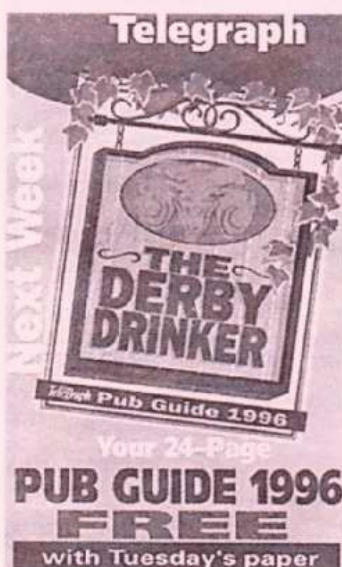




KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER  
ISSUE No 58 CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 95/96 FREE



## NOT THE Derby Drinker!

Congratulations to the Derby Evening Telegraph on publishing their 1996 Pub Guide.

We take it as a compliment that they have called it *The Derby Drinker* and used a representation of a ram's head in their graphics. This is not dissimilar to Derby CAMRA's Rams Head logo.

Don't be misled - Derby CAMRA took no part in the research for this guide and does not necessarily endorse any comments it makes.

So, if you find any errors, omissions or comments you disagree with write to the Derby Evening Telegraph - not *THE Derby Drinker*.

David George

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**

## STAGE PAYMENT

"Significant independent research work by Graham Bannock and Partners, sponsored by the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association, should dispel myth and attack prejudice on the price of beer in pubs," says a press release issued by the Midlands Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association.

The report comments that beer prices increase despite competition between brewers and between pubs. It also claims that:

- \*the real 'take-home' price of beer has fallen by 3% in the last 7 years and would have been 6% but for tax increases;

- \*the price of a pint has outstripped inflation since 1987 but so have other service sectors such as catering;

- \*capital investment in brewer-owned pubs exceeded £1bn a year in 1989 - 91. This has been a response (the report claims) to consumer preferences.

The press release claims that the report "confirms that beer prices stand up to fair analysis."

One supposes that if big brewer 'X' gold plated all their hand-

pumps it would be fair to ask us to pay for them. Here are some facts of our own:

- \*the proportion of the price of a pint that goes in tax has declined since 1971. It was 36.6% then compared with 31.6% now;

- \*if prices had risen in line with the RPI since 1971 the average pint would cost 87p. If the RPI Catering Index is used the average should still be less than £1.20;

How many pubs can you name that have had two or more refurbishments in the last 10 years? And who pays for it? Brewers could have improved amenities AND kept prices down had they not resorted to spending silly money on short shelf-life stage sets to be sacrificed at the altar of fickle fashion.

David George

## Beer Tax - European Brewers Join Protest

The Confédération des Brasseurs du Marché Commun (CBMC) represents the brewing industry associations of the 15 EU member states, and it is as fed up with varying excise rates as us Brits.

Cross-border flow of beer into the UK is well enough known, unless your name is Kenneth Clarke. Spain, France, Belgium and Germany undermine our home industry, while the UK and Spain supply Eire, whose taxes are more ridiculous than ours.

Other losers to imports are Norway, Sweden and Finland. In ECU per litre of 5% abv,

UK pays 0.65; Sweden 1.2 and Finland 1.7.

CBMC point out that this trade is distorting economies, ruining small to medium businesses, displacing investment and wasting resources on transport.

Far from making things easier for brewers, the abolition of borders has increased problems. Lowering of excise EU-wide to the lowest prevailing level is the CBMC solution - and ours.

We talk not just for cheaper ale. Production and sale of beer in the EU sustains 3,000,000 jobs.

**Derby Drinker is produced by the Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale**

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

### What's in a Name?

Lloyd's, (formerly the Spotted Horse) in Derby is to be renamed the **Pig and Truffle** (why?). Jimmy's in St James' Street were advertising for staff for Jimmy's - the Concept (I thought the concept was very simple - lots of noise, lots of flashing lights, lots of fizzy lager). Finally, the new Beefeater Inn at the City Hospital roundabout is entitled **The Mallard** - 'ey up, mi duck!

### All Change

Belper looks set for a round of changes with the **Bull's Head**, Lane End, the **Black Swan** and the **Grapes** all up for sale or lease. Meanwhile, in Derby, the freeholds of the **Smithfield** and the **New Station** are up for grabs - any offers?

### Brunswick Brews

Down at the Brunswick something stirs - in the brewing vat! Trevor Harris is repeating his successful **White Christmas** ale, a 1055 og (5.5% abv) beer while **Triple Hop** skips in at 1040 (4%). A timely addition is **Bonnie Prince Charlie Ale** - 1042 (4.2%), originally brewed for an illustrated lecture about the wee (French) highland laddie at Mackworth College by Max Craven in November. Continuing in Scottish vein, Trevor's Hogmanay suggestion is **Auld Acquaintance** - at 1050 (5%) a good kick-start to the new year.

### 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  
fortnight at 9 pm

Warm Welcoming Atmosphere

Tel: (01332) 850652



# Bright New Scene

The grand opening of the **Standing Order** in Irongate - and grand is the word - has to be the biggest event on Derby's pub scene in living memory. Not the most important, perhaps - that would have to be the reopening of the Brunswick in 1987 or of the Flower Pot in 1993 - but certainly the biggest. The conversion of the old bank has been handsomely accomplished and the overall effect is nothing less than palatial.

Not everyone, of course, feels comfortable knocking back pints in a palace, and some have complained about the lack of 'pubbiness', whatever that means. Certainly it is not your typical town tavern or backstreet boozer, and was never meant to be. It was meant to be altogether different, and so it is.

Variety is the spice of social life and here we have a unique setting to create a different mood, or match one. The vibrant atmosphere at week-ends, especially, is like nothing else in Derby, except in beer festival week. And this is achieved without any gimmicks and without the obligatory din that bangs out in so many other city-centre establishments, making conversation quite impossible.

To be sure, not everything is perfect. The food does not suit all tastes, and the beer compares unfavourably with that at the nearby Flower Pot. But these are early days and such things are improvable.

So let us welcome Wetherspoons warmly and wish them well. Derby was not lacking good pubs or good beer, but we needed something in the city centre, and this could be it.

Reg Newcombe



Wetherspoon's Operations manager, John Hutson (left) pictured at the opening of the **Standing Order** with General Managers, Jonathan Iwanek and Elizabeth Liversidge.

## Managers are People Too

by Nick Meakin

I was recently taken mildly to task by Paul Brady, mine host of the **Half Moon**, Burton Road, Littleover, who suggested that we in Derby CAMRA weren't giving managers a fair crack of the whip. Every time managers are mentioned, it's in the context of "and the brewery kicked out the tenant and put a manager in," was the gist of his complaint.

Now we certainly don't want to be accused of implying that managers are a bad thing, oh no. After all, some of my best friends are managers (and besides, I want to go on drinking in the **Half Moon**!). If we have offended, then let us set the record straight. Many pub managers choose to be employed rather than run their pub as a tenant, for a variety

of reasons. This doesn't stop them regarding the pub as their own business, of which they are rightly proud. As Paul said, he puts on guest ales, runs several mini beer-festivals a year and his prices are highly competitive, too.

No, we certainly don't have a down on managers. It's quality and choice that count in the end and we're not bothered whether that comes from some quaint little free house with a thatched roof and a landlord who looks like he just stepped out of a Dickens novel, or a smart, modern pub run by a young, conscientious businessman. More power to all their elbows say we.

Incidentally, Paul, who previously worked in the printing industry, has started his own rival to **Derby Drinker**. Called **Public Eye**, it is published quarterly by six Derby landlords, to inform and entertain their customers. The other pubs involved are the **Stenson Fields**, the **County Hotel**, **Sinfin**, the **Blue Pool**, **Stenson Road**, the **Red Lion**, **Chellaston** and the **Moon Hotel**, **Spondon**.

Don't worry, this town's plenty big enough for the both of us!

DRINKER!  
Comment

## Let Them Manage

Nick Meakin's observations on managers on this page show that where a pub manager is encouraged to be an individual and show initiative he/she can have a rewarding career in a popular pub.

Like, Reg Newcombe (left) I welcome the **Standing Order** but am saddened that Wetherspoons seem to give their managers so little freedom to stamp their own individuality on their pubs.

Their beers (and aren't S&N beers so, so wonderful?) have to come from a particular supplier. Presumably the trip their Pedigree takes around the country is the reason it costs so much. It could be comparable with other city centre pubs if they simply had it delivered from Burton. And how about featuring a 'Derbyshire Ale' guest beer? Only if their supplier lists it.

On opening night it was suggested that the beer was a touch too cold (a common complaint around town these days). This was not countered with a different view nor was the observation conceded - it was simply stated that "its company policy ...."

Policies on music, machines and smoking are admirable and help create a particular atmosphere but it is a feeling that those running a pub are doing it to give you the welcome, choice and quality that you want that builds customer loyalty.

Neither will there be real staff loyalty whilst conversations with customers are kept to a minimum and visiting the pub whilst off duty remains against the rules.

Come on, Wetherspoons, let your managers manage and let your staff return to being people with personalities instead of McDonalds clones. Let your pubs have some local flavour to suit local tastes and appetites. Maybe then the pub will be appreciated rather than the magnificence of the building.

David George

**John & Staff**

welcome you to

**The Furnace Inn**

Duke Street, Derby

Kimberley Mild, Bitter & Classic

**THE BELL INN**

**SMALLEY**

Free House — beers from Bateman's, Ruddles, Marstons

LUNCH & EVENING FOOD

**Boat Inn**

Cromford

(near the Market Place)

Boat Inn Bitter, Bass, Old Speckled Hen plus guest & Addlestons Cider

Home cooked lunches and evening meals including authentic Indian recipe food

- Function Room -

**Jolly Sailor**

**Hemington**

Fine Ales -

Fine Company

8 Traditional Ales Available

01332 810448

A True Free House





Derby Drinker is distributed free of charge 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.

Edited by David George and Nick Meakin 72 Meynell Street, Derby DE23 6NH. ☎(01332) 770209. Artwork by Rob Gilvary, 130 Green Lane, Derby ☎(01332) 343497.

Advertising Rates are - front page £35, back and inside pages £30. Discounts for payment in advance ☎702867 for details.

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

© Derby CAMRA 1995. Opinions expressed in Derby Drinker are not necessarily those of the editor, nor of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

# Last Beer Orders ...Please

As is becoming usual with government legislation, the **Beer Orders** have had precisely the reverse effect that they were supposed to have (*or what we were told they would have*). Here's a round up of play.

Another big brewery / pub take-over has been allowed. **Scottish & Newcastle** have collected **Courage's** scalp, putting their thrall and threat over the Bristol and Halifax breweries. Their Nottingham and Edinburgh plants are at risk, too. *The group run 2,750 pubs.*

**Carlsberg-Tetley** are contracting their brewing operations with the closure of Warrington. They say Burton's safe but that is difficult

to believe. One provider of choice, the Firkin chain, is now in their hands, making their Free House signs a double lie. *4,100 pubs.*

**Bass** have sold off Highgate (though keeping the brand name) and made their remaining breweries less individualistic and more adaptable. Brewing of any beer can be switched to where its cheapest, so no site is guaranteed a future. Investment that

should have gone into cask beer plant has been switched to their Caffrey factory in Belfast. *4,100 pubs.*

Of **Whitbread's** 3 breweries, the market leader is Boddingtons. The workhorse and gimmicky beer source is Cheltenham; but for quality one looks to Castle Eden. Guess which is under threat? *4,700 pubs.*

So the Beer Orders have produced a market of 15,650 pubs in the hands of 3 companies. Non-brewing, pub-owning companies now hold some 13,000 pubs and they usually sell beers they can get for the heaviest discount, which, of course, means beers from one of the Big 3.

Luckily we still have 11,300 pubs tied to regional and small brewers, plus a few hundred truly free houses.

Beer from the Big 3 is getting worse. The discount market is forcing economies and corner-cutting. **Courage Bitter & Directors**, and the John Smiths brands are racked practically devoid of yeast and do not merit to be called real ales if secondary fermentation in the cask is a requirement. **S&N** products are getting coarser-tasting. **Whitbread** has at least produced some novel one-off brews for the beer-buff sector but Cheltenham's drab output continues.

*It's no wonder CAMRA's membership is nearing 50,000. There's a lot of work to do.*

Ivor Clissold

## Price Watch

- the Good, the Bad and the Ugly!

The cheapest beer we found in Derby in November was Batemans XB at 90p in the **Exchange**. Also under £1 were Youngers Scotch at the **Flower Pot** (98p) and the **Standing Order** (99p). At the £1 mark were Recession Ale at the **Brunswick** and Firkin Winter Warmer at the **Flamingo & Firkin**. The latter is 4.8% abv and "somewhat caramely" so we are told.

The bad comes in the form of Pedigree where it is £1.72 in the **Standing Order** and a downright ugly £1.90 in **Arkwrights**. Its more reasonably priced at £1.45 in the **Alexandra**.

**Why do people get violent when they get drunk. Have they been poisoned?**

Poison can be defined as ANY substance taken into the body in excess. So one can be poisoned with anything. There was a death recently caused by drinking too much water!

Clearly the poison threshold for alcohol is much lower, but it is not true to say it makes all drunks violent. I have a dear friend who promulgates Shakespeare from his cups. Another repeats the same stories of yore endlessly and is neither offended nor dissuaded by hints or insults.



**Beer Boffin**  
answers your queries

Then there are the singers. A local journalist grasps any handy maiden's hand, looks into her eyes and serenades her with (thankfully) almost unknown Victorian ballads. A friend in York was pestered by a drunken hymn singer. One night my pal opened the

window and hollered "Shut up you old fool". "Alleluia" came the reply.

It seems alcohol only removes inhibitions, enabling the real personality to be seen more clearly. So the poet is more loquaciously poetic, the thug offers violence at the slightest excuse, the anal-retentive removes his trousers, etc.

Ivor Clissold



## Tales from THE BAR

*Are you being served?*

**The Judge** Is there any reason you could not serve as a juror in this case?

**Juror** I don't want to be away from my job that long.

**The Judge** Can't they do without you at work?

**Juror** Yes, but I don't want them to know it.



**Judge it for yourself**

## 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 .....

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



# Get a Guide

## Good Beer Guide 1996

Edited by Jeff Evans.

CAMRA Books £9.99.

Available from book shops, the Alexandra and the Brunswick.

Those 4 lads crying into their fizzy and tasteless ale in a Chester pub 25 years ago certainly achieved something. CAMRA at the age of 25 is a huge organisation, with nearly 50,000 members. The 75p 1974 Good Beer Guide listed 4 mini-breweries: the 1996 edition puts on another 50 this year to make a total of 130.

Not such good news is the fate of regional breweries. In those 22 years we have lost *Barnsley, Burt, Castletown, Charrington,*

*Cook, Darley, Davenport, Devenish, Gray, Greenhall, Whitley, Julia Hanson, Hartley, Higson, Hull, Ind Coope Romford, Lion, Melbourn, Oldham, Paine, Phipps, Shipstone, Simpkins, Truman, Wilson, Yorkshire Clubs* and the *Whitbread* breweries at *Blackburn, Faversham, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Luton, Marlow, Portsmouth, Romsey, Salford, Sheffield and Tiverton.*

So the market has polarised between 3 giants selling maiden's water and 130 self-employed enthusiasts producing over 1,500 ales ranging from the distinctive to the preposterous. So there's a lot of it about, but the problem still is to know where to get it,

and that's where the Good Beer Guide comes in. Compiled from local Branch data, if it can steer you away from 6 or 7 crap pints, it has saved its cover price.

There's always a niggler if you look at an area you know well. I was surprised to see the Old Kings Head dropped from Belper when the place is a national shrine to Marstons beers. There is a lot of pub touring going on by intelligent people not necessarily involved in CAMRA and Good Beer Guide contributors must be careful to keep the reader ahead of personal preference. Still and all, the GBG's a good read, with articles on swan neck dispense (*to be banned from GBG next year*), bottled beers, prices, the nitrokeg threat, notes on the breweries and a calendar of beer festivals. Roll on retirement.

Ivor Clissold

## Sharks sell Piranha

Following the success of Bass's alcoholic lemonade Hooch last summer, Sainsbury's have produced the first supermarket copy - Piranha. "The pleasant surprise is that its clean and fresh lemony taste has an added punch, namely its [sic] 4.3% Abv alcohol content" drools the press release. Cheaper than Hooch at 79p a 330 ml can, but it does not match Bass's 6% abv.

Derby Drinker can reveal the production process. It starts as a tank of water. Sugar and yeast are added to produce the alcohol. Then lemon flavouring (not to be confused with lemons) and a chemical to make it cloudy (so you think they used lemons). A few doses of E-numbers for flavour enhancement and shelf life extension and you have the latest resistible drink.

## The Bentley Brook Inn

Fenny Bentley  
Home to Leatherbrüches Brewery

Always 6 Real Ales with independent guest beers. Good food, friendly Inn, Brewery trips, BBQs, Beer Festivals. Open for food and drink all day  
Tel: 01335 350278

## DIARY

## Festival Dates Set

The 19th Derby Beer Festival will be held at the Assembly Rooms, Derby from **Wednesday 10th to Sunday 14th July 1996** - put it in your diary now!

Entertainment already booked includes **R Cajun & the Zydeco Brothers** and the **Rattlers**. Join CAMRA now (see membership form on page 3) to get free entry to the Festival.

## Branch Meetings

Yes, you're all welcome to join us at our monthly meetings. On **January 11th** we're at the **Foal & Firkin**, The Morledge, Derby. We're at the **Royal Standard**, Derwent Street on **February 8th** and our **AGM** is at the **Flower Pot**, King Street on **March 14th**. See you all there.

## Festivals around Britain

Beer festivals coming up include the **Exeter Festival of Winter Ales** on Saturday **January 13th**; the **Ashfield Winter Beer Festival** at the Festival Hall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield from **January 19th to 21st**; the **Mersy-side Beer Festival** in Liverpool from **January 24th to 27th**; the **7th Bent & Bongs Beer Bash (aka Atherton Beer Festival)** in Manchester from **January 25th to 27th**.

Phone 01332 770209 for more details.

Julian & Gina  
welcome you to

## The Cross Keys

Bond Gate, Castle Donington

Tel: 01332 812214

**Theakstons XB, Mild, Best Bitter, Youngs Special, Greene King Abbot and Marstons Pedigree plus two guest beers and Symonds Old Hazy traditional cider**

# GOOD BEER GUIDE 1996 the biggest ever!

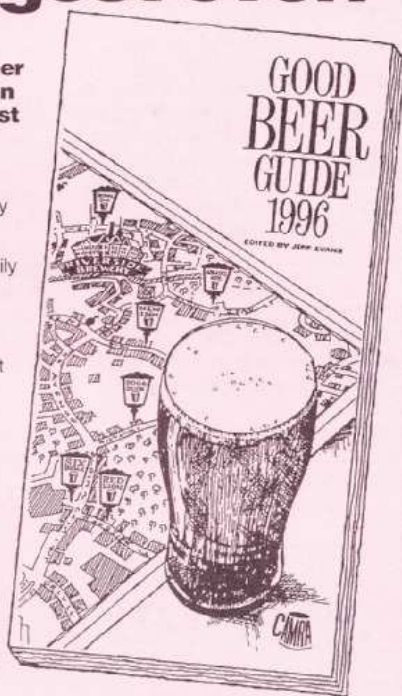
The new edition of Britain's number one beer and pubs book is now on sale - and it's the biggest ever (546 pages)!

■ Around 5,000 of the best beer pubs in Britain, arranged county by county, fully mapped and with all facilities highlighted, from accommodation and meals to family rooms and no-smoking areas.

■ Information on all Britain's breweries from giants like Whitbread and Bass to the newest micros like Jollyboat in Devon, Flagship in Kent, Beartown in Cheshire, Iceni in Norfolk, Frog Island in Northamptonshire and Leaking Boot in Humberside. There are no less than 57 new breweries in the 1996 edition, in locations from Scotland to the South Coast.

■ With the pub world changing so quickly, it's the book no beer lover can afford to be without and is ideal for holidays, business trips, days in the country or nights on the town.

■ Available from all good bookstores or direct from your local CAMRA branch at only £9.99, it's the perfect gift - or why not treat yourself!



Copies are also available direct and post-free from CAMRA at 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4LW (cheques made payable to CAMRA; credit card sales on (01727) 867201).

## REV



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