



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER
ISSUE No 55 **SPRING 1995** **FREE**

PUB CLOSURE EPIDEMIC!

Pubs in Southern Derbyshire are closing down at the rate of one per month and more could soon be on their way to the local history books.

The latest to be threatened are the **John F Kennedy** in Chad-desden and the **Black Horse** at Hulland Ward.

Both look set to be replaced by new housing. The JFK is said to be the haunt of drug dealers - a claim hotly denied by locals who are campaigning to save the pub from demolition.

The only person appearing to campaign on behalf of the Black Horse is local historian, Roy Christian who wants the Department of National Heritage to "spot list" the 300 year old free house. Owner, Peter Jones, who has been licensee for 34 years, says that his business is no longer viable and has put up a "For Sale" sign. He'd like to see it continue as a pub but developers negotiating a potential purchase have made a planning application to build houses on the land.

Mr Jones blames greedy brewers, the wide availability of cheap beer in supermarkets and an increasing reluctance of people to travel far from home or town for a pint or two. His latest blow was an increase in

business rates which he has blamed on big brewer's new leases. Pub's rates are being reviewed according to the rent which could be charged.

Other lost pubs locally are the **Old Avesbury**, Osmaston Road, Derby which is to be turned

into a Royal Crown Derby shop and museum; the **Trident**, Albion Street, Derby (now new shops); the **Crewe and Harpur**, Melbourne (now a house); the **Vine**, Abbey Street, Derby (now a print shop and recording studio); the **Sir Robert Peel**, Wellington Street, Derby whose future is uncertain and the **White Lion**, Market Head, Belper which is to be turned into flats.

Birmingham's Win

Nigel Barker, Man-about-Derby and ex-licensee of the Dolphin, started a new venture on March 20 as manager of the Bartons Arms Aston, Birmingham.

CAMRA has had many years of convincing the authorities of the importance of pubs as architecture. Their social importance has been understood by most of society; sometimes even by the owning breweries, but their architectural significance has often gone unrecognised. A lot of damage was caused by Nicholas Pevsner, whose *Buildings of England* book series contained a tour de force of churches and classical town houses, but managed to ignore just about every ancient inn, let alone more modern structures.

CAMRA has finally convinced National Heritage that pubs should be listed in their own right. It was a difficult battle, and unsurprisingly the best pubs were used as examples: the cathedrals of English drinking, if you like. The Bartons Arms was one of them.

It dates from 1901, when legislation had given enormous powers to magistrates, whose benches contained more than enough temperance fanatics. Licences were being withdrawn and pubs closed, while the survivors were beset with all sorts of whims imposed by the local licensing justices. A flurry of wildly up-market pubs were built at this time to shake off the tipping-house image in the hope their licence may survive. However a collapse in prices in 1899 spelled the end for these opulent, classical pubs.

The Philharmonic (1900) in Liverpool is perhaps best known, and the last of them was the Vines (1907), also in Liverpool, which boasts a Bartons-like clocktower. The Bartons still retains its snugs and snobscreens, has a huge cellar and a first floor music hall.

We wish Nigel all success at the Bartons in the role of manager-curator which he has carried off so well at the Dolphin.

Ivor Clissold

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

Brunswick Inn

D E R B Y

Purpose-built brewery

HOME-PRODUCED LUNCHES & EVENING BUFFETS AVAILABLE

NEWS

Ram's Architects Asked to Re-think

Derby County owner and chairman, Lionel Pickering has apparently asked the architects working on the reconstruction of the Baseball Ground to think again.

BBC Radio Derby reported that Mr Pickering had asked architects to look at including the Baseball Hotel in their plans rather than demolishing the 100 year-old Victorian corner pub. However, on an earlier BBC Radio Derby programme, Derby County Director, Peter Gadsby insisted that the Baseball Hotel had to be demolished. Derby Drinker editor and former Derby CAMRA chairman, David George, has yet to receive a reply to his letter appealing to Lionel Pickering to re-think the future of the Baseball Hotel.

Meanwhile, Magistrates have revoked the license of Douglas Reid after an apparent after-hours drinking session.

Summer Banker

Weatherspoon's new pub, the **Banker's Draft** is now set for a summer opening when work is complete in mid-July.

The Nags Head Inn
 Hill Top
 Castle Donington

Marston's Pedigree and Headbrewer's Choice

Home-cooked food, lunch and evening
Bar Billiards, Darts, Petanque
Live Jazz band every Sunday
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Warm Welcoming Atmosphere

Tel: (01332) 850652

Visit the newly extended
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

May Outlook is Mild!

The weather is getting milder: yes, the Mild Month of May is before us again! CAMRA takes this opportunity each year to remind the drinking classes of mild, a uniquely British beer style that has all but disappeared from many pubs.

Mild is a dark beer with a history going back to the Dark Ages, but its decline began in the 19th Century when pale ales and bitters came onto the market at the same time as cheap glassware replaced the traditional pewter, leather and wooden drinking vessels. People trusted something you could see through and mild, together with other dark beers like porter and stout, lost their almost total dominance of the huge market.

Unfortunately the new generation of small brewers are keener on brewing electric soups than drinks as meek as mild and our free houses seem more eager to serve beers in the 5 or 6% abv band than milds at 3 to 4%. But the style still survives and is worth encouraging, for a good mild is as enjoyable and flavoursome a drink as you can get. Here are a few commonly found in the Derby area.

Tyne Mill's May Mild Extravaganza

Independent Pub chain, Tyne Mill are aiming to give CAMRA's Mild May campaign a huge boost with a promotion of their own.

Their eight pubs will be aiming to have had available between 80 and 90 different milds during the month of May. The nearest Tyne Mill pub is, of course, the **Alexandra Hotel**, Siddals Road, Derby; CAMRA's East Midlands Pub of the Year 1994. All the milds on sale at the Alex will be from independent brewers and licensee, Mark Robins is aiming at between 16 and 20 different milds during the month.

The Furnace Inn

Duke Street, Derby



John & Staff

invite you to their Saturday and Sunday night singalongs

Kimberley Mild, Bitter & Classic

Norman Arms

Village Street, Derby

Home Bitter & Mild, Theakston's XB and Bass all handpulled

Lunchtime Food

Open 11 - 11

Tyne Mill's other pubs are the **Derby Tup**, Chesterfield; The **Black Horse**, Hose, Leicestershire; the **Red Lion**, Kegworth; the **Swan in the Rushes**, Loughborough; **Victoria**, Beeston; the **Lincolnshire Poacher**, Mansfield Road, Nottingham and the **Limelight** at Nottingham Playhouse

Banks's Drop "Mild"

In a strange move, West Midlands brewers Banks's have changed the name of their Mild to, simply, "Banks's". They are probably hoping that more people will drink their light mild if they don't realise it's mild.

It could have the opposite effect. Think of all those deprived Black Country mild drinkers having to seek out Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby MILD. Holdens MILD or even Ansells MILD when they can no longer find Banks's MILD!

Wardwick Hop & Vine

63 Wardwick, Derby

01332 371134

Always a selection of Belgian and Trappist Beers open

4 pm - 11 pm Monday to Friday
12 noon - 11 pm Saturday

Pub hours Sunday

Batemans Dark Mild

A particularly good example of the genre. Malty and dry with caramel and biscuit overtones. Available at the **Alexandra**, Siddals Road.

M&B Highgate Dark

Bass renamed Highgate Mild in an attempt to increase sales down south. Good malty body with hints of chocolate and toffee. A nutty aftertaste. Try the **Dolphin**, Queen Street or the **Victoria**, Midland Place.

Ansells Mild

Richly malty, with chocolate and nutty flavours. The nicest beer to bear the Ansells name, though of course they all come from Ind Coope at Burton. Look for the hand-pump in **Carlsberg Tetley** houses.

Wards Mild

Rather dry for a mild and little aftertaste, but plenty of malt and chocolate in the mouth. Most Wards pubs north of Derby stock it, but many with a Wards sign are free houses and aren't so keen.

Riding Dark Mild

Rather thick, creamy texture. Plenty of malt and nut on the tongue with a dry, chocolate and bitter finish. Try the **Standard**, the **Vine**, **Ford Street**, or any decent **Mansfield** pub.

Home Mild

Smooth, with a grainy roast malt taste and a dry finish. Brewed by **Mansfield** but only available in **Scottish & Newcastle** pubs who have held on to the Home identity.

Kimberley Best Mild

Another mild with a creamy character. Good mouthful of malt and nut with a hint of fruit. The **Furnace**, **Duke Street**, keeps a good one.

Kings Head

Town Street, Duffield

Beer Festival

Fri 21st - Sun 23rd April

20 Real Ales

Fun & Entertainment

DRINKER! Comment

Dolphin Debacle

Ian Prosser, chairman of Bass, had a nice little rise this year, bringing his salary, share options, etc., to around three-quarters of a million pounds. Perhaps it's performance related; Bass have certainly been efficient at screwing money out of punters. Or have they?

What about the debacle of the **Dolphin**? A pub since at least the 17th Century, it has managed to stay open through 2 world wars, the General Strike and all sorts of famine and pestilence. It went from own-brew to **Offiters** (C1900), then to **Charringtons** (1965) and within a year to Bass. But it kept open.

Then Bass had a bankruptcy order served on licensee of 10 years **Nigel Barker**, which related to business matters other than the running of the profitable **Dolphin**. **Nigel** left on Sunday, 19 February and Bass appointed a pub-management company to run it, but no-one thought to apply for a licence protection order. So the pub closed and the licensee-in-waiting couldn't wait any longer.

Next, that friend of the poor, the electricity company, hears about the bankruptcy and pulls the fuses. The sump pump stops and the cellar floods. Bass reputedly got annoyed with the holding company when another manager is found whom the Licensing Bench decide is not a fit and proper person.

The second pub company, **Acorn Inns**, finally re-opened the **Dolphin** on Friday, 3rd March, but with all the usual stock-shortages and green beer problems, many of them due to Bass changing their alleged mind twice about delivery dates. The **Dolphin** was making around £4,000 profit a week, so where will that 8 grand shortfall come from? Will they dock Prosser's salary for not being able to run a booze-up in a pub? Or will they up the rents and drinks a tad? This is a rhetorical question: no postcards please. But parochially all's well that ends well. The **Dolphin**'s new manager, **Tony Williams**, is an erudite licensee and caterer: not a man for vandalising a national monument, so The **Dolphin** seems in good hands

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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Why is cider so expensive? Are cider apples difficult to grow?

The liquids called cider foisted over most bars are expensive simply because they are heavily advertised as trendy drinks. To hold a glass or bottle of it is portrayed as being as credworthy as a mobile 'phone.

These drinks have little in common with traditional ciders. They are not made from cider apples but often from imported must (juice) pressed from dessert apples like the odious Golden Delicious (*is there anything like the odious Golden Delicious?*) This gives a bland and mawkish character never found in the real stuff.

So in terms of raw materials keg cider is much cheaper to make than beer. No expensive malt or hops. Just loads of cheap apples unsuitable for the retail market, a drop of sugar, some warm water and a bag of chemicals for pH correction. Some contain preservatives, however, which can upset folk with allergies. Add



Beer Boffin
answers your queries

"Times for lighting up cycle and vehicle lamps for 9th. March: 6.52pm." The rush-hour in Derby in 1905 wasn't quite what it is today but only 15 years or so after Gottlieb Daimler built his first car in his garden shed, motor vehicle ownership was spreading fast. Trying to keep up with the dizzy speed of the traffic was causing problems for cyclists which, according to a front-page ad in the Derby Daily Telegraph, could only be relieved by Grant's Embrocation, 10d. at Boots the Chemists

Talking of pains in the nether regions, the Licensing Justices were at it again at the Derby Brewster Sessions, threatening to remove the licences of pubs such as The Three Crowns, Bridgegate, the Shakespeare, Bold Lane and the Telegraph on the Morledge. Aided and abetted by the Temperance

yeast, filter and pasteurise the resultant gloop and rake the money in.

Such a money-making wheeze is almost traditional. Many years ago a Shepton Mallet cider-making family bought up a surplus pear crop, fermented it, poured it into little bottles and crowned them with foil. Advertised with a Disneyesque anthropomorph and served in a sundae dish, Babyham turned the Showering family into millionaires. That's a lot of one-and-thrupences. The business was eventually sold to Allied Breweries and Keith Showering became chairman.

Just as today's "ciders" are aimed at the young trendies, Babyham was pitched at the young ladies of the 'fifties, hence the Bambi-thing and the slogan "I'd love a Babyham". It worked. Girls who had never been in a pub before had something to say on their first date in response to "What's yours?" Trevor Harris of Brunswick fame recently reminded me that a brandy and Babyham was known amongst the swains of those days as a *knickerdropper*. Not that I ever knew this. Ivor Clissold

Time Was...

Nick Meakin harks back to 1905 - 90 years ago

Federation, these guardians of public morals were convinced that there were too many pubs in the town. To be fair, it was noted that there were no less than 27 licensed premises within 175 yards of the Morledge at that time! Many of these pubs ceased to exist over the next few years. Who now remembers The Turner's Arms, Bridgegate, the Wheatsheaf, Liversage Street or The Bird, Jury Street?

The Burton Brewers' Association complained that Britain had one of the highest rates of beer duty in Europe at 32%, as against 18% in France and only 5% in the German Empire! Nothing changes, does it? (Apart from the German Empire, that is). A more pressing problem, however, according to local licensees, was

the so-called "Long Pull." In a bid to retain custom amid the desperate competition posed by so many pubs in a small area, some landlords were serving over-measure pints - as much as a pint and a half in some cases. What a good idea, I'll have to suggest it next time I'm in the Brunswick!

At the Reginald Street Baths "For four nights only: A Grand Display of the New Animated Pictures, featuring A Train Arriving, A Trip to the Sun and Indians and Cowboys." Not quite "Terminator 2" but pretty exciting for those days, I suppose.

Poor old George Fox, an elderly "gentleman of the road," dragged up before the beak again for being drunk in Willow Row one Monday morning; "I'm not coming back to Derby any more," he complained from the dock, after landing a swingeing five-bob fine. "Every time I come to this town I get copped."

Neptune Resurfaces

Matt Radbourne, formerly a manager at the Dolphin, has taken over as licensee of the Neptune on the Spot. He has already embarked on a programme of refurbishment which will eventually extend to doing up the disused function room and the nine bedrooms above from the days when it used to be a travellers' hotel. He intends to widen the range of beers on offer, with guest ales in addition to Bass, Stones and Worthington. The new food menu is already attracting lunchtime business people and shoppers

Bar Facts

Did you know that daily beer sales in Britain amount to a staggering 28 million pints - that means that every three thousandths of a second, a drinker somewhere in the country finishes another pint. Derby Drinker tried to get an exclusive interview with this remarkable person but, unfortunately, he was down the pub when we called!

Around 140 small wholesale breweries have been established since 1971 along with about 150 brew pubs.

Glasses for Sale

One of our many Chellaston readers has Beer Festival glasses from '78 (yes, the rare one), '80, '82, '83 and '84 for sale. Telephone 01332 702345 for details

The Maypole

Bridge Street, Derby

Entertainment every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday including:

April 22 - Joe Mansfield

April 29 - Ruth Stanstead

May 6 - John Dundee

May 7 - Gary Dee

Wednesday is Comedy Night

Happy Mondays - £1 pints 6 till 11

Julian & Gina
welcome you to

The Cross Keys

Bond Gate, Castle Donington

Tel: 01332 812214

Theakstons XB, Mild, Best Bitter, Wadworths 6X and Marstons Pedigree plus two guest beers

Protect YOUR Pleasure 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.....

AGM Elects New CAMRA Committee

Derby CAMRA's AGM on March 9th saw the election of almost a completely new committee. 1994 treasurer, **Rob Gilvary** remains as a committee member, his post as treasurer being taken by Beer Festival treasurer, **Allan Coe**.

The new chairman is Alvas-ton signwriter, **Alan Fulwood** whose daughter, **Michelle**, takes over as secretary. New committee members are Derby Drinker distribution manager, **Deb Allen**, Disabled access guide survey co-ordinator, **Sue Dudley** and Belper activist, **Bren Stafford**.

Presentations of an engraved pewter tankard to member's newsletter editor, **Gareth Stead** and an engraved glass

to Derbyshire Ale Sales manager, **John Arguile** were made by out-going chairman, **David George**.



Awards: John Arguile (left) and Gareth Stead who were presented with tankards at the recent Derby CAMRA AGM

Saxe King Plans Weekend of Fun

Twenty real ales, two bands, Morris dancers, jugglers and escape "artist" Magnificent Marvo - all introduced by MC Peregrine Fuddikin are being lined up for a weekend of fun by Brian Saxe, licensee of the **Kings Head, Town Street, Duffield**.

The bands are "Groundrush" and "Monkey Puzzle" and there'll also be a barbecue to keep hunger at bay.

Kick-off is midday on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd April through to 11 pm both days. Sunday's fun, with our still outdated opening hours, has to finish at 3 pm.

The Bentley Brook Inn
Fenny Bentley
Home to Leatherbritches Brewery

Beer Festival

26th - 29th May

Fri (7 - 11), Sat, Sun & Mon (all day)

50 Real Ales - Admission £1

Food, accommodation, music, hog roast, glasses, brewery tours, skittles

More Room at the Bridge

Burton Bridge Brewery have bought a former shop at the back of their premises and intend to put their main brewing operation into this building. This will free up space for an extension to the bar areas of the Burton Bridge pub.

Spring Holiday Festival in Peak

The **Bentley Brook Inn** at Fenny Bentley, just north of Ashbourne is to hold a beer festival over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend from 26th to 29th May.

It looks like being a great weekend with 50 real ales from independent brewers including those brewed on the premises by **Leatherbritches Brewery**. There's food available at all times, souvenir glasses, hog roasts, brewery tours, skittles and live music on the Friday and Monday nights.

If you want to stop over there's camping or hotel accommodation - but you must book in advance (Tel: 01335 350278).

The fun starts at 7 pm on the Friday and carries on all day Saturday, Sunday and Monday. It'll cost you £1 to get in but for CAMRA members this includes a free half pint. There are discounts for coach and mini-bus parties. See you there!

The 18th Derby CAMRA Beer Festival

The Assembly Rooms, Derby

Wednesday 5th July (evening) Thursday 6th - Saturday 8th July (lunchtime & evening) and Sunday 9th July (lunchtime)

Around 90 real ales

The best in live entertainment

watch this space

Festival Organisers Make Progress

Derby CAMRA's Beer Festival Sub-committee, led by the ample figure of chairman, **Julian Hough** are making steady progress in filling in the details of this year's event.

Many of the beers for this, the eighteenth Derby Beer Festival look as though they may come from the small brewers of Yorkshire and Lancashire - a beer of the roses!

Meanwhile, entertainments manager, **Terry Morton** is organising yet another great line-up of bands. In the frame so far are The Sounds of the Blues Brothers, Earl Jackson, R Cajun and The Rattlers.

Note that the Festival is a week earlier than normal. Watch out for our bumper 8 page Festival Special edition out in June.

Festivals Around the Country

❖ **April 21 - 22 Coventry Beer Festival** at the Students Union, Coventry University, Priory Street (opposite the Cathedral). 40 beers and entertainment. Tel: 01203 714833 for details.

❖ **April 21 - 23 Mansfield Festival of Real Ale 1995** at the Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road South. 60 real ales, ciders and perries. Entertainment Saturday night. Tel: 01623 642843 for details.

❖ **April 27 - 29 Walsall Spring Real Ale Festival** at Walsall Town Hall. 80 real ales. tel: 01922 401534 for details.

❖ **May 4 - 6 "Beer Encounters of the Third Pint Milton Keynes Beer Festival** at Wilton Hall, Wilton Road, Bletchley. 120 ales from Scotland, Yorkshire and the West Country. tel: 01908 670808 for details.

❖ **May 5 - 7 11th Cleethorpes Beer Festival** at the Winter Gardens, Kingsway, Cleethorpes. 35 real ales, entertainment and food. Tel 01472 347079 for details.

REV



BY ROB