

## 23rd Derby Beer Festival hits town - full details inside



**D**ERBY CAMRA HAS voted the Royal Oak at Ockbrook as it's Pub of the Year for 2000. It is a most popular choice having featured in most editions of the *Good Beer Guide* and has had the same landlady for 47 years.

In that time the Oak has changed very little (a recent extension to the back room is almost unnoticable) and plays hosts to many village societies and clubs with it's many distinctive and separate drinking rooms. It is, in every sense of the term, a family run pub.

On the beer front the Royal Oak has long been famed for the quality of it's Bass, but over the

last few years it has been accompanied by at least two changing guest ales in superb condition.

The guest ales get a monthly run so that the regulars can acquire a taste for them, a policy that has a great deal of merit.

Now the Oak is forwarded to the National competition for CAMRA Pub of the Year. Branches up and down the country submit regional choices and a national winner is selected. There aren't many better than the Oak and there certainly are not many left like it.

So it's good luck to the pub and congratulations to Olive Wilson and family, along with her loyal and regular team of staff, whose friendly welcome and eclectic banter always make it a pleasure to drink here.

## 20th century show the door at Dolphin

The oldest pub in Derby, the Old Dolphin in Queen Street has kicked out one of the remaining bastions of twentieth century intrusion.

Landlord Terry Holmes has arranged for the removal of the fruit machine!

Not too long ago fruit machines were unheard of in pubs. then they were everywhere, often displacing the dart-board, sometimes edging out the jukebox. At best they provide a useful prop for anyone with nothing to talk about or no-one to talk to. But you won't find one in the Old Dolphin.

Says Terry "It never looked right in here, fruit machines are all right in their place but this isn't it. I loved this place from the start, with it's different rooms and half a millennium's history hanging over it. It's the sort of pub a licensee dreams of, but that thing had to go".

Terry had already told a hopeful salesman where to put his pool table: "This is a real old-fashioned pub and that's the way it will stay as long as I am here."

## Cask Marque Awards

The prestigious Cask Marque standard, given to licensees who continually serve a perfect pint, has been awarded to two local Hardy & Hansons pubs. The recipients are the Anglers Arms at Spondon and the Bonnie Prince at Chellaston, joining the Babington Arms in Derby, another recent recipient.

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## Derby CAMRA Mayors charity donation

Derby CAMRA presented a cheque for £500 to Mayor, Sara Bolton, at a coffee morning recently. She hit her charity target £25,000 within three months and hopes to treble that amount before the end of her term.



## The Taste of Tradition: Panel votes for Derby's top ten pubs

Last July Real Ale in Derby published a list of the city's essential watering holes as a guide to an unwary visitor. To tie in with the National CAMRA AGM coming to Derby it was decided to repeat the exercise.

A panel of 20 discerning drinkers were asked individually to select their top five pubs, then their next five from the 156 real ale pubs in Derby. The prime criterion was ale quality, though other virtues were not to be ignored. These are the ensuing results, in alphabetical order:

**Top five pubs**  
ALEXANDRA  
BRUNSWICK  
FLOWERPOT  
FRIARGATE  
ROWDITCH

**Second five**  
EXETER  
DOLPHIN  
OLD SILK MILL  
SMITHFIELD  
STATION INN

Some of the panels reasons why the above were chosen are listed here as we congratulate the following licensees:

**Nigel Barker** (Old Silk Mill). Nicely appointed Whitbread house with a better-than-most beer choice and high quality, delicious food.

**Steve & Jan Birkin** (Rowditch). Limited range of beers but kept in superb condition. Jan provides the charm and chat, Steve the cellar know-how. From nothing they have created a lively local in an unlikely setting in just over two years.

**Trevor Harris** (Brunswick). Derby's premier brew-pub provides an opportunity to sample first-rate beers brewed on site, in a unique environment. Also an ever-changing range of guest beers and some of the finest Timothy Taylor Landlord, from

Keighley, a regular feature.

**Nina & Terry Holmes** (Dolphin). Historic, picturesque surroundings and well-kept range of beers, including a house beer, Dolphin Ale at £1.20 a pint.

**David Lalor** (Station). Probably the best kept cellar and top-quality juggled Bass in Derby. No wonder therefore that Dave, a cellar fanatic, judges the 371 Enterprise chain pubs.

**Roger & Penny Myring** (Friargate). Haven of good, often great, beer in a food dominated area of town (with much mediocre ale). Roger has, if anything, improved the beer quality of his predecessor, Amanda.

**Mark Robins** (Alexandra). Most adventurous licensee who regularly gets in new beers from across the UK. Also specialises in wide range of continental beers, both bottled and draught. Food, as expected from a former chef, is tasty and reasonably priced.

**Lol Stephenson** (Smithfield). Well-kept beers from nearby breweries, especially Whim and Oakham, are a key feature. riverside setting is attractive (in good weather).

**Paul Weston** (Flowerpot). Largest variety of beers in town. The vertical glass-fronted cellarge holding 24 firkins is awesome. beer quality has become more consistent with the arrival of Paul Weston. Prime music pub.

**Peter & Ann Wild** (Exeter Arms). Backstreet local full of old fashioned charm with a droll licensee. One of the few Marstons pubs with a guest beer, Whim Ram Premier - all down to licensee initiative. The food is terrific value, and tasty too.

John Arguile

### New brewery open

Late news as we go to press is that a new micro is opening at Kimberley. The Holland Brewery will apparently be specialising in Dutch style beers.



## Hulland and Turnditch inns show the way as rural pubs battle for survival

Our heritage stock of superb rural inns have had a tough time of it lately. With people already reluctant to drive far, and the ever-worsening choice as far as public transport is concerned, more and more pubs are being converted to private houses, the much-loved Queen Adelaide at Snelston Common being a recent loss.

This being so, country pubs need all the help they can get, and it is refreshing to report of a

pair of inns from the same area leading the way by providing some regular outlets for guest beers.

The Black Horse at Hulland Ward (above) has been featuring a changing range of ales for a couple of years now and also boasts some great value food. Well run by Michael and Muriel Edwin the pub has wood panelled seating and displays over 80 pump clips of recent guest ales, many from small brewers.

A more recent improvement has been the Tiger at nearby Turnditch where first time licensees Richard and Alison have done a great job since their arrival last September. The Burtonwood pub has featured the likes of Hop Back Summer Lightening, Bearskinfull (from Congleton's Beartown brewery) and Adnams Broadside alongside the breweries own ales. Call in and try one next time you are passing.

### Revolutionary new pub seeks planning approval

Planning permission has been applied for yet another new bar in Derby City centre. Intervention want to license the former wool shop on the apex of the Strand at Victoria Street. Details are patchy at the moment, but being talked about are dancefloors and a Russian Revolution themed interior!

## 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 £..... Rates are: single £14.00, joint £17.00, OAPs and under-26s £8.00 (£11.00 joint), overseas £18.00 (joint £21.00). If under 26 please add date of birth: ... ..

Name(s): .....

Address: .....

Post Code: .....

Signed: ..... Date: .....

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Derby Drinker



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THE DIZZY CLUB	QUICKSILVER	DROWSY MAGGIE	GET SERIOUS
G C BARBERSHOP	THREE WHEEL DRIVE	TONY B	ZEPHYR SIX
RIPLEY MORRISMEN	DISCODISCODISCO	LOSCOE STATE OPERA	LOSCOE STATE OPERA

*with Hot Six Jazz, Please Y'self, The Faradays and much more besides  
see Derby Drinker and local press for further details*

### OPENING TIMES & ADMISSION PRICES

WEDNESDAY	(evening only)	-	6.30pm to 11.00pm	£2.50
THURSDAY	11.30am to 3.00pm	FREE	6.30pm to 11.00pm	£3.50
FRIDAY	11.30am to 4.00pm	£1.00	6.30pm to 11.00pm	£4.00
SATURDAY	11.30am to 4.00pm	£2.00	6.30pm to 11.00pm	£4.00
SUNDAY	12.00pm to 2.30pm	FREE	(lunchtime only)	-

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



# Derby's Crowning Glory

OVER 900 CAMRA MEMBERS CAME TO THEIR National AGM and Conference at the Assembly Rooms in April and discovered for themselves why Derby is called the "Real Ale Capital of Britain."

But the crowning glory of a big, big year in Derby CAMRA's history will still be the Derby Beer Festival - just as it has been for the past 22 years.

The 23rd Derby CAMRA Beer Festival will take place at the Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby from Wednesday 5th to Sunday 9th July and, as has

been the custom for the last few years, will mark an important anniversary in Derby's history. This year we are helping Royal Crown Derby celebrate their quarter millennium - that's 250 years of producing their world-famous china products.

The festival is the fourth largest of its kind in the United Kingdom, and if there was ever a time to visit Derby then this surely it.

As usual over 100 different

beers will be on sale. Amongst them will be several especially brewed for the Festival, German and Belgian beers, Belgian bottled beers, a selection of Derbyshire Ales, ciders and perry. But the main beer theme of this millennium event will be "old favourites"; beers from the famous names of British brewing.

To be a proper 'festival' of course there has to be a festive atmosphere and this is

helped along by yet another stunning range of varied live entertainment - from folk to soul and jazz to pop we've got the lot. Even those who object to a

noisy night out are catered for: Wednesday night in the Darwin Room is a quiet room and the large expanses of foyer are entertainment-free most sessions.

And neither is it just for middle-aged men with beer guts, beards and sandals. You won't see more than the average number of beards and sandals and more and more women are joining the ranks of real ale drinkers. There are links with younger groups up

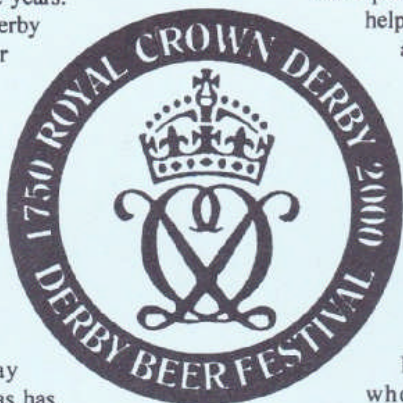
and down the country and locally the University's Grape and Grain Society often hold joint events with Derby CAMRA. The Beer Festival is a happy mix of young and old, men and women - and children. Yes, children are welcome in the foyer areas and on the Saturday and Sunday lunchtimes we run a free creche complete with their own entertainment and qualified staff - so the kids can enjoy the fun as well.

If you get hunger pangs whilst enjoying the beer and music the Assembly Rooms caterers, Bromwich Catering are getting more adventurous. At various times you may be able to find German sausages or a barbecue in full swing. Hot and cold food is available at all sessions and hopefully the real cheese stall will be making another appearance.

We also have souvenir glasses, programmes, tee-shirts, polo shirts and a multitude of stalls in the foyer where you can add to your book, tee-shirt or beer mat collection or have your glass engraved.

You can also join the campaign - perhaps you can help organise next year's beer festival - membership has many benefits and attractions as well as jobs which need doing and the more members we have the better it gets, whether its the social life or campaigning zeal - and we need you. Amongst the benefits are free admission to the beer festival. Call at the membership and information desk in the foyer for more details.

David George



## This years Beer Festival Celebration: 250 years of Crown Derby

One of the things that first made Derby famous throughout Britain and then throughout the world was the manufacture of fine bone china, which has been carried out successively on three sites.

China-ware was first produced in Derby in 1750 in a small factory on Nottingham Road, near St Mary's Bridge, where it continued to be produced for a hundred years until mismanagement brought it into decline.

After the Nottingham Road works closed, six former employees (four potters & two painters) carried the tradition on in King Street opposite St Helens House, until the opening of the new 'garden factory' on Osmaston Road, when the two merged.

It is the Osmaston Road factory which is best known and where the business is still carried on today, on a scale and with a reputation which the early craftsmen could hardly have imagined - except William Duesbury, that is, who was convinced that Derby would become a second Dresden.

Now, as Royal Crown Derby and Derby Museum & Art Gallery prepare to mount special exhibitions to mark 250 years of Derby china-making, the Derby Beer Festival also plans to dedicate this years event to Royal Crown Derby. Not that the beers will be from the Orient (though their will be some from the East Midlands and the East of England) nor will they be drunk from china mugs. But the posters, programmes, T-shirts and commemorative souvenir tankards will all celebrate the name that has made Derby famous throughout the civilised, that is tea-drinking, world.

Reg Newcombe

### Opening Hours, Admission prices, Entertainment

#### Wednesday 5th July

6.30 - 11.00 (admission £2)

Dizzy Club (d'jango jazz) in the Great Hall, the Grand Central Barbershop Chorus and Ripley Morris in the foyer whilst the Darwin room is quiet.

#### Thursday 6th July

11.30 - 3.00 (free admission)

Hot Six Jazz and their good-time jazz in the Great Hall.

6.30 - 11.00 (admission £3.50)

Quicksilver (Freddie Mercury/Cher tribute band back after their knockout appearance last year) supported by Sunday lunch regulars Three Wheel Drive (Rock n Roll/Blues) in the Great Hall. The Dave H Disco will have them dancing in the Darwin.

#### Friday 7th July

11.30 - 4.00 (admission £1)

Hot Six Jazz and their good-time jazz in the Great Hall

6.30 - 11.00 (admission £4)

Drowsy Maggie (the folk band who pull such a big audience at the Burton Beer Festival) supported by Tony B singing and playing well known songs in the Great Hall. In the Darwin Room Loscoe State Opera fill the folk-rock slot formerly occupied by Neverland, The Rattlers and Blue Horses.

#### Saturday 8th July

11.30 - 4.00 (admission £2)

with the skiffle of Matlock based Please Y Self and those talented young country girls, The Feredays in the Great Hall. Clivo the Clown entertains in the foyer whilst the kids enjoy the free creche.

6.30 - 11.00 (admission £4)

The big soul sounds of Get Serious making their Festival debut supported by the all-girl 60's retro sounds of Zephyr Six in the great Hall. Loscoe State Opera give a repeat performance in the Darwin.

#### Sunday 9th July

12.00 - 2.30 (free admission)

Finish the beer with Three Wheel Drive plus guests whilst the kids have fun in the creche.



# The beer is live, the music is real!

A word from the Entertainments Manager, Terry Morton:

Because of the limited number of acts we can fit in during the festival many bands who are strong on enthusiasm and determination unfortunately fall short of the final cut.

As with the beer we always try to give a varied programme of entertainment; bringing back old favourites who have a strong following as well as looking for that special something to bring excitement and a change.

Competition has never been stronger and already ideas are formulating for 2001. Many thanks go out to all bands who have contacted me during the year and to individuals who have made recommendations.

Terry Morton

## The Dizzy Club (Wednesday night, Great Hall)

Are a five-piece jazz outfit from Sheffield formed in 1994 who have won rave reviews for their two CD releases (one an EP) and live performances. The *Sheffield Telegraph* said "Sophisticated and appealing to every generation. Bands either have it or not - The Dizzy Club were born with it".

Collectively they have created a swinging jazz style of their own incorporating their own material and some classics which they interpret in their own unique and innovative way. The Dizzy Club are pictured, below.



## Quicksilver (Thursday night, Great Hall).

Have only been together for two years but have played some gigs many more experienced bands would die for. They've played in Germany and Abu Dhabi as well as Brunei's millennium celebrations. As a tribute band they are unique - surely no one else combines Freddie Mercury and Cher in one act.

They don't use any backing

tapes and the harmonies are all the genuine stuff and while you sing along to the hits you can marvel at the home-made costumes.

## Drowsy Maggie (Friday night, Great Hall)

Back in 1972 Mick Hipkiss was the All-Ireland Ballad Singing Champion and running the Skillet Pot folk club in a Birmingham



pub. From an informal gathering and sing-song some 27 years ago Drowsy Maggie (main picture) was born.

Over the years the line-up has changed but the range of instruments has grown. On stage you'll find bodhran, double bass, guitars, whistle, fiddle, mandolin and Uilleann pipes to kick that little extra excitement into a tune. They'll fill you with songs of love, life, Ireland, drink and tales of the emigrant.

## Hot Six Jazzband (Thursday and Friday lunch, Great Hall)

Goodtime jazz dating from the Dixieland, Swing and popular music eras of the early 20th century with an occasional nod to New Orleans, the cradle of jazz. The tight, lilting rhythm section propels a frontline of trumpet, trombone and a variety of reeds. Occasional vocals add spice to the programme.

## Loscoe State Opera (Friday and Saturday nights, Darwin Room)

"They are more Pogues than Levellers, but with a touch of The Only Ones, The Clash and early

Smiths. (this I must see -Ed) Loscoe State Opera play with guts and feeling and vitality" - *Home Cookin'*. "There's something strangely appealing going on here" - *Rock and Reel Magazine*. "Imagine Hawkwind meet Cheiftans down a dark alley, being mugged by Fairport Convention then hit on the head by the Oyster Band" - *Gig Central*.

Just three of the reviews of the band about to comfortably occupy the slot previously filled by Neverland, The Rattlers and Blue Horses. And they are local. Don't miss.

'Stars in the making' is not a

clare the group "the biggest vocal talent to come out of the city".

As well as their own material, they are able to deliver exquisite unaccompanied Gaelic songs, and covers from such diverse sources as Sheryl Crow and Aerosmith and build them into a rousing live set.

Catch them while you can.... even if it's only to say you were there at the start.....

## Zephyr Six (Saturday night, Great Hall support).

Rosie, Bidi, Mary, Fran and Jan are all-girl 60's retro band, Zephyr Six. They take the whole 60's musical spectrum and strike it through the heart with their tight renditions.

Rosie fronts the band with her spirited vocals as they create a happy, buzzing vibe whilst decked out in costumes evoking scenes from Carnaby Street to Woodstock. Great fun!

## Get Serious (Saturday night, Great Hall)

This Derby eight-piece Soul/Funk band debut the festival by headlining on Saturday night.

Keyboards, trumpets, trombone and saxophone add to guitars and drums re-creating soul classics of James Brown, Otis Redding, Smokey Robinson and Marvin Gaye, amongst others.

Dancing to this band who have shared the bill with many famous



names including Edwin Starr, Jimmy James, the Foundations and Jimmy Ruffin will be irresistible.

term journalists use lightly - but **The Feredays** (Saturday lunch and pictured, right) have such talent that you just know they're going to be famous! - so says one well-respected music critic of two young sisters who have got their home city of Derby buzzing with anticipation.

The Fereday twins, Kate and Rachel, have been singing together for longer than they can remember, and from their first professional gigs last year they were receiving rave reviews for their live shows and being predicted for great things!

Their first recordings produced the acclaimed *Window* 'unplugged' album which has sold out several times and led Ashley Franklin of *Radio Derby* to de-



Loscoe State Opera - this years  
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CAR PARK AT REAR



# Festival beers

As usual there will be a selection of local beer from the Brunswick (Derby), Whim (Hartington), Lichfield (Lichfield), Townes (Chesterfield), Lloyds (Ingleby), Shardlow (Shardlow), Burton Bridge (Burton), Museum Brewing Co (Burton), and Church End (Shustoke) breweries. They will include well-known and newer beers.

The three Festival special brews will range from a light and hoppy



3.8% beer brewed by the Brunswick, a complex hop and malt mix 4.5% beer from Bass Museum, as only Steve Wellington could brew, and a rich and moreish 5% strong ale brewed by Church End. Names for these have yet to be decided but will reflect the Royal Crown Derby theme.

Also for those who want to try something a little different will be our usual new beers bar where you can try beers which have only gone into production during the last year and have probably not been available in Derby before. Two or three of these will be available each session.

## Famous names and old favourites

**Caledonian** (Edinburgh): A Derby festival favourite, the popular Scottish brewery still



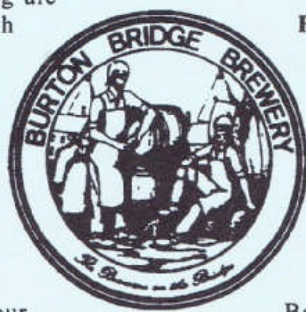
brews in three direct-fired open coppers. **Murrays Summer Ale** (3.6%) is a clean-tasting, thirst-quenching, golden session beer. 80/- (4.1%)

is well-balanced and malty, and a seasonal beer.

**Adnams** (Southwold): The old family brewers from Sole Bay. **Best Bitter** (3.6%) a dry, hoppy beer, **Broadside** (4.7%) fruity aroma, with underlying malt and hops, and a seasonal beer.

**Hook Norton** (Banbury): Another long-established brewery dating back to 1849. **Best Mild** (3%) Dark red/brown mild with malty aroma and sweetish taste, **Old Hooky** (4.6%) a full-bodied pale copper favourite and **Haymaker** (5%) a seasonal ale brewed June/July.

**Hardys & Hansons** (Kimberley): Brewery committed to traditional brewing and recent sponsors of the National AGM at Derby. **Kimberley Best Mild** (3.1%) ruby mild with chocolate malt. **Kimberley Classic** (4.8%) a bitter beer with fruity hop nose. Also a seasonal beer will be available.



**Fullers** (Chiswick): London's oldest brewery, and still family-run, Fuller's has won an unprecedented number of awards in CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain competitions.

**Chiswick Bitter** (3.5%) a former Champion Beer of Britain, a hoppy refreshing ale, **London Pride** (4.1%) Popular, award-winning beer and **ESB** (5.5%) a strong pale of great character.

**Titanic** (Stoke-on-Trent): Named because the Captain of the ill-fated liner hailed from the Potteries, the brewery has survived some difficulties to return to form. **Premium** (4.1%) a well-balanced pale brown bitter with hops and fruit in the aroma. **Captain Smiths** (5.2%) is a dark red/brown beer, hoppy and bitter and also a seasonal beer.

**Shepherd Neame** (Faversham, Kent): The county's major independent dating back to at least 1698, Sheps are believed to be England's oldest continuous brewer. They still use the same

water source and employ steam engines. **Master Brew Bitter** (3.7%) a distinctive, hoppy bitter. **Bishops Finger** (5%) a cask version of a famous bottled brew. A seasonal beer will also be supplied.

**Robinsons** (Stockport): Family brewery dated from 1838. Supplies real ale to all of its 400 tied houses, which are mostly in Cheshire and South Manchester - although there are a scattering of them in the Peak District.

**Hatters Mild** (3.3%) a light mild with a short bitterness aftertaste. **Best Bitter** (4.2%) a pale beer with malt, hops and bitterness in the flavour, and **Frederics** (5%) a gold-coloured beer with fruit and hops on the taste and a dry hoppy finish.

**Batemans** (Wainfleet): Stalwart brewery, veteran of many Derby beer festivals. Cask ale in all their 59 pubs including an ever-widening range of seasonal brews.

**Victory** (5.7%) A strong, fruity, powerful chesnut beer, becoming rarer of late, **Valiant** (4.2%) Golden brown with a fruit and nutty aroma and a fine underlying soft malt behind the hops, and one of the seasonal beers.

Others have yet to be confirmed so the list is by no means exhaustive.

## Continental Beers

Not only do we have the cream of British beers but the German and Belgian beers will all be back enabling you to sample these very different beers ranging from raspberry to smoked to wheat beers - well worth a try. And not forgetting the Belgian bottled beers, again for something a little different.

## Coaches

Anyone thinking of booking a coach trip should book in advance - phone 01332 678079 for details. We'll give the first drink to any coach trip organised and booked for the Wednesday night or either Thursday session.

## More Information

Tel/Fax: 01332 678079  
e-mail: beerfestival@derbycamra.org.uk

## Dolphin Beer Festival

This now-annual event takes place at the Queen Street/Full Street pub from Wednesday 19th to Sunday 23rd July. Live bands are featured every night.

## The Harrington Arms at Sawley

392, Tamworth Road, Sawley  
(10 minutes Long Eaton Station)

## Beer Festival

**AUGUST  
BANK HOLIDAY  
WEEKEND**

15 Real Ales include cask mild and stout plus our three regular Kimberley beers  
All @ £1.80 pint/90p half

Fri 25th 6pm - 11.30pm  
Sat 26th 11am - 11.30pm  
Sun 27th 12am - 11pm

## AGM 2000 - A Public Thank You

The recent CAMRA Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Derby at the Assembly Rooms was judged to be a great success by the local branch with some 850 visitors to the City having a truly memorable weekend.

Thanks must go to the City of Derby, its people and its pubs for providing a warm and friendly welcome towards the many visitors. Especially the pubs that displayed banners and posters and those that contributed financially towards the costs of running the event.

Thanks must also go to our main sponsors, Hardys & Hansons for their overwhelming generosity without which the occasion might not have been possible.

A final thank you must go to the many local branch members that toiled long and hard to make the event possible in the first place. Your help was most appreciated.

Gareth Stead - Deputy Organiser



# Holbrook: Real Ale village capital?



The National CAMRA AGM which was such a success for Derby in April, may have discovered the Ale Capital of Britain but nestling in the foothills of Derbyshire, about 6 miles north of the city is a village which could lay claim to the title of Real Ale Village Mecca.

During one weekend in May there were over 40 beers available in Holbrook (village population under 600, number of pubs three). Admittedly the Dead Poets Inn (pictured above) was staging

its beer festival and had 25 beers on, but the pub was ably supported by fellow Chapel Street hostelry The Wheel Inn (pictured right), which reached double figures with its regular beers from Kelham Island brewery in Sheffield, with the Golden Eagle a particular favourite.

Not to be left behind, in the heart of the village, the Spotted

Cow has joined in the ale spree with a greatly increased range of cask-conditioned beers including Thwaites Bitter from Blackburn, Jennings Cumberland Ale, Old Speckled Hen and Greene King Abbot Ale amongst the changing guests alongside Pedigree.

Havens of fine clutches of pubs such as this are now not uncommon in urban areas and we perhaps take it for granted that we can choose from a wide range of beers, but in rural settings they are relatively rare. Let us hope that this situation will long be maintained.

What with all this and the Grade II-listed Holly Bush at Makeney, with at least eight beers and an old inn of great character, only a stagger down the lane, no wonder everyone wants to move to Holbrook!



## Olde Gate chosen as ale experts favourite

THE EDITOR OF THE GOOD BEER GUIDE, CELEBRATED beer writer Roger Protz, has just had a new book published, and a Derbyshire inn has the honour of being nominated as his particular favourite. *Britain's 500 Best Pubs* (£14.99 Carlton Books), covers a massive variety of pubs, both urban and rural and includes many a gem, myriad curiosities and eccentric taverns. Most of all Roger attempts to champion pubs which have managed to remain relatively unspoilt and where conversation still holds sway.

It is a great accolade therefore that when pressed to single out his favourite he opted for the Olde Gate at Brassington. The Marston's pub won the *Homefire Real Fire Pub of the Year* in 1999

and Roger told the *Licensee*: "I can think of nothing better than hanging my jug on the beam in the Olde Gate, supping some Pedigree, toasting myself by the fire and waiting for the Manchester coach to get through the snow. No rush."

The Well Street pub dates from 1616 and is a regular *Good Beer Guide* entry with its oak beams, wooden settles and leaded ranges guaranteeing a warm welcome.

## Rowditch beer festival

Jan and Steve Birkin are holding a beer festival at the Rowditch Inn from 16/18 June. Ten ales are to feature, with a barbecue on the Saturday night, weather permitting.

# NEWS

The **Red Lion** at Chellaston now has its guest beer policy on stream. Already featured have been Greene King Abbot Ale, followed by Smiles April Fuel, Waggle Dance, (these days brewed by Youngs) Pyke's Bitter, Brakspear Bee Sting and Bate-man's Miss Whiplash.

The **York Tavern** on York Street has loosened some of the shackles imposed by Enterprise Inns, and is now stocking some free trade guest ales once more.

The **City Inn**, as the Exchange is known as these days, since it was returned from inner-city Mongolia, has added Pedigree and Hancocks HB to Tetley Bitter, all at very cheap prices too.

Unfortunately the **Durham Ox**, on Burton Road looks set to return to beer wilderness after probably the best eight months, ale-wise, that it has ever seen. Steve Boa had done a great job serving many guest beers but the pub has been passed on to another pub company who gave him notice.

More happily, Pete Wadsworth, late of the Olde Spa, has taken the helm at the **Navigation**, Breaston, where he has reduced the price of Pedigree. It's good to see him back so soon.

## Now Derby's Jimmy's gone

It disappeared one day.

Dating from 1867, the St James Hotel, in the street of the same name in Derby, has been affectionately known as Jimmy's for as long as anyone can remember and generations have met here in its central position.

The original hotel once boasted a ballroom and the accommodation stretched to the Cornmarket, where an old entrance is still visible, and stables in the courtyard at the rear. Although real ale has been a distant memory for many years it is nonetheless extremely disappointing to see the establishment renamed 'Knights' this Spring.

Where will all this defiling of local history end?

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# Wychwood opens up Old Institute

A new drinking emporium opened in Derby in May, when Wychwood brewery unveiled the Old Institute, straddling the Wardwick and the Strand.

The ornate, two-level interior includes four restored stained glass windows, some commemorating great composers, alongside Pollock-esque modern art creations.

On the beer front the Wychwood brews are a welcome addition to the city, with Wychwood Special at £1.75 and Hobgoblin at £1.80, plus a different brew from the Oxfordshire brewer (Fiddlers Elbow and Oberon have been on so far), again at £1.75. Cheap ale for Derby city centre. Pedigree is also available for the local NIMBYS.



There is a big screen on the Strand side, geared up for the European Championships (EURO 2000 for the post-90s football fan) and the place boasts disabled access and toilets. There are around 30 of these establishments with the newer bars moving away from the Hobgoblin name to reflect the locale - hence the name in this case paying homage to the old Mechanics Institute.

Lunchtimes are relaxed and airy, with the night crowd aiming at a younger market with resident DJs on a Thursday, but from the beer point of view, a worthy attraction, to be congratulated.

## Brewing news from the Falstaff

The Falstaff Brewery, next door to the Falstaff pub is now fully operational and has established a portfolio of four regular ales with regular seasonal and speciality brews.

*Summer Ale* at 3.7% ABV is a full pale malt session beer late hopped with Fuggles to give that citrusy aroma of hot summer days. *Hit & Miss* at 4.5% ABV is a rich amber beer full of Maris Otter pale malt with a taste of crystal malt for depth and just a hint of late hopping. *Festival Ale* at 4.8 ABV is a smooth amber premium beer developed from *Hit*

& *Miss* with extra crystal malt and less hop. *Falstaff's Folly* at 5.8 ABV is a strong well balanced beer fully fermented to leave the clean flavour of malt.

The beer garden has been reopened and the lounge rebuilt incorporating a five barrel stillage enabling customers to enjoy their favourite tippie poured in front of them straight from the barrel.

The Falstaff is always happy to arrange brewery tours and are currently actively marketing their beers to various beer festivals, pubs and for private functions.

Meanwhile co-owner Ady

## Smoked out at Coxbench pub

Known until recently as a pub with a specialist fish restaurant, the Fox and Hounds at Coxbench has given up on the smoked mackerel. In fact it has given up on smoking altogether. As far as we know the Fox and Hounds is now the only completely non-smoking pub in the Derby area.

Licensee Pat Towlson and husband John are both reformed smokers and were keen to try out the no smoking policy in their first pub venture. The pub was standing empty when they saw it and they are pleased it is bringing in trade and it is already necessary to book for evening meals (01332 880472). The drinking area is furnished with a domestic look but anything could happen because John has not given up the day job yet. He runs his own business as an upholsterer who also makes furniture. Beers include Pedigree and London Pride.



## End of an era

On May 26 regulars at the Duke of Clarence, Mansfield Road were met with the sad news that resident pianist for two decades, Johnny 'Fingers' Edmunds had died after emergency surgery.

Johnny (pictured above) liked his pint and had played in dozens of Derby pubs over more than four decades, as well as appearing at the Beer Festival, with his old time favourites and a touch of the classics.

Only four City pubs now have singalongs these days and the Duke of Clarence is the only one to have regular Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Duke hosts Chris & Wendy Scott are determined to keep the tradition alive and Bob Broadhurst has temporarily taken over the ivories.

It is intended to erect a memorial to Johnny in the pub, in the form of a plaque or photograph, in the meantime our condolences go to his widow Wendy and family.

## Travellers adds Adnams

The Travellers Rest, on Ashbourne Road, has been featuring Adnams Bitter alongside its usual range of beers, thereby joining the growing availability of the Southwold brewers ales in the town.

## Sheen to shine?

Over the Staffordshire border at Sheen, near Hartington, Leath-erbritches brewery's Bill Allingham's brother, Chris is running the Staffordshire Knot pub.

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