



Issue 198

November/December  
2022

# DERBY rinker

FREE



Cheers

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

## The Magnificent Seven Shoot into the New Good Beer Guide



Seven Stars, Derby



White Swan, Littleover



Spread Eagle, Etwell



Spirit Vaults,  
Melbourne



Pot Hole, Allestree



Golden Eagle, Derby



Bell & Harp, Little Eaton

Full details inside plus all the usual features ▶▶▶▶



CAMPAIN  
FOR  
REAL ALE



## 50th Anniversary Edition of the Good Beer Guide Launched

The recent launch of the 2023 Good Beer Guide saw 7 new entries from within the area covered by the Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. We take a look at this year's magnificent seven all pictured on the front page.

In Derby City Centre 2 pubs returned to the guide, one after quite a long absence.....

The Grade II listed **Seven Stars** on King Street last appeared in the guide way back in 2008. The pub is an old wooden framed building dating from 1680 and has many original features, giving it plenty of character. There is a main bar at the front, a lounge at the back with glass floor section showing off an original well and a small snug at the very rear. It is beamed throughout with the building being lower than the busy A6 road which passes either side of the pub. It is also one of Derby's last original brewpubs with brewing ceasing in 1962. A newer raised patio area provides a nice outside drinking space during finer weather. Four real ales are normally available, including three changing guest ales.


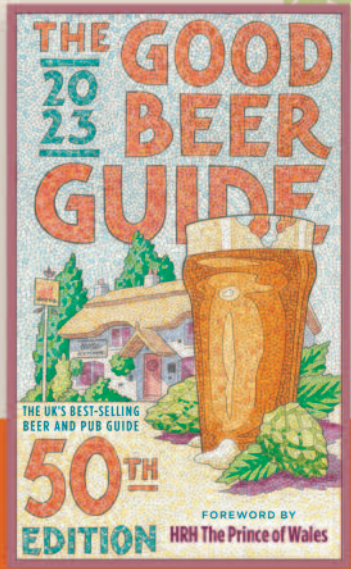
The **Golden Eagle** on Agard Street last appeared in the Good Beer Guide in 2019 and it's nice to see its return with a range of real ales & ciders and a good community atmosphere with regular live music and events throughout the week. Indeed, in some ways it's quite remarkable that the building still exists as most other properties roundabout have been demolished to make way for new student accommodation. The pub was originally saved by the former

Titan Brewery team who saw the potential in the place making it their Tap and turning it back into a proper local full of history and character from the unique external murals on the pub depicting the history of Derby to the collection of eclectic material inside. These days up to 5 real ales are served along with a selection of real ciders and a walled paved area at the back provides a pleasant alternative drinking spot with an upstairs function room as well.

Meanwhile the Districts of Derby have seen 2 other pubs make a welcome return to the guide.....

The **Pothole** at the Park Farm Shopping Centre in Allestree, Derby was last in the guide in 2020. This Micropub opened in November 2017 in a former dry cleaners with the name originating from a subterranean bar that used to be in the shopping centre. The pub consists of a single room with the bar to the back, a miniscule snug behind and an outside seating area for alfresco imbibing. The former Littleover Brewery initially converted it, but it has now been taken over by the Falstaff Brewery who have introduced 6 real ales from their own brewed range of beers alongside changing guests including regular tap takeovers. The Pothole opens Wednesday until Sunday and is reached by the frequent Trent 'Allestree' bus from Derby.



The **White Swan** in the Littleover area of Derby last appeared in the Guide in 2018 and is an attractive black & white brewers tudor fronted pub occupying a traditional site adjacent

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# Derby CAMRA Branch

to the parish church. It was Derby's original Festival Alehouse back in the days when Allied owned it. This concept brought a greater range of beers to the pub than had previously been seen and attracted customers from far and wide. Since then, the pub has continued to offer a wide range of ales with up to 9 available including real ciders. It is also a popular food pub with outside drinking areas and hanging baskets. Regular buses from Derby include the Arriva 5 & 5a which pass the pub nearby and the Trent V3 and Harlequin which go along the main road.

And finally, out in Derbyshire 3 other pubs have returned to the guide after some time away from it.....

In Etwall the **Spread Eagle** comes back into the guide for the first time in 10 years the last time being 2013. A large pub opposite the church in the middle of the village it is clearly the composite of more than one building. The pub features a single long room that was formerly many rooms but still retains a feel of different sections with some intimacy and it has beamed ceilings throughout. Elsewhere, there are some interesting prints and photographs of old Etwall and a sun trap patio at the front which is a good spot to enjoy the well-kept real ales. It is reached from Burton & Derby on the regular Trent V1 bus service also known as 'The Villager'.

Along the B6179 Alfreton Road in Little Eaton is the **Bell and Harp** which returns to the guide for the first time since 2012 having been revamped by three local businessmen. Established in the early 19th century this elevated pub formed from two adjacent stone cottages is on several levels and its split-level interior is unrecognisable from its previous incarnation with exposed stonework and hardwood flooring combining well. The original steps to the cellar, on view under a glass panel, are a feature as you enter and the bar servery faces you with multiple hand-pulls serving a good range of real ales for the discerning beer drinker. Part of the overhaul was renewal of the brick paved patio at the front which looks out across the road to a large L shaped garden with tables for families and a children's play area. The 71 bus from Derby stops nearby although doesn't run late.

The **Spirit Vaults** in Melbourne makes its first appearance in the guide under its current guise although it has been in many times before under its previous name the Blue Bell Inn the last time of which was 2016. The pub dates back to 1736 and from around 1840 the establishment was selling wines and spirits under the name of 'The Spirit Vaults' hence where its new name originates from. Around 2000 the pub found itself in the hands of

Shardlow Brewery and the Morgan family but after the closure of their brewery the family undertook a huge 18-month renovation which included the installation of a brand-new onsite microbrewery, en-suite guest rooms 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. It opened in August 2020 and the pub has some interesting and very informative decor all around showing how beer is made, etc and many original features have been revealed or restored, with lots of beams on view. The brewery is visible in the pub and is known as 'Morgan Brewmasters' named after the family and their beers can be found on sale at the bar and food is available too. The pub also has a pleasant outside heated patio at the side and it's well located for visitors to the Melbourne Hall and Norman parish church (12th century). From Derby catch the regular Arriva No.2 bus service to the Town.

So, there you have it just a taster of the new entries in the 2023 Good Beer Guide and if you want to see who else made it from Derby and Derbyshire then it's now on sale from the CAMRA website, local bookshops and some local pubs such as the Alexandra, Brunswick, Furnace and Smithfield in Derby & the Royal Oak in Ockbrook.

## Derby CAMRA



Website – [www.derby.camra.org.uk](http://www.derby.camra.org.uk)  
Facebook – DerbyCAMRA  
Twitter – @DerbyCAMRA

### Contacts:-

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## DerbyCAMRA Branch Diary

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

### NOVEMBER

**Fri 4th** - Social Trip - Draycott & Long Eaton. Leave Derby Bus Station at 7.15pm.  
**Thu 10th** - Branch Meeting - Victoria Inn, Derby - 8pm.  
**Tue 15th** - Dual Social - Jonty Farmer & Creaky Floorboard, Derby - 8pm.  
**Sat 26th** - Social Trip - Birmingham Christmas Market.

### DECEMBER

**Thu 1st or 8th** - Branch Meeting - Venue TBC - 8pm.  
**Thu 15th** - Social - Xmas Fuddle - Falstaff, Derby - 8pm.  
**Wed 28th** - Social & Walk - Milford.

### JANUARY

**Thu 12th** - Branch Meeting - Venue TBC - 8pm.

Contact the Social Secretary, by email - [socials@derby.camra.org.uk](mailto:socials@derby.camra.org.uk)  
(Check [www.derby.camra.org.uk](http://www.derby.camra.org.uk) for all upcoming events)



## Derby CAMRA Branch

## THE WINTER ALE TRAIL 2023 IS COMING SOON!



After a successful return in 2022 following the 2021 lockdown, the time has come to plan the 2023 event, which we hope will be even bigger and better than 2022. We intend to run the 2023 Trail from Friday 13th January until Sunday 26th February and, as usual, there will be Certificates for the top 2 pubs in each CAMRA Branch area and stickers at each pub to attach to the Trail Card which will appear in Derby Drinker. We will again invite drinkers to let us know their three best pubs in each Branch area, which enables us to decide the winners and runners-up in each Branch. As usual there will be a dedicated email address and mobile phone number, as well as the Trail Facebook page, which can be used to let us know which pubs drinkers think are the best.

While we will, as always, invite pubs to participate – invitations will be sent out to Real Ale outlets fairly soon, if anyone needs further details about the Trail, or wishes to express an interest in taking part, we can be contacted via email at [Wintrail2023@outlook.com](mailto:Wintrail2023@outlook.com) or phone on 07305 206413. We

look forward to hearing from you, and especially seeing you on the Trail.

The 5 Branches Winter Ale Trail

## Derby CAMRA Social Scene

Over the last few Months Derby Camra's new Social Secretary, Jamie Williams has been busy organising loads of socials which Branch Members have happily attended. He's also planned lots of new events well into the future and we feature a few highlights here that are coming up before the end of the year.

**Friday 4th November** will see a social visit to **Draycott & Long Eaton** covering quite a few pubs in both places meeting at Derby Bus Station for the 7.15pm bus. **Tuesday 15th November** will see a dual social night at the **Jonty Farmer** and **Creaky Floorboard** in Derby starting at 8pm. **Saturday 26th November** will see a potential **Birmingham** Social with Burton & Birmingham Camra Branches to the Xmas Market and pubs. **Thursday 15th December** will see the Branches annual Christmas Fuddle at the **Falstaff** in Derby from 8pm. While **Wednesday 28 December** will see a social to **Milford** including a ramble.

As always though please check the Branch website before going as some of these are still in the planning stages at the moment and maybe subject to change. Contact Jamie for further information at [socials@derby.camra.org.uk](mailto:socials@derby.camra.org.uk)

## THE FALSTAFF

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# Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch

Contact Mark Grist [m.grist2@sky.com](mailto:m.grist2@sky.com)

## Branch Beer Festival

After a three-year hiatus, the 8th Ashbourne Beer & Cider Festival began at 6pm on Thursday 8th September at the Town Hall in Ashbourne. Within 30 minutes of opening the doors, the very sad news was announced of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We were able to continue the festival after receiving guidance and permission from CAMRA HQ and the National Chairman.

A total of 560 people attended across the 3 days of the festival, down on our projected figure of 800, but not surprising in light of the events surrounding us all. Despite this, a healthy amount of both beer and cider was enjoyed by those visitors. The beer of the festival was named as Brunswick Black Sabbath and the cider winner was Wynsum from the local Kniveton Cider. The first beer to sell out was Moonface Lilibet, a beer brewed for the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee in June, a fitting tribute.

*(See photos opposite of this years Branch Beer Festival)*



## Pub of the Season

At the September branch meeting, members voted in **The Okeover Arms at Mappleton** as the branch Pub of the Season for Autumn 2022. The branch meeting for October was held at The Okeover, with Chairman Dave Etheridge presenting the certificate of recognition.

## Pub News

The **Ketch at Kniveton** re-opened in mid-September after a short period of closure and reverting to its original name after a spell as The Bubble Inn. It is now operated by the same team running the Miner's Arms at Carsington a few miles down the road.

The **Queen's Vaults in Ashbourne** changed hands at the end of September and we wish new licensee Kerry Edwards all the best and also happy retirement and good health to both George and Walter.

The **Nag's Head at Hulland Ward** closed suddenly in September and was shuttered and boarded up at the time of

going to press. Its future is not yet known, but does look quite uncertain as to whether it will continue again as a pub.

The currently closed **Knockerdown at Carsington** has a planning application in hand for conversion to an events venue for car meets, although the application does still state a bar will be in use. Should this prove successful, it remains to be seen whether the new venture could then still be described as a pub.

## 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 November, 8pm.**

Branch Meeting - Yeaveley Arms, Yeaveley.

**Tuesday 20th December**

Xmas Social - meet Smith's Tavern 7pm, tour of some town pubs, return to Smith's Tavern approx. 9pm.

**Tuesday 31st January, 8pm.**

Branch Meeting - venue tbc.



# New Pubs to be Built in Derby and Ripley

**S**ubject to planning permission being granted, the Duke of Clarence, Mansfield Road, will be demolished and replaced by 11 apartments and a micro pub.

Meanwhile, in Peasehill, Ripley, permission has been granted to build a new pub behind the Beehive which is Good Beer Guide listed and Amber Valley CAMRA's

current Cider Pub of the Year. In common with many properties in the locality, it has a huge back garden, and owner/licensee, Steve Cresswell, 60, plans to close the existing pub to convert the ground floor to his own residential use and open the new pub early in 2023. Steve is planning a seamless transition with a pub open on the

site continuously. In March, Steve will have been at the Beehive for 30 years. The last new-build pub in Ripley was the (now demolished) Woodman (later Barnes Wallis), Maple Avenue, originally a Hardy and Hanson house, built in 1974.



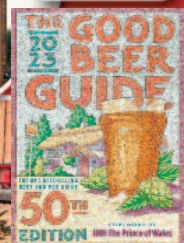
## The Brunswick, Derby

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# AmberValley CAMRA Branch

Contact Chris Rogers [threecatcider@gmail.com](mailto:threecatcider@gmail.com)



## AMBER VALLEY NEWS

### Pub of the Year

This year the branch has decided to synchronise the timings of POTY and Cider POTY processes - nominations for both are invited from branch members during November (minimum 2 & up to 5 nominees for each) with judging of the resulting shortlists by any CAMRA member over the following 2 months - we positively encourage those from beyond the branch area to participate in this stage to create wider perspective and opinion. As the judging period overlaps the Winter Ale Trail, it makes for extra interest while touring the relevant pubs /micros. In line with what has become the norm, the results will be announced at the **Branch AGM on Thursday 23rd February 2023** in The Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse.

### Presentations at the Branch Meeting

On the evening of 6th October, ahead of the branch meeting, 2 presentations took place at The Moulders Arms in Riddings (aka the Thack and the only thatched pub in Derbyshire). It was wonderful to use this occasion to celebrate both of these different yet highly worthwhile groups - smiles all round in the accompanying photos.

First handover was a cheque for £261 to the Alzheimer's Society (represented by Tim Benson) gathered from bucket collections at Amber Valley Beer Festival in early July. A massive thank you from both the Society and ourselves goes out to all the people who chipped in actual money or un-used beer tokens to the collecting buckets.



AVBF charity cheque presentation to the Alzheimer's Society.



Gillian Hough presenting CAMRA 50 Golden Anniversary Award to Paul Eyden of RuRad In The Sticks.

The second and more unusual presentation was that of CAMRA's 50th Golden Anniversary Award certificate to RuRad In The Sticks for its contribution to pubs, pints and people, especially highlighting their contribution during Covid lockdowns. There to receive the award was Paul Eyden (aka Charisma Bypass), the newsletter's initial editor almost 20 years ago - and there to present was Gillian Hough, CAMRA NEC director who explained the background to the awards. Thanks go to every one of its (past and current) editors and contributors however far flung the person was at the time (Konrad....!).

### Pub News

The Canal Inn at Bullbridge re-opened in September. Home of the 14 Lock Brewery with 4 of their ales brewed and served on site.

Please take a look at the branch website and social media for our latest news.....

### DIARY DATES (all meetings 8pm)

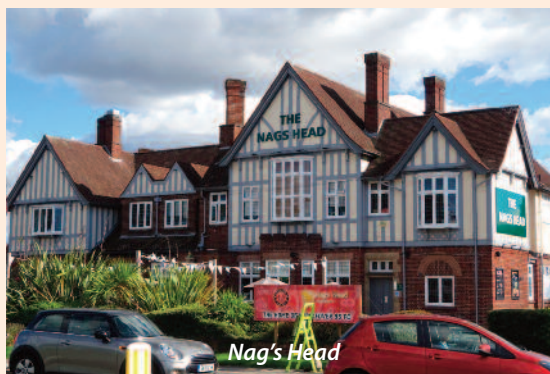
Future Branch Meetings (Thursday 8pm):-  
Nov 3rd - Fisherman's Rest, Broadholme, Belper.  
Dec 1st - Hunters Arms, Kilburn.

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

George and Dragon, Belper - 10p per pint  
Dead Poets, Holbrook - 10p per pint, 5p 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



# Buzzing Mickleover for Derby's Discern



Nag's Head

Frequent buses from Derby bus station make the vibrant and expansive suburb of Mickleover easily accessible, which made for a good excuse for your correspondent to pay it three visits a short while ago.

The **Nag's Head**, Uttoxeter Road, had a veritable who's who of the brewery world with Matlock Wolds Farm, Beartown, Blue Monkey, Little Critters, Burton Bridge, Welbeck Abbey, Oakham, Greene King and Castle Rock all represented. The latter's offering was "Brian Clough", and referencing former Rams' managers, Stuart McMillan ran the Nag's whilst simultaneously managing Derby County, taking them to F A Cup glory for the only time in the club's history in 1946. During seven years as Rams' manager, Stuart smashed the British record transfer fee twice before moving to the Station Hotel, Ashbourne, where he sadly died in 1963. Food is popular in the Nag's and outside at the rear is an elevated, decked area to enjoy in fair weather. A generous CAMRA members' discount of 10% a pint applies here.

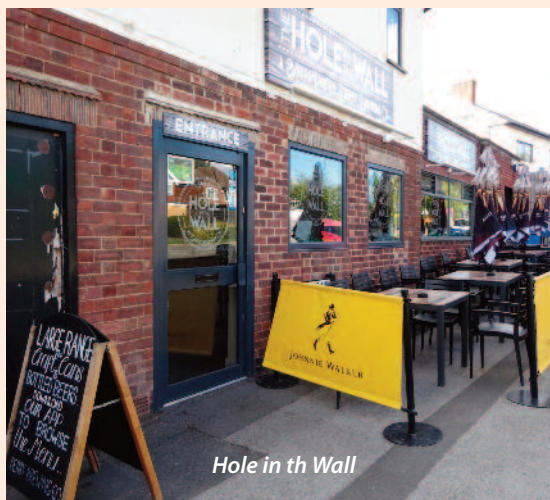
Across the island is the former NatWest bank, now known as the **Hole in the Wall**, a Derby Brewing establishment which has flourished since opening a few years ago. A bank of handpumps naturally feature Derby Brewing ales with a dozen or more craft keg beers on tap, indeed, there's a vast choice when the world beer roster is considered. A crossed beamed ceiling has hops dangling down.

Just around the corner on the main road is the venerable **Vine**, a most characterful establishment with a low-ceilinged labyrinthine layout in which Pedigree and a changing guest can be enjoyed. Wye Valley HPA from Herefordshire was on when I called. Prior

to rejuvenating the renowned Brunswick, Trevor Harris of the aforementioned Derby Brewing ran the Vine in the mid 80s when it sold the revered Ind Coope Draught Burton Ale. Screened Premier League football is shown and worthy charities are supported.

Across the road, the newest addition to Mickleover's pubscape is the unmistakable **Binary**, Lime Avenue, a bold and commodious two storey new-build by Bespoke Inns who run three pubs in south Derbyshire. The vast, glazed frontage enables one to watch the world go by and the décor is a contemporary mix of dark wood and industrial chic. I confess, I didn't venture upstairs but based on photographic evidence, it's certainly impressive. This is primarily a food-led venue but traditional beer drinkers haven't been forgotten with the ground floor bar serving hand-pulled Draught Bass and Boot Clod Hopper. Please note that payment is by card only.

Trevor and Nadine Price ran the **Mason's Arms** on The Square for twenty years before retiring and their successors, Jim and Jo Harris, ran Derby's oldest pub, the Dolphin, for a similar period. The Dutch gabled frontage gives kerb appeal and points to the inn's antiquity. Inside, two rooms of distinctly different character on split levels have an upper bar featuring time-piece photographs of local wheelbarrow races and former licensees, whilst the lower, beamed lounge has prints of old Derby. Familiar staples, Draught Bass, Pedigree and Castle Rock Harvest Pale are accompanied by lesser known but equally reliable guests such as Dark Star's Hophead from faraway Sussex. Jim's "legendary" Tuesday evening pop quiz and fairly priced food also feature.



Hole in th Wall



Vine



Binary



Mason's Arms



# er is a Destination ning Beer Drinkers

Some way away, on the corner of Ladybank Road and Sandown Avenue is the **Honeycomb** opened by Leicester brewers, Everard, in 1974 and still owned by them today. One is immediately struck by the well-tended, landscaped gardens and the unusually configured exterior is mirrored within. Everard Sunchaser and Tiger vied for attention with stablemate West Coast, a strong, yet refreshing IPA and a steal at £3.60 a pint. The Honeycomb has been revitalised by the current licensees and appetising looking bar snacks were augmented by a specials' board which had the nowadays rare lambs' liver together with further culinary offerings such as Sunday roast. Immaculate throughout, the Honeycomb was a most pleasing experience and on Saturday nights, musicians perform.

Up until 1964, the **Great Northern** on tree lined Station Road was the GNR's hotel beside the first stop westwards from Friar Gate station, and given the huge expansion of the local population it's a pity the line has gone. Entering through an attractive porch, one is presented with a stylish, contemporary interior wrapped around a central bar servery although there are one or two traditional touches such as exposed chimney breast brickwork. The number of "reserved" signs on tables is clearly indicative of a busy dining destination where Old Speckled Hen and Pedigree can be consumed. If you're staying over, "boutique rooms" are available.

Then there are the clubs, and we'll start at the 2021 Derby CAMRA Club of the Year winner, **Mickleover Sports Club**, Station Road, which was a star performer during lockdown, delivering cask beer to those of us who prefer cask to bottled beer. Our photograph shows the collection point at the Don Amott Arena

which has a plush public bar where the wares of at least two breweries can be sampled, and, occasionally, the brilliant Burton brewery, Gates, is featured. The club is a true community sports hub hosting Mickleover F C, and Derby County ladies who, like their male counterparts, currently play in the third tier of English football.

**Mickleover Golf Club** is "hidden", being reached by a long drive off Uttoxeter Road adjacent to the A38 flyover, but is worth seeking out. In the modern clubhouse, three real ales including Draught Bass are served together with an appetising menu, and unlike some golf clubs, the public are welcome. 2023 sees the club's centenary and it's rumoured a beer festival may be in the offing.

The **Royal British Legion Club** on Poppyfields Drive (off Western Road) is similarly welcoming and a swish bar at first floor level dispenses real ale – Dancing Duck 22 when I called. The bar is open evenings and weekend lunchtimes with a Sunday afternoon carvery before closing. There's a host of entertainment here with performers on Saturday nights and films shown in one of the spacious, modern rooms. A balcony is a good vantage point from which to watch the RBL football team, and let's hope plenty of money is raised during this year's poppy appeal.

The only blemish on an otherwise interesting Mickleover meander was the closure of the Robin on Devonshire Drive, and operator, Stonegate, is looking for a new licensee.

**Paul Gibson**

**STOP PRESS** - DD has learned that the Robin has recently reopened with Shelley and her team at the helm.



Honeycomb



Great Northern



Mickleover Sports Club



Royal British Legion



Mickleover Golf Club



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## NOVEMBER

- 3 HARDWICKE CIRCUS
- 4 CLODBUSTING
- 5 GERRY McAVOY'S BAND OF FRIENDS
- 10 CHANTEL MCGREGOR
- 11 GUNS 2 ROSES
- 12 KEZIA GILL
- 17 TOMBSTONE DUNNERY
- 18 NINE BELOW ZERO
- 19 THE SMYTHS
- 24 BIG COUNTRY
- 25 THE DEVOUT
- 26 THE WATCH

## NOVEMBER

- 1 MARK CHADWICK (LEVELLERS)
- 2 AYNLEY LISTER
- 3 JOHN OTWAY BIG BAND
- 9 ULTIMATE COLDPLAY
- 10 DR FEELGOOD
- 16 BLONDIE
- 17 BON JOVI FOREVER

## DECEMBER

- 18 THE FILLERS
- 21 SLADE UK
- 22 FLEETWOOD BAC
- 23 FLEETWOOD BAC
- 27 UB40 EXPERIENCE
- 28 FLASH
- 29 FLASH
- 30 ELECTRIK LIVE ORCHESTRA

## JANUARY 2023

- 21 STRAIGHTEN OUT
- 27 FOO FIGHTERS GB
- 28 AC/DC UK

## FEBRUARY

- 3 STILL MARILLION
- 10 DANNY BRYANT
- 17 A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY
- 18 DARK SIDE OF THE WALL
- 25 SMALL FAKERS

## MARCH

- 10 A BAND CALLED MALICE

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# Uttoxeter & District CAMRA

Contact Graham Shenton  
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## Welcome to our Branch

The Uttoxeter sub-branch of Heart of Staffs is thriving, and we have a great deal of good news to share with other Camra members. Unfortunately, HoS no longer publishes a periodical/magazine, so we have approached the Derby Drinker to share our good news. The sub-branch has over 80 members, around 20% attending our monthly meetings. As many of our members drink regularly in Derby (and Burton, Ashbourne and just about everywhere else in your region) it seems more than appropriate that we make this approach. Hopefully this update will also inform Derby Camra members who might visit Uttoxeter, for example, to visit Uttoxeter races.

For years Uttoxeter had very little to offer Real Ale drinkers other than Bass and more Bass. However much has changed in recent times and we now boast an award-winning Brewery, award winning 'tap house' and thriving micro-pub. If you still like your Bass then there is still plenty available with the Vaults probably having the best on offer (at least as good as the Smithfield if you ask me!).

## Uttoxeter Brewing Company

It's been a busy spring and summer at Uttoxeter Brewing Company (UBC). With the seasonal sports clubs in full swing and the weddings, garden parties and event bright beers in big demand it's been a struggle to keep up at times especially with the summer pales in demand. Weekend trade at the brewery tap has been good too with the great weather definitely favouring an outside only bar!! With no seating inside, the Brewery Tap will now be closed for the Winter other than for 'off-sales'

Speaking of bars our venue tap Night Inn won a prestigious bronze award as the third best pub/bar in Staffordshire as voted by Staffordshire CAMRA members. This is great reward for the hard work in trying to establish a new bar offer during difficult trading conditions with Covid and cost of living issues (see photograph of Rachel Makinson receiving the award on behalf of the Night Inn). There's more to come for this bar over the next year with further changes planned. The Night Inn shares the facility with HOHM, an excellent Café Bar. The Night Inn takes over the venue from 3.00pm Thursday through to Sunday. They serve a selection of UBC beers (cask) plus guests (cask and keg). The good news is that for the time being UBC ales are £2.50 a pint on Thursdays and Sundays.

Back at the brewery we were delighted and honoured to gain silver and bronze medals at the Midlands SIBA awards at Chesterfield beer festival. Silver was awarded to our spiced rum-infused porter Winner's Enclosure at a heady 6.5% ABV whilst the bronze went to our stock pale Admiral Gardner. Previously a single hopped Citra beer this we tinkered with this at the start of the year adding Jester to round off the edges and we were delighted the judges recognised us.

Going forward there's our first stout in the pipeline as we head into winter. The whole trade both pubs and suppliers are



geared for a difficult few months with inflationary pressures to both supplier ingredients and the cost of energy. Hopefully Government measures will alleviate some of the pain but the whole industry is waiting to see how things pan out. At UBC we'd love to get an extra FV and increase our output.

## Micropub

The Horse and Dove is our micro-pub. Opening about 5 years ago it has recently changed hands but still operates along similar lines (pun intended). 4 rotating hand pulls (though Leatherbritches Citra and Butty Bach are almost permanent features) they have recently added Rattler and Brennans Irish Stout to their fixtures. The Horse and Dove is not open on Mondays and does not open until 3.30 Tuesday through to Friday. The Horse and Dove is probably the best option for Cider drinkers.

## Branch Diary

Branch Meeting - Monday 14th November - Venue TBC

Branch Meeting - Monday 12th December - Venue TBC

Check out the website for updates - [www.utttoxetercamra.org](http://www.utttoxetercamra.org)





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## 16 – 18 February 2023 Burton Town Hall

CAMRA are really excited to be bringing everyone back together in Burton upon Trent in February for the Great British Beer Festival Winter.

As the winter counterpart to CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival, visitors will find a fantastic range of not only dark and winter brews but a great selection of light and hoppy ales to sample over the period.

The festival will feature hundreds of cask and craft beers, ciders, perries and gin in the beautiful surrounds of Burton Town Hall, where visitors can also enjoy a range of entertainment and food throughout the weekend.

*Further details in the next Issue but put the dates in your diary now and don't miss out on this fantastic event.*



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# BURTON & SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CAMRA BRANCH

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



## The National Brewery Centre (NBC)

As no doubt the majority of the public will be aware, the NBC is planning to close on the 31st October 2022. By the time you read this, it will probably be closed but a massive public kickback just might be able to save it? East Staffs Borough Council (ESBC) have now committed to retaining all of the items, artifacts and archives in a proposed Burton Heritage Centre in Bass House in High Street.

CAMRA issued a Press Release the next day strongly supporting the campaign to stop the closure as "a devastating loss not only to Burton upon Trent but the nation's brewing history". CAMRA rightly concentrated on the archives and artifacts, of which there are reported to be over half a million! This includes vintage vehicles and even a railway locomotive. Tory led ESBC had given a commitment to retain all of the artifacts but the Heritage Brewery Trust had said only a selection would be on public display. This sounds to me like so many other things these days, promise everything the public wants to get the idea accepted and approved and then when it is in place in a greatly diminished way, it is too late to do anything about it. Many examples, Brexit being just one!

Clearly the archives and artifacts are very important but there is so much more that could be lost forever from the NBC. The museum guided tours were a mine of knowledge, too much to take in on just one visit as they covered more than just the Brewing process by encompassing the development of Brewing, the social history and even learn about the Bass family. There is also the Heritage Brewery, which was originally the William Worthington Brewery, which will also close. It recreates and produces famous classic beers of the past including, Masterpiece, White Shield and Red Shield, Charrington's IPA, Offiler's Best Bitter, to name but a few. The NBC is also a venue for Music, Comedy, Escape rooms, a unique restaurant surrounded by Beer memorabilia, a bar with a good range of ales, a large bottle shop and even Shire horses. There are also major events like the annual Oktoberfest which will be one of the last events before closure.

I think it would be nigh on impossible to recreate what we have now at a different location. At the end of the day this closure will not only be a tragedy for all beer aficionados but also for Burton Town itself which benefits from the visitors from all over the world visiting the venue and the area. It makes me wonder what our council is here for, it seems like it is not to implement the will of the people and making things better but to suck up to big business which will take advantage of an inept council making things worse. Molson Coors have a lot to answer for as well!



*The restaurant at the NBC*

## The Third Burton Ale Trail

With fifteen venues and an innovative Smartphone app, the third Burton Ale Trail took place between 1st and 4th September. New additions to the trail were The Alfred Ale House on Derby Street and The Constitutional Club on High Street, both proved very popular as did the app, which was downloaded one thousand times, it even crashed on the Friday evening due to its popularity.

The app gave drinkers access to venue profiles, a map, opening times, entertainment lists and live beer boards which were made possible by the folks at Real Ale Finder. Drinkers could earn virtual badges by checking in at each venue and everywhere you went there were people either scanning in or scratching their heads wondering how to use a QR Code!

"The app was a real game-changer for a lot of people," observes Dan Hornsby from Beeropolis. "From a behind-the-bar perspective, it was great that people had easy access to things like opening hours and beer lists. People absolutely loved being able to check in at each pub as they visited, to have a proper record of how far they'd managed to get round the Burton Ale Trail."

"It was a weekend full of laughter, sweat and cankles," says Mandy Muir from The Weighbridge Inn. "Most importantly people enjoyed themselves. The Burton Ale Trail is a fantastic weekend for us as it shows the customers that Burton has plenty to offer, it's putting the town firmly back on the drinking map."

Stitch from The Dog agrees: "The atmosphere was electric in all the venues I visited including our own. It was nice to see returning faces and people that had met on the previous Burton Ale Trail do the trail together. It was really good to see the town alive again."

Drinkers were much more evenly spread over the weekend; rather than venues being full to capacity on the Saturday evening, the other three days had much more trade than last time.

"Each Burton Ale Trail has solidly doubled our takings over a normal week and this third one came close to triple! It was the best yet for us," says an enthusiastic Dan. "Of the sixteen different beers we started with only two just barely survived to the end of the weekend!"

As with previous Burton Ale Trails a number of beers had been brewed exclusively for the weekend. As 2022 marks the 200th anniversary

of the first commercial Burton brewing of India Pale Ale by Samuel Allsopp, it was fitting that many were IPA's: Joule's did a one-off version of Kolkata, Fownes brewed Royal Oak India Pale Ale using modern British hops and Gates Burton Brewery supplied Classic IPA. Other exclusives were Muirhouse's Weighdaze and Burton Town's Mild Thing.

At the end of each Burton Ale Trail drinkers are invited to vote for their favourite beer and the winner was Gates Classic IPA.

"I am thrilled to have won best beer," says brewer Stuart Gates. "Especially as there were some great beers on the Burton Ale Trail. Many thanks to all those who took the time to vote."

Mandy Muir: "Here's a big cheers from us all and we all look forward to seeing you all again in six months."

The Burton Ale Trail will be back between 13th and 19th March 2023 with more beer and fun.

**16th to 19th March 2023**



A couple of photos from the BAT on the 1st day, Thursday afternoon:



*The Devonshire Arms Beer Garden on Thursday early afternoon.*



*Brews of the World on Thursday late afternoon. Coincidentally the 1st day under new management. Many thanks to Chris and Rob for a fantastic few years, starting from a quiet bottle shop to one of the best Real Ale pubs in Burton.*



# Derby Pubs Refurbished and Reopened

Up and down the Country the post-pandemic period has seen many pubs not re-open and in most cases looking like they are gone for good. Derby however has seemed to buck that trend and has not only seen pubs re-open but being refurbished as well.

In the railway station area 2 pubs that were closed before the pandemic have now both re-opened with new licensees and had mini spruce ups as well. **The Station Inn** on Midland Road is featured in the article below while the **Victoria Inn** on Midland Place was featured in the last Derby Drinker. Both have introduced a



Victoria Inn

range of real ales and ciders and are worth a call if passing.

Over in the City Centre 2 pubs have undergone different refurbishments, one mostly external the Old Dolphin while the other a mixture of both internal and external, the Standing Order.

The **Standing Order** underwent a brief period of closure in order to undertake a major refurbishment of the premises. The acquisition of estate agents, Boxall Brown & Jones, next door, has allowed it to expand sideways and create a number of smaller more intimate areas running the

full length of the pub that have been tastefully decorated and furnished. While outside at the rear a whole new garden patio area has been created which will prove a godsend during warmer weather. The main pub inside is still pretty much the same but has been fully re-decorated and re-carpeted and overall the changes are sure to prove popular with Derby's pub goers. As will the extensive beer range which includes many guest ales too.

Derby's oldest pub dating back to 1530 is **Ye Olde Dolphin Inne** and it has undergone a major external re-vamp which has included a complete overall paint job, new signage including a large dolphin image running down the side of the pub and a total overhaul of the rear garden to make it bright and airy with a much better outlook. Internally the pub remains the same with a range of ales on the bar.

Meanwhile in the **Five Lamps** area of Derby, the Five Lamps pub was briefly closed to undergo an internal refurb. The layout remains the same but dark wooden flooring & panelling has been introduced with a darker colour scheme throughout. The beer range is still extensive but the choice of real ales now varies more often than it did previously and includes ever changing guest beers.

So there you have it then 5 Derby pubs which have all been re-vamped post pandemic and are well worth a look with a big range of real ales and ciders to try while on your visit.



The Standing Order



Ye Olde Dolphin Inne



The Five Lamps

## Inn Focus: Station Inn, Midland Road

**T**he revival of the railway station area of Derby continues unabated with the reopening of the attractively fronted Station Inn, Midland Road, on the 30th September.

Those with a long memory may recall the days when the Peasmouldia folk club packed out the Station's back room and Draught Bass could always be relied on to slake one's thirst. Long serving licensee, Dave Lalor, juggled the Burton brew up from his award-winning cellar much to the delight of CAMRA members who held many a meeting here. Dave's tenure began in 1986 and lasted into the 21stC but he sadly passed away during retirement on the east coast a couple of years ago.

Following a number of licensee changes, Trevor and Melanie Jenkinson of the Needles, Alvaston, now run the newly refurbished premises and I popped in to take a look.

Notwithstanding redecoration, the front bar is little altered, retaining the traditional bar back, tiled floor and pool

table. The spacious rear room has a musical theme with LP covers and a big Bob Marley poster pays homage to the late reggae star. Outside at the rear, a small patio area is being developed which I'm sure will attract the afternoon sun next summer.

On the beer front, four handpumps dispense Draught Bass and Pedigree permanently while two changing guest beers supplement them. A full roster of screened football matches is scheduled and it's definitely worth a visit if you're in the area which also has seen the re-emergence of the Victoria Inn on Midland Place.





## 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
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
Flowerpot, Derby	20p off a pint
Furnace, Derby	20p off a pint
Last Post, 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
Victoria Inn, Derby	20p off a pint
Half Moon, Littleover	50p off a pint camra vouchers accepted
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

### DERBYSHIRE

Town Street Tap, Duffield	10p off a pint, 5p off a half
Seven Wells, Etwell	10p off a pint
Hardinge Arms, Kings Newton	30p off a pint
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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

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

If you are a licensee and you are interested in joining the scheme then please contact us at [pubsofficer@derby.camra.org.uk](mailto:pubsofficer@derby.camra.org.uk), we will advertise your pub through this column of the Derby Drinker and on the Derby & National CAMRA websites.

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September/October – **August 1st**

November/December – **October 1st**

**Copy Deadlines in BOLD**

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