

Going for a Burton

Summer 2025

Burton and South Derbyshire CAMRA Magazine



What do these two pubs have in common (besides beer)?

Hint: It's not just the awards. Find out on the Pub of the Year page!



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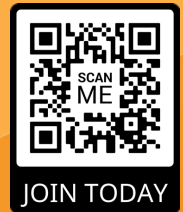


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Editors Ramblings

Welcome to the Summer edition of Going for a Burton?

The continual reduction of pubs analysed.

The current situation is said to be due to the National Insurance contributions increasing, the raising of the minimum wage, higher borrowing costs etc. I'm sure that these factors are real but perhaps there are other factors too. I would suggest that in Burton town centre the number of pubs is fairly stable, there have been two new pubs, The Arches and Innuendo. The only closure, The Winery, did have two Real Ales on hand pulls but would be regarded more as a restaurant and wine bar. It's people that are the problem but surely no-one would deny them a decent wage. National Insurance rises, I suspect are targeted as they didn't have the word tax in it!

There is of course another problem, excluding town centre pubs, the suburb's pubs are in the wrong places! The older areas that were awash with pubs are now largely inhabited by immigrants that are barred from drinking alcohol due to their religion or immigrants fleeing war zones that are making new lives in a new country making their first steps up the ladder and pubs are not a top priority. Then we have the other side of the coin with huge new middle class estates that don't have a single pub. Brizlincote in Burton being a fine example, it must be at least a mile walk from most parts. It has a small Tesco there,



Theo Hollier, Editor

that must make a fortune in ready meals and four packs. A pub would be better. Similarly, Stretton, Branston and Outwoods have the same problems in their massive new housing estates.

What can we do about it? Not a lot I hear you say! Well, think out of the box, most pubs are owned by a Pubco and they are the main problem. If a pub doesn't meet its target profit, it's just too easy to board it up and stick a for sale sign outside. In my fantasy world I would not allow a pub to close down unless it opens a new one. The new one should only be built in designated areas which would be pinpointed by councils. Example; The Barley Mow has closed in Main Street, Stapenhill, there is another pub across the road (The New Inn) so there would be no problem for the area. The council should then direct the Pubco to the Tesco in Briz and let them build a pub there. The Pubco has an option, keep the Barley open or build a new pub. I don't think it needs many guesses which option they would take.

Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA Facebook

Find out everything that is going on in your branch.

Meetings, cycle rides, brewery visits, socials, voting awards (members only), festivals, pub news, real ale news, award ceremonies, lunch meet ups, pub crawls, dining out experiences with pubs before and after, visits to other branches and much, much more.

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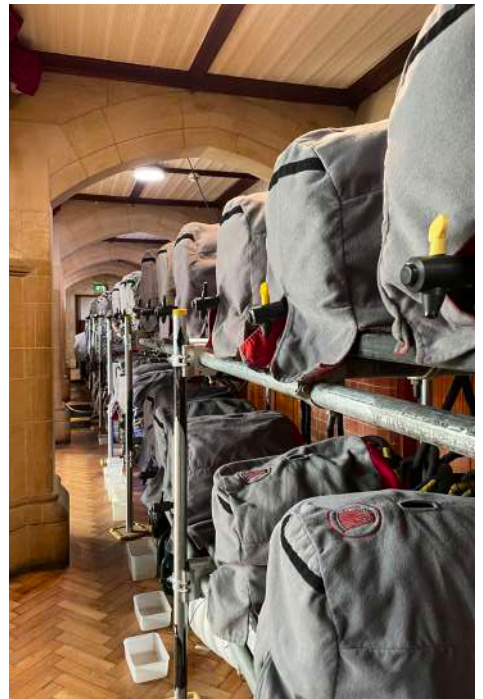
Burton CAMRA's 43rd Beer Festival



Doubling up as a celebration of the Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA branch's 50th anniversary, their 43rd Beer Festival was held at the Town Hall in late March. Beer Festivals take many months of careful planning: booking the venue, buying the beer, ensuring health and safety compliance, organising volunteers, promoting the event etc., and all done by a small group of individuals who give their time voluntarily.

Although not opening until the Thursday, things began early Monday morning with the beer and equipment deliveries. By the end of the day the firkins had been placed on the stillages and cooling jackets fitted allowing them time to drop bright to be in prime condition to be sold.

"From the first meeting back in July to take down on the Sunday morning after the festival, none of this would have happened without the knowledge, support, guidance and familiarity of a brilliant committee with help from branch members, aided of course also by visiting CAMRA members who helped to serve the beer," explains Festival Chair Jacky Allen, who took charge of her first event. "It was an absolute pleasure, and I'd like to thank everyone involved."





Three local breweries supplied special commemorative beers: Burton Bridge's 'L' Of A Beer, 50 Celebration from 3P's in Woodville and Tollgate brewed Burton Five-0, all of which proved very popular with drinkers. The first beer to sell out was a tie between 'L' Of A Beer and Ale To The King, a genuine Royal beer from Tower Brewery, brewed during the Royal visit from HRH King Charles III in February. There was a first for the festival, with Burton's newest breweries G3 and Outwoods (located under the Station Bridge, near the Roebuck Inn) supplying beer. Outwoods supplied three firkins, this was also the first time their beer had been available outside of their brewery tap The Arches. Gluten free craft brewery G3, based in Winshill, had their own bar serving two beers.

Burton Bridge Brewery also launched No Half Measures at the festival, this 4.5% Ruby Ale was a collaboration with Nottingham's No Half Measures Collective and was brewed on International Women's Day. Other beers of note were: True North's Stones Bitter, Sarah Hughes Champion Winter Beer 2024 winner Snowflake and a firkin from Carlsberg of




Collin, Outwoods Brewery





Daryl, G3 Brewery

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Marston's Pedigree Reserve, a 5.0% version of their classic Burton bitter, confirming that they can still brew a decent beer when they try, a glimmer of hope perhaps?

The festival was opened by none other than Bruce Wilkinson, co-founder of Burton Bridge Brewery. "His speech was an absolute delight," enthuses Jacky. There was also a presentation to all the ex-Branch Chairs, who were given personalised t-shirts. "It was fitting as we celebrated 50 years, I am immensely proud we were able to contact our past Chairs and invite them to the festival to recognise their dedication."

Entertainment was provided by the familiar figure of Martin Atterbury on the Wurlitzer, the Silicon Taxis on Friday night and Sloop Groggy Dogs on the Saturday.

2025 marked the first time that the event had been organised solely by the branch since 2019. The 2020 festival was cancelled at the eleventh hour due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this also scuppered plans in 2021 and 2022. When the festival made its welcome return in 2023 and 2024 it was as the CAMRA Great British Beer Festival Winter.

Burton CAMRA's 43rd Beer Festival continued...

"A lot has changed since 2019 for most people," observes Les Stretton, the Branch Chair. "Bills are up, wages have stagnated, social spend is under constant pressure and this has affected attendances everywhere."

Regrettably this was experienced at the festival, although still well supported arguably things could have been better. "With hindsight perhaps we over-estimated attendance and that had a knock on effect with beer sales," Jacky reckons.

Les Stretton: "Lessons will be learnt, perhaps dropping to 100 beers for 2026? The Treasurer is still crunching the numbers but personally I would be happy if we break even. Online ticket sales concerned me somewhat, perhaps customers

saw that advance tickets were sold out and thought it would be crowded, you have to remember these numbers are spread out over ten or eleven hours, even I would find it challenging to drink for that long!" "If I am lucky to be festival Chair again, an invite will be going out to the branch membership to join the Festival Committee, fresh new ideas are always welcome," says a hopeful Jacky. "As for changes for 2026 ... watch this space."

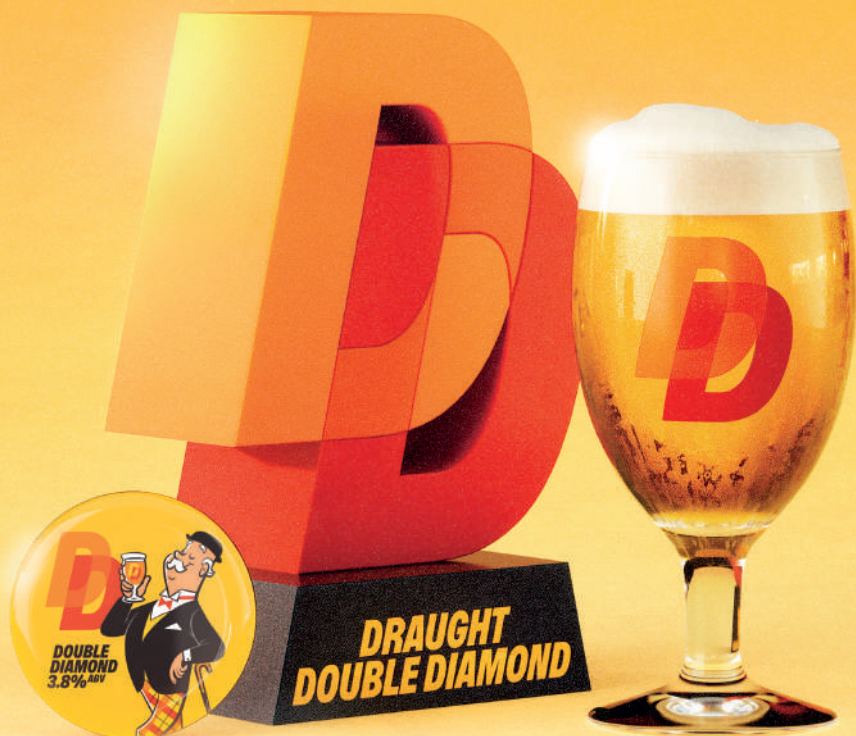
"Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA welcomes ideas from anyone remotely interested in our 2026 Festival," echoes Les. "Bring it on I say!"

If you fancy getting involved next year, please contact the branch.

Ian Webster



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Pub of the year 2025



The Devonshire Arms, Burton

When reading the initial results of the annual PotY results I had to check if last year's results were put in by mistake! But no, it's all correct and in fact the last 3 years have identical winners. runners up and even South Derbyshire the same. This certainly shows that the consistency is well deserved because the judging teams have been fairly varied over the years.

Congratulations go again to Carl and Nickie Stout of the Devonshire Arms (The Devie) this time for the hat-trick, 2023, 2024 & 2025. In 2022 the Devie was the Runner-up when the Old Royal Oak won. In 2021 there was no contest due to covid. In 2020, again the Devie won the PotY. If anyone is wondering what happened in 2019? That is the year that Carl and Nickie bought the Devie after running the Burton Bridge pub for about ten years.

The Weighbridge Inn was the Burton Town runner-up again. This being the third successive runner-up award for Mandy and Richard. 2024 had been a traumatic year for them, as they made the difficult decision to close the Muirhouse Brewery in Ilkeston. Richard used to run the Brewery and Mandy used to run the Pub but now they both do. The rumour that Richard closed the Brewery so that he could see more Ipswich games now they are in the Premiership are not true! It is probably more to do with the distance between Ilkeston and Burton.



The Colville Arms, Lullington

The Colville Arms in Lullington has won the South Derbyshire PotY again, this now being their fourth consecutive win, although it could be their eight! How come? Well, 2018 & 2019 outright winners. 2020 joint winner with Brickmakers in Newton Solney, 2021 there was no competition due to Covid, so perhaps de facto winners? 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 were all outright winners again. Congratulations go to Neil and Becks Hay, the winning run is remarkable but perhaps even more remarkable, due to the low population of Lullington being just 121!

So, the answer to the question on the front cover is, The Devonshire Arms and the Colville Arms just can't stop winning! We now await the presentations to these and other categories, so keep an eye out on social media for the dates and times.

Theo Hollier, Editor

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Our Branch magazine, Going for a Burton? is free. Those of us who write articles for inclusion are doing it for free and those of us who distribute the magazine to pubs and clubs are doing it for free. We drive our cars to almost the borders of Rugeley in the west, almost to Sudbury in the north, to Breedon-on-the-Hill in the east and almost to Clifton Campville in the south. Why? Because we believe in the real ale cause - promoting pubs, breweries and local businesses - and enjoy doing it.

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We appreciate the support of all of our sponsors and hope that our readers will do the same by visiting them.

BURTON ALE TRAIL

5th to 8th June 2025



The Arches Beeropolis Brews Of The World
Burton Bridge Inn The Constitutional Club Coopers Tavern
The Devonshire Arms The Dog The Elms Inn-Uendo's
The Last Heretic The Oak & Ivy Olde Royal Oak
The Roebuck Inn The Weighbridge Inn



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Burton Ale Trail 2025 Preview

The 8th Burton Ale Trail is being held between 5th and 8th June 2025 and with fifteen of the town's best venues coming together, this is undoubtedly the best pub crawl in the Midlands.

Since the third BAT in September 2022, the official mascot has been Marvin the Bat and he changes his appearance for each event. So far, he has been a Pop Art montage, Clint Eastwood, an 80s end of level boss and a disco king. His 2025 incarnation sees him discover his inner Rock God; dressed in black, sitting on a throne, wearing purple tinted sunglasses, paying a twisted tribute to the legendary Ozzy Osbourne.

"Ozzy once bit the head off a bat, turns out this was a distant relative of mine," Marvin says, explaining his new image before laughing and spreading his wings. "With Ozzy retiring from live performances this summer, what better time to return the favour?"

The innovative BAT app will be available to download on the App Store and Play Store and is themed around Ozzy and his band Black Sabbath. This time the app features lots of virtual badges to

be won, these can be picked up by scanning in at venues and casting votes for "The Best Beer on the BAT" competition; the rest you'll have to find for yourself.

This time the BAT features three additional pubs, two new and one making a welcome return.

"I'm delighted to be a part of it, I've only missed one of them," explains Inn-Uendo's Richard Peace. "I used to manage the Burton Bridge Inn, so this time will be completely different for me, it's a much smaller cellar but I'm confident we'll make it work and I enjoy the challenge!"

"I've already been in talks with a small brewery based in the Midlands about brewing an exclusive ale which I'm very excited about. We are just working on a name and looking at different designs for the badge clip, you can guarantee there will be an innuendo in there somewhere. Cocktails and shots have also been a massive part of our business since we launched, so we'll also have a special BAT cocktail and shot too."

Continues on next page...

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Burton Ale Trail 2025 Preview continued...

"We will hopefully have something for everyone to enjoy on the weekend and we're really looking forward to it!"

Another new venue is The Arches, the tap for Outwoods Brewing Company. Although not officially on the BAT last time, they were packed out all weekend.

"I'm excited to join for the first time even though people showed up in support for the last one, which was awesome," reckons Colin Trowell who opened his doors in July 2024. "This is becoming one of the most popular and talked about pub trails in England and we have some special beers in the works. As a thank you every pint will be £4."

Marking its return after a few years absence is The Elms. "The BAT holds a massive place in our hearts which is why as soon as we moved in we got The Elms straight back on it," explains Loz Pearce who until recently ran The Dog with husband Craig. "We are planning lots of great cobs, pork pie platters & my famous cheese and Marmite straws. The Ritz are playing Friday night from 8pm so let's pack the place! There will be enough Bass to sink a battleship and some special guest ales too."

2025 sees a change for the BAT as it will now be happening annually, taking place in June.

"Holding it in summer will give more scope for outside drinking and therefore increased capacity in the pubs. I think being once a year it'll make it more special too. There's the lighter nights and better weather also," says a hopeful Ian Webster, who oversees the BAT. "There's no football to clash with so I am hoping it will attract even more people into the town. To be able to bring three new places on board is heartwarming, it shows that Burton upon Trent is bucking the national trend for pub closures.

"Please come along, meet up with your mates and have fun! Don't forget to download the free mobile phone app. it is interactive and adds something extra to the experience. Thank you to all the fifteen pubs taking part, Ed for his hard work on the app., Liam for taking the new pub photos, Daryl for his help with the app badges and of course to everyone who has supported us in the last four years. Let's make this the best one so far."

Ian Webster



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BURTON ALE TRAIL
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BURTON ALE TRAIL
1st to 4th September 2022

BURTON ALE TRAIL
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BURTON ALE TRAIL
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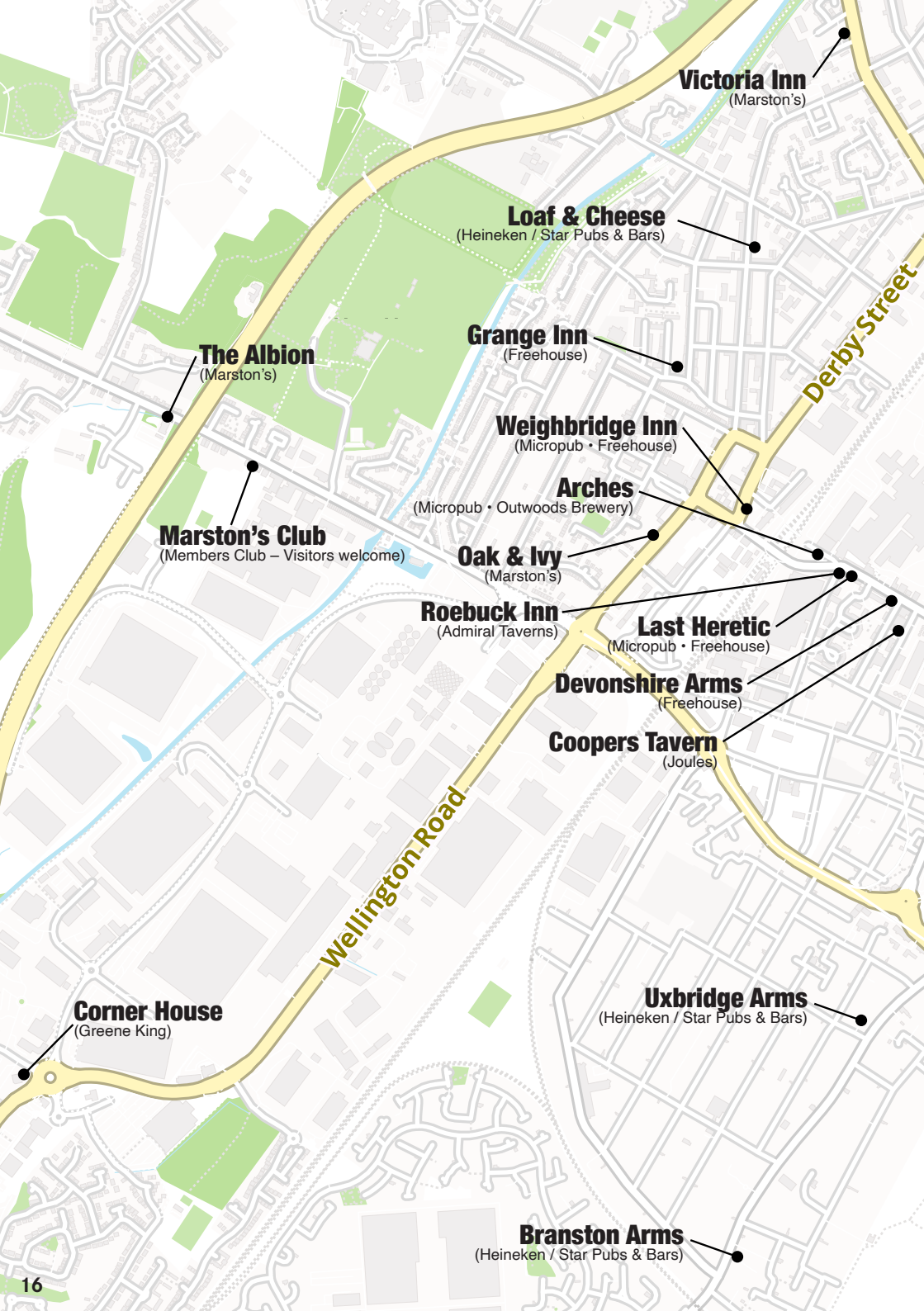
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Uxbridge Arms
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Branston Arms
(Heineken / Star Pubs & Bars)

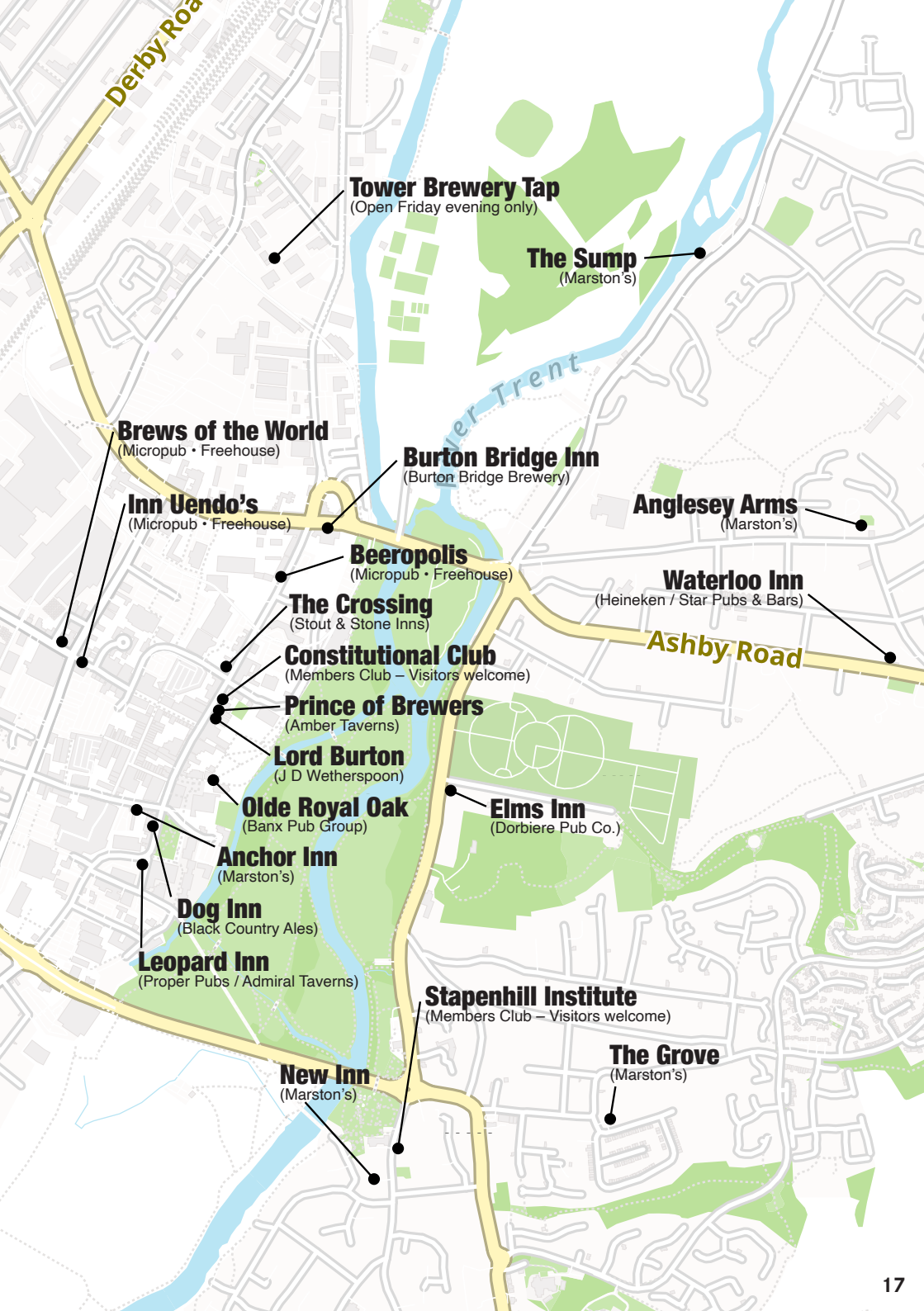
The Albion
(Marston's)

Marston's Club
(Members Club – Visitors welcome)

Corner House
(Greene King)

Wellington Road

Derby Street



Derby Road

Tower Brewery Tap
(Open Friday evening only)

The Sump
(Marston's)

Brews of the World
(Micropub • Freehouse)

Burton Bridge Inn
(Burton Bridge Brewery)

Anglesey Arms
(Marston's)

Inn Uendo's
(Micropub • Freehouse)

Beeropolis
(Micropub • Freehouse)

Waterloo Inn
(Heineken / Star Pubs & Bars)

The Crossing
(Stout & Stone Inns)

Ashby Road

Constitutional Club
(Members Club – Visitors welcome)

Prince of Brewers
(Amber Taverns)

Lord Burton
(J D Wetherspoon)

Olde Royal Oak
(Banx Pub Group)

Elms Inn
(Dorbiere Pub Co.)

Anchor Inn
(Marston's)

Dog Inn
(Black Country Ales)

Leopard Inn
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Ian Webster – CAMRA Campaigner of the Year Runner-up

Nominee: Ian Webster

Please tell us about the impact your nominee has made:

For all the work he does for the pubs in Burton, all the work he does for the Burton Ale Trail. He is a great voice for beer, Burton and brewing history, the community and everyone benefits from the work he does.

Please tell us about how your nominee has demonstrated inclusion:

He shares good news from local pubs and breweries and is always bringing new venues to the ale trail.

Please tell us about the leadership your nominee has shown:

He leads the Burton Ale Trail single handedly, is the heart of the community and we couldn't do it without him.

Please tell us about how your nominee has demonstrated innovation:

The Burton Ale Trail app is completely innovative as no other beer festival or crawl has anything like it.

Please tell us about how your nominee has shown commitment:

He is so involved in making the pubs and breweries of Burton feel supported and puts in so much work for this not for profit event all year round.



Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I can't think of anyone who works harder for the cause and the results have benefited local breweries and pubs so much it can't be quantified.

*Ellie Hudspith
– Senior Campaigns and
Communications Manager*

Left: Chairman Les Stretton
Right: Ian Webster



Why Big Breweries Do Not Work in the UK (Part Two)



Tim Webb is an international beer judge who lives in Mid-Devon. He writes *The World Atlas of Beer* and several other books and heads up beer on CAMRA's national drinks committee.

At the end of 2024, in a move that was leaked ahead of time, the UK's third largest brewer, Carlsberg, announced that it was stopping the production of eight cask ale brands and three other draught beers. Instead, it would focus on "fewer and bigger brands", citing Tetley's and Wainwright as its flagbearers for the future.

For many in the industry, this made good business sense. If something is not selling, get rid of it and consider putting something in its place. For me, in contrast, this approach epitomised the soggy thinking that passes for imaginative

leadership in the world the big brewers inhabit. Because they are incapable of creating stylish and flavoursome beers, they find instead new ways of living in the past.

Even the quality brands they acquire from others in takeovers are not safe in their hands – whether it be a hop-forward IPA like Lagunitas, a beer from one of the five pioneering UK craft breweries that have failed so far after takeover, or a classic cask ale like Banks's Mild, one of the Carlsberg victims.

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Bye-bye British brewers.

One of the reasons underlying this collective failure is likely the fact that little of the UK brewing industry is still UK-owned – certainly no more than 20% and perhaps only 15%. After the four huge foreign conglomerates (AB-InBev, Heineken, Carlsberg and Molson Coors) come Asahi from Japan, and Greene King, which is owned by a Chinese firm. We can expect to see a lot more of the Chinese in the future.



In Germany, the Czech Republic and Belgium, the three other countries to retain heritage brewing cultures that survived the 20th century descent into commoditised beer, the excise duty and VAT imposed on beer is between 5% and 30% of that applied in the UK. Those countries want to support their brewing industries. In the UK we seem content to make Budweiser for pennies a pint and then sell it at luxury prices.

Lost opportunities

When considering the future of an iconic beer like Banks's Mild, the corporate mind sees its sales steadily reducing and thinks "Will anyone notice if we ditch this?" Would a more intelligent question not be "What is being done wrong and how to we revive this?"

Heineken has spent a small fortune creating a strikingly lacklustre beer called Heineken Silver, apparently to attract younger drinkers seeking a lower-strength alternative to mainstream brands. When Carlsberg took Marstons, it was gifted a genuinely different, tasty, low-alcohol ale alternative called Banks's Mild, but put no effort into promoting it to a generation seeking something "other", by upping the maltiness, exploiting the low strength and associating it with a new design of flat cap.

Another victim was Ringwood Old Thumper, which pioneered higher strength ales in the 1980s, its creator Peter Austin going on to populate the world with exported UK-made small breweries. A third was the relative newbie, Marston's Old Empire, which had the potential to lead the market in newer pale ales. Not any more.

Time to move over

Internally, Carlsberg uses the slogan "Fewer – Bigger – Better", to describe the future of its cask ales. They surely cannot mean Wainwright, the beer that brought cask a new level of mundanity. Beer drinkers like beer, not malted wet air.

Drink less, drink better makes sense to us, but better means tastier. The bigger brewers' self-serving ways need to be exposed for what they are, so independent brewers can get the breaks they deserve. It is time for CAMRA to get to work.

Tim Webb

Postcode Lottery – It does matter, why we lost!



We all know that Peter Sellers was Inspector Jacques Clouseau but not many people know that our Burton & South Derbyshire branch has it's own version, Gary Clouseau who has investigated and found where missing members of our Branch. Gary has been hot on the case for many months and now has got all the ducks lined up.

Our inspector has been in contact with Membership HQ to confirm all the details and background, and they have confirmed all the postcodes assigned to our branch, as well as the postcodes assigned to the neighbouring branches, so we have the full picture of where things stand, and who is getting what.

So now Clouseau has now completed all the branch area mapping, with the overlaid postcode area mapping, as well as spreadsheets with all the itemised postcodes (in case they are needed).

This is the back ground information:

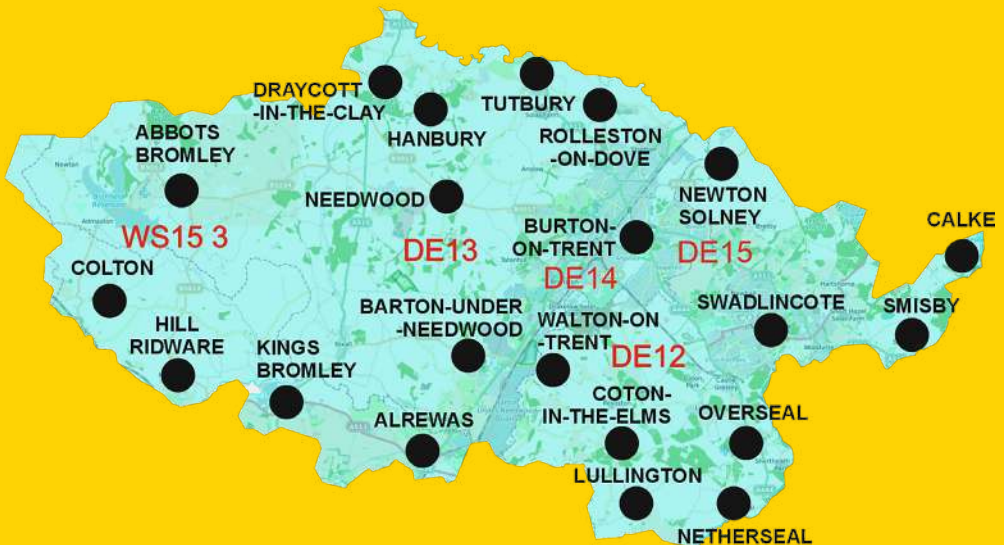
Have the "CAMRA Membership" postcodes for assigning branch membership for each of the following branches:

- Burton-on-Trent & south Derbyshire (us)
- Derby
- Uttoxeter
- Loughborough & North Leics
- Cannock Chase
- Lichfield, Sutton & Tamworth

As a branch we have just 4 postcodes and 1 sub-postcode assigned for our branch.

Loughborough have 22 postcodes
 Derby have 72 postcodes
 Cannock Chase have 34 postcodes
 Lichfield Sutton & Tamworth have 24 postcodes
 Uttoxeter have 33 postcodes

The evidence comes out; Going through this, it was very evident that all our neighbouring branches have (at some point over the past few years) followed up with the Regional Director(s) and CAMRA HQ Membership, to get their Membership area updated and extended, to cover their branch area.



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Burton & South Derbyshire seem to be the ONLY branch that have just accepted what we were allocated.

So Clouseau was looking at the neighbouring branches, we have definitely, unfortunately dropped the ball on this one, as all the rest of them have been very active on addressing their membership areas, and all have vastly more postcodes (and vastly more postcode detail) than we have.

Clouseau found that on this basis there is no question that Loughborough Branch are aware and are happily taking our branch area and membership numbers, which we now obviously need to get corrected ASAP.

We are losing about 25 to 30% of our branch area (currently) for membership, and losing it in the following 3 postcode areas:

- DE12 - the big one (whole postcode being allocated to Loughborough)
- LE65 - a smaller one (all being allocated to Loughborough)
- DE6 - a smaller one (all being allocated to Derby)

In terms of towns/villages in our branch currently being lost for membership:

- DE12 - Walton-on-Trent, Overseal, Rolleston, Coton, Overseal, Netherseal, Coton-in-the-Elms, Caldwell, Linton, Lullington
- LE65 - Smisby, Calke (including area covered by Leatherbritches and Tollgate Breweries)
- DE6 - Draycott-in-the-Clay, Coton-in-the-Clay (including area covered by Roebuck Brewery)

Clouseau had also been speaking to a few long term members of the branch, and none of them seem sure what the actual branch area is, or what is included within it, with many seeming to think Tutbury is outside our branch area, and similarly Alrewas, Kings Bromley, and Abbots Bromley are also outside our area (which they're not).

So, he thought it would be really helpful to get a branch area map circulated amongst the membership, and also put on our branch website (which a number of other CAMRA branches do).

Continues on next page...

Postcode Lottery continued...

This should provide some clarity and also mean that everyone is aware of what the branch area is, and new members joining can also check what the branch area is (so will be more likely to make contact and let us know as and when Membership - and branch assignment - issues occur and they've been assigned to the wrong branch).

Clouseau has attached a Branch Area Map, with the majority of the "Key" towns and villages itemised and marked on it, so it is clear what is within our branch area (all and any feedback on this appreciated - updates can be made if and as needed, so just let me know)

This has been posted on Facebook, and will be asking the Webmaster to "add" a "BRANCH AREA" tab onto the branch Website, and have this included (visible), as well as the option to download a copy.

This should make it widely known and visible to everyone.

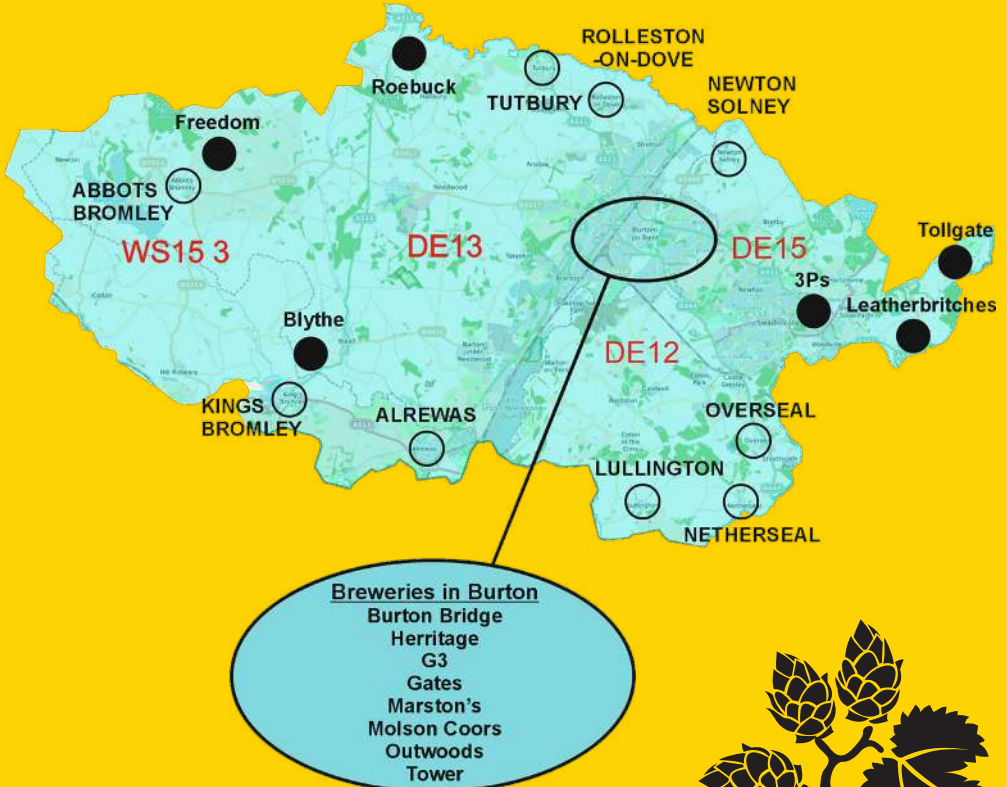
Also attached, a second image, which shows our branch Area, and the neighbouring postcodes.

On this I have also included in BLUE the postcodes assigned for the Loughborough Branch, and their associated postcode area.

On this you can see the areas of our branch that we have currently "lost and missing out on" for membership (Namely the whole of DE12, part of LE65, and part of DE6 postcode areas).

And questions then just let me know at Magny en Vexin, Val-d'Oise, France. Alternatively advise the UK agent, the Membership secretary, email inside the back cover.

Theo Hollier, Editor



All 'L' Breaks Loose

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA branch, celebrations kicked off at The Leopard on 5th March, which was the location of the inaugural meeting in 1975 and continued at the 43rd Beer Festival held at Burton Town Hall in March.

To mark the occasion, what better than a special beer brewed by none other than Burton Bridge Brewery, who have been supplying the festival since 1982? They have a history of producing celebratory beers for the branch, the first being Festival Ale initially produced in 1983 and fittingly was on sale this year too.

"We have been talking to Emma and Al at Burton Bridge for some months about an anniversary ale," explains CAMRA's Dr Gary Lock. "We looked at historically brewed Burton Ales, different beer styles and settled on a full-bodied full-flavoured Extra Special Bitter. We felt this was a fitting and appropriate beer to celebrate the 50-year milestone."

Last month the Head Brewer at Burton Bridge Al Wall oversaw the brewing of 'L' Of A Beer with help from Gary, the L referencing the Roman numeral for 50.



"It was an early start at 06:30 but it was great to be at a commercial brewery for a day and see the anniversary ale on its brew day," observes Gary, who is a keen home brewer. "I was doing my best not to get in their way too much and not distract them, but I was there from the start and was invited to support with emptying the sacks of fresh hops towards the end of the brew."

"I have placed a personal order for a pin as I expect it to be a cracker and well worth the wait. I look forward to inviting some friends over to help me drink it and enjoy a nice full-bodied full-flavoured 5% ESB. It will hopefully be a pint to be enjoyed and savoured."

Emma Cole from Burton Bridge Brewery explains: "'L' Of A Beer is a special collaboration brew that pays tribute to the rich brewing heritage of Burton upon Trent and to those who campaign for its successful continuation!"

"Crafted with a deep respect for traditional Extra Strong Bitters, 'L' Of A Beer showcases a dark, rich mahogany hue and a perfectly balanced malt-hop profile," enlightens Al. "We've combined rye, barley, and a carefully selected hop bill to create a beer that is both bold and complex. Expect caramel and toffee notes, a touch of spicy rye, and a firm yet refined earthy hop bitterness."

Continues on next page...

The Burton & South Derbyshire Beer Festival had over 140 beers to choose from, a third were sourced locally. There was also a vast array of real ciders and perries.

“It is important that the local breweries and Burton’s rich brewery history take centre stage with the anniversary,” reckons Gary. “We are showcasing the local breweries at the beer festival and there are a number of events through the anniversary year to support and promote the local pubs and cask ales in the region. The anniversary ale is a fitting part of our celebrations and wish to thank Burton Bridge for making it happen.”

‘L’ Of A Beer was available at the Burton Bridge Brewery bar during the festival, along with Top Dog Stout, Stairway To Heaven, Stairway To Citra, Festival Ale, Brewers Gold, Maseys Golden Bitter, Masterpiece, Czar’s P2 and No Half Measures.

“We are really excited to have our own bar at the festival,” says a passionate Emma the day before the festival opened. “This is also the first time we have had our own proper bar at any festival since we took over a year ago. With ten beers, we are showcasing a mix of new beers and old favourites, we hope everyone will enjoy them as much as we love creating them. The new bar that we built encapsulates Burton Bridge to its core, following on from the ethos of reusing and repurposing that Geoff and Bruce demonstrated, we made it out of pallets that our malt arrives on. Building it was a

collaborative effort between everyone in our lovely team and we plan to reuse it after the festival during the summer months in our pub beer garden.

“Many thanks to CAMRA’s Dr Gary Lock who at the last minute saved the day by loaning us four extra beer engines when the ones we had didn’t work! Also, a big thanks to Colorscan, and in particular Steve Webster, who sorted all the artwork and our big pump clips that adorn the front of the bar. This all goes to show what a great beer community we have here in Burton.”

‘L’ Of A Beer proved to be very popular and has also been on sale at Burton Bridge Inn, there are plans to bottle it too and it was one of the first beers to sell out at the festival?

For all the homebrewers among you, Al has kindly shared the recipe...

Ian Webster

Malt:

Golden promise 84.7%
Caramalt 7.7%
T50 Crystal malt 3.9%
CaraRye malt 2.5%
Chocolate Malt 1.2%



Hops:

Bitterness 2.45g/l Target

Boil end hops 4.9/l Goldings (this was very scientific, as that made exactly 10kg, so no need to weigh out any quantities of hops, just use entire boxes!)

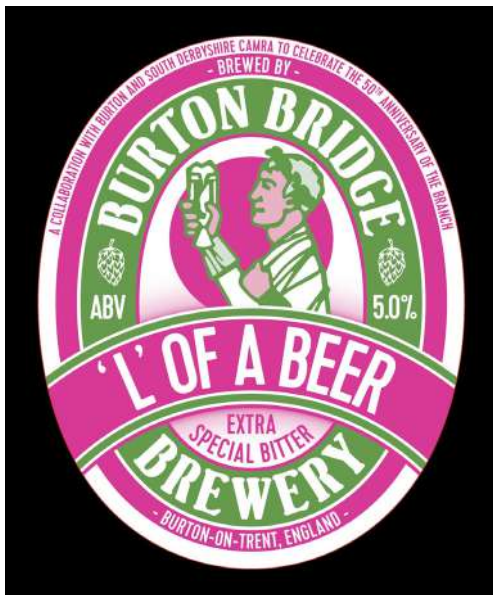
Fermentation:

O.G. 1.050 and A.B.V. of 5%

Strike water temperature 76°C, mash temperature of 67.5°C, as it was decided that the beer required more body than some of other Burton Bridge beers.

Collected at 22°C and fermented at 23°C with Burton Brewery yeast strain.

Dropped to 18°C for one day post fermentation for a Diacetyl rest, then down to 8°C for packing into cask.



Safeguarding Our Heritage – An Update (Part Two)

Dr Harry White is the Chairman of the National Brewery Heritage Trust (NBHT), who are responsible for the massive archive of brewing related material currently housed at the Brewery Heritage Centre on Station Street. Last issue he spoke in detail about the work carried out by the NBHT after the closure of the National Brewery Centre in 2022. Here he looks forward to the future.



What are the plans for 2025?

“Over the last two years it has become increasingly apparent that the NBHT needs to increase both its skill sets and its numbers,” observes Harry. “The reality is that we are a very small (and increasingly ageing) band of enthusiasts who have been asked to step up and fill a gap. We’ve been happy to do that, but equally we recognise that to succeed in our goals for the future we need to increase our professionalism.

“Towards the end of 2024, we therefore started to actively seek out like-minded individuals both from across the wider brewing industry and also from the world of museums and archives, and at the NBHT’s November AGM, I was delighted to announce the appointment of two new trustees: Anthony

Hughes, MD of Lincoln Green a Midlands-based brewer and pub operator, and Tom Stainer CEO of CAMRA. Both Anthony and Tom broaden the expertise and experience of the NBHT and I look forward to working with both of them during 2025.

“In terms of our immediate plans for 2025, they are based on increasing public awareness of the range of material in the archive combined with better management of the artefacts, whether by prioritising their repair, refurbishment and/or cleaning, or by exploring options for their loaning out and where deemed necessary, disposal. I recognise this is a contentious area, but where we have numerous duplicate items (malt shovels is an obvious example) then we need to make some sensible decisions, albeit whilst adhering to national museum standards.



Safeguarding our Heritage Continued...

“A third area on which the NBHT needs to focus during 2025 is fundraising. As we have recognised the need to increase the level of our professionalism, then we have recruited (on limited hours contracts) suitably qualified staff, and we see this becoming the norm for the foreseeable future. We therefore need to put in place adequate and secure sources of funding. For the last two years the NBHT’s activities have been supported financially by both Molson Coors Brewing Company and East Staffordshire Borough Council, a situation that we recognise cannot continue indefinitely. 2025 will therefore see the NBHT increasingly reaching out to other sources of potential funding, both private and public. Dialogue with the National Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the Heritage Centre has already been opened.

On a personal level, I spent many a happy hour at the National Brewery Centre archive, but the facilities were basic and limited in space. The new premises on Station Street are a marked improvement.



The Olde Royal Oak

- New pool table as well as extra seating in the main bar area
- 5 real ales, 3 Lillies, 5 keg ciders, 3 lagers, Guinness & 2 IPAs
- Come say hi to Gareth and the team!
- Check Google for opening times.

Weekly Events:

- 🎲 Games Night – Wednesdays
- 🎤 Karaoke – Fridays
- 🎸 Live Entertainment – Saturdays



11 Market Place, Burton upon Trent, DE14 1HA

“They are superior in every respect,” agrees Harry. “Although in the short term the archives are not accessible because they need sorting into some form of recognisable order, they are stored in secure purpose-designed boxes, either on secure shelving or in purpose-designed cabinets, all of which are in environmentally controlled rooms. This had not been the case at the NBC for a number of years.”

Were all the artefacts saved?

“If they were properly documented and accessioned artefacts belonging to MCBC, then yes, they have been saved. In the immediate aftermath of the closure in October 2022, the owners of any artefacts on loan to the NBC were contacted and items were returned if so requested (mostly vehicles). Also, and where appropriate, certain items have been loaned out to companies/other museums for safekeeping and display (eg. a brass/bronze Victorian Steels Masher made by Robert Morton has been loaned to Briggs of Burton for display in the lobby of their Technical Centre).

“Doubtless further rationalisation decisions will have to be made, as we simply lack sufficient storage space, but any such decisions will always be made according to national museum guidelines and also with a view to the stories we want to see told in the new Heritage Centre.”



Safeguarding our Heritage Continued...

What are your hopes for the long-term future and have these changed since the closure?

"My hopes haven't really changed over the last two years, but they have become far more focussed and tangible. As things stand at the moment, I have high hopes that the High Street project and associated Heritage Centre will gain traction. It is our mission to share the importance of the brewing and pub industry with the people of the town and beyond. We are excited by the plans and believe the development promises to make Burton upon Trent the national hub of British brewing and pub heritage.

"There is a strong desire from within ESBC and the architects and consultants involved to make this succeed and we all feel very positive about it. Now that the plans and design concept for the Heritage Centre have been drawn up and submitted to the Planning Authorities, we in the NBHT can start talking to the wider brewing industry to gain their support and input. So, a lot to do, but I firmly believe it's worthwhile."

Ian Webster



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14
Pumps!



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Going for a Burton?

Going for a Burton? is published by the Burton and South Derbyshire branch of CAMRA.© Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). Copies are distributed across the town of Burton-on-Trent and beyond.

Read Going for a Burton? online and find out more at gfab.camra.org.uk

Advertising rates are available at gfab.camra.org.uk or from advert@gfab.camra.org.uk

Items for publication are welcome and should be sent to editor@gfab.camra.org.uk

Going for a Burton? is designed and printed by Hollier Creative @[HollierCreative](https://www.holliercreative.co.uk)

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