



## KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 40 CHRISTMAS 1991/NEW YEAR 1992 FREE

# THE REV REVIVED

**GREYER CAMRA members in Derby will be concerned to hear that one of their own has been seriously ill following a collision with a car.**

Ron Beddows, one of the Derby Branch's founder members, is fondly known as The Rev. This dates back to the CAMRA AGM at Blackpool in 1977 when Ron organised the Derby contingent and was paged at the hotel as the Reverend Beddows. This stuck due to the similarity of his surname to the then Provost of Derby.

Not many people are aware that *Derby Drinker's* 'Rev' cartoon is based on Ron — and the character

looks remarkably like him. Up to now he's never sent us a writ so we must be doing it right!

After the accident, Ron spent three weeks unconscious and on a ventilator with two collapsed and infected lungs, as well as a number of fractured bones. He is now out of danger, but it will be a few weeks before his gaunt form again graces the Tiger Vaults for early doors.

Ron was the cellarman at the first two Derby Beer Festivals, and his pioneering work is still being built upon.

His pleasantly lived-in face and the trademark of a huge tobacco-stuffed pipe are a familiar sight around Derby pubs, and his enjoyment of real ale must have inspired many

beer ditherers over the years. Any pubs not on Ron's visiting list should look to their cellars (or price lists).

He's also a keen home-brewer — but do we ever see any of it? Nope. So he's a keen home-drinker too.

Now, thanks to the superb work and dedication of the DRI's High Dependency Unit staff, Ron is back in the real world, although, at the time of going to press, still in hospital and plastered. Er, that is his LEGS are in plaster.

Thanks DRI. You've kept a good friend of ours alive.

The November Derby CAMRA Branch meeting sent its best wishes, as does the *DD* editorial team. Hurry back, Ron — the pubs just don't look right without you!

## STICKY LABELS

THREE boos for soppy Food Minister David Maclean. CAMRA, the Food Advisory Committee and the Consumer's Association, have been clamouring for years to get the food labelling laws applied to beer.

'I hope we will never get into ingredient listing of beer,' whined the wimpish Mr. Maclean — for he believes the poor old battered brewing industry (Let's have the white hankies out now please) has already suffered too much disturbance in recent years and it was now time for a period of peace and quiet.

As if transferring a list of ingredients from a recipe book to a label would be too much for the little dears!

CAMRA's Campaigns Manager, Stephen Cox, was puzzled to say the least.

'When John Gummer became Secretary of State for Agriculture, he said the Min of Ag and Fish was seen as being too defensive of producers of food and drink, rather than promoting the interests of consumers. Perhaps he should talk to his deputy,' said Cox.

When people are getting ever more sensitive about what they ingest doesn't it strike you as odd that a highly placed Government official should be suggesting that the contents of your beer glass should remain a dark secret? Perhaps we should be told.

### INSIDE OUR 40th ISSUE

- Dave George up a mountain
- Presents for Boozers
- £10 Christmas Quizword

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## BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarryKeg

### COOPERS ARMS

IN THE last issue of *DD* we mistakenly said that the excellent Coopers Arms at Weston on Trent was once the old Shardlow Hall and that proprietors Tom and Vicky Cooper had lived there for thirty years before transforming it into a pub.

The brain gremlins must have been having a field day — it was, of course, the old Weston Hall — and, while Tom Cooper has lived there for around thirty years, his pleasant spouse Vicky has not. Apologies to all concerned — and we can recommend a visit to this superb new pub for all lovers of real ale.

### CIDERWOMAN

DRUNKS, especially abusive drunks, are never a nice thing to get in your pub — and it's worse if you happen to be the bloke who's got to do the out-chucking. So we were pleased to see the utterly calm demeanor of one city centre landlord who had the unenviable task of removing a very drunken . . . er . . . 'lady' from his premises.

He stood the loud, foul abuse for something like five minutes in silence. Then, still with mouth firmly closed, he removed her from the establishment with such ease that we don't think even she knew she had gone. The final touch was to toss a dropped shoe after the inebriated Cinderella just as the clock struck 11.

The guy should be on stage.

## The Merry Widows

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL - REV.

## Book now for Christmas

AT THE risk of giving our readers the screaming ab-dabs by mentioning Christmas presents (aagh), we would like to draw your attention to some great gifts available for real ale fans.

Top of the list for Derbyshire beer buffs has to be Derby CAMRA's own publication, *Derbyshire Ale*.

*Derbyshire Ale* won the national Best Local Beer Guide award in 1991 — which is a credit to the hardworking compilers, Reg Newcombe and John Arguile. And to the work of three CAMRA branches — Derby, Chesterfield and High Peak.

Containing info on hundreds of fine real ale pubs in Derbyshire, plus line drawings historical facts and Derbyshire tales, this book is a must for the boozier's Christmas stocking. And it costs just £2.95.

It's no good writing to Santa, though, *Derbyshire Ale* is available from pubs around the county and in the City of Derby itself in pubs (the Dolphin and the Alexandra being two), newsagents (e.g. Poynton's in the Market Hall) and bookshops (try Fagin's in Sadler Gate).

Or you can ring Norman Ratcliffe on Derby 47012 if you have real difficulty in finding a copy, or if you want to stock the book in your shop or pub.

Alma Books is CAMRA's national publishing side and there is a good choice of beer and pub orientated books for pressies.

The technical-minded can get great enjoyment from Roger Protz's latest publications — *The European Beer Almanac* (£7.99) and the second edition of *The Real Ale Drinker's Almanac* (£6.99) available from good bookshops.

Fed up with getting stuck in a hamburger bar with the kids? Buy *The Best Pubs for Families* by Jill Adam, £4.99. It lists pubs throughout the country that offer family facilities. Sod McDonalds!

*Good Pub Food* (£7.99) by Susan Nowak is a real best-seller — you'll never again have to confront a plastic ploughmans or a microwaved moussaka. Listed are pubs in every part of Britain where good wholesome food is served at a fraction of restaurant prices.

Barrie Pepper's *Bedside Book of Beer* contains essays, poems, songs . . . all dedicated to the pleasures and humour of beer drinking. It also contains (hem, hem) three cartoons by a certain newsletter editor . . . but we would suggest that the price of £6.99 is well worth it, despite this!

And, of course, no CAMRA book list would be complete without that famed publication, *The Good Beer Guide*. The 1992 edition, published by CAMRA and this year sporting an elegant black cover, is on sale now at £7.99 — not just a list of excellent pubs, but a good read too.

Profits from the sale of all these books go to help the Campaign for Real Ale fight for YOUR pubs and beer . . . so buy one!

### Overhead Conversations No. 3 — Murphy's Theory

A PERVERSE piece of logic was overheard in a popular Derby city centre hostelry.

The place was heaving, bodies six deep at the bar, and the sweating but joyful proprietor was serving his excellent beers with all the speed at his command.

A grouchy, thirsty customer, who

had waited, it seemed, an inordinate amount of time to be served, gave voice to the following.

'This pub would be a lot more popular if it wasn't so crowded, you know!'

Which caused a rare and, thankfully, temporary condition in the licensee. He was speechless!

### SECONDS AWAY . . .

THE Chairman of the 14th Beer Festival Committee in 1992 is, once again, Ivor Clissold.

He did the job last year because he said: 'I'm getting too old to run around doing cellar work any more!' And since he'd run the cellar operation for a number of years it was time to hand over to someone else.

Now he's back in the driving seat — the mad fool! So the best of luck to Ivor and to the next Beer Festival Committee from Derby CAMRA and *Derby Drinker*.

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## Shift Workers

JULIA HANSON's brewery, of Dudley, is to close early next year.

Owners Banks's (Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries) are shifting production of Hanson's Mild to Wolverhampton's Park Brewery.

All the usual assurances are available about preserving the yeast strain, same ingredients, etc., but they have no more chance of success than any other brewery which has tried to transfer a brew.

CAMRA Midlands small brewery liaison officer Bob Jones said, 'W & D should go the whole way and rename themselves Wolverhampton and Wolverhampton.'

What a pity that Banks's never made this splendid brew available in their Derby pubs. People might just have drunk it.

## Derby Pub Signs

No. 6 THE MAZEPPA  
Traffic Street (demolished)

**KOLEDINSKI Ivan Stepanovich Mazeppa was born in 1644 into the Polish nobility. He was educated by Jesuits and groomed for a high-flying career at the court of the Polish king, John Casimer.**

His career changed direction rather suddenly when an affair he was having with a noble lady was discovered, her husband bound Mazeppa, naked, to a wild horse, which careered him to the Ukraine.

At that time the Zaporozhian Cossacks were a race of free warriors living in self-governing communities along the banks of the lower Dnieper. Their leader, Hetman John Samoilovich, was greatly impressed by the learning of the reluctant rider, to the extent that Mazeppa succeeded him as Hetman in 1687.

The Cossacks' struggle to maintain or increase their independence from Russia was advanced by their new Hetman, who won the favour of Peter the Great with his support during the Swedish War of 1704-5. But Mazeppa gambled on a Swedish victory, abandoned Peter in 1708 and took 7,000 men to the side of Charles XII.

All was lost by the Muscovite victory at Poltara in 1709. Peter razed Baturin, the Cossack capital. Mazeppa lost the allegiance of the Cossacks and fled to Turkey, where he died, probably by his own hand, at Bender on 22nd September 1709.

If you think this would make a great story for an opera, sorry, Tchaikovsky beat you to it in 1884. You could try an epic poem, but it would be compared with Byron's of 1819.

It was Byron's popularity, especially as a local hero, that probably explains the pub sign. Several pubs of similar name existed in the region of his home at Newstead Abbey, Notts.

## DRINKER! Comment

### Tote that Barge, Lift that Cask!

WHAT'S the betting that this time next year the brewers will be panicking?

From 1st January 1993 employers must assess all tasks involving manual lifting and take action to reduce the risk of injury. Anyone who has struggled with casks in a cluttered cellar will see unlimited opportunities for compensation claims.

The main reason for the brewers' disarray is our old chums, the Brewers' Society who were charged with investigating the various mechanical handling equipments available.

They set up a laughably-called working party which has yet to announce any plans to co-ordinate product testing or how the new regulation is to be implemented.

Meanwhile most brewers are doing their own investigations, overlapping with the Brewers' Society's work and all reaching the same conclusions at great expense.

Of course, the cost of all this inefficiency will be deducted from the profits.


There is quite a range of hardware for stillaging available, much of it looking like garden shed inventions that got out of hand. Here are three of them.

Incontrol of Wigan have the Barrel Park system: stillages are not required and casks are stored on mobiles which incorporate automatic tipping.

Kayel Engineering has Cellar-Man: a lifting and racking system that can pile casks to the roof. This can double or even treble cellar capacity. Auto-tipping is again a feature.

Birks Brothers of Sheffield weigh in with Barrelmaster. Their racking system can cope with sloping floors up to forty-five degrees and awkward corners.

These systems cost anything from £3,000 to £20,000. Also to be considered is the cost of a powered hoist and modification to the cellar drop. Multiply that lot by the number of pubs in Britain and we are talking about serious money. Ours!

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in Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire  
with 100 traditional & award bearing  
pubs all in one book.  
A helpful guide to the  
pubs of Derbyshire.

# 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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# A TOUCH OF HEAVEN IN THE HILLS

The Mason's Arms, Strawberry Bank, Cumbria

by Dave George

DEFINITELY the best way to approach the Mason's Arms is from Newby Bridge at the southern end of Lake Windermere.

Take the Bowness road and then the third right — taking care not to scrape your car's rear end as you join the steep incline.

Three-quarters of the way up, take some time out to park your car and marvel at the views over Windermere and, on a clear day, the distant mountains. Continuing over the hill the road meanders through forests and farmland to a fairly sudden steep fall and switchback. Having not seen another car for at least ten minutes you'll now be searching for space to park. If the first car park is full there is another to the rear of the pub.

The Mason's Arms is an unpretentious whitewashed stone building, typical of the Lake District, although what it has to offer is far from typical.

The tables and seats on the slate terrace outside the entrance may seem ordinary but I've never seen anything like the gas heaters protruding, column like, from the table centres.

The air is warmed and deflected back down by the umbrella canopies, resulting in comfortable outdoor drinking in all but the worst conditions.

The sign above the door reads 'The Mason's Arms — Home of the Lakeland Brewing Company', which gives another pointer as to why this pub should not be missed.

Their own beers, brewed in a small brewhouse at the far end of the car park, includes Amazon Ale and an unusual damson beer. They are served, together with guest beers, via handpumps from a bar which is barely the size of an under-stairs cupboard in the main room. There are low beams, stone flag floors and an assortment of wooden furniture crammed in. A seat by the open fire can seem like heaven on a cold December day.

There are two other smaller rooms, equally cosy and crammed, and there is something about the way the furniture is packed in that encourages total strangers — other refugees from the nine-to-five routine — to be on first-name terms by the end of a

session. And that isn't all — what appears to be a menu standing on each table does not mention food but lists the 200 or so bottled beers from around the world that are available.

My brother-in-law tried some cherry beer from Belgium and was most impressed, although at £3 something a bottle he won't be impressed very often!

For hungry mouths there is an extensive chalk board menu with something for everyone; hot, cold, English, foreign, vegetarian or just sandwiches. All generously proportioned if somewhat pricey. On my last visit I ploughed my way through a huge bowl of spare ribs at under £5. The couple next to us decided that such a meal would be sufficient for two.

Although they don't have a children's menu and there's not a lot to keep restless small ones occupied, children are welcome inside and outside the pub, at least while meals are being served.

If you're going to the Lakes it's not to be missed and if you're heading for Scotland it's near enough to the M6 to make a detour worthwhile. If you're really lucky you could get snowed in and lose a few days there. (Can I claim expenses? D.G.) (No! Ed.)

## Peeps' Diary

DYD make a journey of some length into the Shire of Oxenford, to visit Bampton in Ye Bushe, a village far from civilizaytion, peacefull and restoring of the jaded soul.

Upon arriving at the Inne, curiously named Ye Oliphant and Castle, which dyd have space for a weary traveller, I was in some amayze to see a large Rabbitt walking in the grounds of the Inne.

Mine host dyd speak to me of it, saying that this Coney (of great size and savage aspect) dyd guard the environs of the Hostelry. Then dyd he lugh exceeding long and hard, whereby I surmised him to be jesting wyth me.

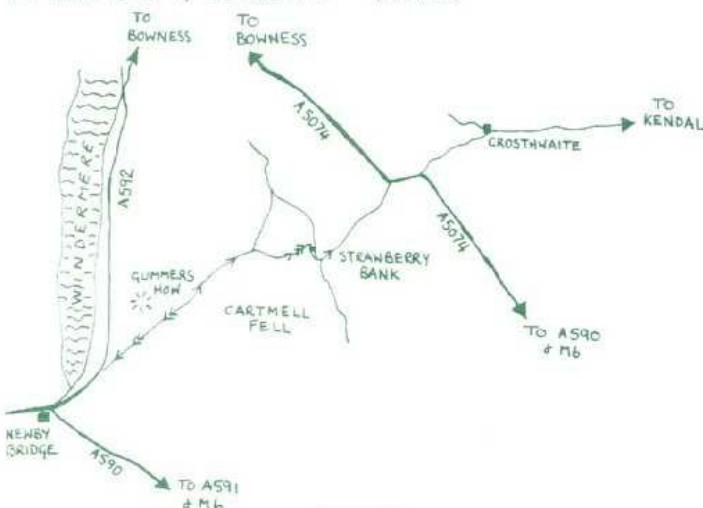
Notwithstandyng the strange humour of the tapster, I dyd enter

the Inne with some relief, it being a clear daye, butt cold.

Secure wyth a tankard of good Adnam's ale to hand, I dyd have some conversaytion with Master Shergold, onetime a Moorish (or Morrish) Dancer, and now content to rest his bones at the Inne, the while younger village men do prance upon ye greene.

Dyd spend the greater part of the evening with Master Shergold, a most amusyng fellow, and spent a most comfortable night at this Inne.

Dyd arise for breakfast, served smoking hotte and welcome on a cold morning. Did not have an akeing hedd, for which myself most grateful.



Peeps sayeth: 'When having quaffed a Yuletide bowl, drive not thy carriage home.'

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ADDRESS .....

Member .....

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

# CHRISTMAS QUIZWORD – WIN £10

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

## WREAKING HAVOC...

The winner of the last Quizword is Mr. Ernie Parr, who has had a most wonderful address. We don't really believe it exists, so we shall probably have to go there to find out, try a few beers, fall over...

Anyway, Mr. Ernie Parr, 6 Ash Way, Frisby On The Wreake (Egad, sir!), Melton Mowbray, Leics. has won a fiver. He picked up his copy of DD in the Staff of Life at Ticknall — which is easier to spell, at least.

### CLUES

1. What a beer gut does — the morning after? (8)
2. An upright position. Propped at bar? (8)
3. He only comes once — but boy! When he does! (5, 5)
4. Great final document! This towards all men, now. (8)
5. Wear this type of hat at this do. (5)
6. French eat where the babe was found. (6)
7. A trio of these sages went on a long trip. (3)
8. Gordon; Edmonds or Continental Yule. (4)
9. Yule find one of these in the hearth. (3)
10. Hang 'em high or tread on 'em. (9)
11. Needled? Sweep under this. (4)
12. Tuneful lass for this time of year. (5)

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.

## BAG PUSS

THE postbox at Belper's answer to Wapping has been stuffed with your entries again.

This time, it being Christmas, all the clues (twelve clues, Twelve Days of Christmas, geddit? Oh please yourselves) refer to Christmas words which do not necessarily appear in this issue — but they're all dead simple so even you lot should get them right. Incidentally, some of them run backwards and diagonally. And we're offering a prize of £10 — yes, ten luvly quid — to the first out of the postbag. We really must stop calling the editor a bag....

## DD 39 QUIZWORD SOLUTION

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

## MEASURE FOR MEASURE

JANUARY 1st 1992 sees new legislation on spirit measuring devices.

It's the licensee who faces prosecution, so the brewers have seemed not to have bothered about keeping them informed. Confusion reigns, so here's an explanation.

The last regulation applying to inverted bottle type dispensers dates from 1947, when Notice 1022 was authorised. This number is often stamped upon them. After all these years, Notice 1022 dispensers have been found to suffer from two design faults.

Because the inlet and outlet valves can be open simultaneously, air can pass through the measuring chamber and result in short measure.

The top of the measuring chamber is not always visible, so customers or staff cannot see if a short measure is coming up due to trapped air or empty bottle. And the top of the chamber is flat, so unless the device is mounted exactly vertically, an air lock is inevitable.

Older drinkers will remember the excellent old tap-operated 'Optics' which didn't have these problems. The new devices are more to the old Optic style, but operated by a push bar or lever. Some have a delay built

in to prevent both valves opening at once; others have both valves mounted on one spindle but operating with a snap action.

All this has nothing to do with Eurocrap. That starts on 1st January 1995, when metric spirit measures become compulsory.

Of course, anyone buying new dispensers now will not want to do it again in three years time. But a pub is not allowed to mix imperial with metric measures, so if a licensee goes metric it has to be the entire top shelf.

The one-sixth of a gill measure dates from a 1963 Act and is equal to 237ml. The new measure is a touch bigger at 250ml. So the new price should be the old one multiplied by 1.06p; e.g. imperial measure 85p, metric measure 90p.

For some reason the 1963 Act covers only gin, rum, whisky and vodka. It does not cover brandy, although if it's sold from a marked measure you have to be given the stated amount.

There is no present regulation on the sale of wine, but by 1995 it will have to be sold in 125 or 175ml measures. Still out in the cold are fortified wines like sherry and port — and all those sticky cocktails.

## DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings.

**Tuesday, 7th January:** Social, New Inn, Rosehill Street. **Thursday, 9th January:** Branch Meeting, Newbridge Inn, Shelton Lock. **Tuesday, 14th January:** Social, Half Moon, Littleover. **Thursday, 16th January:** Beer & Skittles Evening (Booking essential). **Tuesday, 21st January:** Social, Corner Pin, Chellaston. **Tuesday, 28th January:** Social, Grampian, Sinfin. **Tuesday, 4th February:** Social, George Hotel, Midland Road, Derby. **Tuesday, 11th February:** Social, Old Ale House, Gower Street, Derby. **Thursday, 13th February:** AGM & B'Mig., Station Inn, Midland Road, Derby. **Tuesday, 18th February:** Social, Chequers, High Street, Ticknall. **Thursday, 20th February:** Brewery Trip, Limit (Booking essential). **Tuesday, 25th February:** Social, Rutland Arms, Rutland Street, Derby. **Tuesday, 3rd March:** Social, Red Cow, St. Edmund's Close, Allestree. **Tuesday, 10th March:** Social, Horse & Jockey, Leabrooks Road, Somercotes. **Thursday, 12th March:** Branch Meeting, Brunswick (Board Room), Station Approach. **Tuesday, 17th March:** Social, Woodlark, Bridge Street, Derby. **Tuesday, 24th March:** Social, Wilmot, Chaddesden. **Tuesday, 31st March:** Social, Newlands, Golden Valley, Riddings.

Amber Valley Beer Festival: March 1992. Look out for further details.

Any further details or trip booking, contact Branch Chairman, Sally Winterton, Derby 244466 (work) or Derby 773459 (home).

## ALLIED BREWERIES

PEOPLE who work for Allied Breweries don't know if they are on their Alloa or their Ansell's.

The latest upsets are a planned merger with Carlsberg and more pub sell-offs.

Another thirty pubs are to be hived off in the Derby area to various pub chain companies. This is a mere ploy to get round the MMC regulation that would release the tie on half the number of pubs above 2,000.

The chains are merely a front as far as beer sales are concerned and all pubs will be selling Allied products just as before.

If the MMC allows the Carlsberg Tetley merger a few hundred jobs will immediately be shed as the two distribution systems are combined.

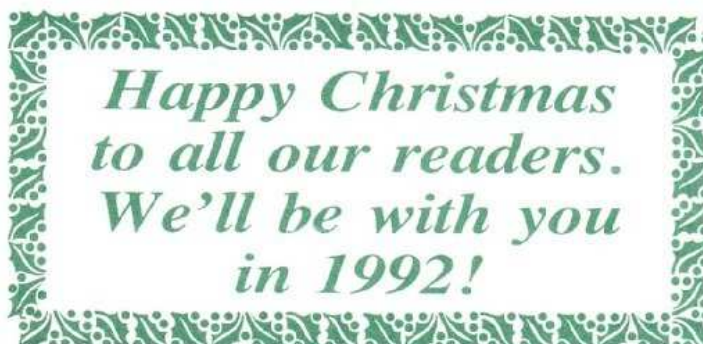
Of course, Carlsberg is a publess brewery, so the effect on Allied's breweries can be nothing but bad.

## Gisbourne Arms

FRANCHISE STREET  
DERBY Tel: 362860

MARSTON PEDIGREE  
from the jug.

TETLEY BITTER on draught  
Large Beer Garden · Bar Snacks



The Green Dragon Inn  
Willington

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