



ISSUE NUMBER 111

AUGUST 2006

FREE

## Now it's all over – the highs and the lows

The two highlights of the 29th Derby Beer Festival were the long planned opening of the festival by the Osnabrück Beer king, together with Cask Marque's recognition, for the third year running, of Derby as the top UK festival for beer quality. Another first for Derby. The downside was the 20% drop in attendance with punters scared off by the actions of the 'food police' at the Winter festival. With no repeat of a baggage search, as agreed with the Assembly Rooms management, the lower numbers didn't affect customers' enjoyment of the event this time; but it did make the festival less viable, writes Jok Arguile.



King Ferdi's visit was the result of a four-year campaign involving many of the envoys, particularly Maike Thüerner, two trips to Osnabrück by a Derby CAMRA team and protracted negotiations. But the enthusiasm of the two city councils and the man himself, Ferdinand Wohrmann, together with the determination of Derby CAMRA to make the visit happen overcame all the obstacles and his six day visit, chronicled elsewhere, was a huge success.

The award of the Cask Marque Certificate of Excellence (see above) to the festival, was again the result of a long standing Derby campaign to show

customers, especially those new to Real Ale, just how good properly kept beer, can be. The Certificate, a national independent award, involves taking temperatures and tasting a range of the beers being served. All credit therefore to the Cellar Mgr David Brett and his team (especially Bill Dudley who ran the Darwin cellar) in making the festival a showcase of good beers and Graham Smith (Beer Orders) who made vital decisions on beer choice.

Customers views at the festival tended to agree with Cask Marque's decision. Two such from Burton, both employed as beer tasters, Dave Pantry and Chris Fletcher, wholeheartedly agreed. And they weren't alone. There were quibbles. Where were the 'milds' and the 'boys bitter' that CAMRA campaigns for; hadn't Derby heard of the LADS (Light and Dark Supporters) campaign? And our local press beer sleuth 'Beer-hunter' bemoaned what he saw as inadequate

coverage of regional brews - another current CAMRA campaign.

A new aspect of the festival was the absence of a floor covering in the Great Hall, this was a labour-saving change designed to make the Sunday festival breakdown easier and quicker. And despite fears from the Assembly Rooms it survived unscathed, even after a plastic cask exploded overnight during the set-up, leaving the two cask halves sitting neatly on the floor like two upturned egg shells - with the beer spread far and wide.

Other innovations this year included online Advance booking and the addition of a PayPal facility on our website for this and festival sales beyond the festival period. So if you missed a festival glass, t-shirt, key fob etc, go to the branch web site: [www.derby-camra.org.uk](http://www.derby-camra.org.uk), and



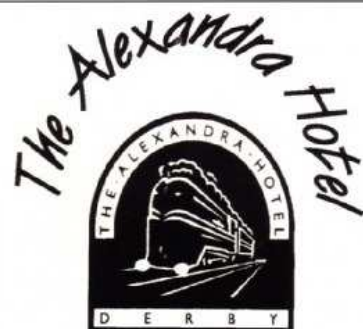
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look for the Sales pages

The retiring Festival Chairman Martin Roden (otherwise part of Der-ventio Brewery), looking back on yet another good festival, said it was a credit to all the hard work and dedication of all the volunteers who organise and staff the festival that Derby Beer Festivals are the success they are.



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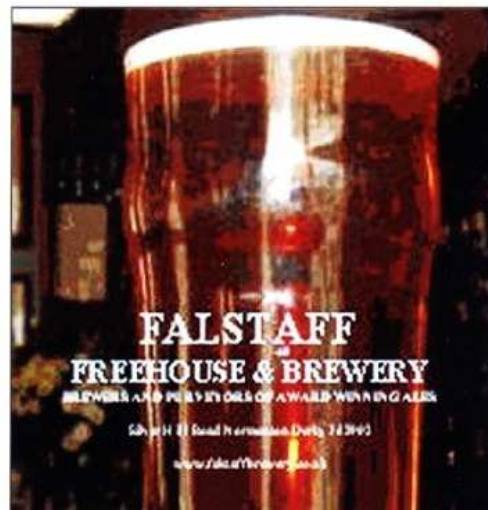
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## We're the only pub in the Village!

In a new series celebrating what remain of our rural inns, *Derby Drinker* will be focusing on settlements that have only one pub, often the heart of community life. Too many villages have lost their pubs over the last few decades, and some have seen the numbers of inns within their bounds diminish sharply.

### Sycamore Inn, Parwich

**Licensee:** Janet Gosling

**Opening times:** Weekday 12-2, 7-11. Weekend 12-3, 7-11.

**Telephone:** 01335 390212

**Real Ales:** Robinsons Double Drop, Seasonal guest beers

**Food:** 12-1.45 and 7-8.30

At the very northernmost tip of the Derby CAMRA branch area is the small, pretty, stone-built village of Parwich, off the A515 to



the north of Tissington. At its heart is the Sycamore Inn, the villages only remaining pub. Once it boasted three, the other two were the Crown and the Wheatsheaf, both long since converted to dwellings.

The Sycamore dates back to the 17th century and has been an inn

since the following one with the rear extension being Victorian. For much of the 19th century the pub was in the hands of the Kirkham family. Thomas Kirkham was a valuer and his son John a brewer at a time when the Sycamore brewed its own beer.

Parwich could have become a publess settlement in the early/mid 1980s when Bass wanted to close it and turn it into a residence upon a licensee retirement but fortunately Robinsons of Stockport stepped in to buy it. Their beers are on the bar today with the aforementioned joined from September to March by the strong Old Tom winter ale.

A real fire also appears in these months.

The Sycamore lies close by the church with a small stream running at the rear of the pub, into a pond locally known as The Dam. Janet Gosling has been mine host since September 2000 and the pub has changed little over the

years. The main bar is beamed and adorned with brass, old photographs and has three half beer barrels from Mitchells & Butlers decorating the bar back. There are two smaller rooms towards the front of the inn given over largely to pub games. A small dining room can seat 16 to 18 people and there is an extensive beer garden.

Janet runs a very friendly village inn. It opens every day, which is a rarity these days in the Peak District and welcome walkers, although if arriving in numbers and requiring food, an advance phone call is welcome.

### Thanks for the donations to the Sales Stall at the Festival.

We would like to send a big THANK YOU to the Branch Members who kindly donated items to the Beer Festival Sales Stall. Without these kind donations, the Festival would have been less of a success than it was. Many thanks from the Sales Team.

John and Wendy Carrington

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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 middle of 2007. Copy deadlines will be strictly adhered to. 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 112	October 2006	25 September 2006
DD 113	December 2006	25 November 2006
DD 114	February 2007	25 January 2007
DD 115	April 2007	25 March 2007
DD 116	June 2007	18 May 2007

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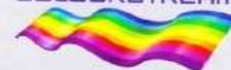
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## A right royal visit

I felt quite excited as I waited in the Arrivals Hall at East Midlands Airport for the Osnabrück Beer King Ferdinand and his wife Barbel. I had met him twice before in Germany but he was easily spotted when he came through the gate as he was wearing the Derby Beer Fest 2006 t-shirt we had given him and carrying an enormous holdall containing his historic robes. He is known as Gambrinus Ferdinand in Osnabrück but asked me to call him Ferdi. It had taken a lot of planning and two visits to Germany to make this happen, but here he was to open our festival and enjoy the attractions of Derby for the rest of the week.

Here is a brief account of what Ferdi did as he enjoyed the hospitality of both Derby City Council and Derby CAMRA during the week of the festival. He speaks limited English so we were grateful for the



help of our charming envoy Maike and her excellent translation during the visit. He opened the festival with great style, with the mayor and me, his Derby counterpart. We opened a pin of beer in the market place for the third year running. He spoke at the Reception and later on stage in the main hall, then even later he sang on stage with our English Oompah band. Ferdi is obviously a man who enjoys participating in everything. At a later visit to the festival he was very keen to join me

presented with a special plate, hand painted in gold lettering to commemorate his visit (pictured). A city tour with a TIC 'Blue Guide' followed next day taking in the city's attractions and sites of long vanished pubs and maltings. We finished fittingly under the statue of one of our great brewing entrepreneurs, Michael Thomas Bass. After this I took Ferdi and Barbel to one of our Derby micro-breweries, Trevor Harris's Derby Brewing Company. They toured the brewery and tasted several of its brews and were presented with a presentation pack including a bottle of the Oberbürgermeister beer.

Our German visitors proved quite an independent couple and ventured out on their own from the hotel a number of times, always preferring to walk. They found their way into the market, the town centre, and the Derby County ground. Ferdi was recognised a number of times in the street and welcomed by friendly locals. It was with a little sadness that I took them for a last drink in the Brunswick before continuing on to the airport.

Ferdi posed behind a pumpclip of his own beer, brewed by the Brunswick-Gambrinus Gold. So off they went after a week in their twin city of Derby, which they really seemed to enjoy. It had been a good twinning project in a special year and an unusual initiative for the festival committee. Ferdi and Barbel are a charming couple full of fun friendliness. We say a warm 'Auf Wiedersehen' from Derby CAMRA and hope to meet you again.

Les Baynton  
Beer Festival Publicity  
Guild of Beer Writers



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serving at the White Shield Bay for about an hour and was much appreciated by the customers.

Ferdi and his wife were invited to join the mayor for lunch to celebrate the 'Sausage and Ale Trail' devised by The Tourist Information Office and a CAMRA member. He met Tom, the 'Archers' butcher there, surely they could have got him a small part? On another occasion he was taken to the top of the Cathedral tower for that wonderful view of the town. Later in the week I organised a fascinating tour of Royal Crown Derby for the couple. They saw how this world famous pottery was made and Stella Birks of RCD kindly invited us to lunch to be eaten on their own plates. Finally Ferdi was



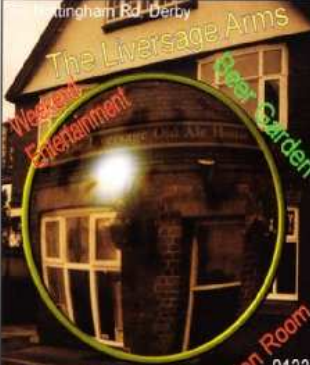
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## Cask beer flourishing at Sinfin pub



Sinfin Lane may not be the first place you think of when looking for some real ale. But think again as Simon and Julie Frith (pictured, formerly at the Brackens and Nunsfield House) have transformed the beer choice at the County Hotel in almost two years at the helm.

The pub, dating from 1934, retains an original Offilers brewery window (below, right) and operates the SIBA guest system, and CAMRA member Simon has been keen to enjoy its benefits to the full. Business as Usual, from Derby Brewing Co is on 90% of the time and they have had most of Trevor's ales along with such treats as Castle Rock Elsie Mo, Springhead Roaring Meg, Oldershaw Cascade and Cropton beers. No Pedigree or Bass is sold! All

cask ales are priced at £2.27 a pint.

The County is a true community pub with darts, pool and crib teams and lunchtime meals 12-2 excepting Sunday. The locals have taken to the different range of beers very well, Simon said "It took a while to build up trade but now I always have two guests and am hoping to have three through-out winter".

The beer is very well kept and the keen attitude of the staff make the County worthy of support in this real ale outpost.



## Brunswick beer festival

The Brunswick Inn stages its annual beer festival on 28/29/30th September. Landlord Graham Yates promises 50 beers, funny ciders and funny people!

There will be a Black Country breweries theme to the beers, the Everards bar will open upstairs and there will also be some music, along jazz/blues/folk lines.



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## Geoff Bull

Another of Derby's drinking characters has died. Although not a CAMRA activist, Geoff Bull was well-known in the real ale pubs of the city. Known in the Brunswick as Porter Geoff, due to his fondness for copious amounts of Railway Porter, he was also a familiar face in the Smithfield, Dolphin and Tiger Bar.

Bully died some days after being involved in a collision with a bus in the city centre. The editor confesses to not being best placed to pen this piece so if anyone else has anything to add please feel free to contact him.

**The County**  
**Sinfin Lane, Sinfin,**  
**Derby**

**At least 2 real ales including**  
**one from Derby Brewing Co**

**01332 270070**

### CORRECTION

Contrary to the report in DD110, Ron Allison won 1st place overall at the Craft Brewing Association competition in April in the Brunswick with Kiwi Gold. Sorry Ron your sanity is not in doubt!

## Cider with Suzie

This month we're on a pub crawl, taking in four of the best cider pubs in the West Midlands. There is a wide variation, from central Birmingham to rural Worcestershire, but they all sell good cider and are what I would call proper pubs, where customers receive a warm welcome and a pleasant hour of two can be spent.

First port of call is The Anchor in Bradford Street, Digbeth; about 10 minutes walk from New Street station. This multi roomed Victorian pub is a permanent

mini beer festival. The cider range was enterprising, too, with Bridge Farm dry cider from Yeovil, a medium perry from Ross-on-Wye Cider & Perry Co. (formerly Broome Farm), and the ubiquitous Thatcher's Cheddar Valley. The Broome Farm perry had our vote, look of for it at beer festivals.

Next was the Monkey House at Defford, between Pershore and Upton-on-Severn. One of a tiny number of pubs in the country selling only cider, the license and building dates back 400 years. Only one drink is available, a fairly dry, clear cider made from their own apples but pressed by Bulmers. This is a true rural gem, well worth searching out.

We now move on to the Fox at

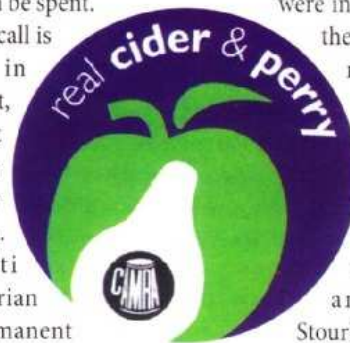
Monkwood Green, deep in rural Worcestershire. It reminded me of the Queen Adelaide at Snelston Common, which sadly shut several years ago. The cider and perry were both from Barkers, a local small cider maker who produces Barker's Best Cyder (BBC) and upsidy-daisy perry. Both were in fine fettle, as was

the beer from Cannon Royal, again very local.

Finally, heading back into the West Midlands we called at the Waggon and Horses on

Stourbridge road, Halesowen. This is another permanent mini beer festival with 13 beers, of which the Batham's bitter was particularly excellent. Four real ciders from Weston's and Thatcher's were on offer, the pick of them being Weston's First Quality cider.

Mini beer festivals held in pubs are fine, but true beer festivals are better. Dates for your diary are the Burton-on-Trent festival, held at the Town Hall from September 21st to 23rd and the Nottingham Festival, held at the Sneinton Leisure Centre from October 19th to 21st. At both of these festivals the cider bar will be run by your columnist, so if you enjoyed Derby, come long and sup some more excellent cider and perry.







**The 11th Erewash Valley Beer Festival at the Friesland Sports Centre, Nursery Avenue, Sandiacre kicks off at 3pm, Friday 1st September and opens 11-11 Saturday, promises to be the best yet.**

Festival organiser, the indefatigable John Parkes, said "The 35 real ales, which include a couple of crackers from Thornbridge Hall, a rising star of Derbyshire brewing, are supplemented by ciders, perry and fruit wines. CAMRA members are admitted free at all times."

Two former Shipstone's houses are enjoying a new lease of life in the area. Firstly the Erewash Hotel, a stone's throw from Langley Mill railway station, and on the R1 Ripley to Nottingham

bus route, has been renamed Inn the Middle after a costly renovation. Owners, Stuart Warner and Pat Hall, whose previous pubs include the Great Northern, nearby, and the Anchor at Hathern, have spent 10k on refitting the cellar alone. The handsome Victorian corner house (pictured) is decorated in contemporary style with a central bar that has already featured four beers from the Shardlow portfolio, Nottingham Brewery, with a host of others on the horizon. There is a late license, carvery and alfresco drinking is catered for with a delightful patio complete with decking and parasols.

Over in Ilkeston, the Prince of Wales, on South Street, has been

revamped as the Poacher, following its acquisition by the Pub People Company, a pub chain sympathetic to CAMRA's aims. There are three rooms, the focal point of one being an attractive, curved brown bar. The town's Mayor had the pleasure of pulling the first pint of the aptly-named Poachers Pride, a Lincolnshire micro, and Kelham Island Pale Rider together with Nottingham Rock Bitter were also on tap. South Street is gaining prominence amongst beer aficionados who are drawn to the wide variety of real ales available at the Spanish Bar, Mail House and now the Poacher.

Further good news comes from Funfair, Ilkeston's first commercial brewery since the Ilkeston Brewery Co. on East Street closed in 1923. Dave Tizard and Gemma Simms report that they are brewing to full capacity with several of the town's hosteries stocking their ales.

**Paul Gibson**

#### BRANCH MEETINGS

8.30pm, Wednesday, 2nd August  
Harrington Arms, Tamworth Road, Sawley.

8.30pm, Wednesday, 6th September

Ilford, Station Road, Ilkeston.

8.30pm, Wednesday, 4th October  
New Inn, Derby Road, Heanor.

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



## Beer Festival at Thulston's cask ale pioneer

Local microbrewery supporter, the Harrington Arms at Thulston is to stage a beer festival from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th September. Fifteen beers will be available and the

event will begin on the Friday evening with the pub open all day. There will be a rock band, Some Kinda Mushroom and a string quartet from Loughborough, plus a barbecue.

The pub house beer, Earl of Harrington from the Wicked Hathern Brewery won the Leicester CAMRA Harry Cragg Beer of the Festival award at this years Leicester Beer Festival and also showed at Derby Beer Festival.

Landlord Richard Scarf even has a chalked

message above his bar - 'Say no to creamflow!' - and considering he sells the undesired product, it is a remarkable statement of support for real ale! Our picture shows barmaid Louise alerting customers to a potential bland taste risk!



### The Furnace Inn Duke Street, Derby



**Kimberley Mild, Bitter, Olde Trip, Seasonal guests**

## PUB NEWS

Tom Keaveney is the new landlord at the **Hardinge Arms**, Kings Newton. He has recently been based in Warwickshire near the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh. New menu shortly. All local produce in the restaurant, local beers likely to follow. At Ticknall the **Wheel** is closed. Guest beers are featuring occasionally at the **Crown**, Spondon. Real ale gain is the **Thirsty Scholar** on Friar Gate, Pedigree is now available. Matt and Nina have left the **Nags Head** at Hulland Ward. Nina has returned to working at the **Bridge**, Mansfield Road whilst Matt may take a break from the pub game, this would be a sad loss to the trade as he has consistently run good pubs. Lets hope he resurfaces soon. The **Swan** at Milton stages its annual beer festival 18th-20th August. The **Smiths Tavern**, Ashbourne reopened after a refurb with eight real ales.

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## Burton's unique gem still in safe hands



Next time you are in Burton Upon Trent seek out the Coopers Tavern, well-known amongst beer drinking circles it can be difficult to locate but is well worth the effort.

The main frontage (above) is on Cross Street but on alighting from your ten-minute train journey from Derby, turn right at the station and take a right a little later onto Milton Street where it is signposted up an alleyway. The cor-

ridor (below), which is part of the pub, features sweet peas and a bench made from old stillage, and has old signs from its days as a Kimberley and Tynemill outlet, after years of Bass. Now it is in the very safe hands of Beth Roberts and boasts a great bar area with no serving bar itself, all beer on gravity and an intimate atmosphere where there is no divide from staff to drinker (pictured right).

On the beer front Beth has Bass and Thomas Salts bitter from Tower Brewery, which she says sell about the same each but are always outdone by the trade in guest beers, which include Summer Lightning in Hop Back glasses each weekend plus another often local beer such as Tollgate. Trad cider is always represented with the likes of Bidden-



dens or Westons.

The pub was once the Imperial Stout store of Bass brewery and one local regaled me of a tale that when he lived in Milton Street in his youth the pub toilet down the alley was quicker for him to access than the privy at the bottom of his garden!

Beth, who is helped by her sister Heather, has been at the Coopers since December 2005 and ran a successful beer festival this summer and has increased the food availability without spoiling the traditional feel of a special pub.

Food is served from 12-2 Mon-Sat and 6-8.30 Wed-Fri evenings. The pub sells old books to raise money for St Giles Hospice and Beth has recently started to sell old pumpclips for 50p a time for the same cause. There has been a roaring take-up. A no smoking room also exists and a larger room in between that and the small bar.

In short, a true hidden gem, like so many others not straightforward to find but the reward is in the endeavour.



## Cheese on the bar

You can't beat a chunk of traditional cheese to accompany a pint of cask ale and some local pubs are taking up the cheese habit on a grand scale.

The Flowerpot has had cheese evenings for many years now, a small donation and you feast away. Now the Rowditch has a weekly Monday night cheese event where customers bring in the cheese and the pub supplies crackers, pickle and olives. Guest cheeses have come from Suffolk, Yorkshire, Wales and various other holiday locations as the regulars strive for something new.

This spreads over to the Tuesdays and has been known to occur more often when the Yarg Boys like to take a sizeable lump of the Cornish delight (pictured) into the beer garden.

A Mr Paul Rose threatened to bring a Dairy Lea triangle along but

was rebuffed as a supporter of keg cheese!

The Falstaff also runs cheese evenings, as Jim is keen on a bit of traditional culture and the Admiral Rodney, according to the DJ Mark Radcliffe, has a cheese society down in Hartshorne. Pubs often used to put cheese on the bar early doors and Sunday lunch, it was very popular at the Buck in the Park in the 1990s when Sir Beesting held court there.

Then there is the Holly Bush at Makeney, long-time cheese champions with Red Hot Mex, local cheeses and Stilton with Strawberries.

Anyway the guest cheese market is a newish one to tap into and you can support local makers such as Hartington along side local beers. Are there any other cheese pubs out there?



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## Derby Drinker

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Edited by Pip Southall: 69c Uttoxeter 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, Les Baynton, Andrew Brett, John & Wendy Carrington, Paul Gibson, Martin Roden, Chris & Sue Rogers, Julian Tubbs and Peter Webb.

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## Black Hole Brewery on the horizon

Another local microbrewery is set to commence operations in August or September. Down at the former Ind Coope bottling plant in Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent, Black Hole Brewery is the long-dreamed of project of two Derby brewers Bob Shardlow and Richard Swanwick. Richard has previous brewing experience at both the Brunswick and Funfair.



This is the culmination of a three-year project which has seen the lads, both Smithfield regulars, look at premises in Scotland and Ambergate amongst others.

Three beers are planned: Black Hole Bitter (3.8%), Red Dwarf (4.5) and No Escape (5.2). Our picture shows work in progress in the summer.

All brewing vessels are bespoke new build by Abbots of Newark and Bob says they have had lots of help from SIBA and fellow micros - far from putting off



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## 18th Off the Tracks Festival

1st 2nd 3rd Sept 2006

ECLECTICROOTSGLOBALTRANCEDANCEFUSIONFESTIVALS

A 21st Century Silk Road .....

Invited Artists Include

**Dreadzone**  
**Transglobal Underground**  
**Jah Wobble & the English Collective**

**LA Xixula**

Spanish Gypsy Accordion Rock

**Shekoya**

Ten Piece Klezma

**Roma Rads**

15 piece Romany Traveller Family

**Chi 2**

Chinese Psychedelic fiddle chill out

**The James Warner Prophecies**  
**Cassava ~ Neverland ~ Tiny Tin Lady**  
**Vagabond Boogaloo ~ Dr Matt ~ AJ DJ**  
**Inter Africa** Drumming and Belly Dancing workshops

In The Orchard ... Shiatsu ~ Energy work ~ Aromatherapy

Dusk Meditation Tai Chi & Chi Kung ~ Harmonic Temple Singing

Children's Play Area ... Circus Workshop, Children's Parade, Balloon Modelling,

Singsong and Parachute games, ~ Juggling balls and workshop, General play sessions, Face Painting.

TWO STAGES - 45 REAL ALES - GOOD FOOD - ACOUSTIC SESSIONS - STALLS

EXCELLENT CAMPING FACILITIES & SHOWERS ~ FAMILY FRIENDLY ~ ATMOSPHERIC SURROUNDINGS ~ PLUS MUCH MORE...

Most of us will never do great things, But we can all do small things in a great way !!

**Venue :- Donington Park Farmhouse ... Isley Walton**  
**Nr Castle Donington ... Junction 24 M1**

Advance Weekend Tickets £47.00 includes Camping ~ By post before 21st Aug

12yr to 16 yr Tickets (1/2 price) £23.50 ~ Under 12 Free

From:- Po box 68 Derby DE1 3XY ~ Make CQ. payable to Off the Tracks ~ Inc. a S.A.E.

Admin 01332 384518 ... Mob 07899 826 955

Stalls 01332 833673 ~ Email info@offthetracks.co.uk

**www.offthetracks.co.uk**

Sorry No Dogs Allowed! Except Registered ASSISTANCE dogs

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

## Jazz it up at Mappleton ale and music feast

The beer festival at the Okover Arms in Mappleton near Ashbourne, which takes place at August Bank Holiday (the Monday is the 28th), looks like growing into a large event. Jason Surguy confirmed to DD that there will now be a total of 48 different real ales at the festival. The beers will be largely supplied by local breweries.

Two small marquees are to be erected at the rear of the pub and stillage has been borrowed from David Edwards nearby Peakstones Rock brewery of Cheadle Road, Alton. Their *Chained Oak* 4.2% beer is a popular regular ale in the Okeover and the brewery stage their own festival a week earlier.

There will be a barbecue, hog roast and live jazz all day, the Okeover is becoming an epicentre for jazz in our area. bands fea-

tured include the Mart Rodgers Manchester Trio and the Bill Bailey Allstars. Humphrey Lyttleton is also aware of the event.

On a more regular basis the last Monday of each month sees a Jazz evening at the Okeover and, from September, a monthly folk event on the second Thursday thus.

Festivities extend to craft events such as candlemaking, cartmaking and an owl and falconry display in a family experience (a play area/bouncy castle is provided).

The pub is enjoying some good times and Jason and Selina have taken over the full control of the Okeover from CAMRA pioneer John Bannard, so if you fancy a wide choice of beer, a spot of jazz and the setting alongside the River Dove as it tumbles south from Dovedale Gorge, this could be a bank holiday delight.



## Change of venue and date for RuRAD festival as Stables Bar closes dramatically



As DD went to press some sad, late news was breaking. The *Good Beer Guide* unique drinking experience, Stables Bar at Park Hall, Denby was closed suddenly and unexpectedly in late July. The last night was Sunday 23rd and while Leadmill brewing continues on the site the future of this twice Derby CAMRA pub of the Year is uncertain.

As a result the first RuRAD Beer

and Cider festival, as proclaimed in DD 110, has been switched to the Moss Cottage, Ripley and the dates put back one week to run

from **Thursday 31st August to Monday 4th September.**

The event takes place in the function room, rooms are available for overnight revellers. There will be nine festival special beers from local brewers Alacazar, Danelaw, Derventio, Falstaff, Funfair, Howard Town, Leatherbitches, Thornbridge and Tower plus other beers sourced from far and wide.

## Silver medal honour at GBBF for county micro

Thornbridge Hall brewery near Ashford in the Water were delighted to be voted national runner-up in the Strong Bitters category with their 5.9% brew, Jaipur IPA. Jim Harrison, of the

brewery said he was: "Over the bloody moon!" adding "It is great news for the brewery and particularly our two young brewers, Martin and Stefano."

## Pub to pub walk

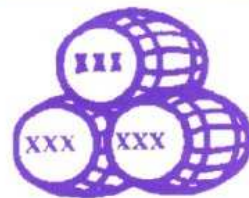
In a recent roadside ramble a group of Rowditch regulars (below at the Bell) took the H1 bus (frequent service) from opposite the Council House to Morley Crossroads near the Rose & Crown. From here a little over a mile can be walked to Woodside where a gem of a pub, the Sitwell Arms (right) is located. Guest beers from the likes of Acorn, Bradfield, Derby and Archers are regularly featured and landlord Gary used to work at the Brunswick.

On leaving the Sitwell walk another mile up the hill to Horsley Woodhouse, turning left at



## Microbrewery Corner

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



### FALSTAFF

The Normanton brewery were represented at the Great British Beer Festival in August. Fistful of Hops made the trip to London. Meanwhile the Rocky Horror range have been widely available throughout the summer at various outlets.

### THORNBRIDGE HALL

Jaipur won 'Beer of The Festival' at The Rail Ale Festival, Barrow Hill. The award went to the first beer to sell out and when 30 minutes after the beginning of the event Jaipur sold out it was duly crowned.

### DERBY BREWING CO

Trevor Harris has a new pale out, see front page advert. Also bottles of *Business As Usual* are now in Asda at Spondon. The beer, which is bottled at Holdens brewery in Woodsetton, has been helped into the store by the SIBA scheme that supports the sourcing of local products.

### DANELAW

*Golden Tears*, from the Chellaston outfit, was on the bar at the Great British Beer Festival at Earls Court in the first week of August.

### FUNFAIR

Good progress is being made at the new site. New beers include *Hall of Mirrors* a 4.2% cloudy wheat beer, *Dive Bomber* a 4.6% straw-coloured ale - sales are very good, and a session beer *Gallopers*. Dave Tizard reports that following the Derby Festival special he has seen an upturn in demand for Funfair beers and JD's in Ilkeston in a fresh outlet for the brewery, initially on at weekends.

### AMBER VALLEY

The areas latest micro is all set to roll into production, with an early outlet for the Hammersmith brewery being the Nags Head at Ripley. Peter Hounsell is the head brewer.

## Derby CAMRA branch boundary changes

There have been some slight redrawing of the local CAMRA branch boundaries. The areas Breaston, Draycott, Dale Abbey, Mapperley and West Hallam have been ceded to Erewash Branch as it was felt on both sides that they could campaign and survey pubs in this area more effectively. There will be no effect on the distribution of *Derby Drinker* to the pubs concerned.

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## Mr Grundy's



## Georgian House Hotel

Eight Real Ales at all times  
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Derby  
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the T-junction to the Old Oak on the right-hand side. Here a vast range of Leadmill beers plus guests are present to savour.

Doubling back from here walk again about a mile up to the main road at Smalley and the Bell Inn awaits you with its well-known delights.

The Bell added Derbyshire Pub of the Year to its list of awards in July and there will be a presentation there at 8pm on Wed 16th August, all are welcome.