



ISSUE NUMBER 112

OCTOBER 2006

FREE

## Greene King to close Hardys & Hansons Kimberley Brewery



CAMRA has condemned the announcement on 5th October by Greene King that Hardys & Hansons brewery (above) in Kimberley will be closed by the end of the year.

Despite thousands of Hardys & Hansons drinkers signing a petition to keep the 174-year-old brewery in Kimberley, Greene King announced today that brewing will cease by Christmas and

be moved to Bury St Edmunds. The Kimberley site will be retained, but as little more than a distribution centre for Greene King in the midlands and the north.

CAMRA members in Nottingham have reacted with anger at the news. Andrew Ludlow, of the *Save Hardys & Hansons Brewery Group* said, "Only weeks after acquiring this remarkable Victorian brewery, Greene King has ignored calls from beer drinkers across the UK to keep brewing in Kimberley. We have not given up and we will continue our campaign until Greene King reverses its decision."

CAMRA is calling on beer lovers and its 84,000 members to support its campaign to keep the brewery open by sending post-cards which

condemn the closure to Greene King, or by signing its petition at [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) <<http://www.camra.org.uk>>

Locally Derby and its surrounding area, particularly the eastern fringes has a clutch of Hardy & Hansons pubs, the majority of which have real ale and the Kimberley brewery has shown great commitment to cask beer for many years. The prospect of beer brewed in Suffolk is not one to relish for publicans and drinkers alike.

Glyn Newbold, landlord of the Duke of Clarence, Chester Green said he was "Saddened by the inevitability of the closure." He had already replaced the seasonal Hardys & Hansons beers (Rocking Rudolph will be the last brewed) with Speckled



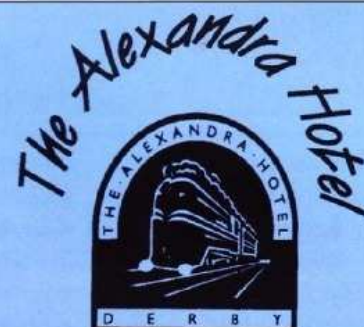
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Hen and Abbot Ale and expressed his hopes that the Kimberley Bitter (his best seller) would be successfully received by the customers when brewed in Bury.

Chances are they will not be and an unrelenting sea of Greene King IPA awaits to engulf the estate.



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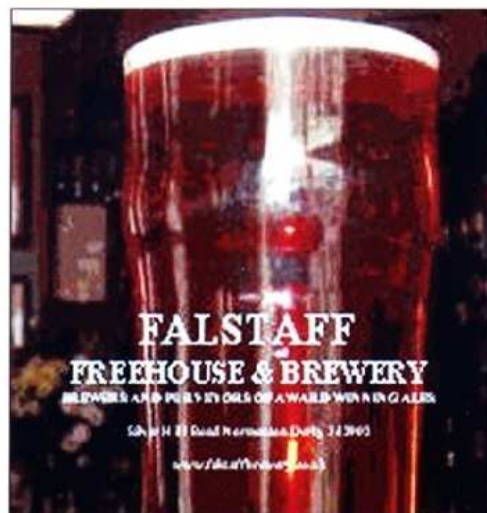
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## Sixth Derby Winter-Fest just around corner

With the nights drawing in, the temperatures dropping and the beers getting darker and stronger it can only mean one thing, that the Derby CAMRA Winter Beer Festival is just around the corner.

Now in its sixth year the Winter-Fest has been re-christened "The Twelfth Night Festival" as it all kicks off on Twelfth Night itself on **Thursday evening 4th January and runs through to Saturday 6th January 2007.**

As usual it will take place in the Darwin Suite of the Assembly Rooms on Derby Market Place and feature an amazing array of over 75 Real Ales, Ciders, Per-



ries and foreign bottled beers to suit all tastes. And of course it wouldn't be a Derby Festival without the fantastic live music to go along with the beer.

So put the date in your diaries now or if your memory's not too good then just remember that it all starts on Twelfth Night !!!

More information will appear on the website [www.derbycamra.org.uk](http://www.derbycamra.org.uk) as the festival approaches or you can e-mail:- [winterpublicity@derbycamra.org.uk](mailto:winterpublicity@derbycamra.org.uk) for further details.

Gareth Stead

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## Getting in the Guide:A Guide

Every year when the new Good Beer Guide comes out many licensees ask the question, "Why aren't we in the guide?" as they believe they are selling good enough beer to get in.

Well, this might be quite true and we would love to put in as many pubs as possible but unfortunately each CAMRA branch is limited to the number of entries it can recommend for the guide.

Derby CAMRA for example was only allowed to select 35 pubs for the guide from an area that stretched from Brackenfield in the North to Ticknall in the South and from Marston Montgomery in the West to Breaston in the East. That's a vast amount of pubs to choose from, so to whittle them down to just 35 is a very tricky job indeed.

This is done is by CAMRA members throughout the area making a series of regular visits to the pubs over the course of a year (April till

March) to check on beer quality. A survey form is completed on each occasion and at the end of the year the marks on these forms are totaled up and compared to all the other pubs visited. The ones with the best average scores overall tend to be the ones that are selected for the next guide. There are certain other rules, which may disqualify some pubs such as misleading dispense, use of cask breathers, recent change of licensee, etc but generally by the end of the selection process the best pubs should could to the fore and be chosen for the guide.

Obviously with a limited number of entries we realise that there are there are many good pubs in Derbyshire which just miss out but that's not to say that next time around if the beer quality is consistently good enough throughout the year then they might make it into the next one.

Gareth Stead

## New Recruits at Derby Beer Festival

A total of 56 new CAMRA members joined the campaign at the 2006 Derby Beer Festival in July. Nationally the membership has seen a 45% increase since 1996.

### 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 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
DD 117	August 2007	25 July 2007

## New Derby CAMRA sales site

We are pleased to announce that we can now offer items for sale that would normally only be available at the Summer and Winter Beer Festivals.

We now have a brand new Derby CAMRA Sales site which can be accessed via a link from the main Derby CAMRA site at [www.derbycamra.org.uk](http://www.derbycamra.org.uk)

If you missed the Festival, you can now purchase T shirts etc directly from the Sales site using either your credit card or your PayPal account.

Alternatively, you could send a cheque made out to Derby Summer Beer Festival. Keep watching the site as there will be more pages added in the near future. Ring Wendy on 07748 193881 for more information.

## Stones bitter relaunched

Having successfully test marketed an up graded version of Stones Bitter (now 4.1% ABV instead of 3.7%) in 12 Sheffield pubs, Coors Brewery have decided to relaunch it on a broader scale from October 9th.

The beer is being contract brewed by Everards. More significantly it indicates a revived level of interest by Coors in Real Ale and comes on top of the recent GBBF award to Worthington White Shield.

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

Postal Subscriptions to *Derby Drinker* are available.  
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The block contains four photographs, each labeled with a letter in a yellow box in the bottom-left corner:

- A**: A photograph of a pub's rear garden. It features a brick building with a chimney, a Union Jack flag flying, and a covered seating area with wooden picnic tables and white plastic chairs on a lawn.
- B**: A photograph of a covered outdoor seating area. It shows a white wall with a sign that reads "DERBY ENGLAND", a black patio heater, and several tables with chairs, some of which are green metal. There are also hanging flower baskets.
- C**: A photograph of a pub's exterior. It shows a white building with a black door and window frames, decorated with several large hanging flower baskets filled with colorful flowers.
- D**: A photograph of a long, narrow outdoor dining area. It features a row of wooden picnic tables on a green lawn, bordered by a brick building with an arched window and a wooden fence with climbing plants.

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# THE ALE BAG



## Ilford cheese

I read with interest your article on Cheese at the Bar in your August issue, as a Camra member, I enjoy a bite of cheese with my ale.

You asked if there were any other pubs out there who regularly serve cheese, well my local the Ilford on Station Road, Ilkeston, serves a great selection of cheeses on a Sunday evening, along with crackers and dependant on season homemade pickled onions, red cabbage etc. Landlords Sharon & Dave know how to keep us all satisfied from good ale to cheese and entertainment. I believe it's well worth a mention to your readers!

**Penny Bowyer**

## Appreciation

I saw your short obituary of Geoff Bull in *DD 111* and you asked for any readers memories of him. Geoff was a native of Derby. He died, aged 67, on 8th July, 2006, from injuries sustained, after being in collision with a bus, whilst crossing Victoria St Derby, some nine days earlier. He had just left me in the Tiger, and was heading for the Half Moon, Littleover.

As a youngster, he was in a Church Choir, but had a row with the vicar, and left - over not turning up for choir practice. He said to me once, "I knew all the hymns anyway!"

He then joined the Sea Cadets - which was to lead to a lifetime interest in the sea. Geoff started work as a Rolls-Royce apprentice, following in his mother & father's footsteps - who

both worked for the Company.

This was followed by a spell in the Merchant Navy, as a Steam Turbine Fitter. When he returned from the sea, he continued fitting, working on Power Stations, for C.A. Parsons, of Newcastle. Until Geoff retired, he worked for local taxi firms; hence he was known as, 'Taxi Geoff'.

He was a popular local character, and well known in Derby Real Ale pubs, over the last 20 years including: the Flower Pot, Dolphin, Tiger Bar, Babington Arms, Smithfield, Brunswick, and Half Moon & White Swan, at Littleover. Geoff had a keen intellect, and was an avid *Daily Telegraph* reader. He was a regular drinking buddy of mine. The Tiger will not be the same without him.

**Ken White**



## Derby Drinker on a high?

Now I know that dedicated *DD* distributors go to great lengths to get *Derby Drinker* to some fairly remote corners, but this one really does take some beating! I was on a climbing holiday in the Bernese Alps in central Switzerland in the beginning of August and staying at the Moncesjochutte as a base for climbing on the higher peaks.

Pinned to the notice board amongst such mundane items like avalanche reports and guiding services, was a copy of the June 2006 *Derby Drinker* (the pre-Beer Festival issue with the delectable beer menu)! Now the Moncesjochutte is at 11,976 ft altitude, just 1500 ft from the summit of the Monch (Monk) and two miles and 1050 ft below the infamous Eiger (Ogre) North face summit, and at the high end of the longest glacier

in Europe! No real ale there, but you could get a passable bottle of the locally-brewed Eichhof Pilsner. I'd love to know who took the trouble to 'post' it. Nice one!

**Geoff Gadsby  
Alvaston**

*Not sure Geoff, perhaps someone will let us know, unless Steve Foster wandered up there on his round, as I know he is one who knows the Tie of the Eiger - Ed*

## Cider with Suzie

We start with a pub crawl taking in four pubs to the north of Derby all, of course, selling real cider. First stop is the Nag's Head in Chapel Street, Ripley, just to the north of the town centre. An impressive range of cider and perry is always available; when I called it

was pleasing to see Barker's Best Cyder and Barker's Popsy-Daisy perry plus Mole's Black Rat cider. Barkers is a very small producer in

Worcestershire, while Black Rat is produced by Thatchers. Add to these six real ales, and the pub is definitely worth a visit.

Heading down the Nottingham Road we join the A610 and are soon at the Moss Cottage Hotel. I must admit that I am prejudiced against any drinking establishment calling itself a hotel; I suspect that its priorities may be in the wrong place. Not so here, Weston's Old Rosie was available and other ciders are likely to appear in the future, plus a choice of three real ales. The hotel recently hosted a beer festival, hopefully more events will be held there.

Two miles to the north, on the main crossroads in Swanwick, we arrive at the Steampacket. A locals pub, with a lively atmosphere, the pub serves Weston's Old Rosie and Addlestones, the latter unfortunately being a keg cider. Tuesday and Thursday are quiz nights while there is a late bar on Friday and Saturday. The pub runs two excellent beer festivals per year, one in April (St. George's Day) and one in October (Trafalgar Day) when two additional ciders are available. This years October festival runs from

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the 19th to 22nd which are also the dates for the Nottingham Festival at the Sneinton Leisure Centre.

Heading east through Somercotes takes us to Selston and the Horse and Jockey, on a junction about one mile north of the village.

We are now in Nottinghamshire, but it is a good pub so why not! The multiple rooms, stone flagged floor and outdoor drinking area make this a very pleasant stop. Again we find Weston's Old Rosie, but it is backed up with a good range of six real ales.

We now switch from cider drinking to cider making. October and November are the main months for this. Your columnist will be making both cider and perry, as far as possible from local fruit. There is a difference between cider made in the traditional producing areas, i.e. the West Country and Herefordshire / Worcestershire / Gloucestershire and that made elsewhere. The traditional areas use apple and pear varieties grown specially for the purpose, Kingston Black probably being the best known of these, whilst other areas generally use local fruit, i.e. cookers and eaters. This latter approach is known as Eastern Counties cider, and provided it is made from a good blend of fruit, perhaps with crab apples included to add tannin, the end product is a more than acceptable cider. Tannin, by the way, gives cider a bite, without it the result is more like alcoholic fruit juice. It takes about 25 lb of fruit to make a gallon of cider, so if you have a source of fruit, please contact us on **01332 880041** or email at [sue.rogers4@tesco.net](mailto:sue.rogers4@tesco.net).

## The Old Silk Mill

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## An Old Friendship Renewed?



Consider! Dear Toper, an old friend who had been suffering some grave malady of late. An old friend become shabby and run down, and of whom some thought the end was nigh! And yet this old friend has confounded the sceptics, due to the careful and determined attentions of his new and youthful guardians Jackie and Rob, he has rallied and is day by day becoming more healthy and vibrant. There is about him a new vigour, a rosy glow blossoms in his cheeks and there's a sparkle in his eyes! And so he rises from his sick bed and once more takes his rightful place in society.

The old friend of whom I speak is the Old Silk Mill and its place in society is that of one of Derby's better ale houses, with a fine and steadily growing variety of well kept ales, the Derby Brewing Company's Triple Hop amongst them. There is also a large selection of food on offer, and the promised forthcoming attraction of live acoustic music, (commenced

30th September) and possibly jazz at a later date. I'll drink to that!

And so it would seem Dear Toper that decent ale, a lick of paint, a new broom sweeping clean, and the staff young and cheerful, have given a

new lease of life to this old and venerable friend, so much so, that even the resident ghost has made a reappearance – or to be more precise, a spectral noise somewhere in the upper storeys of the pub!

There has been a pub on the same site (more or less) since the mid nineteenth century (possibly even earlier). The present structure with its striking Mock Tudor façade, has the look of a village inn about it, especially when viewed through the leafy greenery of Cathedral Green. The pub takes its name from the nearby Silk Mill factory, which in its present form, houses the Industrial Museum, and on the west facing gable end of the pub, is a mural commemorating the Silk Trades Lockout of 1833-34.

All in all, this old friend looks once more, healthy, cheerful and welcoming, and with a good selection of real ales on sale I see no reason why it should not continue to do so.

D.T.

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## The Peregrine: DD sent along local CAMRA member Terry Morton to check out the opening night



This Smith & Jones bar is the latest new build offering from Barracuda Inns, situated in Chaddesden village at the junction of Chaddesden Lane built on the style of a modern town centre pub.

By 8.30pm on Wednesday 13th September the place was packed with excited drinkers and diners eager to try out their new local. Now as if there wasn't enough shrieking and chatter going on, a loud thumping PA system was belting out plenty of

rap and crap, the real ale hand pumps were eventually found at the far end of the bar, beers on offer Green King IPA (nats at the best of times) Pedigree and Directors. A very disappointing choice considering the very many local microbreweries

around. The IPA tasted pretty awful the Pedigree even worse both scored only one point on the CAMRA national beer scoring scheme.

Another thing that hit me was the smoky atmosphere (and this was just inside the dining area), after a half-hour I had had enough. My drinking mate on this occasion said "what a pity this new bar didn't open as Derby's first non smoking pub in light of coming legislation". Anyway the chavs of Chaddo appear to think

it's all wonderful. To be fair this has been my one and only visit - to the real ale drinkers by all means try it at your peril, the good news is (my opinion) this place can only get better.

T.M

*The editor added: It would appear that Terry didn't have a very good evening at the Peregrine but, in the interest of balance, it is a new cask ale pub, named after the nesting birds at Derby Cathedral this summer (the name could have been much worse!) and it is early days. A decade ago we would have been pleased to see a new pub in Chadd selling IPA, Pedi and Directors but Terry does highlight how that aspect has changed and a more adventurous approach to beer range would be an improvement, albeit an unlikely gamble so early in the pubs' existence. Let us see how things develop over the coming months.*

## Derby Drinker

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

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Other contributors and helpers for this issue: Iok Arguile, Charisma Bypass, John & Wendy Carrington, Paul Gibson, Terry Morton, Kate Neale, Chris & Sue Rogers, Gareth Stead, Eric Streets, Julian Tubbs.

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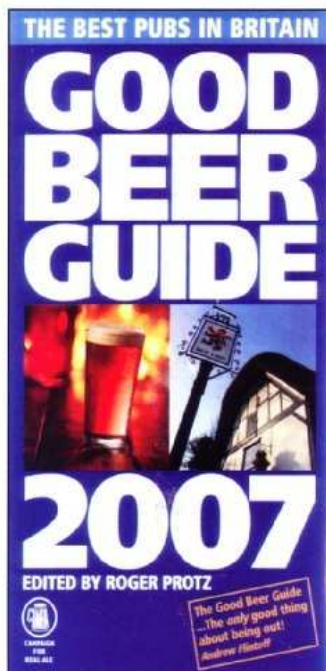
# Good Beer Guide 2007 out now

There was a time when such things as the first football fixtures of a new season or the tour dates of the Ramones were published used to thrill me with anticipation and the desire for planning future enjoyment. Well these have now faded dramatically for myriad reasons but I still have the release of the latest *Good Beer Guide* to cherish as a seminal event on our national drinking calendar to cherish.

This year, once again under the expert editorship of Roger Protz, the *GBG* is the only book you'll ever need when you go in search of good beer in great pubs. Consumer demand for real ale has led to the birth of 84 new breweries in the UK that are listed in the Guide. The boom in new British breweries shows no sign of abating as the 2007 edition lists the total number of small craft or micro breweries in Britain as more than 600.

Roger Protz said: "There has never been greater choice and diversity for real ale. CAMRA is celebrating 35 years of active campaigning to save British beer, pubs and breweries and the surge in new craft breweries underscores everything CAMRA has done to provide better choice for drinkers."

On the local front, Derbyshire



sees a record number of breweries within its borders (more than 20 and rising), few counties now have greater. However, it is as a travelling aid that the guide excels most so get a copy, it is the ideal Xmas present and is available in selected local Real Ale outlets including the Alexandra, Brunswick, Flowerpot, Rowditch, Smithfield, Royal Oak - Ockbrook, Cross Keys, Belper, Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse, Black Horse, Hulland Ward and probably a few others around the area as well. The guide RRP is £14.99, they are a good few quid cheaper in these pubs.

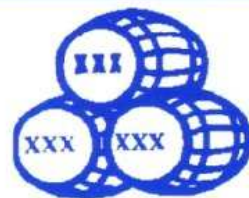
## Derby Drinker world tour hits Germany



The latest outpost of Europe to receive *DD* is Munich where Steve Hill is pictured reading the last issue in the Hofbräuhaus. All right, he took some copies over with him but it sounds good. Steve certainly has a good measure while behind him the ghost of Ian Curtis looks on with disinterest. Sharp-eyed readers may notice he is all set to flaunt any smoking ban in the hostelry.

## Microbrewery Corner

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



### THORNBRIDGE HALL

Thornbridge have their first pub, the Coach & Horses at Dronfield. Jaipur winning a Silver medal in the Strong Bitters class at the GBBF was beyond the brewery's expectations – and as no other IPAs made the final rounds they are claiming it as the finest IPA in Britain! Two weeks later it triumphed again at The Peterborough Beer Festival. From a strong field of 400 beers Jaipur came out on top and was crowned overall winner. Saint Petersburg features in the new *Good Bottled Beer Guide*. A recent addition to Thornbridge products is Jaipur IPA (5.9%) in 330ml bottles. *(The editor is prepared to make one of his rash predictions that a Thornbridge beer will win Champion Beer of Britain before the end of the decade - after all nobody criticises Pele for this kind of thing!)*

### LEATHERBRITCHES

The Brewery remains busy and there has been a big demand for *Raspberry Belter* following its appearance at GBBF. The brewery hopes that cask delivery and collection will be more streamlined at GBBF next year. Special beers have included Lemongrass and Ginger, and the latest monthly special is El Greco which sold rapidly at the Ashbourne Beer Festival (at the Green Man and Blacks Head). The brewery continues to provide bars at outside events.

### DERBY

As a result of increasing sales, an extension to the cold store, which has doubled the available space and will allow room for further expansion in the future, has been completed. Brewing had to be throttled back whilst the work was carried out but it is now back on full steam ahead. *Silver Fox* a new 4.5% brew was brewed using American Chinook hops. Other recent brews

include *Brewer's Gold* (4.4%) and *Open All Hours* is due soon, commemorating the great Ronnie Barker.

### TOLLGATE

Going from strength to strength and has been supplying beer to many local beer festivals over the past few months. Gradually increasing stock of metal casks having bought several dozen from a defunct brewery. Plastic casks will see out their life but metal seems to be the order of the day.

### LEADMILL

Richard Creighton has said, with regret, that the brewery tap, the Stables Bar, is dead in the water as difficulties with the site owner cannot be resolved. Brewing will continue however.

### ASHOVER

Roy Shorrock is the co-founder with Kim Beresford of the new Ashover Brewery. It is about 80% complete in a building adjoining the pub, a new floor has been laid and the equipment has all been acquired. It will be a small 3.5-barrel plant brewing mainly for the pub as well as supplying local Beer Festivals. Both Roy and Kim will be the brewers and they hope to have their first brew out before Christmas. They have also promised to supply some to the Derby Winter-Fest if ready.

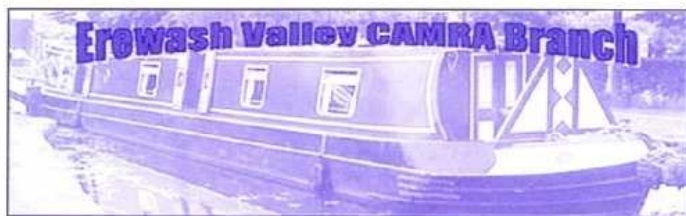
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## Celebrations for a Long Eaton Landlord



A relatively rare event occurs soon in Long Eaton and that's the 20th anniversary of a landlord in his own pub. In these constantly changing times of pub companies, who seem to own more and more of our locals in the Long Eaton area, how refreshing it is to hear of a true free house having a landlord that has been in place for this length of time.

We are, of course, talking about Kev Thompson at The Hole in the Wall (pictured) on Regent Street. Kev will have notched up 20 years on the 21st November 2006, making him the longest serving landlord in Long Eaton.

Undergoing many changes in the public house scene during this time Kev recalls moving in like it was only yesterday, "We had Stones and Bass on handpump back then as the micro revolution had yet to get started, now it's completely different with so much choice out there and being freehold I can go to any brewery I like and order their products."

In fact Kev still has Bass on handpump as his only permanent real ale, the other 3 pumps being taken up by a never ending choice from micro's across the land. Last year was his best

ever with over 300 different beers served catering for all tastes, if you just mention a particular beer you like, Kev will do his best to obtain it for you.

The 'Hole' has been in the *Good Beer Guide* for many years, the first reference I could find was in the 1994 edition, and has also won several pub awards from the local Erewash Valley branch of Camra.

Other changes that Kev has gone through are the relaxation of the licensing laws and the current new smoking rules, some already implemented and the rest due to come into force by 2007. His plans to make available an outside terrace are for his customers who smoke is well underway, but he is concerned, as are many other landlords, that their trade may suffer because of the planned new rulings. "The Health Minister seems to think that the technical issues over the level of fines, required signage and the actual definition of an outside area, can be sorted in a short 2 month consultation period, but the repercussions of getting this wrong could be disastrous for many of our local pubs" he feels. (This is an opinion echoed by many).

To close on a positive note, Kev has planned a 'bit of a do' to celebrate his outstanding anniversary on the night of Saturday 18th November. There will be a good range of micro's available on handpump and maybe even a couple or so from the cellar in a jug - so why not come along and join in the celebration - let's give Kev a night to remember.

Recent negotiations with our neighbours from Derby has seen them cede a number of places that are sandwiched between the 2 branches but have been a little neglected when it comes to campaigning and surveying. Erewash Valley's area will now include Draycott, Breaston, Dale Abbey, West Hallam and Mapperley. We have organised a social with Derby branch for the formal handover which will take place on Thursday 26th October at The Navigation, Breaston. The former canal-side pub is on Risley Lane, just 5 minutes walk from the main road which is well served by the frequent R5 Trent Barton bus service between Long Eaton and Derby. Landlord, Peter

Wadsworth, who will be remembered by Derby drinkers for his stewardship of the Spa, Panther and Mister Jorrock, will be laying on some sandwiches to mark the occasion.

Our 11th annual festival took place at Friesland Sports Centre, Sandiacre on 1st and 2nd September. We brought the date forward from its usual November slot, in the hope the lighter nights and better weather (and not clashing with any other 'big' event) would prove a success but the attendance was not as high as we had hoped.

Everyone worked really hard to try and make a success of this event but with low attendance figures, unfortunately this was not to be.

We would like to welcome Bob Fletcher and his son, Paul to the area, they have recently taken over The Old Ale House in Long Eaton. Bob has been in the trade for 25 years and took over the Ale House at the beginning of August. They have spent the last few weeks sprucing the place up, Bob has said he will stick to national brands until trade revives after years of neglect although Deuchars IPA and Timothy Taylor's Landlord has been mentioned as a possibility.

Food will be available in the future as Paul is a chef, and entertainment will be on at weekends as his daughter Kirsty is a member of Pesky Alligators.

Pop at The Stanhope in Stanton by Dale has been trying out a couple of guest beers to see how they sell, Bombardier is going well and Deuchars IPA is also available.

On a happy note, it is with great pleasure that I would like to announce the arrival of the newest and youngest member to our branch **CONGRATULATIONS** to Leon and Tamla on the birth of baby Abby on Saturday 1st September. With all best wishes from everyone.

**Barry Hewson and John Parkes**

### Diary Dates

**Branch Meetings** Wed 4th October - The New Inn, HEANOR Wed 1st November - The Hole in the Wall, LONG EATON

Wed 6th December - The Needlemakers, ILKESTON

**Socials** Thurs 5th October - Mini-bus to Thornbridge Hall Brewery, ASHFORD IN THE WATER. Pick up in Long Eaton at 6:00pm

Thurs 26th October - Joint social with Derby branch at The Navigation, BREASTON from 8:00pm

Sat 18th November - Social at The Hole in the Wall, LONG EATON.

Further details on any meeting or social is available by calling John on 07962 318605

## PUB NEWS

The **Boat Inn** at Scarthin, Cromford is in good hands even though it has a new licensee. Kevin and Debbie White have left and Colin Wilson of the **Foresters** at Scropton is now running both pubs with the guest ale policy continuing at the Boat. The **Victoria Inn** on Midland Place has changed hands. Micky Sheehan has been succeeded by the Anderson family, Ross, Cameron and Fraser. Bottle Brook brewery beers have been spotted at the **Thorn Tree** at Waingroves. Changes at the **White Hart** at Aston-on-Trent where Aidy from the adjacent Malt Shovel has taken the lease. The **Yew Tree** at South Wingfield has been acquired by the owners of the **Kestrel**, Marehay. The **Greyhound Inn**, Belper, the **Old Bowling Green**, Winster and the **Boat House Hotel**, Matlock have all attained Cask Marque status.

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## Real Ale, Wild West and local industry celebrated at Wilmorton pub

Some real ale choice has arrived at Wilmorton. Alan Dickson has been at the Navigation on London Road for over two years now, first as manager but now he has the lease.



Three cask beers are on offer. Landlord, Deuchars, Hobgoblin and Broadside are the regulars with Summer Lightning and Black Sheep now and again.

Alan hails from Birkenhead but his heart is in the American West as you will see from his collection, some of which is displayed in the large lounge, including a buffalo head and pictures of Sitting Bull and Co Ceese! Tombstone of 1881 is another passion and out at the rear is the O.K. Corral - a stables, dating from 1769 when the pub was closer still to

the Derby Canal. This houses ducks, chickens, ponies and goats and adjoins an extensive garden containing huge sycamore and oaks. November 3rd sees the annual bonfire night.

The former bar at the back has now been refurbished as a dining room (pictured) - the Merlin Room after the locally-made Rolls-Royce engine. Aircraft paintings and Dam-busters memorabilia accompany the theme.

## More gongs at the Bell



Julian Tubbs of Derby CAMRA presents Angela Bonsall of the Bell, Smalley with the Derbyshire Pub of the Year certificate, the pubs' latest award.

## Rowditch celebration weekend

Jan and Steve Birkin celebrate nine years in the Ditch on the weekend of 27th-30th October! To mark the anniversary Tony B will be entertaining on the Saturday (28th) while on Monday 30th the pub holds a Cheese "Special" Night when a whole Cornish Yarg is rumoured to be on show. All are welcome.

## The Steampacket



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## Derby CAMRA Branch trips

Derby CAMRA has a relatively new Social Secretary in Dickie Mint. He has arranged a few outings for the Autumn on which copious amounts of ale will be consumed and some fantastic pubs visited up and down the country. You need not be a member of CAMRA to come along on one of our trips, all are welcome to attend, a good laugh is guaranteed. Details of the forthcoming social trips are as follows:-

Saturday 28th October - Salopian Brewery & Shrewsbury pubs - 9.30am bus.

Saturday 11th November - Brandy Wharf in Lincolnshire & Hull pubs - 10.30am bus.

Friday 24th November - Tollgate Brewery, Woodville - 7.30pm. £5 per head for food and beer.

For more information on each trip or to book places on the bus contact the Derby CAMRA Social Secretary, Dickie Mint on 01283 814730 or 07974 708132 or e-mail [dickiemint@lineone.net](mailto:dickiemint@lineone.net)

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## Local pub beer festivals

**Steampacket, Swanwick 19th-22nd October** 20 plus beers, six ciders/perries, Sat Top Gear folk duo.

**Babington Arms, Derby 20th-31st October** All beers £1.59 a pint 40 plus beers.

**Holly Bush, Makeney Thurs 26th - Sat 28th October** 16 real ales, two ciders, entertainment Kick and Rush (Fri) Boothill Toetappers (Sat).

**Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse Thurs 14th-Sat 16th December**

## Cider Award

As DD went to press it emerged that he Old Poets Corner at Ashover has been named CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year. Well done to Kim and the team on this national recognition.



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