



## KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 52

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FREE

# OPEN SUNDAY

CAMRA is backing a national campaign to end the anomaly of Sunday afternoon pub closures, when all-day opening is permissible every other day of the week, while most people are working! Why should we be denied a drink at the very time we most need it — after a relaxing Sunday afternoon spent watching sport, enjoying the countryside or touring popular attractions?

In 1988, the government finally bowed to pressure from drinkers, brewers and publicans alike to allow licensed premises to open all day, six days a week, giving customers and the trade the choice of which hours suited them best. This reform was long overdue, restricted licensing hours being a relic of the First World War, when they were introduced as an attempt to reduce absenteeism in munitions factories.

One day escaped, however. Pubs are still not allowed to open between 3 pm and 7 pm on Sundays, despite the fact that restaurants can serve alcohol with a meal during this time and pubs in Scotland are open with no problems at all.

*"This requirement is unfair, anachronistic and takes no account of the way people currently live,"* says CAMRA's national Campaigns Manager, Stephen Cox. *"Shops, book-makers and racetracks can now open on Sundays but pubs cannot — an absurd combination."*

Reforming Sunday hours would also have benefits for tourism. Overseas visitors find our hours irritating and irrational, while

landlords in tourist areas cannot see the sense in turning away trade on Summer Sunday afternoons. As with the reforms of six years ago, no-one is forcing publicans to open if they do not want to, or if their trade does not suit all-day opening. It merely allows them the freedom to run their business in the way which is best for them.

CAMRA held a national day of action on Sunday, 21st. August, to highlight the absurdity of pubs being closed during the very hours when tourists, sports enthusiasts, ramblers and many others would enjoy a relaxing drink. In Derby, a "lock-out" was staged by local CAMRA members and other groups outside the Dolphin, Queen Street. Landlord Nigel Barker, who supports reform, kept the protesters supplied with tea and sympathy throughout their alcohol-free vigil and was nearly trampled in the rush when the pub's doors re-opened at seven o'clock!

### Alf Whitehurst

Just after our last issue went to press, we heard the sad news of the death of Alf Whitehurst, for 41 years landlord of the Sir Robert Peel, Derby. The Derby branch of CAMRA has expressed its condolences to his widow, Jean and a donation raised by members from a collection at the Derby Beer Festival will be going to the McMillan Nursing Home, in memory of Alf and many happy times at the "Peel."

The government may be showing some signs of movement on the issue, with a green paper expected this Autumn, which will also look at the possibility of pubs being able to extend their opening hours up until midnight without having to apply for a "special occasion" exemption from the licensing magistrates. CAMRA will be pressing Home Office minister Michael Forsyth to free the pub trade from the bureaucratic regulations which experience in Scotland and in other European countries have proved to be outdated and unnecessary.

## NEWS

### Gibbs Mew Move In

Salisbury brewers, Gibbs Mew have added to their recent acquisition of Centric Inns with the purchase of the Woodlark on Bridge Street, Derby. You can now choose from Adnams Bitter, Draught Bass, Marstons Pedigree, Gibbs Mew Deacon and Theakstons XB.

### Moons on Irongate

Assuming they are granted a license, Wetherspoons new pub on Irongate, Derby, will be called JJ Moons.

### Added Beers

The New Bridge Inn, Shelton Lock has both Banks's and Batemans Milds as well as Pedigree whilst the Waggon and Horses, Ashbourne Road, Derby has added Burtonwood Top Hat to its range.

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

**Brunswick Inn**

DERBY

Purpose-built brewery

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## USE IT OR LOSE IT

The hard economic times of recent years have led to large numbers of pub closures, as licensees struggle against high rents and increased competition from supermarkets. CAMRA has launched a campaign to Support Your Local Pub — a leaflet may be available where you picked up this copy of *Derby Drinker*.

The British pub is a cornerstone of our way of life and we are in danger of losing this vital national asset, as pubs are closed or turned into tasteless theme restaurants, without a thought for the community they serve. Did you know that one in four people met their partners or went on their first date in a pub? As Doctor Johnson put it:

*There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn. Go on, try it — it could even improve your love-life!*

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

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**At least 10 beers  
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Derby Mayor, Cllr Nirmal Singh Dhinsa and Derby Beer Festival Chairman, Mick Jones, enjoying a drink at the opening of the festival in July.

## 17th Success!

Derby CAMRA notched up another success with their 17th annual beer festival held at the Assembly Rooms in July. The overall attendance was just 28 down on 1993's record but not quite as much beer was drunk!

On the Thursday lunchtime a third of the beers were at prices which would have applied had we the same rates of duty as those enjoyed in France. The attendance was up by 286 on 1993. They paid an average 12p per pint less than normal and provided evidence to support the theory that a reduction in prices could lead to an increase in Treasury revenues

Derby CAMRA Chairman, Dave George has written to the Chancellor to put the case for a reduction in duty.

Next year's Festival will run from July 5th to 9th.

## "Filling Their Coffers"

At the time of CAMRA's National Prices Survey in April the average price of a pint of real ale in Southern Derbyshire was £1.38 compared with £1.34 a year earlier. This represents a 3 per cent increase against the RPI of 2.6 per cent. This is well below the national average increase of 5 per cent.

Across the range of drinks surveyed the biggest increases locally went on keg beer (4.72%), cider (3.85%) and lager (3.27%). There was little change in the price of wines, spirits and soft drinks.

There is plenty of evidence of big brewer profiteering — even before the last round of price increases. The average price of Draught Bass has risen from £1.40 to £1.49; a staggering 6.43% whilst independent brewer Marston's Pedigree went up by 1 penny from £1.44 to £1.45 in the same period. The other evidence is that whilst prices in free houses and leased pubs have fallen behind inflation, those in managed pubs have shot up by 6.15% and in tenanted pubs by 3.7%.

This follows the national picture very closely and when a comparison is made between exactly the same real ales and pubs their 1993 average price per pint of £1.29 has risen by 3.88% to £1.34.

**The five cheapest** beers locally were: Brunswick Recession Ale (£1.00), Kimberley Mild (£1.16), Home Mild (£1.22), Kimberley Bitter (£1.22) and Brunswick 2nd Brew (£1.25).

**The six dearest** were: Theakstons Old Peculier (£1.80), Tim Taylors Landlord (£1.65), Hoskins Premium (£1.56), Draught Bass (£1.55), Courage Directors and Mansfield Old Baily (both £1.50).

Derby CAMRA Chairman, Dave George, commented "The big brewers are filling their coffers to overflowing whilst pleading with the Government to reduce beer duty because of the impact of bootlegging from France. The brewers should be slashing their prices to demonstrate to Ken Clarke the potential increase in duty revenue that thriving pubs would bring."

## CASK ABOUT FACE

We do our best at *Derby Drinker* to keep you abreast of the ever-changing real ale world of brewery takeovers, mergers, etc. but it seems we still have some way to go, as the following, overheard in a Derby pub, indicates:

"Now, Marstons — that's a good drink — you see Pedigree in a lot of Bass houses — they must belong to Bass." (They don't.) "I like Home Ales — they're still independent, like Shipstones." (They're not.) "What about Tetley? Are they part of Ind Coope, or do they belong to Allied-Lyons?" No, they're part of Carlsberg. (Er, well, all three, loosely speaking.) "What about Theakstons — they're still a small Yorkshire brewery, aren't they?" (Well, yes, but they belong to giants Scottish & Newcastle, who do much of their brewing for them.) "I still think, as real ales go, Guinness takes some beating. Right." (Wrong — Guinness is a keg beer.)

Keep reading the Drinker, lads!

## DRINKER! Comment

### Hours Not to Reason Why

At 07.30 on May 10th, 1915, 500 British guns opened up against the German lines and General Haig's 1st. Army attacked the village of Nauve Chapelle. The next phase, the taking of Aubers Ridge, proved a disaster, however. Haig dithered for five hours before ordering the advance and the artillery bombardment weakened, due to shortage of ammunition, allowing German reinforcements to move up.

Instead of blaming Haig, the British press denounced the "Shell Scandal," which led to the appointment of Lloyd George as Minister of Munitions. One of his first actions was to introduce new liquor licensing laws, to reduce absenteeism in munitions factories. Shell production increased but so too did the percentage of duds, proving that slave-driving by depriving people of their relaxation just doesn't work.

79 years later, we are still suffering under the remnants of this legislation. We can't get a drink on Sunday afternoons and closing time in the evenings rests on the whim of licensing justices. On May 5th, this year, for instance, the sages decided that the City Council elections did not constitute a "special occasion" and denied requests for extensions at the Conservative and Labour clubs, forcing party apparatchiks to hold a take-out beano at the Council House, instead of in their respective premises, under the supervision of experienced licensees.

Pubs and clubs are suffering loss of trade as practically every corner shop is granted a licence but the bench continues to crucify them. We would be far better off without "permitted hours," especially as interpreted for us by the Justices of the Peace, an ancient and unaccountable QUANGO. Let's call it all off — surely they've got enough shells by now? And if they haven't, I'm damned if I'm making any Sunday afternoons!

Ivor Clissold

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**Edited by** David George, 62 Morningside Close, Allenton, Derby DE24 9JP. ☎ (0332) 702867. Artwork by Rob Gilvary, 130 Green Lane, Derby. ☎ (0332) 343497.

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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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## What's the difference between percentage proof and percentage alcohol by volume?

Proof measurement is not expressed in percentages (%): it is in degrees°. Even the knowledgeable Barbara MacSweeney slipped up on this in the *Derby Evening Telegraph* recently. Measuring the strength of alcoholic drinks was almost impossible before ethyl alcohol was isolated and identified. Unlike most scientific research, this was greatly encouraged by the government — they were dying to levy duty!

The old tale about the village ale-conner pouring beer over a stool to

"England at War," announced the *Derby Daily Express*, next to an advert for "Officer's Delicious Light Bitter — Try it today." The *Derby Daily Telegraph* got it a bit more factually correct with "Britain at War" but even they put it on page 2, next to the angling notes. Obviously, it was all going to be over by Christmas. During the next few weeks, however, it began to dawn on the people of Derby that things were a bit more serious than that. Rumours began to fly of heavy losses amongst local regiments, denied by official sources until the Prime Minister was forced to concede a figure of 75,000 British casualties by the end of October.

The government slapped a penny a pint on beer to pay for the war effort and Derby drinkers saw the first signs of restricted opening hours — pubs were recommended to shut at 10 pm and not open before 10 am — a "temporary measure" later enshrined in the form of Britain's



## Beer Boffin answers your queries

see if his leather breeches adhered to it is probably a canard, for such a test is beset by problems. Alcohol, like water, does not work well as a glue, so the test would not show a difference between any mixture of the two. Sugar is sticky but an unfermented, alcohol-less drink would stick just as well as a strongly alcoholic, sickly-sweet potion.

An early method of assessing the strength of spirits was called proofing. It involved gunpowder and

## Time Was...

### Nick Meakin retreats 80 years to the autumn of 1914

notorious Licensing Laws. Some temporary measure — it lasted for over seventy years, till the government re-introduced all-day opening (except on Sundays) a few years ago.

The local brewers were left facing a transport crisis; "The War Office has commandeered most of our horses and all our motor vehicles," explained Altons of the Wardwick. "Should there be some little delay in the next few days, we crave the indulgence of our customers." Spare a thought for the poor dray horses, who suddenly found themselves hauling a howitzer through the mud of Flanders, after

being used to more comfortable surroundings. Even Lady Maud Cavendish, daughter of the Duke of Devonshire, who made the mistake of riding into Bakewell one Saturday morning had her horse requisitioned from under her, for use by army officers! (Someone being a little over-zealous, hmm?)

The mayor urged Derby folk not to hoard food or profit from the situation. A rash of prosecutions for selling milk with below the required fat content indicated that some, at least, were ignoring that warning by watering down the product.

Life went on, despite the War. Shackleton set off on his latest Antarctic expedition and Sanger's Circus was appearing at Normanton Tram Terminus — featuring the "excruciatingly funny Pimpo the Clown." Well, his name was pretty funny, anyway. Alice Hunt was fined for sending a child under the age of 14 to fetch beer in an open jug from the Eagle and Child, St. Alkmund's Churchyard. Apparently, had it been in a stoppered jug it would have been quite legal.

Action was proposed to combat the problem of excessive drinking by wives of men away in the forces. The solution? Half-price admission to the music halls. If that didn't do the trick, then, dash it all, the Empire's finished, what?

## GLASS SALE

Reader, Cliff Hunter, is having a clear-out of Derby Beer Festival souvenir glasses. He's open to offers for the 1978 and 1979 glasses, as well as from 1981 to 1989. He also has a 1981 Burton glass available. Call him on Derby 293341.

## CAMRA SALES

The following are now on sale:  
*T-shirts, Sweatshirts and Polos  
with CAMRA logo or Festival logo*

Various sizes including children's  
*Beer guides: Local and National*  
*Also available, books on beer and brewing*

For further information, please contact:

**CATH LILLEY**  
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**Derby DE22 4JZ**  
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## Join NOW!

### Application Form

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for £12 (£14 for joint, £16 for overseas membership)

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.**



## WINNERS!

All right, smart alecs! All those of you who pointed out that Marlow, where Rebellion beers come from is in Bucks, not Essex are right, of course. (A small slip-up in the information we were given). All the other answers were as mentioned in the beer festival article in the last issue and, yes, we are aware that places such as Edinburgh and Keighley have more than one brewery! The Greene King brewery in Biggleswade is a lager-only plant, incidentally.

The answers were: 1. Adnams, 2. Caledonian, 3. Elgoods, 4.

Greene King, 5. Sarah Hughes, 6. Titanic, 7. Tolly Cobbold, 8. Tomlinsons, 9. Robinsons, 10. Townes, 11. Rebellion, 12. Whim and 13. Timothy Taylor.

£10 goes to Mr S Wilkinson of Autumn Grove, Chaddesden, who picked up his *Derby Drinker* at the Dolphin.

### Mild Trail Winners

WG Sumner is on his/her way to Batemans Brewery for a day, Mick Jones is drinking a cask of mild and M Gratton, Chris Neal, Andy Summerfield, Alan Roe, D C Thomas and George Dale are all sporting new tee-shirts. Congratulations one and all — and keep drinking the mild!



## Our Genial Ghosts?

Just outside Ripley, on the road to Nottingham, there is a small friendly local on the left hand side called the Rose and Crown. David and Tracey Baxter have been the tenants there for the last 18 months or so, since moving down from the Talisman at Conisbrough, near Doncaster. The area was a mining community but, as the mines closed and the takings fell, the Innpreneur pub chain still wanted more money, so the Baxters moved to Ripley.

Tracey is interested in tracing the history of the 19th-century pub and the changes it has seen over the

years and would especially like to find out more about the ghost, which she saw late one evening. The pub dog, which roams around after closing time, was also rather unsettled by the incident. A framed picture later fell from a firmly-affixed nail for no good reason but Tracey is sure the 'presence' is a friendly one! Any information from our readers would be welcomed. (Is there anybody out there...?) In addition to Pedigree and ABC Bitter, there is normally a guest ale and a really sociable spirit among the regulars!

John Barnes  
welcomes customers  
old and new to  
**The  
Furnace**  
Duke Street, Derby

Kimberley Mild  
Bitter and Classic

## Bah 'Eck, it's Champion

Timothy Taylor's Landlord was voted Champion Beer of Britain at the Great British Beer Festival, staged by CAMRA in August at London's Olympia. Judged second by the expert panel of brewers and beer writers was Coach House Blunderbuss from Warrington and third, Woodforde's Headcracker, which hails from Norfolk. Among the milds, Hoskins & Oldfield carried off the honours, with their Leicester neighbours Everard's claiming first prize in the Bitter category with their Beacon Bitter. Taylor's, who have scooped the national award twice before, in 1982 and 1983, also won the Best Bitter class. Timothy Taylor is an independent brewery from Keighley in Yorkshire and Landlord is quite widely available in Derby's free houses.

## Save The Trappists

CAMRA's sister-organisation in the Netherlands, PINT (*no, don't ask what it stands for, it's unpronounceably Dutch*), is launching a campaign to prevent misuse of the word Trappist when describing bottled abbey beers, which are becoming increasingly popular in this country. Only six producers of these traditional beers, five Belgian and one Dutch, are entitled to call their products "Trappist," as they are still brewed in the time-honoured way by Trappist abbeys, which do not brew principally for profit but merely to maintain their monastic lifestyle.

Continental consumers are being asked to report any instances of a beer being described as "Trappist" to their local Trading Standards Office (or to CAMRA in the U.K.), if it does not come from one of the following producers: Chimay, La Trappe, Orval, Rochefort, Westmalle or Westvleteren. Try one today, but be careful — it's habit-forming!

## DERBY CAMRA DIARY

### Branch Meetings start at 8 pm

**Thursday, 13th October** at the Alexandra Hotel, Siddals Roads, Derby.

**Thursday, 10th November** at the Brunswick Inn, Station Approach, Derby.

**Thursday, 8th December** at the New Bridge Inn, Shelton Lock, Derby. (To be confirmed.)

### Beer Festivals Galore!

#### Burton's 15th

September 22nd to 24th at Burton Town Hall. 70 beers and live music. Open lunchtimes and evenings

#### Brunswick's 7th

Friday 30th September to Monday 3rd October which is the anniversary of the pub's re-opening in 1987. Around 65 beers including some especially brewed for the festival. Open all day as usual.

#### Nottingham

October 20th to 23rd. Phone Geoff Siddons 0602 847007 for details.

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