

Derby DRINKER



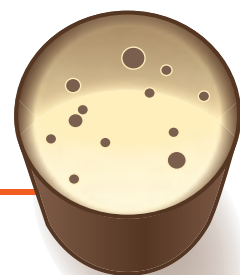
CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

FREE

Covering Derby, Ashbourne, Amber Valley, Erewash & Matlock Camra Areas

Issue 161

May/June 2015



"Cheers!"

Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year Awards 2015



City Pub of the Year – Alexandra Hotel



Country Pub of the Year – Royal Oak, Ockbrook



City Pub Runner-Up – Furnace Inn



Country Runner-Up – Royal Oak, Wirksworth

Mild In May and Summer Ale Trail details inside





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www.derbycamra.org.uk/summer-beer-festival

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Derby CAMRA City Charter BEER FESTIVAL 2015



Festival Chairman, Russ Gilbert with the Mayor

Plans for the Derby CAMRA City Charter Beer Festival are going well. After the announcement of the planned demolition of The Assembly Rooms we can confirm that the location is still intended to be on the Market Place in a giant marquee.

Last year this proved to be a really popular location, being in the heart of the city with public transportation access very easy. Beer orders are now being planned and it is hoped that these will include LocAle and Scottish beers which will feature alongside the vast array of ales that will be on offer. Cider, mead and continental beer will also be available.

On St Patrick's Day the festival committee presented the Mayor of Derby with a generous donation towards his chosen charities. These are; The British Heart Foundation, Dementia Care & The Midland Doctors Association. As the festival holds 'City Charter' status they are very proud to support these causes. Naturally there was beer on hand and a generous turn out of volunteers to greet the Mayor.

The festival will be open from **8th-12th July 2015.**

Cheers Carla Twells.

Joseph Paxton commemorated at this year's Beer Festival

What have bananas, the tallest gravity-fed fountain in the world, and the Crystal Palace have in common?

They were all designed by Joseph Paxton, the noted 19th century gardener of Chatsworth House, who is to be commemorated in this year's Derby Summer Beer Festival.

Although Paxton not a native of Derby, many of his most clever inventions were carried out while he was employed by the 6th duke of Devonshire to develop the gardens at Chatsworth.

He was born in 1803 to a farming family in Bedfordshire, and starting his working life as a garden boy for the improbably-named Sir Gregory Page-Turner. He first came to the attention of the duke of Devonshire when working at the new Horticultural Society Gardens in Chiswick. In need of a new head gardener at Chatsworth, the duke offered Paxton the job, although he was only 23.

Paxton soon settled in, married the housekeeper's niece, Sarah Brown and became heavily involved in more than just the garden. He took over responsibility for the forestry, the estate roads and eventually he took on the role of the duke's agent at Chatsworth. He was an ingenious problem-solver and designer. In 1844, he designed the world's highest gravity-fed fountain, The Emperor Fountain at Chatsworth, standing twice as tall as Nelson's Column and still operational today. On observing the structure of a giant water lily he realised that the radial supports underneath gave the leaf the strength to grow to an enormous size, which he tested by siting his young daughter on

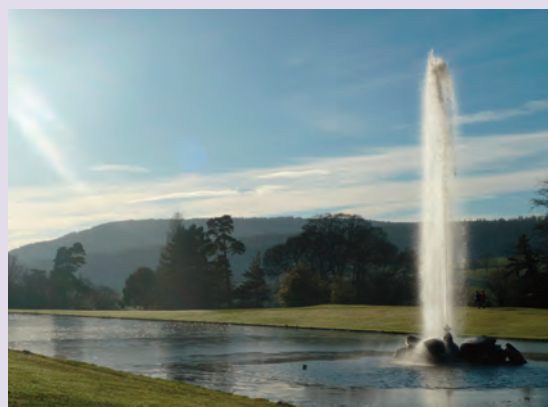
top. This gave him the idea of using cast iron radial supports to support the glass for an oversize greenhouse. The great conservatory at Chatsworth was the first cast iron and glass structure of such a great size, and with continued experimentation, Paxton went on to design the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition in 1851.

While still working for the duke, he became very interested in the newly developing form of transport, the train, becoming one of the directors of the Midland Railway. He published several and edited several horticultural magazines. He designed cemeteries for the growing new urban centres and public parks, including the acclaimed Birkenhead Public Park. Somehow, he also managed to find the time to serve as a Liberal MP for Coventry from 1854 until his death in 1865.

And the bananas? Being a notoriously difficult fruit to propagate, Paxton worked hard to develop a fruiting variety, Musa Cavendishii or the dwarf Cavendish banana, which was hardy and suitable for growing in newly developing plantations around the world. Today the 140 million bananas eaten in the UK and all the millions of other bananas grown worldwide are likely to be descended from Paxton's original plant.

So set aside some time to raise a glass to Sir Joseph Paxton, gardener, inventor, writer, businessman and politician. Join us at the Derby City Charter Beer festival running from Wednesday 8th July to Sunday 12th July, 11:00am – 11:00pm on the Derby Market Place.

Jane Whitaker



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Derby Drinkers raise a glass as the City's Real Ale Capital status is confirmed once again



A recent edition of the Lonely Planet Guide described Derby as the "Best place to drink Real Ale in the World" and who are we to disagree as the results of the City's Annual Beer Census undertaken by members of The Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale have confirmed Derby's status as Real Ale Capital of Britain per population head for yet another year.

The census took place in February and involved 8 different pub crawls around the City which saw a record number of Real Ales available on any one given night. 329 were counted (up 4 on last year) with 200 different ones available (up 5 on last year) and these came from just 73 pubs averaging 4.5 Real Ales per pub.

In total 77 pubs were visited, 2 were shut and 2 had no real ale. 10 pubs had 9 or more Real Ales on and leading the way was the Brunswick (16), Flowerpot (16), Babington

Arms (15), Five Lamps (14), Furnace (9), Greyhound (9), Mr Grundy's (9), Olde Dolphin (9), Peacock (9) and Standing Order (9).

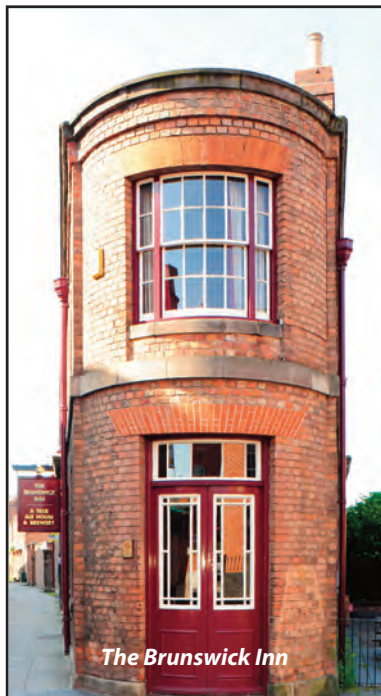
Marstons Pedigree is still the most dominant brand in the City available in 32 pubs with Sharp's Doom Bar coming up fast on the rails in 23 pubs and Bass in 14 pubs. But local ales are well represented with beers from 12 of the City's breweries widely available - Brunswick, Dancing Duck, Derby, Derventio, Falstaff, Frontier, Hartshorns, Mr Grundy's, Rowditch, Shiny, Titan and Wentwell. Beers from other breweries around the area were also well represented - Blue Monkey, Black Hole, Black Iris, Burton Bridge, Castle Rock, Leatherbritches, Magpie, and Thornbridge to name a few.

The average price of a pint was found to be £2.97 (3p up on last year). However in reality a lot of pubs were way above the £3 a pint mark with some now regularly topping £3.10. But it was pleasing to see a lot more pubs

offering the CAMRA discount on pints and half's. The dearest pint of the night was found to be a whopping £3.80 at the Old Silk Mill for Springhead Roaring Meg (which was £3.50 at the Old Bell which you would still class as expensive). The honours for the cheapest pint went to the Abbey at Darley Abbey where Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter was £1.80 a pint (a whole £2 less than the dearest pint !!)

So there you have it, a few stats to bear in mind while crawling around Beer City once again proving that per population head Derby has more Real Ales available than any other City.

Derby CAMRA Beer Census Coordinator, Gareth Stead said "For Real Ale enthusiasts Derby is probably the best place to drink in Britain, if not the World as the Lonely Planet Guide states. People come from far and wide to sample the City's delights as its pubs truly provide a Beer Festival every day of the year".



Derby CAMRA Awards 2015

Derby CAMRA Pubs of the Year

The Derby CAMRA City & Country Pubs of the Year and runners-up have now been presented with their awards (see front page photos). Full details were in the last edition of Derby Drinker.

Derby CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year

The **Brunswick Inn**, Derby has been crowned Derby CAMRA's Cider Pub of the Year 2015 which is a tremendous achievement for the pub and follows hard on the heels of reaching the Final in the Derby CAMRA City Pub of the Year competition. The Award is very much deserved as the Brunswick serves 16 Real Ciders/Perries alongside 16 Real Ales and recently held a successful Cider & Sausage Festival at the pub. They will be presented with their Award on Thursday 7th May and will go forward into the regional Cider pub competition. A cracking year for the pub then and congratulations to all at the Brunny.

Derby CAMRA Club of the Year

The **Village Club** in Spondon has been crowned Derby CAMRA Club of the Year 2015 which follows on from its runner-up award last year making it a notable double for the club. The **Jubilee Club** in Chaddesden and the **Nunsfield Club** in Alvaston have been declared joint runners-up in the competition. The Jubilee Club has made tremendous strides on the Real Ale front and is planning to hold a **Beer Festival June 11th to 14th** to celebrate its 80th Anniversary and is conveniently situated near to the new Steam Billy pub, the Wilmot which makes it 2 good reasons to visit the area. The Nunsfield is no stranger to Derby CAMRA club awards and has been a consistently good club over many years. Congratulations to all 3 who will be presented with certificates in due course.



Is West Derbyshire a Real Ale Desert?



Shoulder of Mutton



The Shire Horse



Saracen's Head



Yew Tree



Red Lion

A cursory glance at the Derbyshire section of the 2015 CAMRA Good Beer Guide reveals an area of approximately 150 square miles entirely bereft of pubs with Good Beer Guide status. The area is bounded by Ashbourne and Belper to the north and Derby and Sudbury to the south, so Derby Drinker despatched the intrepid Paul Gibson to investigate the rural part of the "black hole" to the west of the A52.

Turning off the A52, south of Ashbourne, on a gloriously sunny spring day, I soon found the enchanting village of Osmaston, or Osmundestone as it was named in the 1086 Domesday (Doomsday) book. The centuries old **Shoulder of Mutton** is rooted in village history, and inside this homely, multi roomed pub I admired the beamed ceilings and open fire. The lounge has a corner cabinet with an impressive display of cups and a silver salver won by the pub's football and dominoes team. The village shop, post office and a delightful garden also occupy the large plot, and on the bar, complementing the food, were: Peakstones Rock Alton Abbey, Bateman's Hooker and Pedigree.

Negotiating the narrow country lanes lined with neatly trimmed hedgerows, the **Shire Horse** at Wyaston hove into view. Before 1977 this was the New Inn, owned by Blackburn brewery, Thwaites, and its location made it their most southerly tied house. It was this relative remoteness that persuaded Thwaites to dispose of it but not before CAMRA bade farewell to the fine Thwaites' Bitter with a memorable social in which copious quantities of the Lancashire beer were downed by 70 members. The old, beamed public bar with a beautiful, black, high backed settle and inglenook fireplace has been knocked through into the L shaped lounge where a tempting range of meals is served. Sharp's Doom Bar and a good drop of Pedigree have merited the Ashbourne CAMRA award of "Best Newcomer" and the certificate hangs

proudly behind the bar. Outside there are far reaching views towards Thorpe Cloud and Dovedale.

Passing the closed French Horn at Rodsley, it was onwards to Shirley, where opposite the parish church sits the ancient **Saracen's Head**, an unashamed gastro pub. The Saracen's has a high quality culinary offering within a sophisticatedly lit, open plan, granite tiled floor area where many tables are set for dining. Cask Marque accredited Greene King St Edmund Ale and Old Speckled Hen rubbed shoulders on the bar but I opted for Taylor's Landlord which set me back £1.90 for a half.

Next stop was the heavily beamed **Yew Tree** at Ednaston which has been skilfully extended over the years. There are three large rooms, the most eye catching being the oak panelled lounge which has two grand, carved doors. The late Lionel Pickering owned the Yew Tree and he was generous in his support of the British Legion at neighbouring Brailsford. Mr Pickering, who would be seen sat at the bar sipping a drink, founded the Derby Trader free newspaper in 1966, and lived at nearby Ednaston Manor designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Mr Pickering owned Derby County and he will forever be remembered for overseeing the Rams' move from the Baseball Ground to Pride Park where the new stadium was opened by the Queen in 1997. Live bands now perform regularly on Saturday nights and the Yew Tree Lodge next door offers bed and breakfast. Taylor's Landlord and Pedigree were the real ales of choice.

The self-proclaimed "place for pies", the **Red Lion**, Hollington, was built as a farmhouse in 1780 and was granted an on licence just six years later. An intimate, beamed, bar area with a cast iron fireplace and exposed brickwork lends a cosy, rustic, country inn feel. The handpumps on a bar counter angled across one corner dispense Pedigree and Doom Bar. In other areas there are scrub topped tables and a

larger dining room where those who prefer the grape to the hop can take advantage (on a Wednesday) of two main meals and a bottle of house wine for a bargain £20.

Robin Hunter, licensee since 2000, offers card carrying CAMRA members 20p a pint discount on real ale which may be enjoyed in the garden fronting the inn. The Red Lion is another pub with an array of sports' trophies, and when pubs are as isolated as this, the custom from local leagues can make the difference between solvency and closure.

Passing the Ostrich, Longford, which has a major music festival in the summer, the **Three Horse Shoes**, Long Lane, was the next port of call. Back in 1989, Allied Breweries wanted to dispose of this traditional, roadside tavern. Happily though, local residents collaborated to acquire it and hence this attractive pub was run by a co-operative long before CAMRA serenaded the Old Crown, Heskett Newmarket in Cumbria. When I called on April 5th, I was told the shareholders were being bought out, but the expressed hope is that the new owner won't disturb the old world charm. The garden has children's equipment to entertain the little ones.

The **Black Cow**, Dalbury Lees, opposite the village green and an old red telephone kiosk, is fronted by pretty hanging baskets and planters. The modernist interior has a small bar servery flanked by two dining rooms and a more traditional bar with a roaring open fire. The accent is on dining but drinkers haven't been forgotten with Black Hole Orbiter, Doom Bar and Pedigree all on handpump. The place was very busy and bed and breakfast is available.

The gabled **Vernon Arms**, built in 1671, with its tall, grouped chimney pieces and stone mullioned windows, immediately catches the eye in the heart of the lovely village of Sudbury. A multi roomed interior on different levels with bare floorboards and exposed brickwork, tell you that this is no ordinary pub. An upstairs bar had Brakspear Oxford Gold, Pedigree and another Marston's brew – Archer Amber Ale (Archer is a new hop variety) vying for attention. The nearby Sudbury Hall, which was the seat of the Lords Vernon until its acquisition

by the National Trust, is a huge visitor attraction and so it's unsurprising to see this characterful old inn place an emphasis on food which is served between 12 – 3 and 6 – 9pm (Sunday 12 – 4pm).

Onto the A515 and a left turn directed me towards Marston Montgomery where the **Crown** awaited on Riggs Lane. Opened out within into distinct areas, it has clearly been extended and reconfigured from its original (Georgian) self. An inglenook fireplace dominated one area, and as with many country pubs, much is made of the food offering. On the bar were Springhead Robin Hood, Pedigree, and Falstaff Fistful of Hops which, sadly, wasn't at its best. A pleasant patio to the front facilitates alfresco drinking.

The furthestmost establishment I frequented proved to be one of the most rewarding. This was at Doveridge, just inside the county boundary, east of Uttoxeter, where the stuccoed **Cavendish Arms** stands four square on the corner of Derby Road and Cook Lane. Despite significant alteration, the interior has retained its rustic charm and intimacy, benefitting from subdued lighting, low ceilings and extensive use of wooden furniture. A beautiful Border Collie was busy making friends with children who are most welcome here, whilst adults indulged in Lancaster Brewery Lancaster Blonde, St Austell Tribute and the ubiquitous Pedigree. Buy seven pints and you get one free – but not if you're driving! For the peckish, wholesome food at reasonable prices is available together with kid's options, and children can also enjoy the swings in a brilliantly laid out garden to the rear. Telephone 01889 564107 for opening hours.

No, West Derbyshire clearly isn't a real ale "desert", but instead an area studded with contrasting country pubs in delightful villages; personally, my one caveat is that of all the pubs visited, none sold a stout or a porter.

If you're a CAMRA member visiting these, or any other pubs, you can go to www.beerscoring.org.uk where you'll easily be able to register your score for beer quality. Alternatively, visit the WhatPub website. It's your input in this regard which largely determines Good Beer Guide selection.



The Three Horseshoes



The Black Cow



Vernon Arms



The Crown Inn



Cavendish Arms





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

Don't miss out.

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Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch

Contact Mark Grist

m.grist2@sky.com

Branch News

Having been formed in March 2012, the sub-branch meeting held at The Old Dog, Thorpe in February was our 36th such meeting and it was the 26th different venue, continuing our efforts to get to as many different pubs in our area as possible. Since our area is geographically quite wide with comparatively few pubs in it, we have recently taken to offering minibus services to and from Ashbourne to the further flung meetings, especially those not well served by frequent public transport. Two more minibuses will be arranged for our meetings in April at the Rose & Crown at Boylestone and in June at the Royal Oak at Wetton, two more new venues to add to the list.

Pub of the Season

As well as judging pubs for the standard Pub of the Year competition, we have now instigated seasonal awards as offered by many other branches and we awarded our Spring 2015 Pub of the Season to The Old Dog at Thorpe, presenting a certificate during our February meeting there. The pub has only been open since Xmas 2014, after a two year

closure, but such has been the acclaim from the general public in addition to the frequent visits by our members, it was felt that such a good start should be recognised straight away. We are shortly due to vote on the Summer Pub of the Season and this should be confirmed for the next edition.

AGM

Our sub-branch AGM is to be held at The Shire Horse at Wyaston on Tuesday 26th May at 8pm. All are welcome. We are not planning to run a minibus as it is actually very close to Ashbourne, but if anyone wishes to attend using public transport to Ashbourne and would like a lift to the venue, please contact me at the above e-mail address and we will arrange it.

Beer Festival

By the time this is published, we expect to have our beer festival budget under scrutiny, awaiting approval. Assuming all is well, we should be in a position to confirm many details in the next edition. Beer festival meetings continue on the second Tuesday of each month at Smith's Tavern in Ashbourne.



The Rose & Crown, Boylestone



Ye Olde Royal Oak, Wetton

Diary Dates BRANCH MEETINGS

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



Lost Pubs of Wirksworth

By Gavin Repton

"It's in the DNA of people who live in Wirksworth, they know how many pubs there were"

The Lost Pubs of Wirksworth is a documentary film released last year about a small town in the heart of Derbyshire with a big thirst for beer.

I began this project because I was curious about the history of the pubs in the town, not knowing exactly how many there were, but hearing estimations ranging from 20 to 150. For such a small town I couldn't understand why there would be so many. I'd heard rumours of a list from an old trade directory of the pubs which would have been there in the 1840s and after a lot of searching I was given a copy from underneath the bar of The Hope and Anchor.

PUBLIC HOUSES IN WIRKSWORTH IN 1840		
Red Lion	Market Place	Three Tuns
Dog & Partridge	Market Place	Masons Square
Spread Eagle	Market Place	Beerhouse
Grayhound	Market Place	Bull's Head
Glazier's Arms	Market Place	Green Man
Crown	Market Place	Recruiting Sergeant
Black Bull	Market Place	William the Fourth
Hope & Anchor	St. John's St.	Seven Stars
Jolly Hatters	St. John's St.	Horse & Jockey
Blue Bell	St. John's St.	Wheat-sheaf
Tiger	St. John's St.	Three Horse
Cross Keys	St. Mary's Gate	Shoes
Duke of Devonshire	Millers Green	Chequers
Barrel	Millers Green	Beerhouse
Chequers	Chapel Lane	New Inn
Angel	New Bridge	King's Head
Rose & Crown	New Bridge	Wine and Spirit
Miners Arms	New Bridge	Vaults
Sieve & Riddle	Wash Green	White Lion
Ship	The Moor	Nelson's Arms
Malt Shovel	The Moor	Horse & Jockey
Noah's Ark	Steeple House	George
Beerhouse	Steeple House	Royal Oak
Thorn Tree	Bole Hill	Cheshire Cheese
Miners Standard	Bole Hill	Beerhouse
		White Swan
		Lime Kiln

I couldn't believe it when I saw the number of pubs and all the strange names on the list with so many I'd never heard of, like, The Noah's Ark, The Gaggler's Arms, Boggart's Inn... I set myself the task of tracking down the current locations of these pubs and trying to find out why there would be so many in such a small town in the heart of Derbyshire... And so the search began.



After some time spent researching various supposed locations of the old pubs, I decided the best idea would be to just do some door knocking and see if I could get lucky.

At first I was unsure how the people of the town would react to a scruffy looking man with a camera showing up at their door asking to look around their house for clues, but as it turned out, I wasn't the only one interested in the search. As word spread about the project around the town and I began to film interviews with people, it became apparent that this was a subject a lot of people wanted to talk about and one by one I slowly began to tick off the pubs on the list and as each pub was uncovered, the story of how the town has changed was also told.

There are various pubs that elude to the history of Wirksworth; The Railway on Steeple Grange located beside what used to be Cromford and High Peak Railway, used to carry minerals and goods between Cromford and Whaley Bridge. The Lime Kiln on

Cromford Road, near the remains of the old Kilns. But The Miner's Standard in Bolehill reveals the largest trade in the history of the town.

Like many of the pubs The Miner's Standard was a small affair, no taps on the bar, just a landlady who went into the back room and came back with a jug of beer.. "Right Old-school" as described by Shane Moore, who is a bottle digger in the town.

The main industry in the town of Wirksworth was lead-mining and later limestone quarrying. In the 17th century, lead was the second in importance to national economy only to wool. It was used for water storage and piping, ammunition, roofing and much more. Wirksworth was a huge source of lead ore, in fact, some say it could have been the famous Roman town of Lutadorum.

Looking down the hill in front of the Standard, now a house, you can see the top of a mineshaft, and at weekends you'll probably see hi-viz wearing adventurers descending into the shaft in the name of exploration... These are the Wirksworth Miner's Research Group.

"If you hit Wirksworth with a hammer, it would sink like a brick. because anywhere that could be mined, has been"

"Like any town with heavy industry that involved hard dusty work, the workmen would most likely have headed straight for the pub from the pits to wash down all the dirt from the day," explained one of the members.

So a lot of the pubs would be there to serve this community of workers in the town as well as where they might barter with buyers to get a good price for their days findings down the mine. This boozy bartering is where the name The Miner's Standard is thought to have originated, referring to the standard price for a pig of lead at the time.



The pubs would also serve as one of the only places that the community could gather and talk about news in the town, and also maybe even have a dance...

The Tiger on St John's Street was known as a hard drinkers' pub in the years up until its closure, but when James Greenough, the current owner was showing me upstairs he said, "This is my currently office, but when it was a pub, it was a dance floor". I thought he was joking but as I continued the search it turned out not to be the only one. The Recruiting Sergeant on the Dale also had a dance floor upstairs and with some of the more established pubs such as The Red Lion, The George and The Hope and Anchor, I'd imagine they weren't the only ones.

As well as the 56 or so pubs from the list I was searching for, I was also told about the Ale Houses. These were mainly just peoples houses, where the owner, most commonly a woman who had lost her husband, would brew beer on the premises and invite people in so that she could make a bit of money and keep the house warm. These would have probably not been licensed, so it's impossible to say just how many there were in the town.

A couple of hundred years ago Wirksworth would have been fairly isolated, and you'd not have much opportunity to get out, but as the industry decreased and the links to the town became better with the introduction of the train station, the need for so many pubs decreased and over the years they gradually began to disappear.



Inside the Vaults



By the 1950s there were just 12 left and over the past 50 years that number has halved again. The last to close was The Kingsfield.

Opened in the 1950's with the closure of William IV on The Dale, The Kingsfield was built at the lower end of the town, almost half a mile away from the closest other public house. This was well known as a music venue. "Coach loads used to come on a saturday night" recalled Spud Taylor, who lives directly opposite the former pub site. This was an important venue over the years, serving the local residents of the area of town as well as the cricket and football clubs, and also holding the fairground once a year in the car park. "In later years, it did become a bit rough on the inside and the outside" said Stephen Gratton about the state of The Kingsfield. In 2010 the decision was made to demolish the pub and build flats in its place, something which wasn't met kindly by nearby residents. On the 26th of March 2010 they marched from the top of Wirksworth down to The Kingsfield in protest, but despite the efforts, the pub was closed and torn down. "On the last night of the opening we went into the pub and drank the place dry" said Stephen Gratton "and got a photo behind the bar before we left the premises for the very last time".

"You used to hear about what's happening in the pub, what's going on, but there's nothing down here anymore, nothing at all" said Spud Taylor who managed to rescue the sign from the pub before it was destroyed.

There are many people in the town who helped out in the filming of this documentary who are still very interested in the pubs and

supplied loads of information and photos for the film. One of them is Shane Moore, who is a Wirksworth born and bred 'bottle digger'. On Saturday mornings he heads out to various locations around town in an effort to discover some of the bottles and flagons that were discarded in tips many years ago.

"It's the local history me and my mate are interested in. If we get a bottle we've never seen before it makes our day, whether it's worth money or not." His extensive collection from over the years contains ginger beers, stouts, whisky flagons and bottles from Charles Wright's of Wirksworth, who were a large whisky distributor in the town and he still occasionally finds things he hasn't seen before, so who knows what could turn up next.

There are so many stories that I've heard whilst making the film surrounding each of the pubs on the list that it would take forever to document them all, and as you can imagine, as with most things that involve a good beer, some of them are very tall tales indeed. I searched high and low in search of the truth to them, from climbing down toilets to breaking into basements.

When I began interviewing for this film, I didn't expect to find truth to these tales, but the more I searched, the more evidence I found that there could be truth to a lot of these things.

Unfortunately, short of knocking walls down or getting the pneumatic drill out, I think many of these stories will always be questionable and remain, like most things under Wirksworth, a mystery.



Shane Moore Bottle Digging



Shane Moore's collection

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Cider

with Suzie



Spring isn't just the season for renewal in the countryside, it's an exciting time for cider makers too because this is the time when the new season, i.e. autumn 2014 cider is ready for sampling.

Unlike beer, which can be brewed on demand, cider has to be made when the fruit is available, principally September through to November. Although the fermentation can be rushed by the use of external heat, traditionally the cider is left at ambient temperature to ferment through the winter; of course, when it gets really cold the fermentation goes into suspended animation. This does no harm, and the old hands say it is beneficial, but it means that the cider is not ready for drinking until the weather warms up enough for a secondary fermentation to occur. Patience really is a virtue with cider making since the new season cider won't be

ready for drinking before April / May, and it won't be on top form until a month or two after that. Cider drinking is far more seasonal than beer drinking, peaking in the summer / early autumn, which is fine because that is when it is at its very best.

You might be wondering about the Derby Summer Festival in view of the continuing uncertainty about the future development of the Assembly Rooms site. For this year at least it will be held in a large marquee in the market square from 8th to 12th July. The cider corner will be in the same place as last year, and we will be scouring the country to get you the very best. From Herefordshire we will have cider and perry from Olivers, Dunkertons and Gwatkins, while from Somerset we will certainly feature Hecks, Sheppys and Wilkins. The Welsh contingent will contain plenty of Gwynt y Ddraig. As always there will be a number

of local ciders, including Three Cats, currently champion cider of the East Midlands. Expect a full listing on the branch website by the beginning of June.

While the Derby Summer Festival will be the biggest cider event in these parts this summer, it won't be the only one. Belper Goes Green, held at Belper Rugby Club (opposite Strutts Centre) from 29th to 31st May will feature a real ale and real cider bar run by Amber Valley CAMRA. We expect to feature at least 30 real ales and 8 real ciders / perries. The cider bar will include delicacies such as Rathays Old Goat cider, Ross-on-Wye Oak Cask cider and Newton Court Winnals Longdon perry. It's a fun day out for all the family, with lots of interesting eco-ideas and non-stop entertainment; admission is also free, so put it in your diary.

For those of you both like a glass of cider and like visiting

different pubs, Amber Valley are running a cider trail from 1st June until 5th July. Participating pubs will be selling at least on real cider / perry for the duration of the trail, and a full list can be found in the Amber Valley section of this Derby Drinker. Details of how to take part are on the Amber Valley CAMRA website, but basically you text a score from zero (undrinkable) to five (brilliant) for each cider / perry you sample. The pub recording the highest average score will be Amber Valley's cider pub of the year for 2015, while the individual recording the highest number of scores from different pubs will win a tub (40 pints) of Three Cats cider. You need to be a CAMRA member to take part, so why not get out the rut and visit a few different pubs during June.

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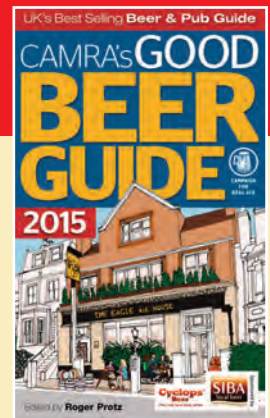
DERBY CITY PUB OF THE YEAR 2006

CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2015 Available Now

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.

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- An essential resource for information on over 1,200 breweries



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

Gone for a Burton

Three prominent players on the Derby Real Ale & Brewery scene have revealed plans to open premises in Burton-on-Trent in the near future. George & Walter from Wentwell Brewery who run the two successful micropubs in Derby, the Little Chester Alehouse & the Last Post have taken on the **Derby Inn** on Derby Road and hope to open it sometime in May after a mini-refurb. Meanwhile Martin Roper who runs the Exeter & Old Silk Mill in Derby has taken on the **The Crossing** on the High St which will re-open after a refurb on 29th May serving 7 cask ales and offering contemporary pub food in an eclectic vintage environment. Finally **Middle Earth Brewery** have applied for planning permission to convert a building at the Midland Grain Warehouse near the Railway Station into a micropub. Exciting times ahead then for Burton and Derby Drinker will hopefully be there to cover all three openings.

Burton Ale

Talking of Burton, that classic bitter, Draught Burton Ale (DBA) the favourite of so many has been re-created once again this time by Burton Bridge Brewery and launched at the Burton Beer Festival in March. Opinions have been mixed as to how far it actually resembles the original but nevertheless it's a pleasant enough brew and may be available in a pub near you soon.



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38th City Charter Summer Beer Festival 2015

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1st - 31st May





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MILD in MAY and SUMMER ALE TRAIL 2015

Abbey		Alexandra Hotel		Babington Arms		Brewery Tap	
<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>
Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
Brunswick Inn		Cross Keys Ockbrook		Ye Olde Dolphin Inne		Exeter Arms	
<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>
Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
Falstaff Tavern		Five Lamps		Flower Pot		Furnace Inn	
<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>
Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
Greyhound		Golden Eagle		Last Post		Little Chester Alehouse	
<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>
Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
Mr Grundy's		New Zealand Arms		Old Silk Mill		Queens Head Little Eaton	
<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>
Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Drink at least half a pint of Mild or Real Ale. 2. Fix the collected sticker in the corresponding box. 3. Red mild stickers to the left. 4. Blue Real Ale stickers to the right. 5. Score the beer in the box below. Finally, attend the 38th City Charter Summer Beer Festival and claim entry & ale.				Royal Oak Ockbrook		Thomas Leaper	
				<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Real Ale</i>
				Score	Score	Score	Score

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

Enter the session date and time of free entry. Blank off any beer NOT awarded.



Summer Beer Festival Session	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY			
Free Beer from Mild	X	X	X	X
Free Beer from Real Ale	X	X	X	X



Derby
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Derby CAMRA

MILD in MAY and SUMMER ALE TRAIL 2015

Welcome to the Mild in May and Beer Festival Ale Trail. The trail officially starts on the 1st May and runs throughout May, so you have plenty of time to get supping. To complete the trail, you need to drink at least half a pint of Mild or Real Ale in each of the pubs listed and collect an appropriately coloured sticker. A trail card with 10 different pubs will entitle you to free entry to one session of the 38th Derby City Charter Summer Beer Festival. Pubs marked with an (*) at least, will not have Mild on during the whole of May. The table below lists the pubs in the trail together with their address, opening times and brief directions on getting there. Check WahtPub.com for more details. For example routes and more information visit the Derby CAMRA summer beer festival website www.derbycamra.org.uk/summer-beer-festival

Pub	Location	Opening Times	Directions and Notes
Abbey*	Darley Street, DE22 1DX	12:00 – 23:00	Top end of Darley Park. From Duffield Road turn down Mile Ash Lane then New Road.
Alexandra Hotel	203 Siddals Road, DE1 2QE	All day	Walking from the bus station towards the railway station the "Alex" is on the right by the traffic lights.
Babington Arms	11-13 Babington Lane, DE1 1TA	All day	Situated at the top end of town, turn uphill where the pedestrian area ends past St Peters church.
Brewery Tap	1 Derwent Street, DE1 2EN	All day	Situated on the other side of the river from the Council House just after the bridge.
Brunswick Inn	1 Railway Terrace, DE1 2RU	All day	Situated at the end of the old railway cottages close to the railway station.
Cross Keys	3 Green Lane, Ockbrook	All day	Bus 9 or 9A from bus station at xx:05, (last 18:05). Journey 25 mins. Last return 18:33, no Sun service.
Olde Dolphin Inne	5a Queen Street, DE1 3DL	All day	Centre of town close to the cathedral.
Exeter Arms	13 Exeter Place, DE1 2EU	All day	Across the river from the Council House take the right fork after crossing the bridge.
Falstaff Tavern	74 Silverhill Road, DE23 6UJ	All day	On Normanton Road turn up Lyndhurst Street, follow the road round and cut into Society Place.
Five Lamps	25 Duffield Road, DE1 3BH	All day	Around 10 mins walk out of town. Follow King Street round into Duffield Road.
Flower Pot	23-25 King Street, DE1 3DZ	All day	From the cathedral head out of town along Queen Street then turn left into King Street.
Furnace Inn	9 Duke Street, DE1 3BX	16:00 - 23:00	Alongside River Derwent. From the Silk Mill walk under the ring road and straight into Duke Street.
Greyhound	75-76 Friar Gate, DE1 1RN	All day	On Friar Gate approximately 100 metres past Friar Gate bridge on the left.
Golden Eagle*	55 Agard Street, DE1 1DZ	All day	Agard Street runs parallel to the furthest end of Friar Gate.
Last Post*	1 Uttoxeter Old Road, DE1 1GA	Mon – closed 15:00 – 22:00	Small red pub just along from the junction of Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter Old Road.
Little Chester Alehouse*	4a Chester Green Rd, DE1 3SF	15:00 – 22:00	Corner of Chester Green and Mansfield Road, 10 mins from town. Bus routes H1, Nines or Amberline.
Mr Grundys	36 Ashbourne Road, DE22 3AD	All day	On Ashbourne Road, a continuation of Friar Gate. Around 15 minutes walk from town.
New Zealand Arms	2 Langley Street, DE22 3GL	All day	From Ashbourne Road turn down Surrey Street and right into Peel Street to find the pub on the corner.
Old Silk Mill*	19 Full Street, DE1 3AF	All day	On Full Street close to the Silk Mill Museum near the cathedral.
Queens Head	131 Alfreton Road, Little Eaton, DE21 5DF	All day	In the centre of Little Eaton. Bus routes 9.2 or the Amberline stop outside. Journey time 10 mins.
Royal Oak	55 Green Lane, Ockbrook, DE72 3SE	11:30 - 14:30 17:30 - 23:00	See Cross Keys above. Turn left and 100 meters down the hill on the same side.
Thomas Leaper*	27 Iron Gate, DE1 3GL	All day	Centre of town between the Market Place and the cathedral.





Derby CAMRA

MILD in MAY and SUMMER ALE TRAIL 2015

Trail Details, Instructions & Beer Scoring

Once again we have merged the Mild in May promotion with the Summer Beer Festival Ale Trail. The Trail will be launched from the 1st May and run throughout the month. Participants can collect red "mild" stickers from each pub in return for drinking a half or more of Mild or blue "real ale" stickers in return for drinking the same quantity of Real Ale. Stickers, once collected, should be attached to a trail form in this publication. Additionally forms can be downloaded from the Derby CAMRA website. See the Summer Festival page or the Mild in May article.

There are 22 pubs taking part in the trail listed below. Each pub will endeavour to stock a Mild at least once during May and all will stock Real Ale for the whole duration of the trail. More up to date information and transport details can be found on the Summer Beer Festival page of the Derby CAMRA

website. You have all of May to complete the trail, so we encourage all participants to drink responsibly.

Pubs taking part are: **Abbey, Alexandra Hotel, Babington Arms, Brewery Tap, Brunswick, Cross Keys in Ockbrook, Ye Olde Dolphin Inn, Exeter Arms, Falstaff, Five Lamps, Flower Pot, Furnace Inn, Greyhound, Golden Eagle, Last Post, Little Chester Alehouse, Mr Grundy's, New Zealand Arms, Old Silk Mill, Queens Head in Little Eaton, Royal Oak in Ockbrook and Thomas Leaper.**

One free entry to any session of the 38th City Charter Summer Beer Festival to be held on the Market Place, Derby starting 8th July will be awarded to anyone with stickers from at least 10 different pubs. In addition you will be entitled to a free pint of any Real Ale up to 5% ABV. Another free half pint will be awarded each at 15 and again at 20 pubs. The number of Mild and Real

Ale stickers will be calculated separately, so a full trail sheet earns 4 free pints.

So we can show recognition for the effort the pubs are playing, we ask you to score the beer you drink in line with the CAMRA National Beer Scoring scheme. Please mark your card alongside each pub for Mild and Real Ale according to the following criteria:

- 0 – No real ale or undrinkable**
- 1 – Poor**
- 2 – Average**
- 3 – Good**
- 4 – Very good**
- 5 – Excellent**

More details on beer scoring can be found on the Whatpub.com website. The winning pub will be awarded a certificate in recognition of their services to Mild and Real Ale. CAMRA members are asked to also enter their score on the whatpub.com website.

We would also like to know your favourite Mild and Ale on the Trail and which Pub it was found in so please complete the below:

Favourite Mild

Favourite Ale

If you would like to give Feedback on the Trail then e-mail: mildmonth@derbycamra.org.uk

Amber Valley CAMRA Branch

Contact Nora Harper noraharper@hotmail.com



AMBER VALLEY NEWS

Pub of the Year

Congratulations to the Holly Bush at Makeney who have won the Amber Valley CAMRA Pub of the Year Competition for 2015 and will now go through to the Derbyshire Pub of the Year Competition. The runners up were the Black Bull's Head at Openwoodgate who have won the competition for the last two years and third place went to the Old Oak at Horsley Woodhouse.

The Holly Bush is a well-deserved winner, having been a longstanding favourite in the area. It is a Free House and it is claimed that Dick Turpin drank there, but in these times it is still a fine pub to while away an hour or three. There are multiple drinking areas and the whole pub oozes character, with open fires in the winter and a beer garden in the summer. The beer is pretty good too,

with a rotating range on six handpumps plus Pedigree from the jug and there are always at least two real ciders, served in excellent condition. The homemade pies are also well worth trying.

AGM

Our Branch AGM at the Poet & Castle at the end of February was well attended and all existing committee members were re-elected. We are also pleased to welcome Michael Hickman as our Clubs Officer and Tom Soar as our Young Members Co-ordinator.

Belper Goes Green Festival

The third Belper Goes Green Beer & Cider Festival as part of the Belper Goes Green Eco Festival is to be held again at the Belper Rugby Club. The festival will again be supported and organised by Amber

Valley CAMRA. It runs from Friday 29th May to Sunday 31st May and admission is free at all times.

The beer festival itself is open from 6pm to 11pm Friday and 12 noon to 11pm on Saturday & Sunday. There will be 30+ beers and 8 ciders and perries on sale. To see the beer and cider lists please check our recently re-launched website at ambervalleycamra.org.uk nearer the date or for more information on the Eco Festival itself visit www.transitionbelper.org

CAMRA members interested in helping at the beer festival should download, complete and return the staffing form available from our website and return it to Phil Marshall by e-mail at avbfstaffing@gmail.com. Alternatively please contact him on 07828 19 77 95 for more details.

Amber Valley Cider Trail

Amber Valley are running a cider trail from **1st June until 5th July**.

The list of pubs is below. To take part you basically visit one of the pubs, text a score from zero (undrinkable) to five (brilliant) for each cider / perry you sample. The pub recording the highest average score will be Amber Valley's cider pub of the year for 2015, while the individual recording the highest number of scores from different pubs will win a tub (40 pints) of Three Cats cider. Further details on the website.

The Blue Bell	Alfreton
Blueys	Alfreton
The King Alfred	Alfreton
Waggon & Horses	Alfreton
White Hart	Bargate
Arkwrights Bar	Belper
Cross Keys	Belper
George & Dragon	Belper
The Canal Inn	Bullbridge
French Horn	Codnor
Poet & Castle	Codnor
Black Boy	Heage
Dead Poets Inn	Holbrook
Old Oak	Horsley Woodhouse
Hunters Arms	Kilburn
Hollybush	Makeney
King William	Milford
Hollybush	Marehay
Black Bulls Head	Openwoodgate
Greenhill Tavern	Riddings
Moulders Arms	Riddings
The Three Horseshoes	Leabrooks
Beehive Inn	Ripley
Cock Inn	Ripley
George Inn	Ripley
Midland Hotel	Ripley
Nags Head	Ripley
Red Lion	Ripley
Sir Barnes Wallis	Ripley
Talbot Taphouse	Ripley
Thorn Tree	Ripley
The Crown Inn	Somercotes
The Gate Inn	Swanwick
The Steampacket	Swanwick
Thorn Tree Inn	Waingroves



Branch Diary - all meetings start at 8pm

Mon 11th May

B F mtg, The Rifleman, Belper.

Sat 16th May

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

Thu 28th May

Brch mtg, The George, Lower Hartshay.

Fri 29th to Sun 31st May

Belper Goes Green eco-festival at Belper Rugby ground - real ale bar run by A V Branch.

Sat 13th June

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

Mon 15th June

B F mtg, The Spanker Inn, Nether Heage.

Thu 25th June

Brch mtg, Milford Social Club.

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MAY

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

JUNE

- 5 FLEETWOOD BAC
- 6 OLI BROWN BLUES BAND
- 13 T. REX
- 19 LARRY MILLER BAND
- 20 SLADE UK
- 26 BLONDIED
- 27 ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?

JULY

- 4 GLORY DAYS
- 10 THE JAM'D
- 17 THE STRAWBS
- 18 KEEP IT CASH

AUGUST

- 1 STEREOSONICS
- 8 FREE AT LAST

SEPTEMBER

- 4 SECRET AFFAIR
- 5 UB40 EXPERIENCE
- 12 ONE STEP BEHIND
- 19 AC/DC UK
- 26 A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY

OCTOBER

- 1 DANNY BRYANT
- 3 U2UK
- 9 CREGAN & CO
- 16 GERRY McAVOY'S BAND OF FRIENDS
- 17 THE NIMMO BROTHERS
- 22 BABAJACK
- 27 WISHBONE ASH
- 29 MIKE ZITO & THE WHEEL
- 31 FOCUS

NOVEMBER

- 6 FRED ZEPPELIN
- 12 SAMANTHA FISH & LAURENCE JONES
- 14 THE BEAT feat RANKING ROGER
- 21 PAT TRAVERS BAND
- 27 LOS PACAMINOS feat PAUL YOUNG

DECEMBER

- 5 DR FEELGOOD
- 17 CHANTEL McGREGOR
- 18 QE2
- 19 NINE BELOW ZERO
- 30 THE ROLLIN' STONED

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EREWASH VALLEY CAMRA BRANCH

by Mick & Carole Golds
carolegolds@btinternet.com

EREWASH VALLEY CAMRA REPORT

Pub News

It makes a pleasant change to be able to report on pub re-openings and in fact a new pub opening.....

The GENERAL HAVELOCK in Ilkeston has now re-opened as a Pub, Rotisserie and cafe still with 4 real ales and cider on the bar. Visually not a lot has changed, however we are informed that the cellar bar is to reopen as a 1920' Speak Easy with 6 real ales, 5 real ciders, fine whiskey range, pork pies and stilton platters available. The opening date for the cellar bar to the public is Friday 22nd May and the opening hours for it will then be Thursday 7.00-11.00pm (Camra card members), Friday 7.00-11.00pm, Saturday 6.30-11.30pm and Sunday 6.00-11.00pm. The new owners are Rebecca Rutherford and Shaun Dalton we wish them well. The new name for the old **CHARTERS** on South St, Ilkeston which will be open by the time you read this will be **HOGARTH'S**. This has been refurbished by Amber Taverns who also at the moment are treating the **MARKET** in Heanor to a similar makeover. We are informed that there will be a good selection of real ale in both pubs, more information and photo's in the next edition of Derby Drinker.

In the next few months we should hopefully be seeing a new micro pub opening on the corner of Market Street & Gladstone street, Ilkeston situated on a corner that has long being closed as a shop. The pubs name will be **THE BURNT PIG** and is owned by Simon Clarke who also owns the Truly Scrumptious, a deli and takeaway, situated just round the corner on South Street, more details next issue.

Alas there is some bad news, the Commercial Inn opposite the Little Acorn an ex Home Ales pub is no more and was demolished so quickly that we didn't have chance to take a photo.

The SPANISH BAR, Ilkeston is having some alterations done but the pub still remains open, more details in the next Drinker.



Members at the Little Acorn



The Erewash Hotel

THE RED LION, Sandiacre is at the moment closed for refurbishment and is due to re open within the next few weeks.

At THE STUMBLE, Long Eaton, the songbird brewery is temporarily closed for updating of the cellar and brewery.

DRAYCOTT BREWING COMPANY are currently brewing in Shardlow, but are moving to premises in Draycott in the summer, the brewery will then be in the Erewash Branch.



Presentation

On Saturday 14th March, Kevin our outgoing chairman presented the Marlpool Ale House with the Winter pub of the season award to Francesca - Andy's wife, and friend Karen (see photo above).

AGM

At our AGM on March 4th, Kevin Thompson stood down as our Branch Chairman, a vote of thanks was given from all the members for all the work he has done in his serving period. Also stepping down was our long serving treasurer and a founder member of the Branch, Simon Davies. A big thank you to Simon for all his hard work including all the beer festivals he worked on. The new committee is Chair - Chris Freer, Secretary- Jayne Tysoe, Treasurer & Webmaster- Gary Higgins, Social - Mick & Carole Golds, Membership- Richard Syson, Pubs Officer - Mark Suiter, NBSS officer - Rachel Davis, Committee & Locale co-ordinator - Dick Broomfield, Committee - Barry Hewson.

Trips and Socials

There was a good turnout for the Ilkeston pub survey, starting at the convenient Gallows Inn by the canal with 3 beers from Northstar. Next stop was the Poacher with a friendly landlord and landlady and then it was back on the bus to the Rutland Cottage with a good selection of beers served by friendly bar staff. A steady walk from here got us to The Little Acorn, Awwsworth Road with 2 excellent beers on, Dukeries Gunsmoke & Blue Monkey Infinity at £2.50 pint, the cheapest beer on the whole trip. See photo of members and John Smith the landlord (yes this really is his name). Another steady walk along the canal took us to the Dewdrop (this has been voted pub of the year 2015) then some bused and some walked to the Erewash Hotel on Station Road, an up and coming pub and worth a visit if you are in the area with a selection of changing beers. By this time one or two had fallen by the wayside, the faithful few carried on to the New Inn on Bath Street, unfortunately no real ale on this night, usually they normally have one real ale on. The object of this survey was to show drinkers that Ilkeston is still a good place for real ale pubs.

Future Meetings

All future meeting will now be on the first **MONDAY** of the month.

May 6th - The Dewdrop, Station Rd, Ilkeston.

June 1st - Great Northern, Langley Mill.

July 6th - Erewash Hotel, Station Road, 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.

Great Northern, Langley Mill - 15p off a pint.

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



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LITTLE BUSH BREWERY SPROUTS UP IN MAREHAY

When Dave and Lorraine Hilton bought the Holly Bush at Marehay in 2011, the locals were very pleased to see a pub which, in the 1970's, had been one of the best Shipstones pubs of the many in the Ripley area at that time, opening its doors again. For some time previously this didn't look likely as the Bush had been closed and seemingly destined to be used for redevelopment as private housing.

The introduction of quality Real Ale, Cider, and good food, augmented by quiz nights and regular weekend entertainment soon banished any fears that the Holly Bush regulars might have had regarding the future of their local, and the pub soon came to the attention of Amber Valley CAMRA, reaching the 2013 Pub of the Year Final and being included in the 2014 Good Beer Guide.

Now Dave and Lorraine have branched out even further by setting up a micro brewery in the pub cellar. Named the Little Bush Brewery, Dave will begin brewing in April, and intend to produce two beers to start with, an amber ale similar in colour to Taylors Landlord and a paler beer. As for naming the beers, the pub's regulars will be invited to suggest names of their choice, and Dave and Lorraine will pick their favourites, with those whose names are used winning two gallons of beer.

The beer range may be extended later, and while Dave will be brewing mainly for sale in the Holly Bush, he would be willing to send his beer to local Beer Festivals, as well as swap with other brew pubs. The Holly Bush is on Brook Lane, Marehay, and the nine bus service from Derby passes close by – you get off at the Rising Sun stop and the pub is a 4 or 5 minute walk away, so it's easy to get to, and well worth the effort.

Trevor Spencer



The Brunswick Inn and Brewery



The Brunswick offers:

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- BBQ Saturday's from June
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- Brunswick Hop Garden
- Brunswick Club Card Scheme
- Camra Discount with Membership Card
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- Food Served: Monday to Saturday 11.30am - 2.30pm
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New for 2015, single hop range -
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*Straight off the train in Derby - perfect!
Why go anywhere else?*

MAD in Huddersfield

The MAD socials season is now in full swing. In between the may beer festivals, (see last issue) a sizable MAD CAMRA contingent, plus many from neighbouring Chesterfield CAMRA, (and even a couple from Halifax to boot) made their way to Huddersfield to check out the Kirklees real ale scene.



Huddersfield has two major historic claims to fame. Firstly it was the birth place of Rugby League (1895, in the George Hotel opposite the railway station) and secondly twenty years later, the birthplace of Harold Wilson MP. There's an eight foot tall statue of the latter purposefully striding away from Huddersfield Station, strangely bereft of his trademark pipe. "Good old Mister Wilson" (to quote Paul McCartney) governed the country four times between 1964 and 1976, in an age when pipes and Gannex raincoats were in style. The Queen even sported one (A Gannex raincoat – not a pipe). Memories of tobacco infused pubs returned to me when I heard our first port of call was under t'viaduct, in a place called the Sportsman....



The Sportsman

With a name like 'The Sportsman, Huddersfield' one would normally expect a smoke-filled, Spartan establishment, frequented by a brace of flat-capped Yorkshiremen (each with the mandatory whippet) all watching horse-racing on a dust-shrouded wall-mounted TV screen, and each brandishing a copy of the Racing Post in one hand, with a pink betting slip in the other. Well it wasn't like that at all. This Sportsman was a very tidy and tastefully decorated art-deco inn, featuring eight real ales, and not a flat cap in sight. My first pint of the day was a local one, Timothy Taylors Boltmaker brewed in Keighley, twenty miles up the road. It was rather pleasant and no wonder the place won Huddersfield CAMRA Pub of the Year three years running. No loitering though, we had a long day ahead, so departed heading back under t'viaduct, past the still purposefully striding Harold Wilson, and into one of Huddersfield newest additions to the real ale scene...



Hand Drawn Monkey Beer shop

This ale emporium was started in 2010 by Rob Allen (The former manager and brewer at the Rat and Ratchet) and Tom Evan (ex-brewer at Nottingham's Blue Monkey). The company motif (and official mascot) is a cartoon monkey with a monocle, going by the name of Jephers. The aforesaid simian also has a number of ales named after him. I sampled one ape-related libation called Monkey Loves Hops - Brew Number 7. It was like being hit in the face with a bunch of fresh hops. A knowledgeable gentleman at the bar informed me the distinct flavour was down to a unique method of fresh hopping, before

he wished us well on our trip and returned to his laptop. (And not the Racing Post).



The Star Inn

Bit of a hike from the HDM. In fact the Star is in Folly Hall, which is down the A616 toward Holmfirth, past Kirklees College which looks every bit like a beached ocean liner. The Star was gearing up for their Spring Beer Festival which takes place both in the bar, and in a large tented area out the back. I stood by the roasting double ended fire, and had an ale called Chinook, which is named after the hops that flavour it and not the helicopter. (In fact both were named after the Native American tribe from Washington State, it says here in Wikipedia).

The Rat & Ratchet

Back up the A616, we pulled into the Rat and Ratchet public house, who were dispensing three 'Rat' beers, plus three from Ossett Brewery, and six guests on top of that. Spoiled for choice or what?



The building also hosts the Rat Brewery in the cellars downstairs, which may give LocAle organisers something to think about. We're not talking beer miles here, but beer yards! The Rat and Ratchet is another tastefully decorated pub, blending tradition with functionality, and has spent 25 years in the pages of the Good Beer Guide. Now I don't know anyone's idea of a perfect job or not, but Rat staff-training involves tasting sessions so they can use the brewers knowledge (and undoubtedly their wares) to describe beers to customers. Even more perfect was the TV in one of the many rooms showing Wales beating Ireland, which boded well for England's chances in the Six Nations the following week. (But it was not to be). I tried (to continue the rugby theme) a pint of their own White Rat, before our party moved on towards a perennial favourite pub, the Grove.



The Grove.

Stepping through the vestibule of the Grove, we encountered an enticing whiff of delicious Asian gastronomy. The Grove just gets better every time I go there, and the latest enhancement is the addition of an Malaysian 'take-away' food-cart at the back of the lounge. Staggeringly, the Grove lists 19 draught lines and 17 keg lines on its extensive blackboard of available beers. Thirty-six beers to choose from! Attention grabbing artwork and sculptures dot the place too. It's a place you could stay in all day (If your other half doesn't mind). I didn't hang around too long though (just for a couple)

because the final port of call was to be that 'World Beer Freehouse' the Sheffield Tap, and we had a train to catch. Harold was still striding purposefully around when we arrived for the train back home (probably still looking for his absent pipe). A few stragglers remained behind in the Grove saying they were enjoying the beer too much to leave – Well it was a great place. They may be there still? If anyone from the Grove is reading this and spots them, can they please send 'em back? One of them's the branch secretary and the rest of us don't really like taking the minutes. Cheers.

Tony Farrington



CAMRA Discounts

The Crown (Weatherspoon's) Bakewell Road Matlock

Cash discount on either presentation of membership card, or presentation of CAMRA vouchers apply (but not at same time). Vouchers have some restrictions printed on them.

Old Bowling Green Winstler

Cash discount applies on presentation of membership card

County and Station Dale Road, Matlock Bath

Cash discount applies on presentation of membership card

2010

Dale Road, Matlock

Cash discount applies on presentation of membership card

Vote for MAD T-POTS 2015!

This year MAD CAMRA has changed the format of their Pub of the Season (POTS) from Spring and Summer, to annual awards for 'Town' (T-POTS) and 'Country' (C-POTS). The suggested names from CAMRA HQ were 'Urban' and 'Rural', but to describe Matlock as an 'urban' area probably need a stretching of the imagination to a point well past feasible. 'Town' qualifies as Cromford up to Matlock, with 'Country' being the rest of the branch area. Nominations for Matlock and Dales 'Town Pub 2015' have been finalised and are (in alphabetical order, which is good news for 2010 who instantly take the lead)

2010, Matlock County and Station, Matlock Bath Stanley's Ale House, Matlock Thorn Tree Inn, Matlock If any CAMRA member have visited (or intend to visit) all four of these pubs by 15th May 2015, then they are eligible to vote in the competition. Voting slips are available from the landlord/manager in all of the establishments, or can be downloaded from the MAD website. Further details on how/when/where to complete your votes are written on the forms. Last chance to vote (for your favourite MAD teapot) is at the branch meeting on 21 May 2015.

MAD Branch Diary

15th May

Final day for receiving postal/email votes in MAD T-POTS 2015.

21 May

MAD Monthly Meeting
Stanley's Ale House,
Smedley Street, Matlock.
From 8pm : All Welcome

29-30 May

Druid Inn (MAD POTY 2014)
Beer Festival, Birchover
Details on festival/volunteering to be posted on website soon.

18th June

MAD Monthly Meeting
Venue TBA.
Please check the website
<http://www.mad.camra.org.uk>
or click on the QR code

**Fri 17th & Sat 18th
July 2015**

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A brilliant weekend full of great live Jazz, fantastic cask ales and a selection of summer ciders - in the unique historic setting of The National Brewery Centre.

Friday Night stars **The Adam Winslet Band** and **The Remi Harris Trio**

Saturday daytime acts will include **The Ben Holder Trio**, **The Jazz Alchemy Quintet** and **The Neil C Young Trio**

Saturday evening's Finale features **The Suzanne Mellard Quartet** and **The Rumble Strutters**



- Around sixty Real Ales and Ciders from around the UK
- A range of tasty fast food options will be available
- The Brewery Tap Bar & Restaurant will be open
- Entrance to the Museum is included in the Saturday daytime ticket price

Tickets: £10 for either Friday or Saturday evenings, £8 for Saturday day-time



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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)
Boot (Repton)
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)
Swan Inn (Milton)
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
Royal Oak, Ockbrook	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
White Swan, Ockbrook	20p off a pint
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.



Avoid the "dismal dormitories"!

You may have read Tim William's article in the last edition of Derby Drinker, tutted and reassured yourself that "it couldn't happen here". Unless, of course, you live in Findern, West Hallam, Weston-on-Trent or so many other communities that have already seen their beloved local converted to houses (or a funeral business). But then, you convinced yourself that, however appealing the Asset of Community Value scheme may be, it would be too difficult, or too time-consuming for you to pursue it.

I hope to convince you that you could easily protect your valued pub – and that you should act now. The Malt Shovel in Spondon (pictured) was registered in 2014 by Spondon Community Association; it was (by government standards) quick, easy and painless. Based on our experience, let me demolish a few misconceptions.

Its too difficult

You'd expect a process spawned by central government and administered by local councils to be a nightmare of bureaucracy, but the ACV scheme is form-free! Each council will have an officer dealing with the scheme (Google will normally find them) who can offer informal advice before you apply. The existing ACV register will



PROTECT YOUR PUB

How to get it registered as an Asset of Community Value.



Malt Shovel – Spondon

normally be available online (Derby City boasts 4 entries so far, including the iPro Stadium!). You will need to provide details of the property location and current ownership but the most important part is explaining why your pub is indeed an asset to the community.

For the Malt Shovel, this was easy as it is part of the historic fabric of Spondon – indeed when the Spondon Archive series of books started appearing in 2012, it was the first subject (see left). It is also listed on CAMRA's "historic pub register".

I'd need to form a society

Whilst in our case, the Community Association submitted the application; the registration can be by an informal group of local residents. However, even in this case, a degree of formality might be a good idea – the group who registered the Navigation in Breaston formed themselves into the "Friends of the Navigation", with a simple constitution. If, of course, the pub comes up for sale, a business-like organisation would be needed – as well as the necessary finance! The Bamford Community Society, who now run the Anglers Rest, registered as an Industrial and Provident Community Benefit Society.

It can wait...

The process of registration is fairly quick, the Spondon application was submitted at the end of May 2014 and finally approved

less than 6 months later, including an 8 week period when the owners could appeal the decision. Even so, if you wait until the "For Sale" sign goes up, you could be too late! If accepted, any proposal for sale is put on hold for 6 weeks to give you a chance to decide whether to bid. If you do, there is a further 6 month freeze while you try and raise the funds.

It's not under threat

Even if you're confident that there are no current plans to sell, the protection offered by an ACV registration is a sound insurance policy. The trigger for registering the Malt Shovel was a statement by Marston's (the owners) that "...we are not really interested in drinking pubs, we plan to concentrate on family-oriented dining experiences." But, far from the Malt Shovel being under any sort of threat, Marston's invested a considerable sum refurbishing the pub during 2014 and, indeed, seem happy with the ACV registration. But, as Findern and other communities found, not all pub owners are interested in running pubs! Tim's article gave pointers for further information; <http://www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal> I am happy to answer queries if you e-mail me (derek@spondonca.org.uk).

Derek Hathaway,
Spondon Community Association





Derbyshire Music Festivals With Real Ale

Well it's that time of year when the warmer weather (hopefully) ushers in thousands of music festivals all over the Country, a good many of them serving Real Ale & Cider. Derbyshire has its fair share of these with bars run by local breweries in some cases.

Here are a few highlights:-

May

Bearded Theory (21-24) Catton Hall

June

Download (12-14) Donington Park
Exile (26-28) Darley Bridge

July

Rock & Bike (16-19) Carnfield Hall
Stainsby (17-19) Bruns Farm
Indie Tracks (24-26) Butterley
Rock & Blues (23-25) Pentrich
Y-Not (31-2 Aug) Pikehall

August

Bloodstock (6-9) Catton Hall

September

Off the Tracks (4-6) Donington
Whitwell (11-13) Community Centre

For ticket & band details check out the events website.



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!



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THURSDAY 4pm to 11pm
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Not such an ugly duckling as the White Swan takes flight

In Derby Drinker Issue 158 we highlighted the pubs of Ockbrook but at the time the White Swan was just in the process of being taken over by a new licensee so we returned to see how she was settling in.....

The Village of Ockbrook boasts four pubs, all very different but each playing an important part of Village life. The White Swan occupies the traditional spot in the Village opposite the Church which gives the pub a very pleasant, quiet, leafy outlook. The new licensee is Jan Siddons who has been around the trade most of her life thanks to her family connections with her Uncle running the Toby Jug in Nottingham and the Coeur de Lion and the family running pubs in Leek and Lincoln. So having had this grounding it was only natural to have a go at running her own pub and when she saw the White Swan she knew this was the one. Recently refurbished by Punch she has added her own personal touch to the pub giving it a warm, comfortable, homely feel with the assorted brick-a-brac dotted around and eclectic signage on the walls adding to the ambience. The pub still retains its two rooms giving it that traditional look and the previously stark lounge has been transformed.



Of course the one thing Jan wanted to do was major on Real Ales & Cider and she has slowly built up the trade so that it now offers 6 on handpump with the regulars being Bass, Pedigree & Doombar and 3 rotating guests with 20p a pint CAMRA discount. I had a lovely pint of Sunny Republic Hop Dog on my visit. She is also planning her first Beer Festival over the **Spring Bank Holiday weekend 22-24 May** with a hog roast & BBQ in the large, pleasant rear garden featuring a bouncy castle, face painting and a Punch 'n' Judy show. Looking further ahead Jan is also planning to run the First Annual White Swan Olympic Games on August 15 and hopes to introduce a pizza oven in the beer garden in the near future with homebaked, homemade pizzas. All great plans then and Jan has a few more up her sleeve so why not pay a visit to Ockbrook and call in, with 3 other good Real Ale pubs to visit, it makes a cracking day out. The pubs opening times are: Mondays 4pm - 11:30pm, Tuesdays - Thursdays 12pm - 11:30pm, Fridays 12pm - 12am, Saturdays 10am - 12am, Sundays 12pm - 11pm with food served Tue - Sat 12-9pm and 12-4pm on Sunday. Ockbrook can be easily reached on the No.9 or 9a bus from Derby Mon-Sat until 6:05pm. Otherwise you can get the Indigo, 14 or Zoom to Borrowash and take the 20 min walk down Victoria Avenue to Ockbrook.

Gareth Stead



The Windmill's turning over the Real Ales

Up at the Windmill a quiet Real Ale revolution has been going on since landlady, Nemanie Brettell took on the pub in 2013. The number of beers on handpump has slowly increased during that time and the latest jump has seen them move from 4 to 6 as trade has picked up. Under her direction within 15 months the Windmill has become the second largest Stonegate pub in the Midlands for Real Ales which is quite an achievement indeed and the pub now has Cask Marque recognition. It features up to 6 Real

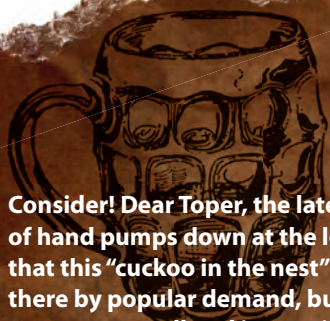
Ales with the 3 permanent ales of Abbot, Bass & Pedigree being joined by 3 rotating guests, I had a nice pint of Grainstore Triple B on my visit. Helping out with this revolution is Assistant Manager, Ben Sedgewick who was recently running the Horns in Ashbourne and had previously been Bar Manager at the Bridge in Derby. Together with Nem he has organised several ale type events from meet the brewer evenings to Beer Festivals to battle of the brewers and there is a full programme of events coming up. The next big one being the **Spring Bank Holiday Beer Festival from 22-25 May** with the beers available both on the bar and separate stillage and there will also be live music from 'Lester and the

Bee' on Sunday 24th May from 4 till 8.30pm. After that an August Bank Holiday Beer Festival Beer Festival is planned from 28-31. But it's not just ale events that take place though as the pub has something on almost every evening from darts to quizzes and is very much at the heart of the local community.

The Windmill is situated on Hill Top, Breadsall Oakwood with some great views all around and remains very much a traditional two roomed pub with bar and lounge area and outdoor seating to the front and rear. It opens from 12 until 11pm with food orders being available from 12-9pm every day of the week. And getting there couldn't be more convenient as the H1 and Y1 bus services pass the pub almost every 20 minutes to half an hour with the bus stops being almost right outside the pub. So if you've not been in before or have not been for a while then why not give it a try as a good selection of ale & food awaits inside.

Gareth Stead





Dear Toper...

Consider! Dear Toper, the latest fad nestling amongst the row of hand pumps down at the local - Vegan ale. I wish I could say that this "cuckoo in the nest" (for want of a better phrase) is there by popular demand, but alas, I suspect that it is there to appease a small and increasingly vocal minority. If, like I once did, Dear Toper, you thought that Vegans were weird-looking creatures, who (presumably) populate a distant planet called Vega, you weren't that far from the truth. They're a weird-looking bunch alright, but they don't populate another planet, they just live on one. That said, most of them are pretty harmless and keep themselves to themselves, however, some of their number are quite strident and believe passionately that everyone else should conform to their rigid Vegan way of life – a bit like those aggressive cyclists whom one encounters from time to time, pedalling furiously hither and thither in their skin-tight, dayglow costumes. Filled with the sort of sanctimonious, self-righteous arrogance that comes easily to someone who is on a self-imposed mission to save the environment from all of those nasty polluting cars, they are convinced that every inch of paved area is part of their own private cycle path and woe betide the hapless pedestrian who gets in their way! But I digress, Dear Toper.

As for aggressive Vegans: during their sporadic visits to our world they sometimes venture into a local hostelry (usually with an Earthling friend or partner who is sympathetic to their needs). On approaching the counter the inter-galactic traveller eyes with aloof disdain the row of pump clips, and having ascertained that there are no Vegan ales to be had, he (or she - I'd hate to be thought politically incorrect) asks for a glass of tap water instead. He then turns his attention to the limited selection of pub grub on

The First Cuckoo of Spring?

offer. He peruses the menu and a smug smile of something approaching satisfaction creases his pasty face, as he makes

doubly sure that there is no Vegan option listed – just as he had secretly hoped, for now he can assume an air of righteous indignation and assert his "rights".

"Have you a Vegan option?" he enquires, knowing full well the impending answer.

"We've a Veggie option", replies the barmaid, doing her best to sound interested, but inter-galactic communication isn't her strong point.

"That's not what I asked", comes the sneering response from the other-worldly being. "I asked for a Vegan option!"

"It's over there", informs the newly-arrived landlord.

"Where?" asks the alien, somewhat taken aback and feeling thwarted.

"Over there – that door marked 'Exit'. Now sod off!" the landlord (over-politely in my view) informs.

As the Spring gets into full swing and the sap begins to rise, I am more and more tempted to go into a Vegan restaurant and demand the meat-eaters' option, but I strongly suspect that I would be treated like a leper whose hand has just fallen off into the cauldron of lentil soup. Consider that, Dear Toper.

D.T.



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Derby Drinker Production Schedule

January/February – **December 10th**

March/April – **February 10th**

May/June – **April 10th**

July/August – **June 10th**

September/October – **August 10th**

November/December – **October 10th**

Copy Deadlines in BOLD

Derby Drinker Online & by Post

Did you know that the latest edition of Derby Drinker is available to read online at

<http://www.derbycamra.org.uk/derby-drinker/>

Alternatively if you would like a copy posted to you it is available at a cost of £5 for 4 editions.

Send a cheque payable to Derby CAMRA to

Derby Drinker,

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DerbyCAMRA BranchDiary

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

APRIL

Thu 30th - Country Pub of the Year runner-up presentation - Royal Oak, Wirksworth - Free mini bus leaves Derby Quad at 7.30pm.

MAY

Thu 7th - Cider Pub of the Year presentation - Brunswick Inn, Derby - 8pm.

Sat 9th - 'Best of Derbyshire' trip by minibus. Name and £5 deposit to secure a place.

Wed 13th - Branch Meeting - Thomas Leaper, Derby - 8pm.

Fri 22nd - Survey to Cotton in the Elms & area by free mini bus - 7.30pm depart from Derby Quad.

JUNE

Thu 4th - Branch Meeting - Wilmot Arms, Chaddesden, Derby - 8pm. Free bus from Derby Quad at 7.30pm.

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

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Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers

Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs

Crossword

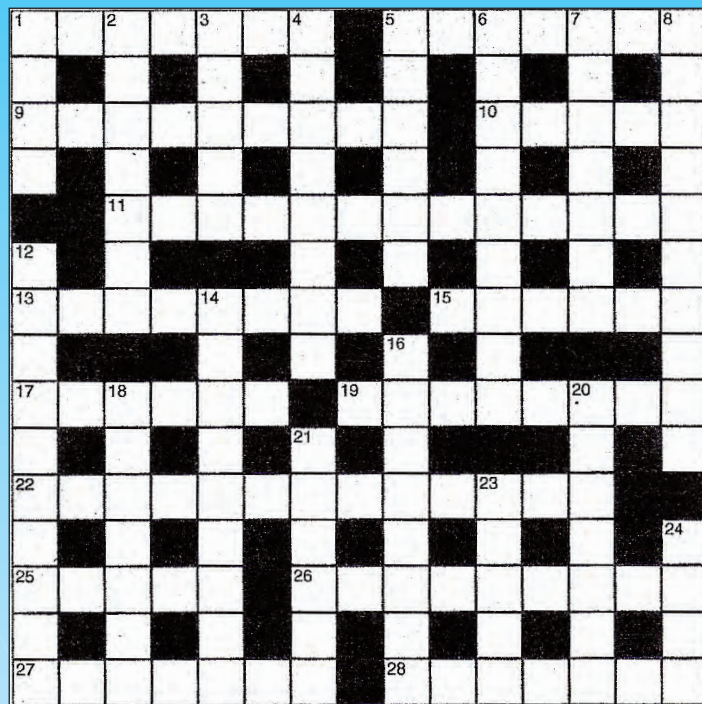
No 45 by Wrenrutt

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

Crossword winner is

Kevin Roome

from West Hallam picked up at the Punchbowl, West Hallam.



Across

- 1 Christmas tiffin accommodates a guard dog (7)
- 5 ise to become a type of comedian (5-2)
- 9 Confused Tom came in to threaten! (9)
- 10 Leg, say, comes to nothing for oblivion (5)
- 11 Oil rig mess e.g. I muddled up is 'as light as possible' musically (13)
- 13 CAMRA's HQ city (2.6)
- 15 Continue laboriously (4.2)
- 17 Scares terribly for a cuddle (6)
- 19 A break during a theatrical performance perhaps (8)
- 22 Dancing Man's copper-coloured session ale (3.10)
- 25 Where you might go at full steam (5)
- 26 Country split by German and becoming a High Street cut-price retailer (9)
- 27 Mine landlady in a pub perhaps (7)
- 28 West Sussex village where George sells locales (7)

Down

- 1 Came to become an authority symbol (4)
- 2 Country, alias MO, in the Horn of Africa (7)
- 3 An enhancement on the gateau perhaps (5)
- 4 Inns for a number of loose women in olden times (8)
- 5 Fortified wine from around Jerez de la Frontera (6)
- 6 Sounds like a good place in Bucks. for brewing, and it is too (9)
- 7 Somewhat stupid, maybe (7)
- 8 Ponce round about said emphatically (10)
- 12 A pathologically self-centred person (10)
- 14 Ian, a famous English tenor and opera singer revealed by twisted bored gits (9)
- 16 Super ale can provide this (8)
- 18 Put clothes on again for compensation (7)
- 20 A more polite way of saying grabbable (2.5)
- 21 Humdrum pushing can partly create a disturbance (6)
- 23 Last ones of this are made just before closing time (6)
- 24 Cheese made back to front in Holland (4)

- ▶ 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 44 Answers

Across

1. BEER-TIE
5. LEGO SET
9. STABILITY
10. ALIBI
11. PIGEON FISHERS
13. THE EAGLE ALE HOUSE
15. TOPICS
17. TROPHY
19. See 13
22. ONE FOR THE ROAD
25. AMOUR
26. BREWERIES
27. EXTREME
28. SALADIN

Down

1. BASS
2. EXAMPLE
3. TRING
4. EXIT ONLY
5. LAY OFF
6. GRASS MOTH
7. SZIGETI
8. TWIN SISTER
12. STATION ALE
14. ASHBOURNE
16. CLUELESS
18. ONE FOOT
20. UNDRIED
21. STABLE
23. OKELL
24. A SON

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