



New Marksman

Funded by the Baily Thomas Provident Fund

Issue 41 MAY 2020

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May 2020

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Social Activities**

Don't forget we'd like to hear from you, too; those special occasions, family events, memories, pictures, either call me

01482 491125

Or e-mail

roybainton@hotmail.com

or by post to

ROY BAINTON
100 KIRKHAM DRIVE
HULL HU5 2BT

SEND US YOUR STORIES,

New Marksman

Funded by the Baily Thomas Provident Fund

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We've had quite a few unexpected production delays which were unfortunately out of the editor's control. This has meant that your *Marksman* has had to be re-jigged several times as certain time-sensitive pages needed swapping. The culprit? You guessed it - the Corona virus. We sincerely hope none of our readers have been affected by this rather frightening plague, but if you have, we wish you all the best for a speedy recovery. Sticking to the new rules with social distancing and self-isolating seems a tall yet necessary order.

We try and give a varied selection of news and other subjects relating to Mansfield Brewery and its former employees and the Baily Thomas Provident Fund, yet if you find something missing which you think we should have included, by all means let the office know.



Beneficiaries' Open Meeting

on 19 November 2019 held at
Chadburn House, Weighbridge Road, Mansfield.

The Trustees of the Baily Thomas Provident Fund held their fourth beneficiaries' meeting at Chadburn House, the site of the former Mansfield Brewery Head Office. Following a brief introduction by John Else, William Colacicchi (Mowbray Trustees Ltd) addressed the beneficiaries, noting the importance of hearing their views on the Fund and the need to review and make changes if necessary.

William Colacicchi referred to Richard Chadburn's retirement from his trustee role, praising his balanced judgement and hard work over many years. William said that Richard's retirement presented Mowbray Trustees Ltd with the difficult task of filling Richard's 'big shoes'. He went on to explain the new structure of the trustees of Baily Thomas Provident Fund, with the appointment of a second corporate trustee, Baily Thomas Provident Trustee Limited, to act with Mowbray Trustees Ltd as trustees of the Fund.

Glenn Longden and Lee Harrison were introduced as Directors of Baily Thomas Provident Trustee Limited, both of whom are children of former employees of Mansfield Brewery and had the interests of the beneficiaries at heart.



Lee Harrison
Baily Thomas Provident
Trustees Ltd.



Glenn Longden
Baily Thomas Provident
Trustees Ltd.



William Colacicchi
Mowbray Trustees Ltd.



Wenna Thompson
Mowbray Trustees Ltd.

Wenna Thompson (Mowbray Trustees Ltd) ran through new initiatives introduced, the main one being the appointment of a welfare officer to aid beneficiaries and make welfare visits. This was initially started using Age UK, but that since February 2019 the BTPF had engaged Wendy Marsh to visit beneficiaries and to provide a more comprehensive and tailored service. Wendy can be contacted via the BTPF office on **01623 473290**.

Ken Young and Suzanne Marriott, representatives from the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund were introduced to the meeting. They spoke about the work of the Charitable Fund explaining that the Charity makes £3.2 million in awards annually, to registered charities providing services to people with learning disabilities. They also support with grants into research relating to learning disabilities. The Charity is keen to support small charities and encourage them to apply for donations. They have provided funds of £150 000 to charities in the

Beneficiaries Open Meeting: *continued*

William concluded that the trustees always like to hear of new suggestions for how the Fund may assist the beneficiaries and opened the floor for questions.

A copy of the Q&A from the meeting has been sent by post to all those that attended the meeting. If you did not attend the meeting and would like to request a copy please email

enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk or telephone the office on **01623 473290**.



Social gathering after the open meeting held at Prior's Well Brewery on the site of the former Mansfield Brewery



Baily Thomas Provident Fund

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.

The Baily Thomas Provident Fund is a grant making trust set up to benefit the former employees of Mansfield Brewery plc and its subsidiary companies.

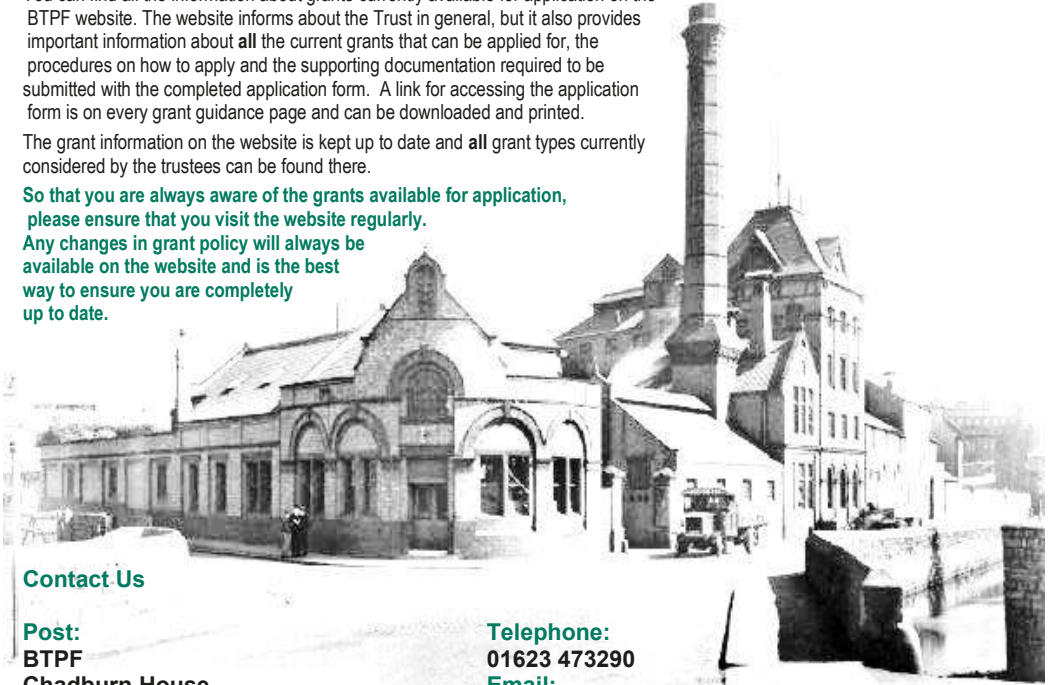
GRANTS

You can find all the information about grants currently available for application on the BTPF website. The website informs about the Trust in general, but it also provides important information about all the current grants that can be applied for, the procedures on how to apply and the supporting documentation required to be submitted with the completed application form. A link for accessing the application form is on every grant guidance page and can be downloaded and printed.

The grant information on the website is kept up to date and all grant types currently considered by the trustees can be found there.

So that you are always aware of the grants available for application, please ensure that you visit the website regularly.

Any changes in grant policy will always be available on the website and is the best way to ensure you are completely up to date.



Contact Us

Post:
BTPF
Chadburn House
Weighbridge Road
Mansfield NG18 1AH

Telephone:
01623 473290
Email:
enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk

visit the BAILY THOMAS PROVIDENT FUND'S WEBSITE

www.bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk

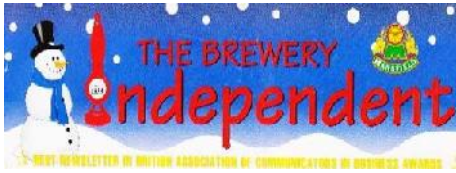
Email:

enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk

The Way We Were ...



Left, Littleworth in the brewing glory days of the 1980s. Right: Today.



We've become accustomed to stories about illegal immigrants today and spotted this little gem from 1997. It makes one wonder – what happened to that poor Russian stowaway? Did he ever reach Ireland? We hope he found the new life he was seeking.

Magazine of Mansfield Brewery PLC

Winter 1997

WHERE DID HE GO?

KEGGING foremen Joe Dillon and Paul Talbot were heroes for a day when they caught a stowaway who turned up in a sealed delivery truck.

Joe said: "We were changing shifts and handing over when one of the lads unloading kegs from France, shouted there was a stowaway aboard.

"We called the police. The man tried to speak to the driver but gave up and made a dash for the road. We chased him for about a quarter of a mile before catching and holding him until the police arrived and took him away.

"He'd started his journey in Russia. And the truck he escaped from had Irish number plates, so the chap probably thought he was in Ireland!"





Madge
Branfield. Receptionist.

**WERE
YOU
THERE?
IT WAS
A BUSY
PICTURE
DAY IN
1983!**



If you visit the wonderful website at www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk/mansfield-brewery-1983 you'll find 43 superb photographs all taken by the CHAD at Mansfield Brewery on one day in 1983. In 2016 Sue Walters managed to caption several of the pictures, but for those without captions, do you recognise your younger self?

Left – Sue Walters Secretary to Finance Director – (Ron Kirk).
Right – Wendy Fell Secretary to Managing Director – (John Hings)
Seated – Mavis Leverton Secretary to Personnel Director (Richard Chadburn)
Last of the electronic typewriters just before they were replaced with a Honeywell DPS4 computer.



Come on, lads – who are you all?



Do you know Joe Crosby?

From Marksman 1993



On 1st July he became the Mansfield Brewery Group treasurer but although he has been installed in an office at the Brewery since then, there are still a large number of people who don't know him.

Joe joined Mandora, Evesham, then T. W. Beach and Sons, in 1978 as financial planning manager but when the Brewery bought the Company in September, 1980, he was appointed chief accountant.

In October, 1983, he was appointed management

accountant to Mandora, Belamy Road, and commuted from his home near Pershore for some months until moving with his wife, Eileen, and son, Michael, to Mansfield, in June 1984.

Born in Crosby, a small village on the Solway Firth near Maryport, West Cumbria, Joe was educated at the Nelson Grammar School, Wigton. On leaving school he went into industry as a junior clerk but after National Service in the RAF, opted for a future in accounting.

To gain the necessary qualifications Joe studied through a correspondence course and finally, after seven years, his perseverance paid off and he qualified as a Cost and Management accountant.

Since leaving school, Joe told Marksman, he has worked for 11 different companies in 14 locations! This isn't quite what it seems though for Joe worked for the Bovril Company for five years; Carrs of Carlisle, six; G.E.C. subsidiaries, 10 and

subsidiaries of Turner and Newall, 10.

Through his various changes Joe has gained wide experience which has stood him in good stead since working for the Brewery Group.

Fond of doing DIY tasks about the house, Joe also enjoys playing golf, reading and squash, he's a member of Mansfield Squash Club. In his younger days he was quite a proficient footballer, playing for Workington Reserves, he also played a good game of cricket.



'I just love the taste of your beer'

● A BREWERY visit was one of the highlights of the Miss Mansfield Ohio, 26-year-old Caroline Keller's visit to Nottinghamshire.

● Back in the USA, Caroline works as a writer, game show coordinator and sports producer for the local television company.

● And her verdict on Mansfield Bitter — "Fantastic!"

● Caroline is pictured with Mansfield Brewery's Brewhouse Supervisor, Brian Oldham.



WHAT HAPPENED TO AMERICA'S MISS MANSFIELD?

Rummaging back down the decades through past copies of Marksman shows us a different commercial world where all kinds of positive things were happening. Here, from the **May 1990** edition is the visit to MBC by Caroline Keller, Miss Mansfield Ohio. Your editor hoped to track Ms. Keller down or trace her career but even the Internet has nothing to offer. Let's hope her career continued successfully.

MANSFIELD BREWERY TRADING CONFERENCE

Mansfield Brewery Trading is number one in the business because it makes no compromise on quality, managing director Richard Chadburn told delegates at the company's first annual conference.

Consistent

He said MBTL products were simply the most consistent and the most universally acceptable beer products he knew of and that quality was infectious. "The exacting standards we set for ourselves for beer raising equipment are a part of it, our marketing has to reflect it, our selling has to live up to it and our delivery service,

with its legendary flexibility, has to match it."

Mr Chadburn said the company, and the whole Group, had been through a period of considerable reformation involving two principal changes for MBTL.

The newly structured marketing national sales force, which will flow from a merger with the brewery's packaged beer sales experience, will leave that company excellently placed to conquer the country under our banner as well as their

own, selling packaged beers and ciders, own label as well as branded, and soft drinks in the same categories while picking up other national brands along the way.

Significant

The second important aspect was the association with Mansfield Inns who had been managing the whole of the food estate utilising their retailing expertise and skills since April. "We must look forward to significant volume sales be-

nefits coming through on the back of this important deal.

The three strike forces of the Mansfield Brewery Group are more than ever before working as a team. Our success is inextricably linked with the success of our good friends, he said. "We will only continue to produce the lion's share of the profit for the Group with vital co-operation and help from our fellow subsidiaries, and that will only be gained by reciprocating it ourselves," he said.



The MBTL conference setting at the Van Dyk Hotel, Crowne. Marketing manager Brian Roberts is at the bottom.

No. 1 in the Business

£1,000 UP FOR MANSFIELD STAR

Mansfield Brewery's "Search for a Star" competition draws to a close on August 14 when six talented finalists compete for the £1,000 first prize. Staged throughout

the competition at Keresforth Hall, Barnsley, all ten heats attracted a mixed programme of clubland talent.

Acts who had reached the semi-finals

when Marksman went to print included Duo, Mood Unlimited; comedy impressionists Rufus T. Firefly; local Barnsley group, Saffire; rock 'n' roll duo, Rocky Gress; male vocalist, Mike James; guitar Rotherham group, Travelling Band; and boy-girl singers Kazo-wice.

Two six-act semi-finals were held on consecutive weeks - 31 July and 7 August - at Keresforth Hall and will be featured, along with the final, in the next edition of Marksman.



Winner of heat seven, Rotherham group Travelling Band.



Doncaster singer Tracy K. Stewart.



All the acts from heat seven are gathered with Tony Whyte (left) who has compared the quest throughout.

SEARCH FOR A STAR

Ratford singer Sharon Clarin. Sharon was voted joint second in one of the heats and could very well make it through to the semi-finals as one of the 'latter' losers.



New Cider Pack

A 1 litre PET cider bottle is being made available for the first time, by a newly-formed marketing company.

The Frampton Village Cider Company, formed by an association between Mansfield Brewery Plc. and Hazlewoods Foods Plc will market jointly a 1 and 2 litre PET cider pack nationally. The cider will be available for both own label and branded supply in sweet and dry cider options.

The cider subsidiary of Hazlewood's will be manufacturing the product and the trading subsidiary of Mansfield Brewery will package as Cotswold Cottage Cider,

utilising its existing PET bottling expertise in beer, lager and soft drinks.

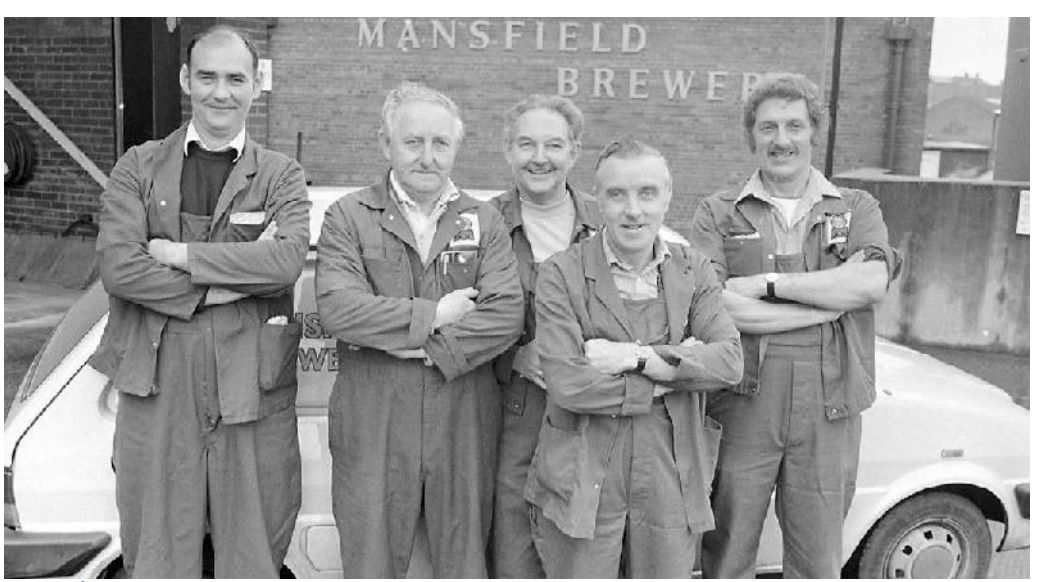
This is the first agreement between the Mansfield Brewery Group, and Hazlewoods Foods Plc, the national food processors for the multiple grocery trade, representing a major investment in the new products.

Frankie joins team

Miss Frankie Al Sopp is the export assistant/documentation clerk at Mandora working with David Lee. This is a new appointment and David is pleased to have her assistance. Frankie, Mansfield born and educated at the Sher-

wood Hall Girls School, has an unusual hobby, she is a cometist in the Bestwood Black Diamonds band. Frankie told Marksman she had been playing since she was 12. Her other hobbies are squash and sport.

Prior to coming to Mandora Frankie worked for five years on production control duty at Mansfield Hosiery Mills. She is entering her new job which brings her into contact with overseas customers and with the London agents.



HERE'S A PICTURE TAKEN BY MANSFIELD CHAD BACK IN 1983 OF A FINE QUINTET OF STURDY WORKERS. TROUBLE IS, THE PICTURE ISN'T CAPTIONED. SO WHO WAS WHO? LET US KNOW?



FROM MARKSMAN MARCH 1983

The first Brewery employee to join HM Forces at the outbreak of World War 2, Ray Mellors, is pictured receiving a gift of a canteen of cutlery from his colleagues, presented to him by the Group Chairman, Mr. Robin Chadburn, at a farewell party in Reception just before Christmas.

In paying tribute to Ray, Mr. Robin said that although small in stature, it was fantastic what Ray had achieved since joining the company as a 14-year-old school leaver in February 1935 in the bottling store. From there he progressed to invoicing and accounts until joining up at the outbreak of war as a driver in the Royal Tank Regiment. In this capacity he saw service in many of the hot spots of the Middle and Far East until rejoining the Brewery nearly seven years later. He was then employed at T. P. Wood & Co. Ltd., a Chesterfield company which came into the Mansfield company in January 1935, with the purchase of the Chesterfield Brewery.

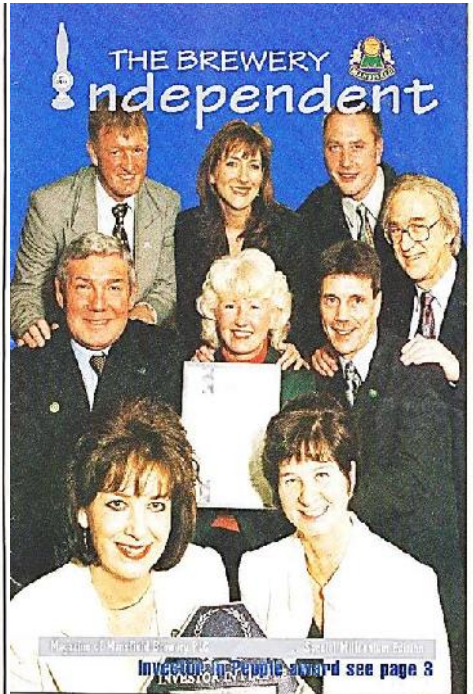
Later Ray was a salesman for 17 years, working in Derby,

South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire until becoming stocktaker.

In wishing Ray all the best for the future, Mr. Robin presented him with a cheque from the Directors whilst he also received a gift of an inscribed tankard from Derek Mapp, Mansfield Inns Retail Director.

In thanking Mr. Robin and all his colleagues for their gifts, Ray mentioned especially Reg Skidmore, George Harding, from the Accounts Department, and Ken Kinch with all of whom he had worked closely during the last six years.

Ray, who lives in Chesterfield with his wife, Winifred Joyce, says he is going to occupy his time in decorating, gardening and drinking Mansfield bitter! He has two daughters, Pat and Elaine, and a granddaughter.



Close To the end of a wonderful era; above is the cover of the Millennium edition of the Brewery Independent. Familiar faces?

Fancy a Brewery Bake-Off?
Everyone's baking these days
so here's a handy recipe from
MARKSMAN in Summer 1980.

BEER CAKE

This recipe is adapted from one well over 100 years old. It is easy to make and is delicious buttered and eaten with cheese.

Ingredients:

½ lb. plain flour.
3 ozs. butter.
3 ozs. soft brown sugar.
3 ozs. currants.
1 egg.
½ pint Mansfield Bitter.
1 level teaspoonful bicarbonate of soda.

Well grease a tin approximately 7½ inches in diameter and 1½ inches deep.

If using an electric mixer, warm the bowl and beater, cream the butter and sugar on minimum speed increasing a little as the ingredients melt together. (If mixing by hand, cream the butter first before adding the sugar and creaming together.)

When well creamed add the sifted flour and currants. Beat together the egg and beer until slightly frothy then mix in the bicarbonate of soda and stir into dry ingredients mixing well.

Continue stirring whilst dropping the mixture into the prepared tin.

Give a final stir to the mixture in the tin before putting it into the middle of the oven pre-heated to 350° F., Gas Mark 4. Cook for about 1 hour.

(If a moister, more soggy cake is enjoyed, increase the amount of beer and use a slightly larger tin.)

On removing from the oven, stand the tin on a damp dishcloth or towel and leave for a few seconds when it will be easier to remove it from the tin.

Cool on a wire tray.

WELL DONE, HELEN!



Jim and Jessie Fowell, of the White Swan Inn, Mansfield Woodhouse, can feel justifiably proud of their barmaid Helen Vardy, and the training which they have given her, for Helen was awarded second place in the Nottingham Evening Post and Rothmans Barmaid of the Year competition.

Helen was awarded with a £100 voucher to spend at Jessops by disc jockey Pete Murray.

Pictured above with Pete Murray are from left, Helen Vardy(2nd), Julie Banting(1st) and Josephine Extall(3rd).

Marksman summer 1978

Memories – the way we were ... with a history as long and colourful as Mansfield Brewery's we're very lucky to have an archive of company newsletters stretching back over half a century. So we can dip into these long dormant stories and in some cases, wonder what became of all those celebrated, hard working employees. Some (see right) got to meet famous disc jockeys...

Who's Got Talent?

Lieutenant James Matthew Weaver, Royal Marines, That's Who!

Pauline Robinson worked as Receptionist at Mansfield Brewery from 1985 until the offices at Littleworth closed in 2000.. Pauline has sent us these stirring details of her grandson James's success in becoming an Officer in the Royal Marines.

When he was younger James played football at Academy level, and captained the Nottinghamshire County Squad. He was also Junior Captain at Sherwood Forest Golf Club, and was involved whilst at school with the combined Cadet Force.



After finishing his A levels at Southwell Minster School he worked as a Lifeguard at Southwell Leisure club till he was old enough to be selected to join the preparation process for Officers training for the Royal Marines. It is one of the toughest training regimes and lasts for fifteen months. At the time, at just nineteen, James was the youngest on the course of 58 intakes. At the end of fifteen months of gruelling training 29 of the 58 completed it, including James. The training took place at the Royal Marines training base at Lympstone in Devon. James is now based at 42 Commando Unit in Plymouth



He also trained in Scotland and with the U.S. Navy Seals.. His rank now is Lieutenant James Matthew Weaver. His passing out parade, at the Marine Base in Lympstone on 12th of December was a proud occasion for all the family, his brother flew over from Australia to watch him and beside close family members, four of his close friends from school also attended.



BEER STORIES



TARTU, ESTONIA



ARTICLE WRITTEN BY YOUR
EDITOR ROY BAINTON.

See also:
untappd.com/PuhasteBrewery

The Wonderful thing about beer is its ancient global reach and international appeal. By the time you're reading this you will no longer be honorary Citizens of Europe, excellent beer is still being brewed in every country and, like Mansfield's historic brews, every brewery ancient or modern has a fascinating history. At the end of the Middle Ages, only local Beer Guilds could brew beer. To become a member of a guild you either had to buy a brewery or receive one as an inheritance. In Tartu, Estonia, a small guild challenged the monopoly of the big city beer guild. Ordinary people wanted to brew and sell beer, and to their credit, the Russian Government gave smaller guilds the green light. So before long, as was the case in Germany, as long as you could prove at least two years' experience in brewing, you could go on to become a master brewer. The big guilds were said to be over-privileged and in 1782 Empress Catherine the Great decreed that in Tartu, a city in Estonia, a brewery corporation should be established to brew all the city's beer. To oversee this project, who better to choose than an Irishman, George Browne, (1698-1792). Browne was an Irish soldier of fortune who became one of Russia's top generals and held the position of Governor of Livonia. He knew the brewing industry as he'd taken an interest in a successful brewery two decades earlier in Riga.



GEORGE BROWNE

Once started, this new guild became a benefit to the poorer Estonians. It accepted as members people who had become impoverished and guild members' widows and orphans. If you were a member you were both a shareholder and an employee, so an occupation was guaranteed.

During those turbulent times wars had raged, such as the Great Northern War between Russia and Sweden, and Tartu had suffered several fires. Down to just 4,000 inhabitants, the city preserved foodstuffs by salting and drying. Naturally, this led to a thirsty population where beer became more important than ever. If we think we drink a lot today in the 21st century, in the 18th century Tartu had a daily figure for each man and woman of one jug of beer. That 'jug' was a measure of 2.6 litres – approximately 4.5 pints per day. Soldiers got a jug and a half a day and on Sundays, if you were a church-goer, you could have two whole jugs to yourself – 9 pints which would have helped immensely with the hymn singing. By the end of the 18th century there were over 60 alehouses in Tartu. Today Russia's national brewery Baltika dominates, but there are now many micro-breweries and successful independents in the countries now independent since the end of the Soviet Union. And of course, at one time, back in the 1990s, Russians were more than pleased to down a pint of the best – imported all the way from Mansfield.



Today, at Tartu's Puhaste Brewery Mr. Ronk is a rich and complex bottom-fermented Baltic Porter with tempting hints of dark chocolate, toffee and prune flavours. They make another dark brew named after the deepest point of the Baltic Sea. With the historic five pints per day you'll probably not get much work done..

Obituaries

GEOFF SPEIGHT AND HIS COLLEAGUES RECEIVING LONG SERVICE AWARDS AT MARSTON'S

HOLDING THEIR CERTIFICATES, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Ralph Findlay, Mark Bason, Paul Hawksworth, Geoff Speight, Asa Darlison, Mark Turner and Richard Cockbill.



Geoff Speight, Fleet Manager for Mansfield and Marston's Breweries, passed away on Saturday 4th January.



The following edited notes are from Marston's website. He will be greatly missed, especially by the team here in Mansfield. Geoff had been battling cancer for some time. He was just 61 years old.

In recent months Geoff's health declined sharply and even though he was nearing the end of his life he was determined to travel to Wolverhampton on November 11 last year to receive his 40 years' long service award in person from Ralph Findlay, something he would have been very proud of.

Mansfield-based Fleet Manager Geoff Speight earned his stripes, both at Marston's and in the British Army. He joined us in 1979 and has balanced his role as an Army Reservist alongside his day job for the past 35 years. He was a passionate and committed military man.

The Army first made Geoff stand to attention after leaving school. "Me and a friend were at a loose end," said Geoff. "So we joined the Boys' Army at 16. I went into regular service at 18-years-old and left at 21."

But within 15 months of leaving regular service, Geoff missed the responsibility, discipline and friendship the Army had given him. So, in 1981, he signed up as a Reservist.

"Reservists are highly trained, part-time soldiers who can work alongside regular soldiers on overseas missions," says Geoff. "We're paid to train and learn everything that a full-time soldier learns, so we're ready to go into active duty and fight for our country if we're called up."

Geoff received that call in 2003 at the height of the Gulf War. He was posted in Iraq for four months as a Combat Support Troop Commander and it was his responsibility to support regular soldiers in the famous Royal Engineers.

Having served his country so proudly – and for so long – it's no surprise that Geoff supported Marston's commitment to the Forces by its signing of the Armed Forces Corporate Covenant. It's a clear salute from our business that we care about the communities we live and work in – and we want to give something back. It will help the Armed Forces community in a variety of ways. For example, we'll have HR policies in place to support Reservists during their training, ensure equal opportunities for ex-service personnel and veterans, and support any of our people who want to get involved with their local cadet corps or do some fundraising for wounded veterans.

Geoff travelled the world, from Cyprus to Iraq, Kuwait, Germany, Holland, the Falklands and Northern Ireland. After 35 years, Geoff became top gun of Reservists. He climbed the ladder from Private to Major and held the vital role of Quartermaster, inspecting the kit, food and weapons that sustain soldiers in the heat of the battlefield.

Geoff cared about the military – and was proud that Marston's does too.

Our thoughts are with Geoff's family at this sad time.

OBITUARIES.

We will always attempt to acknowledge the lives and service of any of our colleagues who pass away. Due to the current crisis and the various delays and re-organisation in this edition, these two mentions will be given a fuller treatment in our next edition once we have more space and information.

ALFIE TOYNE

From Bryan Beebe: For those of you who knew Alf, I received a message from his daughter that he passed away on Sunday 12th January. Alf also leaves his wife Eileen. Alf worked with me, under Gordon Kendall, in distribution from August 1989 before we both moved up to Oakham 1995. He took early retirement in February 2001. It's an understatement to say that, as well as being a great bloke, Alf was a very accomplished forklift truck driver, there weren't many better. More details next edition.

PATRICK CUTTS

Another sad passing we have to report is that of Patrick Cutts, who passed away on January 20th. Patrick had over 20 years of service and worked in the brewhouse. More details in the next edition.



As Managing Director of Mansfield Brewery

RON KIRK

was involved in many key decisions in the company's history. He now lives in St. Malo, France, where he works as a writer, and he's written us a series of articles about his time with MBC



MORE REFLECTIONS OF A FORMER BREWERY MD

One of the key responsibilities of any finance director concerns the area of taxation. There is the obvious one of compliance with national laws and international conventions, but also in terms of cost control. As part of our freedoms, citizens are fully entitled to arrange their affairs in compliance with statutes in order to mitigate its cost. But it can work both ways, the inland revenue is also entitled to take an aggressive approach if it wishes to maximise the tax take.

My mistress, the Brewery, was to throw down another challenge after just one year in office. A new inspector of taxes decided that our new brewhouse should be designated a building and not an industrial piece of plant! This meant that instead of tax allowances in the first year representing virtually 50% of the investment we would only receive 4%! Worse was to come. I discovered in reviewing our tax returns that the Brewery had never declared, since its foundation, that the free beer given to staff was a benefit in kind. This meant that for any year of non-disclosure the inland revenue could go back another 6 years to raise back taxes and impose fines! The potential financial impact could reach millions of pounds!

There are times in life when you need to know you are out of your depth. I may have had two professional qualifications in accountancy and taxation, rubbed shoulders with the finest brains in their fields of expertise; financiers, economists, academics, scientists even once the personal adviser to Putin, but there are times you need to call in the 'cavalry'. Mine came in the form of Paul Spurway, a partner in PWC. We dealt with the brewhouse issue by our technical expertise, but for the other, our approach was totally unconventional. If the Inland Revenue pursued the free beer issue we would threaten to open the issue of 'free coal' to the miners. Our timing was perfect given the growing industrial actions in the coalfields.

Not content with that 'success' Paul and I devised a tax avoidance scheme which meant we could delay our corporation tax payments for another full year giving us a one-off benefit in the millions and of course an interest benefit to boot. Our research was applied to a well-known supermarket chain until the loophole was closed.

A bizarre by-product of our scheme meant that our carpet supplier based in Doncaster was able to sell his business at a substantial premium and still run his business as usual. He wanted to show his honest appreciation but I refused since it was part of my job at the brewery. Some weeks later Robin Chadburn, the Chairman, called me in. "Ronnie", he said, "You are looking pale and tired, you have been working too hard, take the family on a week's holiday to Majorca at our expense"! It transpired my carpet man had not given up on showing his appreciation of what I had done for him and his family!

Ron Kirk Saint Malo

Brewery Community – Social Activities

The Mansfield Brewery Members Association

is open to all former employees of Mansfield Brewery.

They hold regular social gatherings on the first Wednesday of each month at the Debdale Sports Club, Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire. The meetings start at 10.00am and refreshments are provided. Parking at the venue is available free of charge.

They also organise a variety of excursions which run through the year.

If you would like to know more about the MBMA, its activities and how to join, contact the Secretary, Graham Cooling on telephone 01623 632620.

Mansfield Brewery Walking Group



**Another great season of bracing and informative walks enjoyed by all. Why not join us?
Easy walks between 5 and 6 miles, usually on the second Sunday of each month. Call
Barbara Brown for more info on 01623 481488**

