

Derby DRINKER

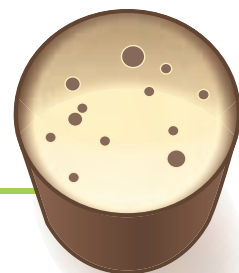


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Issue 160

March/April 2015



"Cheers!"



DERBY CAMRA PUBS OF THE YEAR 2015



Details inside plus National Winter Ales Festival Report... ►

DERBY CAMRA Pubs of the Year 2015

The Alex Edges to Victory

The Derby Branch of CAMRA has selected its Pubs of the Year for 2015:-

The **City Pub of the Year** is the **Alexandra Hotel** on Siddals Road with the runner-up being Furnace Inn on Duke Street in Derby.

The **Country Pub of the Year** is the Royal Oak in Ockbrook with the runner-up being the Royal Oak in Wirksworth.

And by virtue of having the highest overall mark the **Alexandra Hotel** has also been crowned **Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year 2015**.

In an extremely close fought competition this year the Alexandra managed to come out on top of the tree and it marks the first time the pub has won it under licensees, Anna & Ralf Dyson-Edge. Mind you they are no strangers to Derby CAMRA awards having won the best Mild pub twice and been runner-up in the City Pub of the Year but to be named the Branch Pub of the Year is the icing on the cake. Credit must be given to them both and their staff for bringing the Alex back to the fore and making it such a great real ale local again. The Alex of course was the original birthplace of Derby CAMRA in 1974 so some 40 odd years on it's nice to see it back up there where it belongs.

Runner up in the City was last year's winner, The Furnace Inn which has now been runner-up twice and winner once in the 3 years it has been open which is an remarkable achievement by Pedro Menon & the team who have kept the pub consistently at the top of its game with new and innovative ideas.

Back out in the Country last year's runner-up, the Royal Oak in Ockbrook has taken back the title it's won on so many previous occasions. It is simply a great village local right at the heart of community life which has been in the Good Beer Guide for 39 years due to the quality of its ales and the tender loving care of the

family who have run it in all that time; Landlady Olive Wilson, Steve & Jean Hornbuckle and Sally Parrot.

Runner up in the Country, the Royal Oak in Wirksworth was also a previous runner-up and stands as a welcome Real Ale beacon in the area appearing in the last 12 Good Beer Guides. The hours it opens maybe a bit restrictive but boy when it does open it's well worth going in which is thanks to landlord & landlady Avis & John

Drury and staff who always make you feel welcome.

Of course as the competition was so close this time it would be remiss not to mention the other finalists involved who pushed the others all the way namely the Brunswick Inn and Golden Eagle in Derby and the Cross Keys in Ockbrook.

All of the winners will be presented with their awards during March and Derby Drinker will be there to capture the

presentations for future issues.

And the Alexandra Hotel will now go forward into the Derbyshire Pub of the Year competition where it will compete with the winners of other local CAMRA Branches awards from Amber Valley, Ashbourne, Chesterfield, Erewash Valley, High Peak, Matlock & Dales, Mansfield, and Sheffield. The winner of the Derbyshire round will be announced later in the year after a similar judging process has taken place.



Anna & Ralf toast their Pub of the Year success

The National Winter Ales Festival 2015

sees visitors flock to Derby



What had 484 draught beers from 145 different breweries, almost 300 volunteers, took 6 months of detailed planning and only was open for three and a half days? The answer is **CAMRA's National Winter Ales Festival 2015!**

United by passion and consumer demand for real ale, real cider & perry, bottled world beers and mead saw 12,960 customers poured into the City of Derby to experience the beery heart of the UK. The Champion Winter Beer of Britain and East Midland Winter Champion were judged and announced (see table for results).

Customers on social media mentioned the following highlights: Steve W. said "For me, the great range of new breweries not see in Derby (or many places for that matter) before". Clare T said "Brass Castle brewery bar (even though their dark beers had all sold out by time we made it on Saturday) and the very reasonably priced world beers". Charlie H. said "Thank you NWAFF for a well-organized event staffed by enthusiastic & friendly people - the ales, talks and World Beers – excellent".

Lovely Les Williams' World Beers was seriously diminished while the East Midlands Gold Cider Producer AKA our very own Chris Rogers' Cider and Perry Bar was significantly dented but both had stock to spare. Mead sold out by 6.20pm on Saturday night despite increasing their order from 2014 – way to go Lexxi! Jim Suter and Jim Ward excelled in their beer order with a lovely much praised selection and we finished with 140 different draught beers on sale at the final whistle. Result!

Untold thanks to the Membership Team who signed up an unequalled 221 new members. All new members are welcome to come to Branch Meetings and begin to take advantage of another CAMRA Members Benefit – Friendship!

The Four Brewery Bars – Blue Monkey, North Star, Brunswick Brewing Company and Brass Castle were all stars and continued serving right to the end as well. The music was super – thanks Gareth.

I would like to thank the venue – The Roundhouse Events Team who coped with everything we

requested with good grace, humor and a 'can do attitude'. Rebekah, Helen and Laura you were all stars – thank you.

Oh yes and did I mention that for possibly the first time ever at a National Festival all of CAMRA's National and Regional Directors were gathered together under the same roof. Multiple comments have been received back that they were blown away by the stunning venue, friendly volunteers and awesome Festival.

Sky News were on site on Friday lunchtime and the Rough Guide on Saturday evening – both were talking and listening to customers, helping secure the future of real ale within communities up and down the UK.

If it were possible I'd have sent a Valentine's card to every Volunteer as you all excelled and showcasing just what a cracking Festival CAMRA can put on. Thank you one and all from the bottom of my heart!

Gillian Hough - Festival Organiser



CHAMPION WINTER BEER OF BRITAIN 2015

OVERALL WINNERS

PLACE	BREWERY	BEER
Bronze	Dancing Duck	Dark Drake
Silver	Purple Moose	Dark Side of the Moose
Gold	Elland	1872 Porter

EAST MIDLANDS COMPETITION

OVERALL WINNERS

PLACE	BREWERY	BEER
Bronze	Thornbridge	St Petersburg Imperial Russian Stout
Silver	Brampton	Mild
Gold	Hopshackle	Double Momentum



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A Footastic Festival



When Derby's former Winter Beer Festival became the National Winter Ales Festival (NWAFF) many feared that it would spell the end to the music as there had been very little at NWAFF before. Thankfully that myth was dispelled last year and it's a pleasure to report that after this year's event the 'Festival That Rocks' title is safe in NWAFF hands for now. In fact this year's line-up was probably the biggest and best yet with three top tribute bands headlining Thursday to Saturday nights.



Kazabian



UK Foo Fighters

Held again in the adjoining marquee of the Roundhouse it all kicked off on the Wednesday evening which saw the return of the Open-Mic night with about 15 artists playing throughout the evening which seemed to go down well with the assembled crowd.

Thursday night followed with the opening act **The Modest** getting the crowd nicely warmed up for the first big hitter of the Festival, **The Jam Movement** who performed a great selection of classic tunes from the mighty Jam. This got everyone moving about and singing along which was a great way to close the 2nd night of the Festival.

Friday as always is a big night at the Beer Festival and the entertainment lived up to the billing. Old Skool Punk Rockers, **Verbal Warning**, no strangers to the event, got the night off to a lively start playing well known punk covers as well as some of their own excellent material. This got everyone in the mood for the main event, tribute band **Kazabian** who played a barnstorming set from their heroes. With cries of 'Eez-eh', 'Eez-eh', the crowd entered into the spirit of the occasion and with the epic 'Fire' to finish everyone went home happy, singing and dancing into the night. A most enjoyable evening which left us looking forward to the next.

Saturday night promised much and support band **Parasight** certainly delivered. They are a young upcoming rock band (the drummer was only 13) who had been invited back after last year's excellent performance and again they managed to put on an outstanding set of their own and classic rock covers that went down a storm with the crowd. A hard act to follow but if anybody could do it then it was the **UK Foo Fighters** who closed the Festival in some style powering their way through a best of set from the Foo Fighters including tracks off the new album, Sonic Highways. They are certainly at the top of their game right now and the crowd were happy to join in and sing-a-long to the 'Best of You', 'My Hero' & 'Times Like These' while 'Monkey Wrench', 'Breakout' and the 'Pretender' sent them into a frenzy. Show closer and fan favourite, 'Everlong' was perhaps the perfect way to close the Festival leaving a warming glow inside and finishing off a cracking 4 days of entertainment.

The 'Festival That Rocks' is well and truly back, roll on next year.



Mickleover's Taverns, Pubs and a Unique Place in Rams' History

Mickleover, Derby's popular western suburb, has half a dozen pubs of diverse architectural style. Post war, inter-war and centuries old taverns are all part of the rich fabric of Mickleover's public house heritage.

I started on Station Road at the late Victorian **Great Northern**, within earshot of a steam locomotive's whistle on the old GNR line. Having walked through the attractive entrance porch, I was greeted by the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and an imaginatively designed, light, contemporary interior. On a Tuesday lunchtime in January the place was packed with drinkers and diners taking advantage of an appetizing looking menu. Unrecognizable from its Ind Coope days, Pedigree and Greene King Old Speckled Hen rubbed shoulders on the bar. There's a pleasant patio and grassed area to the rear, and with hundreds of homes being built on nearby Radbourne Lane, the future for this vibrant gastro pub looks rosy indeed.

Not far away, on Ladybank Road, is the **Honeycomb**, an Everard's pub built in 1974 to serve the Silverhill estate. Shortly after opening, Everard's returned to the real ale fold and this innovatively designed building was in the first tranche of 11 pubs to sell their full

range of real ales. Today, drinkers can choose between two Everard's beers and two guests, which on my visit were Bath Ales Barnsey and a LocAle, Derby Brewing Company Three Brewers. The comfortably furnished, unusual interior of interlocking hexagons is on two levels with a pool table and dart boards on the lower level. Modestly priced food is offered and, for the inquisitive, there's a quiz every Wednesday night.

The **Robin** on Devonshire Drive was built by Derby's Offiler's brewery in 1959. To the left there's a large, basic public bar with a pool table, dartboard and big screen for the football. On the right a dining room/bar has customers enjoying 2 meals for a tanner. There are wooden floorboards throughout but the lovely bar back fitting I recall from the 70s has, sadly, gone. Castle Rock Harvest Pale, Pedigree and Doombar were the real ale choices on my visit.

Jon Mills and partner Terese Allott are justifiably proud of their use of limited space at the cosy **Vine** on Ottoxeter Road, the oldest parts of which date back to the 17thC. New rooms have been added, including a lean to conservatory, without detracting from the old world charm. Outside, a great garden with

children's facilities and a patio area have been created. Two football teams, Sky footie and a bus to Rams' home games draws extra (mainly wet) trade with Pedigree, Doombar and a guest, Robinson's Trooper, a malty, 4.8% brew of considerable character. Architectural features include a narrow, tiled passageway, and a well-appointed lounge replete with beamed, sloping ceiling. Former licensees include Trevor Harris, founder of Derby Brewing Company. N.B. In November 1976, the Vine was in the first tranche of Derby pubs to serve the revered Ind Coope Draught Burton Ale, and a future *Derby Drinker* article will reflect on this once classic Pale Ale.

Just along the main road, is the imposing **Mason's Arms** distinguished by a Dutch style gable. Mickleover's longest serving licensee (since 2000), Trevor Price, is the biggest distributor of Derby Drinker. The split level interior is entered via the top bar which is warmed by a wood burning stove, whilst the lower level lounge overlooks The Square, Mickleover's historic heart. There's an all-day food offering (finishes 4pm Sunday) with a specials' board. Vying for attention were Pedigree, Bass, a changing guest (Thwaites Wainwright) and Greene King Old Speckled



The Great Northern



The Robin



The Honeycomb



The Vine

Hen. I have to say I found it a little misleading to list Speckled Hen as being from Abingdon when the Oxfordshire brewery closed in millennium year! More's the pity since the original, stronger, Morland's Speckled Hen was a brilliant, vinous brew. You can buy 10 pints and you get one free, but I wouldn't necessarily recommend you do this in one session!

The original **Nag's Head** was nearer to the Mason's and demolished in 1928. The replacement, also on Uttoxeter Road, was built shortly afterwards in half-timbered style, and back in 1946 Stuart McMillan was the landlord. A former professional footballer and Rams' scout, McMillan is unique in Derby's history as the only manager to lead the club to F A Cup glory at Wembley, in 1946. Later, McMillan twice smashed the British transfer record to bring class players to the Baseball Ground. Today, the Pullman coach dining car has gone and the pub is fronted by a pergola with tables and seating front and rear. High ceilinged, commodious within, and broken up into distinctly different areas; one having a flame/funnel feature. The reasonably priced menu makes much of its "Flaming Grill" branding and some of the deserts look a little too tempting for one's waistline! Mickleover's broadest real ale offering was: Oakham JHB, Castle Rock Preservation and Elsie Mo, Doombar and the ubiquitous Pedigree.

No review of Mickleover would be complete without mentioning the **Royal British Legion Club** on the aptly named Poppyfields Close signposted off Western Road. This large new building replaced the old one in 2007 and was opened by Pauline Latham MP. The club room overlooks the football pitch and a first floor balcony is a good vantage point from which to view the bowls green in summer. The keen steward has three real ales including a guest which are augmented by occasional beer festivals.

Clearly, Mickleover has much to offer and with the Honeycomb, Mason's and Nag's all giving discount to card carrying CAMRA members, it's well worth a visit on the frequent Trent bus service from Derby bus station.

Paul Gibson



The Masons



The Nag's Head



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No, I didn't know about it!

News of pubs, beer festivals, new breweries, and great new beers don't wait for Derby Drinker. So how do you keep up on the scene between issues?



Simples!



Like DerbyCAMRA on Facebook for the latest on CAMRA socials and events (most are open to non-members) and for news about the campaign nationally.



Follow @DerbyCAMRA on Twitter for up to the moment news and gossip from around our local pubs and beer festivals. Pick up what's going on right now.

Visit derbycamra.org.uk to find out lots more about the campaign, the local pub and brewery scene. Lots of contacts and links. Also read Derby Drinker and RuRAD.

If you're a CAMRA member, join our members' only discussion group (contact pubsofficer@derbycamra.org.uk) and subscribe (free of charge) to our member's only newsletter, Mild and Bitter, contact timwilliams39bhr@gmail.com

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Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch

Contact Mark Grist

m.grist2@sky.com

Branch News

Pub of the Year

The process of judging and scoring for our Pub of The Year categories was completed in the first week of February, with the results as follows:

Town Pub of the Year:

Smith's Tavern

Country Pub of the Year:

The Sycamore, Parwich

Best Newcomer:

The Shire Horse, Wyaston

With well over half the number of first-place votes, the overall winner is Smith's Tavern, making it a hat-trick of successive wins. Congratulations to all category winners, as well as all pubs that made the final shortlists. Certificate presentations will be arranged in the very near future. We are pleased to note that the overall standard of pubs across our area is being maintained and many are going from strength to strength with their quality of ales and welcoming atmospheres.

Beer Festival

Planning for our 3rd Beer Festival has just got underway in earnest with the first monthly meeting. The dates are confirmed as Thursday 8th - Saturday 10th October at the Town Hall and we expect a very similar style of event to last year. More details will be circulated as soon as possible.

Pub News

The former Dog & Partridge at Thorpe re-opened on December 22nd as The Old Dog and has already proved an extremely popular destination for CAMRA members and in general. The selection of four real ales features at least two locally breweries and the management are keen to put on as many different ales as often as possible. The sub-branch held their February meeting there and all present agree that this is a highly welcome addition to our pub scene locally.

Despite the report in the last edition that The Horns in Ashbourne was under new management, it has unfortunately not proved possible for them to continue as Marstons' plans for the pub did not match those of the incoming team, so it passed on again to another temporary management team and it is believed that the brewery plan to close the pub soon for some major internal works before re-opening it as part of their "retail scheme" estate.

Planning permission has now been granted for the owners of the Green Man complex to install a new pub area in the former Leatherbitches brewery area towards the rear of the building. No opening date has yet been mooted, but we will report again on it as soon as we hear anything regarding a date.



The Shire Horse



Old Dog

Diary Dates BRANCH MEETINGS

Tues 31st March - Branch meeting - The Rose & Crown, Brailsford

Tues 28th April - Branch meeting - The Rose & Crown, Boylestone

Tues 26th May - Branch AGM - The Shire Horse, Wyaston

Tues 30th June - Branch meeting - Ye Olde Royal Oak, Wetton



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EREWASH VALLEY CAMRA REPORT



The White Swan



The Anchor



The Carpenters Arms



Old Black Horse

Pub News

Latest information concerning the new outside bar behind **The Harrow Inn, Ilkeston**: we are informed by the landlady of the Harrow that there have been problems and it will be opened eventually later in the spring.

We are sorry that the report in the last drinker upset the landlord and landlady of the **Little Acorn, Ilkeston** concerning opening hours, but we were only reporting information that we received from bar staff. This will be one of the pubs that we shall be visiting on our survey trip round Ilkeston on Saturday 28th February.

The Charters, South Street, Ilkeston has been taken over by Amber Taverns and closed at the moment for refurbishment.

The Good Old Days, Station Road, Ilkeston has been bought by Tony and his wife and hopefully set to reopen this summer and will be renamed The Canalside, more details later.

The Queens Head and Marlpool Ale House, Marlpool are having a joint Mini Beer Festival May 1st, 2nd, 3rd. All beers under 6% £2.50 pint, Free entry, Live music, opening times 11.00 - 12.00 Friday, 11.00- 12.00 Saturday, 11.00- 6.00 Sunday.

The Marlpool Ale House has been voted branch pub of the season, presentation details when arranged will be on the branch website.

The General Havelock, Ilkeston was closed on the 8th February and will be re-opened again with new owners as a Pub, Rotisserie and cafe, opening date TBC.

Trips and Socials

Our Christmas trip round Birmingham City Centre and Digbeth was well attended by 26 Camra members and friends visiting some exceptionally good pubs particularly in the Digbeth area. After visiting 9 pubs we finished off the evening in the Post Office Vaults next to the station.

Kevin our chair organised a survey trip by minibus on Saturday 24th Jan to Black Horse at Mapperley, Punch Bowl at West Hallam, Carpenters Arms at Dale Abbey, The Chequers and Stanhope at Stanton by Dale and The Sevenoaks at Stanton. All the pubs are in the Erewash Valley region but less frequented by members.

Future Socials

Saturday 25th April

No.45 bus trip from Queen Street to Mapperley, Gedling and Carlton, further information will be on the website or contact Carole 07887 788785.

Future Meetings

March 4th - AGM - Spanish Bar, South Street, Ilkeston.

1st April - The Bell, Sawley.

May 6th - The Dewdrop, Ilkeston.

All meetings start at 8.00pm, for further details if required contact Secretary, Jayne Tysoe at secretary@erewash-camra.com

Camra Discounts

Please remember to show your camra card

The Bridge, Sandiacre - 15p off a pint.

Bridge, Cotmanhay - 20p off a pint.

Blue Bell, Sandiacre - 10p off a pint, 5p off a half including real cider.

Coach & Horses, Draycott - 30p off a pint, 15p off a half.

General Havelock, Ilkeston - 20p off a pint, 10p off a half including real cider.

Navigation, Breaston - 10p off a pint.

Poacher, Ilkeston - 15p off a pint.

Queens Head, Marlpool - 20p off a pint, 10p off a half including real cider.

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

Steamboat, Trent Lock - 20p off a pint, 10p off a half including real cider.

Victoria, Draycott - 30p off a pint, 15p off a half.

The Crown, Long Eaton - 10p off a pint, 5p off a half.



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Cider

with Suzie



We have just about recovered from the National Winter Ales Cider Bar at the Roundhouse. I hope you were there, it was a great event, but if not make sure you are there next year! Although this year's event didn't break records you drunk twice as much cider and perry as was consumed at the Derby Summer Festival ten years ago. This shows the fantastic growth in the popularity of cider and perry; long may it continue.

Every year we do manage to find a few cider makers not previously featured at Derby. These are just some of them. From Peterborough we had Hubz'Ang Over, a pale 8% Eastern Counties style cider made from local fruit. It came to prominence by winning Peterborough's Cider of the Festival last year; a good reason (if you need one) to visit Peterborough Festival this August. From the Staffordshire

/ Shropshire border we had Hurst View Jibber Jabber. I hadn't previously tasted it, but it proved to be a mellow, medium sweet cider, very moreish. More locally we had Blue Barrel from Sherwood, Nottingham. This is made in a garage from mixed cider and culinary fruit. It had a crisp, clean flavour, very acceptable. Even closer to home we had Taste of the Orchard from Oakfield Farm, Stanley Common. The fruit is all grown nearby. This is also the home of Nutbrook Brewery; the farm shop is open on Saturdays and Thursdays and sells, amongst other produce, beef produced on the farm.

I always keep a close eye on the first few tubs of cider to be emptied; clearly you, the customer, approve of them. First down was Springfield Red Dragon, from Llangovan, Gwent. This is made from a blend of cider varieties, slightly sweet of medium with terrific

depth of flavour and aftertaste. Second down, and close on the heels of the Red Dragon was Three Cats, from Morley. Three Cats is made from blended local apples and this tub was pretty sweet with a rich flavour and a slight sparkle. You certainly liked it!

Now is the time to start thinking about holidays, so I'll mention a few Somerset Cider Makers just off the M5 We always pick up take aways from this area when heading to Devon or Cornwall. From J22 you are very close to Rich's at Watchfield. This is quite a large establishment but their cider is traditionally made and very drinkable. It has a farm shop selling a wide range of nick-nacks as well as cider, also a decent restaurant. At the other end of the scale is Wilkins at Wedmore. This is a proper, no nonsense working farm. The problem here is getting away, because you only pay for the cider you take with you, not for

that consumed on the premises! If you have an hour or two to put the world to rights that's the place to do it.

Not far from Wilkins at Street, near Glastonbury, is Hecks. Hecks do a fantastic range of single variety ciders and perries, and the quality is always A1. If I were only allowed cider from one cider maker on my desert island it would be Hecks. There is also a well-stocked farm shop selling local produce. Finally, a bit further down the motorway off J25 at Bradford-on-Tone is Sheppys. This is a large and quite commercial outfit, but when it comes to cider making their heart is in the right place. The own extensive orchards, which you can tour, there is also a museum and a farm shop selling a good selection of locally sourced meats. I've just listed four, there are plenty of others; Somerset is a wonderful county to explore.

Wassail

Roger & Penny
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DERBY CITY PUB OF THE YEAR 2006



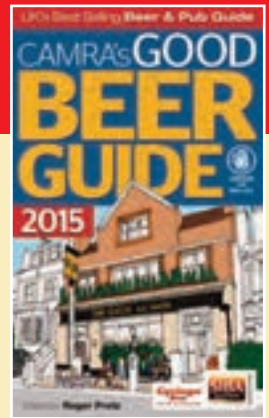
CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2015 is now out.

CAMRA's Good Beer Guide is fully revised and updated each year and features pubs across the United Kingdom that serve the best real ale.

The 42nd edition continues to be completely independent with listings based entirely on nomination and evaluation by CAMRA members. This means you can be sure that every one of the 4,500 pubs deserves their place, and comes recommended by people who know a thing or two about good beer.

Available now from the CAMRA website, local bookshops and some local pubs.

- Listings of over 4,500 of the best real ale pubs, with over 1,200 new entries this year
- Listings include Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, the Isle of Man & the Channel Islands
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CALLING EARLY MEMBERS OF DERBY CAMRA

Lots of members who were involved with CAMRA in the dark keg-infested days of the 70s and 80s were then in their 20s and 30s. But for many of us, getting older brought more family and career responsibilities and limited our involvement with the branch.

But now this early generation is in its 50s and 60s. Our prospects of becoming the next John Harvey-Jones, Graham Hill or Barbara Castle have faded a bit, and the garden is looking as good as it's ever going to get, or needs to be. So it's time to consider getting back to CAMRA.

What we have now is a lifetime of experience, and the accumulated knowledge and life skills that CAMRA needs. Many of us again have the time to take on new challenges, and the desire to keep our skills and abilities sharp; and perhaps to develop new ones.

If you are one of these people, please contact me to discuss what you might like to do.

Tim Williams, Branch Campaigns Co-ordinator (older than he was then) timwilliams39bhr@gmail.com

(Thanks to Helen McCall for an article published in Merseyale, liverpoolcamra.org.uk, that inspired this one, and to my wife Les for pointing it out to me.)

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BOOTING UP

As the Boot Inn & Brewery Opens

There's more to creating a great new beer than mashing carefully selected malts, and boiling the resulting 'wort' with a blend of choice hops.

There are trial brews to be done, tweaks to be made to the brewing processes and ingredients and, most importantly, tasting sessions. It's just as a master chef does when creating a great new dish.

A few Derby CAMRA members were recently invited to be amongst those involved in the best part of this process - the tasting. The occasion was the first public tasting of the beers being developed for the Boot Brewery, the new microbrewery at The Boot, in Repton. It's not hard to remember the address - Boot Hill.

The tasting was hosted by Alan Shepherd at The Dragon in Willington. Alan is a director of Bespoke Inns, the company formed by Heidi Taylor, which owns the multiple award-winning Dragon, and Harpur's in Melbourne, and now also owns The Boot.

The 'master chef' developing the new beers is Iain Masson. Iain has been brewing since 1980 but doesn't particularly like to be called a consultant, "they tell you what you know already, and overcharge you for it", but that's in effect what he is.

There were three beers to taste: Clod Hopper; Tuffer's Old; and Boot Bitter. A fourth, Repton Cross (some of the profits from this will go to help save the famous Repton Cross) was not quite ready. We



(Rick Graham, Iain Masson & Alan Shepherd)

were all asked to make detailed comments and suggestions about the beers.

Clod Hopper, my personal favourite, was a well-hopped golden beer, with a wonderful peppery aroma and a long bitter finish. In contrast, Tuffer's Old is a porter, made with a range of malts and hops with a rich mouthfeel. Its taste seemed a little muted at first, but developed nicely as the beer warmed in the glass. The Boot Bitter was a mid-range balanced beer to replace the ubiquitous, but to many, unadventurous, Doom Bar. To my taste, the first two were pretty much spot on, with only the Boot Bitter in need of a further tweak.



But there was still a lot to do. The beers had been developed by Iain in the Grey Trees Brewery in Aberdare, South Wales. There remained the tricky business of adapting them to the new six barrel Boot Brewery itself. There, under Iain's guidance to start with, they will be in the care of Rick Graham, 'Headbrewer and Innkeeper'.

By the time you read this, the Boot will be up and running and the beers will be available there, and the other Bespoke pubs. Go try!

Tim Williams



All Change At the Railway Station

The area around Derby's railway station has seen many changes of the last few years and has now emerged as a very diverse area for the real drinker. A stroll along Midland Road or right along Railway Terrace should suit all tastes, while still offering real ale. Where could you expect to choose between a wine bar, a traditional pub, a railway museum, the countries' first railway pub, a music venue, a brewpub or a former professional institute building as a place to drink real ale, all within 2 minutes walk. In fact it is difficult to think of such a compact area anywhere else in Derby offering such a range of atmospheres.

Exiting the station and casting one's eye directly opposite there stands the three most obvious public houses of the Waterfall, the Merry Widows and the Victoria. These three pubs set the scene for the diversity on offer – but read on as there is more. Starting at the Waterfall, it would be difficult to not be impressed by the building itself, proudly displaying "Midland Railway Institute" in the brick work on the Railway Terrace side. The building is part of a railway village built by

the newly emerging railway industry. Inside the size of the building is not lost with high ceilings and ample room making lending to a calm relaxing atmosphere. The pub offers two function rooms and it is not unusual to wander along Railway Terrace and envy the people in full party mode in the Waterfall. The pub is worthy of inclusion in this review as it does serve real as well.

Across the pedestrian walkway stands the Victoria a pub which specialises in music hosting many cover bands. The pub serves a good selection of real ale and has recently been awarded Cask Marque status. At the end of last year the Victoria raised its real ale profile by holding their first real ale festival. A basic two-room pub with a rear function room, the building was threatened with demolition for many years by town planners, but not threat no exists. It seems incredible today that someone actually wanted to rip through this area in the interest of traffic flow.

Neatly settling next door and on the corner is the Merry Widows, a basic no frills boozer. While all three of the pubs mentioned so



The Victoria Inn

far could serve as a station waiting room, the Merry Widows is actually the closest.

Heading away from the station down Midland Road the empty white building on the corner is the former George Hotel. Once a Kimberley house it reminds us that no all is rosey in the area. The diminishing activity at the post office opposite has surely taken its toll on the areas prosperity.

To brighten the mood, a few doors further on is the beautiful frontage of the Station Inn. An old favourite of CAMRA having been listed in many Good Beer Guides over the years. The pub is famous for serving Bass from the jug and if you look carefully at the front you will find a sign advertising the fact. The Station Inn has recently gone through a change of management so we encourage you to go down and show your support.

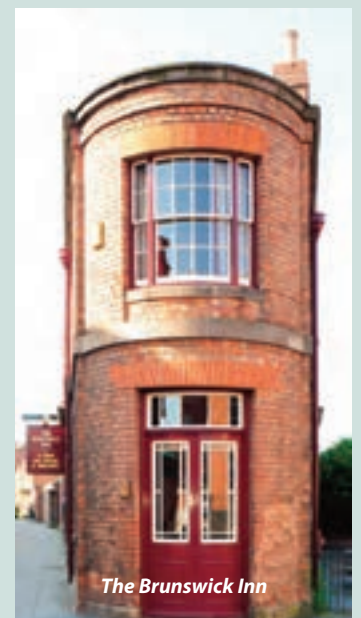
Further along Midland Road is an establishment that some may find surprising to be a stockist of real ale on pump. The Mansion Wine Bar, a new comer to the scene, stands proudly displaying signs advertising real ale. So if the traditional pub is not your scene, here is an alternative place to continue to sample real ale.

Reaching the end of Midland Road the Crown & Cushion stands boldly on the corner of

London Road. A large bulk of a building that features in many old photographs of Derby. The pub has a large spacious two-part main bar with a quiet retreat bar on the other side. The pub serves a steady range of good quality real ale. Standing in the doorway of the Crown & Cushion, look across the road at the former Florence Nightingale, probably a victim of the move of most hospital service out of the town centre. The old hands in Derby will tell of horror stories of patrons of the two pubs fighting across London Road – well we know who has won now!



Waterfall



The Brunswick Inn



The Station Inn

Returning to the station head this time to the right along Railway Terrace and admire the line of railway terrace houses and especially the little cul-de-sac of Sheffield Place. At the end of the line you will find what is believed to be the country's first railway pub. The Brunswick stands at the apex of the former railway village making this a peculiar triangular shaped building, emphasised by the parlour to the left as you enter. The L-shaped bar offers a vast range of real ale, while around 6 real ciders are spread along the back bar. Don't miss the display along the corridor showing much of the recent history of the Railway Terrace. At the end of the corridor you will also find the brewery that takes the name of the pub and provides around half the beer normally on offer. Today Derby boasts a staggering number of breweries within the City limits, but the Brunswick was the first of the modern revolution in brewing.

In the preamble it was stated that you could drink in a railway museum. While not strictly true I

am sure you will forgive stretching the truth on this matter when you head round the corner at the end of the Railway Terrace and into Siddals Road. After all how many pubs have a railway locomotive, or at least part of one, sat in the pub car park. The Alexandra Hotel certainly does and the memorabilia does not stop there. The pub and outside area is full of signs and posters relating to the railways, some placed in opportune positions. If your not in to railways, then the lounge bar offers a room full of beer memorabilia as an alternative. The Derby CAMRA pub of the year in 2015 offers a range of ever changing real ales under-pinned by beers from the Castle Rock stable.

It is hoped you will agree at the amazing mix of venues to be had in this relatively compact area and will find time to venture down and indulge in the variety.

Mark Fletcher



The Crown & Cushion



The Alexandra Hotel



Merry Widows



Mansion Wine Bar



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AmberValley CAMRA Branch

Contact Nora Harper noraharper@hotmail.com



AMBER VALLEY NEWS

The Amber Valley CAMRA Branch AGM will be held at the Poet and Castle, Codnor at 8pm on Thursday 26th February. The branch membership passed the 800 mark in February and we hope that the AGM will be well-attended.

The Pub of the Year competition has been very well supported this year with over 40 members currently judging the 8 pubs with the most nominations – Arkwrights Real Ale Bar, Belper, Black Bull's Head, Openwoodgate, Dead Poets, Holbrook, Holly Bush, Makeney, Hunter Arms, Kilburn, Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse, Steampacket, Swanwick and Talbot Taphouse, Ripley. The closing date for judging is 21st February and the winner will be announced at the AGM.

On Saturday 31st January, we organised a bus trip to take 26 members to the Oakham Ales Brewery Tap in Peterborough to present them with a certificate for their Green Devil IPA winning "Beer of the Festival" at our festival at Strutts last September. The Brewery Tap opened in 1998 and is located within the transformed old labour exchange on Westgate, Peterborough. It now houses the multi award winning Oakham Ales Brewery and claims to be the largest brewpub in Europe. Our hosts, Nigel Wattam (Marketing Manager) and Jo Coleman (Northern Regional Sales Manager) made us very welcome, as did Warren Ball, the Peterborough CAMRA Branch

Chairman. Everyone enjoyed sampling the wide range of Oakham beers and delicious hot Thai buffet generously provided by the brewery. Afterwards, the group took the opportunity to visit other GBG pubs in the city and particularly enjoyed Charters, a converted Dutch grain barge on the River Nene. We made a brief stop at the Three Crowns, Wymeswold, Notts on the way home where we were made very welcome and this rounded off a very enjoyable day out.

Plans for the 6th Amber Valley CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival are underway and Strutts in Belper has been booked as the venue again from Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th September. Details will appear on our recently re-launched website at www.ambervalleycamra.org.uk in due course.

We will also be involved in another event just over the road from Strutts at the Rugby Club where we will be planning and running a real ale and cider bar for the Belper Goes Green ECO Festival, opening on Friday evening 29th May and all day Saturday and Sunday. We expect to have at least 30 real ales and 8 real ciders. On top of that you get non-stop entertainment, some interesting eco-friendly ideas on energy use, recycling, sustainability etc and, hopefully, good weather! Admission is free throughout the event so it is definitely a date for your diary. <http://www.transitionbelper.org>



Chairman Chris Rogers (right) presents a certificate to Nigel Wattam of Oakham Ales.



Charters Bar



The Brewery Tap

Branch Diary

– all meetings start at 8pm

Mon 9th March

BF Mtg, George and Dragon, Belper - 8pm.

Sat 14th March

Survey trip, contact Jane Wallis on 01773 745966 to book.

Thurs 26 March

Brch mtg, Pear Tree, Ripley - 8pm start.

Sat 11th April

Survey trip, contact Jane Wallis on 01773 745966 to book.

Mon 13th April

BF Mtg, Hunter Arms, Kilburn - 8pm.

Thurs 30th April

Brch mtg, Victoria Inn, Alfreton - 8pm start.



This year, we celebrate our 25th year of brewing quality craft beers in the heart of Robin Hood country. Springhead's come a long way since we started out in 1990, with a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the UK's smallest working brewery. These days, we're still a family-run enterprise, and still as committed as ever to producing the finest of craft beers! To mark our 25th year, we have the following exciting announcements to make:

* A series of free 25th anniversary events will be held, with the first in March, to coincide with the launch of our new celebratory beer **ARGENTA**. Meet our staff, try a range of our beers, and win some great prizes!

Wednesday 11th of March 2015:
The Boat, Hayton, East Retford
The Unicorn, Worksop

Thursday 12th of March 2015:
Springhead Brewery, Laneham
The Bramley Apple, Southwell
The Roaring Meg, Newark

* We are opening a new real ale pub on Carolgate in Retford, which is to be called **THE GINGER FIG**

* All **CAMRA** members are now eligible for a discount of 30p per pint for any of our beers at all Springhead pubs! Just show your membership card at any of the pubs below to receive your discount!

The Bees' Knees, Laneham. 01777 228090

The Boat Inn, Hayton. 01777 703273

The Roaring Meg, Newark. 01636 675386

The Bramley Apple, Southwell. 01636 813673

The Ginger Fig, Retford. **OPENING MARCH!** gingerfig@springhead.co.uk

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- 14 UZUK
- 20 THE WATCH
- 21 THE IAN SIEGAL BAND
- 26 HAT FITZ & CARA
- 27 BOX O SNAKES + ULTIMATE THUNDER
- 28 THE LANCASHIRE HOTPOTS



APRIL



- 3 FRESH CREAM
- 4 THE BRYAN ADAMS EXPERIENCE
- 10 LA VILLA STRANGIATO (Push Tribute)
- 11 PAUL LAMB AND THE KING SNAKES
- 16 DEBORAH BONHAM BAND
- 17 THE SMYTHS
- 18 JOHN COGHLAN'S QUO
- 24 FRED ZEPPELIN
- 25 tbc
- 30 PINK FAIRIES

MAY

- 1 MARCUS BONFANTI BAND
- 2 THE SOUTHMARTINS
- 7 CURVED AIR
- 8 THE FILLERS
- 9 FOUR FIGHTERS
- 15 BON GIOVI
- 16 DANA FUCHS BAND
- 22 JOHN OTWAY AND THE BIG BAND
- 23 OHASIS
- 29 ELO AGAIN
- 30 BEN POOLE BAND



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Steamin' into Chadd Sidings

The Wilmot Arms on Morley Road in Chaddesden, Derby has been re-opened by the Steamin' Billy Brewing Co Ltd.

This comes as welcome respite news for an area of the City that has lost almost its entire pub stock over the last few years as cheap, drink at home, supermarket ale hit the estate pubs badly with landlords unable to make a living in the face of this strong competition. One by one they closed: the Blue Boy; the John F Kennedy; the Kingfisher; the Penguin; the Peregrine; the Rhino; the Rocket; the Spinning Wheel; etc leaving just the Toby Carvery and the Royal Crown.

Indeed the Wilmot itself was also under threat until Steamin' Billy bought the pub from Marstons saving this historic

Chaddesden pub from an uncertain future. It's also the company's first venture outside of Leicestershire where they own and run 9 pubs quite successfully.

The men behind the company are Barry Lount & Bill Allingham who used to run the Bentley Brook Inn in Fenny Bentley where Leatherbritches Brewery was first established by the family. Barry was the landlord of the award winning Cow & Plough, in Oadby at the time and asked Bill to produce a house beer for the pub and here the seed for an idea grew. The company isn't named after Bill though but Barry's dog who would return literally 'steamin' from chasing rabbits in the countryside.

The company's ethos is to open pubs in forgotten places and if you look around



the rest of their estate this is certainly the case, from back street local in Loughborough to Country pubs. They believe in giving people a quality product and that's certainly what they've done at the Wilmot which offers the widest choice of Real Ales that Chaddesden has seen for sometime. The cask ales come from Steamin' Billy's own brewery, at Old Dalby in Leicestershire and guest beers are mainly from local microbreweries. I enjoyed a pint of Brewsters Stilton Porter while there.

The pub has been done out in a smart, welcoming fashion similar to its other pubs but still retains a separate bar and lounge area and a garden to the rear. It is also quite easy to reach from Derby City Centre on the Black Cat bus service or No.11 which stop almost outside the pub and the Arriva No.20 which stops not too far away.

This is a very welcome addition to Derby's renowned Real Ale scene and a massive shot in the arm for the Chaddesden area of the City and Derby Drinker wishes them well in their new venture.

Gareth Stead





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KEGS GOOD?

Ped A Gree ('Kegs are Bad, Right?', DD 159) gave a well-reasoned reply to my article in DD158 'Craft Keg – Friend or Foe?'

There's much on which we agree. In particular that what matters most is how good a beer tastes. But is 'good' just a matter of personal taste? If an expert says that a particular stout is excellent, would someone who prefers golden ales agree that the stout is excellent for its style, 'but not my preferred type of beer'? I'll come back to that question later.

When CAMRA started, it was very simple: 'real ales good; keg beers bad'. Real Ale was easily defined: no added gas; able to ferment in the cask. This simple definition, and its associated icon, the handpump, have been key assets in the growth of CAMRA. But the downside is that some brewers produce Real Ales that many of us politely describe as 'uninteresting'.

Craft Keg drinkers have the same problem. Any brewer can jump on the Craft Keg bandwagon and label a mediocrity as 'craft'. This term currently has no real meaning; there's no definition of measurable qualities that would allow the Advertising Standards Authority to rule whether the description of a beer as 'craft' was misleading or not. All we firmly know is that Craft Keg is not Real Ale.

But I suspect that a Real Ale drinker, who enjoys stouts, would pretty much agree with a Craft Keg drinker on which stouts, Real Ale or Craft Keg, are good, and which are mediocre. The Real Ale drinker might dislike the relative coldness and



gassiness of the best of the Craft Keg ones, and vice versa. But they would be in good implicit agreement on the quality of the recipe, ingredients and brewing. The split comes where the brewing lines split into the different types: cask, key keg, bottled and directly pressurized keg.

To come back to the earlier question, when it comes to wine and food, we broadly agree with an experts' judgement. As with beer, we read the reviews and buy the guides. But on top of this, the wine and food industries have developed quality standards to protect products that are particularly good and to provide them with a brand.

There seems no reason in principle why CAMRA, the Craft Keg movement (and the brewers involved) could not collaborate to setting up a common quality brand for 'Craft Real Ales' and 'Craft Keg Beers'. There are many aspects of the brewing process that can be measured. There are expert brewers who can identify quality faults. There are

many professional tasters, and tens of thousands of us enthusiastic amateurs. It could be funded by a small levy on every pint produced by brewers that qualify as a Craft Brewer.

The Craft Keg movement and CAMRA have other things in common. We both need to promote pubs and pub-going. We both need to fight off the rising tide of cheap beers and lagers sold by supermarkets and the ubiquitous street corner booze shops. We both need to secure our futures by exciting the enthusiasm of younger drinkers.

For some, Craft Keg is the thin end of the wedge that is opening the door to a flood of (in Peg A Gree's words) "mass-produced, homogenous, bland beers served in kegs." But the door is already ajar, and if CAMRA is not to be swept away on the tide of new circumstances, it will need to adapt. Perhaps we should see Craft Keg as a potential ally in a greater common cause.

Roy Gistert

Blue Monkey, Pub People and YourBus team up for a collaborative ale to encourage customers on buses

Local pub group, the Pub People Company, Giltbrook based brewery Blue Monkey and East Midlands bus company YourBus have teamed up to brew a special, one-off, limited edition ale called 'Hop On'. The distinctive brew is named to encourage drinkers to leave their car at home and hop on the bus to take them to their favourite watering hole at one of the Pub People's venues across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

The 4.1% pale ale is described as "a quaffable ale using British malts, loaded with German and American hops for a massive citrusy flavour and aroma with a fruity dry finish." It was officially launched at the Great Northern in Langley Mill and will be available throughout March and April exclusively at Pub People pubs along the various YourBus bus routes from Matlock to Nottingham (See advert opposite for full list). YourBus users who have a 'Genie' card will also be able to get 15p off a pint of 'Hop On' at the pubs listed.



Matlock and Dales CAMRA Branch

Contact Peter Boitoult peterb56@hotmail.co.uk

MAD about Beer Festivals

Matlock is in a fortuitous location

While being a rather picturesque town on the banks of the Derwent at the edge of the Peak District National Park, the town also has the good fortune to being positioned rather close to the major urban areas of Derby, Nottingham and Sheffield, and is also within easy reach of the large centres of (in no particular order) Burton-on-Trent, Chesterfield and Elton. (Where?). The reason for this snippet of geographic information is to emphasise how close we are to a vast number of potential beer festivals.

Rather than being spaced out over the course of a year, currently it seems our local beer festivals are more akin to busses: none for ages then three come along at once. The current beer festival marathon for our area started last weekend (29th Jan to 1st Feb), when Matlock Bath's newest real ale emporium, the County and Station at the top end of North Parade, held its first Beer Festival. This was a great debut festival for them, where at least twenty real ales were available at any one time. Hopefully there will be many more.

Hot on the heels of the County's festival, and upping the stakes in the real ale count (to 120), comes Chesterfield's annual Winding Wheel Beer Festival. This is Chesterfield CAMRA's premier event, held this year on 6th to 7th February. The Winding Wheel is a Tardis-like structure, looking small on the outside, but extending backwards into town hall dimensions, covering three storeys with a ballroom to boot. (Best not dance though, because for the duration of the festival it is a bar area so space will be severely limited). I usually volunteer to work this one, putting in a shift or two in return for a few beer vouchers, a souvenir glass, and a festival tee shirt. (They had me at vouchers).

One weekend after this (11th – 14th Feb) and just down the road, we have the National Winter Ales Beer Festival 2015 at The Roundhouse in Derby, where the beer count is upped yet again, with the advertising blurb stating 'At least four hundred real ales available'. An ideal venue for a beer festival, The Roundhouse is an iconic building built originally for railway locomotive maintenance in 1839, and now includes its own theatre (or 'second stillage area' if you're there for the festival). Matlock CAMRA normally organise an annual jolly to this event, not only to attend the festival itself, but also to take the opportunity to visit some of the pubs in Derby, a city the Lonely Planet guide describes as 'one of the best places to drink real ale in the world'.

The above represents just three weekends in one year of Matlock's available 'local' beer festivals. Those expecting respite from liquid celebration should look away now. March promises Sheffield SIBA BeerX at ICE Sheffield (near the Motorpoint Arena) on 20-21st, which will feature 250 beers, and a pledge to show the rugby Six Nations on a 'very' big screen on 21st. (It's the final round, so all six teams play on the same day, with England hosting France for – hopefully – the Grand Slam). One weekend later sees the Burton Beer Festival at the Town Hall (26-28 March), famed for its astonishingly high beer count and Wurlitzer organ. This sojourn normally ends with Matlock CAMRA's annual pilgrimage to Cooper's Tavern in Burton, a must-see unique pub featuring a wall of gravity dispensed ales from the cask, and an unspoiled interior that ale-quaffing Victorian gentlemen would feel suitably at home in even today. Easter sees another 2 Beer Festivals at the Boat in Cromford



Matlock Camra Volunteers at chesterfield Winding Wheel 2014

and the Beer Festival at the County & Station in Matlock Bath featuring 20+ beers from 2nd – 6th April. The following month (May) gives us 'probably Britain's most atmospheric' beer festival at Barrow Hill Chesterfield, another railway themed extravaganza of real ale, and June hosts the Three Valleys Festival which features a series of free busses travelling round a dozen or so participating pubs in the North Derbyshire and South Yorkshire Dales. The largest 'local' event for Matlock's members is probably October's Nottingham Robin Hood Festival at the castle, where last year a staggering (literally) 1205 different casks of real ale were available. The quaintest festival I hope to attend this year will most likely be the Elton Beer Festival at the Jubilee Field at Elton in Derbyshire, usually held late

July, not long after the annual Derby CAMRA Summer Beer Festival in the Assembly Rooms/Market Square.

So that's currently what's in store for our local beer festivals (so far) this year, and I haven't even mentioned our own Matlock Summer beer festival yet, details of which will be saved for a future issue.

And now back to geography: Excluding Burton, none of these ten beer festivals is more than 25 miles out of town! Matlock most definitely is in a fortuitous location.

Tony Farrington.



MAD Branch Diary

19 March

MAD Monthly Meeting : County And Station, Dale Road Matlock Bath from 8pm

28 March

MAD Social Trip to Burton Beer Festival. Meet at Matlock Train Station 10:37am



Derby Drinker Reaches for the Stars

A recent gig at the Flowerpot in Derby featured the present incarnation of the iconic 60's band Jefferson Airplane, which for legal reasons had to change its original name to Jefferson Starship and was immortalised by its then lead singer Grace Slick, (who incidentally did not call her son God, but actually gave birth to a daughter called China). Another urban myth exploded there.

Present front girl, Chicago born, Cathy Richardson, an accomplished singer/songwriter of some worth in her own right, ably assisted by other Airplane founders/survivors, Paul Kantner and Dave Freiberg, apparently themselves real ale fans, together with later additions Donny Baldwin, Chris Smith and Cathy's partner Jude Gold the lead guitarist, belted out the usual classic Airplane and Starship numbers as well as some of Cathy's own Grammy nominated compositions. A sell out crowd in this popular music venue were well entertained.

In a brief aside moment, Real Ale fan, Cathy, noted that she had seen our publication Derby Drinker on the ticket table for the Flowerpot venue and expressed a wish to appear on the front cover, she even asked if anyone knew who could facilitate this. Well, there was one person, me, who was there and I was later able to, not promise a front page spread, although it would have been nice, but would certainly forward a suitable picture for possible publication. As we all know the home brewed real ale scene is massive in the States and Cathy is a huge fan. She and other members of the band are regular Real Ale imbibers and she was happy to pose for picture drinking some Oakham's and holding the last edition of DD.

Ian Forman



Rock THE Boat
THE BOAT INN
BEER FEST
Thurs 2nd → Mon 6th April

*"Cromfords
Best Kept
Secret"*

A cartoon illustration of a purple rabbit wearing a yellow sailor's cap with an anchor, sitting in a yellow boat named 'LADY LORRAINE'. The rabbit is holding a yellow beer can. The boat is on blue wavy lines representing water.

www.the-boat-inn.co.uk
Tel. 01629 258083

36TH BURTON CAMRA
CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL
THE TOWN HALL, BURTON UPON TRENT
Thurs Eve 26th - Sat 28th March 2015

OPENING TIMES		ENTRY CHARGE
Thursday	6.00pm - 11.00pm	FREE
Fri & Sat	11.00am - 6.00pm	£2.00 (CAMRA members FREE)
Friday	6.00pm - 11.00pm	£6.00 (CAMRA members £2.00)
Saturday	6.00pm - 10.00pm	£9.00 (CAMRA members £2.00)

Festival Glass purchase/hire £2.00 all sessions • Food and soft drinks available at all sessions
Charity in attendance - Help for Heroes • Children welcome until 6.00pm (Children's Entertainer Sat pm)

LIVE MUSIC Fri & Sat
And Martin Atterbury on the Town Hall Wurliitzer Organ (Fri & Sat Lunchtimes)

TOKEN FESTIVAL (no cash bars)
Any unused tokens can either be refunded or donated to charity

Find us on **Facebook**

www.burtoncamra.org.uk



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
Bell & Castle
Brewery Tap/Royal Standard
Brunswick
Exeter Arms
Falstaff
Five Lamps
Flowerpot
Furnace
Golden Eagle
Greyhound
Last Post
Little Chester Ale House
Mr Grundy's Tavern
New Zealand Arms
Old Bell
Old Silk Mill
Peacock
Seven Stars
Slug and Lettuce
Smithfield
Thomas Leaper
Wardwick Tavern
Ye Olde Dolphin Inne

SURROUNDING AREA

Bell (Smalley)
Blue Bell Inn, Melbourne
Blacks Head (Wirksworth)
The Brackens (Alvaston)
Chip & Pin, Melbourne
Coopers Arms (Weston-on-Trent)
The Dragon (Willington)
Harrington Arms (Thulston)
Harpur's (formerly Melbourne Hotel) (Melbourne)
Hope and Anchor (Wirksworth)
Lamb Inn, Melbourne
Lawns (Chellaston)
Miners Arms (Carsington)
Nags Head, Mickleover
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)

A Guide to...



CAMRA LocAle is an accreditation scheme to promote pubs that sell locally-brewed real ale.



Contact: Atholl Beattie
LocAle Coordinator
t: 07772 370628
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 Pubs

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.

► DERBY, SURROUNDING AREAS & AMBER VALLEY

Alexandra Hotel, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half
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
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
Smithfield, Derby	20p off a pint
Victoria Inn, Derby -	30p off a pint
Wardwick Tavern, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half
Ye Olde Dolphin Inne, Derby	20p a pint discount on selected guest beers
King Alfred, Alfreton	15p off a pint
Brackens, Alvaston	15p off a pint
Lawns, Chellaston	10p off a pint and 5p off a half
Tiger Inn, Turnditch	20p off a pint
The Dragon, Willington	20p off a pint
Arkwrights Bar, Belper	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
George & Dragon, Belper	20p off a pint
Lion, 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
Nags Head, Mickleover	10% off a pint
Midland, Ripley	15p off a pint
Mill House, Milford	10% off a pint/half
New Inn, Shardlow	15p off a pint, 5p off a half
Pattenmakers Arms, Duffield	10p off a pint and 5p off a half
Royal Oak, Ockbrook	10p off a pint, 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
Prince of Wales, Spondon	15p off a pint
Vernon Arms, Spondon	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 discounts@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.



CAMRA MEMBERS' WEEKEND 2015 - NOTTINGHAM

The Members' Weekend is open to all CAMRA members and will be held at The Albert Hall, North Circus Street, Nottingham, NG1 5AA on 17th-19th April 2015.

It will feature the National AGM and Conference where camra members discuss their future policy and direction. The weekend also offers the opportunity for members to socialise with friends in the members bar, visit recommended pubs and go on organised trips which include Blue Monkey, Castle Rock, Nottingham, Flipside, Lincoln Green, Navigation, Magpie & Totally Brewed Breweries as well as a cider trip to Charnwood Cider.

Registration is now open and can be done online at camraagm.org.uk which also includes full information about the weekend and organised trips.

Of course Nottingham is easily reached by both bus and train from most places but if going from Derby the Red Arrow bus drops you on Upper Parliament Street 5 minutes walk from the venue.

*Now that spring is here ...
... thoughts turn to
distant pubs.*

There are probably about three misquoted poems wrapped up in the title of this piece, but you know what I mean. It's springtime, and it's time to expand our drinking horizons!

If you've not discovered WhatPub yet, it's time to do so. Get on the internet, and google to whatpub.com. It's now the very best online pub guide. It includes 98% of the real ale pubs in the country. And it's free.

Most pubs have a photograph, and are described in detail, with a list of real ales, features and facilities. There are about 30 filters you can use to quickly find the sort of pub you want.

So, if today you fancy a real ale pub within three miles of Belper, with lunchtime meals, a garden and wifi, you'll find about a dozen. Or five family friendly real ale pubs, close to a bus route, with sports TV. Give it a go!

Away from home, go to the WhatPub website on your mobile. You'll see a mobile-friendly version (shortcut it for future use). This will show pubs near where you are (on a map if you want). Use the filters if you need to narrow down the choice.

It's invaluable for holidays and days out.

WhatPub is kept up to date by CAMRA members, with the help of licensees and any pub-goer who would like to submit updates (it's very easy to do from the website page for the pub in question).

For more information, contact Stewart Marshall
pubsofficer@derbycamra.org.uk

Mike Guest



The best pub-finder for miles!

The new CAMRA website whatpub.com features 47,000 pubs, 36,000 with real ale. It's free to all, works well on mobile phones, and makes it a doddle to find pubs with the features you want, wherever you are. Give it a go!





DISMAL DORMITORIES

Don't lose your Pub, get it registered as an Asset of Community Value.

If yours is a small community with only one pub, you could be at risk of losing it without warning. Pubs are closing at a rate of about 1,500 per year. The ones most at risk are those with too few chimneypots (not enough people living nearby), and those over which a property developer might salivate.

Watch out if your local would make an attractive house! Be afraid if it has a garden on which houses could be built! Be very afraid if its car park would suit a convenience store! You could be about to lose the heart of your community; and no one will want to give you warning in time for you to raise a protest.

Under current legislation, pubs can be demolished, or converted to homes, shops and many other uses, without planning permission. There is no legal requirement to consult with the local community. Recent changes in the law, making it possible for tenants of large pub owning companies to get fairer rents, make it likely that the rate of closure of less profitable pubs will accelerate.

Pubs that are most at risk are those that serve a community of less than about 900



Malt Shovel – Spondon

people. This compares to an average number of people per pub in the UK of about 1,300. There are many villages around Derby with fewer than 900 people per pub; pubs in suburbs and on estates can also be at risk.

But your pub's fate is now in your hands. The government has recently announced that they will extend planning permission to pubs registered as Assets of Community

Value (ACV). A pub listed as an ACV has three levels of protection. First, the community gains the right to object to a planning application. Second, it gives a breathing space, perhaps enabling the community to mount a counter-bid to buy the pub. Third, it deters property developers from buying; and the pub's owners are therefore more likely to develop it as a going concern.



Black Swan – Idridgehay

The process of listing a pub as an ACV is easy and can be found at <http://www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal>. You can also get help from Derby CAMRA by contacting me (email address below) or Gillian Hough (gillian.hough@yahoo.co.uk).

In the words of one woman whose village lost its only pub; it turned what has been a “vibrant community” into a “dismal dormitory”. Your local can be the heart of your community, but you need to look after it. Protect it with an ACV (and exercise it regularly by going down there for a pint or two).

Tim Williams,
Derby Branch of CAMRA Campaigns Co-ordinator
timwilliams39bhr@gmail.com



Coach & Horses

A REAL COMMUNITY PUB

In his article 'Lost pubs of today' (Derby Drinker 159), Peter Gant asked for suggestions of pubs that promote traditional pub values, in particular by being places for social encounters between a wide range of people, but which also appeal to the modern generation of pub-goers.

Steve Clamp rose to the challenge:

"One such is The Coach and Horses at Chester Green. If CAMRA were to have a 'Community Pub of the Year' award, this pub would be short-listed every year.

What sets it apart? Foremost, leadership and management! The landlords Mick and Deb set the tone perfectly and have a clear idea of what is needed to run a successful pub.

They connect with and support their local community. Throughout the year they raise significant funds for needed local projects. As an example the recent Christmas raffle raised over £1200 for a defibrillator for Chester Green. Pool teams, boules teams etc. exist, and local sports clubs use the pub as their social base. The Coach and

Horses is a real community hub.

The atmosphere is warm and all-age and background friendly. The craic is lively and newcomers are always made welcome. Pubs nowadays need to appeal to both male and female drinkers. This does.

Entertainment is frequent and varied: Karaoke, quizzes, TV football, along with occasional live music, pepper each pub week.

There is no paid-for food on offer, but at half-time, during all major football matches, free food appears. It's quality pub fare. Amongst much else, Mick makes a mean chilli con-carne. Free food also appears at many other times!

And the beer? Superb. The vast majority of drink sold is lager and cider but real ale drinkers are superbly well catered for. Bass and Exmoor Gold are always on offer. ("Best Bass I know" is a frequent comment). As I write this, Blue Monkey's 99 Red Baboons, along with Peak Ales' Chatsworth Gold are also on tap. Mick takes a real pride in his beer. It's always exceptionally well kept.

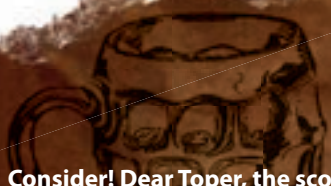
By generating all this, Mick and Deb have succeeded in meeting the wants of a very wide variety of customers.

I finish with a question. Can such a pub as this, where, karaoke and significant lager quaffing rub shoulders with outstanding real ale ever win a CAMRA Pub of the Year Award? If not, why not?"

Many thanks for this Steve. In answer to your question, yes it can. CAMRA is about choice and we have no problem that a lot of people prefer lager. We'd just like them to give real ale a chance, or to try one of the high quality lagers we sell at our beer festivals.

And yes, why not a Community Pub of the Year award? Thanks for that thought as well, we will consider it. Has anyone else got other suggestions for possible candidates for such an award?

Tim Williams,
Derby Branch Campaigns Co-ordinator.
timwilliams39bhr@gmail.com



Dear Toper...

Consider! Dear Toper, the scourge of underage drinking – something which most of us in the dim and distant past were guilty of. I recall going into a back-street pub (now long-demolished) and ordering a half pint of bitter for the first time when I was fifteen. The world-weary landlady looked at me with something approaching disdain and asked suspiciously:

"How old are you?"

"Eighteen," I lied through my teeth in the deepest voice I could muster.

I don't think that for one minute she believed me, but (presumably) content in her own mind that she had "done her duty", so to speak, she served me anyway, albeit with a withering glare. Not long after that (having by that time acquired a lifelong appreciation for ale) I suffered my first surfeit of beer, and, being all of sixteen by then, decided that I was an adult and so accordingly knew everything, and fuelled by alcohol behaved as I thought befitted my newfound status as master of the globe and all its secrets. Not until I had arrived home and sneaked off to bed to watch the ceiling spinning around in all of its cracked and cobwebbed glory, did I begin to suspect that perhaps I didn't know everything. The following morning, nursing my first hangover whilst wilting ashen-faced under my Father's inquisitive gaze, and recalling, with growing embarrassment, some of my childish utterances of the previous evening, I was left in doubt whatsoever that I didn't know everything!

I suspect, Dear Toper, that you may have suffered a similar rude awakening in your youth, as indeed have most toppers. It isn't until you see today's youngsters making the same mistakes and cast your mind back over the years that you realise just how naive and gullible you were at that age. Indeed, you don't have to possess the benefit of half a century of hindsight to do so, just look at the

ARE YOU EIGHTEEN?

contempt with which those in their early twenties view sixteen year olds. So why then do certain members of our despicable political class wish to lower the voting age to sixteen? It can only be because they hope to take advantage of the naivety and vulnerability of youth. As you get older and (hopefully) world-wise

you come to realise that most politicians tell lies to get elected, but when you're an idealistic sixteen year old, full of optimism and with a desire to change the world for the better, they can sound oh, so plausible – or at least that is what the devious purveyors of those extravagant and increasingly vacuous assaults upon the credulity of the electorate hope! It's bad enough that adults are groomed for their votes with hollow promises of "jam today and nothing to pay", but when those empty promises are directed at a child electorate whose very innocence and gullibility make them prime targets for the spin doctors and their black arts, it all becomes quite sick, and is no more that electoral paedophilia!

Of course, the unscrupulous vote grabbers, desperate to get on to, or

stay on, the state-funded political gravy train, will flatter to deceive, telling the youngsters how wonderfully astute and grownup they are, and unfortunately many kids will succumb to their odious machinations, only to come to the slow realisation, in the days and weeks after polling day, that they have been taken advantage of.

Mark Twain once said, "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I was twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years". Consider that, Dear Toper!

D.T.



Forthcoming Local CAMRA Beer Festivals



Loughborough - 5-7 March
- Polish Club, True Lovers Walk.

Leicester - 11-14 March
- Charotar Patidar Samaj, Bay Street.

Burton upon Trent - 26-28 March
- Burton Town Hall.

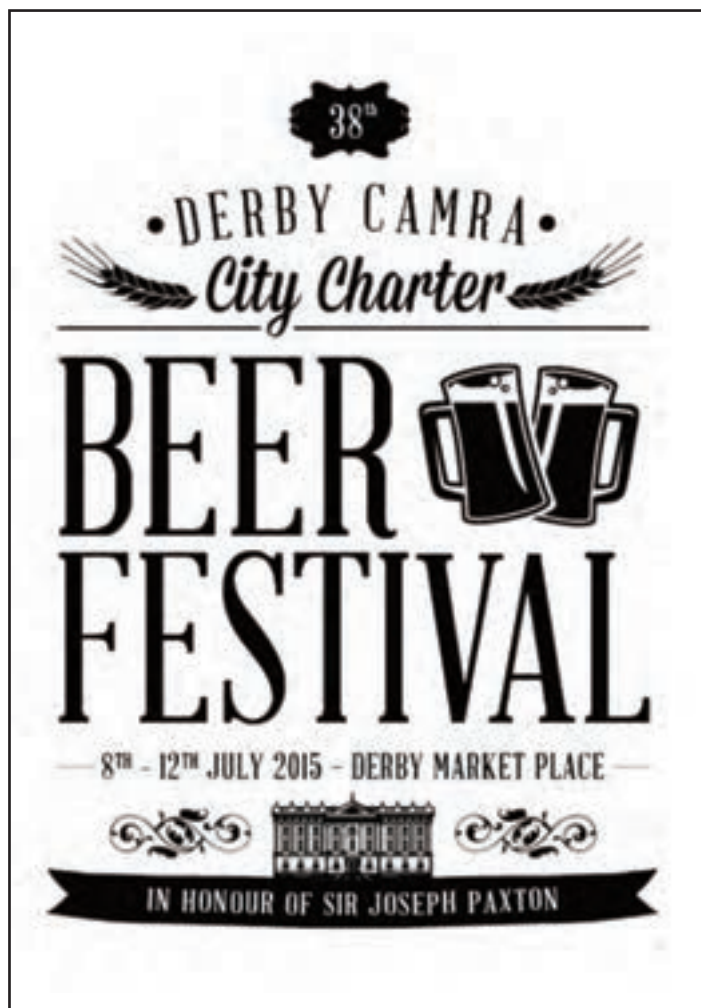
Don't forget to support your local Camra Beer Festivals during March. All are easily reached by bus or train and a great selection of beers is promised at each.



Speciality Off Licence

<p>Local & Regional Beers</p> <p>Craft & European Beers</p> <p>Cider & Mead</p>	<p>Unit 25 Market Hall Derby DE1 2DB</p> <p>Mon-Thurs 9:30 - 16:00 Fri-Sat 9:30 - 17:00</p>
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Find Us on Facebook



DerbyCAMRA BranchDiary

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

MARCH

Thu 5th – Pub of the Year Presentation Social – Alexandra Hotel, Derby – 9pm.

Thu 12th – Branch Meeting – Brunswick, Derby - 8pm.

Thu 19th – Country Pub of the Year Presentation Social – Royal Oak, Ockbrook & Ockbrook pubs survey – Minibus at 7.30pm from Derby Quad.

Tue 31st – City Pub of the Year Runner-Up Presentation Social – Furnace Inn – 9pm.

APRIL

Wed 8th – Branch AGM – Flowerpot, Derby - 8pm.

Date TBC – Country Pub of the Year Runner-Up Presentation Social – Royal Oak, Wirksworth & Wirksworth pubs survey – Minibus from Derby Quad.

MAY

Thu 14th – Branch Meeting – TBC - 8pm.

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

A Campaign of Two Halves

Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form opposite and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription.

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to the: Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

Your Details

Title _____ Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email address _____

Tel No(s) _____

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title _____ Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

Email address (if different from main member) _____

Single Membership (UK & EU)

Direct Debit £24 ☐ Non DD £26 ☐

Joint Membership (Partner at the same address)

Direct Debit £29.50 ☐ Non DD £31.50 ☐

For Young Member and other concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

I enclose a cheque for _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:
Campaign for Real Ale Ltd,
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To my Branch _____ Bank or Building Society

Branch _____

Postcode _____

Name(s) of Account Holder _____

Bank or Building Society Account Number _____ **Branch Sort Code** _____

Reference _____

Service User Number 9 2 6 1 2 9

FOR CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE LTD OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is one part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Physicising Number _____

Name _____ **Postcode** _____

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Campaign for Real Ale Limited Direct Debit from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards enacted by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign for Real Ale Limited and it will be passed direct initially to the Building Society.

Signature _____ Date _____

The Direct Debit Guarantee

If this Guarantee is offered to all banks and building societies that accept direct debits to pay by Direct Debit.

If there is any error in the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will refund you 10 working days in advance of your payment being debited or in arrears if agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to correct a payment, confirmation of this payment and date will be given to you at the time of the request.

If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are protected by a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.

If you encounter a problem with your bank or building society you should contact The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd immediately.

If you request a Direct Debit or sign one to directly commission your bank or building society to make a payment, you are responsible for the payment. Please also notify us.

Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers

Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs

Join CAMRA today – www.camra.org.uk/joinus

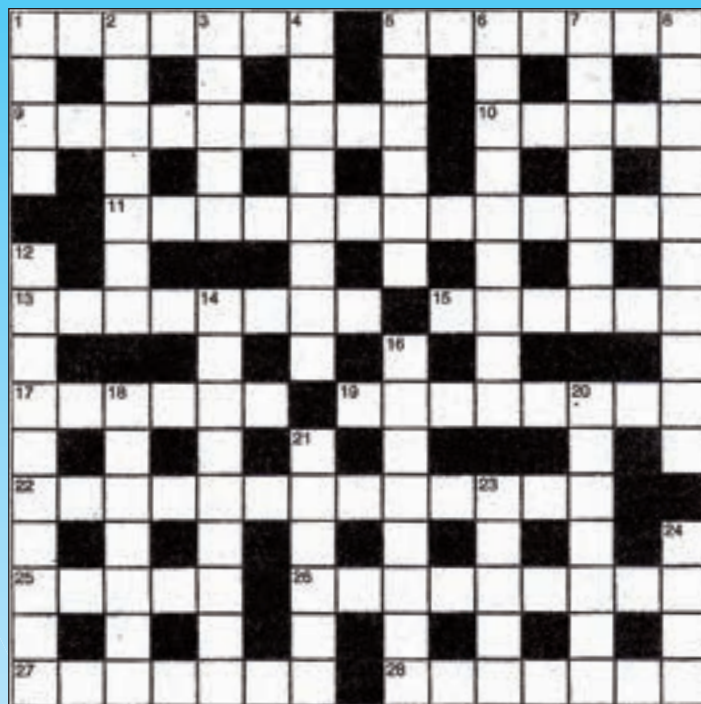
Crossword

No 44 by Wrenrutt

Crossword winner is
Ian Haywood
from Willenhall picked up at the Lychgate Tavern in Wolverhampton

The Good Beer Guide 2015 is necessary for some of these clues

- Across**
- Pubcos' pernicious neckwear? (4-3)
 - Plastic bricks kit for all ages! (4.3)
 - Saint with talent creates secure solidity (9)
 - Politician within Amnesty International initially, for being elsewhere at the time? (5)
 - Derbyshire brewer of Poacher's Thirst Ale (6.7)
 - &19 Battersea pub which should be familiar to all GBG 2015 covers readers (3.5, 3.5)
 - Tropics outright covers my themes here (6)
 - A prized special amber ale from Camerons (6)
 - See 13
 - A bad suggestion for drinkers with cars (3.3.3.4)
 - A wee dram, our favourite malt, perhaps, conceals a love affair (5)
 - Jug in soft cheeses reveals beer producers (9)
 - Furthest, or over the top (7)
 - Lads in a muddle sorted out for a sultan of ancient Egypt (7)
- Down**
- Famous draught beer with a low voice (4)
 - Former plenty, for instance (7)
 - 'Side Pocket for a Toad' ale brewed here (5)
 - Way out, just (4.4)
 - Song cancelled -- refrain (3.3)
 - Winged insect which could be an informer? (5.4)
 - "Size, git!" could help identify a 20th century Hungarian violinist (7)
 - Insert wits letters could identify a female sibling born the same day (4.6)
 - A golden bitter from the Richmond Brewery (7.3)
 - Derbyshire's Shrovetide Football town and home of Smith's Tavern (9)
 - A crossword puzzle wouldn't be any good if it were this! (8)
 - Almost dead if this, plus 'in the grave' applies (3.4)
 - Hops no good for brewing if still this after picking (7)
 - Bleats about for horse accommodation or a County Durham brewery (6)
 - Douglas, IOM brewery founder initially alright (5)
 - "Unto us - --- is given" [Isaiah 9:6] (1.3)



- ▶ Access to Chambers Dictionary and the Good Beer Guide 2015 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.
- ▶ Closing date for entries is Copy Deadline Day (see box below).

Crossword No 43 Answers

- | Across | Down |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. ASPECTS | 1. AHAB |
| 5. SUSS OUT | 2. POTABLE |
| 9. ARTHURIAN | 3. CRUMB |
| 10. RATHA | 4. SPINNING |
| 11. BABINGTON ARMS | 5. SANITY |
| 13. CRESCENT | 6. STRONGARM |
| 15. LACONS | 7. ONTARIO |
| 17. OEDEMA | 8. TRANSISTOR |
| 19. IDOMENEO | 12. ACCOMPLISH |
| 22. PIGEON HEARTED | 14. CAMBOZOLA |
| 25. INTRO | 16. IDEALIST |
| 26. PHILATELY | 18. DIGITAL |
| 27. HOLDALL | 20. NUDGERS |
| 28. TITISEE | 21. CHAPEL |
| | 23. TRAIT |
| | 24. EYRE |

**Having a
BEER FESTIVAL
May/June?**

**Then place an advert
with us.
Contact Alan
as per below.
Copy deadline 10th April**

**WANT TO GET YOUR
PUB OR EVENT SEEN IN
ALMOST EVERY PUB IN
DERBYSHIRE ?**

**Then advertise with us as 10,000 copies are
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More coverage than any other magazine.

**Contact Alan by phone 07956 505951
or e-mail ads@derbycamra.org.uk**

Derby DRINKER

ADVERTISING - Contact Alan

Would you like to advertise in Derby Drinker and get your message across to a vast audience all over Derbyshire and beyond? Then contact us by e-mail ads@derbycamra.org.uk available up to a full page at very competitive rates.

Own artwork preferred but we can design one for you if necessary. Position of the advert cannot be guaranteed although we will do our best to accommodate any requests.

COPY BY POST - Contact Lynn

Out of circulation area? Having difficulty getting your copy? Then why not get it sent to you by post. It is available for as little as £3.80 for 5 issues. Contact us at: subs@derbycamra.org.uk, or send a cheque made payable to 'Derby CAMRA' to: **Derby Drinker by Post, 10 Newton Close, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 1TN.**

DERBY DRINKER INFORMATION

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Edited by: Gareth Stead

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