

PRODUCED BY THE  
BENEFICIARY  
LIAISON GROUP  
AND FUNDED BY  
THE  
BAILY THOMAS  
PROVIDENT FUND



# The Mansfield Brew

WINTER / XMAS  
2023

ISSUE 1

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

### BENEFICIARY LIAISON GROUP - A GREAT START

Thanks to all those of you who have supplied your details and are on the BLG database. However, we want MANY more so we can communicate to as many of you as possible. It's a two-way deal: News from our Exec Group TO you and ideas and suggestions FROM you. All with the aim of fulfilling our MISSION vis: "The mission of the BLG is to promote, enhance and further the interests of beneficiaries of the BTPF in respect of the benefits available to them through the BTPF. And to organise itself in such a way that this can be achieved by close and effective liaison with the Trustees of the BTPF"

Please let us know if you are interested in becoming involved by contacting us: [bailythomasliaisongroup@gmail.com](mailto:bailythomasliaisongroup@gmail.com)

Elaine Chadwick, Mill House, 21 High Street, Melbourne, Derbyshire DE73 8GJ or call Elaine on: 07957 806454.

Enclosed in our Newsletter is a CONSENT FORM to give us your contact details to go on the BLG database.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## MANSFIELD BREWERY MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION

### Time for change ...

Ian Boucher, who has Chaired the MBMA since 2018 and was also Treasurer for many years, is stepping down at the end of this year and we are looking for nominations to take over the Chair of this group. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian for all the excellent work he has done over the years. Anyone interested in becoming the Chairperson of the Group or in fact a Committee member should contact Sharon England (Secretary of MBMA) 07944337057, who will be happy to discuss what is involved and accept nominations.

Also, Graham Cooling is stepping down from the Committee at the end of this year and again, a big thank you to Graham too for all his work as Secretary for many years, organising trips and being an active member of the Committee.

### Annual General Meeting .....

The MBMA Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday, 26 January 2024 at St John's Community Hall on St John Street, Mansfield. Doors open at 1830 for a 1900 start. There will be a buffet, 2 drinks and a quiz – all verified members of MBMA are welcome to attend. There is a cost of £10pp to cover the buffet and drinks. If you wish to attend the AGM, please contact Sharon England to obtain a ticket.

### The present officials of the MBMA are

President	Bill McCosh
Chairman	Ian Boucher
Treasurer	Val Moss
Secretary	Sharon England
Committee Members	Jenny Hall (Membership Secretary), Graham Cooling & Eileen Spencer

### Monthly Gatherings.

The MBMA meet at the Debdale Sports & Recreation Club, Debdale Lane, Mansfield Woodhouse on the first Wednesday of every month, commencing at 10am and ending at 1pm. Refreshments (nibbles and drinks) are provided free of charge and funded by the BTPF. The membership is open to all former and retired employees and their spouse. We would like to urge you to come along and join in, meet with other fellow ex-employees, find out how people are getting along or reacquaint yourself with long-lost colleagues. If you are interested in joining the MBMA, you will need to be verified as an ex-employee and this can be done by contacting Jenny (Membership Secretary) on 07746103916 or 01623 557074.

We look forward to seeing new faces at the AGM as well as at the monthly meetings.

Val Moss - Treasurer  
t: 01623 620195 / m: 07800651901  
e: [vfmoss@aol.com](mailto:vfmoss@aol.com)

Here it is, *New Marksman's* successor. More space, more opportunities for you to contribute your stories. Why did we choose MANSFIELD BREW as our new title? The Beneficiary Liaison group's rationale for choosing this title is the *continuation* it provides from the book *The Alternative Mansfield Brew*. Yes, the Brewery may have ceased operating two decades ago, yet many ex-employees are still keen to relate what a fine business – brewing beer - truly was. In addition, the stories and achievements of you and your families always makes for a good read. We'd like to thank everyone for their inventive suggestions which will be published in our NEXT edition. So here we go with our first *Mansfield Brew* – and we'll be keen to have your comments and ideas. Meanwhile, **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**

The Baily Thomas Provident Fund is a grant giving trust and managed to benefit any former employees of Mansfield Brewery plc (and any subsidiary companies) their spouse and their dependents, although any person whose employment was of a purely casual nature is excluded.

The BTPF will continue until 2 October 2050 at which time all remaining funds will be passed to the trustees of the Charity.

Since Mansfield Brewery ceased to trade, the trustees have continued to expand the type of benefits available to our beneficiaries. This support includes help with health and wellbeing; to encourage and support an active lifestyle; to advance learning and education.

You can find all the information about the grants available for application on our website together with the application form for each of the grants. You can also contact the office for the forms and grant guidance to be posted to you.

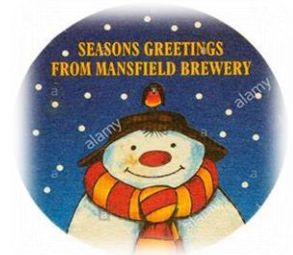
If you would like further information, please do get in touch with the BTPF office at:

Tel: 01623 473290

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

Baily Thomas Administration Office  
Mansfield Business Centre  
Ashfield Avenue  
Mansfield  
NG18 2AE

Office Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm (Closed Bank Holidays)



### 'SPIRIT'

I have long been an admirer of The John Lewis Partnership and I recall the response of a previous Chairman Sir Bernard Miller when asked what he attributed the Partnerships' great progress to at the time. Was it the quality of management, the siting of their stores, their financial policy or what? He said that in his opinion it was none of these things. "It is our spirit".

An organisation is only as good as the people in it and however carefully a company recruits and trains, however hard it strives for good leadership, it will never attain perfection for there is just not enough championship material to go around. But something happens to individuals when they become part of a good team: they begin to find within themselves reserves which they never knew they had. In some inextricable way the contribution they make as a team transcends the sum total of their contributions.

Of what is a company spirit composed? I believe it's a combination of a well-trained happy body of people, interested in their job, satisfied with their pay and conditions of service, proud of their company, respecting their boss and pulling together with enthusiasm.

Achieve this and you really have something. A company which has this kind of spirit will lift itself well above its competitors, giving its customers, its members and its shareholders rewards which other companies seem quite unable to achieve.

There is something I call "heat loss" which is costly "waste" as a result of poor management failing to understand the value of good human relationships. A good company spirit is exactly the reverse. Without any more capital, any more members or any more equipment, a huge surge in productivity is created and maintained.

I believe Mansfield had this "SPIRIT" in the 80's when turnover in the 10 years increased 4 times and the Company's net worth, as measured by shareholder funds, increased by 3 times. Take a bow those of you who contributed to this growth. The shareholders and many more owe you a debt of gratitude. And to those who are no longer with us, I say "thank you". You remain in our hearts and minds.

*John Hings*

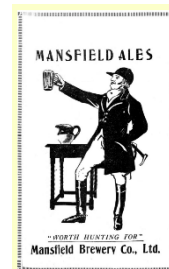
Managing Director 1979 – 1988.

## Do You Remember Beer “Tag Lines”?

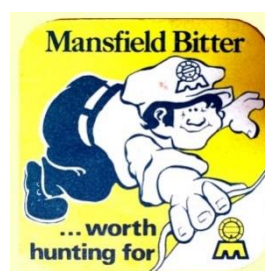
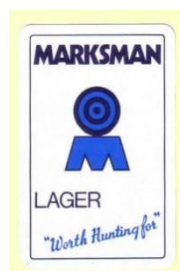
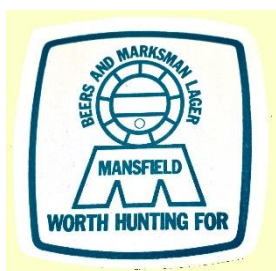
The older generation of beer drinkers will all remember when beer was sold by Tag Lines. Which was the beer that “Works Wonders”? Which Beer was “Great Stuff”? Which was the “Pint that thinks it’s a Quart”? Which had the Taste That Satisfies? Which was “What Your Right Arm’s For”? Which beer was “What we Want”? The Lager “Tag Lines” then became as popular as the new Lagers.

Which Lager “Reaches the Parts that Other Beers Cannot Reach”? Which Lager inspired the line “I Bet He Drinks .....”? Which was “Probably the Best Lager in the World”? Which lager “Stays Sharp, to the Bottom of the Glass”?

Mansfield Brewery’s also had its own advertising tag lines. The first was “Worth Hunting For” combined with a Huntsman holding up a pint of beer.



This tag line managed to last through into more modern advertising.



This was followed by the line “Beer from the Heart of England”.



**TED TAYLOR**

A BEAUTIFUL  
POEM BY  
TED TAYLOR,  
KNOWN AS

**“ROSES  
TED”**

SENT TO US  
BY ALISON  
RODGER, HIS  
DAUGHTER.

### ON SEEING THE FIRST ROSES OF SUMMER

Impatient May is past, and now the air  
Grows hushed and tense; blue irises prepare  
To blush with shame as with a petalled swirl  
Fond Nature ushers in her golden girl.

Now every lengthening day holds twice the joy,  
To hurry home impatient as a boy  
And smile a greeting at old friends reborn,  
Arranged in paint-box glitter round the lawn.

Here by the last faded forget-me-nots  
Old Mother Peace hovers in creamy waltz,  
One glimpse into her nodding heart tight-curved  
Revealing all the wonder of the world.

# Life after Mansfield Brewery

By **ELAINE CHADWICK**

It is said that life goes in a full circle.

That is how I found myself setting up and running a micropub for 8 years.

After I left the Brewery in 1986, I worked in the computer and outsourcing worlds. So how did I end up back in the trade?

My husband, David, and I had lived in Melbourne, South Derbyshire, since the late 80's and had seen a reduction in the choice of beers available. One evening, bemoaning this fact, (and after a few beers), we and 3 friends came up with this bonkers idea to set up our own micropub. We quickly found premises – the old HSBC bank that had been empty for several years. The landlord was very supportive of our plan, and we rapidly put together leases, planning and licensing applications. So on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2014, the Chip & Pin opened for service.



The main focus was to create a small community pub, with an ever-changing choice of beers - table service, bench seating with standing at high tables, beer direct from the cask in oversized glasses, locally produced pork pies but... no music, no spirits, no lager, no under-18s.

People could come in on their own with the newspaper, or join in conversations with what were then strangers. It is lovely to see so many of these friendships still going strong.



*If you look very closely at this photo, you may see John Hings (MD 1979-1988) who was a regular.*



We typically had on 4 beers – low ABV, classic bitter, hoppy pale, dark plus a Friday night special which often would not last the evening. We were really pleased when we got into the Good Beer Guide in 2016 and, after being finalists 3 times, finally winning Derby Camra Country Pub of the Year in 2019. We were also named No 1 in The Times' "Top 10 Micropubs" in 2017 and No 18 in The Sun's "Top 50 Pubs" in 2019. By the time we left the business in 2021, we had racked up -



It was the best job in my working life. *Elaine Chadwick*

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](mailto:roybainton@hotmail.com) or by post to

ROY BAINTON  
100 KIRKHAM DRIVE  
HULL HU5 2BT

SEND US YOUR STORIES, YOUR NEWS, PICTURES!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.**

There's been a lot of burning the midnight oil, but here we are at last with the Beneficiary Liaison Group's all new newsletter. We hope you enjoy the refreshed format and the impressive variety of new correspondents. Let us know what you think, and remember, this is *your* publication, and we look forward to receiving contributions from our readers.

*Roy Bainton* Editor.



To Hull and back ... part one

## THE NORTH COUNTRY BREWERY

In previous editions of our former newsletter, *Marksman*, Mansfield Brewery director Ron Kirk, then living in St. Malo, supplied fascinating articles on the company's expansion. So, we're pleased he's back with more memories from his new base in Brittany. Welcome aboard, Ron.

I was well into my second year as Finance Director when one morning the secretary of the MD popped her head round my office door and said, "John would like to have a quick word".

He had learnt on the grapevine that North Country Breweries (NCB) was on the market and they were circulating a sales prospectus, but not for us.

He thought it surprising, since Robin our chairman and the chairman of Northern Foods, the owners, had been school friends.

I suggested Robin gave Northern Foods a call and asked why we hadn't been on the circulation list and could we please have a copy of the sales prospectus.

The reply came back that our pockets were considered not deep enough for such a major transaction, but kindly their chairman suggested as a courtesy we came over to Hull for lunch on the Friday for a discussion. What followed was the most expensive fish and chip lunch I had ever had.

The minimum acquisition bid price had to begin with a 4, or in other words £40m. This represented some 25 times NCB's latest profits, or in other words a potential return of just 4%, gulp!

The national brewers were already preparing their bids. We had to move quickly if we were to be in the race. We agreed we would be back within a week with our offer.

A very important factor for Northern Foods was that any acquisition would be executed professionally, and their employees properly protected the best we could. The week that followed I regarded as our finest hour. All our senior management were mobilised to visit every one of the NCB pubs and for us then to meet up at a hotel in Hull and share the information gathered. Each person involved was sworn to total secrecy and not to discuss what we were doing even to their spouses.

For our offer to work we had to be confident of the rationalisation savings, a 26% increase in sales volumes over three years (1<sup>st</sup> 13%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 8% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 5%) and above all a smooth integration.



The following week we had formulated an offer and returned to Hull to negotiate the final figure. John and Robin finally agreed £42m on a handshake. Other bids came in at a higher figure but the deal had been done.

The acquisition price may have been £42m but we needed a funding package of £65m to cover our professional and advisory costs, the increased investment programme and a contingency allowance. Within three weeks we owned the business and began to manage the combined businesses.

Chris Clarke, an investment banker with Samuel Montagu guaranteed the money until we could syndicate the funding to 30 international banks. They all came to the brewery to sign the voluminous documentation.

We achieved our sales expectations over three years and the integration worked very smoothly.

If you asked today of a merger and acquisition banker, if anyone could execute such a proportionally huge transaction in three weeks, they would tell you it is impossible!

Our hour had come, we could conquer the world!

### Ron Kirk

Cancale

France

October 2023

North Country Breweries Ltd

Silvester Street  
Hull, England HU1 3HJ

Telephone: Hull (0482) 223461

Incorporating The Hull Brewery Company and Lambert, Parker and Gaines

The Anchor, Hull



Following on from Ron Kirk's success, Two impressive MBC agents hit the road to take stock.



ALTHOUGH WE FEATURED RON KIRK'S FEATURE IN *MARKSMAN* BACK IN 2018, NEIL BIRCUMSHAW'S REPORT OF AN EPIC PUB EXPEDITION COMPLETES THE STORY!



HULL'S OLD ZOOLOGICAL - THE PUB WE COULDN'T FIND

## North Country Brewer Acquisition – Part 2: Mapping it out!

As a newbie to the Managed House Head office team, being a newly appointed stock taker, I was summoned by Maggie Pearson (Derek Mapp's secretary) to see Derek one afternoon. Derek asked me to clear my diary for the rest of the week as we had a project to work on – he followed on saying, the next couple of days could be the most interesting and exciting you will ever have working for this company and probably ever have in the industry! We were going to visit all the pubs of North Country Brewery to evaluate them with a view to buying not only them but the whole company and this was of the utmost confidentiality. You can imagine my feelings as a 23-year-old newcomer, being involved in this project and going out with the Retail Director – just so full of excitement - the detail for the two days was drawn up. I was going out with Derek on the first day, picking up most of the east coast pubs, then moving into parts of Hull and Beverley. The second day Derek was going out with Hugh Wilson and I was going out with Terry Boddington, between us we would cover off all the pubs.

I thought I would get in front and stayed up sticking the dots on maps, not sure what time I got to sleep but I was awoken by a knock on the door in the morning from Derek – having fallen asleep on the floor. He was amazed what I had managed to get done and we were all set for the day. Derek and Hugh going their way and Terry and I going ours. Another great day of visits just a couple of issues for Terry and I – we searched high and low for the Zoological – only to find out that it had been demolished some months earlier, and the flyover on Hessle road had us scratching our heads as it was only half finished and we had to work out how to get to the pubs at the bottom of the road. One amusing visit was to the Anchor in Southcoates Lane, a very well-known and popular music venue in Hull also having a fabulous garden area. We had a cover story ready for the licensee that we were from a play equipment supplier and were doing an evaluation of the garden – all seemed to be accepted without any problem – the next week I was doing a stock take at the Mapplewells in Sutton in Ashfield, the managers being Jim and Pat Coulson. Now Jim and Pat hailed from Hull – and while having a cuppa before starting the stock take Jim enquired – “What were you and Terry Boddington doing in our kids' pub last week?” The Managers of the Anchor were Harry and Carol Coulson, Harry being Jim's brother had somehow pieced together who we were. Quite amazing. I couldn't confirm or deny but what a small world! After finishing our visits, we stayed in another hotel along with everyone else who had been evaluating different parts of the business such as brewing and free trade - a real who's who of the company at the time – along with the whole of the Main Board. I could not believe it when Mr. Robin and Mr. Hings invited me to join the meeting which was discussing the whole project and proposal to purchase the company.



Neil Bircumshaw

We set off complete with camera, map (and Mapp) along with our evaluation forms to complete for each site. We had the trade information for each pub, and were commenting on the condition of each pub, giving a view on the way it was operated, whether there was investment potential and a final column headed MM – Mansfield Magic – where we would give a view as to what



Duke of Cumberland, Cottingham

the Mansfield Ownership would add to the trade levels. We had an amazing day, covered loads of miles seeing some great pubs. Everything was going so well until we arrived at the Sun at Beverley early in the evening. Derek was collapsed over the bonnet of the car laughing while I was inside the car going through the evaluation form. After enquiring what he was laughing at (bearing in mind Derek had been doing his David Baily bit - photographing every pub from numerous angles) his response was there's *no bloody film in this camera!* This resulted in Derek having to re visit the sites later in the week to re-take the photos! Just off at a tangent here – a few weeks later Derek went on holiday to Florida – after a week of happy snapping – he'd only forgotten to put a film in again... We laughed about this for many years after. To complete the first day, we carried on visiting the pubs we had planned and stayed in a very pleasant hotel just outside Beverley We had bought some street maps in readiness for the next day and after dinner retired for an early planning to be a little better organised than the first day arranging to get up early morning to stick dots on maps for the two groups who were going out.

Derek said the two days would be the most interesting and exciting times I would have at the company – how right he was, I have been lucky enough to be involved in numerous acquisitions with several companies but nothing to compare with this and of course we bought them. Little did I know that a few years later I would be heading up both the managed and tenanted pubs for the North – but that's probably worth another story?

*Neil Bircumshaw*



**COLIN STUMP** Mansfield Brewery (1989-1999)

## **Traditional Beer – Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?**

Some of you might recall that I left the brewing industry six months after my transfer to Marston's following their takeover of Mansfield. The thought of closing down the brewery, having spent ten happy years of my life helping to build up the business, was too much of a cross to bear.

Having then worked in other sectors before retirement I quickly lost sight of how the world of breweries and pubs subsequently evolved. So, I've been investigating...

Before 1989 and the infamous 'Beer Orders' we had the 'big six' brewing and pub companies, Bass, Allied, Courage, S&N, Whitbread and Grand Met dominating the market, complemented by strong regional players, like Mansfield Brewery, across the country. But over the last 30 or so years the big brewers have been replaced by giant international businesses, and the UK has far fewer 'large' regional breweries...Greene King stands out as the main survivor...and there has been an explosion of micro-breweries. Giants like Anheuser-Busch InBev (Becks, Budweiser, Corona, Stella Artois), Molson Coors (Coors, Carling, Miller) Heineken (Amstel, Fosters, Heineken, John Smith's, Murphy's, Red Stripe and owner of 2,400 pubs in the UK) and Carlsberg (Carlsberg, Kronenbourg, Holsten, San Miguel, and newly coupled with Marston's) are the principal brewers in the UK. And Japanese brewer Asahi has also been busy building its position here too, with Peroni, Asahi, Grolsch and the acquisition of Fuller's Brewery.

And what have these huge brewers in common?

Lager. And rationalisation of the smaller traditional brewers they've acquired along the way – Marston's as a case in point are closing or have closed Wychwood, Jennings, Ringwood, Thwaites' original brewery, Charles Wells' Eagle brewery, and, of course, Mansfield and Cameron's. Ale has become a second-class citizen, and many of those now produced by them are so-called 'craft beers' – the likes of Beavertown, Camden, Meantime, for example.

Of course, there are still some sizeable traditional brewers on the go – Timothy Taylor's, Everards, St Austell, and Adnams for example. But the big news is the proliferation of micro-breweries. The Society of Independent Brewers' (SIBA) tracker shows that there are currently 1,826 active brewers in the UK. For those of you living in Nottinghamshire, think Blue Monkey, Castle Rock, Nottingham, and Welbeck Abbey. Predominantly focused on cask beers, they are far smaller than what we would remember at Mansfield. The average output of a SIBA member is around 2,200 barrels (365,000 litres) and this is usually divided into much smaller brews of different styles of beer.

So, you'd think this was good news for the cask ale enthusiast? Well, yes. And no. Certainly, there is now a fabulous range of beers available, British Pale Ales, Pale Golden Bitters produced with many interesting hop types, and an increasing volume of cask stouts and porters. But independent brewer volume has fallen 11% since 2019\*, mainly a reaction to the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, with home consumption up at the expense of the pub.

More beer is going into bottles and cans, and reducing on-trade demand means landlords have to be more cautious about how many beers they offer on the bar in order to ensure that beer quality is maintained. A few brewers are now offering keg beer to ensure quality in these uncertain trading conditions.

Some of the micro-breweries have invested in tap rooms and small pub estates, and many have set up brewery and web shops to sell their bottles and cans direct to the consumer.

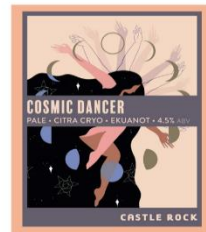
One real concern for all brewers right now is the declining number of pubs. In 2017 there were 42,099 pubs in Great Britain, but that's now down to 36,537, a fall of 13%. So, there are tough times ahead for

many of these smaller companies in a soft market, with many new entrants competing for bar and shelf space too. And, of course, the world lagers and craft beers from the international crowd.

Mansfield was a traditional brewer in many ways, using Yorkshire Squares to ferment our ale and with an interesting selection of cask beers – Mansfield, Riding, Old Baily and our seasonal specials.

The new wave of independent micro-breweries can continue this proud tradition. And they deserve our support, providing local employment and community support in our beleaguered economy. Why not try out their beers at a beer festival like the huge CAMRA event at Trent Bridge in October? Great fun and a real voyage of discovery. Or even better, get back to your local pub and try one of the many local brews now available. Or go on a pub tour (a favourite of mine!), to rediscover and support proper pubs offering a good range of cask beers, and seek out local brews in bottle when you need beer to take home.

**YOUR LOCAL BREWER NEEDS YOU!** 🍷



\*SIBA members 2023 v 2019. SIBA have 684 brewing members and represent 40% of the total number of brewers in the UK.



**Free Trade sales conference in 1998, held at The Belfry**

**Back row :** Dermot Nicolay, Mark Chermside, Guy Scully, Bill McMaster, Mick Collins, John McKay, Julie Burridge, Dave Cameron, Paul Hawksorth, Derek Gleadall, Norman Proctor

**Middle Row :** Simon Godson, Gareth Price, Wayne Cadman, Sean Collins, John Stevenson, Keith Brown, Mark Pass, Tony Richards, Jason ?, Mark Worden, Paul Brookes, Keith Hewitt, Ray Cook, Martin Henderson

**Front Row :** Mike Hutchins, Nigel Smelt, Steve McKechnie, John O'Neill, Terry Johnson

**Sadly, Julie Berridge, Tony Richards and Derek Gleadall have all passed away since this photograph was taken. RIP.**



# Beer Hunter's Guide to Supermarket Beers (1)

This is **your** guide to which beers in a normal **British** supermarket are brewed by the **World's Biggest** Brewers



## Carlsberg beers

They have taken over **Marston's** breweries and made **8 billion** pounds last year.



## Budweiser (AB Inbev) beers

They are the **world's biggest** brewer and made **47 billion** pounds last year.

## Heineken beers

They are also the largest **cider maker** owning **Bulmers**, and made **31 billion** pounds last year.



## Molson Coors beers

They made **9 billion** pounds last year.

## Asahi beers

A Japanese firm that made **17 billion** pounds last year.



## MBC MEMORIES

# GAMEKEEPER TURNED POACHER

Ann Woolley recalls  
19 years of service

I worked for Mansfield Brewery in the offices for 19 years, firstly as secretary to Richard Umbers, Tenanted Trade Director, who promptly left four weeks after I arrived. Was it something I said?

He was replaced by Mark Phillips, and I continued to work very happily alongside him, Austin O'Donoghue and Paul Fisher for the next five years.

Whilst working in Tenanted trade, Mark was responsible for the legal processes of the Free Trade Loan finance department, and when he and I parted company, I joined Free Trade reporting to Dennis Foster, taking on the administration of Loan Finance for the Free Trade estate. There I was happy to stay, as the position grew, and hoped to retire from.

Unfortunately, as we all know, events took a most unhappy turn, when Wolverhampton & Dudley took the company over in 1999, with the resultant closure of the Brewery in 2000.

There I was considering my options, thinking early retirement had come knocking. However, John O'Neill asked me if I would consider looking after Michelle England's patch, during the period of her maternity leave. Luckily for me it was the local area, Mansfield, Hucknall, Sutton etc., and as most of these customers had, at sometime or other, had finance from us, I was familiar with them, so I thought, well, why not.

I have to say, I am not the most natural of salespeople, and I was out of my comfort zone, but I thoroughly enjoyed travelling round, meeting new people, putting faces to names, and visiting the pubs I had dealt with over the years, and seeing them in reality, rather than just on paper.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, depends on your viewpoint, Michelle decided to return to work after 9 months, which meant, I ought to be back on the scrap heap, but Wolverhampton & Dudley, in their infinite wisdom decided to keep me on, initially undergoing cellar visits, and reports on equipment, until such time as a trainee position in Free Trade materialized, and again, I thought, why not.

Those of you experienced in the sales side of the industry, know how difficult things can get, competition was fierce, and the brewing/pub business was in serious decline, so after four more years I left. Only to be contacted again by Mr. John O'Neill, now Managing Director of Heritage Pub Company, to join them as a Business Development Manager looking after a territory of their much increased estate.

I considered myself very lucky along the years, and my time with Heritage (subsequently taken over for 2 weeks by John Smiths, then permanently Admiral Taverns) was a good experience, but I have often thought the job would have been much better in the industry's hey day, rather than when I was with them, when keeping the doors open, and finding anyone (with a pulse, and hopefully a few quid) to run these pubs that were becoming semi derelict, was the order of the day.

I continued working there for the next five years (every now and then changing areas, covering many varied parts of the country from Washington (not USA) to Wisbech), when I then considered it was time to retire for good.

I have enjoyed my time working within this industry immensely, there is nowhere like it, but I prefer to restrict my visits now, to the odd gin and tonic with my neighbour, and meals out with family and friends.

Ann Woolley 14.11.23

### What's YOUR story?

We're always keen to hear from former Mansfield Brewery staff about their experience in a great company. Why not contact us – mail [roybainton@hotmail.com](mailto:roybainton@hotmail.com) or write to Roy at 100 Kirkham Drive Hull HU5 2BT

## Obituaries

**Gordon Henderson** died 19/10/23 –

Employed 10 November 1969 until 4 April 1996. He worked in the Boiler House as Tradesman Foreman

**Geoffrey Scaife** died 4/10/23 –

Employed 2 January 1961 until 21 December 1999. He worked in Cellar Services as Cellar Inspector

**Josephine Johnson** died August 2023

(we have no exact date because we have not been formally informed) She was employed from 1955 until 1966 (no exacts dates are available) She worked as a Stock Taker for Managed Houses.

# COMPANION GROUP / VOLUNTEERS

It is the desire of the Baily Thomas Provident Fund and the Beneficiary Liaison Group to have an active Companion Group of willing volunteers prepared to give up as much time as they wish to assist ex colleagues and employees of Mansfield Brewery plc and its subsidiaries as a volunteer "befriender". Companionship is company and conversation, maybe you live alone and no longer see friends and family as much as you once did or you have a change of circumstances that prevents you from socialising like you used to do, perhaps you want to go out but have lost your confidence or just need a helping hand to go to the local park, pub or shops. The volunteer service can provide exactly that.

As our friends and colleagues head towards their twilight years and their needs become more complex, it is hoped that those in need will come forward and ask for help and assistance from the BTPF and, as well as the befriending service, one of the ways they can help is to signpost beneficiaries to an organisation they are working with called Jigsaw Homecare, based in Mansfield.



Jigsaw are a regulated care provider working in the community, providing homecare in Mansfield and the surrounding areas, helping support independence in your own home. Denise, Koren and Sue have spent some time getting to know Jayne Wagstaff, the owner of Jigsaw, who is looking forward to working with anyone identified as requiring their assistance. The homecare support is personalised to an individual's needs and the aim is to establish and promote fulfilling, happy lives. Jigsaw support staff are fully trained to help people in different difficult stages of their life and provide quality homecare. They pride themselves in matching carers to service users. Are you looking after a loved one and need help with coping with the demands this is putting on you?

Once a beneficiary has made themselves known to the admin office, Jayne will undertake an assessment and report back to BTPF on the needs of the individual.



**JANE  
WAGSTAFF**

Beneficiaries can access personal care and household help and advice. Jigsaw are trained to assist with benefit claims for council tax reductions, attendance allowance claims etc. They also have a Community Hub in Mansfield where ex-employees may feel comfortable to go to and meet new people.

The Beneficiary Liaison Group have been instrumental in setting up a "Volunteer group of befrienders" and we are keen to hear from any ex-employees who are able to give up a small amount of their time on a regular basis (once a week/month) or more to visit an ex-employee for an informal friendly chat. Your commitment will involve some training at Jigsaw's office in Mansfield (on-line training will be available if required) and to ensure all volunteers put forward are adequately trained to understand the policies and procedures that Jigsaw are governed by, approximately 8 hours of training is required covering modules such as equality, inclusion, communication, professional boundaries, safeguarding legislation, lone working etc. It is important to know that if you, as a volunteer "befriender" felt uncomfortable visiting a person by yourself, then a member of Jigsaw staff will be available to accompany you.

Don't worry about the training, I have undertaken all the elements required and it involves watching a power point presentation and discussion, there are no examinations or question and answer papers to complete. You will have to undergo a DBS check – that is compulsory, and Jigsaw will do all the paperwork with you for this.



**SUE WALTERS**

The BTPF will be funding all costs associated with the training at Jigsaw, they will pay your reasonable travelling expenses for attending the training and will pay for the DBS check. Cost of travelling to a home visit/outing will be refunded by the BTPF. Volunteers will need to check that their car insurance policy includes "business". BTPF are prepared to refund any additional costs incurred for appropriate insurance cover.

If you feel that you are able to join this new initiative and help ex-employees or just need to understand a bit more about what you might be getting involved in then please contact me, Sue Walters – 07803697183 or email [susanwalters56sw@gmail.com](mailto:susanwalters56sw@gmail.com).

If you feel that you could benefit from a visit from an ex-employee for a chat or an outing then please also contact me on the above number/email.

If you think that you could benefit from the services of Jigsaw Homecare then please contact the BTPF admin office who will be pleased to talk to you and refer you to Jigsaw if appropriate.

Tel: 01623 473290 or email [enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk).

Sue Walters 15.11.2023



# Social Activities



## MANSFIELD BREWERY WALKING GROUP

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

Due to Covid, we had almost 2 years when we were unable to do any walks. Our numbers subsequently declined dramatically. I am delighted to say that in 2023, walkers have returned and some new people have joined the group.

**Our walks take place on the Second Sunday of each month from March to November.**

**Meet Up time 10am - Walk Start time 10.30am - End 2.15pm**

We try to keep the walks around 5 - 6 miles in length, usually we go for lunch at the end of the walk.

If you would like any further information please email Barbara Brown at [barbyali72@gmail.com](mailto:barbyali72@gmail.com)

# Boots on the Ground! Join us!

