

Derby Drinker

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CAMRA

ISSUE No 84

SUMMER 2001

FREE

24th Derby CAMRA Beer Festival in town July 11th-15th

The highlight of Derby's summer calendar kicks off on July 11th in the Assembly Rooms. This year we have the best ever selection of beers. Apparently, according to the experts, I've got 10 words to grab your attention. As you're more than likely reading this in a pub we'd better reduce that to three **DERBY BEER FESTIVAL**.

Our regulars are already working up a thirst in anticipation of the summer delights despite the air conditioned luxury of the Assembly Rooms. If you're not a regular, maybe you're wondering what it's all about. To put your mind at rest I'll tell you what it's not - beer bellies, beards and bitter. Sure, there will be some bitter and no doubt some beards, but we've been listening to what you want from your beer festival and this year we've come up trumps. Honest!

Whatever sort of beer you normally drink, be it lager, bitter, stout or bottled beer there will be a drink to suit you. Whether you like rock, pop, blues, jazz, or just the sound of folks chatting, just pick your session, choose your beers and enjoy.

This year we have all styles of beer on offer, concentrating on those from Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Germany and of course

the Derby area. And let me tell you they are all fantastic!! Most of us, when we think Irish, think stout. We do have wonderful stouts but the hidden Irish gems for those who like lighter beers at this festival are the *Carlow Curim Gold* and *Dwan's Cool Amber*, a true cask lager.

Moving on to the Scottish breweries represented, our aim is to explode the myth that they only produce heavy, sweet beers or fizzy lagers. Choosing the breweries was a terribly hard task as Scotland has over 25 excellent breweries all producing excellent beers and those chosen are no exception including traditional chewy Scottish Heavies, light blonde, wheat and lager beers, rounded full mellow stouts, typical bitters plus beers that don't seem to fit any category.

Should you fancy more familiar beers to drink you'll find a brilliant selection from local

breweries such as Whim, Townes, Bass and Marstons, including our festival specials which have been brewed by Burton Bridge, Old Cottage and Brunswick.

If, after trying this magnificent selection you decide you don't really like cask beer in any guise, never fear because you can go on to the ciders and perries - but I'd advise coming back to another session because you haven't even started on the German or Belgian Beers selected by Linda and Marcus who felt obliged to take a quality control trip to Belgium recently - all in the interest of researching your pleasure!

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So that's it then. Scottish, Irish, German, Belgian and Local stouts, milds, porters, bitters, lagers, blonde, wheat and fruit beers.

Rock, pop, blues, jazz or just a chat. Which days will we see you?

Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year award winners



Birkin in taking a run down pub by the scruff of the neck, introducing first rate beer, including many guest ales, and building up a strong following of real locals in an area which has seen an upturn in cask ale

TWO PUBS HAVE BEEN honoured in this years Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year Awards. One award is for the city, while another category honours the country.

The Derby City Pub of the Year is the Rowditch Inn, Uttoxeter New Road (pictured). The Country Pub award goes to last years branch winner the Royal Oak at Ockbrook, which retains its overall award after a second ballot. The Oak is the current East Midlands winner and will go forward once more in this competition. The pub will be holding it's second annual beer festival in October, details of which are found in this newsletter.

The city award for the Rowditch is a vindication of the hard work put in by Steve and Jan

availability. The Rowditch holds a couple of annual beer festivals, one of which takes place from 15-17 June. It is a sometime eccentric pub with strange events not unusual. Rumour has reached these pages that Steve even subjected himself to the scissors of a travelling barber in the public bar the other week!

Congratulations once again to both recipients of these Pub of the Year awards.

Jan & Steve

You'll have a happy time at
The Rowditch Inn
246 Uttoxeter Road, Derby
Changing guest beers
and a large selection
of fruit wines

Ale in mouth at country hostelries

DERBY CAMRA RAN A TRIP TO THE Long Lane area in April by way of a show of support for those rural pubs whose trade has been severely hit during the foot and mouth outbreak.

Of these the Blue Bell at Kirk Langley launched its own campaign, Farm Aid. Licensee Graham Clarke held an auction which raised more than £1200 in April. The landlady of the Three Horseshoes at Long Lane said "We have had to halve our beer order since the crisis began." The Roston Inn at Roston, known as 'the Shant' has lost the trade of a local football team, unable to use a nearby farmers field.

Other pubs visited on the trip were the Ostrich, Long Lane, Holly Bush, Church Broughton, Foresters at Scropton and the Swan, Draycott-in-the-Clay. The Scropton hostelry, near Tutbury is in a remote backwater and licensee Mark Hardy reports beer sales dropped by 20% and food 50%, but is well worth a call with Kimberley Classic and bitter plus seasonal guest beers all available.

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Towering Achievement

Easter Tuesday 2001 saw the first brew from a brand new local brewery in an old brewery setting, when John Mills launched his three new brews at Tower Brewery, Burton. This marked the culmination of nine months hard work converting a near-derelict former brewery water tower, built by Thos Salt & Co in the 1870s, to a spacious, modern microbrewery. The tower was part of Salt's Walsitch floor maltings on the aptly-named Wetmore Road.

Salts, founded in 1774 were originally maltsters but from 1800, had a brewery on High Street, eventually becoming Burton's 4th largest brewers (after Allsops, Bass and Worthington). Salts were absorbed by Bass in 1927, the maltings were sold following the phasing out of manual floor malting circa 1964/5.

The water tower had been largely unused for 8 years prior to being taken over by John Mills. To put the structure in good order, John, and his father Geoff, stripped the building clean and restored all required services. This included removing 160 sacks of pigeon dung from the upper floor, trying to locate the former bore holes/wells that once served the maltings, re-cladding the roof and shoring up the steelwork. The building was then fully equipped as a modern microbrewery and is capable of producing anything from a 5 to 15 barrel brew. The casks came from Mitchells Brewery but the fermenting vessels, mash tun and

copper were made by Gerry Evans (Stainless Fabrications), Hawkins Lane, Burton.

John Mills expertise was acquired at Burton Bridge Brewery where he spent 10 years on the brewing staff. He has now branched out on his own and from scratch created a truly impressive brewery that must be the envy of many a microbrewer. His first three brews are; **Tower Bitter** (ABV 4.2%) - a light coloured bitter using English Herald and Northdown hops; **Malty Towers** (4.4%) - a pale straw-coloured bitter using Northdown but with a New Zealand hop Green Bullet and **Walsitch Wobler** (5.2%) - a ruby red full-bodied strong ale using Herald and Fuggles hops. English floor malted Optic barley from Warmminster Maltings is used for all brews. First pubs to feature the beers locally, in late April were the Rowditch and the Flowerpot and all three beers will be available to taste at Derby Beer festival.

Local Drinker Ticks 5000th pub

Local CAMRA member Gary Holman reached a personal milestone recently when he 'Ticked' his 5000th pub from the CAMRA *Good Beer Guides*. To claim a tick Gary has to drink at least half a pint of cask-conditioned ale in a current GBG-listed pub. His 5000th pub was Wilkies Tavern in Warrington, which is in Cheshire these days, and the beer was from Irish Dwan Brewery (see Derby Beer Festival beers), brewed to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

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Naturally Gary's 'most ticked' areas are Derbyshire, Notts and Leicestershire, but London and Yorkshire are heavily subscribed. When pressed for his top choices he opts for the Cow & Plough, Oadby (Leics), Maltsters Arms, Tuckenhay (Devon) and the Birch Hall Inn, Beck Hole, Nr Goathland (North Yorkshire). Locally it's the Brunswick and Kirk Ireton's wonderful Barley Mow.

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Route Beer



A NEW SERIES designed to promote public transport and rural pubs in the area. The first featured village is Ticknall, eight miles south of Derby on the A514, for bus times see below.

The village once had umpteen pubs and beerhouses, including the Crown and the Royal Oak (on the site of Royal Oak petrol station), catering for the lime kilns and quarries of Benjamin Outram's Ticknall Tramway which sent limestone to the Ashby Canal from 1802 to 1913. (The Arch, a tramway bridge over the main road, survives). These days there are only three, but in their varying ways, they offer some fine ales to the traveller.

First port of call is the **Wheel Inn** (right) where landlord Ashley Harlow is a CAMRA member. Built by 1821 the licensee around that time was described as a "lime burner and maltster". Bass is the main seller here but Abbot Ale, M&B Mild and Deuchers have been featured also. The Wheel has some pewed seating and a pleasant raised garden at the rear of the two-roomed local.

Down the road past the village lock-up, turn into Ashby Road for the **Staff of Life** (left). Food is placed high on the agenda and a range of good value home cooked fare is available. On the beer front Taylor Landlord is always on (in its own glass) with Pedigree and a couple of guests (often a Fullers beer). The Staff built up a great real ale reputation when Big

Bruce ran the pub in the early 1990s and is a former bakery and beerhouse, once known as the Loaf & Cheese.

The **Chequers**, (below) on the Ashby Road completes the Ticknall trio. Once a Ruddles tied house it dispensed legendary County Ale in the 1970s and attracted drinkers from far and wide. These days it's Bass or Pedigree in the unique ambience fostered by



Dennis and Eileen Hylton, an old fashioned village inn bristling with local characters. The couple have been at the Chequers for 13 years and the annual Ticknall Egg Throwing contest is held at the pub each Easter Monday. The bus to Derby stops right opposite. **BUS SERVICE: Swadlincote 69, 69A**

Evening buses Mon-Sat 18:10 Derby Bus Station then 10 past each hour until 23:10. Return from Church Lane, Ticknall 18:36 then 26 past hour until 22:26, although a 23:26 terminates at Allenton. Sundays outgoing at 10 past hour from 10:10 returns 26 past hour until 10:26pm.

God save the Queen?

Just as I was dusting off my *Stuff the Jubilee* badge from '77 something good has turned up. To mark the monarch's Golden Jubilee on Monday 3 June 2002, licensing hours are to be extended until 1am on that night. New Years Eve is set to benefit likewise. Is England dreaming? This crumb of comfort could be rendered an irrelevance if proposed further relaxation in the licensing laws go through before 2002.

OCTOBERFEST - 18th, 19th, 20th October 2001



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— *The Double Dozenth* —

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20 BEER 01

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*and much more besides . . . see Derby Drinker
and local press for further details*

OPENING TIMES & ADMISSION PRICES

WEDNESDAY	<i>(evening only)</i>	-	6.30pm to 11.00pm	£3.00
THURSDAY	11.30am to 3.00pm	FREE	6.30pm to 11.00pm	£4.00
FRIDAY	11.30am to 4.00pm	£1.00	6.30pm to 11.00pm	£5.00
SATURDAY	11.30am to 4.00pm	£2.00	6.30pm to 11.00pm	£5.00
SUNDAY	12.00pm to 2.30pm	FREE	<i>(lunchtime only)</i>	-

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Hermsprong springs back to life as festival honours 18th-Century Derby novelist

As the new Beer Festival poster proclaims, the main theme running through this year's beer selection is Celtic, with Scotland taking centre stage and Ireland in support.

There will, of course, be English beers also, including some from Derbyshire which will be as good as any. More of that on later pages.

Aside from the beer, it has been the custom in recent years for the Derby Beer Festival to mark the anniversary of some famous Derbyian or historical event. This year it is the 200th anniversary of the death of eighteenth-century Derby novelist, Robert Bage, who is one of only two local writers ever to

find their way into the Oxford Companion to English Literature (the other one is Samuel Richardson of Mackworth).

Both men made important contributions to the development of the early novel, and Bage was a pioneering campaigner for social and sexual equality in English society - a bold stance in the 1790s when England had just lost its colonies in the American war of independence and just across the Channel the spectre of revolution was running riot through France, with the heads of the high and not-so-mighty being harvested day by day.

The principle character in Bage's last and best novel is called *Hermsprong*, who is the

first American hero - not incidentally - to make an entrance into English fiction. It is his name - and that of his creator - that appears in the Festival logo, which will feature on the souvenir glass, Festival programme and colourful T-shirt. The logo is reproduced here.

So there you are. You may not have known who the Dickens *Hermsprong* was before, but you do now.

Why on earth, we might well ask, didn't they tell us about him at school?

Reg Newcombe

German & Belgian beers at Festival

There will be German and Belgian draught and bottled beer at Derby Beer Festival. German draughts include Tegensee Mai-bock (7%), Sclenkerla Urbock a 6.5% dark, Sunner Kolsh a 4.8% light beer and Kloster Andechs, a 5% light.

From Belgium we have both Flemish and Walloonian beers. Fruity favourites such as Kriek and Framboise will feature alongside trappist and abbey beers and brews from Abbaye des Roes, Dupont, Duvel, Palm, St Bernardus, Van Eecke, van Steenberge and Westmalle. Bottles will be in the foyer. These beers tend to be a little strong

Festival Special Brews

Three breweries have prepared special festival beers. They are *Ellen's Elixir* a 3.9% brew from Burton Bridge. A light, zingy and crisp ale celebrating Ellen MacArthur, the Whatstandwell-born round-the-world voyager. Then there's *Hermsprong Strong* from Old Cottage of Burton. At 5.1% this dark malty, strong ale has a hint of chocolate and would have given Bage pints of inspiration. Finally the Brunswick have come up with *Inky Black* a 4.5% dark porter.

Phil and Mary wish you a warm welcome at the

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New Fangled Marstons beer for festival

Thanks are due to Marstons of Burton Upon Trent for their sponsorship role at the Festival. *New Fangled* is their special Festival Ale, a 4.6% brew using a new variety of dwarf hops giving a subtle orange flavour to the beer, but still brewing in the Marstons old fangled way!

Ask if it's Cask campaign



ASK FOR CASK
Good taste never goes out of style - drink real Cask ale

ASK FOR CASK

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So if you visit the beer festival and enjoy the beers you sample, don't wait until next year to give them another taste. Remember their names and seek them out, ask your local pub if it can have guest ales, or seek them out in Derby's large clutch of good pubs. Above all choose flavour over blandness. Ask for Cask.

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Derby Drinker

Derby Beer Festival Beers 2001 - Scotland, Ireland and some local gems

This year the Derby CAMRA Beer Festival Committee have worked tirelessly to bring to the event some different beers from the Highlands of Scotland and the Emerald Isle to delight the Derby festival public. Here are some of the beers you will be able to sample at the Assembly Rooms in July.

The Breweries of Scotland

ISLE OF ARRAN This brewery is under threat of closure as local HSE people are insisting they cover their fermenters to prevent CO2 escaping into the room. A test case for the brewing industry. *Arran Ale* 3.8% a pale refreshing session bitter. *Arran Blonde* 5% pale and golden, good hop character and *Arran Dark* 4.3%, a traditional Scottish heavy rich in malt and hops.

BELHAVEN have 60/- a 2.9% low alcohol beer, 80/- and *Sandy Hunter's Ale*.

BRIDGE OF ALLAN *Bannockburn* 4.2% pale ale, *Lomond Gold* 5% organic blonde beer and *Stirling Brig* 4.8% additive-free brewed to celebrate the Battle of Stirling Bridge where William Wallace defeated the English in 1297.

CALEDONIAN are no strangers to this festival and we feature *Deuchars*, 80/- and

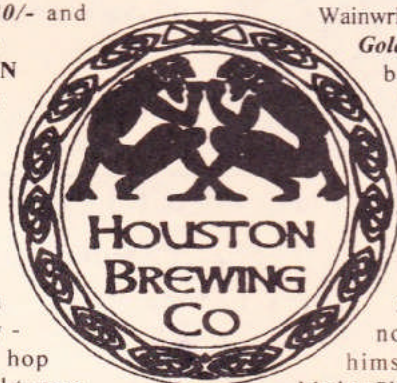
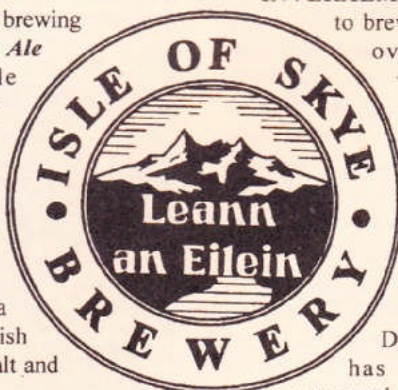
ERA this year.

HARVISTOUN

brewery are featured once more with their *Belgian White* a crisp 4.3% beer using a recently introduced hop variety, Ahtanum.

Schiehallion is a festival favourite of past years. A cask-conditioned lager at 4.8%. *Turnpike* is a 4.1% pale bitter.

HEATHER brewery of Strathaven produce *Fraoch*, a 4.1% amber heather ale with a peaty aroma, brewed in Scotland since 2000BC. Probably the oldest ale style still produced in the world. Also there will be *Kelpie* a 4.4% organic seaweed beer, with a stouty taste, and



Summer Wheat. This wheat beer is again organic.

HOUSTON brewery from Renfrewshire started up in 1997 and we have *Barochan* 4.1%, *Killellan*, a golden beer with a long zesty finish and *Peter's Well*, a 4.2% light refreshing ale.

INVERALMOND the first to brew in Perth for over 30 years when they set up in 1997, have three beers at the festival including *Lia Fail*, Gaelic for Stone of Destiny, which has recently returned to Scotland

after 700 years. A dark, robust ale at 4.7%.

Again from the isles **ORKNEY** brewery are represented with *Dark Island* (4.6%) a deep wine coloured drink, *Northern Light*, a 4% pale and *Raven Ale*, more of a session ale.

ISLE OF SKYE brewery, established at Uig in 1995 have three beers at the festival the dark oak and honey *Black Cuillin*, at 4.5% it would have delighted Wainwright. *Hebridean*

Gold is a golden ale brewed with porridge oats, deep and creamy. *Young Pretender* is named after Prince Charles Edward Stuart, no stranger himself to Derby Market Place. The beer is a hoppy 4% pale.

TRAQUIR HOUSE brewery from Innerleithen has it's *Bear Ale* a glorious oak-fermented malt and fruit-packed 5% ale on sale in the Darwin Room.

VALHALLA brewery from the Outer Hebrides is Britain's most northerly brewery. They have *Auld Rock* 4.5%, *Simmer Dim* 4% and *White Wife* at 3.8%. Again available in the Darwin Suite.

Irish Delights

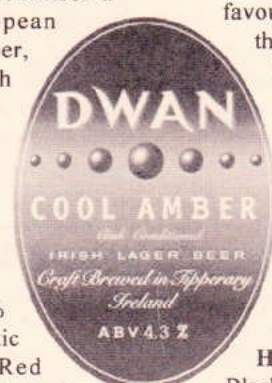
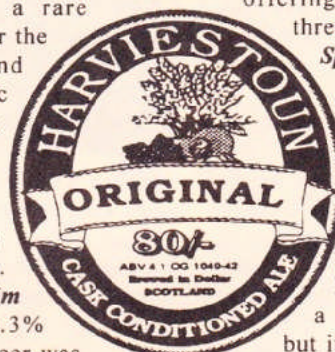
Irish beer is something of a novelty at Derby Beer Festival but they will not disappoint and will provide a rare opportunity for the Derby (and visiting) public to sample these ales.

CARLOW Brewery have three beers showcased. They are *Curim Gold*. This 4.3%

fruity wheat beer was brewed by the early Celtic dwellers of the Berrow Valley in south-east Ireland. Carlow revived the tradition. Molings Gold is brewed with torried wheat, crystal malt and roasted barley. Also *O'Hara's Stout* using traditional stout hops and crystal clear Irish water.

DWAN brewery come from Tipperary where they know a bit about drinking. Perhaps we shall even see Shane MacGowan paying a visit to the festival! *An Dubhain* (The Dark One) is 5% a traditional Irish extra stout with Galena hops. Sip and appreciate this award winning beer. We also have Dwan's *Cool Amber* a

4.3% European pilsener style beer, made with German hop Hilbertau. *Rich Ruby* completes the Tipperary trio (although more beers may be available). This is a 4.6% fruity and aromatic ale. An Irish 'Red Beer' and similar in style to Scottish heavies.



Leatherbritches, Museum, Townes, Old Cottage, Kimberley and the new Tower brewery.

Museum continue the Derby Beer Festival tradition with their *Hop Pit 29th*, brewed by Ian Miller for his pub, the Inn Off The Green at Datchworth, a 4.5% offering.

Leatherbritches three beers are *Ginger Spice* a quaffable light beer with a ginger flavour, *Hairy Helmet* a 4.7% festival veteran and *Takin the Pith* an unusual orangey wheat beer. Kimberley will have a couple of beers on but it is unconfirmed at the time of writing whether or not Ye Olde Trip Ale will be one.

A former local is *DBA*, now brewed at Tetley in Leeds. Give it a go and see how well matched you think it is.

Other beers in the Darwin Suite

Regional brewers of England are not forgotten at Derby's 24th Beer Festival. These beers will be on sale in the Darwin Room:

BATEMAN'S of Wainfleet are a long-time Derby festival favourite. *Marie Celeste* and the organic *Yella Belly* are this year's Lincolnshire offerings. The **BOAT** brewery are from the Boat Inn, Allerton Bywater in West Yorkshire. Their *Man in the Boat*, *Nevison's Leap* (5%) and possibly one other will feature this year.

HOLDEN'S from the Black Country have their *Mild* (3.6%) and *Golden Sunset* (4.7%).

The **MARBLE** brewery from the Marble Arch pub in Manchester are champions of organic brewing. We have *North Quarter* (3.8%), *Old Lag* (5%) and a Cask Lager at the festival.

OSSETT brewery hail from West Yorkshire. *Silver Fox* is a 4.1% organic beer and *Oregon Pale* is stronger at 4.7%.

Local brews at the Festival

Local beers at the festival range from heavyweights such as Draught Bass to beers from local micros, including three from each of the breweries of Brunswick, Whim, Marstons, Burton Bridge,

Big Bands to Beatles Sound - Beer Festival Entertainment Round-up

As usual the entertainment takes in a wide range of musical styles. Love it or hate it live music has been with the Derby CAMRA Beer Festival from day one 24 years ago, in Derby's biggest annual indoor event, proving again that Derbeians favour a mix of Real Ale and live music, and enjoy being part of the atmosphere. Read on for the full line-up.

Wednesday night: Stapleford Big Band

Remember the sounds of the Forties? Ask your Gran. Dancing to swing bands thrilled the youth of the day so sample the Glenn Miller Sound recreated tonight under the direction of Harold Kyte. Gaining fame throughout the East Midlands is the band's resident vocalist James Selfridge for his Sinatra tribute package. Brian Clough took time out recently to enjoy the show at a packed Royal Concert hall.

During intervals **The Ripley Morris Men** will give their usual colourful display. Meanwhile in the foyer still celebrating their Gold Medal win at the 2001 Association of British Barbershop singers convention the **Grand Central Chorus** will be doing their stuff. The Darwin Bar is music free tonight and Thursday.

Thursday night: The Fab Beatles

Winners of the BBC 2000 Battle of the Fantasy Bands. Hold your breath for a roller coaster ride through the 8-year period of the most influential band the world has ever known. TFB (above) now in their tenth year started off

as just Beatle fans with an idea of creating the most accurate live tribute anyone has heard, each song meticulously researched for its musical structure.



The Fab Beatles are truly fab - and I know, I saw the other lot
Michael Parkinson

I thought TFB were excellent, definitely the best Jonathan Ross Forecast is for a very popular draw, the advice is come early if not come Wednesday!

Friday night: The dynamic Wam Bam Band

Breezes into town tonight for an evening of R&B, rock and soul from a very big band indeed as well as a four-piece rhythm section they feature the mighty rhinohorns horn section plus the fabulous female backing quartet the **Rebelles** said to be the sweetest sound this side of Wirksworth. add to this the awesome Johnny Rowlett on lead vocals and there you have it, the Wam Bam Band. The warm up act is **Tony B**, gaining popularity at the festival on piano with pop covers. **Blood Simple** the celtic folk rockers take the stage in the Darwin Room and hold it through to Saturday evening. The band comprise of Paul Miro, guitar and vocals, the former front man of Apes, Pigs & Spacemen, who is

no stranger to the Derby music scene, Mick Doyle (Mandolins) formerly in Neverland and Boz Borys (Drums) the former Rattler. Blood Simple have played to large audiences home and abroad, including Glastonbury, Cropedy, Off The Tracks and the beer festival. Their new album *Scary Tales* is proving a great success.

Saturday night: Get Serious

Appearing in a blaze of orange suits, black shirts and shades took the festival by storm last year. An event of live soul classics originally by the likes of James Brown, Marvin Gaye etc. This Derby-based group (below) are now a nine-piece outfit and have received waves of good reviews. dancing and singing along is irresistible. Sharing the billing is the **Ann Duggan Band**, making it's festival debut. Strong sophisticated vocals and lively backing Ann takes you on a journey depicting the very essence of the roots of modern music with classics and originals from the influence of authentic jazz, Classic Blues, folk, gospel and American country rock.

Blood Simple again hold court in the Darwin.



Lively lunchtime sessions

12.45 Thur & Fri: The Hot Five Leisurely jazz Benny Goodman style with Harry Walton (vibraphone), Cyril Bennett (piano), John Johnstone (Clarinet/tenor), Doug White (bass) and Mike Coney (drums). Foot tapping is encouraged.

12.45 Sat: Kick'n'Rush Comedy skiffle from Mansfield (below). They do local and international circuits and are a mix of styles from Woody Guthrie to Lonnie Donegan some 40 years after skiffles heyday. they never fail to keep the audience smiling.



1.30 Darwin: Blood Simple

12.30 Sun: Three Wheel Drive. Rock out the last session with Skipjack Geoff and Dave Lloyd Bones brand of blues.

On Sat & Sun lunchtime **Clivo the Clown** will entertain children in the creche. The Wednesday evening and Thursday and Friday lunchtimes are the less busy sessions and give more time to move round and relax.

Have a good festival!

Terry Morton
Beer Festival Entertainments
Manager

Off The Tracks festival 2001

The summer of 2001 is upon us. Are we going to let it go by without a celebration? Not if Off the Tracks Festivals has any thing to say about it. Foot and Mouth has been in the headlines for months now, affecting many other Festivals badly, but not at Off TheTracks, so If you're trying to shake off the doldrums and you want to get out into the country air and sample some of that good old fashioned rusticness that is England, then off the tracks festival is the place to be.

Into its 13th year, Off the Tracks Festival is still on top form with artists playing music from Blues R&B to eastern European influences. Regular festival attendees revere Off the Tracks for its friendly, happy, inviting and easy going atmosphere. Come rain or shine there is always something to entertain, albeit listening to music on the main stage, joining in with an acoustic session in the bar, or just soaking up the glorious atmosphere. All of which goes down a treat after sinking a few of the very best kept **35 Real Ales** on sale within the farm complex of Ye Olde Barn and bar areas. Off the Tracks also boasts a first class campsite, with excellent toilets, showers and hook-up facilities.

13th OFF THE TRACKS FESTIVAL

Fri Aug 31st Sat. 1st / Sun 2nd Sept

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(EX - EII)

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LETTERS



Dear Editor

I read with interest your item on Vanished Pubs of Derby No 3 the Lifeboat Inn. I grew up and was born in Parliament St and enjoyed the collection of locals in that area the Woolsack, Prince Arthur, Marquis of Hastings, Parliament House and Pelican but also on occasion enjoyed a bottled beer in the Lifeboat.

In 1980 the pub closed and was left ready for demolition for a while. When the people arrived to knock it down I paid £10 to one of the contractors to save the rather splendid inner window saying that I would collect it the next day. That same evening a vandal put a brick through it and we both missed out. What a shame.

Chris Brown

Dear Ed

I feel that I should clarify the position of the ongoing saga of the licensee of the Blessington Carriage. John Arguile's original article is correct.

The first licensees were Tom Glancz and Tony Suthers - two Nottingham restaurateurs who operated the Ben Bowers and Food For Thought club in Nottingham. I was the first employee and manager of the Blessington Carriage, opening the Bless in 1977. I was responsible for the recruitment of staff, many of whom went on to operate their own licensed venues. I also recruited Tony Williams, initially as a part-time bar person.

I continued at the Bless helping establish its unique culture until

1984, when I left to have my daughter, Laura.

Although not the licensee I believe I was one of the youngest 'operators' in Derby and almost certainly one of the few females. I am now at the Great Northern, Mickleover as joint licensee. My partner, Graham Bolton, can also boast longevity in the trade having, as a young boy, lived at the Blue Bell, Uttoxeter Old Road - one for your 'Vanished Pubs' section.

Hopefully this solves the saga of the Bless.

Jane Smedley
Great Northern Inn
Mickleover

Dear Ed

I have for sale a china jug (5.5 high by 4.5" diameter) made in 1979 for the Derby Branch of CAMRA. A limited edition of 150 were intended but apparently less than half were made. It is decorated with a print of the Dol-

phin, the back room of the Exeter and a verse *Time Gentlemen Please*. The handle has a gilt ear of barley.

May I enquire through DD if anyone has any knowledge of its current value. If any readers are interested in the jug I will welcome their offers.

R.A.Beck
19 Lawrence Avenue
Chaddesden
DE21 4RD

Beer festival and new patio at Dolphin

The popular annual Dolphin Beer Festival takes place at the Queen Street inn from Wednesday 25th to Sun 29th July. Revellers at this years event will be able to take advantage of the new patio, extending down Full Street. There will be 60 beers plus live bands every night in the beer garden.

Give your regards to the Broadway



Ember Inns have been promoting a Celebration of Cask Ales in their two Derby pubs. During April and May more than 30 beers from regional and independent breweries have been on offer at the Broadway on Duffield Road and the Hollybrook Tavern in Heatherton.

The initiative was sponsored by Wadworth Brewery of Deveses. Beers have included Moorhouses Black cat Mild - the Champion Beer of Britain 2000, Hopback Summer Lightning, Landlord and brews from Smiles, Titanic, Hogsback and Elgoods amongst many others. Broadway licensee Steve Nagy ran the *Good Beer Guide*-listed White Bear at Barrowford, near Burnley, before coming here when the pub reopened. The pub is Embers' second-highest national cask beer seller and when the promotion is over London Pride, Bass plus a changing independent guest ale will be on offer.

Ember go in for log fires and comfortable sofas and the job done, last Autumn, on the Broadway (above) is indeed impressive. Easily its best recent incarnation, it has daily newspapers, a no-smoking room, art by Klee and Kadinsky from Ikea and beer prices no dearer than many others. Not bad for a pub that had a reputation for overpriced drinks dating back to the early 1980s. The place is classical yet modernist, and while not being that traditional in some ways, it is a refreshing place to drink a pint of decent ale.

NEWS

In Normanton two pubs are under threat of closure. The **Louden** is closed already and the **Normanton Hotel's** future is in doubt. Both have been rather down at heel lately but the Normanton has been a prominent landmark at a busy junction for upwards of a century. The **City Inn**, Albert Street and the **Strawberry Tree** on Edward Street are both featuring Hancocks HB and a guest (often Robinsons Best) alongside Pedigree. At Ambergate planning permission to build on the car park at the **White House** has been refused. New licensees have taken over at the **Steam Packet**, Swanwick the **Prince of Wales**, Spondon and the **Nags Head**, Hulland Ward. The licensee is also changing at the **Woodlark**, Bridge Street, Derby. Down at the **Old Institute** in the Wardwick, Paul Needham (formerly at the Warehouse and Dolphin) has taken the helm. The trade is mainly bottles weekend nights but to their credit the Wychwood range plus guest beers are always available. Kelham Island Pride of Sheffield and Tanglefoot have been spotted of late at reasonable prices too. Live bands are also a new feature. Shelton Lock saw a new licensee in June at the **Crown & Arrows** on Sinfen Avenue. Down the road at Chellaston things are looking up at the **Lawns**, in the High Street. A changing guest beer accompanies the Bass and Pedigree. Black Sheep, Young's Special and Adnams have been here recently and the Lawns is not restricted in its choice. The **New Inn** at Shardlow has been refurbished, and the *Good Beer Guide* regular the **Old Yew Tree** at South Wingfield has been sold.

The Ale of the White Horse

The White Horse on the Morledge is showing some strong commitment to cask beer presently. Five real ales are usually available including Tetley Mild. They are seeking to increase the choice should there be sufficient demand.

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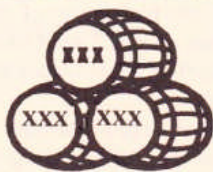
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Microbrewery Corner

Taking a look at what's happening at the small independent breweries in and around Derby.



BRUNSWICK The latest new beer is Cask Ale, a 3.8% brew using four different types of hop. Three others, *Bottoms Up* 4.4%, *All the Best* 4.0% and *Good Health* 3.8% will be available for the first time at the Derby Beer Festival then for sale in the Brunswick after the fest.

Brunswick Weekend celebrates ten years of brewing at the pub on June 11th.

CASTLE ROCK Tynemill have bought out the remaining 50% of Castle Rock they didn't already own. Pete Wooding, an ex-Shipstones man has been appointed Head Brewer.

BURTON BRIDGE Have four beers at the Derby Beer Festival. In addition to the festival special, *Golden Delicious*, *Moonlooter* and *Porter* will be on offer.

LEATHERBRITCHES Ed Allingham who has returned from a 15-year spell in USA to take over the sales, marketing and distribution side of Leatherbritches. They are brewing two or three days a week.

An interesting feature at the Bentley Brook pub at the moment is a big range of real cider. Up to five in the cellar, one on handpump, one available on gravity before it goes on handpump.

HistoricAle Trail for Allestree and Littleover pubs

THREE OUTER DERBY PUBS have beer festivals shortly, featuring historic beers recreated by Museum Brewery in what is dubbed the HistoricAle Trail.

The events take place a week after the Derby Beer Festival with the rolling event kicking off at the Red Cow in Allestree village starting Thursday 19th July running through to Sunday while beer lasts and incorporating the pub garden at the rear, with a barbecue. Beers include *Offiters*, *Joules*, *E. Wenlock Fireside*, *Victoria* and, at the stronger end, *P2* (8%) and *Bass No. 1* (10.5%), not the faint hearted! A mystery beer will be served with a holiday prize for guessing its identity.

The festivities move on to the Half Moon, Burton Road, Littleover for the following weekend (around the Saturday 28th July) and finish off at the Markeaton, Allestree Lane, the weekend 4th August.

Also they are doing a taster of four nips (mixed beer and cider of your choice) for £2.20, complete with relevant tasting notes.

MUSEUM Three beers at Derby Beer Festival. The Octoberfest at the brewery takes place 18th-20th October 2001.

SHARDLOW The Brewery are now brewing the house beer at the Dead Poets, Holbrook. It's called Golden Brown. A new outlet is the Court at Ashby and their *Revd Eaton* beer has been spotted at the Harrington Arms, Thulston.

WHIM All the regular Hartington favourites will be appearing at the Beer Festival.

WICKED HATHERN Demand is high for their beers. WH are now bottling all their range. The Royal Oak at Ockbrook features the brewery's ales in June.

Second beer festival at Royal Oak

The Royal Oak at Ockbrook will hold its second beer festival this autumn. The festival will take place from Thursday 11th to Saturday 13th October. Evening opening times 6:30-11, beers yet to be finalised.

Tidy new brew for Boylestone pub

Peter Kirkland, landlord of the Rose & Crown, Boylestone acted swiftly this Spring. Fed up of variable quality Marstons Pedigree, he approached Steve



Wellington, brewer at Museum Brewery and they have produced a beer for the pub.

The first brew, called *Hedgecutter* is a 4.3% offering and has pump clips designed by renown cartoonist and ale buff Bill Tidy, who lives locally and drinks regularly at the Rose & Crown (pictured). Museum have also supplied several guest beers to the Boylestone pub over the last few months.

Corrections and Clarifications

Well If it's good enough for *The Guardian*....

Cavendish not closed for good

The Cavendish at Shardlow is not, as reported in DD83, closed for good and is on the market. There is every chance that it will reopen as a pub.

Leatherbritches festival

We reported that the Spring Beer festival at the Bentley Brook Hotel, Fenny Bentley would have 16 beers when in fact they showcased 70. Apologies all round.

Ale and cheese

Drinkers at the Dog & Partridge, Bedford Street, are munching away at cheese and crackers with their ale. Alongside nuts and crisps there are noggins of Stilton, Brie and Red Leicester for sale complete with crackers. The idea is proving popular at the Dog, where the May guest ale was *Ridley's Rumpus*.

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