



ISSUE NUMBER 130

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

FREE

Quiet revolution for smaller brewers as Pubco pub sales increase?

Punch Taverns have announced that it is to sell even more pubs. The pubco has put up for sale 300 of its pubs that are currently in its 'turnaround division'. Of these, 90% of them are freehold and have vacant possession. Christies who are selling the properties expect most of them to remain as pubs. Also during the past year Enterprise Inns has sold 270 pubs which has raised over £100m.

It really sounds as though we shall see more and more pubs coming onto the market. So this could mean more free houses, and locally, more Project William pubs. This can only be good for pubs and beer choice.

The quiet revolution is gathering momentum as more players are entering the game, providing good pubs selling local beers from microbreweries and regional brewers. We have seen schemes such as Project William from Everards, which allows small breweries to open pubs in tandem with the Leicester brewer but selling their own beers, and, crucially, at a reasonable price.

The Poet & Castle at Codnor is a prime example of how this can work. *Derby Drinker* is aware of another local microbrewery that is about to take on its own pub in a similar project and others are also dip-

ping their toes in the water.

What with these schemes and other more independent pub companies sympathetic to smaller brewers such as Judy Taverns (as reported in *DD 129*), the growth of Thornbridge and the emergence of Tipple Taverns (see inside) taking on the bigger companies things can only improve. Local brewers should find more opportunities to get their ales into more and more pubs.

The numbers of pubs may be in decline but perhaps at last, the abundance of quality pubs with real choice of distinc-

tive
beers
will be
on the
increase.

Brewery Tap Festival

A second beer festival will take place at the Derby Brewery Tap on Derwent Street from 26th November. It runs from the Thursday to the Saturday and features 30 beers in an indoor environment.

Derby CAMRA 9th Winter Beer Festival beckons

The next Derby CAMRA Winter Beer Festival will return to its 'traditional' February dates under a new Chairman, Ralf Edge.

The festival has not only changed its date back to the traditional weekend but the opening hours have also been overhauled! The festival will run from Thursday 4th February until Saturday 6th February, opening 6pm-11pm on Thursday and 11am-11pm on both Friday and Saturday in the Darwin Suite of the Derby Assembly Rooms.

The festival will feature over 100 different

real ales, and if beer is not for you it will also feature real cider, a wide range of continental bottled beers as well as wine and soft drinks.

Keep your eyes on the next issue of *Derby Drinker* and the Winter Festival page (<http://www.derby-camra.org.uk/Winter-Festival.php>) on the Derby CAMRA website for more information.



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Vanished Pubs of Derby

11. Refreshment House, Curzon Street/Talbot Street corner



This may not be a really old vanished pub, the building finally being demolished this summer, but the Refreshment House (as it was) really disappeared in 1993 when new owners renamed it Freddie's Bar (after Mercury, the late Queen frontman).

It began life, in a building dating from the 1860s, as the rather grandly-named Great

Northern Refreshment House as it stood opposite what was intended to be the main entrance to Friar Gate Railway Station. Plans altered and the turreted cobbled drive off Stafford Street subsequently led to the Goods Yard, the station refreshment rooms became a sort of folly.

Since the 1930s it was owned by Offilers (note the old brewery lettering washed over and fading above the corner door) and thereafter Bass.

In the early 1980s, from when this Eric Streets photograph dates, the 'Refresh' was still selling Draught Bass and the pub had a strong darts and dominoes following.

The fate of the building was sealed when the long-overdue and much unwanted Ring Road extension began to become an ugly reality. Soon there will be no sign that there ever was a street corner there.

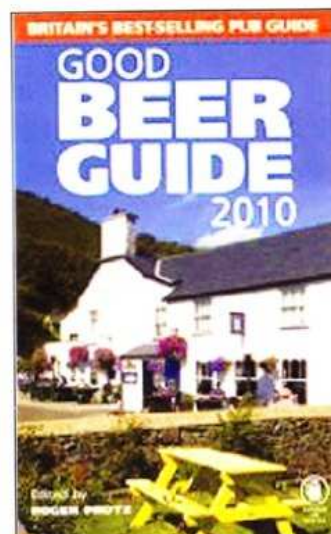
Good Beer Guide 2010 now on sale

Year after year it becomes more difficult to say anything new about this essential cask ale drinkers companion, so I won't really try too hard. Just buy a copy as soon as possible!

Suffice to say it is an essential reference point for any real ale and great pub aficionado and the reader is let down very rarely.

Edited once again by Roger Protz, this is the 37th year of the *Good Beer Guide* with details of 4,500 pubs across the UK, it retails at £14.99 (non-CAMRA members price). It is interesting to note that Derbyshire is listed as having no fewer than 28 breweries. As recently as 2003 we had six.

The *Guide* can be purchased, at varying reduced prices, in a number of pubs in the Derby area including: Alexandra, Brunswick, Old Silk Mill,



Pattenmakers (Duffield), Flowerpot, Horse & Groom, Derby Brewery Tap, Mr Grundy's, Green Man (Willington), George (Ripley), Old Oak (Horsley Woodhouse), Cross Keys (Belper), Cliff Inn (Crich), Royal Oak (Ockbrook), Smithfield, Falstaff, Rowditch and Dead Poets (Holbrook).

Derby CAMRA
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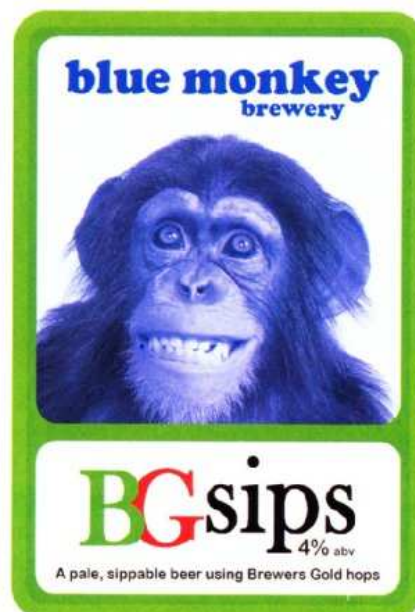
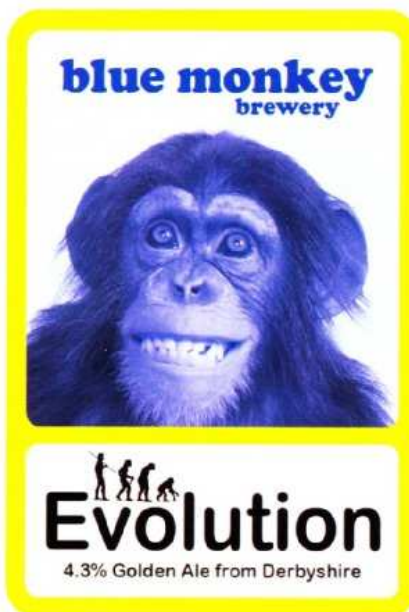
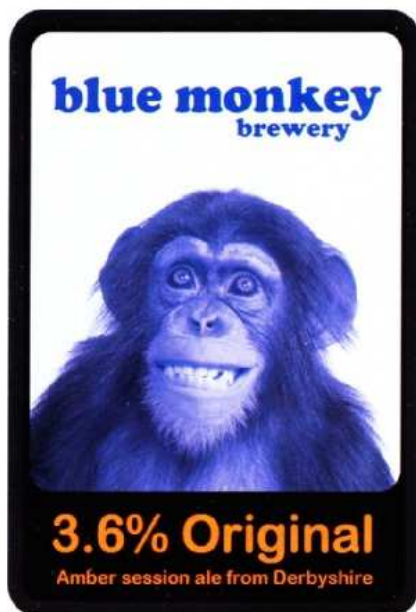
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Burton & South Derbyshire Branch "Real Ale Times"

The Branch ran yet another successful beer festival, our 30th Summer Festival over the 17th-19th September. At close of the bars, on the Saturday evening, we still had a choice of around 32 beers, even if only a few pints in each! No complaints about running out of beer here, so fine work by our cellar team.

SOCIAL DIARY

Wed 7th Oct, Branch Meeting 8pm, Colville Arms, Lullington

Fri 23rd Oct, Mystery Trip PLUS coach from Burton Bridge 6.30 pm. Names to Dickie

Tues 3rd Nov, Branch Meeting 8pm, Branton Arms

Sat 7th Nov, Young members pub crawl around Birmingham. Noon from Burton Railway Station. Contact Pete Fletcher (via

Dickie).

Fri 20th Nov, West Notts/East Derby pub trip. 6.45 from Burton Bridge. Names to Dickie Dickie Allen 0794 708132/ 01283 814730 or dickiemint@lineone.net

Tuesday 8th December, Branch meeting 8pm Cock Inn, Hanbury.

Friday 11th December, Branch Christmas Meal. Details from May Arthur fmarthur@hotmail.co.uk

Other branch members are welcome to join us on any social, subject to space.

CIDER AT EARLS COURT

Five tubs of Scropton Cider from South Derbyshire appeared at the 2009 GBBE.

PUB NEWS

The **Rams Head** had closed but reopened a fortnight later.

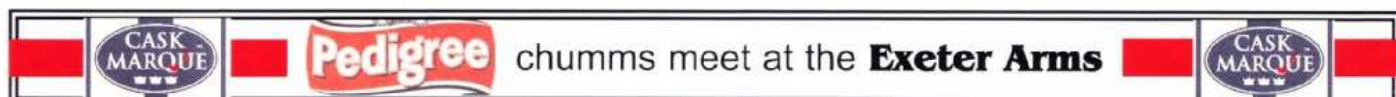
The **Corner House**, Burton was under new management but no Real Ale as yet.

Dorbiere who have taken over the **Elms** is part of LWC a major drinks wholesale group. It runs 40 managed pubs in the North of England. Its beers come from Inbev and S&N and the company has only a marginal interest in cask ale.

The **Chesterfield** had closed in January and was sold to a developer. Rumours are that it will be demolished for housing.

The **Greyhound** at Woodville will remain as a pub but will have a large restaurant attached.

Dickie Mint



Real Ale fan Russell Crowe in Ashbourne brewery tour

There was a surprise in store for drinkers in the Green Man & Blacks Head in Ashbourne in August when Hollywood film actor Russell Crowe popped in for a pint and ended up having a 30 minute tour of the Leatherbrites Brewery based at the old inn.

Brewer Edward Allingham takes up the story: "Apparently he was staying at Callow Hall where they stock bottles of our beer. Together with some rugby-playing Aussie mates they drank the place dry. Upon finding out we brewed just a few miles down the road, Crowe declared 'Come on lads we're going there now!'"

"He came up to me and said 'Hello mate I'm Russell, could I have a look around the brewery?' I said 'Of course' but I had no idea



then who he was".

Crowe proceeded to put his head into a fermenting vessel and it nearly knocked him sideways! The party had their pint and took away a healthy supply of bottles of Leatherbrites beer.

The New Zealand-born actor, who was staying in Derbyshire whilst shooting scenes for the film *Robin Hood*, is best known for the lead role in *Gladiator*.

Our picture shows Edward, front left, next to Russell Crowe in the brewery. It is from someones mobile but it's the best we have!

Dunkirk diversity

The Dunkirk Tavern on Bakewell Street, Derby has taken a couple of interesting side steps to boost trade. A colourful chalkboard on Brewery Lane points towards the Dunkirk and informs the observer that the Dunkirk Breakfast & Cafe Bar is open from 9am to 2pm. In addition bed & breakfast is also now on offer at the pub, in newly refurbished rooms.

New hosts at Etwall pub

It was reported in *DD 129* that the Spread Eagle at Etwall had become a Judy Tavern (as opposed to a Punch one) and that Tim Barlow was the licensee. Tim has subsequently left and is concentrating solely on the neighbouring Hawk & Buckle. The incumbent couple running the Spread are Rob & Christine Hague, licensees of repute who have in their CV the Monks Bridge at Stretton, Bridge Inn at

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Shelton Lock, the Malt Shovels at both Aston-on-Trent and Shardlow, Crewe & Harpur, Swarkestone and the Ferrers Arms at Sinfin. Ridiculously considered 'too old' by Marstons Rob is delighted to be back in the trade and the LocAle beers are continuing at the pub, starting with Derventio.

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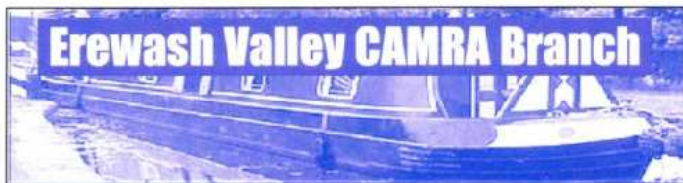


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Charters on South Street in Ilkeston is having a beer festival between 29th October and 1st November. Eight beers will be available from Marstons, Ringwood and Jennings plus two micros.

Phil Taylor of Erewash CAMRA informed the editor that Finn McCools and Moon & Sixpence, both in Ilkeston have closed, the latter is expected to reopen in

October. Additionally the former *Good Beer Guide* pub the Durham Ox is closed.

TRIPS

Sat 24th October, Derby to Heanor pub crawl. Meet Corporation Street 11.15am for 11.35am Amberline Bus.

Sat 12th December, Xmas Trip to Sheffield, Meet Nottingham Station 10.15am for 10.45 am. Contact for both trips is Mick Golds on 0115 9328042 or 07887 788785.

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Beer Festival at Peregrine

In a welcome move from the Smith & Jones group pub, the Peregrine on Nottingham Road in Chaddesden is staging a beer festival from 29th October to 1st November. Manager Becky says that the festival is supported by

Marstons and will feature a range of locally-sourced ale too.

This pub chain is not adverse to putting on a local beer as it has a pub in the centre of Cheltenham serving a range of Wye Valley ales, so who knows?

Mild award for Babington



Tom Taylor, licensee of the Babington Arms in Derby received another accolade in September when he was presented with a certificate to mark the Best Pint of Mild on Trail award, out of all pubs that competed in Nottingham CAMRA's May Mild Trail.

Here we see Tom accepting the honour from Nottingham CAMRA Chairman Spyke Golding (right).

The Poet & Castle at Codnor was also mentioned in despatches on the Trail for one of the best bar displays.

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

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

Bubble Inn reopens with microbrewery beers

Good news from down on the Trent & Mersey Canal. The Bubble Inn at Stenson reopened in late summer. The waterside pub had another surprise in store too as Leatherbritches beers are on the bar. Hairy

Helmet and Doctor Johnson have been regular brews since, making it well worth supporting. The new mine host Conny is a long-time supporter of the Ashbourne brewery ales, dating back to his previous pub.

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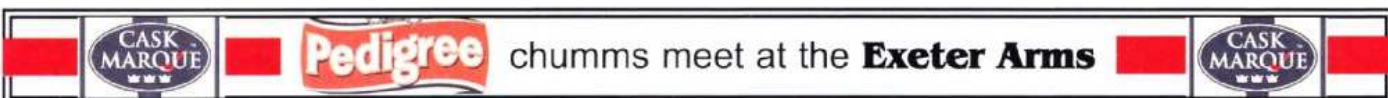
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Date

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OKTOBERFEST AMBER VALLEY STYLE

The daylight hours are dwindling and the weather may be decidedly autumnal, but a trilogy of local beer festivals is sure to warm the cockles of the heart. Okay, they aren't on the scale of the internationally renowned Munich Oktoberfest, the two week extravaganza which dispenses an amazing ten million pints every September, but they're certain to be a magnet for beer lovers.

By the time you're reading this the score of gravity dispensed beers at the Grapes' festival on Belper High Street should have disappeared down the collective throat. Next up is the Good Beer Guide listed George and Dragon on Bridge Street, also in the town made famous by the Strutt family. Landlord Craig's festival will feature 15 ales, and cider, between 15th and 18th October, and live music will start from 8.30 on Friday and Saturday evenings. Last, but certainly not least, is the Poet and Castle, Codnor (pictured) whose Halloween festival between 29th October and 1st November, with up to 60 beers and ciders is sure to attract drinkers from far and wide. Claire and Gus inform me that a live band every evening will enliven an already vibrant atmosphere. A recent innovation, and a nod to these recessionary times, is Golden Valley Ale, a hoppy 3.5% brew priced at £1.80. Also Ashover Brewery's Poets Tipple was branded "consistently outstanding" at the Great British Beer Festival



in August. Indeed, the craft brewing industry knows no bounds as evidenced by the 170-page brewery section in the 2010 *Good Beer Guide* that details the beers of some 700 breweries, more than at any time since World War Two.

PUB OF THE YEAR

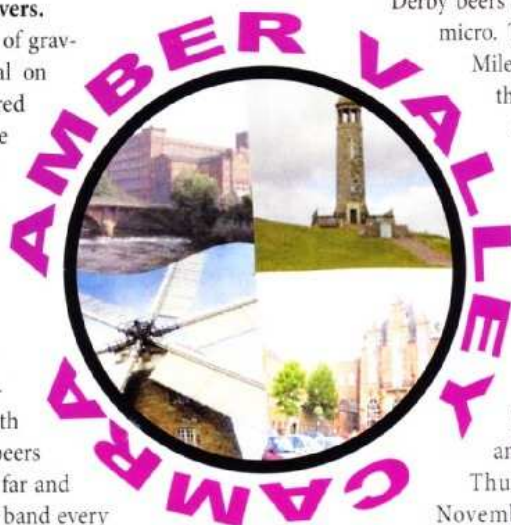
In February 2010 Amber Valley CAMRA will make its first Pub of the Year award, with a further three 'highly commended' accreditations. Members in Amber Valley should have received a letter outlining the requisite criteria and inviting five nominations. The nominations will be collated and the eight pubs attracting the highest number of votes will be announced at the November branch meeting. At this meeting and December's, volunteers will be sought to survey the pubs on CAMRA's established Pub of the Year scoring formula. All forms are to be returned by the January branch meeting and winners will be announced at the February meeting.

INN BRIEF

At the time of going to press the Sportsman, Jessop Street, Codnor was due to open, renamed as the Codnor Inn, and serving microbrewery beers. A full report will appear in DD131. The Dog, Pentrich is reporting brisk business, which is unsurprising given that Thornbridge Jaipur, Blue Monkey

and Outlaw beers have featured recently. The Gate, Swanwick had Magpie "Magpie Best" on tap when surveyed on a free bus branch excursion in September. You're missing out if you haven't been on one of these free trips. Roosters Hedgehog has been sighted at the Pattenmakers in Duffield. Further up the A6, in Belper, the Tavern has four real ales including a Derby Brewing Company beer. The Lion Hotel on Bridge Street has also had

Derby beers and Blue Monkey, the rapidly expanding Ilkeston micro. The Rifleman's Arms, again on the A6, has had Milestone from Newark on the bar. Black Hole Brewery, the excellent Burton outfit, has featured amongst others at the Black Swan on Belper Market Place.



AMBER ACTIVITIES

Saturday 17th October free survey trip to Oakerthorpe and South Wingfield.

Thursday 29th October AGM and branch meeting at George and Dragon, Bridge Street, Belper. 8pm start and please bring your membership card.

Friday 20th November free survey trip to Codnor and Riddings.

Thursday 26th November Branch Meeting Queen's Head, Ilkeston Rd, Marlpool 8.30pm
Saturday 12th December free survey trip to Denby and Kilburn.

Please note that a free bus leaves Ripley Market Place at 7pm on the survey trips and Belper and Alfreton pick ups can be arranged by 'phoning Nathan. Contact Social Secretary, Nathan, on 01773 570675.

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Castle Rock beer and tales of bygone times at Mickleover hostelry

The summer may not have bought many delights to the public at large this year, but to real ale drinkers in one Mickleover pub it was brightened up with the addition as a permanent guest beer of Castle Rock Harvest Pale. Landlord Trevor Price at the Masons Arms on Etwall Road tried out the light and refreshing beer as a guest and it proved so popular with the regulars that he decided to keep it on. Trevor and wife Nadine have been at the Masons for nine and a half years now with a service record in the trade stretching back to 1985. You could say the pub is one of a rare breed these days, in that it is run wholly by the family, one with an impressive wealth of experience of what the pub game can throw at you.

Nadine started as a barmaid for Bob Booth at the Exchange in Albert Street (now the City Inn). "It was a lovely pub to work in then" she says, "I started off at £6 a shift plus a taxi home. The only problem was you never knew how long the shift was going to last!"

Trevor was originally from St Helens and worked as a miner before coming to Derby to work in engineering, but he had always hankered after a pub. They took on several Shipstone's pubs in Nottinghamshire with the first being the Lord Nelson at Burton Joyce. Others included the Ferry Inn at Wilford, the Ferryboat at Stoke Bardolph and the Sherwood at Rainworth (Renn-neth).

Trevor laughed as he reminisced about how Shipstone's used to operate. "We used to try to send quite a bit of beer back in those days" he said. "You would ring around six or seven pubs and say 'What's up with brew such and such?' and they would all say it was poor quality. Then you'd ring the brewery



and the reply was always the same 'There's only you that's had a problem with it!' Then they regaled about the two Shippo's 'Cellar quality control' men who would always arrive at five to two of an afternoon, in the days of 2pm closing. One was a burly Scot with the impressive name Watson Millar and

his sidekick was Norman. They always opened up with 'We had better just have a half with you' before handing over a credit note for a gallon of Shippo's. They rarely left before opening time in the evening! Trevor also remembered that no landlord wanted a phone call from the brewery on Friday afternoons. "That was the time they used to sack publicans," he added. And then there was the managing director's wife who always drank a very rare vermouth. "Every Shippo's pub had to keep a bottle in stock just in case she called in!"

Anyway you get the picture. A proper old style publican family with a host of tales to tell about days that are now long vanished. But the Masons, which sells Bass and Pedigree alongside another changing guest (Batemans XXXB was about to come on during my visitation) is also looking forward with the Castle Rock beer. It is also a dog-friendly, community-based pub and can even boast that it had three Italian Real Ale aficionados drink in it during a stay at the Mickleover Court. Why not call in for a pint next time you visit the village?

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Raising the Bar

New Thornbridge brewery opens in Bakewell



A major milestone occurred on Sept 1st with the opening of the Thornbridge's new Riverside brewery at Bakewell. It marked the transition of a worthy, flourishing 'micro' to full regional brewery status. Outside the Midlands, this has only previously been done by Woodfordes in Norfolk and, perhaps, by Black Sheep in Yorkshire. But Thornbridge took just five years (from 2004) whereas Woodfordes (and three owners) took 20.

At the opening Jim Harrison, joint owner, thanked CAMRA - for making Real Ale an issue with the public, the British Guild of Beer Writers for the publicity and his dedicated staff for creating the products for which the brewery had become so well known. The formal opening by Garrett Oliver, the well-

known US brewer (Brooklyn Brewery, New York), commented that above all else, brewing and drinking had to be 'fun'.

Quizzed away from stage Jim said that whilst Thornbridge was about 'passion, innovation and knowledge', it had never been just a hobby for him, always a business. The move to a 30 barrel brew length capability, plus an ability to brew 4 times in 24 hours, was not just about satisfying high customer demand, it was more about maximising variety. Stefano Cossi, head brewer, and the team are being encouraged to continue to experiment to produce new beers. The original 10 barrel plant at Ashford, is being retained for pilot brews and experiments. Currently Thornbridge produce 850,000 pints a year (2950 barrels) and aim to quadruple this in the next five years.

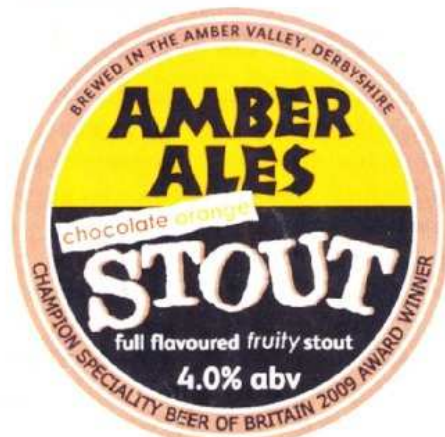
The new brewery, of largely Italian origin, has a host of innovative features designed to both optimise the brewing process and to allow more versatility in brewing eg the introduction of a hopnik which allows different treatment for aromatic and bittering hops.

The opening was well attended by representatives from CAMRA branches across the Midlands, a wide section of the beer press and the broader brewing industry inc many local brewers and not a few licensees.

John Arguile

Pictures show the shining giant silver brewing equipment (top left) and Jim Harrison with Garrett Oliver cutting the ribbon to officially open the brewery (right).

Beer of the Moment...



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New life in the old Dragon

In the early months of 2009 the Green Dragon at Canal Bridge, Willington lay boarded up and forlorn, another sad sight all too common across the nation.

For six months the pub had been in this sorry state until it was purchased by Tipple Taverns, a company set up in North Staffordshire by two businessmen. Their aim? To buy closed

pubs and return them to thriving locals. The Green Dragon was their first venture across the county boundary into Derbyshire and it reopened in April.

Tipple Taverns is the project of Simon Wall and Jonathan Bate, it was set up in 2007

using only their own cash. Simon says, "These pubs do not turn a massive profit, but we're not in it

get all the food from local suppliers and only take pubs which have been closed. The aim is to save them and it seems to be working"

As well as expanding their portfolio of



pubs, Tipple has gone into partnership with independent brewers Wincle Beer Company of Rushton Spencer, five miles north of Leek and just inside Cheshire. This had been set up in 2008 by Neil Murphy, formerly of the Ship Inn in the Peak District village of Wincle, and Giles Meadows. The brewery is situated in a former milk-

ing parlour at Heaton House Farm. All their beers are named after local residents in Wincle and they are branded as 'Eccentric English Ales'.

The Green Dragon's most popular sellers have been Golden Bob, Wincle Waller and the dark and nutty Undertaker. Other guest

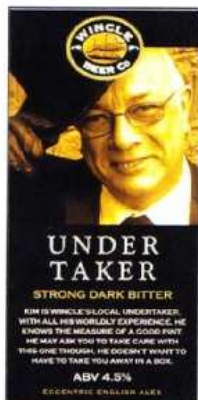
beers from the likes of Leatherbritches are a regular fea-

ture and also supplementing Bass and Pedigree are two ciders from Westons. Wincle beers and guests are priced at £2.40 a pint too.

The Dragon has a large garden and is handy for narrowboat mooring. Some of its inhabitants



match the eccentricity of the beers. An owl named Mo is a regular customer. Handler Steve calls it 'The chicken in the tree'.



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Photographs, clockwise from left:
Undertaker pumpclip, Front view
of Green Dragon, Mo the resident
owl & bartenders Richard
Graham & Richard Hibbert.

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1
9
8
2



2
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9

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The Ale Bag



DIM YSMYGUS

Hello! My name is Roger Morgan, and I have formed a social group called DIM YSMYGUS. This group has been set up on Facebook, but also has several members who are not on Facebook. Let me quote from our site: "A group for people who like the odd drink, love the British pub, and detest smoking – but who feel just a tad guilty that the smoking ban is one of the reasons why so many pubs are closing."

The plan is to descend,

mob-handed, on a different pub/hamlet/village one evening each month, and boost their takings. Drivers to rotate each month. Destinations to be a mystery! A few smoking members allowed, if they satisfy other criteria!"

At present, 'mob-handed' is rather OTT, as we have only about thirty members, and obviously they don't all attend every function. However, we hope that this will gradually develop as word gets around. Initially, we are looking at

Fridays and Saturdays for our 'expeditions'.

Would we be welcome in your pub? Would you be able to put on a few chip butties or sandwiches

at reasonable cost? Do you have pretty good trade at weekends anyway, and would we be in the way? Please let me know what you think on 01773 826308 or 07742067879 (mobile). Or email quizrunner@hotmail.com

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Roger Morgan

Nearly but not quite

It isn't easy to get into the *Good Beer Guide*. Each branch is only allocated a fixed quota of pubs and some excellent pubs narrowly miss out on the final cut.

This year we are listing in *Derby Drinker* the pubs which were highly rated throughout the year but just missed out on full selection.

The following were the best of the

rest: White Post, Stanley Common, Dog Inn, Pentrich, Smiths Tavern, Ashbourne, Tiger, Turnditch, Malt Shovel, Shardlow, Moulders Arms, Riddings, Talbot, Belper, Exeter, Derby, Pear Tree, Ripley, Dolphin, Derby, Gate, Brassington, Black Horse, Hulland Ward, Hope & Anchor, Wirksworth, Station Inn, Derby & Malt Shovel, Spondon.

More beer in Crich

It's not just the Cliff Inn when it comes to a decent pint in Crich. Local CAMRA member John Slaney has brought my attention to the merits of the Black Swan just off Crich Market Place. The landlord keeps five real ales and alongside the Greene King range there is usually Batemans XXXB or one of

their seasonal ales and often a guest. It stays open late from Thursday to Saturday and sources all home-cooked food locally. The village has recently lost the Jovial Dutchman (what a shame to see an unusual pub name resigned to history) so the Black Swan is certainly worth supporting.



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Not very long ago, the Queen's Head, on Ilkeston Road, Marpool (near Heanor) seemed destined for oblivion. That was until the Rutherford family's intervention, with its purchase and restoration, of the former Shipstone's house. There is a Derby connection here, because Alan, the senior member of the Rutherford family, was co-founder of Newark based Westcrown brewery, one of only a score of breweries represented at the Derby City Charter Festival in 1978.

This dog friendly Victorian corner house, blissfully free of electronic accoutrements, has a multi-roomed layout with each area individually styled. Entering through the attractive French doors, you find the cleverly redesigned cellar drop room with hogsheads fashioned as tables. The French doors were reclaimed from St David's Hotel in Pembrokeshire, a building commissioned by the Queen's father, King George VI. Indeed, everything about the

Queen's Head speaks of quality and authenticity. Take the front bar for example, which bears more than a passing resemblance to the Philharmonic, the iconic Liverpool pub, with its Terrazzo floor and feature Victorian fireplace. The upper bar has retained the church-like pews, and another open fire will be a welcome sight in winter.

Enough of the interior design bit, what's on the bar that will entice the discerning drinker? Erm...rather a lot, actually. Castle Rock Sheriff's Tipple at £2.20 is complemented by upwards of eight ever-changing microbrew-

ery beers with Thornbridge and Funfair of Ilkeston frequently in residence. You could be forgiven for thinking that you were ensconced in the West Country because there is a mouth watering array of farmhouse ciders and Perries available including Three Cats of Morley.

Alan's son, Stefan, ran Rutherford's, the highly acclaimed restaurant in Spondon, and Stefan now oversees the provision of lunchtime fare (Monday to Friday), which is of the wholesome variety and reasonably priced.

PUB INFOCUS



Rising Sun Inn

Middleton by Wirksworth DE4 4L8

BEER FESTIVAL

Sat 24th to Sat 31st October

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The front garden has far reaching views of Shipley Park, and there is ample parking, although the pub is served by the Derby to Mansfield Black Cat bus route.

The Queen's Head strikes a perfect balance between contemporary and traditional, and the Rutherford family is to be congratulated for bucking the trend of pub closures by giving the local, and wider, community a real ale haven.

Photographs, clockwise from top left: Attractive Victorian features, redesigned cellar drop area, the main bar and the Breach Road elevation.



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.



OCTOBER

Tues 6th Oct Sing & Swing Social, Old Silk Mill, Derby

THURSDAY 8th Oct BRANCH MEETING OLDE SPA INNE, ABBEY STREET, DERBY

Sat 10th Oct, Afternoon **Ockbrook** survey trip by public transport. Catch Little 9 bus from Y3 stop on Derwent Street at 14.05. Then **Queens Head** (14.30), **White Swan** (14.50), **Cross Keys** (15.20) and **Royal Oak** (15.45). The Oak has its beer festival and we shall depart from there on the 18.37 (last) bus to Derby. Wed 14th Oct, Social, **Station Inn**, Midland Road, Derby

Fri 16th Oct, **Shardlow** survey trip by public transport. Skylink bus L2 stop on the Morledge 19.10 (£5 return). Buses also leave at 19.40 and 20.20. Return buses at 23.00 or hourly afterwards.

Fri 23rd Oct, **Barrow, Stenson, Findern & Etwall** survey by minibus.

Fri 30th Oct, **Melbourne** survey by public transport. Catch the 61 bus at 18.48 from A4 stop on the Morledge. There is a subsequent one at 19.48. The return bus is at 22.30.

NOVEMBER

Fri 6th November, Survey trip, **Hatton, Scropton, Boylestone & Church Broughton** by minibus.

The Social secretary of Derby CAMRA is **Simon Tankard**. Contact him on 01332 772704

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 Co-ordinator **Stewart Marshall** on 07944 163737 or email samarshall37@googlemail.com

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Cask Marque retained at Derby Beer Festival

The Derby Summer Beer Festival at the Assembly Rooms was awarded a Cask Marque certificate once again for its beer quality. The cellar team are to be heartily congratulated for their continued efforts.

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There has been, from time to time, a level of criticism regarding the standard of ladies and gents toilets at some Derby pubs. Over at the Falstaff, Jim and Steph have completed a thorough modern refurbishment of both

the pub's conveniences. They underwent an unofficial CAMRA inspection and glowing reports were announced. Jim believes the Falstaff now has the best toilet facilities in the area and our picture shows the new look ladies.

Mr Grundy's Georgian House Hotel

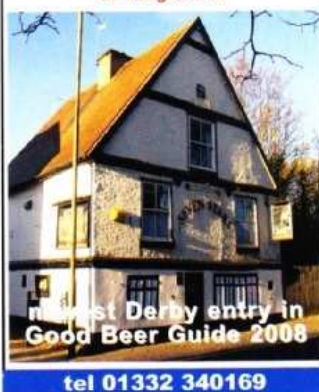


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Cider with Suzie

October is CAMRA's cider and perry month and instead of visiting the cider producing areas of the country, we will stay closer to home and visit some of our outlets for real cider. Although I would like to see even more real cider and perry in our pubs, the scene today is miles better than it was, say, in the early 1990s. The best you could hope for was Weston's Old Rosie in the Holly Bush at Makeney or at the Flower Pot in Derby. Starting with CAMRA's 2009 East Midlands pub of the year, the Old Oak at Horsley Woodhouse, we always find one real cider. It is either Thatcher's Cheddar Valley, not to my taste with its orange colour, but very popular, or a cider from Gwynt y Ddraig. This is by far Wales largest cider maker, from Pontypridd, Glamorgan. All their cider / perry is good; look out for Black Dragon, Haymaker and Pider (apples and pears fermented together).

New to the cider scene is the Queens at Marlpool. Here you will find as many as eight ciders; often Rich and Wilkins from Somerset and the above mentioned Gwynt y Ddraig. Weston's is there too; I know it is a bit common but not a bad cider for that; if you happen to be in a Wetherspoons it is probably the only real cider you will get. The beer range in the Queens is pretty good too; if you haven't been there recently give it a try.

Just up the road we have the Poet and Castle at Codnor, sister pub to the Old Poets' Corner at Ashover. The recent refurbishment here specifically catered for real cider, with a display of cask ends over the bar. Four are usually available, always including Broadoak Perry. It is a bit sweet for my taste, but it is CAMRA's 2009 Champion Perry, and always very popular. Incidentally, CAMRA's 2009 Champion Cider was Gwatkins Yarlinton Mill, a single apple variety cider from the Golden Valley, Herefordshire. You will be lucky to find it around here, the Victoria at Beeston and the Coopers

Tavern in Burton do stock it occasionally, but you best bet is the beer festival at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook, if you haven't already missed it.

Another relative newcomer to the cider scene is the Market at Chesterfield where you will find one rotating real cider, either from Somerset, likely candidates being Burrow Hill or Westcroft; sometimes Three Cats from Morley, Derbyshire puts in an appearance. Also in Chesterfield, the Chesterfield Arms has undergone an extensive refurbishment. The real ale range there is very impressive, and there is a serious commitment to real cider too, we await developments with interest. Down the road at Belper the George & Dragon have also started stocking real cider on a regular basis. Look out for their October festival with ciders/perries from Herefordshire and Somerset; Three Cats have found its way there too.

Finally, in Derby itself, you can always find one real cider/perry at the Flowerpot. It is another rotating cider outlet so you have to take potluck but the turnover is fast so the cider is always fresh. Broadoak Perry often features there. The Brunswick always have a couple from Weston's, and more recently Woody's Cider. Frank Woods is a new cider maker from Branston, Burton, not an area normally associated with cider making! He uses mostly local apples; you may find his cider in some of the festivals around here.

That's a very quick tour of some of the pubs selling real cider around here. Apologies to those who I have left out; it was never meant to be anything like an exhaustive list. As you can see, we now have quite a healthy cider scene around here; add to that CAMRA's festivals where you will always find a good range of cider and perry; the situation for cider lovers these days is not bad at all.



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THE DRINKING MAN'S BURDEN



Consider! Dear Toper, that awful, lurking menace which threatens the conviviality of many a hostelry – no, Dear Toper, I am not referring to 'The Curse of Darling Blood Axe the Mad Taxman', nor do I mean the now (happily) declining threat of the 'Instant Wine Bar Look' (thankfully the Pubco's have finally realised that what attracts the punters during times of uncertainty is the reassuring look of the traditional English Inn). And no, Dear Toper, I am not even referring to that other hideous terror, the 'Family Friendly Pub' that advertises 'Kiddy Meals', which usually consist of some gut rotting combination of fish fingers and tomato ketchup that the little darlings manage to smear everywhere in weird patterns reminiscent of some drugged up, unwashed, so called "Street Artist's" spray paint masterpiece, that defies all normal human understanding and would in any sane society be called vandalism; the perpetrators of which would have the government's own tag "ASBO" tattooed upon their acned foreheads, before being put to work collecting the empty lager cans that seem to infest our public spaces. But I digress Dear Toper, back to that publand pest which plagues us all – no, Dear Toper, I am not referring to the ubiquitous, garish gaming machine and its attendant halfwit who labours under the strange delusion that he can make a

profit from the coin swallowing, mechanical ganet, that lures him ever deeper into deficit with its flashing lights and infantile electronic noises. Nor do I refer to the bar propping lager lout and his foul mouthed girlfriend whose voice becomes ever louder and shriller with every crate of alcopop she consumes, and reaches its ear splitting crescendo when she is finally asked to leave the establishment and regales the barmaid thus:

Dear
Toper...
All beer,
no froth

"It wasn't me wot gobbed in his pint you F***** S***! You can't throw me out, I've got rights I have – my social worker ses so – an she ses as a muvver of eight I'm dis – disfunc -? – What does she say I am Rambo?" her latter slurred utterance is addressed to her swaying paramour, for whom the mental effort of speaking and remaining standing puts a strain upon his scant intellect at the best of times, but upon this particular occasion, when he has consumed the equivalent of twice his own body mass in lager, it's all too much for him, and he promptly keels over and mumbles into the carpet:

"Are we in a taxi Chantelle?"

No, Dear Toper, the nuisance I refer to is not Rambo and Chantelle Chav; it is that ever present danger which haunts publand like an aggressive beggar hanging around a cash machine – that threat to life and limb who terrorizes crowded bar and lounge alike – the man with the ultimate in nurd accessories – yes, you've guessed it Dear Toper – the back pack wearer!!!

Mooching about (they seldom sit) he turns suddenly to acknowledge a dig in his ribs from someone whom his prat pack has just buffeted, and in the process his unwieldy burden swipes half a dozen assorted pints from atop a nearby table. Then upon hearing the sound of breaking glass and cries of "Tosser!" emanating from behind him, yet again he wheels about face, his loathsome load striking a young lady upon her back, just as she is about to take a sip of her overpriced chem-

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Good Beer Guide 2010

ically processed cider, with the result that her drink goes down her cleavage! "Pillock!" she cries and pours the remainder of her drink into the empty hood of the burden bearers anorak, sensing which he spins around once again to receive a verbal barrage from the young lady, whilst to his rear the vile nurd accessory collides with a man bearing a tray full of drinks – oh, calamity!

Why on earth do they insist upon wearing the odious things in crowded bar rooms? And why do they get so aggressive and secretive when you ask them what precious items their geek packs contain? (Personally I think that they are full of old railway timetables and shrunk heads). I fully accept that there are times when a backpack might be useful, parachuting would be a nightmare without one, as would moon walking, but enough of that satellite which has such a profound effect upon our political elite, let us return to somewhere hopefully with more atmosphere – 'The British Pub' where-in stalks the geek pack pest! Wearing something obtrusive that you cannot see in a confined and crowded space, is at the very least inconsiderate and at worst criminally insane, showing naught but contempt for one's fellow toppers!

Let us rise up and fill their geek packs with concrete, then direct them to the nearest river! Consider that, Dear Toper.

D.T.

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Microbrewery Corner

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



AMBER ALES

The brewery is now installed into new premises and is back in full swing. Amber won a CAMRA Bronze for Chocolate Orange Stout in the 2009 Champion Beer of Britain. So they have been in full production ever since making Choc Orange. In the new space there is a dedicated shop/bar area, with seats(!) and they have increased cask selection of up to three different beers a week for you to try and buy. The website is updated every week with 'what's on' and opening hours are Thursday / Friday 2pm-6pm plus Saturday's 10-1pm. The latest seasonal beer is the award-winning Amber Pale 4.4% which is 'fresh-hopped' with Cascade picked from Pride Farm, Malvern. Amber are making an 'Oktoberfest Ale' with guest brewer Furry Dave for the Chesterfield CAMRA Market Beer Festival at the end of October. This will be a Viennese-style Marzen at 4.5%, a traditional feature of the Oktoberfest. The next AMBERFEST is planned just in time for Christmas. Friday 18th December & Saturday 19th December, where you can drink as much as you like for £2 a pint.

BLUE MONKEY

Have brewed Cathedral Quarter Ale for the Old Silk Mill in Derby.

DERBY

In somewhat of a departure in style for Trevor Harris, the latest beer from the

Derby stable is Quintessential a 5.8% pale which is complex, well rounded with extraordinary (brewery spelling) fruit and citrus flavours. The beer made its debut at the Brunswick beer festival. Back by popular demand is Pale Mild Moment a 3.6%ABV in the style of Timothy Taylor Golden Best, a lightly-hopped refreshing traditional pale mild. Both beers were submitted for judging at the SIBA competition at Nottingham Beer Festival.

DERVENTIO

Due to increased sales Derventio Brewery, are investing in an additional fermenter and since the beginning of September Pete Nash has been working full time at the brewery. Versuvius (6.5%ABV) and Barbarian (5.5%ABV) will be available on draught in October along with Et Tu Brutus (4.8%ABV). A short run of Versuvius and Barbarian will be bottled, which will only be available from the brewery and New Look Francois on Station Road in Mickleover. Derventio Venus was the first micro brewery ale in the Spread Eagle in Etwell under its new landlord Rob Hague. Sales are going nationwide via distributors and they are also involved in brewery swaps with Potbelly (Northamptonshire) White Horse (Oxfordshire) and Vale (Buckinghamshire) breweries. In addition Derventio are selling 40 to 60 cases a month of bottled beer via Transfresh to Asda in the East Midlands. The beers available in bottle are Caesar, Cleopatra

and Venus. Derventio are entering casks and bottles in the Midlands SIBA beer competition at Nottingham hoping to build on the success they had last year when they won a Silver and two Bronze.

Finally a new director has been appointed to the board, he is Alan Cartwright of Jaguar Fairs

HAYWOOD

The Callow Top brewery now have two ales in the new Best Bottled Beer Guide. (Announced at the

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GBBF). Alan Palmer intends to increase bottling production in particular the Dr Samuel Johnson and Callow Top IPA. The new brewery building is progressing nicely. They have completed the steel frame, roof covering and the 220 square metre concrete floor. The bricklayers will be starting in the near future. Hope to complete by the new year.

WIRKSWORTH

Wirksworth Brewery held their second 'open weekend' on 12th/13th September in conjunction with the Wirksworth Art & Crafts Festival. Jeff Green enjoyed showing people around his 2 1/5 barrel plant

and was amazed with the local interest in brewing real ale. On the Saturday he brewed 'T'owd Man' to give festival goers the opportunity of seeing a working microbrewery at first hand. The Brewery had six different Wirksworth beers available, to enjoy a pint in the brewery yard (see picture) or take a four pint jug to carry out.

The Hope & Anchor, Wirksworth also held a beer festival and commissioned a one off Festival Ale (4.3%) from the brewery which was enjoyed by local drinkers. Further details can be found at WWW.WIRKSWORTH-BREWERY.CO.UK.



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We should try and travel more.



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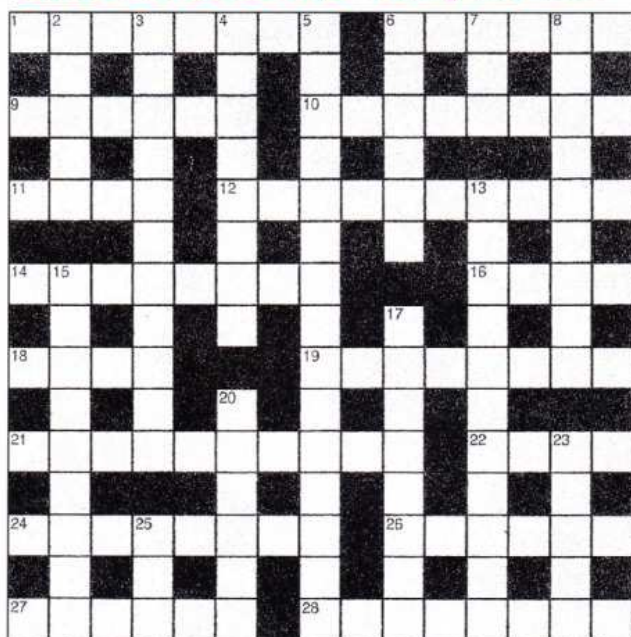
Sheffield CAMRA September 2009 Gold Medal Best Bitter
Midlands SIBA October 2009 Bronze Medal Best Bitter

Derby Drinker Publication Schedule 2009

Advance 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. If using Word please send as Plain Text. Thank you - The Editor.

Issue No.	Publication Date	Copy Deadline
DD 131	December 2009	20 November 2009
DD 132	February 2010	20 January 2010
DD 133	April 2010	20 March 2010

CROSSWORD No 15 by Wrenrutt



ACROSS

1. Hampshire brewery, now a Marston's out-post (8)
6. & 9. Amber Ales IPA-style bitter: More a dam, rather than keg, buster (6,6)
9. (See 6)
10. Not a liar? That's about reasonable (8)
11. He fiddled within one round while Rome burned. Derventio's next brew, possibly? (4)
12. Old attic's nickname, for watching commercial TV perhaps? (3,7)

14. One German beer mug for a physicist? (8)
16. Team companion (4)
18. Sound reflection from the confused oche (4)
19. Poetically invisible: good advice for TV addicts! (8)
21. Town between Rome and Naples, or Battle of Algiers director (10)
22. Former Horndean brewer whose beers are now ghosted at Chiswick (4)
24. In train I go prepared for a pasta (8)

SOLUTIONS to CROSSWORD No 14 by Wrenrutt

ACROSS

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21. A TESTAMENT 22. HATE 24. KAMIKAZE 26. OBLONG 27. HERNIA 28. YORK CITY

DOWN

2. OBAMA 3. FESTIVENESS 4. LEWISHAM 5. BRAMPTON BREWERY 6. STELLA 7. ASH 8. RISING SUN 13. MELANCHOLIC 15. LIGHT
RALE 17. BOAT TOUR 20. BANANA 23. TENET 25. ION

Last Orders

John Fowler

Ashbourne CAMRA stalwart John Fowler sadly died in September. A long-standing supporter of the Campaign, he always attended

Derby branch meetings whenever they were held in the area, and was a familiar face at the Green Man & Blacks Head.

Mary Keast

Mary Keast, who has recently passed away after a short illness, was well known in Chesterfield and the surrounding area as a prominent CAMRA member.

She was Chairman of Chesterfield CAMRA 2002-03 where her friendly and outgoing personality, along with her 30 years experience in the trade as a publican (she ran the Black Horse in Stansted, Kent for many years with her husband Brian) made her an excellent ambassador for real ale.

After her stint as Chairman was over she stayed closely involved with the branch committee, most recently in charge of the advertising for *InnSpire* magazine.

Many of you will remember her sitting on the door at beer festivals, which she thoroughly enjoyed, as it gave her opportunity to chat with her many friends and acquaintances as they arrived.

She will be much missed.

Rhoda Waygood



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Edited by Pip Southall: 69c
Utttoxeter New Road, Derby,
DE22 3NL. Tel: 07970081906
email: sirpippo@aol.com
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John Arguile 01332 348559 or
email: johnarguile@yahoo.co.uk

Other contributors for this issue:
John Arguile, Smiling Assassin, Les
Baynton, Atholl Beattie, Tony Beech,
Ralf Edge, Paul Gibson, Rob Gilvary,
Carole Golds, Jane Lefley, Konrad
Machej, Stewart Marshall, Chris &
Sue Rogers, John Slaney, Dean Smith,
Jim Suter, Phil Taylor, Julian Tubbs
and Rhona Waygood.

Additional Photographs: John
Arguile, Les Baynton, Paul Gibson,
Spyke Golding, Eric Streets, Jim
Suter.

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26. Idiot savant tells you where to go (6)
27. Monster who needs to start with PR if she means to get on (6)
28. Sweet rye found around when growing in churchyards (3,5)

DOWN

2. You scold when this angry (5)
3. Not a good place for a hangover! (7,4)
4. Overcome by a fixed idea, starting with Old Boys (8)
5. Local institution where students can imbibe learning but not real ale (5,10)
6. Small riverboat: what a beauty! (6)
7. Sort of Aussie bar for cars, which doesn't sell drink and repels animals (3)
8. Vet, a cause for moves to a safe place (9)
13. Jersey's 2008 Pub of the Year (11)
15. Wrapping up, finally (9)
17. Was no net returned for a carpenter's tool? (5,3)
20. This sort of clue will never get one down (6)
23. A holiday lodging in Scarsdale Avenue (5)
25. Beer in the Hawne Tavern, Halesowen (3)

Access to Chambers Dictionary recommended, and the Good Beer Guide 2010 a must. 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 14 is Dave Pantry of Tutbury who picked up his copy of *Derby Drinker* in the Swan Inn at Milton whilst sampling some good ales at their beer festival.