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## KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 50

LATE SPRING 1994

FREE

## NEWS

### Ram Inn NOT Sold!

Our sincere apologies go to the **Ram Inn**, Bridge Street, Derby following our report in the last issue that the pub was due to re-open under new owners.

The quite detailed and specific information we received from a source close to a prospective buyer led us to publish, in good faith, a story which later proved to be incorrect. We won't listen to him again!

New owners or not, it's still a good area for drinking with the **Woodlark** next door, the **Maypole** around the corner on Brook Street, the **Greyhound** on Friargate and the **York Tavern** on **York Street**. Pop into the Ram and tell them *Derby Drinker* sent you!

### Bigger Pot

Derby's **Flowerpot** is set to expand into the building next door. Owner John Evans plans to treble the size of the King Street pub, subject to planning approval.

### New Firkin

Now that the Firkin chain has been taken over by Allied/Ind Coope/Ansells/Tetley/Carlsberg (whatever they're called these days) the White Horse, Morledge, Derby is undergoing renovation and, we hear, being turned into a Firkin pub.

### New Flags

The Castle & Falcon has undergone a transformation to a trad style ale house complete with stone flag floors.

### The Nags Head Inn

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# GO MILD!



Unspoilt by Progress

On May 1st Derby CAMRA will again be launching their annual Mild trail. You drink ten pints of mild ale in at least five different pubs and you qualify for a free pint of mild from your local mild pub. And there are other goodies to be won in our annual celebration of one of the lesser known gems of British beer.

As we go to press there are 21 pubs involved with the promise of more before the trail starts on May 1st.

Those involved so far are; **The Bell and Castle**, Burton Road, Derby (Highgate Dark), the **Crompton Tavern**, Crompton Street, Derby (various), the **Victoria**, Midland Place (Highgate Dark); **The Alexandra**, Siddalls Road, Derby, (Bate Mans / various); **The Furnace**, Duke Street, Derby (Kimberley); **The Flamingo & Firkin**, Becket Street, Derby; the **Norman Arms**, Village Street, Derby (Home); the **Woodlark**, Bridge Street, Derby (Adnams/Highgate Dark); the **Maypole**, Brook Street, Derby (Theakstons); **The Friargate**, Friar Gate, Derby; (Theakstons); the **Merry Widows**, Station Approach, Derby (Ansells);

**Swan & Salmon**, Ashbourne Road, Derby (to be decided);

**Flower Pot**, King Street, Derby (various); **Brunswick**, Station



Approach, Derby (Bateman's and guests); **Vaults**, Irongate, Derby (Boddingtons); **Dolphin**, Queen Street, Derby (Highgate Dark and guests); **Greyhound**, Village Street, Derby (Boddingtons); **Hollybush**, Makeney (Banks's and guests); **Rose and Crown**, Chellaston (Banks's); **Dog and Duck**, Shardlow (Banks's) and the **Old Kings Head**, Belper (Banks's).

The full list has yet to be finalised and more pubs will be added but to take part in our fun trail go to one of the pubs mentioned above and collect your **Mild Trail** card.

## CAMRA VOTES TO SAVE PUBS

At Derby CAMRA's recent Annual General Meeting, held at the Station Inn, Midland Road, Derby, members voted to launch a "Save our Pubs" campaign, aimed at highlighting the problems facing licensees and the threats to traditional pubs.

Chairman, David George cited declining beer consumption and changing social habits among other factors which influence the viability of traditional pubs. Emphasizing the importance of choice, he said that while there was

clearly a demand for large, food-orientated theme pubs, the needs of the traditional pub-goer should not be overlooked in the dash to maximise turnover at all costs.

Some companies are imposing leases which force licensees to run their businesses in a way which drives away the regular pub-goer in favour of the once a week diner. "Don't throw the traditional drinker out with the old barfittings when you are refurbishing a pub" was David's message to the pub-owners.

### Visit the newly refurbished **Flowerpot Inn** King Street, Derby

Try our continually changing range of real ales in the warm surroundings of a traditional town pub

At least 10 beers  
always available



## Sally's Part on Night of Brewery Visit!

Derby CAMRA social secretary in cabaret at a recent visit to Mansfield Brewery. Here she is singing her latest hit "Stand by your pint". Actually it's the judges wig that Mansfield's marketing controller, Rory Carlin (he's the one on the right) persuaded Sally to don after several pints of Old Baily Strong Bitter that makes her look like the peroxide country star.

Sales of Old Baily, named after Mansfield founder, William Baily have risen by 20% in the last year.

*The Sir Francis Burdett Inn*  
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# CAUGHT SHORT

Derbyshire Trading Standards Officers are continuing to monitor the situation regarding pubs serving short-measure pints, as reported in the last issue of Derby Drinker and say they may prosecute if they find evidence of licensees flouting the Brewers' Society Guidelines, namely that a pint should consist of at least 95 per cent liquid.

A recent survey of twenty pubs by Trading Standards Officers found that seven of these were serving short measure, in the worst case depriving the drinker of 16.4 pence worth of beer. Councillor George Bratt, Chair of the Public Protection Committee, said that he hoped this was not representative of all pubs in the county. Officers will continue to check pubs on a random basis, as well as in response to specific complaints from the general public.

Drinkers are often confused as to what constitutes short measure, owing to the large variety of different glasses and dispense systems in use. A common misconception arises when beer is delivered by an electric pump into an oversized, unlined glass. In this case, the beer is measured by the pump itself, which is checked and calibrated. Beer served by hand-pump or by gravity (direct from a tap on the cask) should be sold either in a brim-measure glass or an oversized one which has a line etched on the side to indicate the pint level.

So before complaining, check the following:

- 1) **Is it an electric pump?** (Bar staff flick a switch to start beer flowing, no stamp or line on glass)
- 2) **Has the glass got a line on the side?** (oversize lined glass) or merely a government stamp (brim measure glass)

Always request a top-up politely and note the response. Only complain if the pub seems to be serving short measure as a matter of policy and refusing to top-up glasses.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It all started with a light-hearted conversation as to whether the Dish of the Day, should be spelt Beef Stroganoff or Stroganoff. "I always have to check the staff's spelling," said the landlord. "Otherwise you get some real howlers."

As more and more pubs start offering food, the woeful state of the nation's spelling is paraded on menus for all to see. I have lost count of the number of "caserolles" I have been offered and I am resigned to the fact that "rissotto" seems widely accepted. My taste-buds have been tempted by grilled "place" or "hadock," "spagetti bolognaise" is not uncommon and even, on one glorious occasion, "ratatouille!" As for the soup of the day, does "ministrone" mean you only get small portions? Does "chicken Kev" signify a wondrous new creation dreamed up by our chef, Kevin, and do you really have to be starving to order something off the "Desert Menu?" I think we should be told.

Spelling a dish correctly may give the customer more confidence that you can actually cook it right and, with much pub food coming frozen and pre-packed, at least you can copy the name off the label! Isn't it worth that little extra effort? And please, listen very carefully. I will spell zis only once — that green sprouting vegetable is BROCCOLI, not BROCCOLLI or even, as I saw recently, BROCHLI!

Roland Butter (Food correspondent)

## REAL ALE IN FAKE PUBS

The 1993 Pub Design Awards, recently announced by CAMRA and English Heritage, condemned the "low quality" of pub refurbishments, which are removing the local character of many of Britain's inns, in favour of bland styling which makes pubs look the same, whether they are in Dover or Dumbarton, according to the judges; "Incorporating half a hardwood forest, yards of shiny brass railing, Playschool stained glass and grotesque 'tart's knickers' curtain displays into a gutted arena and then calling it a 'restoration' is not in the best interests of our national heritage."

Standards were so poor that, for the third year running, no award was made in the Newbuilt Pub category. The Truscott, a former warehouse in the City of London, carried off the award for Best Conversion to Pub Use, with its dynamic, modernist styling, which may, say the judges, "shock traditionalists." Best Pub Refurbishment went to the Cumberland Bar, Edinburgh and the Fox and Anchor in Smithfield, London was singled out for the English Heritage Conservation Award.

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**DRINKER!**  
*Comment*

## Here's Looking at You, Kid

We in CAMRA know that we're a successful, well-run, campaigning organisation, which the brewing industry now takes seriously and no longer tries to dismiss as a bunch of cranks. Recent coverage in the media however, suggests we need to turn our attention to our public image.

Seemingly locked in the journalist's mind is the 1970's stereotype of the fat, bearded, sandal-wearing beer bore, holding forth in the bar about things he doesn't understand. For one thing, "he" is often a "she" these days and the number of beards and beerguts in Derby CAMRA is practically non-existent. Why then do articles constantly swipe at "the fearsome beardies and anoraks of CAMRA," or "the notoriously hard-to-please CAMRA types," etc. The beer bore in the corner of the bar is seldom connected with CAMRA, so why is he the image we are stuck with?

We are accused of knocking lager drinkers — we don't. We may criticise lagers and the way they're produced but not the people who drink them.

We aim to be rational rather than ranting extremists in putting our message across. And provided some lager drinking type doesn't tread on our sandals and spill his pint all down our beards and beerguts, that's exactly what we will continue to do.

Maybe eventually the press will come to write about the real CAMRA, rather than the outdated stereotype which they take great delight in perpetuating. **Nick Meakin**

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# Derby Drinker

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**Further information** on all aspects of Derby CAMRA can be had from David George or Rob Gilvary (see above).

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## East Anglia to Feature at Festival

The organisers of this year's Derby Beer Festival — July 13th to 17th — are planning to focus on East Anglia to provide much of this year's beer.

From being a virtual real ale desert in the past the region has blossomed to produce many of CAMRA's 'Beers of the Year' over the last three years.

Look forward to the delights of Adnams, Elgoods, Mauldens, Woodfordes and Tolly Cobbold amongst others yet to be finalised. Yum, yum, m' dears!

In 1934, your pound had the spending power of £35 today. Beer was 7d. a pint, a new semi on Chain Lane, Littleover would cost you from £490 and you could pick up a second-hand 1930 Austin Seven convertible for £42 — just perfect for enjoying the Spring weather. May 12th saw temperatures reach 76 degrees fahrenheit in Derby, while the American Midwest endured the dustbowl conditions which were the ruin of many farmers.

Well-known boxer "Gipsy" Daniels, unbeaten at middleweight in the twenties and winner of a Lonsdale Belt, took over as licensee of the Gallant Hussar — bet he didn't have any trouble from Ashbourne Road Milers! Meanwhile, at Matlock Bath, the landlord of the George, Herbert Newbold, collapsed and died from

### Why are more and more pubs serving beer through these long curved nozzles?

Swan neck dispensers, as they are called, are ruining more beer than any other single cause.

The long nozzle is designed to reach the bottom of the glass and produce the cosmetically correct tight head by thoroughly agitating the beer. But the squirting and swirling also knocks out bitterness, hoppiness and condition. Many Northern beers — in fact all those using priming sugars — are designed for tight sparkler dispense. When brands such as Tetley's Bitter were made available nationally, many Southerners found them too bitter when served through a slack sparkler. So the big boys



**Beer Boffin**  
answers your queries

fitted swan necks, often with a non-adjustable agitator. Now the damned things are everywhere and more subtly flavoured beers which were never intended to be served this way, are having the guts knocked out of them.

But that's not all. How do you like the idea of this dripping nozzle shoved into your glass after it has been dipped in a thousand others? Did they flick the flies off first?

Another consideration is displacement. With a glass full of swan neck you can't possibly get a full pint and the spout often stays full of (paid for) beer until after the glass is removed. Only then can it be topped-up.

Ivor Clissold

## Time Was...

### Nick Meakin adjusts his monocle and takes the flivver for a Spring-time spin round 1934 — 60 years ago.

shock when a new manager arrived from the brewery to inform him he was being replaced. Plus ca change. Also on a topical note, Florence Ada Trout of the Old Bell Inn, Long Eaton, was fined 15s plus costs for serving short measure and using non-government-stamped glasses!

Derby's new "Super Cinema," the Coliseum, opened on London Road. Ironic that it is long gone and forgotten today, replaced by the

pub of the same name. The first film was Eddie Cantor in the new colour musical, *Whoopee*. They don't make them like that any more — thank goodness. The best seats would cost you 1/6d, so you really could take your beloved for a night at the flicks, a couple of drinks and a portion of chips on the way home and still have change from five bob!

84-year old Henry Carlidge was successfully operated on at the D.R.I., after swallowing his false teeth, Don Bradman hit 206 against Worcestershire, German zoologist, Professor Heck, announced that the Loch Ness Monster was a dolphin and eight men were fined 5s each for playing Pitch and Toss (a gambling game involving tossing coins) on Siddals Road on Good Friday! Finally, spare a thought for Henry Banks of Ockbrook, who had to delay setting off to hike around the world because his passport was a week late in arriving!

## Festival in Duffield

The **Kings Head**, Town Street, Duffield are to hold a "St George's Day Beer Festival" on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd April.

The event will be held in the barn adjacent to the pub and will feature around fifteen different real ales and entertainment from the likes of Peregrine Fuddikin, The Ripley Morrismen, The Magnificent Marvo, Monkey Puzzle, Spitting Feathers and Crystal Ball

The fun starts at 12 noon on the Friday and carries on till 11pm on Saturday.

Telephone 0332 841370 for full details — sounds good to me!



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Name(s).....

Address.....

Postcode.....

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



## CAPTION WINNER

Our last competition, to provide a cartoon caption for the ship sinking under the weight of imported beer, produced a flood of entries — many of them from the same person! We won't be swayed by quantity, John Thornhill, but keep trying! Our funny bones were tickled most by **Graham Mitchell** of Sun Street, with "I think we overdid it on the Perrier, Cap'n" £10 is on its way to Graham, just as soon as we can prise the Treasurer's gnarled old fingers off the cheque book.

## BAYNTON'S BLISTERS

**WALK 6: TICKNALL, CALKE PARK — HEATH END — TICKNALL — 6 miles**  
O.S. Pathfinder Map SK 22/32

This is a great walk for walking drinkers, or drinking walkers. You have the unspoilt grounds of Calke Park, with the stately old house nestling grandly in the middle, a halfway stop at a small pub in Leicestershire and a finish in the ale houses of Ticknall. (There is even a lock-up on Main Street for over-boisterous ramblers at closing time!) Start from the **Ticknall Community Centre car park (1)**, cross the road onto Chapel Street and, passing between two posts, walk down a grassed area to Main Street. Almost directly opposite is a stile that leads into Calke Park — busy in Summer but peaceful in the Spring. Cross three fields and over a stile into the main part of the park. Passing a pond on the left, aim diagonally left to join the tarmac



drive which leads to the stone archway of **Middle Lodge (2)**. Through the archway, veer left off the road and down the slope to pick up a path through the trees. This takes us round the end of **Betty's Pond (3)** to a stile and a path up a slope on the right. Walking along by the trees, we soon arrive at the car park for the **Abbey (4)**, where some lost souls may seek a cup of tea. Sensible CAMRA walkers will want to press on another mile to the halfway pub.

From this point, follow the drive past the house itself and the church on the left, until we meet the road and turn right through Calke village. Turn left at the junction and, at the bottom of the dip, turn right into **Dimmingsdale Nature Reserve (5)** — yes, there's even fun for naturalists on a Camramble! Following the footpath across several wooden bridges, walk up



right. Diagonally across this field is a stile in the top left. Follow the clear path by the woods and up the hill back into Calke Park, passing near to the archway of Middle Lodge once again. Finding a stile

in the bottom left of the parkland, follow this through several fields to an open grass area, where we head diagonally across to a gate between two telegraph poles. We now find ourselves, thirsty again, on the Ashby-Ticknall road and turn right into **the village (8)**, where you can cool your throbbing feet in the Wheel, the Staff of Life or the Chequers and tell everyone about your muddy adventures. Derby Camra is not all hot air and beer drinking — there's sometimes a little fresh air and exercise in between!

Suitably refreshed, though hopefully not overladen, with Bass, we return to Ticknall across the fields. Turn left outside the pub and about

250 yards on the right is a stile. Over this and walk by the hedge on the right for three fields, till a minor road is reached. Turn right and follow the road, round a sharp left turn, for about 600 yards, past **Standley's Barn Farm (7)**, to a footpath on the

in the bottom left of the parkland, follow this through several fields to an open grass area, where we head diagonally across to a gate between two telegraph poles. We now find ourselves, thirsty again, on the Ashby-Ticknall road and turn right into **the village (8)**, where you can cool your throbbing feet in the Wheel, the Staff of Life or the Chequers and tell everyone about your muddy adventures. Derby Camra is not all hot air and beer drinking — there's sometimes a little fresh air and exercise in between!

*Rambling Les Baynton*



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