

Issue 194

March/April 2022

ERBY FREE PINKET Cheers

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

Derby Camra Pub of the Year Finalists 2022



Smithfield Alehouse



Royal Oak - Ockbrook



Alexandra Hotel





Town Street Tap - Duffield



Spirit Vaults - Melbourne

Full details inside plus our usual features and events.









Derby CAMRA **Branch**

DERBY CAMRA Pub of the Year Finalists

After a vote by Branch Members the Derby Branch of CAMRA has selected its Pub of the Year Finalists for 2022 (See front page photos) with further details below.

The City Pub of the Year finalists are the Alexandra Hotel on Siddals Road, the Furnace Inn on Duke Street & the Smithfield Alehouse on Meadow Road.

The **Country Pub of the Year** finalists are the Royal Oak in Ockbrook, the Spirit Vaults in Melbourne & the Town Street Tap in Duffield.

There will also be one overall **Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year** from the 6 finalists mentioned above.

There now follows an intensive period of judging by Branch Members who will visit each pub and score them not just on the quality of the Real Ale but taking other things into account like the atmosphere, style, décor, furnishings and cleanliness of the pub.

The results will then be tallied up and announced at a future Branch Meeting with the winners and runners-up featuring in the next issue of Derby Drinker which will hopefully include a selection of presentation photos of the pubs with their certificates.

Congratulations then to all the pubs involved for making this year's shortlist.

DERBY CAMRA Club of the Year

Branch Members have also been voting for the Derby Branch of CAMRA Club of the Year finalists 2022 and the following Clubs have been shortlisted:-

The Jubilee Club in Chaddesden; The Spondon Liberal Club and the Victory Club in Allenton.

Along with the pubs a selection of judges will now visit each venue to mark them along a slightly different set of criteria with the results being announced at a future Branch Meeting. The winner and runners-up will also feature in the next Derby Drinker.

Congratulations then to all the Clubs involved in this year's competition.

DERBY CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year

This is another competition that is currently ongoing with pubs throughout the Branch area that feature a real cider/perry being judged against each other.

The winner will feature in a future issue of Derby Drinker.

Branch Meetings & Socials

These are all listed in the Diary below and also on the Branch Calendar on the Derby Camra website. We have recently taken on a new Social Secretary as well and we hope to get some trips and things organised in the near future.

Branch Beer Festival

Quite a few of you have been asking, "When is the next Derby Camra Beer Festival?" Well the short answer is that we simply don't know at present, our main venue the Roundhouse hasn't been putting on events through the Pandemic due to it being an educational establishment. We are hoping this will change in the future and that we will be able to return to this historic & unique venue at some point. For now though we have been looking at other possible places around town but nothing seems to have matched our expectations to date so it could be that we may run another joint event with 'Derby Live' like we did last year on Derby Market Place. It's a case of watch this space I'm afraid.







Derby CAMRA Branch

The Five **Branches Winter Ale Trail 2022**



The Winter Ale Trail which was featured in the last Issue

of Derby Drinker has been ongoing throughout January & February.

80 pubs from the following CAMRA Branches (Derby, Amber Valley, Ashbourne, Erewash and Mansfield) took part in this year's trail with a sticker given out at each pub when supping a pint or half of Real Ale.

The trail itself was well supported by Camra members and other punters from throughout Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Sheffield. And I your Editor managed to visit every single venue this year to fully complete the trail card and I must say overall there was a great choice of ale with the quality being very good and it was nice to see pubs being well supported again. Awards to some of the pubs will follow with photos appearing in a future Derby Drinker.

Pentrich Revolution Ale Trail

We hope to run a similar trail to the Winter Trail in the May/June issue of Derby Drinker. It will feature pubs from Amber Valley, Derby, Erewash and Nottingham CAMRA areas all linked by the history of the event (see article on page 15).

East Midlands Regional Camra Meeting

Derby Camra will host the next Regional Meeting on **Saturday 26 March** which will take place at the Flowerpot on King Street in Derby beginning at 12 Noon. All members are welcome to attend so why not pop along and catch up with fellow Camra members from the East Midlands region.

Summer of Pubs **Promotion**

Repeated lockdowns (and reopenings) since March 2020 have jeopardized the viability of our pubs and clubs in a way never



experienced before. Here in Derby Camra we are urging everyone to start safely using pubs and clubs again.

Planning work has now started on a scheme called Derby Summer of Pubs to celebrate the awesome spaces and selections of real ale, cider and perry we have in the City (and beyond). More details are to be announced in the next edition of Derby Drinker. If the meantime if you are interested and want to take part in the Derby Summer of Pubs initiative then please contact us at

summerofpubs@derbycamra.org.uk



Website – www.derby.camra.org.uk Facebook - DerbyCAMRA Twitter – @DerbyCAMRA

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

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

MARCH

Thu 10th - Branch Meeting - Spondon Liberal Club - 8pm Wed 16th - Social - Smithfield, Derby - 8pm **Tue 29th** - Social - Standing Order, Derby - 7.30pm

Thu 14th - Branch Meeting - Alexandra Hotel, Derby - 8pm

Thu 12th - Branch Meeting - TBA - 8pm

Contact the Social Secretary, by email socials@derbycamra.org.uk (check the Facebook page for upcoming events)

Real Ale - Live Music From the Derby Drinker Area

Wotcha people, Gal Galahad coming at ya with our new regular feature on Real Ale Music pubs......

Thanks for all the good comments that continue to come in about our new regular feature on Real Ale Music venues throughout the Derby Drinker area.

In this the third in the series we move on to a Derby backstreet, west end local, the **Horse & Groom** which has featured free top quality live music for a long, long time and offers a range of Real Ales to sup while enjoying it.

I caught up with Jon Shaw who has followed his predecessors, Adam and Sarah Adkins taste for live music at the pub and asked him a few questions about it.....

1) When did you take over the pub?

I find it hard to believe but I've now been at the pub for 4 years this March, how time flies when you're having fun.

2) Live music was a feature beforehand what made you want to continue with it?

Music was an integral part of life at the Groom before my time, some great local bands had their first gigs here, Midnight Pumpkin Trucks, The Four Muppeteers to name a couple. That said, I was unaware of how much of a part it played until about 10 mins after opening the doors on my first day when I was literally bombarded with bands and customers alike asking me when music was returning, when's the first gig, who's playing, oh boy. Did I need help and it came in the form of Steve Fletch, Metal Fatigue can play this Saturday and there began my love affair with live music in pubs.

3) Did you put any music on at any other pubs you've been involved with?

I've been in the trade 20 years but all my previous pubs like The Dragon at Willington

were either food led or catered for wedding, so switching to a music venue took me out of my comfort zone but its been an enjoyable learning curve.

4) What are you main days for live music at the pub?

Saturday nights have always been band night at the Groom, something that we've continued to maintain.

During lockdown, we created an outside garden with a stage capable of housing a full band and have had many a singer or duo out there on a Sunday afternoon, something that we want to carry on again this year both inside and out. On the second and last Wednesday of each month we are entertained by The Westend Jazz band playing classic Jazz. This is proving to be very popular.









5) What sort of musical styles do you have on or is it abit of a cross section?

The Groom has always been predominately a rock venue but we've tried to mix it up in recent years, we now cater for all genre of music from Blues to Swing to Punk.

6) Any personal favourites?

Personal favourites, nothing like putting me on the spot. We have so many talented groups that it's impossible to pick one out and honestly when you're behind the bar pulling pints you don't always get to see or listen to the music. I must mention Darius & Agent Utah, who go out their way to fill in if we ever get a late cancellation, cheers Guys.

7) Anything else you think would be relevant?

Looking forward, we are fully booked now every Saturday until January next year with some amazing bands, we also have Kev Fest X returning after a covid break, 10 bands in a day, beer festival and food, keep your eyes peeled for list of bands, it all happens on Sunday 1st May.

So there you have it straight from the horse & groom's mouth the full lowdown on one of the best backstreet 'free' live music venues around so why not pop along to a show or two if you can. Full listings can be seen within the pub, on their facebook page or in the Derby Gig Guide mag which is available in most music venues around town.

Until next time Peeps. Keep it Real, Keep it Live!!

Gal Galahad





Calling all Real Ale live music venues throughout the Derby Drinker area, if you would like to feature in a future Issue then drop me an email livemusic@derby.camra.org.uk







1ST & 2ND APRIL 2022



















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THE HOPTIMIST - Spondon's first micropub

Spondon's new micropub, the Hoptimist has opened on Sitwell Street serving a wide range of locally-sourced real ales and craft beers.

The new venture opened just before Christmas in the shop unit that was formerly Spondon Hardware which had closed down after 10 years of trading. It is run by local residents, Tracey and Derek Chambers who previously ran the Vernon Arms in Locko Road until March 2019.

Major refurbishment first began on the place in June 2021 and the end result has seen a micropub created with a deep interior which has a room at the front of exposed brickwork and wooden planked bar servery and a rear conservatory done in a Nordic style with pine prominent. This room is affectionally referred to as the 'Snug'. Overall these alterations have created a nice cosy, intimate atmosphere within the building. On the bar front there are four real ales on hand pump which are regularly rotated from locallysourced breweries such as Alter Ego, Black Hole, Blue Monkey, Buxton, Littleover & Shiny to name a few. There are also three taps for craft beers and their son Callum helps in the choosing of all the weekly beers.

So far there's been a great response from the local community and surrounding villages with a super busy Christmas and New Year's period but now the word has started to spread further afield people are coming from all over the place to see this new micropub. The opening hours are usually from about 2pm to 10pm (8pm Sunday) apart from Mondays when it is closed. There are also regular buses to Spondon from both Derby and Ilkeston and conveniently the stops are right outside the pub on both sides of the road.

So if you've yet to experience this new venture then why not give it a try and if you don't live local just catch the regular Ilkeston Flyer bus from Derby or Ilkeston.

Gareth Stead











The Brunswick, Derby

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- Derby CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year 2019, 2018, 2016 & 2015
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Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch

Contact Mark Grist m.grist2@sky.com

Pub of the Season

The Branch Pub of the Season for Spring 2022 is the Red Lion at Kniveton. Congratulations to Kevin and Hannah, who have now confirmed their first cider festival will take place on 8th-10th July.



Red Lion, Kniveton

RBL club - Parwich

Branch members made the short trip out to Parwich village in January to make a first-ever visit to the RBL club there for the branch meeting. A total of 14 attendees enjoyed a good meeting and some fine beers from Dancing Duck and Howard Town. Our thanks to Alan at the club for hosting the meeting and we intend to return there in the summer months.

Branch Beer Festival

We are happy to confirm that dates have just been finalised for the resumption of our beer and cider festival, returning once more to the Town Hall from Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th September, the last day coinciding with the second running of the town's Soapbox

Derby. Due to a reconfiguration of the building, we have a reduced area available and therefore intend to make some adjustments and reductions in the scale of the operation, although we hope to still offer the usual range of around 40 ales and a dozen ciders.

Winter Ale Trail

It was nice to see drinkers visiting our 3 pubs taking part in this year's 5 Branches Winter Ale Trail (Queen's Vaults, Smiths Tavern & House of Beer). We hope you enjoyed your visit to each pub in Ashbourne on route.

Saracen's Head at Shirley

The Saracen's Head at Shirley has recently changed hands, now run by the team behind the Green Man and also Bar 33 in the town. We wish them continued success with the group of businesses they now manage.

Queen's Vaults & Last Post

Walter and George at the Queen's Vaults have just taken back on the Last Post in Derby after it has been closed for more than two years and it is intended that Walter will be overseeing the revival of the Derby outlet. Again, we wish them every success in their venture and we intend to run a minibus to the new pub once open again in March.

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 29th March, 8pm.

Branch Meeting - Ex-Servicemen's Club, Ashbourne

Tuesday 26th April, 8pm.

Branch Meeting - Red Lion, Hognaston

Tuesday 31st May AGM, Smith's Tavern

Titanic Brewery opens new pub in Matlock



Titanic Brewery from Stoke on Trent which was founded in 1985 has grown from very humble beginnings to the production of over 4 million pints a year. The have also steadily expanded their pubs portfolio over the years and it now includes 8 Pubs and 5 Bod Bars.

Their latest venture in Matlock opened in February and becomes the fifth Bod Bar they have opened in 4 years. The name Bod pays homage to the road where they opened their first one, Bodmin Avenue in Stafford. The bod café bar concept came about as they wanted to create a relaxing and comfortable environment where all the local community could come together, meet and socialise. All of their bod outlets have a similar look and feel which was created so every environment has the same friendly and welcoming feel. All of their bods are open during the day and into the evening whether that's for a coffee and a bacon sandwich or a pint of Titanic Beer and some Nachos.

The Matlock one is situated on the busy Dale Road in a building that was formally a furniture stall although originally it had been a Boots the Chemists 100 years ago. The pub is open plan & quite spacious inside with some nice chandeliers & tiling throughout. It has a rear room of open brick walls with tiles on the ceiling and a small side room which is a kind of snug. The bar has six handpumps featuring 4 Titanic beers and 2 guests with craft, bottles and cans also available. All in all it is a pleasant & relaxing place to visit and is easily reached from Derby by both bus and train so why not give it a try. There's also a few other Real Ale venues near by as well which are well worth a visit.

Gareth Stead



Belper goes Green - Beer & Cider Festival 2022



Friday 10th June to Sunday 12th June

We are pleased to report that Belper goes Green will be happening again after a two years break.

Transitions Belper have contacted Belper Cricket Club who have kindly offered to host the event this year. The Cricket Club have asked Amber Valley CAMRA to provide the Beer Festival Tent as in previous years.

Of course we are very happy to cooperate. The dates fixed by Transitions Belper are Friday 10th June to Sunday 12th June. There will be 50 beers and 20 ciders & perry.

The Beer Tent will open from 4pm on Friday until 11pm; Saturday 12 noon to 11pm; Sunday 12 noon to finish.

On Saturday there will be a cricket match in progress between 1pm and 7.30pm.

For more information go to www.transitionbelper.org/belper-goes-green

Nigel Heathcote

Amber Valley CAMRA

The Last Post has not been played as the Micropub is set to re-open

erby's second micropub was the Last Post on Uttoxeter Old Road which opened towards the end of 2014 and joined its sister micropub, the Little Chester Ale House which was the first to open in 2012. Both were owned and operated by the dynamic duo, Walter Scott & George Lambert from Wentwell Brewery however less than a year after opening it had been passed on to Muirhouse Brewery who then passed it on to Chris and Karen O'Brien who had been running it for them. Things seemed to be ticking along nicely until the Pandemic hit when the pub closed but unlike most other pubs it has failed to reopen since because of Chris's poor health despite several rumours and false dawns which had most people thinking that the Last Post had definitely been played. However there now seems to be light at the end of the tunnel with the pub due to

re-open soon under its original ownership of George & Walter who will be returning for a second spell which will be great news for the pub.

The Last Post was so named as the building it's in was a former Post Office and it was a very warm & welcoming pub from the moment you stepped through the front door. The interior was V shaped around the bar with the seating being very comfortable for such a small space and the fixtures and fittings gave the pub a convivial and relaxing atmosphere. The bar had 3 to 4 real ales on from a variety of different breweries and it's hoped these will continue under its new ownership. It remains to be seen whether the entertainment will return though which was popular during its last incarnation especially the folk sessions. Although we are not yet sure of the opening days/hours they should be pretty similar to previous.



The pub had been in the Good Beer Guide in 2021 and was voted Derby Camra's best micropub in 2020 so it's hoped that its reopening will see a return to those halcyon days. It will be great to have it back on the scene again and we wish Walter & George all the best in their new/old venture.

Gareth Stead





Burton Bridge Inn

Beeropolis







Burton on Trent Sprin

Burton on Trent recently held an Ale Trail and if you're headed for the famous brewing town at any point, here's a preview of what to expect from some of Burton's excellent hostelries.

It barely seems credible that it was fully forty years ago that ex Ind Coope employees, Bruce Wilkinson and Geoff Mumford, bought the Fox and Goose, a Bass house on Bridge Street, renaming it the Burton Bridge Brewery. Today, we've become accustomed to microbreweries springing up, but back then this was a relatively new concept, and audacious in Burton on Trent, a town dominated by huge breweries. Bruce and Geoff used their expertise to brew the all malt Bridge Bitter on the premises, winning the Bitter Class at the Great British Beer Festival in 1982, thus a star was born. Today, the beautifully furnished interior of the Burton Bridge Inn is incompatible with my 1980s remembrance and the opportunity to sample up to 7 own brewed beers means you're unlikely to be leaving in a hurry.

Turning left into High Street, **Beeropolis** beckoned, a micro pub where mirrors pay homage to the town's brewing heritage. I had hoped to sample the latest incarnation of draught Allsopp's but this was unavailable so I tried 3P's Cap Lamp vanilla mild from Woodville which lacked body. Those with a penchant for craft keg will note the fridge packed with myriad cans and there are a dozen keg lines. A TV screen has the latest drinks' offerings.

Further along High Street, **The Crossing** soon hoves into view, which was known as the Blue Posts when listed in CAMRA's inaugural Good Beer Guide in 1974, and is one of a quartet of pubs overseen by Martin Roper and Denise Sage. A deep interior has at least three distinct areas; the raised middle lounge area has vintage furniture, whilst, further back, there is



period décor. The large L shaped front portion with crossed beam ceiling is styled traditionally with a contemporary twist. Salopian Hop Twister, Dancing Duck Ay Up, Blue Monkey Infinity IPA, Draught Bass and Doom Bar vied for attention together with a food menu which is regularly updated with new dishes. It was interesting to note how many women were drinking pints, and, outside, there is seating at the front and a long patio at the rear.

The Royal Oak, Market Place, has undergone a renaissance following acquisition by Fownes (West Midlands) brewery. Behind an attractive Tudor style façade, are burgundy walls with black beamed, white ceilings. The Oak is essentially open plan but with comfortable, cosy corners and banquette seating from which to view live bands performing on the raised area. Michelle also hosts regular quizzes and open mic nights. Six Fownes' beers on handpump were available when I called.

Craig Pearce and Loz Petrie run the Dog Inn on neighboroughing Lichfield Street, which boasts Burton's biggest selection of draught real ale. Owned by Black Country Ales since 2015, their beers feature strongly but with Backyard, Quantock, Coach House, Oakham and North Country breweries also represented, together with that traditional Burton staple, Pedigree. Loz is a landlady with a positive "can do" attitude and is relishing the Burton Ale Trail in which she's offering Salopian beers. A large U-shaped bar servery is surrounded by wood panelled walls and fireplaces underneath a rare wood-framed ceiling. Burton CAMRA Pub of the Year winner in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Retracing my steps and turning left into Station Street, a good walk found the Grade 2 listed **Devonshire Arms** which Carl and Nicki Stout bought from Burton Bridge Brewery. This well-appointed pub has gone from strength to strength, having been judged Burton and South Derbyshire CAMRA Pub of the Year. The public bar at the front has a tiled floor and impressive collections of Ind Coope beer mats, whilst at the back there are differing well-furnished areas with a stylish vaulted ceiling in one corner. Here, old Burton photographs and inventories of pubs, Beer Houses and breweries from the past adorn the walls.

igs Into Life in March

Three Burton Bridge beers complement four changing guests, one of which was the superb Gates Reservoir 4.6% abv, brewed in the town. There are regular mid-week speciality food nights which are fully booked up three months hence!

A little further along Station Street, towards the railway station, we turn left into Cross Street to find the CAMRA National Inventory listed classic

Coopers Tavern with its multi-roomed interior. Packed with visual breweriana interest and, unusually, bereft of a bar counter, which confuses some on their first visit, this has long been a haunt of historians and beer aficionados. Reminders of the Bass brewery nearby abound, not least through the double doors leading into the delightful William Bass Meeting Room (pictured). The Coopers is now one of a chain of tied houses run by Joule's brewery of Market Drayton, Shropshire, its beers naturally featuring together with guests and Draught Bass straight from the cask. Live music and an outside area for fair weather drinking also boost patronage. As an aside, it was nice to see Adam and Sarah Adkin, former licensees of Derby's Horse and Groom, enjoying a drink here.

Back onto Station Street, the inconspicuous Last Heretic is our next stop where I had the pleasure of meeting landlord, Peter Spittles. Burton born Edward Wightman was the last English heretic to be burned at the stake for heresy in 1612. Cask and craft keg drinkers are catered for here with Leatherbritches Mad Ruby, Magpie Cherry Raven and Green Duck Session IPA competing with the likes of the New Bristol brewery's (keg) Big Cinder Toffee Stout. Its strong roasted coffee aroma being matched by its alcoholic strength. The focal point of a deep, light wood, split level interior is a circular table fashioned from a glass topped wheel atop an upstanding barrel. Framed bottle labels from Samuel Allsopp and its successor, Ind Coope, give a nod to the town's heritage.

Nearer the railway station is the white painted **Roebuck Inn**, forever associated with the launch of the brilliant Ind Coope Draught Burton Ale in 1976, and a warming open fire greets you near the entrance vestibule. A long, narrow interior with cosy corners has attractive, green wall panelling to dado rail level and bare

planked floorboards throughout. There are TVs and a dart board although I found the banter of the friendly locals more entertaining. On the bar were Gates Reservoir, Theakston's Old Peculier, Draught Bass, Pedigree and Greene King Abbot. Bands play here and there are three letting rooms for overnight stays. This was the brewery tap for Ind Coope across the road, and the late and much missed Derby CAMRA social secretary, Terry Morton, led a memorable Branch brewery visit here in 1977.

Last but not least is the former coal yard office now known as the Weighbridge Inn, the only micro pub I've visited with two open fires. It's on the southern end of Derby Street in the shadow of the Ibis hotel but also it can be accessed down steep steps opposite the railway station. Mandy and Richard Muirhouse have operated their eponymous brewery since 2009 and Ilkeston brewed Muirhouse Tick Tock Boom is augmented by three guests which were Silver Brewhouse Baby Ghost IPA, Stockport Stock Porter and Adnam's Ghost Ship when I called. Two roomed and, in one, behind the bar servery, multiple certificated awards attest to the quality of Muirhouse beers whilst a TV screen keeps one updated with current beer and cider offerings. Pork pies and sausage rolls may tempt the peckish.

Don't forget the **National Brewery Centre**, Horninglow Street, which houses the Heritage brewery, whose beers feature in the public bar along with ales rare to Burton. You can read about Burton's incredible brewing heritage in lan Webster's lavishly illustrated "Brewing in Burton Upon Trent" a most interesting tome for those with an interest in brewery history.

Despite seismic changes to the brewing industry, Burton is still deserving of the "Britain's brewing capital" title and is easily reached from Derby by train and the swift X38 bus service. Gone are the days when Marston's Pedigree and Draught Bass had little competition, so why not make a date to visit the East Staffordshire town?

Paul Gibson

N.B. The 41st Burton CAMRA Beer Festival between the 17th and 19th March has been cancelled.









BURTON & SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CAMRA BRANCH



3P's Brewery - The Story

Gareth was working as a Train Driver in Derby and had worked for the Railways for 35 years. He had enough of the harsh environment inflicted on him which affected his health and he walked out. He had been a home brewer for many years, on a small scale, with a 100ltr 3 vessel brewing system. The family drank most of it but Gareth always had a vision for to own a small micro-brewery after retiring early.

One day Gareth and his friend Darren went into the Last heretic in Burton for a couple of pints. He was speaking to the landlord, Pete, who eventually got to sample one of his bottled beers. Pete said it was really good and asked if had ever thought of brewing on a full-time basis. So, Gareth had the perfect opportunity after walking out of his job! He got himself registered and got the licences in place and that is how it all began; 3 years earlier than he had originally planned! Now he will be brewing on a new 600ltr brew kit from March 2022.

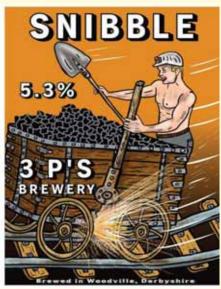
Gareth has no regrets; in fact, he says it has worked out as one of the best things he has ever done. Working from home now gives him and his family a better work life balance than working on the railways ever did and "that's what matters most, helping my other half, we look after each other" he says. Gareth does the Brewing at the weekend so that he can help to look after his Mother-in-Law for 3 days in the week. "It gives her that bit of well needed respite from looking after her mother who suffers from dementia, it's difficult living with this horrible disease" he says.

Gareth says "my aim is to keep brewing, doing something I absolutely love. It is a passion, if you're in it for the money I wouldn't bother, it won't make you rich, but I don't do it for money, my family, friends and my health are paramount."

The core range of 3P's beers can be seen on the website 3psbrewery.co.uk they are all Cask Ales with the few experimental beers thrown in. They also do one-off canned beers which are canned by Gareth himself on a small scale.

The pubs supplied are Beeropolis and The Last Heretic in Burton. The Sawley Junction in Long Eaton. The Halfway House in Donisthorpe, The Colvile Arms in Lullington and last but not least The Smithfield in Derby. Gareth says "We want to keep our beers as local as possible and hoping that once we are up and running with the new brew kit, we can supply a few more local pubs. However, I only brew to my capabilities, keeping it small and not travelling, delivering beer every week".

Asking Gareth for his feelings on the government's new policy on packaged Beer. "I think it's absolutely devastating to hear that the benefits are geared to the big players not small brewers like myself selling in pins of 20 ltrs., as this mad policy only applies to a container of 40 ltrs? Why on earth they get the tax advantage and small brewers who predominantly use small packs get no relief at all. Only small brewers' relief, which we already get now. Basically, the investment I have made purchasing my own steel pin casks is going to be a disadvantage. Micro pubs are enjoying the benefit of not having wasted beer, as many of them would not sell a full cask. They can benefit having 2 different beers in pins as well. Its discriminating against small brewers as if they want to get rid of them altogether, in favour of the mass market producers."



Trails and Trials in Burton

By the time you read this, the chances are that the second Burton Ale Trail will have happened. Hopefully the weather was kind, the pubs were full and that buoyed by this success plans are already underway for another event in the autumn.

You'll also be aware that the CAMRA Beer Festival was postponed a few months back; it fell foul of short sightedness from the Burton Town Hall who contacted the branch in early January to say only a maximum of 300 were allowed in at one time, with a peak attendance of over 900 this made the event financially impossible. Even with the then imminent lifting of Plan B the Town Hall remained unmoved and so there was no other option than to postpone; this led to a Social Media backlash with the Branch caught in the middle

Then a cruel twist; following the intervention of a local Councillor, a week later the Town Hall did a complete U-turn on restrictions but by that time it was too little too late, everything had been cancelled from the caterers and entertainment to the beer. So, if being made to postpone once wasn't bad

enough, the Committee were forced to admit that even without restrictions there wasn't the time to organise it, therefore postponement stood.

This begs the question; are events similar to Burton Ale Trail the way forward, at least for the time being? The local economy benefits, it draws people into the town and provides a boost for not only for pubs and breweries, but also restaurants, taxi firms, hotels and other local businesses.

In these uncertain times should CAMRA be supporting similar events even though they do not directly profit from it? It helps to ensure the survival of pubs and breweries so surely this falls under their mission statement "to promote and protect pubs and clubs as social centres" so yes they should.

Ale Trails are not substitutes for beer festivals but they can complement them or provide an alternative for those who aren't ready to stand cheek by jowl with hundreds of others just yet and these type of events are comparatively easy to organise.

Finding pubs willing to take part should be simple; then get promoting! Social media is an inexpensive way to get the word out, it really only costs your time and running competitions to win free beer is always a good way of drumming up interest. Even if you choose to print flyers and posters, split the costs between the pubs and it works out at about £20 each. Get each pub to order their own beer, food and entertainment and hey presto you've an Ale Trail!

The first Burton event took two months to implement so if your beer festival has been cancelled or you fancy doing something to help your local pubs survive, a summer event is entirely feasible. If you like the idea and need more advice then you can contact Ian Webster via the Burton Ale Trail Facebook group or on ianjohnwebster@gmail.com

Hops N' Gears Bicycle Club

On the 22nd of October 2021 our cycle group of real ale and lager folks (we're working on them) gathered for our last ride of the year all 22 of us 18 featured in our pic. Meeting at the Devonshire arms at approximately 18.45 to leave at 19.15. On the bar was the usual selection from Bridge Brewery (3) plus 2 guests a gates reservoir, my selection and a church end goats' milk both in fine fettle, I have time to try 2 as I arrive early to open up the gates so when the rest of the group arrive, they can put the bikes in a secure spot thanks to landlord Carl.

Our first port of call is the Acorn Inn, Henhurst Hill and No understating the word HILL! 1 mile straight up (thanks Steve, route organiser) now this is a sight to behold! I might have slightly overstated the word group! They turn up on all sorts

BURTON & SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CAMRA BRANCH

Contact Theo Hollier: theo51@btinternet.com



of cycles we do have a few professionals and "lecky" bikes allowed but there's the ones that turn up on their son and daughters, wives etc just to join in the fun, so watching a fully grown man on a cycle he's borrowed from a child is quite amusing. Eventually arriving at the Acorn, on the bar was Pedigree and Directors the usual guest for a Marston's pub. Arriving before most, but well behind the experienced chaps, I'm seeing how some are faring! On the hill, to my bewilderment there's folks out of breath lighting up! So, a varied selection of drinks was imbibed before setting off again.

Leaving Rough Hayes, we are thankfully going downhill along Hopley road past the Bell inn. Anslow, then Beam hill - missing the Beacon as no real ale on last visit! Across to Bitham Lane and the newish housing estate on Britannia Drive, this was another sight to behold as there are lots of Cul-de sacs off this road and are not obvious until you realise, you're in a close it was like trying to herd cats. Stretton social club was our next visit, unluckily missing out on the Derby brewing guests ales, so it was a choice between Bass or Pedigree,

from here we should have gone to our last port of call the Tower Brewery for pizza and our last half of the evening, but somehow, we didn't get past the Beech Inn 50 yards down the road, just Pedigree here. Then, eventually arriving at the Tower Brewery where John the Brewer and owner was waiting for us with the yard gates open, an option to leave the cycles until the following day offered kindly by John was taken up by a few that were going to enjoy John's excellent choice of real ale, appetite built up Pizzas arriving and consumed to end a wonderful evening out. The next venture on April 1st, 2022, is towards Derby ish! (Swan at Milton). If anyone would like to join us or for further information, please contact Les Stretton on Les Stretton on email: lesstretton@btinternet.com or mobile: 07857 634006. Please note this is not an Official CAMRA event but is patronised by CAMRA members.

International Brewing and Cider Competition.

Dating back to 1888 this biennial competition took place in Burton in November and a few members of Burton Branch volunteered to help. Very much

not a CAMRA event but interesting to see the wide range of bottled and canned beers and ciders up for awards. There were 92 entries in the cask beer categories, but logistics limited this class to home market entries.

All the cask beers and the surplus bottles and cans were available in a beer festival held at the National Brewery Centre the weekend following the competition. Sadly, attendance for the festival was poor, probably due to limited promotion and rising Covid concerns – beer condition was good and there were many excellent and interesting beers.

Much more detail and the tables of medal winners in each category and the final trophy winners are in the public domain and can be downloaded via a link in the 'brewingawards.org' website. The trophy for cask conditioned beer was awarded to Liberation Brewing Co, Jersey for their Liberation IPA (4.8% ABV).





The Lord Belper

Paul Gibson's article on Flat Iron Pubs (DD193) mentioned the now demolished Lord Belper at the junction of Abbey Street and Spa Lane. The pub was named after Edward Strutt, member of the Strutt textile family of Belper and former MP for Derby. The Strutts owned property in Abbey Street, probably including the pub. Edward was raised to the peerage in 1856 when he retired as an MP, the pub, formerly known as the Spa Tayern, was renamed to commemorate the event. During the late 1850s and early 1860s the licensee was my 4x great grandfather Thomas Tivey. He was employed as a manager at Davenport's textile mill in the Morledge, running the pub was probably left to his wife Ann.

When put up for auction at a sale held at the Old Spa Inn, Abbey Street, in January 1858 the Lord Belper was described, perhaps with typical estate agent hyperbole, as an "excellent Public-House" containing "tap room, two sitting rooms, bar and pantry, three bed-rooms, good cellar, brew-house, yard and other conveniences" and "eligibly situated", supplied with hard and soft water and gas. It must have been a tight fit, or small ("compact and bijou") rooms, in such a restricted space.

In March the same year Thomas and Ann had an early Sunday morning visit from two plain clothed police constables. The two officers knocked at the door demanding entry, but Ann refused to let them in as they were not in uniform. They had, Ann claimed, had persons claiming to be plain clothes police demanding entry, but only wanting out-of-hours drinks. After a short interval, five or ten minutes, depending who's evidence is to be believed, the constables were admitted.

The reason for their visit was not explained, but magistrates fined Thomas 5s (25p) for initially refusing admission. No further visits seem to have resulted in prosecutions, perhaps he came to an "understanding" with the local constabulary.

Sometime after 1865 Thomas and Ann gave up the pub and moved to Morleston Street.

Paul Whitaker

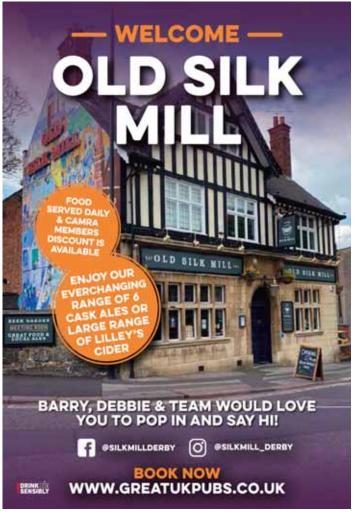




Watch out for our next beer festival and meet the brewer events!

BOOKINGS TAKEN Queens Head, Victoria Avenue, Ockbrook, DE72 3RN • 01332416293 www.classicinns.co.uk





PENTRICH REVOLUTION TRAIL

MAY 14TH – JUNE 11TH

on the night of the 9th of June 1817, around 200 to 300 men set out from South Wingfield to march to Nottingham, all of them under the false impression that they were part of a revolt that would bring down the Government. Picking up more supporters along the route, the marchers got as far as Eastwood, where they were met by two magistrates accompanied by 20 well-armed men and officers of the 15th Light Dragoons. The marchers scattered, and not a shot was fired. Although the march itself began in South Wingfield, it was planned in Pentrich, and is thus known as the Pentrich Revolution.

The Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group was established in 2012 to bring attention to the 1817 Pentrich Revolution, an important although generally little - known historical event. More information on the Revolution can be found on their website Home Page | The Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group (pentrichrevolution.org.uk)

The Revolution Group have asked me to help organise a Trail starting on May 14th and ending on June 11th, and I am happy to oblige. The Trail will involve pubs on or close to the route taken by the March, plus some in Derby where radicals met and sowed the seeds of the Pentrich Revolution, and in the vicinity of where the trials of the ringleaders took place, beginning on the October 16th 1817.

More details of the Trail, along with a Trail card, will appear in the May/June Derby Drinker, but it will be run on similar lines to the Winter Trail, however with a few slight differences. There are commemorative boards at several pubs that will be invited to take part, and indoor displays in a few about the Revolution. Not all the pubs serve real Ale, and there will also be a Fish and Chip Restaurant, which has an information board, taking part! Well, following a Trail can bring on an appetite! The Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group will be putting together a quiz based on the participating pubs (plus the chippy) with prizes for the winners. Further details on that will also be in the next Derby Drinker.

Trevor Spencer

BOOK REVIEW

Spondon Pubs and Clubs - A Social History by James Wilson

A new book has recently been launched about Spondon's Pubs and Clubs and Anita Hayes from the Spondon Community Association has kindly passed on her review of it.

Spondon for its size has a wide range of pubs and clubs suitable for most tastes. They range from the large multi-function pubs of major breweries to specialist sports bars and social clubs providing regular entertainment.

These have developed from a time when small beer (low in alcohol) was preferable to the unhygienic water available to the general public.

People who began brewing their own ale soon found out that they had made excess to their own needs and invited friends and neighbours to share the bounty before it passed its sell be date.

They hung a bush outside the front door to let everyone know there was beer available, filled the front room full of chairs and made a small charge for the ale. They soon realised that selling their beer was more rewarding than the day job and beer-houses became the norm.

Successful beer-house owners either enlarged the premises or built larger ones next door which then became fully licensed public houses.

The number of these public houses in Spondon has remained pretty constant through the ages at around six, any attempts to increase this number has been vigorously opposed by the existing licensees, the police, and the church.

The numbers may have stayed the same, but the names have changed to such an extent that Sherlock Holmes would have had his work cut out to trace them all, for instance do you know where the Boar was? or the Harrow? And where exactly was the Wheel? Not everyone agrees.

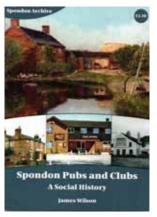
What we all can agree on is the happy days, the friendships that were made and lost, and the memories evoked from times spent in these social hubs, some that no longer exist and new ones that have been created. Local and national events that influenced Spondon pubs are examined, the arrival of the Canal, the Railway, the 1st World War, the Temperance movement, British Celanese, the 2nd World War, all had an effect.

And the last word must be the pandemic, at the time of printing, most licensees have survived the virus physically and financially, although there have been some changes and some premises have been altered to reflect the restrictions. The Hoptimist micropub has also opened since the book was printed but does get a

brief mention and features on the map within the book. See separate article on page 7 of Derby Drinker for further info on the Hoptimist.

You can buy this book from Spondon News, Housley Pharmacy, Cherry Tree Picture Framers, Simnetts in Sitwell Street and it cost £3.50 plus postage where appropriate. You can see a list of other books in the series at

www.spondononline.co.uk/sca/spondon-archive and spondonhistory.org.uk





AmberValley CAMRABranch

Contact Chris Rogers threecatscider@ymail.com



AMBER VALLEY NEWS

Amber Valley CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival 2022

Finally after two years of cancelled festivals we are back on track with the 11th Amber Valley Beer & Cider Festival to be held from 30th June to 2nd July this year at the Belper Rugby Club, Derby Rd, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 1UU.

The festival has moved across the road from Strutt's School to Strutt's Field, previously the school's playing field, now occupied by the Belper Rugby Club, who have very kindly allowed us to use the field and club house for our festival.

The main festival will take place in a large marquee, complete with stage and dance floor. Around 90 beers, ciders & perry will be set up in the marquee, also craft beers, soft drinks, snacks etc. There will be a wide selection of beers of all types & styles from breweries near and far served at cellar temperature thanks to our excellent cooling system. The Club House bar will also be open serving the full range of drinks.

On Thursday there will be no music in the marquee and CAMRA members are admitted free on showing a current membership card. Open from noon to 11pm.

Friday is open from 12 noon to 5.30pm for the afternoon. Friday evening opens at 5.30pm to 11pm with entertainment from Kelly's Heroes followed by the Modskas. Tickets will be available for the evening sessions, and it is strongly advised that you buy tickets early to ensure admission, as numbers are limited. Tickets available at Ents24 Modskas 1st

July. CAMRA members with evening tickets get a concession on admission in the form of a £3 beer token on showing their ticket and current CAMRA card.

Saturday is open from 12 noon to 5.30pm for the afternoon. Saturday evening opens at 5.30pm to 11pm with entertainment from Soul Stew Northern Soul & Motown Disco followed by the ever popular Rollin' Stoned tribute to the Rolling Stones. Again it is advisable to book tickets early to ensure admission. Tickets available at Ents24 Rollin' Stoned 2nd July. CAMRA members with evening tickets get a concession on admission in the form of a £5 beer token on showing their ticket and current CAMRA card.

There will be a range of meals and snacks available from the Club House and various stalls and vans on site including vegetarian, gluten free and vegan.

There is on-site parking for blue badge holders and staff only, but plenty of free parking is available locally. Rail & Bus Stations only 5 minutes walk away.

Volunteers are required for set up, knock down, and bar work etc. We also require a festival treasurer and staffing officer. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact us at staffing@ambervalley.camra. org.uk or by phone Nigel Heathcote 07834 732 050 or Lynne Tomlinson 07764 250 734.

Thurs 30th June - Sat 2nd July At: Belper Rugby Club, DE56 1UU Friday Eve Friday Eve Friday Eve Friday Eve Friday Eve Friday Eve MOOTHERN SOIL MOTOWN DISCO Tickets at: www.ents24.com www.ambervalleycamra.org.uk





Cider Pub of the Year

The Branch recently did its Cider Pub of the Year Awards with the Winner being the Beehive in

Ripley
(top photo) and
the Runner-up
being the Dead
Poets in
Holbrook.
(bottom photo).
Branch
Chairman,
Chris Rogers was
on hand to do
the
Presentations at
each pub.

DIARY DATES (all meetings 8pm)

Beer Festival Meeting - Wednesday 16th March - White Hart, Bargate.

Branch Meeting - Thursday 31st March - Thorn Tree, Ripley.

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

The Spirit Vaults - Melbourne's new Brewpub

Derby Drinker is pleased to finally get the Spirit Vaults in Melbourne featured on its pages. The pandemic, temporary pub closures and the fact we were out of production for well over a year meant we hadn't had the chance to do so until now.

The Spirit Vaults on Church Street opened in August 2020 after a huge 18-month renovation which included the installation of a brand new microbrewery, five en-suite guest rooms on the first and second floors and a complete redesign of the downstairs layout to include 2 rooms either side of a central bar with a further room to the rear.

The pub was formally known as the Blue Bell Inn which was built as a house in 1736 and its three storeys, gable parapets and roundel at the top of the gable meant it was a very smart building for rural Melbourne. From around 1840 the establishment was selling wines and spirits under the name of 'The Spirit Vaults' hence were the name comes from but this was changed to 'The Blue Bell Vaults' about 1855 and then later on to 'The Blue Bell Inn'. Around 2000 the pub found itself in the hands of Shardlow Brewery (their only pub) and the Morgan family who have run it ever since.

Many original features have been revealed or restored during the refurbishment with lots of beams on show and there is some interesting & informative decor all around the pub showing how beer is made, etc. The pub also has a pleasant outside heated patio at the side which will be a lovely spot in summer and it's well located for visitors to the Melbourne Hall and Norman parish church (12th century) nearby.

And with brewing being a family tradition it felt only right to install a brand new 2.5BBL microbrewery onsite which is positioned in the heart of the pub and on display for all to see while supping a beer made on that very plant. The brewery is known as 'Morgan Brewmasters' named after the family and Head brewer, Simon Morgan (formerly of Shardlow Brewery) has had over 20 years of experience in the brewing industry so brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table. The brewery vessels themselves are all oak clad and the brewery is tastefully enclosed behind glass partitions allowing customers to watch the brews unfold and soak up the sights and smells of a working brewery. The three core beers available from handpump at the bar or by bottle are Reverend 4.5% ABV (paying homage to the old Shardlow brew), Vaults Gold at 4.2% ABV and Vaults Dark at 5% ABV. They are all sold

Vaults Dark at 5% ABV. They are all sold exclusively on-site at the pub but can also be found in local bottle shops in the surrounding area. There's also a real cider on tap as well as a selection of craft beers and food is also available.

So it's great to see one of Melbourne's most historic pubs back on fine form then and with beer brewed on site is well worth a visit. It's easily reached from Derby on the Arriva No.2 from the Bus Station. And its just made the final six in Derby Camra's Pub of the Year competition as well so we wish them well.

Gareth Stead



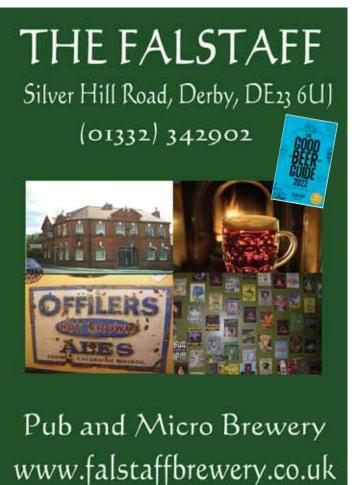












Derby CAMRA Discount Pubs



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 or details are wrong then please get in touch.

DERBY CITY

•	
Crown & Arrows, Allenton	25p off a pint
Victory Club, Allenton	All ales £2.50 a pint
Markeaton, Allestree	20p off a pint
No.189, Allestree	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
Red Cow, Allestree	20p off a pint
Woodlands, Allestree	10% off a pint
The Lodge, Alvaston	10% off a pint
Wilmot Arms, Chaddesden	30p off a pint, 15p off a half with loyalty card which is free to CAMRA members
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
Exeter Arms, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half
Five Lamps, Derby	20p off a pint
Flowerpot, Derby	20p off a pint
Furnace, Derby	20p off a pint
Last Post, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half
Lord Nelson, Derby	20p off a pint, 10p off a half
Old Bell, Derby	40p off a pint, 20p off a half
Old Silk Mill, Derby	10% off a pint
Portside Tavern, Derby	£3 a pint
Seven Stars, Derby	20p off a pint
Smithfield, Derby	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
Half Moon, Littleover	10% off a pint
Hollybrook, Littleover	20p off a pint
Masons Arms, Mickleover	15p off a pint
Nags Head, Mickleover	10% off a pint
Robin, Mickleover	15p off a pint
Kings Corner, Oakwood	10% off a pint
Windmill, Oakwood	10% off a pint
Prince of Wales, Spondon	15p off a pint
Vernon Arms, Spondon	20p off a pint

DERBYSHIRE

Town Street Tap, Duffield	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
Seven Wells, Etwall	10p off a pint
Hardinge Arms, Kings Newton	30p off a pint
Chip & Pin, Melbourne	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
Harpur's, Melbourne	20p off a pint
Lamb Inn, Melbourne	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
Cross Keys, Ockbrook	10p off a pint
Queens Head, Ockbrook	10% off a pint
Royal Oak, Ockbrook	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
Clock Warehouse, Shardlow	10p off a pint
New Inn, Shardlow	15p off a pint, 5p off a half
Smithy's Marine Bar, Shardlow	15p off a pint
Bell, Smalley	20p off a pint, 10p off a half
Dragon, Willington	20p off a pint

FREEadvertising 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 of the Derby Drinker and on the Derby & National CAMRA websites.



We're leading the fight to keep pubs alive and thriving in every community, serving quality ales and ciders.

We offer you fantastic benefits and everything you need to find the perfect pint and pub - anytime, anywhere.

Find out more camra.org.uk/joinup





A warm welcome awaits you on the East Sussex coast

CAMRA's Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference will be hosted by our Sussex branches at the

Winter Garden in Eastbourne 8-10 April 2022.

After two years without a physical event, hundreds of members have already registered to attend – to see what Sussex has to offer by way of great beer, cider and perry. The weekend is a chance to meet friends, make new ones, go on organised brewery trips and take part in activities.

It's free to attend and open to all CAMRA members.

The weekend is staffed by volunteers - with a range of opportunities to help on offer.

All the information is on the event page – where you can register to attend / sign up to help - go to

www.camra.org.uk/members-weekend-agm-conference Or email membersweekend@camra.org.uk











Derby Drinker Production Schedule

January/February – **December 1st** March/April - February 1st May/June - April 1st July/August – June 1st September/October - August 1st November/December - October 1st

Copy Deadlines in BOLD

Derby Drinker Online & by Post

Did you know? The latest and previous editions of Derby Drinker are available to read online at http://www.derby.camra.org.uk/derby-drinker/

Alternatively if you would like a copy posted to you it is available at a cost of £6 for four issues.

Send a cheque payable to Derby CAMRA to **Derby Drinker,**

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

Then place an advert with us.

Contact as below. Copy deadline 1st April



Scoring your beer helps CAMRA choose pubs for the Good Beer Guide and Pub of the Year, so please give your pub your support.

Go to: WhatPub.com search for the pub and enter your score now (or do it at home later)

Want this as a Poster for your Pub - email pubsofficer@derbycamra.org.uk

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

COPY BY POST-Contact Lynn

Out of circulation area? Having difficulty getting your copy? Then why not get it sent to you by post? It is available at a cost of £6 for four issues.

Contact us at: subs@derbycamra.org.uk,

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