



**JIM WAIN RECEIVES  
THE LEGION  
D'HONNEUR**



**MIKE  
CLEATOR  
1944-2019**



**DENNIS TASKER  
1929-2019**

*New  
Marksman*  
Issue 40 Funded by the  
Baily Thomas Provident Fund  
Autumn 2019



**NEW FACES AT BAILY THOMAS**

visit the **BAILY THOMAS PROVIDENT FUND's WEBSITE**

[www.bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk](http://www.bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk)

Email: [enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk)

### The Baily Thomas Provident Fund Office

The office is open Monday to Thursday every week [except holidays] and is staffed by Denise Wilson and Pam Tooth who are the interface between the beneficiaries and the trustees. John Else works on a consultancy basis for the Trust and can be contacted via the office. Contact details are:

**Tel: 01623 473290 Baily Thomas Provident Fund Chadburn House  
Weighbridge Road, Mansfield. NG18 1AH**



### Mansfield Brewery Walking Group

The walks are held on the second Sunday of each month, commencing at 10.30 am and normally finish around 2.30 pm. They are generally easy walks between 5 and 6 miles.

**For information contact Barbara Brown on 01623 481488**

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### Mansfield Brewery Members' Association

The Members' Association is open to all former employees of the Mansfield Brewery Group of Companies. The Association's monthly meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Debdale Sports Club, Mansfield Woodhouse commencing at 10.00 a.m.

The Committee organises monthly coach excursions which are open to all members and friends. The excursions depart from the Debdale Sports Club, Mansfield Woodhouse where there is easy car parking.

**If you wish to join any excursion please contact Graham Cooling on 01623 632620**



**Baily Thomas**

PROVIDENT FUND

*A helping hand*

**Please Join us  
At our fourth**

# **Trustees' Open Meeting**

**On Tuesday, 19 November 2019 from 5.30 pm  
at Chadburn House Weighbridge Road Mansfield**

You and your spouse/partner are cordially invited to our fourth Trustees' Open Meeting on Tuesday, 19 November 2019 starting at 5.30pm.

The meeting will be presented by the Trustees and provide you with an overview and update about the Baily Thomas Provident Fund. You will have the opportunity to meet the Trustees and to ask questions at the end of their presentation.

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund (also a beneficiary of the Provident Fund) are hoping to have some of their Trustees at the meeting to raise awareness about the work of the Charitable Fund.

A light buffet will be provided after the meeting and complimentary drinks at the new Prior's Well Brewery, based in the old Brewery building attached to Chadburn House.

Please RSVP to 01623 473290 or  
[enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk)  
by Friday 25 October 2019

What's in your  
Autumn 2019  
New **Marksman**

**SAD PARTINGS:  
MIKE CLEATOR,  
DENNIS TASKER,  
GWEN KINCH**

❖  
Our trips out – all the news

❖  
**MD John Hings  
shares his memories**

❖  
**Ron Kirk's new book**

❖  
**Who's got Talent?  
Proud parents of the next  
generation celebrate  
Jordan Boulton**

❖  
**All this and much more**

—  
Don't forget we'd like to hear  
from you, too; those special  
occasions, family events,  
memories, pictures, either call  
me on **01482 491125** or  
e-mail

[roybainton@hotmail.com](mailto:roybainton@hotmail.com)

or by post to



ROY BAINTON  
100 KIRKHAM DRIVE  
HULL HU5 2BT

**SEND US  
YOUR STORIES, YOUR  
NEWS, PICTURES!**

## **Two new faces join Denise Wilson at the Administration office at Chadburn House, Mansfield.**



**WENDY MARSH**

### **Wendy Marsh – Welfare Support Manager**

Wendy joined Baily Thomas Provident Fund in February 2019 to provide a confidential home visiting service. The service aims to provide advice and support services to former employees of Mansfield Brewery in medical, financial and emotional need. She is a qualified Social Worker with a lot of experience in social care within local authorities and the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation. Wendy can be contacted via the Baily Thomas Office.



**DENISE  
WILSON**



**PAM TOOTH**

### **Pam Tooth – Administrator**

Pam joined the Baily Thomas Provident Fund office at Mansfield in May 2019, working with Denise Wilson. Pam is a former employee of Mansfield Brewery, having joined the company in 1996 to work in the Brewing Office. She worked as Secretary to Richard Meadows, Director of Production. Pam remained working in the Brewing Office until closure of the Brewery in March 2002



## **Celebrating more Marksman Talent ...**

*As always, we're delighted to feature the stories of talent and achievement by former Mansfield Brewery employees and their families.*

*Helen Bolton writes: I worked in the payroll department for Mansfield Brewery from 1995 to 2001 and I have been married to Michael Boulton for almost 31 years. We have a daughter named Rachel aged 25, an accountant, and a son named Jordan who is detailed below.*

### **JORDAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS:**

I have been lucky enough to have had many opportunities in my golfing career. I have represented my club in the junior league and scratch league. The County at under 12, 14, 16, 18 and Men's First and Second Team. My Country at under 16 and under 18 level on four different occasions. Finally, at Longwood University playing in the named squad for all four years, only missing one tournament due to an academic engagement. In terms of tournaments finishes, I have won The Douglas Johns under 15 tournament 2011, The Men's County Match Play 2016, The Midland Youths Tournament 2017. I have also won two tournaments whilst attending college in the United States: the Finnegan invitational 2017 and the ECU Raising Caines invitational 2017.

I currently hold two course records, a 64 (-6) at Shrewsbury Golf Club in 2016 during the county 6 man team event, and the other a 64 (-7) at Springwater Golf Club during the October medal in 2011 (Aged 14).

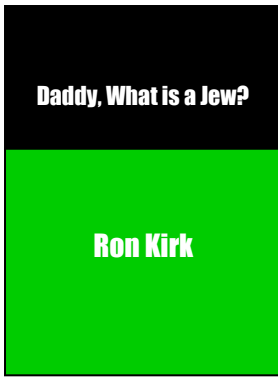
### **Plans for the future**

My plans for the future include the chance to turn professional with the hopes of making it onto the European tour and the PGA tour. I look to make the decision at the end of this year or the next with regards to pursuing this providing that all aspects concerning my game are such that I am in a position to move forward with this.

### **How Baily Thomas Provident Fund helped me**

The Fund has supported me in terms of helping with the expenses of my college education whilst I attended Longwood University, Farmville, Virginia USA from the year 2015 to 2019. Along with playing on the Men's Division 1 Golf Team, I studied my college degree in Business Administration with concentrations in Management and Finance. In the Spring semester of 2019, I was selected by my professor to have one of my papers published in the financial journals. With this submission, I had the chance to travel to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend the American Society of Business and Behavioural Sciences (ASBBS) conference where I presented my paper.

I have since graduated from Longwood on May 18th 2019 with a cumulative GPA of 3.50 achieving the honours Cum Laude.



**Former MBC  
Managing  
Director  
Ron Kirk  
launches  
second book**



Ron Kirk, a former Managing Director of Mansfield Brewery who now lives in St Malo, France, is a prolific writer who has already had a novel published called "But Daddy, What is a Jew?" which is available to purchase on Amazon under Ron's own name. This is a true story taken from the diary of a Jewish teenage boy who lived with his family throughout the Nazi invasion of France. His second novel is called "Bitter and Bordeaux" .

"I have just sent to my Publishers the final proof of my manuscript, all being well this should mean the book will be out in September. For my Mansfield Brewery colleagues it should be fun trying to identify the personalities or mix of personalities I have used. I have written it with great affection for all the people I worked with."

Whilst some of the names will be familiar, they are not necessarily the actual characters.

For example my name is there but only part of the character is actually me so be beware. You will never be able to guess who the chairman is based on!

Whilst a fictional novel containing a string of tales joined together with artistic licence, I hope everyone enjoys the read, are amused by the bizarre and comic events and above all reminds them of a special time in all our lives.



## **Betty celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup>**

Nice to hear from Betty Burton (pictured). Betty celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 7.

She worked for over ten years for MBC in the Order Office. She was a clerk, taking weekly phone orders for cask beers, bottled soft drinks, wines, spirits and cigarettes. Says Betty: "There were no computers in those days. They were happy days working with Peter Witham as manager." There were four other ladies in the office. Her birthday was celebrated with family and friends at a surprise party in Nottingham. Betty has two sons, two grandchildren and three grandchildren. Congratulations Betty!

Marksman is proud to add yet another correspondent to our impressive team...



# Reflections of Mansfield Brewery

by **John Hings**,  
Managing Director 1979 -1988

The mid 1980's were heady days for MBC. Joining the Brewery in 1979 with beer throughput per pub being twice the national average, it was always going to be a challenge to make profitable improvements. But we did just that with a number of strategic initiatives that took all parts of the business forward. The highlights of our achievements during that time were as follows:

- Quality products. Mansfield Bitter and Marksman Lager were great products. Our success in the free trade was down to this, underwritten by great salesmanship and effective advertising.
- Quality pubs with good tenants and strong estate management enhanced by a modernisation of our corporate logo, making Mansfield pubs stand out from the crowd.
- Managed house professionalism transformed retail profits.
- Courage to take on the big boys. Beating off stiff competition to acquire the North Country Brewery (Hull Brewery) from Northern Foods. Perfectly timed to deal with the demise of the North Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire coal fields, to fill our new brewhouse, the building of which was one of the bravest decisions we made.
- Acquiring TW Beach in Evesham to add squash and fruit juices to the carbonated business of Mandora in Mansfield.
- Venturing into America with a premium bottled version of Marksman on the back of the Ronald Regan advertising in the UK. He might be President of the most powerful nation on Earth ..... but he's never had a pint of Mansfield!
- Returning from the USA with carpet cleaning and big steak franchises to broaden our base.



- Running the infamous Passport Promotion which blew the marketing budget but put North Country's and Mansfield's pubs on the map which was the aim.
- Growing a senior management team second to none, which set the pace and example for all levels of management at the Brewery and Mandora. It was this teamwork and leadership, exemplified by the Brewery supervisors and those at Mandora, that was the main ingredient for our success. And it bred a spirit of enthusiasm and determination that was hard to match by any of our competitors.

I was lucky to have a Chairman in Robin Chadburn who had the vision and insight to understand the importance of creating an environment in which we could succeed. He did this for me and I like to think I did this for my team. But my team were all self - starters in any event.



## 'Happy days with a great company ...'

I could not have wished for better. I remember them with fond memories and the greatest of respect. There was Michael Parsons and Richard Meadows – brilliant brewers who were commercially aware of the market's needs. There was Dennis Foster, the best salesman and sales manager I have ever worked with. Chris Rainsford, a finance man of the first order who had managerial skills that made him a successful managing director of Mandora. We were lucky that Ron Kirk was there to succeed him in the Group financial management role. And then there was the legendary Hugh Wilson whose eye for building a pub that was both beautiful and operationally practical, was unique. His enthusiasm and hard work were infectious. And those characteristics were exemplified by Derek Mapp, underwritten by leadership skills that have been the hallmark of his career. Just look at what Derek has achieved and it all started at MBC. There were others that contributed to the effort, Mark Phillips, although a bit of a maverick, provided the glue between the Brewery and our tenants such that many of the latter were able to prosper so the benefit was mutual. And lastly there was Chris Downton whose sound level headed wise counsel was of great value to us all. It was a happy band with other members like Richard Lewis and Alec Welham playing their respective parts. All these guys had tremendous support from their own departments. Standout people like Arthur Tomlinson and George Powell are just two examples but there are many I could mention across the Brewery and Mandora. It was people like Madge Branfield, Ian Boucher and John Else, the latter two constants to this day, who personify everything that was good about the Company. Indeed having experienced recently a "get together" at the micro-brewery site at Littleworth, organised by stalwart Barbara Brown, I was reminded by the presence of old friends like Bill and Alice Donbavand, Terry Johnson, Sue Walters and others, that the legacy of the 80's lives on .

They were happy days in a great company of which I was proud to be a member. I will always remember Nicholas Horsley and Chris Haskins, now Lord Haskins, who were Chairman and CEO respectively of Northern Foods saying to us that it was MBC's culture that won the day. That caring, compassionate philosophy with an unreserved belief in its people that was an overriding factor in our winning the battle for North Country Brewery when I'm sure we were an underbidder in the end game. I learnt a lot on my way to Mansfield. As a brewer turned marketing man, I came to understand that you needed to be aware of what the consumer wants and what he thinks.

Mansfield was famous for its beers and its pubs. I learnt about the need for this combination as a young pupil brewer at Wilsons Brewery in Manchester which I joined in 1960. The take over of Wilsons by Watney Mann gave me the opportunity to be at the centre of product and brand development. Remember the Red Revolution? But it was my time at Bulmers that taught me the importance of teamwork. It was Bulmers' Chairman Peter Prior, who made me aware that "Leadership was not a Bowler Hat". He persuaded me to undertake a unique military/industry exchange in 1977 when I served with the Sixth Field Force as a Major. This instilled in me the reliance of your mates and colleagues to win through. I brought this philosophy to Mansfield in 1979 and observed throughout the Brewery and Mandora that this way of working was both enjoyable and effective. It's not rocket science but how many companies really live it that way today?

I left Mansfield in 1988 when there were changes afoot believing that I experienced some of the best and happiest years in the Company's history.

My appetite has been whetted for future reunions not least to renew my acquaintance of that happy band of brewers Messrs Roe, Cleator, Cooling and Cullimore who appear to be around to reminisce about the good old days.

Since writing this piece, we have learnt of Michael Cleator's passing so sadly any meeting will have to be without him. Michael will be remembered as a highly valued member of the brewing team who combined his art of brewing with that of his excellent engineering skills. I was able to attend Mike's funeral on 18th July when I met his family. The occasion was both sad and happy. Sad because Mike was taken from us before his 70th birthday, which these days is not old, but happy because of the large number of number of friends and family that gathered to celebrate his life and talk of him so affectionately. John Else did a valiant job in delivering a personal tribute at the service, and the recollections mentioned to me by Sandra and his two sons Robert and Ed reminded me of the positive effect Mike had on so many lives. He really was a "can do" person and I got the impression that Robert was very much a "chip off the old block". He recalled the happy days as a child that he went into the brewers' office and was shown around the brewery by his father showing him how things worked. Every time he comes across the smell of the "brewers mash" those memories come flooding back. I was pleased to see the great support for Sandra and that her sense of humour prevails at this difficult time. We parted with a smile as she mentioned that a Mansfield Bitter beer mat accompanied Mike in his coffin.

The stories I heard on that day convinced me that that period of time was a happy one for those who worked at MBC, exemplified by a remark by Michelle Varnham, now Hepplewhite having married Neil, another member of staff. Michelle said they were great days, full of fun such that she could not wait to wake up in the morning and go to work at the brewery.

*John Hings July 2019.*



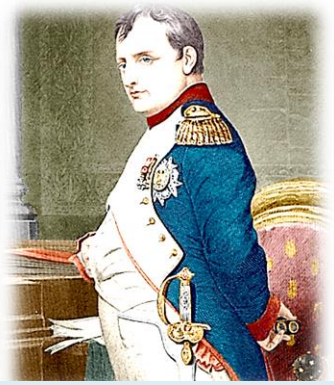


## **D-DAY REMEMBERED: JIM IS HONOURED BY THE FRENCH**

June 6 this year saw the 75th anniversary of the start of the D Day landings during the Second World War and it seems a fitting time to show some pride for one of Mansfield's own D Day veterans, 96-year-old Jim Wain. Jim fought in Normandy after being conscripted into the Grenadier Guards from his job at Mansfield Brewery, and has recently been awarded the highest French order of merit for military and civil achievement, the Légion d'Honneur. The medal has been awarded to all those WW2 veterans who were involved in liberating France from the Nazis. His letter from the French Embassy said:

*"As we contemplate this Europe of peace, we must never forget the heroes like you who came from Britain and the Commonwealth to begin the liberation of Europe by liberating France. We owe our freedom and security to your dedication because you were ready to risk your life."*

Jim was born in Sheffield in 1922 and moved with his family to Mansfield when he was a baby. He left school at 14 and started work at Mansfield Brewery until he was called up for war service. He was conscripted into the Grenadier Guards, joining the 4th Battalion which was part of the 6th Tank Brigade. Using Churchill tanks, they took part in the Normandy Landings and fought their way across North Western Europe. Jim's memory has misted over a bit after all this time but what he does remember well is his regimental number and being in action in Normandy on his 21st birthday. He was wounded in his left leg by shrapnel during one of the many battles he fought in and was returned to Aberdare, Wales, to recover. He was eventually demobilized and returned to civilian life and his job back at Mansfield Brewery where stayed until his retirement.



The Legion of Honour (French: Légion d'honneur), is the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte and retained by all later French governments and régimes.

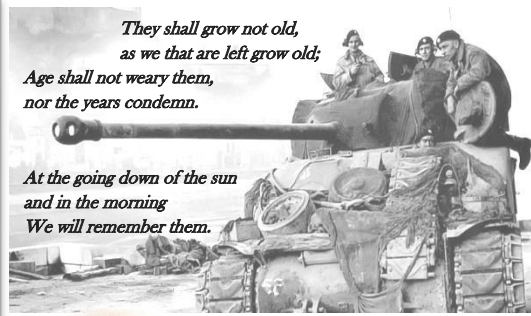
The order's motto is *Honneur et Patrie* ("Honour and Fatherland"), and its seat is the Palais de la Légion d'Honneur next to the Musée d'Orsay, on the left bank of the Seine in Paris.

The order is divided into five degrees of increasing distinction: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), Grand Officier (Grand Officer), and Grand-Croix (Grand Cross).





**Jim with his Legion d'Honneur medal presented to him by the French.**



*They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.*



## **Honour and Duty Fulfilled: The Life of Jim Wain**

Jim Wain worked for Mansfield Brewery for 50 years. He began in 1937 but in 1942, aged 19, he joined the Grenadiers. After 15 weeks basic training at Caterham Surrey, he went to Windsor and was then posted to Pirbright for tank training. At Codworth on Salisbury Plains Jim trained on Churchill tanks and became a driver/operator. It was on a visit to Codworth that Princess Elizabeth, our present Queen, made her first solo public engagement. After a spell at Middleham, Yorkshire, Jim then went to Welbeck, only 7 miles from home, and it was here that Mr Smith (code name for King George VI) inspected the troops. After further tank training at Blidworth Bottoms, Jim was sent on to Gosport and embarkation to Normandy, passing through France and Belgium before finally arriving in Holland.

Jim was billeted with a family in a Dutch village called Bakel. The family had a 15-year-old son Sjaak (Jack). who was fluent in English and became an interpreter. Action against the Germans came at a place called Liessel a few miles from Bakel. The battalion was in harbour (a briefing) when mortars opened fire. Jim ran for his tank but with shells exploding he dropped down near the first tank he came to. Had he reached his own tank the mortar shell blast and shrapnel that went under his tank would have killed him. The incident was reported as follows:

"6323216 Guardsman Jim Wain 4th tank Brigade Grenadier Guards. He was wounded in both legs and right thigh on 15 Nov 1944 at a place called Liessel in Holland." Jim was evacuated back to the UK, moved to Whitchurch and then to Aberdare hospital in South Wales and finally to Trentham Gardens in the Midlands for recuperation. After recovery he was posted back to 4th Battalion as part of the army of occupation in Germany. Jim stayed in the army until 1947 and then returned to the brewery where he worked until his retirement in 1987

In September 2004 Jim received a 1945 Liberators Medal from the Dutch Government. Recently, Sjaak (son of the Dutch family where Jim was billeted) made contact with Jim, who travelled to Holland to be re-united with his old friend. Sjaak and his family have since visited Jim and Maureen in Mansfield.



## Michael Cleator

24 July 1949 - 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019

In every edition of Marksman it is our sad task to keep our former Mansfield Brewery employees informed of those colleagues who have passed away. Every former employee is as precious as the next, yet the service of some in the Brewery's long history stands out. So, it is with great sadness that we report the death of an important and much-loved former colleague, Mike Cleator. This dedication is by his good friend, John Else.

Mike Cleator was a very good friend of mine. It was a friendship which began in the mid-1970s when Mike joined Mansfield Brewery. Mike was a committed family man. Sandra, Robert and Rebecca, Ed, Lorna, Alex and Toby - they were everything to Mike. Mike was always one for a joke and a prank. At a party at home with many guests, the brewery's electrician, Alan Singlehurst, was told that the party was fancy dress. When Alan and Sue arrived to loud cheers, they were the only couple in fancy dress. No doubt Alan got his own back many times. Grandsons were also prone to this wicked sense of humour. Having visited Newark Air Museum, Mike told the boys that he was thinking of fitting an ejector seat in the back of the car, so that when they were falling out with each other they could be ejected from the car. The boys were horrified, worried that they might be hurt when ejected, but Mike said 'No- you'll have a parachute.' They were quiet all the way home.

Mike shared a joint 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party with Geoff Bowman. The Kissagram was legendary, but ended up performing for Harry Johnson who loved the experience. Mike had told me that it was a bottle party. As I arrived with two carrier bags full, his face was a picture of delight, until he discovered that the bottles were empty. I can't repeat what he said, but I did bring several full bottles! Mike loved to cook black pudding in the Lab's autoclave. On one occasion the black pudding exploded and Phil Kirk was left to clean up the mess. Mike was banned from using the autoclave so he developed the steampipe-in-a-bucket cooking method.

Mike loved his Shakespeare. His claim to fame was watching Henry VI parts 1, 2 and 3 all on the same day. I don't know why, but I got the job of ordering the tickets. I said to him later 'Do you want the good news or the bad first?' He said 'What's the good news?' I replied 'I've got the tickets'. He asked 'What's the bad news?' I said 'We're standing for the whole three performances'. However, we did manage to change standing tickets for seats for Part 2. Yet we all agreed - it was a fantastic experience.

Mike was great at family activities as he could make and repair anything. Both Robert and Ed experienced Mike's abilities. Being the elder, Robert got the opportunity to accompany Mike on many call-outs from the brewery shift men. On one occasion when Dennis Howarth, shift man, had called Mike out, Robert went along on the call. They arrived at the brewery and Mike left Robert with Dennis for a moment. Robert said 'Now, Dennis, you've called my dad out again.' 'Yes,' replied Dennis, 'the equipment has broken down again.' 'I know that,' said Robert, 'but don't you know where to kick it?' Apparently this is an engineering procedure!

Robert has said many times in his adult years that the experiences from his brewery visits helped his education in health and safety and engineering. On the other hand, Ed was introduced early to canoeing, as Mike built a canoe with him. As Ed developed Mike would take him to practice sessions and competitions in various locations around the country. On many occasions, camping overnight at weekends until finally Ed passed his test and could drive himself. Mike and Sandra were very proud when Ed represented Great Britain in New Zealand. Both boys were in the Sea Scouts. Mike was involved as Chairman of the local group, leader and organizer. Mansfield Brewery's fitting shop was a useful place to get certain jobs done.

Camping in France was an annual event, plus exchange visits with students. From France, Alexander came twice to Mansfield. Mike and Sandra got to know his parents well and they visited them many times. The French connection led to Robert doing a year of his degree course at Montpellier University.

**Mike joined Mansfield Brewery in October 1977 at the same time as Bob O'Meara. He was with MBC to the end.**

When the boys left home, Mike and Sandra upgraded their camping experience to a trailer tent - a tent on wheels. Both Robert and Ed said 'You've gone soft - that's not camping!'

I cannot finish my summary without a few insults - Mike would expect nothing less. So here goes; Sandra says Mike's greatest attributes were; his feet were warm in bed, he liked cooking and he didn't like football. Known to many of you Mike had a famous response for all situations or things he didn't like. Others used the term 'Cleators' to convey the same message.

**What a great man. What a great friend. Mike, it's been a pleasure to have known you.**

*John Else*



**The magician at work**



Early 2000: Mike Cleator. One of many snaps taken by Vicky Phillips as the sun set on the Brewery.

### **Against All Odds : British Beer – A Success Story.**

'Designing a beer to sit in a particular place is quite interesting. You approach it from a standpoint of right, well, I want it to be this colour, this level of bitterness and that's the sort of flavour that I want to achieve, and you select all your ingredients to achieve the flavour that you want. There's a lot of experience in it, yet there's still a lot of witchcraft in brewing.'

**Mike Cleator, Chief Engineer  
Brewhouse and Fermentation Manager,  
Mansfield Brewery.**



1992: Bob O'Meara with fellow long service award recipients (l-r) Syd Monks, (Richard Chadburn presenting) John Lewis and Mik Cleator.



**Who we are:**

The National Brewery Heritage Trust is a registered charity run by volunteers. We support a unique collection of objects and documents from the UK's brewing industry which are stored and cared for at the National Brewery Centre in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

**What we need**

We want people to enjoy our brewing heritage but with only 1% of 500,000 items on display it is currently difficult for anyone interested in beer and brewing heritage to have any visibility of the extent and breadth of the information and materials that exist. Our aim is accessibility. We want the general public - including beer lovers, social and industrial historians, students and schoolchildren, teachers and academics, transport enthusiasts, brewing professionals and beer writers - to be able to see what's here so they can use our collection for research, education and general interest.

**Next steps**

Please take a look at our great rewards, donate and share now. Thank you for your support. <https://nationalbreweryheritagetrust.co.uk/about-us/>

**Another great day out for MBMA - Cheltenham Races and a Theatre visit!**



Jenny Hall, Barbara and Alan Brown, meeting Elaine and Mark Bateman plus their adorable labradoodle puppy, Doris, outside Woodchester Mansion where Elaine now works. (nee Shaw)



**To Marjorie & Ted Taylor - 65 years of wedded bliss!**

Yes, on July 17<sup>th</sup> Ted and Marjorie celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! and the Queen sent them a letter!

*Congratulations*



# Cider (and Ale)



With  
Rosie!



The  
Supervisors'  
Outing  
discovers  
more delights!

Go West young (not so young) man! In May the Brewery Supervisors spent their annual weekend away visiting the family run Wye Valley Brewery in Hereford. This company was started 1985 by a former Guinness brewer, Peter Amor, whose son Vernon is now the Managing Director. The head brewer Gareth Bateman gave the group a detailed tour of the energy saving brewery site. The company use innovative energy saving features by using the waste water vapour, created during the brew house boil, to heat water to clean its casks, bottling line and for general cleaning. The roof and ground-mounted solar panels cover the equivalent of more than six tennis courts and provide over 41% of the brewery's total electricity.



The following day the group visited Weston Cider which featured an Aveling and Porter steam roller named Rosie. The steam engine was called "Old Rosie" after the Laurie Lee book, Cider with Rosie. Weston's use traditional methods in their cider making process and have a large collection of oak vats which are still in use. The family owned company has been making cider in the same location since 1880 and the managing director, Helen Thomas, is a fourth generation member of the Weston family.



Dennis & Margaret:  
a happy couple

## Dennis Tasker

11<sup>th</sup> June 1929 –  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

Dennis Tasker was born in 1929 to Edgar and Gertrude Tasker. He was their second son, following his brother Peter, and he completed their family. His father Edgar worked on the railways, indeed on the footplate of the Flying Scotsman- and in his spare time was a huge pigeon fancier. Home life for Dennis growing up was very happy. His parents were very well-organised and bought their own home, rather an unusual thing to do in those days. Dennis was a clever lad. He won a scholarship to Doncaster Grammar School and was in the top set for everything. He was so studious that it was rumoured that he read the dictionary for fun! His love of music led to him playing the violin whilst his brother played piano. We heard the music 'O for the Wings of a Dove' as we entered today, because he sang that solo in Peterborough Cathedral. Dennis's love of sport was deep rooted and encouraged by both parents, his mother Gertie had been a goalkeeper in her time, while cousin Chum had played professional football for Doncaster Rovers. Attending a Grammar School threw up an immediate social clash, which Dennis pushed against. Passively refusing to engage in Rugby Union, the official school winter sport, he set up a football team with brother Peter and local friends, playing at weekends, on the quiet, turning his back on the school hierarchy. Early evidence of his organisational ability, his determination and his knowing his own mind!

When war came to Doncaster his mother Gertie was a fire warden, whilst father Edgar was working long shifts driving trains to Kings Cross with its inherent dangers. The family home backed on to Doncaster aerodrome and an aircraft factory was built over the fence at the bottom of the garden. On leaving school, Dennis started his articles at an accountants' firm. He spent a lot of time enjoying life despite the restrictions of wartime and post-war life – lots of football and tennis and socialising, and took what Margaret described as "the scenic route" to qualifying as a chartered accountant which he achieved in 1953. He had begun in Doncaster and he completed the task in Leeds.

A colleague in the same firm was called Barrie. In 1956 he and Dennis went to a dance. Barrie's sister Margaret was there with her boyfriend. Barrie said to Dennis, "I bet you can't get her off him". Apparently, all it took was for Dennis to jangle his car keys! It was only a Ford Popular – but Margaret didn't know that until she got outside!

Their courtship was long-distance. Margaret was teaching in an Infants School in London. So, as people did in those days, they wrote, and met up in the holidays when she came home. They married on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1958 at St Aidan's, Wheatley Hills, Doncaster, and the reception was in the Green House Hotel.

Their honeymoon was in Guernsey, and they flew there from Heathrow. Dennis had been commuting to his job at the Mansfield Shoe Company. But now they bought a house in Ravenshead, and their first four children were born there – four little oaks grown from acorns marked their arrival.

In 1965 the family moved to Mansfield, to the house that was his home for the rest of his life. The family was completed by the arrival of Ann the following year, and in 1968 Margaret returned to teaching. Their home life was supported by the wonderful presence of Mrs Bull, the widow of a Shoe Company worker, whose daughter worked for Dennis. Mrs Bull came and helped Margaret juggle work and five children. Of course, it wasn't simple for them either- she taught at Berry Hill Primary School, and Mick always managed to remember that she was Mrs Tasker in class and Mum at home!

Dennis worked for twenty-seven years at the Mansfield Shoe Company, rising to become Finance Director and then Acting Managing Director. At this period of his life Dennis was working very hard, and the children remember the importance of not disturbing Dad. No easy feat for five small and very active children!

The most testing time of Dennis's life came in 1987 when the Shoe Company was bought out and closed by people who asset-stripped the firm. This was before legislation to stop such things and Dennis and a lot of other workers lost their pensions. Quite apart from the injustice and what it meant to Dennis personally he was very concerned for the impact on the other people in the firm. It made him ill, and he was not able to work for a while. He hated being idle and he would busy himself and go around buying large quantities of things on offer – stocking up on bargains. All in all, he was not really himself.

He started back to work doing some short-term agency jobs, which lead onto employment at the Brewery, where he began work in the Free Trades Loans Department. The last six years of his working life were extremely happy. He loved the atmosphere of a family firm, its values and principles, and he enjoyed the people he worked with. He retired in 1994 when he was 65.

Dennis was always a very keen sportsman. He helped set up the Mansfield Sunday Soccer League and played in goal himself – the state of his knees wouldn't permit him to run around for ninety minutes. He was secretary of the Mansfield Tennis Club. Every Sunday morning Dennis and his five children would go swimming and once they had all learnt they swapped swimming for squash, letting Margaret have a morning of peace. He went on to play squash into his seventies. When he wasn't working he was a great Dad. Great fun for his children. He initially followed Stags – and took the children to their first matches at Field Mill in the Bishop Street Stand.

He was also a Leeds fan in the Don Revie days, and often took the children to Elland Road. They have many fond memories of time spent in the Scratching Shed – Will remembers standing on a stool, and Ann on a crate, in front of the crush barriers so they were safe from crowd pressure. They would travel up in the old Ford Zephyr, for sweets he bought them a packet of Victory Vs (you can't eat too many of those), and they'd stop at Woolley Edge services on the way home for a sausage roll.

When the family were young there were wonderful family holidays on Mrs Stephen's farm at Looe. Then when Ann got to the age of seven, they ventured across the channel to France. A camping holiday in Dinard. That year they had an extended roof rack for everything they took. It challenged the car's springs. The next year they went in a rented villa later moving onto a tented holiday so everything was there when you got there – kinder on the vehicle. Those days have their special adventures and memories – like the time Mick fell in the harbour at St Malo. He took countless photos and films of family holidays. All good winter entertainment looking back on the last year's experiences. Each year the two sets of grandparents had one or two of the children to stay in rotation – that meant that Dennis and Margaret got away with two of their children – mostly for a walking holiday in the Dales. Dennis could be strict, but he was very fair and loving. He would call you in each year for your annual pocket money review – a true accountant, it was adjusted for age and for inflation. He would always fetch and carry you for sport fixtures. He expected everyone to do their jobs – everyone had to pitch in. His domestic duties included packing the dishwasher – and it had to be done right – hanging out the washing and bringing cups of tea or coffee to you in bed in the morning

When he retired Margaret took retirement as well. They wondered about buying a motorhome and going travelling, but instead they took an extended holiday to see how they liked it. The five-week holiday was good, but by week four they were wondering what the family were up to and were ringing home. They never bought the motorhome.

In later life Dennis and Margaret loved many things, they loved France, they loved the theatre, they loved the Brewery social club. As Francophiles they holidayed in France at least once a year, riding their bikes from château to château, drinking vin ordinaire, sampling fruits de mer with a calvados night cap!! The theatre was a regular event very varied in nature, ranging from ballet to Shakespeare to a Noel Coward play. The social club filled many a happy day trips, near and far around the country.

And sport. Always sport. Dennis was a big and well-known figure at the squash club. Albert was a particular friend he played against regularly, and the two of them would enjoy Friday night drinks together until Albert died. Margaret is a great gardener and they enjoyed all the big Garden Shows – Chelsea, Chatsworth, Hampton Court, Tatton Park. Dennis would cut the grass and organise projects.

From 1985 he and Margaret welcomed the new generation. It must be said in fairness that Dennis was a grandfather who came into his own when his grandchildren could run around and answer back. He didn't really do baby-sitting. But once they were starting to grow he was a wonderful Granddad to have. He would play conkers with them and all sorts of games.

He always supported them by attending school events, dance shows and above all he was indefatigable in being on the touchline when they were playing games. Every weekend to see Leo playing football or Georgina, rugby. Indeed, he was a great supporter of all amateur sport – he disliked the hyper-professionalisation of sport and liked to give his encouragement to local teams.

Dennis was a man of very strong and clear principles. He thought of himself as fair-minded, though he could be opinionated and stubborn, and he was certainly his own person. Utterly honest, he worked very hard all his life, and he was a good man. He retained his interest in other people, and he always wanted to know what others were doing and what was interesting them. His perforated eardrum, which had barred him from national service meant he had increasing deafness (like his mother Gertie) as he got older, and this made him speak louder.

There was a soft side to Dennis. He was very gentle with children and would touch them lightly on the head. He was always a romantic with Margaret, carefully choosing and buying her lovely presents and regular flowers showing his love and appreciation of all she did for him. That is not to say that their marriage did not contain frequent frank exchanges of views and a bedrock of tolerance. They never lived in each other's pockets, and he always encouraged her interests and passions.

Dennis found his declining mobility a great frustration. Losing his independence was hard for him, and he hated putting people out. But though his family are bereft at losing someone who was so dearly loved, they have a wonderful store of memories together of many years of a wonderful man, a loving husband, a great Dad and Grandad, a character and someone who, though he will be much missed, will never be forgotten.

## Gwen Kinch

**The funeral of Gwen Kinch took place on Friday 26th July at 12.45pm at The Church of St Peter & St Paul in Warsop. Although not a brewery employee herself, Gwen was the wife of Ken Kinch. Ken was Assistant Company Secretary for over 40 years and being regular supporters of all the functions at the Brewery they were a well-known couple.**



**Their daughter Julia Keeton, son in law Arthur, Grandson Ryan and family are in our thoughts, as Gwen will be sorely missed.**