

Derby Drinker

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CHRISTMAS 2002

FREE

Pub-goers say cheers to licensing reform

CAMRA WELCOMES THE NEW LICENSING BILL which should be in effect sometime during 2004 – opening up the possibility of 24-hour drinking. Despite last minute fears that parliamentary time could not be found to get the changes in place before the next election, the Queen's Speech on November 13 came as no surprise. Going against a long tradition of secrecy over its contents, Prime Minister Blair, desperate to break some good news, spoke up a week early. Disappointed drinkers had found that plans to extend licensing hours were dropped before the last election, despite lobbying from CAMRA members.

The latest plans are much more radical and follow a long period of consultation with CAMRA, bodies representing the licensed trade and other interested parties. Despite the possibility of 24-hour drinking the major change in the biggest shake-up in drinking laws since the Defence of the Realm Act in 1915 will be a transfer of the licensing role from magistrates to local authorities.

Applying for the new Premises Licence will be much more like putting in a planning application on any other building. A plan of the building will have to be submitted, public consultation will be allowed on issues such as public nuisance, health and safety, crime and disorder. Despite objections voiced by Labour's London mayoral candidate Frank Dobson, economic demand will not be a feature. Brewers Shepherd Neame and the Wether-spoon pubco object to the increased power of the local authorities fearing that there will be additional costs to the trade in applying for licenses and in policing; the trade already pays handsomely for this. The business

rate on pubs is calculated on their turnover, unlike most other traders. There will also be a separate ten year personal licence for the operator, who will find it much easier to move from one licensed pub to another. There will be a relaxation of the rules for under-18s in pubs, though they will not be able to buy alcohol. There will be changes to entertainments licences and occasional licences though the details are not yet clear. There will be a transitional period for existing licences.

This will be the first time that suburban and rural pubs have a realistic chance of getting late licences and will be able to compete again for the trade they are currently losing to town-centre venues, though clubs are bound to apply too.

Although it is thought that very few premises will actually apply for 24-hour licences traders should be able to choose their own hours.

The first test of all-night drinking will be this New Year which will see an extension through to New Year's Day.



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Second Winter-Fest for Derby in February

Following the great success of the inaugural Derby CAMRA Winter-Fest this February, the second such event takes place in the Darwin Suite, Assembly Rooms from 5th-8th February 2003. This involves the addition of an extra day running Wednesday to Saturday. The 2003 Winter-Fest logo reflects the Derby Ram, and is reproduced here.

As for the entertainment, the line-up has been put together to get you rocking!

We kick off on Thursday night, (Wednesday being a 'quiet' night) with **The Loafers** performing dancey Irish standards mixed in with pop favourites from the likes of the Levellers and the Corrs. The original music of **No Fixed Abode** featuring the gorgeous voice of **Una** provide support.

Friday night is the big tribute night and this year we have the **Stereomimics**. The fact that they always go down a storm in Wales is testimony enough. Support to be confirmed but we are looking

at a Corrs tribute band – watch this space.

Saturday night is party night with the **Midnight Pumpkin Trucks** bashing out their decades of pop and rock favourites.

Una will be supporting with a set of well-known songs. The gentle sounds of **Woolley and Archer** will waft through the Darwin Suite on both Friday and Saturday lunchtimes and on Saturday we'll be opening the stage to **allcomers**, bring your instrument, play, sing or recite a poem and we'll give you a drink.

As for the entertainment, the line-up has been put together to get you rocking!



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New visitor centre at Leadmill brewery



The weekend Leadmill Beer Festival saw the opening of the new visitors centre at Park Hall Farm in Derby in a converted outbuilding.

A fine job has been done on the conversion with a bar at one end and brewery memorabilia around the walls including the old pub sign from the Flowerpot in

Derby. Brewer Richard Creighton put about 16 of his own beers for the occasion, some on the bank of handpumps and some on gravity. Most were on fine form and as the weekend went so well he is planning to do more Festivals featuring other micro beers as well. Our picture shows Richard hard at work behind the bar.

Boom in Pub beer festivals



A CLUTCH OF PUB BEER FESTIVALS TOOK PLACE THIS AUTUMN. Our picture shows life going on as normal at the Brunswick, with celebrated beer writer Roger Protz opening the first Brunswick Beer Festival since Everards took over. Roger is enjoying a beer with new Brunswick licensee and brewer Graham Yates. The Boat at Cromford held a festival in November to celebrate its inclusion in the 2003 *Good Beer Guide* and Belper's **Queen's Head** staged one the same weekend with every beer having a military theme and the barstaff kitted out like the cover from *Combat Rock!*

Earlier the **Royal Oak** at Ockbrook held its annual event in the function room, featuring around 50 beers. The place was packed to the rafters, despite some torrential rain. Also the **Holly Bush** at Makeney held an autumn beer festival, well supported, with 15 beers and live bands. Halloween saw the annual Wetherspoons festivals at the Standing Order and Babington Arms.

If you know of a pub that is holding a beer festival in the new year, get in touch with the editor (see back) and *Derby Drinker* will let the beer world know about it.

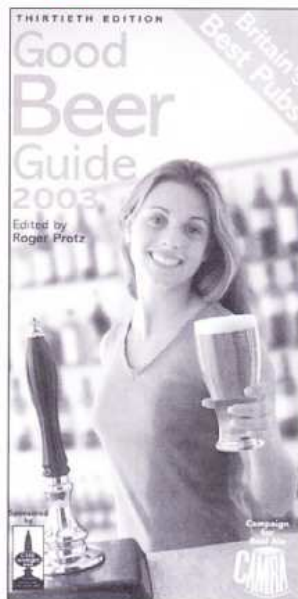
Good Beer Guide 2003 - 30th edition ideal Xmas gift

The 2003 CAMRA *Good Beer Guide* is available now and makes a superb festive present for anyone who is interested in obtaining a good pint of real ale wherever they travel across Britain. This 30th edition of the ale bible, which made its bow in 1974, salutes the landlords and landladies of 17 pubs that have achieved the remarkable status of appearing in all 30 editions of the Guide.

Editor Roger Protz said: "The achievement is all the more remarkable when you consider there is a high turnover of pubs in the Guide from one year to the next. CAMRA members chose the pubs in their localities - and they can only select in total 5,000 of the country's 60,000 pubs. CAMRA members are sticklers for beer quality and it speaks volumes for the dedication of the licensees in the 17 pubs that they have beaten off competition from other pubs to stay in the Guide for 30 years."

No local pub is so honoured, however the early editions of the Guide were not the nationally coordinated affairs we know now, and if you missed out on inclusion in the first, well you'd had it! Derby city has 12 of its pubs that met the requirements for entry into the 2003 Guide, and there are many others from the county and surrounding areas are to be found within these pages.

The *Good Beer Guide* is available from all good book shops or you can order direct from CAMRA on 01727 867201 or www.camra.org.uk @£12.99 or CAMRA members £9. Locally pubs selling the GBG include Brunswick, Alexandra, Dolphin, Flowerpot, Rowditch and Royal Oak, Ockbrook priced from £8.50.



Real ale thriving at Boulton club

The area around Boulton Lane, near the Blue Peter, Alvaston, has become a bit of a desert for cask beer in later years. It is good news therefore to report an upturn in the situation. Nunsfield House Community Centre, 33 Boulton Lane, staged its first beer festival in November.

Featured among the 17 beers were three ales each from the local breweries of Shardlow, Burton Bridge and Tower Brewery alongside brews such as Landlord, Speckled Hen, Bombardier, Black Sheep and beer from Batemans, Fullers, Greene King, Youngs and Bass. Nunsfield House normally has two cask pumps, and rotate up to four different cask ales per week.

The Social club is a private

members club, visitors can be signed in twice in a month, membership is £2 per year. The Jubilee Bar is hired out for functions, and all the Cask Ales are available, membership is not required on these occasions.

The licensee is Kevin Braithwaite who used to be at sometime *Good Beer Guide-listed* pub the Top Bell in Barton-under-Needwood, where he was host for 17 years.

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NEWS

Real ale returned again at the **Durham Ox**, Burton Road. Burton Bridge beers feature. The Buck in the Park, Curzon Street is closed. The **Crown & Cushion** proudly announce the dearest pint of Pedigree in Derby £2.40, apparently to cover costs for late night opening! Draught Bass is available at the **Woodlands**, All-estree after some time as a keg only pub. New licensees are in position at the **Foresters** at Scropton. The **Paddock** (ex-Railway) at Melbourne was residents only for quite some time but is now open in the evenings and Sunday lunch time. Pedigree and Shardlow Reverend Eaton's have been the beer choice. The little snug is now the reception area for the hotel but otherwise little change. The **Malt Shovel** Shardlow has been featuring the W+D guest beers as also has Derby's **Royal Standard**. The **Wildlifers** at Middleton-by-Wirksworth has a new landlord/landlady and has reverted the name back to the **Nelson**, there is Pedigree on at the moment but once the refurbishment is complete a guest beer is going to be introduced, possibly from Derbyshire breweries. The new incumbents last pub was in the Norwich area. The **Coach & Horses** at Ashbourne has a new licensee. The **Lord Napier**, Milton St is scheduled to reopen at last on Dec 6th. The sign has been down but for refurbishment not replacement.

Guest ales thriving at Stanley Common pub

The **White Posts** at Stanley Common is doing a thriving trade in guest beers. Under the helm of licensee Vic Wilde, Taylor Landlord and 1744 are permanent fixtures, and a weekly guest - always at least 4.5% ABV - has included Oakham St Bibliana (patron saint of hangovers!), Tower Autumn, Colleys Dog of Tring, Exmoor Stag and beers from Springhead and Buckley breweries. Well worth a trip eastwards to sample ale at this hostelry.

Tommy Owen

The well-known Derby pianist and regular on the jazz scene, died in November. Tommy was an integral part of the Derby Beer Festival entertainment for many years and once even composed a tune called the *Derby Beer Festival March*. He will be much missed by all especially at the Malt Shovel in Spondon.

Mark West

The obituaries are coming thick and fast this year I'm afraid. Long-time CAMRA member Mark West was found dead at home this summer. Something of a character, he was known as 20-Winks Mark and his partner was Liverpool Lil.

Barrel Rolling

The Derby CAMRA team led by Pete Turner retained the title at the September event at Burton for the Best CAMRA Branch Team. The trophy is on display at the Royal Oak at Ockbrook.

Vanished pubs of Derby

8. Leopard Inn, Grove Street



The Leopard stood on Grove Street, on the corner with Poplar Street, one of three pubs sited around the Arboretum. Jok Arguile was on hand at the very end in 1974 and takes up the tale:

"I remember the Leopard well - I was taking photos in the building as they were pulling it down and but for a timely reminder (a loud 'Oi you there get out!') from the demolition foreman, might also have been a casualty that day.

My records show it as an old pub dating back to at least 1835 and owned by the Worksop & Retford Brewery c. 1890 later sold to Strettons (c.1904) and demolished in January 1974. A companion of the Old English Gentleman and, like that pub, bordering the Arboretum. I used to cycle past it every day using Grove Street as short cut from Normanton Road to Osmaston Road - today it is blocked off.

Looking closer at the records the pub started life as the Leopard and was called that in 1842 (*Pigot*) and again in 1843 (*Glover*) but in 1846 *Bagshaw* shows it as the Arboretum Inn. The key here being that the licensee is the same on all dates. The Arboretum park was opened in 1840 and led (eventually) to the setting up of the Old English Gentleman (Grove St) - named

after the Arboretum's benefactor Joseph Strutt, Derby's first true mayor after the municipal Act of 1835 - and the Arboretum Hotel (Osmaston Road), but both came after the Leopard. The Old English Gent dates from c.1846 (*Bagshaw*) and the Arboretum from 1852 (*Freebody*). In 1849 Glover still showed the Leopard by that name. From 1860 (*Harrison*) also *Drake* (1862) the Leopard name was in use again.

What was the pub like in its later years? All I remember was that unlike the Old English Gent, which was a well-kept smart place for most of its later years (it was a Pountains house i.e. it sold Officers up to the 1950s and then Ind Coope), the Leopard was scruffy and run down and (I think) sold draught cider."

More bygone scenes on the internet

If you like these old pub pictures you are sure to find the following website of interest. www.derbyphotos.co.uk is the work of Andy Savage, he has several popular old Derby inns from the past on here along with other vanished views of the old town, as well as an extensive Derby Canal section. Give it a hit!

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Varsity bar opens

Another new city bar, **Varsity** in Friar Gate, opened on 27 November, just as *Derby Drinker* went to press. It has three handpumps on the bar facing Ford Street, so it appears it will have Real Ale. The Ford Street side shows that a new aluminium and glass roof has been installed, this on a listed building. There are two of these pubs in Leicester, both of which serve real ale, and both at fairly competitive prices. More news in the next issue.

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First Doveridge beer festival a roaring success

A beer festival was held at the Doveridge Village Club on Sands Lane in the West Derbyshire village, on the last Friday and Saturday in October. A party of Derby CAMRA members travelled over on the Friday night to sample the fare and were not disappointed by the selection and quality of the beers.

Villager John French had assembled an array of independent beers including Harviestoun Bitter & Twisted, Burton Bridge

Farewell to Dolphin's Big Terry

DOLPHIN LANDLORD TERRY HOLMES made his final bow as mine host in late November. You cannot deny the impact he had on the old place. From being all but empty with only one draught beer when he arrived 4 years ago, it has become one of the places to drink cask ale once more. And this from a converted keg man who saw the light! We had the Cains campaign, cheap beer nights - "That's what folks want", hugely popular beer festivals in summer, legendary nights in the snug, City Pub of the Year and Terry's trips to other towns - only for the hardy drinker. A great array of characters were assembled on a regular basis, not forgetting a superb staff team who joined in to the hilt.

Terry and Nina will be sorely missed as they wander off to Ireland, and Derby CAMRA wish them all the best. Terry, fresh from his starring role in Russell Grant's TV show about haunted pubs, was also rumoured recently to have been cast as a dodgy Yorkshire character in *Heartbeat*. What next for The Man Who Saved Cains!

New licensee at the Dolphin is **Jim Harris**, who comes from good trade stock. His grandparents (with the family) kept the Vine, Mickleover from 1967 until the mid-1980s, and Jim did 4 years at the Bowling Green, Leicester (6 trad ales) and was awarded the Guild of Master Cellarmanship. He plans to change little, the Dolphin Winterfest goes ahead in February with 26 beers, and he also runs the **Greyhound** in Friar Gate, where he is hoping to introduce a range of cask beer.

Make Hay at Shirland

A real ale gain occurred in July. The **Hay** at Shirland (just inside Chesterfield CAMRA Branch area but very close to Alfreton) is no longer a keg-house! The pub is on the Alfreton-Chesterfield Road, on the right as you enter Shirland and was once the haunt of Percy Topliss, the Monocolled Mutineer from World War One, who hailed from Blackwell.

New hosts are long-standing CAMRA members (since 1982). Malcolm and Janey Mackenzie who until recently were tenants at the Malt Shovel in Northampton have bought the property and their credentials are impressive. The Malt Shovel was the recipient of numerous Northampton Branch CAMRA awards including four consecutive pub of the year awards, plus one East Midlands regional CAMRA pub of the year award and trade awards including *Morning Advertiser* 'Cask Pub of the year'. When

opening for business at the Hay real ale was reintroduced immediately and the locals are lapping it up.

Ale policy is Tetley Bitter plus one mild and two changing guests from independents. Kimberley Mild and Holdens Black Country Mild have been tasted plus beers from Beowulf Brewery (Wuffa & Gold Work). Skinners Cornish Kocker has also been spotted, a long way from Steve Skinner's homeland in Truro.



Route Beer



A series dedicated to promote the use of public transport as a means to visit real ale pubs. Trevor Spencer heads off up to Ripley to sample some of its cask ale delights. Although not featuring in the current *Good Beer Guide*, the town has some interesting pubs that are well worth a visit.

On arriving in Ripley Market Place, both the **Pear Tree**, which has the full Hardy & Hansons range plus seasonal beers, and the **Red Lion**, owned by Wetherspoons are worthy of attention.

Five minutes walk down Heage Road is the **Horse & Jockey** (Pedigree plus guest beer) whilst in the opposite direction, on Nottingham Road, is the **Rose & Crown** (Batemans) and the newly-reopened **Midland Hotel**, a free house selling four real ales including a mild. This pub has for many years been trading under a variety of names and it is most heartening these days to find it has reverted back to its original one, under a landlord with a long-standing commitment to cask beer.

Festival, Oakham Bishops Farewell, Titanic White Star and Hook Norton Old Hooky. The committee are also to be credited for their initiative in putting on the event, which it is hoped, will now be an annual feature.

The club features guest ales on a regular basis and while it may have a touch of *Phoenix Nights* about it, it is a welcome place to find cask beer in this area and another good example of community involvement. Is the club becoming the new pub?



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