

Derby Drinker Special BEER FESTIVAL Edition

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 30

SUMMER '89

FREE



THE MONOPOLIES AND MERGERS COMMISSION

The Supply of Beer

A report on the supply of beer for retail sale in the United Kingdom.

Seventeen years' campaigning has resulted in the issuing of the MMC report on the supply of beer.

MMC MAKES MEGAS MAD

CAMRA welcomes the suggestions outlined in the report: it is a genuine attempt to tackle the power of the

big breweries, safeguard the independents and enhance customer choice. From the drinker's point of view this is a chance that should not be missed.

The report says that no brewer should have more than 2,000 pubs, which prompted a £6 million advertising campaign by the Brewers' Society comparing the report's proposal to the bombing of London by the Luftwaffe, and Henry VIII's destruction of the monasteries. As we go to press, this advertising campaign has been suspended pending talks with Trade Secretary Lord Young, who is expected to do a U-turn on this particular aspect of the report. Forty-seven Tory MPs, including Burton MP Ivan Lawrence, signed an early day motion urging Lord Young to shelve the entire report.

Almost 75 per cent of Derby's pubs are owned by two breweries, limiting the drinker's choice. The report attempts to give the drinker a wider variety of beers. Derby and District LVA supported MMC report in May, backed by Derby North MP Greg Knight. The LVA welcomed the proposal to give licensees security of tenure and the facility to buy a guest beer from another brewery. Wines, spirits and soft drinks would also be 'free'. The LVA, however, do not agree with the proposed limit of 2,000 pubs per brewery, nor do they agree with the abolition of the tied loan system, which enables breweries to insist that pubs sell their beer, in return for cheap loans for purchase of the pub, or refurbishment. Once again, this can mean a limitation of choice for the drinker, but the LVA points out that many licensees would not be in business but for a brewery loan.

Speculation surrounds the MMC proposals at the moment. Derby's drinkers, and *Derby Drinker*, must await developments — we hope they will be good for the man in (and behind) the bar.



LVA and CAMRA members meet supporting MP Greg Knight.

Photo courtesy Derby Evening Telegraph

It's Back

The final countdown to the twelfth Derby Beer Festival has begun. Beer is ordered, acts booked and the usual blood, sweat and tears are flowing in abundance from the committee and volunteers. Information about the beer festival is contained in various pages of this issue. Remember, card-carrying CAMRA members get in free, and if you join at the Festival, the membership subscription is reduced from £9 to £7, with two free pints thrown in.

Derby CAMRA is looking for a record this year. By opening the Darwin Suite on Friday night, we hope to total 10,000 people through the doors by the end of Saturday evening. We may not make the *Guinness Book of Records*, but it's gonna be fun trying!

Bateman's to Buy

The Alexandra, Siddals Road, Derby has been bought by Bateman's Brewery of Wainfleet. The Alex, fondly recalled as the birthplace of Derby CAMRA, has stood empty for many months now. Listed building status has been applied for in an attempt to preserve parts of the interior, which had superb features including a set of original spirit taps. Formerly a Shipstone's house, it closed on 27th June last year. It is to be hoped that Batemans will restore the Alex to the popularity it deserves. The immediate area has become a real ale drinkers' Mecca, and more competition can only be good news.

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BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarrykeg

Brunswick Boost

Almost exactly two years ago, *Derby Drinker* was raising hosannas about the saving of the Brunswick. Now Trevor Harris and John Evans are about to put their plans in motion for a brewery on the premises. Planning permission has been granted, and the pair hope to begin the hard work by late summer or early autumn this year. Another innovation is a no-smoking room. Is this a taste of the future for all pubs?

Baseball Bats!

Nigel Barker, licensee of the Dolphin, and manager of the Old Silk Mill, has taken on the run-down Baseball Hotel, near the Rams football ground. As he describes it, "A down at heel local heading back to its former Victorian splendour." Nigel is up to his neck in building work, and is also Chairman of Derby CAMRA. Where the heck does he get his energy?

Brew News

The Dolphin — keg Worthington E out — Springfield Bitter in. The Dog Inn, Pentrich now sells Ward's SSB and Darley's Mild. The Dog and Duck, Shardlow, alternating Merrie Monk and Mercian Milds. The Coach House, Milton, selling Ward's SSB and hoping to sell three more ales soon. A real ale gain is the Clarendon Hotel, Derby, now selling Draught Bass.

Welcome . . .

. . . the new licensees at the **Duke of York**, Burton Road; **The Abbey**, Darley Abbey; **The Broadway**, Duffield Road; **The Wardwick**, Derby.

BASEBALL HOTEL

Shaftesbury Crescent

'Down at heel local heading back to its former Victorian splendour'

DRAUGHT  BASS



CAMRA are celebrating July 4th — indeed the whole month — as *Independents' Day*.

Unless the MMC report stops further takeovers in the industry, all our local independent brewers are under threat. Celebrate July in an independent manner by dropping in on some of the following breweries' houses: Banks's, Everard's, Hardy's and Hanson's, Mansfield, Marston's, Sam Smith and Vaux.

Fat no Crime

Many CAMRA members headed north last month for the national AGM in Aberdeen. Of course, much time was taken up with the MMC report, but there were weighty arguments about CAMRA's image. "Being fat is not incompatible with CAMRA membership" was proposed by Glasgow heavyweight Alistair Boyd.

"We have been subjected to the creeping cancer of sizeism", roared Alistair. "We must defend our historic appearance: long bald hair; faded T-shirts advertising defunct breweries; low-slung waistbands; outsize tattered jeans; open-toed sandals worn with socks; pipe-smoking's optional. AND THAT'S JUST THE WOMEN!"

Alistair brought Tony Hancock in to support his point. "I remind you of his words that so succinctly sum up what we stand for. 'Have you forgotten Magna Carta? DID SHE DIE IN VAIN?'"

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TASTE TESTERS

"THERE'S no such thing as bad beer", goes the old saw, "it's just that some are better than others." But if there is such a thing as bad — or poor — beer, how can it be identified objectively?

Next year's CAMRA Good Beer Guide will have beer descriptions of a higher standard than before and plans are afoot for a rating system — probably on a 1 to 5-star scale. The back-room work for this has been done by the biggest consumer survey this country has seen.

CAMRA has set up over thirty regional tasting panels and the chairman of each has attended a course to be taught to identify and describe certain flavours. The difficulty with describing and appreciating tastes is the poor vocabulary this sense attracts.

Having taught people how to discriminate between beer ingredients like malt and sugar,

and the difference between hoppiness and bitterness, the next step was to judge beers by a constant standard. This involved writing a specification for each beer style and eleven were needed: one for each type of beer available in Britain.

The chairman took tasting kits from the course which enabled them to pass on the information to panelists, (usually five members), and find out if any of them had taste blind spots.

Tasting beer is an exacting job. No curry, no smoking is the rule before a tasting. Even if samples are restricted to a quarter-pint, it isn't possible to keep the taste buds fresh for more than about five samples. The objective is to rate the beers, not the pubs, so often a sampling session has to be called off because the beer is not up to scratch. At least three samples of each beer are taken.

KEG BUSTER
by Bill Tidy

Wrong Tiger ...

Whoops, apologies. We wrongly told you in the last DD that the Tiger at Turnditch was open all day. Not so, it is the Tiger in Lock-Up Yard, Derby which is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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'ELLO, 'ELLO, 'ELLO

A major campaign against drink driving is to be launched, but not at the usual clampdown time of Christmas — this year, police are switching their attention to the summer months.

The Government is concerned about the number of drink-drive related road deaths during the summer, when twice the number of 18 to 25-year old drivers die than at Christmas and New Year.

So enjoy this July's Derby Beer Festival — but please, don't drink and drive, not just because you might get 'caught', but because we want to see you back next year!

DRINKER! Comment

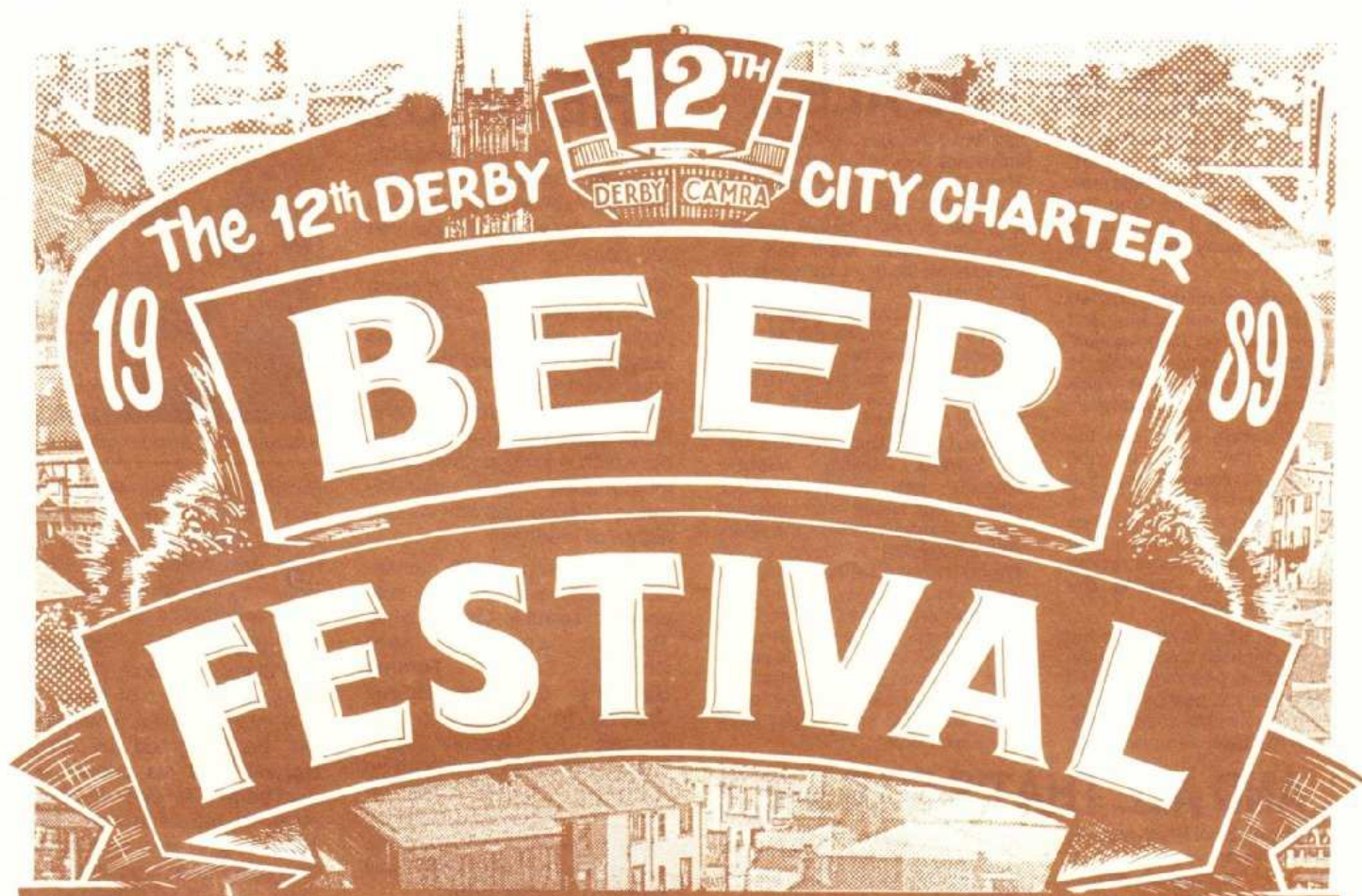
On that Report

Have you ever tried a pub crawl around Derby without going in a 'Big Six' pub? Chances are you would find it quite hard to do. Now that the MMC report has put the wind up the big boys, they are moving heaven and earth to get it stopped. Your money and mine funded their £6-million ad campaign, and even as I write, protests from the Brewers' Society and certain MPs are distracting Lord Young from his original "mind" to implement the report's recommendations. With three-quarters of all beer production and three-quarters of all tied houses under the thumb of the Big Six, prices at the pump have outstripped inflation by fifteen per cent — witness the latest outrageous rises from Allied. CAMRA has campaigned for seventeen years to get a fair deal and a good choice for the beer drinker. The Big Six breweries have overcharged for their products, paid only lip service to choice and tried to destroy the trad. local pub in favour of 'retail outlets'. The MMC report, two years in the making and 500 pages long, should not be dismissed or shelved as is proposed at the moment. Lord Young should stick to his guns — then we may finally see a competitive market where good, tasty beers produced by regional brewers have a chance to thrive, and the beer drinker has a wide choice at a fair price.

STEVE RADFORD
Branch Secretary

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FRIDAY
EVENING
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THE TALE OF THE ALE...

This is the time of year when all the months of training pay off (writes Beer Festival Cellarman Ivor Clissold). By the time the Festival is open I shall be a melange of puny but aching muscles.

The beer order, something like 140 barrels, is sorted out by May and the orders placed on the breweries. This involves a logistic study to organise lorries and routes which can be tackled in a 'tachograph day'.

While our drivers whizz o'er the landscape, the rest of the volunteers (all pressganged: Ed) lay the beer-proof floor, all three layers of it, and erect the ganties in the Assembly Rooms. We reckon to have most of the beers racked by Sunday noon, leaving the latecomers for Monday.

Two or three days is long enough to get draught beer ready for sale, but too short to give the preferred hard finish to the palate. Monday and Tuesday see the casks gently fizzing in the dark and cavernous

hall while the ales cool down and finish their secondary fermentation. Then it's hard pegs in and wait for Wednesday afternoon.

A couple of hours before opening time the cellar team has the dubious pleasure of sampling 45-odd beers. This is very demanding because the taste buds tire quickly (Just the taste buds?: Ed) and one cannot discriminate so well after half a dozen samples. Anything dodgy is not put on sale, but is marked for return to the brewery. The next three days are a treadmill of tapping, dipping, washing utensils and troubleshooting, often at high speed in an immense crowd, and always with the worry that Something is Going to Go Wrong. Relief does not come until well into Saturday, when our treasurer announces that we have broken even. This occurs at about the time that the last cask is put on sale. The relief is almost orgasmic. Now you know why the cellarman looks so stupid on Saturday night — he ain't drunk, YET!

...AND ALE THAT'S FOR SALE

The 12th Derby Beer Festival menu has been finalised — subject to the usual last minute cockups, strikes, famines, M1 cone harvests, etc.

Beers from the North West and London feature strongly this year. **Fuller's** and **Young's** from London are welcome newcomers, having only recently been available outside their own tied houses, capacity at the brewery being stretched. **Young's Bitter** and **Special** will be featured along with **Fuller's London Pride** and the revered **ESB** (1056).

Mild devotees can collect a belly-ful of **Banks's**, **Bateman's**, **Ansell's**, **Mitchell's** and **Marston's**, plus the famous **McMullen's AK** from Herts. **Sarah Hughes**, the great favourite last year, is back in our biggest ever order for a single brew — six barrels. And no, we didn't spike it with port or rum — it really tastes like that!

Electric soup enthusiasts can practice falling over after **Clark's Hammerhead** (1056) from Wakefield, **Oak's Wobbly Bob** (1060), **Owd Rodger** (1080) the wonderful **Pitfield Dark Star** (1050) from London and finish up with a nice **Old Fart** (1055), courtesy of Robinwood.

The Darwin Suite (open Friday evening only), will have its own entertainment plus a bar with heavies such as **Old Expensive**, **Newcastle's Big Lamp**, **Old Genie**, **Greene King Abbott**, **Burton Ale** and **John Smith's Magnet**.

In addition, there will be a good range of real ciders and perries on sale in the Great Hall, popular drinks not often found in this area.

Guest beers will be available each session, but we're not going to tell you what they are, just to retain that element of mystery! A different one will be on sale at each session — all we can say is, they're interesting. (Steve Davis, please note).



Cartoon from 1987 —
These prices were funny then!

THE SHOW GOES ON!

Beer Festival Entertainments Manager, **Terry Morton**, has a great show lined up and waiting in the wings whichever session you come to.

Wednesday night's opening session sees our traditional opening ceremony by the Mayor of Derby, and the main entertainment is from crazy folkies **Mad Jocks and Englishmen** (pictured), with an act which is a melange of vocal, instrumental and comedy music interspersed with various flights of madness.

Thursday and Friday lunchtime, welcome back the ever popular **Tommy Owen**, while Thursday evening sees Derby's famous **Tommy Burton's Sporting House Quartet** for some hot jazz sounds. As Tommy says, "Liberace had a candelabra on his piano — I have a beer on mine — it does me more good!" Also appearing on Thursday and Friday evening is the **Paul Winfield Mighty Four**.



Mad Jocks and Englishmen

Entertainment from **Hyde Park** and a selection of great beers means that if you want a rest from the mêlée of the Great Hall, visit the Darwin Suite, it's all in with the price.

Saturday lunchtime. OK Mums and Dads, we know you like a drink, and you can bring the kids into the foyer, where they will be delighted by **Hugh Barwell** and his puppet one man band. Last year one of our main hall bands wanted to hire his stuffed monkey drummer! In the main hall at lunchtime, jazz fans will be delighted to welcome back the **New Stompers**, who played with such style at the 11th Festival last year. Saturday night — well, what else. Break out the silly hats, badges and songsheets for the **Amazing Bavarian Stompers**, an Umpah Band of great renown.



Tommy Burton

Friday evening is really something special. Blues pianist **Benny Gardstein** takes the stage with the **Housebreakers**. If you think blues is all sad, dreary and slow, you ain't heard nothin' yet. Benny is as likely to play the keys with his feet, backside or head as well as in a more conventional manner. A big bonus on Friday evening — we've booked the **Darwin Suite**.

THANKS!

This publication has just had a new editor, and thanks are due to the following people: Dave George for stopping the editor panicking; Julian Hough for mathematics; Sally Winterton for computerising the bits the editor didn't have time for; Mike and Pat Meara for passing on the information quickly; Tony Mather for encouragement; Ivor Clissold for the tea, bacon butties and typing; The Old King's Head, Belper, for much-needed Pedigree and Derby Branch of CAMRA for being there in the first place.

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Derby Drinker

Derby Drinker is distributed free to pubs in and around the city. Published by the Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale and printed by J. M. Tatler & Son Ltd., Abbey Street Works, Derby.

Edited by Julie France, 42 The Fleet, Belper, Derbys. DE5 1NU (Tel: Belper 823919). Artwork by Rob Gilvary, 130 Green Lane, Derby (Tel: Derby 43497).

Advertising Rates for 1989 are: front and back pages — £21, inside pages — £18, Discounts for payment in advance. Tel: Derby 677072 for details.

Further information on all aspects of Derby CAMRA can be had from any of the following contacts: Chairman — Nigel Barker, The Dolphin, Derby (Tel: Derby 49115), Secretary: Steve Radford, 21 Cobthorne Drive, Allestree (Tel: Derby 38933).

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Chiropody Notes by Paul E. Foot

General Practitioner magazine under the headline "Lager louts risk attacks of gout", tells us that increasing numbers of young men who imbibe the amber nectar are suffering from painful swelling of the joints and are not responding to treatment. A consultant said that he had seen a big increase in gout sufferers over the past year and that many of them were young heavy drinkers. The problem is caused by the high level of purine in lager. No, he said purine.

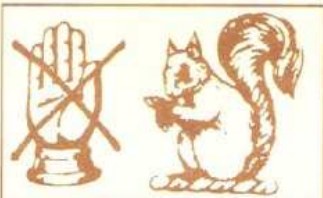
Please pass this copy
of Derby Drinker to
a friend

WE SAID IT LAST YEAR...

As predicted in Derby Drinker last summer, Ind Coope Bitter has disappeared from our area following Allied Breweries' badge engineering exercise, which stuck the Ansell's logo onto all Ind Coope pubs.

Where did this ridiculous idea come from? Anyone who has lived in the East Midlands for long knows the low esteem in which Ansell's name is held. It is only since brewing was transferred to Burton following the strike at Birmingham that the stuff became drinkable at all. The mild is one of the better efforts, but the bitter is insipid. The Birmingham bunker has decided that Ind Coope Bitter is to die with the trading company that sponsored it, and they will make us have Ansell's bitter instead.

Ivor Clissold, CAMRA's liaison officer with Ind Coope, received a letter from a London-based promotion company handling Ansell's account, and went, as they say, bananas. "We asked Ansell's to reconsider the withdrawal of Ind Coope Bitter, but all they could say was some mumbo-jumbo about 'strategy' as if they were fighting a war with their customers". He added, "Allied has regrouped into bigger sectors and this will mean that decisions are taken more remotely. This 'strategy' seems to involve a marketing person thinking of something silly, then spending millions to convince people that they want it." Allied have also introduced the concept of 'national brand', which means Burton Ale and Tetley Bitter spread nationwide.



BYE-BYE BELL?

Bass have sold the Bell in Sadler Gate as shops, presumably because they got more for it than if it was sold as a pub and they would not like to be shown up if someone ran the place properly and profitably.

CAMRA have objected to the planning application on the grounds that Derby cannot afford to lose its last coaching inn. The plan would slice the neo-classical ballroom down the middle! The Tudor Bar is marked on the plan as 'bar', but it would be approached through a set of three bogus Victorian shop fronts.

Derby has enough fakery without smashing up what could be a gem of a pub and substituting such rubbish.

Great British Beer Festival



If you are thinking of travelling to Leeds for the great event, advance tickets can be ordered from J. Thornton, 3 Linton Grove, Leeds LS17 8PQ, at reduced rates. Members 50p (£1 on door). Non-members can book for parties only at £20 for 20 minimum and £1 for each additional ticket (£1.50 on door).

MEMBERS DO IT FREE

CAMRA members who turn up and wave their membership cards at the Beer Festival get in for nothing — and if you join at the Festival the joining fee is reduced from £9 to £7. **plus** you will receive two pints of beer FREE! Husband and wife membership costs the same but the ration is three pints between you. (Sorry missus). Membership benefits include the free monthly magazine *What's Brewing*, free admission to most beer festivals around these islands and all the local fun of campaigning and socialising. Derby branch runs a busy schedule of meetings and social events as well as keeping our pub information files up to date by organising surveying tours to less visited parts of our area. Then there's the brewery visits, where we tend to get shown round by brewing staff rather than the usual PR people and the home brewers amongst us have a chance to nick some yeast.

The reduced membership rate only applies to those who have not been a member before.

That creature of the brewing giants, the Brewers' Society, state that 'nothing needs changing because there is no public demand for change.' Why do they think CAMRA now has over 20,000 members in Britain? Surely if there were no demand for change, those people would not be joining CAMRA to clamour for it?

There is stronger evidence now that folk are getting fed up with the quality and price of their pint. CAMRA is the only organisation which is expressing these views where it matters. We were derided when we had 200 members — with 20,000 it's different.

With a joining rate of 400 new members a month, the campaign is gaining momentum. Join us — the more the merrier and the more effective.

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PUB TRIVIA QUIZ — Win £5

Set by Le Triviata

Just for a change, *Derby Drinker* is giving you a chance to test your general beer and pub knowledge.

This pub trivia quiz holds the usual prize of £5, but the address to send your entries has changed to **Derby Drinker, 42 The Fleet, Belper, Derbyshire DE5 1NU**. All replies by end of July please, including your name, address and phone number, and stating where you picked up your *Derby Drinker*.

- Which brewery features a windmill in its logo?
(a) Boddingtons, (b) Bathams, (c) Batemans
- What beer was named after an ancient legal court in Masham?
(a) Old Bob, (b) Old Fart, (c) Old Peculier
- Why is mild darker than bitter?
(a) It contains charcoal, (b) It's older, (c) It contains chocolate malt or caramel.
- What is a keystone?
(a) A bung at the top of a barrel, (b) A bung at the end of a barrel, (c) A silent-film policeman
- When were pewter tankards outlawed?
(a) 1876, (b) 1976, (c) They haven't been outlawed but must bear a government stamp
- What is bottled mild called?
(a) Stout, (b) Porter, (c) Brown Ale
- What is a Metron?
(a) An obsessive visitor to the Metro Cinema, (b) A measure of strength in beer, (c) A type of electric beer dispenser

- How many kilderkins in a barrel?
(a) 6, (b) 4, (c) 2
- Which brewery's trademark was the first ever registered in Britain?
(a) Offilers, (b) Bass, (c) Theakston's
- What is a saccharometer?
(a) A device for measuring saccharine, (b) An instrument for measuring the amount of sugar in wort, (c) a device for measuring the weight of sugar needed for a mash.

NO TARTS IN BAKEWELL

No-one can win our last Drinker crossword according to the Mayor of Bakewell, Cllr. Laurence Knighton. The offending crossword contained a clue: 20 across, tasty dish found in Bakewell (4). The answer was, of course, 'tart'. This did not please the Mayor of Bakewell. He pointed out, and quite right too, that the correct term is **Bakewell Pudding**.

Whoops, sorry! But it's nice to know that not only does the 'Drinker' reach such far-flung parts of Derbyshire, but that such an illustrious personage reads it. See you at the Beer Festival, mate!

DD 29 CROSSWORD WINNER

Crossword entries for our last effort included one from a gent residing in Surrey. No, the *Derby Drinker* isn't wending its way south, a threat to Wapping and Fleet Street (what's left of it). The chap in question was visiting the Sitwell Arms, Horsley Woodhouse. Sorry Mr. Clark, you didn't win. First correct entry out of the postbag was **Mr. A. Fullwood** of Ilkeston, who picked up his copy of the 'Drinker' in the Durham Ox, also in Ilkeston. A crisp, crunchy organic liver is on its way.

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HIGH SPIRITS

Send for the exorcist! The pub is haunted!

Clive and Eileen Akers, licensees of the excellent Crompton Tavern on Crompton Street, Derby, are having trouble with a spook, or possibly more than one spook. The pub, which used to be a theatrical boarding house, contains a ghost, which is apparently a CAMRA sympathiser. It keeps switching off the gas to the lager pumps. If the spook would like to contact our membership secretaries Tim and Les Williams, I'm sure they can arrange 'after Life' membership.

Protest and Survive

The New Inn, Little Eaton, has had a reprieve. Protests from the locals were backed by the Parish Council and Marston's withdrew the plan. The brewery said that their Tavern Table restaurant concept needs a building of a minimum size, and the New Inn would have extended into the car park, causing local nuisance with street parking.

However, the prospect of a pub with no bars may have receded, but all agree that the pub is in a shabby state and some work is needed. It was encouraging that Marston's development manager turned up to face the opposition at the pub, and we hope he will respond sympathetically to requests that the lounge and bar are kept as separate areas.

Real Ale Gain

Hickory's, Green Lane, Derby, is to have a real ale bar and a new name — again. The small bar on Gower Street once sold Whitbread draught beers, but Devenish are the new owners and propose to stock their own range of real ales as well as guests. The cavernous main bar will sell keg only (including Newquay Steam Beer) and this will trade as the Steam Rock Café. Our roving reporter has been told that it will have a full-size Chinook helicopter hanging from the ceiling! The manager, Ken McWhinnie, asks for your favourite beer nominations for the Gower Street bar, which will be called the Malt and Hops.

DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings. For more information about these events phone Social Secretary, Rob Griffiths on Leabrooks (0773) 603892.

Tuesday Socials - 9.15 pm

27th June — New Flower Pot, King Street, Derby (Bass); 4th July — White Hart, Stanley (Ind Coope/Ansells); 11th July — Robin Hood, Nottingham Road, Alfreton (Kimberley); 18th July — Jolly Colliers, Horsley Woodhouse (Wards); 25th July — Honeycomb, Mickleover (Everards); 1st August — Old Kings Head, Days Lane, Belper (Marstons); 8th August — Ye Olde Spa Inne, Abbey Street, Derby (Ind Coope/Ansells).

Branch Meetings - 8 pm

6th July — Duke of York, Burton Road, Derby (Ind Coope/Ansells); 10th August — White Hart, Heage (Bass).



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