

# Derby Drinker Special BEER FESTIVAL Edition

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 66

SUMMER 1997

FREE

## 20th DERBY BEER FESTIVAL

- full details on pages 3,4,5 & 6

# SAVE CHARLIE'S GEORGE!

One of Derby's most historic pubs is about to have its name changed and converted to an Irish theme pub if pub giant Allied Domeq have their way. **The George** on Iron Gate, Derby is one of two truly classic coaching inns in Derby and has been a pub since at least 1648.

The pub has a chequered history: the Whig faction in Derby, led by the Duke of Devonshire met here in September 1745 to discuss methods of opposing Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite rebellion. It was, ironically, from here that the Scot's advance guard commandeered Alderman Stamford's horse at 11 am on 4 December 1745. Thus it has a place in Britain's history and is, quite rightly, a Grade II listed building.

The Jacobite advance as far as Swarkestone Bridge is increasingly playing a part in attracting tourism to Derby and, since the pub reverted to its original name from Mr Jorrocks several years ago, no Jacobite tourist's visit would be complete without a drink in the George.

The link between the historical past and the present day pub will not be viable unless it remains as

the George. It is in Derby's interests to oppose this name change with a campaign to persuade Allied Domeq to change their minds.

You can do your bit by writing to:

**John Draper, Estates Manager,  
Allied Domeq, 107 Station  
Street, Burton upon Trent,  
Staffs DE14 1BZ** to plead the  
case for leaving well alone.

David George

## Will they do their duty?

According to Stuart Neame, of brewers Shepherd Neame, Treasury secretary Dawn Primarolo assured him in February that a Labour government would keep 'an open mind' over the industry's problems, and an inquiry into beer duty rates 'sooner rather than later.'

Sheps' Kent brewery reckon to be losing £1 million profit a year due to beer smuggling across the ditch. Customs and Excise have admitted to losing £750M annually, so something needs doing soon.

The last administration ignored CAMRA's proposal to cut duty as too costly. We said it would generate revenue, and now Oxford Economic Forecasting

agree, saying a 20% cut in beer duty would lead to a 0.3% increase in GDP the first year, followed by two years with 0.1 % gains. Other benefits include a 0.5% fall in inflation, 13,000 pub jobs in the first year, 23,000 in the second and 24,000 in the third.

OEF used the official Treasury model to predict this and also the effect on the PSBR; which gave a shortfall of £717M the first year. The year after, the effects of the new jobs would not only cancel out the debit of the first, but add a £932M saving, plus another £628M in year three.

We wait with baited breath for Gordon Brown's first budget.

Ivor Clissold



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## NEWS

### Festival Double Header

The White Swan at Littleover and the New Zealand Arms, Langley Street, Derby are set to repeat their successful double beer festival formula from **June 23rd - 27th**. Both pubs will have in excess of 20 (different) beers and there may be entertainment. On the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights a mini bus shuttle will run between the two pubs. If, as expected, the **Wardwick Tavern** becomes the next **Festival Ale House** will the next event be a triple header with a three way shuttle?

### Changes

The **Kensington Tavern**, Derby is now owned by Marstons. Pedigree is now on sale. The Licensee of the **Fishermans Rest**, Broadholme has taken on the tenancy of the **Old King's Head** in Belper and installed a manager. As we go to press we hear that the **Exchange**, Derby, the **William IV**, Milford and the **Hunter Arms**, Kilburn are all closed awaiting refurbishment or new management. The **Rutland**, Rutland Street, Derby is apparently only open at the weekend and has no real ale.

**Correction** - The **Prince of Wales**, Spondon will not be a Festival Ale House - our apologies and best wishes.

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## Where was Derby's oldest brewery?

We will never know. Most pubs brewed their own beer before the common brewers got a grip on the market in the 1830's. Derby had home-brew pubs a-plenty, but the town directories of 1781 and 1784 list no common brewers. Here are the first references I can find.

**1767 - Wardwick Brewery**, between the Wardwick Tavern and Colyear Street. This eventually became Alton's.

**1804 - Ash Close Brewery**, "containing about an Acre and a half, advantageously situated in the parish of St Werburgh, at the North end of the town of Derby, adjoining to the London and



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Manchester road. There is every convenience for brewing 350 strikes of Malt per week." So

says the sale notice, but where was it? Any information welcomed.

**1811 - Gisbourne, Watson & Son**, Curzon Street Brewery - now Uttoxeter New Road.

**1830 - Navigation Brewery**, Nottingham Road (corner Chequers lane).

**1835 - Derby Brewery Co. Ltd.**, Henry Hunt, Nottingham Road.

**1835 - Manchester Brewery**, Ashbourne Road. John Porter's, Ale & Porter brewery.

**1852 - Ashbourne Road Old Brewery**, the name suggesting it predated the Manchester Brewery. Ivor Clissold

## Carling black market

Bass wondered why sales of Carling Black Label had plummeted in the south east. Scottish Courage were wondering why sales of Fosters had been hit, too.

Hired private detectives uncovered a huge racket run by Spiro Titus, running a business called Victors Ltd. at a warehouse in Alperton, West London.

Titus had enlisted several directors and a venture capital firm to put up £60,000. He went to independent Wiltshire brewers, Ushers and asked

them to produce a lager similar to Fosters/Carling. The stuff was tankered to the warehouse where it was racked into kegs bearing Fosters or Carling labels.

Titus and the plant manager, Roger Eldridge, admitted offences under the Trade Descriptions Act and were ordered to pay £32,900 in fines and costs. £250,000 of equipment was forfeited.

"It is not surprising that unscrupulous traders will try to copy Britain's best-selling lager", crowed Bass. But hang on: Titus was charging wholesalers £35 a keg - about 40p a pint - around half the price of the genuine stuff. Ushers don't brew rubbish, so what happened to the economies of scale huge monopolies like Bass and Scottish Ullage were supposed to bless us with? After all, Black Label and Foster's put 3.5 million pints out every day.

## Award for John Barnes



**John Barnes**, licensee of the Furnace Inn, Duke Street, Derby receives a special award presented on behalf of Derby CAMRA on Tuesday 6th May - exactly 20 years since John first became licensee of the **Byron**, Byron Street, Derby.

The award was for consistently serving excellent beer wherever he's been since. His previous pubs include **The White Horse** on the Morledge, Derby (now the Foal and Firkin) and the **Corner Pin** at Chellaston as well as a couple of pubs outside the area. Congratulations, John.

## What the bottler saw

*Derby Drinker* gets many inquiries about the value of commemoration bottled beers and the selling thereof. So you may like to know of an organisation of collectors of same.

The Association of bottled beer collectors was founded in 1983 and its monthly newsletter, *What's Bottling* gives fixtures of meetings and collectors' fairs, as well as news of new bottlings, small ads and a help page.

Small ads - as long as they are small - are accepted free. What's Bottling's editor is Mike Peterson, 127 Victoria Park Road, Tunstall ST6 6DY. You can enrol by sending £5 to Graham Tubb, Membership Secretary, ABBC, 66 High Street, Puckeridge, Ware, Herts SG11 1RX.

## DRINKER Comment

### Its Double Dutch to me

Just pretend you're the Estates manager for a large pub owning chain. You have successfully tried out a pilot or two for a new chain of pubs with a Dutch theme - Tatty Tulips or something. And you wish to extend the chain across the country. You have several pubs in a thriving city with a blossoming leisure scene and one of them has to be a TT.

One is an historic coaching inn which was the scene of events which are recorded in local and national history. The events are becoming a major tourist attraction and it wasn't so long ago that you spent thousands refurbishing the pub and giving it back its original name so that more could be made of its history.

The other is a bare board city centre pub - again you have spent thousands on it but this time giving it a ridiculous name. It has no real significance in local or national history and changing its name and image would cause no-one offence.

Which would you go for?

Exactly. Now if the powers that be at Allied Domeq were to apply the same common sense and logic perhaps they would be planning on making more of the George on Iron Gate and using its historical connections to their advantage. Instead of which they are actually contemplating an act of desecration which beggars belief.

David George

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#### OPENING TIMES

<b>EVENING</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY</b>	<b>6.30PM TO 11.00PM</b>
<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>11.30AM TO 3.00PM</b>
<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>FRIDAY &amp; SATURDAY</b>	<b>11.30AM TO 4.00PM</b>
<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12.00PM TO 2.30PM</b>

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ADMISSION PRICES	LUNCH	EVENING
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>£2.50</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>50p</b>	<b>£4.00</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>£4.00</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>£1.50</b>	<b>£4.00</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>FREE</b>	<b>Closed</b>

**THE MANAGEMENT RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ADMISSION AND WILL NOT ADMIT PERSONS WHO ARE OR WHO APPEAR TO BE UNDER 18**



# The 'Wright' Stuff

Quality beers from quality brewers - that's the theme of this year's Derby Beer Festival. And not only are we giving you the chance to sample beers from some of the famous names of British, German and Belgian brewing but we're adding an extra treat by brewing our own. CAMRA members will be helping the **Bass Museum** and **Titanic Brewery** to brew a special beer each - exclusive to the Derby Beer Festival! As part of the Joseph Wright bicentenary celebrations both will be dedicated to the world famous Derby artist.

In conjunction with Titanic we'll be brewing **Joseph Wright Special Light** (4% abv) at the Shugborough Hall weekend brewery on the Earl of Lichfield's estate. The name commemorates the artist's talent with light and will be a light, nicely hopped beer. At 5.5% abv the **Old Orrery Strong Ale** to be brewed at the Bass Museum in Burton is an altogether different proposition - darker, stronger and more malty it celebrates the Orrery, one of Joseph Wright's most famous paintings and the inspiration behind this year's glass logo design. These two beers will have a bar or

their own in the Great Hall. The other bars will be:

**Adnams**, Southwold, Suffolk. Established in 1890. Their award winning real ales are available in all 102 tied pubs plus around 650 outlets directly and via agencies. **Southwold Bitter** (OG 1036, ABV 3.7%), **Extra** (1043/4.3%) and **Broadside** (1049/4.7%).

**Archers**, Swindon. Brewery set up in 1979, now with four tied houses and 200 free trade outlets. **Village Bitter** (1035/3.5%), **Golden**

**Bitter** (1046/4.7%) and **Headbanger** (6.3%)

**Arkell's**, Swindon. Family run brewery established in 1843. 85 pubs plus around 200 free trade outlets. **Bitter** (1032/3.2%), **3B** (1040/4%) and **Kingsdown Ale** (1052/5%)

**Bass Museum**, Burton upon Trent. Brewery in a museum reproducing beers from the recipes in the Bass archives. No 6 **Mild** (3.8%), **Hop Pit** the 6th (?) and **Masterpiece India Pale Ale** (5.1%)

**Bunces**, Netheravon, Salisbury. Established 1984 and sold to Danish owners in 1993. 30 free trade outlets. **Pigswill** (1040/4%), **Old Smokey** (1050/5%) and **Vice Beer** (1038/3.8%).

**Burton Bridge**, Burton upon Trent. Small gem amid Burton's giants established in 1982. Now has 2 pubs and 250 free trade outlets. **XL Bitter** (1040/4%), **Porter** (1045/4.5%) and **Burton Festival** (1055/5.5%)

**Cains**, Liverpool. Three pubs and 400 other outlets, their **Dark Mild** (3.2%) is an award winner. **Dark Mild** (1032/3.2%), **Summer Ale** (4%) and **Formidable Ale** (1048/5%).

**Caledonian**, Edinburgh. The old Lorimer and Clark Brewery owned by Vaux of Sunderland was bought out by its management in 1987. Three of their beers; **Murrays Pale Summer Ale** (3.6%), **Deuchers IPA** (3.8%) and **80/- Ale** (4.1%) were 1996 Champion Beer of Britain finalists. **80/- Ale** was the inaugural Champion Beer of Scotland. 900 free trade outlets! **Murrays Summer Ale** (1036/3.6%), **80/- Ale**

(1042/4.1%) and **Edinburgh Strong Ale** (1064/6.4%).

**Church End**, Shustoke, Warks. Founded in 1994 with

around 50 free trade outlets. Unusual ingredients such as honey, spice and fruit added to some beers. **Pooh Beer** (4.3%), **Shustoke Surpryse** (4.8%) and **Sunshine** (4.6%).

**Gibbs Mew**, Salisbury. Brewery established in 1898. After seeing off a takeover in 1992 it bought the Centric Pub Co. two years later. Now has 320 pubs and 100 free trade outlets. The strong **Bishop's Tipple** (6.5% abv) has won awards. **Salisbury Best Bitter** (1042/4.2%), **Deacon**

(1051/4.8%) and **The Bishop's Tipple** (1066/6.5%)

**Hook Norton**, Banbury. Established 1850 with 35 tied houses and 250 free trade outlets. **PAB Mild** (1031/3%), **Best Bitter** (1035/3.4%) and **Haymaker** (1052/5%).

**Hop Back**, Salisbury. started as a brew-pub in 1987 and now has five pubs and 85 free trade outlets. **GFB** (3.5%), **Entire Stout** and **Summer Lightning** are award winners. **Crop Circle** (4.2%), **Summer Lightning** (1049/5%) and **Thunderstorm** (1048/5%).

**Ringwood**, Ringwood, Hants. Established in 1978 and famed for **Old Thumper** (5.8%). Two pubs and 350 free trade outlets. **True Glory** (1043/4.3%), **Fortyniner** (1048/4.8%) and **Old Thumper** (1058/5.8%).

**Titanic**, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent. Founded in 1985 and after some difficulties moved to new premises in 1992. Two pubs and 100 free

trade outlets. Premium is an award winner. **Lifeboat** (1040/3.9%), **Whitestar** (1050/4.8%) and **Captain Smiths** (1054/5.2%).

**Tolly Cobbold**, Ipswich. Nearly went under in 1989 when Brent Walker closed the brewery but was saved by a management buy-out in 1990. Has a long term trading agreement to supply Pubmaster's 525 former Brent Walker pubs. **Mild** (1032/3.2%), **IPA** (1045/4.2%) and **Tollyshooter** (1052/5%).

**Townes**, Chesterfield. Another brewery established in 1994. 40 free trade outlets and some lovely beers. **Sunshine** (1036/3.6%),

**Best Lockford Bitter** (1040/4%) and

**Quicksilver** (4.5%).

**Wychwood**, Witney. Started life as Glenny

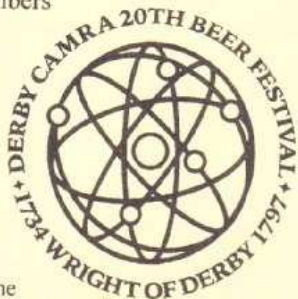
Brewery in 1983, now runs 30 Hobgoblin pubs and supplies 80 other outlets. **Fiddlers Elbow** (1040/4%), **Old Devil** (1047/4.7%) and ... **The Dog's Bollocks** (1051/5.2%).

## New Brews Too

As we go to press our beer order manager is compiling a new beers bar list of about 22 beers which were not available to us this time last year. Most have never been seen in Derby. Beer 'tickers' will, of course, have travelled to the ends of Britain to try them.

We have no alternative but to ration these beers so you'll have to attend most sessions if you want to try them all - only 3 or 4 will be available at any one time!

See next page for Derbyshire ales available in the Darwin Bar and the cider, perry and foreign beers available in the Great Hall.



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Autumn: Old Smokey ABV 5.0%  
Winter: Reddip ABV 6.0%



# Derbyshire Ales, foreign beers and real ciders...

Derbyshire has enjoyed something of a brewing revival over the past few years and five Derbyshire brewers (in addition to the Townes in the Great Hall) will be represented with their beers on sale in the **Darwin Room**

**Black Bull**, Fenny Bentley. Started in 1994 and moved to a converted farm building in 1996. Their beers have a growing reputation in their 50 free trade outlets. **Dovedale Bitter** (1036/3.6%), **Best Bitter** (1040/4%) and **Raging Bull** (1050/4.9%).

**Brunswick**, Derby. Our very own home-town brewery. Trevor Harris started brewing in 1991 and, judging by the enormous number of special and occasional brews he's produced, he's still searching for the absolute perfection in beer recipes. **Triple Hop** (1040/4%), **Railway Porter** (1045/4.3%) and **Old Accidental** (1050/5%).

**Leatherbritches**, Fenny Bentley. Yes, there were 2 breweries established in the same tiny village in the same year, this based at the Bentley Brook Hotel. Now has 2 pubs and around 50 free trade outlets. **Belt 'n' Braces** (3.8%), **Ashbourne Ale** (4.5%) and **Bespoke** (5%).

**John Thompson Brewery** (Lloyds Country Beers), Ingleby. John Thompson was the first to brew beer in Derbyshire for decades



when he set up his brew house in the late 70's. Lloyds is now a separate company to brew for their 250 free trade outlets. **Country Gold** (1040/4%) and **Very Important Pint** (1048/4.8%).

**Whim**, Hartington. Opened in 1993 in farm buildings near the village more famed for stilton cheese than ale. Giles Lichfield purchased the Broughton Brewery in 1995 and now has 50 free trade outlets locally. **Magic Mushroom Mild** (1042/3.8%), **High Peak Pale Ale** (1041/4.3%) and **Black Bear** (1062/6.5%).

## You pays your money...

Every year we get a considerable number of people questioning our pricing policies - some people actually think that the brewers supply all the beer for nothing and the City Council generously donate the use of the Assembly Rooms for 9 days.

**Not a bit of it.**

For every pound spent at the Derby Beer Festival -

- ★39.4p goes towards beer purchase and transport,
- ★8.8p - glasses,
- ★8.4p - hall hire costs,
- ★6.2p - other hall costs such as cooling, scaffolding and flooring,
- ★5.1p - entertainment,
- ★4.5p - advertising and publicity,
- ★5p on staff, insurance and

## German & Belgian Beers

This year there'll be a foreign beer bar in the Great Hall - beers from Germany and Belgium. German beer was featured for the first time at last year's Festival and Belgian beers have been sampled several times in the past. As we go to press they are:

German beers: **Aecht Schlenkerla Rauchbier** (4.8%) or smoked beer - its unique flavour comes from smoking the barley over beechwood. **Pils** (4.9%) - traditional Czech style. **Hefe Weissbier** (5.2%) - a wheat beer. **Fruh Kolsch** (4.8%) - I've no idea but it'll be fun finding out! **Augustiner Mai Bock** (5.4%) - a strong celebration beer usually produced in May. **Kellerbier** (4.9%) - a lighter "quaffing" cellar kept beer.



**DUNKERTONS CIDER**

Lambic style which originated in the town of Lambeec.

**Belgian beers:** Both come from **Liefmans**, there's **Kriek** (6.5%) made with cherries and **Framboise** (5.1%) made with raspberries. Both are brewed with wild yeast in the

## Cider Galore

The ciders and perry come from Dunkertons in the West Country and are hellishly strong - mind how you go! They are: **Breakwell seedling** (7%), **Collington Big Bitters** (7%), **Court Royal** (8%), **Kingdom Black** (8%), **Medium Sweet Blended** (7%), **Medium Dry Blended** (7%) and **Medium Dry Perry** (7%).

**Have a great, great time!!!**

## Bring a coach

Want to come to the Beer Festival but don't want the hassle of finding a taxi or trusting someone to resist all that temptation and not drink? Why not get your pub, work or social club to organise a coach trip? Pre-booked parties arriving before 7pm can avoid any queues - and on Wednesday night or Thursday (either session) we'll buy the whole bus their first half pint and the organiser three!

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# Swing, sing, sup and stomp

Where else can you find such a wide variety of entertainment at such little cost? The Derby Beer Festival is not only famous for its beer but for its entertainment. We have several areas to entertain you in: the **Great Hall** with its big stage (and where most of the beer is available), the **Darwin Room** with tables and chairs as well as floor space and (of course) a bar; and the wide expanses of **foyer** where you may find Morris Dancers or Barbershop singers - here's the line-up:

## The Bob Wilson Big Swing Band

Big swing jazz is the theme of the Great Hall **Wednesday** night with the **Bob Wilson Big Swing Band**. They play the hits of Glen Miller,



## Thursday Blues

### The Sounds of the Blues Brothers

The "Ultimate Blues Brothers Show" is back - a packed Great Hall last sang along to their great renditions of Motown, blues and soul classics at the 1995 festival. **Arrive early!**

Making it a real Blues' night are the support band: **ZZ Birmingham Blues Band**. Arthur Billington's Derby based band have been playing their distinctive harmonica-led rhythm'n'blues for ten years now.

Line dancing comes to the Beer Festival! **The John J Paul Band** bring Country and Western to the Darwin Room on Thursday night. Don't try the line dancing with a pint in your hand.

Benny Goodman and Buddy Rich to name a few. This is their second festival appearance having made their debut last year with guest vocalist James Selfridge - famed for his interpretations of the great Sinatra songs. Their maxim "*It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing*" promises a big night.

The **Grand Central Barbershop Chorus** sing their harmonies in the foyer. The Darwin Room is entertainment-free for those who like to sup in peace.

## Friday Rock 'n' Roll

### Earl Jackson Jailbreakers

On Friday night the Great Hall will rock to **Earl Jackson's** renditions of the Rock 'n' Roll greats - Louis Jordan, Chuck Berry, Freddie Bell, Mike Pedican to name but a few. The crowd at their last appearance in 1995 were mesmerised by Earl Jackson's facial expressions, acrobatics and duck-walking.

**Tony B's** piano/vocals provide the Great Hall support on Friday and Saturday nights. Festival first-timers **Brookside Jazzmen** are another act "in residence" - they play the Great Hall on Thursday and Friday lunchtimes.

## Saturday Stomp

### The Amazing Bavarian Stompers.

They were away for several years but the beer festival without oompah was not the same. It was a triumphant return last year and they are back in the Great Hall for the Saturday night party. Raise your glasses and sing along to what has been described as "*the last night of the proms - with ale*".

### Gentle Folk

A more gentle aspect of folk music can be heard in the Great Hall on Saturday lunch when **Drowsy Maggie** entertain once again.

### Sunday Jam

The line-up is completed by **Three Wheel Drive** and guests whose usual jam session will round off the Festival on Sunday lunch.

### Creche fun for kids

And I mustn't forget **Clivo the Clown** who will keep the kids in the creche happy on Saturday and Sunday lunchtimes. The creche is free and your little ones will be looked after and entertained by fully qualified staff.

## The Rattlers in Residence



Derby Celtic-rockers, **The Rattlers** have filled the "Darwin residency" for the last three years. That's Friday night, Saturday lunch unplugged and Saturday night. Radio Derby's John Shaw recently described them as "*the most exciting band to play the Flowerpot*" since it became one of Derby's premier live music venues. They are currently recording their second album and were a big hit at last year's Peterborough Beer Festival where they played to a huge audience. Their enormous Derby fan base is sure to be dancing all night and singing along.

## AT A GLANCE GUIDE

Detailed below are all the time and price information you need to have a really great time. Admission is free to members of CAMRA and European Beer Consumer Union organisations. The price includes your souvenir programme. You'll need a glass to drink from so you can either buy a souvenir pint or half pint glass. Or you can pay a deposit on a glass from a previous year and get your money back at the end. There are no refunds on this year's glass.

### Wednesday 9th July

6.30pm - 1.00pm admission £2.50  
**The Bob Wilson Big Swing Band** in the Great Hall and the **Grand Central Barbershop Chorus** in the Foyer. No entertainment in the Darwin Room.

### Thursday 10th July

11.30am - 3.00pm admission  
5Op **The Brookside Jazzmen** in the Great Hall  
6.30pm - 1.00pm admission £4  
**The Sounds of the Blues Brothers** supported by **ZZ Birmingham Blues Band** in the Great Hall. **John J Paul Band** in the Darwin Room.

### Friday 11th July 1997

11.30am - 4.00pm admission £1  
**The Brookside Jazzmen** in the Great Hall  
6.30pm - 1.00pm admission £4  
**Earl Jackson Jailbreakers** supported by **Tony B** in the Great Hall. **The Rattlers** in the Darwin Room.

### Saturday 12th July

11.30am - 4.00pm admission  
£1.50 **Drowsy Maggie** in the Great Hall, the **Rattlers** (unplugged) in the Darwin Room and **Clivo the Clown** in the creche.  
6.30pm - 1.00pm admission £4  
**The Amazing Bavarian Stompers** supported by **Tony B** in the Great Hall. **The Rattlers** in the Darwin Room.

### Sunday 13th July

12 noon - 2.30 pm, admission free.  
**Three Wheel Drive** plus guests in the Great Hall and **Clivo the Clown** in the creche. The Darwin Room is closed.

## Pensioner's Free lunch admission

As in previous years OAPs will be admitted free to all lunchtime sessions.

## CAMRA members free

CAMRA members can gain free admission to all sessions on production of their membership cards - complete the form on page 7 and join us now!

THE HOOKNORTON BREWERY CO. LTD

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1996  
BREWING INDUSTRY INTERNATIONAL AWARDS  
BEST BITTER



SILVER MEDAL





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Advertising Standards Authority: Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN



*"Campaigning for better beer and better pubs - I'll drink to that!"*

**Judy Mallaber MP, Amber Valley (Labour) (above)**

### New Ashes Series

The ashes of a former Militant activist who died after drinking to celebrate Labour's general election victory, will be contested in an annual cricket match in his memory.

Regulars at 50-year-old Keith Narey's local, The Brewery Tap, in Idle, Bradford, will play a team from Bradford CAMRA. Mr Narey's ashes will remain at the winning pub.

*Daily Telegraph, 14 May 1997.*

## Promises, promises...

We asked local parliamentary candidates their views upon CAMRA's manifesto. Here are the replies from the successful ones.



*"I am pleased to see CAMRA as usual making a considerable range of points on behalf of customers. As always, a very worth while contribution to policy-making."*

**Rt. Hon. Margaret M. Beckett MP, Derby South (Labour), President of the Board of Trade and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. (above)**



*"You can rest assured that as someone who was a member of CAMRA that in general terms I support all of CAMRA's manifesto. In particular, as you know from the experience of seeing me drinking, I will travel a fair distance to ensure I obtain a good pint of beer and I certainly am very much in favour of CAMRA's 'Saving the Pub' campaign in addition to seeing greater relaxation in the licensing laws to enable public houses to be open for a period of time which suits the owner, staff and in particular their clientele."*

*Long live good beer and one of the benefits of living in Derby is that we have an abundance of it! I will, of course, do my best to make sure that this state of affairs last and, in fact, improves."*

**Bob Laxton MP, Derby North (Labour) (pictured, above)**

### Dolphin Festival

The Dolphin, Queen Street, Derby hold their annual beer festival from 24th - 27th July. There'll be 40 beers the majority of which will be over 4.5% abv. there will also be a BBQ and entertainment on the car park including Skaboom, the Nipettes, Sunshine Crew and Gorilla. Full details will be available in early July and there will be flyers at the Derby Beer Festival.

## Awards for three local pubs

Three of the area's pubs have recently won national awards.

The *Licensee and Morning Advertiser Family Pub of the Year* was once again won by Mike and Sue Kiernen of the **Canal Turn** in Findern. They promptly announced they were moving to Thetford. Tom and Vicky Cooper of the **Cooper's Arms**, Weston on Trent

have been highly commended in the *Publican magazine's Freehouse of the Year* award. Derby's **Standing Order** has been commended in the *Civic Trust awards for environmental design* - one of 62 awards presented to firms by the Royal Society of Arts at a ceremony in London in April.

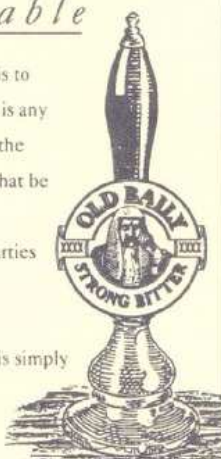
**Congratulations to all!**

## Tales from THE BAR

*That's understandable*

**Counsel** My sole purpose in this little monologue is to record that understanding on the record, and if there is any disagreement with my understanding by counsel for the defendants, which I believe there is not, to ask that that be recorded so that there be no misunderstanding subsequently by any party to this case or any third parties as to what we intend to provide.

**The Judge** My problem with what you have said is simply that I am not altogether sure that I understand what you have said.



4.8% ABV.

**Judge it for yourself**

## Protect YOUR Pleasure Join CAMRA 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 £14 (£17 for joint, £8 for OAPs, £18/£21 for overseas membership)

Name(s) .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

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



# Guests short on quality

## THE GUEST BEER GUIDE

'97, by Graham Titcombe & Nicholas Andrews, Foulsham, £8.99, ISBN 0-572-02220-4.

Graham Titcombe, licensee of the Bell at Pensax, has listed 580 independent pubs, 65 brew pubs and a selection of independent breweries.

Assembling CAMRA's annual Good Beer Guide (GBG) has sent editor Jeff Evans almost literally hairless, and that's with the help of hundreds of surveyors around the country. Titcombe did not have such luxury and many entries have the appearance of being surveyed by phone. A long production period ensured some obsolescence: no mention of the **Smithfield**, reopened over a year.

As the identifiable errors mount up, one begins to wonder if any of the book can be relied upon. The **Flowerpot**, for example, is supposed to have a car park, a children's room, no games machine and evening bar food. The latter description is nowhere defined, though most guides would not count cold cobs. The next page gives the proprietor of **Whim Brewery** as Giles Witchfield. Has Lichfield become a warlock?

An allegedly historical essay tells us 'Caesar's (which one?) invading army brought beer to Britain in 55 AD.' Apart from being 110 years out with the invasion, the Neolithic camps of Britain were well into brewing 2,000 years before the state of

Rome was even founded. The Roman historian Pliny noted that the British Celts brewed a beer called curmi. "The western nations intoxicate themselves by means of moistened grain" he observed, sniffily, and in Latin: it was no drink for the wine-loving Romans.

Unlike the *Good Beer Guide*, this promises quantity rather than quality, as the pubs have been picked for the range of their beers, not how well they are kept. The brewery selection is arbitrary: **Timothy Taylor's** is tediously listed in dozens of pubs but not in the brewery section! A worse irritation is the lack of an index. If you do not know the county, you cannot find the brewery. Try searching Northumbria for the Viking Brewery! (Its in Kent).

A great book for beer-tickers, but for the less cranky beer enthusiast, it's a corollary, rather than a replacement for the GBG.

Ivor Clissold

## Beer Festival Diary

### Exeter & East Devon Summer Beer Festival

June 20 - 21 at St George's Hall, George Street, Exeter. 80 beers, ciders and a special bottled beer. Entertainment both evenings. Contact Phillip Roberts on 01884 33115.

### Accrington Summer Beer Festival

June 25 - 28 at the Town Hall. Over 50 beers, ciders and foreign beers. Contact Phil Drew on 01254 232936.

### Romford Market 750th Anniversary Beer Festival

June 26 - 28 in a marquee at the top of Romford Market. Admission price of £1 includes a plastic cup - no glass allowed (what is the world coming to? - ed). Contact Trevor Benson on 01708 723897.

### The Two Intents Beer & Cider Festival

July 2 - 5 at the National Hockey Stadium, Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes. 146 real ales, 18 ciders and perries plus bottled foreign beers. Contact Tony Austin on 01908 317971.

### 23rd Kent Beer Festival

July 17 - 19 in the cowshed at Merton Farm, Merton Lane, Canterbury. 80 beers and ciders plus foreign beers. Food, live music, parking and camping. free bus shuttle from Canterbury bus station. Contact Gill Knight on 01227 463478.

### Great British Beer Festival

August 5 - 9 at Olympia, London W8. Contact CAMRA HQ - see advert below left or 01332 770209 for details.

## 9th Off The Tracks Festival

A Summer music festival on a farm usually conjures up images of acres of tents with odd flags whose occupants often need the aid of binoculars to view megastars on a huge stage miles away.

Not "Off The Tracks". There are tents: there's camping in the field behind the farmhouse and bands in the Bailey Big Top - a circus proportioned tent adjoining the bar and the courtyard. No-one is miserable and wet and everyone can see. **Thirty five real ales** straight from the barrel in the stone barn make it a beer as well as a music festival and help create a happy friendly atmosphere.

The carnival is enhanced by craft, clothing and music stalls in the courtyard as well as the sideshows. This year there's **Black Pig Morris**, the **Sealed Knot's** Roundheads and Cavaliers and manic comedy from **Maynard Flip-Flap** and **Zak** - the unrideable bike meets the living box!

There are no megastars or egos at *Off The Tracks* - just the best roots music around and an incredible variety at that.

The main bands this year are **Prego** and **The Rattlers** (Friday night), **Da Dog**, **Jazz Juniors**, **Hand on Heart**, **CC Baxter**, **Dave Swarbrick**, **ZZ**, **Birmingham**, **Elephant Talk**, the **New Bushbury Mountain Daredevils**, **Horace X**, **Stafford Galli**, **Mas Y Mas** and **Dr Didg** (Saturday) and **Whisky Before Breakfast** and **Jayne's Red House** (Sunday).

So, the sun will set on what some are predicting will be the "third summer of love" at the 9th OTT Music and Beer Festival held at Park Farmhouse, Melbourne Road, Castle Donington. Its near junction 24 of the M1, next to the Castle Donington market site and at the back of the racecourse.

Tickets for the weekend priced £23 are available from OTT Music and Beer Festival, PO Box 68, Derby DE1

**3XY** (Send SAE and cheques to 'OTT'). There's a 10% discount for 11 or more tickets. Day tickets are available on the gate only. Camping, caravans and hotel beds are overnight options and there's a restaurant and, of course, the bar. Everything is laid on for a great weekend.

Why wait for politicians to engineer the 'feelgood factor' - go to *Off The Tracks* instead.

From the team that brought you the *Flowerpot* and the *Smithfield*

## The Friargate

114 Friar Gate

tel: 01332 297065

Derby's only real ale house run by a woman  
OPEN ALL DAY

From the team that brought you the *Flowerpot*

## The Smithfield

Meadow Road - tel: 01332 370429

Derby's only Free House on the Banks of the Derwent

Quarter mile from Train Station  
Quarter mile from Market Place  
Hot food Monday to Saturday -  
Sunday lunches a speciality  
LARGE CAR PARK



Tues. 5th to Sat 9th August  
Over 250,000 pints of Real Ale • Cider • Perry • Imported Beer • Seating for over 1000 • Varied food Stands • Games • Live entertainment including **Steeleye Span** on Friday night •

Information and tickets, call: 01727 867201

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