

Derby Drinker

NOW OVER 11,000 COPIES TO OVER 375 PUBS

CAMRA

ISSUE No 83

SPRING 2001

FREE

Derby Annual Beer Census: Total still high but Sheffield steal Real Ale Capital crown

THE ANNUAL BEER CENSUS in Derby City centre resulted in a slight dip in the number of different Real Ales sampled in one night. The total, on Tuesday 28 November, 2000, was 106, still an incredible figure, but well short of an effort by Sheffield CAMRA, whose total of 135 has enabled them to claim themselves Real Ale Capital - for now!

It must be countered, however, that Sheffield's city stealers made their crawl an all-day Saturday affair. Also the area and population is significantly greater than Derby. If our survey was moved to a weekend, when we are aware

that many more beers are available in Derby, then we can make a realistic effort to wrestle back the crown next time.

All together, 84 Derby city pubs were surveyed, with the average pint price being £1.86.

Once again Marstons Pedigree was the most available draught ale, in 48 pubs (average price £1.92). Draught Bass was the next most frequent. Eight pubs had no real ale on offer (down two on 1999) and three pubs had real ciders. Most beers on the bar was the Brunswick (13), followed by the Flowerpot (11), Standing Order (nine) and the Alex, Babbington Arms, Dolphin and Silk Mill, all with eight.



106 different Real Ales in one night! Some of the CAMRA survey team celebrate

W&D get their way as Whim gives way to Strongarm tactics at the Exeter

Whim Brewery of Hartington have finally had their *Ram Premier Ale* removed from the Exeter Arms, following a visit from a Wolverhampton & Dudley area manager.

Peter Wild had battled for more than a year to keep the guest beer but the short-sighted brewery policy makers have ruled

it must go. Camerons Strongarm has replaced the Whim brew in the Exeter.

As we have stated in *Derby Drinker* before, the Exeter has benefited hugely by being able to offer the customer a different beer, both a Derbyshire ale and one from an independent brewery. People who came in for

From the Silk Mill to Duffield

Long-serving Derby licensee Nigel Barker left the Old Silk Mill in late February. He and Mark are to take over at the Patternmakers Arms at Duffield, the latest acquisition for Wibley Inns, where a selection of cask ales are promised.

Nigel leaves behind a thriving Silk Mill, where the rest of the team are to remain.

Enjoy the finest range of
QUALITY
cask conditioned beers
at the award winning

Brunswick Inn

Derby's original
Traditional Brew Pub

- Home Produced Lunches
- Evening Buffets
- Non-smoking Room
- Function Room
- Family Parlour
- Conference Facilities
- Brewery Tours by arrangement

For details phone:
01332 290677



CAMRA fighting fund receives boost as Derby AGM is praised

Julian Hough, Derby CAMRAs National AGM 2000 Chairman is pictured at the Rowditch Inn, presenting a certificate to Alan Shepherd, thanking Hardy & Hansons brewery for their support of the Derby-held National CAMRA AGM. In turn the brewery have donated a cheque from the sale of the *Millram Ale* at the AGM, to boost CAMRA's Fighting Fund, launched in March to compete with brewery advertising of keg and smooth products. A national campaign of posters and hoardings kicks off soon.

The Derby AGM was hailed as the best ever by the National CAMRA review group recently. Comments ranged from 'first class organisation' to 'hold it in Derby every year'.

the *Ram Premier* brought with them friends who drank the Pedigree, and the other regular beverages at the pub. The beer put the pub firmly on the 'round', the Real Ale circuit in the city.

W&D should look at some other breweries attitudes to letting landlords have a free hand in choosing local ales. It works. Luckily the Wilds have built up a pub with great banter and good beer, but this narrow-minded and inconsistent policy by W&D is definitely not one with any merit. Choice is the victim.

Peter Wild appears in Behind Bars inside.

Derby Beer Festival 2001

This years event, the 24th Derby CAMRA Beer Festival takes place from Wednesday 11th to Sunday 15th July, at the Assembly Rooms. The beers are to have a Celtic theme this year and preparations are well in hand to make the festival one of the best ever. So note those dates, book a few days off and enjoy Derby's top drinking event of the year. Entertainments manager Terry Morton informs me the top tribute band the Fab Beatles could play the festival on the Thursday night. Watch this space.



Two regularly changing
Guest Beers

Dead Poets Inn

Holbrook
Seven traditional ales
Poet's night - 1st Tuesday of every
month

Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year 1999

tel.: 01332 780301

Vanished pubs of Derby

3. Lifeboat Inn, Wilson Street



Derby's smallest pub, at the time of its demolition, the Lifeboat (above) was said to date from 1840 and was situated near to the bottom of Wilson Street, just up from its junction with Abbey Street next to the Vine Inn (now Anvil Press).

The name probably came from the subscription of Derbeians towards a lifeboat for the east coast, a practise dating back to at least the 1860s.

The former Offiler's pub was indeed tiny, it seated twelve people comfortably, and served Draught Bass and Worthington Bitter. The seating was provided by some cast-offs from Bartons Buses and comedian Tommy Cooper once wandered in for a pint whilst looking for a chip shop when appearing at the Talk of the Midlands. Pigeons were also at home in its later years.

Demolition of surrounding houses in the late 1970s for the proposed, but yet-to-materialise inner ring road extension, had a drastic effect. Several nearby pubs closed in 1978/9 including

the Marquis of Granby, Gerard Street and the Pelican Inn, Stockbrook/Abbey Street corner. The writing was on the wall for the Lifeboat.

The last licensees were Gordon and Violet Vickerstaff, when in February 1980, Bass announced that the pub would close. Speaking in the *Derby Evening Telegraph*, Violet said "Two years ago this pub was packed but now we are lucky to get seven people in at a weekend. I took only £34 last Saturday." Gordon added "Bass don't want to know, they are making all the pubs managed houses, and at 54 they think I'm too old to be a manager".

Despite a campaign by customers to save it, the Lifeboat closed in the April 1980 and was demolished some time later, due to its position on the proposed inner ring road, yet to be completed 20 years later. The site lies empty and one would like to think that these days more could be made of a city's smallest pub.



Why does
smooth taste
so rough?

Take a ride to the White Swan

KEVIN NEALE, THE BOLD LICENSEE OF THE WHITE SWAN, Shepherd Street, Littleover gave chase to a mugger this winter. An old lady in her eighties sought refuge in the pub after being attacked and robbed by youths. Kevin and one of his regulars leapt in the car and gave chase, apprehending the perpetrators at the bottom of the road before handing them over to the authorities.

Meanwhile, at the Festival Ale House the new Draught Burton Ale, now brewed at Leeds by Tetley, is proving popular. Whilst not the original, it has improved on the Marstons version and Kevin's barrellage has risen.

In March the Swan has its Spring beer festival with 18 beers, including 12 available at any one time. So why not take a ride to the White Swan and sample some good ale this spring.

EDITORIAL

The pub world today doesn't stand still for long. New bars are opening practically overnight in Derby, often replacing old retail establishments in almost any building which goes on the market.

We've seen the Vodka bar, the American bar, and Vida - the minimalist bar (yards from where Tony Williams was denied permission to open a traditional pub). What have these bars have in common? No Real Ale. CAMRA's new advertising campaign will try to attract the younger drinker to cask beer, but how much will there be around for them to drink in the city?

Meanwhile we have the prospect of bars opening in the former Golden Gains store and the historic North Midland Railway Roundhouse, built in 1839 and last used in the 1980s. Let us hope that with its industrial heritage background, and the turntable under a glass floor beneath the drinkers, that we shall get some cask beer in the latter but don't bank on it. Pride Park could certainly do with a proper pub.

Amid all this Bass have sold 988 pubs to Japanese bankers Nomura for £625 million. Most of the pubs sold are described as 'small locals' as Bass concentrate on Harvesters and its All Bar One range. At one time the term 'a Bass house' was a strong indication of a traditional pub with good ale. The licensees are said to be getting a degree of autonomy but we shall have to wait and see.

Paradise lost is restored as Milton's Swan back on song

Down in the lanes of South Derbyshire, a pub which has seen too many changes at the helm over the last few years has seen normal service resumed.

Regulars for 30 years, Stella and Roger Salt have given the Swan Inn at Milton a much-needed spruce up and offer gravity-dispensed Pedigree on request, often via a teapot.

Stella, who lives opposite the Swan said "We've seen so many people come and go and watched the place being run down, so we

have bitten the bullet and done the decent thing and taken it over."

The Swan is a traditional 'Marstons' village pub, the sort of which were plentiful in this area not so long ago. Many have been closed or ruined by 'improvements' and it is heartening to see one in recovery.

While you are in the Swan, ask the locals about the Milton Scud, a modern piece of folklore from the Gulf War era, commemorated in a frame on the wall of the bar.

De Olde Spa Inne

Abbey Street, Derby

Enjoy Pedigree, Burton & Guest Ales in traditional surroundings
Open all day, lunchtime food

☎ 01332 343474

THE FALSTAFF

FREE HOUSE

Silverhill Road,
Normanton

A CONTINUALLY
CHANGING RANGE OF
GUEST ALES AT
REASONABLE PRICES

OPEN ALL DAY
TEL 01332 342902

Steve & Jackie Hughes welcome
customers old & new to the

RED LION



Chellaston, Derby

Pedigree, Bass and Guest ales
01332 705437

Protect YOUR Pleasure Join CAMRA now!

APPLICATION FORM

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:

Name(s):

Address:

.....

.....Post Code

SignedDate

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

When is a landlord not a landlord?

In reply to my letter (DD 82) on long-serving City of Derby landlords, Paul Gibson has asked why I overlooked **Tony Williams** licensee of the Blessington Carriage 'since its inception in 1977'.

My notes suggest that Tony Williams appears a licensee only since 1988, though he may well have been part of the management team prior to that date. I need to check the license records to confirm my notes.

Nevertheless 12 years is still a

commendable length of time. So why didn't he get even a mention? The answer is that for some pubs the listed licensee rarely sets foot on the premises. Take the 'Alex' for example, would it be right to show Chris Holmes as licensee since 1989 or do I think **Mark Robins** is currently the main man? More to the point I note that Mark's predecessor never appeared in the records as licensee at all.

In the case of the **Blessington Carriage** I also assumed (perhaps wrongly) that the various managers listed jointly with Tony Williams were day-to-day managers.

So my sincere apologies to him

and the 'Bless', one of the few 'new' (ie post-1960) licences in the city centre who still champion Real Ale, despite the example of the Thompson-owned Sadler Gate pubs, all of which are now keg houses.

John Arguile

After the floods

The floodwaters that rose so rapidly last November took one or two pubs by surprise.

The River Trent, from Burton to Shardlow, was particularly high and Shardlow pubs the Old Crown and the Cavendish were possibly the worst-hit locally.

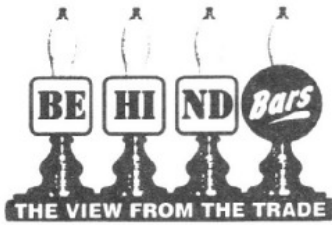
The Crown at Cavendish Bridge was closed for six days. The water came up about six feet in the cellar. The Cavendish is still closed. There are some problems on the insurance front and there is a possibility that the pub may not reopen.

choice. I chose a premium beer from Whim Ales at Hartington, which I knew would suit my locals' palate. It was the year the Rams went up to the Premier League, so I launched it as *Ram Premier* (1045). A good number of the regulars took to it immediately and it sold well, alongside the *Marstons Pedigree*. Unfortunately, when W&D took over they had different ideas and told me I could only choose beers on their own list, which didn't include Derbyshire beers. I protested, but they insisted that as I was now a W&D tenant if I continued selling *Ram Premier* I'd be in breach of my contract. So off it went, and off went the regulars that came here to drink it. There are some pretty good beers on the W&D list but nothing quite like *Ram Premier*, which is very distinctive.

All the pubs I've kept have been what I call 'proper' pubs, like this one - places where the licensee is 'mine host' and treats his customers as real people, not just units. There will always be a place for pubs like this as long as they're not squeezed out by supermarkets as many corner-shops have been squeezed out by supermarkets. But I can't really see this happening. Young things don't stay young forever, and finally they'll have had their fill of all that deafening noise, blinding light and being jostled about. Then they'll want somewhere civilised to meet, drink and spend a social evening. Somewhere like the Exeter.

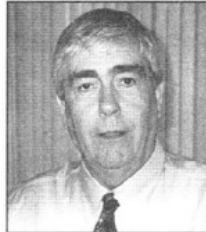
Spa inn sign restored

Down at the Old Spa, Abbey Street, the landlord has taken possession of a 50-year-old sign from the inn, missing for 16 years, now restored and awaiting re-erection on the front wall.



In the second of this series giving a voice to local publicans, Peter Wild (right) of the Exeter Arms has his say.

Like the last subject of this column, I am not a native Derbeian: I'm a Mancunian. I came to the Exeter with my wife, Ann, in 1992 after my predecessor, Barbara Gibbons, had retired. Barbara was one of Derby's most popular licensees and, as they say, she was a hard act to follow. It took us quite a



while to get ourselves accepted; but it's always like that when new people take over a popular pub, especially with one with as much history as this. The Exeter was Derby's last homebrew house before Bass took over in 1969. When I came it was a Marstons house.

Although I was new to Derby in '92 I was not new to the trade. I took my first pub in 1963, a Wilson's house in Oldham. Then I moved to Manchester, then Stockport, then Bridlington where I had a Cameron's house. I also worked with Sam Smith's and Mansfield before going to Marstons in 1985.

All the beer I sold was real, though nobody called it that in the sixties and it was all topped up with froth. If I'd served beer without a good head on it up there they would have wanted to know what was wrong with it. Down here they're different. Your regular Derby drinkers think you're robbing them if you give him 'bubbles instead of beer', as one put it. It's not the way I would like to serve a pint myself, but if that's how they like it, that's how they get it.

It was after I came here that Marstons brought out their guest beer policy 'Union Tap', which allowed licensees to have any guest beer of their choice - or should I say their customers

MUSEUM BREWING COMPANY
Speciality cask beers and "pints from the past" from the Bass Museum archives.
Included in our Portfolio are:
Worthington White Shield 5.6%
Joules 4.1%
"E" 4.8%
Offilers 4.0% to name a few
Monthly Special Brews

Contact Chris Voyce, ext. 3565
www.bass-museum.com

PO Box 220, Horninglow St, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs DE14 1YQ
Tel: 01283 511000
Fax: 01283 513509
Email: chris.voyce@brewers.bass.com

OCTOBERFEST - 18th, 19th, 20th October 2001

NEWS

The **White House**, Ambergate is under threat. Planning permission seeks to build on the car park. The **Durham Ox**, on Burton Road has changed hands yet again. The Shardlow beers are still on offer, however. The **Bedford Arms**, continues its guest beer policy with Adnams Broadside and Kimberley Classic recently available. The **White Hart**, Aston-on-Trent has a new permanent tenant, Steve, who has previously had three pubs, none locally. He intends to retain it as a drinker's pub, following a refurbishment. The pub is a rare local outlet for the under-threat Marstons Bitter. **Tony Romas** in Friar Gate, formerly the Mongolian Bar and (in better days) Boaters, has undergone another life-changing experience. Now it is called **Moov**. The **Jolly Colliers** at Waingroves is a real ale gain. A guest beer has appeared at the former Home Ales pub which has seen no cask ale for over 20 years. The nearby **Thorn Tree** remains for sale despite its fine range of guest ales which have recently included Black Sheep, Youngs Special and Norman Conquest alongside Pedigree and Abbot. Over at Wirksworth, the **George** is closed, whilst the **Blue Bell** at Farnah Green has been given the complete restaurant treatment. The **Old Institute**, Wardwick has won the best restoration award in the Civic Society Brighter City of Derby awards.

Old Silk Mill

Full Street, Derby

seven real ales

Full range of food served
9 am - 11 pm

OPEN ALL DAY

Tel: 01332 369748

Visit our unique cellar bar at

The Flowerpot

King Street, Derby

Tel: (01332) 204955

Try our continually changing range of real ales in the warm surroundings of a traditional town pub

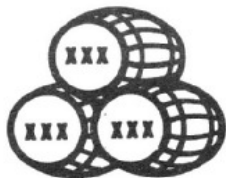
Hot food Monday to Saturday

Sunday lunches a speciality

LARGE FUNCTION ROOM

Microbrewery Corner

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



BRUNSWICK The 9th Annual Winter Warmer festival was held in February. Over 40 beers from around the country were collected. The pub celebrates ten years of brewing on June 11th 2001, and for the first time ever have used Fuggles hops to help create three new beers for a Brunswick Weekend to celebrate. They are: *Indulgence (ABV 4.8)*, *Wee Tipple (4.6)* and *Off Line (4.4)*. Older Brunswick brews will be revived and will rotate on the handpumps. In the free trade *Railway Porter* has been available lately at the Navigation, Shardlow.

BURTON BRIDGE Anyone popping over to Burton can always find a Bridge beer on the bar at the Citrus Tree cafe/eatery in High Street, close to the brewery. **LEATHERBRITCHES** at Fenny Bentley. The annual Beer Festival at the Bentley Brook Inn takes place on Bank Holiday weekend, Sat 26th-Mon 28th

May. 16 beers will be available. Check out the website: thequeenshead.net

JOHN THOMPSON/LLOYDS The brewpub continues to serve some of the best porter to be found, and beers at a bargain price.

MUSEUM CAMRA members get into the Bass Museum free on production of their membership card.

SHARDLOW At the tied house, the Blue Bell, Melbourne, a new beer *Five Bells*, a dark 5% brew has been on sale since Christmas.



WHIM The Hartington brewery supplies 50-70 outlets. Next time you are in the Peak District, try the Bowling Green,

Winstor or Barley Mow, Bonsall. **WICKED HATHERN** (Logo above left) First year's sales are 50% above their projected target. A second new beer to the Hathern range was launched in January to celebrate its first birthday. The 4.2% pale, hoppy bitter, *Cockfighter*, named after the former local barbaric practise joins *Doble's Dog*, a 3.5% mild brewed in the Lancashire tradition, making it taste almost stout like. It is named in honour of the tragic Revd. Doble, rector of Hathern in the early 1960's, who drowned along with his wife whilst trying to save the life of his dog in the sea at Hunstanton. Currently no regular outlets but Hathern ales are often on at the Red Lion, Kegworth and occasionally at the Brunswick, Old Silk Mill, Friargate and Red Lion, Chellaston.

BEER FESTIVAL DIARY

March 28-31 LEICESTER BEER FESTIVAL at the Charotar Patidar Samaj, South Churchgate.

April 5-7 WALSALL BEER FESTIVAL, Town Hall, Leicester St.

Fri 6-Sun 8 April MANSFIELD BEER FESTIVAL, Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Rd. From noon each day, Over 100 beers, ciders. Star attraction Saturday evening Fairport Convention £7.50 in advance.

Fri 1st & Sat 2nd June. OFF THE TRACKS 4th SPRING FESTIVAL at Donington Park Farmhouse, Isley Walton nr Castle Donington: folk, roots, dance and real ales. email: - info@offthetracks.co.uk

Burton Bridge to brew festival beer

Late news as we go to press is that Burton Bridge are to brew one of the special festival ales at Derby Beer Festival (11-15 July). Along with the Scottish and Irish brews, there will be a full selection of local breweries beers.

Many festival goers only drink Real Ale at the festival. We're not quite sure why, but this year's selection of beers will surely encourage visitors who don't normally drink Real Ale on their weekend trip around town to swap a couple of lagers for tasty cask beer.

Cider with Hughesy

On the real cider front the Red Lion at Chellaston have recently added real ciders to their guest beers. Steve Hughes, the self-styled Sir Beesting of Chellaston has featured award-winning Westons Old Rosie (7.3%), Westons Original and Symonds Scrupmy.

New life in the old Dog

Licensee Tracy Blore has really turned around former keg pub, the Dog & Partridge on Bedford Street (right). The Burtonwood Top Hat is joined by a regular two-monthly guest beer, with a view to having two soon. Lately the choice has been Jennings Cumberland Ale and Brakspear Bitter.



The one-time home-brew pub has a small front bar on Crosby Street and the entrance retains some old tiling. The lounge gets full Sundays with diners. The Dog & Partridge is a typical backstreet boozier, the sort of which we have lost far too many of. Coupled with the availability of a selection of guest ales it is a pub that deserves our fullest support.



Derby Drinker is distributed free of charge to pubs in and around the city. Published by the Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale and printed by J.M. Tatler & Son Ltd., Abbey Street, Derby.

Edited by Pip Southall, 7 Marina Drive, Shelton Lock, Derby. DE24 9DS (01332) 690003. e-mail: pipsouthall@ukonline.co.uk

WebSite: www.derbycamra.org.uk

Advertising rates: Front Page £35, others £30. Discount for advanced payment.

Advertising Manager: Vacant

Other Contributions in this issue: John Arguile, Julian Hough, Terry Morton, Reg Newcombe, Graham Smith, Trevor Spencer, Gareth Stead, Jim Suter and Julian Tubbs.

©Derby CAMRA 2000. Opinions expressed in *Derby Drinker* are not necessarily those of the editor, nor of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

Neither Washington nor Moscow

Two new themed bars opened in Derby in December. The Revolution vodka house in the Strand, and American theme bar the White House, in the old Polish Club, Charnwood Street. With chilled bottles the main diet we can be assured of a rather new cold war.

Derby Beermat art project sponsored by Kimberley

As part of The National Year of the Artist five local artists will be displaying images of their work on a series of beer mats in the city, launched at the end of May at the Crompton Tavern. Hardy & Hansons are brewing a special Year of the Artist beer for the occasion. The artists are Sacha Holland, Kate Smith, Matt Edwards, Mike Dexter and Anthony Toolin.

For more info check out www.beermatart.com

From the team that brought you the Flower Pot

The Smithfield

Meadow Road
on the banks
of the Derwent

Quarter mile from Train Station
Quarter mile from Market Place
LARGE CAR PARK

Barb & Dave

welcome you to the

Peacock Inn

Old Nottingham Road, Derby

Marstons Pedigree at its best

Open all day, Food Mon-Fri 12-2
Matchday bus to Pride Park

The Furnace Inn Duke Street, Derby



Kimberley Mild, Bitter,
Classic & seasonal ales

The Friargate

114 Friar Gate

tel. 01332 297065

Friar Gate's finest real ale house

Quality selection of real ales
always available