



Derby (Stay)Inn Newsletter

Issue 001



Welcome

We find ourselves in strange times with almost all pubs shut and our favourite tipples only available from shops or by delivery. Given the situation, Derby CAMRA have decided to not issue our normal publication Derby Drinker until sufficient pubs have re-opened, since this is the principal outlet. In order to keep everyone informed and entertained Derby CAMRA have decided to produce a electronic only newsletter, which is issue in line with our virtual pub The Derby (Stay)Inn. Note Mild and Bitter will continue. This is the first issue which will be available from the website and distributed using the usual social media channels and also via email. Feedback, constructive or otherwise, should be sent to chairman@derby.camra.org.uk
Happy drinking and stay safe!

Real Ale, Real Cider and Perry Availability

The most important issue for most readers is the availability of our favourite drinks during the lockdown period. Of course Brew2You lists many establishments, but to give a more personalised touch here are what is believed to be available either in the Derby area or delivering to Derby. Checkout the website for more details and links.

Breweries

Dancing Duck, Littleover, Leatherbritches and Muirhouse.

Pubs

- Derby: Brunswick Inn, Creaky Floorboards, Furnace Inn
- Melbourne: Harpers.
- Micklover: Hole in the Wall and Micklover Sports Club.
- Ockbrook: Cross Keys
- Repton: Bulls Head.
- Willington: Dragon.

Others near Derby CAMRA's area are: Brickmakers at Newton Solney, Draycott Tap at Draycott and Holy Bush Inn at Makeney.

If have more information please send it to pubsofficer@derby.camra.org.uk.

Website

Derby CAMRA's website has had some criticism in the past for being static so we have started to tidy it up and refresh the information. The website is one medium that will play an important role in this social distanced world we are living in. The first is to support CAMRA's national activities and also to support Derby CAMRA's own initiatives. A new page (article) has been created for the Pulling Together campaign which CAMRA setup at the start of the Convid lockdown. This can be accessed from the Home page or via Articles in the menu. Included is a list of establishments offering real ale, cider and/or perry during the lockdown. We will endeavour to keep this as up to date as possible but if you have any information please send this to: pubsofficer@derby.camra.org.uk or text on 07712 669581.

Nationally CAMRA have also set up the Brew2You app for Apple, Android and standard web platforms.



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Brew2You is free to download and allows people to access a list of supplies nationally who are active during the lockdown. Suppliers can join as a Partner (for a one off £2 fee) to allow their services to get publicised.

Good Beer Guide Lookback

Now is a time when all of us our having more than our fare share of time to reflect, so a look at times past could be what the is required. Here we look back 20 years to the GBG of 2000 and see what has happened to our pub scene.

The pubs list in the 2000 guide and in the Derby CAMRA area are as follows: Malt Shovel, Ashton-on-Trent, Corner Pin, Chellaston; Abbey, Darley Abbey; Alexandra Hotel; Brunswick Inn; Drill Hall Vaults; Falstaff Tavern; Flower Pot; Friargate; New Zealand Arms; Old Silk Mill; Old Spa; Rowditch; Smithfield; Station Inn; White Swan, Littleover; Royal Oak, Ockbrook; Bell Inn, Smalley; Chequers Inn, Ticknall and Coopers Arms, Weston-on-Trent

The first point worthy of note is that the Abbey, Corner Pin, Old Spa and Station Inn are now closed. Even in this case there were a lot of rumours that the Station Inn was trying to open again. Famous for serving Bass out of the jug the pub lost much of its trade when the post office opposite scaled down to a sorting office. The Old Spa is also in limbo and has had phases of opening and closing. Like the Station this venue has a large function room at the back which has hosted many CAMRA meetings. Chellaston is a district that has been hit hard recently, but it is understood plans are in hand to reopen the Chellaston by a local brewer. The Abbey has had a chequered career. This Samuel Smiths pub ran into bad times when the chimney caught fire in 2017. Since then it has been open but never permanently as it transpires.

Two pubs that are still open but have changed their name. The Friargate is of course now Bishops Blaise but has continued to support real ale. It was originally called the Rising Sun, the name of the pub which stood in this site before rebuilding in the late 1800s. The Drill Hall Vaults on Newland Street is now Bar One but also continues to serve real ale.

Besides the Station Inn the area around the railway station had two other great Derby pubs listed which continue to this day to be at the forefront of Derby real ale and cider/perry, namely the Brunswick Inn and the Alexandra Hotel. The Brunswick has changed a little inside over the past 20 years but is basically the same and retains the brewery. The Alexandra Hotel has gained a locomotive in the car park but again has basically not changed.

Of course the Royal Oak out at Ockbrook is included and has little changed. This multi-roomed pub has been continually in the guide since the early days of Derby CAMRA in the 1970s. We have lost Olive since 2000, the pubs long serving landlady but only recently. The Royal Oak is our Country Pub of the Year an award it has won a few times since 2000. An interesting entry is the Smithfield, which we have taken to our hearts in recent times voting it as the branch Pub of the Year for the last three years. The building has changed little since 2000, though it went through a rocky period being put up for auction. It has now been made structurally sound and been turned into a meca for lovers of different beers.

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Pleasing to see in the entries are a number of what we consider rural entries. The Chequers at Ticknall was a regular entry to the guide and has really not changed much. At the end of this situation perhaps a country jaunt is in order to see this delight. Other pubs in this category are the Malt Shovel at Aston-on-Trent and the nearby Coopers at Weston-on-Trent. Both again are basically unchanged since 2000 and still worthy of a visit.

Information Exchange

The Wilmot Arms in Borrowwash of course closed last year but the building still stands though looking sorry for itself. Borrowwash has almost been stripped of all its pubs with only the Nags Head still functioning. This is an interesting comparison with Ockbrook where all pubs are still active (pre-Covid-19) and two of them could be considered to have come back from the dead. All even more strange when you consider that Borrowwash has a far superior bus service. This all points to the village spirit being stronger in Ockbrook.



A closed pub that appears to have been badly affected by the Corona virus is the Mitre on the junction of Osmaston Road and Harvey Road. It seems that permission for demolition has been granted by the Council.

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Finally it is understood that the White Hart at West Hallam will now be replaced by 5 detached houses. Although this is actually an Erewash Valley CAMRA pub I am sure it is of interest to Derby's imbibers.

Quiz Corner

Anagrams

Here are ten Real Ale pubs from the Derby CAMRA area shown in anagram form. All are in within the Derby City boundary and are from the full pub name without "the". For example Derby (Stay)Inn not The Derby (Stay)Inn.

1. Alleged Gone
2. With cord
3. Oh small vet
4. Slam It Worm
5. Barman Got Bins
6. Oil When Lethal
7. Fool Twerp
8. Adorable Frock Rosy
9. Mild Fetish
10. Extra Halal Done

What Pub am I?

Here are ten pubs from the Derby CAMRA area given as a description. One pub is now closed but still standing.

1. Take your real ale from my shiny copper bar and hide in one of the many rooms or watch snooker. Careful with the steep car park when leaving.
2. You once came to me for money; now enjoy real ale, cider and perry in my single room. You will never find the bar! Have a secret meeting in my board room.
3. I am long and thin with a tudor exterior and live on the roadside. I live north of Derby and the train station just down the road has long closed. I am better known for my food.

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4. I am really big and part of a large family but I sell more real ale than most my relations. Gents need to negotiate the creaky stairs. Joseph Strutt looks down on you as you quaff.
5. Though I have a locomotive in the car park, you will need to go down the road for a train. I gave birth to Derby CAMRA. Check out my brewerania.
6. I am not a Toby jug! I boast my own car park and a hotel next door. A short frequent bus ride from town half of me is dedicated to food. I am surrounded by a small collection of shops.
7. I have been asleep for some time and now and I fear the undertakers have now moved in. I was once a large building with substantial ground around me but I have never liked the huge spider in front of me.
8. Don't mock my size! My single room has more ambience than those big troublesome places. My bright red front cannot be missed. You once posted letters during my last occupation but now come in and write one.
9. Down a sleepy hollow in one of Derby's suburbs, I am not overly little and the back of me is higher than my front. I will amply feed you as well as serve many real ales. I have been awarded a GBG entry recently, not my first.
10. I am long and old and not for tall people at all. The village church is absolutely opposite. I live outside of the city limits nearly in Erewash CAMRA; oh, I wish for a decent bus service.

Answers will be given in the next newsletter or at the next opening of the Derby (Stay)Inn.