons Arms** at **Mickleover**.

The only other local entry is the **Broadway** at 47. Only 4 out of 50? Come on, local DBA landlords - get your pub in the charts!

New Museum Support

A new body has been formed to support the **Heritage Brewery Museum**, housed in the former **Everards Tiger Brewery**, **Burton-on-Trent**.

The old **National Brewery Museum Trust** has been wound up and its assets transferred to a new charitable trust. A **League of Friends** has been formed (annual subscription £8) and members will receive the **Heritage Brewery Museum Chronicle**, detailing progress at the Museum, which still brews under contract for **Everards**.

Write to the **Trust at the Heritage Museum**, **Anglesey Road**, **Burton-on-Trent** for further details.

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RAIL ALE TRAIL

Never mind the Ashbourne Road Mile, here comes the Rail Ale Trail - eight pubs within a few hundred yards of the Station and at least thirteen different beers to choose from:

Starting off at the imposing **Crown & Cushion** (1) on the corner of the Midland Road and London Road, you can taste the new Riding Bitter from Mansfield, before moving a few doors down the road to the **Station** (2). Which serves a fine pint of Bass, juggled from the cellar.



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Edited by David George, 40 Weston Park Gardens, Shelton Lock, Derby DE2 9EU (Tel: Derby 701554), Nick Meakin and Mike Meara. Artwork by Rob Gilvary, 130 Green Lane, Derby (Tel: Derby 43497).

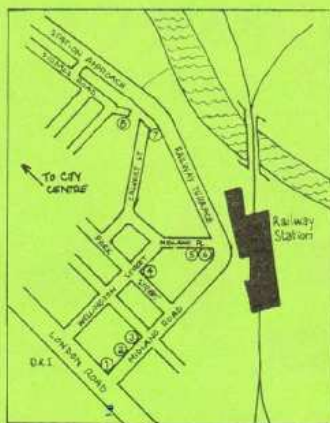
Advertising Rates for 1988 are: front and back pages - £21 (fully booked until June), inside pages - £18. Discounts - £1 per advert booked before Jan 1st and other discounts for payment in advance. Tel: Derby 701554 for details.

Further information on all aspects of Derby CAMRA can be had from any of the following contacts; Chairman - Phil James, 1 Hill Brow, Derby (Tel: Derby 385933), Mild and Bitter Editor - Mike Meara, 61 Borrowash Road, Spondon (Tel: Derby 663332), Social Secretary - Terry Morton (Tel: Derby 674025)

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The **George Hotel** (3), on the corner of Midland Road and Carrington Street, also has Bass as well as the original Offilers' windows. The **Sir Robert Peel** (4), provides a change, with Ind Coope Bitter and Ansells' Mild. A few yards on the **Victoria** (5), has Bass again and the **Wrights Vaults** next door (6) weighs in with Ind Coope Bitter and Draught Burton Ale. Walking down Midland Road and Railway Terrace, you pass the Brunswick on your left to call in at the **Alexandra** (8), for Shipstones Bitter and Mild and maybe a quick singalong, before returning to the **Brunswick** (7) and its stunning selection of real ales.

We suggest you drink halves if you



intend visiting every pub on the list, but this is in no way intended as an endurance crawl - pick and choose the beers that appeal to you for a leisurely and enjoyable night out.

SHARES CRASH STRENGTHENS TAKEOVER FEARS

Black Monday on the Stock Exchange was just as black for the brewers as for everyone else. At least they could drown their sorrows in drink - though we have heard no reports of despairing brewery executives throwing themselves into a vat of ale (what a way to go!)

Brewery share prices tumbled along with all the rest but as most of the large groups are fairly well endowed with cash, this shouldn't prove too much of a problem.

What is worrying for the smaller brewing companies with a stock-market listing is that their new low share price could make them a tempting takeover target for one of the larger, cash-rich groups. Already we have seen Scottish & Newcastle succeed with their third, hotly-contested bid for Blackburn brewers Matthew Brown after the previous attempt was referred to the Monopolies Commission.

S&N, who last year took over Home Ales of Nottingham, claim that they need Brown's to add to their English traditional ale range. All we have so far seen from Home

under S&N management is two rounds of swinging price increases, to bring Home Ales "into line" with the rest of S&N's product range.

The takeover of Brown's give S&N seven breweries and 2500 pubs - a ratio of one brewery to 357 pubs. Courage, for example, have a ratio of only one brewery to 1666 pubs - a fact which must bode ill for the chances of smaller sites such as Matthew Brown's Workington brewery remaining open.

Meanwhile, Greenall Whitley closed Wem Brewery in Shropshire in October, claiming that it was "uneconomic" despite assertions by the workforce, CAMRA and local MPs that the brewery was, in fact, profitable and Greenalls were simply steamrolling the closure through in order to centralise Midlands ale production at Davenports in Birmingham.

Elders IXL, it emerged recently, have built up a 5% stake in Suffolk based Greene King, a move described by Greene King as "undesirable and unacceptable". Also coming under the Aussie

Label Prize for Charter Ale

The special Charter Ale, brewed and bottled by Burton Bridge to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the granting of Derby's city charter and the city's tenth beer festival, has unexpectedly taken third prize in a national competition. Not this time for the ale itself, but for the handsome red, gold and black label.

It was Burton Bridge brewer, Bruce Wilkinson, who entered the commemorative label in the competition, organised by the International Society of Label Collectors, or Labologists' Society for short.

First prize was taken by the Heritage Brewery, also at Burton, for the festal label on their celebratory Christmas Ale, and second prize by the small London based brewery Pitfield.

The winning Derby label, which, like the ale itself, was commissioned by Derby CAMRA, was produced by Rob Gilvary from a design by Reg Newcombe, both local CAMRA members.

Rob is a full time commercial artist working at JB Signs in the Wardwick, and it was he who went down to Horndean to accept the award from Andrew Cunningham, Labologists' Society Chairman.

magnifying glass recently has been Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, one of the few remaining independants in the Midlands.

Boddingtons of Manchester recently rejected an unexpected bid from pub-owning group, Midsummer Leisure, who have not ruled out the possibility of an increased cash offer.

The siege of the British Brewing Industry continues. More, no doubt, next issue.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To all our Readers

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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.

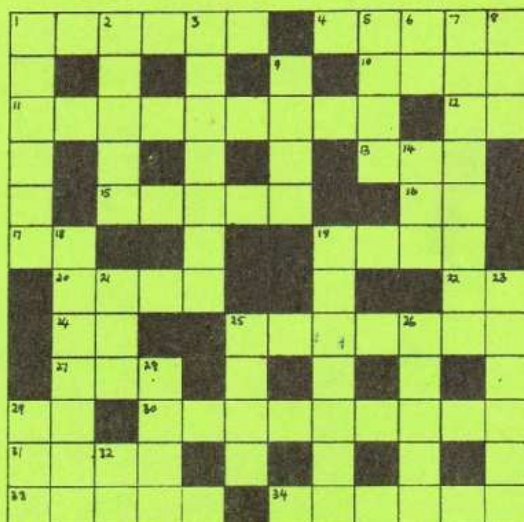
NAME(S)

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Full/Husband & Wife Membership for one year £9.00
or
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* 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 £5



ACROSS

1. This beer is a man's field (6)
4. (and 18 down) Regal titfer finds soft seat in town pub (5,7)
10. Hairstyle sounds like air-style (4)
11. Opinion is divided over whether the name of George IV's queen or a German general contemporary with the Duke of Wellington provided the original inspiration for the name of Derby's newest free house (Oh, what a giveaway!) (9)
12. Sexless thing! (2)
13. Belongs beside breakfast bacon (3)
15. Either way you look at it, it's a canoe (5)
16. Expression of surprise means nothing (2)
17. Leading feline, initially (2)
19. Trouble caused by disturbed threesome (4)
20. En-Courage (4)
22. See 24 across (2)
24. See 22 across (2)



25. This must be the place, Manuel (7)
27. Frogs and beer have this in common (3)
29. Easy, yet all Greek to me (2)
30. Beer comes first in this Shipp's pub (9)
31. Cry on, lion! (4)
33. 2 down's position relative to the table (5)
34. Ale trail pub favoured by DD editor? (6)

DOWN

1. Town local with constabulary connection (6,4) (and 25 Down)
2. What you'll be if you have a pint in each pub on our trail (5)
3. Those who are 2 down have this (2,5)
5. Fast-living garden implement (4)
6. Pertaining to (2)
7. Vaults sound okay to me (8)
8. 100mph in reverse? Negative! (3)
9. Musical twist to 10 across hairstyle (4)
14. We got into a sticky mess trying to think of a clue for this (3)
18. (see 4 across)
19. The genuine article, beerwise (4,3)
21. Bouncy beastie in short, sport (3)
23. Beer style sounds past its best (3,3) (see 1 down)
25. (see 1 down)
26. Not the Knotted Snake (5)
28. Trim away skin around fruit (4)
29. A dear girl, in short (3)
32. Comes after BC, and around it (2)

Winner of the prize for the Crossword in DD21 was Mr. N.Corden, The Malt Shovel, Aston-on-Trent. (Whether he lives there or just spends a lot of time in the pub, we're not quite sure!) Anyway, send your entries for this one to: Derby Drinker, 40 Weston Park Gardens, Shelton Lock, Derby DE2 9EU, remembering to mention who you are and where you picked up your copy of the Drinker. As soon as possible, please, and the first correct entry drawn wins £5.00.

We had a note from "The Count", who writes in the Derby Trader, saying he thought the last one was too easy; well it seemed to fox a number of you, judging by the number of incorrect entries we got. Just remember, the clues are compiled in a pub after several pints, and are consequently anything but logical!

Rush out to get these for your Granny this Christmas

Wondering what to buy your granny for Christmas? Or what to buy yourself with the money from those hideous striped socks and matching fur-lined Y-fronts that Aunt Ethel always gives you and which you promptly take back to Marks and Spencer for a refund?

The answer is simple: CAMRA's new 1988 Good Beer-Guide is in the shops now, just packed with information about pubs, breweries and items of interest to pub-goers everywhere. If granny wants to know the pubs where she can get her wheelchair into the snooker room to listen to heavy metal on the juke-box, while drinking her pint of Owd Rodger, this is the guide to get.

While we're on the subject of presents, why not continue to plan ahead for 1988 with CAMRA's Beer Drinker's Diary?

This year the diary, produced in conjunction with Charles Letts, contains a regional breakdown of

the breweries of Great Britain and Ireland, complete with regional maps.

Letts make a date with CAMRA, for only £2.95.

Hoskins to Wed Ma Pardoe

Hoskins, the Leicester based independent brewers, have bought the famous Old Swan public house at Netherton near Dudley, popularly known as Ma Pardoe's, after the former landlady, Doris Pardoe.

Following the death of Mrs Pardoe, a company was set up to run the pub and continue production of the home-brewed ale for which the pub achieved national fame in Doris's day. This ran into financial difficulties and Hoskins have now stepped in to save the pub and its ale, which some readers may have already sampled as a recent guest beer at the Brunswick Inn.

DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome to Derby CAMRA socials and meetings. For further information about these events 'phone Terry Morton on Derby 674025.

TUESDAY SOCIALS 9.15pm

15th December - New Bridge Inn, Shelton Lock (Marstons), 22nd December - Exeter Arms, Exeter Place, Derby (Marstons), 5th January - Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby (Free House), 12th January - Shakespeare, Shardlow (Home), 19th January - Pattenmakers Arms, Crown Street, Duffield (Bass), 26th January - Seven Stars, King Street, Derby (Scottish & Newcastle), 2nd February - Rose and Crown, Chellaston (Marstons).

BRANCH MEETINGS 8.00pm

Branch Meeting on Thursday 14th January and Annual General Meeting on Thursday 11th February will both be held at the Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS SHOW FRIDAY 18th DEC.

The Derby Branch of CAMRA will be holding their Christmas Social at the Crown, Nottingham Road, Spondon on Friday 18th December, starting at 8.00pm. The evening features the hilarious University of Spondon Footlights Club Annual Review. Music from Monty's Music Shop. Tickets, price £1 may be available on the door, but it's safer to book in advance - 'phone Terry Morton.

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REV



BY ROB