



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No.68 CHRISTMAS '97/NEW YEAR '98 FREE

BACK DOOR MERGER

The major upheaval amongst the big players in the brewing industry - predicted since Margaret Beckett, Derby South MP and President of the Board of Trade, blocked the proposed Bass - Carlsberg Tetley merger - continues unabated. Once CT announced the closure of their Burton Brewery, with the loss of 537 jobs unless the plant could be sold, there was only one potential buyer in the frame.

Bass duly stumped up and (surprise, surprise) they get to brew Carlsberg Tetley's beers under contract for three years.

There may be 537 jobs saved in Burton but the net effect sees the closure of CT's breweries in

Wrexham and Alloa and of the Bass plants in Cardiff and Sheffield - unless buyers can be found!

Mike Benner of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale slammed Bass's Cardiff and Sheffield

closures saying "Bass have followed Carlsberg Tetley's lead and are mercilessly stamping out hundreds of years of brewing tradition. This probably marks the end for popular regional beers like Worthington Dark Mild, Hancock's HB and Stone's Mild."

Bass blame the closures on falling sales of cask ales but Phillip Malpass for Bass claims that "ales like Stones, Worthington, Allbright and Hancocks are popular national and regional brands".

Sales of cask ales may have fallen but London brewer, Fullers are just one independent brewer to report increasing sales of real ale and the number of brewers who decline to supply the Derby Beer Festival because they can't meet their local demand increases each year.

The big brewers have such a huge slice of the market that if they promote lager and nitro-keg beers at the expense of real ale and then fail to produce the quality achieved by their smaller competitors, sales of cask ales are bound to fall. Because THEIR sales have fallen!

Branch plans quality award for Ivor



The Derby branch of CAMRA are to make an annual "quality" award in memory of Ivor Clissold who died suddenly on 22nd October.

Ivor had been a key activist in Derby CAMRA since his arrival here in 1978. As well as filling many committee and officer positions he wrote a column for the Derby Evening Telegraph, many, many articles for Derby Drinker and a book - the CAMRA Guide to Cellarman-ship. He was a member of CAMRA's national Technical Committee and, since leaving the rail industry, was a self employed quality consultant.

An award for quality achievement will continue Ivor's tireless efforts to raise the standard of beer quality and service in our pubs. Details will be published when finalised.

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

Allied Domecq Supply Deal

Meanwhile, now that the dust is settling, Allied Domecq have concluded a supply deal with Carlsberg Tetley which means no change for 80 per cent of beers in Allied Domecq's pubs. Negotiations are currently ongoing with national and regional brewers for the other 20 per cent.

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

Relief at Mafeking

Peter Morris has ended a long family association with the Mafeking, Porter Road, Derby after 23 years. New licensees are Melanie and Ian Richardson, regulars at the Normanton pub who kicked off their first month in charge with money raising events for the Cardiomyopathy Association.

Other changes

The Shakespeare, Shardlow, Crown and Arrows, Shelton Lock, Loudon Arms, Loudon Street, Derby, Blue Bell, Kirk Langley, White Swan, Ockbrook, Hunter Arms, Kilburn and the Rowditch, Uttoxeter Road, Derby (see page 2) all have new licensees. The Hunter Arms - the Arms of the Hunter family - has suddenly become the Hunters Arms - what those men in red coats hold their reins with one presumes.

More on the way?

Banks's plan to turn Derby's Mechanic's Institute into a Varsity Bar. Meanwhile, Russell Rigby of commercial agents Innes England reports that "there remains an extremely high number of active 'searches' currently underway. These include breweries who are keen to re-model their existing outlets in the city centre."

Burtonwood are giving the Garrick the Forshaws Quality Alehouse makeover at a cost of £60,000 and Bass are planning a new hotel and pub on Pride Park.

Visit our unique cellar bar at

The Flowerpot

King Street, Derby

Tel: (01332) 204955

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
LARGE FUNCTION ROOM

Rowditch Revives

We hear so much these days about the new 'superpubs', those monstrous supermarkets of modern publand, that it makes a welcome change to hear of the reopening of a good old-fashioned cornerhouse that offers not novelty or vastness or daft themes but those traditional values that have sustained the English local in town and village for many generations: pleasant, unpretentious surroundings on a scale more welcoming than overwhelming, personal and friendly service, and - all too rare nowadays - exceptionally good beer from a cellarman who know how to keep it that way.

Landlord Steve Birkin reopened the **Rowditch** on October 30th. This is his third pub and his credentials are impeccable. His last pub was the famous Cooper's Tavern in Burton - where he won an award for his beer quality. But he and his wife, Jan, were set on returning to their roots in Derby; so when Ind Coope put the Rowditch on the market they went ahead and bought it. In return for financial help from Mansfield Brewery they agreed to sell two of their beers, along with others of their own choice. The regular hand-drawn beers are Old Baily, Riding Bitter and Marston's Pedigree, complemented by a rotating guest beer.

The Rowditch stands at the junction of Uttoxeter Old and New Roads, with the older Roman road running underneath. It takes its name, as does the surrounding area, from the last vestige of the defensive dyke that once encircled Derby (Old English *ruh-dic* = rough dyke). The pub itself, owned by Strettons before the War, is nominally divided into bar and lounge, the latter focused on a

stone fireplace surmounted by a handsome mirror - as you'll agree when you look in it. Snugly tucked away to the right is a small no-smoke room, connected to the bar by a service hatch.

Before Steve and Jan (pictured above right) took it over the Rowditch was sadly neglected and consequently attracted little trade. Ind Coope's loss, however, was their gain, and - if you don't mind going a little way off the beaten track. - yours too.

Lined Glass is a Standing Order

J D Wetherspoon have become the latest pub chain to make the switch to oversized lined glasses in order to give drinkers what they pay for - a full pint. They say the switch will mean drinkers getting an extra five per cent at no extra cost. There has, however, been some confusion caused by Wetherspoon's advertising and PR; some drinkers think they'll be getting an extra 5 per cent on top of their pint!



Spondon's Prince

Jane Hudson of Spondon writes:

In response to the somewhat unenthusiastic comments in your last issue, the Prince of Wales in Spondon has been tastefully refurbished by its new owners after years of decay under Ind Coope. Gone are the pool tables and juke box.

Instead we have a pub featuring real ales and real conversation. The draught Bass and Pedigree are in excellent condition, as is the regular guest beer which changes every 10 days or so.

Thanks to the Prince of Wales and our excellent curry house (the Empress Tandoori), we Spondon drinkers have every reason to frequent the village.

Perhaps Derby Drinker should check out licensee Doug Barber's hospitality.

Thanks for the tip, Jane - the "unenthusiastic" comments were because yet another pub has the same old Bass and Pedigree - how about a pub chain stocking a couple of Derbyshire's wonderful beers as their regulars - now that would be good news. Having said that a real pub with a guest beer is worth a visit - readers should check it out for themselves.

We wish Doug well in his venture - David George

DRINKER Comment

Rebel with a cause

Margaret Clissold has lost a husband, Alex and Jim a Dad, Derby CAMRA a committee member, CAMRA's national Technical Committee an expert member, the Cats Protection League an enemy, the Derby Evening Telegraph an ex-columnist, Radio Derby a witty riposte, Trading Standards and the Advertising Standards Authority cases to investigate, Derby Drinker the Boffin and his huge contribution to this publication. And I have lost a friend.

But Ivor Clissold was more than all these - he was a David taking on any Goliath who crossed his path. He would stick up for the little man - the consumer - wherever he saw injustice or the wishes of the ordinary majority trodden on by the personal goals of the powerful few. He brought a smile with his good natured wit and impressed with his breadth of knowledge and depth of research.

He cannot be replaced but Derby CAMRA will continue his striving for quality. Derby Drinker will inevitably change but, as its editor, I will continue Ivor Clissold's fight for the consumer.

Raise your glasses to Ivor

Derby CAMRA is making a donation to the charity nominated by Ivor's family. You can do likewise by sending donations to the Mayor's Charity Fund, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby.

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Mew guest beer

Quiz Thursday - Piano sing-a-long
Sunday

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THE BELL INN



SMALLEY

Free House - beers from

Bateman's, Ruddles, Marstons,
Whim

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wish you a Merry Christmas



New Zealand Arms
Peel Street, Derby
an excellent range of real ales
Four beer festivals per year

A Merry Christmas from
John & Staff at

The Furnace Inn
Duke Street, Derby



Kimberley Mild, Bitter
and Classic

Derby Drinker

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.

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<http://ds.dial.pipex.com/derby.camra/>

Advertising rates are - front page £35, back and inside pages £30. Discounts for payment in advance

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Copy deadline for the next issue, due to be published mid February, is Friday 23rd January 1998..

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Bob backs pub name bill

Derby North MP Bob Laxton is backing Nicholas Winterton's Private members Bill to bring the changing of pub names into the planning system. He is supported by Tory councillor Martin du Sautoy and the Inn Sign Society who met recently in Derby.

The Falstaff

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OPEN ALL DAY

The Mafeking

Porter Road, Derby

Melanie & Ian

offer a warm welcome

Traditional
Draught Bass

That's (pub) Entertainment

Are you one of those people who like, occasionally, to be entertained on a night out at the pub. If so, read on: - the area's pubs have a bit of something for everyone.

In Derby the venues for bands are the **Flowerpot**, King Street, **Victoria Inn**, Midland place and **Sgt. Peppers**, Burton Road. Further afield are the **Queens Head**, Chesterfield Road, Belper, **Top Bell**, Barton under Needwood and the **Brewhouse**, Union Street, Burton.

The Flowerpot and the Brewhouse cater for the folk/Celtic/Blues range of tastes and some excellent tribute bands can be seen at the Flowerpot where prices range

from £3 to £10 depending on the band and there are 4 real ales available in the function room.

The Victoria and Sgt. Peppers are more geared to indie and rock although the latter hosts some excellent blues. There may be an entrance charge but admission is free as often as not. Its all free at the Top Bell (just off the A38 past Burton) where the landlord's enthusiasm for blues knows no bounds. The Queens Head where more acoustic folk and blues are

the order of the day is also free admission.

If you want pop or rock 'n' roll try the **Horse and Groom**, Parker Street, **Flamingo and Firkin**, Becket Street, the **Malin**, Normanton Road (all in Derby), the **Wilmot Arms**, Borrowash or the **Anglers Arms**, Nottingham Road, Spondon.

Acoustic contemporary music is the fare at the **Dolphin**, Queen Street and the **Friargate** on Friargate, Derby. Folk music can be found at the **Old King's Head**, Days Lane, Belper, the **Melbourne Hotel**, Derby Road, Melbourne, the **White Cow**, Nottingham Road, Ilkeston and the **Meadows Inn**, Chequers Road, Derby where the Peasmouldia Folk Club meet.

You can chill out to jazz at the **Loft**, Friargate, the **Brunswick**, Station Approach, both in Derby, the **Dingle**, Stapenhill, the **Rose and Crown**, Draycott, **Risley Park**, Risley (formerly the Blue Ball), the **New Inn**, Shardlow, **Railway Hotel**, Melbourne and **Royal Oak**, Ockbrook.

They may not all have real ale and I'm bound to have missed a few.

Let me know how your pub entertains. Next time we'll have a look at other aspects of pub entertainment.

Brewers unite to raise standards

Independent brewers Adnams, Greene King, Marstons and Morlands with the backing of Fullers, Mansfield, Carlsberg Tetley and Whitbread are to launch an awards scheme to give public recognition to licensees who serve good quality beers consistently. The Cask Marque scheme will initially involve 1000 pubs increasing to 2500 by the end of 1998.

Planners want lights down

City planners are recommending that Allied Domecq be ordered to remove two lamps and a sign from Lafferty's which were put up without permission when they desecrated the George.

Independent inspectors will visit pubs to check on quality including temperature, appearance, aroma and taste. Licensees will first complete a detailed questionnaire on the cellar and dispense system at their pub and then face two unannounced visits by the independent inspectors.

The reward will be a year's certificate and the award of the Cask Marque plaque. There will be regular re-inspections and a complaints procedure for customers. Now, where's that job application form...

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, 29 Breedon Hill Road, Derby

Jan & Steve

welcome you to

The Rowditch Inn

246 Uttoxeter Road, Derby

for

*Real Ales, Real Fire, Real
Hospitality and Really
Competitive Prices*

THE
CLIFF INN

CRICH,
DERBYSHIRE

Tel:
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852444



Kimberley Mild, Bitter and
Cellarman's Cask Ale

Roy & Beryl Calladine

Beer bible clocks 25 years of success

Remember when beer cost only 15p a pint? The Good Beer Guide marks its Silver Anniversary by celebrating CAMRA's successes and welcoming the next 25 years of campaigning for drinkers' rights. The 1998 Guide is bound in a special Silver Anniversary cover and features around 5,000 top pubs and nearly 500 real ale breweries.

The Campaign for Real Ale's market leading pub guide was first published in 1974 and has now sold over a million copies.

Largely thanks to the efforts of CAMRA and the *Good Beer Guide* the pubs and beer scene has changed almost beyond recognition since 1974. The number of breweries has increased four-fold, the number of real ales on sale has increased ten-fold!, national companies which brewed only fizzy keg beers in 1974 all now brew real ales, there's more choice in pubs with regular and guest beers and pubs open for longer and offer better facilities.

What will the 50th Good Beer Guide look like in 2022? Editor Jeff Evans said, "We hope the 50th edition of the *Good Beer Guide* will contain many more pubs selling top-notch real ale. CAMRA will endeavour to make

sure that 21st century drinkers will be able to enjoy an exciting range of quality, distinctive beers sold in pubs which will no longer be restricted by our archaic licensing laws. Drinkers will hopefully not be plagued by short measure or suffer high prices due to ludicrously high beer tax."

But the future might not be all rosy for beer lovers. Many regional brewers may stop brewing and instead just run pubs selling beer brewed by two mega-breweries.

Jeff Evans added, "We're here to make sure drinkers' rights are at the top of the agenda. By 2022 we expect sales of the *Good Beer Guide* to have increased and

CAMRA's membership to have doubled to 100,000 as more people realise how important choice and diversity are to them".

Good Beer Guide 1998, sponsored by Homefire Smokeless Coal, is published by CAMRA books priced £10.99 and available in all leading book shops and Derby's leading pubs.

DRINKER YEARNs TO BE YOUNG AGAIN

"Derby Drinker is a middle-aged publication preaching to the converted", I was told a little while back. "What's in it for young drinkers?"

Well, I may be the wrong side of forty but I still feel like a twenty year old (occasionally)! When I first joined CAMRA and started writing for various publications I was 22 and felt like a pioneer. We hadn't staged a beer festival or published a local pub guide and there were momentous battles to be fought - and won.

Twenty odd years on and there are still battles to be fought but the challenges seem to have been met. Wrong. The challenge for CAMRA now is to turn young drinkers away from cold, fizzy, beer-flavoured alcopops to the subtlety and variety that is real ale and to up quality standards so that getting a decent pint becomes less of a lottery.

The Catch-22 is that only people in their early 20's can really write or present material in a way which appeals to their peers and I don't have any on my editorial team.

If you are young (instead of just feeling young) and fancy your articles and presentation ideas being let loose on Derby Drinker's readers give me a call on 01332 770209. *Given a high level of enthusiasm and commitment we may even give you your own publication aimed specifically at 18-30s.*

David George

the 21st Derby CAMRA
Beer Festival
at the
Assembly Rooms
Market Place, Derby
Wednesday 8th - Sunday
12th July 1998
put it in your diary

Guest Bottled beers on the way

From 1st April tenants of the big brewers will be able to stock a guest bottle conditioned beer in addition to a guest cask conditioned beer. This could mean an influx of some quality brews from the continent or an upsurge in small brewers producing bottle conditioned beers.

A prize for the first person to spot one in a big brewer's pub.

Bingo!

Bass is reported to be negotiating to sell its 135 Gala Bingo Clubs for £250 million following their failure to buy William Hills.

GOOD BEER GUIDE 1998 SILVER ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The latest edition of Britain's number one beer and pubs book is now on sale. It's the 25th edition and is the biggest and best ever!

560 fact-packed pages on the British beer scene:

- 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, no-smoking areas and wheelchair access.

- Information on all Britain's breweries and the real ales they produce, from giants like Bass and Whitbread to the newest micros like Dark Tribe in Lincolnshire, Man in the Moon in Leicestershire, Four Rivers in Tyne & Wear, Fernandes in Yorkshire and Flannery's in Wales. There are no less than 48 new breweries in the 1998 edition, in locations from Scotland to Cornwall.

- Even more tasting notes to help you find a favourite.

The *Good Beer Guide* is 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, it is still priced at only £10.99. It's the perfect gift - or why not treat yourself and help us celebrate our Silver Anniversary!



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).

From the team that brought you the Flowerpot and the Smithfield

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tel: 01332 297065

Derby's only real ale house run by a woman

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13th - The Kings of Callicutt
15th - Nick Harper
17th - Australian Pink Floyd
20th - The Rattlers
21st - Edward II
27th - Steve Phillips and the Rough Diamonds
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From the team that brought you the Flower Pot

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Quarter mile from Market Place

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