

# Derby Drinker

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Campaign CAMRA for Real Ale

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 41

SPRING 1992

FREE

## FAREWELL, FLO

by Ivor Clissold and John Arguile



Hostess Flo at the Alex with Albert, Jim (R) and tireless CAMRA researcher Ivor Clissold.

Photograph. Robert Anderson

**THE DERBY branch of CAMRA were saddened to hear of the death on 13th February of Flo Fox, former licensee of the Alexandra, Siddals Road.**

Flo kept the Alex for some 38 years, mostly as a widow, and was ever a source of good ale and fun. It was appropriate that Derby CAMRA started life in Flo's pub as she represented the long tradition of alewives which we hold dear.

She took on the pub at a most uncertain point in its history, in the sixties, when all around the area were scenes of demolition.

Many pubs were lost to the ravages of the sixties planners and that the Alex survived at all amid the devastation was a fine tribute to its welcoming and homely atmosphere under Flo's benevolent eye.

She sold magnificent Shippo's mild and bitter from morn till night. Well, she didn't open *that* early, but there were compensations!

It was always a good place for traditional pub games and a good old sing song and for all these reasons was the natural choice for that first Derby CAMRA meeting in 1974. Flo served in an honorary capacity on the first branch committee.

"Will you have one, Flo?" was a frequent question from appreciative regulars. She invariably answered: "Oh, I'll just have ten pennorth with you."

Flo was retired, much against her will, in 1981 and moved to the Liversage Estate on Nottingham Road.

Without her, the Alex slowly declined until, in 1988, Shipstones finally called time.

Its subsequent revitalisation by Tynemill Limited in December 1989, following the rebuilding of Thompson's Railway Cottages and the re-opening of the Brunswick Inn, has brought a new lease of life and drawn a different clientele.

She was guest of honour at the official opening ceremony of the Alexandra and, although by that time confined to a wheelchair, was the life and soul of the party. Many people were delighted to see her back in her accustomed place and she thoroughly enjoyed her celebrity status.

Flo was much loved by her customers and was a good friend to Derby CAMRA. She will be missed. Our sympathies go out to her son Roy and her close friends Albert, Matty and Jim. And our pity to anyone who never knew her or the happiness she gave to her friends and customers.

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## FROTH WRATH

**YOU CAN'T say we haven't been patient about the amount of beer we get in our glasses.**

It was, after all, back in the 13th Century that the Standardum Galonis law was enacted to try and ensure folk got a gallon when they ordered one. And not until 1700 did pint pots start to be calibrated.

After decades of belly-aching about froth the Weights and Measures Act 1985 (Section 43) decreed that a pint must be 20 fluid ounces. Froth would be optional and extra.

But drinkers still haven't won. We didn't realise the Government was above Parliament. The Tories chose not to enact Section 43 at that time.

Now Consumer Affairs Minister Edward Leigh has at last said that the clause is to be introduced. Finally, a pint will *be* a pint!

Brim measure glasses are unfair. The tolerance is unilateral — the customer either gets a pint or less, usually less.

CAMRA hopes to see the introduction of 21oz glasses which have about 5mm freeboard above the pint line. Tests have shown they can be very quickly filled with draught beer which will settle back to an exact pint.

The trade have until April 1994 to change glass stocks over to line measure. The *Morning Advertiser's* ludicrous estimates of the cost of the operation are based on the myth that all beer will have to be served through measured pumps. Not so.

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## — INSIDE ISSUE 41 —

- PIP SOUTHALL REVISITS HIS ROOTS
- CONTINENTAL COMFORTERS
- BAYNTON ON BOOTS AND BEER
- HOW DO PUBS GET IN THE GBG?

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# PIP'S TIPS by Pip Southall

BORN and brought up in the Ashbourne Road area, roving reporter PIP SOUTHALL looks at changes on the pub scene in his native land.

**FOR MANY YEARS** the Ashbourne Road area was dominated by Ansell's and Ind Coope pubs.

Handpumps were rare and guest beers unknown. During the 1980's, Burton Ale emerged in these back street boozers and now, slowly, genuine independent brewery ales can be found. Here are some prime examples.

**YORK TAVERN, York Street**  
Marston's Pedigree. Regular Guest Ales. Tucked away in the Twilight Zone between the former dog track and Friar Gate's leafy promenade is this gem. Always busy; with a strong and loyal bunch of locals and popular for pub games the small pub bustles with life. Landlord Arthur took the gamble a year ago to introduce regular and changing guest beers alongside Pedigree. A board to the right of the bar proclaims today's choice and recent samplings have included Exmoor Gold and Stag, Coach House, Innkeepers' Reserve, Fuller's ESB, Wobbly Bob and Charles Wells' Bombardier to name but some. The policy has been a wonderful success and the locals gave been converted to choice. It's a joy to see someone who some years ago, would have said: "Ansell's please" greet his landlord with "What's next in the cellar?"

**SWAN & SALMON, Ashbourne Road**  
Marston's Pedigree, Draught Bass, Guest Ales.

This pub was recently purchased from Bass and immediate changes were rung. Fronted by a small bar and popular as an early calling post on the famous 'Mile', The Swan is now a member of a guest ale club and advertises the daily fare on a small blackboard on the front wall. The guest ales are often served by gravity and regular features are Banks and Taylors SPA, Black Cat and Charles Wells' Bombardier.

Away from Ashbourne Road now and further towards the city centre — but still referring to a small yet enterprising pub.

**CROMPTON TAVERN, Crompton Street**  
Marston's Pedigree, Timothy Taylor Landlord, Ward's Sheffield Bitter, Darley Thorne Bitter plus two daily guest beers. Welcoming, diverse, interesting and great beer — all attributes of the wonderful and unique Crompton Tavern. *The Good Beer Guide* describes it as a young person's pub with live music, which is somewhat inaccurate. Not only has this pub a varied clientele with a great mix of age and culture — it does not have live music. It does, however, have its own cricket and football teams, quiz evenings, theme nights, art, sculpture and jewellery displays — and owner Perry Bailey can be proud of his range of ales. He has featured upwards of 150 different beers each year, usually accompanied by an appropriate chalk drawing on the blackboard. Beer festivals are a speciality, the pub is great for bar banter, good value lunchtime food and boasts Derby's most individual jukebox.



## FAMOUS BELGIANS

**BEER importers Interbrew plan to launch a number of Belgian species this year.**

Most of them are interesting enough in themselves, but some of the special glasses are a pleasure to clutch and drink from.

Hoegaarden's bottle-fermented wheat beer has a grassy, lemony aroma, a light, grain and yeast taste, with a slightly fruity finish, 5 per cent ABV. Lovely, great big chunky glass.

Lefte Blond is a dark gold beer of 6.6 percent ABV. It has a deep, rich but rounded maltiness and a dry finish. Delicious and satisfying. The long-stemmed, deep-bowled glass with colourful decal is impressive and elegant.

Stella Artois was disappointing. Quite crisp but sweetish: not a patch on real Pilsners and suffers from the nasty taste of pasteurisation. 5.2 per cent ABV. The glass, however, is exquisite. So thin that it sings, slightly fluted and a pleasure to drink from. To drink any *other* beer from that is.

Kriek Belle Vue is a 5.2 per cent ABV lambic cherry beer. Dark red and amazingly dry for a fruit beer: the wonderful cherry tang is offset with a touch of almond-like bitterness. The tulip-shaped glass concentrates the delicious fruit nose. Cask conditioned, Belle Vue comes with a Champagne-type cork and wire closure which gives it a sense of luxury.

Some of the above beers are available in the excellent new off licence in the Wardwick, which has a huge range of bottled Continental beers and many glasses to match.

## GLASS MATES

**STUDENTS** at Derbyshire College of Higher Education, Kedleston Road, are luckier than most.

The Students' Union bar there sells traditional Courage Directors, Kirby Strong Ale and Ward's Sheffield, plus one guest beer every week. One of our branch members has visited the bar and pronounced the beers excellent. Got any room for a (very) mature student?

## Derby Pub Signs

**The Old King's Head, Belper**

As OUR inns evolved from amenities made available to travellers by religious houses it is not surprising that many early pubs had signs featuring a Pope or Abbot.

When Henry VIII broke with Rome such signs were hastily changed and to this day King Hal is a popular choice from the fifteen kings we have had since — possibly because he looks more like a bacchanalian boozier than the rest.

But as far as Belper's pub is concerned the question is about the construction of the name. Is it "The Old King's Head" or the old "King's Head"? Was there another, newer pub in Belper called the King's Head? No such pub is recorded.

The Grade II listing citation says the building is early 18th Century but there is evidence that a pub was here a century before that. A pub setting up shortly after the Reformation would nicely profit from the resurgence of Royalism by displaying a portrait of Charles I, the Old King.

## CASH BASH

**DERBY** branch of CAMRA was delighted at last month's branch AGM, to hand over a cheque to Leukaemia Research.

Proceeds from a great auction of Breweriana at The Alexandra, courtesy of licensee Mark Robins, plus money collected around the city and various donations amounted to £1,015. Many thanks to all who helped.

It was particularly appropriate to make this donation. A few days before the AGM a prominent CAMRA member died of this terrible disease.

Dan Kane was Scottish regional organiser and member of CAMRA national executive in past years. He was also closely involved in the Caledonian Brewery project.

Let's hope our donation goes some way to finding a cure for leukaemia, which cuts short so many lives each year.

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

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**REMEMBER!**  
Enjoy your pint — but don't Drink and Drive

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**6th ALFRETON BEER FESTIVAL**

**Saturday 2nd May 11 - 3 and 6.30 - 11**

**ALFRETON LEISURE CENTRE**

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ENTRY FREE TO CAMRA CARD CARRYING MEMBERS AND EUROPEAN AFFILIATED MEMBERS

**Evening Entertainment**

For further details contact Sally Winterton, Derby 773459



**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.

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**Advertising Rates** for 1992 are front page—£35, inside pages—£28, back page—£30. Discounts for payment in advance. Tel: Derby 251822 for details.

**Further information** on all aspects of Derby CAMRA can be had from any of the following contacts: Chairman—Rob Gilvary (Tel: Derby 45156). Secretary—Duncan Crabtree, 45 Amesbury Lane, Oakwood, Derby DE2 2LX (Tel: Derby 834658).

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## OVERHEARD CONVERSATIONS

### No. 4: *McRissoles*

A GRAND old war veteran was disgustedly discussing the demise of a local pub.

This followed a coup by a fast food chain which has turned the pub site into a drive-in belly-filling station.

"You'll never get me in one of them places. We used to have hamburgers in the army and they were 'orrible. 'Course, in those days they called 'em *rissoles*!"

The old soldier spat out the final word with such venom that our steel-stomached reporter quailed. Yet he fell to wondering how it was that this fine man helped us in the war only to find his *rissoles* renamed after an enemy city—and introduced to Britain by our supposed Allies!

But what can you expect from a country which decided to fight Germany with a General called **Eisenhower**?

## DRIFTING IN THE DALES

by Les (Rambling Sid Rumpo) Baynton (the man in the corner with the wet OS map and his boots in the porch!)

**FOR THOSE** beer drinkers who occasionally like to escape from the pulsating nightlife and the simmering cultural cauldron of Derby I offer some humble suggestions regarding the simple life.

If you're over-stressed, over-indulged and over-developed in the midriff area, read on.

Walking the Derbyshire Dales and visiting the lesser-known village pubs can be an intoxicating experience in itself. There are many guide books to help you, full of circular walks of varying distances.

A number of these have been compiled by England's most famous walker, John Merrill, who hails from Winster. *Walks in The White Peak* is a good book to start with and includes rambles around Lathkill, Bradford and Monsal Dales.

John Merrill also notes in his introduction that: "There is at least one pub on every walk." This man sounds like my kind of walker!

The *OS Outdoor Leisure map No. 24, The White Peak*, is also invaluable. Accommodation is very reasonable in the Peak Park, so why not stay the night, walk further and drink longer?

An ideal base to explore this area is the village of Youlgreave.

We stayed at the Bull's Head Hotel, which offered comfortable accommodation at £12 B&B, with good value evening meals in the small restaurant.

The George Hotel just down the village High Street has been a *Good Beer Guide* entry for a number of years with its handpumped Home Ales.

It proudly boasts of a royal visit some years ago when Prince Charles was caught short while driving through the village to an auspicious Royal function nearby. Local legend has it the HRH swept into the bar in some distress demanding "Where's the bog?" (Aah, another Royal Function! Ed.) This is the only pub toilet in the area now authorised to declare 'By Royal Appointment'!

There is also a wonderful lady pianist who leads the spirited Saturday night sing-song of popular numbers from the last fifty years—she seems to have sheet music for them all bundled into two ancient briefcases.

Sadler Gate pales by comparison to this country haven. Once you visit this area you will, like us, want to return.

## Peeps' Diary

**OFT TIMES** it happens thatt my writings be thought a poppiecokk.

Thys did strike mee wyth grate force upon hearyng the discourse of a gentillman in Ye Dolphin, an Inne of goodly repute upon Quene-street in Derbye.

Upon reading mye notes upon the greate Coney which resideth at Ye Oliphant and Castill at Barmpton in Ye Bushe in the Shire of Oxenforde he did make disparagement upon mye veracity and dyd call thee notes "rubbishe" and threw them upon ye table in grate temper. Hee dyd nott know that it was I sytting in the Inn near to ye doore and I dyd hear all hys discourse, thys rude churle who dyd say he hayled fromm the Southern partes.

I woulde saye to hym that all bee truth which I write and should he goe to Ye Oliphant and Castill hee woulde there see thys Coney, or Rabitt, as dyd I. Nowe

would I speake of a place, a goode Derbye Inn, where there bee greater tayles told than myne. Thys bee Ye Woode Larke upon the Bridge-streete, a faire and cleanlye place of cheersome aspecte.

Thee tapster and landlorde (he being of means doth owne the Inne) Master Margetts, doth serve a mightye pint of goode ale. He hath, although roads bee longe and perillouse, brought to hys Inne all manner of ales from other Shires. In dayes before, thys Woode Larke Inne dyd vend onlye the beere made by ye Munkes of Burton-upon-Trente, which beeres Master Margetts doth sell still but wyth additions suche as noble Addnamms and other strangelye named ayles.

It be a goodly thyng to sitt att ease and list to ye tayles which the drinkers of thys Inne do telle. They do give mee muche mirthe and enjoymente, especially the jestes of a Mechanik wyth a greate Bearde upon hym who doth quaff at the Woode Larke.

## SELECT CREW

**WE ARE** often asked how pubs get into the national *Good Beer Guide*. Derby branch of CAMRA takes this job very seriously and a lot of work goes into the selection.

Derby branch selects the pubs in its area that sell beer in the best condition. Of the six hundred outlets in our area, we immediately reject those not serving draught beer (about half).

Our members, discreetly armed with score sheets, drop into pubs at any time and give a 1-5 rating on beer quality:

- 1 Poor/undrinkable (take it back)
- 2 Below average (drinkable—just)
- 3 Average (nothing special)
- 4 Good (really enjoyable)
- 5 Excellent (can't be bettered for that particular brew).

Last year this resulted in nearly 3,500 survey forms being submitted. Our Pub Information Officer enters these into a computer and adjustments made to compensate for surveys at the same pub on the same day, guest beers, etc. Survey teams are organised to visit under-represented pubs to give as balanced a picture as possible.

The final selection has to fit the space allocated to Derby in GBG. Inevitably one or two favourites have to be dropped in crowded areas, while standards are sometimes a bit lower in isolated locations. One has to think of the GBG user, who will generally be looking for pubs in city centres and tourist traps rather than housing estates.

## KID'S STUFF

**THE 1992 Derby Beer Festival (15th to 19th July) will be kid's stuff this year.**

Saturday and Sunday lunchtime sessions will feature a free crèche in a safe room away from the Main Hall.

It will be staffed by qualified nurses and our usual clowns (not the Branch Committee!) will entertain.

We are hoping to provide refreshments but this may depend on the venue's caterers.

For older 'children', lager is available in most of the city's pubs. For adults, the Beer Festival will offer a large range of tasty beers, many from Scottish breweries.

## The George Hotel

MIDLAND ROAD

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

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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 QUIZWORD — WINS £5



## MRS. POTTS SCOOPS THE POT

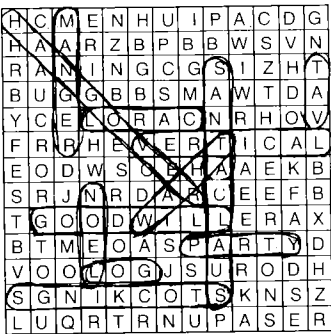
Lots of entries once again for our £10 Christmas Quizword. The festive dosh was won by Mrs. P. J. Potts of 42 Penn Lane, Melbourne, Derby DE7 1EQ. Once again the rules are the same for this issue's Quizword. If you haven't done one yet you are missing the most fun you can have short of watching a sloth go for a stroll!

Words, which are related to stories appearing in this issue of *DD* are set in the grid forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally. The clues should help or confuse, depending on how many pints you've swallowed. Encircle the words with care, in ink and 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.

### CLUES:

1. *What every beer drinker wants in their glass (4, 7)*
2. *Don't get the pip, take a tip and have a drink in pubs around here. (9, 4)*
3. *You need a special touch of glass to drink beers from here. (7)*
4. *A pub which lies uneasy wearing a gold hat? (5, 4)*
5. *Old Penny with old drink in Derbyshire — a place for les rambles. (5)*
6. *Place of refuge for Beer Festival beginners? (6)*
7. *Meat dish well known to the armed forces. (7)*
8. *Western bevvy in for a taxing time. (4, 5)*
9. *Arduous task and taxing on the beer. (4)*

### SOLUTION No. 40



## BRAND NEW SLIDE RULE

A new EEC proposal is to allow member states to introduce a sliding scale of excise duty on beer if they wish.

The present system works against small breweries. Duty is paid at a standard rate but a percentage wastage allowance is given. It was soon appreciated that the bigger the brewery the less the wastage, hence the erection of mega-breweries like Runcorn and Worton Grange.

The sliding scale would mean that breweries producing less than 120,000 barrels a year could be allowed up to fifty per cent reduction on excise duty: an

enormous fillip to micro and regional breweries.

It will come as no shock to cynics that the government opposes the scheme.

Minister Gillian Shepherd says the government's proposal to charge duty at factory gate will eliminate the wastage allowance. They oppose the principle of using the tax system to favour one size of producer over another. Strangely they have no such qualms when it comes to personal taxation, with PEPS & TESSAS popping up like weeds, while different scales for different rates of pay are long-established facts.

## BRUSSELS APPLE TAX

BRUSSELS Eurocrats have proposed that cider and perry be taxed as wine.

This would just about double the pub price. Cider as a draught drink would practically disappear.

CAMRA has attacked this and the UK government has promised to veto the plan. The EEC Parliament has voted to give cider its own tax classification but we still have to ensure the final proposals are sensible.

The real cider industry is already under threat from processed keg 'crapple cider' made from imported apple syrups. The West Country has many of these houses and the brewers are determined to oust the cheap and tasty in favour of the expensive and nasty.

CAMRA members attending this year's Bristol AGM will have the chance to seek out some of these excellent, threatened establishments.

## DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings.

### APRIL

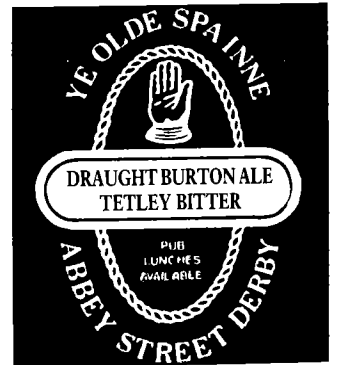
- 7th Tuesday: Social at Pack Horse, Kings Newton (Burtonwood).
- 9th Thursday: Branch Meeting at Abbey, Darley Abbey (Sam Smiths).
- 11th/12th: CAMRA National A.G.M. at Bristol.
- 14th Tuesday: Social at Brick & Tile, Derby (Burtonwood).
- 21st Tuesday: Social at Coach & Horses, Fenny Bentley (Bass).
- 28th Tuesday: Social at Yarnspinner, Spondon (Hardy Hansons).

### MAY

- 2nd Saturday: Alfreton Beer Festival.
- 5th Tuesday: Social at Malt Shovel, Shardlow (Marston's).
- 7th Tuesday: Branch Meeting to be confirmed.
- 12th Tuesday: Social at White Horse, Derby. (Allied)
- 19th Tuesday: Social at Derby College, Kedleston Road (Free). Last orders 10.15 pm then go to Jonty Farmer.
- 21st Thursday: Lincoln Beer Festival Trip. (Book with Sally W.).
- 26th Tuesday: Social at Grandstand, Chaddesden (Banks's)

### JUNE

- 2nd Tuesday: Social at John Thompson, Ingleby (John Thompson). 15th Anniversary of the John Thompson.
- 7th Sunday: Branch Cricket Match against Loughborough.
- 9th Tuesday: Social at Osmaston Park Hotel, Derby (Allied).
- 11th Thursday: Branch Meeting at Hope & Anchor, Wirksworth (Home).
- 13th Saturday: Regional Meeting.
- 16th Tuesday: Social at White Swan, Hilton (Bass).
- 23rd Tuesday: Social at Hawk & Buckle, Etwell (Marston's)
- 30th Tuesday: Social at Shakespeare, Shardlow (Home).



## Gisbourne Arms

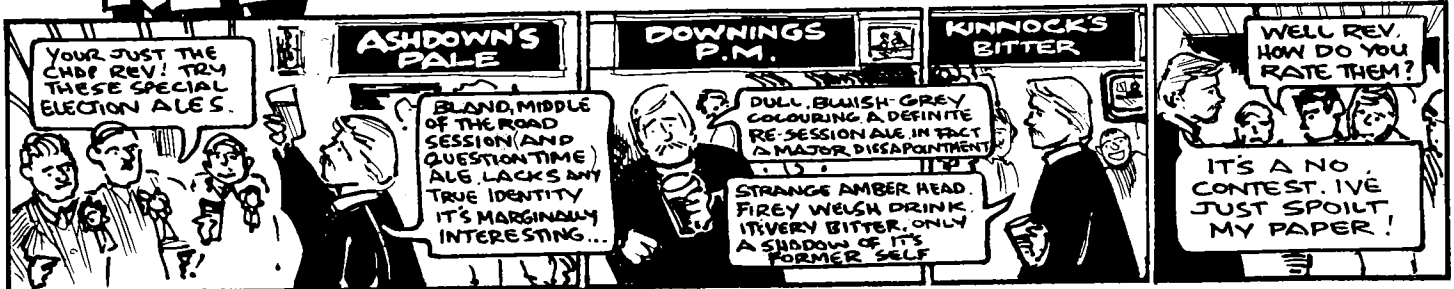
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MARSTON PEDIGREE  
from the jug.

TETLEY BITTER on draught  
Large Beer Garden · Bar Snacks



## REV



## BY ROB