

# Derby Drinker

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ISSUE No 82

WINTER 2000

FREE

## All change at Headless chain city centre pubs

IT'S ALL CHANGE at the Headless Pubco, Derby's popular group of freehouses comprising the Flower Pot, Friargate and Smithfield.

The Smithfield, downriver of Exeter Bridge, has been taken



over by Roger & Penny Myring who previously ran the Friargate (above) in the town centre. "When the opportunity came up to move to the Smithy we didn't hesitate" says Penny. "It's a lovely riverside setting right opposite Bass's Rec, which is great for walking the two dogs, Kitson the Dalmation, (*I suppose with a name like that he'd need a run out occasionally-Ed*), and Smirnoff the Alsatian). "It has a big bar, nice family room and a real old-fashioned fireplace in the

back. One of the regulars says that stepping into that back room on a winter evening is like stepping into a Christmas card, with along fire roaring up the chimney and wooden settles round the walls."

Comments Roger "When the old cattle market moved to the Meadows in the 70's the pub was in something of a backwater, but that can be an advantage. Nobody falls in off the street down here, they come out of their way because of the kind of pub it is"

The Myring's move came about when previous licensee, Lol Stevenson, was asked to resume control of the beer supply company based at the Flower Pot, which he set up with John Evans in the mid-nineties. "It supplies all our three pubs, of course" said Lol "but I'm looking to expand into a wider network within the free trade and guest beer market. I have the contacts and know-how and I'm optimistic."

Taking over at the Friar Gate is Anthony Mellor, previously cellarman at the Flower Pot, responsible for keeping a wide range of ales in tip-top condition. Anthony, who already has extensive bar and cellarwork experience behind him, and at 21 must be the youngest licensee in the city centre, said "I welcomed the

opportunity to run a city-centre pub. It will give me more to think about, but good beer and good service will always be the key factors in this kind of pub. Atmosphere is something else. You can't paint it on the walls, it's the customers that make it. What we have to do is create the right scene."

A move that was not planned is that of the bar manager at the Flower Pot, Paul Weston, who has gone out to Draycott-in-the-Clay to become licensee of the Swan. Paul, who once ran the New Zealand, said "The Flower Pot was a good move for me, I enjoyed working there, handling a wide range of ales and meeting new people. The Swan is a different pub entirely, a country pub with emphasis on good food. It was rather quiet at first, but already we're getting busier and looking for staff".

The Pubco's business coordinator, Silvia Manners, said, "We believe these changes will benefit all concerned, on both sides of the bar. The change at the Pot was not in the original plan, but Paul leaves us on good terms with a bottle of champagne and a barrel of goodwill, and we wish him well. The pub scene is very dynamic these days and you can't tread water if you want to move forward. But all that's best about our pubs will stay the same, the choice and quality of beer paramount."

## Changing paintwork and prices at Brunswick

THE BRUNSWICK CELEBRATED THIRTEEN YEARS since its reopening on 3 October. The five beers on sale on opening night in 1987 were Timothy Taylor Landlord, Hook Norton Old Hooky,

Bass (at 88p a pint), Morrells Varsity and Hardy Hansons Mild.

Exactly 13 years on the first three of those were again present on the bar, but this time the Bass would set you back £1.90!

The pub has also just been repainted. Apparently it is the first time this has occurred since it was done by the Historic Buildings Trust in 1983!

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## East Midlands award for Olive's Oak



The Royal Oak, Ockbrook followed its Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year award by scooping the East Midlands award. Landlady Olive Wilson is seen receiving the award from CAMRA Regional Director Mike Veasey.

## Judgement day for Old Baily

The Royal Standard, Derby is the former Mansfield pub whose rock and blues nights provide "music to make your ears bleed!" But they must bleed without the popular Mansfield Old Baily, discontinued by W&D this year.

The beer may have gone but is not forgotten, in a pub aptly close to the Magistrates Court House. A coffin lid table in the bar now carries a brass plate reading "In loving memory of Old Baily Bitter, April 2000" and it's signed Matt and Polly.



Two regularly changing  
Guest Beers

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## Vanished pubs of Derby

### 2. White Bear, Derwent Row



It is difficult to know where to begin as Derwent Row itself no longer exists.

It once ran from where Meadow Lane joined Exeter Street (imagine turning right at the Exeter Arms) close by an iron bridge by the lock of the Derby Canal, in the area known as Canary Island.

The White Bear Inn stood at the apex of the row and was built, on land once part of the Exeter House estate, between 1810 and 1824, the date when boat builder Alexander Street purchased it.

In May 1919 it passed on to the Beckett family who owned the free house until 1963. In 1941 the licensee was convicted of mixing sugar with the beer to increase its strength!

Brewing was undertaken on the premises almost to the end in the late 1960s, when the pub was subjected to a compulsory purchase order to make way for the

much-maligned inner ring road.

The Bear was refurbished as late as 1963 with the *Derby Evening Telegraph* reporting that the "Cottage bar had a slanting pantile roof with a colourful green guttering". Also the bar had an oak top and two small seats carved from wine casks at least 100 years old. Upstairs the Riverside bar interestingly had wallpaper that had been 'designed' by a "Mr Salvadore Dali" who, the *Telegraph* added, was "one of the finest wallpaper designers in the country!"

This exclusive commission counted for little six years later though as the White Bear, a free-house and popular meeting place for pre-CAMRA discerning drinkers and societies alike, closed, despite protests to save it, in November 1969, and was demolished on 13 May 1970. We can only now bemoan what we could have had, a city centre free-house with its own canal lock and gates whereas instead we have a little-used car-park and unrelenting concrete and petrol fumes.

*Good Beer Guide* omission. The Old Silk Mill, 19 Full Street, Derby, was selected for the 2001 *Good Beer Guide* but has failed to appear in the guide.

## Real Ale Cajun Trail

The annual Hogmanay celebration featuring R Cajun & the Zydeco Brothers at the Assembly Rooms has expanded this year into a two-day mini festival incorporating several Derby real ale haunts.

As well as the regular New Year Party in the main hall at the Assembly Rooms, this years event takes in the Headless pubs giving music fans the chance to sample real ales to the sounds of the swamps.

The event kicks off at the Flower Pot on the evening of December 30th with the Bearcats. Things continue with free music at the Friargate with TZees Arcadians in the early afternoon on the 31st. From 3pm Hot Box perform free at the Smithfield. From here it's a short stagger to the Exeter Arms (where anything could happen!) before celebrating Hogmanay with R Cajun & the Zydeco Brothers at the Assembly Rooms.

All events are sponsored by the Derby Swamp Club - remember those heady days at the Railway Institute?

For more information call 01332 322336 or check out the website at [www.swampmusic.co.uk](http://www.swampmusic.co.uk).



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## 2001: A beer odyssey

The new edition of the beer drinkers bible is on sale. The 28th Three Stags Head at Wardlow Mires.

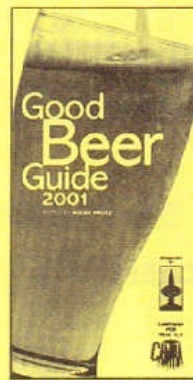
edition of the *Good Beer Guide* was launched in October and it has certainly come a long way since its inception in 1974.

The 2001 guide is edited by award-winning beer writer Roger Protz and feature 5,000 pubs in the U.K. which serve first rate cask ale. The pubs have been monitored and surveyed throughout the previous year by thousands of CAMRA members up and down the country. All types of pub feature, with accommodation and good places to eat amongst the extensive listings.

The book has a colour section at the front and has various articles by respected beer writers, including the rise of organic beers, how drinking beer can be good for your health, the future facing country pubs and many more.

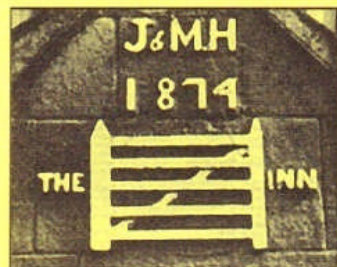
On a local front, Derbyshire has almost 120 entries in the guide. The city centre has twelve full entries, all of which have come up to scratch in one of the most fiercely critical branches of CAMRA, in regards to selection.

There is also a list of pubs which have interiors of outstanding interest - the CAMRA National Inventory. Derbyshire has just five pubs deemed to have such fabric: the Old Gate at Brassington, the Dolphin, Derby, the Duke of York at Elton, the Barley Mow, Kirk Ireton and the



The guide is particularly useful, however if you are travelling Britain and don't want to waste time trawling through indifferent pubs looking for some good beer. It is not spot on every time but the track record is pretty good on most occasions. Don't leave home without one.

The *Good Beer Guide* is available from most bookshops priced at £11.99. CAMRA members (see application form below) can obtain one at a special price of £7.50.



The unusual sign of the Old Gate, Brassington

## New beer from Burton Bridge

The Burton brewer is launching Golden Delicious (3.8%), a beer with a strong hop aroma and a dry bitter finish. It is said to be not dissimilar to the popular Summer Ale.

At the Burton Bridge Inn, the refit is complete with the rear room a no-smoking area.

## Protect YOUR Pleasure Join CAMRA now!

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I/We wish to join the *Campaign for Real Ale Limited* and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for £..... Rates are: single £14.00, joint £17.00, OAPs and under-26s £8.00 (£11.00 joint), overseas £18.00 (joint £21.00). If under 26 please add date of birth: .....

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Address: .....

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..... Post Code .....

Signed ..... Date .....

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) with this completed application form to: Membership, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW. Derby Drinker

## LETTER

Dear Ed

### Pulling Power

Once the likelihood was that your local pub landlord/lady was a long-established member of the community, and the pub itself might well have been in one family for several generations.

As late as the 1980s there were 20 licensees, in what is now the city of Derby, with more than 20 years in the same hostelry. The most obvious example being **Harold and Flo Fox** who kept the Alex - Derby CAMRA's birthplace - from 1949 to 1981.

Others of note include: the **Conneelys** (Cattle Market Hotel 1932-53 & 1957-82); the **Thornhills** (Great Northern, Mickleover 1922-82); **David & Peter Morris** (Mafeking 1941-97); **Tony Woodyet** (Malt Shovel, Spondon 1950-85) **Alf & Jean Whitehurst** (Sir Robert Peel 1954-94) and **Barbara Gibbons** (Exeter Arms 1971-92).

Today only one licensee, **Trevor Radford** of the Moon, Spondon (1973 to date) qualifies, though **David Foulk** (Tiger 1981

## Barrel rolling in Burton

The world barrel rolling champions are a team from the Chodobar brewery in the Czech Republic. This family owned brewery produces about 100,000 barrels of beer across a range six different

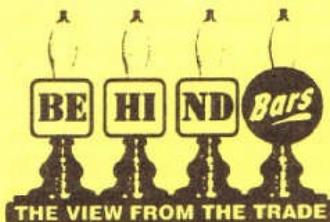


to date) and **Geoff Hooley** (Cornishman from 1981) are close. The reason for this is the very high turnover of licensees. This year one pub in Derby has had 4 licensees so far and many have had ten in the last decade.

The likelihood of establishing any meaningful customer rapport or interest in serving good product in such a short time is slim. Arguably therefore good licensees (and staying in one hostelry for a reasonable period must normally suggest a good level of customer acceptance) are increas-

ingly a precious commodity - though I accept longevity of tenure is no guarantee. I believe good licensees are critical to the CAMRA cause given that good real ale is largely, perhaps wholly, a result of their skill and diligence - after all no brewery brews bad beer. So perhaps it's time we published a Good Landlord, rather than a Good Beer guide and recognised the hands that really determine the future of real ale.

John Arguile



The first of a new series in which members of the licensed trade express their views. Kicking off is **Terry Holmes** of the Old Dolphin.

I'm a Yorkshireman born and bred, and when I came to Derby I didn't know what kind of folk I'd find here, but they're just fine. If I wasn't a dyed-in-the-wool Yorkie I'd be happy to be a Derbeian - though I still think they're pulling my leg when they say that hippo once swam in the Derwent!

When I took over the Dolphin a year last January it was on my own terms. I wanted a free hand to do things my way. This is a very special pub, Derby's oldest, and some things didn't seem right. The fruit machines for example, have no place in a pub like this so out they went. A pool table was suggested in the back but I said no way. It's not that kind of pub.

The first thing a traditional pub needs is trad beers and that means handpumps. I installed eight which dispense cask beers from around the country,

including, of course Yorkshire. Black Sheep Special from Masham is one of my best sellers; Deuchars IPA from Caledonian is another, Abbot Ale and London Pride also sell very well and I'm still shifting plenty of Bass. The people down here like choice.

Good beer is in the brewing but for a publican it's all about cellarmanship. The pumps and beer-lines *must be cleaned every seven days* or the beer gets tainted. And it's no good putting handpumps in if you don't know how to keep cask beer or don't have the sale for it. If it's not moving it loses its condition and doesn't taste right; you give the pub and brewery a bad name and end up with a lot of waste.

CAMRA? I don't agree with everything they say and do, but without them traditional British beer - what I call 'proper beer' and they call 'real ale' - would be a

ingly a precious commodity - though I accept longevity of tenure is no guarantee.

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John Arguile

## From Durham to the Ox

Good news from the Durham Ox on Burton Road. It has returned from the wilderness again.

New licensees Alan & Margaret Bradford were formerly at the Ship Inn at Middlestone Village, Co Durham, a *Good Beer Guide*-listed pub which championed the local breweries.

Alan is doing the same at the Ox where beers from Burton Bridge and Shardlow breweries have been regularly available of late all at a bargain £1.50 a pint.

The pub closes weekday lunchtimes but opens daily at 6pm so why not give it a try and support tasty local guest ales.

thing of the past. But, thank goodness, it's still being brewed countrywide and every beer tastes of the county it comes from. That's why Yorkshire beer tastes so good!

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# NEWS

The **Crescent Inn** on Wild Street, Derby has reopened after being closed for some time. This pub was a long-standing kegoonly backstreet boozier for almost twenty years, until the last licensee made great strides introducing cask beer, (mainly Pedigree) into the pub.

A new venture opened up in October. The **Courtyard**, in the Clock Yard, Friar Gate, in what was formerly Pymms, has Old Speckled Hen on draught - the cask beer may change. They have authentic Mediterranean food and an extensive wine list. The **Blue Pool** on Stenson Road, however, is a real ale loss since it's latest refit. It has gained lots of television screens however!

New licensees have taken over at the **Patternmakers Arms** at Duffield, **Blenhiem Inn**, Etwell, **Red Lion**, Hollington (Robin and Sue Hunter) and Andrew and Sabrina are at the **White Swan**, Hilton. Over in Boylestone at the **Rose & Crown**, Peter Kirkland is in the process of purchasing the pub.

More pubs on the market include the **Buck in the Park**, Curzon Street and the **Lord Napier** in Milton Street.

The **Golden Pheasant** at Shelton Lock has reopened after refurbishment. It has been given the subtitle of *The Giants Plate* and part of the exterior has been painted a remarkable hue of lime green. Beers on the pumps are Pedigree, Boddingtons and Speckled Hen.

## MUSEUM BREWING COMPANY



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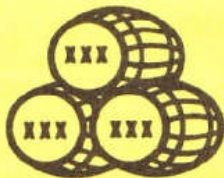
No. 6 Mild Ale	3.9%
Victoria Ale	3.5%
Officers	4.0%
"E"	4.8%
Masterpiece IPA	5.4%
P2 Imperial Stout	8.0%
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## Microbrewery Corner

Taking a look at what's happening at the small independent breweries in and around Derby.



**BRUNSWICK** Trevor Harris is brewing a black and white winter brew, to be available from December to March. The 5%ABV beer has the provisional name *Owd Humbug*. The usual pale ale *White Christmas* will still be around for the festive season.

**FALSTAFF** Brewing sadly appeared to have ceased production at the microbrewery in early October.

**LEATHERBRITCHES** at Fenny Bentley are currently concentrating their efforts on the Bentley Brook Inn, the only place where their beers are on sale at present. Casks were disappearing in the free trade, and quality is assured at their own pub. *Ashbourne Ale* is proving the most popular beer at the pub, but the brewery are still producing *Goldings*, *Belter* and *Bespoke*.

**JOHN THOMPSON/LLOYDS** The freehouse and brewery at Ingleby has a range of three beers permanently at the John Thompson Inn. *JTS* (4.2%), *Summer Gold* (4.5%) and the

similar strength *J.T. Porter* all priced at good value £1.50 a pint. **MUSEUM** Bass Museum's Octoberfest was the first opportunity to taste *Worthington White Shield* brewed in Burton for some years. Normally bottled it was available on draught. Another surprise was dry hopped Bass. Interbrew should try the idea out for themselves. The *White Shield* is on course for the end of the year, they have some bottles in stock, also a limited amount of cask. The brewery have a stock of pins with *Bass Nol Barley Wine*, *9s* and *P2 Stout* for Christmas. Orders are first-come first-served. The beer of month for November was *Stevens Rocket* a 4.3% brew. CAMRA members get into the Bass Museum free on production of their membership card.

**SHARDLOW** Barrellage is up at the Blue Bell at Melbourne. The latest outlet for Shardlow beers is the Anchor at Hathern. A new range of pumpclips is being launched.

**WHIM** The Hartington brewery beers are regularly available at all the Headless pubs and the Bell at Smalley. Winter brew *Black Christmas* (6.5%) will be brewed again this year.

### Foston Dyke Saga

Derbyshire's premier drinker *Kegbuster*, aka local cartoonist extraordinaire Bill Tidy, lost much work when the Foston Brook flooded his studio at Boylestone during the recent deluge. Bill admits, ironically, that some of the drawings were commissioned to raise awareness of flooding threats.

Consolation Bill! It wasn't the torrent of Crudginton's Smooth with which the rest of Derby is awash.

### Comrades in Crich

ONE OF THE BEST choice range of real ales in a club locally is to be found at the Comrades Club, School Lane, Crich. The Club was set up in 1923 for ex-servicemen after the Great War. Over the years it has become a major focal point of the village community.

It is a members club, but guests are allowed at any time. Over the past year chairman Leigh Feiner has been promoting cask ales. One of the club's main suppliers are Bass Museum and it operates guest ales on a weekly basis. Over 40 different beers have been featured ranging from Bass and Pedigree to Museum *Masterpiece*, Brewery-on-sea *Fireside* and their own labelled *Comrades Lion* (4.3%).

Other clubs which welcome CAMRA members include the Royal British Legions at Melbourne and Mickleover and the Crewton Club.

## ? CAMRA QUIZ ? What do you know about CAMRA?

1 CAMRA was started by a group of ?

a) journalists b) landlords c) foundry workers

2 In which year was CAMRA formed?

a) 1951 b) 1961 c) 1971

3 Taking Derby County's home attendance at around 25,000, would you say CAMRA's national membership was ?

a) Under half this figure b) around the same c) more than double

4 Derby branch of CAMRA held its first meeting at the ?

a) Alexandra b) Sir Robert Peel c) Station Inn

5 Which year was CAMRA's AGM held at the Assembly Rooms?

a) 1998 b) 1999 c) 2000

6 Which of the following is NOT a CAMRA publication ?

a) The Good Pub Guide b) The Good Pub Food Guide c) The Good Beer Guide

7 The venue for CAMRA's first national beer festival in London was ?

a) Alexandra Palace b) Covent Garden c) Barbican Centre

8 Which beer has won champion beer of Britain most times ?

a) Greene King Abbot b) Timothy Taylor Landlord c) Bateman XXXB

9 Which monthly publication is sent to CAMRA members?

a) What's Brewing b) The Publican c) The Taste

10 Do you think the primary aim of this quiz was ?

a) To test CAMRA members knowledge b) To fill in some editorial space c) A propaganda exercise.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1a: 2c; 2c; 3c; 4a; 5c; 6a; 7a; 8b; 9a; 10c



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## Barnes bounces back

Two-time licensee of the Furnace, John Barnes, is back behind the bar in Duke Street. Having splashed out on a farewell party, and moving to the country to try the Good life, he soon realised the Good Life wasn't so good after all without those Furnace people and decided to return. "I had to make up my mind quick" said John, "before somebody burned my boat". Now it's just like he'd never gone. No wonder his regulars call him 'Boomerang Barnes!'

### Barb & Dave

welcome you to the

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