



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 37

SPRING 1991

FREE

When it comes to beer . . . STAN'S YOUR MAN!

DERBY can hold its civic head up with pride.

Stan Peterson, traveller and beer taster extraordinaire, found BOTH his Beers of the Year 1990 in the city.

Stan, 43, of Beeston, is a familiar sight in pubs all over the country — he could be described, in fact, as the region's answer to Michael Jackson.

Except that Stan is far too modest to be tagged as a beer expert — he thinks of himself as a keen hobbyist who's a good judge of ale.

"It's not just a hobby, I really enjoy it," he told *Derby Drinker*.

He enjoys his hobby so much that, last year, he sank 2,554 pints of ale covering 487 different types from 159 breweries.

His Beers of the Year 1990 were Bateman's Porter, drunk in the Alexandra, Siddals Road, and Highgate Mild from the New Flowerpot, King Street.

Both licensees were delighted to have beers from their ranges chosen by Stan.

Mark Robins, licensee of the Alex, said: "I'm really chuffed—Stan goes



(Photograph courtesy of Derby Herald & Post)

all over the place trying beers and to come joint first out of that lot makes the hard work worthwhile."

New Flowerpot host Martin Hodson agreed: "It feels pretty good, a real honour. It's nice to have customers who appreciate decent ale!"

Stan has been a CAMRA member since 1979 and does not use flowery language to grade beer styles and quality.

He describes them as simply "a corker", "a cracker" or "crap"! And each beer tasted is meticulously

recorded in his ever-present notebooks, plus details of beer festivals and breweries visited during the year.

Last year Stan visited twelve beer festivals and travelled many thousands of miles by bus, train and foot in search of good ale.

As publicised in the last *Derby Drinker*, Nottingham CAMRA is fighting to save Shipstone's Star Brewery from closure.

So Stan, a campaigner to the core, helped the fight by visiting every Shipstone's pub in the country!

—PRIDE OF OUR ALLEY—

DERBY branch of CAMRA and *Derby Drinker* are pleased and proud to announce the election of a new Chairman. Sally sees her tenure as Chairman as a challenge, and hopes to make her time in office one of hard campaigning and improved communication both within the branch and with other bodies.

And one of her first official duties as Branch Chairman was to accept an award from CAMRA's National Executive.

Derbyshire Ale, Derby's real ale guide, received the Real Ale Guide of the Year award at last month's national AGM in

Sheffield. Sally was delighted to receive the award on behalf of the branch and was told by NE member Christine Cryne that the judges' decision was unanimous.

Sally sees her tenure as Chairman as a challenge, and hopes to make her time in office one of hard campaigning and improved communication both within the branch and with other bodies.

She takes over from Nigel Barker, who has been Chairman for two years, during which time he worked extremely hard for the branch and for the campaign. We wish him well.

Photo: Derby Herald & Post

DON'T FORGET!

- MAY IS MILD MONTH — LOOK OUT FOR STAMP-CARDS IN DERBY
- DERBY BEER FESTIVAL — 10th to 14th JULY, ASSEMBLY ROOMS

Enjoy Derby's finest range of quality cask conditioned beers at the CAMRA award winning

Brunswick Inn

DERBY

Purpose-built brewery nearing completion.

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BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarryKeg

MAY MEANS MILD

SPRING — and a young drinker's fancy turns to thoughts of . . . MILD!

Yes, folks. May is Mild Month for CAMRA — and we want you to join in too.

In real ale pubs all over Derby, right through May, there will be a chance to try out that dark and tasty Great British beer.

And Derby CAMRA will be running a Mild Trail through the city. Pick up a card at your participating local, get it stamped at various pubs on the Trail and there are prizes to be won.

Mild is a much misjudged beer. Let's look at a few Mild Myths.

Myth 1: It's only for old blokes. WRONG! Mild is a tasty drink which is becoming more and more popular across all age groups.

Myth 2: All the slops go back into the mild cask. WRONG! No real ale licensee worth his salt would do something so disgusting — and any drinker with a sense of taste would know if he did. As with any beer, if it tastes wrong, take it back. Mild is NOT slops.

Myth 3: It's fattening. WRONG! Mild is actually lower in calories than many other beers.

Myth 4: It's always weak. WRONG! Some milds are actually stronger than many bitters — look at Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby at OG 1058, or Marston's Merrie Monk which packs quite a punch.

So, in May, look through a glass darkly . . . try some mild!



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SUNSET ON FRIARGATE

EMPLOYING as little uproar as a jellyfish, Hoskins have re-opened the old Rising Sun in Friargate, Derby, renaming it, unsurprisingly, The Friargate Tavern.

Why they should have eschewed publicity is a mystery — they have nothing of which to be ashamed.

The pub has been tastefully refurbished. Etched panes and a huge over-the-top lamp welcome one from the street. Inside is displayed many Hulton photographs plus examples of olde tyme signboards from a modern wood-carver. Eight handpumps await inspection at the bar, ranging from Bateman's Mild at 98p a pint, Hoskins Bitter at £1 and guest beers which, on opening night, were Double Dragon (£1.30) and

Forshall's Bitter (£1.25). These were all in excellent condition — a situation that has continued up to date. Oh, there was also Webster's Choice, but we didn't see anyone choose it.

Our older members were mystified by the machine in the gents' that offered a choice of lemon, strawberry, mint, liquorice and banana flavours. Can food be dispensed in toilets?

Add to all this a pleasant clientele and friendly licensee and what could be better?

Well, perhaps a lowering of music decibels would help. If the Friargate is to stand back from the 'miller' mentality the loud music should be tempered.

...

Wheel Goes Rolling Along

THE WHEEL at Holbrook has another and much more permanent-looking change of licensee.

Vic and Anne Wyle have moved from London and bring a remarkable approach to the business: concern for the customer.

Their welcome is genuine and their concern is pleasing. Another pointer that things are different is — a price reduction of 3p a pint! Darley's at £1 is quite an attraction. Add to this a thorough overhaul of the cellar and dispense equipment and you know your pound won't be wasted.

Ward's Sheffield Strong Ale is sold however you like it — via handpull or straight from the cask. It's an interesting experiment to try both and contrast the effect on hop flavour and condition.

A guest beer should now be on stream. Taylor's Landlord, Theakston's XB or something from Burton Bridge will be first.

Foodies may be interested to know that Vic bakes his own bread. Some lucky locals grin smugly and knowingly about the quality. Other punters may get a chance soon, too.

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Peeps' Diary

Did goe into a place which sold noe fair ale. It being a noisy and darksome place I was much putt out to fynd ye bar, while ye tapster did seem to be unable to spye me as I did slap my groats upon the table.

I asked for a pot of fair ale, to be tolde there was noe suche thyng within the walls of this forsayken place. Thee tapster, wyth a leer, did offer me some stuff from the Colonies, viz: Buddyserr. I waxed wroth, and did say to hym: "Sir, the American continent is one wych hath gone from barbarysm to decadence without ye benefit of an intervening period of civilisation!" Hee maketh, at thys juncture, some dysparaging comment which dyd greatly offend mine ears.

Withall, the darke and noisome atmosphere, develish screeching of some outlander musick and the mean glances of a persone dressed all in black and of mighty frame who did guard the portal so oppressed my spirrits that I did leave wyth some speed and repaired to a tavern of sweet aspect and fair, wholesome ale.

*Please pass
this copy of
Derby Drinker
to a friend*

**Want to sell 1990's
DERBYSHIRE
ALE
in your shop
or pub?**

**Ring N. Ratcliffe
on Derby 47012
to order your supplies**

Pip's Tips

SOME more Derby locals to try, from Pip Southall.

Peacock Inn. Old Nottingham Road, Derby. Marston's Pedigree, handpump. A former coaching inn on a now truncated road, the Peacock teeters on the brink of Derby's own abyss — the inner ring road. It is the original linchpin of the Marston's Triangle, where many a drinker has been known to disappear. The Pedigree is always good — not much lager is drunk here. Popular with the local cricket and football fraternity for that vital after-match pint. Beer garden at the rear.

The Woodlark. Bridge Street, Derby. Draught Bass and Highgate Mild, both on handpump. A popular local with three separate drinking areas. The small bar (best early evening for chat and crossword solving), the brasserie-lounge and the back room. West-enders and Radio Derbians mingle in here. Indeed, it is not unknown for New Zealand Test Cricket captains to drop in unannounced for a pint of Bass! In summer the tour-de-force of the Woodlark in its tiny garden and front displays resplendently festooned with hanging baskets and a blaze of colour.

The Honeycomb. Ladybank Road, Mickleover and **The Ferrers Arms.** Siffin shopping centre. Everard's Mild (Ferrers only), Beacon Bitter, Tiger Bitter, Old Original and guest beers. These two Everards pubs deserve a mention for their full range of ales and rotating guest beers. They belong to the old English Ale Club, which supplies Everard houses with Fuller's ESB, Moles 97, Moorhouse's Pendle Witch, Old Hooky and Cameron's Strongarm, to name but five. A worthy enterprise, even if the guest ales tend to be on the pricey side.

Brick and Tile. Brick Street, Derby. Ind Coope Burton Ale and Marston's Pedigree. A warm welcome here from Stuart and Karen. Stu is one of Derby's most flamboyant landlords, and has at his disposal a host of stories, jokes and an excellent Elvis impersonation.

The Brick has been a pub since 1700, and in the 1990s the DBA and recently-added Pedigree are kept in excellent condition. Darts and quiz teams are run and lunchtime food is available Monday to Friday. There is a strong fishing contingent and lots of local characters (beware of practical jokes). Live music Saturdays.

Lime, Gentlemen, Please!

ACROSS the border in Nottinghamshire lies a pub called the Lincolnshire Poacher, a Bateman's house run by Tynemill Ltd.

The licensee is fiercely proud of his beers, so when a youth ordered Pedigree and lime said host was deeply offended but unable to refuse directly a polite request.

"We haven't got any lime," he blurted eventually.

"I think that's disgusting!" whined the punter.

"Well, you started it!" countered our man.

DRINKER! Comment

Lament for a Local

by Trevor Spencer

MANY years ago, when I reached the ripe old age of eighteen, I decided to embark on what was to be the first of many pub crawls.

The area I chose was Kilburn, and the pub in which I downed my first ever pint was the Station Hotel.

The Station Hotel has been once more in my thoughts recently — but not, I am afraid, for the best of reasons. I have received a report that it has been sold by Bass.




It might actually be beneficial to some pubs to be sold off but The Station can truthfully be said not to fit into this category — it has not been sold to the tenant, to another brewery or to anyone remotely interested in keeping it as a pub. It has been sold to a local truck firm who wish to convert it into an office block.

I know that the big brewers have to sell off pubs in order to comply with the MMC recommendations and that what has happened to The Station is an isolated incident — but I cannot help viewing the next twelve months or so with a certain amount of trepidation.

The next year or so could see the demise of many fine pubs, both locally and nationally, with the victims being, once more, the drinking public.

I know of no legislation which recommends that brewers sell their surplus properties to be used as pubs, or one which prevents them selling to whoever waves the fattest cheque regardless of their future intentions.

In the Christmas edition of *Derby Drinker* there was a front page article headlined 'Love Thy Local' — I cannot help feeling that, this time next year, there may be considerably fewer locals to love.

DERBYSHIRE

ALE
THE CAMRA GUIDE TO DERBYSHIRE
208 places and nearly 800 pubs in England's most county with 100 traditional draught beers from 46 breweries

Complies with current laws and standards


Derby Drinker

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Further information on all aspects of Derby CAMRA can be had from any of the following contacts: Chairman — Sally Winterton (Tel: Derby 773459), Secretary: Duncan Crabtree, 45 Amesbury Lane, Oakwood, Derby DE2 2LX (Tel: Derby 834658).

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Troubled Tenants

BASS responded to the MMC requirement (in advance of EEC regulations) to give pub tenants the security of the Landlord and Tenant Act by sacking some 160 tenants in the Burton and Derby area.

Where pubs are not sold the tenants will be replaced by managers.

This is the final Judas Kiss for these hard-working folk. For years they have suffered rent increases based on the improvements they have made to their businesses.

It was only discovered recently that these increases had been based upon VAT-inclusive annual turnover!

What Bass thought they had to lose by giving tenants their rights is a mystery. It's not as if tenants were being discharged every day of the week. They are generally a thoroughly reliable breed.

But where are 160 good managers suddenly to be found? The trade is desperately short of trained staff and this sort of upset is one of the reasons why.

PLANE SPEAKING

HERE's another tale of times past from the pen of CAMRA stalwart Eric Rodgers.

I was born in the twenties and one of the first things I remember was crawling under the 'giant' rhubarb leaves in the garden and seeing spiders catching their prey in the webs slung underneath. As time went on I was driven mad by the almost continuous roar of aero engines being tested at nearby Rolls-Royce test beds.

Talking of aeroplanes, I remember being in the garden with father one peaceful Sunday morning about 1930 when there was a steadily increasing sound of engines and, from the north, came three flights of Handley Page bombers — fifteen in all.

I remember my father saying, as they faded into the distance, "Fifteen aeroplanes . . . fifteen!"

Which brings plane-mad, beery Eric to the *piece de resistance* . . . on a beautiful summer's day shortly afterwards I was at play in the garden and happened to look skywards. To my astonishment, a plane was sky-writing.

It was too high to see or hear but what it wrote, in huge letters, was . . .

BASS

SPELLING IT OUT

WE sometimes run a computer spell-check on DD copy, but we don't always believe it as it doesn't know many beery terms. Here are some alternative spellings as suggested by Electronic Brian.

Taylor's — *Gaolers*
Darley — *Direly*
Marston — *Marathon*
Arkel — *Oarlike*
Handpull — *Endbulb (!)*
Ruddle — *Redial*
Theakston — *Athetoses (eh?)*
Woodforde — *Wildfire*
Brakspear — *Breakages*
Shipstone — *Sheepskins*

. . . so buy one

NOW that *Derbyshire Ale* is an award-winning publication there is even more reason to go and buy one.

Derbyshire Ale is a book produced by CAMRA branches in Derbyshire which lists good, real ale pubs in the region.

It is still available in many real ale pubs around the area and some booksellers also have stocks. It doesn't cost a fortune and it is a real boon to rambling real ale enthusiasts everywhere.

Pocket-sized, *Derbyshire Ale* is not only a pub-guide — it also carries fascinating historical information on Derbyshire and original line drawings of famous pubs.

HELPFUL FOLK

No. 7 The Sink Shifters

IN the centre of a Northern city there is a pub that has served reporters from the nearby national newspaper for time out of mind. Then the accommodating tenant was replaced by a manager and the journo were not best pleased by the brusque service.

One morning a thirsty hack arrived for early doors to catch the new host peeing in the sink! Disgusted, he wrote to the Brewery setting this out as the last straw in the pub's decline.

He never got a reply, but a week later two men from the Brewery came to the pub — and *took the sink away!*

● STRONG AND STEADY ●

A FESTIVAL specialising in extra-strong beers will be held at the Crompton Tavern, Crompton Street, Derby on 26th and 27th April.

More than twenty beers from around the country ranging from OG 1060 (6 per cent alcohol by volume) to OG 1125 (12 per cent abv) will be available, plus T-shirts, programmes and commemorative glasses.

All those who can SENSIBLY enjoy these beers are welcome — a notice in the

Derby Pub Signs

No. 4 THE LORD BELPER Abbey Street/Spa Lane (demolished)

THIS beerhouse started life in 1822 but its name is in some doubt. It appears on the 1851 Board of Health map as the Spa Tavern, but it may have changed its name shortly after — to the Strutt Arms. The latter name celebrated the family of Derwent Valley industrialists founded by Jedediah Strutt who set up as a silk hosiery in Derby in 1760.

The fortunes of the family were demonstrated by Jed's son William buying one of Derby's most des. reses., St. Helen's House, where his son Edward was born in 1801.

Edward was a partner in the business of W. G. and J. Strutt, but took little active part. After studies at Trinity College, Cambridge, he settled in London to practice law. He was returned as a Liberal MP for Derby in 1830 and became Chief Commissioner of Railways in 1846. He looked set for a promising political career with friends including Jeremy Bentham and Stuart Mills. However, his election was declared void in 1847 when he and fellow MP Frederick Leveson Gower were put out and their agents arraigned for bribery.

In 1850 Edward became High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire. By 1851 he was MP for Arundel, but resigned the following year to become a Member for Nottingham. He was elevated to the Peerage in 1856 as the First Baron Belper of Belper. The pub gave itself a similar rise in status.

The pub ended its life on January 31st 1962 after the licence was refused. It had been owned by Alton's since 1895 and became an Ind Coope and Allsopp's house from 1934. The small, triangular building was demolished for no apparent reason and the site is now a rose bed. St. Helen's House is now an evening centre and the Baron is not known as a man about Derby, even less Belper.

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

PRIZE QUIZ — WIN £5

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Y	L	L	A	S	D	L	Z	C	A	M	R	A
H	C	K	P	T	T	A	L	K	R	Q	E	V
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H	M	R	A	E	Y	N	K	P	T	Q	G	U
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E	T	M	D	C	H	K	O	Y	U	C	G	K
L	O	R	D	B	E	L	P	E	R	F	Y	H
R	N	Y	U	P	E	Q	W	D	F	O	P	Z
T	U	Q	R	V	L	H	U	P	A	Q	E	R

OK, FOLKS, we've got something a bit different for you this time.

This wordsearch square contains words and names which appear in this issue of *Derby Drinker*. All you've got to do is find them.

They can run backwards, forwards or diagonally and the cryptic clues refer to the words. Simply circle each word on the grid as you find it, send in the result to the address below and you could win a fiver.

1. Has this pub lost a big light and gained an oily gate? (9)
2. Our branch is Derby . . . ? (5)
3. Speedy chap appearing on the back of this issue (3)
4. Man with a great hobby! (4)
5. Cold town girl with a big responsibility (5)
6. Pub with a strong attraction this month . . . (7)
7. . . . or next month! (3)
8. Soft and gentle or a drink of good ale next month (4)
9. Round and round with a new owner (5)
10. High and mighty dead pub (4, 6)
11. Something real to get down yer neck! (3)

Please send completed entries to **Derby Drinker Quizword**, 42 The Fleet, Belper, Derbyshire DE5 1NU stating your name, address and where you picked up your copy of the Drinker.

CROSSWORD WINNER

THE winning entry in last issue's crossword was **Mrs. A. Mitchell of 2 Sheffield Place, Derby**, who picked up her copy of *Derby Drinker* in that pub famous for its bar sculptures (go and look) — The Crompton Tavern, Crompton Street. A crisp fiver will be sent as soon as we can find the branch treasurer. (What do you mean, he's in Barbados?)



WHO'S WHO and WHAT'S WHAT IN... DERBY CAMRA

Prospective CAMRA members might like to know who's who in Derby CAMRA and what CAMRA actually stands for.

Derby Branch has Sally Winterton as Chairman and the 1991 committee also holds Steve Radford as Treasurer; Duncan Crabtree, Secretary; Dolphin licensee Nigel Barker; Gareth Stead (our resident Scouser); Trevor Spencer (who also edits our members' newsletter 'Mild and Bitter') and famous (or infamous) Derby artist Rob Gilvary.

CAMRA branches are all run on democratic lines — hence the branch meetings which we advertise in *Derby Drinker*.

Membership is reasonably priced and members have a great deal of fun as well as hard work with the branch.

CAMRA, as our choice of

new Chairman shows, is not just a drinking club for blokes. This publication is edited by a woman and it would be a great move forward if more women joined the branch as active members.

In fact, CAMRA is not just a drinking club. We fight to keep real ale and real pubs alive in Britain — a task which has occupied us since the early seventies and which is still as important now as it was then.

So come and join us . . . there is a membership form on page three of each *Derby Drinker* and you can also join at Derby Beer Festival in July or at any CAMRA bash.

We are not 'beer snobs'. We are friendly people who like a sociable drink of good ale in pleasant surroundings. If this sounds like your kind of bag . . . JOIN US!

DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings.

Tuesday Socials

April 16th
Golden Eagle, Agard Street, Derby (Wards).

April 23rd
Ferrals Arms, Sinfin (Everards).

April 30th
Roebeck, Derby (Allied).

May: Don't forget — May is Mild Month!
All these pubs will have real Mild on sale.

May 7th
Maypole, Bridge Street, Derby (Home).

May 14th
Cliff Inn, Crich (Kimberley).

May 21st
Vine Inn, Whittaker Street, Derby (Allied).

May 28th
Three Horseshoes, Ripley (Wards).

May Branch Meeting: Thursday 9th
The Alexandra, Siddals Road, Derby (Batemans plus guests).
Additional milds on sale!

June 4th
Strutts, London Road (Mansfield).

MAKE A DATE! The 14th Derby CAMRA Beer Festival is on 10th to 14th July at Derby Assembly Rooms.



REV



BY ROB