



Issue 217

Oct 2026 - Jan 2027

DERBY Drinker

FREE



Cheers

Covering Most of Derbyshire and Beyond

Derby CAMRA Heritage Beer Festival 2026

Derby Market Hall

Wednesday 14th - Saturday 17th
October



Derby & Belper Area Annual Beer Census Results



GOOD BEER GUIDE 2027 NOW OUT



Further details inside plus loads, loads more



HALLOWEEN DARK VS LIGHT FESTIVAL

28TH OCTOBER - 1ST NOVEMBER



20 CASK ALES
10 DARK / 10 LIGHT

28TH. 7PM
COMEDY QUIZ
W/KEVEY BOW



29TH. 7PM
DRINK & DRAW
W/MR THE BEEF

OPENING AT MIDDAY WED/THURS. 11AM FRI/SAT/SUN

FURNACE BREWPUB
9 DUKE STREET, DE1 3BX

DERBY DRINKER INFORMATION

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Position of the advert cannot be guaranteed although we will do our best to accommodate any requests.

COPY BY POST - Contact Paul

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@derby.camra.org.uk

or send a cheque made payable to 'Derby CAMRA' to :

Derby Drinker by Post, 59A Mile Ash Lane, Darley Abbey, Derby, DE22 1DE.

Welcome

Hello & welcome to Derby Drinker the magazine of the Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale which is produced five times a year and is distributed all over Derbyshire and beyond.

We hope you enjoy reading it and if you have any comments or opinions please e-mail the Editor with your observations. We would also like to hear from you if you have any news, articles, photos or details of events that might be happening throughout the area as we'd love to promote anything we weren't aware of. Just drop us a line to **derbydrinker@derby.camra.org.uk**

Free Advertising

Would you like to get your pub, brewery, event, etc advertised for FREE on Derby CAMRA's website and throughout all their social media platforms? Well now you can by taking out an advert in Derby Drinker we will also guarantee to promote it at no additional costs across all our formats. The advert rates are set out opposite and we offer a range of sizes to suit your budget so just drop us an e-mail and we'll see what we can do for you - **ads@derby.camra.org.uk**

The Derby CAMRA Branch area

We often get asked about the exact area that Derby CAMRA covers, well it is quite extensive and includes the following:- **All of Derby City, Aston-on-Trent, Duffield, Coxbench, Melbourne, Ockbrook, Repton, Shardlow, Ticknall, Weston-on-Trent and Willington.**

We also have a **Sub-Branch** which covers the **Ashbourne** area and they have a regular page of news and features within Derby Drinker so check out the updates from that Branch there or take a look at their website

<https://www.facebook.com/AshbourneCAMRA/>

CAMRA Member Discounts on Real Ales

Did you know if you are a CAMRA member you can get a discount with your membership card in many pubs throughout the Country. Derby & Derbyshire pubs offer varying degree of discounts and Derby CAMRA's website has the latest list of participating pubs **www.derby.camra.org.uk/discount-scheme** so please check it out.

And if you would like your pub to join the scheme and get some free publicity through our website and social media outlets then please contact the Pubs Officer - **pubsofficer@derby.camra.org.uk**



Derby
Market
Hall



Derby City Council

50:50



14TH-17TH OCTOBER
DERBY MARKET HALL
100+ REAL ALES
CIDERS & PERRIES
FOR MORE INFO GO TO DERBY.CAMRA.ORG.UK

BUY TICKETS HERE:




Derby CAMRA Branch

Derby CAMRA Heritage Beer Festival Returns

Derby CAMRA's Heritage Beer Festival is back in a new venue from **Wednesday 14th to Saturday 17th October 2026** after moving from one heritage building at the Museum of Making to another heritage building at Derby Market Hall.

The historic, re-vamped Market Hall is celebrating its 160th birthday this year so it seems an appropriate time to join in their Birthday celebrations at this magnificent Victorian building with its spectacular barrel-vaulted, cast-iron roof structure. The Beer Festival itself will take place in the central trading area where the stillage will be installed containing over 100 different beers and ciders. Craft keg & bottled beers will also be available. The existing traders in the Market Hall will remain open providing a diverse range of stalls including food outlets to compliment the Beer Festival. And entertainment will also feature heavily throughout to provide an atmospheric backdrop for this popular event.

So, we do hope as many of you as possible can make it and you can purchase tickets in advance online from Tckty or follow the QR code. Alternatively, you can visit the Derby Live sales and information centre located at 19 Chapel St, Derby, DE1 3GU. Or the Derby Live desk in the Derby Market Hall. You can also pay on the day subject to capacity limits.



Further details are on this page, but you can keep up to date with the latest info on the Derby CAMRA Heritage Beer Festival Facebook page.

Dates, Times & Entry Price

14th Oct - 5-10pm, 15th -17th Oct - 12-10pm. Tickets - £9 (including £3 refundable glass). Free entry for CAMRA members.

Location, Access & Directions

Market Hall, Tenant St, Derby. DE1 2DB. There are 3 entrances to the Market Hall, 1 off the Market Place, 1 off Corn Market and 1 off Osnabruck Square on Albert St. If arriving by train, it's approximately a 16-minute walk or you can catch a bus to the bus station. From the Bus Station it's approximately a 3-minute walk.

Entertainment

Wed Afternoon - Becki Sings (soloist), Sticky Bones Jones (soloist).

Wed Evening - Support (TBC), Skarantinos (ska and reggae band).

Thu Afternoon - The Desperate Cowboys (trio), Henry John & Milly Ayesha.

Thu Evening - Paul Tabor's songbook (you choose the music), Strange Days (pop, rock & motown covers band).

Fri Afternoon - Wheels of Empire (duo), Leah Wilcox (soloist), Carl North Band (band).

Fri Evening - Cain Paisley (acoustic covers), New Cranes (folk rock band).

Sat Afternoon - Shanty choir, G2S choir (TBC).

Sat Evening - Donovanlan (60's/70's acoustic covers), Peashooter (classic pop & rock covers band). For further info or if you would like to play at the festival contact Gareth Stead at festival.ents@derby.camra.org.uk

Trade Session

There will be a Trade Session on Wednesday 14th October from 2pm till 5pm. If you are in the trade then please contact the Festival Sponsorship Secretary, Steve Cooper with your name, pub, brewery details etc at pocketcooper@btinternet.com to obtain your tickets.

Upcoming Nearby CAMRA Beer Festivals

As we head into Winter there are still plenty of CAMRA supported Beer Festivals with the nearby ones listed below. And remember, if you are a CAMRA member then most CAMRA Beer Festivals now offer free entry.

Nottingham – 7-10 Oct - Trent Bridge Cricket Ground.

Derby – 14-17 Oct - Market Hall.

Sheffield – 21-24 Oct - Kelham Island Museum.

Grantham – 22-24 Oct - St Wulfram's Church.

Gainsborough – 22-24 Oct - Blues Club.

Kidderminster – 12-14 Nov - Harriers Social Club.

Newark – 20-21 Nov - Town Hall.

Dudley – 26-28 Nov - Town Hall.

Free Entry to CAMRA Beer Festivals

From 2026 CAMRA members will get free entry to all Beer Festivals that are organised by CAMRA. This won't apply to Beer Festivals that are jointly organised with another party though. But remember to check out the Festival's website first as there will be different arrangements for entry to each Festival. So, even more of an incentive to join as you get thirty pounds of 50p off beer vouchers every year as well and also some discounts at pubs too. You can join online at camra.org.uk/join or in person at most CAMRA events, just look at for the CAMRA stand.

Derby Beer Girls' Social Gatherings

This is a monthly meeting group for *all* women who want to sip and chat together once a month. You don't *have* to be a CAMRA Member to come along. You don't have to drink beer (or cider even). You just have to enjoy having some space to meet with other women while supporting the pubs of Derby. Our next gathering is listed below:-

Wed 28th Oct - Exeter Arms, Derby.

Thu 19th Nov - Flowerpot, Derby.

Tue 19th Jan - Royal Standard, Derby.

Other Local Beer Festivals

Derby Drinker is delighted to promote the following events and you'll see their adverts listed in this or previous issues. To get your Beer Festival listed here you will need to take an advert out with us.

Brunswick – 30 Sep-3 Oct - Derby.

Furnace – 28 Oct-1 Nov - Derby.

Dead Poets – 19-22 Nov - Holbrook.

Smithfield – 3-6 Dec - Derby.

Derby CAMRA Branch Diary

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

OCTOBER

Tue 6th – Social - Standing Order, Derby - 7pm.

Thu 8th – Branch Meeting – Tannery, Derby - 8pm.

14-17 – Beer Festival – Market Hall, Derby.

Tue 20th – Social - Alexandra, Derby - 7.30pm.

NOVEMBER

Tue 10th – Branch Meeting – Seven Stars, Derby - 8pm.

Sat 14th – Skittles Social - Burton Bridge Inn - 6pm.

DECEMBER

Thu 17th – Xmas Fuddle – Falstaff, Derby - 7pm.

JANUARY

Thu 14th – Branch Meeting – Venue TBC – 8pm

Contact the Social Secretary, by email - socials@derby.camra.org.uk
(Check www.derby.camra.org.uk for all upcoming events)



Ashbourne & District CAMRA Branch

Contact Mark Grist m.grist2@sky.com

Ashbourne Beer Festival

August saw the return of the Ashbourne CAMRA Beer & Cider festival, our 10th in the Town Hall. We moved the festival in line with the Bank Holiday weekend in the hope of attracting more visitors, but what we hadn't anticipated was that there were 5 other beer festivals within 20 miles. So, the hall never felt 'full' and numbers on the Friday night were a little disappointing. The 30 cask ales and 10 Ciders were popular and soon started to run dry, several people commented on the good range of beers and ciders and the atmosphere was excellent. Our volunteers soon got the hang of people paying by card instead of beer tokens and we ran our own popular gin bar and food stand. We had our own App (written by the Red Lion at Kniveton) to score the beers and make personal notes on tastings. The Beer of the Festival was: Ubiquitous from Brunswick Brewery and the Cider/Perry of the festival was: Paradise Perry by Blue Barrel. The festival was another success; we made a modest surplus and attracted a handful of new



members. Thanks to our suppliers & sponsors, the Committee all our volunteers and to all our visitors for their support.



Branch Diary

(subject to changes)

Tue 27th Oct - Branch Meeting - Green Man, Ashbourne - 8pm.

Tue 24th Nov - Branch Meeting - Brass Button, Ashbourne - 8pm.

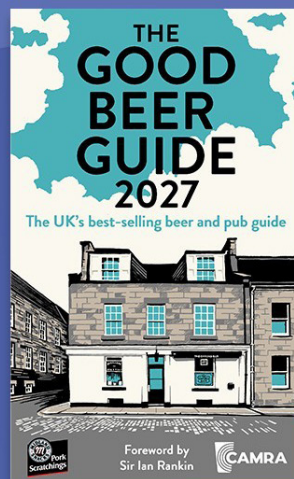
Tue 22nd Dec - Xmas Pub Crawl, Ashbourne - meet Smith's Tavern - 7pm.



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*Sir Ian Rankin photo credit Louise Mather



Foreword
by Sir Ian
Rankin

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Derbyshire Pub News

Things are constantly changing on the pub scene, so it is nice to catch up on everything we know about in our area. You may already be aware of some of this information but other things you might have missed so we recap here...

And we start with some news from Derby first: -

The **Peacock** on **Nottingham Rd** has new licensees.

John Smith licensee of the Victoria Inn has taken on the running of the **Metro Bar** on **Albert St**.

Revised plans have been submitted for the closed **Duke Of Clarence** pub on **Mansfield Rd** which include knocking the pub down and building apartments with a micropub on the ground floor.

The closed **189** micropub in **Allestree** has reopened again.

R&R's sportsbar in **Chellaston** is now open again serving real ale.

A new venue on Station Rd in **Mickleover** called **The Yard** should be open by Christmas and real ale will feature.

The **Pattenmakers Arms** in **Duffield** has stopped serving food.

The **Tavern** in **Belper** has re-opened with a new Tenant serving 4 real ales.

The **Black Swan** in **Belper** has re-opened after refurbishment by Brown Ales with 7 real ales.

The **Angels** micropub in **Belper** has expanded into next door premises with 3 additional rooms.

The **Hollybush** in **Marehay** no longer serves meals.

The **Little Alehouse** in **Ripley** which had closed is re-open again under new management.

The **Butterley Park** in **Ripley** is closed and up for sale.

The closed **Punch Bowl** in **West Hallam** will undergo refurbishment by Star Pubs and re-open in late November.

Still no news of when the **Bell** in **Smalley** will open again with work ongoing.

The **Cherry Tree Farm** pub in **Willington** has been re-furbed by owners Greene King.

The **2010** in **Matlock** has closed with its future uncertain.

The **Seven Oaks** in **Stanton by Dale** is closed with future uncertain.

Refurbishment has continued at the **Greyhound** in **Cromford** with an Autumn opening expected.

The **Cock Inn** at **Mugginton** is open again after refurbishment.

The **Cheddar Cheese** at **Longnor** is under new management.

And finally, the **Drum & Monkey** in **Swadlincote** has re-opened after refurbishment.

Derby Drinker would like to thank other local newsletters and CAMRA members for these updates, but the usual disclaimer applies to the info provided.

Quacking Beer

DARK DRAKE ABV - 4.5% Deep, Rich Oatmeal Stout
NICE WEATHER ABV - 4.1% Copper Coloured Session Ale
AY UP ABV - 3.9% Generously Hopped Pale Ale
ABDUCTION ABV - 5.5% Exquisite, Full Flavoured IPA
dcuk ABV - 4.3% Fashionable Pale Hoppy Ale
22 ABV - 4.3% Beautifully Balanced Best Bitter

We've been brewing great beer in Derby since 2010, the team are all passionate about ale and work their socks off to make sure that every pint we make is consistent and delicious.

We're serious about beer but we're not too serious about anything else!

www.dancingduckbrewery.com

The brand new edition of CAMRA's best selling Good Beer Guide is now out. It features all of Derbyshire's best pubs as well as those from all over the Country, so if you want to see whose made it this time then order your copy today. It also features a comprehensive brewery section featuring all of Derbyshire's breweries. Copies are available to buy around some of the the area's pubs as well as online and at various bookshops.

About the Guide:-

- The Good Beer Guide is the definitive guidebook to pubs that serve great cask beer across the UK
- The Guide uses an independent, volunteer-led selection process that makes it the authoritative and trusted voice of cask beer drinkers in the UK
- This is the complete book for beer lovers and for anyone wanting to experience the UK's finest pubs..
- The Good Beer Guide is completely independent, with listings based entirely on evaluation by CAMRA members.
- This is a collectible annual snapshot of excellence in beer and pub culture..

Advertise with us and get your pub or event seen in almost every pub in Derbyshire?

As Derby Drinker copies are delivered all over Derbyshire and Beyond.

Full Page - £170 (Back Page £195) Half Page - £90, Quarter Page - £50

Take out 5 adverts and get the 5th FREE if you pay up front for all the adverts.

Advert deadline next Issue - XX/XX/26

Contact Us
e-mail - ads@derby.camra.org.uk

Let the Indigo take you from Derby to Notts to visit some fine Pubs



The Manor



The Bird Hide



The Cadland



The Hop Pole



Totally Tapped

Part 2 – Nottinghamshire

In this issue we cover the Indigo bus route as it leaves Derbyshire and heads over the border into Nottinghamshire. If you missed part one, past copies of Derby Drinker are available to read on the Derby CAMRA website.

These days it is used for a variety of different events including farmers & craft markets, beer festivals, etc. Here the bus meets the tram route to Nottingham.

On the approach to Beeston, you'll find the **Chequers Inn** operated by Star Pubs (Heineken) with real ale and across the road the **Hop Pole** dating to 1870 which has had a great reputation for its range of ales over many years. The pub features original beams while the fireplace in the back bar keeps the visitor warm in winter. Further on is the **Totally Tapped** micropub which was part of the Totally Brewed brewery until it shut in 2023. 4 cask ales are found in this small venue before you take a five-minute stride into Beeston town Centre.

Beeston is perhaps the jewel in the crown along the Indigo route with so many good pubs to visit and worth a trip & article all on its own. The likes of the **Crown**, **White Lion** (Lincoln Green), **Star Inn** (sister pub to the Horse & Jockey, Stapleford), **Commercial Inn**, **Malt Shovel**, **Last Post** (Wetherspoons) and the **Victoria** by the Railway Station are all well worth a call for a vast & varied range of real ales.



The Crown



The White Lion



The Star Inn

Joining the bus again we head to Dunkirk and get off at the stop before it turns and goes up towards Queens Medical Centre (QMC). From here take a short 5-minute walk to the **Johnson Arms** built in 1912. This former Shipstones pub retains the original etched windows, complemented by a green-tiled frontage and is now managed again by Shipstones. 6 cask ales feature. Leaving the pub, you'll find the **Boat Inn** dating from 1923 just around the corner on Priory St and officially in Lenton as the historical landmark of Lenton Priory stood nearby. The former Home Ales Brewery livery is clearly visible on the pub's exterior and inside is decorated along a nautical theme. From here, retrace your steps back to the Dunkirk stop to catch the Indigo towards Nottingham.

After QMC, another 2 big

roadhouse style pubs come into view, the **Rose & Crown** and the **Three Wheatsheaves**, sadly both don't have any real ale so stay on the bus to Canning Circus in Nottingham where some great real ale pubs await. Here you'll find the Blue Monkey pub – **Organ Grinder**, a Lincoln Green Brewery pub – **Sir John Borlase Warren**, **Falcon Inn**, **Good Fellow George** and the **Running Horse**, a pub well known for its live music which has a superb late Victorian or Edwardian green and yellow tiled exterior on the ground floor but note - it's only open at weekends. From Canning Circus, you can catch the bus back or stay and explore the vast array of Nottingham's other pubs.

All in all then the Indigo bus offers a huge variety of pubs & ales along its route, probably too many to do in one day unless you're selective

so why not break it up and visit different sections at a time over a number of days, you'll certainly enjoy it.

Gareth Stead.



The Johnson Arms



The Organ Grinder



Sir John Borlase Warren



The Running Horse



The Boat Inn

From the Old Market Hall, St Albans, to Derby Market Hall: A Brief History of the CAMRA Beer Festival

CAMRA's first beer festival, or beer exhibition, as they were sometimes referred to, was held at the Old Market Hall, St Albans, and organised by the fledgling South Hertfordshire Branch of the campaign. Fourteen brewers donated 26 casks enabling beer to be sold at just 2p a half!

Needless to say, the event on Saturday 30th March 1974 was a runaway success but the following year this was well and truly eclipsed at the inaugural national beer festival at the Old Flower Market, Covent Garden, London. A framed poster in the Railway pub, King Street, Belper, attests to this landmark festival which saw 40,000 drinkers down 50 beers. In the scorching summer of 1976, Nottingham CAMRA held its first festival, details of which are shown on the poster we've reproduced. Similarly, Burton On Trent CAMRA's first festival beer mat from 1980 is here.

Derby City Charter Beer Festival

Derby was conferred with city status in 1977 and the then Mayor, the late Jeffrey Tillett, sought a suitable way in which to celebrate our elevated status. Jeffrey approached Derby CAMRA and the doors to the King's Hall, also known as Queen Street Baths, Derby, opened on 6th April 1978 for our inaugural City Charter Beer Festival, admitting the first punters who had formed a long queue down Cathedral Road. In total, 7,500 people drank upwards of 20,000 pints in



the inter-war venue that had hitherto been known for swimming, wrestling and performances by bands such as Hawkwind, Rory Gallagher and Wizard.



CAMRA volunteers worked tirelessly to give the Derby public their first taste of a beer festival, and it wasn't to be the last.

In 1982, the annual City Charter Festival relocated to the modern and commodious Assembly Rooms on the Market Place where aggregated attendances of over 12,000 were recorded in its peak years. The Assembly Rooms were an excellent venue which facilitated festival goers space in which to enjoy different bars, musical entertainment and areas to get away from the hubbub if they chose. The Darwin Suite later became integral to the festival. In



2013, a major refurbishment of the Great Hall was undertaken, necessitating the City Charter Festival moving to a large marquee on the Market Place. In 2014, after a fire in the plant room of the multi storey car park adjoining the Assembly Rooms, Derby City Council closed them, and after protracted prevarication, they now face demolition. The last City Charter Beer and Cider Festival was held in a marquee on the Market Place in 2017.

2020 to date

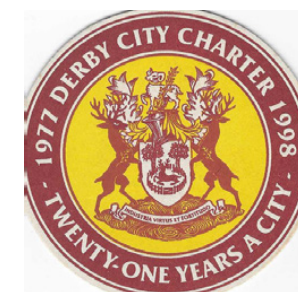
In October 2020, Derby City Council and Derby CAMRA held a joint venture known as the Beer Sessions on the Market Place which had a huge range of beer together with table service.

In the post-pandemic era, finding a suitable venue to host a beer

and cider festival hasn't been easy but two successful festivals were held at the Museum of Making integral to the Silk Mill whose industrial history led to the festival being named The Heritage Beer Festival.

We can now look forward to the third Heritage Beer and Cider Festival being held at the expensively refurbished **Market Hall** which originally opened in the 1860s. Between the evening of Wednesday 14th and Saturday 17th October, enthusiasts can enjoy upwards of 100 real ales, ciders and perries. Our first festival in 1978 had just 39 real ales.

Paul Gibson



Derby's Pubs are Still Amongst the Best in the Country

If you're headed for the Heritage Beer and Cider Festival starting on Wednesday 14th October at Derby's expensively refurbished Market Hall, you might want to enhance your experience by visiting one or two hosteleries nearby. Here are a few suggestions.



The Tiger in adjoining Lock-up Yard is a true town local which was integral to a Georgian coaching inn fronting the Corn Market, and in the latter part of the 18th century, the Derby Society of Musicians met here, one of whom was the renowned local artist, Joseph Wright. Today, you'll find Dancing Duck dcuk, Pedigree and Taylor's Landlord on the bar.

Just off the Market Place is Sadler Gate where another former coaching inn, the **Old Bell Hotel**, awaits. Paul Hurst has owned the Bell since 2012 and has been a mainstay in the revival of one Derby's best loved streets. Varied entertainment is held in the former ballroom at the back



and the front bar has Draught Bass and three changing guest beers. They take real ale seriously here so you're unlikely to be disappointed.

Dukes just down Sadler Gate was known as Vines wine bar but has gained a new lease of life courtesy of the Bustler Market who have contracted Buxton Brewery to supply all of the beer. The interior has dark green walls with much tasteful, modern decoration above stripped floorboards. Right to Roam is complemented by another changing beer from Buxton, and Dukes opens out onto the busy Bustler Market. Cask ales are just £4 on Thursdays.

Towards the bottom of the same street is the **Tannery** run by Chris



and Sharon Sherratt on behalf of Ashover Brew Company. Half a dozen of their beers feature, all brewed by Janine Shorrock whose hallmark is distinct variety. Set on three levels, the building has innate character on account of its age, and some stripping back which has revealed old brick and timber work. Good quality snacks are available and a guest beer offers an alternative to Ashover.



Back to the top of Sadler Gate, turn left into Iron Gate, and the unmissable Wetherspoon's, the **Standing Order**, hoves into view. Soon after conversion from a bank in 1993, it won a major architectural award in deference to the magnificent high-ceilinged interior, the centrepiece of which is Derby's only island bar. Further

improvements include a separate wood panelled room and a patio at the rear for fair weather drinking. Choice is a byword in Wetherspoon's so beer buffs are well catered for.

Barely 100 metres away on Queen Street, is the **Olde Dolphin Inne** which has been slaking the thirst of Derbeians for nearly five hundred years. If you've ever wondered which is the oldest of the three composite buildings, then the external corner chimney



piece is the give-away. It's rated a maximum of three stars on CAMRA's National Inventory of well-preserved pub interiors, and there's always a good selection of ales to choose from, including Draught Bass, Pedigree and a brace from Castle Rock of Nottingham. Derby CAMRA's 2025

Pub of the Year, the **Flower Pot**, is close-by on Queen Street, as is the **Furnace** brewpub on Duke Street. Both offer great beer ranges.

Over the road from the Dolphin, in Full Street, is the **Silk Mill**, renowned for both food and beer, and distinguished by a colourful mural of the 1833 silk mill lock-out. Well-kept Dancing Duck beers, Ay Up, Dark Drake and Nice Weather vie for attention with Oakham Citra and a guest beer.

Continue down Full Street to the island and turn left by the Council House where you'll see the **Royal Standard**, just over Exeter Bridge. The Pub People Co of South Normanton duly reinstated the pub's original name when they bought the premises from Derby Brewing Company a couple of years ago. The blue



plaque is in deference to Derby born Reg Parnell, a Formula One racing driver who lived here after World War Two. When I called on a Wednesday, there were live musicians and the beers of choice were Draught Bass, Ossett White Rat, Welbeck Abbey and a brace from Norfolk brewery, Woodforde's

Along Exeter Street is the **Exeter Arms**, rescued from closure by Martin Roper and Denise Sage in 2012, and a sister pub to the Silk Mill. It's twice been extended into adjoining properties but this has merely added to its cosy cottage character. Dancing Duck beers are prominent together with a guest or two and the culinary offering has won numerous awards. Not to be missed. The multi-award winning **Smithfield Ale House** is along Meadow Road, by the river.

At the time of writing, the **Metro Bar** on Albert Street was newly acquired by John Smith who has successfully reinvigorated the Victoria Inn near the railway station. Thus, this inconspicuous bar just to the south west of the Market Hall might well be worth checking out because John is a committed real ale enthusiast. Plenty of choice then in Derby.

Derby Museum and Art Gallery has a major exhibition of Joseph Wright's paintings displayed until 1st November.

Paul Gibson

Derbyshire CAMRA Branches

Derbyshire is covered by a number of different CAMRA Branches not just Derby & Ashbourne but Amber Valley who cover the Alfreton/ Belper/Ripley areas, Erewash who cover the Heanor/Ilkeston Long Eaton areas, Burton who cover the South Derbyshire area and Mansfield who cover the South Normanton area. If you live in any of these areas please give your local Branch some support by attending their meetings and socials, they'd love to see you. Check out their websites or facebook pages for details or see diary dates:-

Amber Valley

Tue 24 Nov - Branch Meeting - Victoria, Alfreton - 8pm.

Tue 23 Mar - Branch A G M - Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse - 8pm.

Erewash Valley

Sat 7th Nov - Social - Long Eaton.

Belper Beer Census Results 2026

The fourth annual Belper Beer Census took place on Saturday August 1st, starting at 3:30pm to enable walking route from the outskirts of Belper. Five routes took in all the licensed drinking premises from Millford, Holbrook and Belper, including a few just out of town on the western side. The idea was to complete a survey of the

number of real ales available in the area and compare to previous years. Cider was not included. We took the opportunity to complete the CAMRA pub mobility access survey for the Belper pubs, which not unsurprisingly showed that pubs were attempting to do what they can to make them accessible, but due to the

age of most of the buildings, it is a very difficult task.

This year 39 pubs were surveyed out of a possible 40, the Blue Bell at Farnah Green was missed.

Three pubs were found to be closed: The Tavern on Derby Road. This seems to be a regular occurrence. They are looking for yet another licensee. The Black Swan on the Market Place is due to re-open at the end of August after change of ownership and renovation. The Talbot will also reopen after change of ownership and renovation. It will be a restaurant, but possibly not reopening as a drinking establishment.

One bar has reopened. Moochers, the former Beer Trap. Like its predecessor, it sells craft keg, but no real ale. It markets itself as a coffee lounge, so perhaps not suitable to be included in the survey anyway.

Another four bars were found not to be serving real ale, including the usual Monk Bar, Gadsbys the Royal British Legion. The Dice and Barrel (formerly Scan and Barrel) is not selling any real ale, due to the difficulty in keeping it in good condition during the heat. It is hoping to stock again in the autumn.

In 2025, 50 breweries were represented, selling a choice of 83 real ales. This year, the number has dropped slightly to 47 breweries serving 81 different real ales. A small change, hopefully not signifying a downward trend. Repeating this exercise over the next few years will give a better picture.

The most popular real ales are once again is Bass, found in 10 different pubs, down from 12 last year, followed by Dancing Duck Ay Up (6), Pedigree (6), Timothy Taylor's Landlord (5), Oakham Citra (5) and Thornbridge Jaipur (5).

Angels in the Market Place and the Dead Poets at Holbrook were serving seven real ales, and the Black Bull's Head, Openwoodgate, The Hollybush at Makeney and the Railway on King Street were serving eight. Once again, Belper and area is proving to be an excellent place to visit for both choice and quality of its pubs.



Derby Annual Beer Census 2026

Derby CAMRA held its annual beer census (ABC) of Derby pubs on Friday 7th August. A turnout of over 30 or so Derby and Amber Valley CAMRA members participated in this year's ABC. All areas of the City were covered on several different pub crawls were members recorded the number of beers on sale including the price and ABV (alcohol by volume). The evening concluded at the Flowerpot where numbers were tallied up and members relaxed to enjoy a well earned social occasion (see photo).

The total number of real ales on the night was 242 (267 in 2025) and the number of unique ales was 176 (181 in 2025). Thus, numbers were slightly down compared to last year. Dancing Duck brewery beers were found in 21 pubs, Draught Bass was spotted in 16 and Falstaff brewery had its beers in 12 pubs. 24 breweries were noted during the evening. The average ABV was 4.46% and the median price of ales was £4.47 per pint.

All of which confirms that Derby has an amazing range and choice of different beers on sale all year round providing the City with a Beer Festival every single day.

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Pick up a slice of history – for the last time!

**CAMRA's 40th National Breweriana Auction; Saturday
24th October 2026**

Have you ever fancied owning a slice of brewing history? Then this Auction is just the thing for you. Run by the Campaign for Real Ale, the National Breweriana Auction returns to Burton on Trent's Town Hall on Saturday 24th October but sadly, after 40 events, this will be the very last national one so don't miss it!

It will have circa 150 interesting auction lots; everything from mirrors to trays; advertising signs, water jugs, flagons, bottles, books and pump clips as well as a few more unusual items. Plus there will be a number of stands selling brewery memorabilia adding to the atmosphere in this wonderful Victorian venue.



There are all sorts of items from all over the country to decorate your home. What about a flagon from Wadsworth's? Wadsworth's is based in Devizes, Wiltshire. They were founded in

1875 and remarkably are still owned and run by the descendants of John Smith Bartholomew, the co-founder of the brewery.

Or what about a limited-edition commemorative Millennium Ale set comprising of an unopened bottle, glass and bottle opener in a lovely metal container. This is from Mansfield Brewery, who



first started brewing in 1855 in North Nottinghamshire, taken over by Wolverhampton and Dudley in 1999 and closed in 2002. Wolverhampton & Dudley then took over Marston's and adopted that name. Sadly, following acquisition by Carlsberg, the Wolverhampton Brewery was closed in 2026.

There are numerous items that you can either use, or more likely display. What about a tray from Bass and there are a number of lots from Worthington including an ashtray (well used!), a match holder and the famous Worthington Mayor jug. And straddling the two brewers is a trio of leaflets listing their bottlers.

These two Burton on Trent breweries were founded in the mid/late 1700's with Worthington 16 years older. By the late 1800's, Bass was the biggest brewery in the world and merged with Worthington in 1927. Bass sold the brand to Coors (now Molson Coors) in 2002. Maybe their best known brand was Worthington White Shield; an iconic British style IPA, which ceased production in 2023 but you can still purchase it in Norway and the Netherlands! Included in the lots is an unusual display card advising customers to order their last bottle at last orders 'to allow for the care necessary in pouring the last rush of orders for Worthington White Shield'.



And the Auction wouldn't be the Auction without a Guinness item or two. This year we have a mug and a display stand among the lots.

These are just a few of the items on sale, each with a history to tell. You don't have to be an expert to attend the National Breweriana Auction. The Auction is great fun to take part in (or even just to watch) and it's an opportunity to get some great bargains plus many of the items on sale can appreciate in value. And, of course, like any CAMRA event, there is some good beer on sale all day (from a local brewery).

Burton on Trent is less than 15 minutes by train from Derby and the Town Hall is just a short walk from the railway station. The event starts at 10.30am with the opportunity to view the lots and browse the breweriana stands that will also be there. Bidding starts at noon and is normally finished by 3pm, giving a chance to have a final perusal of the stands before visiting some of Burton's iconic pubs and heading home.

Entrance is by catalogue (£3.00), available on the day, or in advance by post: £6.15 (first class) via <https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/559/national-breweriana-auction>. If you can't get there, postal bids are accepted, just contact Bill Austin: 07831 688276 or baustin1951@btinternet.com. Wheelchair accessible. For more details, see: www.gandc.camra.org.uk.

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