

## Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year Awards for Bell Inn and Rowditch



The Bell Inn at Smalley (above) has scooped the Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year award for the second time. The pub which champions independent breweries and offers a wide choice coupled with excellent quality beat off fierce competition to finish first following an extensive period of judging. Congratulations go to licensee Angela Bonsall and her loyal team at Smalley.

Angela told DD: "Everyone here

is overwhelmed with the award and all the staff deserve congratulations. I choose all the beers myself and am bombarded with over 20 phone calls a week from micros. We do like to support them but they have to be patient!

"I cut my real ale teeth when I worked in Nottingham and drank in the Lion and the Lincolnshire Poacher. I developed a fondness for the Batemans XXXB and think it has given me a very good grounding".

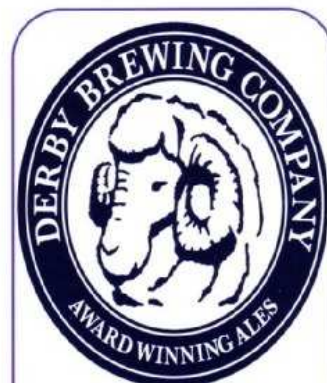
Angela has been at the Bell for four years in

June and worked here for a decade prior to that for the previous licensees, who were also winners of this competition.

The City Pub of the Year award goes to the Rowditch Inn on Uttoxeter Road. It is a well-deserved accolade for Jan and Steve Birkin, who run their pub in their own inimitable style, feature ever-changing beers of superb quality and condition and foster a harmonious atmosphere in this real gem at the heart of its community.

Steve announced that he was 'surprised' to be honoured and that he was merely 'doing his job'. As always he is modest to the hilt as there are precious few licensees about these days with the dedication of Steve and Jan. Their track record is superb at the Coopers in Burton and before that in the late John F. Kennedy in Chaddesden - *Do you remember where you were when it was demolished?* - where they introduced cask beer to a keg drinking public.

The award is chosen from a wide range of pubs from Ash-



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Just another night at the Ditch as Steve performs his unique topping-up style while Jan catches up on a spot of reading. But just who is the mystery tucker?!!

bourne and Alfreton in the north to Ticknall down south.

Runners-up in a close contest were the Holly Bush, Makeney, the Flowerpot and Babington in Derby and the Steampacket at Swanwick. You can be assured of a great pint in all of these great pubs.

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## NOT ALL BATS AND BATTLEMENTS A Visit to Thornbridge Hall

The appearance of a new brewery on the beer scene is not as rare nowadays as it was 25 or even 15 years ago, but in recent years they've been mushrooming all over the country. It is hard to believe that when Offiler's Derby Brewery closed down in 1966 there was no commercial brewery in the whole of the county for 11 long years, and when John Thompson rekindled the industry in Jubilee Year, no-one could have predicted that 30 years later Derbyshire would have so many new breweries! Not all of them have survived and thrived and not all of them have deserved to. Brewing is, after all, a subtle coming together of science and art. On the face of it the process is deceptively simple, but success can be quite elusive.

When Thornbridge Hall entered the game, however it was a good bet that this one would be a runaway success. The owner is Jim Harrison who had the good sense - and good luck - to get Dave Wickett on board to oversee the operation. Also on the team are youthful brewers Stefano Cossi from Arzene in Italy and Martin Dickie of Peterhead in Scotland, who gained a brewing degree at Herriot Watt. It was Dave who launched the highly popular Pale Rider from Kelham Island in Sheffield and there's not much he doesn't know about producing a good brew. Having sampled his latest liquid gold, a delicious IPA called Jaipur (5.9%) we readily accepted an invitation to visit the brewery in March.

Thornbridge Hall is up in north Derbyshire just above Ashford-in-the-Water. By the time we arrived through windy, winding lanes it was quite dark and the outside was unlit. The tall, castellated building made an



imposing black silhouette as we approached. On another occasion it may have seemed quite sinister, and this effect was further heightened when the heavy door was flung open to let us in, and a flurry of bats dashed out overhead. "Oh we have to live with them", said Jim cheerily. "They're protected. The rats aren't though. You don't want rats near barleycorn!"

And down we went, into the cavernous depths of the great cellar. Down there all was brightly illuminated and the only wildlife visible to the eye was Wild Swan (3.5%), a surprisingly flavoursome light ale which we could have drunk until the cows came home. But there were other delights to sample which had to be treated with rather more respect.

Imperial Russian Stout (7.7%) is a rich, dark beer not to be rushed, the original Russian was brewed in Southwark for Catherine the Great and shipped over via the Baltic. That was stronger to ensure it survived the journey, but this one gives a very good impression. And then there was Jaipur. Unlike some so-called 'IPAs' that really don't deserve the description, this one is more like a real India Pale Ale. Beautiful! Thornbridge Hall did not seem nearly so sinister as we went merrily away.

Reg Newcombe

## Easter Beer Fest at Duffield pub

Good Friday, 14th April, sees the start of the beer festival at the Kings Head, Duffield. The event runs until Easter Monday will all day opening til late each day.

Eight to ten beers will be featured and there will be live music on the Friday when money is to be raised for the Derbyshire Air Ambulance.

The Kings Head is on Town Street on the main A6 through Duffield.

## New T-Shirts for 2006 Festival

Be the FIRST to see and buy the new range of products for the July Beer Festival at the Assembly Rooms. The NEW range for this year will be on sale at the May and June Branch Meetings, and will include T Shirts, Polo's, Drinking Games, Membership Card Holders, Paper weights, plus lots more. Don't miss the May and June Meetings. Cash, cheques and last year's Beer Tokens accepted (£1 cash value).

### BEER FESTIVAL GLASSES FOR SALE

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## Out of Our Circulation Area? Having Difficulty Getting Your Copy?

Postal Subscriptions to *Derby Drinker* are available.  
Cheque Payable to Derby CAMRA for £2.50 for 5 issues.

Write to: Lynn Brown, 10 Newton Close, Belper. Derbyshire. DE56 1TN.

The cost will cover envelopes and stamp charges which will vary depending on the weight of the issue.

## Derby Drinker Publication Schedule 2006/7

Advanced notice for contributions and advertisers. These are the proposed dates for the publication of *Derby Drinker* up to the start of 2007. Copy deadlines will be strictly adhered to. Please note the slightly earlier deadline for the June edition, this will contain important details of the 2006 Derby CAMRA Beer Festival.

Any photographs, logos, graphics etc are preferred in jpeg format. Please do not send such contributions embedded in Microsoft Word documents if at all possible. Thank you - The Editor.

Issue No.	Publication Date	Copy Deadline
DD 110	June 2006	20 May 2006
DD 111	August 2006	25 July 2006
DD 112	October 2006	25 September 2006
DD 113	December 2006	25 November 2006
DD 114	February 2007	25 January 2007

## Short run print

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## Do souvenir beer glasses jam up your space?



Well here's an answer.

Elaine Morton (pictured) of Chad-desden has found a novel way of

making use of some of the hundred or so collected over the years.

Yes it's plum jam in these glasses - use normal jam pot covers and elastic bands, some of this jam is now 4 years old and is still in good condition the glasses make it easy to handle and easy to store.

Well we have all got a souvenir glass on the desk filled with pens & pencils etc - there must be many other uses - DD readers let us have your ideas.

## Trail round in May for Mild

To promote cask mild during May, Derby CAMRA have linked in with the Nottingham Branch and their excellent annual Mild Trail. Eight Derby pubs are participating. These are the Alex, Babington Arms, Brunswick, Furnace, Duke of Clarence, Falstaff, Flowerpot and Rowditch.

Trail cards will be available in all the participating pubs along with some literature. Many Not-

tingham pubs are taking place and it will be worth a trip over to drink some mild there and collect more stamps.

There are 109 pubs in this year's trail. Go to any participating pub, order a Mild and ask for a sticker. You only have to get 8 stickers to qualify for a certificate and a chance of winning one of the many prizes on offer including free beer and T-Shirts.

## 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 £18, Joint £21, OAP/Unwaged/Under-26 £10 (£13 Joint), Overseas £22 (£25 Joint). If U-26 please add Date of Birth: .....

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Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd, with this completed form) to: Membership, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 4LW.



Derby Drinker



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The organisers reserve the right to change the advertised programme at any time

Another date for the Diary

18th Off the Tracks Festival  
1st 2nd 3rd Sept 2006

### DERBY CAMRA 2006 SUMMER BEER FESTIVAL - GROUP BOOKING

Must be made by Friday 23rd June (cheques) and Friday 30th July (cash)

### TICKETS REQUIRED

Session	Full price (£)	Reductions	price (£)
Thursday 6th July Evening (6.30-11.00)	6.00	CAMRA members	2.00
Friday 7th Evening after 6.30pm (6.30-11.00)	7.00	CAMRA members	2.00
Saturday 8th Evening (6.30-11.00)	7.00	CAMRA members	2.00

Session:	No of tickets	Ticket price	Cost
Full price	@	£	£
Reduced	@	£	£
Total £			
(cheques payable to Derby Summer Beer Festival)			
Payment must be received by:			
Friday 23rd June (cheques) and Friday 30th June (cash)			

### TO BE DELIVERED TO:

Contact Name:	
Contact Address:	
Contact Phone No (s):	

Please confirm that you agree to the following terms and conditions:

- Advanced bookings can only be made for groups of 4 people or more and everyone in the group must enter together.
- Groups must arrive before 8.30pm. Please allow time to process your admission. If you arrive later we cannot guarantee admission and refunds cannot be issued.
- CAMRA members MUST present a VALID CAMRA membership card. If a VALID CAMRA membership card is not presented, then the full admission price will be charged.
- The management reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone who is or appears to be under 18.

Sign:

Date:

Print Name:

Please send this completed form to:  
Advanced Bookings, 49 Belper Road, DERBY, DE1 3EP



## Make a play for Shardlow's Shakespeare



Shardlow has long been well-known as a haven for pubs. One that has nestled quietly amongst its neighbours until recently is the Shakespeare Inn. Under the reins of Kevin and Sue Johnson and Paul and Miranda Bazzoni, partners in the pub, the inn has seen a tremendous upturn in trade and a range of popular guest

beers to boot alongside Pedigree.

Featured amongst the monthly-changing guests from the Cellarman's Reserve scheme have included McMullens Saracens, St Austell Tribute, Adnams Explorer and Bath Spa.

The Shakespeare has a 40-seater no-smoking restaurant which doubles as a meeting room, a real fire (in the lounge) and a quite massive garden at the rear. The walls feature many old pictures of Shardlow including some of the pub's former nearest inn, the Rose & Crown which stood a few yards to the north on the same side of the road until at least the late 1960s judging by the photographs.

Loughborough CAMRA have elected the Jolly Sailor at Hemington as their area Pub of the Year. It is a mere stone throw from Shardlow and the Derby branch boundary, and is a sometime DD advertiser, congratulations are due to Peter Frame, formerly of the Olde Spa on Abbey Street, and his team at this smashing pub with open fires, beamed ceiling and some great beers.



### Real Ale Trains 2006



To celebrate our 25th anniversary of operations here at Butterley we will be operating two special Real Ale Trains (RAT).

The first takes place on Saturday 6th May as part of our 1940s weekend, so expect a wartime flavour, and the second on Saturday 2nd September as part of our 1950s event.

Each train will feature a range of ales from local breweries.

Departing at 7.30pm from Butterley Station the train will take two leisurely journeys, including a stop at the NEW Swanwick Junction Station to view the progress. The price is £8.00 each with the first pint free for those that book in advance. There will be a range of free 'nibbles' as well as food to buy from two, on-board buffet/bars. In addition a wide range of wines and soft drinks will be available.

All ales will be priced at £2 per pint. As the train is effectively a long bar it will not be possible to reserve seats.

It is not permissible to bring your own food or drink on the Real Ale Trains.

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## Bottle Brook up and flowing

Richard Creighton of Leadmill Brewery launched his new venture, the Bottle Brook Brewery in early March. It is based in Church Street, Kilburn.

The Stables Bar at Denby had sold two firkins of the initial brew, the 4.6% *Full Moon* before eight pm on the Saturday and another new beer *Midnight Mash* (5.1%) was available the following weekend.

Richard is brewing different styles of beer to those at Leadmill. Delegates to the National CAMRA AGM had an early taste as *Full Moon* was one of three Derbyshire beers at the Shovels Beer Festival, Blackpool in April.

David & Mary

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## Cider with Suzie

Regular readers of this column will notice a change of title. Chris and Sue Rogers have now taken over from Ralf Edge, whom we would like to thank for his contributions in the past, which have helped to raise the profile of cider in the area.

We will continue to feature local pubs selling real cider, plus information on major cider events throughout the country.

We'll start with a tour round three excellent pubs lying about six miles north of Derby, and coincidentally not far from where we now live. A ramble taking in all three is quite feasible, but opening hours dictate that it would have to be on a Saturday or a Sunday. First stop is the Hollybush at Makeney, easily reached from Derby via a bus along the A6. One of our favourite pubs, with multiple rooms and real fires, it exudes a wonderful drinking atmosphere. Weston's cider (Old Rosie) is always available. On next to the Leadmill Old Stables Bar at Denby. Tearing

yourself away from the impressive range of Leadmill and guest ales, the cider here is usually Thatcher's Cheddar Valley, although other brands are sometimes available. Finally we arrive at the Dead Poets at Holbrook. Entering the pub is like taking a step back by a couple of hundred years, and the atmosphere can be enjoyed with another glass of Weston's Old Rosie. The Holly Bush is just down the hill from here, completing a memorable circuit.

Further afield the Reading Beer Festival, held from April 27th to 30th hosts the national cider and perry judging. It boasts one of the biggest cider bars in the country, with over 120 different ciders and perries on sale. On Friday 28th the heats are judged, and anyone at the festival on that day with an interest in cider is likely to be invited to join a judging panel, a most interesting and enjoyable experience.

Enough of this for now, keep drinking the cider. Wassail!







Since the formation of Erewash Valley branch in 1996, membership has more than doubled to 320, making it the East Midlands' fastest-growing branch. The area covered, which is on the Derbyshire side of the border with Nottinghamshire, stretches some 11 miles from Sawley in the south to Loscoe and Woodlinkin in the north with the principal towns being Long Eaton, Sandiacre, Ilkeston and Heanor.

The branch's tenth anniversary is being celebrated on Saturday, 6th May with an Ilkeston walkabout, finishing at the newly crowned Erewash CAMRA Pub of the Year, the Needle-makers' Arms, Kensington Street, for a barbecue. The former Shipstone's house is building on its success by

holding a beer festival between 19th and 21st May. Earlier in the month, the May Day weekend sees the current Pub of the Season, the Royal Oak, Tamworth Road, Long Eaton, staging its first beer festival in a marquee. There's also a barbecue and admission is £3 (£2.50 card carrying CAMRA members) with a pint glass included which validates free entry on subsequent visits. The Oak is just five minutes walk from Long Eaton railway station.

Speaking of the railways, why not join us on a train excursion to Grantham, departing from Nottingham Midland station at 11.30 am (Langley Mill 11.11) on Saturday,

22nd April. There's a clutch of *Good Beer Guide* pubs and the medieval Angel and Royal (pictured) is a nominee in CAMRA's initial tranche of 14 historic inns which have been awarded a *Pubs in Time* plaque. The rail fare, from Nottingham, is a mere £12 per group of four.

## BRANCH MEETINGS

830pm, Wednesday, 3rd May, Royal Oak, Tamworth Road, Long Eaton.

830pm, Wednesday, 7th June, Eclipse, High Street, Loscoe.

Contact Paul Gibson on 01773 533637 or visit [www.erewash-camra.org](http://www.erewash-camra.org)



## HELP!! DESPERATELY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Did you know that the Derby CAMRA Summer Beer Festival is entirely organised & staffed by volunteers? Without the sterling efforts of hundreds of volunteers over the years, the premier social event in Derby would not take place. After 28 years many of the original volunteers are having to reduce the number of hours they work at the festival so this year more than ever we **DESPERATELY** need more volunteers to help organise & staff the event - & we need new volunteers to help to ensure that the festival continues to be the biggest & best social event in the city of Derby.

### How much time do I need to give?

As much as you like. Most people just work one "session" (about 4 hours), some people work many "sessions" but if a number of people gave just 2-3 hours, it

would make a real difference. Full training will be given as required. Some of the tasks for which we need volunteers are: PRE-FESTIVAL Taking posters/flyers to pubs, workplace canteens, taxi offices, shops etc. Printing various forms/leaflets/posters ("Beer of the Festival" voting forms, Festival Survey forms, Barrel End posters etc) on a laser/inkjet printer

### FESTIVAL WEEK

Taking delivery of the beer - Friday/Sat/Sun, Erecting scaffolding, stilting beer - Saturday & Sunday. Putting up posters/signage in the Assembly Rooms - from Saturday prior to the festival, Washing cellar equipment - Pre & post festival, Assembling & decorating the foyer bars & stalls, Checking the delivery of glasses for chips etc - Monday/Tues

Taking the cardboard & plastic packaging to recycling banks - (just think about the cardboard packaging on approx 10,000 glasses!!)

Collating survey form / Beer of the Festival results, Working in the cash office, Collecting / returning a variety of equipment from CAMRA HQ in St Albans (Large estate/van required!!), Dismantling the festival - Sunday PM

### PUBLIC SESSIONS

Bar work, Sales stands (Tombola, glasses, ticket sales etc), Admissions staff, Washing glasses (not by hand!!) - after each session for about 1 hour, Handing out survey forms to customers

### Do I get paid?

As a volunteer, you do not get paid BUT you will receive some tokens with which you can purchase food, drink & other goods during the festival. Volunteers are also entitled to a discount on CAMRA membership.

### How do I find out more information?

For more information on how to volunteer, what tasks you would like to do & when, please contact the staffing manager **John Roden** (01332 551859) or the secretary **Kate Neale** (01332 342180) who will be eager to give you more information or email: [staffing@derbybeerfestival.co.uk](mailto:staffing@derbybeerfestival.co.uk)

## The Furnace Inn Duke Street, Derby



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guests**

## PUB NEWS

The **Bulls Head**, Breaston has re-opened after a £135,000 refurbishment. Trevor and Val Smith arrived at the **Plough**, Weston on Trent around the turn of the year. They have run a few local pubs, most recently the Newdigate, West Hallam. Leon and Gill at the **Tavern**, Notts Road have been rightly recognised by their pub group and have won its Pub of the Season. The **Crescent** in Wild Street is undergoing refurbishment, no beer news as yet. The **Silk Mill** in Derby reopened in February with four cask ales on at any time, mostly Deuchars, London Pride, Bass and Pedigree. A good drop has been reported at the **Navigation**, Wilmorton where Black Sheep and Summer Lighting are regular guests. Watch for more info on this pub in DD soon.

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## Swan loses its Salmon

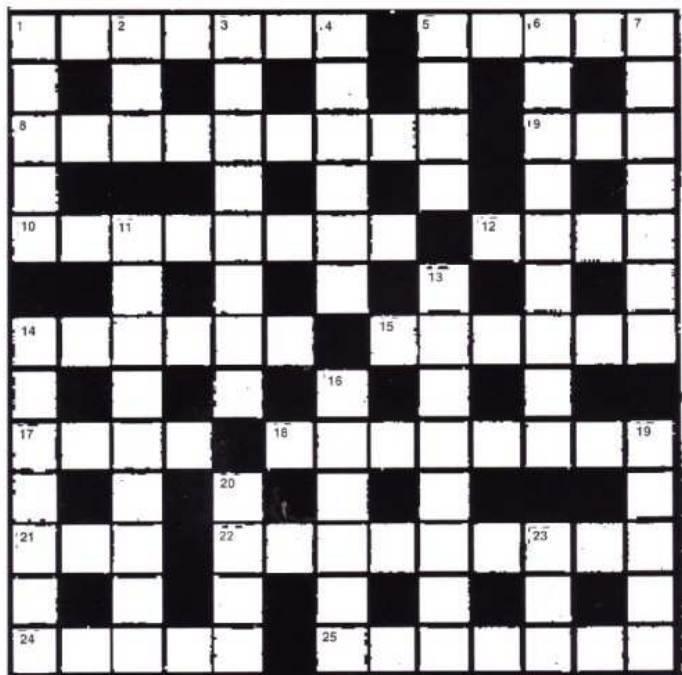
The Swan and Salmon on the corner of Ashbourne Road and Chandos Pole Street, has been acquired by Hardy & Hansons after many years ownership by Peter Perry. It has also undergone a repainting of late, during which it has lost its distinctive salmon livery. The editor happened to be passing by during the process and was able to capture the transformation before all had been completely covered.

The Swan has one of the best small front bars left in Derby and it is pretty certain that the Kimberley brewery will look after the place and continue to sell cask ale.





## CROSSWORD No 1 by Wrenrutt



### Across

1. Formerly, a fortified wine now a premium strength ale or lager (6)
5. Keeper of Boddies' sign's insects, who may prefer to drink Waggle Dance (8)
9. World organisation, parson, and mixed-up ale will find, paradoxically, this secretive answer (8)
10. Jazz singer who long continues to blossom (6)
11. Aladdin's essential, verveful equipment item? (6,4)

13. Type of Jacobite drinking glass? So be it! (4)
14. With 8 enlightens Abbeydale's elusive pale ale (9)
15. A local 1? (5,5)
18. A Leek Parsee? Unlikely for a Wensleydale brew (7,3)
20. Before and with 14, a colourfully rare lunar occurrence for a Norfolk brewery (4)
21. Only 0.57 of cola ice flavour? That's unprofessional! (4)
23. Saints' eyes, ludicrously, encompass a

- frothy beer quality (10)
25. Mouthwatering Russian conditional reflex theorist (6)
26. Prefab building or water tortoise parking, initially, in ground too (8)
28. Someone living always on edge? (8)
29. Touching glasses sounds, or prisons (6)

### Down

2. A frightful chauvinist! (9)
3. Local firm, upper class, in baking situation will go on and on! (7)
4. & 17. Nick's brew hut is, surprisingly, a Derby Pub of the Year (3,9)
5. Williams Brothers Brewing Company's home-town (5)
6. What all good breweries are ..... (11)
7. .... and what they produce (4,3)
8. See 14
12. Postpone to next time, infinitely (2,5,4)
16. Abnormal growth, initially from Coniston's Old Man Ale (3)
17. See 4
19. Tricky state, if not for gherkins in vinegar, for humans in beer! (7)
20. I get into a bangle mix-up in this Indian language (7)
22. Where Davy Crockett fought soundly and died, in Calamonte (5)
24. More behind behind the morning for a hangover (5)
27. Extinct bird found, unbelievably, in a frock (3)

Access to *The Chambers Dictionary* and *the Good Beer Guide 2006* recommended

## ABC Survey results: Derby Reclaims 'Beer City' tag

The latest Derby Annual Beer Census took place during National Pubs Week in Febru-

ary to promote the British Pub. These were its findings on that particular Friday: A total of 76 pubs were visited and a total of 280 real ales were available. Six pubs had no real ale so the other 70 showed an average of four cask ales per pub. There were 157 different ones, an increase of 19 on the previous year.

Therefore this proved to be our best-ever total surpassing Sheffield's last known total and reclaiming the title of 'Beer Capital of Britain' back for Derby.

The pubs with the most real ales on night were the Flowerpot with a staggering 29, the Dolphin weighed in with 28 (thanks to their Beer Festival) while the Babington with 17 and the Brunswick (15) performed admirably.

The most widely-available beers

were Pedigree in 46 pubs, Bass in 22 pubs, Landlord in 8 pubs and Deuchars IPA in 7. Seven was also the number of real ciders found.

The average price per pint of Real Ale worked out at £2.23 (pre budget), an increase of 6p on the previous year.

Many people joined in the eight crawls, culminating at the Flowerpot, visiting different pubs, meeting new people and generally enjoying a great night out.

One CAMRA member Steve 'The Hippy' Hill had an interesting story surrounding the ABC crawl. Steve goes to plenty rock gigs and puts the dates on his calendar at home. He had also earmarked the census thus. His good lady looked at his itinerary for February and, amazed, said to Steve: "Since when have you been into ABC"!

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS

BY TERRY MORTON

There have been many letters to the local press, emails and calls of complaint to both Derby CAMRA and the Assembly Rooms on the security fiasco at Derby Winter Beer Festival of 6/7 Jan 2006 which humiliated and annoyed so many of the volunteer staff and visiting public.

Now you can understand security staff turning the odd person away carrying a rocket launcher, or even walking in eating bags of chips. The rule is 'You are not supposed to bring food into the Assembly Rooms building'. Some out of town visitors were caught committing the cardinal sin of eating a couple of their own ham rolls. This appeared to spark a turn out of the Assembly Rooms Heavies to search through visitors bags and removing food items and shopping throughout the Festival. Apparently no-one from the Assembly Rooms will admit to giving out such an order but they thought it was a good idea.

It may have been unfortunate that a CAMRA member so incensed by this so-called 'security issue' wrote a letter to *What's Brewing*, the official

national newspaper of the Campaign For Real Ale, who readily printed the following:

*'Once again Derby CAMRA volunteers have put on an excellent beer festival. What a pity it was marred by officious bag searching for food! The Tourist Information office declares Derby to be 'A city where you are guaranteed a warm welcome'. How welcome is it for people who travel into the city for one of its foremost attractions to be greeted by over-zealous bouncers checking and confiscating any bags containing a lunchtime snack.' She went on to say (in her opinion) 'Why was this? To promote the limited choice of over-priced, poor quality food provided by the Assembly Rooms?'*

The circulation of *What's Brewing* is around 80,000 members in the UK, Europe and worldwide. So come on Derby City Council, take a walk over the road and have a word with the people who run the Assembly Rooms before they do any more damage. Stop hiding behind smoke screens, call off your heavies and let's just have some good old common sense.

## Derby Drinker reaches the Arctic

Never mind the Arctic Monkeys what about the Arctic Drinkers? *Derby Drinker* could lay claim to be the northernmost-read CAMRA newsletter in the world. Lornts Bruem is a CAMRA supporter from Trondheim in Norway and he also travels annually to Derby to take in two or three Derby County fixtures, as he has been an avid supporter for many years. He also takes in a few real ale crawls, aided and abetted by not one but two CAMRA editors as both the *DD* wordsmith and Nick Wheat of *Innspire*, Chesterfield are pals of Lornts, through the Rams connections.

Lornts is now to distribute *DD* to selected outlets in Norway, where homebrewing flourishes due to high alcohol prices.

Trondheim has its own microbrewery which Lornts visited shortly after his latest visit to Derby, in February. Situated in the middle of the city (Prinsensgate, 39) the microbrewery



Lornts Bruem (right) during his latest jaunt into Derby enjoying a pint in the Dolphin with fellow Rams fans and CAMRA members Pip Southall and Mick Derby.

in Trondheim has since December 1998 established itself as one of the very best beer places in Norway. It's a medium size, cosy, one-room pub with a large counter in the middle. In fine weather it is possible to enjoy the ales outside in a beer garden ('The Hop Garden'). During 2005 there were 7-8 beers on offer. The regulars are all between 4.4 and 5.6 % ABV and include Pale Ale, IPA, Bitter, Stout, Trondhjems pils (lager) and Porter. A full-bodied Amber with a much taste and flavour, together with a sweet Weissbier were the two beers for the summer season.

## Derby Brewing Co goes from strength to strength



The new year has seen busy times for Derby brewer Trevor Harris. He has seen his Derby beers prove a hit in many outlets near and far, and has produced a beer to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Derby's twinning with Osnabruck in Germany.

As part of the Osnabruck contingent visit to Derby in late February, a gathering of beer drinkers and local dignitaries (some qualify on both counts) attended the brewery on Nottingham Road. Herr Hans-Jürgen Fip (Oberbürgermeister of Osnabruck) and Roy Webb, his Derby counterpart officially launched *Oberbürgermeister*, in bottle and draught. Very well it went down too on a grand afternoon. Herr Fip (left) is pictured with Trevor Harris at the event.

Not content with that, Trevor made the short journey uphill to Chaddesden a few weeks later to

bring real ale to the Blue Boy for the first time in years.

*Business as Usual* is a loving recreation of the famous Bass brew; it went on sale at 5pm on Tuesday 28th

March 2006; the first pint was studiously pulled and gratefully consumed by Councillor Roy Webb, Mayor of Derby, whose 16th-c mayoral chain is worth approximately as much as the auction price of most pubs in Chaddesden, but the beer is priceless.

The good news is that the Blue Boy is not for sale, having being lovingly refurbished as a deserving community pub with public money put together by Derwent Delivers.



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## Derby Drinker

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Edited by Pip Southall: 69c Uttometer New Road, Derby, DE22 3NL. Tel: 07970081906 (Mobile) email: sirpippo@aol.com website: www.derbycamra.org.uk

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Other contributors and helpers for this issue: Jok Arguile, Andrew Brett, Alex Brown, Lornts Bruem, Wendy Carrington, Paul Gibson, Stewart Marshall, Terry Morton, Kate Neale, Reg Newcombe, Chris & Sue Rogers, Gareth Stead, Julian Tubbs and Jon Turner.

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## Newton Solney Beer Festival

In conjunction with the village hall, The Unicorn Inn will be holding Newton Solney's first beer festival on the weekend of Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11th-13th August and will feature over 20 real ales in the village hall and a further dozen or so at the Unicorn next door.



There will be live entertainment on the Friday and Saturday nights and food concessions situated on the pub car park.

Saturday will also host a fun day for families with bouncy castle and stall again spread between the village hall and pub.

Opening times are Fri:6pm to midnight, Saturday midday to midnight and a Sunday session midday till 5pm assuming there is any beer left.

Friday live entertainment features The Elvis Gresleys and

Wooley and Archer, whilst Saturday sees the return of newly-reformed (original lineup) and circuit favourites Ska-Boom. Eclectic DJ content throughout the day is provided by DJ Parker.

Admission Friday is £2 and likewise on Saturday which secures multiple entry throughout the 12-hour event at the village hall, with free admission at all times to the Unicorn pub.

More details to follow as this event unfolds! Anyone trying to provide a stall on the weekend please get in touch, there is no charge for a pitch. Contact Paul Needham at the Unicorn on 01283 703324 or 07886104174

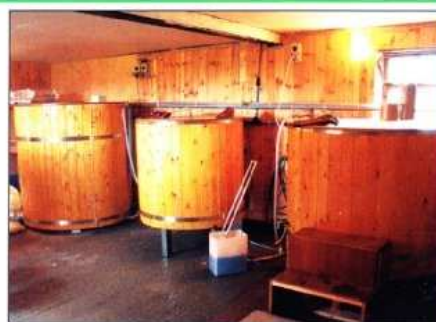
## Microbrewery Corner

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



### DERVENTIO

Everything is going well at the Trusley plant (pictured). The first-brew, *Centurion*, has been undertaken and the casks were rolling out the door to the following locations in mid-March: Liversage



Arms and Falstaff in Derby, Heanor WMC, Stables Bar in Denby, Okeover Arms at Mappleton plus the Wellington in Birmingham and the Railway Man Arms at Bridgnorth. The lads first offering also appeared at the Shovels beer festival, Blackpool to coincide with the National CAMRA AGM.

### FALSTAFF

The Red Lion at Heanor is holding a beer festival, starting April 15th, featuring no less than 15 different Falstaff beers. The Falstaff Phenomenon week at the Babington Arms, Derby in March featured a phenomenal 31 different Falstaff beers.

### DERBY BREWING CO

In addition to the details elsewhere in DD, Trevor is brewing B&B - *Blonde and Beautiful*, a 3.9% ale named by Les Baynton, who is a keen observer of light beers!

### LEATHERBRITCHES

At the Bentley Brook at Fenny Bentley there is the 12th Annual Beer Festival from 26th-28th May 2006. Over 200 different Real Beers and 15

Ciders from around UK. Ten Rocking Blues Bands. £35.00 Weekend Ticket per person including camping, glass, T-shirt and half pint; £5.00 Day Ticket per person after 7 p.m. - admission to Beer Tent only; - £15.00 per night per person admission to Beer Tent and camping. 12-6pm Saturday and Sunday free entry. Tent will be closed for 1 hour at 6 pm and open at 7pm All then must pay or have ticket. Tickets/information contact Edward Allingham on 07976 279253

### TOLLGATE

The new Woodville brewery now have two more ales to offer, TGL *Tollgate Light*, 4.5%, a pale light bodied beer, containing four hops and is quite citrusy and very refreshing. The second, TGS *Tollgate Special*, 4.3%, a light brown ale made using two malts, a little roasted barley and hops to provide a good finish.

### LEADMILL

*Born In The USA* and *Destitution* have been two of the new offerings from Leadmill at the Old Stables Bar recently.

## New era ushered in at Alex

The Alexandra Hotel on Siddals Road, Derby reopened on 16th February after a short closure. Following on from Mark Robins long tenure at the birthplace of Derby CAMRA the new licensee of Tyne-mill's lone Derby outpost is Jonathan Hales, formerly of the Royal Oak at Barton-under-Needwood. A real fire has been installed and the railway theme is retained.



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