

Derby Drinker

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ISSUE NUMBER 120

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2008

FREE

City Standard raised as Derby Brewing Company acquire first pub



The Derby drinking scene received a much-needed boost in mid-December when Trevor Harris of Derby Brewing Company confirmed that he had completed a deal to purchase the derelict Royal Standard on

Derwent Street. Moreover they have hopefully saved another pub from the hammer in a convoluted deal with many twists, turns, rumours and counter-rumours (stop me if you think you've heard this one before!).

The first pub for Derby Brewery should be open in April and will be a great asset to the real ale trail in the city with local beers from a local brewery on sale within eye-shot of the Market Place.

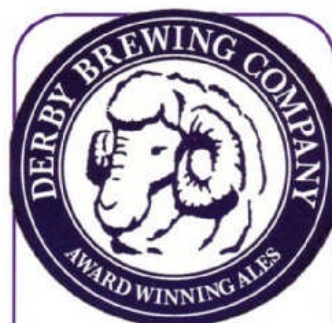
The pub is of dream design for Trevor, its apex location on old Canary Island, at the junction of Derwent Street and Exeter Place, and shape reminiscent of the Brunswick Inn, a building saved from demolition in the early 1980s, and revived as a great pub by Trevor in 1987.

Trevor and son Paul had been tracking the Standard for 3/4 months. Paul was working in London and found that it had been sold by Marstons as part of a block of 300 pubs to Picadilly Licensed Properties. S&N were handling things for the property company and Paul badgered them persistently to see if the pub could be obtained. It came on to the open market and went to Christie's. That's when Trev and Paul had their first look around the property they were keen to purchase. They put in an offer, by now other parties were interested but after much manoeuvring Derby finally secured and completed the deal on 20th December 2007.

Says Trevor:

"Potentially it has an iconic shape, original features such as beams and the fireplace and oak flooring. As a company it is a big step forward to have an outlet in the city centre and it will definitely raise the Derby Brewing Company's consciousness across the city - the wider public and not just the real ale community"

They will take the exterior back to brick, and there will be a *continued overleaf*



PRIDE OF DERBY

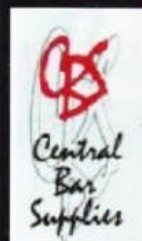
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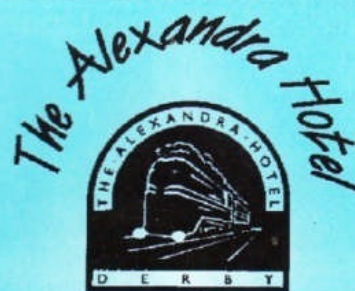
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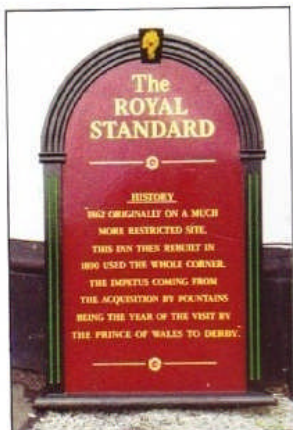
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swinging sign, but not the old Royal Standard one, which Paul and Trevor are pictured holding (shown here). This sign will most likely be displayed inside on the pub wall. The pub will also be illuminated at night giving a good view from Exeter Bridge, as Trevor said: "Location is important".

The architect on the project is Mike Wood of ADDC. Mike both created, and was landlord of the Abbey Inn, from what remained of



the old Augustinian priory in Darley Abbey so he has a history of working with old buildings.

As for the beer, there will be ten handpulls, five of which are to showcase a spectrum of Derby beers - The DERBY RACK - with a pale, amber and a dark ale always available. Guest beers will supplement this range. All in all, it is a mouthwatering prospect for the City to look forward to when the old pub reopens in May.

Derbyshire Breweries Beer Festival at Repton pub

An exclusive Derbyshire Beer-only Festival will be running from Friday 21st March (Good Friday) to Saturday 22nd March at the Bulls Head on High Street, Repton.

Landlord Richard Pope told *Derby Drinker*: "I am trying to get all of the Derbyshire breweries (circa 28) to have at least one cask ale at the event and some will have three or four. I am told that no one has put on a 'Derbyshire' cask ale festival before, and I am getting a massive amount of interest!"

A hog roast, barbecue and a cheese counter (with Derbyshire suppliers where possible) will be on offer and various bands will provide the entertainment in addition to 'meet the brewer' sessions which will be scheduled each day. There will be a marquee at the rear of the pub.

The pub are to provide with tasting notes etc, and they plan to have a scoring system for customers to use in an attempt to decide the winner of what Richard calls 'The Bulls Head 2008 Cask Ale award' for the

favourite beer of the event.

Half pint glasses will be on sale. As more details become available, they will be posted on the pub web site www.thebullsheadrepton.co.uk or for more information call tel 01283 704422.

It is an ambitious project that deserves support and with all those tasty Derbyshire brews out there it sounds like a great way to spend some time at Easter.

PUB NIPS

Cask Marque status has been attained by the **Golden Pheasant** at Shelton Lock. Dennis and the team have been keeping pretty good beer there for some time and deserve the accolade. In Openwoodgate, Jim Bradford has taken on the tenancy at the **Black Bulls Head**. Live music will continue to be a feature with open mic nights to follow. The **Greyhound** on Friar Gate has been boarded up, a terrible sight in a conservation area. The **Yeavley Arms** in the village that has always bore that name, is up for sale to anyone who has £600K. Interesting guest beers have been spotted at the **Pattenmakers** in Duffield, Triple Hop and Winterlong being two recent examples. The **Roebuck** on Amy Street (see DD 119) is now no more, demolition having been completed. The pub war memorial, however, has been rescued and is in the safe hands of Father Graham at nearby St Lukes Church.

Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year
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Late News: Peter Parkes dies

As we go to press news broke that Peter Parkes, former licensee at the Falstaff from 1999 to 2003 had died, aged 76.

Peter, with son Adrian revitalised the pub during his tenure. The funeral proved eventful and deserves the full review in the next edition that it will receive.

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Microbrewery Corner

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



AMBER ALES

Sales of draught beer in a box and bottle conditioned beers are going well. Amber have signed for the new premises but there has been a delay due to problems with the leaky roof. New outlets include the Black Swan and Lord Nelson (Belper), the Shoulder at Clay Cross, and the under-rated Shoulder of Mutton at Hallfield Gate near Higham. The new Colonial IPA (5.1%) has been well received. Amber Ales backed the 'Battle of the Beers' festival at The Lion Hotel, Belper which ran from 30th Jan to 3rd Feb.

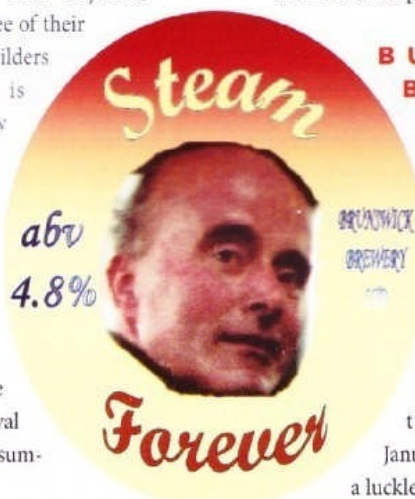
With 12 award winning ales from Derbyshire and beyond, including three of their own. John Wilders at the Lion is keen to grow the Real Ale choice, and is going to feature Amber Ales on a regular basis. There should also be a bigger festival here in the summer.

BLACK HOLE

The Burton microbrewery continues to expand at a steady rate. They have acquired two more conditioning tanks and lots of extra casks.

BRUNSWICK

The Brunswick Brewery has a new website which is now up and running at www.brunswickinn.co.uk. There will be a wheat beer brewed towards the end of the month. An addition to the beers brewed commemorates a former Brunny regular and steam railway fanatic, Dave Parsons who died last year. Dave worked on the railways for years and whenever he entered the Brunswick would shout 'Steam Forever', hence the beer, a 4.8% brew (see pump-clip). The brewery are brewing a weak session 3.4% ale in honour of the budget, named Up Yours! It will sell at £1.50 a pint.



BURTON BRIDGE

The January Gold Medal Ale was Talbots Triangle. The Trademarks Act came into being on the first of January 1876 and a luckless employee of a Burton firm of solicitors spent New Year's Eve and night outside Trademarks House. He registered the world's first trademark, the triangle of a prominent Burton brewer. This beer is a tribute to that

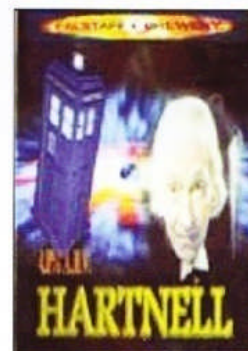
forgotten hero and to Talbots Solicitors who have outlasted the brewer. The hops in this 4.5% amber beer are good old Fuggles and Goldings and it should bear a passing resemblance to that famous triangular pale ale.

DERVENTIO

Have set up a Beer Calendar for special brews in 2008. January saw Arminius a 5.0% Porter while for February Cupid is 4.1%, a Golden Honey Beer. Scheduled for March and April is a new beer Versuvius, at 6.5 % it is described as a strong red beer.

FALSTAFF

The latest themed range of beers celebrate all things Doctor Who. Falstaff beers will be named after Dr. Who monsters and Babington's beers will be named after the Doctors. The first one, in chronological order was the ABV 4.8% Hartnell (after William 1908-1975, the centenary of his birth was January 8th). Following this was K9 (after the mechanical dog) ABV 4.1% Amber coloured, hoppy nose with undertones of dried apricots. Gentle malt flavours with a fruit filled hoppy finish. Cyberman ABV 5.7% is also lined up. The colour of golden straw with well balanced malt and hop on the nose. Light crisp flavours with a hoppy finish.

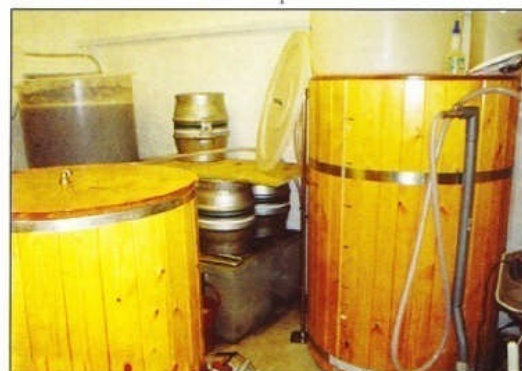


THORNBRIDGE

Have been exporting Imperial Stout and Jaipur to the USA. Arizona is impressed we have been informed. New beers from the stable are Ember (3.4%) and the 7.7% Halcyon. Additionally, to celebrate the 500th brew, the delicate orange coloured Gildas has been brewed. It contains a mix of 11 hops and malts plus the aroma of freshly cut hay and tropical fruits. At 6.9% its one for the tastebuds!

WIRKSWORTH

It is still early days for Jeff Greens fledgling brewery, but its *First Brew* was showcased at the recent Derby Winter Fest. *T'OWd Man*, a 4.9% brew is coming soon and the brew-house is pictured here.



LEADMILL

Recent offerings from the Denby brewery included Denby Pale, a 3.6% brew, and at the Twelfth

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1971 AND ALL THAT



Consider! Dear Toper, thirty seven years of CAMRA; years that have seen the re-establishment of real ale in many an inn and tavern, where the handpump had become merely an embarrassing and unwanted reminder of a bygone age; standing forlorn amongst a clutter of garishly lit, chrome plated fizz dispensers, cynically designed to attract halfwits. Yes, real ale is back! Quite an achievement when one considers the ever present profit crazed spectre of keg beer that haunts

licensed premises like an aggressive beggar hanging around a cash machine.

Dear Toper....
All beer, no froth

If, Dear Toper, we were thirty seven years ago, in danger of losing our cherished real ales, we are now I believe, in danger of losing many of our traditional inns and taverns, for such is the air of gloom and despondency that I have come across in certain sections of the licensed trade. This apocalyptic mood being the result of rising costs and falling trade, the latter in no small part due to the smoking ban, and

before some revved up P.C. stormtrooper gets all tangled up in his or her anorak, and tells me that it is for my "own good", I would like to point out, that I personally do not smoke and never have. Nonetheless, I can quite sympathise with the shivering wretches beneath their draughty makeshift smoking shelters; it must be bad enough being a nicotine junkie, without having a bunch of sneering, sanctimonious, "we know best", tossers, forcing you out into Winter's icy blast!

The smoking ban has caused a downturn in pub trade – a downturn which some pubco's seem to have ignored when setting their sales targets and subsequently their rents etc. resulting in people leaving the trade and pubs closing down, and with fewer pubs to sell it, real ale will inevitably see a decline in variety and availability.

In the last issue of the 'Drinker' our erstwhile editor alluded to these words by Hilaire Belloc (1870 – 1953):

"When you have lost your inns
then drown your sorry selves,
For you will have lost the last of
England."

I would go further than that, and state that, you will have lost your real ale as well, for there are no hand-pumps in supermarkets Dear Toper. Consider That!

D.T.

Flowerpot join forces with Marstons for charity beer festival

Marstons Brewery and the Flowerpot have joined forces to put on a mini beer festival at the King Street pub to raise money for the charity Scope. The event runs from Thursday 28th February- Sunday 2nd March. Marstons will have nine beers - including some rarities from the stable - on sale in the Cellar Bar alongside guest ales over and above the usual Pot range plus a full Headless choice including a specially brewed ale that Lol Stevenson told DD will be called *Wafy Cranker*. Beers will be £2 a pint and a percentage of each pint sold will go to Scope.

The beer festival stems from a charity cycle ride by a group of (mainly) Derby drinkers calling themselves The Old Boy Racers. The editor has been good friends with three of the team, Martyn Hallam, Martin Roper and Steve Diksa for over 30 years and knows what a challenge it will be for them to cycle to Vienna, which is the plan! The rest of the team, led by Dave Williams and also including Dave Bennett, and Kev Mason will set off on 4th June 2008.

They will cycle from Budapest to Vienna via Bratislava; in total about 170 miles. By June 7th, as the European Championships kick off, they should be in Vienna. The six riders are pledged to raise £10,000 in total. At time of going to press they had already secured £3,924.00.



Four of the team limber up for the journey with a trip to the seaside (And the White Swan?)

They are good pals with Lol and he put them in touch with Marstons. Martyn told DD: "We are indebted to Marstons, and Andy Gayle in particular for throwing their considerable weight behind our event and also to the Flowerpot. Both could not have been more helpful".

Details of the bike ride can be found on www.the-old-boy-racers.com

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Cider with Suzie

I hope you managed to visit the recent Derby Twelfth Night Beer Festival. The cider bar here was small but select. I'll comment on some of the ciders and perries from that bar which you especially liked, tell you where to get them and then look forward to the bigger cider bars later in the year.

At the risk of blowing my own trumpet I'll start with Three Cats cider which you, the customers, drank in considerable quantities. It is made entirely from local fruit, which is a big plus in these days of concern over food miles (drink miles?). It is Eastern Counties in style, meaning that it is made from ordinary cookers and eaters rather than from apple varieties grown specifically for cider making. As a result it is pale in colour and low in tannin when compared with, say, Somerset ciders. Because all cider when fully fermented out range in sweetness from medium to bone dry, it is sweetened up a touch (with sugar) to produce a medium sweet cider. This batch also contained a small amount (less than 10%) of perry which does the taste no harm at all. If it is sometimes available at the Old Oak Inn, Horsley Woodhouse, and at the Flowerpot, Derby.

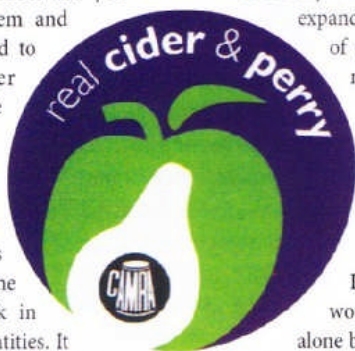
Another favourite was Black Dragon from Gwyn y Ddraig, made at Pontypridd, Glamorgan. It is a clear, mid brown cider, deceptively easy

drinking for its strength (8.2%). This is a huge success story for Welsh cider making; the operation only began in 2001 and it is now a regular at beer festivals throughout the country.

Recently they have greatly expanded the bottling side of the operation; you may well encounter their ciders this way. Next we have Suicider, made by Wiscombe at Colyton (not far from Honiton), Devon. I'm sure it would sell on name alone but it is an excellent cider too; hazy and dark brown and fermented in a rum cask. I'm afraid the tub we had this time wasn't quite as rummy as it sometimes is! Incidentally, the perry from Ross cider Co. was fermented in an Isla malt whisky cask. Spirit barrel fermented ciders and perries always go down well; personally I think that they are fine provided the spirit complements rather than overpowers the underlying cider. Suicider is widely available at beer festivals.

We ought to give the best selling perry a mention. This was a single pear variety from Newton Court, near Leominster, Herefordshire. Made from Winnels Longdon pears it was pale, fruity and medium sweet. Since it is 2007 vintage it may get even better in a few months time. If you are in the area it is worth searching out Newton Court's cider shop; it is just off Cadbury's Island on the A49 Leominster to Hereford road and opens long hours. Last but not least is our other local producer, Scropton Cider. Although this cider was made at Scropton the apples came from Herefordshire. The cider was darkish brown in colour and medium dry; since it was unsweetened and unfiltered it made a good meaty drink, typical of a traditional Herefordshire cider. You may sometimes be able to get it in local pubs; again the Flowerpot is the best bet.

That was last time around, no doubt these drinks and many more just as good will be appearing at future festivals. The next bar we will be running will be at the Burton Spring Festival, to be held at Burton Town Hall on March 28th and 29th. The cider bar for the Derby Summer Festival, to be held at the Assembly Rooms from the 9th to 13th July is already in the planning stage. It will be bigger and better than ever, so we hope to see you there.



Slow change at the Ex

Not all pubs change hands on a monthly basis. And the ones which resist this tide of short term fixes reap the benefits of continuity and familiarity that sees drinkers returning on a regular basis.

One such pub is the Exeter Arms, on the north-east corner of Exeter Place. There is, however, a new licensee at the watering hole, as the Droll Landlord has left 'The Ex' after more than 16 years. I promised brevity over this departure but must state that the Wilds were characters, much appreciated and will be missed.

Their successor is Chris Jones (above), who was a regular in the pub and told DD: "I wanted a new challenge in my life, and didn't want the pub to change". We can all drink to that.



The staff have all been retained and food will continue as ever, (Mon-Sat 11.30-2.15) as will the pub's infamous swear box, well known by city drinkers. Thousands of pounds have been raised over the years for the RNLI thanks to this monitor of decorum.

One thing which is set to alter is Sunday service. At present they remain 12-6pm but this will change on Sunday 24th February when 'Session Ex' will begin. This will promote live music from beer festival regular Alan Woolley and friends and, if the demand is there it will become a regular feature.

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Derby Drinker

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Riding high in East Yorks

Rob Davison's inaugural Derby CAMRA social trip to home territory was just short of amazing. Beverley was just far enough to be new (to most) and its pubs lived up to their reputation of providing, not just good beers & food but also interesting and different architecture. And to cap it all the weather and the company weren't too bad either.

Setting off at a reasonable hour we hit Beverley smack on opening time and had a first pint at the Rose & Crown (Enterprise ex Darley) a truly old pub, but 'Tudorfied' in the 1930s.



Followed by the Royal Standard (also ex Darleys), an unreconstructed Tetley house (picture) kept by one family for nearly 100 years, just round the corner and then the Green Dragon (an M&B house featuring beers from Rudgate and Bearwood, inc two cask milds).

Another short walk and we entered the truly magical White Horse, otherwise known as Nellies (top right picture) where we lunched. It's a warren with a dozen rooms (or more) on two floors and bags of atmosphere. Selling just Sam Smith's OBB (it's a Sam's pub), a few of the party

resorted to wheat beers and pure lager. But the OBB was more than OK for most, as was the food.

Reluctantly moving on, we tried the Durham Ox



(Enterprise), Cornerhouse (Punch), and the Dog & Duck (Enterprise) before weaving our way through several alleys, typical of Beverley, to try the fare at the only free house we encountered, the Monk's Walk with its splendid open-beamed rooms (picture). We moved on to the old, and equally picturesque, Sun (picture) before finishing at the Tiger Inn (picture).

Leaving at 7.30 we got back in time for a last drink in Derby. Well done Rob, when can we go there again – and perhaps see the Hull pubs we missed?

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Crompton exhibition to premiere in New York

In Derby's Crompton Tavern there are a series of art exhibitions taking place until May. The pub has always had a Bohemian feel since landlord Perry Bailey arrived at the helm the best part of two decades

since. Now it sees its walls adorned with large and small artworks and its wall cases give a temporary home to 3-D installation works as well.

Currently showing (until 1st March) is *Ovum* by Beth Heaney and following that from 2nd to 28th March, Kate Smith will exhibit *remake, reveal*. This is a scaled down selection of drawings and recent work by Kate, a larger range of which showcases in New York in late March at The Drawing Centre on Wooster Street. Today Crompton Village tomorrow New York!

Throughout most of April the pub will feature the photographic work of Richard Tailby. The works certainly add some interest to the internal fabric of the pub, and those featured thus far have provided much discussion.


The curator is Jane Hardstaff and any artist interested in

exhibiting should send a short c.v and artist statement, with a couple of images to the pub at 46 Crompton Street, Derby, DE1 1NY. They are particularly interested in work of an experimental nature.

Rory Fallon

Rory Fallon, landlord of Ryans (formerly the Green Man) in St Peters Churchyard died last month. He had previously kept the Hurt Arms Ambergate, the Greyhound at Belper and the White Lion at Sawley. Singer James Morrison paid tribute to Rory for helping launch his career at the open-mic nights at the pub.

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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.

FEBRUARY

Tues 26th Feb, Social, Hawke & Buckle, Etwell

MARCH

Tues 4th March, Social, Golden Pheasant/ New Bridge Inn, Shelton Lock
Thur 13th March, BRANCH MEETING, Derby Rowing Club, Darley Grove
Tues 18th March, Social, Bell & Harp, Coxbench
Tues 25th March, Social, Dunkirk Tavern, King Alfred Street, Derby

APRIL

Tues 1st April, Social, Lion Hotel, Belper
Tues 8th April, Social, Duke of Clarence, Mansfield Rd, Little Chester, Derby
Tues 15th April, Social, Bridge Inn, Mansfield Road, Derby
Thur Apr 24th BRANCH AGM, The Flowerpot, King Street, Derby.
Tues 29th April, Social, Masons Arms/Nags Head, Mickleover

To book a place on the Friday/Saturday minibus trips (which will resume shortly), or to 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 Social Secretary is **Rob Davison** and he will be posting details of future trips in this diary or on the Derby CAMRA website soon. In the meantime Derby CAMRA members can look out for trip news in Mild & Bitter or phone Rob on 07966200135 or email him the.lagernaut@hotmail.co.uk.

DERBY CAMRA WEBSITE: www.derbycamra.org.uk



The Ale Bag



Sir

With regard to Galahad's "rant" in the last DD, this is an attitude I've encountered before from the health brigade. It irritates me intensely when I hear non-smokers, complaining about smokers outside the pub. I have even heard them moaning about smoking in the pub garden! It seems they are not satisfied with their little victory in July 2007 over the social pariahs that us smokers are being increasingly portrayed as, now they want us banished altogether.

Galahad would do well to remember there has been a marked drop in trade since the smoking ban, and the so called "invisible queue" of non-smokers who used to avoid pubs has

yet to materialise. For a landlord to do anything more to discourage his customers is not business sense.

I've not encountered many pubs where the smokers congregate round the front door, at most I've seen two or three enjoying a quick fag. Hardly a "picket line", unless, of course, they're carrying placards and standing round a brazier, perhaps. Blocking doorways and blowing smoke in your face is just plain bad manners and thoughtlessness, but most people – yes, even smokers – would not condone or indulge in this behaviour.

We've had to accept being denied the pleasure of a ciggy with our pint based on flimsy or invented evidence, biased "research" and skewed

surveys. To the sanctimonious, still-complaining non smokers, shut up and, to coin a tellingly appropriate American phrase, stop blowing smoke out of your ass.

Psychedelic Warlord

Derby Drinker is keen to portray an even-handed view of the pub scene post-smoking ban. things have certainly changed and, probably, bar banter has declined in quality. I heard also that crib and

domino games are finishing later as they have to incorporate smoke breaks into the match! Smoking shelters have flourished, not an architectural bonus for pubs but I spotted this one (below), decked out for Christmas and promoted as a Nativity Shelter at Repton British Legion. We would be interested to hear from anyone who has snippets of things which are different in your local since the ban came in last year.



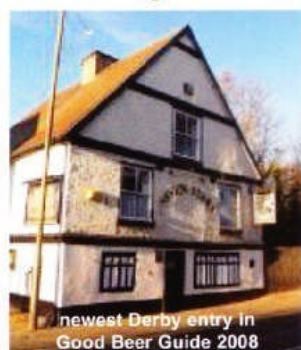
Derby Drinker Publication Schedule 2008

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 121	April 2008	25 March 2008
DD 122	June 2008	20 May 2008
DD 123	August 2008	25 July 2008

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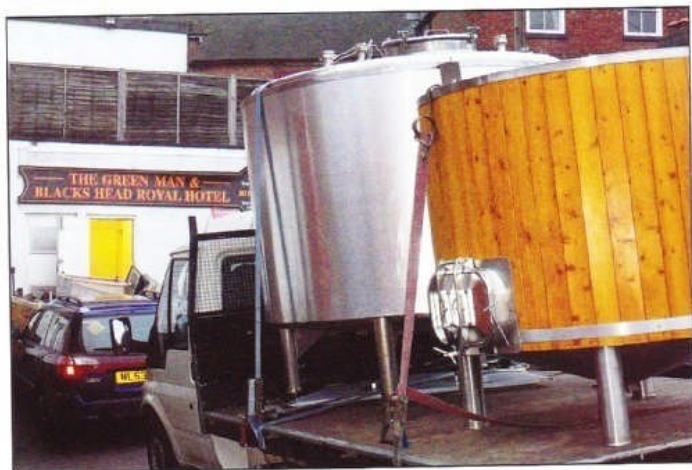
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Leatherbritches move into Ashbourne



Leatherbritches have completed relocation to Ashbourne after 13 years at Fenny Bentley. The top picture shows equipment arriving at the rear of the Green Man & Black's Head, where the brewery is situated, whilst the lower shot shows a proud Ed Allingham admiring his new copper. The hopback is the old brewery mash tun.

It is a 20-barrel plant and Ed plans to bottle 10 barrels each brew.

Brewing should be up and running by early February and the on site shop and maltstore are ready. Plans for near-future development include putting a glass front on the brewery to allow public viewing.

Ed is delighted with the brewery expansion and knows they are geared up to greater things, right in the heart of Ashbourne. It may hopefully prove to be A Little Gold Mine all of his own...

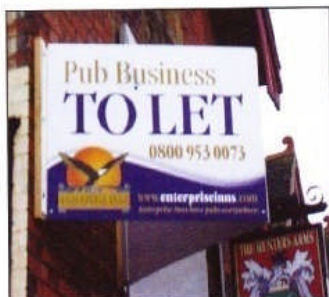


The commonest pub sign in the land?

You may well be under the impression that the Red Lion or the Kings Head were the most commonly observed signs adorning our nation's pubs. Perhaps you should have a rethink because I reckon they are now outnumbered by ones such as the sample pictured. Never before has the state of our inns been so parlous.

The one in our picture hangs outside the Hunters Arms at Kilburn but all over Britain you

cannot fail to travel more than a couple of miles without seeing something depressingly similar -



'Make a Difference to this pub, You Run It' is another popular one, they are becoming more popular than the

'Under New Management' notices. And all around pubs are closing and subjected to the boarding-up treatment - clad in horrible metallic material at all entry points.

LEICESTER BEER FESTIVAL 12th - 15th March 2008

We're opening our doors again to offer at least 200 Beers from Leicestershire, Rutland and other areas plus 30 real Ciders & Perries and local Wines

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Wednesday 5pm-11pm
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Weeks £2.00
Thurs after 4pm £2.00
Fri after 4pm £3.00
Sat all day £2.00

Souvenir Festival Glass £2 Refundable
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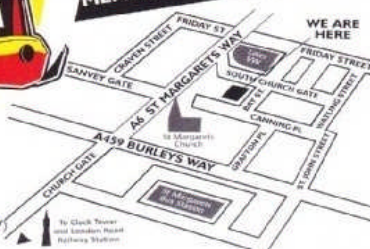


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Annual Beer Festival at Rowing Club

This ever-popular event will run over the Boat Race weekend. Open from Friday 28th March and running through to the lunchtime of Sunday 30th (beer permitting). Derby Rowing club is situated on the banks of the Derwent at Darley Grove.

The Old Poets' Corner

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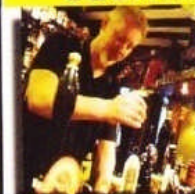
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The Malt Shovel on Potter Street, Spondon lays a claim to being the oldest pub on the same site within the boundaries of the City of Derby. There has been a Malt Shovel here since at least 1340, the year of the Great Fire of Spondon, when it burned down.

According to legend, grain being dried in the pub's oven, overheated and caught fire. Sparks flew to the attic and set fire to the grainstore. A roaring fire swept through the neigh-

bouring cottages of Potter Street and Church Hill to the church itself. By the time it was brought under control, the church and all but four houses in the village



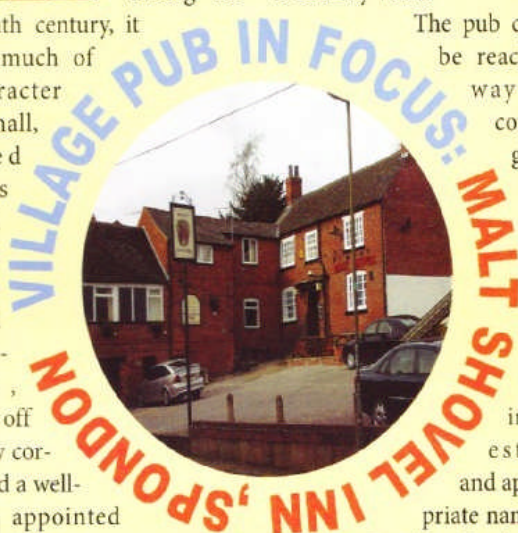
Licensees Mark and Karen Johnson have been at the Malt for three and a half years and keep some very good ale. Although largely constricted to the

nineteenth century, it retains much of its character with small, beamed rooms adorned with brass and brickwork, leading off a narrow corridor and a well-appointed lounge.

In the lower front portion of the inn is a large and regularly patronised function room, the Tudor Room, which opens most days and features a full-size snooker table. Old photographs of the pub and of bygone Spondon adorn the walls.

Marstons list, they take full advantage of the range and have featured Freeminer bitter, Everards Pitch Black Stout, Brains range, Black Sheep, Hop Back Summer Lightning and the Jennings brews alongside the regular staple from Burton Upon Trent, which has included their latest new brews. Mark also sells two real ciders on gravity. Two from Thatchers were available on one of my visits.

The pub can also be reached by way of a couple of ginnels or alleyways, one of which bears the interesting and appropriate name of Guzzlers Nook, and overall the message here is that the Malt Shovel is well worth a guzzle of ale at any time!



Our photographs, clockwise from the top left are: Landlord Mark proudly at his bar, the standing inn sign, the bar and corridor, an exterior view of the Malt Shovel and one of the small rooms adjoining the corridor.



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• CHESTERFIELD TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE Tel: 01246 345777 • THE FAT CAT, SHEFFIELD Tel: 0114 249 8801 • OLD POET'S CORNER, ASHOVER Tel: 01246 596888





LONG EATON WALKABOUT

This occurred on 19th January. Mercifully, the rain relented and a rare glimpse of the sun greeted the 25 thirsty tipplers at the Good Beer Guide listed Royal Oak, on Tamworth Road. A decent drop of Slaters Premium lubricated the larynx, whilst some opted for Old Speckled Hen, now brewed by Greene King.

The yellow painted Barge Inn could hardly be ignored, and of 5 cask beers, Taylor's Landlord found favour with many present. Next stop was the Tiger; still a Marston's house 34 years after its appearance in the first *Good Beer Guide*. The bar was closed for a major refurb so the lounge found us downing Pedigree, and Old Empire at only £2.60 a pint. After a few wrong turns we found the Twitchell on Howitt Street. This enterprising Wetherspoon house had a great range of beers, including offerings from Burton Bridge, Grainstore, Banks and Taylor, as well as the excellent Phoenix Navy. We lingered here before venturing forward to the Lockstone, an attractive Art Deco building, on the Market Place. The near ubiquitous Old Speckled Hen was sampled before finishing at the Hole in the Wall on Regent Street.

The high standards set by landlord, Kevin Thompson, have never dropped during his 20-year tenure of the Hole, and Kevin has been rightly rewarded by being perennially featured in the GBG since 1994. Beer aficionados are well provided for, and on our visit, Milestone Maid Marian, Slaters Original and Slaters Queen Bee augmented Draught Bass, which is always available. A couple of cloudy glasses

were spotted and enquires revealed these were Hoare Farm Rose Hip cider which packed a powerful punch at 7.5%abv.

Long Eaton was once a stronghold for the Nottingham breweries, but our crawl was proof positive that real ale can flourish in the post-Home, Shipstone and Kimberley era.

ILKESTON

The latest addition to Ilkeston's pub scene is the Queen's Counsel, which occupies the building vacated by Robinson's solicitors on the Market Place. The ground and first floors have been opened out and the contemporary interior design is redolent of a sophisticated nightclub. Fuller's London Pride and yes, you guessed it, Old Speckled Hen, are on draught.

John and Yvonne continue to attract customers old and new at that venerable drinking establishment known as the Dewdrop, on Station Street. The pub is now open all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and the lobby looked a picture over the festive period, with its large Christmas tree.

Our eagle-eyed roving reporter, Steve Boa, informs us that Bellinis, part of the BP garage, opposite the hospital, is a good source of bottle-conditioned beers. Indeed, it's also been recommended for other alcoholic beverages, and has a butcher, as well as a deli that offers locally sourced produce.

HEANOR AND LANGLEY MILL

First, the bad news, Que Sera, Heanor, which under its previous guise was known as the Crown inn, has closed and is for sale. The former

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Kimberley house, which featured in the 1992 GBG, was in a tranche of 280 pubs sold by Marston's to Piccadilly Investments, whose backers include Sir Alex Ferguson and Simon Cowell. It remains to be seen whether it has pulled its last pint. On a happier note, the most recent Erewash pub to receive LocAle accreditation is the Red Lion, Heanor. Our photo shows pub manager, Rachel Eyre (left), and duty manager, Amy Havill.

Down the road in Langley Mill, Stuart Warner's investment at the Inn the Middle, continues to pay dividends. Despite last year's wet summer, Stuart, who has joined CAMRA's ranks, reports healthy trading with the Sunday carvery proving particularly popular. Turnstone Taverns, who run the nearby Railway Tavern, have relocated to the Railway's upper floor. This bodes well for the pub's future.

EREWASH EVENTS

9/10 May Beer Festival, Ilkeston Co-op. 8.30pm, Wednesday, 20th February, AGM, Spanish Bar, South Street, Ilkeston. Nominees for the new committee are being sought. 8.30pm, Wednesday, 5th March, Branch Meeting, Railway Inn, Wilne Road, Sawley. Contact **Maria Gibson** 01773 533637 or visit erewash-camra.org

Paul Gibson

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Poems and Pints

Les Baynton has done a small book for Shepherd Neame which includes a number of specially written poems and and brewery/pub photographs. This should be coming out early 2008.

He is now planning another such book featuring Derbyshire breweries. If any brewers would like to be included in this they should contact Pint Pot Poetry on 01332 206734.

Amber and Brunswick breweries have already expressed interest.

We reproduce here one of the poems which Les wrote for Shepherd Neame. The Kent brewers were the first brewery in the country to obtain a licence for civil marriages.

A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN

Our eyes met across the handpumps
You sparkled like fresh poured beer,
Our love grew amongst the regulars
Soft words swirling beneath the banter
Then one magical night I proposed,
You smiled, nodded and kissed me,
Everything would be suitably arranged.

Now I am in heaven,
About to marry my real ale girl
In the brewhouse by the mash tuns
And behind the steel vessels,
Two glorious stained glass windows,
Truly a Church of Ale with incense
Of malt and Kentish hops divine

After the ceremony,
In the brewery bar,
We will drink to our future
And know that our well crafted love
Will condition for many years,
And we will savour each other always
Like our favourite guest beer.

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Cheque Payable to Derby CAMRA for £3 for 5 issues.

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

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

Twelfth Night Delights

The 7th Derby CAMRA Twelfth Night Winter Beer Festival proved to be a massive hit with the beer and music loving public up and down the Country as almost 2600 punters turned out over the three day event to enjoy a top notch line-up of beer and bands.

Now Britain's first big CAMRA Beer Festival of the year, it saw thirsty drinkers sup over 10,000 pints of Real Ale, Cider and Perry and almost all stocks of Continental Bottled beers as well. By close of play on Saturday night only about a dozen beers remained on with not much left in each cask either. Eager visitors also snapped up most of the supplies of the splendid souvenir glasses and t-shirts.

And as usual the 'Festival that Rocks' certainly delivered with three top tribute bands, Feeder, Foo Fighters and Stereophonics proving major draws on Friday and Saturday nights with queues forming early each night although everyone was able to get in and enjoy the occasion. Each band performed memorable sets as did the warm up act on Saturday night, Verbal Warning whose 'Old Skool' Punk Rock numbers went down well with Festival goers for the second year in succession. And Thursday's opening night act, The Dirty Rotten Scoundrels proved a great taster for the rest of the Festival as well with a great set of bluesy/rock covers.

The Twelfth Night theme also saw volunteer staff entering into the spirit of the occasion by dressing up in Shakespearean costumes on opening night which was attended by the Mayor



of Derby (pictured with Lynn Brown and Gareth Stead) as well as many local brewers and publicans who all seemed to have a good time.

All in all then another enjoyable Winter-Fest and Festival Chairman, Lynn Brown completed a hatrick of years at the helm which coincided with the move to its new Twelfth Night slot. "After the previous two years successes we were keen to firmly establish the Festival at this time of year and we are delighted it turned out to be another excellent event. There was some great beer and bands again this time and I've really enjoyed my three years in charge."

Festival Vice Chairman, Gareth Stead who also organised the Entertainment continued, "We probably had our best ever line-up of bands this year and they certainly went down well with the punters. The atmosphere was great, the beer quality was superb and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves."

So, roll on next year (8th-10th January 2009) for what should be another unique event but before then though we have the little matter of the 31st Derby CAMRA Summer Beer Festival to enjoy from 9th -13th July 2008. See you all there.

Nailers Ale Festival

Belper Town Football Club will be holding a Beer Festival on Friday 23rd May, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th May 2008. Live Music on Friday and Saturday. Free Admission and 50 Real ales on sale. Opening Times Friday 5pm - 11.30pm, Saturday 12.00 - 11.30pm, Sunday 12.00 - 11.00pm.

From ash to nut tray!



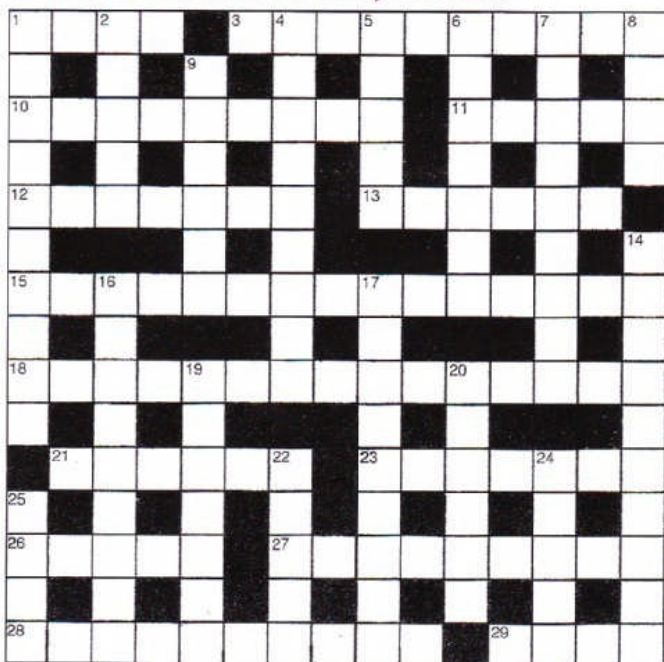
The humble ash tray disappeared from most pub tables and bars when the smoking ban was intro-

duced last year. But it made a comeback at the Rowditch Inn on a cold January night.

There was a chestnut roasting evening in the pub and Ditch regular Mick Woolley was roasting his nuts over a roaring fire.

As customers readily consumed the said nuts (of which there were many) there was an urgent need for somewhere to put all the discarded nut-cases. Landlord Steve Birkin brought some ashtrays out of retirement for a rare appearance! They did the job admirably and our picture is now a very rare sight on a British pub bar.

CROSSWORD No 5 by Wrenrutt



ACROSS

1. A Derbyshire brewery of caprice ... (4)
- 3... and its bitter and location (10)
10. Framboisbière ingredient sometimes blown for disapproval (9)
11. Run into a strong German beer surprisingly becoming Thornbridge's Stout (5)
12. Something truly meant one finds in cereals (7)
13. A room's recessive feature? (6)
15. Operatic Pagliaccio's version of "Smile though your heart ... is breaking"? (2,4,3,6)
18. Muddled up skaters c'er reuse and

look for hoards (8,7)

21. Requesting, in a royal capacity (6)
23. On your bike again to find a fresh use for something (7)
26. Three of these to the wind, then you're almost drunk! (6)
27. 'Defeat red' could mean United in a league (9)
28. Defunct Loch Fyne crossing, now only in name (5,5)
29. Wean off afresh (4)

DOWN

1. Derbyshire's latest microbrewery town (10)
2. Rab Nesbitt partly backed a Norwegian

SOLUTIONS to CROSSWORD No 4 by Wrenrutt

ACROSS

1. BELL 3. SMITHFIELD 10. SENTIENCE 11. DATED 12. ETERNAL 13. MALIBU 15. BENTLEY BROOK INN 18. LEATHERBRITCHES 21. SHEARS 23. CORELLI 26. TRUER 27. STATEMENT 28. OVERWEIGHT 29. WEED

DOWN

1. BASKETBALL 2. LANCE 4. MINELAYER 5. THERM 6. FIDELIO 7. ESTABLISH 8. DADA 9. GINNEL 14. UNASSISTED 16. NEATHOUSE 17. RORSCHACH 19. HEADROW 20. TURNER 22. SUSHI 24. LIEGE 25. OTTO

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dramatist (5)

4. A rare title for a sky-borne mail item (3,6)
5. A tray for a South American weasel? (5)
6. Verdi opera concerning a Cuban co.? (7)
7. A fortunate find failing to have an 'A' settles for a Normandy coastal resort (9)
8. Victory's greek goddess, I ken (4)
9. Word of a toast to friends not occasionally present (6)
14. Looks at pasture (public) by the river at Duffield (4,6)
16. Glossop brewery's prize-winning light, hoppy bitter (5,4)
17. Kelham Island's ditto (no prizes yet) (4,5)
19. Person who's bound to make a scene on the stage (7)
20. ... again, by acclaim! (6)
22. New boss right away makes a blunder (5)
24. Verbally overtake (3,2)
25. A twisting solo? Capital! (4)

Access to The Chambers Dictionary and the Good Beer Guide 2007 recommended

Send completed entries to the editor.
Correct grids will go into a draw for a £10 prize.

Winner of Crossword 4 is Brian Jackson of Carlton, Nottingham.

Wrenrutt reports that any visions of his 'sabbatical' involving studying the arts of malevolent verbal obscurity or twisted semantic thinking at University of Spondon seminars, or sitting in the brasserie of the Abbaye des Rocs and sampling the Bière Spéciale de Noël (10%) are wide of the mark: more prosaically, He was actually preoccupied with moving house from one part of Derby to another!



Derby Drinker is distributed free of charge to pubs in and around the city. Published by the Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale and printed by Colourstream Litho, Riverside Road, Pride Park, Derby.

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Advertising rates: Front Page £45
small, £55 medium, £65 large,
Other pages £40 S, £50 M, £60L
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348559

Other contributors and helpers for this issue: Jok Arguile, Les Baynton, Janette Edge, Paul Gibson, Chris & Sue Rogers, Trevor Spencer, Gareth Stead, and Julian Tubbs.

Additional photographs: Jok Arguile, Martyn Hallam, Julian Tubbs and Keith Williams.

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