

# New Marksman

Issue 30

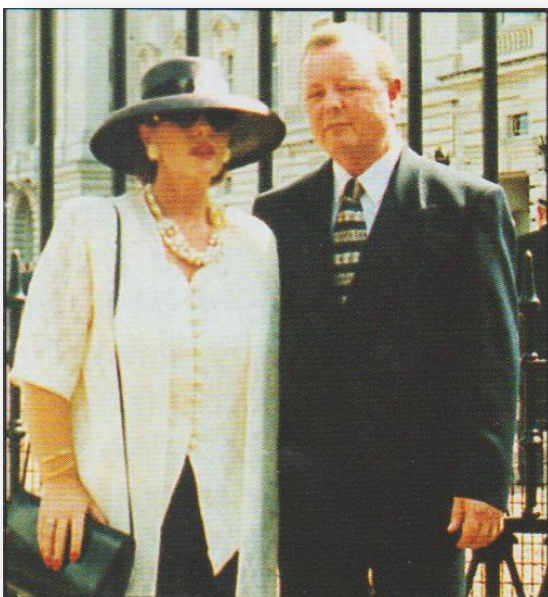
Sponsored by the Baily Thomas Provident Fund

Spring 2016

## Remember 1996 Exporting Beers to Russia



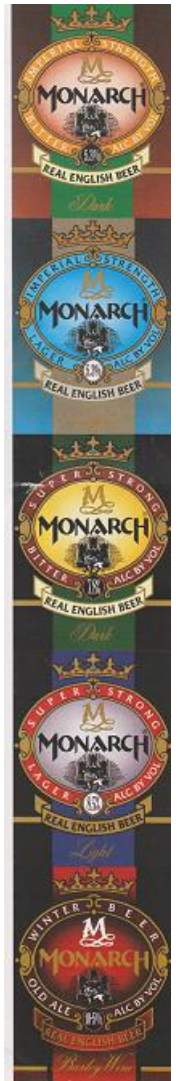
Norman Tait and Ken Radford



In 1996 the pressure was on to expand the beer market. Mansfield Brewery was very successful within its trading area and it was agreed that the export market had the most potential for growth.

The challenge was given to Bob O`Meara and was successfully achieved. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) acknowledged this achievement and Bob and his wife Pat were invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace. (left).

Read more on page 14



# DIARY DATES, NEWS AND EVENTS

## Annual Dinner Dance

25<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the John Fretwell Centre

### Six monthly reunion – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Kevin Hall is organising the half yearly reunion at a local restaurant in Mansfield Woodhouse. To book your place please contact Kevin:

Contact [kevinhall229@gmail.com](mailto:kevinhall229@gmail.com) or Mobile 07535 700825

### Mansfield Brewery Walking Group

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

For information contact Barbara Brown on 01623 481488

### Mansfield Brewery Members' Association

The Members' Association is open to all ex 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**

June 17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup>	Liverpool Weekend (FULL)
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	North Norfolk Railway
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	Southport Flower Show
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Stoke on Trent (Potteries visit)
October	TBA
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Social
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chatsworth Christmas Market and House (Optional)
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch

#### **The Baily Thomas Provident Fund Office**

The office is open Monday to Thursday every week [except holidays] and is staffed by Denise Wilson and Alison Whitmore 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 as follows:

Tel: 01623 473290

Baily Thomas Provident Fund

Administration Office

Chadburn House

Weighbridge Road

Littleworth,

Mansfield.

NG18 1AH

#### **The New Marksman Magazine**

This magazine aims to give news and information about the former Mansfield Brewery and its subsidiaries and current Sports and Social activities of former Mansfield Brewery personnel. Please send information to:

Ian F P Boucher, 34 Haddon Road, Mansfield, Notts, NG19 7BS

Telephone 01623 644798

Email - [ian.boucher@hotmail.com](mailto:ian.boucher@hotmail.com)

Any information, articles or photographs not included in this issue will be used in forthcoming editions of the New Marksman. All photographs etc will be returned if requested.

**Next Issue Closing Date: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2016.**



## Jennifer Whitehead BSc

### First Class Honours Degree in Occupational Therapy



Jennifer Whitehead graduated from Derby University this year with a first class honours degree. As a mature student working hard over a three year period she has achieved her ambition to become an Occupational Therapist.

She is the daughter of Josie Johnson (Mansfield Brewery offices) and her husband Eric.

Jenny is now working for Derbyshire Community Health care services as a Community Occupational Therapist.

Jenny's husband Leigh, their 17 year old son Ben, Josie and Eric are all delighted and proud of her success.

**WELL DONE JENNY!**

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## A Decade with the New Marksman

The New Marksman has now been in publication for ten years, thanks to the sponsorship of the Baily Thomas Provident Fund. The magazine has reported on stories, reminiscences, and activities of ex-employees of the Mansfield Brewery group of companies. Many people have contributed articles and photographs which have all helped to make the magazine a success



### *The Need for Independence Remains the Same*

Histories of the Mansfield Brewery group of companies including Mandora, T W Beach and Son, Bellamy (Drinks) are well documented and can be researched quickly and easily on the internet. All thirty issues of the magazine which began in March 2006 can be viewed on the Baily Thomas Provident Fund website.

# Annual Dinner Dance 2016

This year's dinner dance was held on Saturday 19th March at The John Fretwell Sporting Complex at Sookholme near Mansfield and was enjoyed by former employees and their friends.

Guests enjoyed a four course dinner with wine in the attractive venue.

John Else opened the evening by welcoming everyone and announced next year's date - 25th March 2017.

Organising such a successful event requires a great deal of hard work and many thanks are due to Geoff Speight and to office administrator Denise Wilson and her assistant Alison Whitmore.



Sharon England, Julia Shaw,  
Kay Tonks, Karen Johnson,  
Sally Bircumshaw

Robert Longden  
Pauline Boucher  
Norma Smith  
Sue Longden







Steven Turner and Sue Steadman



Tony and Tracey Stendall



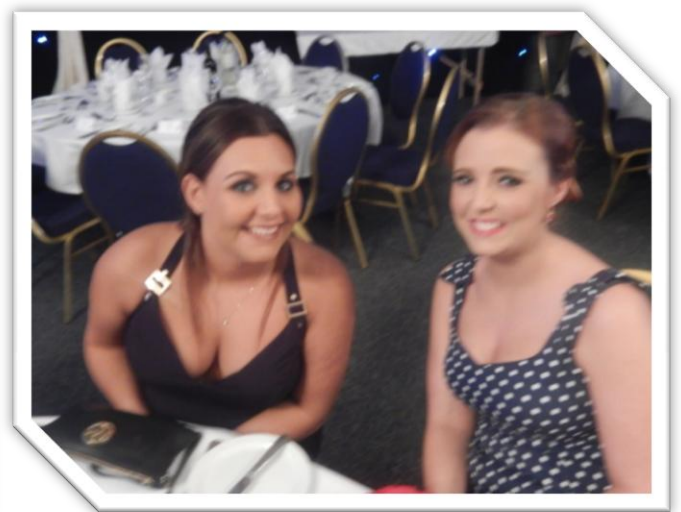
Don and Marion Brown



Grace and Lauren Turner



Mark and Leisa Pring



Lauren Stokes and Danielle Norman





Steve and Laura Smythe  
Regional Logistics Manager- East  
Marston's PLC



Stu and Emma Piotrowski



Liam and Claire Richardson



Adam and Jaycey Featherstone



Tim and Sue Richardson



Craig and Lesley Boulton



Liz and Graham Baird



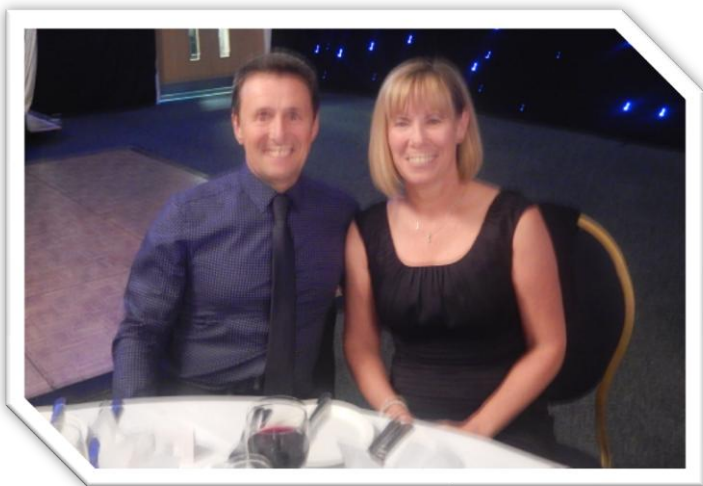
Malcolm and Angela Hodges



Ian and Judith Case



George and Geraldine Powell



Mark and Melanie Wilford



Malc and Chris Norman



## Anniversaries



### Joint Anniversary Celebration

2 couples celebrated their special wedding anniversaries in style with friends and family at a local restaurant.

Bill and Alice Donbavand celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and their friends Kevin and Gill Needham their 30<sup>th</sup>.

Bill and Alice both worked in the Properties Department at Mansfield Brewery and whilst on holiday in Cyprus they met Kevin and his wife Gill purely by chance. Kevin was also working at the Brewery as Beer Dispense Manager. A friendship

began which has lasted ever since and the joint anniversary celebration was also a celebration of their long standing friendship.



### Golden Wedding for Val and Geoff Moss

Val and Geoff Moss recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a pie and pea supper for 140 guests at the Forest Town Arena. Music was provided by "Spirit" a local duo of many years experience from the 60's, who kept everyone dancing and singing with their appropriate songs from the era.

Barbara Brown made a monetary presentation from their friends in Mansfield Brewery Walking Group and they have already decided to purchase a water feature for their back garden. Val and Geoff celebrated on the actual date by taking a cruise up some of the rivers of France, Spain and Portugal on the Fred Olsen ship Braemar.

Val was the IT Manager at Mansfield Brewery from 1978 to 1986 leaving to set up her own Computer Consultancy business.

### Ted and June Park Golden Wedding

Ted and June held their golden wedding celebration anniversary with family and friends at the Altisidora restaurant in Bishop Burton, Beverley.

Ted writes "June and I would like to thank all family and friends here and in Fuereventura for their cards, presents and messages of congratulations on the occasion of our 50th wedding anniversary. It was a fantastic evening with wonderful company".





## Obituaries

### Eileen Ashley 1930 - 2016



Eileen Ashley was born in Bestwood village near Nottingham. She attended the local primary school and Hucknall Catholic School.

On leaving school she went on to Millers Business College to learn shorthand and typing.

On gaining the necessary qualifications Eileen secured a position with a firm of Nottingham solicitors and later moved to the NCB area land offices at Bestwood.

It was here that she met her future husband Arnott Ashley who worked in the Planning and Design department. Arnott died some time ago.

In 1971 she began work at Mansfield Brewery as secretary to the Chairman Robin Chadbourn, Managing Director Tony Scruby and later to Geoffrey Kent (who became Chairman.) Eileen retired in 1990.

### Eileen Crosby 1937 - 2016



Eileen was the wife of Joe Crosby, Group Accountant for Mansfield Brewery.

Born in Flimby, a small village in West Cumbria; she worked as a saleslady in the nearby town of Workington until her mother became ill and Eileen left work in order to care for her father and sister.

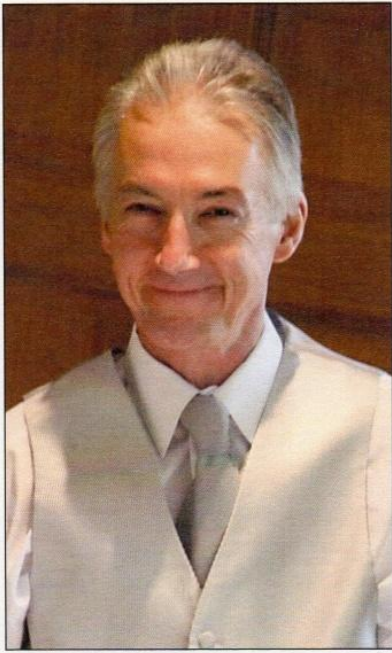
Eileen loved dancing and in 1959 she met her future husband Joe at a local dance. They were married 18 months later in 1961 and lived in Maryport.

Joe qualified as a Chartered Accountant and joined a national group. Over the next 30 years Eileen, Joe and their son Michael lived in a number of different locations. The family moved to Mansfield when Joe began working for Mansfield Brewery. He retired as Group Accountant in 1994.

Eileen enjoyed taking part in local organisations and was an active member of the Mansfield Brewery Retired Members Association and also the local U3A. She enjoyed raising funds and helped flower arrangers at Shirebrook church. She was an avid reader and often read two or three books a week. She enjoyed holidays both abroad and in the UK.

Eileen leaves husband Joe, son Michael, his wife Denise and grandchildren Joshua and Bethany.

## Chris Downton 1953 - 2016



Chris Downton was born on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1953 in Tidworth, Wiltshire where his father was serving in the Education Corps. Shortly afterwards his father was posted overseas to Malaya and Chris, his mother and his brother Steve, moved with him and lived there for a few years.

On returning to the UK in 1964 Chris attended King Edward VII Grammar School in Kings Lynn and in 1971 went to Sheffield University where he completed the second year of a law degree, and also qualified as a teacher. It was at that time he met his future wife Linda.

From 1980 to 1986 Chris worked for Burnett & Hallamshire PLC (Sheffield) as deputy Company Secretary & Legal Advisor. He was travelling around the world to the USA South America, South Africa and Asia; he flew on Concord on two or three occasions.

In 1986 Chris moved to Mansfield Brewery as Group Solicitor & Company Secretary. Here he worked with a great team of people, the beer was free, but it was a brewery business and the hours were long and unsociable. In 1989 he left the Brewery and moved back into the coal mining industry, this time to open-cast mining at NSM (Worksop).

By 1993, with the coal mining industry in crisis, Chris took a risk and started his own practice, initially working from home in the village of Gringley. It was during this time that Chris, supported by other Gringley villagers, challenged the Home Office after it proposed turning the old detention centre site in this pretty village, into a secure prison for young offenders. After a long battle, the Home Office proposal was rejected. Chris's practice flourished and he moved into bigger premises on the High street, into the old doctor's surgery in Gringley. This was followed eventually by a move to new offices in Doncaster, partly to be nearer to a business community.

Chris leaves his wife Linda, son Christian and daughter Emma.



## Alan Gardner 1945 - 2016

Alan was born in Dobcross, Greater Manchester. On leaving school he attended Catering College, passing out with first class cooking skills and began his career as a chef.

After spending time as a chef Alan moved into management as Catering Manager with Top Rank. He then had a directorship with Swallow Hotels North. In the 1980s he moved to Edinburgh to run the Vaux brewery pub retail Scottish region. He went to Mansfield Brewery in 1988 as Director of Retail Operations North (Trading Post) until his retirement in 1996. He had many interests but his main hobby was playing golf.

Alan and his wife Georgina were married for 51 years. He leaves his wife, two sons David and Jason, their wives and four grandchildren.

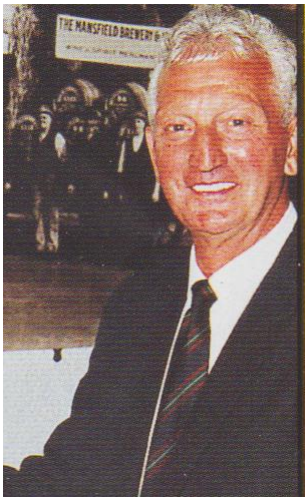




### John Ward 1939 - 2016

John (Jack) was the son of Jack and Connie Ward, and attended St John's School, Mansfield. He then joined the army and after this he worked at a local colliery for a short time. He eventually began work at Mansfield Brewery as a driver's mate and he enjoyed this job until he retired.

Jack married his wife Dorothy in St Marks Church in 1959 and they had two children - Kevin and Julie. Jack loved sport, especially football, darts, bowling and snooker. He enjoyed coach trips to Isle of Wight, Blackpool, and many other locations.



### Harry (Nobby) Beighton 1931 - 2016

Nobby Beighton began working at the Brewery in 1955. His first job was as cask barrell washer, cleaning up to 300 barrels a day.

Two years later he transferred to Transport where he worked until his retirement at 1996, age 65.

### **Friends we also say goodbye to...**

Bob Maddison 1947 – 2016 was employed in Cask Racking, at Mansfield until closure of the Brewery.

Thomas Palmer 1940 – 2016 was employed in Kegging, at Mansfield until he took retirement shortly before the Brewery was taken over.

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## The MBMA Annual General Meeting 2016



The AGM for Mansfield Brewery Members association was held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March. No new candidates were nominated and the committee was duly elected as follows:

Chairman Bill McCosh, President Dennis Tasker, Secretary Graham Cooling, Treasurer Ian Boucher, and committee members Bill Donbavand, Val Moss and Jenny Hall.

Following the AGM members enjoyed a buffet supper with quiz and tombola.

## Mansfield Brewery Walking Group

The walking group had a good start to 2016 with a number of new members joining the group. It is debatable if this is a walk with a talk or a talk with a walk. Either way the walks are both enjoyable and relaxing and within most people's capabilities. The distance is usually between 5 and 6 miles.

The first walk of the New Year was from Langold and went past Hodsock Priory with its annual display of snowdrops. The March walk began in the Derbyshire village of Clowne and passed through the tiny village of Elton (which developed around lead mining and agriculture). After the picnic break the group walked over the fields to return to Clowne.



## Weekend Away with Members of the Walking Group.



Members of Mansfield Brewery Walking Group and friends enjoyed a visit to the Concorde Visitor Centre at Manchester Airport.

After a short film on the history of Concorde the group boarded the aircraft and visited the flight deck. Knowledgeable guides gave fascinating insights into both the technical aspects of Concorde and also interesting facts about the famous people who travelled on this iconic aircraft.





## Little Roots Children's Community Allotment

The Little Roots Children's Community Allotment is situated within an existing council owned allotment site at Slant Lane in Mansfield Woodhouse. The charity enables children to plant, care for, and harvest the vegetables, fruit and flowers that are grown at Little Roots. In school term time a gardening club is organised and a summer gardening club continues during the school holidays.



The allotment co-ordinator Richard Tucker shares his knowledge and experience with primary school teachers to enable their pupils to visit and enjoy the Little Roots allotment site. The young pupils gain a valuable learning opportunity in an outdoor environment by observing the wide variety of vegetables and flowers which can be grown.

The fruit trees planted by the children have grown and matured. There are pear, damson, cherry, apple and plum trees on the site. The large netted fruit cage is home to gooseberry, raspberry, strawberry and currant

plants. The poly tunnels are currently full of tomato plants, peppers and cucumbers. Earlier in the season the poly tunnels were full of vegetable and flower seedlings planted by the children. There is a trellis archway over the main path where the grapevine continues to grow.

There is an after school gardening club during term time and a summer gardening club for 5-11 year olds.



The children are able to prepare ingredients following the 'Cook 4 Life' recipes. Many of the ingredients are picked in the allotment by the children and used in cookery sessions. During these sessions children learn about the food groups, portion sizes and food choices. They are able to make and enjoy fruit snack pots, sour cream and chive dip with vegetables for

dipping, quick and easy lemon cheesecake and sweet and sour chicken stir fry. (quorn has been used as an alternative to chicken).

Gardening activities include watering the tomatoes in the poly tunnels and digging up potatoes. Both these have proved to be extremely popular along with picking sweet corn, courgettes, runner beans, plums, curly kale and shallots to take home.



This charity is supported and influenced by John Else.

### **Little Roots Fundraising Event**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2106 from 10am until 2pm

Come and see the allotment site full of vegetables and fruits.  
Enjoy free games & activities. Refreshments & snacks available.

## Exporting Beers to Russia 1996

In 1996 the PET market had begun to decline and Bob O'Meara (General Manager for Take Home sales) had to address the situation - to seek out new markets in order to secure Brewery jobs. The first step was to approach the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry). With their help a product profile was sent to every British embassy abroad.

There were lots of enquires but research showed that the Russian market had the most potential. Negotiations began and contracts won. Strong bottled beer had to be produced to match the Russian palate.

To meet these demands, bottling production facilities were kept operating at the optimum level. Investment in excess of £100,000 in state-of-the art equipment led to improved efficiency. It now took half the time to swap from one litre to two litre bottles on the new trayless packer.

Supervisor John Randall had been on the PET line for 12 years and had witnessed the job fears and the training. "Quenching Russian thirsts has meant our jobs are secure" he said. "Currently we've got 14 men per shift and two shifts a day. We're grateful to Bob for his ingenuity"



In 1996 Gordon Moore (foreman at the time) recalled how bottling began in 1982 - "When we started it was mostly manual, obviously initial investment had to be low because the company wanted to trial PET on supermarket shelves first to see if it was what our customers wanted. It took off and semi automatic machines were installed. We called them Sputniks.

The Russian contract has turned the business round – now everything's fully automated and we're all feeling more secure." Bob O'Meara explained: "The success of our PET exports to Russia is mainly due to the hard work and dedication of our bottling staff."

For more information on the selling to Russia read, Alternative Mansfield Brew. Page 169 chapter nine



## Head Offices Revisited

### Office Cleaning Team

Olive McSloy (left in the photograph) was the editor of the brewery house magazine The Marksman.

She is seen here with the office cleaners,

Maureen Wain (Supervisor)

Mary Ferguson     Doreen Corden

Norma Varnham   Pam Bartle

Andre Wilkinson   Aniela Franc

Mary Mather     Laura



### Telesales Office

Dennis Foster Free Trade Director joined the company in 1980 pictured here with the telesales team.

Carol Aldridge     Sheila Morrell

Dennis Foster     Helen Smith

Margot Shaw     Maggie Godfrey

Brenda Schofield     Lorna Gregory

Dawn Brown

### Wages Department

Ivan Cotton head of wages is pictured with the department team

Judith Case     Ivan Colton

Ann Herbert     Joanne Spencer

Joan Davies     Diane Arthur

Pauline Reed     Olwyn Lidbury

Gill Shephard



**Thank you to all who recently sent in these photographs.**



# IT HAPPENED IN 1996

## Our Russian Visitors

In the summer of 1996 Russian visitors enjoyed a trip to Mansfield, courtesy of the export team. They took part in a soccer match against the Mansfield Brewery football team and they won 4-0. The highlight of their trip appears to have been a day out at Meadowhall shopping centre,

where two of the party displayed an unexpected passion for Debenham sales assistants. So keen were they to linger in hope, they refused to board the coach home and were last spotted thumbing a lift down the M1.



## Cream of the Team

The winners of the John Harrison Memorial trophy five-a-side football were the Maintenance Department.

From left Bob Philips, Ryan Pownall, Dave Hollingworth, Ronnie Close and Alan Singlehurst

## Winners of the Foster's Sponsored Serving Quality Champions



•The first £6,000 Foster's sponsored Serving Quality Champions! Back row, from left, retail director Darrell Stocks; Dave McKay – Foster's; Mark Collis – Old George; John Parry – Fringe, Mansfield; Fletcher Moore – Mustard Pot, Leeds; John Miley – Grouse & Claret. Front row, from left, Ian Robinson – Three Tuns, York; Delia Collis – Old George; Donna Fenton – Mustard Pot; Chris Miley – Grouse & Claret and John Martin – Old Manor, Oadby. Each champion can look forward to a luxury long weekend in London for two.