



ISSUE NUMBER 125

DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009

FREE

Not the Twelfth Night but the Winter Beer Festival

Just as the turkey and trimmings fade and the tinsel and trees have come down on Twelfth Night so the Derby CAMRA Winter Beer Festival bursts into life with another fantastic line-up of beers and bands guaranteed to brighten up your winter.

Back for its 8th great year, CAMRA's first major Beer Festival of 2009 will run from Thursday evening 8th January until Saturday 10th 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 with a regional heat of CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain competition also being held at the Festival on the Thursday night.

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 the ever popular punk band, VERBAL WARNING and three top tributes to BLUR, KAISER CHIEFS and The KILLERS.

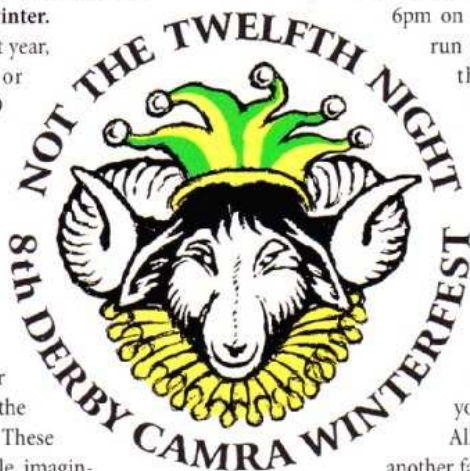
The whole thing will get under way at 6pm on the Thursday evening and run right through to 11pm on the Saturday night. But remember to come early, as

it does get extremely busy in the evenings. Or you could avoid all the queuing by getting your ticket for Friday/Saturday in advance from one of the designated outlets or via postal application saving yourself £1 into the bargain.

All in all then it promises to be another fantastic Winter-Fest, 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: winterbeer-fest@derbycamra.org.uk



sale at other places outside the City soon as well. You can also get them by sending an SAE together with your remittance to: Advance Bookings, 44 Duke Street, Derby. DE1 3BX.

PLEASE NOTE : Camra members/students must pay the full up front ticket price and you will be given back your entitled discount at the Festival itself on production of the appropriate card.

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Winter-Fest - Discounts for Advance Bookings

Great News, if you purchase your ticket in advance of the Festival then you will get £1 off the door price on the night.

This superb offer is for Friday/Saturday evenings only and tickets can be purchased at the following outlets in Derby:- Brunswick, Flowerpot and Royal Standard. We also hope to have them on

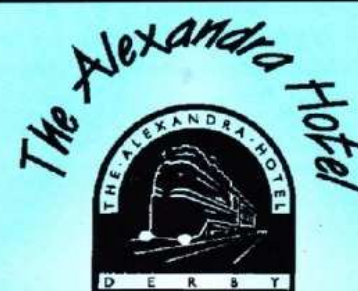
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It's time to stand up for beer!

Guest writer Paul Hegarty, Head of Communications at Coors Brewery in Burton issues a rallying call to address some of the problems facing our beer and pubs

We have all seen the boarded up pubs, headlines about falling beer sales and that five pubs a day are closing. This was further brought to life by the recent announcement of the closure of Carlsberg's Tetley Brewery in Leeds. Beer has been losing share to other drinks categories, especially wine and cider

Beer and pubs have been getting a rough time from the Government. There have been nine increases in beer duty since 1997 and the rate of duty has increased by 38%. This compares with spirit duty, which was frozen from 1998 to 2008 and has only increased by 12% since 1997. With all the headlines about alcohol problems, it is strange that the Government's duty policy seems to be designed to drive people away from a low alcohol category to spirits - or hard liquor as they call it in the States.

The duty paid on a 5% beer is 26p per pint more than on an equivalent pint of cider. This allows cidemakers to invest more in building their brands - advertising, promotions, and innovation. It also allows them to sell super strength white ciders at a fraction of the price that would be

possible to sell a beer. Is it surprising that our parks and hedges are increasingly littered

with cider empties?

Why does increasing beer duty unfairly disadvantage pubs? Supermarkets are fiercely committed to offering the best value to shoppers and admit that they sell alcohol at low or even zero margin to attract people to their stores. They can make their margin elsewhere but beer is such a big part of a pub's business



this is not possible. Pubs have to pass duty increases to drinkers, further widening the gap between on and off trade prices.

So what can be done?

If there was as much public fuss about pub closures as there has been about Post Office closures or the 10p tax rate, I would hazard a guess that Government would tread far more carefully when considering beer duty increases.

Beer lovers should be standing together to call for a freeze on beer duty. We should also be asking that beer and cider to be taxed in a similar fashion. They are both similar "long alcoholic drinks". Why should cider drinkers be given such an enormous tax advantage over beer lovers?

The time has come to stand up for and champion beer. We should all be making our case in the newspapers - both local and national. We should inundate the politicians with letters - if every member of CAMRA wrote to their local MP to protest about beer duty increases that would be a post bag of over 90,000 letters.

There should be a real wake up call for Westminster. Beer and pubs are two national treasures. We must ensure that they are allowed to compete on level playing field!

Write to your local MP at - The House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Margaret Becket MP - Derby South
Bob Laxton MP - Derby North

PUB NIPS

The **Roebuck** in Potter Street, Melbourne has been shrouded in a degree of uncertainty for some time but it appears that it has at least a five year stay of execution under a new licensee. Two beers from Leatherbritches Brewery were on offer during a recent CAMRA visit. The **Malt Shovel** at Shardlow was closed for some weeks for refurbishment following its transfer from managed house to new leaseholders. Real Ale has returned after a lengthy absence to the **Old Bell** in Sadler Gate in the form of Fullers London Pride. The new licensee is a cask beer drinker. At Smalley, the **Nags Head** has closed and is currently boarded up.

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Festive Four from Derby Brewing Company

Derby Brewing Company are brewing four seasonal beers and packaging them as the DBC Festive Season Collection.

The beers - two tried and tested and two new brews - are Cool Yule, a 3.9% ABV pale, Winter Wonderland which is a 4.3% trad beer colour, White Christmas, a 5.5% pale and Christmas Porter at 5% described by Trevor Harris as 'Black is Black'. Trevor added that he feels the selection has 'Something for everybody'.

The brews will be in pubs from 1st December and the brewers have four pubs

signed up to take them so far. They are the Rowditch, Crompton, Prince of Wales (Spondon) and Royal Oak (Ockbrook), plus the Brewery Tap of course.

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Microbrewery Corner

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



AMBER ALES

The season welcomes the return of Winner Ruby (5.1%) plus a new beer, Cascade Pale (3.7%) with amber malt. Also planning a low gravity session ale with substantial flavour-yet to be perfected. Barnes Wallis Bitter (4.1%) first in a series of Amber Valley Heroes is regularly seen on the bar at The Wagon & Horses, Alfreton. Two part-time brewery assistants have been taken on.

BOTTLE BROOK

After the replacement of the concrete floor at the brewery, which resulted in inactivity for some months, things have suddenly sprung into life with a glut of new beers. Partly due to the lack of availability of certain hops these include Dark at 3.6%, Louisiana Smoked Porter at 5.6% and Road Runner at 4.8%.

BURTON BRIDGE

Old Expensive (6.5%) is back on sale for the season, it was a timely winner of the Gold Award in the strong ales section at Stoke Beer Festival.

DERVENTIO

Derventio Brewery were awarded three medals at the SIBA Midlands Region Beer Competition 2008 held at Nottingham Beer Festival in October.

Vesuvius took the highest medal, Silver in the Strong Ales category, with Barbarian (Porter, Stouts, Old Ales and Mild Category) and Cleopatra (Speciality Beer Category) taking Bronze medals. November has seen the

return of Winter Solstice, a 5% lightly spiced beer and December will see a new beer to hit the pumps, Christmas Gold. This beer is 4% light golden in colour and brewed with First Gold hops, hence the name (see pumpclip). The beer calendar for next year will

see three new beers and the return of some old favourites, check out the web site for more news.

FALSTAFF

Current brewery production is roughly 15 barrels per week. Virtually all production is for casks but occasional bottling does occur.



The Doctor at 11.3% ABV, from this year's Doctor Who theme is waiting for an appearance in December. Some of it has been bottled. This theme will end in December but no new theme for next year has been decided yet. 3-

Phaze, the second beer to come out of the Falstaff with Jim in charge, has made a welcome re-appearance, whether it is going to be a regular brew again has not been decided.

HEADLESS

The regular beers have now been joined on the bar by two strong golden beers, Xymosis at 7.5% ABV and the seasonal Christmas special, Ebenezer 6% ABV as well as a further brew of Five Gates. A one off brew, The Good Life, also appeared recently, a blend of KSA and First Bloom. The brewery's first dark beer, a 4.5% ABV Stout called Over and Out is now almost

ready and is expected to appear at both the Flowerpot and sister pub, the Smithfield during early December as well as making an appearance at the Derby CAMRA Winter Festival.

TOLLGATE

Cask sales still good and a new brew out soon is Dr. Scott's Elixir at 4.2% ABV. The winter brew sees the return of Tollgate Cracker at 4.6% ABV and a new bottle conditioned beer is Melbourne Bitter at 4.4% ABV. Their range of bottle-conditioned beers is now addition-

ally available at the Chatsworth House Farm Shop.

WHIM

Joe's feet are hardly touching the floor at Whim these days as he works flat out to keep up with demand, especially since the SIBA award a while ago, and with Flower Power becoming a regular brew. Apart from Whim's regular beers, in the pubs you will find Snow White and can look forward Black Christmas shortly.

WIRKSWORTH

Wirksworth Brewer Jeff Green had a good year brewing his core beers plus a Festival Ale for the Wirksworth Arts Festival in September which he hopes to make an annual brew. Sunbeam will be dropped for the winter months and a new stronger beer could be forthcoming. In response to local interest Wirksworth have all their regular

beers available in 4.5 gallon pins containing 36 pints, ideal for any party over the winter period, Cruckbeam (3.9%), First Brew (4.2%), Sunbeam (4.0%) and T'Owd Man (4.9%) are all available in the smaller casks or the standard 9 gallon casks. For full details contact Jeff 01629 824011/website WWW.WIRKSWORTHBREWERY.CO

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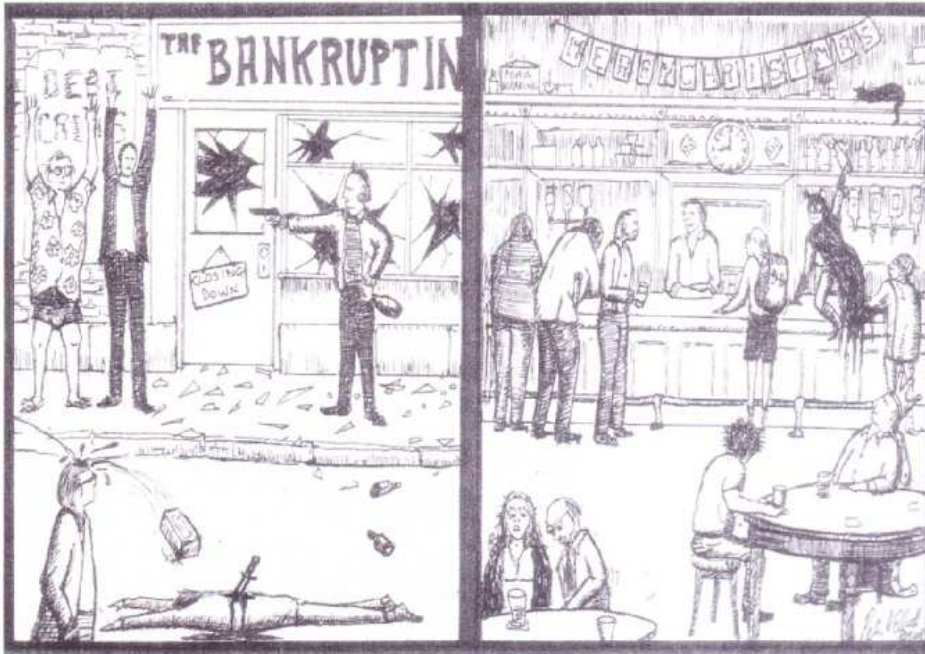
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Expensive Beer

Free Beer

Consider! Dear Toper, the year almost spent. A year that has seen many hostelrys, the length and breadth of the land, closed, shuttered and lost forever, the result, many would claim, of high drinks prices.

And now with much saber rattling coming from the public order and health lobbies (the usual precursor to yet another tax hike) I can foresee the price of a pint rising dramatically in the new year, but as you gaze around yourself Dear Toper and note the latest unwanted, unlovely, state-funded eyesore that blights the city skyline, you could be forgiven for thinking, if that is the best thing they can find to spend it on, they have had enough of your hard earned money already!

To justify their traditional annual (now-seemingly six monthly) tax clobbering of toppers to a gullible public, the killjoy politicians, come up with glib and meaningless phrases, such as, 'Drink Related Problems', but what does this mean? For instance, could a so called, 'Drink Related Death', be the result of a pub sign falling upon someone's head during a gale? Or more commonly perhaps, let us consider Dear Toper, someone with a hereditary heart condition (many are) who dies after a night out with the lads, surely

it is the heart condition that has killed him; the drink might have contributed to his demise, but to what extent? It might of course, have contributed massively, but it's effects might just as easily have been negligible (which I suspect is more often the case) however in both cases the statistic compilers would class his death as, "Drink Related".

As for so called, "Drink Related Crime". The vast majority of the population imbibe, even - shock horror - little old ladies! who might partake of a glass of sherry at a family funeral gathering (the result we assume of a, 'Drink Related Death') but they don't undergo some sort of Jekyll/Hyde transformation the moment the 'evil liquid', passed their aged lips and emerge as Myra Hindley! Many rugby players will sink several pints of ale after a match, but they don't suddenly pull ladies stockings over their heads to disguise their broken noses and become gun toting bank robbers! Young courting couples after partaking of a romantic candlelit meal in a restaurant, washed down with a bottle of over priced and indifferent wine, don't take issue with the fawning waiter because of it, pick up the cutlery and stab him to death before

and then the ubiquitous traffic warden lurking outside! At the zoo keepers annual dinner and dance (I assume they have one) do they after toasting the late Johnny Morris, suddenly become practitioners of bestiality? Of course they don't, because the vast majority of toppers are decent law abiding folk, and the people who commit so called 'Drink Related Crime' are anti social scumbags, and drink or no drink, they will remain scumbags (in all probability high on illegal drugs should drink prove scarce) but when they are arraigned in court, they need an excuse for their criminal behaviour, and no doubt urged on by some drip of a social worker they plead: 'It was the drink what made me do it Your Honour'.

Unless they are up for a driving offence of course, for no excuses can be made for being a nasty, polluting motorist in 21st century PC Britain! Good heavens they'll be smoking too next!

Isn't it amazing Dear Toper, if you're stupid enough to be found drunk in charge of a motor vehicle, you will be sent straight to prison (and rightly so) if you're found drunk in someone else's living room, in the middle of the night, with a blood stained crowbar in one hand and a bag marked swag in the other, whilst standing over the still warm corpse of a pensioner (presumably she could afford to have the heating on) blame it on the drink and drugs

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and you will be miraculously transformed into a victim of society, given an ASBO and leave the courtroom scot free, without a stain on your character, and with the words of a spokeswoman for Social services ringing in your ears: 'Lessons have been learnt'.

The entire episode will be cited as a reason for over taxing law abiding toppers, by those strange creatures of darkness the liberal intelligentsia (although the word 'intelligentsia' is somewhat misleading in their case, as is 'liberal' if someone has the temerity to criticise their half-baked theories) and don't forget Dear Toper these same individuals would like to legalise hard drugs and give them away to addicts, with the aim of eradicating drug related crime, claiming that addicts would no longer have to steal to fund their habits. Let us Dear Toper take this theory to its logical conclusion; if, as the statisticians claim, much of crime is, 'Drink Related', surely the way to bring a marked decrease in crime is to have free beer - are you listening Darling? Do try to have a Merry Christmas Dear Toper.

D.T.

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SIBA Silver Dwarf



Brewer Richard Swanwick of Black Hole Brewery looks quietly content even though he has dressed for the occasion. The occasion being receipt of a Silver Certificate in the best bitter category for their Red Dwarf at the SIBA Midlands Awards in October.

The ceremony was held under the canvas at the impressive Robin Hood Beer Festival in the grounds of Nottingham

Castle. Black Hole had a full range of their beers featured at the Black Hole Weekend at the Nunsfield House club at Boulton in November.

Two South Derbyshire pubs combining for festival

Two pubs which have staged successful beer festivals in recent years are getting together for a seasonal one early in 2009. The Unicorn at Newton Solney and the Bulls Head Repton are having a joint Winter beer festival from Thursday 5th February to Sunday 8th.

A selection of well over 50 beers is to be showcased. There will be a

free shuttle bus covering the 1.4-mile trip between the two pubs over the four days, both will have live music and food during the event with a special charity night on the Friday (Unicorn) for St Giles hospice.

For more information contact Paul at the Unicorn 01283-703324 or Richard at the Bulls Head 01283-704422.

Ticked off - varying degrees of madness?

Three tickers went into a pub. And yes it is some kind of joke. The editor was finishing a pint of Flower Power in the Smithfield before the Rams v Blues game recently when three gentlemen, probably in their fifties, from the North-East entered a largely-deserted bar. One had the big book, two others nervously approached the bar. "Where's the new one from Headless?" one offered. "Five Gates? It's not on tonight" came the reply. "It's not on!" the would-be drinker shouted to the seated book carrier, "Do you want KSA?" The mood changed: "No chance, that was the only one we've come for, let's go!"

And off they went, back to Tyneside after a fruitless search

for a new half? Probably not quite, but how ridiculous is this scenario?

I suppose we all have a bit Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) about us, CAMRA members in particular can have the knack of being able to ignore all around them but beer and pubs. Indeed we had a Derby Branch Meeting on the night of the events of 9/11 and nobody mentioned it all evening, but the obsessive ticker or scooper (when samples are sometimes taken regardless of readiness of the beer to drink) is losing, or has lost the ability to enjoy a pint in a pub with friends.

After all that's what must have got them into drinking real ale in the first place.

Brunswick old pals unite for new brew

Old boy Brunswick bar tender, Simon Davey meets old boy Brunswick regular Pete Grills. After 'mashing' their heads together they came up with a new brew for the Brunswick which has been given the name 'Grillsy's Restoration'.

At 4.6% ABV, it's a full bodied copper beer, with a subtle spicy citrus hop finish. The

brewer James had little to do with the process, and said "I think it's a cracking brew, let's hope both Si and Grillsy get there heads together soon and produce another beer as fine as that!"

Our picture shows, from left to right, James, Pete and an ever-exuberant Simon, who has also been pulling pints at the Babington recently.



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Traditional British Sessional Bitters: Are They in Terminal Decline?

In my letter to *The Ale Bag* in Issue 122 (June/July 2008) I expressed concern about what I believed was the increasing difficulty of being able to obtain the classical, maltier sessional bitters between the strengths of 3.2% and 3.9% Alcohol by volume (ABV), as one could so readily do last century. I had the distinct impression that, in some establishments, they were being squeezed out in favour of far stronger beers, and that whether low or higher strength there was also a tendency to brew beers which are so over-hopped they tend to obliterate the flavour of beer's most fundamental ingredient: malt. It mirrors the tendency of prepared-food manufacturers to add sugar unnecessarily or excessively to their sweet or savoury products. I also suggested that an increasing tolerance of over-strong beers, and the consequent casual attitude to drinking the same amount of beer of higher strengths, as if they were still lower strength ones, was not a good idea in the long run, either for long term health reasons or the implications for potential anti-social behaviour and its consequent damage to the individual or for the general common good. Because of my impression, I decided to make a quick survey of some of Derby centre's "flagship" pubs to get a more accurate picture of the situation. This is what I found:

I. Around Central Derby, 13th September

Brewery Tap Had 10 British draught beers, with only 2 below 4% ABV: Hook Norton Mild and its own *Hop'til you drop* at 3.9%.

The latter's description says it all. Since it opened, I have called by on a number of occasions, but never been able to catch a classic malty bitter there below 4%. Consequently, I have yet to have my first pint there. Although I like the improved exterior, and don't mind the spartan décor as some do I dislike the macho atmosphere and confusing noisiness of the place, which places quiet conversations at a premium. I suggest either curtains or better acoustic control would be in order.

0 malty bitters out of 10 beers available

Smithfield Had 9 beers on but only 1 below 4%. All were light hoppy ones, where relevant. I've not enjoyed a pint there for some time now.

0 out of 10 malty bitters available

Brunswick Had 16 beers on with only 2 less than 4%. Fortunately one of them was its dependable *Beacon* bitter.

1 malty bitter out of 16 beers available

Alexandra Hotel Had 9 beers, 3 below 4% but all 'hoppy'. There seems to be a current embargo on Bateman's XB here because a consignment of it once let the place down: something I never recalled when it was a Bateman's pub. Odd, as this doesn't appear to be a problem in Boston, where there seems to be Bateman's outlet on every street corner, and at the *White Hart Hotel*, and in most villages round about.

0 malty bitters out of 9 beers available

Babington As expected, Derby's Pub of the Year had 18 beers on, 4 of them below 4%, which included 1 mild. On the increasingly popular colour classification from light (A or A+) to E (Dark) the remaining bitters were an A and 2 Bs, implying the first would 'fail' my 'hoppy' test and the others would just about pass muster. I didn't notice any bitters instantly recognisable as well-known classics. 2 malty bitters out of 18 beers available

II. The Cathedral Quarter Pubs, 16th September

Flowerpot Had 14 beers on (Church End's *Fallen Angel* (5%) just having finished), including *Pedigree* (4.5%). 2 were below 4% but both 'hoppy'. This is another establishment where strong, hoppy bitters have increasingly taken precedence since its early days.

0 malty bitters out of 14 beers available

Dolphin Had 8 beers on. Although its *Pedigree* (4.5%) and *Draught Bass* (4.4%) fine beers that they are, were available, although over my limit, so to speak. The ones that 'qualified' were Adnams bitter (3.7%), Black Sheep bitter (3.8%) and its ever-faithful and always well-kept *Deuchars IPA* (3.8%). Although the Black Sheep is too hoppy for my liking, the fact is the bitters generally were well represented, confirming my experience that my type of bitter is reliably available here.

2 malty bitters out of 8 beers available

Standing Order Despite not being in the 2008 Bible, I counted 10 available beers in this magnificent Wetherspoon's pile. Apart from *Courage Directors* bitter (4.8%), which hails from Wells and Young nowadays, and Slater's *Top Totty*, which I would have allowed in at 4% had it not been for its laddish description — *stunning blonde beer full-bodied with a voluptuous hop aroma* — preferring its *Owzat!* at 3.8%, the pub had Marston's superb bitter (3.8%), Nottinghamshire's *Milestone's Lion's Pride* (3.8%) and the pleasing *Greene King IPA* (3.6%). Burton's *Black Hole Brewery's* own bitter (3.8%), again, is too hoppy for my liking. Consequently there were three bitters available I would have happily gone for.

3 malty bitters out of 10 beers available

Although one cannot draw too many hard-

and-fast conclusions on the basis of two nights' investigations, what they did confirm for me was that my suspicion, that classical sessional beers were being pushed aside in favour of stronger and hoppier beers in some of Derby's top pubs, had some foundation. I think those pubs are too meekly following this trend, and are colluding with those macro and micro-breweries which are

mistaking overstrong and over-hoppiness for robustness of flavour.

As for my title's question, are traditional bitters in terminal decline? I don't think they are at present, but if the trend I have identified continues I can foresee a time when CAMRA will have to mount a campaign to save them, as it had to do for mild some years ago. What I would submit is that some of Derby's top pubs have had so much adulation from CAMRA members, they are in danger becoming complacent, resting on their laurels, and running the risk of killing off a style of bitter they should be in the business of cherishing and promoting.

As for more practical advice to those who share my feelings in the matter, I would suggest they either stop using the pubs in Derby which are increasingly not catering for them, and make for those in the Cathedral Quarter which do, or just carry on going to that cosy, quiet little local just round the corner (while it's still open), where you know that your sort of bitter is reliably and readily available.

Jon Turner

Addendum Since this article was written, I have learnt of a sighting Hook Norton's *Hooky Bitter* (3.6%) at the **Brewery Tap**. However, when I looked in there on the 28th October, the situation was virtually identical to that observed in September.

This article is Jon's view of the Derby beer scene and is, as he points out, based on two evenings out. To put the counter point if Greene King, Pedigree and Bass were the major beers available in many of the pubs mentioned by Jon I feel we would see a major decline in attendees therein. And as for the street corner local, which usually sells such ales, we have unfortunately seen what is happening to them. Others out there may wish to put the case for other beer styles. Indeed, as to why they have become predominant in this area, or as to why our flagship pubs are as popular as they are. However Jon raises some interesting points regarding drinking trends. Derby Drinker always welcomes open debate so please feel free to submit YOUR view!



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Derby CAMRA away day in Ludlow

Derby CAMRA ran another fantastic trip in mid-September when a group of 36 members took the coach to Ludlow Food & Drink Festival in west Shropshire. The trip was initiated as a free reward for Derby Beer Festival volunteers (yet another reason to help out at festivals) and was supplemented by others paying a bargain £10 to visit this superb old border town on its liveliest day of the year.

Organiser Rob Davison had picked yet another great day in what had been a poor summer and Ludlow was sweltering. Held every year since 1995, the 2008 Festival featured more than 130 top quality small independent food and drink producers from the Marches.

There were demonstrations, talks and trails. People could sample and vote for their favourite sausage or bread or ale, or watch or even take part in the Waiters' Race, a dash around the town.

On to our main interest. The town was staging an Ale Trail, with 20

pubs plus a brewery tap participating. Many drinkers started at Ludlow Brewery, set up in 2006 in a lovely old maltings building in Corve Street that had been neglected. Ludlow Gold went down a treat, a snip at £2 a pint and the throng of CAMRA Derbians splintered into various sections to meander around the pubs of this architectural jewel of a town. The Church Inn (above) was a particular



favourite up on the ancient Butter Cross, by the ecclesiastical centre of town where a fruitless search for the resting place of A.E. Houseman was made. Instead the wall at the rear of the inn became the resting place of thirsty ale drinkers consuming cheese in abundance from the wonderful Mouse Trap cheese shop. It sold over 100 varieties, sometimes it is worth paying a little more for quality, although the £4 Mick Thomas paid for a packet of crackers was a touch excessive! Inside the packed inn, Jaipur was in evidence, alongside a myriad selection of micro beers.

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The Castle Grounds thronged with activity and the town markets did a roaring trade. Back on the beer front many of the Derby Contingent gathered down by the River Lud at the edge of town, in and outside the Charlton Arms (right), which had a beer festival and Wye Valley regular beers.

One refreshing aspect of Ludlow, I felt, was the presence of interesting old buildings which haven't been converted into bars or restaurants, unlike much of Derby city centre. When you have pubs

and bars cheek-by-jowl throughout a town the effect is numbing and I think you really need variety of traders to form a lively working high street.

In order to pull in a visit to a pub beer festival on the outskirts of Ludlow, we reconvened at the brewery for more Ludlow brews and a warm welcome from the staff. We then travelled a mile or so (some had already made the jaunt on foot) to the Nelson Inn at Rock Green. We were not to be disappointed (see pic below left).

Some of our party had done the Ale Trail, indeed Steve Foster had sampled beer at all 20 pubs! He informed me that the historic Feathers Hotel (right) had also £2 a pint Ludlow beers on sale.

Alas, we had to leave, wending our way back past some stunning Shropshire hill scenery as the light faded. A truly wonderful day out, one that can be highly recommended next year when the Ludlow Food & Drink Festival returns.

Many drinkers were dozing off as the coach neared Derby but there was to be a surprising last hurrah. Rob announced a clarion call. We were to make a short stop at the Wetmore Whistle in Burton - described by Rob as: "One of the finest pubs in the United Kingdom!" I'm



not completely sure about that but most of us had a cracking, if noisy, 45 minutes drinking beers from Castle Rock and Brewdog whilst a rock band belted out standards to a clientele of regular devotees and aging bikers. Reg Newcombe had a differ-



ent opinion but Rob tried to point out that there are many types of great pubs that can appeal to all sorts of different people!

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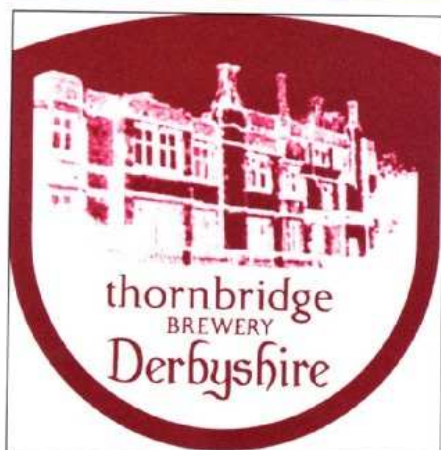


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Winter festival news



A word from the Festival Chair

Next year's event which runs from Thursday 8th - Saturday 10th January 2009 will be suitably titled "Not the Twelfth Night Winter Festival". Those recollections of Christmas will be a distant memory by Twelfth night two days earlier than the 'Festival that Rocks' begins. Blow away those winter blues with three nights of top notch entertainment and the chance to sample intoxicating winter brews from microbreweries near and far. What a delicious combination! Why not snap up a discounted ticket at any of the three outlets - Flowerpot, Royal Standard or Brunswick from Dec 1st. Don't queue it, advance book it instead! Hope to see you there.

Stephen Crispin
Winter Festival Chairman
2009

FESTIVAL OPENING TIMES/PRICES

Thursday 8th
6-11pm (£4)

Friday 9th 11am-4pm (£2), 5-11pm (£6)

Saturday 10th 11am-4pm (£2), 5-11pm (£6)

Free to CAMRA members except Fri/Sat Evenings (£2). Students £1 off every session with appropriate Student Card. £1 discount off Advance Tickets Fri/Sat Night

Beer Latest

The 8th Derby CAMRA Winter Beer Festival will feature 90 beers from 40 breweries, with a maximum of 34 on at one time.

Beer orderer Ralf Edge has secured brews from all the active breweries in the Derby Branch area so

you can expect ale from Amber, Bottle Brook, Brunswick, Derby, Derventio, Falstaff, Headless, John Thompson, Leadmill, Leatherbritches and Wirksworth. Further afield there will be beer from the following breweries: Arbor, Banks & Taylor, Bampton, Brewdog, Bristol Beer Factory, Burton Bridge, Coniston, Cox & Holbrook, Dunham Massey, Fenland, Freeminer, Full Mash, Fullers, Funfair, Milestone, Nethergate, Parish, Purity, Salopian, Thornbridge, St Austell, Tollgate and Whim.

An approximate running order will be in the website much closer to the event if there's something you're desperate to try. Amongst these beers you will find an oyster stout made with real oysters, two whisky cask matured beers, a couple of brand new never seen before beers, as well as some old favourites coming back to the festival and a TWO year old Barley Wine that's been lurking in a Derby cellar - kept especially for us....

Champion beer of Britain: Stouts & Porters judging

The festival will be hosting a regional heat to select a beer in the 'Stouts & Porters' category to put forward to the judging in the national CAMRA competition, the list for judging has been prepared using votes held in the East Midlands branches of CAMRA and features a range of beers that all fit into the 'Stouts & Porters' category - but we can't tell you what they are - yet!

Our Festival Sponsors

Derby CAMRA are indebted to our Festival sponsors for this event. Thanks go to Fullers Brewery of Chiswick and Thornbridge of Ashford-in-the-



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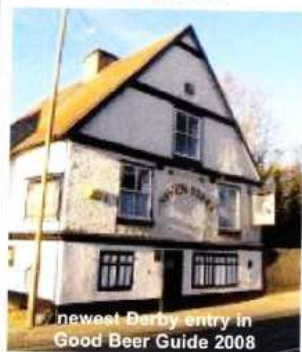
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Winter-Fest Entertainment - I Predict A Riot

Oh My God I can't believe it, the 'Festival that Rocks' is back and Somebody Told Me that the line-up of bands is bigger and better than ever before !!! From the Festival that brought you Coldplay, Darkness, Feeder, Foo Fighters, Oasis, Red Hot Chili Peppers, REM, Stereophonics and U2 tributes in the past sees another outstanding trio of headlining acts with tributes to three of the biggest bands around: BLUR; KAISER CHIEFS and The KILLERS. Once again proving that the Derby CAMRA Not the Twelfth Night Beer Festival is the only place to be this Winter.

It all begins on the Thursday night with the return by popular demand of VERBAL WARNING (pic third top) with their own unique brand of Old Skool Punk Rock which has gone down so well at previous Festivals. So much so, that they have now graduated from providing the support slot to headlining in their own right. Playing a mixture of their own stuff and classic punk tracks from the likes of the Buzzcocks, Clash and Sex Pistols as well as their own interpretations of other well known songs mean that the opening night should be a really lively and entertaining affair. (Their my space site is interesting, under 'Influences' they list the Ramones, the Clash and Real Ale! - Ed)

Then Friday night will see a battle royal between the Kings of Britpop and their Heirs to the Throne as Blur tribute, BLURB take on the Kaiser Chiefs tribute, KAISER THIEFS (second top picture).

Blur along with Oasis were undoubtedly the architects of the Britpop movement in the Nineties which saw them have major world wide success with countless hit albums and singles such as: 'Beetlebum'; 'Charmless Man'; 'Parklife'; 'Tender'; 'There's No Other Way' and 'The Universal'. Indeed who can forget the opening bars of their smash hit single, 'Song 2' which has been played over many an Ad, TV show, film or sporting event. And that epic battle with Oasis for the No.1 slot in 1995 still lives long in the memory making headline news all over; a battle they won out when 'Country House' beat 'Roll With It' to the top spot. Well, Blur themselves may currently be on a long hiatus but their influence still extends far and wide and in particular to bands like the Kaiser Chiefs.

The Kaisers are probably one of the most popular bands on the current music scene with three successful albums which have spawned many a hit track including: 'Everyday I Love You Less' and 'Less'; 'Modern Way'; 'Never Miss A Beat'; 'The Angry Mob' and that rather infectious No.1 single 'Ruby'.

So for a heavyweight clash of truly

momentous proportions get down to the Darwin Suite for a Friday night to remember with not one but two top tribute acts.

Finally, Saturday night will see a right Hot Fuss with perhaps the most eagerly anticipated performance of the whole Festival when Killers tribute, The FILLERS (top) take to the stage performing a best of set from a group that are probably one of the biggest bands in the world at the moment. With three number 1 albums to their credit and a string of hit singles including: 'All These Things That I've Done'; 'For Reasons Unknown'; 'Human'; 'Mr Brightside'; 'Read My Mind' and 'When You Were Young' the Killers brand of Glamorous Indie Rock & Roll has seen them grow into one of the best live acts around, headlining major Festivals and sell-out Arena tours everywhere. If you're yet to see them live then why not catch their tribute band instead who authentically re-create the sight and sound of a band truly On Top of their game. Definitely a night not to be missed.

So there you have it Boys & Girls, another cracking line-up of entertainment and one that's sure to be a real Joy Ride and make you all Smile Like You Mean It because I Predict A Riot of a time down at the 'Festival that Rocks'.

For further information and updates on the Festival entertainment check out the Website: www.derbycamra.org.uk or alternatively e-mail us at winter-ents@derbycamra.org.uk Gareth Stead

SUPPORT BAND REQUIRED

Do you fancy playing at the Winter Beer Festival? Well we require a support band for the Saturday Night. We can't offer any money, only beer but it will be a chance to showcase your group and provide a warm-up for The Killers tribute band. If you are interested then contact Gareth on 01332 331854 or e-mail winterents@derbycamra.org.uk



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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 11th Dec, XMAS SHOW, Flowerpot

Sat 13th Dec MINIBUS DAY TRIP TO GLOSSOP. Departs Derby 9:50 am contact Rob Davison see details below.

Tues 16th Dec, Social, Unicorn, Newton Solney

Fri 19th Dec Xmas Survey Trip, Carsington area by Minibus

Tues 23rd Dec Social, Wardwick Tavern, Derby

Wed 31st Old Year's Night Social, Rowditch Inn, Derby

JANUARY

Thurs 8th-Sat 10th Jan, NOT THE TWELFTH NIGHT DERBY CAMRA WINTERFEST

Thurs 15th Jan, BRANCH MEETING, Travellers Rest, Ashbourne Road, Derby

Tues 20th Jan, Social, Mr Grundy's, Ashbourne Road, Derby

Thurs 29th Jan, City Real Ale Gains Social, Old Bell (Sadler Gate 8pm)/

Metro Bar (Albert Street 9pm)

FEBRUARY

Fri 6th Feb, ABC: ANNUAL BEER CENSUS, DERBY

Thurs 12th Feb, BRANCH MEETING, Venue TBC

Tues 17th Feb, Social, Horse & Groom, Elms Street, Derby

AMBER VALLEY BRANCH MEETINGS (8.30PM)

Thurs 18th Dec, Victoria Inn, Alfreton

Thurs 29th Jan, Pear Tree, Ripley

Social

Mon 29th Dec, Alfreton. Meet at Waggon & Horses 7.30-8pm

Minibus trips generally depart at 19:00 from the X3 bus stop on Full Street, Derby and aim to return back to Derby by 23:45. To book a place on the survey minibus trips, or enquire about public transport or cycling social details please contact Branch Pub Surveys Coordinator Stewart Marshall on 07944 163737 or email samarshall37@googlemail.com

Branch Social Secretary Rob Davison 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.

Tradition to the fore with new team at Hatton pub

Two business partners have joined forces to take over one of the best loved pubs in the Burton area. The Railway Tavern in Station Road at Hatton now has new management under Jon Brassington and Barrie Holden, who have big plans for the Marston's owned traditional hostelry. The previous tenant, Mrs Fran Dawes, decided to give up the pub after the sad death of her husband Steve.

The pub is well known for its top class Pedigree and guest beers, a strong tradition that the new

publicans intend to continue. Barrie said: "The Railway Tavern has always been well known for its Pedigree - and we intend to deliver some of the best Pedigree in Britain. Marstons have been really helpful in the changeover, and generous in their advice and

help to make sure that the Tavern is where it deserves to be - one of the top pubs around." Their plans - which have already seen the restoration of the welcoming daily coal fire - include providing 'good pub grub', live music and entertainment, and offering the large airy conservatory at the pub for conferences and events, to add to the already popular weekly quizzes and domino teams. They also plan to restore the pub darts team.

The Burton Pike Anglers Club is planning to hold its monthly meetings and talks at the pub, and local businesses have already shown interest in plans to use the conservatory and pub for conferences, seminars and meetings. The pub will also be opening for Christmas Day lunch, and booking is advisable.

Barrie said: "This a great, traditional English pub with a fabulous atmosphere - we plan to make sure it stays that way with the best Pedigree, a good choice of new guest beers, great food, fun and laughter, lively entertainment, but most of all...a warm welcome for everyone!" Anyone who wants to book the conservatory - which will be free - can talk to Jon or Barrie at the pub on 01283 815149

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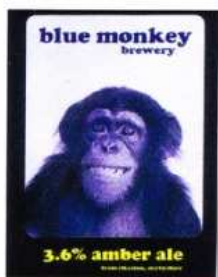
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Blue Monkey Brewery fires up in Ilkeston . . .

The latest Derbyshire brewery has arrived in the form of Blue Monkey Brewery on Manners Trading Estate on the outskirts of Ilkeston.

The brewery is the project of John Hickling, a local man who has dreamt of his own plant for years. The equipment at the 10BBL plant was purchased from Jarrow Brewery,



Durham town of that name, but it is the brewery name that

leads to an interesting tale from local history. When the Stanton Ironworks was in full flow in this area, and the furnaces in heavy production local residents used to say that

'The Blue Monkeys are at it again!'

John (pictured right and again below at work in the brewery) remembered this bit of phraseology from his childhood and decided to use the name for his fledgling brewing development. The logo (left), however, appears to owe more to the PG Tips commercials than it does to heavy industry!

The first brew, the 3.6% Amber Ale was launched at Nottingham Beer Festival where John had a stall, and has been available in some free houses in the Derby area already.



. . . Red Zebra migrates to the Cathedral Quarter !



Speciality bottled beer shop Red Zebra have relocated to a well-appointed location on Queen Street in Derby, next to the Cathedral and close by the Dolphin.

The opening was on Saturday 15th November at 10am with the mayor Barbara Jackson cutting the red ribbon. Trevor Harris from Derby Brewing Company was on hand to talk about his beers and do some wine sampling. Following on from this David Simmonds (left) hosted a Port and Cheese night there the next Friday.

CAMRA members will get a 7.5% discount off all bottled beers. You can contact the shop on 01332 607607 or check out the website at www.redzebradrinks.com. This discounting offer is an interesting move and it is worthwhile to point out that Nottingham CAMRA have a discount per pint scheme

for members running in quite a selection of their flagship pubs. It seems to work well over there, perhaps some Derby pubs may think of offering some loyalty bargains?

Cap & Stocking



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Kipling voted an exceedingly good beer

Thornbridge brewery was in a celebratory mood after hearing that its Kipling (A 5.2% South Pacific Pale Ale) had been voted the Gold Medal winning bottled beer at the Society of Independent Brewers Midland's Festival.

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Derby LocAle launch



A goodly collection of local microbrewers, CAMRA members and businessmen gathered in the Brewery Tap Royal Standard in November to officially launch the LocAle initiative of Derby CAMRA.

As outlined in DD 124 pubs need to commit to having at least one locally-brewed beer available at all times. Our definition of local is a range of 15 miles from brewery to pub. Look out for the LocAle crowns atop the pump-clips.

After Julian Tubbs, CAMRA Regional Director for the East Midlands and Derby activist had spoken about the history of the scheme, the brainchild of Steve

Westby and Andrew Ludlow of Nottingham CAMRA, Derby Brewing's Trevor Harris said a few words about local brewing, paying tribute to John Thompson of Ingleby for sewing the seeds in Trev's mind back in 1977. Fittingly the JT Rich porter took its place at the pub that evening, alongside a raft of qualifying micros, not forgetting Marstons Pedigree, which of course is also within the 15-mile limit.

Our picture shows Trevor (right) alongside Derby Branch LocAle co-ordinator Pete Hounsell toasting the success of the scheme. If your pub would like to join the scheme please contact Pete on 01773 513943.

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Value for money beer prices as Metro links up with micros

The Metro Bar in Albert Street in the city centre is doing its bit to counter the so-called credit crunch. From 1st December Gary McCartney is pricing most cask beers at just £2.20.

I say most as there will be a house ale on sale for only £2.00 a pint! As a little seasonal fun he is offering a competition prize of a gallon of beer plus a meal for two at the Metro if you can guess the brewery which is brewing the beer. Called Gary & Therese's Metro Ale it is 3.8% ABV, fruity with a dry aftertaste. Entry will recognise a 50p donation to the charity box which goes to the RAF Benevolent Fund and correct entries will go in to the hat for a draw, to be made by your editor

(who has no knowledge of the identity of the brewer) at the CAMRA social here on 29th January.

The £2.20 pint deal is a great offer as some of the beers could be as strong as 6%, it will be an unconditional price offer accross the range. And the range has been varied and impressive over recent weeks. Gary has featured plenty of Black Hole beers and, as we go to press the weekends offerings were the Burton duo's Milky Way & Red Dwarf plus Thornbridge Lord Marples and Wild Swan, Outlaw Boneshaker, and Anglo-Dutch Ghost On The Rim.

Let's give some support to a licensee who is giving his utmost to provide choice in the heart of the city.

Cask choice at Green Dragon

The Green Dragon at Willington has been increasing its cask beer range and sales lately. Licensee Jon said "The regulars have really taken to real ale and it has been flying out". A recent CAMRA delegation called in

November and were delighted to find a whole Legion of great cask ale on sale. With the GBG-listed Green Man and the Rising Sun within its confines, this South Derbyshire village is more than worth a visit.

Cider with Suzie

Each year CAMRA runs a cider pub of the year competition. Any pub which sells real cider and / or perry can be nominated, but since both quality and variety are essential for success a nominated pub really needs to stock a minimum of two ciders and preferably a perry as well throughout the year, not just in the summer.

Three years ago the worthy winner was the Old Poets' Corner at Ashover, a few miles North East of Matlock. Kim keeps at least 6 ciders and perries, the range varies and they are always in excellent condition. Since winning the award the standard has been maintained, and both the Old Poets' Corner and Kim's more recent venture, the Poet and Castle at Codnor are a must for cider drinkers. Two years ago the winner was the Miners Arms at Whitcroft in the Forest of Dean and last year's winner was the Valley at Scarborough. It specializes in Herefordshire ciders and perries, supplied mainly through the Ross-on-Wye Cider & Perry Co., but has yet to be visited by your

columnist, an omission which I shall have to remedy soon!

This year's judging started in May with the regional heats. The East Midlands winner was the Arkwright Arms at Sutton Cum Duckmanton, some 3 miles East of Chesterfield. Here a truly remarkable range of ciders are on sale, including unusual ones from small Welsh cider makers. Perhaps the range is just too ambitious because the quality occasionally suffers as a result. The West Midlands winner was the Coopers Tavern in Burton. A minimum of two ciders and a perry, generally from Somerset or Herefordshire, are always on sale. They are kept on a cool shelf, and the quality is always good. The regional winners progress to the next round of judging and the Coopers Tavern triumphed again, putting it into the national final; not bad for a pub in the shadow of those huge tanks of lager!

In the final the Coopers came second and the landlady, Mary Bagley put on a fine spread for the presentation of her certificate. An

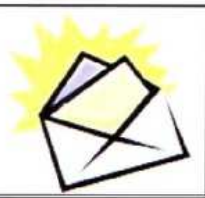
increased range of ciders at a one-off price on the night of £1.50 per pint was most welcome. Undoubtedly there are various reasons for the decline in pub trade and consequent pub closures, but I'm sure that the high price of beer in pubs is the most significant one, particularly in a recession. And the winner, CAMRA's cider pub of the year for 2008, was the Square & Compass at Worth Matravers on the Jurassic coast in Dorset. It is an ancient, multi-roomed pub in a stunning location, with some of the furniture made out of driftwood. It sells an excellent range of beers as well as cider, and whilst it may be a little touristy for some tastes it is well worth searching out if you are holidaying in the area.

Nominations for the 2009 cider pub of the year need to be in by the spring, the winner will be announced in October (cider month). Long before that from 8th to 10th January we have the "Not the Twelfth Night" Derby Winter Beer Festival in the Darwin Suite at the Assembly Rooms. The cider bar there will feature at least 15 ciders and perries, including favourites such as Gwatk ins Stoke Red, Gwynt y Ddraig Black Dragon, Green Valley Rum-Tiddly-Tum, Three Cats Cider and Broadoak Perry.

See you there!



The Ale Bag



The article about NDD¹ reminds me of the days when I used to deliver the copies to pubs north of Derby a thoroughly pleasant task as it was pre-breathalyser². Pleasant as occasionally a landlord would say what are you having before you go.

It was a great time as it was early days of CAMRA and the pubs that mattered were few but great places. I remember on one occasion driving in the most atrocious snow - the NDD has to get through! By the time I got up into Derbyshire I ended up following the snow plough through enormous drifts.

The landlord of a particularly high up pub, wish I could remember which one - somewhere

round the Hucklows area, was so astonished to see me he offered me a bed for the night to miss the storm. I couldn't take up his offer as I had work the next day and my mini was great fun to drive in the snow!

I looked in my 1982 Derbyshire guide for the pub but nothing sprang to mind. Amazing that there were only TWO microbreweries then, John Thompson and Winkle - how times have changed

I also miss the Rev cartoons and indeed Rev himself, a great character of the early Derby days.

Mike Godwin
Nottingham

¹ Notts & Derby Drinker, ² NDD was launched in 1976. The breathalyser actually was introduced in the UK in 1967 so Mike's memory is playing tricks! Dare we suggest the Act was sometimes regarded with some scorn in the 1970s?!

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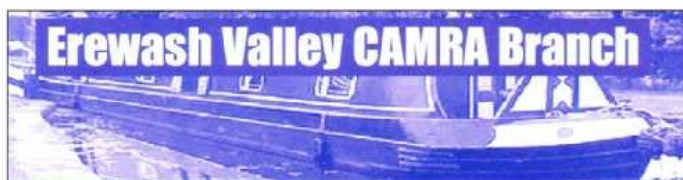
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R1 IS ROUTE ONE TO BEER HAVEN

The Heanor, Langley Mill and Loscoe conurbation was always well represented by Shipstone, Home and Kimberley breweries, but their closure left the area's real ale drinkers perturbed by the prospect of a barren beerscape. Happily, however, reports of its demise are greatly exaggerated and the Trent Barton R1 bus service operating between Ripley and Nottingham affords the opportunity for further scrutiny.

We'll start at the Great Northern, Langley Mill, named after, and contemporaneous with, the adjacent canal basin that is at the confluence of the Erewash and Cromford canals. The 200-year-old

duced the locals to the delights of Alcazar ales brewed in Old Basford. Carry on along Station Road, passing underneath the railway bridge, and Inn the Middle comes into view. Licensees, Pat and Stuart have rescued the former Erewash Hotel from obscurity, and their massive investment has transformed it into one of the busiest hostleries for miles around.

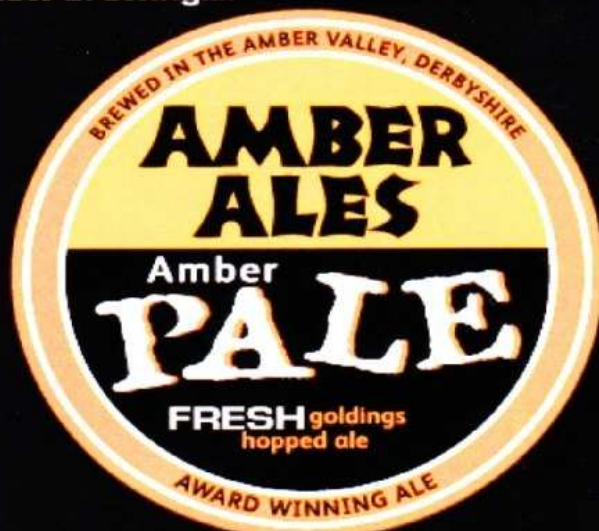
Hardly a night passes without entertainment, and beer buffs will find refuge in an ever-changing guest beer from a myriad of microbreweries.

Cross the road to catch the frequent R1 service and, after alighting at Heanor Market Place, walk back along Church Street to the Conservative Club, the current Erewash CAMRA Club of the Year, which is always welcoming of CAMRA members. The handpump badges in the Mundy lounge's display cabinet attest to the diversity of beers featured, but

Leadmill brewery is prominent these days, and Tim the Welsh steward ensures a well kept pint. Retrace your steps, passing the Market Place and the Red Lion (pictured) stands prominently on the corner of Red Lion Square. The plaque on the frontage states that a pub bearing this ancient heraldry has been extant on this site since 1700 and the present incarnation is late Victorian. A bank of handpumps dispense an eclectic mix of brews that are notable for their consistent quality, and Rachel Eyre, manageress of the Wetherspoon house for the past five years, affirms that 1300 pints (18firkins) of real ale are sold every week.

Upon leaving the Red Lion, bear left and negotiate your way around Tesco island towards Loscoe where the Derby Arms awaits your patronage. This former Home Brewery pub has had new life breathed into it by Gayle Sheffield and Derek George whose skills blossomed at the Conservative Club. A constantly changing guest beer is served, and in addition to Sky Sports, Setanta provides England football

now brewing....



with fresh hops straight from the vine

fans with the chance to view World Cup qualifying games on foreign soil. Carry on down High Street to seek out the Sir John Warren, a popular pub name in these parts, as the seafarer was Stapleford born. The Warren, a genuine freehouse, is perhaps better known for its culinary offerings, but nonetheless, bears favourable comparison with other real ale outlets by serving a fine guest beer such as Whim Hartington Bitter or Oldershaw Old Boy alongside Fullers London Pride. With the New Inn and Jolly Colliers on Derby Road, Heanor, together with the town's Labour Club all offering traditional draught beer, it's easy to become imbued with the festive spirit especially if one takes advantage of Trent Barton's Zig-Zag ticket; excellent value at only £4.40.

END OF AN ERA AS REGENCY ROOMS CLOSE

January's closure of the Regency Rooms above Ilkeston Co-op will bring the curtain down on an era of entertainment at Ilkeston's premier venue. Sweet and Showaddywaddy were just two of many pop bands who strutted their stuff on stage at the Regency Rooms. For the past two years it was also home of the Erewash Valley beer festival, which has consequently relocated to the Westgate Suite above the Chicago Sports Bar and Grill in Long Eaton town centre. The two-day extravaganza will be staged on 23rd and 24th October 2009.

EREWASH EVENTS

Sat 13th Dec. Meet Nottingham station for 11:26 train to Worksop and Mansfield.
Wed 7th Jan 830pm. Branch Meeting, Tiger, Tamworth Road, Long Eaton.
Wed 21st Jan. 815pm Good Beer Guide selection meeting, Dewdrop, Ilkeston.
Wed 4th Feb. 815pm. AGM and Branch Meeting, Spanish Bar, South Street, Ilkeston.
Contact Paul Gibson 01773 533637 or visit erewash-camra.org

Paul Gibson



pub was once the centrepiece of the thriving, but now displaced, Langley Bridge community whose dwellings can clearly be seen on a fascinating collection of photographs that would grace Erewash museum. Abbot, IPA and Old Speckled Hen, all brewed by Greene King, await your delectation.

Bear right after leaving the Northern and a short walk brings us to the Good Beer Guide listed Railway Tavern, where behind the classic 1920s façade, lies a well preserved interior of different rooms and drinking areas. Not long ago the Railway seemed destined for closure but the timely intervention of Turnstone Taverns has seen the resurrection of a first class boozier, and has also intro-

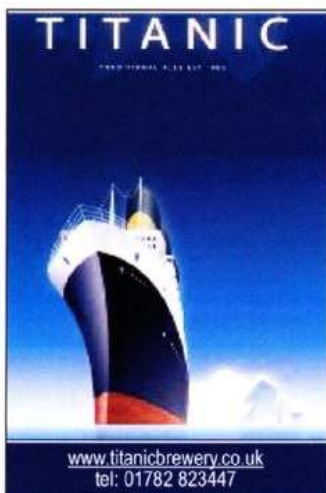
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GK-free Crich favourite makes a Stand



There was some heartening news amid the national gloom in October when news came through that a long-time CAMRA favourite pub, the Cliff Inn at Town End, Crich, close by the Tramway Museum and Crich Stand, had been bought from Greene King by a local resident. The drinkers benefactor has invested his trust in landlady Joan Martin to continue as she sees fit at the pub.

The Cliff was until recently a Hardy & Hansons pub and for many years a *Good Beer Guide* perennial. It also has one of the finest views locally down the valley from the car pull-in across from the inn.

Joan has 42 years experience in the trade and has expressed an exciting real ale policy. Four cask beers are to be available with at least one Derbyshire beer on tap at all times. "I want beers brewed as close to Crich as possible on my bar" said Joan, which dovetails very nicely with the LocAle scheme Derby CAMRA are rolling out currently. Joan also is considering letting customers request their favourite beers (*This can prove dangerous, you might end up with Speckled Hen if you aren't careful - Ed!*). It is always good to hear the ideas of an enterprising licensee.

The pub became free on 22 August with the sale by Greene King to a businessman from Wessington and Joan says she feels 'like a kid in a sweetshop' at her new field of ale choice. Beers featured so far include ones from Whim,



Joan Martin at her real-ale dominated bar at the Cliff Inn.

Amber, Ashover, Castle Rock, Blue Monkey, Wirksworth, Peak Ales and Derby Brewing Co, amongst other local drops. These sit alongside regulars Black Sheep and Taylor Landlord and, currently Abbot, although Joan has plans to add a second local beer on this pump with a lower gravity teamed with a stronger beer.

Joan has been at the Cliff since 2001, with husband Peter who sadly died last year. Joan began her life in the trade in the West Midlands where she and Peter ran the Lord Nelson in Wolverhampton. In the politically volatile late 1960s Enoch Powell was a customer here. They then went to the Sun & Slipper at Mable, near Bewdley. From 1971-78 they were presiding at the Derbyshire Yeoman, the start of the Mile Crawl, (which closed in 1991). Next stop for the Martin's was the Railway Hotel, Buxton and the couple spent 23 happy years there before taking on the Cliff from the long-serving Calladines.

We are looking at very much a pub at the hub of the community despite being situated at the darkness at the edge of town, so to speak. Regulars walk great distances from the other side to visit. Sunday nights are Jam nights for musicians from 8.30 and a popular quiz is held the first Thursday of the month. Local eggs are sold at the bar and Joan is rightly proud of her 'No jukebox, pool or darts' policy preferring to place the

emphasis on real ale and conversation. She also is dog friendly and hosts a local cyclists group each Tuesday - 'It's meant to be a ride but in reality is a booze-up!'

The small bar is the place to be but it soon gets full. At the back is the Tramway Room, adorned with much memorabilia of the tramways of the nation.

This pub has always been a gem, now it has real choice and the passion of an enthusiastic licensee to make it an essential calling place for the discerning drinker.

P.S.

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If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings, nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much,
If you can fill the unforlorn minute,
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth, and all that's in it,
And which is more, you'll be a man, my son - *Rudyard Kipling*

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs
.....you're probably drinking KIPLING!

The knowledge KIPLING a South Pacific Pale Ale

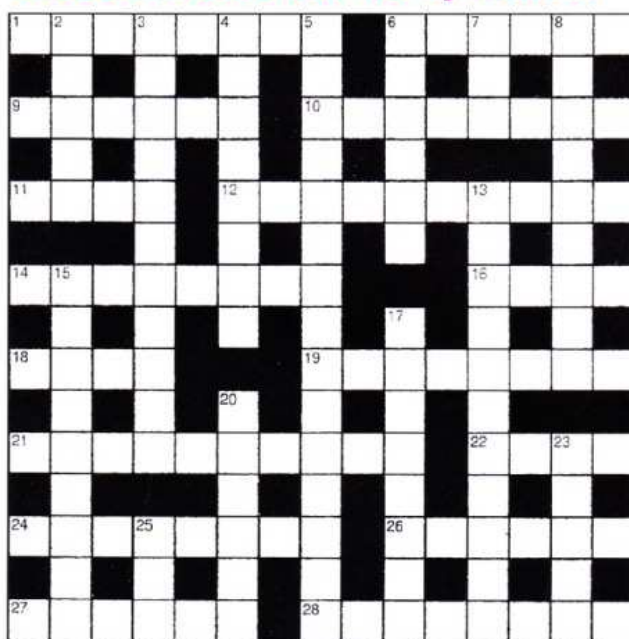
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Derby Drinker Publication Schedule 2009

Advanced notice for contributions and advertisers. These are the proposed dates for the publication of *Derby Drinker*. Copy deadlines will be strictly adhered to. Any photographs, logos, graphics etc are preferred in jpeg format. Thank you - The Editor.

Issue No.	Publication Date	Copy Deadline
DD 126	February 2009	20 January 2008
DD 127	April 2009	20 March 2009
DD 128	June 2009	20 May 2009
DD 127	August 2009	20 July 2009

CROSSWORD No 10 by Wrenrutt



ACROSS

1. N. Derbyshire village, home of the 'churchy' Royal Hotel (8)
6. Plural intoxication or lower body garment (6)
9. Three Peaks's Pen-y-Ghent Bitter town (6)
10. Like as not (but no 'a') where you might find the Dewdrop, Poacher, and Good Old Days pubs, among others (8)
11. "God rest ye merry", partly eye irritant (4)
12. Feed UK Kt.? No: he's a royal! (4,2,4)
14. Other end town from Darlington on the

- first public steam-operated railway (8)
16. Reverse a sub-machine gun for fishing traps (4)
18. Curbar, in Derbyshire, partially conceals an Adriatic seaport (4)
19. Bluebird Bitter's brew-pub here, overlooked by the Old Man (8)
21. Man at bay, back in the shit, where suspected terrorists are held (10)
22. Balls to the king; eyeballs to the rest of us (4)
24. TV-ad writers, or the former pub on the Belper to Ashbourne Road that became Fox and Hounds on the way back (8)

SOLUTIONS to CROSSWORD No 9 by Wrenrutt

ACROSS

1. SOMERSET 6. DOMAIN 9. HOOP-LA 10. EVERARDS 11. HERE 12. REAL MACKAY 14. A JUST WAR 16. EDAM 18. SHOO 19. FOURTEEN 21. CENSORSHIP 22. OUSE 24. HAM SALAD 26. LAPTOP 27. ASTRAY 28. GAPESEED

DOWN

2. OZONE 3. EXPRESSIONS 4. SPARROWS 5. THE HAIR OF THE DOG 6. DREAMS 7. MIA 8. INDIA PALE 13. CLEETHORPES 15. JOHN EVANS [RIP] 17. PUMP CLIP 20. BROLLY 23. SPODE 25. SIR

Last Orders

Gill Barker

Derby Drinker was saddened to learn of the premature death, in October, of Gill Barker, former barmaid at the Brunswick, Alexandra and Silk Mill amongst others.

Gill was a well-known character amongst the Derby Real Ale

scene of the 1990s. She died in hospital following prolonged kidney problems.



Malcolm Coates



Melbourne CAMRA member Malcolm Coates died in September. Malc was a larger-than-life figure, well known around South Derbyshire, who enjoyed drinking and travelling. A regular customer at the Alma Inn, Malc was due to go on the minibus trip of classic Derbyshire pubs to celebrate

landlord James Cripps 30th birthday. As he was away travelling a cardboard cut-out was taken round all the pubs (see picture). At the end of the day 'Malc' was left in a corner of the Exeter Arms. He would no doubt have approved.

26. Soccer match minutes (6)
27. Moroccan seaport? Partly drag a direct line for it (6)
28. A shy, lame Welsh terrier (8)

DOWN

2. Beer right short, so be watchful (5)
3. Shackle plus stone heap equals Highland distillery (11)
4. Tame need: it's about to correct errors (8)
5. "Work is the curse of the --- ---," Oscar Wilde (8,7)
6. Employ or moan (4,2)
7. Free-ranging nebulous substance, or just talk (3)
8. Put these together for a conclusion (3,3,3)
13. Royal gift for mother when three, or more, come along at once (5,6)
15. Maligning or defaming around grain duct (9)
17. This'll keep you awake at night, say I, in reconstructed mansion (8)
20. Indian cooking cheese (6)
23. Former South African president, or insectivorous ex-Derbyshire cricketer (5)
25. Backtrack to become a deity (3)

Access to Chambers Dictionary and the Good Beer Guide 2009 recommended. Local knowledge required for 24. Send completed entries to the editor stating which pub you picked up Derby Drinker. Correct grids will go into a draw for a £10 prize.

The winner of the draw for Crossword No 9 is Terry Lovell of London who picked up his Derby Drinker in Leyton Orient Supporters Club.



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