



WHERE LIVING ORGANISMS MULTIPLY !!!

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER
ISSUE No. 77 AUTUMN 1999 FREE

HUNGRY WOLVES MAY SWALLOW MANSFIELD

Our very own super -regional brewery Wolverhampton and Dudley are bidding to take over Mansfield the independent brewer whose tied estate stretches from Humberside right into the Derby area. The 400+ pubs could all have repro. versions of Mansfield beers imposed on them or even lose Mansfield beers altogether. You decide which is worse.

W&D already own breweries in Dudley and Hartlepool as well as Marston's brewery in Burton. So far they have not needed to close any but the output from Mansfield could easily be absorbed within the W&D empire.

48% of Mansfield is owned by two Baily family trusts designed to benefit charities and present and former employees of the brewery. A possible legal objection to a takeover is that it would not be in the interest of the trusts' beneficiaries.

Both trusts are advised by a firm of London accountants and are thought to be in favour.

Richard Meadows, brewing director at Mansfield has spoken out in support of a rival management buyout plan which would keep the brewery open. Good Beer Guide editor Roger Protz says that David Thompson of W&D has now got enough train sets.

What's Left ?

We would be left with just two long standing brewery companies near the Derby area. Hoskins of Leicester have been through a succession of owners in the last few years. As a small PLC they are very open to take-over and brewery closure. That leaves Hardy & Hanson of Kimberley as the major independent player in the region. Recently published figures show that Kimberley is the second most profitable independent brewer in the country and should be able to resist take-over while they continue to perform strongly. They have been investing in our area. Try the new Bonnie Prince at Chellaston for Best, Classic or one of their occasional beers, available in the comfort of a

drinkers only area. There is also purpose made cycle parking.

The Furnace, Duke Street Derby and The Cliff Inn at Crich are among other prominent Kimberley houses still enjoying the benefits of the tied house system. No so called guest beers, just decent ale.

FAIR MEASURE

September 4 was the beginning of CAMRA's week of action in favour of fair measure. You don't accept short measure from your milkman so why should an unscrupulous pub company get away with selling 76 pints from a 72 pint firkin? If your pint is just 5mm below the brim then you are losing 9 pence on a pint costing £1.80. Before complaining always check that you have not been served beer in a lined glass which should have beer up to the line. Always ask politely for a top-up before complaining.. Lined glasses have been withdrawn by some pubcos because they were only getting 62 pints. from a firkin.

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REAL ALE AGAIN AT DURHAM OX.

Former Chairman of Derby CAMRA Steve Boa is now the manager of the Durham Ox on Burton Road. The first real ale to be seen in the pub for many years, Adnam's bitter went on at £1.50 on September 17th. Fuller's London pride has also been on in fine condition and all for £1.60 a pint. This gain must be weighed against the loss of Bass at the Bell & Castle and no real ale at the Sitwell, any more.

Use 'em or lose 'em folks !!

THE DURHAM OX



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PUB CHAIN CUTS PRICES

JD Wetherspoons have made major price cuts in their pubs as their expansion programme continues unabated. Boddingtons Bitter, for example, is down to £1.29 a pint, though there was none available when we called in to try the offer. A 16 oz Coke is just 80p. Despite keen prices the group is maintaining its profits. If they could also maintain a consistently good standard of beer quality we might be tempted to visit their establishments more often. As it is their "sometimes brilliant, sometimes awful" performance does not inspire confidence, though the group has recently reported increased profits.

Hard line on soft drinks

The Government are to carry out a survey investigating the price of soft drinks in pubs. They will want to know, for example, how a pint of orange squash can cost anything from 60p to 1.50 in a pub but only 17p to make yourself from a bottle bought in Sainsburys. Or why lemonade ranges from 1.40 to a staggering 2.20 a pint in pubs whilst Sainsburys charge 20p a pint. Excuses for this rip-off range from blaming the manufacturers and wholesalers to the added cost of drinking in a social environment. OK so there are costs which undoubtedly make soft drinks more expensive in a pub - but don't supermarkets make a profit as well?

BEER FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Lord Burton is great grandson of Derby MP, benefactor and member of the BASS brewing family Michael Thomas Bass. He and Derby Mayor, Sarah poured a pint of Bass to open the 22nd Derby CAMRA Beer Festival held at the Assembly Rooms, Derby from Wednesday 7th to Sunday 11th July. Derby CAMRA were celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Lord Burton's ancestor and invited him to travel to the opening all the way from his home in Inverness. His great grandfather, Michael Thomas was born on 6th July 1799 and served as an MP for Derby for 21 years. Some of his donations to Derby include the library and a recently controversial recreation ground (Bass' rec.). Three special beers were brewed in his honour especially for the Festival. They were Medallion Ale (6.6%) brewed at the Museum Brewery, Burton, Bass's Wreck (5.5%) brewed by Whim of Hartington and Bounty Bitter (4.3%) brewed by Church End of Shustoke. The Festival was another success for Derby CAMRA with very little remaining of the 40,000 pints of beer and 2,000 pints of cider although the attendance was 206 down on last year. 10,806 people came through the doors.

Great pub crawls

Pub crawling is as old as pubs themselves according to author Barrie Pepper whose latest book is *'Fifty Great Pub Crawls'* published by CAMRA. The Campaign for Real Ale (£8.99) "It goes back to the days of coaching or possibly earlier than that," he says, "when travellers would start their journey from a pub, finish at a pub and stop several times at pubs for comfort stops for man and beast." The fine art of modern day pub crawling according to Barrie is to work out

a route which allows you to visit a number of pubs which all sell good beers and are, ideally, of some character and interest. And even better that the crawl should start and finish close to some point which is near to good public transport connections. He admits that this is not always possible, but his book attempts to give the reader a selection of crawls that come close to the ideal. Some of the pub crawls are in city centres, others are suburban, some are in country towns, one or two are in villages. There is a selection of unusual crawls: by train, by boat, by supertram and also a couple of country rambles. And many of the crawls take you to places of interest other than pubs, including castles, churches, stately homes, museums and even breweries.

B&B pubs

"Relax with a refreshing pint of real ale before you slip into bed".

That's the advice of Jill Adam, editor of the 2nd edition of *'Room at the Inn'*, (£8.99) the only guide to pubs offering quality accommodation and a decent pint of real ale. Jill Adam said, "Many people today complain of increasingly stressful lives, trying to combine the demands of busy jobs, families and other commitments, and the time for relaxation seems to vanish into thin air. CAMRA can rescue you from this hectic schedule - and it will only take a weekend of your precious time." *'Room at the Inn'* contains over 500 of the most delightful pubs in Britain including inns and hotels to suit all tastes and budgets; pubs in walking country such as the Yorkshire Dales and Scotland, offering very basic hostel accommodation, to luxurious hotels in popular tourist haunts such as the Cotswolds and the West Country.


They all have one thing in common, apart from offering excellent bed and breakfast, they all serve a perfect pint of real ale. The second edition of *Room at the Inn* has been completely updated and resurveyed. Dedicated members of the Campaign for Real Ale have combed the country to find new places to stay. Our criteria for selection are always high, but this year for the first time, the guide leads you to pubs whose hosts are members of the British Institute of Innkeeping, an organisation that promotes excellent standards of professionalism in pub hospitality. The choice of hostels in the guide is as diverse as the British pub itself. There are simple taverns with one or two rooms - you may not get en-suite facilities, but you will revel in that indefinable quality, 'atmosphere'. Other pubs have built up a reputation for their cuisine to rival the top restaurants. Many of the pubs offer weekend (or longer packages to allow you to pursue your hobby. - The majority of the pubs are happy to accommodate children (mostly at reduced rates!) and some will accept pets, so you have no excuse - just get up and go.

Available from CAMRA stalls at Beer Festivals !!

The Strawberry Tree

Most recently known as Montague's the Strawberry Tree has re-opened on Edward Street under a new name. Beers available include Pedigree and Adnam's Bitter. It's a shame they're too late for Bateman's famed Strawberry flavoured brew which could have caught on as a house beer.

Stan & Betty
welcome you to
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Duffield
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*A choice of real ales
handpulled and straight
from the jug*

— THE —
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NEWS! NEWS!

Foal turns into White Horse

Allied Domecq couldn't resist a last go at their favourite game - "rename that pub" - but this time they've got a player with some sense. The Foal and Firkin in the Morledge, Derby has reverted to the name it lost five years ago and is now the White Horse again. It is one of 80 pubs being let to tenants rather than being managed directly in the run up to the handover to Punch Taverns. It is still not clear whether this will be by Punch or be part of the 650 pubs being sold to Bass for nearly £1 billion.

Mr. Grundy to entertain?

Mr Grundy's, the Ashbourne Road hotel bar, have applied for an entertainments licence for music and dancing on weekdays.

Mechanical transformation

Work by Clowes Developments to transform the historic Mechanics' Institute in the Wardwick, Derby into a 650 capacity pub for Oxfordshire brewer, Wychwood continues apace. They have already uncovered four stained glass windows which will be incorporated into the pub's design. The ceiling of the former ballroom will be exposed and renovated and promises to be as impressive as that in the Standing Order. Work is expected to cost £1.5m and be completed sometime next spring!

Junkie JackJack Grimsley

For 16 years the characterful landlord the Junction Tavern, Junction Street, Derby, died of a stroke in August 12 years after he last set foot in the pub. It is a testimony to his tenancy that he and the pub will forever be linked in the hearts and minds of so many Derby Drinkers. He may only have been 5'4" tall but his round figure and handlebar moustache epitomised this stout and colourful character who loved

his Pedigree and served it to perfection. We'll miss you.

Clock rewound

The Clock, Market Street, South Normanton has been sold by Kimberley and renovated by its new owners. The renovations include a new cellar and, we are told, the beer is cheap and not bad quality. Beers include Marstons Pedigree and Bitter and Batemans Mild. More details next issue.

QUEEN ADELAIDE IS DEAD

One of the finest and least spoiled pubs in the area has closed. The Queen Adelaide at Snelston Common (or Roston) was sold at auction and closed on 28 September. Its future is uncertain. Planning permission would be required for it to revert to domestic use.

James Allen the licensee for 36 years was a tenant and reluctantly has had to retire. The Queen Adelaide will be deleted from the Good Beer Guide.

Star Wars

Astonishingly, Derby City Council have included proposals for what would be the second most notorious act of vandalistic pub destruction in its corporate history as one of three options for road schemes in the King Street/Five Lamps area. The proposed demolition of the Grade II listed Seven Stars which has stood in King Street since 1749 would only be eclipsed by the demolition in 1964 of the Nottingham Castle. That 16th century timber-framed pub, which stood on Queen Street at the corner of St Michael's Lane, was destroyed, supposedly to make way for a road scheme. The site was not built on until 1988. The plans have outraged many Derby people. The Derby Evening Telegraph have printed a flood of letters attacking the proposals. Local history guru, Richard Felix has threatened to chain himself to the pub in defiance of bulldozers and Derby

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, has organised a petition against the plan. Others have reminded the City Council of earlier plans in 1971 to move the pub back 64 metres to allow for the widening of King Street. As Councillor Martin Sautoy pointed out "If there was the technology to move the building 30 years ago it should be feasible now". That particular plan is not without its problems. British Rail were supposed to be retaining the facade of the Midland Station when it was rebuilt but found a suitable technical reason to save themselves the trouble. Likewise the Assembly Rooms. Derby's track record of looking after its history is particularly poor. Write to Johnathan Guest, director of development and Cultural Services, Roman House, Friar Gate, Derby DE1 1XB and object to this proposal. Members of CAMRA's national Pubs Group have pledged that the required Planning Consent to demolish the Seven Stars will be vigorously opposed if the Council goes ahead with the scheme.

Good Beer Guide 2000

The 2000 edition of the Good Beer Guide does more than mark the start of a new century and a new millennium. It is the most important edition of the Guide for many years. As well as 5,000 of the very best pubs serving the very best pints of cask beer, the Guide tackles the crisis in the brewing industry that has seen the closure of Mitchells, Morrells, Ruddles, Vaux and Ward, the impending closure of Morland and the merger between Wolverhampton & Dudley and Marston's.

The Guide argues that the closures and mergers have little or nothing to do with an alleged slump in real ale sales and everything to do with getting rid of breweries and either selling pubs for vast amounts of money or switching those pubs to heavily-advertised national brands.

The Guide argues that the decline in real ale sales has everything to do with the national brewers dumping the style in favour of lager and nitro-keg and little to do with a change in beer drinkers' preferences, though the latest information shows a decline in Nitro Keg Growth. Caffrey's will have to be re-launched at a cost of £8 million and Bass have started to spend money promoting real ale again. With so many dramatic changes in the industry in the past year, every serious drinker needs to study the Breweries Section, which has kept pace with those changes, the last of which took place even as the Guide was going to press. It is the one edition of the GBG you cannot afford to miss. Attractively designed and packed with information, it is worth considering buying two copies of the Millennium Guide -- one to use and one to keep as a memento of an historic occasion. The Good Beer Guide, priced 11.99 (7.50 to members) can be found in most bookshops or via mail order from CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW (Tel: 01217 867201).

Copies are also available in some Derby City Centre pubs.

£2.00 off if you join CAMRA in November or December 1999!!

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Pricing Competition

The winner of the competition announced in the summer edition for the reader nominating the most expensive mixed soft drink in the district was Vic White. We are not going to name the culprit as it is a restaurant and we know that all their drinks are over priced. The rule in pubs seems to be that soft drinks are about the same or a little more than beer. But there's about 40 pence duty on a legal pint of beer and nothing on softies.

Who says we are obsessed with prices? Yes quality and choice are the most important things to campaign for. That's what CAMRA's beer festivals are about. That's what the Good Beer Guide is about. That's what our publication *Real Ale in Derby* is about. But prices do matter. Despite increases that have seen prices of Pedigree rise above £2.00 in several Derby pubs it is congratulations to W&D for holding Pedigree at £1.77 in the Bridge at Shelton Lock.

WORLD CHAMPIONS

Well nearly! Derby CAMRA members Pete Turner and Richard Green were beaten in semi finals of the World Barrel Rolling Championships, part of the Burton Festival. All competitors received a bottle of Barrel Bobber's bitter, brewed at the Heritage Museum. Bottle Conditioned it was 4.5% but in draught form it was a thirst quenching 3.5%. Better luck next year. More teams from Derby's fittest drinkers as well please.

HAPPY HOURS

Attention all publicans!

If your pub will be running a happy hour, or other genuine price reduction sometime in the months of January to March 2000 we will give you a free listing in the next edition - space permitting. There must be a reduction in the usual price of at least one real ale to qualify. Contact 01332-701152 by New Year

DISABILITY ACT

National Advertising has focused on the pub as a service provider affected by the Disability Discrimination Act. From October 1 they have to make "reasonable adjustments" for disabled people, making changes to the way they provide their services; and it is intended that, from 2004, service providers will also have to make "reasonable adjustments" to the physical features of their premises to overcome physical barriers to access.

Bob, Edward & Judy Skinner welcome you to

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We apologise to our readers and advertisers for the
late appearance of this issue. A new permanent
editor will be focusing on local stories and
photographs in the next edition. Copy Deadline
15th December 1999.

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Signed..... Date

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) with this
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