



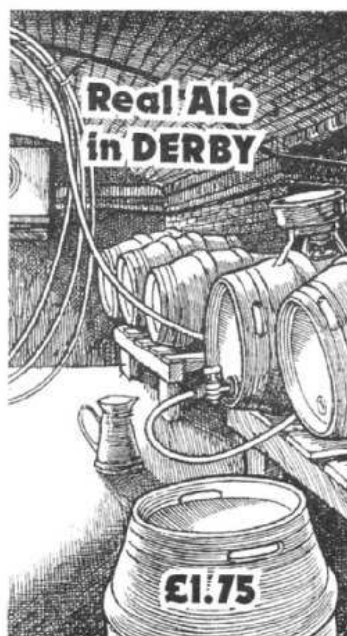
KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 67

AUTUMN 1997

FREE

"BEER CITY" GUIDE LAUNCHED



Derby CAMRA have launched their most thorough guide to Derby's pubs since 1989. 'Real Ale in Derby' lists every real ale pub in the city - guides since 1989 have only covered the city centre and have been selective rather than comprehensive. It also lists a greater range of facilities to keep up with the increased expectations of the drinking public.

As well as listing pub and beer details you'll also be able to find out about accommodation, toilets for the disabled, early evening or evening meals, real fires, gardens (with grass or patio) lunchtime meals, bar snacks, car parks, all day opening, pub games and whether newspapers or journals are provided.

An indication of the ups and downs of beer quality is given by telling you when pubs have been listed in the 'Good Beer Guide';

although this guide refrains from making any comment on present day quality - judge for yourself.

Some of the statistics make interesting reading; there are 71 different beers regularly available in Derby - a 50 per cent increase on 1979. With guest beers there are probably over 100 beers on sale in Derby at any one time. No wonder the city is becoming known as 'Beer City'.

In 1979 48 per cent - just under half - of Derby's pubs sold real ale; today that figure is 74 per cent and growing. An increase of 60 real ale pubs in 18 years.

In 1974 Bass and Allied between them owned 80 per cent of Derby's pubs; today that figure is down to 38 per cent - due largely to the 1989 Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) report.

The Guide was edited by John Arguile who also drew the city and suburb maps. The illustrations are the work of Reg Newcombe. It is available in bookshops, some newsagents and pubs, the Derby Evening Telegraph and by post from John Arguile, 71 Elms Avenue, Littleover, priced £1.75 (SSAE and cheque payable to CAMRA (Derby)).

The George - Allied Domecq flout planning regs

Not only have Allied Domecq ignored public opinion and the protests of the Civic Society, the Royal Stuart Society, the Charles Edward Stuart Society

and CAMRA as well as a 2600 strong petition but they have also flouted planning law in converting the George to Irish theme pub, Lafferty's.

The pub is a Grade II listed building and Derby City Council should have received - and approved - a planning application to illuminate the sign and to add the two light fittings over the door.

When they do receive it a notice will appear in the Derby Evening Telegraph - we suggest you all object.

Visit our unique cellar bar at
The Flowerpot

King Street, Derby

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

Hot food Monday to Saturday

Sunday lunches a speciality

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Brunswick Inn
D E R B Y

Purpose-built brewery
HOME-PRODUCED LUNCHES & EVENING BUFFETS AVAILABLE

NEWS

More name Changes

The George isn't the only pub with an identity crisis. The Jubilee City, Osmaston Road, Derby - the only pub to change its name to mark Derby's elevation to city status 20 years ago - is now called the Old Barley Mow. Why? The Masons Arms, Edward Street, Derby has re-opened as Montague's after the new owner. The pub should be selling real ale for the first time in decades. The strangest case is that of the Exchange, Albert Street, Derby which is currently closed. It is set to re-open as the Mongolian Bar. This is, apparently, Bass taking themed eateries to the extreme.

Re-opened with the SAME name (almost)

Sgt Peppers (formerly the Duke of York in years gone by), Burton Road, Derby has re-opened after some work and sporting a range of real ales. Mansfield, at last, have done some work on the Malin, Normanton Road, Derby. It no longer looks like a public convenience, is called the Malin Wine Vaults and has real ales on sale. It was originally Cox and Malin's Wine Vaults so we're getting nearer authenticity here. The Prince of Wales, Spondon has re-opened and is selling Bass and Pedigree (yawn!). Also re-opened are the King William IV at Milford and the Blenheim Inn, Etwell which has been refurbished in original Georgian style by new owners, Marstons.

The Nags Head Inn
Hill Top
Castle Donington
Marston's Pedigree,
Banks's Mild

Home-cooked food, lunch and evening

Petanque (French Boules)
Beer Garden

Warm Welcoming Atmosphere

tel: 01332 850652

Wow, what a retail experience! - how was it for you?

Beer prices are rising faster than any other commodity, according to a report by researchers Key Note, called *Breweries and the Beer Market*.

On-trade (pub) prices rose by 85.5% between 1987 and 1996, while the retail price index put on only 54.4%. Off-trade prices were almost as bad at 79.9%.

Are pub companies like Wetherspoons the punters' best chance of breaking the Bass/ Allied/ Scottish-Courage stranglehold on the market?

The monopolists have certainly been made to sit up, but a worrying trait is the emergence of the superpub, vide the Standing Order, to be followed by Bass's acquisition of the Post Office building. Opposition is mounting.

JD Wetherspoon's plans for a superpub in Micklegate, York, have been dashed after magistrates refuse the licence after a two day hearing. More than a dozen objectors to the application included the police, whose Chief Inspector John Lacey said, 'In the last year, 127 of the 137 serious assaults committed in the city centre were drink related, and many of them were committed in the Micklegate

The report suggests some of the restraint in the off-trade is due to personal imports of cross-Channel beer, estimated to be worth some £520 million.

Between 1980 and 1995 beer consumption declined from 147.2 litres to 123.4 litres. Could these facts be connected?

But there has also been a 25% fall in spirit drinking in the same

area, in spite of CCTV cameras, robust police action, a pubwatch network and a very efficient door-staff scheme. We have no objection to J D Wetherspoon's operating standards, but their pricing policy would encourage volume drinking, and it's what happens afterwards in the streets that concerns us.'

York LVA objected on the usual trade grounds. A representative told the Licensee 'If the licence had been granted it would have opened the floodgates to other similar applications and we would have ended up with four or five superpubs, which would have just killed off all the other trade.'

Both views were predictable, as was the justices' decision to follow the police's lead.

The police argument is weak, a anyone can witness by giving Wetherspoon's two Derby pubs a looking-at weekends. A York physician suggested many years ago that lager may be a greater cause of drunkenness, as it fills the belly up quickly with gas, forcing the discomforted consumer onto spirits.

The LVA have half of a point. While superpubs probably do take some trade away from the back streets, good local hostilities continue to thrive in Derby, where the likes of Wetherspoons have not taken more of the cake so much as made the cake bigger. The Standing Order accommodates older folk and single women who would not be seen dead in other establishments.

Are our pubs facing the same rigged match as that of the corner shop v the supermarkets? There are many who would say that beer is not that price-sensitive. Enjoying a really good pint in a good local is worth a few pence more than sipping Big Brewery effluent in an antiseptic Superpub. But the local's licensee has to keep it that way: calling for trade restrictions will fool few and please less.

Ivor Clissold

period, though cider and perry consumption has more than doubled. Wine is at 179% of the 1980 level and fruit juices are three times what they were.

Pub sales have been hit disproportionately. In 1980, 79% of all alcohol was bought at pubs; this dropped to 75.8%.

Brian Finnerty, one of the apologist poodles for the big boys at the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association, said "Prices are higher in pubs because people are buying the whole retail experience... Every week £12 million is spent on pub refurbishments."

Unfortunately, people are often made to have a retail experience when all they wanted was a quiet pint and a chat. Joe or Josephine Public have hardly settled in their seats before some of that £12 million abolishes their ambience and replaces it with a banal 'themed' travesty with megawatts of children's music and huge, usually unsynchronised, display screens.

More and more is being spent on attracting less and less people. Where will it end?

A glance round Derby will show you. The most successful pubs, offering a range of tasty beers at reasonable prices, and in pubs in which you can hear people talking, have either been set up from scratch by operators like Wetherspoons, or by local people in existing pubs that the big brewers couldn't make pay.

We look forward to a wholesale experience, in which Bass, Allied Domecq, et al, sell off pubs in their hundreds to be run as the community wants them, not as some svelte twenty-something gal in Marketing thinks they should be.

Ivor Clissold

PLEASE PASS THIS COPY OF DERBY DRINKER TO A FRIEND

The Railway Hotel

222 Station Road, Melbourne
says

JOIN CAMRA!

Choice of up to six real ales all at £1 plus VAT (£1.18) per pint to CAMRA members during October

Jazz Tuesdays - En-suite Rooms - restaurant

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DRINKER Comment

Plea to Allied Domecq - when Lafferty's fails, sell it!

The suits who asked for local opinion on the George predictably ignored the petition, press comment, protests from CAMRA, entreaties from the Civic Society and planning regulations with all the ignorance at their command, which seems to be considerable.

The decision to erect the Lafferty's sign was taken by a man in a suit in an office in a town eleven miles away.

Because CAMRA organised the petition, he offers the palliative that there will be a choice of real ales available in this 'Irish' theme bar. Did he actually read the petition?

The fact that the sun is setting on Paddy Pubs is known to Allied-Domecq's competitors, who are already rolling out the next generation. Down come the groceries, harps and bicycles, up go hats with corks round the brim, pin-ups of sheep, Mongolian decor, etc.

Clearly, not all those who enjoined the petition used the pub in its previous guise. On entering its gloom one was eyed by a huge screen showing TV programmes with no sound, making comedy shows as funny as a sick baby. Instead of the sound track there was the relentless thumping of teeny music to contend with, presumably the choice of the licensee and principally played for the benefit of the staff.

Having seen the new fascia, whatever the choice of ales, we cannot imagine proper beer drinkers flocking to a place run by liars: is not an Irish pub, it is in Derby; it is not a tea merchants; it is not an ironmongers; it has no crack, or even craic, just inanities like the above which some sad sack at A-D thinks are funny.

The pub is on the most central spot in Derby. Anyone else would be making a fortune - and they will, for on the present showing A-D's absentee landlordship is incompetent and out of touch with our city's requirements and aspirations - we wait for them to sell it.

Ivor Clissold

THE OLD OAK

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The Woodlark

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Paul & Debbie warmly welcome
customers old and new

Traditional ales include Bass,
Pedigree, Adnams and Gibbs

Mew guest beer

Quiz Thursday - Piano sing-a-long
Sunday

Tel: 01332 332910

THE BELL INN



SMALLEY

Free House - beers from

Bateman's, Ruddles, Marstons,
Whim

LUNCH & EVENING FOOD

Derby Drinker

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Beer Festival - "The best yet"

The 20th Derby Beer Festival has been acclaimed as the "best yet" by the Derby Branch of CAMRA. Although the attendance seems to be slightly down this may be due to the different method of counting festival goers this year.

The beer was generally reckoned to be in superb condition which may account for us running out at the end of the final session. As this Derby Drinker reaches the pubs the organisation of the 21st festival is under way and will run from Wednesday 8th to Sunday 12th July 1998. Make a note in your diary.

Branch Chairman, Duncan Crabtree takes a breather during a setting-up session before the festival opened.



Alcopops and Water

The alcopop hysteria continues... Whitbread have moved them to behind the counter in their Bottoms Up, Thresher and Huttons off-licences and added 10p a bottle in their pubs.

JD Wetherspoon have taken them off claiming they wanted to keep away from the controversy and Bass, in a novel attempt to discourage under-age drinking, filled a batch of Carling Black Label cans with sterile water. 38-year old lager lover, Eugene Hanly bought eight cans which Bass have exchanged for a 24 pack actually filled with Carling. I think Eugene got a raw deal there!



The Mayor of Derby, Councillor John Fuller signs the petition to save the George after opening the Festival by downing a pint and the pulling the first pint of Joseph Wright Special Light.

Below: Dancing to the Bob Wilson Big Swing Band on the opening night.

Festival photos courtesy of the Derby Evening Telegraph.



Short measures - the line in sight

The government look set to end the scandal of short measures once and for all with the introduction of over-sized lined glasses. Brewers and publicans protest that this will inevitably result in increased prices. How is it then that Banks's, who use over-sized lined glasses in all their pubs, remain one of the cheapest brewers in the country?

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

.....(DD)...

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

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TOURS

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stopping at**

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ALEXANDRA HOTEL - DERBY 01332 293993**

For more details contact the above pubs

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The Furnace Inn
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and Cellarman's Cask



New Zealand Arms

Peel Street, Derby
Pedigree, Tetley plus 4 guest
beers (min)

Lunchtime food Tues - Sat

Four beer festivals per year

Survey boost for flexible hours

On the ninth anniversary of all-day opening during the week and the second anniversary of Sunday afternoon opening CAMRA released the results of a survey of pub opening hours and prices of 1039 pubs in England and Wales. The survey revealed that 57% of pubs remained open on weekday and Sunday afternoons whilst 73% took advantage of all day opening on Saturday. CAMRA Head of Campaigns Stephen Cox said "Our survey shows that flexible opening has been widely - and flexibly - used. It has met a real consumer need and helped allow licensees to meet public demand."

"Every pub has not been forced to open. It is hard to credit now the dire warnings of disaster that were made before each reform of pub hours. In fact, licensees have been reasonable - sometimes opening only one bar, or opening for a large party, the message is clear - drinkers and publicans can be trusted with freedom to open." "Now is the time for England and Wales to catch up with Scotland and the rest of Europe, and see some sensible extension to evening hours," said Cox. "Of course rowdy pubs should have their rights to open longer

withdrawn. Neighbours have rights too."

Prices cheer

More good news came with the results of the associated prices survey. For the second year running, real ale prices have risen by no more than inflation. In the East Midlands the average price of a pint of real ale was £1.56 compared with £1.73 for lager and £1.65 for nitrokeg (smoothflow) beers. The region was more expensive than the North West, Yorkshire/Humberside, the West Midlands and Wales but cheaper than Scotland and the rest of England.

Stephen Cox welcomed the news, "the price of a pint is moderating and pubs are better value," he said. "This makes commercial sense for brewers and publicans, and is good for customers."

"We note that lager and nitrokeg are on average 15 pence a pint more expensive than real ale, although they cost a little more to brew, and require less skill to keep and serve, that reinforces the argument that real ale is not only tastier and more interesting, but better value too!"

50 Brewers at Brunswick's 10th festival

The 10th annual Brunswick Beer Festival will take place from Wednesday 1st October until Sunday 5th October and - being the tenth - will have some special features.

Beers from 50 brewers will be available and there will be three special beers from the

Brunswick's brewery. Sadly, this will be the last time that souvenir glasses will be on sale. The prohibitive cost has forced Trevor Harris to say "enough is enough." This year's glass will be a gold-rimmed limited edition which is certain to be a sell-out and future collector's item.

You can book a glass in advance by contacting Trevor Harris or Bert Cockerham at the Brunswick (tel: 290677).

the 21st Derby CAMRA
Beer Festival

at the

Assembly Rooms,
Market Place, Derby
**Wednesday 8th -
Sunday 12th
July 1998**
put it in your diary

From the team that brought you
the Flowerpot and the Smithfield

The Friargate

114 Friar Gate

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**Derby's only real ale
house run by a woman**

OPEN ALL DAY



Noah's Real Ark

The Noah's Ark, the Morledge, derby has real ale again - Mansfield's Four Seasons at only £1.30 per pint. Guest beers at between £1.30 and £1.50 a pint are available at the Royal Oak, South Normanton.

Mansfield buys pubs

Mansfield Brewery have bought two pubs in Derbyshire in a 5 pub deal with the Pub Estate Company. They are the Gate Inn, Loscoe and the White Lion, South Normanton and will be "evaluated for investment" according to a spokesman. Mansfield have also secured the UK rights to Lindemans Belgian fruit and Tea beers.

Breweriana Swap day at Alexandra

The Alexandra Hotel, Siddals Road, Derby - part of the independent Tyne Mill pub group - are to hold a breweriana swap day on Saturday 4th October from 11.00 - 4.00pm. So, if you want to buy, swap or sell beer mats, mirrors, bottles etc. get along to the Alex and make that deal.

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Hemington

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CAMRA member Sue Dudley (right) presents Sandra Buckley of BASIC (Brain and Spinal Injury Charity) with a cheque for £522 - from a collection, badge sales and donations at the Festival.

CAMRA also make an annual donation to the Mayor's Charity Fund.

Live at the Flowerpot

King Street, Derby

September

20th - Stafford Galli

26th - Wilko Johnson

27th - The Rattlers

October

4th - Seven Little Sisters

11th - Bushbury Mountain

Daredevils

24th Nine Below Zero

25th - Stockton's Wing

November

1st - Dr Didg

3rd - Isaac Guillory

8th - The Good Sons

10th - Clive Gregson

11th - Tom Paxton

22nd - The Crack

24th - Anam

27th - Backbeat Beatles

28th - Lindisfarne

December

1st - Bert Jansch

5th - Tom Robinson

6th - The Men They Couldn't

Hang

8th - Dick Gaughan

13th The Kings of Callicutt

17th - Australian Pink Floyd

20th - The Rattlers

27th - Steve Phillips and the

Famous Five

Tel: 01332 834438 for details

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The Smithfield

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on the banks of the Derwent

Quarter mile from Train Station

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