



ISSUE NUMBER 119

DECEMBER 2007/JANUARY 2008

FREE

Derby's Delight on Twelfth Night

Just as the turkey and trimmings fade and the tinsel and trees are about to come down on Twelfth Night so the Derby CAMRA Twelfth Night Winter Beer Festival bursts into life to brighten up your winter with its biggest and best line-up of beers and bands.....Ever !!

Back for a seventh great year, CAMRA's first major Beer Festival of 2008 will run from Thursday evening 3rd January until Saturday 5th January again in the Darwin Suite of the Assembly Rooms on Derby Market Place.

It will showcase over 90 beers from all over the country and abroad. These will include every style imaginable from Bitter & Lager to

Mild, Porter & Stout to Cider & Perry to Continental Bottled Beers. We have also commissioned a unique Festival Ale; 'Malvolio' to commemorate the spirit of Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' brewed specially for the occasion by the Brunswick Brewing Company.

And as usual we will have an exceptional line-up of entertainment that should appeal to all tastes and age groups including the return of Alan Woolley with his new band, the Dirty Rotten Scoundrels and three top

tribute bands, Buck Rogers (Feeder), Stereotronics and the UK Foo Fighters.

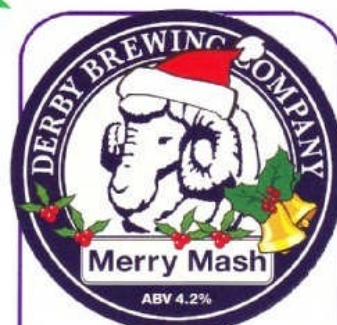
The whole thing will get under way at 6pm on the Thursday evening and run right through to 11pm on the Saturday night. But remember to come early, as it does get extremely busy in the evenings. Or you could avoid all that queuing by getting your ticket in advance for Friday/Saturday evening from the Flowerpot pub in Derby or the Derby CAMRA website.

All in all then it promises to be a great Festival with something for everyone. So why not blow away those post festive/back to

work blues at one of the highlights of the year in the Derby social calendar. You won't be disappointed.

Further details of the Festival can be found on the inside pages or check out the website www.derbycamra.org.uk or e-mail: winterbeerfest@derbycamra.org.uk

More info inside



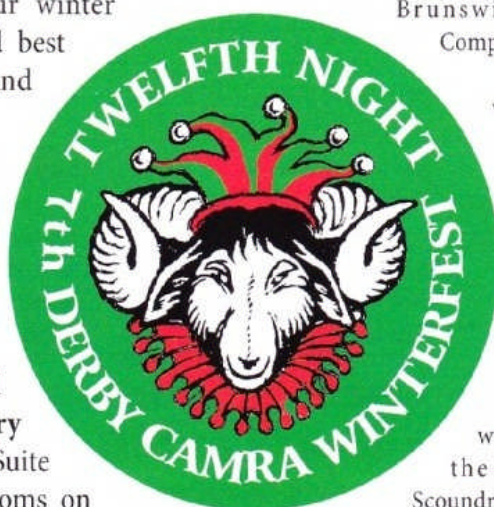
PRIDE OF DERBY

Beer of the Moment

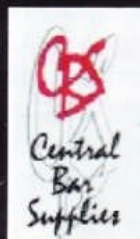
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Microbrewery Corner

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



AMBER ALES

Fresh on the heels of their SIBA Midlands competition successes (see below), Amber have just taken on new premises to accommodate brewery expansion at Asher Lane Business Park, Hammersmith. They will be selling from the brewery door, off sales as from in time for Christmas. Beer will be available in bottle or polypin (free local delivery) or bring your own container.

Three new beers are the Colonial IPA (5.1%) based on the Derby Charter Ale but not quite so strong, Barnes Wallis Bitter 4.1% in honour of the anniversary of one of Ripley's finest and the welcome return of the popular Winter Ruby 5.1%. See www.amberales.co.uk They are planning a special range of bottled beers for the New Year, including a Saison and a Belgian style Dubbel. Regular outlets: Nags Head, Ripley;

Hope & Anchor, Wirksworth, The Gate, Lower Hartsay; The Hay, Shirland; Flowerpot and Rowditch, Derby.

BOTTLE BROOK

Zeus at 4% was produced for the Smithfield beer festival in September. A stronger version of this beer has now been brewed and is on sale at the Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse at a strength of 4.9%



BURTON BRIDGE

The latest Gold Medal Ale is Barrier Boy, a 4.5% pale, commemorating comedian Tony Hancock.

DERBY

There is never a dull moment at the Trevor Harris brewing stable. Four seasonal beers are available, two are old favourites - White Christmas, a 5.5% pale and Christmas Porter at 5%. This year they are joined by Merry Mash, a 4.2% traditional beer coloured ale and Great Expectations, another pale, this time 4%. Trevor is getting into the spirit with appropriate pumpclips!

DERVENTIO

In September the Trusley brewers obtained a Premises License. They can now sell their beer directly to the

public from the brewery and also offer Brewery Tours (maximum 40 people). Derventio beers are now available in bottles. A new draught ale is Winter Solstice, a 5% brew. In the new year they intend to brew a new beer each month besides their current range

HEADLESS

First Bloom has now been joined on the bar by King Street Ale (KSA) 3.8% ABV a pleasant golden quaffing ale made from Lager Malt and Cascade hops. The name refers to the street the pub stands on and the KSA abbreviation to the owner, John Evans time spent in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

A Christmas beer has also been brewed and is maturing nicely in time for its December launch. Ebenezer 5.5% ABV is a golden coloured beer made with maris otter and will have the kick of a typical Christmas beer.

A one off beer FAB (Fat Al's Bitter) has also been on sale at the pub, which was down to a brew of First Bloom not turning out quite as

it should be.

The Brewery also recently undertook its first official tour when members of CAMRA's National Executive Committee and Regional Directors were shown around. Further tours should be available in the New Year by prior arrangement.

JOHN THOMPSON

The JT Porter has appeared on the bar at the inn for its welcome seasonal return.

LEADMILL

In October Down Under 4% was at the Nottingham Beer Festival and Winter Hop 4.2% was at the Duffield Squash & Tennis Club Beer Festival. November saw the introduction of a 3.9% session beer, Pacific Gem and also a strong stout for Christmas, Russian Imperial Stout at 8.0%.

LEATHERBRITCHES

The brewery is still in process of relocation to Ashbourne. At present brewing is taking place at Normanton's Falstaff Brewery, not Parish as stated in DD 118.

Local micros wave of success at SIBA Midlands Beer Competition

The Midlands Beer of the Year Awards were made at the SIBA competition held during Nottingham Beer Festival.

They produced a series of excellent results for the microbrewers based within or bordering the Derby Drinker area.

The Overall Champion Beer went to Whim Hartington Bitter. Congratulations to Jo, Ruth and all the team. This was also the winner of the Best Bitters section and its runner-up was Derby's Hop Till You Drop.

A greater success for Derby Brewery came as Double Mash took the Gold Medal in the Specially Class. A famous away win in Nottingham for Derby!

In the Premium Bitter section Thornbridge Kipling took Bronze

whilst Whim also swept the field in the Strong Bitter category with a gold for Flower Power. Amber Ales took the Silver with Imperial Pale Ale.

The Best Stout or Porter award went to Pete Hounsell's Amber Ales with Original Black Stout with a Silver for Bob and Richard at Black Hole Brewery for

No Escape (pumpclip left), considerable achievements both when observing that the bronze was awarded to the formidable St Petersburg Imperial Russian Stout from the Thornbridge stable!

Finally the category for best bottled ale and a Gold Medal for Burton Bridge EPA, and Bronze to Tollgate Light from Woodville.



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Pub Post Offices under threat

Two enterprising pubs which housed local post offices are to have their local community contributions earmarked for closure in the latest round of post office culling.

Both the Royal Mail outposts at the Barley Mow at Kirk Ireton and the Windmill Inn at Heage have been deemed unviable thus threatening yet another quirky and charming, yet locally vital national institution in the name of rationalisation.

Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year
2003

The Smithfield Meadow Road

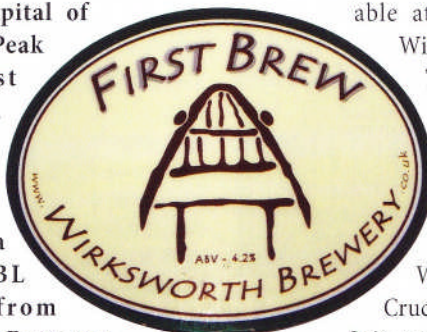
On the banks of the Derwent
Quarter mile from Railway
Station
Quarter mile from Market Place

Wirksworth Brewery launched

Wirksworth Brewery joined the ever-burgeoning list of newcomers to the fray of brewing in Derbyshire in October. Based on John Street in the old lead mining capital of the Low Peak they first brewed on 17th October using a two and a half BBL plant from Porter's Brewery Installations.

Just across the road at the Hope & Anchor, Market Place, Wirksworth launched the beer officially on 17th November - First Brew, a 4.2% ABV very quaffable bitter, from the Hope &

Anchor. The brewer is local man Jeff Green. There are no more brews planned at present, Jeff wants to establish the initial brew more firmly first. It will be available at the Derby Winter festival.



The brewery logo by Drilldown Design, represents the Wirksworth Cruck.

It is a one man band operation and he has been very, very surprised at the interest shown. As no more beers are in plan immediately, he just wants the locals to appreciate what a good beer it is and have beer "what it should taste like".

Crompton refurbishment

One of the long-standing city real ale pubs had a refurbishment recently. The Crompton Tavern now has an area of plush seating with low tables to the right on entering the inn. Typically for this genuine independent free house, all the painting and decorating was done by customers whilst the pub remained open.

Despite missing the cut for the 2008 GBG, the Crompton continues to have its usual range of guest beers from micros such as Durham, Kelham Island, Daleside, Derby and scores more. Certainly it should remain on any itinerary for discerning ale drinkers both resident and visitor alike.

Perry is proud that he is one of few (if not the only) city pubs

that serves no keg beers at all, but says the smoking ban has definitely affected trade, especially on wet evenings, so give a smoke-free Crompton some support.

PUB NIPS

The **Thorn Tree** at Waingroves reopened after a period being boarded up. The adjacent **Jolly Colliers** however is now similarly stricken. The **Steampacket** at Swanwick has lost its next tenant, that's two since Steve Marshall left, which all goes to show that a good pub needs a good licensee who can negotiate with the pubcos. As for Mr Marshall, he has turned up at the **Nags Head**, Ripley and is running the pub as Nigel Eadie takes a continuing back seat. It is in good hands. The new Westfield Centre in Derby does not provide a pub by way of refreshment but one can visit the new, larger **Red Zebra** bottled beer shop. Licensee Paul Burlinson has left the **Old Gate** at Brassington after 19 years. The **Miners Arms** in the same village is also up for lease. The **Nags Head** in Hulland Ward had new tenants in October. The **Liversage** in Derby has reopened with the additional signage **A.J's Bar**.

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HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU KID



Consider! Dear Toper, the arrival of Christmas Eve, whereupon you decide to descend upon the 'City Centre' in search of good company and good ale. Being a conscientious, law abiding toper, you leave the car at home and trudge to the bus stop, humming to yourself some festive ditty, such as 'Winter Wonderland' despite the miserable grey drizzle that renders the early evening twilight gloomier than a temperance meeting. Your bus eventually arrives at the stop. It is late, but at least it has arrived for a change! You now board the litter bestrewn wreck only to discover that the fares have risen yet again, and after vainly ransacking your pockets for the extra coinage, you proffer a ten pound note to the disgruntled driver who counts your change with ill disguised chagrin, whilst the ubiquitous CCTV camera looks on. Only one seat is vacant and after occupying it you soon realise why, for you are now sitting uncomfortably (why are the seats so small?) beside a vicious looking youth with only a limited knowledge of personal hygiene and an all too obvious taste for self inflicted mis-spelt tattoos, who grunts and writhes in time to the hideous din that you can hear escaping from his overloud headset.

As the creaking relic that has somehow managed to evade the clutches of a transport museum, bounces along the glistening strand of pothole riddled road, you gaze past your new found seat-mate and out of the window alongside him, whereupon you briefly catch sight of another bus travelling in the opposite direction; a bus full of shopaholic bimbos on their way home, laden with as much mass produced, soon to be forgotten, gimcrack trash from China as they can carry; both themselves and their credit cards exhausted (They will be at it again on Boxing Day!).

You now realise from his aggressive leer, that the avid A.S.B.O. collector next to you, is under the mistaken impression that you are looking at him, so you quickly avert your gaze from the window and instead fix it upon the CCTV camera affixed to the grimy ceiling of the bus, in the hope that its presence might dissuade your chemically crazed seat-mate from violence.

Presently comes the welcome termination of your bus ride, and having alighted from the mobile scrapheap into the busy city centre, a quick glance heavenwards reveals yet another CCTV camera, supposedly there (amongst other things) to combat anti social behaviour, such as drunken yobs, aggressive beggars and a whole host of other undesirables; however as you are forced to thread your way through veritable armies of the aforementioned drunken yobs, aggressive beggars, etc. (whose numbers seem to increase dramatically with every CCTV camera erected) thronging the city's pavements, you begin to wonder if the cameras are there for some other more sinister purpose. You are still pondering upon this, when you

she sneak inside the pub and surreptitiously light up! Is Big Brother watching? (Or possibly Big Sister in these woefully P.C. times?) You are becoming a little paranoid Dear Toper, as you progress from one pub to another – and then another, and who can blame you, as you are seemingly observed by CCTV every step and pint of the way?

And so goes the evening until you arrive at a pub, the door of which has been prematurely locked and barred. From within comes the sound of merriment, but a note pinned to the door informs, 'CHRISTMAS PARTY, TICKET HOLDERS ONLY AFTER 10 O' CLOCK'. You decide to try and sneak in around the back, but unfortunately, whilst attempting to circumnavigate the Soweto style shanty town tacked onto the rear of the pub to accommodate the shivering smokers (it's for their health)

you are confronted by a burly doorman, who asks to see your non existent ticket. Like a certain young couple of note, many years before, you are told that there is, "No room at the inn", or words to that effect, better not repeated here. Several other establishments are tried with similar results and so begrudgingly you decide to return home early, but on arrival at your bus stop you are in for an unwelcome surprise.

"Buses stopped running" early 'cos it's Christmas", informs a gruff voice and you recognise your former seat-mate lurking menacingly beneath the otherwise deserted shelter.

"So why are you waiting here?" you naively ask.

"To part prats like you from your wallets!" he snarls.

You briefly entertain thoughts of tackling the would be mugger, but upon seeing the CCTV camera overhead, you reason that its footage might well be used in evidence against you, should he (urged on by his social worker, probation officer etc.) decide to press

enter your first watering hole of the evening, whereat, a glance aloft shows you another CCTV camera peeping down from a corner of the nicotine stained ceiling; at which you recall the picket line of displaced smokers that you had to elbow your way through upon the pub's threshold, and that sets you wondering if the camera is there to catch one of their number, should he or

charges against you for assault! After all, he is merely a, "Poor victim of an unjust society", and you are, "A nasty, hard working, tax paying swine!"

In the nick of time a cab hoves into view; you frantically flag it down and gratefully leap inside, leaving the 'Robber King' to vent his frustration by spraying graffiti upon the metal post bearing the CCTV camera. (It can't even protect itself!)

Eventually the cabbie pulls up outside your home, whereupon you realise that the fare is considerably more than is usual – because it's Christmas! Nonetheless, despite a feeling that you have ended up being mugged anyway, you pay up quietly, without argument, for the cab's CCTV camera is watching you! "Merry Christmas!" the beaming cabbie wishes you as you alight only to step in a pile of dog dirt. "Merry Christmas", you sullenly reply, whilst inwardly resolving to spend next Christmas Eve at home; which is a tragedy, because there are some hard working publicans out there, who, having been clobbered by the smoking ban, Rackman style rents and rates, need all the help they can get, such as decent public transport when their customers need it, and safe streets for them to walk upon. I wonder just how many of our favourite inns and taverns will still be trading this time next year? Consider that! Dear Toper. And as for those CCTV cameras – well I don't suppose it will be long before every home has one; just to make sure you don't smoke and drink there! Think that is far fetched? Well, ten years ago few people would have dreamt that smoking would have been banned in pubs. (You can smoke in prison by the way, so if justice ever catches up with the 'Robber King' he'll be okay). Consider that also Dear Toper. Oh, by the way, Merry Christmas!

D.T.

Dear Toper...
All beer, no froth



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Cider with Suzie

CAMRA's National cider and perry trip takes place each October, and this year we visited Devon. First stop, about 10 miles west of Exeter in gorgeous, unspoilt countryside was Brimblecombe's

Farmhouse Ciders, at Farrant's farm, near Dunsford. Cider is made in a barn dating from the 14th century, and the huge, twin screw press which dominates the interior of the barn is over 400 years old.

The cider is pressed through straw, an ancient method about which I have heard much but had never seen in action. This was soon to be put right, as pressing was about to begin. A pile of barley straw and apple pulp was taking shape in a square tray under the press, and as I watched scoops of apple pulp and sheaves of straw were added until the resultant pile was about 5 feet high, and at least that wide and deep. The screw plate was wound down and soon a stream of pretty cloudy juice was passing through a hole in the wall into the back room and straight into oak vats. Pressing here is a leisurely process, as soon as resistance builds up the apple / straw stack was allowed to settle, the long poles attached to the screws allowed another turn of the press. Those who wanted to had a

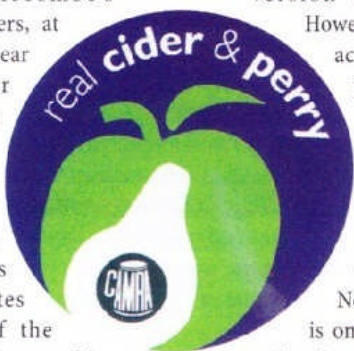
go, and hard work it was too. Throughout the visit we sampled the end product, it was a bit farmy in taste, the so called sweet version tasting pretty dry, while the dry version was bone dry.

However, it made a fine accompaniment to pressing at a cider farm where time has stood still for centuries.

Next up was a lunch stop at Ye Olde Cider Bar in Newton Abbot. This is one of a handful of

cider bars in the country where no beer is served, although they do have a wide range of country wines. The Wiscombe Suicider went down very well with a locally made pasty, all in all it is a bar well worth searching out. The final stop was at Green Valley Cyder, at Clyst St. George, just outside Exeter. At first sight it looks very unpromising, more like a retail outfit than a cider maker, but round the back we found a substantial cider making operation in full swing, all be it using rather more modern equipment than Brimblecombe! We were treated to sandwiches and a range of Green Valley ciders, including Rum Tiddlytum, a cider fermented in rum casks, and very rummy it was too. Back in Exeter there was a final treat for those with sufficient stamina. The Imperial, a very impressive Wetherspoons pub, was holding a cider festival with over 50 ciders and perries on sale, better than the cider bar at some beer festivals. The Old Monty from Montgomeryshire was especially memorable.

It's a fair way to Exeter, but you don't have to travel that far to sample some excellent ciders and perries. The Derby Twelfth Night Festival will be held in The Assembly Rooms from the 3rd to 5th January 2008. The cider bar will be in the foyer at the top of the stairs, so why not start the New Year as you mean to go on and sup a few choice drinks there. As well as some local cider plus ciders and perries from Herefordshire and Somerset, we hope to have the three Devon ciders mentioned earlier, namely Brimblecombe Sweet?, Wiscombe Suicider and Green Valley Run Tiddlytum.



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GBG 2007 and 2008



LocAle Launch

Erewash CAMRA is launching LocAle at the Observatory (pictured) on Ilkeston's Lower Market Place at 830pm, Tuesday, 11th December. LocAle, backed by Transport 2000, the national environmental transport campaign, promotes pubs that permanently stock well kept real ale that is brewed within 20 road miles of the participating pub.

It seemed appropriate that the Observatory should initiate LocAle because the Wetherspoons house always serves Funfair beer brewed in the town. The pub is in the first tranche of eleven eligible Erewash pubs in the innovative LocAle scheme that seeks to support the local economy, whilst simultaneously reducing food miles and our carbon footprint. The Observatory has at least one Funfair beer in its range of cask ales, and their tasty brews have proved very popular with customers.

The burgeoning craft brewing industry, which has blossomed in recent years, has spawned 21 breweries within 20 miles of eligible Erewash pubs. The accredited outlets will receive full details of all of these breweries, together with dedicated point of sale material. The move towards locally sourced produce, with its attendant benefits to the local economy and environment, is rapidly gathering momentum. Indeed, last

month's Cross Keys, Belper Beer Festival exclusively featured a roster of Derbyshire brewed ales, including no fewer than five from the Funfair stable.

Other participating outlets for LocAle: Barge Inn, Tamworth Road, Long Eaton, Conservative Club, Church Street, Heanor, Dewdrop, Station Street, Ilkeston, Hole in the Wall, Regent Street, Long Eaton, Inn the Middle, Station Road, Langley Mill, Poacher, South Street, Ilkeston, Railway Tavern, Station Road, Langley Mill, Red Lion, Red Lion Square, Heanor, Spanish Bar, South Street, Ilkeston, Twichell Inn, Howitt Street, Long Eaton. **Paul Gibson**

EVENTS

Tuesday, 11th December LocAle launch
Saturday, 15th December Lincoln by rail. Meet 10am at Nottingham station for group save tickets and 1030 train.

830pm, Wednesday 9th January branch meeting, Railway Tavern, Langley Mill.

2pm, Saturday, 19th January Long Eaton walkabout, starting at the Royal Oak, Tamworth Road.

830pm, Wednesday, 6th February branch meeting and Good Beer Guide selection, Dewdrop, Station Street, Ilkeston.

830pm, Wednesday, 20th February AGM at the Spanish Bar, South Street, Ilkeston—come along and elect a new committee.

Contact Maria Gibson 01773 533637 or visit erewash-camra.org

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Derby Drinker



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Twelfth Night Entertainment In Your Honour

Echoes, Silence, Patience, Grace, it's time to Pull the Pin on the 'Festival that Rocks' which will explode back into your lives in the New Year with a line-up of entertainment guaranteed to blow you all away.

From the Festival that brought you Coldplay, Darkness, Oasis,

pecting public. It all promises to be a great lively night and Alan will also be providing an acoustic warm up set with one or two friends to get the evening started.

Then Friday night we take Comfort in Sound as the Word Gets Around of a Welsh double header from **STEREOTONICS** and **BUCK ROGERS** performing

tributes to two bands that have been at the top of their game for many years now with countless hit records between them. With 7 albums (Five No 1's) and 21 top twenty singles,

Stereophonics have proved what a great band they really are and who can forget the opening bars of their smash No.1 hit single, Dakota. Likewise, Feeder have had 7 hit albums and 11 top twenty singles and their Singles album is one of the best around and a must for any collection featuring the bands anthemic Buck Rogers track which also inspired the tribute groups name. Both bands are renowned for their magnificent live shows and Stereophonics recent Arena tour showcased live music at its very best. So for a Friday night to truly remember with not one but two top tribute acts, get yourselves down to the Darwin Suite and join the Last of the Big Time Drinkers for a great night out.

Finally, Saturday night will witness perhaps the most eagerly anticipated performance of the whole Festival when the **UK FOO FIGHTERS** take to the stage performing a best of set from a group that are probably the biggest Rock band in the world at the moment. Fronted by the legendary Nirvana band member, Dave Grohl the 'Foos' have grown from humble beginnings to be one of the best live acts around, headlining major Festivals and sell-out Arena tours. If you caught them on their latest UK

tour you will know what a fantastic live experience it was, with 2 stages at the front and back of each Arena allowing everyone present to experience the 'Foos' up close and personal. And if you were one of the lucky ones to catch them at the Millennium Dome (O2) you will have even seen them joined on stage by Brian May and Roger Taylor from Queen. So what better time to have one of their tribute bands on than this and the first chance to see one perform in Derby, definitely a night not to be missed.

Also by popular demand, **VERBAL WARNING** will return to provide a warm-up slot for the 'Foos' with their own unique brand of Old Skool Punk which

went down so well at last year's Fest.

So there you have it My Friends, another cracking line-up of entertainment and one that's sure to get The Best of You rocking Everlong into the night. So don't forget your Handbags and Gladrags, as you're sure to Have a Nice Day at the 'Festival that Rocks'.

For further information and updates on the Festival entertainment check out the Website www.derbycamra.org.uk or e-mail us at winterentertainment@derbycamra.org.uk



Red Hot Chili Peppers, REM, and U2 tributes in the past sees perhaps its best ever headlining acts with tributes to three of the biggest bands in the world, **FOO FIGHTERS**, **STEREOPHONICS** and **FEEDER**. In Times Like These the Derby CAMRA Twelfth Night Winter Fest certainly delivers.

It all begins on the Thursday night with the return of a Beer Festival favourite, Alan Woolley with his new band, the **DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS** playing a selection of rock, blues and indie covers. Alan is perhaps best known for being the front man of the Rattlers who performed at the Beer Festival many times and he is joined in the new band by ex-Rattlers, John Adams and Paul



Grainger with Giles 'the Duke' Henshaw on drums. They have been practising long and hard for many months in an Ilkeston warehouse and are now ready to launch themselves on an unex-



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Derventio Brewery



Bottled Beers:

Venus 5% ABV
Caesar 6% ABV
Winter Solstice 5% ABV.

3 Bottle Presentation Packs - £6.00
(one of each beer)
Mixed Cases of 12 Bottles - £20.00
(4 of each beer)

Beer in a Box:

Emperor's Whim 4.2% ABV
Et tu Brutus? 4.5% ABV
Venus 5% ABV

10 Litres (18 pints) - £28.00
20 Litres (35 pints) - £50.00



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Malvolio: A festival special brew

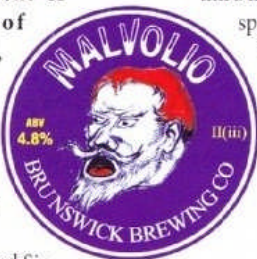
To mark the WinterFest the Brunswick Brewing Company have produced a Festival special, Malvolio, based on one of the characters of Shakespeare's, Twelfth Night play.

Malvolio was the steward, or head servant, of the house of Lady Olivia, Sir Toby's niece.

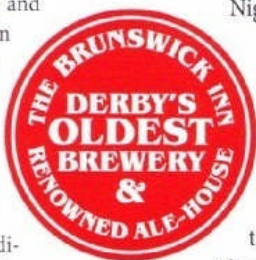
It was he who berated Sir Toby and his pot companions for 'gribbling like tinkers' in the early hours of the morning and turning the place into an ale-house, to which Sir Toby replied 'Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?' Whereupon he immediately called for another flagon, giving Malvolio what we would now

call a Churchillian salute.

Malvolio will be a 4.8% dark brown bitter style beer and be the third in a series of Twelfth Night specials following on from Feste and Uncle Toby in previous years.



Brunswick sponsor festival t-shirts & glasses



The Derby CAMRA Twelfth Night Winter Beer Festival is kindly sponsored by the Brunswick Inn & Brewery who will have their fabulous logo displayed on the souvenir Festival Glasses and T-shirts.

Come and help at the Derby CAMRA Winter Beer Festival

Without the support of our volunteers the Derby CAMRA Winter Beer Festival simply would not happen. Everyone organising and working at the festival is giving their time free of charge.

With the usual excellent mix of live bands the 2008 festival aims to be the best yet allowing an even greater number of visitors to a large range of Real Ales. Real Ale supporters are invited to volunteer for our varied shifts that run from the 3rd to the 5th Jan.

You could support us in setting up the bars, serving the beer,

sales and membership, helping with staff or finance support, the cellar team, or issuing glasses, general handyman tasks, putting up posters and many more essential tasks.

Volunteers are promised good fun, help towards meals or refreshments whilst working, a chance to meet new friends, and the satisfaction of supporting the future of Real Ales in the region.

Contact the Staffing Line now on 01332 898178 or email fest-staffing@derbycamra.org.uk to join in!

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Cheque Payable to Derby CAMRA for £3 for 5 issues.
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Festival Beers - A rich variety

Around 90 beers will feature at the Derby WinterFest. In addition to beers mentioned elsewhere a few notable highlights include Brewdog, of Fraserborough, Aberdeen with three beers over 8%, a REAL IPA and a stout from a whisky cask, Brunswick, the festival sponsor has winter favourite Rambo (7.3%) making a return.

There will be beer from Church End, Falstaff, Grainstore, and Hambleton. Then there are Leatherbritches busy relocating to Ashbourne and expanding while they're at it, we hope to have beer from the last batch and first batch from the breweries!

Beer is coming in from such diverse locations as Marble, Manchester and, locally, small brewers Nutbrook of West Hallam. Tigertops, of Wakefield have lots of continental style beers, a German style wheat and Belgian style wheat and a strongly smoked Bavarian style beer.

White Shield of Burton has Calcutta a 7.5% India Pale Ale which is going to India the traditional route to be compared with an air-freighted one.

We could go on but needless to say there are enough styles of beer on offer to cater for every taste. Enjoy your Twelfth Night Festival.

ODDS & ENDS

The **Thorn Tree** on Chesterfield Road, Belper has a fairly new, and keen, landlord in Mick Povey and now has six cask ales on handpump from Greene King stable and further afield. Cottage Brewery and Wessex brews have been spotted.....Technical problems left the Brunswick without any of its house beers for a brief time last month.....Amongst many pubs the Spanker Inn at Nether Heage has its lease up for sale. Elsewhere there is an alarming and ever-growing number of 'You Run This Pub', 'Business Opportunity' and 'Lease for sale' signs adorning the side of our inns. Belloc would not be happy.

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Clip on the bar for seasoned campaigner

Derby Drinker is pleased to note that the Headless Brewing Company, Derby's newest, has created a special brew in honour of one of Derby CAMRA's longest-serving campaigners.

Reg Newcombe was a founder-member of Derby CAMRA way back in 1974 and has been involved in every Derby Beer Festival since its first event in April 1978.

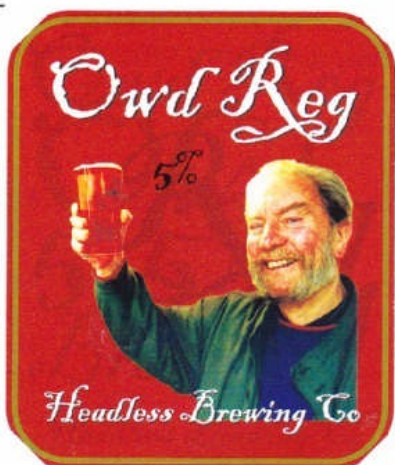
It is not only for his services to CAMRA, though, that he has been honoured with this special brew, but for his outstanding service to Britain's national tipple

and the part he has played in championing cask ale during its darkest hour - and that's not an oblique reference to mild or stout.

The new brew will have an OG of 1050 and will be a traditional copper-coloured bitter ale with deep hop under-

tones and a clean, slightly sweetish finish and if it doesn't go down a treat, blame Reg, who helped or hindered the brewers..

It will be on sale at the Flower Pot and the Smithfield from 1st December.



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End of the hunt for Michael Jackson

The world of beer and beer writing lost a giant figure at the end of August. When Michael Jackson died, over thirty years of his research, exploring and writing about beers from all over the world came to an end. There are pages of accolades to him on internet sites from other writers and prominent figures in the industry. Roger Protz said: 'He was the best and always will be the best'. Jaclyn Bateman writes of the enjoyment and humour he brought with him to the brewery when filming *The Beer Hunter*.

His writing output was extraordinary, starting drinkers thinking and talking seriously about beer just as wine buffs had done for years. His *World Guide To Beer* (1977), sold millions and many other books followed over the years *Michael Jackson's Beer Companion* (1998), the 9th edition of *The Pocket Beer Book* (2000) and *The Great Beers Of Belgium* (5th edition 2006) are but a few of the range. The books have been translated into around 20 languages. He also wrote regularly for *The Independent*, *The Observer*, and *The Washington Post* and a host of food and drink magazines. It was however his award-winning Channel 4 TV programme, *The Beer Hunter* (1990) that brought him a wider

audience. It has been shown in 15 countries. Michael was also the first chairman of The British Guild of Beer Writers and received many awards, including one from Crown Prince Philippe of Belgium in 1994.

I met him twice recently at BGBW events but I did not really appreciate the range and output of the man. His influence spreads all over the world. He has been responsible for bringing little-known styles of Czech and German beers to light and inspiring the growth of small craft brewers in the USA. His legacy for us is a much expanded knowledge of beer styles here and abroad and indeed a much better access to unusual foreign beers. We also now have an adequate language with which to discuss our favourite drink. Thank you Michael for all this. Whenever a beer writer begins a new article, or a drinker discusses a fine new beer you will be remembered. A collection of Michael's work can be found on the internet @www.beerhunter.com and there was a National Toast to Michael on Sept 30th at Tornado in San Francisco in aid of The National Parkinson Foundation. He is probably smiling somewhere at all the fuss.

Les Baynton
British Guild of Beer Writers

Amber birthday party packs a crowd at the George

Amber Ales of Hammersmith celebrated their 1st birthday with a party at the George Inn at Ripley in late November.

Three dark beers: Amber Black Stout, Mild and Winter Ruby were on offer, along with Barnes Wallace Bitter and IPA, all at very competitive prices. Brewer Peter Hounsell was delighted to welcome a throng of eager drinkers from Derby, Nottingham and Mansfield CAMRA as the pub, a regular outlet for both Peter's beers and Ashover brews, was



a veritable buzz of conversation and good cheer.

A special Amber cake in the shape of one of their barrels had been baked for the occasion and our picture shows Peter and Jane cutting the initial slice.

Bill Tidy gets bottled

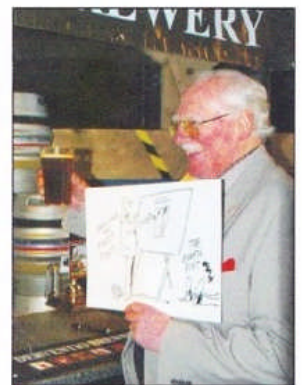


Famed Keg Buster cartoonist Bill Tidy was in Trusley recently. Our first picture shows him with brewing team. Left to right: John Baldock, Martin Roden, Bill Tidy and Pete Nash celebrating the launch of Derventio's new bottled beer range (and plant) on November 27th at the brewery near Radbourne.

The launch also saw the new brewery licensed bar in action and was attended by the press and members of Derby CAMRA. Derventio,

whose beers will be featured at the forthcoming Derby Winter Festival, have grown rapidly in recent months. They now have seven employees and a broad customer base reaching down as far south as Stourbridge.

The picture (below) depicts Bill with one of the two lightning drawn cartoons he did at the opening.




The Silk Mill - A Never Ending Story?

As we go to print it seems almost certain that CAMRA members Phil and Louise Wills are to leave the Old Silk Mill on Full Street. It seems that this pub has to see a licensee change every six months and it is becoming a revolving

news item. On the beer front drinkers have enjoyed 6 months of top quality ales from various brewers national and local micros alike. Is this short-term drinking haven really the best we can hope for in an uncertain beer/pub future? Let's hope not. We may have more on this in DD120.

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Sally Winterton supporter of Derby CAMRA and previous chairman has volunteered to run the London Marathon in 2008 to raise funds to support the

Scropton Riding for the Disabled Centre

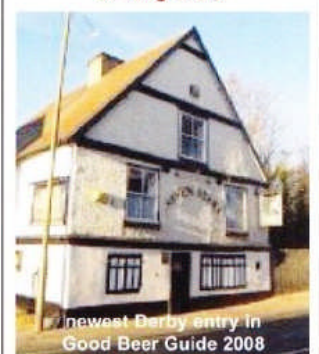


26.2 miles will be a major challenge as Sally is not a runner. Please support this extremely worthy cause by sponsoring her at the following web site:

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newest Derby entry in Good Beer Guide 2008

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Derby CAMRA Branch Diary

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials, meetings and trips. Here is a list of forthcoming events. **Socials start from 9pm, Branch Meetings from 8pm.**



DECEMBER

THURS 6TH, BRANCH MEETING, YE OLDE SPA, Abbey Street, DERBY

Fri 7th Dec, Public Transport Survey to Ripley

Thurs 13th Dec, XMAS SHOW, Flowerpot, Derby

Tues 18th Dec, Social, **White Swan**, Littleover

New Years Eve, **Social**, Rowditch, Derby

JANUARY

3-5th Jan **TWELFTH NIGHT FESTIVAL**, Derby Assembly Rooms

WED 9th JAN, BRANCH MEETING, BRUNSWICK INN, Railway Terrace, DERBY

Tues 15th Jan, Social, **Waggon & Horses**, Ashbourne Road, then **New Zealand Arms**

Tues 22nd Jan, Social, **Vine Inn**, Mickleover

Tues 29th Jan, Social, **Blacks Head**, Hope & Anchor, then **Royal Oak**, Wirksworth

FEBRUARY

Fri 1st Feb, **ABC: Annual Beer Census** around Derby

Tues 5th Feb, Shrovetide, Ashbourne

Tues 12th Feb, Social, **Mr Grundy's**, Ashbourne Road, Derby

THURS 21st FEB, BRANCH MEETING, ROWDITCH INN, Uttoxeter New Road, DERBY

Tues 26th Feb, Social, **Hawk & Buckle**, Etwall

MARCH

Tues 26th Feb, Social, **Golden Pheasant/ New Bridge Inn**, Shelton Lock

To book a place on the Friday/Saturday minibus trips or enquire about public transport or cycling social details please contact the Branch Pub Surveys Coordinator **Stewart Marshall** on 07944 163737 or email stewart_marshall1@ntlworld.com.

The Branch has a new Social Secretary, **Rob Davison** and he will be posting details of future trips in this diary soon. In the meantime Derby CAMRA members can look out for trip news in Mild & Bitter or phone Rob on 07966200135.

THE ALE BAG



Dear Sir

I must congratulate the item by Dear Toper in *Derby Drinker* 118, it is brilliant. I suggest it should be forwarded to *What's Brewing* for wider publication together with a copy to our Slime Minister, (G. Brown)! Well done

Dave Johnson

Hainault, Ilford, Essex
East London & City Branch
CAMRA

Hi Pip

Picked up a copy of *Derby Drinker* at the Wellington Pub in Birmingham (Nigel Barker's pub) and enjoyed the read - and of course usually see a copy when we are at

the wonderful Derby Summer Beer Festival (or Brunswick Festival etc). I just wanted to echo the thoughts of Dear Toper and his frustration at Mobile phone users in pubs!!! He is not the only one who hates the noise and intrusion of idiot posers talking an utter load of useless rubbish for all to hear. Even worse the stupid ring tones to advertise how 'cool' and clever they are (hah!) and if the ring tone is some ghastly hip-hop crap, then I would happily take them outside and shoot them!!

Hear, Hear! Let's ban mobile phone use in pubs too! Although I would confess to taking one with me sometimes when some distance from home, its NEVER switched on while inside the pub.

Best wishes from Birmingham!

John W

Thank you Dave & John, your letters sums up the overwhelming majority of supporting comments I have received for this, and previous columns by D.T. Hopefully his next onslaught will again reach Essex! - Ed

Dear Editor

I read with interest the letter on smokers in the last Ale Bag and feel I must comment.

I too find it most disagreeable to cross a 'picket line' of smokers' everytime I go into a pub. These smokers seem to think they have every right to block the entrance and blow smoke in your face as you fight your way past them. Now this can't be good for business as if I, a seasoned pub goer is put off, then I'm sure the casual drinker must be more so and women probably feel really intimidated.

So I call upon landlords to try and keep your front door area free of smokers or make them use your gardens or yards so the rest of us can enter a pub without feeling uncomfortable everytime. If the front of the

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pub is the only place they can use then why not designate an area to the side of the entrance doors and stop them from smoking in front of them. Surely you can see the sense in this, for your business, if for nothing else?

Anyway, I will close this little rant by altering the words to the Editors biggest hit song to date, "The saddest thing that I ever saw were smokers outside the Public House doors". Enough said.

Galahad

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Derby Drinker Publication Schedule 2007/8

Advanced notice for contributions and advertisers. These are the proposed dates for the publication of *Derby Drinker* into 2008. 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 120	February 2008	20 January 2008
DD 121	April 2008	25 March 2008
DD122	June 2008	20 May 2008

25 YEARS OF BREWING FINE BEERS



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Overheard at the bar.....

One can take for granted the lush drinking pastures of our city, so it is rewarding to have its reputation reinforced from visitors.

The editor was sitting in the Brunswick with a cacophony of Norwegians and Estonians (and a few people of local birth) before the Rams game with Chelsea when he overheard a twentysomething Chelsea supporter say: "The main reason I was so pleased Derby got

back in the Premiership is that we get to drink in this cracking boozer!"

He added to his two companions that he'd had a complete walk around some great pubs with fantastic real ale during his afternoon in Derby.

The Brunny is rightly championed by visiting football fans and its good to see some of them get to know a few of our other gems.

Burton Spring Festival

For those of you looking forward to the Burton-upon-Trent and South Derbyshire Winter Festival, previously held towards the end of January, fear not, it has not been cancelled, just moved back by about two months. It will take place at the usual venue, Burton Town Hall, on Friday March 28th and Saturday March 29th 2008. The format will remain essentially the same, with plenty of strong beers, cider and country wine in the main hall. The other two rooms will be used to provide a quiet area / extra seating. The festival will be open from 12 noon to 11 pm on both days, with free admission for CAMRA members at all sessions, and free admission for everyone up to 6 pm. Food will be available at all sessions and live music both evenings. So put the dates in your diary, tell your friends, and we hope to see you there.

Thornbridge win in regional beer poll

Regulars in pubs across the East Midlands and South Yorkshire have chosen Thornbridge Brewery's Jaipur India Pale Ale as their favourite real ale for 2007. In a very high turnout contest held throughout the Castle Rock Brewery estate of 23 pubs, a majority of the 1,400 voters picked the 5.9% IPA from the Derbyshire brewer as their favourite. Second place went to Summer Lightning from Hop Back Brewery.

According to Tynemill's commercial director, Colin Wilde, the results in this the ninth year of competition, were once again very close. "Our customers have shown they welcome good beers from wherever they originate and I'm particularly pleased this year that a newcomer to brewing has made its mark so well."

Voting in Castle Rock Brewery's pubs was conducted through the Autumn with regulars putting forward their favourites from many hundreds of real ales available through the year.

Stacey Webster from Thornbridge Brewery says, "To win this award is a tremendous boost for us all at the brewery. Many thanks to Chris and his

colleagues for their support over the last two years, and of course, for leading a revolution we are glad to be a part of. All the Castle Rock pubs have been very supportive of our beers since our launch with Jaipur IPA being a particular favourite at our near neighbours, Derby's Alexandra Hotel and the Derby Tup in Chesterfield," she says.

Colin Wilde says, "This remains the only regional poll of its kind and its importance seems to grow each year. Once again though, six regular ales didn't qualify for the event as they come



Castle Rock Beer of the Year winner: Jaipur IPA; Thornbridge Brewery's sales manager, Stacey Webster, picks up her award from Chris Holmes, chairman, Castle Rock Brewery.

from Castle Rock Brewery, which we own," he says. "They've been excluded to remove any hint of in-house bias."

The award ceremony was held at the Canalhouse on Canal Street, Nottingham, on 30 October 2007.

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Sad end for Roebuck



Over the last month or so a sorry picture has been painted on Amy Street, Derby where what remains of the Roebuck Inn stands in seemingly terminal decline. The pub has had its roof removed and much of the upper brickwork. Two 120-year-old trees in the garden were removed in a couple of hours.

The pub is an interesting stone building with mullioned and transomed windows. It also has a war memorial to the local fallen, which should not be permitted to disappear.

Some of the Alton's Brewery insignia remained on the wall when our picture was taken in early November.

Your editor represented the pub in the Derbyshire Pub Quiz League for a couple of years in the mid-1990s when the licensee was John Brentnall.

Jok Arguile expands the history: The Roebuck dated from the 1890's and was an Altons pub from day one (30 Sept 1889) tak-

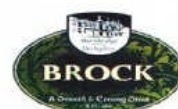
ing its license (and licensee) from its namesake on Bridge Gate which had been in existence since 1818. In the interwar period one licensee, John Walker, held sway (1909 to 1934). In the 1990s the Roebuck was held by John Brentnall for nearly ten years (1992-2001) - unusual in this day and age. It was one of the better pubs in the Stockbrook/Parliament area with a good lounge and, sometimes, good beer. The most recent landlord who held the place together decently was Billy Parker, mine host from 2003-05.

Unlike many of the neighbouring pubs it was purpose built rather than a house conversion and Ind Coope who took over Altons & Strettons (in 1934) in general, looked after their houses. Architecturally it was a cut above.

By the end of November only the doors and the lower course of brickwork remained. The whereabouts of the war memorial are now uncertain.

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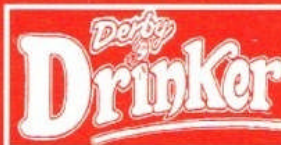
CROSSWORD by Wrenrutt

Is taking a sabbatical for this issue but will be returning in DD120 together with the answers to Crossword No 4

Greene Kinged in Little Chester

The Furnace Inn on Duke Street, Derby has followed its near neighbour the Duke of Clarence, on Mansfield Road, in having a complete Greene King livery overhaul, including GK XX Mild, rare for the area, and a new inn sign. The previous sign had only been in place for a few months.

This rebranding is a portent of the shape of things to come across the former Hardy & Hansons estate. At least the Furnace sign depicts the industrial heritage of the area rather than the deeply boring, standardised GK sign comprising just the brewery logo and the pub name that have been rolled out in the Home Counties.



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Additional photographs: Jok Arguile.

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TWELFTH NIGHT FESTIVAL OPENING TIMES/PRICES

Thursday 3rd - 6-11pm - (£3) FREE to CAMRA members.

Friday 4th - 11-5pm - (£2) FREE to CAMRA members.

Friday 4th - 6-11pm - (£5) £1 to CAMRA members.

Saturday 5th - 11-5pm - (£2) FREE to CAMRA members.

Saturday 5th - 6-11pm - (£5) £1 to CAMRA members.

Students £1 off every session with appropriate Student Card



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