New Marksman Funded by the Bally Thomas Provident Fund Issue 44 SPRING 2022

Remember Christmas? Seems like a long

WHO GOT MARRIED 60 YEARS AGO?

> TONY MORTON - THE MAN WHO MADE MANDORA

What's in your SPRING 2022 New Marksman

More Beer Stories: GERMANY'S ANCIENT BEER LAW

Then and Now

OBITUARIES Frederick Charles Ghilks Bill Donbavand and others

Former MARKSMAN editor Celebrates 60 happy years of marriage!



CHRIS RAINSFORD has contributed a fascinating article on the career of TONY MORTON (pictured) and the challenges he faced in making Mandora a success.

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 <u>roybainton@hotmail.com</u> or by post to

> ROY BAINTON 100 KIRKHAM DRIVE HULL HU5 2BT

SEND US YOUR STORIES, YOUR NEWS, PICTURES!



Hello, folks. It's an age since the last edition of New Marksman and of course, the modern plague is to blame. With no scope for the usual pleasures of retirement, the social events, the walks, the trips out and dinners, we've simply had nothing to report, or least not enough to fill our pages. at I was recently looking back at issue 41, May 2020, when the Covid curse was just starting to spread, and I'd commented 'sticking to social distancing rules and self-isolating seems a tall yet necessary order.' Sadly, we did obey orders, yet despite all the sacrifices and effort, Covid has been relentless and without mercy. Everyone knows someone who has been affected. As I write these words the government is announcing the easing of all restrictions starting in February. It sounds to yours truly like an act of desperation while the epidemic is still with us, but perhaps humanity might 'tough it out' as we have done throughout history and develop some form of 'herd immunity'. We may be sick of wearing masks, but if we want to start enjoying some kind of normality again, we may have to toe the line just a little longer. Meanwhile, let's smile, pour a glass or two, let's be kind and tolerant, and above all, let's *communicate*.

Roy Bainton

BAILY THOMAS PROVIDENT FUND

The Baily Thomas Provident Fund is a grant giving trust set up to benefit the former employees of Mansfield Brewery plc and their dependents. The administration office is based on the site of the former Mansfield Brewery premises.

Information about the Baily Thomas Provident Fund can be found on our website. The 'What We Do' page provides information about the current grants available to apply for and a link to the application form.

We are open Monday to Thursday between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm. It is advisable to ring before visiting to ensure someone is available to meet you.

Contact:

Tel: 01623 473290

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More Beer Stories



Reinheitsgebot

"wir wollen, dass in allen Städten, Märkten und auf dem Lande zum Brauen von Bier nur Gerste, Hopfen, und Wasser genommen werden soll!"

erfassen von Bayernherzog Wilhelm IV. Am 24 April 1516



THE CANADIAN BEER THAT WAS TOO CHEAP...

In 1992, a generic beer brewed by Drummond Brewery in Red Deer, Alberta, was "simply called, 'Beer Beer.'" It was a hit until it was banned. Saskatchewan's local government deemed the generic brand "illegally cheap."

Germany's Ancient Beer

We've always resisted foreign beer in Britain, growing our own barley, yeast, and hops to build our own supply system. This has given us English Bitter, the aromatic IPA, the English Porter, the Stout, and the Barley Wine, to name a few, all very different from beer on the continent. In Germany, until recently, brewing beer has been subject to a 500-year law, The Reinheitsgebot, literally "purity order", sometimes called the "German Beer Purity Law" in English is a series of regulations limiting the ingredients in beer in Germany and the states of the former Holy Roman Empire. The best-known version of the law was adopted in Bavaria in 1516, but similar regulations predate the Bavarian order, and modern regulations also significantly differ from the 1516 Bavarian version. A brewer who broke the Reinheitsgebot was punished: the beer barrels were taken by the state and destroved, and the brewer did not receive any money for the loss.



The most influential predecessor of the modern Reinheitsgebot was a law first adopted in the duchy of Munich in 1487. After Bavaria was reunited, the Munich law was adopted across the entirety of Bavaria on 23 April 1516. As Germany unified, Bavaria pushed for adoption of this law on a national basis.

Nowadays, according to tradition, during Oktoberfest only original Munich beer, which is characterized by a long tradition, much experience in brewing and the strict adherence of the Reinheitsgebot. The regulation says several things: – It says what can be part of beer, and what cannot. Beer may only contain water, barley, and hops. (A historical mystery is that yeast isn't mentioned.) It gave a price to beer. This was important for taxation.

The Reinheitsgebot is no longer part of German law. It has been replaced by the Provisional German Beer Law, which allows things prohibited in the Reinheitsgebot, such as wheat malt and cane sugar, but which no longer allows unmalted barley. Yeast was not a part of beer until Louis Pasteur discovered what it did during fermentation. Brewers usually re-used some of the sediments of the fermentation. They took some sediments of an older brew and added those sediments to the next brew. Hops were added as a method of preservation (to stop the beer from going bad quickly). Hops were allowed to stop other things (like adding certain mushrooms to the beer, which was done in the Middle Ages) being done to preserve beer. Other herbs, like stinging nettles had been used. The stinging nettle is part of the same plant family as hops.



Diamond Wedding



Congratulations!

Former Marksman editor lan Boucher and his wife Pauline celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in January.

Covid and Omicrom restrictions prevented a formal celebration but they enjoyed afternoon tea at the new Van Dyke Hotel and celebrated the occasion with a family meal and were then

Pauline and Ian have plenty to smile about – six happy decades together!





Reber mind Covid – we still had

Christmas!

A selection of cheery photos from the MBMA party on December 1st taken by our premier correspondent, Barbara Brown.











CHRIS RAINSFORD noted with regret the death of Tony Morton in the August 2021 edition of the New Marksman. It is only appropriate for the magazine to record Tony's outstanding achievements as Managing Director of R. L. Jones and Co. Ltd., latterly Mandora Soft Drinks Ltd., in the 1970s and 1980s.



Tony Morton: The Man who Made Mandora

Tony joined R. L. Jones in 1970 prior to which he had been Managing Director of the Coca Cola franchisee in Cyprus. R. L. Jones was in serious financial trouble at the time due to the untimely death of Lisle Jones, the Managing Director, in 1968. R. L. Jones had purchased Burrows and Sturgess in Derby in 1968 and all the necessary rationalization had been out on hold following his death. Upon his arrival Tony was faced with a lossmaking business with three factories and three depots, not only manufacturing soft drinks but bottling Guinness and factoring bottled beers and wines and spirits. R. L. Jones competed with its subsidiary Burrows and Sturgess in the local market in the supply of its own manufactured products in returnable bottles and cases to corner shops, pubs and off licences.

None of the premises it owned were suitable for the manufacture and distribution of soft drinks. The equipment was in a poor state and the company was nearly bankrupt. Tony was not fazed by the task ahead and I was lucky to join him in mid-1971. I was impressed by his infectious confidence that the problems could be overcome. The plan was to reduce the turnover by 50% by curtailing the bottling of Guinness, and the factoring of bottled beers and wines and spirits and consolidating the manufacture and distribution of soft drinks into one site in Mansfield and one depot in Cannock. Hence 6 operating locations would be consolidated into 2.

You have to have a bit of luck and at the time we needed the new factory in Mansfield. The Bellamy Road premises became available upon the closure of the Cash & Carry business on that site. The proceeds of the sale of 3 factories and 3 depots plus the working capital created by curtailing around £1 million turnover was invested in a flat floor adaptable building with ability to handle and store all the returnable bottles and cases. Also two new bottling and labelling machines plus associated accumulation tables, new forklifts and pallet racking were purchased. By 1973 the company was in profit. Excellent Summers in 1975 and 1976 made for further increased profit. The market was also changing. The supply of private label non-returnable glass carbonated drinks were driving the business forward, compensating for a decline in the traditional returnable bottle and cases trade to local corner shops, off licences and public houses.

In about 1977 there was a move out of glass into PET bottles which at the time were bought in. This coincided with Schweppes deciding not to move into PET bottles for their Pepsi Cola franchise. Tony won a contract for the supply of Pepsi Cola for three years from 1979 to 1982. This contract required a dedicated new bottling line and changes to our water supply and syrup room procedures. As a result of the heavy investment required by the contract the private shareholders of Mandora sold out to Mansfield Brewery, and by 1979 Mandora Soft Drinks was 100% owned by Mansfield Brewery.

Further development in the Group's Soft Drinks business was the acquisition of T.W. Beach Ltd. Of Evesham in 1980. Interestingly they supplied soft drinks in cans and were stronger than Mandora in squashes. Beach had been a canned food manufacturer and at the time of purchase they still bottled beetroot and supplied ready to use marmalade oranges in cans. These last two products were soon discontinued, the Beach factory was re-equipped with a new bottling line for carbonated drinks, and their export squash business was merged with the very profitable export business of Mandora, which at the time included supply of 1 ½ litre Pepsi Cola to Scandinavia.

The next development at the Mansfield factory was the manufacture of PET bottles. Initially the process was to buy in preforms and to blow them into a three litre freestanding bottle rather than buying in PET bottles with a black plastic base.



What is PET bottle?

PET bottle is the kind of plastic bottle that made from material PET, PET, which is same as PETE, is short for polyethylene terephthalate, the chemical name for polyester. PET bottles are globally recognized as safe, non-toxic, strong, lightweight, flexible and 100% recyclable. Plastics like PET most likely touch your everyday life, the pet bottle commonly used for water, beverages and foods containers. Virtually all singleserving and 2-liter bottles of carbonated soft drinks and water sold in the most of world made from pet material.

PET bottles were blown at a faster rate than the bottle filling lines, so Mandora developed a silo storage system whereby newly blown bottles were transferred into a silo and blown back from the silo on a track to the bottling line for filling. The supermarkets were becoming increasingly greedy, demanding even lower prices for carbonated drinks. To counteract this and to restore some of the lost margins it was decided to move into making lightweight PET bottles by buying in the crystals instead of the preforms, and thereby making a lightweight preform ourselves. These were blown into bottles and transferred into silos in the normal way.

This further investment made us more competitive in the private label carbonated drinks bottle market. It also enabled Mansfield Brewery to enter the grocery market by selling their beers in 2 litre amber PET bottles, which were bottled on a new botting line at Littleworth. From 1982 onwards Mandora suffered some setbacks. Schweppes decided to take back the bottling of Pepsi Cola at the end of the three-year bottling contract. Also, the supply contract with Cavenham Foods for supply of soft drinks executed at the time Mandora bought T. W. Beach expired in 1985. Throughout this period the supermarkets were demanding even lower prices for supply of their private label products, thereby denying Mandora the profit benefits of the lightweighting of PET bottles. It was at this point that Mandora decided to introduce the St. Clements brand of soft drinks. This brand was a total reformation of about four flavours, a premium product with no additives and no artificial sweeteners. It was available in 2 litre PET bottles, cans and squashes. The purpose of this strategy was that by having your own brand you could counter the greed of the supermarkets by giving them a product that was not in their portfolio and by TV advertising of St. Clements it was something they would have to stock. St. Clements was a success and was the reason A. G. Barr bought the entire Mandora businesses in Mansfield and Evesham in 1988.

Tony had masterminded the recovery of the Mansfield business, the re-equipping of Evesham, and the moves into making of PET bottles from crystals during his tenure as Managing Director. From the time he joined Mandora in 1970 the turnover of the company's soft drinks had risen from just over £1 million to almost £40 million by the time it was sold to Barr's. In 1983 Tony became Director of the Brewery and relocated to Littleworth. He retired in 1988 at the time Mandora was sold to Barr's. He was 89 at the time of his death in February 2021.

CHRIS RAINSFORD February 2022.

From Marksman june 1985 Where the Buffaloes once Roamed

Halfway The Hotel, Hessle Road, Hull, is the first pub in the North Country estate to undergo extensive alterations and re-open under the Mansfield banner.

Chairman Robin Chadburn, who officially opened the Halfway on 5th July, made it clear how nervous Mansfield felt stepping into the shoes of the traditional Hull Brewery, but that he hoped Hull customers would take to Mansfield beers

Refurbished

Apart from the installation of new beers, the pub itself has been attractively refurbished in a comfortable, traditional style while every effort has been made to retain its original character - so popular over the years.

For the regular sports enthusiasts. enthusiasts, the pool table and darts board have also been retained.

Behind the bar of the Halfway are local couple - and licensees - David and Anita Pratt who both hail from the Hessle Road area and have used the





pub as their local for many years.

It's their first full licensed house appointment. After completing initial training at Crooked Billet, the couple undertook a stint on the relief circuit which took them to the Halfway last February.

Before joining the Hull brewery, David spent ten years as a chargehand at the Birds Eye Frozen Food factory and Anita worked as an auxiliary nurse in the operating theatre at Kingston General Hospital.

Both like to relax from time to time — David is a keen sportsman and has played amateur rugby league for several local sides, and Anita enjoys sides, a cooking.

The toast is to the Halfway — and Mansfield beers. Below — The Lord Mayor of Hull, Coun-cillor Jim Paton, with Robin Chadburn, John Hings and licensees David and Anita Pratt.



Hull has two pubs bearing the name Half Way. The Mansfield acquisition (above) is the Halfway Hotel on Hessle Road, just a stone's throw from the old St. Andrew's fish dock area. The other is the Halfway House on Spring Bank. Both pubs have a very special place in your Marksman editor's past. The pub celebrated in the above article once housed a branch of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB). If you're unfamiliar with the Buffaloes, they're a benevolent society formed in the late 19th century, similar in some ways to the Freemasons. The True Britons Lodge of the RAOB was held in the upstairs room of the Half Way Hotel, and my father once held a position there in the rank of 'Worthy Primo'. The True Britons Lodge does not appear to be held there these days. However, when I reached the age of 18 my father insisted that he would initiate me into the society. I was duly admitted in 1962, but I only attended a few times; I found the secret passwords, the aprons, gloves and regalia all a bit too melodramatic. That said, the RAOB continues to be a benefit to local working people.

Hull's Historic Home of Rock'n'Roll



Your editor playing at the Half Way circa 1963

The other Half Way pub in Hull is today a busy family hostelry with a nice restaurant. In the 1960s it was the proving ground for many of Hull's hopeful pop groups. It was important in the development of David Bowie's career, because it was here that Bowie's famous guitarist, the talented MICK RONSON played regularly. When I left my group The King Bees at the Halfway, Ronson took my place for a few gigs. That's my claim to fame



THE MARKSMAN -

David Bowie with Hull's guitar star MICK RONSON in The Spiders from Mars





A NOTE ABOUT OBITUARIES: Whenever A Member passes away, we do our best to include some form of remembrance in *Marksman*, but this depends on the availability of information. Sometimes we have too little, others, too much. Your editor is grateful to any family member attending a funeral who can supply us with details of the deceased's life, (and where possible, a photo) which we are keen to feature. However, some eulogies are, like life, long, others very short. Therefore, in the case of long eulogies, often six pages or more, space restrictions dictate that we need to edit these down. So, we try to focus on the main aspects of a member's life without, hopefully, showing any disrespect. We hope readers understand that we'll do our best in these sad instances, and hopefully any omissions will be understood as simply a way to balance the material we have in the space available.

Frederick Charles Ghilks (pronounced Jilks) 1935-2021

Frederick was born on May 24 at 24 Poplar Street in Mansfield Woodhouse. His parents were Joseph and Alice Ghilks. He had an older sister, Janet, a younger brother, Michael, and a half brother, Nigel.

When Fred was growing up during the war, he could remember German bombers flying over and a German plane coming down in a field in Woodhouse. Apparently, he was a bit of a scallywag as a child, often getting into scrapes. At one time he and his friends were playing with fireworks and managed to burn a barn down at Hills Farm. Fred's Dad marched him to the police station, but it turned out that the farmer was glad to be rid of the barn in any case, so there was no further action. As a lad Fred had a paper round and a job delivering groceries on his bike. Through cycling around, he knew Woodhouse like the back of his hand. He attended St. Edmund's School and then Yorke Street. He left school at 15 and started work as a tool maker with S. A. Monk in Sutton-in-Ashfield. At 16 he entered the Royal Navy - now he would see the world. This included the Far East and he served during the Suez Crisis. Whilst home on leave, he met Mary at the Elite dance hall in Shirebrook. On July 31,1954 they were married, living for a while in Portsmouth. Then Fred had to go away for 18 months with the Navy, so Mary moved back in with her Mum. After the Navy, he returned to work with S.A. Monk. In August 1964, Sally was born. The family moved to 6 Chilton Crescent in 1969 and lived there ever since. After a spell working as a knitting machine mechanic in local factories, Fred joined Mansfield Brewery in 1975, working in the Cellar Department. He became manager of the department right up until his retirement in 1998.

Ten years earlier Sally and Tony were married in St. Edmunds Church. He was delighted when his granddaughters were born, Emma, who is so much like him, and then Sarah. He was always sociable and active, kept fit by walking, talked to members of his community, loved his dominoes, darts and a pub quiz with a pint in the Sunnydale Inn. He loved attending major sporting events and loved his food – especially massive, cooked breakfasts. He thought the world of his family, loved spending time with his granddaughters. He loved a laugh and a joke, a proud man who will be very much missed.



Norman William Donbavand (Bill) 22nd January 1938 – 8th October 2021 Mansfield Crematorium Thursday 21st October 2021 1.15pm Service conducted by Trevor Brownley (Dip.FC) – Civil Funeral Celebrant

Friendly, popular, sociable – a perfectionist. All words used to describe the kind of person that Bill Donbavand was. Bill was born on the 22nd January 1938 to parents Norman and Violet Donbavand in Cranwell in Lincolnshire, where his father Norman was serving with the Royal Air Force at the time. He would become the eldest of three children in the Donbavand household, subsequently having a younger sister Sylvia and younger brother David. Because of his father's profession the family moved around a lot, living for a while in Gloucestershire where Bill developed his love of nature. He was able to identify all types of trees just by their leaves or their bark. He could recognise different birdsongs and he also became very fond of pigs. The family lived in several farm cottages, one in a large orchard. He often told the story of Sally, a rather large white pig who used to go blackberrying with him. When his father's RAF life was over the family moved back to his father's home in Bootle in Liverpool where Bill continued his education,

After leaving school at the age of 15 Bill started work in the docklands of Liverpool. He started an apprenticeship in joinery. He would work on many ships, including some of Cunard's big ocean liners. Bill became a member of the Youth Hostel Association and nearly every weekend he would hitchhike to either Wales or the Lake District.

When Bill's apprenticeship was over Bill was called up to carry out his National Service in the Army, and joined The Royal Signals, but soon after he joined The Military Police.

Bill saw a call for volunteers to join The Parachute Regiment and so he applied. He completed his parachute training with P Company and joined the 2^{nd} Battalion of The Parachute Regiment where he also trained to become a sniper.

He was sent to serve in Cyprus where terrorists were trying to destroy the British military bases. During this time Bill experienced many traumatic events but admired the tenacity and friendliness of most of the local Cypriots, who just wanted a return to normal life.

After being de-mobbed Bill returned to Liverpool, where he got a job working at the English Electric Company in their packaging department.

He was seriously considering joining up again, when his uncle – who lived and worked in Mansfield at the builders H. Brackenbury and Son – said that there was a vacancy in the workshop there for a joiner, so Bill made the move to Mansfield

In recent years Bill renewed his love of the UK and visited the Lakes and Scotland many times. Bill became a committee member of the Mansfield Brewery Members Association who meet at the Debdale Sports and Social Club once a month, helping to organise coach trips, social evenings and, of course, the Christmas Lunch.

Alice says "He was a lovely man and a wonderful husband. Each day I will be able to open my memory book in my head and relive the wonderful life we have had together".

Bill will be greatly missed, by his wife Alice, along with his brother-in-law Fred, and nephews and niece Nigel, Linda, Paul, Bryan and Barbara and their families, and by Alice's niece and nephew Denise and Ian. He is also missed by his very close friends Gill and Kevin, and Isabell and Graham, as well as the rest of his family and friends and everyone else who was privileged to know him.

One weekend in 1963 Bill's parents, Norman, and Violet, asked Bill to go home to attend a dinner/dance. Unknown to him, they had arranged a blind date for him with local girl Alice Smith. Alice moved to Mansfield to be with Bill, getting a job in the account's office at Mansfield Brewery.

Bill and Alice were eventually married on the 26 February 1966. They made their final move to Vesper Court in Forest Town in 1967 and this would remain their home until the present day – some 54 years later.

In 1965 Bill had also joined the brewery as a joiner in the Estates Department workshop. As the brewery estate increased, so the Property Department was born, and Bill was moved into the office as a surveyor. He loved this job – visiting the brewery's pubs and noting any repairs that needed carrying out and liaising with contractors to get the jobs done.

Bill had several hobbies and interests such as water skiing in Scotland and the Lake District. He joined Welbeck Archery Club and enjoyed archery.

Both Bill and Alice were members of the Mansfield Brewery Walking Group. Bill also loved gardening and watching the birds feeding at the various feed stations he had put up around the garden. Despite having no children, Bill and Alice enjoyed many holidays with Alice's niece and nephew, Denise, and Ian. They also enjoyed the company of Bill's nephews and nieces, Nigel, Linda, Paul, Bryan, and Barbara.

Bill and Alice loved to travel to destinations such as Spain, Malta, Portugal, and Madeira, but their favourite was Cyprus which they visited many times.

So, how do we sum up the kind of person that Bill was?

He was a very loyal friend – a friend for life. He was a very honest man and a true patriot who has served his country well. He hated injustice, and never hesitated to make his feelings known. He could also be very stubborn and used to 'dig his heels in!'

But Bill had his soft side too. If anyone needed help, he was there. At home every week he would always put the dustbins back in place for his neighbours. He used to bake and decorate a chocolate cake for the girls in the property office on their birthdays and made and decorated Christmas cakes – a skill he learned from his mother.

Alice would like to thank you all for your cards and kind messages of condolence. "He was a lovely man" was written many times. She thanks to all the medical staff who provided their help and support at this difficult time.

Bill passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on the 8 October 2022.

Friendly, popular, sociable – a perfectionist. Bill was a unique and special person, and we pay tribute to him today.



Deceased 19 May 2021 – Dennis Salmon

worked for Mansfield Brewery from 1985 until closure of the Brewery in December 1999. He was employed as Tradesman/Foreman in the Maintenance Department based in Mansfield.

Deceased 8 July 2021 – Peter Howkins

worked for Mansfield Brewery from 1982 until 1991. He was employed as General Manager, Wholesale based at the Head Office, Mansfield

Deceased 18 November 2021 -

Andrew Murphy

worked for Mansfield Brewery from 1993 until takeover in December 1999. He was a Public House Manager based in in Hull.

Deceased 24 December 2021 -

Denis Overton

worked for Mansfield Brewery on several temporary contracts in the labour pool before becoming a full-time employee in the Kegging Department in 1998 where he worked until takeover in December 1999.



Deceased 29 December 2021 -

Pamela Kent

worked for Mansfield Brewery from 1991 until July 1999. She was a Public House Manager along with her husband, Terry Kent. The couple managed several Public Houses latterly the Springhead in Hull.

Deceased 31 December 2021 – Derek Gleadall

worked for Mansfield Brewery from 1980 until takeover in December 1999. He was employed as a Tenanted Sales Manager.

Deceased 10 January 2022 – Elaine Robertson

was employed by Mansfield Brewery from 1989 until 1991, she was the Manager of the First Frame Snooker Club based in Nottingham. The Club transferred to Tenancy in 1991.

Deceased 29 January 2022 -

Arthur Harrington

worked for the Hull Brewery and subsequently Mansfield Brewery from 1977 to take over in December 1999. He was a shuttle driver in Mixed Transport based at the Hull Depot on Harpings Road.



MANSFIELD BREWERY MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION (MBMA)

The Members' Association is a social group run by volunteers, all of whom were former employees of Mansfield Brewery. The group is open to all former and retired employees of Mansfield Brewery.

Meetings have now resumed and will take place on the first Wednesday of each month at the Debdale Sports & Recreation Club, Debdale Lane, Mansfield Woodhouse. Meetings start at 10.00am and refreshments are provided.

Plans are in the pipeline for some trips this year however, they are not yet finalised. Details will be provided in due course.

If you would like to join the group or find out more about what they do contact Ian Boucher on 01623 644798

MANSFIELD BREWERY WALKING GROUP

Easy walks between 5 and 6 miles, usually on the second Sunday of each month. Call Barbara Brown for more info on 01623 481488

