# Derby Campaign FOR REAL ALE DRINKERS

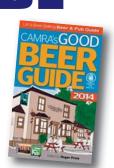
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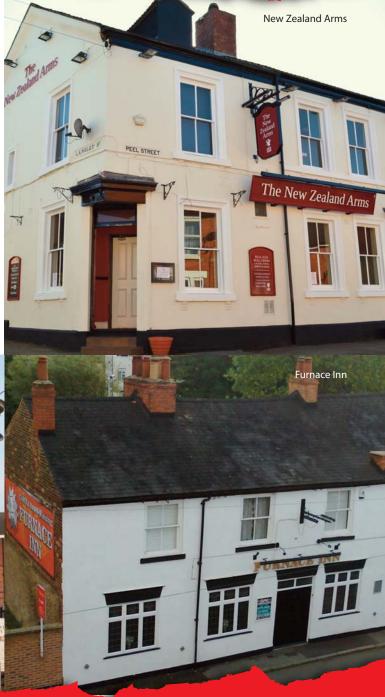


# Three Cheers for the GOOD BEER GUIDE

Derby Pubs Celebrate







The Magnificent Seven

The recent launch of the new Good Beer Guide saw 7 new entries from within the area covered by the Derby Branch of CAMRA. We take a look at the magnificent seven who have managed to shoot their way into the 2014 edition......

The sheer number and quality of Derby's Real Ale pubs means that an entry in the Guide Beer Guide is something to be prized and quite an achievement indeed as with only about 15 places up for grabs the quality of the pubs ales has to be consistently high over the course of a year. Enter two Derby microbreweries, Dancing Duck & Shiny who have transformed two run-down, back street boozers into thriving community locals once more. The Furnace Inn on Duke St appears in the guide for the first time since 2007 after being acquired by Shiny and the New **Zealand Arms** on Langley St make its first appearance since 2000 after being taken over by Dancing Duck. Both have introduced a range of real ales and ciders at reasonable prices and breathed life into the pub by running different events throughout the week. A simple formula it may be but one that so many pubs, breweries and pub companies get wrong. All of this of course is old hat to the Derby Brewing Company who are celebrating once again after a lean year in the 2013 guide as not only is the **Brewery** Tap – Derby's Royal Standard back in after 1 year but The **Queens Head, Little Eaton** makes its first appearance in over 30 years since the 1983 guide. **Derby Brewing Company bought** and renovated the pub back in 2011 as a joint 'Project William' venture with Everards Brewery and ever since the pub has gone from strength to strength serving top quality ale and food within a traditional village local

environment. The full range of Derby Brewing Company beers is served alongside rotating guest beers and the pub is very popular with locals and visitors alike (pictured - Paul & Trevor Harris from the Derby Brewing company outside the Queens Head, Little Eaton).

Over in Melbourne, The **Blue Bell** Inn which acts as the tap for the Shardlow Brewery is back in again after a few years absence. The pub has not been in the guide since 2008 but makes a welcome return to the new edition serving a range of ales from the Shardlow Brewery plus guests.

Further into Derbyshire, The Nelson Arms in the small hamlet of Middleton near Wirksworth is in the guide for the first time ever after being acquired by Alan Johnson in 2011 as a retirement project. He then set about improving it and introduced a range of real ales to the pub that have proved popular. It's now well worth a visit and the hourly daytime 6.1 bus service from Derby stops right outside. Finally 25 years on since its last appearance in the guide in 1989, the Miners Arms at Brassington is back serving a range of guest beers alongside the Pedigree as well as good pub food. A pub that has so often been overshadowed by its near neighbour, the Old Gate Inn with its old world charm and which Good Beer Guide editor, Roger Protz once described as his favourite ever pub has finally stepped back into the limelight and deservedly so.

The 2014 Good Beer Guide is available now from www.camra.org.uk or from local bookshops such as Waterstones or you may be able to pick up a copy from local pubs in the area including the Alexandra Hotel and Furnace in Derby.



Paul & Trevor Harris outside Queens Head, Little Eaton.



Good Beer Guide Coordinator, Stewart Marshall presents Ross Watson of the New Zealand Arms with a new guide.







# National Winter Ales Festival - DERBY 2014

Put the dates in your diary now ...... 19-22nd February 2014

Yes It's coming!! As CAMRA's flagship National Winter Ales Festival (NWAF) steams into Derby for the 1st of 3 years the excitement is starting to build. A contract has been signed with The Roundhouse for all 3 years which is excellent as the venue is all on one level just across the road from the Pride Park exit of Derby Railway Station.

Taking the very best elements of last years festival at The Roundhouse NWAF will showcase not only what Derby and the East Midlands do best, but the UK as a whole. There will be over 350 real ales, plus ciders, perries, mead (honey wine) and continental beers on sale. Tie in cracking live bands and some top food from The Roundhouse catering team, stalls selling cheese, chocolate and crisps and you have a

Festival which puts a smile firmly on your face.

Uniquely alongside the honour of Derby hosting NWAF for 3 years comes the fact that The Champion Winter Beer of Britain Competition (WBOB) will held at The Roundhouse. For the last 2 years the overall Champion Beer of Britain, as judged at The Great British Beer Festival in London in August, has been a WBOB

winner! So you can be assured some of the very best ales from the whole of the UK are going to be in Derby in February.

More details to follow in the next Derby Drinker about opening times and band details. While even Christmas seems a long way off at the moment it's not going to long until February and, after hours of planning, NWAF opens – so plan ahead and book leave. I

must thank the amazing band of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make this Festival happen – without them this simply would not happen. If you want to volunteer, to sponsor or just have a chat contact me via winterbeerfest@derbycamra.org.uk

Cheers Gillian Williams NWAF Chair/Organiser





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**CHESTERFIELD BATTLE OF THE BEERS** "PUBLIC'S FAVOURITE

# Brewery in Focus Wentwell Brewery

Its 2 years since Wentwell Brewery sprung onto the Derby scene and almost 1 year since the opening of their Brewery Tap, The Little Chester Ale House which is also Derby's first micropub. Gillian Williams went along to meet George Lambert to see how things were coming along.

While serving 15 years in the RAF George developed a liking for Düsseldorf Altbier legendary brown ale conditioned for longer, producing a smooth and delicate brew. George was able to follow his dream and set up a commercial brewery when he got his pension and a lump sum.

Spending time with Dean and Chris at Nutbrook Brewery gave George the confidence to scale things up and produce consistently good real ale. After scouring the market George bought his brewing equipment from Italy as it was affordable and had some unique 'chiller spikes' custom made. Wentwell Brewery has 3 fermenters and 1 boiler with each fermenter producing 10/12 firkin sized casks of real ale. Wentwell also produce real ale in a bottle (RAIB) and proudly have the CAMRA logo stating "this is real ale" on the label of all their bottles.

Currently Head Brewer Walter Scott is brewing twice a week but expansion is coming soon as Wentwell have recently moved from Chaddesden to an Industrial unit near Roller World close to Derby City centre. Once settled in Walter aims to be brewing 3 times a week. The Brewery's best selling beers are:

- Farm Hand's Bitter a 4.1% a rich copper colour best bitter with a smooth rounded flavour and nicely balanced bitterness:
- Little Tick a 4% straw coloured bitter, triple hopped for a fuller flavour.
- Justice for Gingers 4% a very pale bitter with a subtle infusion of ginger which is very quaffable.

Martyn Hiller is the micropub pioneer and guru having opened the Butcher's Arms in Herne Village, Kent in 2005 – for which Martyn was presented with one of CAMRA's Top 40 Campaigners' Awards. George joined the Micropub Association which Martyn Hillier and Stu Hirst set up in 2012 and made it his business to talk ideas through with Martyn. In November 2012 having worked through planning issues Walter was granted the Licence to open Derby's first micropub, The Little Chester Ale House.

Little Chester Ale House has 4

handpumps all in use Friday/Sunday and 3 in use Monday/Thursday with at least 1 Wentwell Beer on at all times. The key here is keeping quality high with a constantly changing range of ales and real ciders. When you add in customers enjoying a social pint with no television, no music and no quiz's but the all important Monday'Cheese Night' you have a recipe for success.

George is thankful to the local Chester Green Community for supporting the pub and using it as a community venue. Indeed it's the smallness of the pub which encourages people to talk to each other across the room, no wonder it's got a strong local following.

To ensure everyone is treated equally George is introducing a new loyalty card which when filled with 10 pint (or large wine) stamps can be exchanged for 1 free pint (or large wine), and this will replace the CAMRA Members discount scheme. With all beer keenly priced at £2.50 a pint this is an incredible offer and one which will become very popular.

Approaching the anniversary of the opening of Little Chester Ale House Martyn Hiller has visited and gave his blessing to George as he loved the pub. Coming full circle and other people interested in setting up micropubs are now coming to George and asking him for advice which he is happy to give. On the 6th September 2013 Gary and Angela Morton of Morton Brewery opened their Hale to the Ale Micropub in Tettenhall, West Midlands having spoken to George!

Wentwell Brewery has brought a new dimension to Derby with their beers and their micropub and Derby is richer for it. By the way the name Wentwell was literally plucked from the air and captures a ring of traditional confidence and quality which transcends into your glass. Long may things go well for Wentwell and the Little Chester Ale House. Cheers!!

Little Chester Ale House, 4a Little Chester Green Road, Derby, DE1 3SF.

Open Monday/Thursday 3pm – 10pm; Friday/Sunday 12noon -10pm.









# Wetherspoon: A Story of Our Time

#### Paul Gibson examines the Wetherspoon phenomenon

ention the word Wetherspoon to a discerning drinker and it's likely to polarise opinion. Indeed, it was once said that the opening of a new J D Wetherspoon outlet presages the closure of two pubs in the locality. When founder, Tim Martin, opened his first pub in 1979 it's doubtful that he could have envisaged the breathtaking expansion that has created more than 800 pubs. The recession and a booming internet have seen the closure of many shops and banks, which have in some instances been adopted for use by Wetherspoon. In towns such as Heanor and Skegness, Wetherspoon offers the best and, sometimes, only chance of sampling a multiple choice of real ales.

Derby has, of course, three of the Watford pub company's chain, of which the best, beer wise, is probably the **Babington** on Babington Lane, which used to be a carpet shop. Experienced staff of the calibre of Tom Taylor and Mark Robins (ex - Alexandra Hotel) ensure the quality of the ever changing range of 18 ales which are constantly updated on a TV screen. The first Wetherspoon's to open in Derby was the **Standing** Order in 1995 with its cathedral-like interior and island bar. The tall, handsome building in Iron Gate was commissioned by the Crompton and Evans Union Bank in the 1870s. The bank had previously underwritten some early, notable Derby industrialists including Thomas Evans who, a century earlier, had founded the bank and the Darley Abbey mills, which no longer manufacture

cotton, but still stand as an impressive monument to Evans' entrepreneurship. In the 20thC the bank morphed into the Natwest but now, as the Standing Order, dispenses pints instead of pound notes. The Standing Order's next door neighbour is the **Thomas** Leaper, a Lloyds No. 1 establishment fashioned from Brigden's tailors. Being a Lloyds No. 1 means that your ears will be assailed by music on certain nights but if it's solace you seek then try the bar at first floor level which has the ambience of a traditional gentlemens' club.

Unlike certain other high street names, Wetherspoon's pays great tranches of tax, including a dubious climate change levy, to the Treasury. The past year saw the company pay the equivalent of £632,000 for each of their pubs (source: Daily Telegraph 14th September).

The past five years have seen the biggest fall in people's disposable income since the 1930s, so it's unsurprising that some folk have eschewed restaurants in favour of a meal at Wetherspoon, This, coupled with the company's ability to bulk buy particular brands of beer on favourable terms, has helped their pubs to prosper while others may have struggled. CAMRA, too, has benefitted from its collaboration with the company as the exponential rise in membership to over 150,000, is partly owing to the Wetherspoon vouchers that offer discounted beer.

Wetherspoon may not be everyone's favourite destination but its soaring share price is evidence of the good value and enduring appeal of the pub chain's customer offering.













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DATES FOR YOUR BEER DIARY

# East Midlands Pub of the Year

CAMRA's East Midlands Pub of the Year is the Horse & Jockey at Stapleford which has been transformed in recent times and now serves a selection of guest ales supplemented by regular Beer Festivals. In now goes forward to be judged in the last 16 to find the UK's best

pub. From Derby catch the i4 bus which stops almost outside.







Derby's popular **Old Silk Mill** pub is due to re-open mid-November after refurbishment. The new signage has gone up outside and the garden is currently being transformed. It will be known as the Silk Mill Ale & Cider House serving a selection of both alongside a new food menu. Full report next time.

## Brewsters Beer and Bangers Festival

To celebrate British Sausage Week (4th- 10th November) and female brewing, the **Exeter Arms in Derby** is holding a Beer Festival from 1-3 November with 16 different ales by female brewers from around the country and 16 different sausages on their outside BBQ.

### White Post demolished

It is sad to report that the White Post Inn at Stanley **Common** has finally been demolished. Highlighted in a previous Derby Drinker this regular Good Beer Guide entry fell fowl of developers despite a fight by locals to save it. This shows more and more the need for communities to band together to get their pub listed as an 'Asset of Community Value' under the Localism Act which gives the community the first right to buy the pub should it be sold.

#### **Anglers Saved**

Also reported in Derby
Drinker, the **Anglers Rest at Bamford** has been saved
thanks to pub owner,
Admiral Taverns giving the
Bamford Community
Society the right to
purchase the pub after a
strong campaign by the
local community who got
the pub registered as an
'Asset of Community Value'.

### Is Your Pub under Threat?

If you suspect your local is under threat of closure or demolition then CAMRA can help through its 'List your Local' campaign please visit

http://www.camra.org.uk/ listyourlocal or contact Derby CAMRA at pubpreserve@derbycamr a.org.uk for further information.



# THURDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER - SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER OPEN MIDDAY UNTIL LATE EVERY DAY

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### LAST ORDERS



#### **Chris Cropley**

It is with sadness that I have to inform everyone that one of our regular workers at the Summer Beer Fest has passed away after a very short illness.

Everyone who attended the festival over the last 30 plus years will have been greeted by Chris as she worked in one of our admission booths, mainly in the Evening and always with unfailing cheerfulness and efficiency. Along with Charlie, Lesley, Clive and Jean she was part of one of the most important teams of the Festival.

St Peter has taken some one to work with him at the gates of Heaven, far, far too early in my humble opinion. On behalf of Derby Camra and the Summer Beer Festival my thoughts and best wishes go to Chris's family and friends as they come to terms with their sad loss of such a special person.

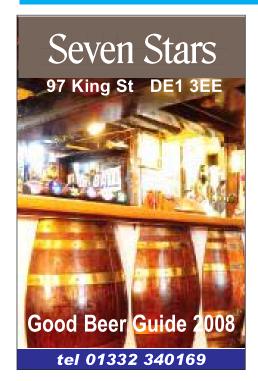
Russ Gilbert Festival Chairman CAMRA has launched its first ever national online pub guide – whatpub.com - dedicated to helping the public find the best pubs to suit their needs across Britain.



Following an extensive two year project by thousands of CAMRA volunteers, whatpub.com features 47,000 pubs, around 36,000 of which serve real ale making the site the most definitive online guide to real ale in the UK. Whatpub.com offers over thirty different search fields ranging from dog friendly pubs to those that offer newspapers or live music, making the results customizable to each person's individual preferences. Another key feature is that of the 35,800 real ale pubs featured, around 22,000 have details

of the real ales being served - taking the guess work out of a visit for real ale lovers. A full entry offers a description and pictures of the pub, the address, opening hours, who owns it, lists the regular real ales they stock, states whether the pub offers Guest Beers, highlights the pubs main features e.g. availability of food, gives a map of where the pub can be located, sat nav reference, OS reference and highlights the local transport available.

Why not give it a try.







Real Ale Drinkers Love it in the Ditch

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for a constantly changing range of real ales

**DERBY CITY PUB OF THE YEAR 2006** 

# AmberValley CAMRABranch

By Trevor Spencer

dedpoet702@yahoo.co.uk



# **AMBER VALLEY NEWS**

#### **Diary**

October 19th Survey Trip to Openwoodgate and the outskirts of Belper: November 16th Survey Trip to Lower Hartshay, Ambergate & Bull Bridge. All trips leave Ripley Market Place at 7:30pm, call Jane Wallis on 01773 745966 to book

Branch Meetings: October 31st Old Kings Head, Belper. November 28th Nags Head, Ripley, both starting at 8pm. The November Meeting will be preceded by a short Committee Meeting.

Beer Festivals: October 24th-26th - Holly Bush, Makeney. October 31st- November 2nd – Poet and Castle, Codnor. November 7th – 10th - Beehive, Ripley.

#### **Amber Ramble**

Anne has confirmed that she will lead us on another Amber Ramble on Sunday 27th October, starting around 11am from the Bell and Harp, Coxbench (on the 92 Trent Bus Route) and finishing at Kilburn Toll Bar. It will be a 6 mile walk, calling at the Holly Bush, Makeney, the Deat Poets, Holbrook and the Black Bulls Head, Openwoodgate along the way. We hope you decide to join us - its always a good day out.

# Amber & Erewash Valley Cider Trail

Tues 1st October - Sun 3rd November, Amber & Erewash Valley Cider Trail, for list of participating pubs call Trevor Spencer on 07758265915 or email dedpoet702@yahoo.co.uk

#### **Pub of the Year 2014**

Nominations for next year's POTY begin on November 1st, and judging begins on January 1st 2014. Each member may nominate up to 5 pubs, and nominations need to be sent by email to dedpoet702@yahoo.co.uk, or by text to 07847 099940. Nominations MUST include your name and CAMRA number.

#### A Real Ale gain

For years, most of the pubs in Riddings have served Real Ale, with the main exception being the Greenhill Tavern, which hadn't seen Cask Ale on its bar since it was owned by the longdefunct Shipstones Brewery. All that changed in the last few months however, as the Greenhill underwent a tasteful refurbishment and, when it reopened, among the selection of drinks were Draught Bass, which was very palatable when I visited, and a couple of Real Ciders. Now run by Roger and Sylvia, the Greenhill is a fairly large three-roomed pub that hosts sports TV and Dominoes. The cask menu will be two Real Ales and one Cider over the winter months, all competitively priced at £2.50 - £2.80 per pint. The opening hours are 12 – 11 every day, and several buses pass by the Greenhill, including the 90, H1 Derby to Alfreton service and R1. There is a large car park and outdoor seating.

#### A new beginning

When Amber Valley CAMRA was formed as a sub-branch of Derby in September 2008, the very first meeting took place at the **George** on Lowes Hill, Ripley. Despite appearing in the Good Beer Guide only a couple of years ago, the pub has not done well of late, and closed earlier this

year, with its future looking uncertain. However, all that changed when Marie and her partner Matt took over in August. The pub reopened with a couple of Real Ales, the Hartington IPA was very good when I visited, with the possibility of the range being increased as business picks up. After all the trials and tribulations of the last couple of years or so, it's good to report that the George is getting back on its feet again. The opening hours vary, with the pub being open from 6pm – 12 on Monday – Wednesday, then 4 - 12 Thursday, 3-12 Friday and 12-12 at the weekend. The George is a short walk from the 9's bus route, get off at the stop nearest the Talbot Taphouse and walk to the left of that pub, about 300 yards down Lowes Hill. The pub is on the right hand side of the road and there is a CAMRA discount of 10 pence per pint.

## 4th Amber Valley Beer and Cider Festival

After three years at Butterley, this year found us in Alfreton Leisure Centre Bowls Hall. We had plenty of space and an impressive stillage containing 100 beers greeted customers on entry. An innovation this year was a trade session on Thursday afternoon during which Mild Trail presentations were made to Welbeck Abbey for Ellis Mild and to Muirhouse for Magnum Mild. Out of many fine beers, both local and from further afield, our beer of the festival was Green Devil from Oakham, at 6% a superb, well hopped IPA. Cider of the festival was Ruby Suzie from Woodthorpe Hall, Derbyshire. A wide range of evening entertainment included the unmissable Rolling Stoned. The new venue worked fine, and despite customer numbers being lower than anticipated, those present had a great time.



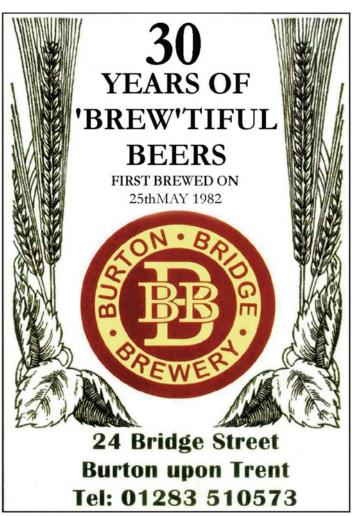


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ctober is CAMRA's designated cider month, so it's a good time to visit a few pubs selling the real stuff. Fortunately for cider lovers the Two Valleys Cider & Perry Trail is being run jointly by **Amber Valley and Erewash Valley** Branches. The pubs taking part can be covered in a number of excellent crawls, being in Amber Valley the Barnes Wallis, Ripley, the Beehive, Ripley, the Black Boy, Heage, the Black Bulls Head, Openwoodgate, the Greenhill Tavern, Riddings, the Holly Bush, Makeney, the Hunter Arms, Kilburn, the King William IV, Milford, the Nags Head, Ripley, the Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse, the Poet & Castle, Codnor, the Strutt Club, Belper, the Talbot Taphouse, Ripley and the Thorn Tree, Waingroves, while in Erewash Valley (Northern part of the branch area only) there is the Butchers Arms, Langley, the Brewery Tap, Ilkeston, the Dewdrop Inn, Ilkeston, the Gallows Inn, Ilkeston, the Great

Northern, Langley Mill, the Marlpool Ale House, the Observatory, Ilkeston, the Queens Head, Marlpool, the Red Lion, Heanor and the Spanish Bar, Ilkeston.

Each of these pubs will be stocking at least one real cider or perry while the trail is operating. The last day is November 3rd, but you don't have to stop drinking real cider then! All you have to do to take part is visit one of the above pubs, drink at least a half of cider of perry and text the name of the pub, cider / perry you have drunk and a mark out of 5 for it to 07847 099940. The pub in the Amber Valley Branch area with highest average score will become Amber Valley's cider pub of the year and will be entered in CAMRA's National Cider Pub of the Year Competition for 2014. And now, here's the real incentive for taking part; there will be a prize awarded of a 40 pint tub of cider, yes, 40 pints, to the person returning scores from the largest number of different pubs. (Note it

goes on number of different pubs visited and scored, not on the maximum number of scores sent in). What's holding you back, I'd start straight away!

Of course, October is cider month because it is the main month for cider making. The apple crop looks good this year and the pear crop is excellent; very good news for cider makers after the dreadful summer last year resulted in a one of the worst crops ever. There couldn't be a better time to make some of your own; even if you haven't tried before is isn't that difficult and the result can be very satisfying. Get yourself some apples / pears; don't worry about the varieties except that a blend generally works better than all from one tree and you need more eaters than cookers (although some cookers or crab apples are fine). You need about 2 kilograms of fruit to make 1 litre of cider. The problem with small scale cider making is that even though there is plenty of juice in the fruit, it is difficult to extract it without

specialist equipment. The extraction process is in two stages, milling and pressing. Milling is just reducing the fruit to a coarse pulp; a food processor works if you just want to make a few litres; for larger quantities I have seen ingenious devices using garden shredders and the like! Pressing involves containing the pulp in something porous (usually boards and clothes) while sufficient pressure is applied to extract the juice. Wine presses do the job, as do home-made presses using screw threads or car jacks! After that its easy; put the juice into a fermenting vessel with an airlock (demijohns are fine), add wine yeast (optional, apples contain natural yeast and the juice will ferment anyway). Patience is needed while it ferments, perhaps 2 months in a warm place but much longer (6 months) without external heat, and you have your own cider!

Wassail

# Real Cider & Perry – 25 years of Campaigning

**5** o CAMRA's been Campaigning for real cider and perry since 1988, but has that message made it into a pub or bar near you?

In 1988 real cider and perry were as rare as hen's teeth, so CAMRA Festivals, health food shops and Cranks restaurant in London were about your only options aside from going to the cidermaker and buying direct from the farm gate.

25 years later and real cider and perry can be equally hard to track down - not because Licensees have turned their back on two of this country's most authentic and 'green' products – but because the market has widened and the gulf between high quality real cider and perry and mass produced flavoured products has never been wider.

Brace yourself however as 2013 is going to be awash with cider and perry marketing! Many millions of pounds have been spent to achieve one target – getting you to buy their brand. The adverts are

already popping up on our televisions, crowding into our magazines and generating followers on social media sites. Words like heritage, premium, provenance and traceability are scattered as liberally as the number of 'distribution points'. Even the award winning beer writers Pete Brown and Bill Bradshaw are getting in on the act by launching a Guide to the World's Best Cider later this year.

The Morning Advertiser (a trade paper for the drinks industry) recently stated that bottled fruit cider sales had increased 67% by volume. In just five years the Showering Brothers brand of Brothers cider has generated a retail value of £46 million. Research reveals fruit flavourings now include strawberry, black cherry, lime, toffee apple, berry, pomegranate, red grape, peach and apricot, raspberry, tropical, crushed pear and even apples.

But hold on - isn't this great news - after all some Brands even have on-

line maps showing you exactly where (including supermarkets and off licences) to find their fruity tipples? Not really if you are looking for the real thing. CAMRA does not recognise any cider or perry which has any fruit or flavouring other than the apples or pears that made it as being real. So no limes, no berries, cherries or grapes and certainly no strawberries!

Recently I was invited to the launch of Hogs Back Brewery's Hazy Hog bottled cider, but was unable to attend. Breweries getting involved with cider? Unimaginable 25 years ago! Yet here and now in 2013 Heineken who own Bulmers have launched 3 new flavoured ciders; Carlsberg have 2 flavoured ciders; AB InBev have 2 flavoured Stella Artois Cidres and Molson Coors have launched Carling British Cider.

On average these newly launched drinks are around 4% in strength, so some existing cider producers are introducing new lower strength products. In 2013 Weston's

launched a 4.8% Rosie's Pig Cloudy Cider. We as consumers are being continually bombarded by new products while fridges and shelving in pubs are groaning with variety.

So in some ways CAMRA has done a great job moving cider and perry up the ladder of acceptability by removing the stereotypical images and encouraging pubs to sell a drop of the real stuff.

Just be careful out there as sometime things aren't as 'friendly' or 'local' as they seem. Look beyond the branding, the glassware and sundry other gimmicks and support your local producers, go visit them and have a chat (they'll tell you which pubs stock them) or call into your CAMRA Regional

Cider Pub and have a chat with the landlord.

Real cider and perry is out there and your mission is to find it. Enjoy!!

**Gillian Williams** 



# Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch

by Mark Grist m.grist2@sky.com

#### Pub News

Our two branch area pubs of the year - The Smith's Tavern, Ashbourne and The Sycamore, Parwich - have both been included in the new 2014 Good Beer Guide and the branch has presented both licensees with a copy to mark their inclusion. Branch surveys and nominations for the next pub of the year competition begin in earnest throughout October and November, with a shortlist being drawn up in December and judging/voting taking place in January 2014.

The **Coach & Horses**, Ashbourne re-opened on August 22nd, now serving food all day and with a choice of 4 ales on tap. The opening night was a little chaotic, probably due to underestimating the interest in the re-launch, so the beer choice was limited towards the end of the evening, but signs are promising.

In stark contrast, **The White Hart**, Ashbourne just 100 yards away, has closed again after the new management team brought in was withdrawn. No signs yet of a re-opening any time soon.

The **Horns,** Ashbourne is due to change hands in mid-September and the new tenants have promised a dramatic revamp of the pub. Although still tied to Marston's, they are promising to do all they can for the beer scene in the town.

The **Green Man**, Ashbourne alterations continue, with a projected opening of the shop to replace the bar area in early October. After that, the interest will switch to the courtyard area where a development of retail areas is slated to include a pub or bar area in some form. Fingers crossed.

The **Sycamore** at Parwich has recently taken delivery of the new season's, Robinsons Old Tom.

The **Yew Tree** at Ednaston closed in August but there has been some interest so hopefully it might re-open again.

#### Beer Ramble

On Sunday 29th September our social secretary, Keith Palmer, suggested and organised a 9-mile circular walk starting/finishing at Smith's Tavern in Ashbourne by way of 4 intermediate village pub stops along a mixed route of field paths, steep hills, deep valleys, country lanes and a short bit of the A52...the weather was spectacularly warm and sunny, a perfect Indian summer's day. Five of us, and two unsuspecting dogs this time, assembled at the Smith's at 11.20am and set off for our first stop, **The Royal Oak at Hanging Bridge**, via roadside paths, arriving just before midday. The choice offered there was Pedigree and Fuller's London Pride. Unfortunately, neither beer was in good condition, although both barrels were then changed immediately we commented on them.

We walked on via the riverside and across a couple of fields to the **Rose & Crown, Middle Mayfield,** where the sole choice was Pedigree, albeit a very well-kept pint and one which Dave said rivalled his own for quality – praise indeed! This stop signalled the point at which the walk became much, much harder as we made for Stanton via a very steep and long uphill climb, then a drop into and out of a step-sided valley, followed by a long drag across farmland and an extremely muddy patch by a stile, which only myself and Dave were foolish enough to negotiate, whilst the others cheated by taking an adjacent (dry) farm gate.

Finally emerging at Stanton village, this would have been a natural point for another break, but there hasn't been a pub in Stanton for many a long year, so we had to push on via a gentle green lane, but then another steep-sided valley followed by a long steady climb up to Swinscoe - the highest point of the walk and some stunning vistas to be enjoyed – before staggering finally into the **Dog & Partridge**, where the choice was a Falstaff ale (Noel Coward) or two from Peakstones Rock. Regrettably, the Falstaff was not in good condition and the Peakstones Rock beers were only moderately drinkable.

From there, thankfully, the rest of the walk was largely downhill and/or flat, across several farm fields and via the Okeover estate. We coasted into Mapleton village and arrived at the **Okeover Arms**, with a decent choice of 4 local ales. Would you believe it, though, the first selected beer was akin to vinegar (I forgot to note it down and can't recall

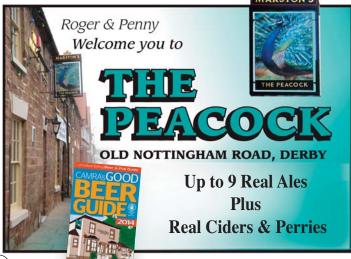
it now, but it wasn't the brewery's fault, so perhaps just as well not to put their name to it) and it had to be swiftly substituted for a thoroughly decent pint of Wincle Rambler, whilst others enjoyed Peak Ales Swift Nick, the permanent offering here.

The last leg saw us climb the hill out of Mapleton, taking in yet more stunning views of Thorpe Cloud and the surrounding hills, before we crested the ridge across the caravan park and fairly sprinted down hill to join the Tissington Trail for the last half mile back into town through the magnificent tunnel. Our arrival back at the **Smith's Tavern** at just after 5.30pm saw an opportunity to sample Marston's Old Empire, a very decent strong ale guaranteed to ensure that, if not tired after all that exertion, we would soon be snoozing deeply.

Thanks again to Keith for selecting and planning the route – the next walk will possibly be in late October/early November, details to follow.







# **Diary Dates**

**Tuesday 29th October** 

Branch Meeting - The Ketch, Kniveton - 8pm.

**Tuesday 26th November** 

Branch Meeting – The Coach & Horses, Ashbourne – 8pm.

**Tuesday 17th December** 

Branch Meeting – TBC – 8pm.

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DerbyDRINKER October/November 2013

# EREWASH VALLEY CAMRA BRANCH by Mick & Carole Golds carolegolds@btinternet.com

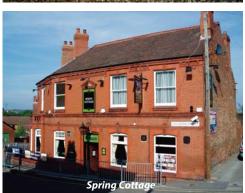
#### **Pub News**

At our September branch meeting at the **Spring Cottage, Ilkeston** (see Photo) having not been there for some time we were quite surprised to see the new decor and 3 beers on the bar at £1.80 a pint. Yes folks, it's not a mistake this is the regular price. Paul & Tina Watton who run this Amber taverns pub explained that their regular house beer is Lees Manchester PA and they have a changing guest beer as well. For more info look on camra's website - What pub.

On Wednesday 18th September nine members of our branch met at the **Spanish Bar Ilkeston** to present Hannah Elms with the summer seasonal award for the best, very pleasant back garden which is used extensively all year round. Big thanks to Hannah for the food provided during a very enjoyable evening, see photo of presentation by Kevin our chairman to Hannah with Gill and the girls.

Our latest addition to real ales pubs in Ilkeston is **The Muirhouse Brewery Tap** on South Street, making this street the real ale outlet of Ilkeston with its four premises from one end to the other. It is also blessed with late evening buses to Derby, Long Eaton, Nottingham and Heanor. The Brewery Tap is owned and run by Mandy and Richard Muirhouse, Richard being the brewer and the beer range includes two of their own beers, two guest beers and two real ciders on draught. It is open every day 12-11pm, and starting from Monday 30th Sept will be a cheese night. Please note, no lager or top shelf is served at this pub, this is a conversation and drinking house with nothing to distract.





Our December meeting will be held here upstairs. See photo of Mandy, Richard and pub.

Also on South Street the **Poacher** is now run by Mick Smedley and Sue Kinson, Mick is ex Cat & Fiddle and Sir John Warren, we wish them well.

Further to the micropub article in the last edition, **The Marlpool Ale House** would like to point out that the ale selection is not dominated by Marlpool beers. In the time they have been open they have sold close to 400 different beers and in the last 12 months they have had at least 5, more often 6 guest ales available every weekend alongside 2 or 3 of our own.

On Monday 12th August the Association of the Friends of the Breaston Navi was formally established. There are already 95 full members and 60 associate members. The purpose is to list the Inn with Erewash Borough Council as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act of 2012 and to encourage the whole community to use the Inn as a community hub for meetings, events, family parties etc. If Punch Taverns ever decided to sell, a listing would give the community 6 months to decide if it would like to buy it or not. In the meantime let's all enjoy the facilities and opportunities the pub offers. For further information about the project either go to www.navigation-breaston.co.uk or visit the Inn and ask to read the information in the folders to be found in each bar.

Report and pictures of Bridge Inn, Cotmanhay, *Ilkeston in next issue.* 





## Trips and Pub Surveys

Saturday 26th October - Awsworth, Giltbrook, Eastwood, Langley Mill. Meet at the Gate Inn, Awsworth 1.00pm. Zig Zag ticket required, 27 bus from Ilkeston market to Awsworth.

Saturday 14th December - Christmas trip to Stockport, meet Derby Station 10.00am for 10.20am to Sheffield to catch 11.38 to Stockport. Wayfarer ticket required check price when purchasing, if interested contact Carole or Michael on 0115 9328042 or 07887 788785.

## Future Meetings

All meetings start 8.30pm.
Contact Secretary Jayne 0115 8548722

Wednesday 6th November - Sevenoaks, Stanton by Dale.

**December 4th** -Muirhouse Brewery Tap, South Street Ilkeston.

### Pub Discounts

Please remember to show your Camra card.

Barge Inn, Long Eaton - 10p Off pint, 5p off half (includes cider)

The Bridge, Sandiacre - 15p off pint

Coach & Horses, Draycott - All cask ales £2.50 pint

Great Northern, Langley Mill - 15p off pint

Navigation, Breaston - 10p off pint

The Poacher, Ilkeston - 15p off pint

Queens Head, Marlpool - 20p off pint, 10p off half (includes cider)

Rutland Cottage, Ilkeston - 15p off pint Mon – Thurs only

Seven Oaks, Stanton by Dale - 20p off pint

Steamboat Inn, Trent Lock - 20p off pint, 10p off half (includes cider)



#### The LocAle Scheme is a National CAMRA initiative to promote pubs that regularly stock **local Real Ales.**

Pubs on the scheme usually display the logo either on the handpump or on a poster or sticker. Within Derby & Amber Valley the radius is 20 miles from pub to brewery.

#### This is the latest list of LocAle pubs:

#### **DERBY**

Alexandra **Babington Arms** Brewery Tap/Royal Standard **Brunswick** Crown & Cushion Exeter Arms Falstaff **Five Lamps Flowerpot Furnace** 

Golden Eagle NEW Greyhound Little Chester Ale House Mr Grundy's Tavern New Zealand Arms Seven Stars Slug and Lettuce Smithfield Old Silk Mill Peacock Ye Olde Dolphin Inne

#### **SURROUNDING AREA**

Bell (Smalley)

The Brackens (Alvaston)

Coopers Arms (Weston-on-Trent)

The Dragon (Willington)

Harrington Arms (Thulston)

Harpur's (formerly Melbourne Hotel)

(Melbourne)

Hope and Anchor (Wirksworth)

Lawns (Chellaston)

Miners Arms (Carsington)

Nunsfield House Club (Alvaston)

Old Talbot (Hilton)

Okeover Arms (Mappleton)

Queens Head (Little Eaton)

Queens Head (Ockbrook) Pattenmakers (Duffield)

Royal Oak (Ockbrook) Royal Oak (Wirksworth)

Vine Inn (Mickleover)

White Swan (Littleover)

#### **AMBER VALLEY** Black Swan (Belper)

Cross Keys (Turnditch) George Inn (Ripley) Holly Bush (Makeney) Hop Inn (Openwoodgate) Hunter Arms (Kilburn) King Alfred (Alfreton) The Lion (Belper) Poet and Castle (Codnor) Red Lion (Fritchley) Strutt Club (Belper) Talbot Taphouse (Ripley) Tavern (Belper) Thorne Tree (Waingroves)

Waggon & Horses (Alfreton)



**Contact: Atholl Beattie LocAle Coordinator** e: locale@derbycamra.org.uk

If your pub regularly stocks local Real Ales and you would like to join the scheme then please get in touch. All accredited pubs will receive posters, stickers and handpump crowns to display and will receive free publicity in the Derby Drinker and on the Derby CAMRA website.

# CAMRA **Discount Pub**



All over the Country there are hundreds of pubs offering discounts to card carrying CAMRA members and these trailblazing pubs deserve your support.

Look out for the posters in these pubs to see what's on offer. Below you will find a list of discounts available in the local area, if you know of others that are not listed here then please get in touch.

#### NEDDY CHIDDOHNDING ADEAC O AMDED VALLEY

Alexandra Hotel Derby	20n off a pint, 10n off a half
Alexandra Hotel, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half
Babington Arms, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half Guest Ales only
Bell & Castle, Derby	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
Broadway, Derby	20p off a pint
Brunswick Inn, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half
Coach & Horses, Derby	15p off a pint
Crown & Cushion, Derby	10p off a pint
Five Lamps, Derby	20p off a pint
Furnace, Derby	20p off a pint
Mr Grundy's, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half
Old Spa Inn, Derby	20p off a pint
Seven Stars, Derby	20p off a pint
Slug & Lettuce, Derby	10% off a pint
Standing Order, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half Guest Ales only
Smithfield, Derby	20p off a pint
Thomas Leaper, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half Guest Ales only
Victoria Inn, Derby -	30p off a pint
Wardwick Tavern, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half
Ye Olde Dolphin Inne, Derby	£2.50 per pint/£1.25 per half on Dolphin 1530 Ale & Centurion N
King Alfred, Alfreton	15p off a pint
Brackens, Alvaston	15p off a pint
Cross Keys, Turnditch	20p off a pint
The Dragon, Willington	20p off a pint
George & Dragon, Belper	20p off a pint
Harpur's, Melbourne	20p off a pint
Hollybrook, Littleover	20p off a pint
Lamb Inn, Melbourne	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
Markeaton, Allestree	20p off a pint
Honeycomb, Mickleover	20p off a pint
Masons Arms, Mickleover	15p off a pint
Midland, Ripley	15p off a pint
Pattenmakers Arms, Duffield	10p off a pint and 5p off a half
Red Lion, Fritchley All real ales	£2.50 a pint
Red Lion, Hollington	20p off a pint
Cross Keys, Swanwick	15p off a pint
Steampacket, Swanwick	15p off a pint
George Inn, Ripley	10p off a pint
Talbot Taphouse, Ripley	20p off house pints
White Swan, Littleover	20p off a pint
White Swan, Spondon	15p off a pint

#### FREE advertising for pubs joining the CAMRA DISCOUNT PUBS scheme

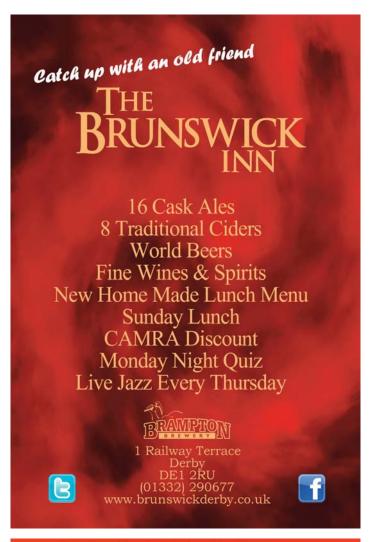
If you are a licensee and you are interested in joining the scheme then please contact us at campaigns@derbycamra.org.uk, we will advertise your pub through this column in every edition of the Derby Drinker and on the Derby & National CAMRA websites.

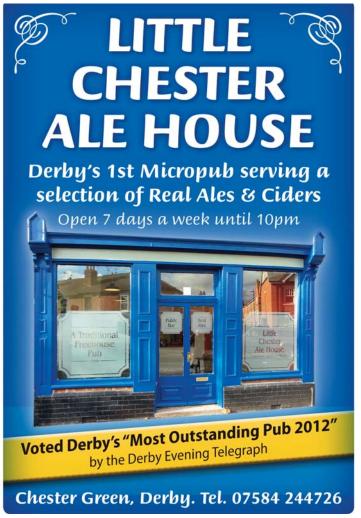
# THE FALSTAFF

Silver Hill Road, Derby, DE23 6U) (01332) 342902



Pub and Micro Brewery www.falstaffbrewery.co.uk







onsider! Dear Toper, a recent autumnal evening, whereon I ventured into a city centre hostelry with the intention of meeting up with an old acquaintance of mine, who had agreed to bring along a vintage CAMRA publication, which he had been promising, for some time, to lend to me. As the evening was cold and wet, he had wisely placed the publication within the confines of an old plastic carrier-bag, adorned with the name of one of the big supermarket chains. This little episode nicely illustrates, just how useful plastic carrier-bags can continue to be once you've emptied your groceries from them. Indeed, Dear Toper, I would venture to suggest that they are one of the most useful things on the planet! They can, and are, used over and over again for a variety of purposes; such as; keeping bicycle seats dry whist their owners are inside pubs

on wet evenings; taking old clothes to charity shops; and I've even seen hikers putting them on over their muddy boots to avoid leaving a muddy trail across the fitted carpet of some rural hostelry. And as they are made from a by-product of the oil industry, the manufacturing costs are minimal, enabling supermarkets to give them away, secure in the knowledge, that with the store's name printed on the bags, their customers will be

walking around advertising the place for free! It's a win, win, situation! You would think that the humble plastic carrier-bag would be celebrated as one of the greatest achievements of our modern age, a great boon to humanity, rich and poor alike – who in their right mind could despise them? – Enter our mind bogglingly stupid political class!

Using the lame excuse that some anti-social scumbags have allowed certain plastic bags to become litter, our breathtakingly

# Dear Oper. autumnal evening, whereon I ostelry with the intention of Scrap the Bag Tax by little green men (and a part of the state of

inept political class, no doubt egged on by little green men (and women) who despise anything remotely connected with the oil industry, have decided to punish all of us for the sins of the few by introducing the "Bag Tax"! In other words; shops will be compelled to charge us for plastic carrier-bags. I for one hate litter louts and am of the opinion that the punishments meted out to them are derisory, however, anyone who is deluded enough to entertain the notion that a tax on plastic carrier-bags (which are often used for gathering up litter; such as empty drinks cans and dog excrement) is going to stop knuckle-draggers throwing litter around, is beyond having any sensible dialogue with, and is probably a

politician, or one of their politically correct hangers on.

Another idea being floated by our sinking political class, in a half-hearted attempt to tackle late-night, aggressive drunkards, (they could start by closing the House of Commons bars) is the introduction of so-called "Drunk Tanks", which are to be run by private companies. Presumably those of our leading pubco's, who run the sort of establishments wherein most of the problem drinkers get fuelled up on chemical lagers and rotgut ciders, will take full advantage

of this lucrative, state-funded business opportunity, and get even richer by setting aside designated rooms in their various outlets as "Drunk Tanks", thereby keeping the whole process of getting the idiots drunk on overpriced drinks and then punishing them for it, under one roof.

I wonder if all of this nonsense will be funded by the "Bag Tax"? Consider that, Dear Toper! D.T.



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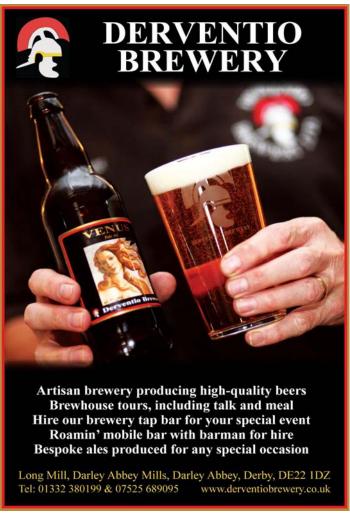
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Good Beer Guide 2013



# Derby**CAMRA**Branch**Diary**

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials, meetings and trips. Here is a list of forthcoming events:

#### **OCTOBER**

Wed 23rd - Social - Golden Eagle, Agard St, Derby - 9pm.

#### **NOVEMBER**

**Sat 2nd** - Titanic Brewery Tour - Stoke on Trent. Coach fare £10. Departs Noon.

**Fri 8th** - Survey Trip - Sinfin/Stenson/Findern/Willington. Free minibus 7.30pm.

Thu 14th - Branch Meeting - Old Spa Inn, Derby - 8pm.

**Sat 23rd** - Survey Trip - Ticknall /Milton/Repton. Free minibus 6.30pm.

**Thu 28th** – Social - Little Chester Ale House (8.30pm) & Coach and Horses (9.30pm), Chester Green, Derby.

#### **DECEMBER**

Thu 5th - Branch Meeting - Venue TBC.

**Thu 12th** - Christmas Show – Flowerpot, Derby – 8pm (for tickets contact lan Forman 01332 882996)

**Sat 14th** - Survey Trip - Oakwood/Morley Smithy/Smalley. Free minibus 6.30pm.

Thu 19th - Christmas Social - Falstaff, Derby - 8.30pm.

NB. All trips Depart/Return from Cathedral Green, Derby.

Contact the Social Secretary, Dean Smith by e-mail - socials@derbycamra.org.uk (except where indicated)



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• 19.

# Crossword

#### No 36 by Wrenrutt

- Central Birmingham Pub of the Year, more often than not, to boot (10)
- Dreadful ride! (4) 6
- Beers so-named from Orkney's Quayloo Brewery, or Emsworth's (8)
- Coloration (ianthine) conceals an ancient Greek tribesman (6)
- 10 "Ay up m'duck where's 11's session ale then?" (2.2)
- 11 Popular Derby Pub of the Year near its namesake bridge (6.4)
- 12 Hugos at the Coast found here, 9 miles East of Newcastle (9)
- 14 Britten's wartime home village where The Maltings concert hall is situated (5)
- 17 A bird, raging, told me this (5)
- 19 lagree, able bodies can, in part, be very willing (9)
- 22 American style close harmony singing groups; haircuts also available! (6-4)
- 23 Antipodean beer or watereddown rum (4)
- Could be a hogshead but can certainly hold its liquor (6)
- 25 Tease Ben, but he's not here!
- 26 Chabrier's 1st Quartet but possibly another composer (4)

27 County Durham village, once home to its namesake brewery (6.4)

#### Down

- Element of wonder and pleasure (3.6)
- Yorkshire Dales's pale ale with wrap (7)
- Odin or Wotan for example (5.3)
- 4 North Derbyshire pub where the Black Lurcher is no longer a dog (5.5.5)
- Metal spike maker, or manicurist perhaps (6)
- The Commendatore's daughter in Don Giovanni (5.4)
- A mad pro, maladjusted, but could show you the way (4.3)
- 13 Where there's two eponymous beers and the Deuchars IPA producer-- Capital! (9)
- 15 Everards and Greene King's beginnings, always immature
- 16 Al, pissed about? That's contempt (8)
- 18 USA's 'Yellowhammer' State (7)
- 20 Debater was scolded (7)
- 21 Caper, but not a pickled flower

# 10 12 15 16 18 25

- ▶ Access to Chambers Dictionary, and the 'Bible' (aka the Good Beer Guide 2014) recommended.
- Send completed entries to the Editor (see address below) stating in which pub you picked up Derby Drinker.
- Correct grids will go into a draw for a £10 prize.

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Copy deadline 20th November

### Crossword No 35 Answers

- WAINWRIGHT
- TORT SUPERIOR
- **EBULUM** WHIM
- **BLONDE PALE**
- **TIDESWELL**
- 14. STASH
- 17. RANDY19. ASHBURTON
- **PARAPHRASE**
- **BASS**
- **DETOUR**
- INVITING
- RRFR
- **BURNS NIGHT.**

- WASTWATER
- **IMPLIED**
- **RAINBOWS**
- **GARGOYLES NAPIER** 
  - TRENDY
- TRUMPETER
- **ROUBLES**
- 13. ENDEAVOUR
- HINDSIGHT
- **OBSERVES**
- 18. AMATEUR
- **CHERUB TRADING**

Crossword winner is Roger Corbett

from London picked up in Lord Harrowby, Grantham.

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#### **COPY BY POST - Contact Lynn**

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It is available for as little as £3.50 for 5 issues. Contact us at:

mra.org.uk, or send a cheque made payable to 'Derby CAMRA' to : Derby Drinker by Post, 10 Newton Close Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 1TN.

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