



Issue 190

March/April  
2020

# DERBY Drinker

FREE



Cheers

Covering Derby, Ashbourne, Amber Valley, Erewash, Matlock, Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA Areas

DERBY  
CAMRA



## PUBS OF THE YEAR 2020



Smithfield Alehouse - City Pub of the Year



Royal Oak - Country Pub of the Year

Full details inside plus loads, loads more







## DERBY CAMRA Pubs of the Year 2020



*The Smithfield receive their awards from Derby CAMRA Chairman, Greg Maskalick & Pubs Officer, Mark Fletcher*



*The Royal Oak receive their award from Derby CAMRA Pubs Officer, Mark Fletcher*

The Derby Branch of CAMRA has selected its Pubs of the Year for 2020:-

The **City Pub of the Year** is the **Smithfield Alehouse** on Meadow Road beating finalists the Brunswick Inn and Falstaff to the title.

The **Country Pub of the Year** is the **Royal Oak** in Ockbrook beating finalists the Chip and Pin in Melbourne and Town Street Tap in Duffield to the title.

And by virtue of having the highest overall mark the **Smithfield Alehouse** has also been crowned **Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year 2020**.

**F**or an unprecedented third year on the trot the Smithfield Alehouse has managed to come out on top of the tree not only as City winner but also as Branch winner as well for the very first time in the history of Derby CAMRA.

Licensees Emily Bowler and partner Ben Miller only took on the running of the pub just over 3 years ago so to be crowned Pub of the Year for three successive years is indeed a major achievement in a City that has got so many good Real Ale pubs. Of course Emily was no stranger to Real Ale pubs beforehand having worked in some fine establishments over the years: the Standing Order in Derby; Pattenmakers Arms in Duffield; Boat in Cromford; County & Station in Matlock Bath and Arkwrights in Belper but the lure of running her own pub brought her full circle back to Derby.

The Smithfield you have to say has always been a decent Real Ale pub but its fortunes have ebbed and flowed over the years just like the river it sits on but it's current high tide is probably the best it's ever been with an ever changing range of Real Ales & Ciders from near and far making it a must visit place where the ales turn over so quickly that within an hour of being there

you might have 2 new ones on. And for fans of dark beers there is always at least one or two on. This coupled together with a great live music scene, cheese nights, Camra discount and being one of Derby's few riverbank pubs make it a destination place for all lovers of proper traditional pubs and great Real Ale. Of course being on the river is not without its problems as the pub was completely flooded and closed for a week during a recent spell of bad weather so to come back from that and take the honours again is quite remarkable. Congratulations then to Emily and Ben on winning Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year not once, not twice but three years on the run.

Out in the Country last year's runner-up, the Royal Oak in Ockbrook has taken the title again having won it on so many previous occasions. Of course the last time they won it Landlady, Olive Wilson was still at the helm having run the pub for 65 years. Sadly though she passed away last year but the pub remains in the family with daughters, Sally Parrot & Jean Hornbuckle and son-in-law Steve Hornbuckle carrying on the running of the pub. It is simply a great village local right at the heart of

community life which has been in the Good Beer Guide for well over 40 years due to the quality of its ales and the tender loving care of the family who have run it in all that time. As well as a range of great ales and good food the pub also holds regular Beer Festivals throughout the year. A CAMRA discount of 10p a pint, 5p a half is also in operation. It is easily reached on the Little's No.9/9a bus route which runs from Derby to Ockbrook Monday-Saturday up to 6.05pm and is well worth a visit. Congratulations then to all the team at the Royal Oak.

The winners and runners-up were presented with their awards during the Trade Session of the Derby Winter Ale Festival at the Roundhouse (see photos). The Smithfield Alehouse will now also go forward into the South Derbyshire Pub of the Year competition where it will compete against the winners of other local CAMRA Branches' awards from Amber Valley, Ashbourne, Burton & South Derbyshire and Erewash Valley. The winner of the South Derbyshire round will be announced later in the year and we'll let you know the results when we get them.





## Derby CAMRA Branch

### DERBY CAMRA Cider & Perry Pub of the Year 2020

The Derby Branch of CAMRA Cider & Perry Pub of the Year for 2020 is the Brunswick Inn on Station Approach. The Brunswick of course has been a previous winner of this Award and also been a recent Branch Pub of the Year winner. Its range of ciders and perries is extensive with different ones always in place and for lovers of the drink it's a must visit destination to try the many and varied styles available. So congratulations then to licensees, Alan Pickersgill & Philippe Larroche and the Team who were presented with an award at the Trade Session of the Derby Winter Ale Festival at the Roundhouse (see photo).

### DERBY CAMRA Club of the Year 2020

The Derby Branch of CAMRA has selected its Club of the Year for 2020 with the Victory Club on Chellaston Rd in Allenton taking the honours. A number of Clubs throughout the area were visited but in a keenly fought contest the Victory came out on top beating finalists the Allestree Club & Jubilee Club in Chaddesden to the title. The



*The Brunswick receive their awards from Derby CAMRA Chairman, Greg Maskalick & Pubs Officer, Mark Fletcher.*

Club serves a range of Real Ales and CAMRA members are allowed in free with their card. They also have entertainment on most weekends. It is easily reached from Derby on the regular Arriva No.2 & No.3 service which stops right outside the club

so why not give it a try if you are in the area. Congratulations then to all involved at the Victory Club which now goes forward to the next round of the competition.

# Derby CAMRA Summer of Pubs

Our city pubs get together to give you a spectacular month of beer festivals, music events, food & drink nights and a gastronomic delight.

1st to 31st July 2020

Contact us for more information:  
[summerofpubs@derbycamra.org.uk](mailto:summerofpubs@derbycamra.org.uk)  
07956 505 951 - Alan



[www.derbycamra.org.uk](http://www.derbycamra.org.uk)

## Derby Pubs Month Let's Look Forward to Summer

We all know how great our pubs are here in Derby. So Derby CAMRA is planning a celebration of our pubs here in the city.

The event will take place during July 2020 and will include a celebration and promotion of our pub events. We are just putting together the finer details but this event will include pub walks, a tour map of participating pubs here in Derby and promotion across the East Midlands area of what is usually a great month of pub-based beer festivals and live music.

So if you run a pub in our great city and want to be included we need you to get in touch. We will then forward to you the options you have to get involved.

For further information email  
[summerofpubs@derbycamra.org.uk](mailto:summerofpubs@derbycamra.org.uk) for more information.

Alan Pickersgill  
Campaigns Coordinator

[www.derby.camra.org.uk](http://www.derby.camra.org.uk)



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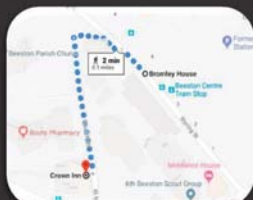
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## Pip Southall

(There will never be another quite like him)



Pip was a friend, a CAMRA colleague, a fellow pub enthusiast, a drinker known in every Derby pub and one of the nicest guys going. Everyone adored him. He was described by his former head teacher, a very shrewd lady, as the brightest boy ever to pass through her hands. He did well at school and was

immensely knowledgeable on so many subjects - he was unsurpassable on football trivia. Eternally youthful, he was a punk poet, a good cricketer and darts player, a local historian, a 'muso', but perhaps above all a brilliant, but erratic, publisher.

For **Derby CAMRA**, he was its Pubs Officer in 1994, a Branch Committee member from 2004 to 2010, but most significantly Editor of **Derby Drinker** for eleven years (Feb 2000 to Feb 2011). In this period, he turned the **Drinker** from a black & white 4 page newsletter, in stages, into a 16 page colour 'glossy'. It was well written, mostly by Pip, and its popularity soared as did the print run - 15,000 copies at its zenith. He not only wrote most of the copy, selected the illustrations but designed and laid out every page he ever published. In his hands it was a much-admired publication, some of which was down to his training with Breedon Books where he was an Editorial Assistant until 2006. Afterwards that he was with the Irongate Group. After his return from York in 2012 he was a freelance publisher.

Working with Pip was always a challenge. He never decided what the lead story would be until the very last minute and keeping him to a schedule or communicating with him could be exasperating and infuriating. The only way sometimes to get hold of him was to wait in the Irongate Group car park until he emerged from work! But you couldn't be cross with Pip for long.

**He left Derby in 2010 for, York**, initially trying to run the **Drinker** from afar, but he gave up after just three editions. On his return a year later, he founded, with his new wife Elaine, the **FREE** magazine whose by-line is 'Feathers ruffled every edition'. It is devoted to local history, social comment and new writing - a sort of Derby 'Private Eye'. And he had a second career as a regular quiz master - 'Dr Pippin', in three or four Derby pubs. He cared about Derby and 'Derbeians', he was gregarious, he was funny, and I'll miss him - a lot. I'm sure the same is true for his many, many friends. Our condolences to Elaine, his stepson James, and Beccy his stepdaughter. **John Arguile.**



Pip (far right) at a Beer Festival with CAMRA colleagues

## Winter Ale Trail 2020

This year's mammoth Winter Ale Trail draw to a conclusion in February and we'll have a full report with presentation photos in the next Derby Drinker. The Derby Branch results based on votes received from those on the Trail were as follows:-

**1st: Peacock Inn, Derby.**

**2nd: Creaky Floorboard, Derby.**

Many thanks to Trevor Spencer for organising our biggest Trail ever involving 5 different CAMRA Branches and don't forget to look out for our next one which will be the Mild Trail (see details below).

## May Mild Trail

The next Derby Drinker will carry full details and trail card for this year's May Mild Trail around pubs in our Branch area. If your Pub intends to stock Mild in May then please get in touch with us and get yourself included on the trail.

E-mail: [GomildinMay2019@gmx.com](mailto:GomildinMay2019@gmx.com) and let us know.

## Derby CAMRA Branch Diary

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

### MARCH

**Thu 12th** - Branch Meeting - Papermill, Darley Abbey - 8pm

**Mon 16th** - City POTY presentation - Smithfield, Derby - 8pm

**Thu 19th** - Country POTY presentation - Royal Oak, Ockbrook - 8pm

### APRIL

**Thu 9th** - Branch AGM - Victory Club, Allenton - 8pm

**Sat 11th** - National Bass Day Social - 8pm Peacock, Derby and 9.30pm Smithfield, Derby.

### MAY

**1-31st** - Mild Month - Trail around the pubs in the Branch area.

**Thu 7th** - Branch Meeting - TBC - 8pm

**Contact the Social Secretary, by email - [socials@derbycamra.org.uk](mailto:socials@derbycamra.org.uk)**  
(check the Facebook page for upcoming events)

## Editor's Addition....

Pip was one of the first people I met when I first got involved with Derby CAMRA in the early 90's and we instantly hit it off through our love of Real Ale and good music were we had similar tastes. The years that followed saw us pursue both with equal gusto and we'd always be the last men standing at the end of the night still in search of another pint. After almost every Camra social event near or far we'd get back to Derby and head for anywhere that would serve 'lates' (before all day opening) and we'd always find somewhere that was fool enough to let us carry on. And on one famous occasion we both stumbled out of the snug at the Dolphin after consuming way too much just as dawn broke and this when we both had work that day as well. We often shared a room at Camra members weekends up and down the Country including once when we just had a floor and a blanket for warmth but it didn't really matter as we'd usually had a skin full. The pair of us would always go in search of a good ale and we shared many a lift in the back of a car, old van or truck with nothing to hang on to getting thrown around as we went and all because we'd heard about this obscure place in the middle of nowhere serving a brilliant pint of ale.

Music wise perhaps our most memorable moment was when we went to Rock City to see Billy Idol and naturally had a pub crawl around Nottingham beforehand getting to the venue for about 9pm only to find out he'd been on for about an hour. But not to be perturbed we dived straight into the 'Mosh Pit' at the front and enjoyed the last half hour of the show followed by a few more ales in Notts & Derby afterwards. We made the most of a bad situation as we always did and still had a fantastic time and that's what it was like with Pip no matter where you went or what you did you always had a good laugh and joke and enjoyed each occasion to the full. Such a great bloke and a joy to be around and I'll miss him terribly as we all will. There will never be another quite like him so goodbye my friend, my fellow editor, I'll catch you again at the great gig in the sky but I hope you don't mind if I'm running a wee bit late!!

**Gareth Stead**

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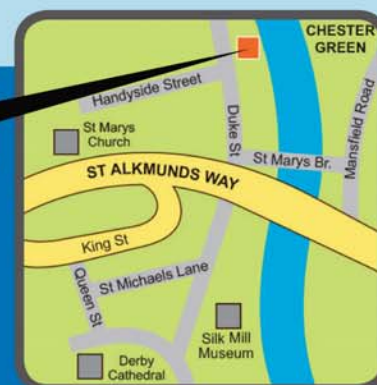


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# Derby CAMRA Winter Ale Festival - Roundhouse Recall

Well what a great occasion this year's Winter Ale Festival was, where you there, did you enjoy yourselves, well obviously most of you did judging by the photos below. We'll have a full report in the next issue but for now enjoy the look back below..... Cheers!!





# FIVE LAMPS



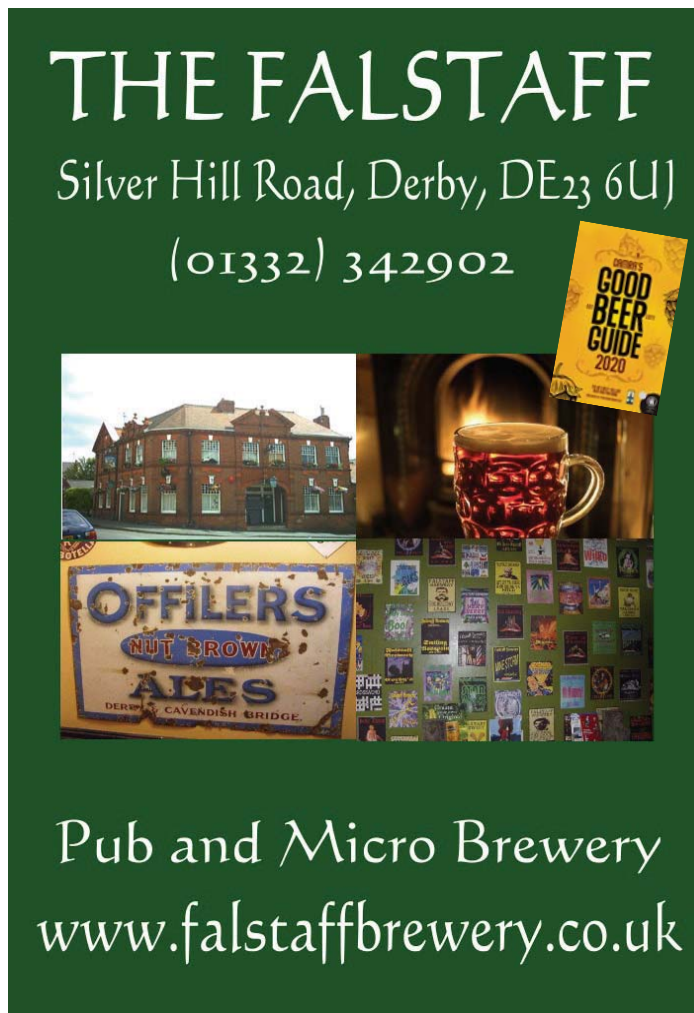
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DERBY CAMRA POTY 2018 - 2020  
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# AmberValley CAMRA Branch

Contact Nora Harper [noraharper@hotmail.com](mailto:noraharper@hotmail.com)



## AMBER VALLEY NEWS

**It was the season of competition time around the branch...**

### Branch Club of the Year

The 2020 Branch Club of the Year presentation was made to Milford Social Club (aka the Sunshine Club) on 30th January - see photo alongside of Chair Chris Rogers handing the certificate to Sianne. Congratulations to Jeff Kemp & all his team. Located on the Sixes and Transpeak bus routes, the club's address is 5 Chevin Road, Milford DE56 0QH, and is normally open 3.00pm (noon at weekends) – 11.00pm.

### Branch Cider Pub of the Year

Cider PotY awards 2020 were made on the evening of 23rd January to the winner, Angel's Micropub in Belper, and the runner-up, Dead Poets at Holbrook (which I think counts as their first award under new Brunswick management).

### Branch Pub of the Year

The PotY results are to be announced at the branch AGM on 27th February and will then be published on the website and via social media for all to see - do take a look to find out the final rankings of the eight contenders who were: Angels Micropub (Belper), Arkwrights Real Ale Bar (Belper), Dead Poets Inn (Holbrook), Holly Bush (Makeney), Hunter Arms (Kilburn), Old Oak (Horsley Woodhouse), Thorn Tree (Belper), White Hart (Bargate). The initial stage in December attracted 196 nominations for 32 pubs.

**STOP PRESS ....** The White Hart at Bargate has been declared winner more details in the next issue.

### Winter Ale Trail

The Winter Ale Trail covering five neighbouring branches and a total of 107 pubs was also running through January until mid-February. The top 3 are: 1st Hunters Arms, Kilburn; 2nd Codnor Inn, Codnor; 3rd George and Dragon, Belper. The top 2 will receive Certificates which will be presented on Thursday March 12th, 7.30 at the Codnor Inn and 8.30 at the Hunters.

**Discounts** - slowly, slowly this information has been trickling in and an updated list is publicized here.

**Pub news** - Sir Barnes Wallis on Maple Avenue in Ripley (commemorating the town's hero) has closed and permission has been sought to demolish for housing.

The Poet & Castle, Codnor, changes tenants on 16th March and going forward will feature Everards beer range only and no guest ales.



*Amber Valley Cider POTY winner the Dead Poets, Holbrook*



*Amber Valley Club of the Year the Milford Social Club*

## DIARY DATES (all meetings 8pm)

26th March: Committee and Branch meeting, Thorn Tree, Waingroves

30th April: Branch meeting, Bell & Harp, Coxbench

29th-31st May: Belper Goes Green real ale marquee, Belper Rugby Club Ground

### Pubs with CAMRA discounts in Amber Valley area - please support:

Arkwrights, Belper - 10p per pint, 5p per half

George and Dragon, Belper - 10p per pint

Dead Poets, Holbrook - 20p per pint, 10p per half

Strutt Arms, Milford - 30p per pint, 15p per half

The Talbot, Ripley - 15p per pint, 5p per half


The Thorn Tree, Ripley Market place - 15p per pint

Crossings Club, Ironville - 10% discount anytime, or 50p per pint during "happy hour" Fri-Sat, 6-7pm




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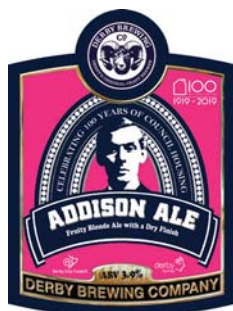
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# Derby CAMRA helps celebrate 100 years of council housing with Addison Ale at the Winter Ale Festival



*Addison Ale Pump clip*



*Tenant's Handbook – Rivermead*

This year, Derby City Council and Derby Homes are commemorating the history of council housing and a century since Derby's first council homes. Derby Brewing Co. have produced a beer to celebrate the centenary of the "Addison Act", the Act of Parliament that kick-started the large scale building of state-owned houses after the

First World War. Addison Ale is named after the author of the 1919 Housing Act, Dr Christopher Addison, the Minister of Health at the time.

It was on sale at the Winter Ale Festival at the Roundhouse where a Derby Homes stall was also present throughout.



*Radbourne Lane, Mackworth Estate*

## Derby's Council Houses

Derby's first council homes were built on Victory Road in Osmaston in 1920. Nearby, running alongside the old Rolls-Royce factory, Addison Road was likely named after the Minister himself.

The city has a rich, interesting history of council housing: from the early pre-second world war estates of Osmaston, Normanton, Allenton, Alvaston, Sinfen and Chaddesden to post-war developments like the Mackworth Estate and Rivermead House, Derby's only high rise block. The changing demands of the decades saw a

greater diversity of homes built across the city, including flats for single people and couples and sheltered housing for the ageing population.

A hundred years on, Council housing is still very much in the media and on the government's agenda again. In Derby, the Council and Derby Homes have delivered over new 400 council houses since 2009 and this year will see the 100th newly built council home under their partnership.

**Look out for Addison Ale in pubs across Derby as well as celebratory events being held to mark the occasion.**



*Victory Road, Osmaston*





# Mocking the Tudors



Old Silk Mill



Old Bell Hotel



Noah's Ark



Coach & Horses

The Tudor period was from 1485 to 1603 and Derby has just one pub surviving from the era, the redoubtable Olde Dolphin Inne, Queen Street. The nearby Nottingham Castle on St Michael's Lane was of similar antiquity and photographs show one elevation not dissimilar to today's Dolphin. Regrettably, it was demolished in 1964. Architects' attempt to evoke Olde England in the form of Mock Tudor began pre-WW1 but it was in the inter-war years that the style was popularised. A number of Derby pubs were thus built or remodelled in "Brewer's Tudor" as it was known and we feature some of them here.

The Old Silk Mill, Full Street, is in close proximity to a vanished, much older pub of the same name and it's an early example of Brewer's Tudor, being built in the 1920s. Distinguished by a colourful, gable end mural with an attractive beer garden below, this former Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year continues to attract custom eager to try the various real ales and imaginative food offering.

In 1929, Derby building contractors, Ford and Weston, added the mock Tudor look to the frontage of the Old Bell Hotel, Sadler Gate. At the back is one of Derby's best-known bars, the former men-only Tudor Bar which was built at the same time partly from salvaged materials including a magnificent old mantelpiece beam with the year 1500 inscribed. It was by working at the Bell in the 1960s that Jan Birkin, present day landlady of the Rowditch, cut her teeth in the licensed trade. Great credit is due to local entrepreneur, Paul Hurst, who rescued this

17thC coaching inn from closure a few years ago and then restored it, subsequently becoming Good Beer Guide listed, serving changing beers which often include Dancing Duck Dark Drake.

The 18thC Noah's Ark, Morledge, has a two roomed interior unaltered since the 1930s at least with the front bar a shrine to Liverpool's Fab Four. Listed in CAMRA's first Good Beer Guide in 1974, legend has it that the name is derived from Noah Bullock, a coin-clipper and forger, who had his houseboat moored up on the nearby Derwent (source: Max Craven, Illustrated History of Derby's Pubs 2002). Long a Home Brewery (Nottingham) house but now serving Draught Bass and a guest.

The Coach and Horses, Mansfield Road, Chester Green, was rebuilt in Arts and Crafts style in the Edwardian period but as our photograph shows it has Brewer's Tudor influences. Commodious inside with distinct areas affording some privacy, the corner pub has always been reliable for well-kept Draught Bass and, when I called, Wadworth 6X and Exmoor Gold were guesting.

The Norman Arms, Village Street, Normanton, is perhaps Derby's best example of Brewer's Tudor with its unmissable, wrap-around black and white exterior. There remains enough of its original panelled interior to feature in CAMRA's Real Heritage Pubs of the Midlands book available from Waterstone's or CAMRA direct. In the front bar I settled back on comfortable, leatherette fixed seating facing the old black bar counter with traditional bar



The Norman Arms





**Toby Carvery**

back, and I found the open fire particularly welcoming on a cold January day. Sharp's Doom Bar was the only hand-pulled beer when I called but there's a good little patio area at the back for fair weather drinking.

Not far away, there's a blue plaque on Portland Street commemorating the life of Steve Bloomer, football's first superstar who lived here after moving from his birthplace, Cradley Heath in the Black Country in 1879. The highest goal scorer in the Rams' history made his England debut, scoring twice, at our County (cricket) Ground, Nottingham Road, in 1895. Bloomer also excelled at baseball, helping Derby County to win the English (baseball) Cup thrice at the newly constructed Baseball Ground. Sadly, Bloomer died shortly before the **Chestnut Tree** on the corner of Pear Tree Crescent was built in 1940. Today, the pub is essentially open-plan although the cross-beamed ceiling with



**Mitre**

decorative cornices is pleasing on the eye. At one end is a pool table and dartboard, behind which is the iconic image of Messrs Clough and Taylor holding aloft the old first division championship trophy. Enticing looking Indian cuisine comes courtesy of Chesnut Catering Services but a solitary, redundant handpump left me with no choice but to opt for keg Guinness.

Architects, T H Thorpe and partners, were proponents of Brewer's Tudor around Derby, designing The **Toby Carvery**, Nottingham Road, The **Mitre**, Allenton, and **Nag's Head**, Mickleover. The Toby Carvery has been named the Chaddesden Park Hotel and the Beau Brummel in the past and the interior is open plan, clearly designed for families. The carvery and other culinary offerings are available up to 15 hours a day and during licensing hours Doom Bar may be drunk in addition to other occasional guest beers. The



**Nags Head**

impressive Mitre has sadly slipped into history but the Nag's Head, Utttoxeter Road, has a great range of real ales attracting beer drinkers from beyond Mickleover. The Nag's will always be associated with a memorable moment in Rams' history as Stuart McMillan was landlord here in 1946 when he guided Derby to F A Cup glory for the only time in the club's history. **The White Swan**, Shepherd Street in neighbouring Littleover is another place to seek out as there's always something of interest for the discerning drinker who appreciates choice.

Our photograph of the **Anglers Arms**, Spondon, a Hardy and Hanson (Kimberley) house, shows a fine example of Brewer's Tudor before it fell victim to the ball and chain around a decade ago. The **Traveller's Rest**, Ashbourne Road, has survived but other Brewer's Tudor pubs that have passed into history include the **Royal Oak**, Market Place; **Queen's Head**, Victoria Street; **Horse and Trumpet**, Full Street; **Cheshire Cheese**, The Spot. I well remember the latter from the early 1970s as it was my last port of call on a Thursday evening before visiting Clouds, a fabled nightclub on London Road, where I saw Genesis, Status Quo and The Pretty Things for the princely sum of 40p!

It's said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and Mock Tudor certainly affirmed this.



**Chestnut Tree**



**Bloomer Plaque**



**White Swan**



**Anglers Arms**

## Paul Gibson

Sports' Writer, Paul Brown, has written a book entitled *The Ruhleben Football Association: How Steve Bloomer's Footballers Survived a First World War Prison Camp*. Published by Goal Post Books, paperback, 300pp, £10. Available from Amazon or email paulbr@gmail.com



**Traveller's Rest**



**Royal Oak**



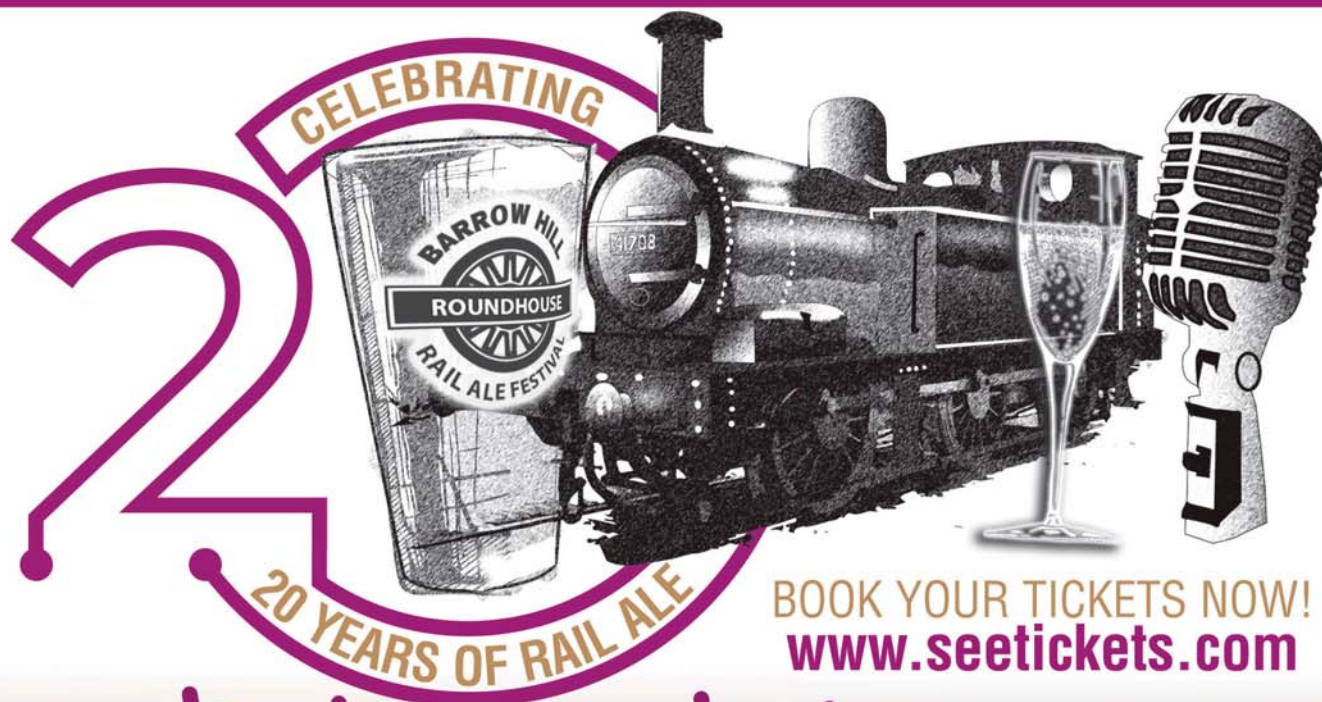
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# Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch

Contact Mark Grist  
m.grist2@sky.com

## Pub of Year

Following the conclusion of the judging process for our Branch Pub of the Year for 2020, we are very pleased to announce that the winner is the **Barley Mow** at Kirk Ireton. A timeless classic village alehouse, with all ale tapped direct from the cask in the cellar, a big open fire, three simply furnished rooms and the new addition of some excellent home-cooked food have all combined to put them at the top of our list. Several branch members led by chairman Dave Etheridge gathered there on Sunday 2nd February to present the winner's certificate. (see photo opposite).

In second place and receiving a highly commended certificate is **Maison du Biere** in Ashbourne. This fantastic tap room/bottle shop is right at the forefront of the beer scene in the town and continues to bring in some amazing beers from all over the UK and beyond. (see photo below)

## Winter Ale Trail

**Maison du Biere** was also declared winner in the recent Winter Ale Trail.

## Pub News

Branch members are very pleased to congratulate Kevin Woolley and Hannah Barton, both long-standing branch members and owners of Kniveton Cider, on taking over the **Red Lion** in Kniveton village, as of early February. They intend to continue the good reputation of the pub for ale offerings, but will also use their cider expertise and contacts to bring in a range of real ciders.

**The Horns** in Ashbourne reopened as a tapas bar/restaurant in early January. It no longer sells real ale, but we wish the new venture well.

Both the **White Swan** and **Ye Olde Vaults** on the market square in the town are due to undergo changes of management as we go to press, but details are not available to confirm.

The **Ostrich** at Longford closed its doors permanently on 15th February after several years of uncertainty and sporadic periods of closure. It is most likely to be turned into a bed & breakfast or holiday let operation.



*Branch Pub of the Year, the Barley Mow at Kirk Ireton*



## Diary Dates

Please note these are subject to confirmation  
- please keep an eye on our Website and Facebook page for these and other events.

**Tuesday 31st March - branch meeting**

- The Red Lion, Kniveton

**Tuesday 28th April - branch meeting**

- The Knockerdown, near Carsington Water

**Tuesday 26th May - AGM**

- Smith's Tavern, Ashbourne



# BURTON & SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CAMRA BRANCH

Contact Theo Hollier: [theo51@btinternet.com](mailto:theo51@btinternet.com)



## Meet the Brewer event at the Weighbridge Inn, Burton

### Report from Les Stretton, Burton & South Derbyshire Branch Clubs Officer

When I arrived at about 6:45pm on no date mentioned there was already a good mix of clientele, a pleasing twelve gathered at the bar, which had three Muirhouse beers on and a guest from Magpie, Nottingham. Waiting for my mate, Steve, to arrive, I started with the pale 3.8%, a good percentage for a school night. We had agreed to attend the event on seeing it in the media. £10 for three pints and a buffet was a jolly good deal! Steve duly arrived and joined me with the excellent pale in hand. During the evening the other offerings were sampled. Tick Tock Boom Best Bitter at 4.5%, probably the favourite amongst those present, and the Hat Trick IPA at 5.2% were complemented by the tasty Cherry Raven Stout from Magpie. I counted 22 attendees for the event, all in friendly conversation. Richard Muir, the brewer (photo below), took his position in the middle of this lovely converted coal yard office (for more information see WhatPub).

Richard opened with some history of his career, having been a milkman and butcher before moving into management which he absolutely hated. He was previously a home brewer and so decided to start again in his garage in 2009. He had a few amusing ditties regarding casks and other equipment strewn over the garden, regaling the time that wooden vessels caught fire in the garage, and another occasion using dustbins full of ice water for cooling etc. Richard decided to expand, buying used equipment from 3B's Brewery in Blackburn in 2011. Successful progress was to follow enabling him to upgrade to a 7.5 barrel plant in 2016.

Going through the brewing process, Richard passed around a bucket which contained various hops and barley varieties. Steve asked about the yeast strain being used, Safale S-04 being the reply (apparently used by Whitbread). In the following Q and A session, someone asked about casks. Richard commented that there are generally two ways of obtaining them, rental or purchase. With rental you pay £7.50 per use, but he had taken the purchase route as he required approximately ten times as many casks than he needed as a serious investment. Answering the next question, he said that brewing is normally undertaken on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and a thirteen hour day is not unusual, with the rest of the week taken up with distribution and running the brewery tap, the Weighbridge. He secured the lease early in 2019, and it is the regular outlet for the Muirhouse Brewery. Generally three Muirhouse and one guest ale are served, the latter normally on a swap basis with other breweries. The next question asked what football team he supported (someone had to ask!). Ipswich was the reply! Quickly moving on, someone else asked

whether any Christmas beers were being brewed this year. The answer was yes: Santa's Little Helper. Finally, there was a question from me: when will the excellent award winning Magnum Mild be available? Richard replied two weeks.

It won't be that long before I visit again and I am looking forward to it! Another thought occurs to me: is the Weighbridge the only place using oversized glasses in Burton?



### Burton & South Derbyshire Christmas Dinner 2019

The Christmas dinner held on Friday 6th December at Branston Golf and Country Club



During the Branch Christmas dinner, a presentation was made by Adrian Wedgwood, Branch CAMRA member who also works for Branston Golf & Country Club, to Michael Gibson, Chairman of the Branch. It was a small token of appreciation from Branston Golf & Country Club for Mike's sterling work as Chairman of CAMRA's Burton & South Derbyshire Branch.

### Ratcliff Ale evening

A large group of beer aficionados met at Marston's Sports & Social Club in December to mark the 150th anniversary of the brewing of Bass, Ratcliff & Gretton's Ratcliff Ale, which is recognised as the oldest still drinkable beer in the world.

Ratcliff Ale was brewed on 16th December 1869 at the now demolished Bass Old Brewery on High Street. Produced to mark

the birth of Richard Henry "Harry" Ratcliff, the son of company director Richard Ratcliff, it was designed to be consumed on Harry's 21st birthday.

Along with Ratcliff Ale, numerous bottles of the other five Bass commemorative ales, or Bass Corkers, were opened, including three bottles of the exceptionally rare 1929 Prince's Ale, and in total £905 was raised for the National Brewery Heritage Trust and Cancer Research UK.

The assembled enthusiasts enjoyed talks from local brewing historian, Ian Webster, and National Brewery Heritage Trust Chairman and ex-Bass director, Dr Harry White, whilst the unique tasting session was led by renowned international beer writer, Roger Protz, who along with a panel consisting of Tony Duckworth and Martin Thomas, both ex-directors at Bass, beer writer Pete Brown, Harry White and Ian Webster, described the old ales in great detail.

"Overall the evening was a huge success," said Harry, "approximately ninety people being given the opportunity to taste a unique and very special collection of beers, spanning one hundred and fifty years."

Over 70 bottles were expertly opened on the night by Gary Summerfield, Netty Webster and Andy Jackson.

"What was surprising was that the older bottle corks came out pretty much intact whilst the later ones tended to crumble," said Gary Summerfield. "Maybe the corks were better quality back then."

"I was very worried that we wouldn't have enough beer to go around!" exclaimed a relieved Ian Webster. "As it turned out every bottle we opened was drinkable and each person got to try all six. It was magical to be able to toast with Ratcliff Ale! Afterwards I had people telling me they'd never forget tonight. It was a unique experience for an amazing beer."

"It was a fascinating and rewarding event, tasting beers from a century or more ago and finding them in perfect drinking condition," said Roger Protz who had never tried Ratcliff Ale before. "The most memorable was the Ratcliff Ale, 150 years old. There was a frisson of excitement in the room when this beer was sampled. It was clear in the glass and was amazingly complex, as fruity as sherry or Madeira but with a delicate balance of hops."



Photo courtesy of Liam Murkin



# BURTON & SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CAMRA BRANCH

Contact Theo Hollier: [theo51@btinternet.com](mailto:theo51@btinternet.com)



Photo courtesy of Netty Webster

## Burton Beer Festival 2020

It's that time of year again, coming up to the annual Burton Beer Festival, which is one of the longest running CAMRA festivals held at the same venue. This is the 41st annual festival, but there have been 14 other festivals between 1996 and 2009 when two festivals were held each year, including the "one-off" Swad-Fest. The initial "second" festival in 1996 was a Winter Ales Festival held in January and these continued annually until 2007. In 2003 & 2004 the CAMRA National Winter Ales Festival was incorporated with ours. The last two "second" ones were called Spring Festivals and were held in March of 2008 and 2009. In the following year the annual festival was switched from September

to March and has remained there as the sole annual festival ever since.

## National Bass Day, Easter Saturday, 11th April 2020

Ian Thurman, originally from Burton but later moving to the Derbyshire Peak District and now a member of the CAMRA Chesterfield Branch, came to our January Branch meeting. He advised us of the current plight of Bass Pale Ale and the aim to get Bass recognised as the best crafted ale in the UK. The concept and aims of the first National Bass Day were born.

The 250th anniversary of the purchase by William Bass of his first Brewery in Burton is approaching, but not too soon as it was in 1777. So, this year and for the next six, we can start practising and build up to a crescendo in 2027. The slow demise of Bass Pale Ale has been a sad affair: sad because in the 1980s, nationally, there were 9,000 pubs regularly selling Bass. By 2011 it was down to about 3,000 and now is only about 500. Also, because the world's largest brewer, AB Inbev, has allowed this to happen by doing little or nothing to promote Bass Pale Ale. At the very least, National Bass Day could raise the profile of Bass and halt the decline, and at the best, reverse it.

The plan for Saturday 11th April is for a pub crawl in Burton. Details are not finalized yet but it's most likely that we will be visiting the pubs that regularly sell Bass in and around the centre of Burton. Lists of pubs regularly serving Bass can be viewed on the CAMRA WhatPub website. Alternatively, lists of every Bass pub in Great Britain by county can be found at [thewickingman.wordpress.com](http://thewickingman.wordpress.com). There are a couple of differences between the two lists that need to be checked before the Bass Ale Trail is planned. Details will be posted on the Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA website.

## Branch Meetings

**Wednesday, 11th March**, meetings at the Crown Inn, Newhall: committee meeting 7.30pm, branch meeting 8.00pm.

**Wednesday, 22nd April**, AGM meetings at the Albion Taphouse, Shobnall: committee meeting 7.00pm, AGM 7.30pm, branch meeting to follow around 9.30pm.

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# EREWASH VALLEY CAMRA BRANCH

Contact **Chris Freer**  
chris.freer@ntlworld.com

## EREWASH VALLEY CAMRA REPORT

### SOCIAL REPORT

#### CHRISTMAS TRIP TO CHESTERFIELD (WHITTINGTON MOOR)

On Saturday 7th December last, twenty CAMRA members from Erewash, Nottingham and Chesterfield branches met up in Chesterfield at the Rectory, a large and spacious pub with a pleasant atmosphere and a good selection of beers. After a short walk to Elder Way we boarded the No.1 bus which took us to Newbold where we were dropped off at the Nags Head, a lovely community pub which made us all very welcome. After an hour or so we made the return trip back into town to the Chesterfield Arms, followed by a short walk to the Neptune, a pub with great character. Another short walk (plenty of short walks in this trip!) brought us to a bus stop on Sheffield Road to take the short ride to Whittington Moor and the Derby Tup, followed by another steady walk back to the Beer Parlour for a warm welcome and selection of beers. Our last port of call in Chesterfield was the Glass Works, a newly refurbished pub now owned by Brampton Brewery. We would like to thank everyone who came on the trip, with special thanks to David and Heather, our Chesterfield members and our guides on the day. Carole & Michael



*The Chesterfield 'touring party' pose for the camera at the Rectory*

### SURVEY TRIP

We resurrected a project, last undertaken several years ago, by chartering a minibus for a survey trip to the outlying areas of our branch, targeting pubs that in many cases are difficult for active members to reach by public transport. Thus fourteen hardy souls set out on Saturday 1st February to take in several pubs to the north and west of our elongated region, with most of the hostleries seemingly happy to receive our custom! We started out on the stroke of midday at the Old Black Horse in Mapperley for a mix of national and local beers, before moving on to the Punchbowl in West Hallam

where we learned that the licensees' Sarah and Scott, are shortly to leave after fourteen years at the pub. Passing by the now boarded-up White Hart, we reached the Carpenters Arms at Dale Abbey for some well-kept ales, before the short hop to Stanton by Dale and its two pubs, the Chequers and the Stanhope Arms, the latter with several microbrewery beers on tap. From there it was onto the Seven Oaks, a beacon of ale within the industrial part of Stanton, before heading up to Loscoe and the busy Eclipse, a popular family pub, and finally settling in for a 'night cap' at the Tip Inn micropub in Loscoe, now operated by the Alter Ego Brewing Company, where we found two dark beers on tap, the only ones we encountered all day! So a valuable research - and also hopefully campaigning - trip was enjoyed by all.



*The 'Survey Party' outside the Carpenters Arms in Dale Abbey*

### PUB & BREWERY NEWS

There are several pubs in our area either closed for refurbishment or awaiting new tenants as we close for press (February 1st). Closed, awaiting new tenants, was the Barge in Long Eaton, with new licensees pending at the Punchbowl in Ilkeston. The Blue Bell Inn - aka 'Bass House' - in Long Eaton is currently closed for refurbishment. Good news for drinkers is that the Lockkeepers Rest at Sawley Locks has awoken from its annual January hibernation! The Tip Inn Real Ale Bar in Loscoe has been taken over by the Alter Ego Brewing Company. Six hand pulls are in service and owner, Matt, intends always to have at least one dark beer amongst the offering. On the brewery front, and widely publicised on social media, the Nutbrook Brewery has put its equipment and recipes up for sale.

### WINTER ALE TRAIL

Results were: 1st Ilson Tap; 2nd Prince of Wales, both Ilkeston. Certificates to follow.

### LOCALE OUTLETS IN EREWASH VALLEY AREA

Angry Bee, 2 Godfrey St, Heanor  
Bulls Head, 1 Wilsthorpe Rd, Breaston  
Burnt Pig, 53 Market St, Ilkeston  
Carpenters Arms, Dale Rd, Dale Abbey  
Chequers Inn, 10 Main St, Breaston  
Coach & Horses, Draycott  
Crafty Crow, Ilkeston  
Crooked Cask, Heanor  
Crown Inn, 6 Church St, Heanor  
Dew Drop Inn, Ilkeston  
Erewash Hotel, Ilkeston  
General Havelock, Ilkeston  
Great Northern, Langley Mill  
Draycott Tap House, 29 Victoria St, Draycott  
Hole in The Wall, Regent St, Long Eaton  
Ilson Tap, bottom of Bath St, Ilkeston  
Inn in The Middle, Langley Mill  
Lockkeepers Rest, Sawley  
Marlpool Ale House, Marlpool  
Prince of Wales, 69 South St, Ilkeston  
Punchbowl, 43 The Village, West Hallam  
Queens Head, Marlpool  
Redemption Ale House, Ray St, Heanor  
Red Lion, 2 Derby Rd, Heanor  
Sawley Junction, 176 Tamworth Road, Sawley  
Spanish Bar, 76 South St, Ilkeston  
Stanhope Arms, Stanton by Dale  
York Chambers, Long Eaton

### CAMRA Discounts

Please remember to show your CAMRA card  
The Bridge, Sandiacre - 15p off a pint  
Coach & Horse, Draycott - 20p off pint, 10p off half also accept Wetherspoon Vouchers  
Draycott Tap House, Draycott - 20p off pint 10p off a half  
Great Northern, Langley Mill - 15p off a pint  
Hogarth's, Ilkeston - 20p off pint  
Mill & Brook, Long Eaton - 10p off pint, 5p off half  
Navigation, Breaston - 20p off a pint  
Plough, Sandiacre - 10p off a pint  
Prince of Wales, Ilkeston - 15p off pint  
Rutland Cottage, Ilkeston - 15p off a pint  
Stanhope Arms, Stanton by Dale - 15p off pint  
Steamboat, Trent Lock - 20p off a pint, 10p off a half including real cider  
Three Horseshoes, Ilkeston - 20p off a pint, 10p off a half  
Trent Lock Inn, Trent Lock - 20p off pint  
Victoria, Draycott - 25p off a pint  
White Lion, Sawley - 10p off a pint, 5p off a half  
York Chambers, Long Eaton - 10p off pint, 5p off a half including real cider

### FUTURE MEETINGS

*All branch meetings are held on a Monday and start at 8.00pm*

**Monday 6th April**

Sawley Junction, Long Eaton

**Monday 11th May**

Dewdrop, Ilkeston

For further details contact secretary  
Richard Syson at [secretary@erewash-camra.org](mailto:secretary@erewash-camra.org)

### BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: Gary Higgins  
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## Matlock and Dales CAMRA Branch

Contact [mad.camra@live.co.uk](mailto:mad.camra@live.co.uk)

### Thorn Tree, Pub of the Year, is top of the town

What better tonic for a grey January day than exercise and a good pint? I decided it was about time I paid a visit to our Pub of the Year, The Thorn Tree, Matlock. I am a Wirksworth girl, so do my bit keeping my local pubs from this side of our patch in business, you must understand.

The exercise aspect being the main challenge, it was with gritted teeth I left the bus station in the valley for the ascent to the top of the hill and the Thorn Tree. This was a really pleasant meandering walk through houses in a variety of styles mainly reflecting the spa town's historic past.

Once I arrived at the Thorn Tree I had to pause to admire the stunning view. Masson Hill, High Tor, and Barrel Edge in the distance which looms over Wirksworth, all add to the vista. Sadly it was not warm enough to sit out in the beer garden at the front of the pub.

There was a warm welcome inside the Thorn Tree. There are two cosy rooms. As always there is a good selection of beers in various styles. This included the three regular beers: Ruddles, Bass, and Timothy Taylor Landlord. There are also four changing beers. Today these were Greedy Goose, Caledonian Deuchars IPA, and Five Points XPA.

Pat Stevenson, who is the landlord, along with his wife, Jo, was having a break today from his very busy kitchen. He explained that on weekday lunch times the pub is a haven for County Hall's staff during lunch break. There is a pie night on Wednesdays - remember Pat's pies at our County Hall beer festivals? Sunday lunch is also on the menu. Pat has been at the pub for nearly thirteen years, and for twelve of them it has been in the Good Beer Guide.

Two locals were busy playing dominoes. One had been coming to the pub for fifty years. The other also admitted a long association with the pub, having first visited with his mother, aged six months. I finally selected a window seat to admire the view and savour my beer.

PS. The X17 Sheffield bus (Stagecoach) offers a short level walk here from the Duke of Wellington bus stop. The M1 (also Stagecoach) will drop you off pretty close by.

### Members Discount at the Feather Star.

Jo at the Feather Star in Wirksworth is offering a discount to celebrate being in the Good Beer Guide. This will be the first pub in Wirksworth to do this. She has been very impressed to welcome CAMRA enthusiasts from all over the country, one who drove seventy miles out of his way. The only condition is, members, PLEASE SCORE YOUR BEER.

Angie Corby

## BRANCH DIARY

### MEETINGS:

**AGM:** Thursday 30th April, Midland, Matlock Bath.

## DISCOUNTS in the MATLOCK & DALES CAMRA AREA

Available on presentation of your current membership card.

### BIRCHOVER

Druids Inn, Main Street

Red Lion, Main Street

### MATLOCK

The Crown, Bakewell Road

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2010, Dale Road

### MATLOCK BATH

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### WINSTER

Old Bowling Green, East Bank

### WIRKSWORTH

Feather Star, St Johns Street

## LocAle

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Druids

Red Lion

Barley Mow

Boat Inn

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Black Swan

Red Lion

Three Stags

Whitworth Park

Jug and Glass

News Room

Crown

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Remarkable Hare

Farmacy

Twenty Ten

Midland

Fishpond

Red Lion

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Beeley

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Birchover

Bonsall

Cromford

Crich

Crich

Crich Tramway Village

Darley Bridge

Darley Dale

Lea

Matlock

Matlock

Matlock

Matlock

Matlock

Matlock

Matlock Bath

Matlock Bath

Matlock Green

Middleton by Wirksworth

Winster

Wirksworth

Wirksworth

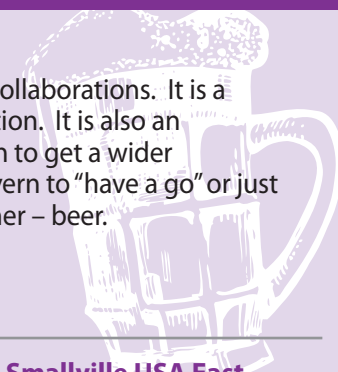




# TopBeer – The bottle and can review



All four of the beers in this review are the result of collaborations. It is a great way to share knowledge and ferment innovation. It is also an opening for lesser known brewers like Dancing Man to get a wider audience, for passionate non-brewers like Brew Cavern to “have a go” or just a good way to celebrate what brings people together – beer.



## **Shoal Peach Pale Ale 4.3%, Vibrant Forest & Dancing Man from The Beer Trap, Belper at £4.70 per 440ml.**

Although billed as a peach pale, straight out of the can it hits you with a bold bouquet of mango. However, this fades away quickly allowing the peaches to seep out. You

may also recognise the faintest smell of coal but, then again, not if you have never smelled coal before! When you take the beer on the tongue the initial impressions do not include peach but lean more towards soft grapefruit, later becoming unripe peaches and finally moving to Seville oranges on the back of the tongue. All the time it drifts from bitter to sweet to sour to bitter and round again with more flavours coming out the more you drink. It is a fruit cocktail in a can and it gives you lots to relish as your glass empties.



## **5 Way IPA 6.8%, Fierce & Fyne & Overtone & Vault City & 71 from Brews of the World, Burton at £6.20 per 550ml**

Despite its pale straw colour, as it pours out it brings forth the aromas of dark brown sugars that morph into a drier, slightly medicinal smell with the

faintest whiff of mouthwash. In the mouth this unctuous liquor tastes of the soft flesh of crusty bread plus savoury celery leaf which is augmented by undertones of sweetness. Again, the aftertaste is a slightly incongruous mix of savoury salad and sweet honeydew melon. This beer lacks a unifying direction or any definable character and one senses that the input from five different brewers has resulted in a beer that is “designed by committee.”



## **Smallville USA East Meets West IPA 6.2%, Totally Brewed & Brew Cavern from The Beer Trap, Belper at £5.30 per 440ml**

The can hisses forth an earthy, yeasty and faintly sweet bouquet that brings to mind fields of dry cut straw, like those on the vast plains of the mid-west USA.

A refreshingly sweet beer that balances tangy flavours like glacé pineapple chunks and the maltiness of the crust of a tiger loaf; hints of each, but distinct from both. It is both smooth and more-ish, willing you on at every sip and leaving you with a satisfying IPA aftertaste that is as comfortable as your favourite pair of slippers. After all is said and done, this is not a beer of bold and ambitious flavours, but it is enjoyable and a pleasure to share with friends.



## **Tramshed DDHIPA 7%, Salt & Track from Brews of the World, Burton at £5.75 per 330ml**

Bursting forth is the vibrant, albeit short lived, smell of pineapple. As it settles in the glass and the head thins to a biscuit of fine persistent bubbles, the fragrance of lychees rises up to meet the nose.

Further investigation elicits a faint ephemeral whiff of rubber, the sort you get off specialist swimwear (or specialist evening wear). There is nothing delicate or ephemeral about the taste though: it is a massive hit of alcohol. Across the tongue an Iron Curtain of alcohol is raised, preventing any flavour from escaping. As you work down the glass, the alcohol abates and its heat fades leaving a softer mouthfeel. Yet what emerges is a monotone and one-dimensional flavour that is unfathomable, yet not unpleasant. Perhaps stone fruits, perhaps not. Despite the bold opening, the finale is understated offering an aftertaste that is undistinguishable from water. Not the “in your face” double dry hoped IPA you might expect, but pleasant enough.



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March/April – **February 1st**

May/June – **April 1st**

July/August – **June 1st**

September/October – **August 1st**

November/December – **October 1st**

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10 Newton Close,  
Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 1TN.**

### DERBY DRINKER INFORMATION

Derby Drinker is distributed free of charge to pubs in and around Derby by Kevin Hepworth & his team.

Published by: the Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale.  
Printed by: Jam Print

Edited by: Gareth Stead

Mail to:  
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Design & layout by: Jam Print  
[www.jamprint.co.uk](http://www.jamprint.co.uk)

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